

# **Plan for Pelican Township**

**March 2001**

Pelican Township physically surrounds the village of Pelican Rapids and has a long history of agricultural usage ranging from small Dairy, Hog, Sheep, and Poultry operations to row crops and grain farming. The Township has both residential areas immediately outlying the City of Pelican Rapids and a fair development of residential properties along Prairie Lake. As lakeshore property falls under shoreland management responsibility for Otter Tail County, this document will not address those properties.

Present trends in Pelican Township follow traditional agricultural trends of small farmers exiting the agriculture business, hobby farms and rural home sites increasing in development and larger commercial farming operations taking shape. As Pelican Township surrounds the village of Pelican Rapids, Pelican Rapids has acquired formerly rural acreage for industrial and residential development. Pelican Township has also seen rural residential development grow to the East/South East of Pelican Rapids as well as along the corridor of County Road 9 and Highway 59 North and South of Pelican. One substantial trailer park is also located within the township limits to the Southwest of the City.

Present township population (2000) is estimated at 754 individuals.

Pelican Township desires to continue to prosper in the new millennium and as such is looking towards the future growth and development in the township by incorporating a flexible land use zoning ordinance which will provide the groundwork for continued orderly growth and yet maintain Pelican Township's rich heritage of agriculture.

### **Goals, Objectives, and Policies**

The goals, objectives, and policies outlined in this section of the plan are intended to be the foundation for all programs, actions, and growth decisions, which may be made by Pelican Township in the future. The goals, objectives, and policies are intended to establish a basic direction as to how the township will look ten, twenty, or more, years from now.

### **Township Development Goal**

Objectives:

1. To preserve the rural character of the township.
2. To preserve the right to agricultural activities within the township.
3. To encourage people to live in the township.

Objective 1. To preserve the rural character of the township.

Policies:

- A. Assure that all development, including agriculture, is orderly, balanced and in harmony with the townships rural residential and farming character.

- B. Assure that all development, including agriculture, will not adversely affect the environment, or create a nuisance, or be injurious to the public health, safety, and comfort and general welfare.
- C. Assure that all development, including agriculture, will not impair the quality of life or enjoyment of property of citizens of this township.
- D. Encourage development that maintains a stable, balanced tax base.
- E. Discourage development that will lower property values in a neighborhood.

Objective 2. To preserve the right to agricultural activities within the township.

Policies:

- A. Assure that agricultural development is consistent with policies that preserve the rural character as listed above.
- B. Discourage high-density feedlots.
- C. Discourage large industrial size development.
- D. Restrict development that will negatively impact the quality of life, enjoyment of property, health and safety of the residents of Pelican Township.

Objective 3. To encourage people to live in the township.

Policies:

- A. Encourage and support plans that allow younger generations to live by older generations.
- B. Encourage, promote and the use or resettlement of existing, vacant and usable farmsteads.
- C. Encourage and allow settling in the township, whether actively engaged in farming or not.
- D. Promote and enhance environmental and other features to be pleasing and attractive.
- E. Preserve and enhance governmental and private sector services.
- F. Preserve and enhance the quality of roads in the township.

### **Environmental Protection Goal**

Objectives:

- 1. To assure compatibility of development with the natural environment.
- 2. To protect and preserve the natural resources of the township.
- 3. To conserve the township's essential resources.
- 4. To provide for the protection of the township's residents and property from natural and man-made hazards.

Objective 1. To assure compatibility of development with the natural environment.

Policies:

- A. Assure that any development that may occur in the township in the future will be compatible with the capabilities and limitations of the land.
- B. Encourage low-density development that preserves agricultural land and maintains the rural character of the township.
- C. Encourage the spreading of animal wastes in an environmentally sound manner.

Objective 2. To protect and preserve that natural resources of the township.

Policies:

- A. Assure clean surface and ground water supplies.
- B. Encourage the preservation of wetlands, creeks, and green spaces not suitable for farming, to provide wildlife habitat and natural beauty within the township.
- C. Encourage the preservation of existing trees and promote planting additional trees.

Objective 3. To conserve the township's essential resources.

Policies:

- A. Protect air quality.
- B. Assure an adequate clean water supply.
- C. Minimize soil erosion.

Objective 4. To provide for the protection of the township's residents and property from natural and man-made hazards.

Policies:

- A. Maintain and develop water drainage in such a way to prevent damage to neighboring properties.
- B. Restrict contaminated soil storage or disposal in the township.
- C. Restrict tire, incinerator, nuclear, or medical waste storage or disposal in the township.
- D. Use recycling to clean up the junk and debris that is recyclable.

### **Transportation Goal**

Objectives:

- 1. To provide safe and adequate roads for the mobility of the public.
- 2. To enhance the right of way of public roads.

Objective 1. To provide safe and adequate roads for the mobility of the public.

Policies:

- A. Establish controls for township roads to protect and preserve the right of way.

- B. Require that the construction of new development, which may impact township roads, include the cost to repair such roads in the total project cost.
- C. Require those who cause excessive wear and tear on the township roads to be responsible for the cost to repair and restore those roads.
- D. Restrict building construction in the spring and enforce weight restrictions on township roads.
- E. Require review before permitting excavation in the road right of way.
- F. Forbid row cropping in the road right of way where it would impact public safety.

Objective 2. To enhance the right of way of public roads.

Policies:

- A. Forbid row cropping in the road right of way where it would impact public safety.
- B. Maintain the road right of way with grasses and permanent vegetation.
- C. Encourage keeping the road right of way free from junk, trees, and debris, visually attractive, and mowed when and where needed.

The board of supervisors and zoning commission of Pelican Township understand that a proper balance must be achieved between adopting such procedures and measures to protect the environment and the necessity of fostering a strong and healthy economy in the township. The Pelican Township plan and zoning ordinance is intended to provide such a balance of interests. The Plan is designed to support and effectuate these goals, objectives, and policies.