

**MINNESOTA
ASSOCIATION OF
WATERSHED
DISTRICTS, INC**



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

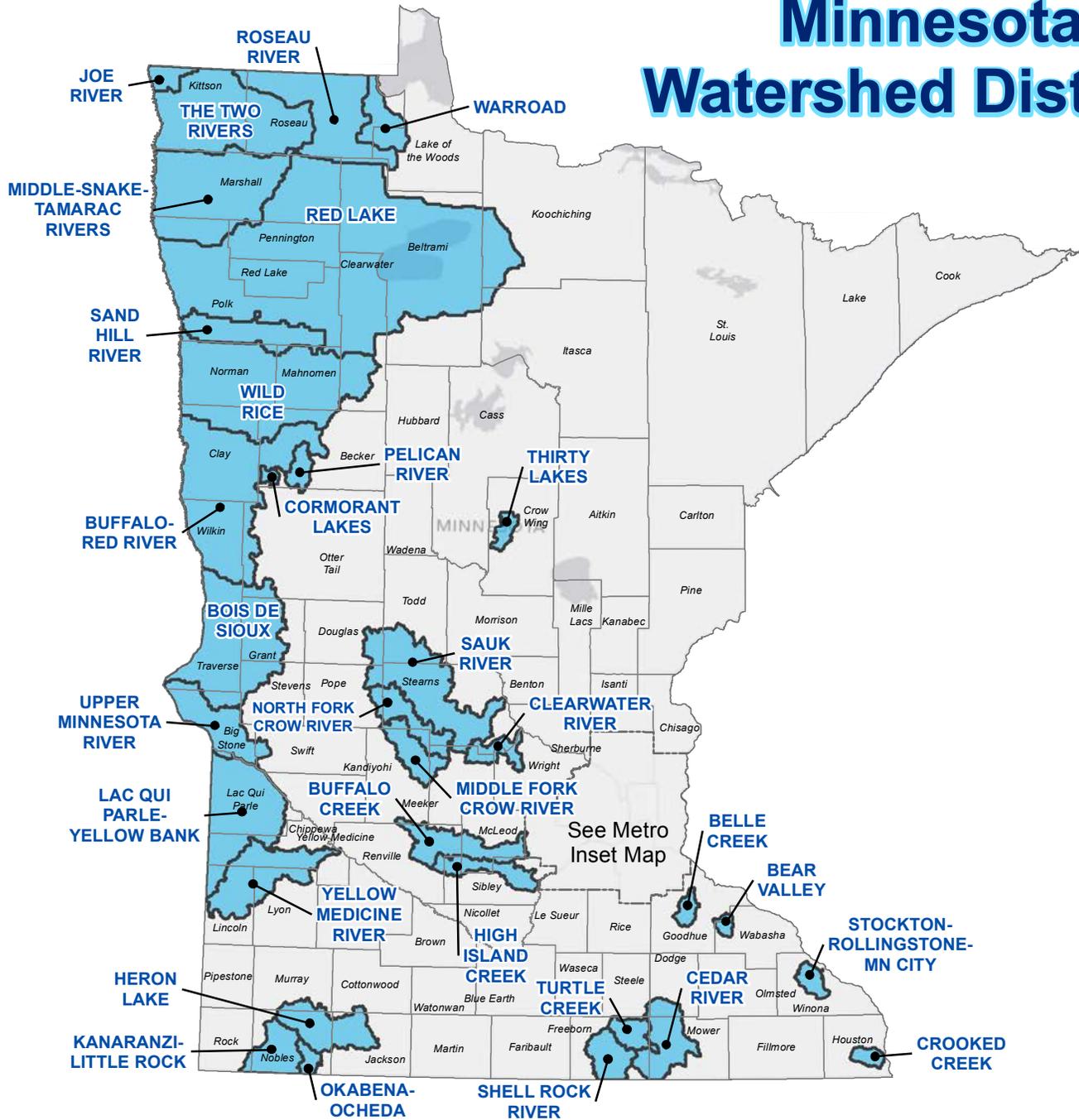
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

November 2013 - October 2014

Annual Report

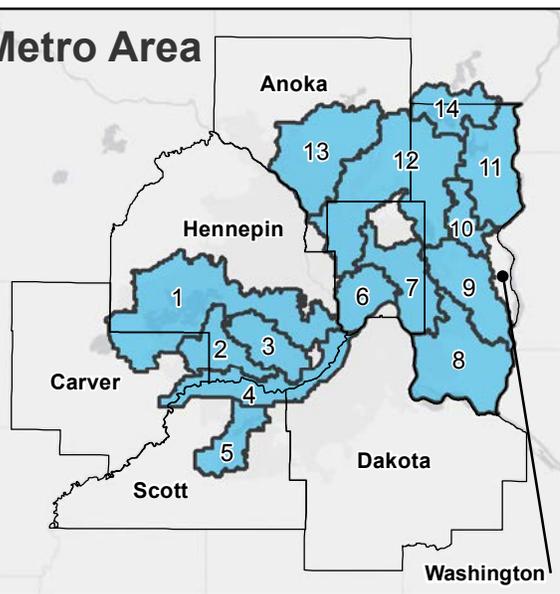


Minnesota Watershed Districts



See Metro Inset Map

Metro Area



Metro Watershed Districts

- 1, MINNEHAHA CREEK
- 2, RILEY-PURGATORY-BLUFF CREEK
- 3, NINE MILE CREEK
- 4, LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
- 5, PRIOR LAKE-SPRING LAKE
- 6, CAPITOL REGION
- 7, RAMSEY-WASHINGTON METRO
- 8, SOUTH WASHINGTON
- 9, VALLEY BRANCH
- 10, BROWNS CREEK
- 11, CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX
- 12, RICE CREEK
- 13, COON CREEK
- 14, COMFORT LAKE FOREST LAKE



Land and Water Shall be Preserved



Updated July 2012



2014 Board of Directors

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

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President's Report

By Jerome Deal

The MAWD Board of Directors meets every January in a planning session to lay out our activities and legislative priorities for the year. The board also acts on any organizational items before the board such as appointments to various MAWD committees and interagency advisory committees.

Bonding legislation was the major element of the 2014 Legislative Session. MAWD focused on continued funding for the Flood Hazard Mitigation program and for the Reinvest in Minnesota program in the Capital Investment bill. MAWD worked on increasing the flexibility of delegation agreements between state and local governments for AIS inspection authorities. New language passed in the policy bill should help us in working with the DNR on AIS inspection issues. MAWD supported additional funds to BWSR for clean water grants, and worked on the waiver of water use fee for clean water projects.

In addition, MAWD supported and pushed language in the taxes bill that exempted all local governments from sales tax. This legislation is now law and becomes effective January 1, 2016.

MAWD also worked with Sen. Skoe on his AIS county program aid that would go towards the AIS fight across the state. This infusion of new money which either the county can use or may redirect to SWCD's or watershed districts under a cooperative agreement for their use in that county.

The Drainage Work Group consensus bill was also passed and signed into law by the Governor.

Please review the Legislative Update in this report to get specific details on the 2014 Legislative Session.

MAWD's Legislative Reception & Breakfast was again a great opportunity to meet with local legislators and explain and promote our legislative priorities for the session. Over 65 watershed managers and staff met with their local legislators to discuss their watershed district issues. Thank you for your continued support of our legislative program.

The MAWD Summer Tour Committee put together one of the most successful MAWD Summer Tours with a tour of the St. Croix River Valley. It gave all who attended (over 225... a new summer tour record!) a firsthand look at the successes and remaining

challenges facing that basin. Based in Stillwater, attendees heard about the history of the city and basin and the issues facing the St. Croix Basin now and in the future. The group also toured the St. Croix River via the Paddlewheel Empress and experienced the wild and scenic nature of the St. Croix River. We also received an update on the new river crossing bridge and were able to see and hear about that project up close. It was indeed a very interesting and productive Summer Tour.

The Local Government Roundtable continued to meet and worked with state agencies and the Clean Water Council on their budget recommendations for the 2015 Legislative Session. The Roundtable heard and agreed with the BWSR staff recommendations on their One Watershed/One Plan operating proposal. The Roundtable at its last meeting agreed to establish a groundwater advisory committee to work with the interagency groundwater team to help ensure that our concerns and priorities are being addressed and to help facilitate overall efforts in the groundwater arena.

I want to thank the current board of directors who have worked so hard for watershed districts across the state this past year.

- Larry Kuseske, Region 2, Sauk River
- Craig Leiser, treasurer, Region 3, Brown's Creek
- Lee Coe, secretary, Region 1, Red Lake
- Darrel Ellefson, Region 2, Lac Qui Parle-Yellow Bank
- Ruth Schaefer, Region 2, Middle Fork Crow River
- Brian Johnson, vice president, Region 3 South Washington
- Linda Vavra, Region 1, Bois de Sioux
- Barb Haake, Region 3, Rice Creek

Also thanks to Ray and Peg Bohn for their very capable administrative and lobbying service to our organization.

And a big thanks for allowing me to serve as your president for the past three years. This is my last year as your board president and it has been a wonderful opportunity. We on the board appreciate all of your support over the years.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Websites can be reached through mnwatershed.org - WHERE IS MY WATERSHED?

Bear Valley

25409 County 16 Blvd.
Goodhue, MN 55027-8602
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Region III

Belle Creek

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Region III

Bois De Sioux

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Brown's Creek

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Phone: 651-330-8220 x26
Administrator: Karen Kill
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Buffalo Creek

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Buffalo-Red River

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Crooked Creek

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Heron Lake

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2014 Legislative Session Report

The 2014 Legislative Session concluded on Friday, May 16, several days before its constitutional deadline. I believe that is the first time the Legislature adjourned prior to the deadline in my thirty some years working the capitol. Miracles can happen!!

Watershed districts fared well this session. We had some victories in the taxes bill and in the environment policy bill, but some disappointments in the bonding bill. Outlined below are the particulars of our session results.

The final **Environment Policy bill (HF2733-Chpt. 289)** contains the following items of interest to WDs;

- a. Changes designation of infested waters to listed waters. (Sect. 15)
- b. Delegation agreements between state and local governments for AIS inspection authority made more flexible. (Sect. 25)
- c. Prohibits County Commissioners serving as a drainage inspector. (Sect. 50)
- d. 30 days prior to implementing or modifying a groundwater management area plan the DNR commissioner shall consult with the advisory team including watershed districts (Section 56).

The environment finance bill was placed into one large **Omnibus Finance bill (HF3172-Chpt. 312)** which included various divisions' bills. Items of interest to WDs include:

- a. Established a Legislative Water Commissioner (Article 4, Sect. 3, Page 58)
- b. Adds additional \$1.4 M from Clean Water Fund for grants to BWSR (Article 14, Sect. 21, pg 190)
- c. Waiver of water use permit fee for clean water projects (Article 13, Sect. 21, pg 168)

The Capital Invest bills (HF2490- Chapter 294 - Bonding bill/HF1098 Chapter. 295, General Fund Bill) were passed including a bonding and cash version with the following items of interest to WDs;

- a. Flood Hazard Mitigation program, \$4.5 M, (Sect 5, pg 12), Cash bill: \$7.5 M = \$12.0 M total
- b. WCA Road Replacement, \$2 M, (Sect. 10, pg 21), Cash Bill: \$0 = \$2.0 M total
- c. RIM \$6 M, (Sect, 19, pg 21), Cash bill \$0 = \$6 M total
- d. Fountain Lake Project (Shell Rock River WD) Cash Bill: \$7.5 M = \$7.5 M total

The **2nd House Tax Bill** (HF3167 – Chapter 308, Art 3, Sect. 11) - passed and included several provisions of interest to WDs. The Conference Committee adopted the sales tax exemption on local government with a Jan 1, 2016 effective date. This language basically exempts all local government special purpose districts and joint power boards from sales tax. Thanks to all who weighed in on this provision with your local legislator!!!

In addition, Sen. Skoe proposed a county program aid (Chpt 308, Art 1, sect. 11) that would go towards the AIS fight across the state. This county aid program requires that a county that receives a distribution under the AIS prevention program must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction of or limit the spread of AIS. The county may appropriate the proceeds directly or use any portion to provide funding for a joint powers board or a cooperative agreement or with another political subdivision like an SWCD or Watershed District. This bill appropriates \$4.5 M for FY14, and \$10 M for FY15. Each county allocated these funds must spend 50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer launches and 50 percent based on each county's share of watercraft trailer parking

Misc. MAWD Legislation

The Drainage work group bill, SF 2221Sparks/HF2571 (Chpt. 164) Hansen passed earlier this session. It was signed by the Governor.

Other bills of interest:

1. Outdoor Heritage Funding Bill HF1926Hansen/SF2098Saxhaug. Passed and signed into law May 16.
2. Conservation Easement Taxation –No language to change or eliminate this provision passed.

MAWD thanks watershed districts, staff and key partners who participated in our Day at the Capitol in mid-March and for responding to our legislative alert. We appreciate the support and assistance!!

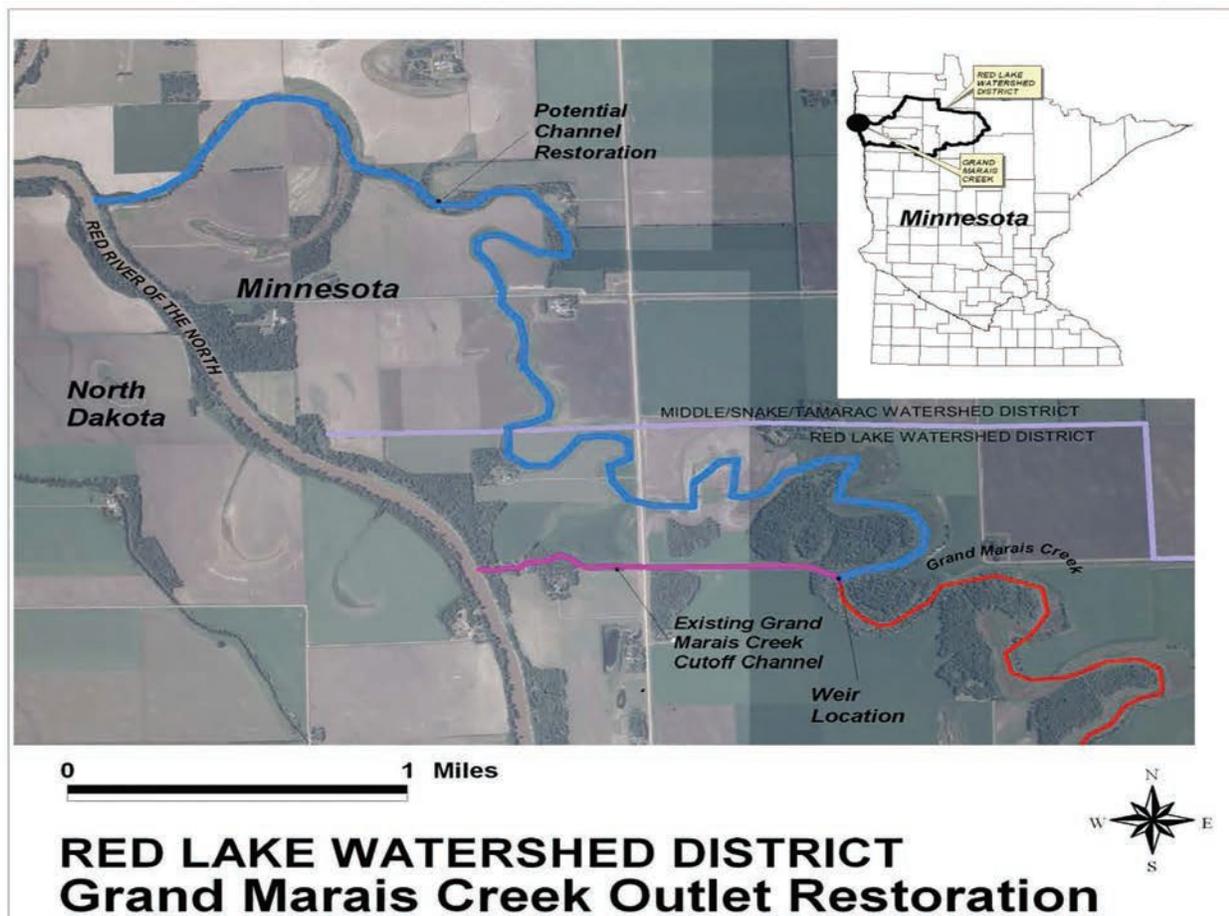
Red Lake Watershed District shares in construction of Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration

The Grand Marais Creek Outlet Restoration project is intended to:

- Divert low flows away from the existing outlet channel
- Restore the original Grand Marais channel for natural resource enhancement purposes and hydraulic capacity
- Stabilize the channel bottom and banks of the existing outlet channel
- Maintain existing flood stage conditions upstream of the project limits
- Restore 50 yr. floodplain of the Grand Marais Channel within the project limits

The proposed project features include the following:

- Construction of a diversion structure capable of diverting all flows from the existing outlet channel up to a 2 yr flood event
- Reconstruct the original Grand Marais channel for Natural Resource Enhancement purposes (riparian corridor, aquatic habitat, fish passage, etc.), and provide for a hydraulic capacity capable of handling the diverted flows from the existing outlet channel
- Restore floodplain buffer for the diverted floodwater flows and create a riparian buffer between the channel and agricultural land
- Constructing grade stabilization structures on the existing outlet channel



Location and General Features Map

The total anticipated project costs to develop, design and construct the proposed project features is \$6 million. Funding sources include agency funding from local, state and federal levels.

Turtle Creek installs fish barriers at Geneva Lake

The water in Geneva Lake was turbid and pea green for years, but now the water is clear and the shallow lake is rejuvenated.

“This project has many stakeholders and after years of discussion and cooperation, we have finally made progress in bringing it back to life,” said Jon Schneider, Ducks Unlimited manager of Minnesota conservation programs. “Geneva Lake is one of the first success stories of our Living Lakes Initiative in southern Minnesota.”

A fixed-crest dam on the lake was causing problems by impounding water and invasive fish that were both very damaging to Geneva Lake. The dam maintained stable, high water levels and allowed carp and other invasive fish to persist and alter the aquatic ecology of the lake, causing it’s water to become very turbid. In 2006, Turtle Creek Watershed District, Freeborn County, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and DU signed a cooperative agreement to improve management capabilities on the lake. DU then engineered and installed a water control structure and fish barrier on the lake’s outlet.

With the new structures, the Minnesota DNR was able to drawdown the lake and reset the ecological balance of the shallow lake system. A chemical treatment was also applied to remove most invasive carp from the lake. Now, the 1,875 acre Geneva Lake has improved habitat for wildlife and the fish barrier will prevent new carp from reentering the shallow lake. Freeborn County retains ownership of the structures but has granted the DNR authority to manage lake levels again in the future should the lake turn



Geneva Lake - New fish barrier in action - Note the carp stacked up in the ditch just downstream of the screen. This fish barrier was installed to keep carp from entering Geneva Lake.



turbid again.

“I’m really looking forward to the improved water level management capability of the new structure on Geneva Lake,” said Jeanine Vorland, DNR area wildlife manager in Owatonna. “Working in partnership with Freeborn County, DU, the Turtle Creek Watershed District and local landowners and stakeholders continues to be a real pleasure.”

Support for the Geneva Lake project was provided by state duck stamp

funds, state Environment & Natural Resources Trust Funds granted by the Legislative and Citizens Commission on Minnesota’s Resources through the Habitat Conservation Partnership and a North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

DU is also working with private landowners on Geneva Lake to secure conservation easements and promote the USDA’s Wetlands Reserve Program as part of our Living Lakes Initiative.

Two Rivers Springbrook Project #10 Near Completion

The latest flood control project of the Two Rivers Watershed District is very near completion. The “Springbrook PL566 Project #10” was substantially completed during the summer construction season of 2013. The project is located in sections 23, 24, 28, 29 & 30 of Springbrook Township and sections 25 and 36 of Davis Township, all in Kittson County Minnesota. Project components consist of the construction of over 10 miles of set back dikes, installation of more than 26 side water inlet culverts, numerous diversion ditches, three rock drop structures to control erosion, and over 400 acres of grass buffer strip establishment.

A petition for this project was submitted by local landowners to the TRWD. They identified a flooding problem along an existing coulee, whereby the coulee could not handle high flows of runoff that were entering the channel. This caused water to break out and flow over land, causing erosion, sedimentation, washouts of roads and culverts, and losses to cropland and public infrastructure. To prevent break out flooding, levees were constructed on either side of the stream, and set back away from the stream between 100 feet and 300 feet. This will allow the water to enter the stream, but as floodwaters rise and begin to break out of the channel, they will be contained between the levees, and prevented from flowing overland and washing out infrastructure. The levees are designed to contain water for up to a 10 year flood event. If a larger event occurs, the levees will overtop in designated areas.

The project will also help to prevent excessive sediment from entering the watercourse and contributing to degradation of water quality. As a part of the project the areas between the dikes will be enrolled into the State of Minnesota’s “Reinvest in Minnesota” program. This area will be seeded to grass and will not be farmed in the future.

Areas that currently erode and wash out will be stabilized and set aside to help create a grass buffer strip. Sadly, the federal program that funded this project has been eliminated by congress, and this project will be the very last one built using the PL566 program in the entire United States. There have been three other projects constructed under this program in Kittson County (Two within the Two Rivers and one within the Joe River – all built in the 1960’s), and one in Marshall County, most recently the flood diversion and upstream impoundment project that protects the City of Warren from flooding. In addition, many projects were built just west of the Red River in North Dakota, and were utilized during the extreme summer flooding of 2013 in that area.



The finishing touches are currently being completed on the Springbrook Project #10, and the Two Rivers Watershed District expects that it will be fully functional and ready to be tested during any flood events that may come our way in 2014 and the future.

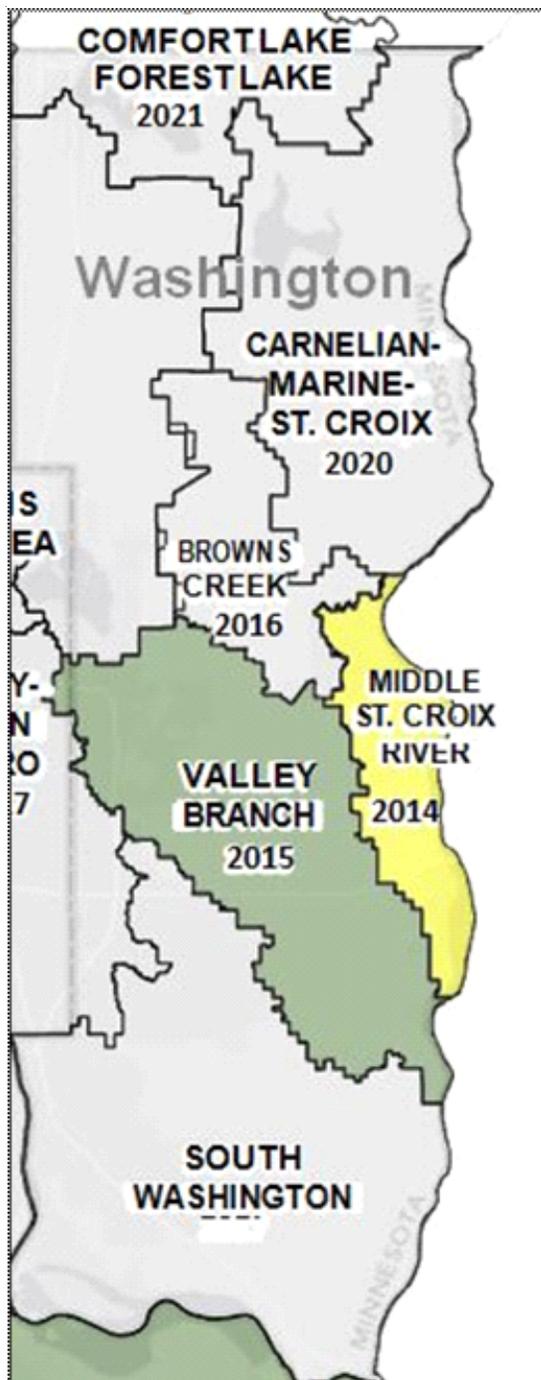


MAWD Summer Tour - We're All in the Same Boat

Stillwater, Minnesota

The St. Croix River Basin: A model for working together to accomplish water quality and natural resource protection goals.

Collaborative Implementation for St. Croix River Improvements



The MAWD Summer Tour centered on a tour of the St. Croix River Valley. It gave all who attended (over 225... a new summer tour record!) a firsthand look at the successes and remaining challenges facing that basin. Based in Stillwater, attendees heard about the history of the city and basin and the issues facing the St. Croix Basin now and in the future. The group also toured the St. Croix River via the Paddlewheel Empress and experienced the wild and scenic nature of the St. Croix River. We also received an update on the new river crossing bridge and were able to see and hear about that project up close.

Summer Tour topics included:

Science for the St. Croix Basin and Beyond
The View from the Other Side of the River
Targeted Priorities in the St. Croix Basin P
Working Together for Ground Water Solutions
An all-inclusive Mitigation Plan
A Unique Collaboration- The Water Consortium
A Town Born on a River, Stillwater History
Active Citizens in the Basin
The View from the "Other Side"
The Other Legacy Land and Water Program
Building Mussel Teams

On the Boat

A Wild and Scenic River and a National Park
A Border Battle over The Bridge

Co-sponsors 2014 Summer Tour

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts - MAWD
South Washington Watershed District
Valley Branch Watershed District
Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Browns Creek Watershed District
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District is DNR 2013 Watershed District of the Year

District points to partnerships with cities, organizations as key to success

The Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) has been named the 2013 “Watershed District of the Year” by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). Jason Moeckel, DNR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section Manager, presented the award to the MCWD at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts’ Annual Meeting in Alexandria.

Each year the DNR honors a watershed district in the state for its accomplishments toward water management. The MCWD was selected for the 2013 award for its long-standing and robust partnership with the DNR, its collaboration with private and public sector organizations and its timely and effective programs.

“MCWD actively solicits input and feedback from their many and varied stakeholders and regularly consults with the DNR Area Hydrologist on their projects and programs,” said Moeckel. “The District successfully coordinates and integrates its various programs to systematically improve the watershed and its water resources.” Among examples cited for 2013:

- Restored a 3,000 foot ditched section of Minnehaha Creek to its original meander along Reach 20 in St. Louis Park;
- Worked with homeowners along Minnehaha Creek who volunteered to let the District remove invasive plants from 2,000 feet of their creek banks and replant with native species;
- Began restoration on two former farm properties totaling over 200 acres of rolling topography with steep slopes draining into Six Mile Marsh to help improve the water quality of Halsted’s Bay;
- Developed a comprehensive, long-term AIS Management Plan;
- Conducted its third year of a Zebra mussel monitoring program;
- Held the 7th annual Minnehaha Creek cleanup which drew 1,200 citizens who collected over two tons of trash.



Jason Moeckel, DNR Inventory, Monitoring and Analysis Section Manager, presents the Watershed District of the Year print to Minnehaha Creek Administrator Eric Evenson-Marden and managers Pam Blixt, Sherry Davis White, and Bill Olson

“The MCWD is very honored to be the 2013 recipient of the MN DNR’s Watershed District of the Year award,” said Jim Calkins, MCWD Board President. “We look forward to continued partnerships in our work to improve, protect, and preserve our natural resources.”

The MCWD is responsible for “managing and protecting the water resources” as it pertains to the Minnehaha Creek Watershed in parts of Minneapolis and the western suburbs.

The MCWD was praised for its restoration work throughout the year, its comprehensive, long-term Aquatic invasive species management plan, its work with organizations and area cities, among other things.

“MCWD actively solicits input and feedback from their many and varied stakeholders and regularly consult with the DNR Area Hydrologist on their projects and programs,” said Jason Moeckel, DNR inventory, monitoring and analysis section manager. “The District successfully coordinates and integrates its various programs to systematically improve the watershed and its water resources.”

Exploring the new Brown's Creek Trail

By **Angie Hong**, educator for East Metro Water, mnwcd.org/emwrep. Contact her at 651-330-8220 ext. 35 or angie.hong@mnwcd.org.

Let it be known that I did not go out on the new Brown's Creek Trail before it was officially open even though I really, really wanted to. As soon as the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources announced a "soft opening" last week, however, I was literally ready to roll. A short section of the trail within downtown Stillwater is still under construction, but the rest of the 5.9 mile route is paved and ready to walk, run or bike from the old Stillwater Depot to where it intersects with the Gateway Trail in Grant.

I made my inaugural ride on Sunday afternoon along with about half the residents of Stillwater, it appeared, and brought my son along in our Burley trailer, which meant I spent half of the ride calling out interpretive features at the top of my lungs as we pedaled by. From downtown, the trail heads north alongside Highway 95 until just south of Highway 96, at which point it crosses the road and runs parallel to Brown's Creek. The segment between Highway 95 and Stonebridge Trail is absolutely beautiful. The trail hugs the side of a steep, wooded gorge, with the namesake Brown's Creek babbling down below. Just after passing under Stonebridge Trail, there is a small pull-off where one can get a view of the historic stone arch bridge that once carried travelers over the creek before the modern road was built. Immediately to the west of the bridge, trail users might also notice a gently sloped area between the trail and the creek that is currently covered in tannish-colored landscape fabric. This is one of two major stream improvement projects completed by the Brown's Creek Watershed District in conjunction with the creation of the trail.

When the original rail line was built in 1870, it was quite a challenge to lay the track rising out of the St. Croix Valley along a steep and winding path. According to the Minnesota Transportation Museum, "It climbed 299 feet on its way out of the St. Croix River Valley. The first four miles had an average 1 percent grade, with short stretches exceeding 2 percent. Half the six miles were on curves, some as sharp as 7.5 degrees."

Over time, the stretch of Brown's Creek alongside the tracks dug deeper into the earth, becoming separated from its natural floodplain, and as a result, unstable. During stream inventories, the watershed district concluded that this section was one of the most degraded segments of the creek.

Converting the rail bed into a walking and biking trail created an opportunity to correct some of the historic damage by pulling the trail away from the edge of the creek to provide space for the water to overflow during the spring and early summer. This change will improve trout habitat and reduce erosion along the stream banks, as well as slow the water down so that it causes less damage to the historic stone arch bridge. Until interpretive signs are added next year, however, the only sign of this work is the erosion control fabric and newly planted vegetation between the trail and the creek. Continuing westward, the trail stays close to Brown's Creek as it passes through the Oak Glen Golf Course and Brown's Creek Park. Between McKusick Rd. and Neal Ave., another major stream improvement project is visible alongside the trail behind Countryside Auto. Here, the watershed district installed an underground water quality unit capable of trapping 80 percent of the sediment and 37 percent of the total phosphorus from rain runoff before it enters Brown's Creek. The project was partially funded by a grant through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment Fund. Once again, the only visible sign currently is a patch of erosion control fabric on the ground beside the trail.

After Brown's Creek Park, the trail and creek diverge, with the trail continuing west, roughly parallel to McKusick Road, and the stream's course leads northwest to its headwaters up in Withrow. A few miles past Manning Avenue, the new trail finally meets up with the Gateway Trail in the woods, just south of Highway 96.

Arriving at the intersection of the Brown's Creek and Gateway Trails this past weekend, I had the strange sensation of entering an alternate universe where people travel by bike and skis instead of car, surrounded by woods, like members of a nomadic forest tribe. Glancing back, I noticed that my son was fast asleep, lulled by the gentle rocking of his trailer, not unlike the gentle rocking of the trains that once rolled through these same woods. The early November air was still mild, and I decided to keep on riding, just a little bit farther.

www.bcwd.org

Captiol Region Watershed District Neighborhood Stabilization Program Selected Program of the Year

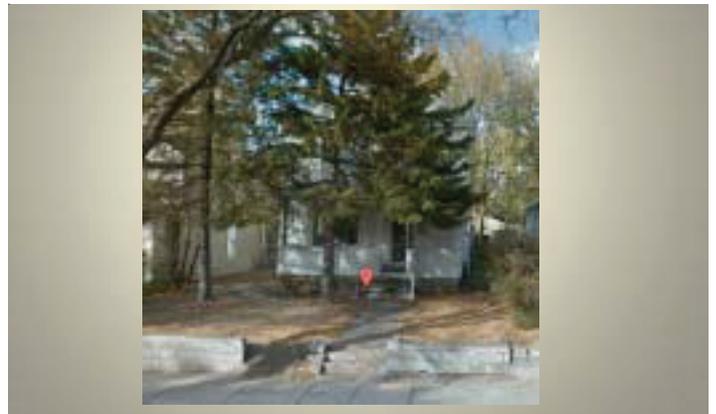
In summer 2011, the City of Saint Paul's Department of Planning and Economic Development and Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) began a unique partnership to enhance residential landscapes and achieve water quality benefits at foreclosed homes acquired by the City for rehabilitation. Through the City's Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP), the City and Ramsey County and CRWD are designing and constructing environmentally friendly landscapes in Saint Paul that treat nearly all residential runoff on-site via downspout direction to rain gardens, rain barrels and other green areas. The partnership builds on synergy between two local government entities: CRWD provides expert advice and design to create an environmentally conscientious landscape plan, NSP provides the resources to install the plan, and the two entities work together to provide educational support for the occupants at the site.



**Front row: Britta Suppes, Gwen Willems, Anna Eleria, Roxanne Young, City of St. Paul, Joe Collins, Mark Doneux, Jerome Deal, MAWD Board
Second Row: Ruth Schaefer, MAWD Awards Committee, Elizabeth Beckman, Stephanie Herbst, Corey Poland, Michelle Sylvander, Bob Fossum**

The City of Saint Paul's Forestry Department also provides crucial input on the condition of the existing residential trees and makes recommendations on how to improve the residential tree canopy in the targeted area, which are incorporated into each design. To date, over 90 residential landscape plans have been prepared by CRWD and RCD at no cost to the City. Besides design assistance, CRWD provides a \$1,000 reimbursement to the City for the construction of stormwater BMPs on each NSP property. CRWD and RCD also provide consultation to the developers during construction to ensure the designs are carried out according to the plan. The City provides each homebuyer a guidebook that includes information about the maintenance of the rain gardens.

Capitol Region Watershed District Neighborhood Stabilization Program



2013 MAWD Project of the Year

Heron Lake Watershed District Wins Project of the Year Award for Grassroots Effort to Bring Back Fulda Lakes

The Heron Lake Watershed District was awarded the Minnesota Association of Watershed District's (MAWD) Project of the Year Award for the Grassroots Effort to Bring Back Fulda Lakes. The award was given during the MAWD Annual Meeting held at the Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria.

MAWD annually honors innovative programs and projects that have achieved project partnerships, public benefit, use of creative solutions, innovative project financing and management, project success at meeting goals, and address a clearly defined project.

This grassroots endeavor started on behalf of Fulda townspeople noticing the degradation of First and Second Fulda Lakes, located within city limits.

Through strong partnerships, the grassroots ideas turned to reality. The HLWD was able to apply for funds based on the needs described by local landowners. Partnerships were essential in utilizing the best resources available and maximizing the cost effectiveness of any project or education event.

Partners included the Department of Natural Resources, Murray County, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Fulda Game and Fish Club, State of Minnesota, Landowners, Murray Soil and Water Conservation District, and the HLWD. Fulda Lakes are seeing improvement as a result of collaboration that made the drawdown, reclamation, and restoration projects possible.



MAWD Awards Committee member Ruth Schaefer (left) and MAWD president Jerome Deal (right) present the Project of the Year Award to Heron Lake administrator Jan Voit and manager Gary Ewert.

Heron Lake: A Grassroots Effort to Bring Back the Fulda Lakes



Heron Lake: A Grassroots Effort to Bring Back the Fulda Lakes



MAWD Awards Program

To encourage more nominations year, the Awards Committee asks for a simple, one page Preliminary Nomination Form to be completed in August. Based on the preliminary nominations, three finalists, in each category, will be asked to complete a more detailed project or program description.

Finalists are notified in August and have until October to submit the full project/program description. The Preliminary Nomination form requires a project/program description up to 250 words.

Buffalo Creek manager awarded Beyond the Call Award

Mid-Minnesota Development Commission would like to announce that Corey Henke, Buffalo Creek Watershed District Board Manager, has been presented the Beyond the Call Award for work done on Eagle Lake. This 409-acre shallow lake, located in McLeod County, was enhanced through Ducks Unlimited's Living Lakes conservation initiative in partnership with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Buffalo Creek Watershed District



Making the presentation from left to right: Adam DeHaan, Ducks Unlimited Director of Development Iowa and Minnesota; Josh Kavanagh, Regional Biologist – MN; recipient Corey Henke, Board Manager Buffalo Creek Watershed District; and David Flink, Ducks Unlimited Regional Vice President and Minnesota State Council Chair; photo courtesy of Ducks Unlimited.

Bois de Sioux Watershed has awarded the final construction contract for the North Ottawa Impoundment project

The Bois de Sioux Watershed has awarded the final construction contract for the North Ottawa Impoundment project. The work to be finished is the internal dike work, separating the pools into 160 acre cells. These cells will be managed for migratory bird species to be used for feeding and resting areas as well as water quality improvement when they are not being used for flood damage reduction during large runoff events. The contract extends through September of 2015 as there is a substantial amount of soil to move. Once this contract is finished, the project is fully constructed.

North Ottawa Impoundment Project

- Drainage Area = 74 Square miles
Approximately 25% of the Rabbit River Watershed
- Intertwined with 2 large Judicial Ditch Systems – JD #2 and JD #12
- Internal NRE Benefits designed in, to be built by the US Army Corps of Engineers.

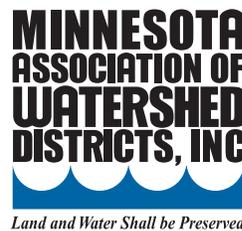
Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District discusses water holding area at Nelson Slough



Nelson Slough Wildlife Management Area

The Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District has presided over the Tamarac River Project Work Team. The plan is to modify the Tamarac River Watershed East Park Flood Control and Wildlife Management Area impoundment, locally known as Nelson Slough in Marshall County. We are presently drafting Points of Concurrence.

We are beginning to meet with landowners to discuss a future water holding area that contributes water to the Snake River. The size of the future project has not yet been determined.



MAWD provides educational opportunities, information and training for watershed district managers and staff through yearly tours and meetings.



Celebrating Outstanding Contributions in Conservation

2013 Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year

December 2013

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to announce **Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District Administrator**, as the 2013 Outstanding Watershed District Employee of the Year.

Cliff was selected for the award because of his exceptional performance as administrator for the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District. His leadership has gained the district national recognition and has enabled the organization to be identified as Minnesota's Watershed District Program of the Year multiple times. Cliff has directed many successful, multi-million dollar projects, and two of them were honored as project of the year (2005 and 2009).

Cliff effectively coordinates and provides leadership in the development of district goals, plans, policies, and budgets, and he excels at administering the district budget and processes. Cliff represents the district by serving on several local and statewide committees where he leads and creates a visible presence to promote the district's interests.

An example of one of the outstanding projects Cliff has worked on in recent years is the Maplewood Mall Stormwater Volume Reduction Retrofit Project. Cliff prepared grant and loan applications which culminated in the District receiving a combined \$3.2 million in grants and loans from the Clean Water Fund, Section 319 Funds, SRF Green Project Reserve Program, and the TMDL grant program. In addition to providing overall leadership for the project, Cliff promoted the project's innovative education signage and worked with the district's artist in residence to incorporate public art into the project.

BWSR presented Cliff Aichinger with the award at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual convention in December 2013. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, commented, "Cliff continues the tradition of honoring exceptional employees working to protect and improve Minnesota's natural resources. His accomplishments represent important contributions to the watershed and the state." Congratulations Cliff!



Cliff Aichinger, Ramsey-Washington WD (left) and John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director

2015 Calendar

**MAWD Legislative Reception
and Day at the Capitol**
March 25-26, 2015

MAWD Summer Tour
June 18-19, 2015

**MAWD Annual Meeting
& Trade Show**
December 3-5, 2015

Minnesota Legislature On-Line

**Keep up on legislation affecting water-
shed districts**

www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/legis.aspx

Who is my Legislator?

[http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/
districtfinder.aspx](http://www.leg.state.mn.us/leg/districtfinder.aspx)

**Capitol address and phone number of
legislators**

[http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/
leginfo/memroster.pdf](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/hinfo/leginfo/memroster.pdf)

Minnesota Legislature on TV or computer

[http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/
liveweb.htm](http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/htv/liveweb.htm)

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
November 1, 2013 to October 31, 2014

The Treasurer's Report

	Actual 11/01/2013 to 10/31/2014
REVENUE	103,981
Dues	\$ 103,981
Interest	79
Annual Meeting	56,080
Summer Tour	20,177
Drainage Seminar	2,550
Trade Show Fees	14,635
Legislative Breakfast	7,400
ADA Training	
Managers Training/Basic Water Mgmt Fees	1,870
Communication/Public Education	2,240
Staff Development	
Other	-
AIS Symposium	3,225
TOTAL REVENUE	212,238
EXPENDITURES	
General Administration & Lobbying	78,345
Clerical & Administrative	
Round Table Administration	3,000
Lobbyist, Administrative Expenses	2,864
Supplies & Equipment	
Dues	350
Telephone	449
Committee Meeting/Work Per Diem/Expense	17,720
Directors Meeting Expenses	1,068
Payroll Taxes	895
Legal Fees	1,800
Accounting and Audit Fees	3,250
Watershed District Handbook	
Liability Insurance	1,539
Contingency	
WD Messaging	5,000
Website & Internet Expenses	1,002
Credit Card & Bank Charges	2,685
ADA Seminar Expenses	406
Trade Show Expenses	8,260
Annual Meeting Expenses	40,198
Summer Tour Expenses	18,303
Legislative Breakfast Expenses	1,957
Communication/Public Education	3,612
AIS Symposium	2,687
Drainage Seminar Expenses	1,998
Managers Training Expenses	817
Memorials	50
Salary Survey	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	198,256
REVENUE MORE THAN(LESS THAN) EXPENDITURES	13,982
Reverse previous year deferrals	(18,588)
Deferred Income	15,571
Deferred Expense	(200)
	(3,217)
Subtotal	10,765
BEGINNING CASH BALANCES	106,094
ENDING CASH BALANCES	\$ 116,859

Welcome New Administrators

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers
Administrator: Danny Omdahl
453 N McKinley St. Box 154
Warren, MN 56762
Phone: 218-745-4741
mstrwd@hotmail.com

Comfort Lake - Forest Lake
Administrator: Mike Kinney
220 North Lake Street
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: 651-209-9753
michael.kinney@clflwd.org

Ramsey Washington Metro
Administrator: Tina Carstens
2665 Noel Drive
Little Canada, MN 55117
Phone: 651-792-7960
tina.carstens@rwmwd.org

Sauk River
Administrator: Scott Henderson
524 South 4th Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Phone: 320-352-2231
scott@srwdmn.org

In Memoriam

Bob Mostad
Administrator and manager
Sauk River

Virgil Rettig
Manager with Sauk River

Prior Lake Spring Lake
Administrator: Diane Lynch
4646 Dakota Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372
Phone: 952-447-4166
dlynch@plslwd.org

Lower Minnesota River
Administrator: Linda Loomis
112 E 5th Street #102
Chaska, MN 55318
Phone: 612-306-5802
naiadconsulting@gmail.com

North Fork Crow River
Administrator: Tara Ostendorf
PO Box 40, 100 Prairie Av N
Brooten, MN 56316
Phone: 320-346-2869
nferwsd@tds.net

Watershed District Anniversaries

10 Years
Shell Rock River
www.shellrock.org

15 Years
Comfort Lake Forest Lake
www.clflwd.org

Special Recognition Retirements

Willis Beecher retires after 39 years as Lac Qui Parle
Yellow Bank Watershed District Manager

Cliff Aichinger retires after 34 years as administrator
of Ramsey Washhington Metro Watershed District.

Watershed Districts are special purpose units of local government whose boundaries follow those of a natural watershed (an area of land in which all water flows to one outlet).

All other government units, such as states, counties and cities have political boundaries. Water, however, knows no political boundaries and instead goes where it wants to, when it wants to.



MAWD
540 Diffley Road
St. Paul, MN 55123-1601

Land and Water Shall be Preserved

Inside:

- Minnesota DNR Watershed District of the Year
- BWSR Watershed Employee of the Year
- 2014 Legislative Report
- Watershed District Directory
- MAWD Board
- MAWD Award Winners