

MAWD NEWS YOU CAN USE: June 2022

Board of Water and Soil Resources Features Watersheds in “Snapshots”

The **Shell Rock River Watershed District’s** targeted Clean Water Fund work made a 245-acre Pheasants Forever-backed, USFWS-owned prairie and wetland habitat restoration possible. Click [here](#) to read the full story. Click [here](#) to watch a video regarding this project. *Photo of the easement on the right courtesy of Shell Rock River WD.*



Watersheds in the News

The following stories were spotted in the news that feature the work of Minnesota’s watershed organizations. Please forward your stories to us so we don’t miss any of them. Sharing our stories with one another is a great way to learn and expand our knowledge. We encourage you to call each other to learn more.



[New playground, sport court at South Shore Park](#) already a big hit with Detroit Lakes residents by Vicki Gerdes, DL-Online, June 16, 2022. The **Pelican River WD** assisted with this project. *Photo of the playground on the left courtesy of DL-Online.*

[Minnesota Girl, 11, Chases Down Giant Carp and Catches It with Bare Hands](#) by Jessica Thompson, Newsweek, on June 27, 2022. The **Minnehaha Creek WD** plans to combat the carp by targeting the nearby lakes that drain into the Minnetonka, catching the

carp in nets and moving them out of the lake.

[Across Minnesota, kids and their Canoemobile guides are taking it to the streams](#) by Jane Turpin Moore, Star Tribune, June 17, 2022. Wilderness Inquiry program offers underserved populations a fun, user-friendly gateway to public lands and waterways via hands-on experiences in partnership with the **Cedar River WD** and Mower Soil and Water Conservation District.

[A better way to treat stormwater](#) by Andrew Weeks, Grand Forks Herald, June 16, 2022. Houston Engineering, Inc. and EPG Companies partnered with the Rice Creek WD for a project at Hansen Park in New Brighton to explore how to make treating stormwater more efficient at removing phosphorus and other components. *Photo of wetland on the right courtesy of Houston Engineering, Inc.*

[Pond project could improve clarity on Lake Okabena](#) by Kari Lucin, The Globe, June 10, 2022. As people gear up for the annual Worthington Windsurfing



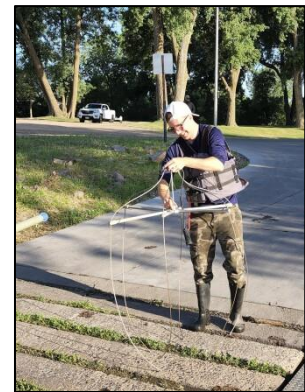


Regatta and Music Festival, it might be a good time to take a look at the lake playing host to it, as several people have remarked on Lake Okabena’s clarity to the **Okabena-Ocheda WD (OOWD)** Board of Managers recently. *Photo of Lake Okabena on the left courtesy of The Globe.*

[Fountain Lake dredging project hitting financial snag](#) by Alex Jirgens, KIMT3 News, June 14, 2022. Fountain Lake draws in tourists, boaters, and anglers from near and far year-round. But on the lake’s bottom, there all kinds of sediment that can kick start algae growth and

it’s something the **Shell Rock River WD** is hoping to avoid. *Be sure to click on the dredging link to watch the video!*

[Electrofishing targets carp for tagging and removal from Lake Okabena](#) by Kari Lucen, The Globe June 28, 2022. The **OOWD** hired Carp Solutions, a University of Minnesota start-up company, in an effort to both determine how many carp live in Lake Okabena and then offer some potential solutions for decreasing that number. *Photo on the right of electrofishing preparation courtesy of The Globe.*



First Lake Sturgeon Spawning in Red River Basin in 100 years. From MPCA and DNR.

The first verified spawning of lake sturgeon in the Red River Basin in 100 years is [happening this spring in the Otter Tail River Watershed](#). The decline and eventual extinction of sturgeon in the basin between 1880 and 1930 was due to several factors, including habitat fragmentation caused by the building of dams and other barriers to fish passage.



The Otter Tail River Watershed [WRAPS report summary](#) covers efforts to improve habitat for fish communities, including the removal of dams and other barriers. Four additional dam removal projects are proposed for the Pelican River subwatershed (including the dam next to Pelican Rapids’ iconic Pelican Pete) which would make the Pelican River free of any major fish barriers. Additional dam removal or modification projects are being considered to help restore connectivity along the Otter Tail River.

From BWSR’s Grants Quarterly: June 2022

Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Request for Proposals (RFP) Open

The FY23 CWF RFP opened on June 27 and will close at 4:30 p.m. on Monday, August 22. The RFP, policy, FAQs, and other supporting documents can be found [here](#).



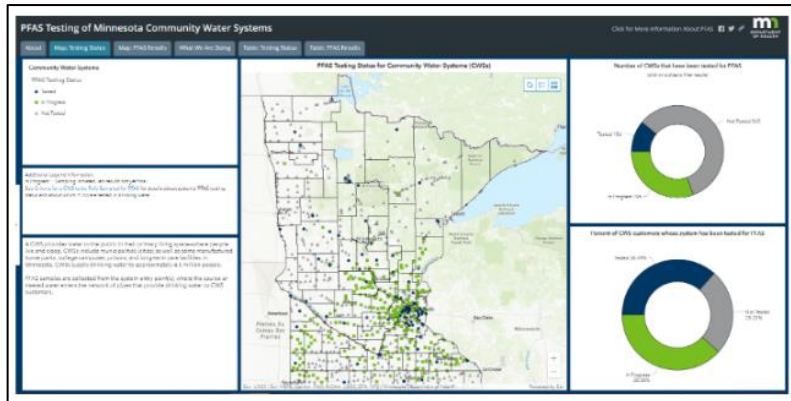
FY23 Updates to the Grants Administration Manual

The Grants Administration establishes administrative and programmatic requirements for all grants administered by BWSR. Several updates have been made to the manual for FY2023. More information can be found [here](#).

More News about Water in Minnesota

New! Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Dashboard

In a June 7 [news release](#), the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) announced a dashboard showing PFAS monitoring results for drinking water. Minnesota residents who get their drinking water from a community public water system can find out if their system's water has any level of PFAS through an [interactive online dashboard](#). PFAS have been found in the groundwater and surface water in Minnesota. They are emerging contaminants about which the MDH has a new awareness and understanding.



Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

Heading into the summer recreation season, the MDNR is rolling out a new online pledge to help prevent the spread of AIS. More information is available on the [MDNR website](#).



Photo courtesy of MDNR.

Federal Funding

[EPA to give \\$60M to 12 states, including Minnesota, to help curb water pollution, CBS News Minnesota, June 10, 2022](#). The federal government will distribute \$60 million among 12 states that have waterways that flow into the Mississippi River to help them control farm runoff and other pollution that contribute to a dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico.

- July 14: Drainage Work Group
- July 18: CWC
- July 20: Region 1 MAWD/MAWA
- July 25: MAWD Board (tentative)

Employment Announcements

Watershed Job Openings. Do not forget that MAWD will post job openings for members on its website and promote them on social media. It is one of our most popular pages so email Maddy at mnwatershed@gmail.com to get yours listed today.

Here's the updated list:

- Capitol Region WD: [Office Manager](#)
- Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: [Technician](#)
- Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: [Watercraft Inspector](#)
- Heron Lake WD: [Office Manager](#)
- Minnehaha Creek WD: [Communications Coordinator](#)
- Nine Mile Creek WD: [Summer Intern](#)
- Red Lake WD: [Ditch Inspector/Tech II](#)
- Rice Creek WD: [Water Resource Specialist and Inspector](#)
- Rice Creek WD: [Communications and Outreach Coordinator](#)

Contact Us – Let's Talk!

MAWD Board members are available to connect with you at one of your future board meetings. They also welcome the opportunity to meet with you one-on-one to hear about your successes and ideas where MAWD could be of assistance.

Contact information is on our website:

www.mnwatershed.org/board-of-directors-2.

To contact Executive Director Emily Javens, please call or text (320) 979-0084 or email emily@mnwatershed.org.



We enjoy working with MAWD members and greatly appreciate your support!