


# BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

DATE: December 10, 2019

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources' Members, Advisors, and Staff

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – December 18, 2019

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, December 18, 2019, **beginning at 8:30 a.m.** The meeting will be held in the lower level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul. Parking is available in the lot directly in front of the building (see hooded parking area).

The following information pertains to agenda items:

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee*

1. **Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy** – This new proposed policy allows specific administrative decisions regarding watershed districts, water management organizations, and SWCDs to be delegated to the Executive Director, an action requested by the Board's Administrative Advisory Committee. The proposed policy is limited to noncontroversial boundary changes of watershed districts, ordering hearings for specific watershed district items (not the decisions on these items, just the ordering of the hearing), and changing names and locations of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The draft policy and procedure provided were developed by the Board's Internal Water Planning Team and recommended to the Committee by the Senior Management Team. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy Revision** – The proposed amended policy provides a streamlined option to batch multiple water plan extensions together into the existing Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy. The draft policy and procedure provided were developed by the Board's Internal Water Planning Team and recommended to the Committee by the Senior Management Team. **DECISION ITEM**

### *Southern Region Committee*

1. **Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Cedar - Wapsipinicon Watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the seven planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2016. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Planning Work Group members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Cedar - Wapsipinicon Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on September 30, 2019 for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 13, 2019 to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**

Bemidji      Brainerd      Detroit Lakes      Duluth      Mankato      Marshall      New Ulm      Rochester      St. Cloud      St. Paul

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**NEW BUSINESS**

1. **2020 Proposed Board Meeting Schedule** – Meeting dates are being proposed for board meetings in 2020. Most meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The proposed calendar has meetings held in the same months as the 2019 calendar. **DECISION ITEM**
  
2. **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Impaired Waters List** – Minnesota’s impaired waters list was updated last month. The MPCA added 581 new water bodies with 728 new impairments to the list. The list totals 5,774 impairments in 3,416 different bodies of water. MPCA will give an overview of the 2020 Impaired Waters List and discuss how the list is just one part of efforts to protect and restore Minnesota’s lakes and streams. **INFORMATION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at (651) 297-4290. We look forward to seeing you on December 18th.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER, 18, 2019**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**8:30 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 23, 2019 BOARD MEETING**

**PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM** (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

- Lewis Brockette, Wetlands Policy Coordinator
- Jon Sellnow, Technical Training and Certification Coordinator
- Christine Pham, Financial Analyst

**REPORTS**

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee - Gerald Van Amburg
- Audit & Oversight Committee - Gerald Van Amburg
- Executive Director - John Jaschke
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Gerald Van Amburg
- Grants Program & Policy Committee - Steve Sunderland
- RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee - Jack Ditmore
- Wetland Conservation Committee - Tom Schulz
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Tom Gile
- Drainage Work Group - Tom Loveall/Tom Gile

**AGENCY REPORTS**

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Chris Elvrum
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler

**ADVISORY COMMENTS**

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Chessa Frahm
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee***

1. Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy Revision – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***Central Region Committee***

1. Carver County Watershed Management Organization Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***Southern Region Committee***

1. Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – David Copeland – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***Administrative Advisory Committee***

1. *(Provisional)* Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan Amendment Hearing Date – Annie Felix-Gerth - ***DECISION ITEM***

## **NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2020 BWSR Board Meeting Schedule – Rachel Mueller and John Jaschke – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Impaired Waters List – Katrina Kessler and Miranda Nichols – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled to meet December 18, 2019, following the board meeting in the Lower Level East Conference Room at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul.
- RIM Committee is scheduled to meet on December 19, 2019, at 10:30 a.m. in the Easement Section Conference Room at 444 Pine Street, Suite 130, St. Paul or by conference call.
- BWSR Board Meeting is scheduled for January 22, 2020, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul.

## **ADJOURN**

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 23, 2019**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Jill Crafton, Joe Collins, Andrea Date, Jack Ditmore, Todd Holman, Kathryn Kelly, Harvey Kruger, Tom Loveall, Neil Peterson, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Steve Sunderland, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Paige Winebarger, Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Chris Elvrum, MDH; Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Whitney Place, MDA; Jess Richards, DNR

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Dan Fabian, Melissa King, Nicole Clapp, Ed Lenz, Tom Gile, Dan Shaw, Doug Goodrich, Mark Hiles

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Berg, MDA  
Phil Belfiori, EQB  
Erik Dahl, EQB  
Brian Martinson, AMC  
Emily Javens, MAWD  
Dan Livdahl, Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District  
John Shea, Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District

**Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM**

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**\*\* 19-58 ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Neil Peterson, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**\*\* 19-59 MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 25, 2019 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Kathryn Kelly to approve the minutes of September 25, 2019, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

## **PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM**

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

## **INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

- Megan Lennon, Legislative Coordinator
- Rita Weaver, Chief Engineer/Manager
- Jason Beckler, Easements Assistant Section Manager
- Aimee Gerhartz, Assistant Program Analyst

Chair Van Amburg and the board welcomed the new staff to BWSR!

John Jaschke orally reviewed the bylaws of the board stating agency Commissioners can delegate someone to attend board meetings in their place if it's done in advance.

## **REPORTS**

**Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee** – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported that the committee has not met.

**Audit and Oversight Committee** – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported they met this morning and reviewed Minnesota Management and Budget's (MMB) certification for internal controls in BWSR. In the past staff reviewed and the Executive Director would sign off and submit to MMB. This year MMB wanted a signature from the Board Chair. The committee reviewed what has been done by the staff in the past and this year to identify and address potential risks. Committee decided in the future to bring in the Audit and Oversight Committee early on to go through the process. The Board Chair will then sign off and submit to MMB after the committee has reviewed.

**Executive Director's Report** - John Jaschke reported that leadership staff have met with several environmental groups about things we're working on or they're interested in and will continue to do so. Also will be meeting with ag groups soon.

John stated he attended community events in the past few weeks. In North East Minneapolis the Islamic Community Center did some rain garden work with Mississippi WMO. The Capitol Region Watershed District had their grand opening for their office facility in St. Paul. The Dept. of Ag, PCA, and BWSR organized a field session in Northfield to demonstrate how water quality practices, soil health practices, and climate mitigation practices all can provide multiple benefits especially with ag land. There was an easement field training at Camp Ripley. Thanks to Camp Ripley and TNC staff for helping with it. John also attended a mini legislative session in SE Minnesota. Agencies coordinated a presentation on the

issue of plastics in the water. Stated he will be meeting with Mississippi Headwaters Board at their annual meeting on November 1<sup>st</sup>.

It's a bonding year in the legislature. BWSR has two proposals, the rest of the money for CREP and a request for the Local Government Wetland Replacement Program.

The packet was reviewed with the Board, which included Snapshots, an updated BWSR staff listing, an updated organizational chart, a form for business cards that can be returned to Rachel and two updated board orders for decision items.

Jack Ditmore stated he appreciated seeing the agriculture and climate change Snapshot article. Chair Van Amburg also stated he really appreciates the Snapshots stories.

Chair Van Amburg attended the Minnesota Water Resources Conference where the Dave Ford award was presented to BWSR's recently retired Chief Engineer Al Kean.

**Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report** – Travis Germundson stated the title of the report has changed to incorporate the compliance tracking under the buffer law or any other compliance activity the Board is involved in. There are three WCA appeals pending and no new appeals filed since the last board meeting. All three appeals involve enforcement orders under the Wetland Conservation Act.

The Buffer Program has received 25 notifications of noncompliance from 12 counties where BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Out of those, 3 counties are compliant and 3 corrective action notices have been issued and there are several in the pending status. Overall there are 17 counties across the state where they are fully compliant, and 41 counties have enforcement cases in process.

**Grants Program & Policy Committee** - Steve Sunderland reported that they met on October 14, 2019 and will have one item in front of the board today.

**RIM Reserve Committee** – Tom Loveall reported that the committee has not met.

**Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee** - Jack Ditmore reported they will be meeting on November 22, 2019, and there will be a call-in option available.

Kathryn wanted to say thank you to staff who arrange for a call-in option, which allows them to participate if they are unable to attend in person.

**Wetland Conservation Committee** - Tom Schulz reported that the committee has not met.

**Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee** - Kathryn Kelly reported they will be meeting on October 29, 2019, in Waite Park.

**Drainage Work Group (DWG)** - Tom Loveall and Tom Gile reported that they met on Thursday, October 10, 2019. They provided an update of meetings scheduled between the DNR, MAWD/AMC regarding re-establishment of records and DNR guidance. A meeting between those entities is scheduled for October 24, 2019. The DWG also discussed the MN AG BMP Loan program, current funding available within the revolving fund and potential uses associated with Drainage management. DWG had a

discussion regarding recent local discussions between Jackson County and Heron Lake Watershed District. Information was shared on current MPCA Rule amendments to certain water quality standards, with DWG members encouraged to review and provide comments to MPCA. BWSR staff provided an overview of 1W1P emphasizing the role and importance of considering Drainage Management within the planning process and for drainage authorities to consider being active participants in those planning processes.

Next in-person DWG meeting will be either November 14, 2019 or December 12, 2019. There was some discussion at the end of the DWG about the purpose of DWG and interest in getting back to policy/statutory “fixes” and proposing solutions. Intent of last meeting(s) of this year will center around setting the stage for more likely policy discussions during 2020 DWG meetings. Likely discussion topics will include an update on progress for DNR guidance/re-establishment of records discussions and other potential policy items.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture** – Whitney Place reported on their Minnesota Ag Water Quality Certification Program. There are 803 famers that are certified farming over 550,000 acres. Through BWSR’s eLINK and tracking system they were able to calculate the impact of those conservation practices and have reported saving 101,000 tons of top soil on the landscape, reduced phosphorus loads to Minnesota waters by 45,000 pounds, and have also reported reducing CO2 by 36,000 tons per year.

Minnesota is hosting the NRCS State Conservationists and the National Chief of NRCS. Department of Ag Advisory Team is hosting the reception and will be able to showcase the program to a national group.

The Ag BMP loan program is at capacity.

**Minnesota Department of Health** – Chris Elvrum reported they have funding for plastics assessments and are working with other agencies to assess where we find plastics and what the risks might be. Attended a conference a month ago at the Wilder Foundation. Speakers from across the county attended, plastics are everywhere, and we don’t know what the risks are.

News release today from Environmental Working Group (EWG.org). Released an update to the tap water database that has information from all public water supplies.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** – Jess Richards reported they are holding public meetings this week on PFAS contamination in the east metro area. Informing citizens about PFAS and what is being done by state agencies to plan for use of settlement dollars from 3M.

Repairing, removing, and replacing aging dam infrastructure. Lake Bronson Dam in northwestern Minnesota is the number one priority for DNR for replacement. Will be part of their bonding request this year. Environmental Assessment Worksheet on the Willow River Dam removal and stream restoration project.

Reported by the National Weather Service in Duluth, they thought they saw a potential forest fire on radar, but it turned out to be 600,000 southward flying ducks.

**Minnesota Extension** – Joel Larson reported the Water Resources Conference had a great conference with 900 plus in attendance, a new record. The Minnesota Climate Adaptation Conference is being held



January 22<sup>nd</sup>. One key note speaker scheduled so far is Beth Givens, Executive Director of American Society for Adaptation Professionals. One of the challenges in finalizing the rest of the program is having 50 proposals for about 20 slots. The WRC has brought on Kate Knuth who will help with a long-term plan on the conference and broader climate adaptation partnerships.

Jill Crafton stated she attended the Water Resources Conference and liked it a lot. Would like more education on ecosystems and ecological services.

Members discussed ecosystems and ecological services. Joel stated they have teams and initiatives at the University that are looking at the issue of valuing ecosystems and could provide more information if interested. Jess stated in their strategic priorities they are elevating ecosystems and ecological service, especially in climate adaptation and climate impacts. They are close to finishing a biodiversity action plan. Also pushing some new initiatives about sampling to have a better idea of trends and changes to our ecosystems through consistent sampling efforts. Jess stated that the DNR could also provide information to the board.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency** – Katrina Kessler reported Class 2 water quality standards are the largest class for aquatic life. Several years ago, a tiered structure was developed called Tiered Aquatic Life Uses. It recognizes that different flowing, and large or small streams have different potential for aquatic life and ecological systems. They are now going through and using the data collected around the state.

Will be releasing the 2020 draft list for impaired waters next month.

St. Paul hosting Upper Mississippi River Basin Association Executive Team and Water Quality Team next Monday and Tuesday. Topics include nutrient reduction strategies that states have going in the Gulf and goals. Minnesota is updating ours and a draft will be ready for steering team members to review next month. Will be using grant money made available by EPA.

MPCA has a proposal out for a new bonding pilot program to provide grants to local units of government who are interested in upgrading their infrastructure related to resiliency.

#### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

**Association of Minnesota Counties** – No report was provided.

**Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees** – John Jaschke reported on behalf of Chessa Frahm. MACDE was chosen as the host for the 2020 North Central/Northern Plains Regional Leadership Conference. They will be hosting a two- or three-day event for Conservation District employees and partners from Minnesota, South Dakota, North Dakota, Montana, Nebraska, Iowa, Michigan, Wisconsin, Illinois, Indiana, and Ohio. The conference will be likely held the second week of August somewhere near the MSP Airport. Details are still up the in air, but we had great success with the first conference this year in South Dakota and the region would like to continue to offer this educational opportunity for all employees.

The MACDE board is looking forward to the BWSR Academy and their annual meeting. We will be hosting a social event during BWSR Academy on the second night. We will have our annual meeting immediately following the last session on October 30. The social will be the same evening beginning at

7:00 p.m. in the dining area. There will be light snacks, door prizes, activities and a cash bar. We invite any BWSR Staff and board members that are at Breezy Point to join us.

**Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts** – No report was provided.

**Minnesota Association of Townships** – Nathan Redalen reported their annual conference is on the 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> in Mankato at the Civic Center. Dave Weirens will be at a round table for BWSR and will have a session the next day on 1W1P.

There are 87 counties, 80 counties have townships, there are 1,751 townships, and there are 9,081 officers that serve those townships.

**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts** –Emily Javens reported last month they had a two-day Governance 101 Training with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Local Govt. Water Round Table met for a visioning session about why we are sticking together, what is important and what our main messages and projects are going to be.

MAWD annual conference December 5 and 6. There is a Pre-Conference Drainage Workshop in collaboration with counties.

Spent a lot of time with Heron Lake WD and Jackson County. Farmers are unable to pay drainage project loan off in the next three years. Thanks to BWSR for assisting and writing a letter to the entities, which led to the county retracting their resolution. Still working on a solution for how we're going to help the farmers pay for that project.

Met with a developer who brought legislation forward last year that would take away the ability of watershed districts to do rule making. Will continue to meet with developer.

Meeting with the DNR tomorrow over the reestablishment of drainage records.

**Natural Resources Conservation Services** – No report was provided.

Gerald Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:40 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **Central Region Committee**

**Sunrise River Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-yr Plan Amendment** – Dan Fabian and Kevin Bigalke presented Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan.

### **Background**

The Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) was originally formed in 1985 through a Joint Powers Agreement ratified by Columbus, East Bethel, and Linwood Township in order to cooperatively develop a Watershed Management Plan and form the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO). The City of Ham Lake was added to the JPA in 2000.

The SRWMO is located on the fringe of the Twin Cities metropolitan area encompassing approximately 45,300 acres in the northeast corner of Anoka County, consisting of relatively flat topography that contains extensive lakes and wetland areas. The area also has large areas of high-quality natural communities, including large areas of public lands many of which are used for recreation. Residential development historically occurred primarily around lakes. However even with its proximity to the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, future growth is expected to be light and mostly residential. While most watershed organization's boundaries are based on hydrological watershed boundaries, this is not entirely the case for the SRWMO. Because watershed organizations are only required in the seven-county metropolitan area, the SRWMO's north and east boundaries are the Anoka County boundaries. To the north, portions of Isanti County drain into the SRWMO jurisdiction. To the east, the SRWMO outlets into Chisago County via the West and South Branches of the Sunrise River. The SRWMO is currently participating in the Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan planning effort to help overcome the non-hydrological based boundaries.

### **Plan Process and Highlights**

In 2016, prior to the SRWMO starting their 10-yr Plan update, BWSR completed a Level II PRAP for the SRWMO. It was noted in the general conclusions that the SRWMO had many high value resources with population concentrated in proximity to those resources, and a low tax base relative to those resources. Nevertheless, it was further noted that the SRWMO had managed to accomplish or make progress on many items in their current watershed management plan. The SRWMO received four commendations in the PRAP report and two recommendations which were addressed during the development of this new plan.

Approximately a year after the completion of the PRAP the SRWMO, on January 19, 2018, initiated the planning process for completing the required 10-year update to their third generation Watershed Management Plan with the required "Notice of Decision to Update" their Plan and a request for Agency and local stakeholder input per 8410.0045 Subp. 2. and Subp. 3. The initial kick-off event and planning meeting, held on May 24, 2018, included a bus tour of the watershed for public officials and an open house for residents to learn about the SRWMO and to provide input through an issues/priority identification exercise. A subgroup of attendees was recruited to serve on the Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The SRWMO utilized the CAC and TAC (technical advisory committee) throughout the planning process. Additionally, planning materials and drafts were posted on the SRWMO website. These stakeholder engagement efforts are documented in Appendix A of the plan.

The plan contains goals, policies, and an action plan to address the priority issues identified by the SRWMO planning process. The issues are grouped into one of three tiers "High Priority Issues," "Medium Priority Issues," and "Low Priority Issues." The extensive process followed to identify and then prioritize the issues into tiers is documented in Section 6. Then in Section 7 specific goals and action items are assigned to address each priority. The individual goals and action items are numbered so they can be easily referenced back to, from the Implementation Plan Tables found in Section 8. As can be expected addressing the "High Priority Issues" of *1) Lake and stream quality; 2) Water monitoring; 3) Funding; 4) Communications with member communities; and 5) Outreach and education*, receive the bulk of the SRWMO's efforts and proportion of their limited budget funds during the 10-yr life of the plan. An example of an established high priority goal would be G8, which is a goal to achieve the pollutant reductions needed to delist currently impaired Martin and Linwood lakes.

“Medium and Low Priority Issues” while still important for plan implementation tend to be delegated to the Member Communities, with some oversight from the SRWMO. Appendix C provides a summary of assigned Member Community actions and Local Plan requirements. A key component for implementing the plan is a contracted administrator position that includes a responsibility for working with and oversight of Member Communities implementation of required actions. The specific tasks of the administrator are identified and budgeted for in the Implementation Plan. Currently (and for the expected future) the SRWMO is leveraging its successful partnership (as mentioned in the PRAP) with the Anoka Conservation District (ACD) and contracting with them for administrator services.

To help keep the plan concise and streamlined the SRWMO has incorporated into the Plan by reference “Guidance Documents,” which are key studies and reports that were used in the development of the Plan and will be used to guide implementation of this management plan. Included in the list of adopted guidance documents described in Appendix D are specific project prioritizing, targeting and feasibility documents that have been prepared to help target the most cost-effective projects for priority areas in the SRWMO. A procedure is also established for the SRWMO board to adopt future guidance documents and incorporate them into the Plan (most likely via the minor amendment process). An example of adopted guidance documents would be the carp management feasibility assessments for Martin, Typo, and Linwood lakes. The SRWMO will use these feasibility assessments to help direct their efforts in implementing projects to meet the G8 goal to delist Linwood and Martin lakes during the 10-yr life of this plan.

One concern we have for the proposed implementation program is that we would have liked it to be more aggressive in the amount of pollutant reduction projects sought to address other identified priority issues within a reasonable time frame. We do however understand the SRWMO Boards hesitancy to promise more than they feel they can deliver as well as the resistance/ability of their local communities to provide additional funds. We believe the plan has the potential to result in competitive grant applications and attract additional matching grant funds from partners, which would result in the budgeted match funds being able to go further. An additional concern we have is that many of the implementation program activities are delegated to member communities. The hiring of a part-time contracted administrator helps alleviate this concern.

#### **Formal Plan Review Process**

The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on May 19, 2019, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The SRWMO prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on August 1, 2019. Following the hearing the SRWMO Managers approved a motion to send the revised draft Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (and State Review Agencies) for the final 90-day review and approval. This was received by the Board on August 5, 2019. Comments received during the 90-day review period were resolved to the satisfaction of the commenters with some additional minor revisions to the Final Draft Plan.

Jill asked if there would be more follow-up on commitment. Dan stated they partnered with Anoka Conservation District and submitted a grant for carp removal. They also participated in the 1W1P planning effort for the Lower St. Croix. Dan said they will keep pressure on as they can but it’s also up to them to implement, evaluate, and bring back their plan every two years.

Board discussed they are working with a limited budget because they have limited tax capacity. Stated that the Watershed Based Implementation Plan could be a source of revenue.

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19-60

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Sunrise River Watershed Management Plan approval of 10-yr Plan Amendment. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension** – Melissa King and Kevin Bigalke presented Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension.

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) was originally established on March 4, 1970, by order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board (MWRB) under the authority of the Minnesota Watershed Act. The order was in response to a petition filed with the MWRB by residents within the watershed on June 24, 1969.

PLSLWD is approximately 42 square miles in north central Scott County and ultimately drains to the Minnesota River. There was no outflow from the watershed until 1983 when an outlet channel was constructed at the southwest end of Lower Prior Lake. Land use in the District is a mix of both suburban developed land and undeveloped agricultural land. Government units within the District include: Scott County, the cities of Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee, portions of Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships, and a portion of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community.

On September 3, 2019, the Board received an initial petition from the PLSLWD requesting an extension to their Water Resources Management Plan from the current expiration date of December 31, 2019, until a new expiration date of December 21, 2020. The District formally began the Plan update process in February 2018 and has since been in process of updating the Plan. PLSLWD staff recently undertook a major effort to reformat the draft Plan to be more 'user-friendly', which has delayed the Plan update process. The District currently anticipates distributing the draft Plan for the 60-day review and comment period in December 2019.

BWSR staff have discussed the extension request with PLSLWD staff and is recommending that the extension request be provided to December 31, 2020 to ensure the District has adequate time to complete the Plan update process and to complete the review process. As a result of the plan extension approval, PLSLWD would maintain eligibility to apply for and receive grant funding through 2020.

On October 10, 2019, the Board's Central Region Committee met to consider the request and upon a unanimous vote, recommended approval of the extension request to the full Board.

Jill Crafton stated she is glad to see they are taking their time to do it right.

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19-61

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan Extension. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement** –Kevin Bigalke presented North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement.

The purpose of the petition is to correct the boundary between the North Fork Crow River Watershed and the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District and to have the legal boundary match the hydrologic boundary; and the area to be enlarged and included drains into the county ditch systems, under

Minnesota Statutes 103E, and into the North Fork Crow River Watershed District are not included in the current boundary of the North Fork Crow River Watershed.

Tom Loveall clarified that there were portions of drainage systems that were out of the boundaries and now are in. Stated that the watershed district was unable to assess costs to it but are now able to.

Kevin noted that when mapping the boundaries, the goal is to get as close to the true hydrologic boundary as possible so you may have some parcels split.

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19-62 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the North Fork Crow River Watershed District Watershed Boundary Change and Watershed District Enlargement. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

### **Grants Program and Policy Committee**

**Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy** – Nicole Clapp and Dan Shaw presented Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy.

This is a new program in fiscal year 2020 that is aimed at issuing grants for the creation of demonstration projects to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. A policy is needed to provide guidance to grantees on the requirements of this new program.

Katrina Kessler asked about the cities, counties, watershed districts, etc. that we are giving grants to, how are we targeting them to let them know they need to do this work? Nicole stated Communication has been going out through mailing lists, GovDelivery, and there has been communication with local governments and various partners.

Chris Elvrum asked if the funding requires a match and can that match be met by the applicant and/or the people who ultimately receive the funds and do the work on their property. Nicole stated a match is a requirement of the appropriations.

Steve Sunderland asked if eLINK will be used by everyone. Nicole stated eLINK is required and information is available to them on how to access eLINK. There is a BWSR staff person available to help with their questions.

Tom Loveall asked if there are cities that have clean lawn ordinances that might conflict with this? Nicole stated the landowner would need to investigate if there are any ordinances in place that would impede them from participating. Tom asked what the maintenance would be? Stated there are different maintenance needs with each project type. Simpler ones for home owners and others that are more complex depending on the project type.

Jack Ditmore asked if there is any risk or concerns in issuing grants to nongovernmental organizations (NGO) that don't have a local government to serve as a fiscal agent for them? Nicole stated that Amie Wunderlich is the BWSR Compliance Coordinator and will review financial documents of NGO applicants. Nicole also stated these are reimbursable grants.

Kathryn Kelly asked if this is a revolving grant application or if there is a definite date? Nicole stated there is a definite date, it is scheduled for the RFP to open in November with a deadline in December so grants could go out in February.

Steve Sunderland clarified that it is a reimbursable grant where they will be paid after the work is finished. Asked for clarification on the board order why it says to return any unused funds. Nicole stated it was boiler template language and will remove it.

John Jaschke stated we are committed to provide training on eLINK to make it work for all those applying.

\*\*  
19-63 Moved by Chris Elvrum, seconded by Harvey Kruger, to approve the Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program and Policy. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**Southern Region Committee**

**Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment**– Ed Lenz presented Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment.

The petition proposes to amend the watershed district's watershed management plan to establish a water management district along the northern edge of the City of Glencoe. Territory is limited to the Central Ditch drainage area encompassing approximately 1,132 acres. The establishment of the water management district will allow the district to collect revenues to support a comprehensive stormwater management project over the drainage area of the ditch.

\*\*  
19-64 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Tom Loveall, to approve the Buffalo Creek Watershed District Watershed Plan Amendment. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

**Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Ed Lenz, Doug Goodrich, Mark Hiles presented Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Missouri River planning area includes all waters of the state that are tributaries to the Missouri River Basin and include the Upper Big Sioux, Lower Big Sioux, Rock River, and Little Rock River major watersheds in Minnesota. The Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was a resultant plan associated with the “2016” round of One Watershed, One Plan planning grant applicants. The Plan area contains portions of the counties of Jackson, Lincoln, Murray, Nobles, Pipestone, and Rock as well their Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Kanaranzi-Little Rock and Okabena-Ocheda Watershed Districts in southwest Minnesota. Dan Livdahl (Okabena-Ocheda WD) and Doug Bos (Rock County SWCD/Land Management Office) are the local lead staff responsible for development of the Plan.

On July 22, 2019, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearings, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #16-17. The Planning Partnership has responded to all comments received and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan. The State agencies recommended that BWSR approve the Plan as submitted.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On September 26, 2019, the Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Whitney Place appreciated the inclusion of the priorities of drinking water. They have been working a lot with partners on the Ground Water Protection Rule and the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and it's great to see all the coordination.

Tom Schulz appreciated the way the board order was written.

Jill Crafton stated it was nice to see it all put together.

Harvey Kruger stated they did an awesome job at presenting at the Committee meeting. Stated there could be a working relationship across the board.

John Jaschke recognized and thanked John Shea and Dan Livdahl for their work.

\*\*  
19-65 Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the Missouri River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**2020 State Water Plan** – Phil Belfiori and Erik Dahl, EQB presented the 2020 State Water Plan.

The EQB is directed by statute (MS §[103B.151](#)) to prepare a state water plan, a “comprehensive long-range water resources planning” document, every ten years. The 2020 plan will be the fourth such plan since 1991.

Tom Schulz stated he would like to see interested parties informed so they understand what this might mean for them.

Paige Winebarger asked how their plan collaborates with the Clean Water Council's (CWC) plan? Phil stated they presented to CWC last month. Coordination will take place through an inter-agency process and will have regular check-ins with staff and anticipate an ongoing partnership. For the groups of non-profits, they are having multiple focus groups to coordinate.

Rich Sve asked how this translates into the work that we do here with local water plans and 1W1P? Phil stated they rely heavily on BWSR and other staff on the inter-agency team. Will have multiple conversations as the plan develops.

Jill Crafton asked for them to look at ecological services in the area and to draw attention to it with the people making those plans.

Jack Ditmore stated that partnering in focus groups with universities could be a beneficial resource to draw into the discussion.

Chair Van Amburg asked if the hope for their plan is to drive adaptation to climate change? Phil stated the plan will focus on adaptation techniques and mitigation.



Harvey mentioned one of the focus group that might be missing is Pheasants Forever and Ducks Unlimited.

Paige Winebarger stated they talked about sustainable being the goal. Have we as a state adopted sustainability as a goal in various areas of natural resources that are affected? John Jaschke stated there is not one global goal of sustainability, it's in various parts depending on what sector of conservation or natural resources we're talking about. Phil stated it depends on the action but will analyze each potential action as they put it into the plan.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee Meeting is scheduled for October 29, 2019, in Waite Park.
- Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee Meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2019, in St. Paul or by conference call.
- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 18, 2019, in St. Paul.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:30 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg  
Chair

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Dispute Resolution Compliance Report

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**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**     Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**             Decision                                     Discussion             Information

**Section/Region:**    Central Office

**Contact:**             Travis Germundson

**Prepared by:**        Travis Germundson

**Reviewed by:**        \_\_\_\_\_ Committee(s)

**Presented by:**      Travis Germundson/Chair Gerald VanAmburg

**Time requested:**    5 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |                                                   |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None          | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

None

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

See attached report.

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with BWSR and buffer compliance.

## Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

December 10, 2019

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **five** appeals pending. There have been **two** new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting (October 23, 2019).

Format note: New appeals that have been filed since last report to the Board.  
~~Appeals that have been decided since last report to the Board.~~

File 19-5 (11/15/19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Pine County. The appeal regards the placement of fill within a shore impact zone of Passenger Lake a DNR Public Water. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *No decision has been made on the appeal,*

File 19-4 (11/15/19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Mille Lacs County. The appeal regards the placement of fill in a wetland along a purported township road within the shoreland overlay district of the North Fork Bradbury Brook a DNR Public Water. *No decision has been made on the appeal.*

File 19-3 (9/20/19) This is an appeal of duplicate WCA restoration orders in Wright County. The appeal regards the alleged draining and filling of approximately 4.79 acres of wetland associated with construction of a drainage ditch. Applications for exemption and no-loss have been submitted to the LGU. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications or finalization of a restoration plan.*

File 19-2 (6/6/19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Morrison County. The appeal regards the alleged drainage of approximately 11.5 acres of wetland associated with the placement of agricultural drain tile. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written findings of fact and for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order.*

File 18-3 (10-31-18) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the alleged filling and draining of over 11 acres of wetland. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications. That decision has been amended several times to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order.*

Summary Table

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2018	Total for Calendar Year 2019
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	2	
Order Modified		
Order Remanded		
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	1	2
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed		1

Buffer Compliance Status: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 46 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Our staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of a Correction Action Notices (CANs). So far 25 CANs have been issued by BWSR.

\*Statewide 19 counties are fully compliant, and 41 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those counties have issued a total of 721 CANs. Currently there are no cases with active Administrative Penalty Orders. Of the actions being tracked over 486 of those have been resolved.

*\*Disclaimer: These numbers are generated on a monthly basis from BWSR's Access database. The information is obtained through notifications from LGUs on actions taken to bring about compliance and may not reflect the current status of compliance numbers.*

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee***

1. Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy Revision – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy

---

**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** Operations

**Contact:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Prepared by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Reviewed by:** Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Time requested:** 5 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |                                                          |                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None                            | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested        | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                          | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve new policy as recommended by WM&SP Committee.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

This new proposed policy allows specific administrative decisions regarding watershed districts, water management organizations, and SWCDs to be delegated to the Executive Director, an action requested by the Board’s Administrative Advisory Committee. The proposed policy is limited to noncontroversial boundary changes of watershed districts, ordering hearings for specific watershed district items (not the decisions on these items, just the ordering of the hearing), and changing names and locations of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. The draft policy and procedure provided were developed by the Board’s Internal Water Planning Team and recommended to the Committee by the Senior Management Team.

**BOARD ORDER****Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy****PURPOSE**

Adopt the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy.

**RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On June 26, 2019, the Board's Administrative Advisory Committee directed staff to assess which routine process items could be delegated to staff, such as plan amendment hearings, simple boundary changes, certain county water plan extensions, and SWCD office relocation.
2. Staff reviewed the board's statutory decision-making requirements and identified a series of administrative decisions for watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts that could be delegated to the Executive Director and drafted a policy to allow specific decisions to be delegated.
3. The proposed policy allowing routine, administrative, and noncontroversial decisions to be delegated to the Executive Director was reviewed by the Board's Senior Management Team on October 8, 2019 and recommended to the Board's Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee.
4. The Board's Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the Executive Director Delegation Policy on November 22, 2019 and recommended approval to the Board.

**ORDER**

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy dated December 18, 2019.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 18, 2019.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy

From the Office of Board of Water and Soil Resources, State of Minnesota

**Version:** 1.0  
**Effective Date:** 12/18/2019  
**Approval:** Board Order #

## Policy Statement

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The purpose of this policy is to allow specific administrative decisions regarding watershed districts (103D and 103B) and soil and water conservation districts (103C) to be delegated to the Executive Director. This policy will be known as the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decisions Policy.

## Reason for the policy

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The goal is to increase efficiencies in the decision making process at BWSR by allowing the Executive Director to make decisions on routine actions.

## Applicability

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This policy applies to watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts. Delegation of decisions to the Executive Director will be supported for the following actions:

- 1) Watershed district (103D.251)
  - a) Non-controversial boundary changes. To be considered a non-controversial boundary change and in addition to the requirements for petition signatures of 103D.251, Subd. 5, the petition must include a written statement of concurrence from the governing body of each city, town, county, and watershed district having jurisdiction over the territory proposed to be added or transferred. Upon the filing of a sufficient petition, Board staff will give notice of the filing of the petition (103D.105, Subd. 2). If BWSR does not receive a written request for hearing within 30 days of the last publication of the notice of filing, the Executive Director may make a decision on the petition. If a request is received, then the Executive Director will schedule a hearing (103D.251, Subd. 6)
  - b) Hearing orders (approval to file notice and delegates the members to oversee the hearing) for any of the following:



- i) establishment (103D.221)
- ii) boundary change (103D.251)
- iii) withdrawal of territory (103D.255)
- iv) enlargement (103D.261)
- v) consolidation (103D.265)
- vi) termination (103D.271)
- vii) increasing managers (103D.305)

2) Metro watershed districts (103B).

Boundary changes (103B.215). Upon the filing of a sufficient petition (103B.215, Subd. 2), BWSR shall give notice of the filing of the petition (103B.215, Subd. 3). If a timely written request for a hearing is not received (103B.215, Subd. 3), the Executive Director may make a decision on the petition within 30 days after the last publication of the notice without a hearing. If a hearing is requested, the Executive Director will schedule a hearing to be presided over by a Committee of the Board (Central Region Committee or another Committee as directed by the Board chair) and the decision on the petition will be made by the Board (103B.215, Sub.4).

3) Soil and water conservation districts (103C)

- a) Change of name (103C.215)
- b) Change of location (103C.221)

## Procedure

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Local government units initiate a request for any of the actions listed above by submitting a petition (watershed districts) or resolution (SWCDs) to BWSR. Requests will be processed through the Board Conservationist, Regional Manager and Executive Director. The Executive Director may defer the decision to the BWSR Board.

## History

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Version	Description	Date
1.0	Delegation Policy, first adoption	12/18/2019

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy Revision

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**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** Operations

**Contact:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Prepared by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Reviewed by:** Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Time requested:** 10 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |                                                              |                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None                                | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested                | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve amended policy as recommended by WM&SP Committee.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The proposed amended policy provides a streamlined option to batch multiple water plan extensions together into the existing Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy. The draft policy and procedure provided were developed by the Board’s Internal Water Planning Team and recommended to the Committee by the Senior Management Team.



## BOARD ORDER

### Revised Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy

#### PURPOSE

Adopt a revised Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy.

#### RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Minnesota Statutes §103B.3367, provides that the Board may grant extensions with or without conditions of the revision date of a comprehensive local water management plan or a comprehensive watershed management plan.
2. The Board adopted resolution #14-76 Local Water Plan Extension Policy on December 17, 2014 for the purpose of facilitating the transition to One Watershed, One Plans, allowing for effective participation and use of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, and maintaining eligibility of participating local government units in applying for and receiving grants.
3. The Board adopted resolution #16-18 Local Water Plan Extension Policy on March 3, 2016 revising the policy for the purposes of authorizing the Executive Director to approve and sign extension requests, place conditions on extension approvals, to approve and sign local water management plan amendments to incorporate Minnesota Statutes §103F.48 summary of watercourses, to approve and sign amendments to local water plans required by Board order, and to approve and sign waivers to amendments required by Board order and replacing Board resolution #14-76.
4. The Board adopted resolution #16-54 Local Water Plan Extensions and Amendments Policy on June 22, 2016 for the purposes of revising the policy for additional clarity and replacing Board resolution #16-18.
5. At their December 18, 2018 meeting, the Board's Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee received an update on the One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan and discussed the option of providing a blanket plan extension for counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts to further facilitate the transition to comprehensive watershed management plans.
6. The proposed revision to the Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment policy provides for additional efficiencies in the extension procedure by incorporating a batch plan extension procedure.
7. The Board's Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the revised Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy on November 22, 2019 and recommended approval to the Board.

**ORDER**

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the revised Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy dated December 18, 2019.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 18, 2019.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Local Water Plan Extension and Amendment Policy

From the Board of Water and Soil Resources, State of Minnesota

**Version:** 4.0  
**Effective Date:** 12/18/2019  
**Approval:** Board Order #

## Policy Statement

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The purpose of this policy is to provide direction to local water planning authorities regarding Minnesota Statutes §103B.3367 Water Plan Extensions.

## Reason for the Policy

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The goals of this policy are to: 1) facilitate the transition to One Watershed, One Plan by ensuring active participation by counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed districts in plan development; 2) allow for effective participation and use of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS); and 3) provide flexibility on acting on extensions and amendments through case-by-case determinations.

## Applicability

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This policy applies to counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations (organizations) that are operating under a local water plan. For purposes of this policy, "local water plan" means a:

- county water plan authorized under Minnesota Statutes §103B.311,
- watershed management plan required under §103B.231,
- watershed management plan required under §103D.401 or §103D.405,
- county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255,
- soil and water conservation district "comprehensive plan" under §103C.331, Subd. 11, or
- comprehensive watershed management plan under §103B.801.

Extensions of local water plans will be supported in one or more of the following circumstances:

1. In order for an organization to participate in and more effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's watershed-based development of WRAPS.
2. In order to synchronize water management efforts between partners for the purposes of developing and completing comprehensive watershed management plans through the One Watershed, One Plan

Program. Formal acknowledgement of intent to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan under §103B.801 in the form of a passed motion or resolution by the board of the water planning authority is required in this circumstance.

3. Amendments required by BWSR Board Order approving the county water plan.

Extension requests associated with WRAPS or transition to comprehensive watershed management planning consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 will be considered only when a motion or resolution committing to transitioning to comprehensive watershed management planning has been passed or adopted by the board and/or a comprehensive watershed management plan has been adopted for a portion of the organization's area. All other purposes for requesting an extension will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Amendments of local water plans will be supported in one or more of the following circumstances:

1. As required by a BWSR Board order in association with an extension request.
2. All other amendments will be considered on a case-by-case basis in consideration of the authorizing local water plan statute.

## Extension Procedure

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All extension requests will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, based on the extent of implementation occurring, the availability of relevant new data or information, or commitment to transitioning to comprehensive watershed management planning. Extensions that substantially delay implementation of the requirements of local water plans will not be allowed.

**Individual Approval Process:** Local government units may initiate a request for an extension to a local water plan, or to the deadline to complete an amendment as required by BWSR Board Order, by submitting a petition to BWSR. Individual requests will be processed through the Board Conservationist, Regional Manager, and Executive Director.

**Batch Approval Process:** BWSR may process extensions for local government units through a batch Board Order. Batch requests will be processed through the Board Conservationist, Regional Manager, Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee, and BWSR Board.

**Exception:** Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) comprehensive plans will be processed through the Board Conservationist and approved by the Regional Manager.

The Executive Director may condition the extension approval with a requirement for a subsequent amendment to address new data and information that may substantially change implementation of the local water plan. Extension requests will be processed within 60 days. Appeals of decisions on individual extension requests will be processed through the Regional Committee and full Board. A local government unit may appeal a decision made via a batch extension approval process, which will be processed through the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee and full Board.

Where the SWCD has adopted the county plan by resolution and the county plan has been extended, the SWCD may continue to adopt the county water plan, as extended, by resolution.

## Amendment Procedure

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Amendments to local water plans must follow the requirements of the authorizing local water plan statute and will be processed through the Board Conservationist, Regional BWSR Committee, and full BWSR Board; except amendments to local water plans as required by BWSR Board order or condition of approval from the Executive Director, in association with an extension request, must follow the requirements of the authorizing statute (for public notice). These amendments will be processed through the Board Conservationist and Regional Manager with final approval delegated to the Executive Director.

Decisions will be made based on the extent of implementation occurring, the availability of relevant new data or information, or commitment to transitioning to comprehensive watershed management planning.

Amendment requests noted in the exceptions above will be processed within 60 days. Appeals of decisions will be processed through Regional Committees and the full Board.

## History

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Version	Description	Date
4.0	Local Water Plan Extension Policy, revision	12/18/2019
3.0	Local Water Plan Extension and Amendments Policy, revision	6/22/2016
2.0	Local Water Plan Extension Policy, revision	3/23/2016
1.0	Local Water Plan Extension Policy, first adoption	12/17/2014

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Central Region Committee***

1. Carver County Watershed Management Organization Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***





The CCWMO covers approximately 320 square miles on the southwestern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The watershed covers most of Carver County; draining an area approximately 23 miles from east to west and 23 miles from north to south. There are six major subwatersheds within the CCWMO. The Crow River subwatershed and the Pioneer Creek subwatershed drain to the South Fork of the Crow River. The Bevens Creek, Carver Creek, East Chaska Creek, and West Chaska Creek subwatersheds drain to the Minnesota River.

### **Plan Process and Highlights:**

The CCWMO initiated the planning process for the 2020-2029 Plan in 2016. As required by MR 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Stakeholders were identified, notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. From October 2016 to April 2017, a series of workshops were held with different stakeholder groups to gather input on issues. Separate meetings were held with the CCWMO's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), the CCWMO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), State Review Agencies, and Township Representatives. At the workshops, attendees were asked to share and write down their concerns about resources within the watershed. In March 2017, CCWMO staff met individually with staff from the cities within the watershed to discuss the plan update. Staff were asked to share their thoughts on what issues should be addressed in the Plan. In January 2017, the CCWMO held an event to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the CCWMO. Attendees were able to discuss issues with staff and use an online mapping tool to locate and describe issues. In January 2017, a survey was distributed to approximately 400 residents interested in watershed issues via the CCWMO's newsletter list-serve. Respondents could respond to general questions about issues the CCWMO should address or use a map to locate and describe specific issues.

The Plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on April 19, 2019. The CCWMO received 45 comments from 13 organizations or individuals including six state agencies, two cities, two townships, two citizens, and one county staff member. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. After formal review of the Plan, the CCWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on October 1, 2019. All additional comments received during the 90-day review period have been addressed. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on October 8, 2019.

The Plan focuses on priorities identified through a robust process with the CCWMO Board and its partners. The goals that the Plan addresses are:

- **Surface Water Quality.** To preserve and improve the quality of surface water resources within the watershed. The CCWMO has the following interim goals for improving water quality and aquatic life trends over the life of this plan: 1. Impaired waters that are close to the state standard will be delisted during the life of the plan. Determinations of what is close to the standard will be based on the characteristics of the waterbody and the impaired parameter and will be made on an ongoing basis. 2. Other impaired waters will show a stable or improving trend 3. Unlisted lakes will show a stable or improving trend
- **Surface Water Quantity.** To manage the volume and flow of stormwater runoff to minimize the impacts of land use change on surface water and groundwater resources within the watershed.
- **Groundwater Resource Protection.** To preserve and protect groundwater resources within the watershed.
- **Awareness & Behavior.** To provide those living, working, and recreating in the CCWMO with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to make positive behavior changes that protect surface water and groundwater resources.

- Coordination with Partners. To work with partners to identify and implement efficient solutions to water resource problems.
- Evaluating Effectiveness & Progress. To collect data and use the best available science to identify problems and evaluate the effectiveness of solutions.

The CCWMO will effectively address the issues above through permitting, projects, monitoring, education & outreach, planning & research, and administration.

The draft Plan is an excellent example of a resource that provides priorities that are measurable and clearly defines the roles and responsibilities of those implementing the practices included.

#### **Attachments**

1. Draft order for approval of the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) Watershed Management Plan.
2. CCWMO Plan Executive Summary. Full Plan Link as follows:  
<https://www.co.carver.mn.us/home/showdocument?id=18959>
3. CCWMO CIP 2020-2029

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**  
520 Lafayette Road North  
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

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**In the Matter** of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the Carver County Watershed Management Organization, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
A WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Board of Commissioners of the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated September 2019 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

**Whereas**, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

**Now Therefore**, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. **Carver County Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The CCWMO became necessary following the termination of five Joint Powers Agreement Water Management Organizations (WMOs) which had originally been established under the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. In October of 1996, the Board declared the Carver Creek, Bevens Creek, South Fork Crow River, Chaska Creek, and Hazeltine Bavaria Creek Joint Powers WMOs “non-implementing” and terminated the organizations. On October 30, 1996, the Board sent the Carver County Board of Commissioners a letter notifying them of its responsibility for water management pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103B.231 Subd. 3(b). The statute requires that the County assume all water management responsibilities in all areas of the county that were previously under the Joint Powers WMOs. The CCWMO adopted its first Watershed Management Plan in 2001 and the second plan was updated and adopted in 2010.
2. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The CCWMO covers approximately 320 square miles on the southwestern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The watershed covers most of Carver County; draining an area approximately 23 miles from east to west and 23 miles from north to south. There are six major subwatersheds within the CCWMO. The Crow River subwatershed and the Pioneer Creek subwatershed drain to the South Fork of the Crow River. The Bevens Creek, Carver Creek, East Chaska Creek, and West Chaska Creek subwatersheds drain to the Minnesota River.
4. **Plan Development and Review.** The CCWMO initiated the planning process for the 2020-2029 Plan in 2016. As required by MR 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Stakeholders were identified, notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. From October 2016 to April 2017, a series of workshops were held with different stakeholder groups to gather input on

issues. Separate meetings were held with the CCWMO's Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), the CCWMO's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), State Review Agencies, and Township Representatives. At the workshops, attendees were asked to share and write down their concerns about resources within the watershed. In March 2017, CCWMO staff met individually with staff from the cities within the watershed to discuss the plan update. Staff were asked to share their thoughts on what issues should be addressed in the Plan. In January 2017, the CCWMO held an event to celebrate the 20th Anniversary of the creation of the CCWMO. Attendees were able to discuss issues with staff and use an online mapping tool to locate and describe issues. In January 2017, a survey was distributed to approximately 400 residents interested in watershed issues via the CCWMO's newsletter list-serve. Respondents could respond to general questions about issues the CCWMO should address or use a map to locate and describe specific issues.

The Plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on April 19, 2019. The CCWMO received 45 comments from 13 organizations or individuals including six state agencies, two cities, two townships, two citizens, and one county staff member. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. After formal review of the Plan, the CCWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on October 1, 2019. All additional comments received during the 90-day review period have been addressed. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on October 8, 2019.

5. **Local Review.** The CCWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from a CCWMO CAC member, a resident, the City of Chaska, the City of Watertown, and Laketown Township. The CCWMO responded to all comments.
6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council noted the Plan is consistent with Council policies and the Council's Water Resources Policy Plan. The Council also commended the CCWMO for the framework and successful management of the watershed. The CCWMO noted the comments.
7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA provided clarification and minor language changes to several sections. MDA also provided references to its information for inclusion. The CCWMO acknowledged the comments and made changes where necessary.
8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** No comments were received during the 60-day or 90-day final review period.
9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR noted the successful work the CCWMO has done. DNR staff provided comments throughout the process and noted typographical changes. CCWMO staff noted these and made changes where necessary to the Plan.
10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA participated in TAC meetings and provided feedback throughout the plan development process. During the 60-day review, PCA requested further clarification on goal setting and progress tracking. The CCWMO added language to address the comments.
11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** A typographical correction was noted during the 60-day comment period. CCWMO updated the document.
12. **Board Review.** Board staff commended the CCWMO on a Plan that demonstrates a thorough and well thought out prioritization process as well as being inclusive to all partners. The Board requested clarification of several priorities and progress in the Plan. CCWMO staff thanked the Board for their comments and provided additional detail where necessary.
13. **Plan Summary.** The Plan focuses on priorities identified through a robust process with the CCWMO Board and its partners. The main issues that the Plan addresses are: Surface Water Quality, Surface Water Quantity, Groundwater Resource Protection, Awareness & Behavior, Coordination with Partners, and Evaluating Effectiveness & Progress.

The CCWMO will effectively address the issues above through permitting, projects, monitoring, education & outreach, planning & research, and administration.

To focus their efforts during the life of the Plan, the CCWMO has the following interim goals for improving water quality and aquatic life trends over the life of this plan: 1. Impaired waters that are close to the state standard will be delisted during the life of the plan. 2. Other impaired waters will show a stable or improving trend. 3. Unlisted lakes will show a stable or improving trend.

14. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On December 4, 2019, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Nicole Blasing (via phone), Jill Crafton (via phone), Andrea Date (via phone), Chris Elvrum, Grant Wilson, and Joe Collins, chair. Board staff in attendance were Assistant Director Kevin Bigalke and Board Conservationist Steve Christopher. CCWMO Manger Paul Moline and Planner Kristen Larson were in attendance and provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The CCWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the CCWMO's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2029.
4. The CCWMO Watershed Management Plan will be effective December 18, 2019 through December 18, 2029.
5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

## **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Carver County Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan dated September 2019.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 18<sup>th</sup> day of December 2019.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

# 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

## 1.1. ORGANIZATIONAL PURPOSE

The purpose of the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) is to fulfill the County's water management responsibilities under Minnesota Statute and Rule. The CCWMO provides a framework for water resource management as follows:

- Provides a sufficient economic base to operate a viable program;
- Avoids duplication of effort by government agencies;
- Avoids creation of a new bureaucracy by integrating water management into existing County departments and related agencies;
- Establishes a framework for cooperation and coordination of water management efforts among all affected governments, agencies, and other interested parties; and
- Establishes consistent water resource management goals and standards for approximately 80% of the county.

## 1.2. WATERSHED INFORMATION

### 1.2.1. Watershed Boundaries

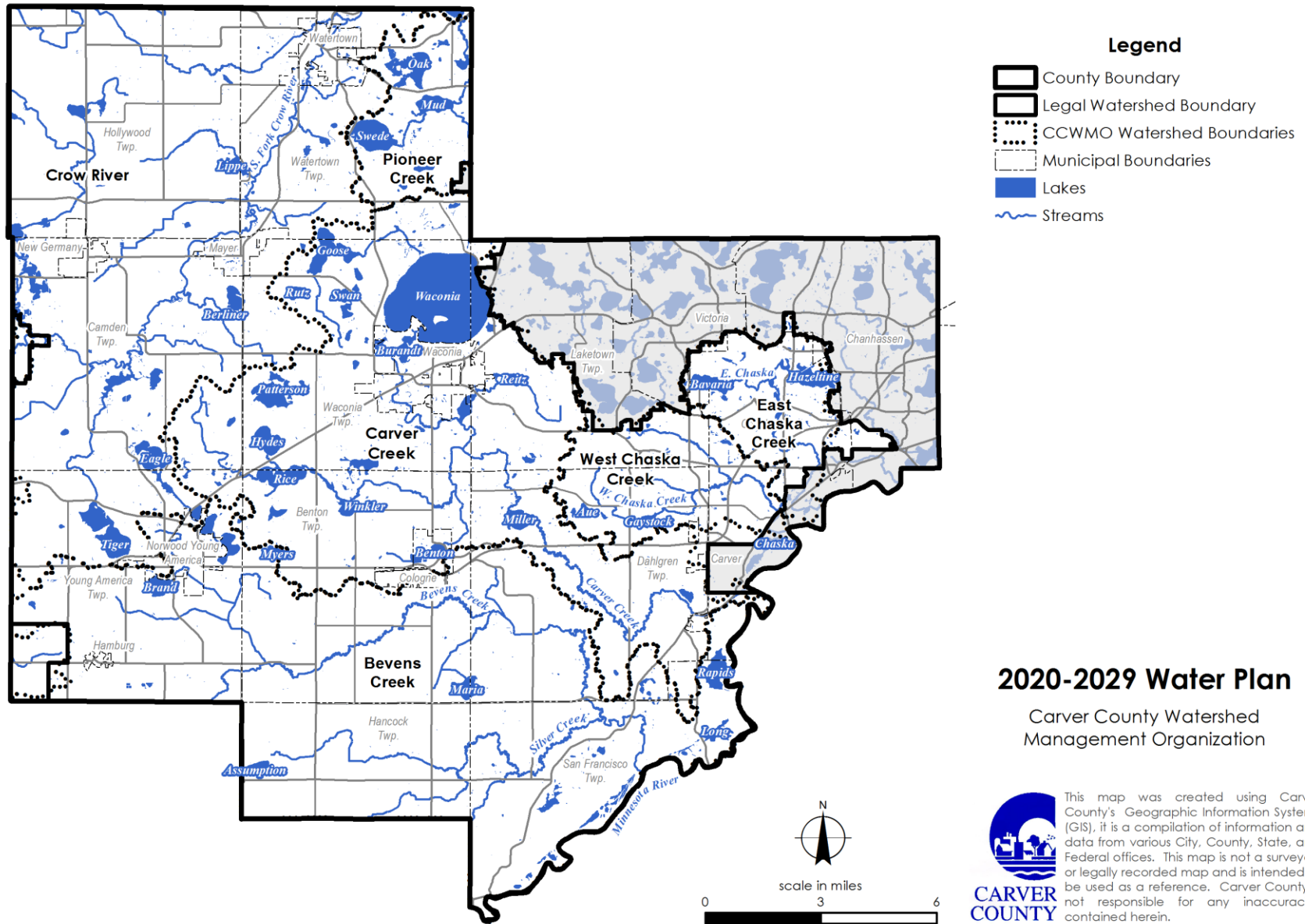
The CCWMO covers approximately 320 square miles on the southwestern edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The watershed covers most of Carver County; draining an area approximately 23 miles from east to west and 23 miles from north to south. There are six major subwatersheds within the CCWMO. The Crow River subwatershed and the Pioneer Creek subwatershed drain to the South Fork of the Crow River. The Bevens Creek, Carver Creek, East Chaska Creek, and West Chaska Creek subwatersheds drain to the Minnesota River. Figure 1-1 shows the CCWMO's legal boundaries, subwatersheds, and governmental units located within the watershed.

### 1.2.2. History of the Organization

In October of 1996, the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) declared the Carver Creek, Bevens Creek, South Fork Crow River, Chaska Creek and Hazeltine Bavaria Creek Joint Powers Water Management Organizations (WMOs) "non-implementing" and terminated the organizations. On October 30, 1996, BWSR sent the Carver County Board of Commissioners a letter notifying the Board of its responsibility for water management pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103B.231 Subd. 3(b). The statute requires that the County assume all water management responsibilities in all areas of the county that were previously under the Joint Powers WMOs. The statute gives the County the authority and responsibility for management – planning, funding, regulation, and implementation – of a water management organization. The CCWMO adopted its first Watershed Management Plan in 2001. The second iteration of the plan was updated and adopted in 2010.



Figure 1-1. CCWMO Watershed Boundaries (Source: Carver County)



## 1.3. PLAN SUMMARY

This Watershed Management Plan is intended to be a ten-year planning document to guide CCWMO activities. The Plan is divided into the chapters listed below. A summary of each chapter follows.

- Executive Summary
- Land and Water Resources Inventory
- Issue Identification Process
- Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies
- Implementation Plan
- Administration
- Appendices

### 1.3.1. Chapter 2: Land and Water Resource Inventory

**Chapter 2: Land and Water Resource Inventory** contains detailed information regarding land and water resources within the Carver County Watershed Management Organization boundaries. Information is grouped into four primary categories: physical environment, biological environment, human environment, and hydrologic systems. The Physical Environment section includes information on climate, topography and drainage, geology and soils. The Biological Environment section includes information on land cover, vegetation, and wildlife. The Human Environment section includes information on land use and growth patterns, recreation, and potential environmental hazards. The Hydrologic Systems section includes information on surface water and groundwater systems.

### 1.3.2. Chapter 3: Issue Identification Process

**Chapter 3: Issue Identification Process** describes the process used to engage stakeholders in the identification of issues to be addressed by this Plan. The chapter includes a summary of the process used to engage stakeholders in identifying, categorizing, and prioritizing issues related to water resources. Six major issues were identified:

- Surface Water Quality
- Surface Water Quantity
- Groundwater Resource Protection
- Awareness & Behavior
- Coordination with Partners
- Evaluating Effectiveness & Progress

#### **1.3.2.1. Surface Water Quality**

Improving and protecting surface water quality is a primary focus of the CCWMO. As impervious surfaces increase, more water flows off the landscape and is delivered to receiving waters more quickly. As water washes over developed landscapes it picks up materials lying upon those surfaces and delivers them to receiving waters. These materials can include sediment from construction erosion, oil and grease from automobiles, salt and other deicing chemicals from roadways and parking lots, and fertilizer and pesticides from lawns. These pollutants can adversely impact bodies of water that receive stormwater runoff.

Goal 1 To preserve and improve the quality of surface water resources within the watershed.

#### **1.3.2.2. Surface Water Quantity**

In a natural, undeveloped setting, the ground is generally pervious, which means that water (including stormwater runoff) can infiltrate into the soil. Land development dramatically changes how stormwater runoff moves in the local watershed, as ground surfaces become covered with impervious materials (e.g., asphalt and concrete) that prevent infiltration of water into the soil. As a result, the rate and volume of stormwater runoff from the site increases. The additional volume of runoff can increase the water level, flood areas that are normally dry, and the potential for erosion. Although both high-water levels (flooding) and low-water levels are of concern, more attention is usually paid to flooding because it is a greater threat to public health and safety and can cause significant damage.

Goal 2 To manage the volume and flow of stormwater runoff to minimize the impacts of land use change on surface water and groundwater resources within the watershed.

#### **1.3.2.3. Groundwater Resource Protection**

Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water in the County. Maintaining clean, safe groundwater supplies is critical to human and environmental health and to the economic and social vitality of communities. Once contaminated, groundwater may remain contaminated for long periods of time and clean-up is expensive and technically complex. Prevention of groundwater contamination through best management practices (for example, sealing abandoned wells and carefully siting infiltration practices) is critical.

Goal 3 To preserve and protect groundwater resources within the watershed.

#### 1.3.2.4. Awareness & Behavior

Making the public aware of the role they can play in protecting water resources is a key task of the CCWMO. Most potential contamination threats to surface water and groundwater are human-caused, thus a significant element in the prevention of contamination can occur by educating people about issues and the role they can play in addressing them. Education increases the understanding of risks and helps prevent problems. The CCWMO strives to tailor educational efforts to specific target groups and reduce barriers to encourage sustainable behavior change.

Goal 4 To provide those living, working, and recreating in the CCWMO with the knowledge, skills, and motivation needed to make positive behavior changes that protect surface water and groundwater resources.

#### 1.3.2.5. Coordination with Partners

The CCWMO is one of several government entities with water resource management responsibilities and regulatory authority within the watershed. Overlapping permitting and stormwater management authorities allows for localized protection of water resources but can also create the potential for redundant and inefficient processes. Regular communication between the CCWMO and other units of government can reduce these inefficiencies. In addition, the CCWMO is limited by the availability of funding. Achieving the goals of this Plan with limited funds requires partnerships with other entities working to address water resource issues.

Goal 5 To work with partners to identify and implement efficient solutions to water resource problems.

#### 1.3.2.6. Evaluating Effectiveness & Progress

The CCWMO is a local unit of government responsible for implementing projects and programs to achieve its goals and is constrained by the availability of funding. Achieving the goals of this plan with limited funds requires efficient and effective operation. A robust data collection program, as well as accurate and unbiased interpretation of that data, enables the CCWMO to manage water resources effectively and efficiently.

Goal 6 To collect data and use the best available science to identify problems and evaluate the effectiveness of solutions.

### 1.3.3. Chapter 4: Goals, Policies, and Implementation Strategies

**Chapter 4** includes the goals, policies, and implementation strategies that address the six overarching issues identified during the public input process. For each issue, a goal statement was developed with input from the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) CAC and TAC. Implementation of this plan occurs through the six primary program areas of the CCWMO. The chapter discusses which issues each program is designed to address and includes a list of policies and implementation strategies for each program area.

### 1.3.4. Chapter 5: Implementation Plan

A summary of the implementation program is included in **Chapter 5: Implementation**. The chapter includes a summary of the budget for each program area and cost share program (Table 5-1). Also included is a summary of each program area and a table listing each implementation strategy identified in Chapter 4 along with additional information on the program area, type of activity, who is responsible for implementation, and a timeframe for implementation (Table 5-2). The list of projects proposed during the life of the plan can be found in Table 5-5.

The chapter also highlights three priority areas that the CCWMO will focus on during the life of this plan: **priority waterbodies**, **priority wetland restoration areas**, and **untreated urban areas**. Given the size of the CCWMO and the vast array of resources and issues within it, there is a need for tools and methods to help focus implementation.

### 1.3.5. Chapter 6: Administration

Chapter 6: Administration includes information on the authority and organization of the CCWMO. The chapter also includes information on local water plan requirements, CCWMO Plan adoption and amendment procedures, financing, and plan evaluation.

### 1.3.6. Appendices

The plan contains four appendices:

- **Appendix A: Wetland Functional Value Assessment Methodology** summarizes the process used to assess wetland functional values in the CCWMO.
- **Appendix B: Waterbody Prioritization Results** includes the individual ranking results for each lake and stream reach. See Chapter 5, Section 5.3.1 for additional information.
- **Appendix C: Cost Share Program Criteria** includes the selection criteria for the cost share programs described in Chapters 5 and 6.
- **Appendix D: 2010 Plan Evaluation** includes an evaluation of the CCWMO's success in implementing the 2010 Water Plan.
- **Appendix E: Acronym List & Glossary** contains a list of acronyms used in the plan and a glossary for technical terms found in the plan.
- **Appendix F: Plan Review Process** includes a summary of the process used to solicit feedback and input on the draft Plan and a response to the comments received on the plan.

### 5.2.5. PLANNING & RESEARCH

The planning & research program is integrated with other CCWMO programs and aims to further the goals of the CCWMO by:

- Researching the effectiveness of installed BMP's or proposed BMP's.
- Evaluating the effectiveness of CCWMO efforts and their effectiveness on meeting the plan goals.
- Determining the effectiveness of CCWMO efforts on changing awareness and behavior towards meeting the plan goals.
- Conducting unique or specialized planning and feasibility studies to more effectively meet the goals of the water plan and the requirements of MN statutes and rules.
- Coordinating with local, regional, state, federal, academic, non-profit and private partners to share and conduct research in a cost-effective manner.

### 5.2.6. ADMINISTRATION

Proper administration of the CCWMO's fiscal and staff resources is integral to achieving the goals outlined in this Plan. Effective execution of the implementation strategies and activities identified in the plan requires sound fiscal management, adequate staff capacity and expertise, regular outreach and partnership with citizens and other stakeholders, and iterative planning. Coordination with LGUs, state and regional agencies, and other partners is a key part of the administration of the CCWMO. Additionally, the CCWMO utilizes a Citizen Advisory Committee (see Section 6.2.3 for additional information) and a Technical Advisory Committee (see Section 6.2.4 for additional information) to review and recommend projects, programs, expenditures, and other activities prior to approval by the County Board.

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
1	Permitting	Program Implementation	<b>Permit Program Implementation.</b> Continue to provide necessary resources for implementation of the Water Resource Management Ordinance. The CCWMO will continue to employ staff or a consultant to review applications, inspect sites, provide technical assistance, ordinance enforcement, monitor BMPs, maintenance enforcement, etc.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, Carver SWCD	Ongoing
2	Permitting	Ordinance Updates	<b>Water Resource Management Ordinance Updates.</b> The Water Resource Management Ordinance will be updated as needed. When available, locally collected data will be used to evaluate the effectiveness of existing and proposed regulations. Potential updates to the ordinance include:	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	2019-2020
3	Permitting	Coordination with Partners	<b>Coordination with Partners.</b> When possible, the CCWMO will coordinate with cities, watersheds, and other local and state agencies to streamline the project/development review process and to share knowledge about best practices for permitting programs.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, LGUs, State Agencies	As needed

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
4	Permitting	Coordination with Partners	<b>MS4 Permit Requirements.</b> The CCWMO will collaborate with other Carver County Departments (Public Works, Carver SWCD) to assist with implementation of Carver County's MS4 permit.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, Public Works, Carver SWCD	Ongoing
5	Permitting	Coordination with Partners	<b>MS4 Permit Requirements.</b> Collaborate with other LGUs to help them implement their NPDES Phase II MS4 requirements and to minimize duplication and increase efficiency.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, LGUs	Ongoing
6	Projects	CCWMO Plan Updates	<b>Project List.</b> The CCWMO will maintain an up-to-date project list (see Table 5-5). As TMDL Studies, TMDL Implementation Plans, and other studies are completed, the CCWMO anticipates updating the project and potential project lists through a plan amendment.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, Carver SWCD, LGUs	Every 2-3 years
7	Projects	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Project Prioritization.</b> The CCWMO will prioritize projects using the criteria described in Chapter 5 – Implementation. The criteria used to prioritize projects includes benefits of the project to water bodies, project costs, benefits to the community, priority area status, etc.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
8	Projects	Cost Share Programs	<b>Cost Share Programs.</b> The CCWMO will continue to utilize its cost share and incentive programs to provide funding for projects with water quality and other benefits to surface water and ground water resources within the watershed.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
9	Projects	Funding	<b>Project Funding.</b> The CCWMO will pursue grants, cost-sharing, and other funding opportunities to leverage and extend the CCWMO's financial resources for implementing projects.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
10	Projects	Coordination with Partners	<b>Annual City Meetings.</b> The CCWMO will meet annually with city representatives and engineers to review local plan implementation and to identify problems and projects that the CCWMO and cities can work together to address.	No	Planning & Water Management Dept, LGUs	Annually
11	Projects	Education & Outreach	<b>Outreach.</b> The CCWMO will develop outreach methods and approaches to make residents more aware of cost share programs and projects implemented through its various programs.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Department	As needed
12	Projects	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>Project Evaluation.</b> As appropriate, the CCWMO will collect data about the benefits and outcomes of projects implemented through various programs (cost share projects, CIP projects, grant projects, etc.) The data will be reviewed periodically to evaluate project success and lessons learned will be incorporated into future project design.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Department	As needed
13	Projects	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Outlet Control Structures.</b> The CCWMO will have a role in the following activities related to outlet controls: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Work with the DNR in resolving conflicting interests</li> <li>- Modeling</li> <li>- Structure design and construction;</li> <li>- Operation and maintenance of outlet controls; and</li> <li>- Funding construction, operation, and maintenance of structures. The CCWMO will seek outside funding of these costs including funding from affected/benefited properties.</li> </ul>	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, Carver SWCD	As needed

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
14	Projects	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Demonstration Projects.</b> The CCWMO will investigate and demonstrate applicable new and innovative BMPs which have the potential to reduce pollutants to water bodies.	No	Planning & Water Management Dept, Carver SWCD	Ongoing
15	Monitoring	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>Annual Monitoring Report.</b> The CCWMO will prepare and distribute an annual water quality monitoring report. Data and findings will be presented in an easy to understand format.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
16	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>Annual Monitoring Workplan.</b> The CCWMO will develop and implement an annual Monitoring Workplan. The workplan will outline monitoring activities for lakes and streams, groundwater, stormwater BMPs, projects, AIS, etc. Collected data may include, but is not limited to: water chemistry, water level, flow data, vegetation, fisheries, macroinvertebrates, etc.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
17	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>Lake Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Maintain baseline water quality data for the lakes in the CCWMO, with priority given to those on the impaired waters list or that have completed TMDL Implementation Plans.</li> <li>- Establish and/or maintain any lake sampling sites that are needed or have been established as part of a TMDL study or TMDL Implementation Plan.</li> <li>- Establish new lake sampling sites to address gaps in data sets as needed/or directed to establish. This could include sampling for new parameters. Review of existing data sets will occur yearly, with recommendations for new sites to be completed during these reviews.</li> </ul>	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
18	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>Stream Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establish and/or maintain any stream sampling sites that are needed or have been established as part of a TMDL study or TMDL Implementation Plan.</li> <li>- Maintain current monitoring regimes or conform as dictated by TMDL studies or TMDL Implementation Plans for fecal coliform (or E. coli) bacteria.</li> <li>- Review all automated stream sampling sites within the watershed to determine if a fully automated site is needed. Replace outdated equipment with level logging sensors and switch these sites to a grab sample only site.</li> <li>- Ensure Metropolitan Council sites are not abandoned.</li> <li>- Conduct geomorphic assessments and flow monitoring, as needed.</li> <li>- Establish new stream sampling sites to address gaps in data sets as needed/or directed to establish. This could include sampling for new parameters. Review of existing data sets will occur yearly, with recommendations for new sites to be completed during these reviews.</li> </ul>	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
19	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>Groundwater Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will continue to sample and test groundwater as funding allows and in coordination with the monitoring objectives of the Carver County Groundwater Plan.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As funding allows



**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
20	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>Stormwater BMP Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will: - Establish stormwater BMP monitoring sites for intensive monitoring to review efficiencies of specific BMP type. Data will be used to update County Stormwater Ordinances. - Establish BMP monitoring sites for specific grant requirements. - Other BMP monitoring will be based upon funding levels for yearly monitoring seasons.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As funding allows
21	Monitoring	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>CCWMO Project Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will continue to monitor projects installed by the CCWMO or through one of its cost share projects as funding allows.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As funding allows
22	Monitoring	Program Implementation	<b>AIS Monitoring.</b> The CCWMO will partner with other entities to monitor the spread of aquatic invasive species throughout the County and, when appropriate, respond with strategies that limit the spread of recent infestations of AIS.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
23	Monitoring	Coordination with Partners	<b>Coordination with Partners.</b> The CCWMO will partner with cities, adjacent watershed districts, and other entities to more efficiently and effectively monitor water resources.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
24	Education & Outreach	Education - Increasing Awareness	<b>Water Column.</b> CCWMO will publish a monthly Water Column in local newspapers on topics related to water resources.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Monthly
25	Education & Outreach	Education - Increasing Awareness	<b>Carver County Water Management Organization Online Newsletter.</b> CCWMO will publish a monthly online newsletter providing citizens and staff with information on water quality, conservation, projects, upcoming workshops and more.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Monthly
26	Education & Outreach	Education - Increasing Awareness	<b>Facebook Page.</b> CCWMO will continue to maintain a social media presence through use of Facebook. Posts to social media will provide education to citizens and increase awareness about water resources.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
27	Education & Outreach	Education - Increasing Awareness	<b>CCWMO Website.</b> CCWMO will continue to maintain and update its website, providing information as needed.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
28	Education & Outreach	Education - Increasing Awareness	<b>Educational Print Media.</b> CCWMO will create education materials including brochures, flyers and pamphlets to provide information to residents. CCWMO will additionally create educational signage practices in public places to increase awareness on stormwater practices, the locations and benefits.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
29	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Carver County Fair.</b> CCWMO will create and staff a display booth annually for the Carver County Fair. Each year will highlight a different topic or practice relating to water resources.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
30	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Carver County's Stormwater Workshop.</b> CCWMO will host an annual stormwater workshop designed to educate developers, local officials, planners, engineers and decision makers about stormwater BMPs and new methods and developments in stormwater research.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
31	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Water Management Organization Advisory Committee Tour.</b> CCWMO will coordinate an annual tour for CCWMO's Advisory Committee members to inform them of current, completed, and upcoming projects relevant information.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
32	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Public Meetings.</b> CCWMO will use public meetings to engage the public on select topics or projects as needed. The meetings may take on different formats depending on the audience and objectives. Public meetings are typically used to gather input or feedback on an issue, plan, or project.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
33	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Citizen Education Series/Workshops.</b> The CCWMO will provide seminars and workshops for homeowners on topics including shorelines, sustainable landscaping, and raingardens.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
34	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>On the Water Events.</b> CCWMO will create and coordinate events that bring citizens to the water for recreational and educational activities. Events will provide education on the benefits of the water body to help increase stewardship.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Periodically
35	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Youth Presentations.</b> CCWMO will present to youth groups including scout groups, day camps and school classes as requested throughout the year.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	When requested
36	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Metro Children's Water Festival.</b> CCWMO will continue to coordinate and lead the Metro Children's Water Festival, an annual one-day event where 4th grade students from the metro area learn about all aspects of water resources, quality, conservation, monitoring, aquatic life, etc.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
37	Education & Outreach	Education - Foster Stewardship	<b>Other Events.</b> CCWMO will provide displays and presentations at other events as requested including city open houses and celebrations and county events.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	When requested
38	Education & Outreach	Education - Changing Behavior	<b>Identify Behaviors that Protect Water Resources.</b> The CCWMO will identify behaviors that protect water resources. The CCWMO will research each behavior and select behaviors with the following qualities for campaigns: highest impact, highest probability of citizens adoption, and least amount of current participation.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	Periodically
39	Education & Outreach	Education - Changing Behavior	<b>Create, pilot, and implement campaigns to encourage behaviors that protect water resources.</b> The CCWMO will research and implement techniques like community based social marketing to increase behavior change on a larger scale. These techniques involve identifying campaign strategies, piloting these strategies with a small sub-group, and then implementing and evaluating	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	Periodically
40	Education & Outreach	Education - Create Efficiencies	<b>Partnerships with other local units of government.</b> CCWMO will develop and foster relationships with other local government units to share tools and resources, learn from experiences and knowledge of other entities, and reduce duplication of educational efforts. Partnerships have included the Metro Watershed Partners, nearby watershed districts, Counties, Blue Thumb and Non-point Source Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO).	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
41	Education & Outreach	Education - Create Efficiencies	<b>Water education city partnerships.</b> CCWMO will develop partnerships with cities within Carver County to help reach city residents. Cities have a higher ability for direct contact with their citizens through their newsletter, website, city offices, and events. CCWMO will develop an annual city education plan that creates timely education materials and sends them to the cities each month for distribution through their outreach channels.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
42	Education & Outreach	Education - Create Efficiencies	<b>Partnerships and Communication with Schools.</b> The CCWMO will work with teachers to pass on opportunities and resources and continue communication with teachers for CCWMO presentations and other resources.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
43	Planning & Research	TMDL Development/Implementation	<b>TMDL and Implementation Plan Development.</b> The CCWMO will complete TMDLs and Implementation Plans for waterbodies in the CCWMO on the 303d TMDL List and referenced in this plan or pursue removal or delisting of waterbodies from the 303d TMDL List as appropriate. The CCWMO does not plan to lead all TMDLs within the watershed.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
44	Planning & Research	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Untreated Urban Areas.</b> The CCWMO will partner with LGUs to identify already developed areas with minimal or no stormwater treatment and to identify potential best management practices for improving water quality and managing flooding in untreated areas.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept, LGUs	Annually
45	Planning & Research	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Identify Flood Prone Areas.</b> The CCWMO will use models and other available tools to identify public infrastructure at risk of flooding in extreme events. The CCWMO will incorporate changing precipitation patterns and real time flood data (inundated areas), as appropriate.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	2020
46	Planning & Research	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Stream Restoration.</b> The CCWMO will identify gully locations within the watershed and use monitoring and other data to prioritize areas for restoration.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	2020
47	Planning & Research	Project Identification & Implementation	<b>Wetland Restoration.</b> The CCWMO will further pursue restoration of the highest priority sites identified in the wetland restoration prioritization. The CCWMO will work toward restoring wetlands in cooperation with existing programs through agencies such as the Board of Water and Soil Resources, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Soil and Water Conservation District, and Reinvest in Minnesota, or through regional stormwater planning by the LGU.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
48	Planning & Research	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>BMP Effectiveness.</b> The CCWMO will collaborate with partners to research the effectiveness of new and existing BMPs, with a focus on BMPs commonly used in the watershed and/or that are appropriate to conditions within the watershed.	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
49	Planning & Research	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>Quantitative Measurement of Progress.</b> The CCWMO will work towards developing tools and models to estimate overall load reductions needed to reach water quality targets for impaired and other waterbodies and to estimate load reductions achieved by proposed projects.	no	Planning & Water Management Dept	2022

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
50	Administration	Funding	<p><b>Additional Funding.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Seek Funding Sources and Matching Grants. The CCWMO will seek funding sources relevant to education and implementation of BMPs that will help improve the water quality and water quantity issues within the CCWMO.</li> <li>- TMDL Funding. The CCWMO will pursue funding from outside sources to assist in the completion and implementation of TMDLs.</li> <li>- Funding Wetland Restoration. The CCWMO will seek and allocate funds through the Capital Improvement Program, the Cost Share Program, and outside sources to accomplish priority wetland restoration projects.</li> </ul>	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing
51	Administration	Coordination with Partners	<p><b>Partnership with other County Departments.</b> The CCWMO will support (by providing technical assistance, data, educational support, etc.) the programs of other departments within Carver County that preserve or improve surface water and groundwater resources. This includes programs and regulations operated by the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Environmental Services Department: Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), Household Hazardous Waste/Solid Waste, and Feedlot programs.</li> <li>- Land Management Department: Floodplain Management and Shoreland Management programs.</li> <li>- Public Works Department: MS4 Permit Implementation.</li> <li>- Taxpayer Services: County Ditch Administration.</li> <li>- Carver Soil and Water Conservation District: County Ditch Administration, Technical Assistance on Agricultural BMPs, and rural conservation programs.</li> </ul>	yes	Planning & Water Management, Environmental Services, Land Management, Public Works, Taxpayer Services, Carver SWCD	Ongoing
52	Administration	Coordination with Partners	<p><b>Boundary Adjustments.</b> In order to maintain a legal watershed boundary that better conforms to actual topographic drainage patterns, the CCWMO will periodically review and work with adjacent watershed districts to review and identify necessary changes to the legal watershed boundary. During the life of this plan, the CCWMO will work with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) to refine the boundary between the LMRWD and the CCWMO.</p>	yes	Planning & Water Management, Taxpayer Services, Municipalities, Adjacent Watersheds	2021
53	Administration	Coordination with Partners	<p><b>Carver County Groundwater Plan Support.</b> The CCWMO supports Carver County in implementing the Carver County Groundwater Plan by providing funding, monitoring groundwater resources, and providing groundwater related education.</p>	yes	Planning & Water Management	Ongoing
54	Administration	Technical Assistance	<p><b>Technical Assistance.</b> As time and funding allow, the CCWMO will provide technical assistance to landowners interested in projects and practices that provide a water quality benefit to water resources within the CCWMO.</p>	yes	Planning & Water Management Dept, Carver SWCD	When requested
55	Administration	Coordination with Partners	<p><b>Outreach to Local Groups.</b> The CCWMO will develop methods to reach out to cities and local organizations/neighborhood groups to encourage partnerships with the CCWMO on project implementation, grant applications, education &amp; outreach, etc.</p>	No	Planning & Water Management Dept	Ongoing

**Table 5-2. CCWMO Program Activities**

ID	Program	Activity Type	Implementation Strategy	Existing Activity	Responsible Parties	Timeframe
56	Administration	Outreach	<b>Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) Meetings.</b> The CCWMO will continue holding CAC meetings. The CAC consists of citizens representatives and advises the CCWMO Board and staff on a variety of topics including implementation activity prioritization; plans, studies, and other documents developed by the CCWMO; cost share applications; etc.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Monthly
57	Administration	Outreach	<b>Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Meetings.</b> The CCWMO will continue holding TAC meetings. The TAC consists of city staff and engineers and representatives from state agencies. The TAC advises the CCWMO staff and CAC on a variety of technical topics including the Water Resource Management Ordinance, project design and feasibility, etc.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	As needed
58	Administration	Coordination with Partners	<b>Annual City Meetings.</b> The CCWMO will meet annually with city representatives and engineers to review local plan implementation and to identify problems and projects that the CCWMO and cities can work together to address.	No	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
59	Administration	Local Water Plan Review	<b>Local Plan Review and Adoption.</b> Per MN Rule 8410.0160, Local Water Plan updates must be completed and approved by the CCWMO within two years of approval of the CCWMO Plan by the BWSR Board. Additional information on Local Plan Requirements can be found in Chapter 6. The CCWMO will consider alternative local plan amendment and update schedule requests from LGUs and will try to be flexible on due dates to accommodate the update schedules of other WMOs when LGUs are within the jurisdiction of more than one WMO. All plan updates must be submitted to the WMO at least 120 days prior to the due date to provide time for review and approval. LGUs will not be eligible for CCWMO Cost Share Funds if a local plan is determined to be expired.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	2019-2020
60	Administration	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>Program Review.</b> The CCWMO will assess and review CCWMO programs (including cost share programs), implementation strategies, and proposed Capital Improvement projects through the CCWMO Annual Report, the Annual Water Quality Report, and using other data collected by the CCWMO. The CCWMO intends to use these reports to identify any necessary changes to the Plan. If the reports identify needed changes, the WMO will address the changes through a plan amendment as described in Chapter 6. The CCWMO anticipates completing plan amendments periodically during the life of the Plan.	No	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually
61	Administration	Evaluating Effectiveness & Reporting	<b>Annual Report.</b> The CCWMO will review progress towards the goals identified in this plan using short term and long-term metrics described in Table 6-2. Short-term metrics will be incorporated into the CCWMO Annual Report. Short term metrics are related to the accomplishment of activities (e.g. number of activities, number of participants, etc.). Long-term metrics will be used to evaluate this Plan during the development of the next ten-year plan. Long term metrics generally involve resource-based outcomes.	Yes	Planning & Water Management Dept	Annually

The costs given in the Table 5-5 are estimated amounts and may be revised as part of feasibility studies or final designs completed prior to implementation. Funding for projects will come from the CCWMO Levy, grants, and collaborations with local governments and other partners. The CCWMO will pursue collaborations and grant opportunities to reduce the portion of the total cost borne by property owners within the CCWMO. The CCWMO may implement the activities and projects listed in Table 5-5 at a different time than shown in the table, as circumstances dictate. For example, the availability of grants or partnerships could result in either the acceleration or delay of projects.

The project list will be updated as feasibility studies, TMDL implementation plans, etc are completed and new projects are identified. The CCWMO anticipates updating the project list approximately every two years.

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
1	<b>Lake Waconia SWA Implementation.</b> Implement strategies identified in the Lake Waconia Subwatershed Analysis Feasibility Study to preserve and protect the quality of Lake Waconia. Projects will be completed as time and funding allow.	Carver Creek	Lake Waconia (Priority 1)	Stormwater BMPs	City of Waconia	Short-, mid-, long-term	\$150,000	\$50,000	
2	<b>Eagle Lake SWA Implementation.</b> Implement strategies identified in the Eagle Lake Subwatershed Analysis Feasibility Study to improve the quality of Eagle Lake. Projects will be completed as time and funding allow.	Crow River	Eagle Lake (Priority 1)	Stormwater BMPs	Parks Department, SWCD	Short-, mid-, long-term	\$100,000	\$50,000	

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
3	<b>East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes SWA Implementation.</b> Collaborate with the City of Chaska to implement strategies identified in the East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes Subwatershed Analysis Feasibility Study. Projects would reduce impervious surfaces and add stormwater treatment for currently untreated areas and improve the quality of stormwater runoff reaching the East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes. Projects will be completed as time and funding allow.	East Chaska Creek	East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes (Priority 2)	Stormwater Retrofit	City of Chaska	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$200,000	\$50,000	
4	<b>Swede Lake TMDL Implementation.</b> Implement strategies identified in the Swede Lake TMDL Implementation Plan to improve the water quality in Swede Lake.	Pioneer Creek	Swede Lake (Priority 2)	Lake Restoration	SWCD	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$115,000	\$50,000	
5	<b>Stream Restorations.</b> Restore stream reaches that have been altered by human activities to a more natural/stable state. Restoration practices may include remeandering, reconnection to floodplains, reconnection to historical stream beds, abandoning maintenance schedules, and other BWSR approved practices.	Watershed wide	Watershed wide	Stream Restoration	SWCD; NRCS; CROW; DNR; Army COE	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$500,000	\$100,000	
6	<b>Bank Stabilization.</b> Stabilize eroded and degraded streambanks to reduce erosion into streams. The CCWMO will prioritize projects that project infrastructure and utilize natural armoring to stabilize banks.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Bank Stabilization		2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$300,000	\$150,000	

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
7	<b>SSTS Direct Discharge Incentives.</b> In 2007, the County Board established a cost share program to accelerate the elimination of direct discharge SSTS. The program offers direct incentives and low-interest loans to landowners to fix these systems.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	SSTS upgrades	Environmental Services Dept.	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$600,000	\$600,000	Replacement of direct discharge SSTS will be complete in the Bevens and Carver Creek Subwatershed in 2019 and then focus will shift to the South Fork Crow River and East and West Chaska Creek.
8	<b>Stormwater Retrofits in Untreated Urban Areas.</b> Collaborate with cities, business, and other landowners to implement stormwater retrofits practices in areas with minimal or no stormwater treatment that improve water quality in priority waterbodies. Untreated areas have been identified in local water plans.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Stormwater Retrofit	Local Partners	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$400,000	\$200,000	
9	<b>Turf to Prairie/Forest Initiative.</b> Restore large areas of managed turf grass to prairie/forest to conserve groundwater and improve the quality of stormwater runoff.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Prairie Restoration	Cities	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$100,000	\$50,000	
10	<b>Bevens Creek Dam Removal.</b> Remove an existing, failing dam and repair eroding banks. The dam is located on Bevens Creek south of County Road 50.	Bevens Creek	Bevens Creek (Priority 2)	Stream Restoration	SWCD, Public Works Department, DNR	2020-2021	\$300,000	\$50,000	
11	<b>Benton Lake Management.</b> Continue to manage rough fish populations in Benton Lake. Removal of rough fish will reduce in-lake pollutant loads and help restore game fish to the lake.	Carver Creek	Benton Lake (Priority 2), Carver Creek (Priority 2)	Lake Management	City of Cologne, Benton Lake Conservancy, SWCD	2020-2021 2022-2023 2024-2025	\$80,000	\$50,000	



**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
12	<b>Benton Lake Stormwater Retrofits.</b> Collaborate with the City of Cologne and willing landowners to install stormwater retrofit projects in the Benton Lake watershed. The retrofits will treat stormwater from untreated areas of the city and improve the quality of runoff reaching Benton Lake.	Carver Creek	Benton Lake (Priority 2), Carver Creek (Priority 2)	Stormwater Retrofit	Cologne	2020-2021	\$100,000	\$50,000	
13	<b>County Ditch 7 Treatment System Feasibility Study.</b> Explore the feasibility of installing a treatment system (bio-reactor or soluble phosphorus treatment) on the outlet of County Ditch (CD) 7 in Hollywood Township (Section 29). CD 7 drains approximately 750 acres of agricultural land.	Crow River	Crow River (Priority 2)	Feasibility Study	SWCD	2022-2023	\$10,000	\$10,000	
14	<b>Wetland Restoration Prioritization – Crow River Subwatershed.</b> Prioritize wetland restoration areas within the Crow River Subwatershed.	Crow River	Crow River (Priority 2)	Feasibility Study	SWCD	2020-2021	\$10,000	\$10,000	
15	<b>Irrigation Efficiency Pilot Project.</b> Conserve groundwater resources and prevent additional runoff by increasing the efficiency of irrigation systems. The program will be piloted in an area of Chaska where residents will be offered incentives to install SMART controllers on existing irrigation systems.	East Chaska Creek	East Chaska Creek (Priority 1)	Education, Groundwater Conservation	City of Chaska, Neighborhood Associations	2020-2021	\$20,000	\$10,000	
16	<b>Wetland Restoration.</b> Restore priority wetland restoration areas as identified in the wetland restoration area prioritization.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Wetland Restoration	Cities, SWCD, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BWSR	2022-2023 2024-2025 2026-2027 2028-2029	\$50,000	\$50,000	

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
17	<b>BE9 Lake Restoration Implementation.</b> Continue work to restore a historic lake bed on Bevens Creek. Continue work with landowners on easement opportunities to fully restore the lake bed.	Bevens Creek	Bevens Creek (Priority 2)	Lake Restoration	SWCD; NRCS; Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever	2022-2023	\$100,000	\$50,000	Approximately 50 acres of the lake bed were restored in 2018.
18	<b>NYA Stormwater Retrofits.</b> Construct a stormwater BMP to treat runoff from approximately 415 acres of agricultural land and 169 acres of residential development that is currently untreated.	Bevens Creek	Bevens Creek (Priority 1)	Stormwater Retrofit	City of NYA	2024-2025	\$240,000	\$50,000	
19	<b>Bayview Elementary Reuse Expansion.</b> Install 2 additional underground storage tanks and upgrade pretreatment system.	Carver Creek	Lake Burandt (Priority 1)	Stormwater Retrofit	City of Waconia, School District	2022-2023	\$200,000	\$50,000	
20	<b>Carver Creek Floodplain Reconnection.</b> Reconnect a degraded and historically ditched section of Carver Creek to its floodplain to reduce bank degradation and soil loss.	Carver Creek	Carver Creek	Stream Restoration	City of Carver, US Fish and Wildlife Service, SWCD	2022-2023	\$100,000	\$50,000	
21	<b>Carver Creek Gully Stabilization.</b> Stabilize a large gully on Carver Creek in Dahlgren Township (Section 26).	Carver Creek	Carver Creek (Priority 2)	Bank Stabilization	SWCD, NRCS	2024-2025	\$40,000	\$10,000	
22	<b>Dahlgren Road Stormwater Retrofit.</b> Address stormwater issues along Dahlgren Road west of County Road 11. Stormwater from the road surface currently drains untreated to Timber Creek, a tributary of Carver Creek.	Carver Creek	Timber Creek	Stormwater Retrofit	Dahlgren Township, City of Carver	2022-2023			

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
23	<b>Green Parking Demonstration Project.</b> Replace a large area of red rock parking in the City of Waconia with a "green" parking technique. The project will reduce sediment leaving the site and improve downstream water quality.	Carver Creek	Carver Creek (Priority 1)	Stormwater Retrofit		2022-2023	\$250,000	\$50,000	
24	<b>Watertown Dam Removal.</b> Work with appropriate agencies to remove the dam in Watertown to connect the Crow River from the Mississippi River to Otter Lake in Hutchinson MN. Removing the dam will provide a valuable connection for native fish species to crucial spawning grounds. The project will also reduce bank erosion and reduce the risk of drowning caused by the tailwaters of the dam.	Crow River	Crow River (Priority 2)	Stream Restoration	SWCD; CROW; DNR Fish and Wildlife Services; City of Watertown; Army COE; Dam Safety Program;	2024-2025	\$200,000	\$25,000	
25	<b>East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes Reclamation - Phase 1.</b> Implement methods to control carp populations and improve water quality in the East Creek Chain of Lakes as identified in the Drawdown Feasibility Study. This phase would focus on Hazeltine Lake.	East Chaska Creek	East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes (Priority 2)	Lake Restoration	City of Chaska	2024-2025	\$200,000	\$75,000	
26	<b>Bongards Area SSTS Community Treatment Feasibility Study.</b> Identify options for replacing aging septic systems in the CC9 subwatershed near Bongards with a community septic system.	Carver Creek	Carver Creek (Priority 1)	SSTS upgrades		2028-2029	\$50,000	\$10,000	

**Table 5-5. CCWMO Projects**

ID	Project Description & Need	Sub-watershed	Benefitted Waterbody	Project Type	Project Partners	Timeframe <sup>1</sup>	Total Cost <sup>2</sup>	CCWMO Cost <sup>2</sup>	Notes
27	<b>East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes Reclamation - Phase 2.</b> Implement methods to control carp populations and improve water quality in the East Creek Chain of Lakes as identified in the Drawdown Feasibility Study. This phase would focus on Big Woods, McKnight, Jonathan and Grace Lakes.	East Chaska Creek	East Chaska Creek Chain of Lakes (Priority 2)	Lake Restoration	City of Chaska	2026-2027	\$225,000	\$75,000	
28	<b>Low-cost Greenroof Demonstration Project.</b> Install a low-cost green roof as a demonstration project. Replacing traditional rooftops with living plants can improve water quality and reduce runoff.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Stormwater Retrofit		2026-2027	\$30,000	\$25,000	
29	<b>Plastics Collection Demonstration Project.</b> Implement a demonstration project to collect plastics and other trash from waterbodies before they move further downstream. Plastics and trash are emerging pollutants for surface water resources.	Watershed-wide	Watershed-wide	Stormwater Retrofit		2026-2027	\$30,000	\$30,000	

1. Timeframes:

- 2020-2021
- 2022-2023
- 2024-2025
- 2026-2027
- 2028-2029

2. Where Total Cost exceeds CCWMO Cost, CCWMO will rely on grants and other sources of outside funding (cities, state agencies, etc) to complete the projects.

December 18, 2019

Carver County Watershed Management Organization  
C/o Paul Moline, Manager  
600 East 4th Street  
Chaska, MN 55318

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Carver County Watershed Management Organization (CCWMO) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on December 18, 2019. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the CCWMO must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

The commissioners, staff, consultants, advisory committee members, and all others involved in the planning process are to be commended for developing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the watershed. With continued implementation of your Plan, the protection and management of the water resources within the watershed will be greatly enhanced to the benefit of the residents. The Board looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Steve Christopher of our staff at 651-249-7519, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amberg  
Chair

Enclosure

cc's on next page

December 18, 2019

Page 2 of 2

CC: Jeanne Daniels, DNR (via email)  
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)  
Karen Voz, MDH (via email)  
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)  
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)  
Beth Neuendorf, MN DOT (via email)  
Kristen Larson, CCWMO (via email)  
Kevin Bigalke, BWSR (via email)  
Steve Christopher, BWSR (via email)  
File Copy

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Southern Region Committee***

1. Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – David Copeland – ***DECISION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

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**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** Southern Region

**Contact:** Ed Lenz

**Prepared by:** David Copeland

**Reviewed by:** Southern Regional    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** David Copeland

**Time requested:** 5 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |                                                   |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None          | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approval of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Southern Regional Committee.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Plan is on the Mower SWCD website:

[https://mowerswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Cedar-Wapsipinicon\\_CWMP\\_09172019\\_clean\\_complete.pdf](https://mowerswcd.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Cedar-Wapsipinicon_CWMP_09172019_clean_complete.pdf)

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

**Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the seven planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2016. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Planning Work Group members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on September 30, 2019 for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 13, 2019 to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Partnership, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on September 30, 2019 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17, and;

**Whereas**, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

**Now Therefore**, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order:

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in 2017 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes: The Counties of Dodge, Freeborn, Mower, and Steele by and through their respective County Board of Commissioners; the Dodge, Freeborn, Mower and Steele County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors; the Cedar River and Turtle Creek Watershed Districts, by and through their respective Board of Managers; and the City of Austin by and through its City Council.
2. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Resolution #16-17 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.

3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Planning Area is a 722 square mile area located in the Cedar River basin. The Iowa border defines the southern boundary of the planning area. Approximately 590 square miles of the planning area drains to the Cedar River before crossing the Minnesota-Iowa border, while the remaining 132 square miles drains to the border via tributaries before discharging to the Cedar River in Iowa. The planning area is predominantly comprised of productive ag land with mostly row crops and some pasture. Corn and soybeans are the predominant crop rotation. There is a variety of livestock operations with swine production being the biggest. Topography includes moraine ridges, gently rolling hills, and level plains. Artificial drainage via both public and private drainage systems is predominant in the planning area. The major hydrologic feature is the Cedar River, which collects flow from several streams as it flows from north to south through the planning area. The Cedar River passes through the City of Austin, which has a population of approximately 25,000 people and is the home of the Hormel Foods Corporation. The river and city have a history of flooding which has become more frequent in recent years. Two Watershed Districts which operate under MN Chapter 103E statutes exist within the planning area. The Cedar River Watershed District comprises 435 square miles, while the Turtle Creek Watershed District comprises 148 square miles. The remaining 138 square miles of the planning area are not under the authority of an organized Watershed District.
4. **Plan Development.** The Partnership initiated the plan development process for the One Watershed, One Plan on February 8, 2017 by notifying the designated state plan review agencies, local government units, and other identified stakeholders that it was starting the planning process and soliciting each plan review agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Planning Partnership held a kick-off event to solicit stakeholder and public input and garner involvement on May 31, 2017 in Austin at the Hormel Nature Center. Citizens, stakeholders, elected and appointed officials, and staff were given the opportunity to share information, identify priority concerns, and provide comments for the planning process. This input was used in the development and prioritization of resource concerns, as well as strategies and actions to address these concerns and achieve measurability. Numerical measurable goals of the project were based on draft Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for the Cedar and Wapsipinicon River Watershed planning area, groundwater test results as well as TMDLs and local water plans. Rationale for goals were also underpinned in total or in part by results from modelling through the SWAT model for field scale reductions and the HSPF-SAM model for sub-watershed (the resource) scale reductions. HSPF-SAM model inputs were based on a percentage of practices implemented at sites identified as potential sediment sources derived from the SWAT model. The reduction estimates from the targeted implementation schedule, along with the measurable goals established for the watershed, provided an estimated pace of progress that can be expected through the ten-year planning period. Implementation categories and initiatives were then detailed to identify where funds will be utilized to accomplish the strategies and actions from the targeted implementation schedule. Goals for the plan where action strategies included structural and management implementation methods were tailored for each of the four planning regions in the plan and implementation schedules reflect the differing targeting methods for each region. The draft Plan was approved by the Policy Committee and then distributed to individuals, communities, Plan Review Authorities, and other stakeholders on May 22, 2019 for the required 60-day review and comment period. Written comments were received, considered, and responded to by the Partnership and approved by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee held a public hearing in Austin on September 17, 2019. No additional comments were brought forth by the public. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the BWSR Board Conservationist (Board) on September 30, 2019.

5. **Plan Review.** On September 30, 2019, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #16-17. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
- A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA provided initial response to the planning process. During the 60 day comment period the MDA provided comments requesting revisions to the Plan including inclusion of MDA as partners in selected items of the implementation schedule, clarification on how the various Figures in Section 6 generated Figure 6-4, requested additional narrative on MDAs Township Testing, sought clarification on the “Cedar River Watershed Partnership,” called out lack of pollution reduction measures at the resource scale in Table 5-3, and requested inclusion of a reference to the Groundwater Protection Rule. MDA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and responded that they did not have additional comments. MDA recommends approval.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. During the 60-day review and comment period, MDH provided comments, including a suggestion to move up the development of a groundwater monitoring plan earlier in the implementation table timeline, requesting inviting municipalities to the Advisory Committee during implementation, and including non-municipal public water suppliers in implementation activities. MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan and stated via email they were satisfied with responses to their comments, had no additional comments, and MDH recommends approval.
  - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. DNR provided two separate comment letters for the 60-day review of the draft Plan. They are referenced as “Reinartz” and “Official” in the partnership responses to state agency comments. The Reinartz DNR letter was predominantly intended to be informative with suggestions and comments on some of the modeling (GEISSHA and SWAT) that has been done in part of the planning area, and a comment on the 0.25-inch runoff reduction goal. The Official DNR letter commented on the lower priority on Fish and Wildlife Habitat, and more specifically rare and natural features. Comments also included concerns about losing habitat and important natural areas to aggregate and mineral mining, supporting the restoration of altered hydrology, and offered support from DNR staff for conducting stream geomorphology assessments and retrofitting two dams in the planning area to allow for fish passage. DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan and stated via email they were satisfied with responses to their comments, had no additional comments, and DNR recommends approval.
  - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. their recommendation is for BWSR to approve the plan
  - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board: No comments were received.
  - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided early input to the planning process, participated in the Advisory Committee meetings, and provided assistance to the Planning Work Group during the plan development process. During the 60-day review period, BWSR staff provided a total of 52 comments. Staff comments ranged from simple editorial comments and questions about clarification on some of the technical aspects, to requesting changes to the Plan to both ensure consistency throughout the Plan and ensure Plan Content Requirements were met. The most significant of those was the need to have HSPF-SAM outputs

entered in the Measurable Goals Table, making sure there was language in the Plan to meet 103D requirements so the two Watershed Districts could adopt the Plan, and adding narrative to the Plan to address the Shared Services and Collaborative Grants Plan Content Requirement. All comments were adequately addressed in the final Plan. *BWSR staff recommends approval of the Plan.*

G. Local Review: The partnership sought input from local units of government and local associations dealing with soil and water resources and habitat. No comments were officially received from these entities during the 60 or 90-day period. One citizen attending the public hearing on September 17<sup>th</sup> brought an erosion issue on an embankment of a dam in the planning area to the attention of the Policy Committee, and the Committee and attending staff stated that it will get looked into.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:

- The Plan includes an Executive Summary summarizing resource concerns and issues, the method of establishing measurable goals, summarizing pace of progress toward goals attained by the planned activities, and short-term cost of the 10-year implementation schedule.
- The Plan includes a thorough identification of the targeted areas with the use of HSPF-SAM, SWAT and a “Heat Map” that has several resource layers merged to spatially display areas where BMP implementation will provide multiple benefits.
- Tier I priorities include: Accelerated Erosion and Sedimentation, Degraded Surface Water Quality, Excessive Flooding, and Groundwater Contamination. Tier II priorities were Degraded Soil Health and Threatened Groundwater Supply, and Tier III priorities were Threats to Fish, Wildlife and Habitat and Reduced Livability and Recreation.
- Measurable Goals for the Degraded Surface Water Quality Issue Area is separated into each of the fifteen sub-watersheds.
- An estimated \$12,200,000 is needed to fully fund the Plan over its ten-year lifespan, a figure which does not factor Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) but is assumed in the plan in the state funding source description.
- Included in Section 6, “Targeting of Practices and Priority Areas,” is a series of maps referenced as Figures 6-1 through 6-4. Figure 6-1 is “Surface Water Quality Inputs for Establishing Priority Areas.” Figure 6-2 is “Inputs for Establishing Groundwater Priority Areas,” and Figure 6-3 is “Runoff Storage Priority Areas.” Figure 6-4 then is the “Heat Map” referenced above and is called “Priority Implementation Areas.” It is an amalgamation of Figures 6-1 through 6-3 and illustrates where BMP implementation can have multiple resource issue benefits.

7. **Southern Regional Committee.** On November 13, 2019, the Southern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Committee Chair Nathan Redalen, Jeff Berg, Harvey Kruger, Tom Loveall, and Steve Sunderland. Board staff in attendance were Southern Region Manager Ed Lenz, Assistant Director for Regional Operations Kevin Bigalke, Board Conservationist David Copeland, Clean Water Specialist Shaina Keseley, Board Conservationist Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, One Watershed, One Plan Coordinator Julie Westerlund, and Office and Administrative Specialist Carla Swanson-Cullen. The representatives from the Partnership were Adam King, Dodge SWCD; Justin Hanson, Mower SWCD; and Greg Williams, Barr Engineering. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee’s decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until December 18, 2029.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Partnership pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
3. The Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

## **ORDER**

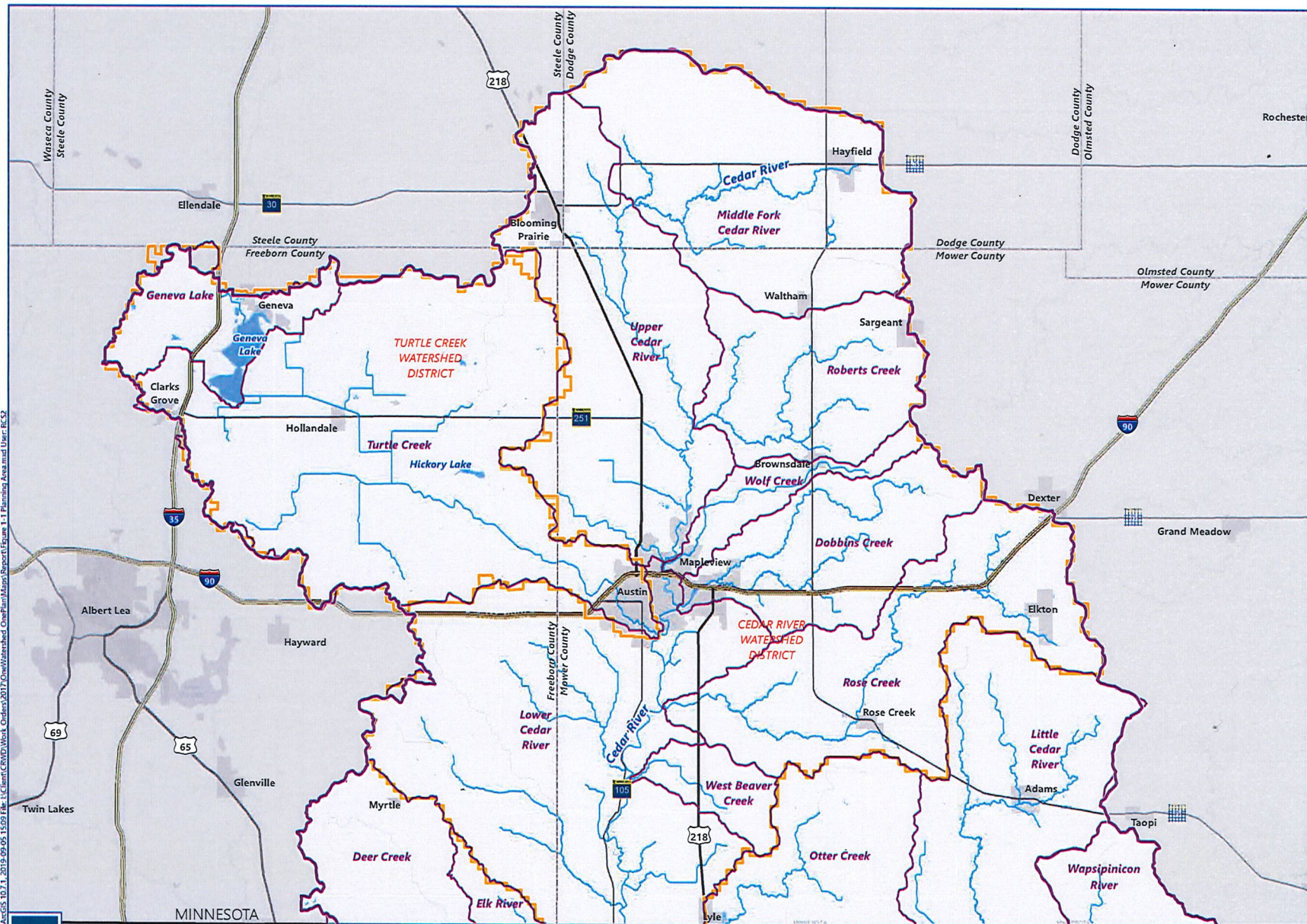
The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Partnership, dated September 2019.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 18th of December 2019.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

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BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair



- Cedar River Watershed
- Major Subwatersheds
- Watercourses
- Pond or Lake
- Watershed District Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- County Boundary
- State Boundary

Data sources:  
 Cedar River Watershed from MN DNR Level 04  
 Major Watersheds; Watercourses from Public  
 Water Inventory (PWI); Ponds, lakes,  
 subwatersheds from National Hydrography  
 Dataset (NHD).



**PLANNING AREA**  
 Cedar-Wapsipinicon  
 Comprehensive  
 Watershed  
 Management Plan

FIGURE 1-1

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.7.1, 2019-09-05 13:59 PM, C:\Client\CDM\Work Orders\2017 OneWatershed OnePlan\Map Report\Figure 1-1 Planning Area.mxd User: RC3



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## 1.0 Executive Summary

The Cedar-Wapsipinicon Watershed Partnership (Partnership) is a group of Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Watershed Districts, and the City of Austin located within southern Minnesota and covering an area herein referred to as the “Cedar-Wapsipinicon watershed planning area” or “planning area.” The partnership was formed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program detailed in Minnesota Statutes 103B.101. Through the 1W1P program, the Partners prepared this document – the Cedar-Wapsipinicon Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan).

### 1.1 Introduction

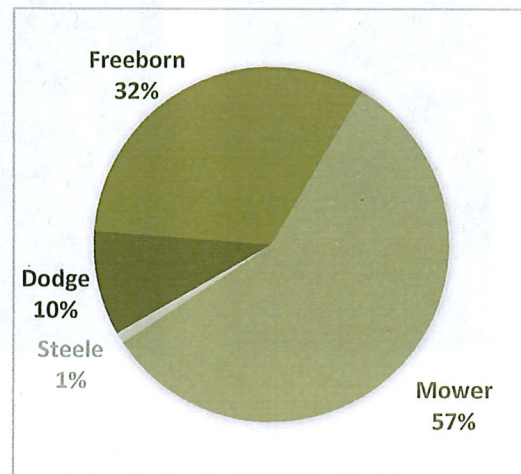
This Plan outlines a cooperative and coordinated strategy by which the Partners will protect, maintain, and restore the water and natural resources under their jurisdiction. Through prioritized and targeted implementation, the Partners will make progress towards mutually beneficial measurable goals, while considering the issues and interests of local communities, residents, and partners. This Plan provides a framework for the Partners to operate as a local, coordinated partnership while effectively leveraging the resources of local governments (i.e., the Partners) and supporting organizations (e.g., State and Federal agencies). The Plan is a local plan emphasizing the interests of local water managers, policy makers, and affected stakeholders (see Section 2.5). The Plan was developed through the efforts of:

- Planning Work Group – comprised of technical staff of the Partners organizations
- Advisory Committee – including staff from state and local cooperators and invited stakeholders
- Policy Committee – comprised of elected officials representing the Partner organizations

This Plan will be executed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Partners (see Appendix A). The MOA recognizes the importance of partnerships to implement protection and restoration efforts for the Cedar River watershed planning area on a cooperative and collaborative basis pursuant to the authority contained in Minnesota Statutes Section 471.59.

### 1.2 Planning Boundary and Subwatersheds

The planning area includes the portion of the following watersheds in Minnesota: Cedar River, Turtle Creek, Little Cedar River, Deer Creek, and Wapsipinicon River (see Figure 1-1). The planning area is located in the Cedar River basin and includes areas in Minnesota within the Upper Cedar River 8-digit HUC watershed (07080201) and the Wapsipinicon River 8-digit HUC watershed (07080102). The Minnesota-Iowa border defines the southern boundary of the planning area (both 8-digit HUC watersheds extend south into Iowa). The planning area has been subdivided into 15 planning subwatersheds (for consistency with other Cedar River planning documents, see Section 3.1.1).



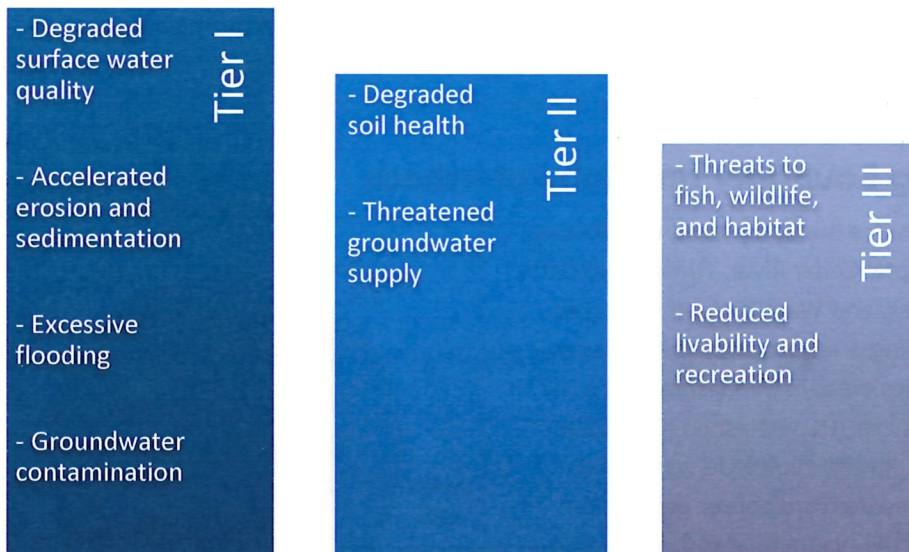
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Four counties are located within the Cedar River watershed planning area. The planning area is primarily agricultural land with mostly row crops and some pasture. The watershed includes natural areas of bur oak savanna, tallgrass prairie and maple basswood forest providing wildlife habitat and recreation opportunities. The major hydrologic feature in the watershed is the Cedar River, which collects inflow from several tributary streams as it flows from north to south through the watershed. The Cedar River passes through the City of Austin; Austin is the largest city in the planning area with a population of approximately 25,000. Additional information about the physical and environmental characteristics of the planning area are presented in Section 3.0.

### 1.3 Issue Prioritization

Section 4.0 of the Plan summarizes the issue identification and prioritization process used by the Partners and documents the resulting issue priorities. Prioritization of spatial areas for targeted implementation is described in Section 6.0. The Partnership implemented an iterative process to identify and prioritize watershed issues. Several tools were explored during the issue prioritization process, including MDNR Zonation analysis, literature review, and paired analysis ranking. The final issue prioritization incorporates some elements of each tool/process.

The Partnership ultimately established a three-tiered issue prioritization, with four issues areas categorized as Tier I (top priority), two issue areas categorized as Tier II (medium priority), and two issue areas categorized as Tier III (lower priority). While emphasis for implementation has been placed on Tier I issues, the implementation schedule includes activities to address all tiers of issue priority. It is worth noting that the Partners classified “degraded soil health” as a Tier II issue in part because that issue will be addressed by many of implementation activities targeting Tier I issues.





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## 1.4 Measurable Goals

The development of measurable goals to address the issues prioritized by the Partners is described in Section 5.0 of the Plan. In developing measurable goals, the Partners considered a range of available information, including:

- Goals from existing management plans, studies, reports, data and information, including:
  - Cedar River WRAPS report
  - Cedar River TMDL report (includes load allocations)
  - Cedar River hydrologic and hydraulic modeling and analysis
  - SWAT modeling and digital terrain analysis
- Existing implementation programs and schedules
- Input received during public meetings
- Input from the Planning Work Group
- Input from Advisory Committee members
- Input from Policy Committee members

In situations where existing data was not sufficient to develop a quantitative goal, the goals focus on collecting and interpreting information to support developing more quantitative future goals. Measurable outputs for each goal were selected appropriate to the level of quantification. Emphasis was given to goals that address Tier I priority issues, although measurable goals were developed to address all eight priority issue areas.

Notable Plan goals to address Tier I issues include:

- Implement structural and non-structural projects and practices to reduce watershed phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment loading in the 15 planning subwatersheds (numeric load reductions vary by pollutant and planning subwatershed, see Table 5-3)
- Increase average runoff retention by increasing watershed storage by 0.25 inches (~9,600 acre-feet)
- Reduce nitrogen loading to groundwater through the implementation of field practices and reduction of fertilization rates
- Reduce *E. coli* loading through management of SSTS, un-sewered discharges, and feedlots

A complete list of measurable goals developed by the Partners are presented in Table 5-2. Some goals are applicable watershed wide, while others focus on specific spatial areas (e.g., DWSMAs), natural resources (e.g., Dobbins Creek), or target audiences (e.g., private well owners).

A combination of SWAT modeling results, HSPF modeling results, and the HSPF-SAM watershed assessment tool were used to establish realistic, quantitative pollutant reduction goals to address degraded surface water quality in the 15 planning subwatersheds (see Section 6.4). Goals to address degraded surface water quality are broken down by pollutant and subwatershed in Table 5-3.

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## 1.5 Implementation

The Plan includes a targeted and measurable implementation schedule (see Table 7-2 and Section 7.1) that outlines the projects, programs, and strategies the Partnership will implement over the next 10 years. The implementation schedule provides sufficient direction and milestones while maintaining flexibility to adapt to developing opportunities and/or immediate concerns. The targeted implementation schedule includes a range of strategies and tools, including capital improvements, local controls, and new and expanded programs necessary to achieve the goals of the Plan.

### 1.5.1 Targeting of Practices for Implementation

Recognizing that financial and staff resources limit the ability of the Partnership to address priority issues in the watershed, the Partners developed a methodology to prioritize and target actions at the watershed scale, and at field scale (i.e., within each planning subwatershed).

**Subwatershed scale targeting** – portions of the 15 planning subwatersheds were identified as priority areas for project or program implementation, based on an overlay of geospatial datasets corresponding to Tier I priority issues (i.e., degraded surface water quality, contaminated groundwater, accelerated erosion and sedimentation, and excessive flooding). Areas were classified as the following priority based on the number of issues applicable to that subwatershed area (see Figure 6-3):

- Level 5 (high priority)
- Level 4 (high priority)
- Level 3 (medium priority)
- Level 2 (medium priority)
- Level 1 (low priority)
- Level 0 (low priority)

While the implementation schedule (see Section 7.1) includes projects more heavily targeted in high priority (i.e., Level 5 and Level 4) areas, projects and programs are planned for all areas of the watershed, including areas with little existing data and areas targeted for specific implementation activities (see Table 7-2).

**Field scale targeting** – the potential location of field practices (BMPs) to address Tier I issues (e.g., vegetated buffers, WASCObS, stormwater practices) were identified or estimated based on the results of digital terrain analysis, modeling results, and other technical analysis (see Section 6.3). Potential BMP locations were identified throughout the planning area, regardless of subwatershed priority level (see Figure 6-5).

### 1.5.2 Implementation Schedule

The Plan implementation program is presented in Table 7-2. The activities included in the implementation program are intended to leverage the existing roles, capacities, and expertise of the Partners and provide a framework for the Partners to perform expanded roles to achieve Plan goals. The activities and projects

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described in this Plan will be implemented through existing programs of the Partners. Programs and activities may be adjusted based on the associated funding source.

Activities included in Table 7-2 are assigned to the following four categories:

- Projects and project support
- Monitoring and studies
- Education and public involvement
- Regulation and administration

The proposed timeframe, estimated cost (local and non-local contributions), measurable outputs, and lead and cooperating entities are identified for each implementation activity.

### **Projects and Project Support**

Project and project support activities represent approximately 90% of the overall Plan implementation costs (see Section 7.3). This category includes constructed improvements and field practices designed primarily to address issues related to surface water quality, groundwater quality, erosion and sedimentation, and flooding. This category also includes feasibility studies, planning, and design work necessary to design and construct these projects.

A significant portion of the implementation program is tied to activity SWQ-1:

*Implement BMPs at very high priority and high priority sites identified through SWAT modeling and GIS terrain analyses (see Figure 6-5) to reduce erosion and filter pollutants; specific BMPs to be determined based on site-specific feasibility, with target implementation by subwatershed as follows...*

Table 7-2 includes the planned implementation of 198 such projects spread over the planning subwatersheds and 10 year planning window. Note that the planned number of projects to be implemented in each planning subwatershed is less than the number of potential project locations shown in Figure 6-5. Specific projects will be implemented locally by the Partners with consideration for local priorities, opportunities, and limitations.

Many of the projects included in the implementation schedule are cross referenced to activity SWQ-1. The Partners anticipate that many of the projects implemented as part of activity SWQ-1 will be **multi-benefit projects**. BMPs that provide benefits related to flooding, groundwater quality, soil health, and other concerns, in addition to directly addressing the issue of degraded surface water quality will be prioritized.

Other project and project support activities addressing Tier I priority issues included in Table 7-2 include:

- SWQ-2: Implement and/or expand cost share assistance programs to promote the use of BMPs focused on soil health (e.g., cover crops, conservation tillage - defined as no-till and strip-till)
- SWQ-3: Implement projects to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading in urban stormwater runoff (above and beyond current minimum requirements)

- SWQ-4: Provide financial assistance to implement animal waste management systems to reduce waste loading to streams
- SWQ-5: Meet with Partners to coordinate implementation of water quality and soil health best management practices (cross referenced to SWQ-1, SWQ-2, and SWQ-3)
- SWQ-11: Cooperate with agricultural producers to develop site-specific nutrient management plans
- SWQ-12: Cooperate with agricultural producers to develop site-specific manure management plans
- SWQ-15: Establish a 10-year CIP for planning area specific to the CRWD
- SWQ-16: Establish a 10-year CIP for planning area specific to the TCWD
- GWQ-1: Seal abandoned or unused private wells, with an emphasis on wells located within DWSMAs
- GWQ-2: Seal abandoned or unused high-capacity wells, with an emphasis on wells located within DWSMAs
- GWQ-3: Implement practices to reduce or limit nitrate movement into groundwater (e.g., nutrient management, cover crops, saturated buffers, two-stage ditches, wetland restoration) (cross-referenced to SWQ-1 and SWQ-2)
- GWQ-4: Provide financial assistance for repair, or replacement of non-functioning SSTS
- GWQ-5: Implement projects to provide adequate wastewater treatment to un-sewered communities/areas.
- ESC-1: Implement projects to stabilize or restore degraded streambank areas (in addition to project sites identified in item SWQ-1)
- FLD-1: Implement projects to increase headwater storage and/or reduce peak flow rates at priority locations identified in planning subwatersheds
- FLD-2: Work with the City of Austin to identify remaining flood-prone areas and perform feasibility study to identify preferred solutions
- FLD-3: Provide cost-share or incentive program for residents to implement stormwater capture and reuse practices

### **Monitoring and Studies**

Table 7-2 includes several implementation activities categorized as “monitoring and studies.” These activities include those necessary to evaluate Plan progress and address data gaps related primarily to Tier I issues (and soil health). Collected data may also be used to identify future, or modify current, Plan implementation activities and priorities. Ongoing monitoring activities are also necessary to assess progress relative to Plan measurable goals.

Monitoring and study activities are generally scheduled early in Plan implementation to maximize the benefit over the 10-year planning window. Monitoring and study activities included in Table 7-2 will leverage past and present programs operated in the watershed (described in Section 3.7). The Partnership sees opportunities for greater coordination and alignment of state monitoring programs with local implementation priorities (e.g., evaluating trends at smaller watershed scales) through the implementation of this Plan.

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Significant monitoring and studies activities in the implementation schedule include:

- Monitor private groundwater wells for nitrate, bacteria, and other emerging contaminants with focus on aquifers 200-300 feet deep; initiate special study on emerging contaminants
- Update existing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling using most current precipitation data and develop models for previously un-modeled watersheds (Deer Creek, Elk River, Wapsipinicon River, Little Cedar River, Otter Creek)
- Assess/quantify the runoff reduction, water quality, and groundwater protection benefits of cover crops, perennial vegetation, and other soil health practices

### **Education and Public Involvement**

Table 7-2 includes several implementation activities categorized as “education and public involvement.” The Partners recognize that public awareness and support is necessary to successfully implement this Plan and achieve meaningful progress towards Plan goals. The education and public involvement activities included in the implementation schedule are generally geared towards promoting soil, water, and natural resource stewardship through increased public understanding of priority issues and providing varying levels of technical assistance. The Partners will leverage existing relationships and public outreach methods as a foundation to implement the activities in Table 7-2, further developing capacity and methods through the assistance of cooperating entities and the targeting performed as part of this Plan.

A complete list of education and public involvement activities is included in Table 7-2 and includes items such as, but not limited to:

- SWQ-13: Host workshops to provide education regarding nutrient management plans and manure management plans
- GWQ-11: Provide educational materials regarding proper function and maintenance of SSTS systems (targeting non-compliant landowners)
- GWQ-16: Provide technical assistance and cost share for well capping
- FLD-8: Encourage the use of low impact design (LID) techniques to reduce stormwater runoff from developed areas through technical assistance to residents and developers

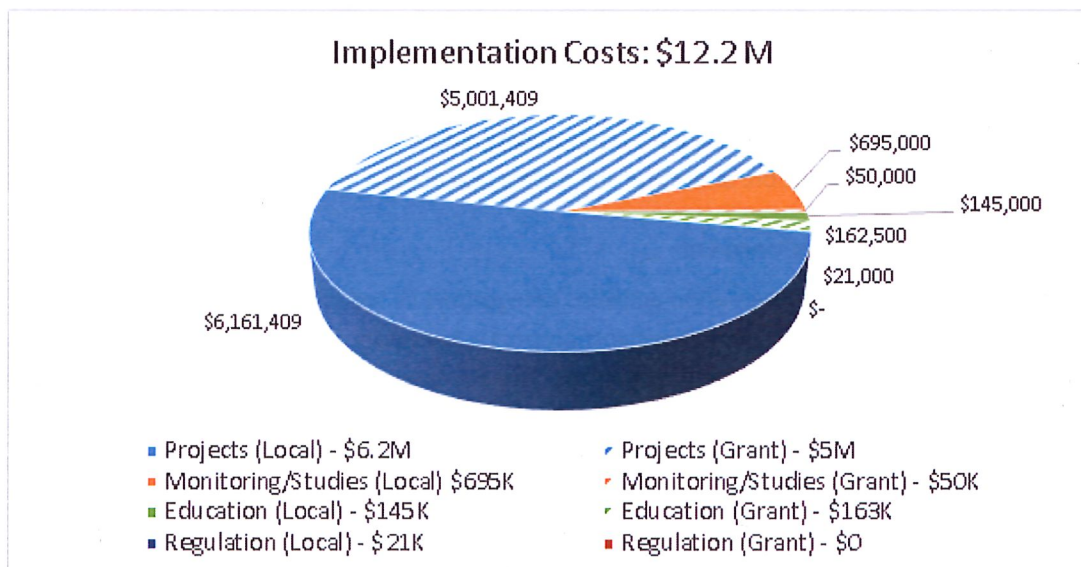
### **Regulation and Administration**

The priority issues identified by the Partners are addressed in part through Federal, State and local regulations. Table 7-2 includes implementation activities categorized as “regulation and administration.” These activities include those actions related to the development and enforcement of rules, ordinances, or other official controls. The activities included in the implementation schedule include those administered by the Partners and do not include State and Federal regulatory programs administered by others. Regulatory programs administered at a local level by the Partners are summarized in Section 7.2.

### **1.5.3 Implementation Costs**

The implementation schedule includes planning level cost estimates for individual activities. Planning level costs are split between local funding sources and external funding sources. Local funding sources include

funding borne by the Partners, while external funding sources include all other funding sources (e.g., cost-share with non-Partner entities, State grants). Costs are subtotaled by category and funding source as shown below:



This Plan includes an ambitious implementation schedule. Total estimated annual costs (approximately \$1.2M) exceed current local funding allocated to existing and similar programs within the planning area. The annual amount of funding needed from local sources to perform the activities included in the implementation schedule is approximately \$7M over the 10-year planning period, or approximately \$700,000 annually. Organizational capacity of the Partners (including staff time and expenses) to address the issues identified in this Plan was estimated at approximately \$400K during Plan development. Thus, additional local funding and funding through State, Federal, and private grant or cost-share dollars will be necessary to accomplish Plan goals.

Additional non-governmental funding sources may be used to fund Plan implementation. The Partners will coordinate with NGOs to explore potential partnerships and cost-share opportunities surrounding shared goals. The Partners will seek additional partnerships with private sector businesses as such opportunities arise. Future opportunities may include working with agra-business on incentives that provide opportunity for water resources improvements. Incentives may not be implemented through the Partnership, but instigated through Partnership actions.

Additional information about Plan costs and funding sources is included in Section 7.3.

### 1.5.4 Implementation Roles and Responsibilities

The Parties will implement this Plan according to the governance structure established in the implementation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA, see Appendix A). The MOA does not create a new entity. Instead, the MOA is a formal and outward commitment to work together as a partnership and specifies mutually-accepted expectations and guidelines between partners. Per the MOA, the Parties will

establish committees to carry out the coordinated implementation of this Plan. During implementation, the Plan will be executed through the coordinated effort of the following committees:

- Policy Committee
- Technical Advisory Committee
- Local Implementation Work Group

These groups are described in greater detail in Section 7.4; their roles are summarized in Table 1-1.

Annual work planning will be performed by the Local Implementation Work Group. Planning will be based on prioritized implementation activities planned, the availability of funds, and the roles and responsibilities for implementation. Coordination and communication are critical for a partnership operating under an MOA. The Partners will continue to coordinate with BWSR, MDA, MDH, MDNR, and MPCA as required through State-legislated programs and to accomplish the many Plan activities that identify State agencies as cooperating entities. The Partners will also coordinate with Federal partners where appropriate, including NRCS, FSA, USACE, EPA, and USFWS. Similarly, continued coordination and communication with local governmental units, such as cities, township boards, county boards, watershed district boards, joint powers boards, drainage authorities, and other water management authorities is necessary to facilitate watershed wide activities. The Parties will also collaborate with non-governmental organizations where mutual benefit may be achieved.

**Table 1-1 Plan administration and implementation roles**

Policy Committee	Technical Advisory Committee	Local Implementation Work Group
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local funding commitments for implementation</li> <li>• Recommend approval of annual fiscal reports by MOA boards</li> <li>• Recommend approval of annual reports by MOA boards</li> <li>• Annually review/approve of work plan</li> <li>• Recommend approval of grant applications by MOA boards</li> <li>• Provide direction and input to Local Implementation Work Group regarding:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ emerging issues</li> <li>○ change in priority issues and resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Recommend approval of Plan amendments by MOA boards</li> <li>• Implement county ordinances and statutory responsibilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide review and input on annual work plan</li> <li>• Identify collaborative funding opportunities</li> <li>• Provide recommendations to Local Implementation Work Group on program adjustments</li> <li>• Assist in carrying out targeted implementation schedule (in partner role)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify local funding needs for implementation</li> <li>• Prepare the annual work plan</li> <li>• Prepare annual fiscal reports</li> <li>• Prepare annual reports</li> <li>• Review and confirmation of priority issues/implementation</li> <li>• Evaluate and recommend response to emerging issues</li> <li>• Prepare Plan amendments</li> <li>• Prepare and submit grant applications</li> <li>• Carry out the targeted implementation schedule</li> <li>• Assess progress towards Plan goals</li> </ul>

December 18, 2019

Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Planning Partnership  
c/o Adam King, Dodge SWCD  
916 2<sup>nd</sup> Street SE  
Dodge Center, MN 55927

**RE: Approval of the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Dear Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Planning Partnership:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Cedar-Wapsipinicon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program was approved at its regular meeting held on December 18, 2019. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until December 18, 2029. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the Plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the Partnership, and for participating in the development of the One Watershed, One Plan program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist David Copeland of our staff at 507-206-2891 or [david.copeland@state.mn.us](mailto:david.copeland@state.mn.us) for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order



CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)  
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)  
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)  
Robert Collett, DNR (via email)  
Todd Piepho, DNR (via email)  
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)  
Jennifer Ronnenberg, MDH (via email)  
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)  
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)  
Bill Thompson, MPCA (via email)  
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)  
Ed Lenz, BWSR (via email)  
David Copeland, BWSR (via email)  
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)  
Shaina Keseley, BWSR (via email)

**NEW BUSINESS**

1. 2020 BWSR Board Meeting Schedule – Rachel Mueller/John Jaschke – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Impaired Waters List – Katrina Kessler/Miranda Nichols – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** 2020 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule

**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**     Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**             Decision                                     Discussion             Information

**Section/Region:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Contact:** Rachel Mueller

**Prepared by:** Rachel Mueller

**Reviewed by:** John Jaschke                                    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Rachel Mueller/John Jaschke

**Time requested:** 5 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |                                                   |                                                       |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None          | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve the 2020 board meeting dates.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

Meeting dates are being proposed for board meetings in 2020. Most meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The proposed calendar has meetings held in the same months as the 2019 calendar.



Board Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

**Board of Water and Soil Resources**

*Proposed 2020 meeting dates*

January 22

February – no meeting

March 25

April 22

May 27

June 24

July – no meeting

August 26-27 (Wed-Thurs) – Tour and meeting

September 23

October 28

November – no meeting

December 17 (third Thursday)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Impaired Waters List

**Meeting Date:** December 18, 2019

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** N/A

**Contact:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Prepared by:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Katrina Kessler and Miranda Nichols, MPCA

**Time requested:** 20 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- None  General Fund Budget
- Amended Policy Requested  Capital Budget
- New Policy Requested  Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
- Other:  Clean Water Fund Budget

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Update Board on Minnesota Pollution Control Agency’s Impaired Waters updated list.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/news/more-580-waters-added-states-impaired-waters-list>

**SUMMARY** *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

Minnesota’s impaired waters list was updated last month. The MPCA added 581 new water bodies with 728 new impairments to the list. The list totals 5,774 impairments in 3,416 different bodies of water. MPCA will give an overview of the 2020 Impaired Waters List and discuss how the list is just one part of efforts to protect and restore Minnesota’s lakes and streams.