

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2008 ANNUAL REPORT



Prepared by:

Middle St. Croix WMO Board of Managers

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INTRODUCTION

The Middle St. Croix watershed encompasses approximately 19.8 square miles and is located in the east-central part of Washington County. A distinction exists between the Middle St. Croix watershed and the other watersheds of Washington County in that the Middle St. Croix watershed has many small, parallel watersheds that all flow to the St. Croix, whereas the other watersheds in the County generally have one major drainage with a headwaters and outlet. Land use in the watershed is evenly distributed between agricultural uses, rural residential and high-density residential/commercial land uses.

The Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) is a Joint Powers Watershed Management Organization composed of ten St. Croix Valley communities that was established under State Statute 103B to cooperatively manage water resources within the watershed. The ten member communities of the MSCWMO are: Afton, Bayport, Baytown Township, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, Stillwater, and West Lakeland Township

In general, the purposes of a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) are to conserve natural resources through land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects in order to ensure continued public health and welfare. The specific purposes of a watershed management organization are:

- Cooperatively manage water resources in the watershed.
- Inventory and assess the resources of the watershed.
- Monitor the water quality of lakes and streams in the watershed.
- Provide education on water related issues in the watershed.
- Review development plans for stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and provide wetland and shoreland protection.
- Plan and implement capitol improvement projects that enhance the water resources of the watershed.

The mission of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization is to jointly and cooperatively manage the water resources of the watershed. The ten member communities will do so to conserve and protect the water resources in an efficient and effective manner.

ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET

MSCWMO BOARD OF MANAGERS

Each member municipality or township within the MSCWMO appoints one member to the MSCWMO Board. The 2007 representatives from each participatory community are listed below.

Randy Nelson
105 Stagecoach Trail South
Afton, MN 55001
651.436.8957

Janet Simonson
16825 Upper 17th St.
Lakeland, MN
651.430.4102

Brian Zeller
16616 11th Street N
Lakeland, MN 55043
612.325.3038

Nancy Jacobson
2900 Itasca Ave.
St. Mary's Point, MN 55043
651.436.7157

David Beaudet
6400 Lookout Trail
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
651.439.2582

Ron Fredkove
4220 Osgood Ave North
Stillwater, MN 55082
(Baytown Township)
651.430.4992

Mike Polehna
1100 Northland Ave. N
Stillwater, MN
651.430.8375

Jon Whitcomb
313 Quixote Ave
Lakeland Shores, MN 55043
651.430.0016

Dan Kylo
1891 Oldridge Trail North
West Lakeland Township, MN 55082
651.436.1134

Torry Kraftson
394 4th Street South
Bayport, MN 55003
651.275.0850

MSCWMO CONTRACT SUPPORT STAFF

The MSCWMO does not employ staff but does contract with several organizations for professional services. The organizations providing these services are listed below.

Administrator
Washington Conservation
District
1380 West Frontage Road
Highway 36
Stillwater, MN 55082
651.275.1136 Ext. 22

Attorney
Charles L. LeFevere
470 Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.337.9215
clefevere@kennedy-
graven.com

Recording Secretary
Jennifer M. Pinski
1656 Rolling Hills Lane
River Falls, WI 54022
715.338.1322
jpinski@cityofoakpark
heights.com

Table 1: 2008 Budget (Adopted October 11th, 2007)

Administration Budget	Community Contributions	Reserve
Administration – General	\$25,000	-
Accounting	\$1,500	-
Legal Fees – General	\$1,000	-
Audit	\$1,500	-
Insurance & Bonds	\$3,000	-
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$750	-
Minutes/Clerical	\$1000	-
Copying/printing/minutes	\$750	-
Subtotal	\$34,500	
Project		
Project contingency	\$2,000	
Engineering – Project	\$2,000	
Development Plan Reviews	\$6,000	
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$2,500	
Afton/Lakeland Gully (Grant)	-	\$75,000
BMP Program Tech. Assistance	\$10,000	
BMP Program Cost Share Grants	\$10,000	
Community Tech. Assistance	\$15,000	
Water Resource Educator	\$4,000	
Website	\$1,000	
Water Monitoring	\$13,000	
Subtotal	\$65,500	\$75,000
Total – 2008 Budget	\$100,000	\$75,000

AUDIT REPORT

James Maiser, Certified Public Accountant & Consultant, completed an audit of the financial management of the District for the year 2007. The result of this audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards, and that the MSCWMO does comply with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions. In the opinion of the auditor, the financial statements of the MSCWMO for the year ending December 31, 2007 were in conformity with accounting principals generally accepted in the United States of America.

Table 2: 2009 Budget

Administration Budget	Community Contributions
Accounting	\$ 1,500
Administration	\$ 26,000
Audit	\$ 1,500
Insurance	\$ 3,000
Legal Fees, General	\$ 1,000
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,000
Copying/printing	\$ 750
Office Rent, Postage, Supplies	\$ 750
Subtotal	\$ 35,500
Project Budget	
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000
Engineering - Project	\$ 2,000
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 6,000
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,500
BMP Program	\$ 20,500
Community Technical Outreach	\$ 15,000
Water Resource Educator	\$ 5,000
Website	\$ 1,000
Water Monitoring	\$ 13,000
Subtotal	\$ 67,000
TOTAL	\$ 102,500

2008 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

The MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was completed and approved in May 2006. As a part of the review and approval process, the Joint Powers Agreement to Protect and Manage the Middle St. Croix Watershed (JPA) was updated in late 2005 and signed by member communities in early 2006.

2008 IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

In the interest of fulfilling the MSCWMO mission to jointly and cooperatively manage water resources and to provide more efficient services to residents of the watershed, the MSCWMO chose integration of Performance Standards into existing city and township review processes rather than creation a separate permit program. This integration has two levels. One, the communities of the WMO are to incorporate the Performance Standards of the MSCWMO into their review of all variances, building and grading permits – as outlined in the 2006 WMP. And two, for projects that meet additional criteria listed in Section 6.2.1 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan, full review and comment by the MSCWMO Board is required.

COMMUNITY IMPLEMENTATION OF MSCWMO PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

The MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan requires that each community within the watershed provide an annual report summarizing the projects (variances, building and grading permits) within that community and the application of the MSCWMO performance standards in regards to these projects (See Table 3). The MSCWMO Board recognizes that until LWP updates are completed, communities may not have the tools to implement the MSCWMO Performance Standards on projects not qualifying for full review. Several of the ten member communities completed drafts of the LWP during 2008, which has allowed for an increase in the number of projects that are now being reviewed for consistency with the MSCWMO 2006 Watershed Management Plan.

Table 3: 2008 Community Implementation of Performance Standards

Community	2008 Implementation of Performance Standards
City of Afton	No qualifying projects in the MSCWMO area.
City of Bayport	No response to request for summary report
Baytown Township	No response to request for summary report
City of Lakeland	Stanton Property, September 2008 Syverson Septic Project, December 2008
City of Lakeland Shores	No response to request for summary report
City of Oak Park Heights	53 rd and O'Brien Ave. Stormpond Repairs – July 2008
City of Stillwater	No response to request for summary report
City of Lake St. Croix Beach	No response to request for summary report
City of St. Mary's Point	No response to request for summary report
West Lakeland Township	No response to request for summary report

MSCWMO IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

Each community refers projects qualifying for full review to the MSCWMO and adopts the MSCWMO review comments into the community comments for these projects. Table 4 summarizes the project where full review occurred.

Table 4: 2008 MSCWMO Implementation of Performance Standards

Community	Projects where full MSCWMO review occurred in 2007
City of Afton	▪ Afton/Lakeland Gully, October 2008
City of Bayport	No projects referred to the MSCWMO in 2008
Baytown Township	St. Croix Preparatory Academy, January 2008
City of Lakeland	▪ Hubbard Project Modifications, January 2008 ▪ CSAH 18, January 2008 ▪ 2008 Street Improvements, April 2008 ▪ Lenertz Project, August 2008 ▪ Afton Lakeland Gully, October 2008
City of Lakeland Shores	No projects referred to the MSCWMO in 2008
City of Oak Park Heights	▪ 2008 Trail Improvements, April 2008 ▪ Boutwell's Tunnel and Parking Lot – June 2008 ▪ McKean's Square Historic Village – June 2008 ▪ Boutwell Soil Stock Pile – November 2008
City of Stillwater	▪ Lily Lake Project, January 2008 ▪ Stillwater Junior High, January 2008 ▪ 2008 Street Improvements, May 2008 ▪ Stillwater Parking Ramp, September 2008
City of Lake St. Croix Beach	No projects referred to the MSCWMO in 2008
City of St. Mary's Point	No projects referred to the MSCWMO in 2008

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM

SHARED WATER RESOURCE EDUCATOR

The MSCWMO has continued to participate in the shared water resource educator program in Washington County. Through this program a variety of water resource education events and trainings were provided to citizens, officials, and professionals within the MSCWMO. The program also provided articles and other outreach in local papers and newsletters, as well as displays at local events. In 2008 the MSCWMO board moved to approve renewal of a five-year contract with the shared water resource educator to continue their efforts to educate the public on water resource related issues.

WEBSITE

The MSCWMO continues to maintain a website with the Watershed Management Plan, review requirements, meeting minutes and agendas, and pertinent news. The MSCWMO is in the process of updating its website to provide cities and project applicants with additional information about our review process.

2008 DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM

INTEGRATED WATER QUALITY MONITORING PROGRAM

MSCWMO continued the baseline-water quality and elevation monitoring on McKusick and Lily Lake, water quality only on Brick Pond (Stillwater), elevation only on Perro Pond, and discharge and water quality on Perro Creek. The underlying purpose of this ongoing monitoring effort is to assess and document current water quality conditions of the lakes and streams in MSCWMO and continue a long-term monitoring program, which will enable the MSCWMO to identify trends in water quality over time. A detailed annual report containing the results of the 2008 water-monitoring season is available upon request.

2008 PROJECTS

CONSTRUCTION MONITORING PROGRAM

The MSCWMO construction-monitoring program was developed to ensure that the policies and performance standards of the MSCWMO were implemented for qualifying projects. This program continues to monitor projects, which were reviewed by the MSCWMO board, and is coordinated with inspection programs of the member communities.

GROUNDWATER

The MSCWMO has continued to recognize the Washington County Groundwater Plan during 2008.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT MANAGEMENT PLANS

The MSCWMO continued to work with member communities on updates to the Local Water Management Plan (LWP) portion of Comprehensive Plans. These updates are a requirement of State Statute 103B, MN Rule 8410, the Metropolitan Council, and the MSCWMO to ensure that the LWPs are consistent with the WMP.

AFTON LAKELAND GULLY STABILIZATION PROJECT

In late 2008, the MSCWMO began construction work on a gully stabilization project on an actively eroding gully that stretched between the cities of Afton and Lakeland. The Afton/Lakeland Gully was identified during the MSCWMO's 2006 Gully Inventory Project as an area in need of stabilization. Stabilization methods completed in 2008 included grading to repair severe undercutting, the placement of boulder cross veins, as well as the placement of boulder drop structures (large chutes of 30" boulders). The stabilization project will be completed in the spring of 2009 and include the installation of native woodland seed, live stakes, brush bundles, and RoLanka blanket. Funding for the completion of this project was derived from several sources including a BWSR Challenge Grant and matching funds from the cities of Afton and Lakeland.

STORMWATER AUDIT PILOT PROGRAM

The MSCWMO partnered with Brown's Creek Watershed District, and the Washington Conservation District to develop a Stormwater Audit Program, which can be used as a tool for watersheds, cities, counties, etc. to further educate residents on their own contributions to water quality. As a partner in this project, the MSCWMO has been contributing to the development of materials as well as the formulation of a process for completing stormwater audits. McKusick Lake (Stillwater), Lily Lake (Stillwater), Perro Creek (Bayport), and a high quality wetland in West Lakeland Township were selected by the MSCWMO as areas to target during the pilot trials of this program. Actual trial stormwater audits will be completed in 2009. This program is funded mainly by the Clean Water Legacy Grant Program.

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROGRAM

The MSCWMO has continued to promote and expand its Best Management Practices Program. A total of \$20,000.00 was designated in the 2008 budget to go towards cost-share and technical assistance for residents within the MSCWMO. A total of 45 site visits were completed between 2007-2008. A total of 17 Best Management Practices projects were funded during 2007-2008 – 8 of these projects were completed during 2008, the remaining will be completed by the end of the 2009 growing season (residents are allowed 2 years to complete their projects).

2009 WORKPLAN

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES PROGRAM

The MSCWMO will continue to promote its Best Management Practices Program in 2009. A total of \$20,500.00 of the 2009 budget has been dedicated for use as technical assistance and cost-share. The MSCWMO will work to engage residents in the southern portion of the WMO, such as residents living in Lakeland, Lake St. Croix Beach, St. Mary's Point, and West Lakeland Township as the majority of BMP projects have occurred in the northern portion of the WMO in more populated areas such as the city of Stillwater.

WATER MONITORING

The MSCWMO will continue the water-monitoring program for Lily and McKusick Lakes, Brick Pond and Perro Creek. In addition, the MSCWMO will partner with the City of Stillwater to monitor one additional point near McKusick Lake to further understand nutrient inputs from tributary wetlands situated in the connection between Lily and McKusick Lake.

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND OUTREACH PROGRAMS

The MSCWMO will continue to participate in the Shared Water Resource Educator position and activities and utilize this position to meet outreach and education goals. The MSCWMO will hold citizens advisory committee meeting(s) in 2009. In addition, the MSCWMO will continue to work with the member communities on the water resource education and assistance to watershed residents. The MSCWMO will also partner with the MnDNR to promote their St. Croix River Workshops.

COMPREHENSIVE AND LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN ASSISTANCE

The MSCWMO will continue to provide assistance to member communities with the comprehensive plan updates as well as review local water management plans in a timely manner as they are submitted. The MSCWMO will ensure that all ten communities within the MSCWMO have completed updates to their LSWMPs by the end of 2009.

DEVELOPMENT PLAN REVIEWS AND EROSION MONITORING PROGRAM MSCWMO POLICIES AND PERFORMANCE STANDARDS. THE MSCWMO WILL ALSO CONTINUE

The MSCWMO will continue to review qualifying projects for consistency with the 2006 Watershed Management plan, and to coordinate the plan review process and inspection programs with the member communities.

AFTON-LAKELAND GULLY

The MSCWMO will ensure that all construction work on the Afton/Lakeland Gully is completed by the end of 2009.

BOUNDARY CLEANUP

The MSCWMO will continue its efforts with the adjoining Watershed Districts and Washington County to clean up the jurisdictional boundaries of the watersheds so that they align with recent parcel updates.

LAKE ST. CROIX BEACH PUBLIC SWIMMING BEACH RESTORATION PROJECT

The MSCWMO will work with the City of Lake St. Croix Beach to implement a bluffland restoration project adjacent to the public swimming beach on the St. Croix River. The MSCWMO has received \$18,750.00 from a BWSR grant to complete this restoration project. Matching contributions will be made from the City of Lake St. Croix Beach.

PERRO CREEK OUTLET PROJECT

The MSCWMO will assist with the completion of the Perro Creek Outlet project to help alleviate flooding in the City of Bayport.

APPENDIX A

2007 ANNUAL AUDIT

SEE ATTACHED