

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

455 HAYWARD AVENUE, OAKDALE, MINNESOTA 55082
Phone 651.796.2227 fax 651.330.7747 www.mscwmo.org



Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization

Remotely held as posted on www.mscwmo.org

Physical location - Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N

Thursday, February 8th, 2024

6:00PM

1. Call to Order – 6:00PM
 - a. Approval of Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Draft minutes – December 14th, 2023 **pg. 1-5**
3. Treasurer's Report
 - a. Report of savings account, assets for February 8th, 2024
 - b. Approve payment of bills for February 8th, 2024
4. Public Comment
5. Old Business
6. New Business
 - a. 2023 WMO Budget Summary **pg. 6**
 - b. 2023 Permit Review Fee Cost Analysis **pg. 7**
 - c. Liability Insurance Waiver **pg. 8**
 - d. Adopt-a-Drain 2023 Summary **pg. 9-13**
 - e. 2023 Annual Report Draft **pg. 14-36**
 - f. 2023 BMP Maintenance Report **pg. 37-38**
 - g. 2023 Audit Engagement **pg. 39**
 - h. 2024 First Half Payment Notifications
7. Grant and Cost Share Applications
8. Plan Reviews/Submittals
 - a. Plan Review and Submittal Summary **None**
 - b. Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports **None**
9. Staff Report **pg. 40-42**
10. 1W1P Updates
 - a. Supplemental WBIF Acceptance **pg. 43**
11. Other
12. Adjourn

Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization Member Communities

Afton, Bayport, Baytown, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, Stillwater, & West Lakeland

Regular Meeting of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
Washington Conservation District, 455 Hayward Ave N
Thursday, December 14th, 2023
6:00PM

Present: Brian Zeller, Lakeland Shores; Carly Johnson, Oak Park Heights; Beth Olfelt-Nelson, St. Mary's Point; Annie Perkins, Afton; Avis Peters, Baytown; John Buelow, West Lakeland; Ryan Collins, Stillwater; Administrator Matt Oldenburg-Downing; Amanda Herbrand, WCD; Becca Oldenburg-Downing, WCD
Audience: Dawn Bulera, Tom McCarthy

Call to Order

Manager Zeller called the meeting to order at 6:01PM.

Approval of Agenda

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing added two new items: Conservation Corps Grant Application under "New Business" and Campaign Finance Board Changes under "Other." Manager Johnson motioned to approve the agenda with the additions, Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Approval of Minutes

Manager Perkins motioned to approve the draft October 12th, 2023 board meeting minutes, and Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Treasurer's Report

Manager Olfelt-Nelson presented the treasurer's report. The remaining checking account balance on December 14th was \$228,973.66. First Bank CD's were valued at \$38,549.15. The ending value on the RBC savings account from November was \$92,537.81.

Bills to approve this month are one bill to Laura Kalambokidis for \$427.73 and four bills to the Washington Conservation District for Admin, Grant, Technical Services, and Watershed Plan totaling \$5,317.34. Manager Collins motioned to approve the treasurer's report and payment of bills for \$5,747.07 for December 14th, 2023. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

2023 contributions have been received from all member communities except for West Lakeland Township.

Manager Zeller mentions the large sum of funds in the checking account and suggests moving some funds to a CD, stating good interest rates for CD's. Manager Zeller states he is comfortable allowing Administrator Oldenburg-Downing and the board treasurer (Manager Olfelt-Nelson) to select and invest in a CD prior to the next board meeting if they find one they think is acceptable.

Manager Zeller motions to authorize Administrator Oldenburg-Downing and Manager Olfelt-Nelson to invest funds into a CD, in an amount to be determined. Manager Perkins seconds the motion. The motion carries with all in favor.

Public Comment

None

Old Business

None

New Business

Water Management Plan Update Public Kickoff

Becca Oldenburg-Downing from the Washington Conservation District met with the board and presented about the requirements and timeline for the watershed management plan update.

2024 MSCWMO/WCD Technical Service Agreement

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the 2024 MSCWMO/WCD technical service agreement. The agreement includes Administrative, Technical Services, and Water Monitoring Services. The total for the agreement is \$117,862.00 for 2024.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the technical service agreement between MSCWMO and the WCD for \$117,862.00. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Lakeland Beach Closeout Pay Application

U.S. SiteWork is seeking final payment for the completion of the Lakeland Beach Stabilization project. BMP installation was certified as substantially complete by the Washington Conservation District as of November 1st, 2023. Total project costs reflected in PA-231675-001 U.S. SiteWork Application and Certification for Payment include all project change orders for additional tree and sign removal work. WCD staff verified that all other items were constructed according to plan with minor field modification and that the shoreline stabilization is substantially and functionally complete. U.S. SiteWork (the contractor), is requesting payment of \$75,578.20 for the completed project. WCD staff recommend payment of the full amount requested.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve the final payment of \$75,578.20 to U.S. Sitework for completion of the LSC Direct Discharge South Phase II – Lakeland Beach Stabilization project. Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Washington County All Hazard Mitigation Plan Adoption Resolution

Washington County send the WMO their All Hazard Mitigation Plan for review and adoption. Manager Johnson noted in the document the line “WHEREAS, this is a multi-jurisdictional Plan and cities that participated in the planning process may choose to also adopt the County Plan” and that “cities that participated in the planning process” should be amended to reflect the WMO, as it is not a city.

Manager Olfelt-Nelson motioned to adopt the Washington County All Hazard Mitigation Plan. Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

2024 Project Review Fee Table

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the project review fee table for 2024. Fees are unchanged from the previous year. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the 2024 project review fee table. Manager Olfelt-Nelson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Manager Zeller asks Administrator Oldenburg-Downing about chargebacks for 2023 project reviews. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states he will have a summary for the January meeting.

Conservation Corps Grant Application

WCD staff are seeking board approval to submit an application for up to 25 days of Minnesota Conservation Corps crew time for continued implementation of practices including LSCB Buffer Enhancement, Perro Creek Stabilization, Lake St. Croix Shorelines, and Mulberry Ravine Golden Creeper Removal. Clean Water Funds provide 100% of eligible crew labor costs.

Manager Collins motioned to approve using MSCWMO and WCD staff resources to apply for FY2024 CWF Minnesota Conservation Corps crew time. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Grant and Cost Share Applications

Kalambodakidis Native Planting Reimbursement

On March 9th the MSCWMO board approved cost share encumbrance of up to \$500 for the Kalambokidis Buffer Enhancement project at 1404 Meadowlark Dr, Stillwater, MN 55082 on Lake McKusick. The landowner has submitted receipts for work performed in October of 2023 (installation of native perennials), totaling \$427.73 in material costs. Brett Stolpestad and Minnesota Conservation Corps assisted with site preparation and potted plant installation.

Manager Zeller motioned to approve reimbursement of \$427.73 cost share for the installation of the Kalambokidis Buffer Enhancement. Manager Collins seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Plan Reviews/Submittals

Cates Fine Homes Office – INFORM

A partial application for construction of an office building was received on June 23rd. Additional submittal materials and the review fee has been received, however, the initial staff review revealed that the site was located in a high vulnerability drinking water source management area (DWSMA) and public water supply well emergency response area (ERA) where the proposed infiltration practices are not appropriate and prohibited. MSCWMO staff has requested that applicant revise and resubmit and are awaiting submittal of materials.

Greeley Street Retail – INFORM

An application for project review for a proposed carwash facility at 14130 60th St N in Stillwater was received May 24th, 2023. Shortly after the initial staff review and request of additional submittal items the ownership of the property changed hands and the project was put on hold. The new owner has since re-engaged with the design consultant to resume the process for project review and additional submittal items have been received however the review fee has not yet

been received and MSCWMO staff are awaiting receipt of the review fee before initiating further review.

Quinn Barn Remodel – INFORM

An application for project review was received on September 9th for an “after-the-fact” project consisting of 2975 sf of new/reconstructed concrete surfacing around an existing barn structure at 2269 River Rd S in St. Mary’s Point. The proposed solution to meet the MSCWMO performance goals would be to expand the rain garden capacity to a minimum of 273 cf and direct at least 2975 square feet of impervious surface to the rain garden by treating the existing roof runoff to offset the unmitigated impervious surfaces that discharge offsite. MSCWMO staff are awaiting revised materials showing this proposed revision.

Ruff Detached Garage – INFORM

An application for project review for a detached garage at 1411 Old Toll Bridge Rd in Lakeland was received November 7th, 2023. The materials received were incomplete and the applicant has been notified that further materials are needed to complete the project review. MSCWMO staff are awaiting receipt of materials for a complete application.

At this time Administrator Oldenburg-Downing mentions another property in Lakeland where construction occurred without project submittal through MSCWMO. Administrator Oldenburg-Downing reminds board members to remind their municipality’s staff about the importance of the permit process and pre-app meetings.

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspection Reports

None

Staff Report

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing presented the staff report. Water monitoring, Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections, and BMP Maintenance are mostly complete for the season. A water monitoring report can be expected in early 2024 for 2023 activities. WCD staff are working on a proposal for bank stabilization and enhancement of Perro Creek between 2nd St N and St. Croix Trl N (300 linear feet), adjacent to Perro Creek Park. Administrator Downing attending multiple meetings since the last board meeting, including construction pre-app meetings, Lower St. Croix Partnership meetings, the Washington County Budget meeting, and others.

1W1P Updates

The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners 2024 Annual Work Plan has been submitted to the board for MSCWMO approval. Manager Zeller motioned to approve the 2024 Annual Work Plan. Manager Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried with all in favor.

Other

Campaign Finance Board Changes

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing states to the board that there have been changes to the statement of economic interest and to the disclosure notice from the Campaign Finance Board.

Administrator Oldenburg-Downing reminds board members to ensure they are registered with the Campaign Finance Board, and that these changes may affect past board members who may have served on the board for part of 2023.

Adjourn

Manager Zeller motioned to adjourn the meeting, Manager Perkins seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 7:05PM.

MSCWMO 2023 Budget vs. Actual

	2023 MSCWMO Budget	2023 MSCWMO Expenditure	% +/-
ADMINISTRATION			
Administration - General	\$ 31,160.00	\$ 31,145.50	-0.05%
Accounting	\$ 1,550.00	\$ 1,696.00	9.42%
Legal Fees - General	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 39.00	-96.10%
Audit	\$ 2,100.00	\$ 4,832.00	130.10%
Insurance & Bonds	\$ 2,600.00	\$ 2,583.00	-0.65%
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$ 625.00	\$ 119.08	-80.95%
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,180.00	\$ 1,093.00	-7.37%
Copying/printing/reproduction/minutes	\$ 625.00	\$ 87.00	-86.08%
Admin Total	\$ 40,840.00	\$ 41,594.58	1.85%
PROJECT FUNDS			
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 170.44	-91.48%
Engineering - Project	\$ 5,700.00	\$ -	-100.00%
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 10,790.00	\$ 25,569.50	136.97%
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,250.00	\$ 2,158.00	-4.09%
BMP Cost-Share (general)	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 19,438.12	-2.81%
BMP TA & Admin	\$ 27,768.00	\$ 27,613.84	-0.56%
Community TA	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 1,471.50	-50.95%
Water Resource Educator	\$ 6,300.00	\$ 6,685.60	6.12%
Website	\$ 800.00	\$ 538.88	-32.64%
Inspections and Tracking Database	\$ 900.00	\$ 345.00	-61.67%
Project Total	\$ 79,508.00	\$ 83,990.88	5.638%
WATER MONITORING			
Water Monitoring	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 20,675.52	-6.02%
Water Monitoring Total	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 20,675.52	-6.020%
LONG TERM PROJECT SAVINGS			
Water Monitoring - Set aside for equipment replacement & Monitoring Costs	\$ 750.00	\$ 841.83	12.24%
WMP Update	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,312.50	-53.75%
Savings Total	\$ 5,750.00	\$ 3,154.33	-45.14%
MSCWMO Annual Budget	\$ 148,098.00	\$ 149,415.31	0.89%



TO: Middle St. Croix WMO Board of Managers
FROM: Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator
DATE: January 2, 2024
RE: 6b.) 2023 Permit Review Workload and Revenue Analysis

The MSCWMO conducts reviews of building permits submitted to member communities and recommends steps to be taken to ensure compliance with the MSCWMO standards that have been adopted by these communities. To accomplish this task, the MSCWMO budgeted \$5,040 in 2023 and requires a review fee by non-public entity applicants. The board has approved a fee schedule that scales with the size and scope of proposed projects to offset the cost of the review.

2023 was again a well above average year for review workload with \$25,569.50 of labor costs were incurred. Review fees totaling \$5,750 have been secured, the associated costs where a fee was received were \$14,045.50 resulting in a \$8,295.50 deficit. The remaining deficit was from time spent where no application has been formally received, or on reviews of public entity projects.

Policy set by the Board in 2021 was overages in review time over \$500 to be presented for approval to invoice. If the decision is made to request additional fees to cover review costs, the MSCWMO will send a request to the permitting entity (community) for the difference in fee vs. actual total cost. A summary graph has been prepared detailing the fee vs. actual total cost for each project review invoice for consideration in 2023. Total revenue recommended for recovery under current policy is \$5,891.



MSCWMO Member Communities

Afton • Bayport • Baytown • Lakeland • Lakeland Shores • Lake St. Croix Beach • Oak Park Heights
St. Mary's Point • Stillwater • West Lakeland

LIABILITY COVERAGE WAIVER FORM

Members who obtain liability coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) must complete and return this form to LMCIT before their effective date of coverage. [Email completed form to your city's underwriter, to **pstech@lmc.org**, or fax to 651.281.1298.](#)

Members who obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. *The decision to waive or not waive the statutory tort limits must be made annually by the member's governing body, in consultation with its attorney if necessary.* The decision has the following effects:

- *If the member does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant could recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether the member purchases the optional LMCIT excess liability coverage.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could recover up to \$2,000,000 for a single occurrence (under the waive option, the tort cap liability limits are only waived to the extent of the member's liability coverage limits, and the LMCIT per occurrence limit is \$2,000,000). The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000, regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

LMCIT Member Name: _____

Check one:

- ☐ The member **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by [Minn. Stat. § 466.04](#).
- ☐ The member **WAIVES** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by [Minn. Stat. § 466.04](#), to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of member's governing body meeting: _____

Signature: _____

Position: _____

ADOPT
A STORM
DRAIN



2023 Middle St. Croix Annual Report



We're Making a Difference!

9

participants
2023

11

drains adopted
2023

111

participants
TOTAL

177

drains adopted
TOTAL

PRELIMINARY DATA, FULL REPORT IN JANUARY, 2024

Drain Cleaning & Collection Data

15 Middle St. Croix participants reported cleanings, which represents 13.5% of all Middle St. Croix participants

Middle St. Croix participants collected 516.6 lbs of debris from their adopted storm drains in 2023

Debris Type	Amount (lbs)
Brown Leaves	234.0
Grass and Green Leaves	9.8
Sediment and dirt	272.9
Trash	0.0
Salt	0.0



Month	New Participants	Drains Adopted	Debris collected (lbs)	Time spent (hrs)
January	1	1	20.0	2.0
February	0	0	18.0	0.4
March	0	0	0.0	0.0
April	1	2	24.0	0.2
May	1	1	32.0	0.3
June	1	1	297.0	3.6
July	1	1	2.0	0.3
August	2	2	1.6	0.1
September	1	1	27.6	0.6
October	0	0	43.2	1.5
November	1	2	50.0	0.5
December	0	0	1.2	0.3
TOTALS	9	11	516.6	9.6

2 Adopt-a-Drain

A Project of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education.

adopt-a-drain.org



GEOGRAPHIC BREAKDOWN

Annual Report
2023 Middle St. Croix

City and Subwatershed

Drains Adopted: Cumulative total

Debris collected: 2023 data only

City	Drains adopted	Debris collected (lbs)	Time spent (hours)
Stillwater	131	506.8	8.3
Bayport	11	0.0	0.0
West Lakeland Twp.	8	8.2	1.0
Oak Park Heights	20	1.6	0.3

Subwatershed	Drains adopted	Debris collected (lbs)	Time spent (hours)
McKusick Lake	38	65.6	1.3
Lake St Croix Direct North	65	368.8	4.6
Lily Lake	32	74.0	2.7
Middle St. Croix Wetlands	9	8.2	1.0
Lake St Croix	19	0.0	0.0
Perro Creek	6	0.0	0.0
Market Place Pond	1	0.0	0.0

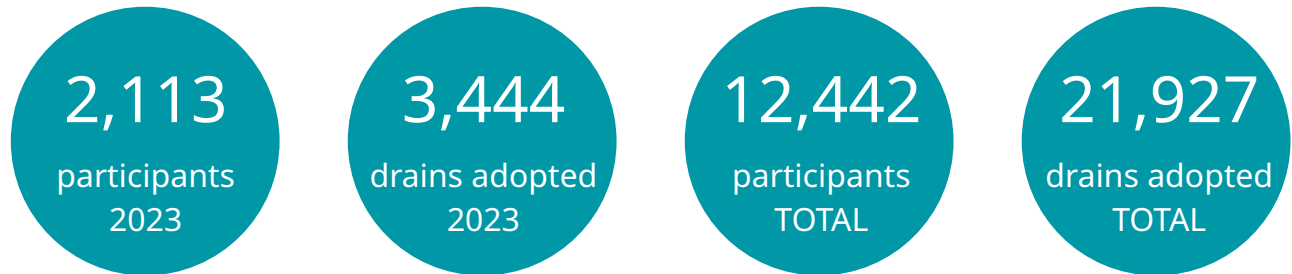
3 Adopt-a-Drain

A Project of Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education.

adopt-a-drain.org

PRELIMINARY DATA, FULL REPORT IN JANUARY, 2024

Minnesota Data



2,813 Minnesota participants reported cleanings, which represents 22.6% of all Minnesota participants

Minnesota participants collected 118,233.2 lbs of debris from their adopted storm drains in 2023

Debris Type	Amount (lbs)
Brown Leaves	63,628.7
Grass and Green Leaves	5,873.8
Sediment and dirt	40,161.5
Trash	8,486
Salt	83.1

Month	New Participants	Drains Adopted	Debris collected (lbs)	Time spent (hrs)
January	131	185	1,378.4	11,278
February	69	123	302.8	11,746
March	102	205	848.1	11,672
April	255	449	14,472.1	20,770
May	155	266	11,818.0	12,649
June	80	132	8,014.1	12,472
July	84	151	7,695.0	9,598
August	459	619	5,977.7	8,000
September	431	594	7,731.6	9,919
October	180	363	12,452.1	17,669
November	132	290	41,956.5	39,220
December	35	67	5,586.9	8,428
TOTALS	2,113	3,444	118,233.2	173,421

METRO WATERSHED PARTNERS



MINNESOTA WATER
LET'S KEEP IT CLEAN

INVOICE

612-670-6216
azawistoski01@hamline.edu

Metro Watershed Partners
Hamline University
1526 Hewitt Ave. MS-A1760
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Attention: Matt Downing
Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
455 Hayward Avenue
Oakdale, MN 55128
Date: 12/15/23

Project Title: Clean Water Minnesota

Description	Cost
2024 Membership: Clean Water MN and Adopt-a-Drain	\$500.00
TOTAL	\$500.00

Benefits of membership

- You and your colleagues are invited to attend our **monthly meetings**, to network and share information with other watershed education professionals and to hear monthly speakers on topics relevant to our work. The Watershed Partners meet via Zoom on the second Wednesday of the month from 9:30–11am.
- Join our **listserv on Mobilize** to receive meeting notifications and partner updates, message with other partners, and send announcements. To be added to Mobilize, please email Ann Zawistoski (azawistoski01@hamline.edu) and request to be added.
- Your organization will be **listed as a supporting partner** on cleanwatermn.org/about-us, and on adopt-a-drain.org when someone clicks on a drain in your service area, and on email communication to adopters in your area.
- Access to an **administrative portal** that allows you to view and download data about adopted drains and program participants in your area. Log in mn.adopt-a-drain.org/nova. Contact Ann Zawistoski to get admin access.
- A customized **annual report** that includes summary data about adopted drains and program participants in your area.
- Access to **print resources to promote Adopt-a-Drain** to residents in your area. View the marketing guide here: ms4.adopt-a-drain.org/marketing-guide. Download promotional materials from the Google Drive folder: drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b6cLslTFI6xs9xHz2ZZTt8tLJ63rN0Bd.
- Access to the **CWMN photo gallery** with hundreds of high-quality photographs: docs.google.com/document/d/1D5uxIkAuZUNj-SJZOSexNbAn_ExcjivXaafDN9WLvE8/edit.
- Portable **educational exhibits** are available for free checkout. Find more at cleanwatermn.org/partners/exhibit-check-out/.
- For an additional fee, Adopt-a-Drain participants in your area can receive **yard signs and a printed "welcome kit"** in the mail. Please contact Ann Zawistoski for more information.

Duration of service: January 1 - December 31st, 2024. Unspent funds will rollover to support program activities in 2025.

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Lakeland

Prepared by:

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WMO BOARD OF MANAGERS
APPROVAL DATE: March 24th, 2023

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INTRODUCTION

The Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization 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, high-density residential and 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 capital 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 2023 representatives from each participatory community are listed below.

Annie Perkins
4042 River Road S.
Afton, MN 55001
651.592.3007

Tom McCarthy
16455 20th St. S.
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043
651.436.7031

Brian Zeller (Chair)
84 St. Croix Trail S
Lakeland, MN 55043
612.325.3038

Beth Olfelt-Nelson
2990 Itasca Ave. S.
St. Mary's Point, MN 55043
612.417.5394

Carly Johnson
5525 O'Brien Ave N
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
651.261.5801

Avis Peters
13045 53rd Street Pl.
Stillwater., MN 55082
612.275.2200

Ryan Collins
1467 Benson Blvd E
Stillwater MN 55082
651.246.8264

Dave Millard
16051 Quality Ct
Lakeland, MN 55043
651.408.3483

John Buelow
13250 20th Street N.
West Lakeland Township, MN 55082
651.436.2244

John Dahl
775 3rd Ave N.
Bayport, MN 55003
651.439.7312

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
Matt Oldenburg-Downing
Washington Conservation
District
455 Hayward Avenue
Oakdale, MN 55128
651.796.2227

Attorney
Troy Gilchrist
470 Pillsbury Center
200 South Sixth Street
Minneapolis, MN 55402
612.337.9215
tgilchrist@kennedy-
graven.com

Recording Secretary
Washington Conservation
District
455 Hayward Avenue
Oakdale, MN 55128
651.330.8220 Ext. 2225

Table 1: 2023 Budget

Administration Budget	Community Contributions
Administration - General	\$ 31,160
Accounting	\$ 1,550
Legal Fees – General	\$ 1,000
Audit	\$ 2,100
Insurance	\$ 2,600
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$ 625
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,180
Copying/printing	\$ 625
Subtotal	\$ 40,840
Project Budget	
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000
Engineering - Project	\$ 5,700
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 5,040
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,250
BMP Program Tech. Assistance	\$ 27,768
BMP Program Cost Share	\$ 20,000
Community TA	\$ 3,000
Water Resource Educator	\$ 6,300
Website	\$ 800
Inspection and Tracking Database	\$ 900
Water Monitoring	\$ 22,000
Water Monitoring Equip. Savings	\$ 750
2025 WMP Update	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$ 101,508
TOTAL	\$ 142,348

Table 2: 2024 Budget

Administration Budget	Community Contributions
Administration - General	\$ 32,095
Accounting	\$ 1,600
Legal Fees – General	\$ 900
Audit	\$ 2,800
Insurance	\$ 2,600
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$ 625
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,215
Copying/printing	\$ 625
Subtotal	\$ 42,460
Project Budget	
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000
Engineering - Project	\$ 5,500
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 5,200
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,315
BMP Program Tech. Assistance	\$ 28,600
BMP Program Cost Share	\$ 20,000
Community TA	\$ 3,000
Water Resource Educator	\$ 6,300
Website	\$ 900
Inspection and Tracking Database	\$ 900
Water Monitoring	\$ 23,000
Water Monitoring Equip. Savings	\$ 750
2025 WMP Update	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$ 103,865
TOTAL	\$ 146,325

AUDIT REPORT

Michael Peterson, Certified Public Accountant & Consultant, has been contracted to complete an audit of the financial management of the WMO for the year 2023. At the time of writing this report the audit process is underway. The audit will be presented to the State of Minnesota and posted to the MSCWMO website upon completion.

2023 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

2023 Implementation of Performance Standards

The mission of the MSCWMO is to jointly and cooperatively manage water resources within the WMO and to provide effective and efficient services to the residents of the watershed. To work to meet this goal, the MSCWMO adopted Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The watershed also provided assistance to member communities to integrate MIDS into local ordinance. Rather than create its own separate permit program, the MSCWMO reviews projects that meet the criteria listed in section 7.0 of the 2015-2025 Watershed Management Plan. Member communities do not issue permits until the project has met all applicable watershed performance standards.

Table 3: MSCWMO Project Reviews and Total Phosphorous Load Reductions of Permanent Stormwater Best Management Practices Estimated with the MIDS Calculator.

Year	Total Projects Reviewed	Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)	Redevelopment BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)
2016	19	26.7	25.6
2017*	19	133.6	124.7
2018	18	25.8	17.2
2019	13	17.9	6.0
2020	11	51.7	0.2
2021	13	14.0	7.6
2022	18	7.2	7.2
2023	22	13.0	11.1

*2017 includes the permanent stormwater BMPs installed as part of the St. Croix Crossing project.

2023 Projects Implementation

The MSCWMO 2015-2025 Watershed Management Plan targets goal reductions of Total Phosphorus to each of the three major watersheds draining to impaired surface waters listed on the State of Minnesota 303 D list: Lake St. Croix, Lily Lake, and Perro Creek. From 2015 to 2023, table 6.6 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies a total target of 197.1 lbs of total phosphorus load reduction to be completed by voluntary retrofitting. To date, 72 water quality improvement projects have been installed totaling an estimated annual total phosphorus reduction of 255.2 lbs. Fourteen projects were installed in 2023.

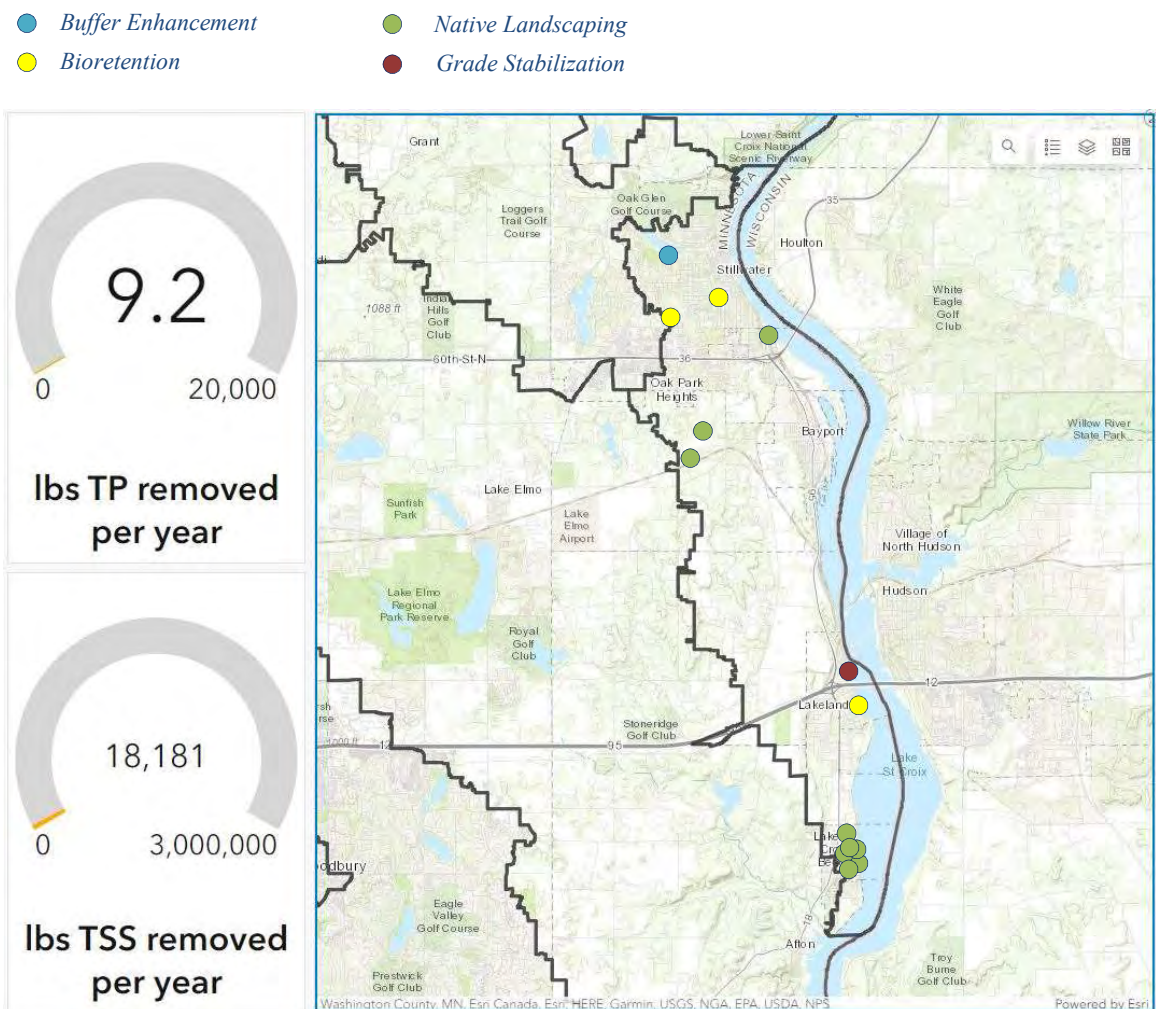


Figure 1. 2023 Installed Practices with Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Reductions

Table 4: MSCWMO Water Quality Retrofits and Total Phosphorous Load Reductions of Permanent Stormwater Best Management Practices Estimated with the MIDS Calculator.

Year	Total Projects Installed	Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)	Targeted Subwatersheds
2015	17	17.3	Lake St. Croix and McKusick
2016	3	48.8	Lake St. Croix and Perro
2017	5	10.1	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2018	6	56.3	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2019	7	39.4	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2020	4	0.8	Lake St. Croix and Perro
2021	4	65.3	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2022	12	8.0	Lake St. Croix and McKusick
2023	14	9.2	Lake St. Croix, Lily, and McKusick

Best Management Practices and Subwatershed Implementation Program

The MSCWMO continues to seek partnerships to construct high-performing and low-cost stormwater best management practices identified in its subwatershed analyses. In 2023, three projects were completed that were either identified in a subwatershed analysis or located in priority direct drainages that were part of these analyses. These projects received state and local funding to design and construct:

Projects that were installed in 2023:

- Quixote Avenue Drainage Improvements, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed.
- Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff Toe Stabilization
- Lakeland Beach Stabilization, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed.
- Forster Curb-Cut Bioretention, Lily Lake Subwatershed.

The following is a summary of work that was completed in 2023:

Quixote Avenue Improvements, Lakeland:

In 2014 the MSCWMO secured a 2014 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant to implement high priority projects in the Lake St. Croix Subwatershed. Several projects were completed in 2015 along Quixote Avenue N in Lakeland with 2014 grant funding. In 2023, MSCWMO and the WCD worked with landowners and City of Lakeland staff to install one additional bioretention practice at 661 Quixote Ave N, a prioritized parcel between two existing practices installed as a part of the original 2015 Quixote Avenue N Drainage Improvements project. The basin enhances the treatment train effect of adjacent practices (both upstream and downstream) installed along Quixote Avenue and will retain approximately 0.68 lbs TP and 123.5 lbs TSS annually.



[Above] *661 Quixote Avenue N Bioretention.*

Lakeland Beach Stabilization, Lakeland:

In 2018 the MSCWMO completed the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis and was successful at securing a 2019 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant and a 2021 CWF Grant to design and install high priority projects identified in the report. After implementing seven projects identified in this report, there were funds remaining in the FY21 Grant. These remaining funds were leveraged against City and WMO funds to perform stabilization and restoration of the Lakeland City Beach.

This project stabilized 160 feet of shoreline on the St. Croix River and improved public access and use areas. The project will reduce total phosphorus (TP) to the river by approximately 7.62 lbs per year.



[Above] *Lakeland Beach stabilization (October 2023).*

Forster Curb-Cut Bioretention, Stillwater:

In 2023 MSCWMO and WCD staff worked with landowners and the City of Stillwater to install a 250 square-foot curb-cut bioretention practice at the Forster residence at 1401 Driving Park Road. The basin will retain approximately 0.45 lb TP and 86.7 lbs TSS annually. The landowners received \$1,500 in MSCWMO cost-share and \$3,200 in state cost-share through the WCD for project implementation.



[Above] *Forster curb-cut bioretention, Lily Lake subwatershed.*

Lawns to Legumes, Lake St. Croix Beach:

In 2022 the WCD secured FY22 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood grant funding to implement pollinator-friendly practices in Lake St. Croix Beach (LSCB) and St. Mary's Point (SMP). Nine “pollinator pocket planting” projects were installed in LSCB and SMP in 2023, including six within the WMO. All Lawns to Legumes grantees received either MSCWMO cost-share funding for additional project support and/or technical assistance from the WMO.



[Left] *Paulson pollinator pocket planting.* [Right] *Downing pollinator pocket planting.*

Middle St Croix Mini-Grant Cost Share program:

The Middle St Croix WMO offers mini-grants (up to \$500) to qualifying landowners to install low cost BMPs in priority areas. The program saw 11 installations (including Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood projects) and 46 inquiries (likely future applicants). These projects included one native shoreline buffer enhancement on Lake McKusick, one native planting associated with a voluntary curb-cut bioretention practice, and nine native plantings for pollinator benefit.



[Left] *Bulera pollinator pocket planting*; [Center] *Sunnyside Condos native landscaping* [Right] *Peterson pollinator pocket planting*

Erosion Monitoring Program

The MSCWMO erosion control inspection program was developed to ensure that the policies and performance standards of the MSCWMO were implemented on the ground for qualifying projects. Staff continue to inspect active projects, which were reviewed by the MSCWMO board. The MSCWMO coordinates its inspection program with its member communities and their building/permit inspectors.

In 2023, 18 erosion control inspections were conducted at 8 sites. Compliance over the year was high, with 66.7% of inspections receiving an A grade, 16.7% a B, 16.6% a C, and 0% a D or F. Drought conditions throughout the year were favorable for building conditions, and were reflected in the high compliance rates observed. For the purposes of this summary, compliance rates for inspection items were only considered when the item was marked “compliant” or “non-compliant”, and all “not inspected” items were removed from the total number of inspections for each inspection item. The most common non-compliant items noted on sites were lack of maintenance for damaged or missing perimeter controls (23.1% of inspections) and improperly installed perimeter controls (13.3% of inspections). Lack of soil stabilization within seven days of stopping work in an area was also found on two inspections (12.5% of inspections). Similar to 2022, compliance with soil stabilization for disturbed areas not being worked (75.0% of inspections) and adequate maintenance of previously installed soil cover (90.9% of inspections) was high. Generally, it is considered more effective to prevent erosion via soil cover and stabilization than it is to control sediment that has been eroded via perimeter controls, so this is a positive finding. Other notable items found to have a high rate of compliance were prevention and cleaning of sediment trackout onto paved surfaces (100% of inspections), proper installation of perimeter controls (86.7% of inspections), proper storage and handling of solid waste and hazardous materials (91.7% of inspections), and limiting disturbance of steep slopes (90.0% of inspections). No sediment discharges to water resources were recorded on any inspection in 2023.

Other activities conducted in 2023 intended to improve compliance were distribution of “reminder flyers” to project contacts in the spring and fall to prepare sites for wet conditions, and more critical inspections of permanent stormwater treatment features, such as rain gardens, to ensure they meet design and function standards. Improved communication and on-site meetings with project contacts regarding expected siting and function of features helped ensure proper construction in order to minimize any modifications or reconstruction of features.

BMP Inspections and Maintenance

The MSCWMO BMP Inspection and Tracking Database was developed to ensure that the installed practices are meeting functional and aesthetic expectations. In 2023, 168 MSCWMO projects were inspected. Utilizing the Washington Conservation District Maintenance Crew, Minnesota Conservation Corps, and volunteer effort, maintenance was performed on BMPs that are municipalities’ responsibility to maintain.

The watershed also worked in partnership with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program, Sustainable Stillwater, the Lily Lake Association, and the Stillwater Foundation to develop and Pilot an Adopt a Raingarden Program in Stillwater. The program will continue in 2024 under volunteer management.



Groundwater

The MSCWMO continued to recognize the Washington County Groundwater Plan during 2023 and continued to participate in County wide technical advisory committee meetings to prioritize implementation and identify responsible parties for specific activities. The MSCWMO also participated in the Washington County Groundwater Plan Update process in 2023.

Local Government Controls

The MSCWMO continued to work with its member communities to strengthen water quality and natural resource management. Through a Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation grant the MSCWMO assisted its member communities to update their local controls. In 2018 all communities except Stillwater adopted Minimum Impact Design Standards (MIDS) into local ordinance and code. All communities will continue to participate in the MSCWMO's project review program. The City of Stillwater has adopted MIDS standards by resolution in 2019 but has not codified.

One Watershed One Plan

In 2023, the MSCWMO has worked collaboratively with 15 local governments participating in the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively to implement a coordinated management plan on the large HUC 8 basin scale.

Information and Education Program

Shared Water Resource Educator

MSCWMO continues to participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), as well as the Lower St. Croix Partnership Education Program (LSCP). The partnerships were formed in 2006 and 2021 respectively to educate community residents, businesses, staff, and decision-makers about issues affecting local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and to engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve the health of these water resources.

In 2023, EMWREP/LSCP programming and activities within the MSCWMO included:

Community Events

- Barbara Heitkamp led a native plant interactive activity at the local parent night at Andersen Elementary (February 7)
- Presentation for Daughters of the American Revolution, Stillwater (April 20)
- Land stewardship & restoration presentation (June 11: People's Park, Bayport)
- Presentation for Sentence to Serve (July 27: Washington County)
- National Night to Unite (Aug 1: Lake St. Croix Beach)
- Trillium Garden Club climate resiliency presentation (Sept 13: Stillwater)
- Leadership in the Valley event, Bayport (Oct. 12)
- We Are Water Exhibit at Stillwater Library (Oct 12 – Dec. 4)
 - We Are Water is an interactive traveling exhibit showcasing our shared water heritage across Minnesota. It is a collaboration led by the Minnesota Humanities Center, joined by key partners including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Board of Water and Soil Resources. Angie Hong participated in planning meetings and event promotion, provided photos for the exhibit, and gave a keynote presentation during the opening week boat workshop.
- Barbara led a habitat fragmentation activity for 60 fifth graders at Andersen Elementary in Bayport (November 30)

Media and Communications

- 52 articles in the Stillwater Gazette
- 70+ short videos on TikTok and Instagram (Combined reach of 140,700 followers)
- Featured media about Lily Lake:
 - **What's next for Lily Lake? Delisting achieved, partners consider possibilities – St. Croix 360:** (Oct. 5, 2023) The water-quality improvement work didn't stop once Lily Lake was removed from the state's impaired waters list — an effort that took 20 years, involved a host of partners including the city of Stillwater, and tapped nearly \$1 million in Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
 - **Saving Lily Lake:** (Oct. 18, 2023) on KSTP television.

- **Neighbors of Lily Lake celebrate decades long cleanup:** (Oct. 20, 2023) in the Star Tribune.

Volunteer Engagement

- **Water Stewards:** Barb Bickford and Mike McCarthy (Middle St. Croix WMO) built a gravel bed tree nursery at their home in Stillwater and are engaging members of the Lily Lake Association to remove and replace invasive buckthorn in the woods surrounding the lake.
- **Adopt a Raingarden:** In 2023, EMWREP continued to collaborate with Sustainable Stillwater MN to support Adopt a Raingarden volunteers and ensure that 31 adopted raingardens are well-maintained.

Other measures of citizen engagement

- 43 MSCWMO residents applied for Lawns to Legumes grants (9 received grants)
- 47 site visits completed by WCD staff
- 288 storm drains adopted in MSCWMO communities. Volunteers reported collecting 755lbs of debris that would have otherwise flowed into lakes, rivers, and wetlands.
 - Stillwater – 231 drains adopted
 - Oak Park Heights – 31 drains adopted
 - West Lakeland - 12 drains adopted
 - Bayport – 11 drains adopted
 - Baytown Twp - 3 drains adopted

Engaging local decision makers

- **Lily Lake de-listing featured presentation** at April Watershed Partners meeting
- **St. Croix River Workshops on the Water:** We hosted workshops in Taylor's Falls (June 27) and Stillwater (July 25), attended by more than 140 local community leaders from 54 communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Speakers highlighted the risk of vanishing shorelines and shared strategies for de-listing lakes. The Lily Lake de-listing was featured in the Stillwater workshop, with Matt Downing, Mike Lyner, and Jay Michels presenting on a panel.
- **Chloride presentation:** On Oct. 17, Angie gave a presentation to the Stillwater City Council about chloride pollution

Stormwater Education:

- **SMART Salting**
 - 63 public works staff and private contractors from MSCWMO communities are SMART Salt certified (Bayport, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, and West Lakeland)

- In January 2023, we mailed educational packages to seven private contractors in MSCWMO to share information about SMART Salting best practices and upcoming trainings.
- Six staff from City of Stillwater attended the SMART Salt workshop for snow plow drivers, hosted by EMWREP on Sept. 19
- **Enhanced street sweeping programs** developed for Afton, Bayport, Baytown, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, West Lakeland. (Lower St. Croix initiative)

The MSCWMO will continue providing funding and staff time to support EMWREP in 2023.

A full report of EMWREP activities completed in 2023 can be found at www.mnwcd.org/emwrep-partners.

Website

The MSCWMO continued to update its website in 2023. The website contains up to date meeting dates, agendas, minutes, annual reports, water monitoring information, contact information and more. In addition, the website also contains a section for grant reporting which highlights projects completed as part of the BWSR Clean Water Legacy Program. Project review applications can be submitted online, as well as all necessary information on the MSCWMO's project review process. The MSCWMO website can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.mscwmo.org>

2023 Data Collection Program

Water Quality Monitoring Program

In 2023 the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) continued condition monitoring and water quality and elevation biweekly on McKusick Lake and Lily Lake. Information from the Brown's Creek Diversion Drainage which flows to McKusick Lake is monitored by the Brown's Creek Watershed District, but resulting information is also provided to the MSCWMO for use in management planning. The MSCWMO established a permanent monitoring station at the storm sewer connection from Brick Pond to Lily Lake. This station will measure the annual volume of water and concentration of phosphorous flowing from Brick Pond to Lily Lake. In 2022 a fully automated monitoring station was established on Perro Creek to better characterize loading from Perro Creek to the St. Croix. The MSCWMO monitored volume and concentration of discharge for both base flow and storm flows from Perro Creek in 2023.

Full water monitoring reports can be viewed on our website. The 2023 monitoring report will be available in May of 2024.

<http://www.mscwmo.org/water-monitoring>

2024 WORKPLAN

Best Management Practices Program

The MSCWMO will continue to promote its Best Management Practices Program in 2024. The MSCWMO will continue to work to engage landowners in the Lily Lake, McKusick Lake, Perro Creek, Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge North and South subwatersheds.

Watershed Management Plan Update; Subwatershed Analyses and Implementation

In 2024 the MSCWMO will continue working with the City of Stillwater, City of Bayport, City of Lake St. Croix Beach, other member communities, MnDOT, and private landowners to design and install targeted stormwater quality best management practices identified in subwatershed analyses. As part of the management plan update, the MSCWMO will re-analyze existing subwatershed analyses and implementation to determine what practices are outstanding or are in need of retrofit or reinstallation.

Water Monitoring

The MSCWMO will continue water quality condition monitoring program for Lily and McKusick Lakes and Perro Creek. The MSCWMO will be conducting macrophyte surveys on Lily and McKusick Lakes. The MSCWMO has contracted with the Washington Conservation District to complete monitoring and reporting again in 2023. The MSCWMO is planning to apply for funding to monitor the volume and concentration flowing out from the Mulberry Ravine and select stormwater outfalls in the City of Stillwater discharging directly into Lake St. Croix.

Public Education and Outreach Programs

The MSCWMO will continue to participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program. The activities and programs offered through this partnership will help MSCWMO meet its goals for education and outreach.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan

The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively with 15 units of government charged with water governance in the Lower St. Croix HUC8 watershed to implement a coordinated management plan.

Development Plan Reviews and Erosion Control Inspection Program; MSCWMO Policies and Performance Standards

The MSCWMO will continue to review qualifying projects for consistency with the 2015 Watershed Management Plan, and will continue to coordinate its review process with its member communities. Staff will also continue to inspect current and past projects to ensure erosion control practices are implemented, and stormwater management features are functioning as planned. The MSCWMO will promote trainings and events that will improve performance on future projects.

Website Update and Maintenance

The MSCWMO continues to update and maintain its website.

APPENDIX A

2023 Annual Communications

AFTON

The City of Afton is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Afton to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the MSCWMO watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Annie Perkins, the City of Afton appointed MSCWMO Board Manager at 651-592-3007.

BAYPORT

The City of Bayport is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Perro Creek and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Bayport to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Perro Creek and the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member John Dahl, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-439-7312.

BAYTOWN TOWNSHIP

Baytown Township is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to Baytown Township to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Township Board Member Avis Peters, the Township appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-430-8163.

LAKELAND

The City of Lakeland is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Lakeland to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington

Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Councilman Dave Millard, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-408-3483.

LAKELAND SHORES

The City of Lakeland Shores is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Lakeland Shores to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Brian Zeller, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 612-325-3038.

LAKE ST CROIX BEACH

The City of Lake St. Croix Beach is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Lake St. Croix Beach to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Mayor Tom McCarthy, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-436-7031.

OAK PARK HEIGHTS

The City of Oak Park Heights is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Perro Pond and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Oak Park Heights to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Perro Pond or St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member Carly Johnson, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at (651) 439-5458.

ST. MARY'S POINT

The City of St. Mary's Point is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of St. Mary's Point to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member Beth Olfelt-Nelson, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager and the Treasurer for the watershed, at 612-417-5394.

STILLWATER

The City of Stillwater is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Stillwater to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, or the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at mdowning@mnwcd.org or Council Member Ryan Collins, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-246-8264.

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

West Lakeland Township is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to West Lakeland Township to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Board Member John Beulow, the Township appointed Board Manager, at 651-436-2244.



MEMORANDUM

TO: Middle St. Croix WMO Board of Managers

FROM: Cameron Blake, Washington Conservation District

DATE: January 23, 2023

RE: **BMP Maintenance Program 2023 Summary**

Agreement Summary:

BMPs still under 2 year maintenance obligation:

- Perro Creek Shoreline Planting (Girl Scout Troop) (3/3 planting completed in 2020)
- Stillwater Country Club (cash-in-lieu maintenance funding)
- Lily Lake Basin Inlet Cleanout

Recommendation of activities to continue:

- Inlet cleanout on 10 raingardens in OPH Area D (unless OPH willing to take over maintenance obligation from landowners). Heavy loading of the inlets makes it a difficult task for landowners to handle.
- Vegetative maintenance on Ozark Ave N in OPH
- Providing support for Golden Creeper eradication efforts in the Mulberry Ravine via match for CWF MCC Crew grants (out of TA budget historically)

Services Provided:

Date	Activity	Time spent (hours)
1/3/2023	2022 maintenance report	2
1/12/2023	BMP Presentation	1
2/8/2023	2023 Planning	1
2/9/2023	Burn quotes	.5
3/9/2023	SSMN raingarden coordination	1
4/10/2023	New AAR signs and Lily Inlet grate cleanoff	3
4/13/2023	AAR Program coordination meeting internal	1
4/20/2023	SCC and Lily inlet cleanout	6
4/27/2023	SCC and Lily inlet cleanout	11.5
5/3/2023	OPH Inlet cleanouts	5
5/12/2023	Ozark Vegetative maintenance	2
5/26/2023	SCC Vegetative maintenance	6.5

Supervisors: Tim Behrends • Bob Rosenquist • Diane Blake • John Rheinberger • Jim Levitt



6/14/2023	SCC Vegetative maintenance	8
6/16/2023	Perro Creek planting vegetative maintenance	10
6/23/2023	Ozark and Perro maintenance	8.5
6/23/2023	Lily Basin watering	9.5
6/28/2023	Ozark and Perro maintenance	4
7/17/2023	Lily inlet cleanout	6
8/3/2023	SCC Vegetative maintenance	3
8/11/2023	Billing discussion	.5
8/23/2023	CIP Maintenance activity meeting	.5
8/29/2023	CIP site visits and evaluation/planning	4.75
9/1/2023	ESC Removal at Lily Lake basin	12.5
9/5/2023	ESC Removal at Lily Lake basin	1
9/6/2023	Lily Lake and SCC Inlet cleanout, dumping cleanout SCC	12
9/8/2023	Lily Basin	.5
9/20/2023	Lily Basin	.5
10/5/2023	2024 Planning	.5
11/27/2023	SCC and Lily Basin Review	2

Expenditure Totals (Maintenance Program): \$2,040.00 for time (39 hours)

Expenditure Totals (Cash-in-Lieu) \$4,052.50 for time (86.25 hours)

When possible the WCD maintenance program leverages other conservation resources to assist in BMP maintenance activities.

January 15, 2024

To the Board of Supervisors and Manager
Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization
455 Hayward Ave N
Oakdale, MN 55128

Enclosed is the audit engagement letter for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2023. The audit will be performed in accordance with all applicable audit standards.

We anticipate that half a day of fieldwork will be required at your office unless the audit is done remotely. During this time and during completion of the audit, we will be happy to answer your questions and assist with policies and procedures at no additional cost. The year-end audit fee will be \$5,000.

The audit fee has increased more than inflationary rates this year, due to additional time to complete audit checklists, staffing, and adopting new audit standards and procedures. As Districts continue to grow and take on more grants, the time required to test Unearned Revenue continues to increase.

Please sign and return the engagement letter in the envelope provided. We look forward to working with you!

Sincerely,

Samantha Hoskins

Samantha Hoskins, CPA
Peterson Company Ltd

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

455 HAYWARD AVENUE, OAKDALE, MINNESOTA 55082
Phone 651.796.2227 fax 651.330.7747 www.mscwmo.org



Staff Report- December 2023/January 2024

Administration

- Prepared February meeting materials
- Participated in Lower St. Croix Partnership meetings
- Participated in County Groundwater Update meetings
- Coordination with Partners for Review and Planning
- Participated in Met Council Water Supply Meetings
- Coordinated WMP Update Process

Project Reviews

10-Year Management Plan Update

Description: The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) requires watersheds to have a management plan and MSCWMO's current management plan expires in 2025, as such a management plan update is underway. This plan will meet BWSR's various requirements and is on track to be completed by the end of 2025.

Activities This Month: An official 60-day information request was submitted to all required agencies, organizations, and communities for comments on priority issues and expectations of the MSCWMO, water management goals, water resource information, and official controls and programs. A stakeholder engagement plan has been developed and the technical advisory committee (TAC) has been formed and the first meeting will take place in February.

Staff: Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing, WCD

Lake St. Croix Small Communities Phosphorus Reduction Grant – PHASE II

Description: \$158,000 grant for stormwater quality improvement south of Bayport (2021-2023). Implement practices in the LSCD South SWA area to achieve a load reduction of up to 7lbs of TP/yr.

Activities This Month: The project has been closed out and final grant reporting is completed. Awaiting reconciliation and final \$79,000 payment from BWSR.

Staff: Brett Stolpestad - WCD; Matt Downing - MSCWMO

Water Monitoring Program

Description: The MSCWMO water monitoring program includes the monitoring of flow at three sites. These sites have that equipment serves to collect data on the total volume of water flowing into Lily Lake at the Greeley Street Inlet, through Perro Creek at the Diversion Structure, as well as, the Perro Creek Diversion Structure Overflow. Water quality is also collected at the Greeley Street Inlet and the Perro Creek Diversion Structure on a monthly basis, as well as during storm events.

Additionally, the MSCWMO monitors two lakes, Lily and McKusick for several parameters from April-October. Data is collected on both lakes on a biweekly basis and

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includes: water level, clarity, pH, temperature and dissolved oxygen profiles, an aesthetics and user profile, and field conditions. Additionally, water quality samples are collected from the surface of the lakes and analyzed for total phosphorus, total Kjeldahl nitrogen, and chlorophyll.

Activities This Month: Two storm sample and three base flow samples were collected at Greeley Street. Six storm samples and five base flow samples were collected at Perro Creek Diversion Structure. Lake monitoring is complete with thirteen samples collected on Lily and McKusick. All MSCWMO monitoring equipment has been brought in and stored for the winter season. Equipment maintenance, testing, repair, and cleaning are underway. Data analysis is underway for the annual Water Monitoring Summary.

Staff: Rebecca Oldenburg-Downing, WCD

Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections

Description: The MSCWMO has contracted with the WCD to conduct erosion and sediment control inspections for construction projects that have been reviewed and recommended for permit approval by partner communities. The WCD also maintains an ArcGIS Online based database for project plan review tracking, erosion control inspection, and BMP implementation and maintenance activities.

Activities This Month: None.

Staff: Aaron DeRusha, WCD

BMP Maintenance

Description: The MSCWMO has a maintenance obligation for its Capital Improvement Projects and projects funded by Clean Water Fund grants. The MSCWMO partners with the Washington Conservation District to fulfill this maintenance requirement.

Activities this month: Met with the City of Oak Park Heights about coordinating maintenance efforts.

Staff: Cameron Blake, WCD

Small Scale Habitat & Water Quality Enhancement Projects

Description: The WCD received Conservation Corps crew time on behalf of the WMO under FY23 Clean Water Funding to continue small-scale habitat and water quality enhancement projects in throughout the District. Identified projects included a vegetative buffer enhancement along Perro Creek in Bayport, support for a 215-foot buffer expansion between Riviera Avenue S and the St. Croix River in Lake St. Croix Beach under the WCD FY23 Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Grant, and continued support for private shoreline enhancement.

Activities This Month: WCD staff are working with the city of LSCB to finalize the stabilization and restoration plan for the Riviera Avenue buffer. Site prep and installation will continue into 2024 with funding from the WCD FY23 Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Grant and Conservation Corps crew assistance. The site will be burned, seeded, and planted in spring 2024. WCD staff are also working on a proposal in for bank stabilization and enhancement of Perro

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Creek between 2nd St N and St. Croix Trl N (300 linear feet), adjacent to Perro Creek Park.

Staff: Brett Stolpestad – WCD

Meetings

- LSC Steering Team – December 14th
- Metropolitan Council Transportation Plan – December 15th
- Washington County Groundwater Plan – December 18th
- Bayport 4th Ave Pre-app – January 8th
- WMP Task Assignments – January 8th
- WMP Tribal Relations – January 16th
- LSC Steering Team – January 17th
- OPH Coordination – January 18th
- LSCWP MIDS Discussion – January 29th

Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization Member Communities

Afton, Bayport, Baytown, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, Stillwater, & West Lakeland



LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

TO: Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Policy Committee

FROM: Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Steering Committee

DATE: January 18, 2024

RE: FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds Supplemental Funds Request

On October 3, 2023, we were notified that \$7,750,000 in additional FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds were available for local partners to request for continued implementation of their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. All partnerships with a current WBIF grant were encouraged to submit a request for supplemental funds if they are spending previous allocations on plan priorities in a timely way.

During the October 23 Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSC) Policy Committee meeting, the Policy Committee directed the Steering Committee to develop and submit a request to MN BWSR to utilize a portion of these supplemental grant funds.

On January 3, 2024, the Steering Committee submitted a request to BWSR for \$2,132,700 in supplemental grant funds. On January 17, BWSR notified us that our partnership is approved to receive \$167,615. If we accept these funds, they will be added to our existing FY22-23 WBIF grant to be used for plan implementation.

Recommend Policy Committee Action

Recommend that the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership local boards approve an amendment to the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Fund work plan to include \$167,615 in supplemental grant funds. Authorize the LSC Steering Committee to direct these supplemental funds toward Activity(s) that most effectively meet goals of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.