

Appendix O: Watershed Management Organizations (WMO) Summaries

Browns Creek Watershed District

Encompassing almost 30 square miles of portions of Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, May Township, and Stillwater Township, the Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) was established in 1997 when the Brown's Creek Watershed Management Organization was unable to resolve flooding issues in Goggins Lake, Plaisted Lake, School Section Lake, and Kismet Basin. Since these flooding issues were addressed in the early 2000's, the BCWD has taken an active role in protecting and restoring Brown's Creek, one of the few remaining designated trout streams in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Over the course of the last 15 years, the BCWD has transitioned to protect and restore the ecological health of the entire Brown's Creek corridor and the lakes, ponds and wetland that support the constant source of groundwater to this unique cold water fishery. BCWD recognizes the contributions it has on the St. Croix River, a designated National Scenic Riverway and outlet to the watershed. The BCWD adopted a Fourth-Generation Watershed Management Plan in October 2016.

Carnelian Marine St Croix Watershed District

The Carnelian - Marine - St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) (formerly the Carnelian Marine Watershed District) was formed in 1981. In 2007, it expanded to include the German Lake subwatershed, the former Marine on St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, and the northeast corner of Scandia. The district watershed plan was most recently amended in 2015.

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

The Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed (CLFLWD) was established in 1999. The CLFLWD encompasses roughly 49 square miles in northern Washington County and southern Chisago County. In Washington County the district encompasses portions of Forest Lake and Scandia. The watershed outlets northwest to the Sunrise River; the Sunrise River flows to the northeast through Chisago County before entering the St. Croix River. The CLFLWD is unique because its southern portion lies within the seven-county metropolitan area and its northern portion lies outside the seven-county metropolitan area. It is the only watershed district in the state which transects both metropolitan and out-state counties. The district's Watershed Management Plan was last amended in 2015.

Middle St Croix WMO

The Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) is organized under a joint powers agreement between ten St. Croix Valley communities including portions of Afton, Bayport, Lake St. Croix Beach, Lakeland, St. Mary's Point, Lakeland Shores, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, West Lakeland Township, and Baytown Township. The watershed is unique in that it consists of many parallel subwatershed drainages flowing individually to the St. Croix River, rather than to one distinct stream. The MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan was adopted in 2015 with the philosophy that existing local units of government would be the primary regulator of activities of concern and the MSCWMO provides education, technical expertise, and coordination

for water resource protection and restoration. Additionally, the Board of Manages collaborate to address issues that affect more than one unit of government.

Ramsey Washington Watershed District

The Ramsey - Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD) was formed in 1975. It includes portions of the Washington County communities of Landfall, Oakdale, and Woodbury. The district completed a revision and update to its Watershed Management Plan in 2017. The district plan has two major parts: a 25-page Strategic Overview and a detailed Resource Inventory and Assessment document. The district's programs and projects are targeted toward protecting and improving the water quality in the district's twenty lakes and five creeks. The district also has programs and projects directed at improvement of water related native habitats and resources.

Rice Creek Watershed District

The Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD / District) is approximately 186 square miles of urban and rural lands in Anoka, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties with the purpose of conserving and restoring water resources for the beneficial use of current and future generations. District efforts include managing lakes, streams, groundwater, and wetlands; monitoring water quality; maintaining public drainage systems; promoting best management practices for water quality; inspecting construction activities and issuing permits; administering the Wetland Conservation Act; and leading education and outreach.

Washington County communities that are partly or completely within the RCWD boundaries include Birchwood Village, Dellwood, Forest Lake, Grant, Hugo, Mahtomedi, May Township, Scandia, and Willernie. Water in the Rice Creek Watershed District flows through the Rice Creek system and ultimately empties into the Mississippi River.

The District was established by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on January 18, 1972. The District's most recent amendment to their Watershed Management Plan was in 2016.

South Washington Watershed District

The South Washington Watershed District (formerly called the Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed District) was established in 1993, replacing the former Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed Management Organization that was formed in 1984 under a joint powers agreement. The district later enlarged to include the territory in the former East Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization, and again in 2010 to include a portion of the Lower St Croix Watershed Management Organization. Today the district boundaries include portions of Newport, St. Paul Park, Grey Cloud Island Township, Lake Elmo, Oakdale, Denmark Township, Woodbury, and Cottage Grove. The district completed its first watershed management plan in 1997; they are now in their third-generation plan which was approved in 2016. The first management plan was heavily oriented towards inventorying and assessing the district resources. Since the original plan the SWWD has focused more effort on improving water quality in anticipation of future regulations. The SWWD has also invested considerably in its watershed overflow project to provide a controlled overflow from the Central Draw Storage Facility along the Woodbury/Cottage Grove boarder south to the Mississippi River.

Valley Branch Watershed District

The Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD), the county's first watershed district, was established in 1968 in response to a citizens' petition to the State of Minnesota to address water resource issues in the watershed. It includes portions of the Washington County communities of Afton, Baytown Township, Grant, Lake Elmo, Lake St Croix Beach, Mahtomedi, Oak Park Heights, Oakdale, Pine Springs, St. Mary's Point, West Lakeland Township, and Woodbury. The district adopted its fifth-generation watershed management plan in 2015. The VBWD mission is to manage and protect the water resources which include lakes, ponds, creeks, streams, wetlands, drainages, and groundwater.