



# Annual Activity & Financial Report 2011



**MWMO Watershed Bulletin: 2012-2**

## **Annual Activity and Financial Report 2011**

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### **Front Cover: Views of the Mississippi River**

*Photographs by B. Jastram, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.*



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# Annual Activity and Financial Report 2011

## Annual Activity and Financial Report

All metro-area watershed management organizations are required to annually submit an Activity Report, Financial Report, and Financial Audit within 120 days of the end of the organization's fiscal year.

This report meets the requirements of the Metropolitan Water Management Act (MS 103B.231) and Minnesota Rules 8410.0150. The Certified Financial Audit Report (CFAR) is attached as a separate document. The intent of an activity and financial report is to provide an annual snapshot or record of where this organization is in meeting its mission, goals, and objectives, and what its goals and objectives are for next year. This record is important, not only to meet rule requirements, but also for future organization board and staff members to understand why past decisions were made and directions were taken.

Key components of the required reporting are:

- Financial budgets and expenditure information
- Annual workplan and evaluation of past workplan
- Status of local water management plan adoption
- Summary of monitoring data
- Permit and enforcement activity
- Status of wetland plans and banking

This report is organized by MWMO major program areas. Each program is described by goal and strategy from past work to future work. Due to its size, the Monitoring Report is a separate document. A short summary is found in this document.

The workplan description is delivered at a program level, rather than at an individual staff level. Individual workplans are adjusted quarterly to reflect and meet the ever-changing work environment of the MWMO, while program needs are driven by annual budget processes of the watershed and its members.

This report may be updated periodically throughout the year. The most recent version will be available on the MWMO's website at [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org).



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## **Organizational Summary**

### **Formation and History**

The MWMO encompasses 13, 602 acres (31.5 square miles) of fully-developed urban lands and waters within the Minneapolis – Saint Paul metropolitan core area. The original members included the cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village and Saint Paul, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and the University of Minnesota.

#### ***Key events in the history of the organization***

The first draft of the MWMO Plan was published in December 1986. The 1986 plan was prepared to meet the then-current Minnesota Chapter 509 requirements. The 1986 plan addressed surface water quality and quantity, land use, and identified significant point and nonpoint source pollution in the MWMO. It also noted significant groundwater pollution problems from past industrial and commercial practices and storm sewer drainage, but was never approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) or the MWMO Commission.

During second-generation planning (1997-2000, adopted in 2001), the MWMO acknowledged the limits of its member communities to incur additional financial expenses. Consequently, the MWMO developed strategies for new funding mechanisms. The MWMO sought inclusion on the list of Special Taxing Districts (MS 275.066) and, in 2001, MWMO became the first joint powers WMO to receive an ad valorem levy authority necessary to implement plan goals and objectives. Falcon Heights and the University of Minnesota left the organization. In September of 2002, the MWMO hired its first two full-time staff members to implement the plan.

The current plan, approved in May 2011, uses information and data from past studies and actions to address a variety of issues deemed significant by the MWMO Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC), the MWMO Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), and the MWMO Board of Commissioners.

The Mississippi River is the MWMO's natural resource focus, nexus of the urban area we know as the Twin Cities. The river itself provides important water-based ecosystem advantages and facilitates many other beneficial activities and services, including: hydroelectricity; barge access; habitat, wildlife corridors, and recreational water-related amenities; industrial, commercial, and residential land uses; public drinking water; and stormwater and municipal wastewater discharge. Within the boundaries of the MWMO, surface water either flows directly overland or drains through pipes to the river. All groundwater generally flows toward the river as well.

The MWMO is one of several entities that has developed plans to address critical watershed issues within the MWMO. The MWMO believes coordination of these plans and the entities that drafted them are imperative to successful watershed management. The complex network of private and public (federal, state, regional, municipal, and local) agencies involved in water and natural resource management and land-use planning and development must work together to achieve mutual goals. To put financial and human resources to best use, land use and

environmental policies, projects, and programs stemming from those agencies must be implemented in a complementary, non-duplicative manner.

In April 2011, the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lauderdale, the City of Saint Anthony Village, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board entered into a revised joint and cooperative agreement (JCA). These entities now form the MWMO.

In 2011 Six Cities WMO was dissolved. It is anticipated that the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop will become members of the MWMO in 2012.

## **Vision and Mission Statements**

***Vision Statement:*** To lead, to inspire, to act, to educate, and to create a shared vision for a river system with ecological integrity.

***Mission Statement:*** To lead, and to foster stewardship of the watershed with actions that promote civic ownership and responsibility and through measures that achieve diverse and functional ecosystems.

## **Summary of 2011 Services and Operations**

- |  |             |
|--|-------------|
| ▪ Number of Employees including seasonal and interns | 13          |
| ▪ Number of FTEs                                     | 10          |
| ▪ FTE Average Length of Service                      | 4.75 years  |
| ▪ FTE Turnover Rate                                  | 15 %        |
| ▪ Total Operating Revenue                            | \$5,271,778 |
| ▪ Total Operating Expenses                           | \$6,769,019 |
- 
- Began construction of new MWMO Headquarters.
  - Conducted trainings for public and private contractors and applicators for best practices Snow and Ice Removal, Turfgrass Maintenance, and the Relationship of Water Resources and Land-use Decisions.
  - Ongoing staff participation in Stormwater Steering Committee, Metropolitan Council Livable Communities Advisory Committee, Watershed Partners, Envirathon, Regional Sustainability Research Advisory Group, Mississippi River Partnership, Regional monitoring group, South Metro Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL), *E. coli* TMDL and many others.
  - Entered into 25 Stewardship Fund grant agreements (14 Mini, 7 Planning, and 4 Action)
  - Completed City of Saint Anthony Village Stormwater Reuse CIP

## **Board of Commissioners**

The governing body of the MWMO is its commission, which consists of five (5) voting commissioners. All appointments to the commission are made in accordance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.227 and Articles III and IV of the MWMO Joint and Cooperative Agreement (JCA). These statutes and articles together lay out the appointment process and powers of the Board of Commissioners of the MMWO. A summary of key points follows.

- Notices of all vacancies and appointments shall be published at least fifteen (15) days prior to filling a vacancy in a legal publication of the member's community seeking a commissioner. The council of each member shall appoint one (1) commissioner to represent the member to the commission. Each commissioner shall serve until his or her successor is appointed.
  
- Member councils may select and appoint alternates to the commission in the same manner as commissioners. In the absence of a member's commissioner, the designated alternate may vote and act in the commissioner's place. The alternate shall serve a term concurrent with the member's commissioner. The council of each member shall determine the eligibility and qualifications of its commissioner and alternate.

**Commissioners**

*Commissioner Jerry Faust, City of Saint Anthony Village, Chair*

3301 Silver Lake Road  
St. Anthony, MN 55418  
612-782-3301

*Commissioner Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, Vice-chair*

2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329  
612-465-8780 x 201

*Commissioner Karen Gill-Gerbig, City of Lauderdale, Treasurer*

2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329  
612-465-8780 x 201

*Commissioner Diane Hofstede, City of Minneapolis*

350 South 5th Street, Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612-673-2203

*Commissioner Matt Hass, City of Saint Paul*

2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329  
612-465-8780 x 201

**Alternate Commissioners**

*Alternate Commissioner Randy Stille, City of Saint Anthony Village*

3301 Silver Lake Road  
Saint Anthony, MN 55418  
612-782-3301

*Alternate Commissioner Liz Wielinski, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board*

2117 West River Road  
Minneapolis, MN 55411-2227  
612-230-6400

*Open*

*Alternate Commissioner Kevin Reich, City of Minneapolis*

350 South 5th Street, Room 307  
Minneapolis, MN 55415  
612-673-2201

*Karlyn Eckman, City of Saint Paul*

2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329  
612-465-8780 x 201

## **Citizen Advisory Committee**

The MWMO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meets at the request of the MWMO Board of Commissioners to assist in managing the water resources of the MWMO. The scope of responsibilities for the CAC include: reviewing funding proposals (Stewardship Fund Grants, Capital Improvement Projects, etc), reviewing the MWMO's annual capital budget, and participating in planning for the watershed. Other responsibilities may be assigned to the CAC by the Board of Commissioners as needed. The CAC provides review and feedback in the form of recommendations to the MWMO Board of Commissioners.

Applications are accepted year-round, and open positions are filled throughout the year. Applications submitted to replace incumbents are due by December 15<sup>th</sup>. Appointments are for one year and are renewable annually. Up to two at-large positions may be filled by residents outside of the MWMO boundaries. All CAC members may be contacted through the MWMO office at:

2522 Marshall Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329  
612-465-8780 x 204

### **CAC Positions**

#### **Lauderdale (one):**

*Open*

#### **Saint Anthony Village (one):**

Dan Miller

#### **Saint Paul (one):**

Lorin Hatch

#### **Minneapolis Communities (five):**

North: Paula Sunde

Northeast: Perry Dean

Downtown: Charlene Brooks

South: Craig Larson

Southwest: *Open*

#### **At-Large Positions (four):**

P. Victor Grambsch (Minneapolis)

Jim Rosenberg (Minneapolis)

Michele Ross (Minneapolis)

Mark Apfelbacher (Minneapolis)

## Staff

The MWMO Board of Commissioners first hired staff in September of 2002. Until that time, limited staffing had been provided by City of Minneapolis Environmental Services staff. The Board of Commissioners first established, and now maintains, personnel policies and structures to attract and retain qualified and competent personnel.

This is accomplished by encouraging continual performance improvement through a well-administered training, salary, and performance-review program, establishing and maintaining salary levels (which are comparable to salaries paid by similar employers with similar needs), providing equal pay for equal work, complying with all governmental requirements and regulations, and by providing flexibility to respond to economic and competition fluctuations while implementing goals of the watershed. In addition to the full-time employees above, the MWMO hires part-time regular and seasonal employees and interns as needed to complete its annual work plan.

### 2011 MWMO Staff

#### Executive Director

Douglas Snyder  
dsnyder@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 205

#### Water Resources Manager

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usingh@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 213

#### Water Resources Specialist

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koquist@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 204

#### Program and Planning Manager

Dan Kalmon  
dkalmon@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 203

#### Environmental Specialist

Brian Jastram  
bjastram@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 207

#### Grants Specialist

Nancy Dilts  
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612-465-8780, extension 208

#### Education and Outreach Manager

Jenny Winkelman  
jwinkelman@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 202

#### Environmental Specialist

Freya Rowland  
frowland@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 214

#### Education and Outreach Specialist

Erica Sniegowski  
esniegowski@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 206

#### Office Administrator

Zhenya Stone  
zstone@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 201

#### Program Coordinator

Lorrie Stromme  
lstromme@mwmwmo.org  
612-465-8780, extension 210

## Consultants

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.227, subdivision 5, the MWMO sends out requests for proposals for legal, professional and technical (engineering), and consultant services at least once every two years (i.e., December of even- numbered years). At its annual business meeting in January, the Board of Commissioners reviews a list of approved consultants and modifies it as necessary.

Approved List of MWMO Providers for 2011

### ***Accounting***

HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.  
651-426-7000  
4810 White Bear Parkway  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

### ***Annual Fiscal Audit***

HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.  
651-426-7000  
4810 White Bear Parkway  
White Bear Lake, MN 55110

### ***Engineering***

Ayres Associates  
651-484-5415  
3550 Lexington Avenue North  
Suite 210  
Shoreview, MN 55126

Barr Engineering  
952-832-2600  
4700 West 77th Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803

Bonestroo Rosene Anderlik & Associates  
651-636-4600  
2335 West Highway 36  
St. Paul, MN 55113

Braun Intertec  
952-995-2000  
11001 Hampshire Avenue S  
Minneapolis, MN 55438

Emmons & Olivier Resources  
651-203-6001  
651 Hale Avenue North  
Oakdale, MN 55128

HDR  
763-591-5400  
701 Xenia Avenue South  
Suite 600  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

Houston Engineering, Inc.  
763-493-4522  
6901 East Fish Lake Road  
Suite 140  
Maple Grove, MN 55369-5400

LHB  
612-338-2029  
250 Third Avenue North  
Suite 450  
Minneapolis, MN 55401

Mead & Hunt  
952-941-5619  
7900 78th Street West  
Suite 370  
Minneapolis, MN 55439

TKDA  
444 Cedar Street, Suite 1500  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

URS  
600 Montgomery Street  
26th Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94111

Wenck Engineering  
763-479-4201  
1800 Pioneer Creek Center  
P.O. Box 249  
Maple Plain, MN 55359

Westwood  
952-906-7419  
7599 Anagram Drive  
Eden Prairie, MN 55344

WSB & Associates, Inc.  
763-541-4800  
701 Xenia Avenue South, Suite 300  
Minneapolis, MN 55416

***Financial***

Northeast Bank  
612-379-8811  
77 Broadway Street NE  
Minneapolis, MN 55413

***Legal***

Kennedy & Graven, Chartered  
612-337-9215  
470 Pillsbury Center, 200 S 6th St.  
Minneapolis, MN 55402

***Investing and Finance***

Ehlers and Associates  
651-697-8553  
3060 Centre Pointe Drive  
Roseville, MN 55113-1105

***Other Service Providers***

Barton & Associates  
651-698-4312  
2137 Juno Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55116

Jim Roe Museum Planning  
651-249-6126  
865 Lenox Avenue  
St. Paul, MN 55119

Eco Education  
651-222-7691  
1295 Bandana Blvd  
Saint Paul, MN 55108

Digital Motion, LLC  
651-592-3129  
PO Box 600336  
Saint Paul, MN 55106

Friends of the Mississippi River  
651-222-2193  
Suite 400  
360 North Robert Street  
Saint Paul, MN 55101

MMC Associates  
651-647-6816  
1312 Portland Avenue  
Saint Paul, MN 55104

Fortin Consulting  
763-478-3606  
215 Hamel Road  
Hamel, MN 55340

## Achievements and Work Plan

### Capital Improvements

#### *Purpose*

The intent of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to support the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization's (MWMO's) goals and policies through the implementation of structural remedies for water management problems when feasible, economical, and necessary. The MWMO recognizes that not all water management problems can be resolved by preventative actions alone. When water quality and quantity problems cannot be resolved by preventative actions alone and require implementation of structural solutions to remedy negative impacts, the MWMO will undertake such projects as necessary to fix the problem.



**Figure 1.** Heritage Park Stormwater Conveyance  
*Photograph by J Lee*

#### *Objectives*

Projects meeting the following objectives may be selected for implementation (they are not listed in priority order). Project sites may occur in a wide variety of land use settings and (re)development conditions, for example: park land, residential, transportation, commercial and industrial and institutional land. Although it is desirable to meet as many of the criteria listed as possible, projects do not have to meet all of them to make a positive contribution to improved water quantity and quality within the watershed.

- Improve the quality of water entering the Mississippi River by reducing pollutants and contaminants
- Protect, improve and restore the natural structure and functions of the water and ecological systems in the MWMO
- Reduce existing and potential flooding
- Reduce the volume and slow the rate of water leaving the land
- Demonstrate new water management techniques and share the results
- Protect and improve the natural viewsheds to and from the Mississippi River corridor and enhance historical and cultural features related to water resources
- Participate in efforts to mitigate and remediate contaminated sites impacting water resources
- Collaborate with other watershed management organizations to prevent redundancy and solve trans-boundary water issues
- Involve the public in project decision-making and planning
- Support and integrate capital projects with other MWMO programs
- Create, maintain and update a prioritized list of current and possible projects
- Leverage funds from other sources to implement projects
- Effectively and efficiently solve water issues through capital project implementation

- The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization's efforts will focus on preventative measures to improve water quality, but several existing projects have been identified which require structural solutions.

### ***Use of Funds***

The MWMO may fund all or a portion of project costs germane to water and water-related land resource improvements, including, but not limited to: engineering, legal, survey, investigative, study, design and development, other consultant costs, and permits.

The funds may not be used to pay the administrative and staff costs of other units of government. MWMO CIP funds cannot be used to fund routine administration, operation, and maintenance activities. The MWMO considers these in-kind contributions of project partners to our project funds. The funds may not be used to reimburse expenses incurred prior to MWMO Board of Commissioner's approval of a project and execution of an agreement between the MWMO and the other parties to the project.

Reimbursement for administrative and staff expenses of non-governmental agencies may be made using MWMO CIP funds, subject to the discretion of the Board of Commissioners of the MWMO.

### ***2011 Program Implementation***

The MWMO completed, entered into, or continued agreements in 2011 or allocated capital funds for the following capital projects:

#### ***Bridal Veil Creek Retrofits: Water Quality Improvements***

A feasibility study was completed for the highly urbanized Bridal Veil Creek subwatershed. The study identified 77 of the most cost-effective opportunities to retrofit the stormwater conveyance system to improve water quality, reduce runoff volumes, and manage discharge rates.

#### ***EcoVillage: Water Quality Improvements***

MWMO partnered with a community developer and the Hawthorne neighborhood to identify implementable features of the EcoVillage Stormwater Management Plan for the Hawthorne EcoVillage, a four-square-block residential area in North Minneapolis. The MWMO Green Team helped install rain gardens in boulevards in the public right-of-way in front of the residences of several EcoVillage property owners.

#### ***Mississippi River Gorge Stabilization-- Ford Dam to Franklin Avenue; West Bank***

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board stabilized and restored several sites on the West Bank in 2011. Remaining priority sites are targeted to be completed in 2012 and 2013.

#### ***Mississippi River Gorge Stabilization: Ford Dam to Franklin Avenue; East Bank***

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board completed the priority restoration and stabilization projects on the East Bank in 2011.

### ***Riverside Avenue: Water Quality Improvements***

The City of Minneapolis reconstruction of Riverside Avenue provides an opportunity to incorporate stormwater filtration and infiltration systems in an urban right-of-way. In 2011, the City concentrated on community engagement and project design.

### ***SEMI – Southeast Minneapolis Industrial Stormwater Treatment***

The City of Minneapolis completed the West Pond of this project in 2011. The East Pond was not constructed because of land-acquisition obstacles.

### ***Seward Commons: Water Quality Improvements***

The intent of this project along the Hiawatha Light Rail line in south Minneapolis is to install stormwater infrastructure (filtration and reuse systems) in public right-of-way as part of the Seward Commons redevelopment project. A stormwater diagnostic and feasibility study was done in 2011.

### ***City of Saint Anthony Village Regional Stormwater Treatment System***

The focus of this project is to improve the runoff quality conveyed from the City of Saint Anthony Village through the City of Minneapolis to the Mississippi River. The City of Saint Anthony Village's goal is to implement filtration and particle-settling treatment methods to improve water quality. A feasibility study was done in 2011.

### ***MPRB Central Riverfront Shoreline Restoration***

Shoreline restoration projects are planned for land owned by the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board within the Critical Area on the Mississippi River.

### ***MPRB Scherer Park Stormwater Improvements***

This Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board project would include shoreline restoration and the development of wetlands and biohavens along the Mississippi riverfront.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
CIP Budget	\$500,000	\$1,900,000	\$3,000,000
Saint Anthony Village Regional Treatment			\$1,210,000
Riverside Avenue Project		\$1,600,000	
EcoVillage			\$ 80,000
MRPB Central Riverfront Shoreline Restoration			\$ 100,000
MWMO Stormwater Treatment Demonstration			\$ 550,000
MPRB Scherer Park Stormwater Improvements			\$ 960,000
Bridal Veil Creek Subwatershed Water Quality Retrofits			\$ 100,000
Seward Commons (aka Franklin Ave.)		\$ 300,000	
MWMO Building	\$500,000		

### *2012 Workplan*

In 2012, staff will work with new member communities – Fridley, Columbia Heights, and Hilltop – to identify suitable capital improvement projects for funding, after those cities officially join the MWMO. Staff will also collaborate with other member organizations to identify priority stormwater projects for MWMO’s five-year capital improvement project schedule. Work will be completed on the MWMO building and begin on the outdoor stormwater demonstration features. MWMO will complete the feasibility study and modeling needed to reach the implementation phase of the Saint Anthony Village regional stormwater treatment system.



**Figure 2.** Mississippi River Green Team planting at EcoVillage *Photograph by J Winkelman*

## Education and Outreach

### *Purpose*

To achieve enhanced water and land resource management in the watershed through both public participation and public education. The MWMO will organize and conduct educational campaigns and support the work of others to arrange and guide educational efforts to promote responsible stewardship of water and natural resources by the watershed community.

### *Objectives*

- Provide services and products to inform and educate the watershed community-- using tools such as trainings, presentations, events, websites, press releases, newsletters and events
- Create and support opportunities for public participation and involvement (such as restoration, monitoring, river clean-ups, reviewing plans, and participating in political processes)
- Work with staff from both the private and public sectors to prevent runoff and pollution at worksites and during routine maintenance activities (such as landscaping and snow/ice removal)
- Collaborate with other professionals and networks to leverage funding and increase the reach and effectiveness of watershed education (such as Watershed Partners, media campaigns, etc.)
- Inform and educate land-use decision-makers about the relationship between land-use and natural resource protection/conservation
- Integrate outreach and education into MWMO projects and programs to increase their effectiveness and to support the needs of staff, the board and committees
- Evaluate program effectiveness on an ongoing basis and modify strategies accordingly

### *2011 Program Implementation*

In 2011, the MWMO provided training for policy- and decision-makers through implementing “A View From the Big River: a Workshop About Water Quality and Land Use (VFBR)” This educational event for local officials and community leaders helps them to better understand the connections between land-use decisions and the resulting impacts to water and natural resources in an urban setting.

The MWMO provided training for professionals as well. We conducted a Winter Maintenance of Parking Lots and Sidewalks Workshop and a Summer Turfgrass Maintenance with Reduced Environmental Impacts Workshop which, through testing, result in certification by the MPCA. The MWMO also developed a cable TV version of winter maintenance for residents.

Community cleanups for water quality were conducted in cooperation with the Freshwater Society. These cleanups aimed to educate residents as well as conduct research about pollutant removal.

Based on a needs assessment and water education plan developed in 2008, the MWMO implemented customized education and outreach efforts in the Southeast Asian community; including participation in a Dragon Boat Festival and dissemination of *the Nature of Water DVD* in Hmong, Lao, Khmer, Viet, and English.

The Mississippi River Green Team, a two-year, conservation-focused youth employment and development program for 14-17 year-olds from North and Northeast Minneapolis was continued in 2011. The program development and management was done in partnership with the National Park Service, the Community Design Center of Minnesota, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. This year-round program introduces youth to a variety of environmental jobs and job experiences.



In addition to the above large programs, we offered presentations and provided outreach at community events about nonpoint source pollution with residents, business associations, and school groups. We also participated in the Children’s Water Festival.

**Figure 3.** Hmong Resource Fair  
*Photograph by E Sniegowski*

<b><i>Implementation Table</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2011</i></b>	<b><i>2012</i></b>
Education and Outreach Program Budget	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$150,000
Education and Interpretation for MWMO building	20,000		
“Greening Teen Teamworks” (Minneapolis Park and Rec Bd)	4,000	12,000	
Mississippi River Green Team (leveraged \$60-70,000/year)	30,000	26,000	100,000
Professional workshops and trainings (leveraged \$7,500)	33,000	13,300	15,000
Workshops for policymakers (VFBR and NEMO)	10,000	20,000	20,000
Training Video about Winter Maintenance for Small Sites	12,000		1,400
Cable TV Version about Winter Maintenance (for residents)		25,500	
Cable TV Version about Lawncare (for residents)			54,500
Community Cleanups for Water Quality (Freshwater Society)		20,000	
Neighborhood and Community Outreach		9,100	9,600
Outreach to the Southeast Asian Community	6,000	6,500	1,500
Teacher Trainings	2,000		500
Children’s Water Festival	1,000	1,000	1,500
Sustainability Conference	2,000		2,000
Communications, graphics and design	2,500	3,400	5,000

### ***2012 Workplan***

Most of the above educational activities and projects implemented in 2011 will continue into 2012. The MWMO will also develop a cable TV version of lawncare maintenance for residents. For more information regarding planned education activities, contact the MWMO.

## Emergency

### *Purpose*

Provide a readily-accessible source of funds for member organizations to facilitate a response to immediate threats to water resources in the MWMO's watershed.

### *Objectives*

- Provide financial assistance to member organizations for responding quickly to emergencies that impact water resources
- Promote the creation of emergency response and recovery plans by member organizations to ensure eligibility for emergency response funds



**Figure 4.** Stormwater Outlet on Mississippi River  
*Photograph by B Jastram*

### *2011 Program Implementation*

No additional landing site needs were identified along the river nor were there any additional preventative measures taken.

### *Implementation Table*

	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Emergency Budget	\$0	\$ 0	\$ 0

### *2012 Workplan*

The MWMO is working with staff at Minneapolis Emergency Management on potentially staging a Minneapolis emergency command center trailer at the University Flats landing.



**Figure 5.** Native vegetation planted along the Mississippi River  
*Photograph by B Jastram*

**Greening**

*Purpose*

To use vegetation to reduce water volume, sediment, and other pollutants of stormwater in the watershed, thereby protecting and improving surface and groundwater and natural resources.

*Objectives*

- Treat, reduce the volume of, and slow the rate of precipitation leaving the land
- Reduce the amount, proliferation, and continuity of impervious surfaces
- Mitigate erosion

- Conserve and reuse water
- Increase capacity of the watershed to intercept precipitation and infiltrate and store water
- Lower temperatures and reduce water loss and heat stress associated with drought
- Pilot innovative ideas and techniques for local conditions
- Improve techniques, refine standards and identify limitations
- Create highly visible demonstration sites to inform and educate the watershed community
- Advance the development of water quality standards for landscape and building design
- Learn from and work with other groups and their endeavors
- Modify ordinances and variances
- Identify research questions
- Restore and protect habitat, native plant and animal communities
- Protect, enhance and restore natural areas by planting native species
- Actively seek opportunities to vegetate urban landscape and link green spaces

**2011 Program Implementation**

The MWMO Board voted to fund a rain beam greening demonstration project at Longfellow Station in Minneapolis. This project will be installed as a future phase of the Longfellow Station development project. The MWMO promoted its Greening Program to Stewardship Fund applicants and other community members whose projects would qualify for funding.

<b>Implementation Table</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Greening Program Budget	\$0	\$ 0	\$ 0

**2012 Work Plan**

The MWMO is working with member communities to identify innovative greening projects on public property.

## Land Conservation

### *Purpose*

To provide for the purchase of property that significantly impacts surface and groundwater, natural resources, and other recreational, historical, and cultural resources related to water.

### *Objectives*

Purchase property in the watershed to:

- preserve and improve historical and cultural resources related to water
- create passive and active recreational opportunities related to water
- protect, enhance and restore habitat, wetlands and sensitive areas (e.g., for groundwater recharge)
- Prioritize land acquisitions based on watershed planning goals, such as restoration opportunities, public access and protection of water and natural resources
- Leverage funding from other sources to purchase property that supports watershed planning goals
- Coordinate, assist, and partner with other watershed organizations, governmental units, non-profit and private entities to purchase property that supports watershed planning goals



**Figure 6.** Mississippi Riverbank Above the Falls  
*Photograph by D Kalmon*

### *2011 Program Implementation*

In 2011, the MWMO granted the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board funds to purchase a parcel of land at 2220 Marshall Street NE in Minneapolis. The land will eventually become part of a regional public park bordering the Mississippi River.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Land Conservation Program Budget	\$2,000,000	\$600,000	\$0

### *2012 Work Plan*

The MWMO will meet regularly with the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board and other partners to strategize about acquiring parcels from willing riverfront property owners to further the goal of linked public green space on the Upper River.

## Monitoring

### *Purpose*

Monitoring provides a scientific basis for identifying and evaluating water quality issues and implementing solutions to improve water quality in the watershed. Water quality monitoring provides scientific data to ascertain where and how best management practices (BMPs) can be implemented to effectively achieve water quality goals.



**Figure 7.** R Olmanson installs a monitoring gage  
*Photograph by B Jastram*

The MWMO is charged with protecting water quality within the watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.201 and Minnesota Rules

Chapter 8410.003, which established a Joint and Cooperative Agreement among the MWMO's member organizations. Minnesota Rules Chapter 7050 requires that all water bodies comply with water quality standards. Furthermore, section 303D of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly known as the Clean Water Act) requires states to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for waters with impaired uses.

### *Objectives*

- Monitor biological, chemical, and physical parameters of water resources in the watershed
- Monitor water quality within the watershed
- Develop a record of baseline data to characterize water quality and identify pollutants that exceed water quality standards
- Assess pollutants listed on the Minnesota "Polluted Waters" list for the TMDL process
- Assess the volume and rate of water movement in the watershed
- Develop and agree upon a standardized set of parameters and sample collection, data analysis, and reporting standards with organizations in the watershed
- Develop partnerships and collaborate with other organizations and/or agencies both inside and outside the watershed boundaries to improve water quality in the Mississippi River
- Assess land use impacts on water quality

### *2011 Program Implementation*

The MWMO collected data at seven sites on the Mississippi River on a weekly basis, April through October. Data were also collected from five stormwater outfalls to the Mississippi River, year-round, during base flow, storm event, and snowmelt flow periods. MWMO staff also collected data in a stormwater pipe at the boundary of the City of St. Anthony Village and the City of Minneapolis to monitor City of St. Anthony Village stormwater quality. The MWMO also monitored water quality in the Kasota Ponds wetlands that are located in St. Paul.

The MWMO continued to cooperate with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) project and the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride Project.

The MWMO creates an extensive Annual Monitoring Report which is available on our website at [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org). For detailed information on this program, please contact the MWMO.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Monitoring Program Budget	\$250,000	\$150,000	\$150,000
Capital equipment (truck, boat)			\$52,000
Minneapolis Illicit Discharge Monitoring	\$7,000	\$5,000	\$3,000
Laboratory Analysis	\$62,000	\$66,000	\$61,000
Sampling Equipment	\$23,000	\$26,000	\$22,000
Real-time Data Management Agreement with SAFL	\$10,000	\$11,000	\$14,000

### ***2012 Workplan***

The existing monitoring stations will be continued, and, through coordination with members and state agencies, the MWMO may add additional sites and/or parameters to meet the requirements of National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, TMDLs and other programmatic needs and regulations. The MWMO will continue sharing collected data through the Annual Monitoring Report and the MPCA Environmental Quality and Information System (EQUIS) database. MWMO will also continue the contract with Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory (SAFL) to assist with maintenance of and database management for the real-time monitoring system. MWMO staff will begin big river transect monitoring on the Mississippi River as phase I for development of big river monitoring methodology applicable to urban areas with numerous stormwater pipe inputs.



**Figure 8.** D Kalmon, K Gill-Gerbig, and K Eckman Planning Session *Photograph by B Jastram*

## Planning

### *Purpose*

Thoughtful planning gives direction for the MWMO's activities, clarifies and integrates the MWMO's goals, responsibilities, and future courses of action, and coordinates implementation of MWMO standards and goals by member organizations.

MWMO planning activities transform the planning requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B from referenced laws into a mission, vision, and goals that are collectively understood and

implemented by the MWMO and its member organizations.

### *Objectives*

- Develop and maintain MWMO organizational identity
- Keep the MWMO's Watershed Management Plan (WMP) current to address new circumstances and changing priorities
- Develop plans for new watershed initiatives
- Review and respond to planning-related activities and project proposals within the watershed to assure they are in concert with the MWMO's Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
- Review and approve local management plans and amendments that impact water and natural resources
- Provide access to information about MWMO goals, priorities, projects, and programs
- Encourage public participation in MWMO planning activities
- Bring together information (i.e. watershed assessments and data, public comment, staff and board reviews) to identify MWMO planning priorities
- Integrate MWMO priorities into programs and projects
- Develop consensus among stakeholders for managing resources in the watershed
- Coordinate a budget establishment process and financial evaluation of MWMO projects and programs
- Work with member organizations on the implementation of ordinances, standards, plans, and enforcement
- Participate in regional working groups for protection and improvement of the Mississippi River

### *2011 Program Implementation*

The Third Generation Plan rewrite was completed in 2011. The major milestones were:

- Meetings with MWMO members and MN/DOT on the MWMO's standards
- A final 90-day review by agencies and the BWSR
- Final approval of the plan by the BWSR and the MWMO Board
- Distribution of the plan to MWMO members, the BWSR and state agencies

Additional planning activities included working with member cities on meeting Phase 1 and Phase 2 NPDES permits and MWMO plan implementation requirements and conducting studies to inform and adopt a water quality standard which includes volume, as well as, rate control, which reflects urban area limitations within the MWMO.

<i><b>Implementation Table</b></i>	<i><b>2010</b></i>	<i><b>2011</b></i>	<i><b>2012</b></i>
Planning Program Budget	\$50,000	\$200,000	\$50,000
Jurisdictional Authorities and Responsibilities	\$25,424		
2011 – 2021 MWMO Plan	\$39,854	\$7,987	
Central Corridor Plan			\$105,500

***2012 Workplan***

The MWMO will be participating in the central corridor planning process led by St Paul. This project will be completed in September 2013. The MWMO is attempting to identify a capital improvement project that will exemplify shared stacked green infrastructure in the corridor and overlap with one of the Bridal Veil Creek Retrofit sites identified 2011. MWMO will complete the JCA and initiate a plan amendment to add in capital projects from its new member cities of Hilltop, Columbia Heights, and Fridley. The amendment is anticipated to be completed by May 2013. Provide natural resource studies and systems information to planning initiatives in the watershed.

## Stewardship Fund

### *Purpose*

The Stewardship Fund provides financial assistance to community-led projects and education efforts to improve and conserve water and natural resources in the watershed.

### *Objectives*

- Supports and promotes local stewardship initiatives, community leadership, and citizen involvement
- Encourages the development and use of innovative designs and stormwater management practices
- Creates demonstration sites to inform and educate the watershed community
- Builds support for MWMO efforts through grassroots initiatives
- Develops partnerships between the MWMO and communities
- Provides resources and information for MWMO programs
- Supports and integrates Stewardship Fund activities with other MWMO programs
- Evaluates the effectiveness of new technologies



**Figure 9.** Lake Country School Raingarden  
*Photograph by N Dilts*

### *2011 Program Implementation*

The MWMO will consider projects proposed by outside parties in response to an annual process. Applications will be reviewed by MWMO's staff and the Citizen Advisory Committee and approved by the MWMO Board of Commissioners. The Stewardship Fund is intended to enhance activities that meet MWMO's goals, rather than to create or sustain ongoing external programs. Projects implemented on private land must benefit the general public.

The Stewardship Fund was established in 2003 and funded through 2006, at which time funding was suspended for two years while the program was revamped. Structural changes were adapted in 2009 and 2010, and three types of grants are currently funded.

In 2011, the MWMO funded 14 mini grants for up to \$2,000 each, 7 planning grants for up to \$10,000 each, and 4 action grants for up to \$50,000 each.



<i>Implementation Table</i>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012</b>
Stewardship Fund Program Budget	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Mini Grants	\$22,729	\$24,245	
Planning Grants	\$48,575	\$56,052	
Action Grants	\$140,154	\$200,000	

***2012 Workplan***

The MWMO will continue to fund mini grants, planning grants and action grants per the annual stewardship fund schedule.

## Water Reuse and Conservation

### *Purpose*

Reduce impacts and demands on our water resources through a combination of water conservation (using less water) and reuse (using water more than once before discharge).

### *Objectives*

- Reduce the volume and slow the rate of water leaving the land
- Reduce the concentration of pollutants in stormwater
- Encourage water conservation and reuse whenever opportunities arise
- Provide technical and funding assistance for projects in the watershed
- Provide leadership in the area of stormwater conservation and reuse practices
- Pilot innovative and visible demonstrations to showcase practical applications and techniques
- Advance the development of water conservation and reuse practices for landscape and building design
- Learn from and work with other groups and efforts
- Modify ordinances and variances
- Identify research questions
- Promote integration of building and landscape design
- Assist member organizations in eliminating remaining combined sewer overflows



**Figure 10.** Saint Anthony Village Water Reuse Project  
*Photograph by City of Saint Anthony Village*

### *2011 Program Implementation*

The MWMO funded an overseeder for the City of Saint Anthony Village to implement best practices for turfgrass maintenance. The overseeder project was suggested by City staff following attendance at the MWMO sponsored turfgrass maintenance training.

### *Implementation Table*

	<i>2010</i>	<i>2011</i>	<i>2012</i>
Water Reuse and Conservation Program Budget	\$50,000	\$150,000	\$0
St. Anthony Overseeder		\$8,000	

### *2012 Workplan*

Additional projects have not been proposed for this program in 2012.



**Figure 11.** Mississippi River Shoreline  
Photograph by B Jastram

## **Watershed Assessment and Research**

### ***Purpose***

To develop a scientific base of knowledge that characterizes physical, chemical, cultural, historic, biological, social, economic, organizational, and political resources of the MWMO which will guide planning and management decisions in the watershed.

### ***Objectives***

- Provide information needed to set performance standards for the watershed
- Conduct basic research to acquire further knowledge on general water resource issues within and beyond the watershed's boundaries
- Conduct assessments within the watershed to define the ecological, physical, biological, cultural, social, economic, organizational, and political characteristics that comprise the MWMO
- Conduct project-based diagnostic and feasibility studies
- Provide information to support other MWMO projects and programs
- Provide information to inform the prioritization and use of the MWMO's natural, financial and human resources
- Provide watershed information to organizations both inside and outside the MWMO's boundaries

### ***2011 Program Implementation***

The MWMO completed or began the following watershed assessments in 2011:

#### ***Bridal Veil Creek Retrofit Study***

A feasibility study was completed to identify suitable retrofit opportunities in the highly urbanized Bridal Veil Creek subwatershed.

#### ***Northeast Green Campus: Water Quality, Water Conservation, and Flood Reduction Improvements***

This project is a collaboration among the Minneapolis Public Schools, the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board, and Minneapolis Public Works. The project adds underground and above-ground storage of stormwater and roof runoff for reuse in irrigating adjacent school athletic fields and a public park.

#### ***Seward Commons Feasibility Study***

A feasibility study was completed for the Seward Commons redevelopment project in south Minneapolis. The study identified means to manage stormwater runoff from the project, as well as runoff from the public right-of-way.

### ***Water Quality Standards Analysis***

This project was meant to contribute to the MWMO's discussion of appropriate water quality standards in a highly developed urban setting and within the dialogue on Minimal Impact Development Standards for urban redevelopment sites. The analysis focused on a water quality standard that minimizes the costs needed to implement the standards yet still achieves state and federal water quality regulations.

### ***Joint Watershed Research Program***

#### ***Stormwater Harvesting : Accounting of Benefits and Feasibility Analyses***

This project entails development of a novel technique to quantify the real volume reduction and water quality benefits of stormwater harvesting for irrigation. The project evaluates the feasibility of retrofitting stormwater ponds for stormwater reuse instead of installing manufactured storage devices.

<b><i>Implementation Table</i></b>	<b><i>2010</i></b>	<b><i>2011</i></b>	<b><i>2012</i></b>
Watershed Assessment and Research Program Budget	\$200,000	\$100,000	
Bridal Veil Creek Retro-fit Study		\$17,632	
Northeast Green Campus Feasibility Study (Part 1)		\$15,000	
Northeast Green Campus Feasibility Study (Part 2)			\$26,000
Seward Commons Feasibility Study		\$15,000	
Water Quality Standards Analysis		\$16,000	
MWMO Historic Waters Study			\$10,885
Joint Watershed Research Program	\$100,000	\$100,000	
Stormwater Harvesting: Benefits and Feasibility Analyses		\$75,000	

### ***2012 Workplan***

In 2012 the MWMO will complete the publication of the "Historic Waters Study". Results from this study are intended to provide a better understanding of the pre-settlement hydrology and ecology of the MWMO jurisdictional area and how alterations to the present day urban landscape have affected and are affected by natural features. MWMO will finalize the contracts for two joint watershed research grant program projects. Those projects are "Baseflow Restoration in Minnehaha Creek Watershed with Stormwater Infiltration" and "Groundwater Recharge: Nicols Fen, Kennealy/Harnack Trout Streams".

## **Financial Information**

### ***Policy***

During plan development (1997-2000), the MWMO acknowledged the limits of its member communities to incur additional financial expenses and therefore developed strategies for new funding mechanisms. The MWMO sought inclusion on the list of Special Taxing Districts (MS Chapter 275.066), and, in 2001, MWMO became the first joint powers WMO to receive levy authority, which is necessary to implement plan goals and objectives. Taxes are levied in accordance with procedures specified in the Joint and Cooperative Agreement (JCA) and Minnesota Statutes 103B. 201 – 103B.255 and the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Act), and are subject to limitations set forth in Minnesota Tax Statutes, the Act, the JCA, and the Watershed Management Plan. It is the Board of Commissioners' policy to use funds it raises in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The MWMO completed an update to its comprehensive plan in 2010 which changed the way projects are selected for inclusion on the CIP

The MWMO will continue to coordinate its CIP with that of its members. Projects will be required to have feasibility studies completed that describe estimated water quality and quantity benefits and habitat or resource protection and improvement prior to being selected as a MWMO CIP. This means anyone wishing to partner with the MWMO will need to invite the watershed to the table early in project design and assessment. The MWMO believes this will improve the project selection process and allow for better budgeting.

### ***Budget***

In general, the MWMO follows the following process to set its annual budget and select capital projects to which grant funding is allocated:

- Seek and receive project proposals from members through May of the prior year
- Submit a draft budget and amended CIP at the July board meeting
- Select proposed projects for the next fiscal year by the September board meeting
- Submit a preliminary budget to counties
- Make the updated CIP final and approve a final budget at the November board meeting
- Submit a plan amendment, if needed, to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Submit final levy documents to Hennepin and Ramsey Counties

This process is changing as part of the development of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. A new process will be defined and adopted in 2012. Anyone interested in details of the budget process should contact the MWMO.

For additional financial information go to [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org).

**Table 1.** 2011 Budget

Levy Limit set at September 2010 MWMO Board Meeting  
 Final Budget set at the November 2010 MWMO Board Meeting  
 Approval of the budget does not constitute approval of individual projects. Funds will be encumbered to a project only after an agreement between the MWMO and the Lead Agency describing the specific scope of work is completed.

<b>Projects</b>	\$ 1,900,000
<b>Programs</b>	\$ 1,750,000
<b>Administration</b>	\$ 1,100,000
Subtotal Budget	\$ 4,750,000
Contingency 2% (Uncollected Levy)	\$ 100,000
<b>Total Budget</b>	<b>\$ 4,850,000</b>
<b>Projects Total</b>	\$ 1,900,000
Riverside	\$ 1,600,000
Franklin Avenue	\$ 300,000
<b>Programs Total</b>	\$ 1,750,000
Water Conservation	\$ 100,000
Education/Information Nonpoint Source Pollution Program	\$ 250,000
Stewardship Grant Fund	\$ 250,000
Planning	\$ 200,000
Watershed Assessments (Research, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies)	\$ 100,000
Monitoring	\$ 150,000
Greening	\$ -
Land Acquisition	\$ 600,000
Program Support / Consultants	\$ 100,000
<b>Administration Total</b>	\$ 1,100,000
Staff Salary and Benefits	\$ 850,000
Commissioner Expenses	\$ 10,000
Rent, Office Administration, Equipment, and Supplies	\$ 100,000
Service Providers - Legal, Engineering, IT, HR, Auditor, Accounting	\$ 80,000
Operating Reserve	\$ 60,000
	Budget in 2010 \$ 4,750,000
	Contingency \$ 100,000
	Levied in 2010 \$ 4,850,000
Financial Plan Maximum Increase of 6%	\$ 274,620
Max Budget 2011	\$ 4,991,620

## **Appendix A – *The Drift***

See *The Drift* at [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org)

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