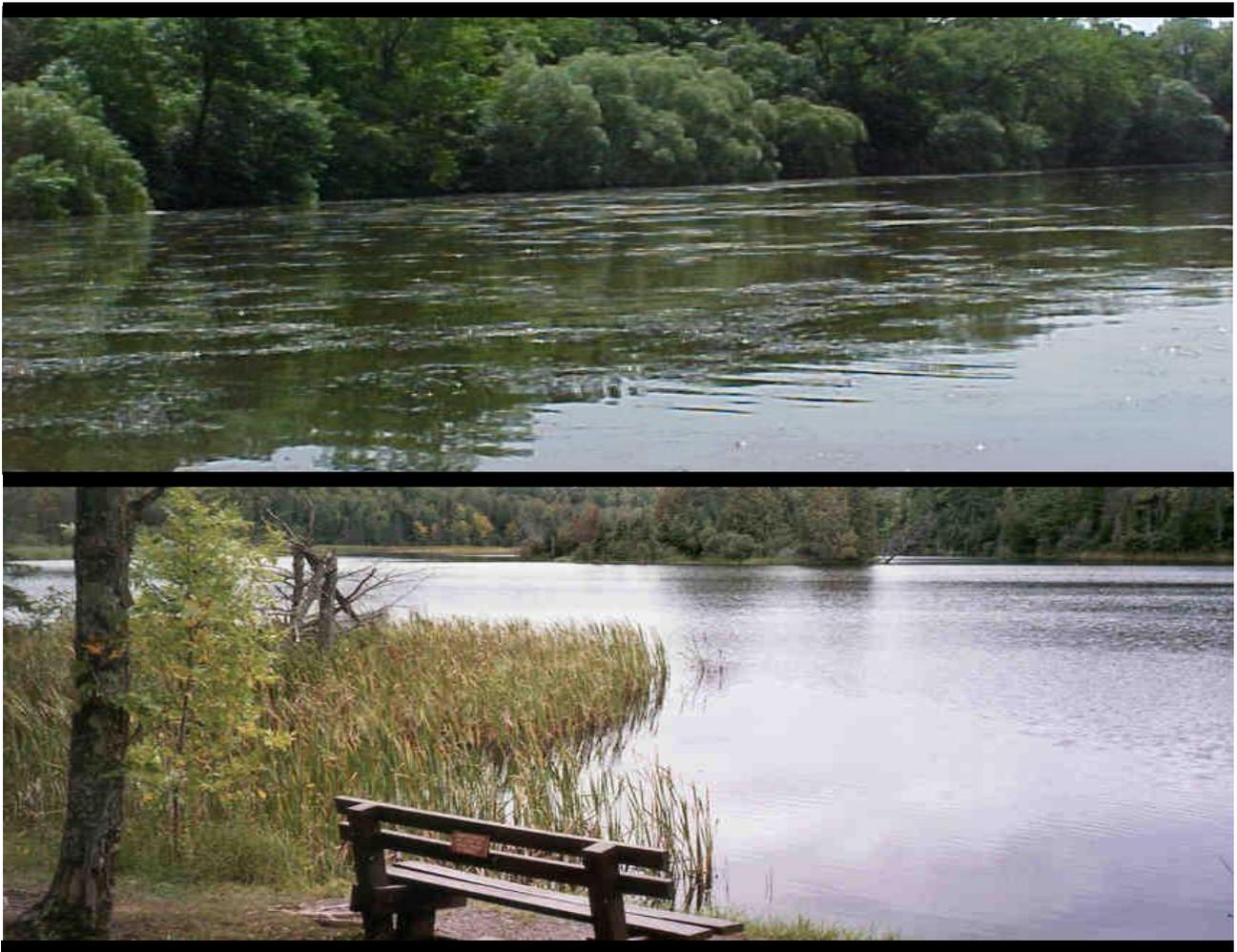




Annual Activity & Financial Report 2014



MWMO Watershed Bulletin: 2015-2

Annual Activity & Financial Report 2014

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Views of the Mississippi River. *Photographs by B. Jastram, Mississippi Watershed Management Organization.*



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Annual Activity & Financial Report 2014

Abstract

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 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:

- 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 areas of expertise and activity. Due to its size, the Annual Monitoring Report is a separate document. A short summary is found in this document.

The workplan description is delivered at an area of activity or expertise 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 areas of activity and expertise 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.

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Organizational Summary

Formation and History

The MWMO encompasses 25,543 acres (39.9 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, the 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 Citizen 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 2011 Six Cities Watershed Management Organization was dissolved. The cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop became members of the MWMO in July 2012, joining the cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lauderdale and Saint Anthony Village and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. These entities entered into a new, revised joint and cooperative agreement (i.e Joint Powers Agreement under MS Section 471.59) that now form the MWMO.

The MWMO Watershed Management Plan was amended to include the area of new cities. In 2014, the MWMO went through a staff reorganization to better meet the goals of the organization as it grows into a mature organization. Depending on the season, the MWMO may have up to 20 staff members across all employment categories—full-time employees, temporary or seasonal employees and interns.

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 2014 Services and Operations

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| ▪ Number of Employees including seasonal and interns | 15 |
| ▪ Number of FTEs | 12 |
| ▪ FTE Average Length of Service | 4.5 years |
| ▪ FTE Turnover Rate | 33 % |
| ▪ Total Levy Operating Revenue | 1,210,000.00 |
| ▪ Total Levy Capital Improvements & Program Revenue | 4,350,000.00 |
-
- Conducted four trainings and voluntary certification for public and private contractors, maintenance professionals and supervisors in best practices for winter snow and summer turfgrass maintenance
 - Ongoing staff participation in Stormwater Steering Committee, MIDS Super User Group, Watershed Partners, Children’s Water Festival, Mississippi River Partnership, Regional monitoring group, *E. coli* TMDL, Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Project, Mississippi River Green Team and many others

Board of Commissioners

The governing body of the MWMO is its commission, which consists of seven (7) 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 Kevin Reich, City of Minneapolis, Chair

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

Commissioner Jim Saefke, City of Fridley, Vice-chair

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Commissioner Karen Gill-Gerbig, City of Lauderdale, Treasurer

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Commissioner Jerry Faust, City of Saint Anthony Village

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

Commissioner Scott Vreeland, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Commissioner Betty Wheeler, City of Saint Paul

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Commissioner Donna Schmitt, City of Columbia Heights

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Alternate Commissioners

Alternate Commissioner Randy Stille, City of Saint Anthony Village

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

Alternate Commissioner Blong Yang, City of Minneapolis

350 South 5th Street, Room 307, Minneapolis, MN 55415
612-203-1459

Alternate Commissioner Steffanie Musich, Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board

2117 West River Road, Minneapolis, MN 55411
612-230-6443

Alternate Commissioner Matt Haas, City of Saint Paul

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Alternate Commissioner Linda Johnson, City of Hilltop

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Alternate Commissioner Dolores Varichak, City of Fridley

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

Alternate Commissioner Jeffrey Dains, City of Lauderdale

2522 Marshall Street NE, Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329
612-746-4970

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 15th. 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
612-746-4970

CAC Positions

Columbia Heights (one):

Open

Fridley (one):

Anne Wilkinson

Hilltop (one):

Open

Lauderdale (one):

Open

Saint Anthony Village (one):

Dan Miller

Saint Paul (one):

Open

Minneapolis Communities (five):

North: Nicole Menard

Northeast: Perry Dean

Downtown: Charlene Brooks

South: Craig Larson

Southwest: *Open*

At-Large Positions (five):

P. Victor Grambsch (Minneapolis)

Jim Rosenberg (Minneapolis)

Carol Hejl (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 full-time employees, the MWMO hires part-time regular and seasonal employees and interns as needed to complete its annual work plan.

2014 MWMO Staff

Executive Director

Douglas Snyder
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Program Specialist

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Administrative Specialist*Administrative & Project Support*

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Education and Outreach Manager

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Office Administrator

Zhenya Stone

Water Quality Intern

Peter Swan

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612-746-4991

Program Coordinator

Lorrie Stromme

Administrative Specialist

Christina Vana

Water Quality Intern

Brittany Faust

bfaust@mwmw.org

612-746-4992

Water Quality Intern

Aileen Ziebrowski

Water Quality Intern

Nick Klein

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 in the interim.

Approved List of MWMO Providers for 2014:

Accounting

City of Saint Anthony Village

651-782-3301

3301 Silver Lake Road

St. Anthony, MN 55418

MMKR Certified Public

Accountants

952-545-0424

5353 Wayzata Boulevard

Suite 410

Minneapolis, MN 55416

Braun Intertec

952-995-2000

11001 Hampshire Avenue S

Minneapolis, MN 55438

Leo A Daly

612-341-9588

780 2nd Avenue S, Suite 1100

Minneapolis, MN 55402

Annual Fiscal Audit

HLB Tautges Redpath, Ltd.

651-426-7000

4810 White Bear Parkway

White Bear Lake, MN 55110

Engineering

Barr Engineering

952-832-2600

4700 West 77th Street

Minneapolis, MN 55435-4803

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

HRGreen
651-644-4389
2550 University Avenue W
Suite 400N
Saint Paul, MN 55114

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

Limno-Tech, Inc.
651-330-6038
7300 Hudson Boulevard
Suite 295
Oakdale, MN 55128

Stantec (formerly Bonestroo)
651-636-4600
2335 West Highway 36
St. Paul, MN 55113

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

***Payroll and Financial
Services***
City of Saint Anthony Village
651-782-3301
3301 Silver Lake Road
St. Anthony, MN 55418

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

Technology Provider

All Covered
5900 Baker Road, Suite 200
Minnetonka, MN 55345

City of Roseville Management
Information Services
651-792-7092
2660 Civic Center Drive
Roseville, MN 55113

Other Service Providers

Ruth Murphy
442 Summit Avenue
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55102

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

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

Saint Anthony Falls Laboratory
University of Minnesota
(612) 624-4363
2 Third Ave SE
Minneapolis MN 55414

WAM Enterprises, Inc.
952-920-9492
5207 Grandview Lane
Edina, MN 55436

Green Jeans Media
(612) 636-2073
1518 4th Street NE
Minneapolis, MN 55413

Achievements and Work Plan

The MWMO conducts an annual prioritization and selection of projects and activities based on available funding for capital projects, planning initiatives, research and watershed studies, communication and outreach initiatives and monitoring. These projects and activities advance the organization's goals, strategies and implementation actions, while responding to changing resource conditions and financial constraints of the MWMO.

The MWMO also continues to seek out opportunities to collaborate and develop partnerships with other organizations to expand the reach of our and their activities, to leverage additional funds and to prevent duplication of services and project efforts within the Watershed.

Capital Projects

Purpose

The MWMO builds structural solutions to address its water resource protection and improvement goals, because it is the most efficient and effective way to attain the water quality and quantity goals of the MWMO. Nutrient storage, volume storage, rate attenuation and drought attenuation on a district, sub-watershed or watershed scale is where the MWMO primarily invests its capital improvement funding.



Figure 1. RL Stevenson School Ravine Restoration: After Restoration
Photograph by D. Kalmon

Restoration of vegetation is also an effective tool to reduce water volume, sediment, and other pollutants of stormwater in the Watershed, thereby protecting and improving surface and groundwater and natural resources. Scientific research is increasingly demonstrating the value of trees and vegetation in reducing the negative impacts of urbanization on water and air quality, habitat, energy use, public health and quality of life. The strategic use of vegetation reduces the amount and cumulative impact of impervious surfaces. Structurally, vegetation also provides layers of opportunities (e.g. canopy, ground cover, roots in the ground) to intercept, use and infiltrate stormwater before it becomes runoff. Moreover, using vegetation to mitigate urban effects is often less costly than structural engineering solutions. These projects utilize opportunities and incentives to retrofit sites to integrate vegetation to improve water quality, to integrate better building and landscape design into land use decisions and policies and to pilot new approaches to solving resource problems.

The combination of water conservation (using less water) and reuse (using water more than once before discharge) are additional measures the MWMO utilizes to reduce the impact and demand on our water resources. Water is an increasingly scarce resource, both regionally and nationally, growing demands are arising from an expanding population, changing lifestyles, and industrial, commercial and agricultural uses. Even in Minnesota, a

land of many waters, water is not replenished at the same rate that it is used. Reuse of water can also provide a backup to potable water supplies creating a strategic level resilience for a community. Sustainable water management practices should be an integral part of water use and planning by individuals and large water users, even in the absence of water restrictions.

Finally, the MWMO acquires property control through easements, purchase of land or other tools. This enables the MWMO to significantly impact surface and groundwater natural resources and other recreational, historical and cultural resources related to water. Cooperative land conservation projects and dedicated budget enables the MWMO to participate in long-term planning and purchasing processes, and to respond to opportunities as land becomes available. Moreover, MWMO funds will be used strategically to leverage additional partnerships and purchasing power.

Objectives

- Encourage the use of new and innovative water management systems for energy, water supply and stormwater and waste water treatment and reuse
- Evaluate the effectiveness of new technologies
- Provide technical and funding assistance for projects, programs and policy development in the Watershed that encourage conserving water resources
- Provide leadership in surface and groundwater conservation and reuse whenever opportunities arise
- Pilot innovative and visible demonstrations to showcase techniques for local conditions
- Promote integration of building and landscape design
- Use plants to reduce the volume, slow the rate and treat runoff leaving the land
- Increase capacity of the Watershed to intercept precipitation and infiltrate and store water
- Restore and protect habitat, native plant and animal communities
- Protect, enhance and restore natural areas by planting native species
- Create and restore ecosystem function and structure
- Create recreational opportunities related to water
- Actively seek opportunities to vegetate urban landscape and link green spaces
- Develop partnerships between the MWMO and communities
- Reduce the pollutant load reaching the Mississippi River and other MWMO water resources
- Address localized flooding concerns by reducing the rate and volume of runoff reaching the flood area
- Work toward improvement in regional flooding concerns through reductions in the rate and volume of runoff that reaches the Mississippi River
- Provide technical and funding assistance for regional projects in the Watershed
- Assist member organizations in eliminating remaining combined sewer overflows
- Leverage funding from other sources to purchase property that supports watershed planning goals
- Provide financial assistance to member organizations for responding quickly to emergencies that impact water resources
- Collaborate with emergency response officials in training and implementation of emergency response practices

Use of Funds

The MWMO may fund all or a portion of project costs germane to water and water-related land resource improvements that align with MWMO goals, 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.

2014 Implementation

The MWMO completed, entered into, or continued agreements in 2014 or allocated capital funds for the following capital projects:

Minneapolis Northeast Green Campus Phase II

A two-phase series of complementary projects to manage and reuse stormwater at Edison High School. Phase II will be completed in 2015, capturing runoff from the gymnasium roof and plaza and reusing it to irrigate the adjacent athletic fields and track. Stormwater monitoring will be established on both phases, and a water quality educational component will be included for students.

Grace Center Water Quality Improvements

Grace Center occupies an entire city block in northeast Minneapolis and serves public charter schools, a childcare center, recreational programs, a food shelf and a church. The south half of the site was 100% impervious. The project was completed in 2014. Asphalt removal and three large bio-retention ponds now reduce runoff by 40% and remove TSS to meet MWMO standards.

Riverside Avenue Reconstruction

Green infrastructure was constructed during the Riverside Avenue reconstruction between 20th and 22nd Avenue and at 8th Street in Minneapolis. Several small stormwater management practices were constructed to reach up to 98% TSS removal.

The Interchange Stormwater Project

The Interchange (aka Target Field Station) is a new multi-modal transportation hub in downtown Minneapolis. The MWMO entered into an agreement with Hennepin County to help implement stormwater management that includes stormwater tree trenches, a green roof, bioswales, a snowmelt and reuse system, underground storage and cisterns. Runoff stored in the cisterns is routed to and reused in the adjacent Hennepin Energy Recovery Center (HERC) for its daily industrial processes. The project was completed in 2014.

MWMO Stormwater Treatment Demonstration, Phase II

Water levels on the Mississippi River in spring 2014 led to disturbances in bioengineering and vegetation along the shoreline at the MWMO facility. Re-construction began in late 2014 and vegetation will be restored in 2015.

MWMO Public Art and Signage

MWMO commissioned an artist to create and fabricate a monument sign for the MWMO campus that is a blend of identity and public art. The project also involved signs that identified the organization and the address number. The project will be completed in early 2015.

RL Stevenson School Ravine Restoration

In 2014, the MWMO completed a ravine restoration project at Robert Louis Stevenson (RLS) Elementary School. The objectives for the project were to eliminate ravine erosion, improve habitat, improve water quality, provide learning opportunities, limit any long-term maintenance on the site and utilize bioengineering where possible.

Parade Ice Garden Greening Project

The Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board installed Minnesota native plants in two vegetated swales adjacent to the newly renovated parking lot at Parade Ice Garden in Minneapolis. The grantee created and installed interpretive signage that explains the function and purpose of the vegetated swales.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
CIP Budget	\$2,950,000	\$2,480,000	\$3,205,000
NE Green Campus, Phase I	\$450,000	—	—
NE Green Campus, Phase II	—	\$527,000	—
Grace Center WQ Improvements	—	\$200,000	—
Riverside Avenue Reconstruction	—	\$426,500	—
Hennepin County Interchange Project	—	\$500,000	—
MWMO Stormwater Treatment Demonstration, Phase I and II	\$700,000	—	—
MWMO Public Art and Signage	\$75,000	\$18,700	—
RL Stevenson School Ravine Restoration	\$35,580	\$75,600	—
Parade Ice Garden Greening Project in Parking Lot	—	\$6,650	—
2128 Marshall St. NE in Minneapolis – Land Conservation	\$61,040	—	—

2015 Workplan

In 2015, the MWMO will help to implement new capital projects, including the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board's Sculpture Garden renovation and St. Anthony Village Regional Treatment. Additional projects located in Columbia Heights include LaBelle Park Pond restoration project, Jackson Pond and Columbia Heights Library. Phase II of the NE Green Campus will be completed in 2015. The MWMO will initiate a feasibility study for Halls' Island as part of Scherer Park for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board and complete the technical assessment of Nicollet Island's Westside Riverbank. Staff will also collaborate with member organizations to

identify priority stormwater projects for the MWMO's future five-year capital improvement project schedule. The MWMO will work with private landowners to design and fund selected stormwater projects where there is a demonstrable public benefit.

Communications and Outreach

Purpose

Provide information, training and educational opportunities, and services and products to promote responsible stewardship of water and natural resources for and by the watershed community. The MWMO watershed community can better support MWMO activities and develop their own initiatives, if they have access to information, training, education and financial support for water and natural resource projects and activities responding to local threats to water resources identified by the community.

Objectives

- Learn from and work with other groups and efforts
- Provide services and products to inform and educate the watershed community using a variety of methods and media
- Create and support opportunities for public participation and involvement
- Collaborate with other professionals and networks to leverage funding and increase the reach and effectiveness of watershed education
- Inform and educate land use decision makers about the relationship between land use and natural resource protection/conservation
- Develop cultural competencies to directly reach diverse communities of the MWMO
- Encourage the use of new and innovative water management systems for energy, water supply and stormwater and waste water treatment and reuse
- Provide training and certificate programs for the evaluation, development and use of new technologies and management practices
- Nominate exemplary projects, programs and actions in the MWMO for awards
- Promote and host workshops and training opportunities for MWMO staff, staff of member organizations and other entities involved in water resources management
- Supports and promotes local stewardship initiatives, community leadership and citizen involvement
- Create demonstration sites to inform and educate the watershed community
- Build support for MWMO efforts through grassroots initiatives
- Develop partnerships between the MWMO and communities
- Provide financial assistance to member organizations for responding quickly to emergencies that impact water resources
- Advocate for improved emergency access to the Mississippi River and for improved coordination between emergency response groups for emergencies that impact water resources
- Collaborate with emergency response officials in training and implementation of emergency response practices



Figure 2. Community outreach by MWMO Commissioner Faust, staff member Michaela Neu and 2014 Mississippi River Green Team member
Photograph by T. Schmitz

2014 Implementation

The MWMO carried out the following activities during 2014:

Professional Workshops and Trainings: 1) Turfgrass Maintenance and 2) Winter Maintenance with Reduced Environmental Impacts

A total of 117 winter and summer maintenance professionals, property owners and supervisors in the public and private sectors attended four trainings held in 2014 (two of each class). These trainings are a part of a voluntary maintenance certification program through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and were subsidized by a PCA/EPA 319 grant.

Greening Teen Teamworks

Greening Teen Teamworks provides water quality education to the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board's Teen Teamworks summer youth employment program. Working through Teen Teamworks provides repeated contact with a hard-to-reach audience and practical opportunities to use their knowledge to protect clean water. Greening Teen Teamworks encourages crews to take action to improve water quality at their park work sites. Educators worked with the Teen Teamworks crews four times over the course of the summer and reached approximately 200 youth.

Three Rivers Park District Internships

The MWMO supported two internships at North Mississippi Regional Park Carl W. Kroening Interpretive Center. Graduates of the Mississippi River Green Team held these positions. The intent of the internships was to 1) increase capacity of park staff to reach diverse constituents with education about water, the Mississippi River and pollution prevention behaviors, and 2) increase job experience and environmental knowledge of Mississippi River Green Team alumni by providing a second, paid job in an environmental field during high school.

The Mississippi River Green Team (MRGT)

This conservation-focused, youth employment program completed its sixth year. It involved 14-17 year-olds from North and Northeast Minneapolis in a two-year, mentored job experience. In 2014, the 17 MRGT members planted native species of plants in Minneapolis, removed hundreds of pounds of invasive plants from city parks and continued a dragonfly monitoring protocol on the Mississippi River at multiple sites. Being on the MRGT also provided the opportunity to learn about environmental careers and acquire new skills. The MRGT is a special environmental unit of Teen Teamworks. The program is made possible through a partnership between the MWMO and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

Community Outreach

The MWMO participated in 11 different neighborhood-initiated events that resulted in residents making approximately 500 bottles of non-toxic cleaners for home use while visiting the MWMO exhibit table. To support the continued use of non-toxic cleaners, refill stations are located in five locations in the watershed, including one at the MWMO community facility. The Mississippi River Green Team was trained to staff the table at events, giving the youth an opportunity to gain community outreach and public presentation skills.

Metro Children's Water Festival

The festival, a day-long learning event about water for fourth graders, was not attended by any class from the MWMO this year. Schools are chosen by a lottery system; only a limited number of classes from each of seven counties are invited. MWMO staff assisted in planning and conducting the event in September. The MWMO also created and staffed a water footprint station in the arcade.

Social Media

Social media platforms of Facebook and Twitter continued to grow in reach. By the end of the year, Facebook had 181 "Likes" and Twitter had 334 "Followers" ("Likes" and "Followers" refer to how many signed up to see all MWMO posts). The MWMO also increased its use of MailChimp for information campaigns.

Newsletter

The MWMO newsletter, *The Drift*, was published in December. Distribution included mailing 68 newsletters to elected officials, posting the newsletter on the MWMO website, emailing a newsletter link to 1,914 subscribers, sharing a link to the newsletter in social media posts and delivering 1,013 newsletters to targeted physical sites.

Videos

The MWMO continued to upload videos to its YouTube station, which is linked to the website and social media pages. Forty-six videos are uploaded to the station with 3,713 total views in 2014. Three videos about best practices for residential lawn care were completed and uploaded: *Improved Lawn Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water- Part 1: Lawn Care Basics*, *Part 2: Fertilizing Your Lawn* and *Part 3: Weed Control*. The videos had 805 views collectively. *Improved Winter Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water* and *Improved Lawn Maintenance: Good Choices for Clean Water- Part 1, 2 and 3* aired on local cable television.

Stewardship Fund Grants Evaluation

Starting in August 2013 the Stewardship Fund Grants underwent a third party evaluation to learn more about the support needed by grantees, applicants and potential applicants so they can improve water quality. The evaluation was conducted by The Improve Group over a three month period, October - December 2013. After the final report was received by MWMO staff in 2014, internal focus groups were held to restructure the program based on the suggestions to improve our capacity to work with partners. Changes to the program were approved by the MWMO's Board of Commissioners.

Stewardship Fund Grants

Through the Communications and Outreach area of expertise, the MWMO provides financial assistance to community-led projects and education efforts to improve and conserve water and natural resources in the watershed. Financial assistance is provided through three types of Stewardship Fund Grants. Mini Grants offer up to \$3,000 in funds for short-term or small-scale water quality projects. Planning Grants offer up to \$10,000 in funds to plan projects, significant in scope and cost. These grants are used to assess the potential success of a project or develop the details required to make a project actionable. Action Grants offer up to \$50,000 in funds for the implementation of fully-designed projects, significant in scope and cost.

All proposals are reviewed by the MWMO’s staff. Planning and Action Grants are also reviewed by the MWMO’s Citizen Advisory Committee and approved by the MWMO’s Board of Commissioners. Grants are awarded based on a project’s ability to:

- **Develop partnerships with community organizations.**
Projects create partnerships and build community understanding with organizations and people wanting to proactively engage in clean water issues, demonstrate new methods, and extend the MWMO’s ability to protect clean water and improve water quality, and protect and restore habitat and natural resources through building community knowledge and stewardship.

- **Protect or improve the quality of water, habitat, and natural resources.**
Projects reduce pollution entering our streams, wetlands, lakes, river and groundwater, and projects that prevent flooding, lessen the effects of drought, retain water on site and/or restore and maintain habitat.

- **Build community understanding, knowledge, and initiative related to water, habitat, and natural resource issues and solutions.**
Projects engage and educate people in the community about water quality issues. These projects will result in awareness of water issues and changed behaviors that protect water. Organizations receiving grants will increase their ability to lead and promote clean water efforts.

Note: Stewardship Fund grants may be used to create new external programs, but are not intended to sustain ongoing efforts. Projects must benefit people who live, learn, and/or work in or near the MWMO watershed. They must also lie within the MWMO watershed boundaries or drain to receiving water bodies within the watershed.

In 2014, no grants were awarded due to a third party evaluation. Existing projects continued while the evaluation was completed.

<i>Summary of Grants</i>	<i>2012</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>
No. awarded (no. proposed)			
Mini Grants	17 (25)	13 (26)	—
<i>Spring</i>	7 (10)	6 (12)	
<i>Summer</i>	5 (8)	7 (14)	
<i>Fall</i>	5 (7)	0 (0)	
Planning Grants	5 (8)	4 (11)	—
Action Grants	3 (11)	1 (9)	—
Total:	33 (44)	18 (40)	—

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Communications and Outreach Budget	\$140,000	\$500,000	\$500,000
Stewardship Fund Grants Budget	\$250,000	\$250,000	—
“Greening Teen Teamworks”	\$7,000	\$7,230	—
Mississippi River Green Team	\$30,000	\$26,720	—
Professional workshops and trainings	\$3,630	\$7,370	—
Workshops for local officials, policy makers and community leaders	—	\$500	—
Three Rivers Park District	—	\$2,200	—
Cable TV Version about Lawn Care (for residents)	\$24,740	\$21,960	—
Community Cleanups for Water Quality (Freshwater Society)	\$12,600	—	—
Neighborhood and Community Outreach	\$3,300	\$6,260	—
Children’s Water Festival	\$500	\$200	—
Stewardship Fund Evaluation	\$3,260	\$5,560	—
Communications, public relations, graphics, and design	\$4,800	\$5,750	—
Stewardship Fund Mini Grants	\$25,700	\$9,980	—
Stewardship Fund Planning Grants	\$40,000	\$14,890	—
Stewardship Fund Action Grants	\$50,000	\$9,300	—

2015 Workplan

- Portions of the MWMO’s Interpretive Concept Plan will be executed to enrich the experiences of visitors
- A minimum of four training classes for professionals with voluntary maintenance certification will be held at the MWMO: *Turfgrass Maintenance* and *Winter Maintenance with Reduced Environmental Impacts* will be conducted twice for summer and winter maintenance professionals, property owners and supervisors in the public and private sectors
- The MWMO will continue to fund Mini, Planning and Action Grants
- The Mississippi River Green Team—a two-year conservation and employment program for youth from North and Northeast Minneapolis—will enter its seventh year, with expanded support and partnerships
- Outreach at community events will continue with the making of non-toxic cleaners at MWMO exhibit tables
- Study results from a collaboration between the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District, Capitol Region Watershed District, the MWMO and the University of Minnesota will identify best strategies for sharing water stewardship messages with underserved audiences
- The MWMO will investigate hosting the Master Water Stewards program in order to certify and support community leaders as they install pollution prevention projects that educate community members, reduce pollutants from urban runoff and allow more water to soak into the ground before running into storm sewer systems
- A video about lawn and yard care activities and how to make choices that reduce environmental impacts for summer seasonal workers hired by cities, parks or contractors will be filmed and uploaded to the internet upon completion
- The MWMO is partnering with the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and Capitol Region Watershed District to create a master communications plan (with a strong focus on shared messaging) and build a communication plan for each individual watershed district

- Social media activity will be increased as the MWMO promotes its own projects more fully and publicizes more partner activities
- The MWMO will exhibit the Minneapolis Satellite Reef, part of the worldwide *Crochet Coral Reef* Project created by the Institute For Figuring
- An open house event for staff, local officials and community members will be held in the fall

For more information about planned education activities, contact the MWMO.

Monitoring

Purpose

Provide a scientific basis for identifying and tracking water quality and quantity issues, and to provide information to aid in the selection of projects and evaluate the success of those projects.

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 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 Clean Water Act requires states to develop total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) for waters with impaired uses.



Figure 3. MWMO staff preparing to enter a stormwater tunnel
Photograph by B. Faust

Objectives

- Monitor biological, chemical and physical parameters of surface and groundwater 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 Impaired Waters list for the TMDL process
- Collect rate and volume data for the Mississippi River and key subwatersheds
- Monitor performance of stormwater management practices
- Collaborate with stakeholders to identify and apply a standardized data collection and assessment approach
- 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
- Participate in the technical development and update of statewide monitoring databases
- Make data accessible to the public and public entities and to MWMO staff for use as an education tool (e.g. BMP performance data)
- Develop emergency monitoring plan in case of emergencies affecting water resources

2014 Implementation

The MWMO initiated several new monitoring activities during 2014. MWMO's water resources monitoring staff worked with new MWMO member cities (Fridley, Columbia Heights and Hilltop) to assess their monitoring needs and identified a new stormwater outfall monitoring site. Site 11CHF was installed in October 2014. The MWMO began monitoring the Mississippi River for several parameters including: nutrients, sediment, organics, metals and inorganics. Staff collected bathymetry data on the Mississippi River between Coon Rapids Dam and Lock & Dam No. 1 to establish baseline data that will be used to evaluate impacts of the closure of the Saint Anthony Falls Upper Lock that is scheduled for June 2015.

Following is a list of additional work plan accomplishments for the year 2014:

- Completed the Annual Monitoring Report 2013
- Installed a level troll at the 2NNBC site to continuously monitor the water level from the tunnel to the Mississippi River
- Prepared and signed a professional services agreement with Anoka Conservation District to coordinate water level monitoring for Sullivan/Sandy Lake
- Signed an agreement with Minneapolis School District, Special School District No.1 to install, operate and maintain automated rain gauges at Edison High School and Waite Park Community School to collect precipitation data
- Collected precipitation data from five locations using heated precipitation gauges and an additional non-heated precipitation gauge that is operated by a citizen volunteer
- Expanded the MWMO precipitation monitoring network by installing one heated precipitation gauge at Waite Park Elementary School in Northeast Minneapolis
- Continued to monitor four stormwater sites using automated samplers. The 2NNBC site was monitored by grab sampling when there was positive flow from the tunnel to the river. The 7LSTU site was monitored by automated and/or grab sampling depending on the presence of tailwater in the outfall tunnel
- Continued monthly monitoring of the Kasota Ponds wetlands in St. Paul
- Continued to monitor biweekly seven sites on the Mississippi River and six stormwater outfall sites for *E. coli* and submitted the data to the MPCA's EQUIS database
- Continued working on developing monitoring protocols for the Mississippi River through monitoring for hydraulic mixing and physical parameters (pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen and conductivity) at five cross-sections on the river from April 2014 to November 2014
- Worked with Metropolitan Council Environmental Services department staff and National Park Service staff to identify the Mississippi River water quality monitoring sites within the MWMO jurisdiction
- Calculated preliminary estimates of Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus loadings from 2007 to 2013 for the 1NE site
- Calculated preliminary estimates of Total Suspended Solids and Total Phosphorus loadings for monitoring data from 2011 to 2012 for the 10SA site
- Assisted the City of Minneapolis with their illicit discharge monitoring program
- Worked with the MPCA on the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL Project and the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL Project
- Worked with the City of Minneapolis Health Department staff to write a contract between the MWMO and the City of Minneapolis to hire two interns to enhance their erosion and sediment control inspections program
- Developed partnerships with Capital Region Watershed District water quality monitoring staff to collaborate on monitoring work and confined space entry training
- Shared MWMO data through the MPCA's EQUIS database, the MWMO's annual monitoring report and data requests

Details for the monitoring program and data results are provided in the MWMO’s Annual Monitoring Report 2014, which is available on the MWMO’s website at www.mwmo.org. For more detailed information on this program, please contact the MWMO’s Water Resources Manager.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Monitoring Budget	\$50,000	\$100,000	\$140,000
Bathymetry Project	—	\$3,500	—
Capital equipment (weather station)	\$8,000	—	—
Capital equipment (Site 11CHF)	\$5,280	12,950	—
Minneapolis Illicit Discharge Monitoring	\$1,500	\$1,360	—
Laboratory Analysis (2014 includes analyses done in 2013)	\$19,800	\$116,670	—
Sampling Equipment	\$18,540	17,960	—
Confined Space Entry Training	—	1,320	—
Real-time Data Management Agreement with SAFL	\$14,530	\$13,850	—

2015 Workplan

The 2015 work plan for the MWMO’s monitoring program includes:

- Continue to work with the MWMO member cities to assess their monitoring needs and assist in developing additional monitoring plans for stormwater monitoring and lake monitoring
- Continue to look for opportunities to expand the precipitation monitoring network using heated precipitation gauges and citizen precipitation recorders
- Continue to monitor five stormwater sites using automated samplers. The 2NNBC site will be monitored by grab sampling when there is positive flow from the tunnel to the river. The 7LSTU site will be monitored by automated or grab sampling depending on the presence of tailwater in the outfall
- Continue monthly monitoring of the Kasota Ponds wetlands in St. Paul
- Continue to monitor biweekly seven sites on the Mississippi River and seven stormwater sites for *E. coli* and submit the data to the MPCA
- Continue working on developing monitoring protocols for the Mississippi River through monitoring for hydraulic mixing and collecting data at five cross-sections on the river
- Continue to sample the Mississippi River at five locations for water quality analysis
- Work toward completing the pollutant loading calculations for the stormwater outfall sites
- Develop a new contract with the City of Minneapolis to continue assisting with their illicit discharge monitoring program
- Continue to work with the MPCA on the Upper Mississippi River Bacteria TMDL Project and the Twin Cities Metro Area Chloride TMDL Project
- Continue to work with the City of Minneapolis Health Department staff to enhance their erosion and sediment control inspections program
- Share MWMO data through the MPCA’s EQUIS database, the MWMO’s annual monitoring report and data requests

Planning

Purpose

Provide direction to the MWMO's activities. Clarify and integrate the MWMO's goals, responsibilities and future courses of action. Coordinate implementation of MWMO Standards and goals by member organizations. Maintain involvement with Mississippi River regional working groups.

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 role in water management
- 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 WMP
- Review and approve local management plans and amendments that impact water and natural resources
- Provide access to information about MWMO goals, priorities, projects and activity areas
- 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 activity areas and projects
- Develop consensus among stakeholders for managing resources in the Watershed
- Coordinate budget processes with members and financial evaluation of MWMO projects and activity areas
- 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

2014 Implementation

In 2014 the MWMO started its 2015 Watershed Management Plan amendment, which modified the MWMO's Standards, conducted additional assessments and completed new mapping for the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop. The following four projects were also proposed to be added to the Capital Improvement Schedule: Prospect North Partnership Water Quality Improvement Projects, Restoration of Eroded Riverbank Sites, St. Anthony Lane South Industrial Park and City of Columbia Heights Public Library. As a member of the Prospect North Partnership, the MWMO initiated the development of a District stormwater management system that improves the public realm and is integrated with other district systems like energy, streets and parking and public utilities. The final report from the Central Corridor Planning Process, *Strategic Stormwater Solutions: For Transit Oriented Development* was completed and released in the spring of 2014. The MWMO and MPRB entered into an agreement to assess and create an Ecological Systems Plan for the parks and watershed.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Planning Budget	\$0	\$0	\$55,000
Central Corridor Plan	\$16,453	\$25,520	—
2015 Plan Amendment	—	\$49,760	—
Prospect North Partnership Stormwater Planning	—	\$2,200	—



Figure 4. Green 4th Street Concept Model: U of M Metropolitan Design Center
Photograph by D. Kalmon

2015 Workplan

Review and approvals of the MWMO’s 2015 Watershed Management Plan amendment will be completed by May 12, 2015. The MWMO will continue to work with the Prospect North Partnership on a District stormwater management system that increases public benefits and is integrated with other district systems, such as energy, streets and parking and public utilities. The MWMO will contribute as part of the Project Advisory Team for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board’s Ecological System Plan through 2015.

Watershed Assessment and Research

Purpose

Develop a scientific base of knowledge that characterizes physical, chemical, cultural, historic, biological, social, economic, organizational and political resources of the MWMO to guide planning and management decisions in the Watershed.

Objectives

- Provide information needed to set and refine design and performance standards for the Watershed
- Conduct basic research to further knowledge on general water resource issues and emerging 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 activity areas
- 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

2014 Implementation

The MWMO completed or began the following watershed assessments in 2014:

LaBelle Park Water Quality Improvement Project Feasibility Study

This was a study to evaluate options for water quality improvement for discharge into LaBelle Pond in Columbia Heights. The study evaluated stormwater best management practices, shoreline restoration and habitat improvement. The study was completed in July 2014.

Fridley Tree Inventory

The City of Fridley was awarded a grant to cover the cost of an intern to provide a tree inventory of public trees. The tree location, size, species and condition were measured and digital information provided to the MWMO.

New Cities Expansion: Supplemental Historic Waters Study

In 2014 the MWMO completed a supplemental Historic Waters Study that covers the cities of Fridley, Columbia Heights and Hilltop to better inform the assessment portion of the MWMO's 2015 Plan amendment.

Green 4th Report

As a result of the Boeser site desktop study conducted in 2013 and the Central Corridor planning work, the MWMO initiated the Green 4th Report in 2013 to evaluate a District Systems approach to stormwater along 4th Street SE as it redevelops. This study was completed in December 2014 with a final payment in January 2015.

Green 4th Feasibility Study

In December 2014 the MWMO initiated a stormwater feasibility study focused on designing a more efficient District Stormwater System. The goal of this effort is to identify potential cost savings via district stormwater management and redirect a portion of these savings back into additional stormwater treatment, storage of stormwater for irrigation, grey water reuse and habitat improvements.

Nicollet Island Feasibility Study

In April 2014 the MWMO initiated a technical investigation, concept design and an approximate cost estimate for stabilization and restoration of Nicollet Island's riverbank. The objectives for the feasibility study are to minimize bank erosion while improving water quality and habitat, limit long term riverbank maintenance needs and utilize bioengineering on the riverbank where practicable. The study will continue through March 2015.

MWMO Potential Limitations to Infiltration

In 2014 the MWMO started a general mapping of potential limitations to infiltration within the MWMO boundaries. The mapping and identified potential limitations are intended to inform the MWMO's general planning and water resources management efforts. A final copy of the Potential Limitations to Infiltration map will be included in the 2015 amended version of the MWMO's Watershed Management Plan.

1NE Watershed Hydrologic and Hydraulic Model

The 1NE Watershed (encompassing portions of Northeast Minneapolis, Columbia Heights and Fridley) modeling study served as the pilot in a larger initiative to develop comprehensive water quantity and associated water quality models across the MWMO. The MWMO partnered with the Cities of Minneapolis, Columbia Heights and Fridley on this work. Project deliverables included a highly detailed Hydrologic and Hydraulic (H&H) model of the 1NE Watershed, as well as updated GIS layers of the area's stormwater infrastructure and detailed catchment delineations. The MWMO and member cities will use these deliverables to site and prioritize stormwater best practices in the future.

1NE Watershed Retro-fit Study

The MWMO partnered with the Anoka Conservation District and the Cities of Minneapolis, Columbia Heights and Fridley to identify opportunities for stormwater retrofits in the 1NE Watershed and to create a WinSLAMM model to estimate the potential effectiveness of those practices, if installed. Cost estimates were created for the proposed projects, allowing for a ranking of projects based on estimated cost per treatment (including \$/pound of pollutant removed and \$/volume of water treated). Results of this analysis will be used by the MWMO and member cities when prioritizing stormwater best practices in the future.

Vikings Stadium Plaza Stormwater Feasibility Study

The Project consultant team had already prepared a stormwater management plan that met the City of Minneapolis requirements and LEED credits for stormwater management. The intent of this study was to identify additional BMPs that would exceed the City's minimum requirements and provide the MWMO with value of cost in relationship to the water quality treatment value of the proposed stormwater BMPs.

Joint Watershed Research Program

Baseflow Restoration in Minnehaha Creek Watershed with Stormwater Infiltration

Objectives of the research project are: (1) to investigate the surface water-groundwater interaction and develop the background information necessary to estimate the impact of infiltration on the baseflow of Minnehaha Creek, (2) to determine the direction of groundwater flow and the contribution of various sources of flow to baseflow in Minnehaha Creek, (3) to estimate the impact of increased baseflow that can occur in Minnehaha Creek with implementation of infiltration practices and (4) to determine the approximate cost of implementation. The project was completed in 2014 and the final report is expected to be submitted in 2015.

<i>Implementation Table</i>	<i>2013</i>	<i>2014</i>	<i>2015</i>
Watershed Assessment and Research Program Budget	\$400,000	\$200,000	\$365,000
Northeast Green Campus Feasibility Study (Part 2)	\$26,000	—	—
Interchange HERC Stormwater Feasibility Study	\$8,540	—	—
Lauderdale Tree Inventory	\$1,420	—	—
Fridley Tree Inventory	—	\$6,870	—
HDR Historic Watershed Study Data Availability Investigation	\$6,640	—	—
New Cities Expansion: Supplemental Historic Waters Study	—	\$17,780	—
Boeser Site Stormwater Feasibility Study	\$20,000	—	—
Green 4th Report	\$22,350	\$12,240	—
Green 4 th Feasibility Study	—	—	—
LaBelle Park Water Quality Improvement Feasibility Study	—	—	—
Nicollet Island Feasibility Study	—	\$44,000	—
MWMO Potential Limitations to Infiltration	—	\$22,540	—
Northeast Water Quality, Hydraulic and Hydrological Model	\$0	\$150,140	—
Columbia Heights/NE Minneapolis Retro-fit Study	\$0	\$40,000	—
Vikings Stadium Plaza Stormwater Feasibility Study	—	\$21,900	—
Baseflow Restoration in Minnehaha Creek Watershed	\$40,000	\$40,000	—

2015 Workplan

The MWMO will continue its work on the development of comprehensive water quantity and associated water quality models. Areas to be modeled in 2015 include the 11CHF Watershed (contains portions of Columbia Heights, Hilltop and Fridley) and areas in North Minneapolis. Feasibility Studies will be initiated for Harbor Freight Pond in Hilltop, as well as Scherer Park & Hall's Island for the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The MWMO will complete the Green 4th Stormwater Feasibility study in May of 2015 and consider continuing on with a final design for implementing a District Stormwater System along Green 4th. In addition, MWMO staff will review findings from the Nicollet Island Feasibility Study and make a recommendation on if and when to proceed with restoration of the riverbank. A feasibility study will be initiated for the Old Bassett Creek Tunnel Water Reuse and Water Quality Improvement project.

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. This funding is necessary to implement plan goals and objectives of the watershed management plan. 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 raised in the most effective and efficient manner possible. The MWMO completed an update to its comprehensive plan in 2011 which changed the way projects are selected for inclusion on the CIP. This will be amended in May of 2015.

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 by 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 at the September board meeting
- Submit a preliminary budget to counties by September 15
- 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 Anoka, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties by December 15

This process is changing as part of the development of a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan amendment in 2015. Anyone interested in details of the budget process should contact the MWMO.

For additional financial information, including the 2014 audit, go to **www.mwmo.org** or contact Douglas Snyder, Executive Director.

2014 Budget

Projects & Programs	\$ 3,630,000
Est of amount to allocate with a 3% increase over 2013	\$ 620,000
Administration	\$ 1,210,000
Subtotal Budget	\$ 5,460,000
Contingency 2% (Uncollected Levy)	\$ 100,000
Total Budget	\$ 5,560,000

Projects	\$ 2,480,000
Columbia Heights LaBelle Park WQ Improvements	\$ 135,000
Fridley Main Street WQ Improvements	\$ 150,000
Minneapolis PW NE Green Campus	\$ 475,000
Minneapolis PW Bassett Creek Tunnel Improvements	\$ —
MPRB Scherer Park	\$ 540,000
MPRB Sculpture Garden SW Improvements	\$ 780,000
MWMO Riverbank Restoration WQ & Habitat	\$ 400,000

Programs	\$ 1,150,000
Water Conservation	\$ —
Outreach/Training/Education Nonpoint Source Pollution Program	\$ 500,000
Stewardship Grant Fund	\$ 250,000
Planning	\$ —
Watershed Assessments (Research, Hydrologic and Hydraulic Studies)	\$ 200,000
Monitoring	\$ 100,000
Greening	\$ —
Land Acquisition	\$ —
Program Support/Consultants	\$ 100,000

Administration	\$ 1,210,000
Staff Salary and Benefits	\$ 1,000,000
Commissioner Expenses	\$ —
Rent, Office Administration, Equipment, and Supplies	\$ 80,000
Service Providers - Legal, Engineering, IT, HR, Auditor, Accounting	\$ 100,000
Operating Reserve	\$ 30,000

The following table represents the estimated breakout of levies for each county within the MWMO for 2015.

District 072 - Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization			
Certification of Apportioned Levies			
Payable 2015			
<i>(1) Payable 2015 Property Tax Levy</i>		\$ 5,600,000	
County	(2) Payable 2014 Taxable Net Tax Capacity	(3) Net Tax Capacity Percent Distribution	(4) Apportioned Payable 2015 Levy (1x3)
ANOKA COUNTY	\$ 13,879,018	6.9273%	\$ 387,929
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$ 185,398,814	92.5367%	\$ 5,182,055
RAMSEY COUNTY	\$ 1,073,789	0.5360%	\$ 30,016.00
WATERSHED TOTAL	\$ 200,351,621	100.0000%	\$ 5,600,000

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Appendix A – *The Drift*

See Volume 9 of *The Drift* at www.mwmo.org