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# Watershed Management Plan 2021-2031

## 2.0 Executive Summary



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## 2.0 Executive Summary

### 2.1 History

Today's organization began as the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization in 1985 with a joint powers agreement executed by the cities of Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Saint Anthony Village, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the University of Minnesota. For business purposes, the organization shortened its name to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The current joint cooperative agreement, bylaws, and legal description are included in [Appendix A](#). The members now include the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Paul, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

#### History of MWMO's Watershed Management Plans

The First Generation Watershed Management Plan (Plan), published in December of 1986, was never officially approved, resulting in no projects being implemented. In January 1997, the University of Minnesota left the organization and a Second Generation planning effort was initiated. In 1998, the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) was formed adjacent to the MWMO. As part of the creation of CRWD, a small geographic area of Falcon Heights was removed from the MWMO. In 2000, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC), MWMO, and the City of Minneapolis entered into a joint and cooperative agreement, which resulted in a boundary change that transferred 1,002 acres from the BCWMC to the MWMO. The agreement defines the responsibilities of the MWMO and the BCWMC with respect to the new and old tunnel. For example, the agreement requires the MWMO to coordinate with the City of Minneapolis regarding flows from Bassett Creek that exceed the 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) overflow that the Old Tunnel must accommodate. The agreement also requires written approval of the BCWMC for changes in the area tributary to the new tunnel, or increases in the rate of runoff to the new tunnel by either the City of Minneapolis or the MWMO. A copy of the agreement is attached as [Appendix F](#).

In 2000, the MWMO Second Generation Plan was approved. In 2006, the Plan was amended to add the Greening Program and clarify existing programmatic efforts. The MWMO's Third Generation Plan was adopted by the MWMO Board of Commissioners on May 10, 2011.

An intentional amendment process every 2 -3 years was built into the MWMO's Third Generation Plan. This process has allowed the MWMO to maintain a "living plan" that is updated regularly to respond to changing conditions in the watershed and better align with our member cities' capital improvement schedules. The first amendment added member cities' projects to the Plan's Capital Improvement Schedule; it was adopted by the MWMO Board of Commissioners on May 8, 2012.

In 2011 the six-city WMO was dissolved. By August 21, 2012, portions or all of the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Hilltop became members of the MWMO. On July 7, 2013, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approved a Plan amendment related to these new member cities. Items added included an updated joint cooperative agreement, a revised legal boundary, and additional stormwater management projects in MWMO's Capital Improvement Schedule.

May 12, 2015, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approved a third Plan amendment that modified the MWMO's standards, added the MWMO's Design Sequence flow chart, and integrated projects, mapping and assessments from our new member cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Hilltop into the MWMO's Watershed Management Plan.

In 2016, there were two final amendments to the Plan. The first added the new 8410 amendment process to the Plan, and updated Section 3.2, which provides our member cities guidance on local water plan content requirements. A notification of the changes made was sent out to statutory reviewers. The second was approved by the MWMO's Board of Commissioners on November 16, 2016. This amendment updated the MWMO's Capital Improvement Schedule to ready it for upcoming 2017 projects. Updates to the Capital Improvement Schedule included 6 new projects; 2 modified projects; and 11 completed projects removed from the schedule, with a final budget of \$21,600,000 from 2016 through 2021.

### **Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going**

Over the course of the last 10-year plan there have been a number of significant changes that influenced the MWMO's work between 2011 and 2021 and will continue to influence it moving ahead.

In 2014, The MWMO Board altered its existing policy regarding the use of capital project funds to include redevelopment projects on private land. This opened up all land within the watershed for projects and allows staff to recommend the projects that offer the greatest public benefits in terms of protection and improvement of water quality, habitat and natural resources.

Continuous research, assessments and feasibility studies have improved the MWMO's understanding of the watershed. This creates a process to better inform project selection with relevant science, history, engineering, planning, and design needed to succeed in improving water quality, rate control and habitat within the watershed. The MWMO has invested significant funding and staff expertise in developing hydrologic and hydraulic, ecologic and water quality models throughout the watershed, allowing us to better understand impact of climate on the watershed and our member cities.

In 2016, the Minnesota Department of Health's took the initiative to develop comprehensive statewide guidance or policy on water reuse to ensure that projects are safe and sustainable. Currently, they are assessing data to determine a standard reuse of stormwater depending on the end use and source of the stormwater.

The MWMO has been and will continue to be a leader in reuse of stormwater. The MWMO views stormwater as a valued resource rather than a waste product. Climate trends over the prior decade have shown that we can expect and need to plan for elongated droughts, dwindling aquifers, and water shortages around the U.S. Governmental and private sector entities want to have the ability to reuse stormwater for multiple uses prior to discharging it back into aquifers or surface waters. This growing movement and awareness that stormwater has value has led to many more innovative projects in the watershed.

Due to significant reductions in lake levels on White Bear Lake, landowners sued the MN DNR in 2012. As a result, there has been an increased focus by the MN DNR on the management of groundwater supplies and surficial and groundwater interactions in the Metro Area.

The MWMO has put a significant amount of time and resources into understanding surface and groundwater interactions in the watershed. In 2011, we completed a historic study of the watershed to inform its planning and water resource management efforts. Results from this study were intended to provide a better understanding of the presettlement 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. Included in this report is a review of all pre-settlement water features identifying if they were discharge or recharge areas or both. Research studies such as the Historic Waters of the MWMO, groundwater field studies, and future studies like MN DNR's Ground Water Atlas - Part B will help us continue to better determine the viability of infiltration within the watershed.

In 2013, the MPCA released its Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). This guidance emphasized keeping the raindrop where it falls in order to minimize stormwater runoff and address multiple pollutants beyond just total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP). MIDS is intended to mimic a site's natural hydrology as redevelopment occurs in order to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive site features. The MWMO contributed a study that compared the effectiveness of urban stormwater standards to their work; in 2016, we worked with our member cities to adopt a new standard based on MIDS into our Watershed Management Plan. Between 2017 and 2019, we secured a commitment by each of our member cities to adopt the new standard as a part of their local water plan approval by the MWMO Board. The MWMO will continue to review the effectiveness of our standards and modify them as needed in the future.

In 2016, the MPCA finalized a Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with the approval of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan. The MWMO has a long history of hosting and supporting the development of training materials for public and private sector winter snow plow and maintenance workers. The effort aims to reduce the amount of chlorides being used on sidewalks, parking lots, and roads. These adaptive management approaches have led to both improvements in water quality and a cost savings due to less materials used annually. We plan to continue these efforts and others like them over the next 10 years.

In 2012, the Prospect Park Partnership, which later became the Minneapolis - St Paul Towerside Innovation District, was established. Over the years, this partnership has provided the vision and capacity to create a district where innovation in systems thinking and design allows for integration of energy, streets, parking, stormwater, parks, habitat, buildings, and transportation for the benefit of the larger surrounding community. Early on, Towerside project partners encouraged the City of Minneapolis to sign a resolution supporting the creation of innovation districts within the City of Minneapolis. The approved resolution and language in the City's 2040 comprehensive plan are opening up opportunities and places to address today's significant social, economic and environmental issues. At the same time, St Paul created a master planning process tied to a city council resolution that allows District systems with multiple public benefits to advance at the pace of redevelopment wherever the best sites present themselves city-wide.

The MWMO has worked closely over the years with the Towerside Innovation District, the City of Minneapolis and St. Paul to establish district stormwater systems that improve water quality, habitat, and emphasize reusing stormwater as a valued resource instead of a nuisance to be disposed of quickly. The MWMO will continue this work over the next 10 years finding ways to bring greater value to our member cities projects.

These environmental initiatives alone would be enough for any organization to take on, but we must also acknowledge we face more than just environmental issues. All governmental entities are being asked to take on deep systemic racism, cultivate diversity, promote equity and foster inclusion, and address aging stormwater infrastructure systems as well continue to develop and pay for new systems needed for future growth. As we move ahead, we are committing ourselves to finding a more restorative path forward that takes into consideration all the above issues.

Following the approval of this 10 year Plan, the MWMO will begin a more thorough planning process that results in equity and climate change plans or policy guidance that encompass all aspects of our organization. This planning process will invite those who would be impacted by the plans to participate in the process of developing them.

A history of systemic racism coupled with continued present-day infrastructure, land use and operations and maintenance patterns have brought to the forefront unresolved social, economic, and environmental issues of climate change. The inequities have had greater impacts on the black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities in the watershed.

Site by site regulatory standards for redevelopment and the separation of public and private infrastructure systems to support it has unwittingly contributed to today's issues of climate change, inequity, and infrastructure debt. The MWMO will continue to work with its member cities on new district, regional and restorative infrastructure patterns. The MWMO will continue to pursue urban ecologic system improvements including enhancement of habitat corridors and reestablishment of native vegetation to better manage stormwater throughout the watershed.

Studies and work completed by the MWMO indicates that these extensive green and blue infrastructure corridors in public spaces may have multiple benefits including reduced crime

rates, improved physical and mental health, cooling of the urban heat island, improved work place productivity, increased access to healthy food sources, improved social cohesion and community resilience, absorption of carbon emissions and other air pollutants, regained environmental and economic equity for neighborhoods, and lower long term maintenance costs.

The MWMO does not take on the long term operations and maintenance of the capital projects funded by the MWMO but not owned by MWMO. However, the MWMO will work with our partners to develop a future strategy that improves long term operations and maintenance of these projects. The MWMO has an interest in assuring that all projects, large or small, are maintained long term to achieve or exceed their designed performance for the lifecycle of the BMP's installed.

The MWMO is continuing with two significant initiatives to address existing inequities in the watershed: The Restorative Development Feasibility study and Community Conversations throughout the watershed.

The MWMO will continue to participate in a partnership established to undertake a Restorative Development Feasibility study. The intent of this partnership is to develop strategy to for the future built environment where wastes are seen as valued inputs, and infrastructure sets the stage for a new redevelopment paradigm that results in equitable social, economic, and environmental outcomes in communities.

Recently, the MWMO started the first of a series of watershed-wide Community Conversations in North Minneapolis. We are reaching out and building relationships around water systems and green infrastructure. This campaign is the initial outreach start-up approach to get people interested, to begin to ask questions, explore precedent examples, and build momentum around a community input driven process. We are looking to build off prior efforts to engage the community around the idea of green and blue infrastructure, and our intent is to continue these efforts **at the speed of trust**. We believe this is necessary if these are to be community led conversations.

### **Plan Comment and Review Opportunities**

The MWMO is in the middle of a public engagement and statutory reviewer process that is estimated to be finalized in the late Fall of 2021. Comments received from the public ([Appendix G](#)) during the 10-year plan update are the basis for the focus areas and focus statements, which continue to guide the development and implementation of MWMO's goals and strategies. Comments received from statutory reviewers ([Appendix H](#)) align MWMO's goals and strategies with the needs of our member organizations, agencies, counties, and other watershed entities. These comments will either be integrated into the plan or it will be clarified where they already exist in the plan or that the MWMO is not positioned to or does not intend to take on the issue. Both the general public, MWMO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and statutory reviewers have the opportunity to participate in the 60-day review period of this 10-year plan update as well as the public hearing in July.

Public comments were gathered through an extensive watershed survey effort. Through this effort, the MWMO sought to identify any changes needed in the existing focus statements and corresponding goals and strategies for the management of the water and natural resources in the watershed. The survey was redistributed multiple times over one year through various efforts such as outreach events, direct requests to neighborhood organizations, gov-delivery distribution, the MWMO newsletter, and the MWMO website. The survey consisted of a series of questions around demographics, outdoor recreation, and environmental issues, asking citizens what the MWMO should do about each topic. Comments from the survey were used in a Content Analysis, where they were coded for specific references or issues relative to the content, and then summarized to quantify top responses. Summarized and tabulated responses are shown at the bottom of [Appendix G](#).

The MWMO set aside a two-week pre-draft review period and the 60-day review period to meet with statutory reviewers on an individual basis to ensure reviewers have as much time as needed to clarify any questions or resolve any priority issues. The MWMO used a process similar to this with member cities as they were updating their local water plans. It allowed for the dialogue and time needed to talk through the needs of each organization and come to an agreement on changes to be made.

## **2.2 Accomplishments**

When the 2000 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was adopted, the MWMO consisted of a five-member Board with staffing provided by the City of Minneapolis Environmental Services. In the fall of 2002, the MWMO Board hired an administrator and program manager to build an organization capable of implementing the goals and activities outlined in the 2000 Plan. Since then, the MWMO has established its own offices and added new staff members to develop the initiatives needed to successfully implement goals and strategies found in the plan. A few early successes include the Heritage Park Capital Improvement Project, the creation of the Stewardship Grant Fund, the Hmong Community Project, and a study on the Historic Waters of the MWMO.

MWMO now has a full complement of staff (15 full-time employees) and many additional initiatives have been taken on to achieve the implementation of plan goals. A sampling of the initiatives is described below.

### **Developer-Led Stormwater Innovation (Partners: City of Minneapolis and Towerside)**

The MWMO worked with the City of Minneapolis and a land development team at Towerside to incorporate new and innovative stormwater management practices into a developer-led, neighborhood-supported redevelopment project. This was the MWMO's first effort within the watershed to demonstrate the multiple public and private benefits that a District-scale, integrated stormwater management effort can make in a land use redevelopment project. The practices sought to provide water quality and quantity improvement at less cost, while enhancing quality of life and environmental benefits.

### **Youth Employment and Training (Partner: Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board)**

For over ten years, the MWMO and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) have led a youth employment and training program, with Green Team members coming from North and Northeast Minneapolis. Typical daily activities include working to prevent water pollution, removing invasive species, building raingardens, planting trees and prairie plants, and assisting in citizen science projects. Youth have the chance to participate in the Mississippi River Green Team for two years, and after those two years, they are a part of a supportive network that works with them to help secure jobs to expand their skills and prepare them for the future.

### **Outreach Activities**

The MWMO's Outreach team have continued to implement a number of initiatives including the Stewardship Fund, trainings for public and private land management employees on winter and summer maintenance activities impacting our water resources, and citizen support. For example, Minnesota Water Stewards are certified and supported to prevent water pollution and educate community members to conserve and protect our water resources. The Outreach team is also investigating ways the MWMO might engage these constituents in better managing and maintaining green infrastructure. This will be a critical skill if the MWMO is to maintain stormwater practices.

With the addition of professional communications staff, the MWMO has been able to better tell the story of watershed management and protection. The communication team has updated the watershed's website, social media, and blogs while leading the effort to inform public and partners of activities as capital projects and program initiatives are implemented.

### **Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Network**

The MWMO continues to partner with its member organizations to build a robust watershed assessment and monitoring network. The MWMO currently monitors the water quality entering the river at multiple locations. Due to the closure of the locks at St. Anthony Falls, the team now monitors the river bathymetry to track the impact of no dredging on river morphology. Current monitoring and assessment initiatives also include outfitting some stormwater best management practices with monitoring equipment to assess their performance. The MWMO has continued to build a comprehensive monitoring network that will provide the MWMO and its partners the data needed to evaluate its progress in managing the water resources within the watershed. Over the last five years, the MWMO completed several hydraulic and hydrologic studies of pipesheds in the watershed. Nearly 80% of the watershed has now been modeled for water quantity and water quality parameters.

Through these and other accomplishments, the MWMO has proven to be an effective, motivated, and proactive organization. Through this Fourth Generation Plan, the MWMO lays out an implementation schedule that requires the continued growth and leadership of the organization to achieve its stated goals.

The MWMO received an excellent Performance Review and Assistance Program rating from Board of Water and Soil Resources for effectively carrying out the MWMO's 2011 - 2021

Watershed Management Plan. That said, the MWMO will continue its work in a number of ongoing core initiatives identified in the 2011 - 2021 Plan by carrying them forward into this 2021 -2031 Plan. In addition to continuing this essential work, the MWMO will start new initiatives that address current events, emerging issues, and long-term systemic issues. The MWMO is planning to focus more of our resources on the following: developing an organizational equity strategy, reducing the impacts of climate change, supporting restorative systems-based design approaches for developments, prioritizing projects that support District- and regional-scale infrastructure improvements, providing green infrastructure training, supporting youth engagement programs, longitudinal and latitudinal mixing of the Mississippi River, and conducting monitoring to support city needs, such as meeting TMDLs and implementing BMPs.

## 2.3 Statutory Background

The 1972 Federal Clean Water Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to “protect . . . rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution of . . . land and water resources” (Sec 101, b). The EPA transferred portions of this authority to state legislative bodies. In 1982, the legislature approved the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. It was later recodified as [M.S. 103B](#). Additional clarification and requirements were included in [MN Rules 8410](#) and its updates.

Since passage of the act, all local units of government in the seven-county metropolitan area have been involved in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive surface water management plans through membership in one or more watershed management organizations based on natural watershed boundaries.

These first plans resulted in two key advances in comprehensive surface water resource management. First, the plans required the adoption, amendment, or update of a variety of local controls to reduce erosion and sedimentation, establish stormwater design standards, and protect wetlands. Second, during the planning and implementation of the plans, communities within the watersheds developed stronger working relationships.

In 1992, the Board of Water and Soil Resources developed rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410) for plan content. WMOs use these rules in plan revisions, which are required every 5 to 10 years. The rules require, among other items, more specificity in citizen participation, control of erosion and sedimentation, wetland assessment, and the design of new stormwater conveyance and treatment systems.

The [Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act](#) lists a number of responsibilities watershed management organizations can elect to accept and carry out.

The MWMO has the authority to:

- protect, to preserve, and to improve surface and groundwater systems
- establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management

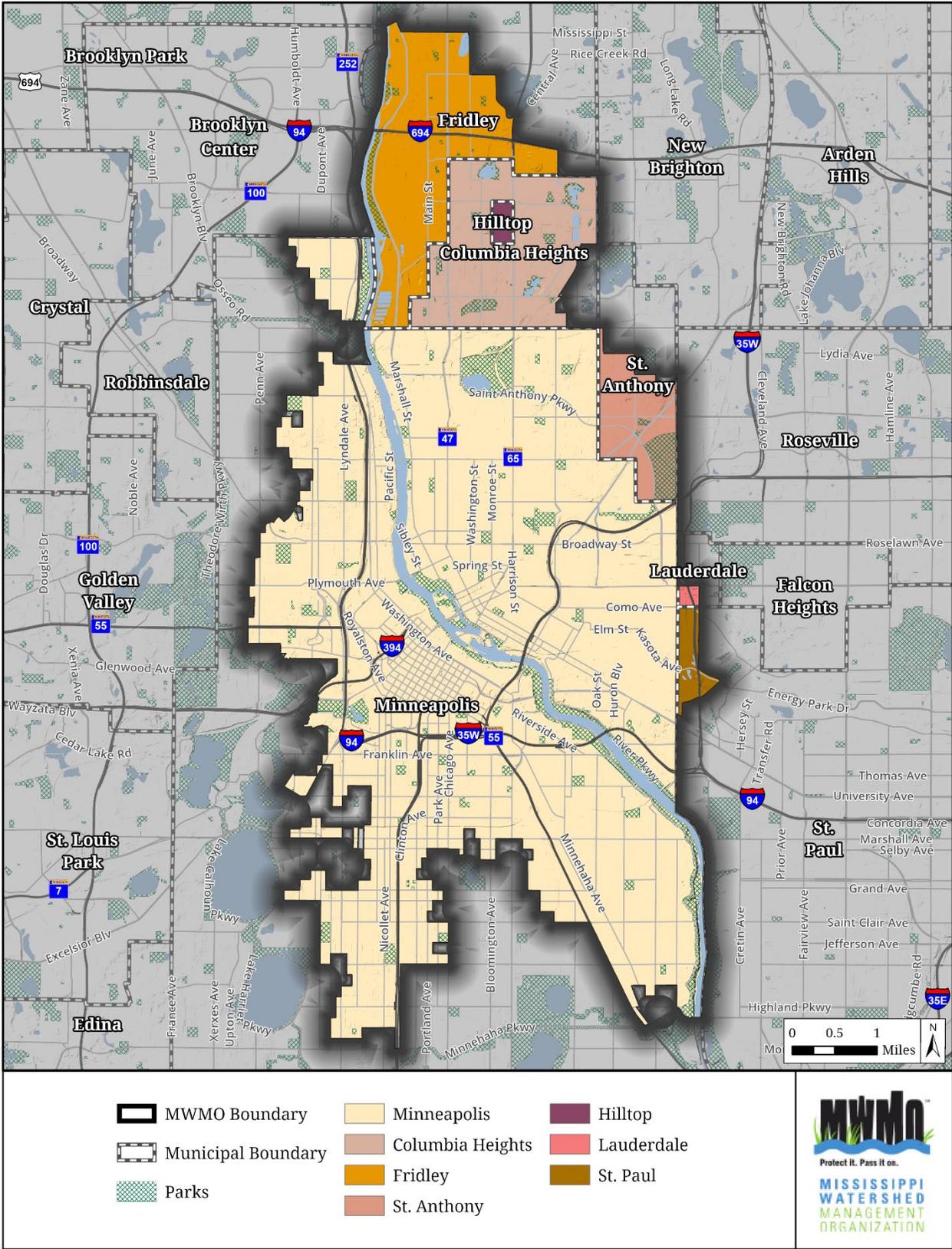
- prevent erosion of soil
- protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.

These responsibilities affect more than just water resource management; they impact land use, habitat and ecosystem planning, and management connected to water resources.

Additionally, in 2001, the legislature granted the authority of a Special Purpose Taxing District under Minnesota Statute Section 275.066 to the MWMO. This authority continues to be vital to implementing plans and goals of the MWMO.

## **2.4 Present Day Jurisdictional Area**

The MWMO's jurisdictional area includes portions of the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, and Saint Paul as well as lands owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The MWMO's current (as of 2020) legal boundary is shown in **Figure 1**.



**Figure 1: MWMO Legal Boundary and Location of Cities and Parks**

**Table 1:** Percent Coverage of Member Organizations within the MWMO

<b>Municipality</b>	<b>Percent Area of MWMO</b>	<b>Acres within MWMO</b>	<b>Square Miles</b>
Columbia Heights	7.92%	2,025.04	3.16
Fridley	9.51%	2,431.89	3.80
Hilltop	0.32%	81.57	0.13
Lauderdale	0.16%	40.46	0.06
Minneapolis	73.26%	18,729.70	29.27
MPRB*	5.42%	1,386.50	2.17
Saint Anthony Village	2.55%	653.13	1.02
Saint Paul	0.85%	217.34	0.34
Totals	100.00%	25,565.63	39.95

\*The MPRB's landholdings are within the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Anthony Village

## 2.5 Board of Commissioners

The MWMO's governing Board of Commissioners consists of seven commissioners. There is one commissioner appointed by each member organization, with the exception of a shared seat for the cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop.

**Table 2:** 2020 Board of Commissioners of the MWMO\*

<b>Member</b>	<b>Position</b>	<b>Member Community</b>
Kevin Reich	Chair	City of Minneapolis
Jeff Dains	Vice-chair	City of Lauderdale
Donna Schmitt	Treasurer	City of Columbia Heights/Hilltop
Chris Meyer	Commissioner	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Randy Stille	Commissioner	City of Saint Anthony Village
Vacant	Commissioner	City of Saint Paul
Steve Eggert	Commissioner	City of Fridley

\* Visit [www.mwmo.org](http://www.mwmo.org) for a current list of commissioners and alternates.

## 2.6 Committees

The 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 CAC reviews MWMO's annual budget and Stewardship Fund grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board. The committee also participates in strategic planning for the watershed:

<http://www.mwmo.org/about/citizen-advisory-committee/>.

A Technical Advisory Committee also meets at the request of the MWMO Board of Commissioners to assist in managing the water resources of the MWMO. This committee does not have a standing membership; rather, a panel of experts is assembled based on specific project or program needs.

## 2.7 Focus Areas

The following focus areas were derived from public comments to guide the development and implementation of goals and strategies that advance the MWMO's mission.

Based on over 430 the public comments received between 2019 and 2021, the existing focus statements remain relevant. Rather than narrowing the broader issues of equity and climate change into a single focus area, the MWMO sees these issues permeating throughout all aspects of the MWMO's organization and the work we do.

The mix of sources and manner in which the input was gathered does not lead to a prioritization of the focus areas in of themselves. Rather, it provides us insight into key issues and people's values in the watershed. The focus areas are outlined in further detail in **Section 5** and **Section 6.2, Table 27**.

### **Water Quality Focus Area (WQ)**

- WQ 1- Protect and improve the water bodies of the MWMO
- WQ 2- Account for water quality conditions upstream that impact the MWMO
- WQ 3- Participate in the development and implementation of TMDLs
- WQ 4- Identify the role the MWMO will take in addressing soil contamination and groundwater quality

### **Water Rate and Volume Focus Area**

- WRV 1- Manage the causes and reduce the effects of flooding that impact the watershed
- WRV 2- Manage the causes and reduce the effects of drought that impact the watershed

### **Monitoring & Data Assessment Focus Area**

- MD 1-Make decisions based on science and best available data

### **Communications and Outreach Focus Area**

- CO 1- Provide resources and opportunities to build capacity and leadership and promote responsible stewardship of water and natural resources
- CO 2- Create communication and outreach connections within MWMO programs
- CO 3- Enhance communications between MWMO and constituents

### **Ecosystem Health Focus Area**

- EH 1- Find ways to protect, create, and enhance vegetated areas, native plant communities, habitat, open space, green infrastructure and natural resources
- EH 2- Protect land that significantly impacts surface water and groundwater resources

### **Regulations & Enforcement Focus Area**

- RE 1- Promote consistency in rules, regulations, standards, and enforcement across jurisdictions
- RE 2- Improve compliance and enforcement of regulations related to water and natural resources

### **Urban Stormwater Management Focus Area**

- USM 1- Promote unique and innovative solutions for stormwater management in highly developed urban areas

### **Emergency Preparedness & Response Focus Area**

- ER 1- Protect natural resources when natural disasters and emergencies occur

### **Emerging Issues Focus Area**

- EI 1- Develop new approaches that protect water and natural resources as conditions change and emerging issues arise

### **Financial Responsibilities and Strategies Focus Area**

- FRS 1- Maintain a comprehensive financial framework to implement goals, strategies, and actions of the plan
- FRS 2- Maintain a funding strategy that is effective, efficient, and transparent

The plan identifies several work areas and implementation actions to address each of the focus areas. Work areas are described in in **Section 7.1** and implementation actions are outlined in **Section 6.2**. The MWMO's work areas are:

- Capital Projects
- Outreach
- Stewardship Grant
- Communications
- Monitoring
- Planning
- Watershed Assessment

## **2.8 Using the Plan**

This plan is developed to guide the MWMO Board and staff in the implementation of watershed goals. The plan sets out goals and strategies based on studies and data on the status of the water and natural resources of the watershed. The MWMO Board and staff use the plan to guide watershed management decisions and to assist in the development of annual work plans based on the outlined work areas in concert with goals and strategies.

Member organizations will find the plan useful in developing local surface water management plans and local ordinances through the land and water resource information and by reviewing the requirements for local plans outlined in the Member Authorities and Responsibilities section. Additionally, member organizations may use the MWMO implementation plan to assist in scheduling and coordinating capital improvements and programs.

Residents, businesses, and other organizations within the watershed may use the Plan to learn more about the natural and water resources within the watershed and to be aware of how they can partner with the MWMO on projects. For individual MWMO studies, content, and resources beyond this Plan, please see our website at <https://www.mwmo.org/>.

## **2.9 General Content of Local Plans**

The required content of local plans is specified further in Section 3.3 and generally includes:

- Water, Natural Resources, and Land Use Goals and Policies
- Infrastructure Assessments and Programs
- MWMO Standards
- Surface Water Appropriations
- Evaluation