

# Section 1

## Introduction and Purpose

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### INTRODUCTION

The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions (SCWMWMC) were formed in 1984 using Joint Powers Agreements developed under authority conferred to the member communities by Minnesota Statutes 471.59 and 103B.201 through 103B.251. The watersheds are located in the northwest portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven county metropolitan area (Figures 1-1 and 1-2). The Commissions' purpose is to preserve and use natural water storage and retention in the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi watersheds to meet Surface Water Management Act goals. Because many of the communities that are members of the Shingle Creek WMO (watershed management organization) are also members of the West Mississippi WMO, the Commissions often work jointly on issues of interest to both and have adopted similar standards.

The Commissions adopted their initial or First Generation management plans in 1990. This Second Generation Plan describes how the SCWMWMC will address activities in the two watersheds over the period 2003-2012. The two Commissions have elected to jointly develop this Plan and, as described in Section 6, recommend to their respective City Councils that the Commissions be combined into one body administering the Plan for the two watersheds.

### METROPOLITAN SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT

The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act (Chapter 509, Laws of 1982, Minnesota Statute Section 473.875 to 473.883 as amended) establishes requirements for preparing watershed management plans within the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The law requires the plan to focus on preserving and using natural water storage and retention systems to:

- Improve water quality.
- Prevent flooding and erosion from surface flows.
- Promote groundwater recharge.
- Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreation facilities.
- Reduce, to the greatest practical extent, the public capital expenditures necessary to control excessive volumes and rate of runoff and to improve water quality.
- Secure other benefits associated with proper management of surface water.

To ensure these objectives are realized the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act further specified the basic content of the watershed management plan. The plan must:

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- Describe the existing physical environment and land use in the area, as well as the proposed environment, land use, and development outlined in existing local and metropolitan comprehensive plans.
- Present information on the hydrologic system and its components and potential problems related thereto.
- State objectives and policies including management principles, alternatives and modifications, water quality, and protection of natural characteristics.
- Set forth a management plan including the desired hydrologic and water quality conditions and significant opportunities for improvement.
- Describe the effect of the plan on existing drainage systems.
- Identify high priority areas for wetland preservation, enhancement, restoration, and establishment and describe conflicts with wetlands and land use in those areas.
- Describe conflicts between the watershed plan and existing plans of Local Governmental Units (LGUs).
- Set forth an implementation program consistent with the management plan that includes a capital improvement program, standards, and schedules for amending the comprehensive plan and official controls of LGUs in the watershed to bring conformance with the plan.
- Set out procedures and timelines for amending the plan.

**Figure 1-1  
Location Map**

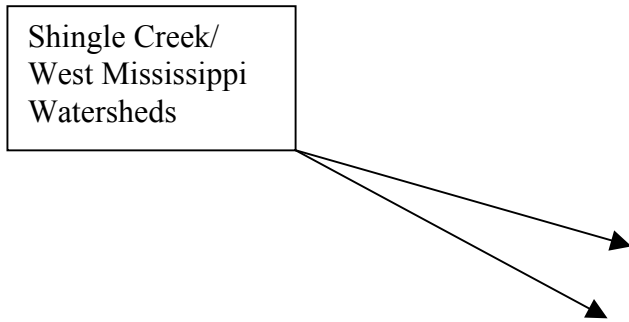
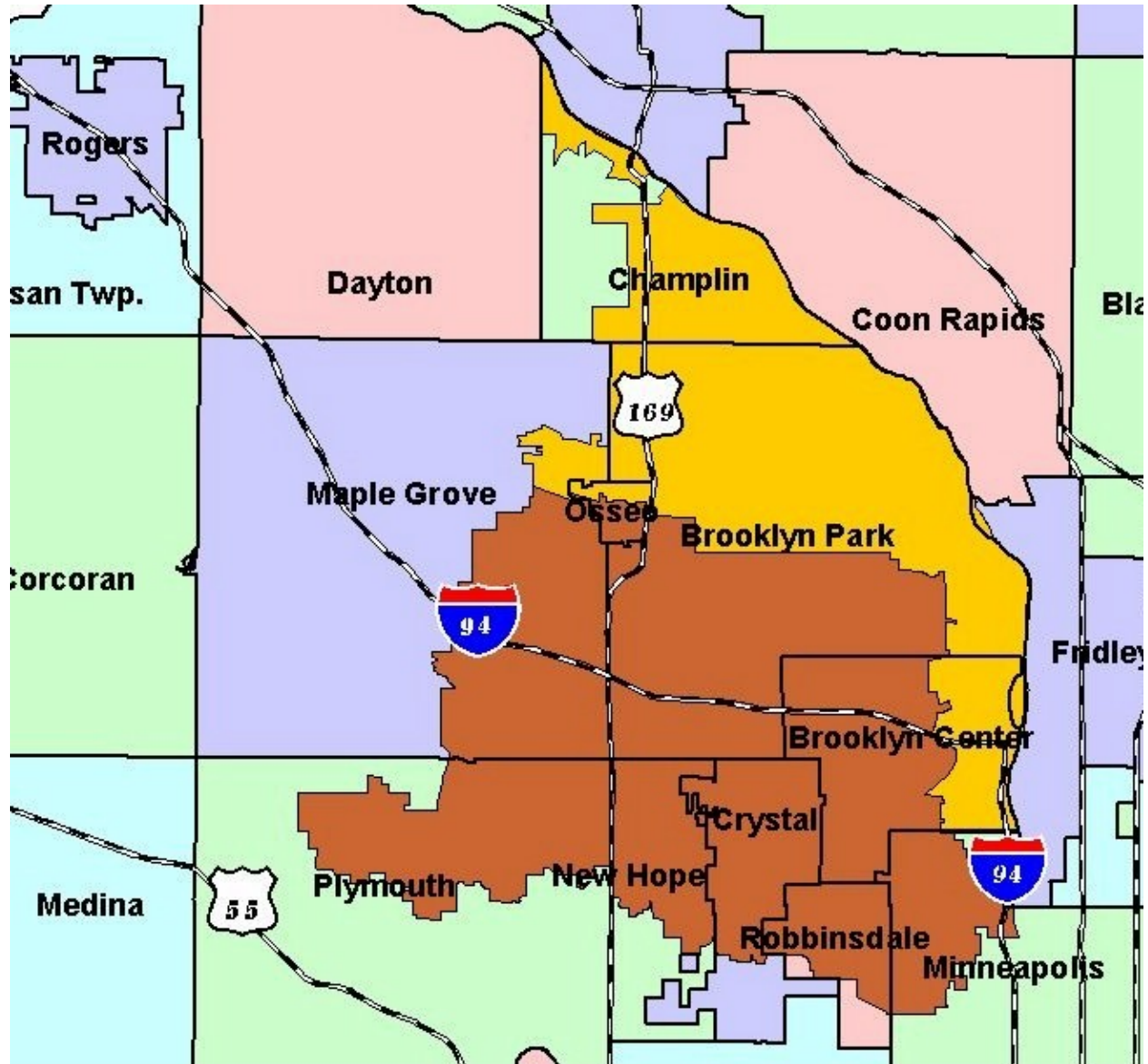
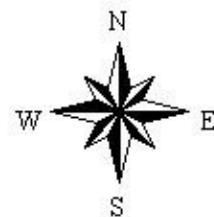


Figure 1-2  
Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Political Boundaries



**Watershed Boundaries**  
■ SHINGLE CREEK  
■ WEST MISSISSIPPI



### PLAN ORGANIZATION

This plan is divided into nine sections:

**1 – Introduction and Purpose:** Describes the authority and composition of the SCWMWMC, the purpose of the Surface Water Management Act and the components of this watershed management plan.

**2 – Existing and Future Conditions:** A physical inventory for the watershed, it includes a profile of the watersheds' existing environmental conditions. This profile contains descriptions of the area's geology, topography, soils, biological and human environment, and current land use and projected land use to the year 2020.

**3 - Hydrologic Systems:** Contains information necessary to understand the hydrologic system. Information includes historic precipitation, the drainage system and watershed and subwatershed boundaries, wetlands, waterbodies, conveyance systems, and floodplains. Surface water quality information and groundwater characteristics are included in this section.

**4 – Existing Administrative Authorities:** The Joint Powers Agreements, financial mechanisms, regulatory controls, along with agency and city involvement are discussed in this section.

**5 – Issues and Goals:** Major issues and goals are described. The goals reflect the watershed purposes set forth in the Surface Water Management Act. These issues and goals provide a framework within which to address water management issues.

**6 - Management Framework:** Strategies are developed in order to define the course of action the Commission will institute to address each issue. Policies developed by the Commission are presented. Implementation procedures explain how the strategies are to be put into effect.

**7 – Capital Improvements Program and Work Plan:** The Work Plan, the Capital Improvements Program, and the costs of implementing the Plan are discussed in this section.

**8 - Local Responsibilities:** Discusses requirements of Local Surface Water Management Plans.

**9 – Amendments:** Identifies the procedure for amending this plan.