



# Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission

2012 Annual Activity Report



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This report was prepared for the  
Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission  
by JASS

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We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of  
Diane Spector, Wenck Associates

Cover photograph: Bridge in Three Pond Park  
Sally Strand, Plymouth



**Annual Activity Report.**

This annual report has been prepared by the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission in accordance with the annual reporting requirements of Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150, Subps. 2 and 3. It summarizes the activities undertaken by the Commission during calendar year 2012.

**The Commission.**

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission is governed by a nine-member board comprised of representatives from each member city who are appointed for terms of three years. The nine member cities are Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth and Robbinsdale. Commissioners who served in 2012 are shown in *Appendix 1*.

**Consultants.**

The Commission has no employees. The names of the consultants currently retained by the Commission are also listed in *Appendix 1*.

**Meetings.**

The Commission meets monthly at 12:45 p.m. on the second Thursday at the Clubhouse at Edinburgh, USA, 8700 Edinbrook Crossing, Brooklyn Park. The meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices, agendas and approved minutes are posted on the Commission's website, [www.shinglecreek.org](http://www.shinglecreek.org).

**Watershed Management Plan.**

The Shingle Creek/West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions' joint 2003 Second Generation Watershed Management Plan (Plan) includes a section that identifies significant watershed issues identified by the public, city staffs and Commissioners along with a brief description of the proposed actions in the Plan that address those concerns.

Significant progress has been made towards meeting the goals of the Second Generation Plan, notably:

- Coordinated and expanded monitoring activities with numerous agencies and volunteers.
- Expanded the education and outreach program.
- Received approval of the Shingle Creek Chloride TMDL and Implementation Plan.
- Approved the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi (SCWM) Water Quality Plan.
- Completed the Shingle Creek Corridor Study and the Tributaries Corridor Study.
- Received approval of TMDLs and Implementation Plans for the thirteen impaired lakes in the watershed.

- Received approval of the Shingle and Bass Creeks Biota and Dissolved Oxygen (DO) TMDL and Implementation Plan.
- Revised the cost share policy and adopted revised CIPs with additional capital projects.
- Conducted an opinion survey of watershed residents in collaboration with neighboring watershed management organizations as part of its education and public outreach program.
- Implemented Pike Creek and Shingle Creek channel improvements.
- Received over \$2.25 million in grant funding for various activities.

### **Status of 2012 Objectives.**

Following is a summary of the work undertaken by the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission in 2012 to meet the goals, objectives, and projected work plan outlined in its *2011 Annual Report*.

#### **1. Completed the draft of the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan.**

- Completed draft of Plan, including an Implementation Plan and proposed CIP.
- Adopted revised rules, standards, and review thresholds.
- Revised the SCWM cost share program.
- Obtained public input through individual city Citizen Advisory committees and through general public review.
- Held a lake association summit attended by six watershed lake associations. Invited the associations to make presentations at Commission meetings.
- The Plan was submitted to member cities, Hennepin County, adjacent WMOs, and review agencies for 60-day review on October 18, 2012. A public hearing will be conducted on January 10, 2013, after which the final draft plan will be submitted to BWSR for review and approval.

#### **2. Continued to Implement TMDLs.**

- Incorporated Commission actions in TMDL Implementation Plans into the budget and the Third Generation Plan.
- Conducted intensive monitoring of Upper, Middle and Lower Twin Lake to track the effectiveness of BMP implementation in improving the water quality of those lakes.
- Prepared for chloride TMDL 5-year review.
- Continued to develop a process for evaluating progress towards TMDLs.
- Continued to pursue grant funding for projects and programs.
- Participated in Mississippi River bacterial TMDL working groups.
- Continued to be informed of implementation strategies proposed for Lake Pepin TMDL, bacterial TMDL, etc.

- 3. Completed the Paired Intersection Study and disseminated findings to interested parties.**
  - Completed Year 3 of monitoring and evaluated data.
  - Presented findings at conferences and TAC meetings.
- 4. Partnered with other organizations to increase reach and cost effectiveness.**
  - Participated in the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) joint education and outreach group.
  - Continued to partner with the USGS to operate the Queen Avenue monitoring site.
  - Partnered with the Minneapolis Park Board to consider options for Shingle Creek in Webber Park.
  - Completed three BMP retrofit projects in the Crystal Lake subwatershed in partnership with the city of Robbinsdale and Hennepin County Environmental Services, funded by a grant from Metro Conservation District.
- 5. Continued ongoing administration and programming.**
  - Commission conducted stream monitoring on Shingle Creek and lake water quality monitoring and aquatic vegetation surveys on Upper, Middle, and Lower Twin Lakes.
  - Commission participated in volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch (Hennepin County).
  - Volunteers monitored three lakes through CAMP (Metropolitan Council).
  - Completed reviews of 16 development and redevelopment projects. A list of the projects reviewed in 2012, along with a map of their locations, is found in *Appendix 2*. No variances to the Commission's standards and policies were granted in 2012.
  - Continued to serve as the local government unit (LGU) for administering the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) unless member cities have elected to serve in that capacity. The West Mississippi Commission currently serves as the local governmental unit (LGU) for the cities of Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, and Osseo.
  - Became a participating agency in the Bottineau Transitway Project.
  - Prepared the 2011 Shingle Creek Annual Activity Report. It was accepted by the Commission at its April 12, 2012 meeting.
  - Reviewed a feasibility study for the 2012 proposed capital project, the New Hope Bass Creek Bank Stabilization Project. A public hearing was conducted on September 13, 2012 and the project was ordered on that date. (*Appendix 3*)
  - Submitted potential projects to BWSR for consideration as part of their Biennial Budget Request (BBR).
  - Actively sought grant opportunities to fund Commission projects.

- Prepared a 2013 annual budget. On June 14, 2012 the Commission approved an operating budget totaling \$355,550, with assessments to the members totaling \$321,400. The Commissioners also approved a closed project account policy. (*Appendix 7*)
- Continued education and outreach programming, including the Education and Public Outreach Committee (EPOC), WMWA, WaterShed Partners, BlueThumb, and the Patrick Henry High School program.
- Conducted an annual review of the NPDES Phase II education and outreach program and submitted a report to the participating MS4s. *The 2012 NPDES Phase II Education and Public Outreach Program Annual Report was distributed to the member communities on March 4, 2013.*
- Coordinated with member cities the Minnesota and Wisconsin River Valleys Girl Scouts' Centennial Day of Service and their goal of removing 20,000 pounds of yard waste before it enters lakes and streams.
- With Metro Blooms, sponsored raingarden workshops in Champlin and Plymouth. A third workshop was co-sponsored by the cities of Crystal, Golden Valley, New Hope and Robbinsdale.
- Awarded Water Quality Education Grants to the Eagle Lake Protection Association, the Meadow Lake Watershed Association, Patrick Henry High School, and Michelle Smeaton (Girl Scout Gold Award).
- Invited guest speakers to make lunchtime water resources presentations. Ed Matthiesen, Wenck Associates, described the geosynthetic clay blanket installed as part of the 639W wetland project; Diane Spector, Wenck Associates, gave two presentations of the Train-the-Trainer sessions in conjunction with the public input process for the Third Generation Plan; Ross Bintner, Water Resources Engineer for the City of Prior Lake, presented his intensive street sweeping study; representatives from the Schmidt Lake Association and the Eagle Lake Preservation Association described the various activities being undertaken by their associations; and Spector presented the preliminary findings for the Paired Intersection Study.
- The Commission did not conduct a tour of project sites in 2012.
- Prepared news articles and other media releases in accordance with MN Rules 8410.0100 §4. *Information releases were provided for education and public outreach activities as well as TMDL-related stakeholder meetings and Management Plan Amendments/CIPs. Information was also posted to Commission and other appropriate websites. (Appendix 4)*
- Continually updated the Commission's website.

### **Permits and Variances.**

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission does not have a permit program.

**Monitoring Data.**

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission annually monitors the lakes and streams of the watershed to assess the current status of its water resources as well as to monitor progress toward accomplishing the goals set forth in its *Water Quality Plan*. The Commission's technical staff obtains most stream water quality data while volunteers collect most lake water quality, stream macroinvertebrate and wetland data.

- In 2012 the Commission continued its stream monitoring program for water quantity and water quality in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Comprised of two parts, flow monitoring and sampling, Commission stream monitoring was conducted at two locations on Shingle Creek – one downstream of Humboldt Avenue in Minneapolis and the other downstream of Brooklyn Boulevard in Brooklyn Center. The Commission cost-participated in flow and limited water quality monitoring at the USGS site at Queen Avenue North.
- The Commission also continued participation in the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program (CAMP). In 2012 three lakes were monitored through CAMP – *Cedar Island, Magda, and Ryan*. The Commission's 2012 *Annual Water Quality Report* provides a brief overview of each lake. The 2012 CAMP report will be available in summer 2013 at <http://www.metrocouncil.org/environment/Rivers/Lakes/index.htm>
- Four sites were monitored in the Shingle Creek watershed through Hennepin County's River Watch program. Sites were monitored by students from Park Center High School, Patrick Henry High School, Calvin Christian High School and Metro Tech Academy. (*Appendix 4*) The complete River Watch report is available by contacting [mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us).
- Although the Shingle Creek Commission did not participate financially in Hennepin County's Wetland Health Evaluation program (WHEP) in 2012, three wetlands were monitored in the watershed. (*Appendix 5*) The 2012 *Hennepin Field Season Summary of the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program* will be available in summer 2013 from [mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us).
- The Commission's annual *Water Quality Monitoring Report* provides more detail on the Commission's stream and lake monitoring activities. The 2011 report was accepted at the Commission's April 12, 2012 meeting and forwarded to the Board of Water Resources as an appendix to the Commission's 2011 Annual Activity Report. It is available on the Commission's website. The 2012 report will be available in May 2013.

**Status of Local Plan Adoption and Implementation.**

Following adoption of the Second Generation Plan, member cities are required to adopt or amend their local water management plans to be in conformance with the Commission's plan. The status of local plan development at December 31, 2012 is shown below.

This process will be repeated following adoption of the Commission's Third Generation Watershed Management Plan in 2013.

<u>Member City</u>	<u>Approved</u>
Brooklyn Center	2006
Brooklyn Park	2009
Crystal	2009
Maple Grove	2009
Minneapolis	2006
New Hope	2008
Osseo	2008
Plymouth	2008
Robbinsdale	2010

**Consultant Services Selection.**

The required biennial solicitation for interest proposals for administrative, legal, technical and wetland consulting services was published in the January 3, 2011 edition of the *State Register*. The Commission’s current consultants are listed in *Appendix 1*. This process will be repeated in 2013.

**Fund Balances.**

The Commission’s Joint Powers Agreement provides that each member city contributes toward the annual operating budget based 50% on the area located within the watershed boundary and 50% on the tax capacity of all property within the watershed. The 2012 cost allocations to the members are shown as part of the 2012 Operating Budget found in *Appendix 6*.

Of the \$351,700 operating budget approved by the Commission for 2012, revenue consisting of \$30,000 in application fees and program reimbursement and \$300 in interest income resulted in assessments to members totaling \$321,400. No income was projected from grant funding and partner contributions,

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission maintains a checking account at US Bank for current expenses and rolls uncommitted monies to its account in the 4M Fund, the Minnesota Municipal Money Market Fund. Amounts paid by the Commission per the 2012 Audit (*Appendix 6*) are as follows:

General engineering	\$ 91,016
General administration	\$111,865
Education	\$ 42,911
Programs	\$ 65,402
Management Plans	\$ 42,858
Projects	\$217,452
Capital Projects	<u>\$ 94,446</u>
Total	\$665,950

General engineering work includes review of local plans, review of development/redevelopment projects, tracking grant opportunities, attendance at meetings and other technical services. General administration includes support to technical staff, attendance at meetings, insurance premiums, bookkeeping and annual audit, legal counsel, and other non-engineering services. The 2012 Audit can be viewed on the Commission’s website.

**Wetland Banking.**

The Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission does not have a wetland banking program.

**2013 Work Plan.**

The Commission has identified the following activities in 2013:

- 1. Adopt the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan, including the revised Rules and Standards.**
- 2. Continue to Implement TMDLs.**
  - Develop a process for evaluating progress towards TMDLs, and undertake a 5-year performance review for the chloride TMDL and the Twin and Ryan Lakes TMDL.
  - Host an annual chloride TMDL operator's meeting.
  - Continue to pursue grant funding for projects and programs.
  - Participate in Mississippi River bacterial TMDL working groups.
  - Become informed of implementation strategies proposed for Lake Pepin TMDL, bacterial TMDL, etc.
- 3. Complete the Paired Intersection Study and disseminate findings to interested parties.**
  - Present findings and final report at conferences and TAC meetings.
- 4. Continue with year two of the modular green roof demonstration project with three roof installations.**
- 5. Partner with other organizations to increase reach and cost effectiveness.**
  - Participate in the West Metro Water Alliance joint education and outreach group.
  - Continue to partner with the USGS to operate the Queen Avenue monitoring site.
  - Partner with the Minneapolis Park Board to consider options for Shingle Creek in Webber Park.
  - Coordinate with lake associations for education and implementation.
- 6. Continue ongoing administration and programming.**
  - Commission stream monitoring on Shingle Creek and Bass Creek and lake water quality monitoring and aquatic vegetation surveys on Ryan and Crystal Lakes.
  - Volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch (Hennepin County).
  - Volunteer lake monitoring through CAMP (Met Council) on Bass, Eagle, Pike, and Schmidt Lakes.
  - Continue the subwatershed assessment analysis and retrofits.

- Partner with the Minneapolis Park Board, Minneapolis Public Schools, Three Rivers Park District and the University of Minnesota Out Door Stream Research Facility to consider a grant application to install a stream lab in Webber Park.
- Complete reviews of development and redevelopment projects as necessary.
- Prepare an annual water quality report.
- Review feasibility studies for 2013 proposed capital projects, hold public hearings, and order projects.
- Prepare a 2014 annual budget.
- Continue education and outreach programming, including the EPOC, WMWA, WaterShed Partners, and BlueThumb.
- Invite three guest speakers to make lunchtime water resources presentations.
- Tour project sites in the watershed.





# Appendices