



# West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission

2012 Annual Activity Report



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This report was prepared for the  
West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission  
by JASS

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We gratefully acknowledge the assistance of  
Diane Spector, Wenck Associates



**Annual Activity Report.**

This annual report has been prepared by the West Mississippi 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 during calendar year 2012.

**The Commission.**

The West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission is governed by a five-member board comprised of representatives from each member city who are appointed for terms of three years. The five member cities are Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Maple Grove, and Osseo. 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 the 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.
- Periodically surveyed and evaluated conditions in the watershed and conducted channel and outfall monitoring
- Expanded the education and outreach program.
- Approved the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi (SCWM) Water Quality 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.
- Continued to research opportunities to apply for grant funding for various activities.

**Status of 2012 Objectives.**

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

**1. Working jointly with the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission, completed the draft of the Third Generation Plan and initiated the public review process.**

- 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.
- 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 stay informed of regional TMDLs.**

- Participated in Mississippi River Bacterial TMDL working groups.
- Continued to be informed of implementation strategies proposed for Lake Pepin TMDL, Bacterial TMDL, etc.

**3. Partnered with other organizations to increase reach and cost effectiveness.**

- Participated in the West Metro Water Alliance joint education and outreach group
- Initiated discussions with the USGS to evaluate groundwater recharge in the watershed.
- Worked with the City of Champlin to select locations for a 2013 case study to evaluate effectiveness of retrofitting BMPs.

**4. Continued ongoing administration and programming.**

- Conducted volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch (Hennepin County).
- Conducted wetland monitoring for biotic and vegetative health through the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) (Hennepin County).
- Continued to review projects within the watershed in accordance with the management standards and policies of the Commission. A list of the development/redevelopment 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.

- Prepared the 2011 West Mississippi 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 Stream Stabilization at the Mill Pond Dam 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).
- Prepared a 2013 annual budget. On June 14, 2012 the Commission approved an operating budget totaling \$146,450, with assessments to the members totaling \$135,700. The Commissioners also approved a closed project account policy. (*Appendix 7*)
- Continued education and outreach programming, including the EPOC, WMWA, WaterShed Partners, BlueThumb, and the Patrick Henry High School program.
- Prepared the 2011 SCWM Annual Water Quality Report and the West Mississippi Water Quality Report. The reports provide stream, lake, wetland and biological monitoring results for the past year.
- 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.
- 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.*

- Actively sought grant opportunities to fund Commission projects.
- 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.*
- Continually updated the Commission's website.

### Permits and Variances.

The West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission does not have a permit program.

### Monitoring Data.

Students from Brooklyn Park South High School monitored Site 20 at Mattson Brook through Hennepin County's River Watch (macroinvertebrate monitoring) program. (*Appendix 4*)

Two sites were monitored as part of Hennepin County's Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). Site BP-4 is located in Brooklyn Park north of Oxbow Lake on 101st Avenue, west of Regent Avenue. Site CH-1 in Champlin is a large pond/wetland located at Xylon Avenue, east of TH169 between 109th and 114th Avenues. The *2012 Hennepin Field Season Summary of the Minnesota Wetland Health Evaluation Program* will be available in the summer of 2013 by contacting [mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:mary.karius@co.hennepin.mn.us). (*Appendix 5*)

The Commissions' annual Shingle Creek/West Mississippi *Water Quality Monitoring Report* provides more detail on the Commission's monitoring activities. The 2011 joint report and *the 2011 West Mississippi Water Quality Monitoring Report* were accepted at the Commission's April 12, 2012 meeting and forwarded to the Board of Water Resources as appendices to the Commission's 2011 Annual Activity Report. They can also be viewed on the Commission's website.

### Status of Local Plan Adoption and Implementation.

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

<u>Member City</u>	<u>Status</u>
Brooklyn Center	Approved 2006
Brooklyn Park	Approved 2009
Champlin	Approved 2009
Maple Grove	Approved 2009
Osseo	Approved 2008

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



### 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 Operating Budget found in *Appendix 6*.

Of the \$160,100 operating budget approved by the Commission for 2012, income of \$3,000 was projected as proceeds from application fees and \$100 as interest income, resulting in assessments to members totaling \$128,000. In addition, \$29,000 was taken from reserves for special water monitoring and development of the Third Generation Plan. (*Appendix 6*)

The West Mississippi 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	\$ 30,886
General administration	\$ 47,466
Education	\$ 25,252
Programs	\$ 4,536
Projects and Management Plans	<u>\$ 19,337</u>
Total	\$127,477

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, annual audit, legal counsel, and other non-engineering services.

The 2012 Audit can be viewed on the Commission's website.

### Wetland Banking.

The West Mississippi 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 stay informed of regional TMDLs.**
  - Continue to pursue grant funding for projects and programs.

- Participate in Mississippi River bacterial TMDL working groups.
- Keep informed of implementation strategies proposed for Lake Pepin TMDL, bacterial TMDL, etc.

**3. 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 evaluate groundwater recharge in the watershed.
- Work with the City of Champlin as a case study to evaluate the effectiveness of retrofitting BMPs.

**4. Continue ongoing administration and programming.**

- Undertake routine flow and water quality at two outfalls into the Mississippi River.
  - Conduct volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch and wetland monitoring through WHEP (Hennepin County).
  - 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.
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# Appendices

