



**WEST MISSISSIPPI
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

2021 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
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Cover photograph:
River Park Prairie Restoration, Brooklyn Park

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 2021.

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 2021 are shown in *Appendix 1*. Also shown there are the members of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) from each city.

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 of the month. The meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices, agendas and approved minutes are posted on the Commission's website, www.shinglecreek.org. The meetings are open to the public and visitors are welcome. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, in 2021 the Commission met virtually via www.zoom.us. All other meeting criteria remained the same.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2013 the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions adopted their joint 2013-2022 Third Generation Watershed Management Plan. The Plan, approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) on March 27, 2013, is the culmination of a nearly two-year planning effort by the two Commissions, the cities that are members of these joint powers organizations, state agencies, and the public. The Plan sets forth goals and strategies that will guide water resources management activities in the two watersheds over the coming decade. Over the years the Commission, either individually or together with the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission, has adopted a number of amendments to the Plan. They are described in *Appendix 2*.

LOCAL PLANS

Revisions to Minnesota Rules 8410 adopted in 2015 included significant changes in the timing of local water plan revisions. Per 8410.0105 subp. 9 and 8410.0160 subp. 6:

- Local water plans must be prepared by metropolitan cities and towns (municipalities) and a local water plan must become part of the local comprehensive plan for a municipality.
- Under the amended rule, local water plans must be revised essentially once every ten years in alignment with the local comprehensive plan schedule.
- A municipality has two years before its local comprehensive plan is due to adopt its local water plan.
- Prior to adoption, a municipality must prepare its local water plan, distribute it for comment, and have it approved by the organization with jurisdiction in the municipality.
- Local water plans may be updated more frequently by a municipality at its discretion.

At a minimum, Local Plans are required to:

- Update the existing and proposed physical environment and land use. Information from previous plans that has not changed may be referenced and summarized but does not have to be repeated. Local Plans may adopt relevant sections of the Commission's Watershed Management Plan (WMP) Section 2.0 Inventory and Condition Assessment by reference unless the member city has more recent information.
- Update the existing and proposed hydrology and provide subwatershed, storm drainage system, and installed BMP figures and Shapefiles.
- Explain how the goals and policies and rules and standards established in the WMP will be implemented at the local level.
- Show how the member city will achieve the load reductions and other actions identified in and agreed to in TMDL Implementation Plans, including identifying known upcoming projects, including street reconstruction projects, that will provide opportunities to include load and volume reduction BMPs.
- Explain how the City will implement the project review requirements of the revised Rules and Standards.
- Update existing or potential water resource related problems and identify nonstructural, programmatic, and structural solutions, including those program elements detailed in MN Rules 8410.0100, Subp. 1-6.
- Summarize the estimated cost of implementation.
- Set forth an implementation program including a description of adoption or amendment

of official controls and local policies necessary to implement the Rules and Standards, programs, policies, and a capital improvement plan.

STATUS OF 2021 WORK PLAN

The joint Third Generation Watershed Management Plan states that the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Commissions will annually review progress toward their Third Generation goals and that this evaluation will become part of the Annual Activity Report.

The purpose of the annual review is twofold -- to determine progress towards the goals and to be sure the Commissions stay on track to reach them. The annual review is also an opportunity to discuss whether the goals and actions in the Plan still make sense or if they should be considered for modification or enhancement, perhaps to add new priorities. Ideally, this annual review is also an opportunity to start thinking about the following year's work plan.

At their January 14, 2021, meeting the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission identified the following activities for inclusion in their 2021 Work Plan. Most are ongoing, although some activities rotate around the watershed. Some highlights of the past year include:

➤ **Continue to stay abreast of regional TMDLs.**

- Continue to identify, pursue grant funding for, and implement projects and programs addressing the bacterial impairment in the Mississippi River.
- Identify boundaries of the untreated areas directly connected to the Mississippi River or other conveyances.

➤ **Partner with other organizations to increase reach and cost effectiveness.**

- Participate in the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) joint education and outreach group. Continue its successful Watershed PREP classes. *The onset of the pandemic curtailed in-class participation. Only one classroom presentation was given in 2021, in the fall. Educators created a video of the presentation in 2020 for parents and teachers to use virtually. A new Educator was hired in November 2021 to replace an Educator who had retired.*

Identified and completed education and outreach activities that can assist member cities to fulfill requirements of the new NPDES General Permit – created and disseminated flyers related to pet waste, chloride use, and salt use. Appendix 3.

Approved revisions to WMWA's Education and Outreach Plan, also found in Appendix 3.

- Partner with the USGS, DNR, and other interested parties to stay abreast of groundwater issues.
- Partner with a member city to complete a subwatershed BMP analysis.

➤ **Continue ongoing administration and programming.**

- Undertake routine flow and water quality at two outfalls into the Mississippi River. Partner with the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) to perform the monitoring at the 65th Avenue outfall.
- Sponsor volunteer stream monitoring through RiverWatch and wetland monitoring through WHEP (Hennepin County). *Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, neither program was offered in 2021.*
- Complete reviews of development and redevelopment projects as necessary. *Eleven projects were reviewed by the Commission in 2021. They are described in more detail in Appendix 4. No variances were requested for these projects. The Commission does not have a permit program.*
- Prepare an annual water quality report. *The 2021 Annual Water Quality Report will be presented and accepted at the Commission's April 14, 2022, meeting.*
- Solicit cost-share projects from member cities funded from the Cost Share Fund and the annual \$50,000 levy. *At their April meeting, the Commission approved \$35,422 of Watershed-Based Funding to the City of Brooklyn Park's River Park Stormwater Improvements Project. Application for this funding was originally made to the Cost Share Program. The WBF resources were allocated by the Commission to the Cost Share Program as a convenience for disbursement.*
- **Participate in the Hennepin County Chloride Initiative (HCCL)**, a collaborative initiative of the eleven watersheds in Hennepin County, funded by about \$100,000 set aside from the last round of Watershed-Based Funding (WBIF) provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).
- Review feasibility studies for 2021 proposed capital projects, undertake Plan Amendments, hold public hearings, order projects and certify levies. *The joint Commissions conducted a public hearing on September 9, 2021, to consider four Shingle Creek and two West Mississippi projects for County levy in 2021 for collection in 2022. The cost of the two West Mississippi projects is estimated to be \$150,000; the total levy amount is \$159,075. The two projects with their estimated costs and total levy amounts are:*
 - City Cost Share Projects, unidentified watershed-wide, \$50,000, \$53,025*
 - Partnership (private) Cost Share Projects, unidentified watershed-wide, \$100,000, \$106,050*
- Prepare a 2022 annual budget and begin scoping the Fourth Generation Plan, which will be completed in 2022. *The Commission approved its 2022 operating budget at its June 10, 2021, meeting and is in the amount of \$181,700. The 2022 budget provides for an assessment of \$156,200, an increase of \$2,600, or 1.7%, over the 2021 total assessment, the first increase since 2018. (Appendix 5)*

- Invite three guest speakers to make lunchtime water resources presentations. *The speakers in 2021 presented on projects in the Shingle Creek watershed. They were:*

In January, Stephen Mastey, Landscape Architects, gave an update on the Crescent Cove Partnership Cost Share project.

In November, Mastey and associates from his firm and the Crescent Cove Association returned to present a pictorial update on the project.

Representatives from Metro Blooms and Boisclair Corporation were present at the April meeting to provide a pictorial update of Phase I of the Brooks Gardens Partnership Cost Share project. .

- Tour project sites in the watershed. *Due to COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, no tours were conducted in 2021.*

WATER MONITORING

The West Mississippi watershed is comprised of 25 square miles of 25% high impervious urban development and 38% low-moderate impervious urban development, with 18.3 miles of stream. There are still approximately 1,000 acres of agricultural land still in production within the city of Brooklyn Park in the western portion of the watershed. Most of the developed land in the watershed is single-family residential. Due to soil conditions within the watershed, there are no lakes and very few wetlands.

One of the defining characteristics of the West Mississippi watershed is its sandy, well-draining soils. Much of the watershed is located within the Anoka Sand Plain and, therefore, approximately 88% of the management unit contains type A, A/D, or B soils.

Surface water quality in the watershed is typical of urban lakes and streams in the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Agriculture followed by urban development have changed drainage patterns, increased pollutants to the waters, and reduced habitat for aquatic and terrestrial life. Diagnostic and feasibility studies completed between 2007 and 2011 have identified actions that can be taken in the watershed to help improve water quality.

Minnesota Administrative Rule 8410.0100 Subp.5 requires watershed management organizations to conduct monitoring programs *capable of producing accurate data to the extent necessary to determine whether the water quality and quantity goals of the organization are being achieved.*

The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions (WMCs) annually monitor water quality in the lakes, streams, and outfalls of the watersheds. A joint *Water Quality Report* summarizing current and historic conditions in the watersheds has been published annually since 1998. The 2021 report is found on the Shingle Creek/West Mississippi website at www.shinglecreek.org and will be made an addendum to this report.

Together, the Commissions have established monitoring objectives to guide their monitoring programs:

- To quantify the current status of streams/outfalls and lakes throughout the watersheds in comparison to state water quality standards established for nutrients, turbidity, chloride, bacteria, and other parameters currently regulated by the State.
- To quantify changes over time, or trends, in stream and lake water quality in the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi watersheds.
- To quantify the effectiveness of implemented BMPs throughout the watersheds for the protection of water quality.

There are four major outfalls in the West Mississippi watershed:

- Located in Champlin, the **Oxbow storm sewer outfall** consists of a series of storm sewer pipes that drain approximately 1,167 acres of land in Champlin and Maple Grove.
- The **Environmental Preserve** is a small stream located in Brooklyn Park. This stream drains approximately 2,160 acres upstream of Brooklyn Park's Environmental Preserve and outlets to a small wetland in the Coon Rapids Dam Regional Park.
- **Mattson Brook** is another small surface channel/stream that drains most of central Brooklyn Park (approximately 3,500 acres) and includes a tributary, Edinbrook/Century Channel.
- **The 65th Avenue outfall** is the outlet of the storm sewer trunk line that runs beneath 65th Avenue North in Brooklyn Center.

Data has been collected from West Mississippi river outfalls since 2010, monitoring water quality and flow at two of the four outfall monitoring sites every year. Stream monitoring efforts consist of continuous flow measurements and water quality samples. Four main water quality parameters are sampled at each of the outfall monitoring stations – TSS, TP, bacteria (E. coli), and chloride. *Flow at the Mattson Brook siter was monitored starting at the end of March 2021, and the 65th Avenue site was monitored for the entire year.*

In past years, high school volunteers coordinated by Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE) have performed macroinvertebrate monitoring at a site on Mattson Brook through the River Watch program. *The program was not conducted in 2021 due to COVID 19.*

HCEE also coordinated wetland monitoring by adult volunteers through WHEP (Wetland Health Evaluation Program). *As with River Watch, WHEP was not conducted in 2021.*

CONSULTANT SERVICES SELECTION

Every two years, a solicitation of interest proposals for technical, legal, and administrative services is published in the State Register. Solicitations were published in the December 14, 2020, edition of

the *State Register*. At their January 14, 2021, meeting, the Commission voted to retain the current consultants for 2021-2022. They are Wenck Associates, now part of Stantec Consulting Services, for technical services; Kennedy Graven Chartered for legal services, and Judie Anderson's Secretarial Services, Inc. for administrative services. This biennial process will be repeated in January 2023.

FINANCIALS

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 2022 cost allocations to the members are shown as part of the Operating Budget found in Appendix 5.

Of the \$181,700 operating budget approved by the Commission for 2022, income of \$18,000 was projected as proceeds from application fees and reimbursements and \$2,500 as interest income, resulting in assessments to the members totaling \$156,200. \$5,000 was taken from Reserves.

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 2020 Audit are categorized as General Engineering, General Administration, Education, Programs, Projects, or Capital Projects, and are shown below.

General engineering	\$ 56,577
General administration	\$ 51,008
Education	\$ 21,815
Programs	\$ 30,407
Projects and Management Plans	\$ 289
Total	\$160,096

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.

Per Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8410, the Commission's annual audit is due 180 days after the end of the fiscal year; or June 30. Prepared by Johnson & Company, Ltd., Certified Public Accountants, the 2020 Audit Report, is available on the Commission's website, www.shinglecreek.org

The Commission follows Rule 54 of the Government Accounting Standard Board (GASB) to report Fund Balances. The fund balance classifications include:

- > *Nonspendable* – amounts that are not in a spendable form. The Commission does not have any items that fit this category.

- > *Restricted* – amounts constrained to specific purposes by their providers. One example would be ad valorem levy funds received from the County for capital improvement projects. The unused portion of these funds must be set aside in a restricted account for similar projects. Another example would be BWSR Legacy Grant proceeds where the funds are received prior to the onset of a project and where any unused portion must be returned to the grantor.
- > *Committed* – amounts constrained to specific purposes by the Commission itself. An example would be residual funds carried over from one year to the next for Studies, Project Identification and Subwatershed Assessments.
- > *Assigned* – amounts the Commission intends to use for specific purposes. Most line items in the Commission's Operating Budget fall under this category.
- > *Unassigned* – amounts that are available for any purpose. These amounts are reported only in the general fund.

PROJECTED 2022 WORK PLAN

At their January 13, 2022, meeting the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission identified the following activities for inclusion in their 2022 Work Plan. Most are ongoing activities, although some rotate around the watershed.

- **Continue to stay abreast of regional TMDLs.**
 - Continue to identify, pursue grant funding for, and implement projects and programs addressing the bacterial impairment in the Mississippi River.
 - Stay abreast of other regional and state TMDLs.
 - Identify boundaries of the untreated areas directly connected to the Mississippi River or other conveyances.
- **Partner with other organizations to increase reach and cost effectiveness.**
 - Participate in the West Metro Water Alliance joint education and outreach group.
 - Partner with the USGS, DNR, and other interested parties to stay abreast of groundwater issues.
 - Partner with the MWMO to undertake monitoring at the 65th Avenue outfall.
 - Partner with a member city to complete a subwatershed BMP analysis.
- **Continue ongoing administration and programming.**
 - Undertake routine flow and water quality at two outfalls into the Mississippi River.
 - If available, sponsor 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.
 - Solicit cost-share projects from member cities funded from the Cost Share Fund and the annual \$50,000 levy.

- Review feasibility studies for 2022 proposed capital projects, undertake Plan Amendments, hold public hearings, order projects, and certify levies.
- Prepare a 2023 annual budget.
- Complete the Fourth Generation Management Plan and submit for public and BWSR review.
- Host a Convene Meeting for the 2022-2023 Watershed-Based Funding awarded to the West Mississippi Partnership.
- Invite three guest speakers to make lunchtime water resources presentations.
- Tour project sites in the watershed.

Have a question about this report? Need more information? Want to know how to get involved?
Contact us: drop us an email, give us a call, we're happy to help:

<http://www.shinglecreek.org/contact-us.html>

APPENDICES

2021 West Mississippi Commissioners and Technical Advisory Committee

Representing	Name	Address	Telephone	Email	Term Expires
Brooklyn Center	David Vlasin Vice Chair		651.792.7972	david.vlasin@rwmwd.org	2024
Brooklyn Park	Alex Prasch	6548 Georgia Avenue N Brooklyn Park, MN 55428	763.226.4711	alex.a.prasch@gmail.com	2024
Champlin	Gerry Butcher Chair	11467 Preserve Lane N Champlin, MN 55316	763.557.1451	JG_Butcher@yahoo.com	2025
Maple Grove	Karen Jaeger Sec/Treas	8459 Rice Lake Road Maple Grove, MN 55369	763.420.3838	kjaeger@ci.maple-grove.mn.us	2025
Osseo	Harold E. Johnson	12-Sixth Street NE Osseo, MN 55369	763.424.3707	HJohnson@ci.osseo.mn.us	2023
Brooklyn Center	Andrew Hogg	City of Brooklyn Center 6301 Shingle Creek Pkwy Brooklyn Center, MN 55430	763.569.3327	ahogg@ci.brooklyn-center.mn.us	
Brooklyn Park	Mitchell Robinson	City of Brooklyn Park 5200 85th Avenue North Brooklyn Park, MN 55443	763.493.8291	Mitchell.Robinson@brooklynpark.org	
Champlin	Todd Tuominen Heather Nelson	City of Champlin 11955 Champlin Drive Champlin, MN 55316	763.923.7120 763.923.7120	ttuominen@ci.champlin.mn.us hnelson@ci.champlin.mn.us	
Maple Grove	Derek Asche	City of Maple Grove 12800 Arbor Lakes Pkwy Maple Grove, MN 55313	763.494.6354	dasche@maplegrovern.gov	
Osseo	Nick Waldbillig	City of Osseo 415 Central Avenue Osseo MN 55369	763.425.5741	nwaldbillig@ci.osseo.mn.us	

2021 West Mississippi Commission Staff

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AMENDMENTS TO THE JOINT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

In 2013 the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions adopted their joint *2013-2022 Third Generation Watershed Management Plan*. The Plan sets forth goals and strategies that will guide water resources management activities in the two watersheds over the coming decade. Over the years the Commission, either individually or together with the Shingle Creek Commission, has adopted a number of amendments to the Plan. They are described below:

In 2013 the Commissions adopted a minor amendment to the Plan which revised the Commissions' Rules and Standards to adopt the new National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Atlas 14 precipitation frequency standards, replacing the outdated Weather Bureau Technical Paper 40 (TP-40) standards.

In 2014 the Commissions adopted a second minor amendment to the Plan. It revises the estimated cost and provides more description and detail about one proposed Shingle Creek project in the Commissions' Capital Improvement Program (CIP).

In December 2014 the Commissions adopted a major amendment to the Plan which added five projects to the Commissions' CIP - three pond retrofits in the Shingle Creek watershed and Priority BMP Retrofits in both watersheds.

On May 14, 2015, the Commissions adopted a minor Plan amendment to 1) increase the annual levy for city cost-share projects from \$50,000 to \$100,000, 2) increase the (Shingle Creek) Commission cost share for lake internal load projects from 25% to 100%; and 3) specify that the potential 2015 lake internal load project (in the Shingle Creek watershed) would be the proposed Twin Lake Carp Tracking and Removal project.

On November 12, 2015, the Commissions amended their joint *Third Generation Watershed Management Plan* to adopt a revision to the plan amendment process to conform to 2015 revisions to MN Rules 8410. In part, the revisions will allow the Commission to modify the CIP with only minimal need for plan amendments.

On June 9, 2016, the Commissions adopted a minor amendment to the Plan which amended the Shingle Creek 2016 CIP to include: 1) an annual levy for city cost-share projects of \$200,000 with Commission cost-share of \$100,000; 2) Iron and Biochar-Enhanced Sand Filter Retrofits of \$210,000 with Commission cost-share at 100%; and 3) Partnership cost share (private projects) of \$100,00, with Commission cost-share of \$50,000; and further amended the West Mississippi 2016 CIP to include: 1) an annual levy for city cost-share projects of \$50,000 with Commission cost-share at 100%; and 2) Iron and Biochar-Enhanced Sand Filter Retrofits of \$80,000 with Commission cost-share at 100%.

On May 11, 2017, the Commissions adopted a seventh minor amendment to their joint Plan. In Shingle Creek a second phase to the Reaeration Project was added to the CIP at a project cost/Commission contribution of \$145,000; and specificity of description was added to the Shingle/Bass Creek project, now known as the Palmer Creek Estates Bass Creek Stream Restoration. Three other projects were moved to future years. In West Mississippi the 2017 CIP was revised to move three projects to future years.

AMENDMENTS TO THE JOINT WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN, *cont'd.*

On May 10, 2018, the Commissions adopted a minor amendment to the Plan which amended the Shingle Creek CIP to substitute the Bass and Pomerleau Lakes Alum Treatment Project for the generic Lake Internal Load Project in 2018 and added the SRP Reduction Project to the CIP, also in 2018. Two other projects were moved to future years. No revisions were made to the West Mississippi CIP.

On May 9, 2019, the Commission adopted the first of four new amendments to the Plan. The first amendment revised the CIP to add specificity to a project and to revise certain cost-share policies.

The second, adopted August 8, 2019, revised the CIP to reschedule and add specificity to a project and to adopt a cost-share policy for capital improvements.

The third amendment, adopted September 12, 2019, ordered four improvements, designating the members responsible for construction and certifying them for ad valorem levy. One improvement, City Cost Share Best Management Practices (BMP) Projects (\$53,025.00), was located in the West Mississippi watershed.

On October 10, 2019, the Plan was amended to add one West Mississippi project – River Park Storm Approvements - to its 2020 CIP.

The joint Plan was not amended in 2020.

On May 13, 2021, the Commissions adopted a minor amendment to the Plan which amended the West Mississippi CIP to add "Partnership Cost Share Projects." This program shares in the cost of Best Management Practices (BMPs) partnership projects with private landowners. Cost: \$100,000. The Shingle Creek CIP was amended to increase the cost of the existing Palmer Lake Estates Bass Creek Restoration Project from \$450,000 to \$600,000 and the Commission share to 100% of the project cost and to add "Channel Modification with SRP Filter Phase 2." This is the second phase of a project to install a media filter in a wetland outlet channel to reduce phosphorus to Upper Twin Lake. Cost: \$125,000.

2021 Education and Public Outreach

Due to the pandemic, in 2021 the West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA), focused on the new requirements of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit program. Together, the members developed three flyers with educational content regarding pet waste, chlorides/salt, and illicit discharge. They appear on the following pages and can be downloaded from WMWA's website, <http://www.westmetrowateralliance.org/>.

WMWA is a consortium of four WMOs including the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission and the Bassett Creek, Shingle Creek, and West Mississippi WMOs.

In 2021 the WMWA Work Plan was updated to reflect current practices. The updated Work Plan includes the following major revisions:

1. Added an equity statement affirming the group's commitment to environmental justice for all and outreach to historically underrepresented groups.
2. Revised the general educational goals for non-single family property owners and managers to focus solely on providing information and guidance on appropriate BMPs.
3. Removed educational goals for developers as cities were seen as being the most appropriate points of contact with these stakeholders.
4. Removed educational goals for training city staff, as those are the responsibility of the cities.
5. Removed educational goals for agricultural property owners and operators as Hennepin County staff have taken on that role acting as the county Soil and Water Conservation District.
6. Added a key educational goal for all the stakeholders to "understand the relationship between climate and water quality and water quantity."
7. Revised the plan to replace references to the Hennepin County website with the WMWA website.
8. Eliminated Measuring and Monitoring Public Awareness as a major task. One of WMWA's first activities was sponsoring a professional opinion poll in the four watersheds regarding knowledge and behaviors. WMWA does not expect to repeat that poll due to cost but will build measuring and evaluating into individual activities.
9. Strengthened the Communication and Information Sharing activity to incorporate the website and social media.
10. Eliminated the Develop and Coordinate Regional or Countywide Activities task. Early on, WMWA had sponsored a series of workshops for broader participation but found it to be an inefficient use of time and resources. The group will focus on spreading information about existing activities sponsored by other groups.

PET WASTE & WATER POLLUTION



Dog waste left on the ground washes into storm drains, lakes and streams, exposing people, pets and wildlife to harmful bacteria.

Good Neighbors Care About Clean Water

There are an estimated **310,000 dogs** in Hennepin County, and they create over **40,000 tons of waste** per year — that's a lot of poop!

This poop causes bacteria, excessive algae growth, and other water quality issues in our communities, so city ordinances require owners to clean up dog waste. This is also the neighborly thing to do to make sure we can all enjoy our local wetlands, lakes, and streams.

How does pet waste in my yard pollute water?

Dog waste contains harmful bacteria and parasites. When waste is left on lawns or not picked up, it is washed by the next rainstorm into the nearest lake or stream. Wading, swimming, or playing in bacteria-laden waters can be harmful to humans and pets alike. Pet waste also contains nutrients that promote weed and algae growth in lakes and rivers. Picking up pet waste keeps recreation areas clean, safe, and enjoyable.

What about all the other animals?

It is true that squirrels, birds and other wildlife can also contribute to water pollution. However, these animals tend to spread out waste across the landscape, whereas dog waste is concentrated in yards and along sidewalks or paths.

How can I be a good neighbor?

Pick up dog waste from your yard and throw it in the garbage — it is not a fertilizer. Carry disposable bags while walking your dog. Do the same at the dog park — don't make it somebody else's problem.

NEED MORE INFORMATION?

For more information regarding the information in this flier, visit:
westmetrowateralliance.org/pet-waste



WMWA
WEST METRO WATER ALLIANCE

SNOW AND ICE CARE

Help Keep Our Water Clean!

Salt use has been on the rise since the 1950s, leading to waters becoming increasingly salty. Chloride levels have become so high, many creeks and lakes are now considered unhealthy.

Chlorides harm plants and animals, contaminate drinking water, damage buildings, corrode vehicles, roads and bridges. Too much salt can lead to costly damages and environmental consequences!



Help keep our waters clean with these simple steps:

1. Clear walkways of snow to minimize ice build-up.
2. Temperature matters. If the temperature is below 15 degrees, salt doesn't work effectively. Consider using sand for traction.
3. Scatter salt where it's critical. Leave about 3 inches between grains of salt. A 12-ounce coffee cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares or a 20-foot driveway.
4. Sweep up leftover salt, sand and deicer to reuse as needed

Created in collaboration with MN Water Let's Keep it Clean, the West Metro Water Alliance and the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.



WATER SOFTENERS & THE ENVIRONMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

West Metro Water Alliance
westmetrowateralliance.org/water-softeners

Minnesota Department of Health
healthstate.mn.us

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
pca.state.mn.us/water/chloride-salts

Water softeners add salt to the water. All the salt we use goes into our lakes and streams. It takes only one teaspoon of salt to permanently pollute five gallons of water, making it too salty for many freshwater organisms.

Do I Really Need a Water Softener?

It depends!

Most of the groundwater in the Twin Cities is hard, meaning it has a high mineral content. Some cities pre-soften drinking water, while other cities leave water softening up to individual property owners.

If you live in a community that softens the drinking water, the water is already optimally softened so you do not need a water softener.

Cities in Hennepin County that soften drinking water:

- Minneapolis
- Golden Valley
- Bloomington
- New Hope
- Crystal
- Robbinsdale*
- Eden Prairie
- Tonka Bay
- Richfield
- Excelsior
- Saint Paul**

*Starting fall 2022

**Not in Hennepin County

If you live in Hennepin County and don't see your city on the list, chances are your water is not pre-softened. There is no requirement to soften your water, but you may wish to use a water softener to reduce your water's hardness. Contact your city to get information about the specific hardness of your water.

Have a private well? Use a test kit to test your water's hardness.

FACTS ABOUT WATER SOFTENERS

- ▶ Water softeners are used to reduce the hardness of water. This helps prevent mineral deposits on pipes, appliances, and glassware.
- ▶ Most softeners are ion-exchange systems. Hardness ions (calcium and magnesium) are exchanged for salt (sodium or potassium chlorides).

What Can I Do?

Determine if you really need one. If your water's hardness is less than **7 grains per gallon** (120 mg/L), you probably don't need a water softener. Contact your city for hardness information or use a test kit.

Reduce the salt. Only soften water that needs it. Don't soften water to outside spigots or cold water taps. Only soften to 5 grains per gallon — over-softening wastes salt and can corrode pipes. Check your unit's settings and adjust if they're too high.

Adjust the timer. If you have a timer-based softener, hire a professional to have it optimized or consider upgrading to a more efficient system.

Upgrade to a high-efficiency softener. If you're buying or upgrading a softener, look for one that has high salt-efficiency and is demand-initiated. You may pay a little more upfront, but you'll save on salt.

Filter out the iron. If you have a problem with iron, consider using an iron filter.

Conserve water. Reducing your overall water use has environmental and economic benefits.



2021 Project Reviews

Number	Project	Community	WCA LGU	Project Description	Impervious Area	Approved
2021-001	Highview 610	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of multi-tenant 7500 SF industrial building on 5.7 acres	Following development the site will be 75% impervious with 4.4 acres of impervious surface, an increase of 4.2 acres	11-Feb-21
2021-002	NorthPark Business Center Buildings V and VII	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of two office-warehouse buildings on 25 acres.	Following development site will be 70% impervious - 17.3 acres of impervious surface - increase of 17.3 acres	11-Feb-21
2021-003	Avery Park	Maple Grove	City	Construction of residential development on 24.6 acre site	Following development site will be 36% impervious with 8.8 acres of impervious surface, an increase of 8.6 acres	11-Mar-21
2021-004	610 Junction	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of 2 multi-tenant, 1 corporate HQ industrial buildings, associated utility, hardscape and landscape improvements and 3 stormwater management facilities on 37.4 acres	Following development site will be 76.5% impervious with 28.6 acres of impervious surface - increase of 28.6 acres	8-Apr-21
2021-005	NorthPark Business Center Building VII	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of office-warehouse building on 13.44 acres.	Following development site will be 80.97% impervious-10.88 acres of impervious surface, increase of 10.88 acres	8-Apr-21
2021-007	Twin Cities Twisters	Champlin	Comm	Construction of two-story athletic facility, parking lot and stormwater treatment area on 4.0 acres	Following development site will be 70% impervious with 2.80 acres of impervious surface, an increase of 2.80 acres	10-Jun-21
2021-008	610 Commerce Center Phase 3	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of office-warehouse building on 7.475 acres	Following development site will be 85% impervious with 5.0 acres of impervious surface, an increase of 5.0 acres	10-Jun-21
2021-009	CenterPoint - Wyoming Avenue	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Installation of plastic and steel natural gas pipeline, new regulator station on 4.9 acres	no increase in impervious area	10-Jun-21
2021-010	Xylon Avenue Extension	Brooklyn Park	Comm	Construction of Xylon Ave. extension between Xylon Ave. cul-de-sac and 101st Ave, with curb, gutter, pedestrian under-pass, storm sewer, trail, sidewalks on 7.12 acres	Following development site will be 28.2% impervious with 2.0 acres of impervious surface, an increase of 2.0 acres	8-Jul-21
2021-011	Zachary Distribution Center	Maple Grove	City	Construction of 172,224 SF distribution center building on 11.46 acres	Following development site will be 67% impervious - 7.77 acres impervious surface, increase of 7.68 acres from 0.09 existing impervious acres	12-Aug-21



West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission

2021-2022 Operating Budgets

		2021 Budget	2022 Budget
INCOME			
1	Application fees	\$18,000	\$18,000
2	Interest income	7,000	2,500
3	Assessment	153,600	156,200
5	Reserve - General	0	5,000
	TOTAL INCOME	\$178,600	\$181,700
EXPENSES			
	<i>Administration:</i>		
6	Administrative services	\$30,000	\$32,000
7	TAC/engineering support	5,000	4,000
8	Project reviews/WCA	1,500	1,500
	Subtotal	\$36,500	\$37,500
	<i>Engineering:</i>		
10	Engineering services	\$31,500	\$33,500
11	Grant writing	1,000	500
12	Project reviews/WCA	30,000	30,000
13	Blue Line Extension	0	0
	Subtotal	\$62,500	\$64,000
	<i>Legal:</i>		
14	Legal services	\$4,000	\$4,500
	Subtotal	\$4,000	4,500
	<i>Miscellaneous:</i>		
15	Accounting	\$3,000	\$3,300
16	Audit	5,500	5,000
17	Insurance & bonding	2,800	3,100
18	Meeting expense	2,700	2,700
	Subtotal	\$14,000	\$14,100
	<i>Monitoring:</i>		
19	Vol stream monitoring	\$0	\$0
20	Vol wetland monitoring	2,000	2,000
21	Outfall & stream monitoring	22,600	22,600
22	Annual monitoring report	8,000	8,000
	Subtotal	\$32,600	\$32,600
	<i>Education:</i>		
23	Education program	\$15,000	\$16,500
24	Rain garden workshops	2,000	0
25	WMWA implementation activities	11,500	11,500
26	Education grants	500	0
	Subtotal	\$29,000	\$28,000
	<i>Management Plans:</i>		
27	3 rd Gen Plan/plan amendments	0	1,000
	Subtotal	\$0	\$1,000
30	To (from) reserves	0	0
	TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE	\$178,600	\$181,700

West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission

2021-2022 Member Assessments

2021	2020 Tax Capacity		Cost Allocation		Cost Based		Total Cost	
Community	Acreage		Based on Area		on Tax Capacity			
			%age	Dollars	%age	Dollars	%age	Dollars
Brooklyn Center	1,660	9,158,330	10.46%	8,033	10.92%	8,387	10.69%	16,420
Brooklyn Park	9,880	49,614,398	62.26%	47,813	59.16%	45,436	60.71%	93,248
Champlin	3,620	20,767,803	22.81%	17,518	24.76%	19,019	23.79%	36,537
Maple Grove	530	2,911,603	3.34%	2,565	3.47%	2,666	3.41%	5,231
Osseo	180	1,410,734	1.13%	870	1.68%	1,292	1.41%	2,163
Totals	15,870	83,862,868	100.00%	76,800	100.00%	76,800	100.00%	153,600

2022	2021 Tax Capacity		Cost Allocation		Cost Based		Total Cost	
Community	Acreage		Based on Area		on Tax Capacity			
			%age	Dollars	%age	Dollars	%age	Dollars
Brooklyn Center	1,660	9,968,236	10.46%	8,160	11.10%	8,666	10.78%	16,835
Brooklyn Park	9,880	53,164,616	62.26%	48,633	59.18%	46,220	60.72%	94,843
Champlin	3,620	21,941,714	22.81%	17,815	24.42%	19,076	23.62%	36,891
Maple Grove	530	3,264,297	3.34%	2,608	3.63%	2,838	3.49%	5,446
Osseo	180	1,495,320	1.13%	885	1.66%	1,300	1.40%	2,185
Totals	15,870	89,834,183	100.00%	78,100	100.00%	78,100	100.00%	156,200

