

Washington

Conservation District

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www.mnwcd.org

WCD Board Meeting: 2nd Wednesday at 4:30 p.m.



Top 5 Natural Resource Concerns

1. Monitoring, protecting, and enhancing the surface water and groundwater quality of Washington County
2. Outreach and education
3. Urban and rural runoff, erosion, and sedimentation issues
4. Preservation and reconstruction of natural ecosystems (prairies, forests, savannas, water bodies)
5. Wetland issues

2008 Revenue

State (20%), County (20%), and Local (60%)

Total	\$1,429,626
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Recent Projects

Monitoring – The WCD water monitoring program is one of the largest local government monitoring programs in Minnesota. Current activities include monitoring over 40 stream, stormwater discharge, and/or water quality sampling sites, over 50 lake water quality monitoring sites, and over 100 lake gauges for monitoring lake elevation. Yearly summary reports allow partner organizations to make sound water resource decisions. Data from monitoring program are used to direct and prioritize education and BMP efforts to maximize water quality benefits.

EMWREP – The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership formed to implement a comprehensive water resource education and outreach program within Washington County. Based at WCD, other members include three watershed organizations, six cities, and Washington County. The goal of EMWREP is to reduce non-point source water pollution from storm water runoff and illicit discharges by educating citizens, municipal staff and officials, developers and businesses.

BMP installations – WCD works with multiple partners to facilitate the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by making technical and financial assistance available to landowners. The benefits of BMP projects include improved surface water quality, reduced erosion and sedimentation, enhanced groundwater recharge, and reduced stormwater runoff. Recently installed BMPs include grassed waterways, feedlot runoff management systems, bioretention systems (including rain gardens), wetland restorations, gully stabilizations, and shoreline stabilizations. Cost-share funding is provided by BWSR grants, WCD, watershed management organizations, federal agricultural programs, and other sources.

Washington County Conservation Plan – WCD is working with Washington County to develop and implement a county-wide natural resource assessment and prioritization plan. The plan uses detailed land cover mapping (MLCCS - Minnesota Land Cover Classification System) to identify those areas that provide the highest water quality, habitat, and groundwater benefits. Priority areas are then targeting for outreach and protection efforts.



Afton-Lakeland Gully – WCD staff, working with the Middle St. Croix Water Management Organization, obtained \$8,500 in engineering design funds from the AMSWCD NPEA Program and a \$75,000 BWSR Challenge Grant to stabilize an actively eroding gully. The project includes increasing upstream water capacity and stabilizing the side slopes and bottom of the gully.

Impaired Biota TMDL – Brown’s Creek is the first stream solely within Washington County to have a TMDL performed. The work is being done in cooperation with the Brown’s Creek Watershed District, WCD, Emmons and Olivier Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the University of Minnesota. Stressors to the stream include temperature, turbidity, and copper. Multiple approaches to reduce the impact of these pollutants will be integrated into the watershed and WCD implementation programs.

WCA – WCD staff provides technical assistance relating to many wetland issues. Of the nearly 30 local units of government in Washington County who have accepted authority for administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), six have their own staff dedicated to WCA. The others rely on the WCD Wetland Specialist. Considering the documented impacts, approved mitigation plans and non-regulatory wetland restoration since 1996, Washington County has achieved no-net-loss of wetlands.

Valley Ridge Mall Stormwater Retrofit – The WCD partnered with the owners of the Valley Ridge Mall to retrofit multiple stormwater management practices. As shown in the photos, the project was designed to provide aesthetically pleasing landscaping along with water quality treatment.



Valley Ridge Mall stormwater management practices.

Future Projects

St. Croix Nutrient Reduction Initiative – The WCD is working collaboratively with the Chisago SWCD to reduce pollutant loads from rural sources to the St. Croix River.

MIDS Community Assistance – The WCD will be working to assist multiple communities in the St. Croix Basin to implement the recommendations of the Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) project.

Conservation Plan – The WCD is developing the natural resource prioritization assessment to help guide land protection efforts in Washington County.

Trees for Stormwater – The WCD is partnering with local communities to promote programs to establish trees for stormwater runoff reduction.

Board Members

Louise Smallidge	Chair	(651) 459-5600	10992 Point Douglas Rd, Hastings, MN 55033
Gary Baumann	Secretary	(651) 653-6922	10600 Joliet Ave N, Stillwater, MN 55082
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Rosemary Wallace	Treasurer	(651) 342-0077	580 Eagle Ridge Trail, Stillwater, MN 55082