



2011 Annual Report & 2012 Annual Plan

Washington Conservation District:

Your Conservation Center in Washington County
Protecting our Land and Water Legacy!

The mission of the Washington Conservation District is to enhance, protect, and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance, and educational services to citizens and local governments. Under the watchful eye of our elected board, we have been encouraging voluntary conservation efforts since 1942. With the passage of the Clean Land and Water Legacy amendment, the WCD must be prepared to support enhanced conservation programs in Washington County.

The WCD is your resource for information about the county's natural resources and hands-on assistance about what you can do. We are your Conservation Center!

The WCD's dedicated staff of natural resource professionals are available to work with you to manage the natural resources on your property. At your request, we can visit your property, assess the situation, and offer helpful solutions. In many cases we can provide free design and financial assistance to do a project. Funding for the financial assistance comes from a variety of sources, including the State, WCD, your local watershed organization, and others.

To better know how and where to manage natural resources, the WCD partners with watershed districts, State agencies, non-profits, and others to collect, analyze, and disseminate information about the lakes, streams, and natural areas in the County. If you would like to learn more about the clarity of your lake, how often the nearby stream floods, or the quality of your woodlot, the WCD can help you get the information.

So if you have any questions about land and water conservation in Washington County, call the office, email our staff, or visit our website at www.mnwcd.org.

We are your Conservation Center in Washington County

Contact the Washington Conservation District for all of your conservation questions:

Staff (Phone Number = 651.275.1136)
www.mnwcd.org

Jay Riggs, District Manager, x20
Erik Anderson, Water Resource Specialist, x32
Amy Carolan, Middle St.Croix WMO Administrator, x22
Matt Downing, Water Resource Technician, x29
Wendy Griffin, Water Resource Specialist, x24
Angie Hong, Water Resource Education Specialist, x35
Karen Kill, Brown's Creek Administrator, x26
Adam King, Water Resource Technician, x23
Tara Kline, Natural Resource BMP Technician, x28
Shari Larkin, Administrative Assistant, x27
Rusty Schmidt, Natural Resource Specialist, x36
Jyneen Thatcher, Natural Resource Specialist, x25
Jessica Thiel, Senior Water Resource/GIS Technician, x30
Katie Wigen, Water Resource Technician
Pete Young, District Engineer, x21

Email: firstname.lastname@mnwcd.org

Who to Contact?

General WCD questions - Shari or Jay
Educational opportunities - Angie
Erosion control and gully stabilization - Pete
Feedlots and pasture management - Pete or Adam
Land conservation - Jay
Forest management - Todd
Groundwater resources - Erik or Wendy
Habitat restoration - Jyneen, Rusty, or Amy
Lake and stream quality - Erik, Jessi, Matt, or Adam
Natural Resource Inventories - Amy
Blue Thumb - Angie
Raingardens - Rusty
Shoreline stabilization - Pete or Amy
Stormwater management - Rusty, Amy, or Pete
Stream restoration - Amy or Rusty
Trees plantings - Wendy
Watershed management - Karen, Amy, or Jay
Weeds - Amy or Jyneen
Wetlands and wetland permitting - Todd
Can't decide? - Shari or Jay

WCD BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

The WCD's elected Board of Supervisors can be contacted through the WCD office.

Vacant, District 1

Sarah Hietpas, District 2

John Rheinberger, District 3

Louise Smallidge, District 4

Jim Levitt, District 5



An installed and newly planted curb-cut raingarden.



Kids help with a lakeshore planting in Comfort Lake - Forest Lake Watershed.



Natural Resource Specialist Amy Carolan identifies native vegetation.

Our mission is to enhance, protect and preserve the natural resources of Washington County through conservation projects, technical guidance and educational services



2011 Accomplishments

Priorities for 2012

Monitoring

The WCD water monitoring program is one of the largest local government monitoring programs in Minnesota. WCD monitors over 50 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 the monitoring program are used to direct and prioritize education and BMP efforts to maximize water quality benefits.



Water Resource Technician Katie Wigen finds a stream probe.

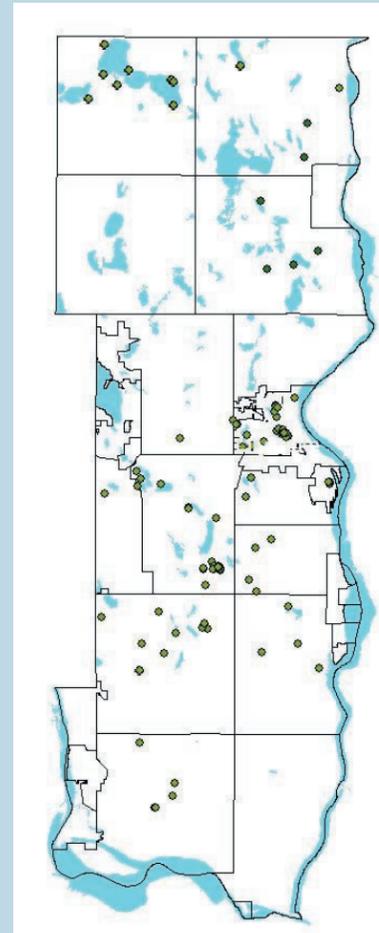
EMWREP

The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership hosted by WCD that also includes eight watershed organizations, seven cities and Washington County. The goal is to educate about the impacts of non-point source pollution on local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and engage people in clean water projects.

BMP Installations

WCD works with multiple partners to facilitate the installation of Best Management Practices (BMPs) by offering technical and financial assistance to landowners. BMP projects improve surface water quality, reduce erosion and sedimentation, enhance groundwater recharge, and reduce 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. As shown on the adjacent map, over 110 projects were installed in 2011.

2011 BMP Project Locations



Prioritization Efforts

WCD staff are using modeling and field work to pinpoint the best locations for the best water quality improvement practices. This effort, called a Subwatershed Analysis (SWA), includes a cost-benefit analysis. The primary steps to conduct a SWA include:

1. Identify and prioritize sub watersheds that most impact high priority water resources.
2. Map BMP potential within the highest priority sub watersheds.
3. Design BMPs.
4. Calculate pollutant removal and estimate costs.
5. Implement priority projects.

In 2011, WCD conducted SWAs for Lake St. Croix, Carver Lake, Colby Lake, and others.

WCA

WCD staff provides technical assistance for 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), 24 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.

111 projects installed in 2011!

2011 Budget

2011 Actual Revenue: \$1,748,496
2011 Actual Expenses: \$1,748,407

Implement Core Programs

- * Resource Monitoring and Assessment
- * Conservation Technical Assistance
- * Watershed and WCD Program Management
- * Water Resource Education
- * Wetland Assistance

Prioritize implementation through resource and subwatershed assessments.

Promote and implement adaptive ecosystem management.

Support implementation of projects to restore impaired waters.

Implement enhanced technical and financial-assistance programs countywide.

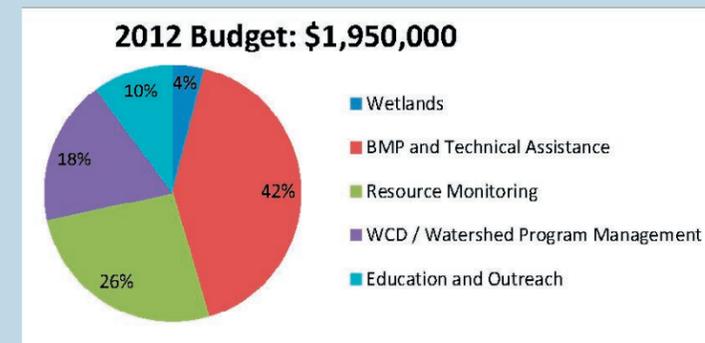
Enhance rural and agricultural outreach and implementation efforts.



Natural Resources BMP Technician Tara Kline assists with a shoreline planting in Stillwater.

2012 Programs – Staff Time Allocation (Total of 28,021 Hours)

Funding Sources:
57% Local, 18% County, and 26% State



From the top of the county to the bottom: The WCD assisted with a streambank repair project along the Sunrise River in Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed (top) and installation of raingardens at the Cottage Grove Target (bottom).