



South Washington Watershed District Newsletter

October 2008

Vol. 1 Issue 1



Welcome to our Watershed

Welcome to the South Washington Watershed District!

The District is located entirely in Washington County and contains portions of eight cities and townships: Afton, Cottage Grove, Grey Cloud Island Township, Lake Elmo, Newport, Oakdale, St. Paul Park and Woodbury.

The South Washington Watershed District is governed by a five member Board of Managers. Managers are appointed by the Washington County Board of Commissioners and serve three year terms. A Manager may serve multiple terms. Current SWWD Board Members are:

Jack Lavold, President

Dennis Hanna, Vice President

Brian Johnson, Vice President

Don Pereira, Secretary

Michael Madigan, Treasurer

Board of Managers regular meetings are held the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Please check the SWWD website for current meeting dates and times at www.swwdmn.org.

What is a watershed?

A watershed is all the land area that drains to a specific water resource, such as a lake or stream. Watersheds range in size from a few square miles to an entire continent. As rainwater and melting snow run downhill, they carry sediment and other materials into streams, lakes, and groundwater. Watersheds provide water for drinking, irrigation, streams, and activities such as fishing, swimming, and boating. In addition, watersheds also provide food and shelter for wildlife.



2009 Annual Work Plan and Budget

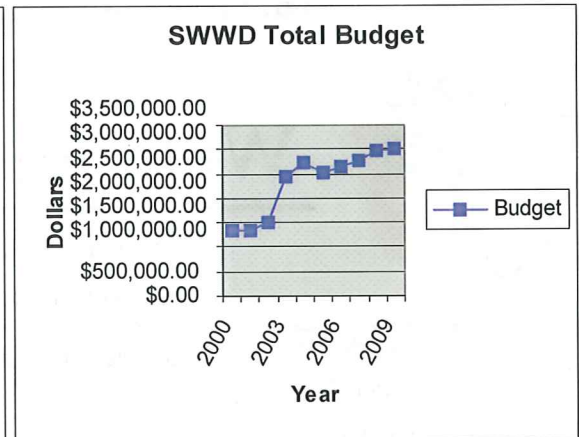
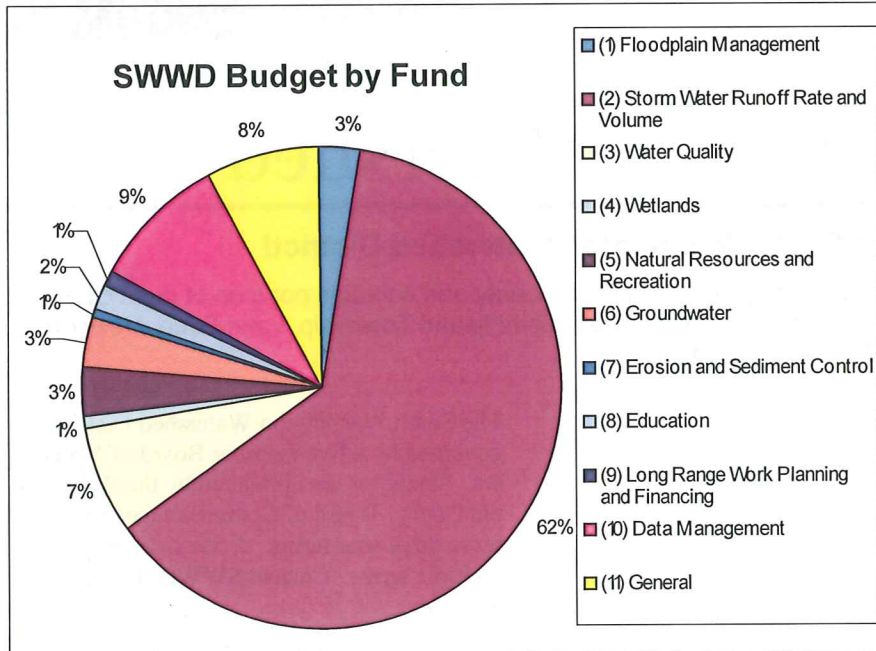
The District Board annually prioritizes work activities from the long range work plan constituting targeted efforts for the coming year. These work activities translate into the annual work plan and budget for the SWWD. The annual work plan allows the District Board to establish a short term operating budget while maintaining connection to the overall long term management goals of the District. Ten Management areas have been defined through which the SWWD will work to execute the annual work plan. The areas are: (1) Floodplain Management, (2) Stormwater Runoff Rate and Volume, (3) Water Quality, (4) Wetlands, (5) Natural Resources and Recreation, (6) Groundwater, (7) Erosion and Sediment Control, (8) Education, (9) Long Range Work Plan and Financing, (10) Data Management, and a General Fund. According to Minnesota Statute 103D.911 the SWWD must hold a hearing and adopt a preliminary budget on or before September 15th of each year. The Final budget certification is due to Washington County by December 31st of each year. The entire SWWD work plan and budget can be viewed on our web site at www.swwdmn.org.

Management Area	2009 Proposed Budget
(1) Floodplain Management	\$85,000.00
(2) Storm Water Runoff	\$1,869,000.00
(3) Water Quality	\$224,057.68
(4) Wetlands	\$20,000.00
(5) Natural Resources and Recreation	\$100,000.00
(6) Groundwater	\$100,000.00
(7) Erosion and Sediment Control	\$23,094.57
(8) Education	\$48,113.68
(9) Long Range Work Planning	\$29,509.72
(10) Data Management	\$279,059.35
(11) General	\$233,387.00
Total	\$3,011,222.00

2009 Work Plan and Budget Cont.



The following charts show the 2009 budget percentage by each Management Fund Area and the annual budget trend.



The watershed plan was used to generate the 2009 budget. This has required a restructure of funds for 2009. The overall budget reflects a slight increase. The SWWD work plan for 2009 has increased activities for projects in floodplain management, wetlands, water quality, and erosion and sediment control.



2009 Stormwater Utility Fees

Watershed Districts have the authority by State law to levy a property tax to implement projects and programs within the watershed. The SWWD has collected tax revenue since 1997, for the purposes outlined under State Law. The SWWD collects a majority of its project fund revenue using a stormwater utility fee. The stormwater utility fee is labeled "SWWatershed" under special assessment on Washington County Tax statements. The revenue collected is used to pay back bonds, pay for capital projects, pay for the operation and maintenance of regional stormwater/flood control systems, and to pay for projects to improve stormwater runoff quality. Each year the SWWD Board adjusts the rates based on the proposed budget to implement watershed projects.

The Central Draw Overflow project is a part of a comprehensive solution to address flooding related issues in the Northern sub-watershed. This project will provide a controlled overflow of excess stormwater runoff from the Northern sub-watershed, South to the Mississippi River. Project financing is achieved by dividing 25% of the total project across the entire SWWD and the remaining 75% to the Northern sub-watershed. For more information visit our website at: <http://www.swwdmn.org/stormwater.htm>

Sub-watershed Area	Total Revenue	Annual Charge
Total \$ Amount 75% Project Area	\$1,229,250.00	\$91.99
Total \$ Amount 25% Project Area	\$1,059,750.00	\$29.42
Utility Revenue	\$2,289,000.00	
Percent Chngne 2008-2009	-2.01%	

Administrator's Corner By Matt Moore, SWWD Administrator

With the lack of rainfall this year from the middle of June through late October, Southern Minnesota is as much as 5-inches below normal annual precipitation. This condition demonstrates the value of water resources. While current climate conditions can be viewed as a cyclical weather condition, it serves to remind us of our role to conserve water. We have all heard the water saving tips of turn off the tap when you brush your teeth, or only run the dishwasher when it is full. These are wise tips for conserving water and every little bit will help. Collectively, this adds up to a large scale conservation effort, because remember all of our drinking water is supplied by groundwater resources here in Washington County. Conservation is one way to protect groundwater resources. For more information go to:

www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/appropriations/conservation.html



We're on the Web!
<http://www.swwdmn.org>