

2014 Annual Report



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Board of Managers

2014-2015

Manager	Position	Term Expires	City/County
Mr. Jack Lavold 6859 Ideal Avenue South Cottage Grove, MN 55016 651-459-8891	President	05/01/2017	Cottage Grove/Washington
Mr. Dennis Hanna, 9301 Grey Cloud Island Dr. St. Paul Park, MN 55071 651-459-2281	Vice-President	05/01/2016	Grey Cloud Island/Washington
Mr. Brian Johnson 4353 Dorchester Drive Woodbury, MN 55129 651-458-3739	Vice-President	05/01/2016	Woodbury/Washington
Mr. Don Pereira 8232 River Acres Road Cottage Grove, MN 55016 651-769-0429	Secretary	05/01/2015	Cottage Grove/Washington
Mr. Mike Madigan 2366 Hidden Lake Cove Woodbury, MN 55125 651-702-0488	Treasurer	05/01/2017	Woodbury/Washington

Introduction

The Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed Management Organization (WMO) was formed in 1984 to manage the resources of the watershed. This WMO was based on a joint powers agreement among the five cities in the watershed. A draft watershed management plan for the WMO was completed in April 1988; however, this plan was never approved or adopted by the WMO.

The WMO was later disbanded, and, in 1993, the Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed District was formed as the 42nd watershed district in Minnesota. The watershed district changed its name to the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) in 1995. The SWWD was formed under, and operates in accordance with, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B, "Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act", and Chapter 103D, "Watershed Districts."

The SWWD completed development of the watershed plan in 1996, approval of the plan was granted by the State Board of Water and Soil Resources in 1997, and later amended in 2002. Since that time the SWWD has focused its efforts on determining potential flood risk and developing a comprehensive flood relief system. The proposed system is designed in two phases; 1) reduce potential flood damages for existing developed areas of the watershed; 2) develop a comprehensive solution that provides stormwater management and flood control with capacity for the planned growth included in the 2020 comprehensive land use plans.

In April 2003, the SWWD petitioned the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to enlarge the boundary and include the East Mississippi Water Management Organization. The East Mississippi Water Management Organization included all or portions of Grey Cloud Island Township, Cottage Grove, Woodbury, St. Paul Park, and Newport. The enlargement was completed as a part of recommendations from the Washington County Water Governance Study (1999). The enlargement petition was approved on May 28, 2003 by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). SWWD again petitioned BWSR in May 2010 to enlarge the SWWD boundary and include portions of the dissolved Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (LSCWMO) which included all of Denmark Township and portions of Afton, Cottage Grove and Hastings. BWSR approved the enlargement in September 2010.

SWWD updated the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) through 2007, with BWSR approval in September of 2007, and SWWD Board adoption in November 2007. The updated plan lays out guidance on the management of water and natural resources through the year 2017. The WMP plan was amended in 2010 to include the new Coordinated Capital Improvement Program and three additional capital improvement projects. Another amendment to incorporate areas in its expanded boundary and the priorities and projects identified in the LSCWMO plan was completed in 2011.

The WMP complies with Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, "Metropolitan Area Local Water Management," (May 27, 1992), the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, and Minnesota Statute 103D.

This report has been prepared in accordance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.0150, Annual Reporting Requirements. Content of this report pertain to the calendar year 2014.

2014 Financial Report

The 2014 audit report is in Appendix A. Revenue and program expenditure summaries 2013-2015 are presented below.

Revenue

Revenue Source	2013	2014	2015*
Ad Valorem Levy	\$ 718,224.32	\$ 746,292.96	\$ 777,590.76
Stormwater Utility			
25% Area	\$ 1,348,637.50	\$ 1,377,787.50	\$ 1,383,300.00
75% Area	\$ 1,091,812.50	\$ 1,085,962.50	\$ 1,107,150.00
E. Mississippi	\$ 270,365.00	\$ 277,865.00	\$ 287,860.00
Lower St. Croix	\$ 91,480.00	\$ 91,105.00	\$ 91,270.00
Total Revenue	\$ 3,520,519.32	\$ 3,579,012.96	\$ 3,647,170.76

*Anticipated Revenue

Program Expenditures

Program Area	2013 Budget	2013 Actual	2014 Budget	2014 Actual/Unaudited	2015 Budget
1.0 Floodplain Management	\$ 16,150	\$ 55,986.00	\$ 20,055	\$ 9,283	\$11,330
2.0 Stormwater Management	\$1,138,890	\$4,813,810	\$ 1,130,040	\$ 1,011,276	\$1,157,330
3.0 Water Quality	\$369,569	\$ 514,343	\$ 371,440	\$ 178,583	\$387,500
4.0 Wetlands	\$ 4,773.08	\$ 4,958	\$ 11,920	\$ 5,452	\$33,720
5.0 Natural Resources	\$ 42,800	\$ 51,350	\$ 46,420	\$ 38,325	\$44,400
6.0 Groundwater	\$ 87,400	\$ 4,685	\$ 88,440	\$ 3,034	\$90,000
7.0 Erosion and Sediment Control	\$ 3,200	\$ 3,132	\$ 9,460	\$ 6,980	\$14,000
8.0 Education	\$ 43,300	\$ 37,993	\$ 43,600	\$ 29,557	\$44,100
9.0 Long Range/Work Plan/Finance	\$ 585,505	\$ 417,591	\$ 590,605	\$ 269,742	\$589,600
10.0 Data Management	\$ 178,755	\$ 198,438	\$ 183,609	\$ 236,645	\$177,919
11.0 General	\$ 265,327	\$ 250,031	\$ 289,274	\$ 302,235	\$298,772
12.0 Debt Service	\$ 784,850	\$761,195	\$ 794,150	\$ 761,700	\$798,500
Total Budget	\$3,520,519	\$7,113,512	\$3,579,013	\$2,852,812	\$3,647,171

2014 Activity Report

Floodplain Management

- SWWD monitored potential floodplain impacts from projects as part of its development review process. Multiple projects within the floodplain were reviewed, none of which decreased floodplain storage.
- Multiple projects within the Wilmes Lake watershed were reviewed for potential downstream impact at Wilmes Lake which has exhibited past flooding. No projects reviewed in 2014 are expected to exacerbate existing flooding concerns.
- SWWD maintains extensive hydraulic and hydrologic modeling of the District. Staff continues to work with City staff to accommodate incoming development while preserving critical floodplain storage in the District as identified in District models.

Stormwater Runoff Rate and Volume

- SWWD ensures compliance with rate and volume requirements by coordinating development reviews with Municipalities that have adopted a local surface water management plan and updated official controls. Staff conducts full development reviews of projects in Municipalities that have yet to adopt their plan or update controls. In Municipalities with an adopted plan and updated controls, SWWD reviews projects for regional impact. Staff reviewed 10 projects in 2014.
- SWWD continued to operate an extensive stormwater monitoring network. Data collected as part of the program is used to identify trends in water quality which are largely driven by changes in stormwater runoff. Monitoring reports for 2014 are expected to be available mid-summer. The monitoring data is available on the SWWD Web-based database that allows users to access District data and performs basic statistical and plotting functions. In 2014, SWWD worked with UMN staff to complete an extensive analysis of SWWD's regional monitoring assessment sites. This project provided any potential data inconsistencies resulting from changing sampling procedures over the time of record and provide in depth analysis of quality of water leaving the watershed.
- SWWD continued coordination with the City of St. Paul Park, Cottage Grove, Washington County and the Minnesota Department of Transportation to solve a drainage problem at 70th Street and Highway 61. In 2013 Minnesota Native Landscapes completed construction on the lower ponds of the project. In 2014 SWWD continued to work with landowners to acquire the remaining easements to begin construction on the upper portion of the ponds. In 2014, a contract extension with Minnesota Native Landscapes was approved to allow SWWD to work with the City of Cottage Grove to find a solution to obtain the final easement.
- The Grey Cloud Slough is a side channel of the Mississippi River in southern Washington County. This section of the River is within the Mississippi National River and Recreational Area and is a designated State water trail. Unfortunately, the slough is severely degraded. Flow from the Mississippi River into the slough was cut off following construction of an earthen embankment and roadway across the mouth of the slough in the 1960s. As a direct result, the slough exhibits stagnation, poor water quality, and severely degraded backwater aquatic habitat.

Water quality and habitat restoration in the slough has long been a priority for the region and draws significant interest from local, state, and federal agencies, non-profit organizations, and area residents. That interest is evidenced by a high level of participation in a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) to explore options to restore the slough. That TAC included representatives from Denmark Township, Washington County, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) formed its Grey Cloud TAC in 2011 to provide a formal setting to engage all interested parties, coordinate agency efforts, and tap technical expertise in identifying cost-effective solutions to achieving SWWD water quality and habitat goals for the slough. The consensus of the TAC was that reconnecting the slough to the main channel of the Mississippi River was the essential first step to restore water quality and habitat. Through use of an engineering consulting firm, the TAC examined several options for that making that reconnection. Ultimately, the TAC came to the consensus that constructing a bridge or bottomless culvert in place of the existing earthen embankment was the best of several options explored due to the following reasons: 1) Most importantly, a bridge fully restores hydrologic connectivity to the slough over other options (e.g. culverts) and will immediately improve water quality to match that of the main channel and restores sediment transport; 2) The bridge offers improved fish passage, provides boating

access to the slough, and dramatically improves boater and roadway safety. The SWWD Board of Managers accepted the TAC consensus and is proposing to construct a bridge or bottomless culvert as a first step toward the goal of restoring water quality and backwater aquatic habitat in the Grey Cloud Slough.

In 2014, the Township and County decided that construction of a bridge would best maintain the full hydro connectivity with the main channel. SWWD Staff continues work to develop both public and private partnerships and seek supplemental funding sources to fill the gap between SWWD and Washington County funds and the total project costs.



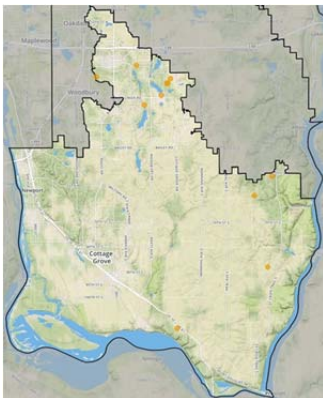
- In 2013, The SWWD constructed Phase I of the overflow along the re-aligned CSAH 19-20-22 project during the summer of 2013. Construction of Phase I included installation of 5778 lineal feet 72-inch concrete pipe at times 45-feet deep. Two pipe jacking were installed one 390-feet long. Other coordinated elements of the project constructed 150+ A.F. of regional stormwater storage and connected the system to existing Cottage Grove storm sewer system providing limited outlet capacity. Total project cost \$7.7 million \$3.1 million is the SWWD share for the overflow portion. In 2014, Washington County began working with the Phase I contractor to complete remaining punch

list items. In 2014, SWWD authorized final design for Phase II of the overflow project; stabilization below TH61 on 3M property. Construction is planned for summer 2015. SWWD has started permitting discussions with MnDNR. It is their preference to permit each phase separately. Permitting for phase II will occur concurrently with the final design process.

- Central Draw Overflow Phase II-V EAW. In 2013, SWWD and its consultants began to develop a voluntary Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) for the remaining phases of the overflow project. This task will coincide with the development of the overflow stabilization strategies. The goal of the EAW will be to work through agency concerns prior to any formal permitting process. In June 2014, the SWWD Board approved the EAW and Phase II design for the project started.
- Cottage Grove East Ravine. After years of negotiation and development, the City of Cottage Grove and the SWWD entered into an agreement for the common use SWWD property for flood control, stormwater management, parks and open space, the conveyance of regional floodwaters through the City's Central Draw storm sewer system, and development of a combined local/regional storm sewer (Central Draw Overflow) system through the planned East Ravine neighborhood. The purpose of this Agreement is to integrate local and regional management efforts resulting in a combined Stormwater Management system to convey local and regional runoff in a controlled and efficient manner and to improve the quality of surface water.

Water Quality

- In 2014 SWWD continued its performance based cost share program. Instead of reimbursing land owners for a specific percentage of total project cost, SWWD reimburses land owners based on the amount of phosphorus that their project is expected to retain. SWWD's 2014 reimbursement rate was \$5,000.00 per pound of phosphorus retained with reimbursement capped at total project cost. SWWD allocated \$70,000.00 to 15 projects in 2014. Together, the projects funded by SWWD in 2014 are expected to capture 15 lbs of phosphorus. Projects with higher funding levels typically treated runoff from several properties.



11 Completed Practices
26.83 Total Phosphorous Reduction
40152 Total Suspended Solids Reduction



- State Clean Water Fund Re-Use Systems. SWWD, working in partnership with the City of Woodbury and Washington County, secured a Clean Water Land and Legacy Grant to fund construction of water re-use systems at Eagle Valley and Prestwick Golf Courses. The re-use systems construction work continued in 2014. When the two systems are completed, the immediate watershed load reduction necessary to restore Colby Lake will be met. Additional work will still be required upstream (Wilmes Lake) and in-lake.

Eagle Valley Golf Course system The proposed project includes pumping water from an existing City pond to the Eagle Valley Golf Course's irrigation pond. This nutrient laden water which would otherwise drain to Colby Lake will then be used for irrigation of the golf course, largely reducing the golf course's current reliance on groundwater for irrigation. When the irrigation pond is at capacity, water pumped out of City pond will be diverted to existing upstream which will result in recirculation of water through several additional ponds as a means to provide additional treatment.



Preswick Golf Course system Existing City ponds will be modified to provide one contiguous reservoir which will receive water via the existing drainage system. A new pump station and related infrastructure will deliver water from the new reservoir to the existing golf course irrigation system. When irrigation is unnecessary, water will be diverted to other existing ponds within the golf course with high infiltration rates. The new reuse system will result in extensive irrigation of the golf course with nutrient laden water that would otherwise drain to Bailey Lake in place of pumped groundwater.



- The SWWD Board of Managers awarded \$301,311.00 through its Coordinated Capital Improvement Program (CCIP) in 2014. \$222,000.00 was awarded to the City of Woodbury for pond maintenance, Evergreen Pond maintenance and extension of ponds, and a Pump Station installation at Wilmes Lake. \$79,311.00 was awarded to the City of Cottage Grove for pond maintenance, the purchase of a trailer jetter which will be used for storm sewer maintenance, and improvements in the Everwood Ravine. Together, the projects were estimated to reduce phosphorus in stormwater runoff by 19lbs/yr.

- In 2014, SWWD continued to work with the Washington Conservation District to develop the Wilmes, Armstrong, and Markgrafs Lakes retrofit assessments. The retrofit assessment follows a protocol developed by the Metro Association of SWCDs to systematically identify the most cost effective projects for reducing the target pollutant. All three assessments focus on growing season phosphorus loading.
- SWWD secured a FY 2012 Clean Water Fund grant for installation of priority BMPs throughout the Trout Brook watershed which were identified through Washington Conservation District's Top50P! projects. Two projects were constructed and completed in 2014. WCD has identified one more project for 2015. Work under the grant was extended to December 2015.

The Robert Schuster Project The Schuster project consisted of a ravine stabilization, removal of a failed landbridge/dam on the stream, and garbage removal.



Schuster Before



Schuster After

Robert Schoonover Project The Schoonover project included a grade control and sediment basin installation. The project was located in the headwaters of Trout Brook.



Schoonover Sediment Basin



Schoonover Outlet Control Structure

- Restoration of Trout Brook was identified as a local priority by the former Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization which previously managed SWWD's Trout Brook watershed. Throughout 2014, Staff worked with MnDNR and Afton Alps Ski Area to develop a restoration plan for Trout Brook. Once a plan is complete, MnDNR and SWWD will then be positioned to seek grant funding throughout 2014/2015. Ultimately, a restored Trout Brook would provide habitat to support a cold water fishery while also reducing sediment and phosphorus loading to the impaired Lake St. Croix.

Wetlands

- In 2012, SWWD became the Local Governmental Unit (LGU) for wetland permits within the SWWD boundary. In 2014, SWWD reviewed 22 applications, one violation, and four project sites. SWWD staff conducted development reviews to ensure compliance with SWWD wetland standards and participated as part of the Washington County Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) to evaluate wetland impacts of proposed projects.

Natural Resources

- In 2014, Great River Greening continued contract work on the prairie restoration and maintenance at its Central Draw regional infiltration basins. The contract includes proposed work through June 2017 and includes prairie/savanna establishment and maintenance, development and coordination of volunteer events, development and oversight of a simulated grazing (i.e. haying) program, and development of research opportunities with the University of Minnesota. This work will partially be funded through LCCMR funds through Great River Greening. Once restored, the basins will provide regional water quality treatment and flood control while also serving as public open space and providing key connections in regional greenway and trail corridors. In April 2014, SWWD partnered with Great River Greening and hosted an Arbor Day Event. 125 volunteers turned out to plant trees with Great River Greening in the South Washington Conservation Corridor. Another volunteer restoration event is schedule for Spring of 2015.

Groundwater

- SWWD staff worked with Washington Conservation District and the Minnesota Department of Health to continue development and operation of a groundwater quality regional assessment program. The program consists of collecting seasonal water quality samples from wells existing around the CD-P85 and CD-P86 regional infiltration basins and Bailey Lake. Collected data are included in the SWWD monitoring report and will be used to monitor groundwater quality and serve as an indicator of potential impacts resulting from use of regional infiltration facilities. This effort is part of a larger initiative by State agencies to evaluate potential effects of large scale infiltration.
- SWWD began collaboration with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to install additional monitoring wells on SWWD property as part of an effort to expand the State's groundwater monitoring network.
- The SWWD maintains communications with Municipal water suppliers to understand the implications of the North and East Metro Groundwater Management area draft plan. A major effort of the draft plan is promoting water conservation. The SWWD partners with Municipal water suppliers to promote water conservation through residential irrigation retro-fits, education, smart technology and stormwater reuse.

Erosion and Sediment Control

- SWWD standards require projects to meet NPDES requirements for erosion and sediment control. SWWD standards also require Municipalities to identify an inspector and conduct regular inspections. In addition to City inspections, SWWD staff conducts four inspections annually to ensure that the City inspection programs are promoting compliance as intended. SWWD works with City staff to enforce compliance on issues identified in inspections.

Education

- SWWD continues to participate and support the Metro Watershed Partners program, Blue Thumb, and Project NEMO.
- In 2014, SWWD Co-Sponsored the Minnesota Association of Watershed District Summer Tour. The tour focused on water quality and preservation of the St. Croix River basin in Stillwater. Approximately 200 watershed managers, staff, and other elected officials attended the two-day event.
- Again in 2014, SWWD participated in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP). The EMWREP annual activities report is in Appendix B.

Long Range Work Planning and Finance

- In 2014, SWWD continued collecting stormwater utility fees in the South Washington Watershed, East Mississippi, and Lower St. Croix management units. Revenue will be used to fund water quality projects only within each of the management units. The East Mississippi, including stabilization of the Newport Ravine, construction of a stormwater pond to relieve capacity problems at the clear channel pond, and flow restoration to the Grey Cloud Island Slough.
- In 2014, SWWD began the process for updating the SWWD Rules and Standards. SWWD's current rules were adopted December 13, 2011. Since that time, a new MS4 general permit has been issued, the District has updated its hydrologic guidance documents to include Atlas 14 rainfall rates, and the District updated its Ravine Lake management plan. All of these changes necessitate changes to District Rules. After the public comment period, the Rules were formally adopted by the SWWD in early 2015.

Data Management

- SWWD staff continues to collect and organize all SWWD monitoring data from the Washington Conservation District. SWWD completed an online database for accessing monitoring data through the SWWD website. In 2014, SWWD developed a project with University of Minnesota to complete an extensive analysis of SWWD's regional assessment sites. This work corrected any potential data inconsistencies resulting from changing sampling procedures over the time of record and provided an in depth analysis of quality of water leaving the watershed.

General

- The SWWD maintains a general fund for daily operations of the district. General fund operations include, staff, managers, office expenses, insurance, audit and legal services.

Debt Service

- The SWWD maintains a debt service fund for the purpose of retiring current debt. In 2002 the SWWD issued general obligation bonds for the purchase to property. The property provided the necessary downstream capacity for existing flood control conditions. Debt was issued on a 15 year term. In 2011, the SWWD issued general obligation bonds for the construction of three projects within the East Mississippi management area.

2015 Workplan

Floodplain Management

Floodplain management is an integral element of stormwater management in the South Washington Watershed. The watershed exhibits many large depressions in the landscape that are land locked. Preservation of locally identified floodplains provides adequate storage and flood protection for future development. Federal Emergency Management Agency recently completed a floodplain restudy of Washington County.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	43,650	16,150	20,055	11,330	\$91,185

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(1) Floodplain Management			\$11,330.00
Hydrologic Modeling			
Project Management	\$2,650.00		
Data Collection	\$400.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$5,000.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$1,200.00		
Reporting	\$400.00		
Flood Damage Reduction			
Legal	\$1,680.00		

Management Area Goal

Opportunistically manage floodplains for multiple, non-development uses.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain adequate floodplain protection in newly developing areas.
- Ensure correct floodplain freeboard for newly built structures in developing areas.
- Provide assistance to County, Cities and Townships with application of updated FEMA Map FIRM's.
- Provide general assistance to watershed residents regarding floodplain information.

Stormwater Runoff Rate and Volume

A primary focus of the SWWD since creation in 1993 has been the management of stormwater runoff. Since the Northern Watershed is essentially land locked, the watershed is volume sensitive, therefore additions of stormwater runoff volumes due to development requires rigorous management. The major component of this management area is the planning, design and construction of the watershed overflow. The overflow will provide overflow capacity for excess runoff during extreme hydrologic events from the northern watershed to the Mississippi River.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	\$1,110,650	\$1,138,890	\$1,130,040	\$1,157,330	\$4,536,910

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(2) Storm Water Runoff Rate and Volume			\$1,157,330.00
Flood Damage Reduction			
Project Management	\$6,400.00		
Modeling/Mapping/Protection			
Project Management	\$6,000.00		
Data Collection	\$800.00		
Assessment and Evaluation	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$400.00		
Overflow Design			
Project Management	\$9,800.00		
Data Collection	\$10,000.00		
Feasibility/Preliminary Design	\$25,000.00		
Final Design	\$29,800.00		
Final Plans and Specs	\$25,000.00		
Legal	\$14,700.00		
Watershed Overflow Implementation Fund			
Project Management	\$14,800.00		
Data Collection	\$10,000.00		
Appraisal	\$10,000.00		
Survey	\$10,000.00		
Legal	\$14,700.00		
Implementation Fund		\$785,000.00	
Hydrologic Modeling/Project Design			
Project Management	\$10,000.00		
Data Collection	\$12,500.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$15,000.00		
Assessment and Evaluation	\$12,500.00		
Meetings/Correspondance	\$7,500.00		
Reporting	\$12,500.00		
Legal	\$1,680.00		
Implementation Fund	\$4,180.00	\$17,000.00	
Hydrologic Modeling/Project Design			
Project Management	\$2,500.00		
Data Collection	\$3,750.00		
Feasibility/Preliminary Design	\$3,750.00		
Final Design	\$5,625.00		
Final Plans and Specs	\$5,625.00		
Legal	\$1,260.00		
Sub Watershed Implementation Fund-LSC			
Project Management	\$1,250.00		
Data Collection	\$1,250.00		
Appraisal	\$5,000.00		
Survey	\$5,000.00		
Legal	\$1,260.00		
Implementation Fund		\$55,000.00	

Management Area Goal

Minimize existing and future potential damages to property, public safety, and water resources due to flood events.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain implementation fund for the watershed overflow project.
- Maintain and update watershed models to provide best available information to guide SWWD programs and projects.
- Work cooperatively with the City of Cottage Grove and St. Paul Park to provide stormwater control for the Clear Channel Pond project in the EMW.
- Work cooperatively with the Grey Cloud Island Township to secure funding and support for implementation of the Grey Cloud Channel project in the EMW.
- Work cooperatively with the City of Cottage Grove on the East Ravine improvements.
- Planning and implementation for phase II of the overflow project.

Water Quality

Water quality improvement is a primary focus of the SWWD 2007 watershed management plan. The SWWD has established water quality standards and rules to reduce pollutant loading and improve water quality throughout the watershed. The overall goal of work under this fund is to identify water quality impacts and implement projects to correct impacts. Over time this strategic approach will meet future TMDL requirements.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	359,200	369,569	371,440	387,500	\$1,487,709

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(3) Water Quality			\$387,500.00
Program Management			
Program Management	\$2,400.00		
Meeting/Coordination	\$1,600.00		
Site Evaluation	\$1,600.00		
Reporting	\$2,400.00		
Loading Assessment			
Project Management	\$800.00		
Data Collection	\$1,600.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$1,600.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$1,600.00		
Reporting	\$3,200.00		
Lake Assessment (TMDL/Impaired Waters/Non-Degradation)			
Project Management	\$6,600.00		
Data Collection	\$8,300.00		
Watershed Evaluation	\$9,900.00		
Modeling Water Quality Physical/Chemical	\$25,000.00		
Loading Assessment	\$2,400.00		
Lake Biological Assessment	\$11,600.00		
Feasible Remedial Alternatives Analysis	\$16,600.00		
Lake Management Plan/Report	\$21,600.00		
Sub-watershd implementation		\$108,000.00	
Loading Assessment			
Project Management	\$5,000.00		
Data Collection	\$15,000.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$15,000.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$15,000.00		
Reporting	\$10,000.00		
Water Quality Cost Share Program			
Cost share to projects		\$70,000.00	
Administration	\$4,000.00		
Project Management	\$1,600.00		
Plan Review	\$4,800.00		
Site Design	\$6,400.00	\$3,500.00	
Site Monitoring	\$1,600.00		
Site Review	\$1,600.00		
Correspondance	\$4,000.00		
Meeting	\$3,200.00		

Management Area Goal

Maintain, or where practical improve, the water quality of wetlands and water bodies within the District.

2015 Action Items

- Continue water quality BMP cost share program watershed wide.
- Develop watershed water quality model for one sub-watershed.
- Define loading capacity on a sub-watershed and water body scale.
- Construction will continue on the water reuse systems at Eagle Valley and Prestwick golf courses, in cooperation with the City of Woodbury and Washington County as part of the 2013 Clean Water Grant awarded to SWWD.

- SWWD is working with Afton Alps and Minnesota DNR to identify and implement priority projects throughout the Afton Alps property with the goal of improving habitat in Trout brook and reducing runoff volume and phosphorus load to Trout Brook and Lake St. Croix.

Wetlands

Provide for management of the watersheds wetland resources. The SWWD works with the Washington Conservation District and Local Government Units to effectively management the Districts wetland resources. The SWWD is the LGU for the Wetland Conservation Act and has established standards for management of the wetlands, including water quality, water quantity, buffers, and mitigation of impacts.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	3,200	4,773	11,920	33,720	\$53,613

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(4) Wetlands			\$33,720.00
Program Management			
Program Management	\$800.00		
Meeting/Coordination	\$800.00		
Site Evaluation	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$800.00		
Wetland Assessment			
Project Management	\$920.00		
Data Collection	\$400.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$400.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$400.00		
Meetings/Correspondance	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$400.00		
Wetland Conservation Act Administration			
Administration	\$4,000.00		
Project Management	\$1,600.00		
Plan Review	\$4,800.00		
Site Evaluation	\$6,400.00		
Site Monitoring	\$1,600.00		
Site Review	\$1,600.00		
Correspondance	\$4,000.00		
Meeting	\$3,200.00		

Management Area Goal

Manage the quantity and quality of wetlands within the watershed for their best function in a rapidly urbanizing environment.

2015 Action Items

- Serve as Local Government Unit (LGU) for implementation of the Wetland Conservation Act.
- Provide administration as the LGU for the Wetland Conservation Act.
- Apply wetland standards across the watershed to ensure future functions and values of wetland resources.

Natural Resources

This management area provides for the improvements to the natural resource of the watershed. The SWWD has developed a greenway plan to establish a multi-use green corridor through the watershed. This corridor utilizes planned green space by the Municipalities and natural features protected from development.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	42,800	42,800	46,420	44,400	\$176,420

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(5) Natural Resources and Recreation			\$44,400.00
Greenway Implementation			
Construction		\$20,000.00	
Site Monitoring	\$2,700.00		
Project Management	\$2,700.00		
Maintenance		\$10,000.00	
Replacement		\$5,000.00	
Program Management	\$800.00		
Meeting/Coordination	\$800.00		
Site Evaluation	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$800.00		
Maintenance	\$400.00		
Replacement	\$400.00		

Management Area Goal

Participate in conservation or creation of key natural areas with respect to habitat, wildlife, or recreation.

2015 Action Items

- Manage CD-P86 prairie restoration.
- Manage restoration activities in cooperation with Great River Greening
- Pursue grant opportunities for further restoration work in CD-P86 focused on non-cropped areas.

Groundwater

In cooperation with Washington County, the SWWD provides management of groundwater resources as identified in the County Groundwater Plan. The SWWD's focus is on regional groundwater quality and potential impacts from stormwater management practices. The SWWD will continue to evaluate potential impacts from regional stormwater infiltration. Support to the County and Municipalities relating to other groundwater issues is also provided. The SWWD has partnered with municipalities to provide for management of deicing chemicals through application, storage and handling.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	87,400	87,400	88,440	90,000	\$353,240

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(6) Groundwater			\$90,000.00
Groundwater Resource Management			
Program Management	\$11,200.00		
Meeting/Coordination	\$1,200.00		
Site Evaluation	\$400.00		
Reporting	\$7,900.00		
Administration	\$200.00		
Data Collection	\$10,000.00		
Plan Review	\$400.00		
Site Monitoring/Review	\$800.00		
Assessment and Evaluation	\$12,500.00		
Correspondance	\$400.00		
Model Development Calibration	\$10,000.00		
Implementation Fund		\$35,000.00	

Management Area Goals

Pursue a sustainable balance between surface water management, land use activities, and groundwater integrity.

2015 Action Items

- Work with the County and MDH to evaluate the potential impacts of regional stormwater infiltration.
- Coordinate with Washington County through groundwater planning.
- Coordinate with Minnesota DNR to install additional groundwater monitoring wells.
- Coordinate with Municipal water suppliers on water conservation efforts.

Erosion and Sediment Control

Erosion of soil presents one of the greatest threats to water quality. The SWWD implements an annual program to provide assistance to Municipalities that increases compliance with existing local state and national permits. Soil erosion and resultant deposition of sediment carries with it many pollutants delivered directed to the water resource. The SWWD has a role in controlling erosion and helping to prevent degradation of the water body.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	3,200	3,200	9,460	14,000	\$29,860

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(7) Erosion and Sediment Control			\$14,000.00
NPDES Phase II Construction Site Inspections			
Project Management	\$1,600.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$800.00		
Meetings/Correspondance	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$800.00		
NPDES Phase II MS4			
Administration	\$400.00		
Project Management	\$800.00		
Plan Review	\$3,200.00		
Site Evaluation	\$1,600.00		
Site Monitoring	\$800.00		
Site Review	\$800.00		
Correspondance	\$1,600.00		
Meeting	\$800.00		

Management Area Goals

Facilitate erosion control and reduce impacts to wetlands and water bodies from sedimentation.

2015 Action Items

- Continue coordinated effort with Municipalities to increase permit compliance on construction sites.
- Provide assistance to municipalities to ensure construction of infiltration facilities.
- Provide assistance to municipalities to correct erosion problems.
- Work with the WCD on stabilization of ravines tributary to the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers.

Education

The SWWD must provide an education program for Municipal Officials and residents of the watershed through the watershed management plan. The SWWD Board believes that County wide and Regional efforts are more effective educational programs than localized efforts. The SWWD is a member of the East Metro Water Resources Education Program and other regional efforts to provide annual education programming in the watershed. In addition these programs fulfill educational requirements places on the SWWD through its MS4 permit.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	40,300	43,300	43,600	44,100	\$171,300

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(8) Education			\$44,100.00
Education Local			
SWWD specific program	\$1,600.00	\$2,000.00	
Public Input			
CAC	\$1,600.00	\$1,000.00	
Education			
Website Modifications	\$800.00	\$2,500.00	
Shared Education Position			
Washington County Education	\$800.00	\$25,000.00	
Education			
Metro Watershed Partners	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	
Blue Thumb	\$0.00	\$1,800.00	
Project NEMO	\$0.00	\$3,500.00	

Management Area Goals

Heighten the awareness of key constituencies within the District, sufficient to modify behavior to improve the recognition and implementation of District policies, programs and activities.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain membership in the EMWREP, Metro Watershed Partner, .
- Provide local education opportunities in cooperation with Municipalities and other local organizations.
- Continue improvements to SWWD website and utilize as a primary information outlet.

Long Range Work Planning and Finance

The SWWD Board stressed implementation during development of the current 10 year plan adopted in 2007. As a result the SWWD established this management area to provide overall management of the watershed and focus effort and resources on implementation. This management area provides the short and long range work plan and funding authorities for the SWWD implementation. Through annual evaluation and work planning, the SWWD maintains flexibility to adapt or refocus as a result of changing environments or regulations.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	560,505	585,505	590,605	589,600	\$2,326,215

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(9) Long Range Work Planning and Financing		\$589,600.00
Coordinated CIP		
Program Management	\$1,600.00	
Meeting/Coordination	\$600.00	
Site Evaluation	\$600.00	
Reporting	\$800.00	
Project Management	\$5,000.00	
Data Collection	\$5,000.00	
Model Development Calibration	\$10,000.00	
Assesment and Evaluation	\$10,000.00	
Meetings/Correspondance	\$5,000.00	
Feasibility/Preliminary Design	\$7,500.00	
Final Design	\$7,500.00	
Implementation Fund		\$500,000.00
Reporting	\$5,000.00	
Legal	\$2,100.00	
Administration	\$200.00	
Project Management	\$400.00	
Site Design	\$5,600.00	
Site Monitoring	\$400.00	
Site Review	\$400.00	
Correspondance	\$400.00	
Meeting	\$400.00	
Legal	\$2,100.00	
Plan Amendment		
Program Management	\$2,400.00	
Meeting/Coordination	\$800.00	
Site Evaluation	\$800.00	
Reporting	\$800.00	
Administration	\$4,200.00	
Project Management	\$400.00	
Data Collection	\$800.00	
Assesment and Evaluation	\$400.00	
Meetings/Correspondance	\$400.00	
Plan Review/Development	\$400.00	
Reporting	\$400.00	
Legal	\$2,100.00	
Design Manual		
Administration	\$200.00	
Project Management	\$400.00	
Data Collection	\$800.00	
Assesment and Evaluation	\$400.00	
Meetings/Correspondance	\$400.00	
Plan Review/Development	\$400.00	
Reporting	\$400.00	
Legal	\$2,100.00	

Management Area Goals

Utilize District funds to initiate or support long range work plan projects which reduce flooding or otherwise benefit key District resources.

2015 Action Items

- Develop 10-year watershed management plan.
- Continue implementation of Coordinated Capital Improvement Program focused on water quality improvements.
- Provide short and long range planning and implementation for the SWWD.
- Maintain an updated and current watershed plan to reduce future planning costs.
- Update SWWD rules to current standards.

Data Management

A primary role of the 2007 SWWD watershed management plan is to help guide decisions of the Board of Managers. A key element is the use of scientific data to assist the Managers in making decisions based on best available information. The SWWD maintains extensive data through studies, reports, monitoring, information and internal operations.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	194,686	178,755	183,609	177,919	\$734,969

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	Profession	Capital Outlay	Management Area Total
(10) Data Management			\$177,919.22
Data Management			
Program Management	\$2,400.00		
Meeting/Coordination	\$800.00		
Site Evaluation	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$800.00		
Web Site			
Project Management	\$400.00	\$2,500.00	
Data Collection	\$400.00		
Stormwater Utility Administration			
Annual Setup	\$800.00		
Rate Calculations	\$0.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$800.00		
Legal	\$2,100.00		
Washington County Administrative Fee		\$15,000.00	
GIS			
Project Management	\$400.00		
Data Collection	\$800.00		
Data Analysis and Reporting	\$800.00		
Database Management	\$800.00		
Modeling	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$400.00		
Surface Water Monitoring Program			
MS1-North Tributary to Wilmes Lake	\$6,161.70		
MS2-N Tributary to Bailey Lake	\$6,161.70		
O'Conner's Creek	\$6,161.70		
Trout Brook	\$6,161.70		
Wilmes Lake Outlet	\$8,565.64		
Central Ravine	\$8,565.64		
100th Street	\$6,161.70		
St. Paul Park	\$8,565.64		
Newport	\$8,565.64		
Colby Lake Outlet	\$6,054.54		
Waterbody Assess-Powers	\$6,054.54		
Lake Levels	\$2,489.00		
Flow--2 Locations	\$9,442.08		
In Lake Water Quality	\$4,548.00		
Groundwater	\$7,296.00		
Lab Expense		\$20,164	
Capital Equipment Costs		\$11,200	
Surface Water Monitoring Program			
Project Management	\$1,600.00		
Data Collection	\$800.00		
Assesment and Evaluation	\$1,600.00		
Reporting	\$800.00		
Development Reviews			
Correnspondence	\$1,600.00		
Plan review	\$1,600.00		
Meetings	\$800.00		
Project Management	\$800.00		
Site Review	\$1,200.00		
Development Management			
Project Management	\$400.00		
Data Collection	\$800.00		
Data Analysis and Reporting	\$800.00		
Database Management	\$800.00		
Modeling	\$800.00		
Reporting	\$400.00		

Management Area Goals

Collect and manage data in a manner which maximizes the availability to and use by constituents of the District.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain and update SWWD website with current information.
- Maintain and update the stormwater utility information annually.
- Maintain and operate an annual monitoring network that provides water resource information vital to SWWD programs and projects.
- Launch online monitoring database and interactive analysis and reporting application.
- Provide development review services to Municipalities.

General

Not specifically mentioned in the 2007 SWWD Watershed Management Plan as a management area, general is included in the SWWD annual budget as an accounting fund. The general fund provides the necessary revenue for daily operation of the SWWD. General fund revenue is levied district wide under MS 103D.905 and is capped at \$250,000. General fund revenue is also collected through MS103B.241 taxing authority available to metropolitan watershed districts.

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	\$253,357	\$265,327	\$289,274	\$298,772	\$1,106,729

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	2015 Budget	Management Area Total
(11) General		\$298,771.54
Salaries/Benefits	\$173,388.70	
Manager Per Diem/Expenses	\$28,500.00	
Office Rent	\$22,831.00	
Employee Expenses	\$6,000.00	
Employee Training	\$5,000.00	
Office Equipment	\$9,200.00	
Office Supplies	\$1,545.00	
Legal Notices	\$1,591.35	
Dues	\$6,365.40	
Insurance and bond	\$12,730.80	
payroll	\$2,163.00	
monthly accounting	\$3,151.80	
audit	\$14,072.89	
Legal	\$8,400.00	
HR/other consulting	\$3,831.60	

Management Area Goals

Provide for day-to-day operations of the South Washington Watershed District.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain adequate funding for SWWD daily operation.
- Provide for annual staff and manager training opportunities.
- Ensure adequate protection against legal actions towards the SWWD.

Debt Service

Not specifically mentioned in the 2007 SWWD Watershed Management Plan as a management area, debt service is included in the SWWD annual budget as an accounting fund. In 2002 the SWWD issued \$5.8 million in General Obligation Bonds for the purchase of real property as described in the 1997 watershed plan. The SWWD completed acquisition of 150+ acres for increased downstream stormwater system capacity, flood control and stormwater management. Bonds were issued with a 15-year pay off, and refinanced in 2007. In 2011, SWWD bonded for three projects in the East Mississippi watershed (Newport Ravine, Clear Channel Pond, and Grey Cloud Slough).

Budget History

Year	2012	2013	2014	2015	4-yr total
Budget	\$777,000	\$784,850	\$794,150	\$798,500	\$3,154,500

2015 Work Plan

Management Area / Action Item	2015 Budget		Management Area Total
(12) Debt Service			\$798,500.00
Debt Service South Washington Management Area	\$536,000.00		
Debt Service East Mississippi Management Area	\$262,500.00		

Management Area Goals

Sound financial planning for future infrastructure needs.

2015 Action Items

- Maintain adequate funding for the overflow project debt service.
- Maintain adequate funding for the East Mississippi subwatershed projects debt service.

Appendix A 2014 Audit Report on Compliance

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT

December 31, 2014

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SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
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INTRODUCTORY SECTION

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SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

LIST OF APPOINTED OFFICIALS

December 31, 2014

BOARD OF MANAGERS

President	Jack Lavold
Vice-President	Dennis Hanna
Vice-President	Brian Johnson
Treasurer	Mike Madigan
Secretary	Don Pereira

APPOINTED OFFICIALS

Administrator	Matt Moore
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FINANCIAL SECTION

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INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Managers
South Washington Watershed District
Woodbury, Minnesota

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of South Washington Watershed District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, which collectively comprise South Washington Watershed District's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America; this includes the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. Accordingly, we express no such opinion. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinions.

Opinions

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of South Washington Watershed District, as of December 31, 2014, and the respective changes in financial position for the year then ended in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Report on Summarized Comparative Information

We have previously audited South Washington Watershed District's 2013 financial statements, and we expressed an unmodified audit opinion on the respective financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund in our report dated April 23, 2014. In our opinion, the summarized comparative information presented herein as of and for the year ended December 31, 2013 is consistent, in all material respects, with the audited financial statements from which it has been derived.

Other Matters

Required Supplementary Information

Management has omitted the management's discussion and analysis that accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require to be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such missing information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. Our opinion on the basic financial statements is not affected by this missing information.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require that the budgetary comparison information on pages 38 and 39, be presented to supplement the basic financial statements. Such information, although not a part of the basic financial statements, is required by the Governmental Accounting Standards Board, who considers it to be an essential part of financial reporting for placing the basic financial statements in an appropriate operational, economic, or historical context. We have applied certain limited procedures to the required supplementary information in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, which consisted of inquiries of management about the methods of preparing the information and comparing the information for consistency with management's responses to our inquiries, the basic financial statements, and other knowledge we obtained during our audit of the basic financial statements. We do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on the information because the limited procedures do not provide us with sufficient evidence to express an opinion or provide any assurance.

Other Information

Our audit was conducted for the purpose of forming opinions on the financial statements that collectively comprise South Washington Watershed District's basic financial statements. The introductory section, individual fund financial statements, supplementary financial information, and other information are presented for purposes of additional analysis and are not a required part of the basic financial statements.

The individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information are the responsibility of management and were derived from and relate directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements. Such information has been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the basic financial statements or to the basic financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. In our opinion, the individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information are fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the basic financial statements as a whole.

The introductory and other information sections have not been subjected to the auditing procedures applied in the audit of the basic financial statements and, accordingly, we do not express an opinion or provide any assurance on them.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

March 27, 2015

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BASIC FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

Statement 1

December 31, 2014

With Comparative Totals For December 31, 2013

	Governmental Activities	
	2014	2013
Assets:		
Cash and investments	\$14,591,892	\$13,782,534
Restricted cash and investments	1,284,412	1,513,039
Accounts receivable	1,452	4,095
Due from other governments	359,159	499,211
Taxes receivable:		
Delinquent	10,149	12,370
Due from county	3,028	4,818
Stormwater utility fees receivable:		
Delinquent	35,373	40,576
Due from county	12,231	22,414
Prepaid items	15,096	13,036
Capital assets - net:		
Depreciable	611,708	627,616
Nondepreciable	12,289,502	12,278,590
Total assets	<u>29,214,002</u>	<u>28,798,299</u>
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	340,783	626,254
Salaries payable	6,116	5,525
Contracts payable	25,607	367,592
Accrued interest payable	61,857	68,657
Unearned revenue	69,608	34,345
Unamortized bond premium	54,272	67,330
Compensated absences payable:		
Due within one year	13,031	10,525
Bonds payable:		
Due within one year	605,000	565,000
Due in more than one year	4,605,000	5,210,000
Total liabilities	<u>5,781,274</u>	<u>6,955,228</u>
Net position:		
Net investment in capital assets	8,904,152	8,559,721
Restricted for:		
Debt service	386,353	339,492
Unrestricted	14,142,223	12,943,858
Total net position	<u>\$23,432,728</u>	<u>\$21,843,071</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

Statement 2

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Functions/Programs	Expenses	Program Revenues		Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Position Primary Government		
		Charges For Services	Operating Grants and Contributions	Capital Grants and Contributions	Totals	Totals
					2014	2013
Primary government:						
Governmental activities:						
General government	\$414,436	\$6,500	\$ -	\$ -	(\$407,936)	(\$283,509)
Programs	143,788	-	-	-	(143,788)	(424,959)
Projects	1,375,113	2,836,529	106,926	-	1,568,342	1,640,668
Interest on long-term debt	175,912	-	-	-	(175,912)	(194,082)
Total governmental activities	<u>\$2,109,249</u>	<u>\$2,843,029</u>	<u>\$106,926</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>840,706</u>	<u>738,118</u>
General revenues:						
Property taxes					739,580	710,991
Grants and contributions not restricted to specific programs					344	351
Unrestricted investment earnings					2,118	3,974
Miscellaneous other					6,909	12,063
Total general revenues					<u>748,951</u>	<u>727,379</u>
Change in net position					<u>1,589,657</u>	<u>1,465,497</u>
Net position - January 1, as restated					<u>21,843,071</u>	<u>20,377,574</u>
Net position - December 31					<u>\$23,432,728</u>	<u>\$21,843,071</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Totals For December 31, 2013

Statement 3

Assets	General Fund	Planning and Implementation	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds	
				2014	2013
Cash and investments	\$411,652	\$13,762,260	\$417,980	\$14,591,892	\$13,782,534
Restricted cash and investments	-	1,275,674	8,738	1,284,412	1,513,039
Accounts receivable	1,452	-	-	1,452	4,095
Due from other governments	-	359,159	-	359,159	499,211
Taxes receivable:					
Delinquent	3,262	6,887	-	10,149	12,370
Due from county	1,178	1,850	-	3,028	4,818
Stormwater utility fees receivable:					
Delinquent	-	17,306	18,067	35,373	40,576
Due from county	-	8,806	3,425	12,231	22,414
Prepaid items	15,096	-	-	15,096	13,036
Total assets	<u>\$432,640</u>	<u>\$15,431,942</u>	<u>\$448,210</u>	<u>\$16,312,792</u>	<u>\$15,892,093</u>
Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$44,132	\$296,651	\$ -	\$340,783	\$626,254
Salaries payable	3,162	2,954	-	6,116	5,525
Contracts payable	-	25,607	-	25,607	367,592
Unearned revenue	-	69,608	-	69,608	34,345
Total liabilities	<u>47,294</u>	<u>394,820</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>442,114</u>	<u>1,033,716</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable revenue	<u>3,262</u>	<u>364,193</u>	<u>18,067</u>	<u>385,522</u>	<u>412,946</u>
Fund balance:					
Nonspendable	15,096	-	-	15,096	13,036
Restricted	-	1,267,214	430,143	1,697,357	1,890,544
Committed	-	13,345,890	-	13,345,890	12,113,228
Assigned	-	59,825	-	59,825	46,564
Unassigned	366,988	-	-	366,988	382,059
Total fund balance	<u>382,084</u>	<u>14,672,929</u>	<u>430,143</u>	<u>15,485,156</u>	<u>14,445,431</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	<u>\$432,640</u>	<u>\$15,431,942</u>	<u>\$448,210</u>	<u>\$16,312,792</u>	<u>\$15,892,093</u>
Fund balance reported above				\$15,485,156	\$14,445,431
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net position are different because:					
Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources, and therefore, are not reported in the funds.				12,901,210	12,906,206
Other long-term assets are not available to pay for current period expenditures and, therefore, are reported as unavailable revenue in the funds.				385,522	412,946
Long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds.				<u>(5,339,160)</u>	<u>(5,921,512)</u>
Net position of governmental activities				<u>\$23,432,728</u>	<u>\$21,843,071</u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 4

	General Fund	Planning and Implementation	Debt Service	Total Governmental Funds	
				2014	2013
Revenues:					
General property taxes	\$287,533	\$454,268	\$ -	\$741,801	\$710,388
Stormwater utility fees	-	2,045,056	796,676	2,841,732	2,811,903
Permits	-	6,500	-	6,500	-
Intergovernmental	133	127,137	-	127,270	678,738
Investment income	171	1,479	468	2,118	3,974
Other	1,630	5,279	-	6,909	12,063
Total revenues	<u>289,467</u>	<u>2,639,719</u>	<u>797,144</u>	<u>3,726,330</u>	<u>4,217,066</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
General government	301,978	109,952	-	411,930	281,971
Programs	-	143,788	-	143,788	424,959
Projects	-	1,369,187	-	1,369,187	5,731,640
Debt service:					
Principal retirement	-	-	565,000	565,000	545,000
Interest	-	-	195,770	195,770	215,770
Fiscal agent fees and other charges	-	-	930	930	425
Total expenditures	<u>301,978</u>	<u>1,622,927</u>	<u>761,700</u>	<u>2,686,605</u>	<u>7,199,765</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(12,511)	1,016,792	35,444	1,039,725	(2,982,699)
Fund balance - January 1	<u>394,595</u>	<u>13,656,137</u>	<u>394,699</u>	<u>14,445,431</u>	<u>17,428,130</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u><u>\$382,084</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,672,929</u></u>	<u><u>\$430,143</u></u>	<u><u>\$15,485,156</u></u>	<u><u>\$14,445,431</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUES,
EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 5

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of activities (Statement 2) are different because:		
Net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds (Statement 4)	\$1,039,725	(\$2,982,699)
Revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds.	(27,424)	(23,188)
Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense. This is the amount by which capital outlays exceeded depreciation in the current period.	(4,996)	3,906,234
The issuance of long-term debt (e.g., bonds, leases) provides current financial resources to governmental funds, while the repayment of the principal of long-term debt consumes the current financial resources of governmental funds. Neither transaction, however, has any effect on net position. This amount is the net effect of these differences in the treatment of long-term debt and related items:		
Principal retirement	565,000	545,000
Amortization of bond premium	13,058	13,058
Some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds.	<u>4,294</u>	<u>7,092</u>
Change in net position of governmental activities (Statement 2)	<u><u>\$1,589,657</u></u>	<u><u>\$1,465,497</u></u>

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these financial statements.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 1 SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accounting policies of the South Washington Watershed District (the District) conform to generally accepted accounting principles (GAAP) applicable to governmental units. The following is a summary of significant accounting policies.

A. FINANCIAL REPORTING ENTITY

The District was originally created on August 25, 1993 under the name of Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed District by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (the Board) as provided in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D. In July 1994, the District changed its name to South Washington Watershed District.

The District is operated by a five member Board of Managers originally appointed by the Board. Subsequent appointments will be made by Washington County.

In accordance with Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) pronouncements and GAAP, the financial statements of the reporting entity include the primary government and its component units. Generally, component units are legally separate organizations for which the elected officials of the primary government are financially accountable. The District (primary government) does not have any component units nor is it a component unit of any other governmental unit.

B. GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The government-wide financial statements (i.e., the statement of net position and the statement of activities) report information on all of the nonfiduciary activities of the primary government and its component units. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. *Governmental activities*, which normally are supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. There are no *business-type activities*, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support.

The statement of activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. *Direct expenses* are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. *Program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function or business-type activity and 2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function or *business-type activity*. Taxes and other items not included among program revenues are reported instead as *general revenues*.

Separate financial statements are provided for governmental funds. Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

C. MEASUREMENT FOCUS, BASIS OF ACCOUNTING AND FINANCIAL STATEMENT PRESENTATION

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the *economic resources measurement focus* and the *accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenues in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met.

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the *current financial resources measurement focus* and the *modified accrual basis of accounting*. Revenues are recognized as soon as they are both measurable and available. Revenues are considered to be *available* when they are collectible within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the District considers all revenues, except reimbursement grants, to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Reimbursement grants are considered available if they are collected within one year of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, debt service expenditures are recorded only when payment is due.

Property taxes, intergovernmental revenues and interest associated with the current fiscal period are all considered to be susceptible to accrual and so have been recognized as revenues of the current fiscal period. All other revenue items are considered to be measurable and available only when cash is received by the District.

The District reports the following major governmental funds:

General Fund - is the general operating fund of the District. It is used to account for financial resources to be used for general administrative expenditures.

Planning and Implementation Fund - is established to account for expenditures related to the preparation and implementation of the Watershed Management Plan. Property taxes and stormwater fees are committed for planning and implementation.

Debt Service Fund - is established to account for the accumulation of resources for, and the payment of principal, interest and related costs of the \$3,945,000 General Obligation Crossover Bonds of 2011 and the \$2,795,000 General Obligation Crossover Refunding Bonds of 2007.

As a general rule the effect of interfund activity has been eliminated from the government-wide financial statements. Exceptions to this general rule are transactions that would be treated as revenues, expenditures or expenses if they involved external organizations, such as buying goods and services or payments in lieu of taxes, are similarly treated when they involve other funds of the District. Elimination of these charges would distort the direct costs and program revenues reported for the various functions concerned.

Amounts reported as *program revenues* include 1) charges to customers or applicants for goods, services or privileges provided, 2) operating grants and contributions, and 3) capital grants and

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

contributions, including special assessments. Internally dedicated resources are reported as *general revenues* rather than as program revenues. Likewise, general revenues include all taxes. When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for an allowable use, it is the District's policy to use restricted resources first, then unrestricted resources as they are needed.

D. BUDGETS

Budgets are legally adopted on a basis consistent with GAAP. Annual appropriated budgets are legally adopted for the General Fund. Budgeted expenditure appropriations lapse at year end. Excess funds are rolled over each year.

Encumbrance accounting, under which purchase orders, contracts, and other commitments for the expenditure of monies are recorded in order to reserve that portion of the appropriation, is not employed by the District.

E. LEGAL COMPLIANCE – BUDGETS

The District prepares annual revenue and expenditure budgets for the District's General Fund. The District monitors budget performance on the fund basis.

- The operating budget includes proposed expenditures and the means of financing them.
- A public comment hearing is held to obtain taxpayer comment.
- The budget is legally adopted by Board resolution.
- All amounts over budget have been approved by the Board through the budget extension process.

The modified accrual basis of accounting is used by the District for budgeting data. All appropriations end with the fiscal year for which they were made. The District does not prepare an annual expenditure/appropriations budget for its Special Revenue Fund.

F. CASH AND INVESTMENTS

Cash and investment balances from all funds are pooled and invested to the extent available in authorized investments. Investment income is allocated to individual funds on the basis of the fund's equity in the cash and investment pool.

Investments are stated at fair value, based upon quoted market prices, except for investments in 2a7-like external investment pools, which are stated at amortized cost. Investment income is accrued at the balance sheet date.

G. PROPERTY TAX REVENUE RECOGNITION

The Board of Managers annually adopts a tax levy and certifies it to the County in December (levy/assessment date) of each year for collection in the following year. The County is responsible for billing and collecting all property taxes for itself, the City, the local School District and other taxing authorities. Such taxes become a lien on January 1 and are recorded as receivables by the District at that date. Real property taxes are payable (by property owners) on May 15 and October 15 of each calendar year. Personal property taxes are payable by taxpayers on February 28 and June 30 of each year. These taxes are collected by the County and remitted to the District on or before July 7 and December 2 of the same year. Delinquent collections for November and December are received the following January. The District has no ability to enforce payment of property taxes by property owners. The County possesses this authority.

GOVERNMENT-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District recognizes property tax revenue in the period for which the taxes were levied. Uncollectible property taxes are not material and have not been reported.

GOVERNMENTAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The District recognizes property tax revenue when it becomes both measurable and available to finance expenditures of the current period. In practice, current and delinquent taxes and State credits received by the District in July, December and January are recognized as revenue for the current year. Taxes collected by the County by December 31 (remitted to the District the following January) and taxes and credits not received at year end are classified as delinquent and due from County taxes receivable. The portion of delinquent taxes not collected by the District in January is fully offset by deferred inflows of resources because they are not available to finance current expenditures.

H. INVENTORIES

The original cost of materials and supplies has been recorded as expenditures at the time of purchase. These funds do not maintain material amounts of inventories.

I. PREPAID ITEMS

Certain payments to vendors reflect costs applicable to future accounting periods and are recorded as prepaid items in both government-wide and fund financial statements. Prepaid items are reported using the consumption method and recorded as expenditures/expenses at the time of consumption.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

J. CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital assets, which include property, plant, equipment and infrastructure assets and intangible assets such as easements and computer software, are reported in the governmental activities columns in the government-wide financial statements. Capital assets are defined by the District as assets with an initial, individual cost of more than \$5,000 (amount not rounded) and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost if purchased or constructed. Donated capital assets are recorded at estimated fair market value at the date of donation.

The costs of normal maintenance and repairs that do not add to the value of the asset or materially extend assets lives are not capitalized.

GASB Statement No. 34 required the District to report and depreciate new infrastructure assets effective with the beginning of the 2004 calendar year. Infrastructure assets include lake improvements, dams and drainage systems. Neither their historical cost nor related depreciation has historically been reported in the financial statements. For governmental entities with total annual revenues of less than \$10 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999 the retroactive reporting of infrastructure is not required under the provisions of GASB Statement No. 34.

The District implemented GASB Statement No. 51, *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Intangible Assets* effective January 1, 2010 which required the District to capitalize and amortize intangible assets. For governmental entities with total annual revenues of less than \$10 million for the fiscal year ended December 31, 1999, the retroactive reporting of intangible assets is not required under the provision of GASB Statement No. 51. The District did not acquire intangible assets in years prior to 2010 that required retroactive reporting. The District did not acquire any intangible assets since the implementation of GASB No. 51.

Property, plant and equipment of the District is depreciated using the straight-line method over the following estimated useful lives:

Infrastructure	48-50 years
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K. LONG-TERM OBLIGATIONS

In the government-wide financial statements long-term debt is reported as a liability in the applicable governmental activities fund type statement of net position. Material bond premiums and discounts are amortized over the life of the bond.

In the fund financial statements, governmental fund types recognize bond premiums and discounts during the current period. The face amount of debt issued is reported as other financing sources. Premiums received on debt issuances are reported as other financing sources while discounts on debt issuances are reported as other financing uses.

L. FUND BALANCE CLASSIFICATIONS

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report fund balance in classifications that disclose constraints for which amounts in those funds can be spent. These classifications are as follows:

Nonspendable - consists of amounts that are not in spendable form, such as prepaid items.

Restricted - consists of amounts related to externally imposed constraints established by creditors, grantors or contributors; or constraints imposed by state statutory provisions.

Committed - consists of internally imposed constraints. These constraints are established by Resolution of the Board.

Assigned - consists of internally imposed constraints. These constraints reflect the specific purpose for which it is the Board's intended use. These constraints are established by the Board and/or management.

Unassigned - is the residual classification for the general fund and also reflects negative residual amounts in other funds.

When both restricted and unrestricted resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to first use restricted resources, and then use unrestricted resources as they are needed.

When committed, assigned or unassigned resources are available for use, it is the Board's policy to use resources in the following order; 1) committed 2) assigned and 3) unassigned.

M. INTERFUND TRANSACTIONS

Interfund services provided and used are accounted for as revenues, expenditures or expenses. Transactions that constitute reimbursements to a fund for expenditures/expenses initially made from it that are properly applicable to another fund, are recorded as expenditures/expenses in the reimbursing fund and as reductions of expenditures/expenses in the fund that is reimbursed. All other interfund transactions are reported as transfers.

N. COMPENSATED ABSENCES

It is the District's policy to permit employees to accumulate earned but unused paid time off (PTO) benefits. All PTO benefits that are vested as severance pay is accrued when incurred in the government-wide financial statements. A liability for these amounts is reported in the governmental funds only if they have matured, for example, as a result of employee resignations and retirements. In accordance with the provisions of Statement of Government Accounting Standards No. 16, *Accounting for Compensated Absences*, no liability is recorded for nonvesting accumulating rights to receive sick pay benefits.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

O. USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in accordance with GAAP requires management to make estimates that affect amounts reported in the financial statements during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from such estimates.

P. RECLASSIFICATIONS

Certain reclassifications were made to prior year amounts to conform to current year classification.

Q. COMPARATIVE TOTALS

The basic financial statements, required supplementary information, individual fund financial statements and supplementary financial information include certain prior year summarized comparative information in total but not at the level of detail required for a presentation in conformity with GAAP. Accordingly, such information should be read in conjunction with the District's financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2013, from which the summarized information was derived.

R. DEFERRED OUTFLOWS/INFLOWS OF RESOURCES

In addition to assets, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred outflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred outflows of resources*, represents a consumption of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an outflow of resources (expense/expenditure) until then. The District has no items that qualify for reporting in this category.

In addition to liabilities, the statement of financial position will sometimes report a separate section for deferred inflows of resources. This separate financial statement element, *deferred inflows of resources*, represents an acquisition of net position that applies to a future period(s) and so will *not* be recognized as an inflow of resources (revenue) until that time. The District has one type of item, which arises only under a modified accrual basis of accounting, that qualifies for reporting in this category. Accordingly, the item, unavailable revenue, is reported only in the governmental fund balance sheet. The governmental funds report unavailable revenues from the following sources: property taxes, due from other governmental units, and storm water utility fees.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

S. RECONCILIATION OF GOVERNMENT-WIDE AND FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

1. EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND BALANCE SHEET AND THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET POSITION

The governmental fund balance sheet includes a reconciliation between *fund balance – total governmental funds* and *net position – governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of net position. One element of that reconciliation explains that “long-term liabilities, including bonds payable, are not due and payable in the current period and, therefore, are not reported in the funds”. The details of this (\$5,339,160) difference are as follows:

Bonds payable	(\$5,210,000)
Accrued interest payable	(61,857)
Compensated absences	(13,031)
Unamortized bond premium	<u>(54,272)</u>
Net adjustment to reduce fund balance - total governmental funds to arrive at net position - governmental activities	<u><u>(\$5,339,160)</u></u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

2. EXPLANATION OF CERTAIN DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENTAL FUND STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES AND THE GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES

The governmental fund statement of revenues, expenditures and changes in fund balance includes a reconciliation between *net changes in fund balances – total governmental funds and changes in net position of governmental activities* as reported in the government-wide statement of activities. One element of that reconciliation states that “revenues in the statement of activities that do not provide current financial resources are not reported as revenues in the funds”. The details of this (\$27,424) difference are as follows:

Unavailable revenue - general property taxes:	
At December 31, 2013	(\$12,370)
At December 31, 2014	10,149
Unavailable revenue - stormwater utility fees:	
At December 31, 2013	(40,576)
At December 31, 2014	35,373
Unavailable revenue - intergovernmental revenue:	
At December 31, 2013	(360,000)
At December 31, 2014	<u>340,000</u>
Net adjustments to decrease net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds to arrive at changes in net position of governmental activities.	<u><u>(\$27,424)</u></u>

Another element of that reconciliation explains that “governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures. However, in the statement of activities the cost of those assets is allocated over their estimated useful lives and reported as depreciation expense.” The details of this (\$4,996) difference are as follows:

Capital outlay	\$10,912
Depreciation expense	<u>(15,908)</u>
Net adjustment to decrease net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds to arrive at changes in net position of governmental activities.	<u><u>(\$4,996)</u></u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Another element of that reconciliation states that “some expenses reported in the statement of activities do not require the use of current financial resources and, therefore, are not reported as expenditures in governmental funds”. The details of this \$4,294 difference are as follows:

Accrued interest payable:	
At December 31, 2013	\$68,657
At December 31, 2014	(61,857)
Compensated absences payable:	
At December 31, 2013	10,525
At December 31, 2014	<u>(13,031)</u>
Net adjustments to increase net changes in fund balances - total governmental funds to arrive at changes in net position of governmental activities.	<u><u>\$4,294</u></u>

Note 2 DEPOSITS AND INVESTMENTS

A. DEPOSITS

In accordance with Minnesota Statutes, the District maintains deposits at those depository banks authorized by the District’s Board, all of which are members of the Federal Reserve System.

Minnesota Statutes require that all of the District’s deposits be protected by insurance, surety bond, or collateral. The market value of collateral pledged must equal 110% of the deposits not covered by insurance or bonds.

Minnesota Statutes require that securities pledged as collateral be held in safekeeping by the District’s Treasurer or in a financial institution other than that furnishing the collateral. Authorized collateral includes the following:

- a) United States government treasury bills, treasury notes and treasury bonds;
- b) Issues of United States government agencies and instrumentalities as quoted by a recognized industry quotation service available to the government entity;
- c) General obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “A” or better by a national bond rating service, or revenue obligation securities of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated “AA” or better by a national bond rating service;
- d) General obligation securities of a local government with taxing powers may be pledged as collateral against funds deposited by that same local government entity;
- e) Irrevocable standby letters of credit issued by Federal Home Loan Banks to a municipality accompanied by written evidence that the bank’s public debt is rated “AA” or better by Moody’s Investors Service, Inc. or Standard & Poor’s Corporation; and

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

- f) Time deposits that are fully insured by any federal agency.

The District does not have deposits at December 31, 2014.

B. INVESTMENTS

Minnesota Statutes authorize the District to invest in the following:

- a) Direct obligations or obligations guaranteed by the United States or its agencies, its instrumentalities or organizations created by an act of congress, excluding mortgage-backed securities defined as high risk.
- b) Shares of investment companies registered under the Federal Investment Company Act of 1940 and whose only investments are in securities described in (a) above, general obligation tax-exempt securities, or repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements.
- c) Obligations of the State of Minnesota or any of its municipalities as follows:
 - 1) any security which is a general obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating service;
 - 2) any security which is a revenue obligation of any state or local government with taxing powers which is rated "AA" or better by a national bond rating service; and
 - 3) a general obligation of the Minnesota Housing Finance Agency which is a moral obligation of the State of Minnesota and is rated "A" or better by a national bond rating agency.
- d) Bankers acceptances of United States banks.
- e) Commercial paper issued by United States corporations or their Canadian subsidiaries, of the highest quality, and maturing in 270 days or less.
- f) Repurchase or reverse repurchase agreements with banks that are members of the Federal Reserve System with capitalization exceeding \$10,000,000; a primary reporting dealer in U.S. government securities to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York; certain Minnesota securities broker-dealers; or, a bank qualified as a depositor.
- g) General obligation temporary bonds of the same governmental entity issued under section 429.091, subdivision 7; 469.178, subdivision 5; or 475.61, subdivision 6.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

As of December 31, 2014, the District had the following investments and maturities:

Investment Type	Rating	Fair Value	Investment Maturities (in Years)			
			Less Than 1	1-5	6-10	Over 10 Years
External investment pool - 4M Fund	*	\$14,591,892	\$14,591,892	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Money market	*	1,284,412	1,284,412	-	-	-
Total		\$15,876,304	\$15,876,304	\$0	\$0	\$0
* Not Rated			Total investments			\$15,876,304

Following is a reconciliation of the District's cash and investment balances as of December 31, 2014:

Cash and investments	\$14,591,892
Restricted cash and investments	1,284,412
Total	<u>\$15,876,304</u>

C. INVESTMENT RISKS

Credit Risk. Credit risk is the risk that an issuer or other counterparty to an investment will be unable to fulfill its obligation to the holder of the investment. The District follows State Statutes in regards to credit risk of investments. The District does not have an investment policy which further limits its investment choices.

The District's external investment pool investment is with the 4M Fund which is regulated by Minnesota Statutes and the Board of Directors of the League of Minnesota Cities. The 4M Fund is an unrated 2a7-like pool and the fair value of the positions in the pool is the same as the value of pool shares.

Interest Rate Risk. Interest rate risk is the risk that changes in the interest rates of debt investments could adversely affect the fair value of an investment. The District does not have an investment policy which limits investment maturities as a means of managing its exposure to fair value losses arising from increasing interest rates.

Concentration of Credit Risk. Concentration of credit risk is the risk of loss that may be attributed to the magnitude of the District's investment in a single issuer. The District does not have an investment policy which addresses the concentration of credit risk.

Custodial Credit Risk. For investments in securities, custodial credit risk is the risk that in the event of a failure of the counterparty, the District will not be able to recover the value of its investments securities that are in the possession of an outside party. As of December 31, 2014, the District had \$14,591,892 in investments that were invested in an external investment pool and \$1,284,412 in a money market. Investments in external investment pools and money markets are not evidenced by securities that exist in physical or book entry form, and therefore are not subject to custodial credit risk disclosures.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 3 RECEIVABLES

Significant receivable balances not expected to be collected within one year of December 31, 2014 are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Planning and Implementation</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Delinquent property taxes receivable	\$2,500	\$5,000	\$ -	\$7,500
Delinquent stormwater utility fees	-	8,000	8,500	16,500
Due from other governments	-	320,000	-	320,000
 Total	 <u>\$2,500</u>	 <u>\$333,000</u>	 <u>\$8,500</u>	 <u>\$344,000</u>

Note 4 UNAVAILABLE REVENUE

Governmental funds report deferred inflows of resources in connection with receivables for revenues that are not considered to be available to liquidate liabilities of the current period. At the end of the current fiscal year, the various components of unavailable revenue and reported in the governmental funds were as follows:

	<u>Property Taxes</u>	<u>Stormwater Utility Fees</u>	<u>Due from other Governmental Units</u>	<u>Total</u>
General Fund	\$3,262	\$ -	\$ -	\$3,262
Planning and Implementation	6,887	17,306	340,000	364,193
Debt Service	-	18,067	-	18,067
Total unavailable revenue	<u>\$10,149</u>	<u>\$35,373</u>	<u>\$340,000</u>	<u>\$385,522</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 5 CAPITAL ASSETS

Capital asset activity for the year ended December 31, 2014 was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Increases</u>	<u>Decrease</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>
Governmental activities:				
Capital assets, not being depreciated:				
Land	\$8,356,448	\$ -	\$ -	\$8,356,448
Construction in process	3,922,142	10,912	-	3,933,054
Total	<u>12,278,590</u>	<u>10,912</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>12,289,502</u>
Capital assets, being depreciated:				
Infrastructure	793,070	-	-	793,070
Less accumulated depreciation for:				
Infrastructure	165,454	15,908		181,362
Total capital assets being depreciated - net	<u>627,616</u>	<u>(15,908)</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>611,708</u>
Governmental activities capital assets - net	<u>\$12,906,206</u>	<u>(\$4,996)</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,901,210</u>

Depreciation expense was charged to functions/programs of the primary government as follows:

Governmental activities:	
Projects	<u>\$15,908</u>
Total depreciation expense - governmental activities	<u>\$15,908</u>

Note 6 LONG-TERM DEBT

The District issued a general obligation bond in 2002 to provide funds for capital improvements. The District issued a general obligation crossover refunding bond in 2007 to partially refund the 2002 bond on March 1, 2010. The District issued its Series 2011A General Obligation Bonds in 2011 to finance a portion of the water quality improvement projects related to the City of Cottage Grove, drainage improvements related to the City of Newport and the Grey Cloud Island Slough Crossing Project.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

As of December 31, 2014, the governmental long-term bonded debt of the financial reporting entity consisted of the following:

	<u>Interest Rates</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>	<u>Original Issue</u>	<u>Payable 12/31/14</u>
General Obligation Bonds:					
\$2,795,000 Refunding Bonds 2007A	4.00%	12/27/2007	3/1/2017	\$2,795,000	\$1,485,000
\$3,945,000 G.O. Bonds 2011A	3.47%	5/1/2011	3/1/2031	3,945,000	3,725,000
Total General Obligation Bonds				<u>6,740,000</u>	<u>5,210,000</u>
Compensated absences payable				-	13,031
Total indebtedness - governmental activities				<u>\$6,740,000</u>	<u>\$5,223,031</u>

Annual debt service requirements to maturity for general obligation bonds are as follows:

Year Ending December 31	<u>General Obligation Bonds - Governmental Activities</u>			
	<u>G.O. Bonds</u>		<u>Refunding Bonds</u>	
	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>	<u>Principal</u>	<u>Interest</u>
2015	\$130,000	\$120,120	\$475,000	\$52,275
2016	135,000	117,470	495,000	30,500
2017	155,000	114,570	515,000	10,300
2018	160,000	110,620	-	-
2019	175,000	105,595	-	-
2020	175,000	100,345	-	-
2021	200,000	94,970	-	-
2022	205,000	89,145	-	-
2023	235,000	82,545	-	-
2024	240,000	75,300	-	-
2025	250,000	67,518	-	-
2026	255,000	58,992	-	-
2027	265,000	49,760	-	-
2028	270,000	39,995	-	-
2029	280,000	29,400	-	-
2030	295,000	17,900	-	-
2031	300,000	6,000	-	-
Total	<u>\$3,725,000</u>	<u>\$1,280,245</u>	<u>\$1,485,000</u>	<u>\$93,075</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

CHANGE IN LONG-TERM LIABILITIES

Long-term liability activity for the year ended December 31, 2014, was as follows:

	<u>Beginning Balance</u>	<u>Additions</u>	<u>Reductions</u>	<u>Ending Balance</u>	<u>Due Within One Year</u>
Governmental activities:					
General Obligation Bonds:					
\$2,795,000 Refunding Bonds 2007A	\$1,940,000	\$ -	\$455,000	\$1,485,000	\$475,000
\$3,945,000 G.O. Bonds 2011A	3,835,000	-	110,000	3,725,000	130,000
Subtotal	5,775,000	-	565,000	5,210,000	<u>\$605,000</u>
Unamortized premium on bonds	67,330	-	13,058	54,272	
Total General Obligation Bonds	<u>\$5,842,330</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$578,058</u>	<u>\$5,264,272</u>	
Compensated absences payable	<u>\$10,525</u>	<u>\$22,446</u>	<u>\$19,940</u>	<u>\$13,031</u>	<u>\$13,031</u>

All long-term bonded indebtedness outstanding at December 31, 2014 is backed by the full faith and credit of the District. Compensated absences are generally liquidated by the General Fund.

Note 7 CONTINGENCIES

A. RISK MANAGEMENT

The District is exposed to various risks of loss related to torts; theft of, damage to and destruction of assets; errors and omissions; injuries to employees; and natural disasters.

Workers compensation coverage for District employees is provided through a pooled self-insurance program through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT). The District pays an annual premium to LMCIT. The District is subject to supplemental assessments if deemed necessary by the LMCIT. The LMCIT reinsures through Workers Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) as required by law. For workers compensation, the District is not subject to a deductible. The District workers compensation coverage is retrospectively rated. With this type of coverage, final premiums are determined after loss experience is known. The amount of premium adjustment, if any, is considered immaterial and not recorded until received or paid.

Other insurance coverage is provided through a pooled self-insurance program through the LMCIT. The District pays an annual premium to the LMCIT. The District is subject to supplemental assessments if deemed necessary by the LMCIT. The LMCIT reinsures through commercial companies for claims in excess of various amounts. The District retains risk for the deductible portions of the insurance policies. The amount of these deductibles are considered immaterial to the financial statements.

There were no significant reductions in insurance or settlements in excess of insurance coverage for 2014.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

B. LITIGATION

The District's management has indicated that there are no pending litigation's in which the District is involved that would have a material effect upon the District's financial statements.

Note 8 DEFINED BENEFIT PENSION PLANS - STATEWIDE

A. PLAN DESCRIPTION

All full-time and certain part-time employees of the District are covered by defined benefit plans administered by the Public Employees Retirement Association of Minnesota (PERA). PERA administers the General Employees Retirement Fund (GERF) and the Public Employees Police and Fire Fund (PEPFF) which are cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement plans. These plans are established and administered in accordance with Minnesota Statute, Chapters 353 and 356.

GERF members belong to either the Coordinated Plan or the Basic Plan. Coordinated Plan members are covered by Social Security and Basic Plan members are not. All new members must participate in the Coordinated Plan.

PERA provides retirement benefits as well as disability benefits to members, and benefits to survivors upon death of eligible members. Benefits are established by State Statute, and vest after five years of credited service. The defined retirement benefits are based on a member's highest average salary for any five successive years of allowable service, age and years of credit at termination of service.

PERA issues a publicly available financial report that includes financial statements and required supplementary information for GERF and PEPFF. That report may be obtained on the internet at www.mnpera.org, by writing to PERA, 60 Empire Drive #200, St. Paul, Minnesota, 55103-2088 or by calling (651)296-7460 or 1-800-652-9026.

B. FUNDING POLICY

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 353 sets the rates for employer and employee contributions. These statutes are established and amended by the state legislature. The District makes annual contributions to the pension plans equal to the amount required by state statutes. GERF Basic Plan members and Coordinated Plan members were required to contribute 9.10% and 6.25%, respectively, of their annual covered salary in 2014. The District was required to contribute the following percentages of annual covered payroll in 2014: 11.78% for Basic Plan GERF members and 7.25% for Coordinated Plan GERF members. The District's contributions to the Public Employees Retirement Fund for the years ending December 31, 2014, 2013 and 2012 were \$17,036, \$15,242, and \$13,635, respectively, equal to the contractually required contributions for the years as set by state statute. Contribution rates will increase on January 1, 2015 in the Coordinated Plan (6.5% for members and 7.5% for employers).

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 9 FUND BALANCE

CLASSIFICATIONS

At December 31, 2014, a summary of the governmental fund balance classifications are as follows:

	<u>General Fund</u>	<u>Planning and Implementation</u>	<u>Debt Service</u>	<u>Total</u>
Nonspendable:				
Prepays	\$15,096	\$ -	\$ -	\$15,096
Restricted for:				
Debt service	-	-	430,143	430,143
Water quality and drainage improvements	-	1,267,214	-	1,267,214
Committed for:				
Planning and implementation	-	13,345,890	-	13,345,890
Assigned to:				
Planning and implementation	-	59,825	-	59,825
Unassigned	<u>366,988</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>366,988</u>
 Total	 <u><u>\$382,084</u></u>	 <u><u>\$14,672,929</u></u>	 <u><u>\$430,143</u></u>	 <u><u>\$15,485,156</u></u>

Note 10 STORMWATER UTILITY FEES

In 2004, the District implemented a stormwater utility fee pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 444.

Note 11 ACCOUNTS PAYABLE

At December 31, 2014, a summary of the components of accounts payable were as follows:

Accounts payable	\$60,780
Due to other governments	<u>280,003</u>
Total	<u><u>\$340,783</u></u>

Note 12 COMMITTED CONTRACTS

At December 31, 2014, the District had committed contracts totaling \$6,396,489 for construction/repair projects.

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2014

Note 13 RECENTLY ISSUED ACCOUNTING STANDARDS

The Governmental Accounting Standards Boards (GASB) recently approved the following statements which were not implemented for these financial statements:

Statement No. 68 *Accounting and Financial Reporting for Pensions – an amendment of GASB Statement 27.* The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2014. Statement No. 68 requires governments providing defined benefit pensions to recognize their long-term obligation for pension benefits as a liability for the first time.

Statement No. 71 *Pension Transition for Contributions Made Subsequent to the Measurement Date – an amendment of GASB Statement No. 68.* The provisions of this Statement should be applied simultaneously with the provisions of Statement 68.

Statement No. 72 *Fair Value Measurement and Application.* The provisions of this Statement are effective for financial statements for periods beginning after June 15, 2015.

The effect these standards may have on future financial statements is not determinable at this time, but it is expected that Statements No. 68 and No. 71 will have a material impact.

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REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND

Statement 6

For The Year Ended December 31, 2014

With Comparative Actual Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

	Budgeted Amounts		2014 Actual Amounts	Variance with Final Budget - Positive (Negative)	2013 Actual Amounts
	Original	Final			
Revenues:					
General property taxes	\$289,141	\$289,141	\$287,533	(\$1,608)	\$262,432
Intergovernmental - Other	133	133	133	-	131
Investment income	-	-	171	171	176
Other	-	-	1,630	1,630	1,979
Total revenues	<u>289,274</u>	<u>289,274</u>	<u>289,467</u>	<u>193</u>	<u>264,718</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
Legal	11,737	11,737	7,363	4,374	6,990
Accounting and auditing	19,387	19,387	18,818	569	18,307
Other consulting	3,832	3,832	1,260	2,572	1,792
Salary and benefits	162,146	162,146	164,505	(2,359)	151,168
Manager's per diem and expenses	28,500	28,500	14,875	13,625	19,386
Insurance	12,731	12,731	14,213	(1,482)	13,259
Dues	6,365	6,365	5,177	1,188	3,500
Rent	22,831	22,831	24,270	(1,439)	22,578
Equipment	9,200	9,200	14,234	(5,034)	4,325
Office supplies and other	12,545	12,545	37,263	(24,718)	10,838
Total expenditures	<u>289,274</u>	<u>289,274</u>	<u>301,978</u>	<u>(12,704)</u>	<u>252,143</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	(12,511)	<u>(\$12,511)</u>	12,575
Fund balance - January 1			<u>394,595</u>		<u>382,020</u>
Fund balance - December 31			<u>\$382,084</u>		<u>\$394,595</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
REQUIRED SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION
BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE
NOTE TO RSI
December 31, 2014

Note A **BUDGETS**

The General Fund budget is legally adopted on a basis consistent with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. The legal level of budgetary control is at the fund level for the General Fund.

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INDIVIDUAL FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
GENERAL FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Statement 7

Assets	2014	2013
Cash and investments	\$411,652	\$601,127
Accounts receivable	1,452	1,455
Taxes receivable:		
Delinquent	3,262	4,056
Due from county	1,178	1,802
Prepaid items	15,096	12,536
Total assets	\$432,640	\$620,976
Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$44,132	\$219,397
Salaries payable	3,162	2,928
Total liabilities	47,294	222,325
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Unavailable revenue	3,262	4,056
Fund balance:		
Nonspendable	15,096	12,536
Unassigned	366,988	382,059
Total fund balance	382,084	394,595
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	\$432,640	\$620,976

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
GENERAL FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 8

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues:		
General property taxes	\$287,533	\$262,432
Intergovernmental - other	133	131
Investment income	171	176
Other	1,630	1,979
Total revenues	<u>289,467</u>	<u>264,718</u>
Expenditures:		
Current:		
Professional services:		
Legal	7,363	6,990
Accounting and auditing	18,818	18,307
Other consulting	1,260	1,792
Salary and benefits	164,505	151,168
Manager's per diem and expenses	14,875	19,386
Insurance	14,213	13,259
Dues	5,177	3,500
Rent	24,270	22,578
Equipment	14,234	4,325
Office supplies and other	37,263	10,838
Total expenditures	<u>301,978</u>	<u>252,143</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	(12,511)	12,575
Fund balance - January 1	<u>394,595</u>	<u>382,020</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u><u>\$382,084</u></u>	<u><u>\$394,595</u></u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Statement 9

	2014	2013
Assets		
Cash and investments	\$13,762,260	\$12,801,719
Restricted cash and investments	1,275,674	1,504,301
Accounts receivable	-	2,640
Due from other governments	359,159	499,211
Taxes receivable:		
Delinquent	6,887	8,314
Due from county	1,850	3,016
Stormwater utility fees receivable:		
Delinquent	17,306	27,126
Due from county	8,806	16,141
Prepaid items	-	500
Total assets	\$15,431,942	\$14,862,968
Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	\$296,651	\$406,857
Salaries payable	2,954	2,597
Contracts payable	25,607	367,592
Unearned revenue	69,608	34,345
Total liabilities	394,820	811,391
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Unavailable revenue	364,193	395,440
Fund balance:		
Nonspendable	-	500
Restricted	1,267,214	1,495,845
Committed	13,345,890	12,113,228
Assigned	59,825	46,564
Total fund balance	14,672,929	13,656,137
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	\$15,431,942	\$14,862,968

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 10

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues:		
General property taxes	\$454,268	\$447,956
Stormwater utility fees	2,045,056	2,024,362
Permits	6,500	-
Intergovernmental:		
Other	127,137	678,607
Investment income	1,479	3,282
Other	5,279	10,084
Total revenues	<u>2,639,719</u>	<u>3,164,291</u>
Expenditures:		
Current:		
Professional services:		
Legal	7,503	19,744
Engineering	136,285	413,668
Salaries and benefits	109,952	21,375
Projects and studies	1,369,187	5,731,640
Total expenditures	<u>1,622,927</u>	<u>6,186,427</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	1,016,792	(3,022,136)
Fund balance - January 1	<u>13,656,137</u>	<u>16,678,273</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u>\$14,672,929</u>	<u>\$13,656,137</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE BALANCE SHEET
DEBT SERVICE FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For December 31, 2013

Statement 11

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Assets		
Cash and investments	\$417,980	\$379,688
Restricted cash and investments	8,738	8,738
Stormwater utility fees receivable:		
Delinquent	18,067	13,450
Due from county	<u>3,425</u>	<u>6,273</u>
Total assets	<u><u>\$448,210</u></u>	<u><u>\$408,149</u></u>
Liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance		
Liabilities:		
Accounts payable	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ -</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:		
Unavailable revenue	<u>18,067</u>	<u>13,450</u>
Fund balance:		
Restricted	<u>430,143</u>	<u>394,699</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and fund balance	<u><u>\$448,210</u></u>	<u><u>\$408,149</u></u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMPARATIVE STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
DEBT SERVICE FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Amounts For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

Statement 12

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Revenues:		
Stormwater utility fees	\$796,676	\$787,541
Investment income	468	516
Total revenues	<u>797,144</u>	<u>788,057</u>
Expenditures:		
Debt service:		
Principal	565,000	545,000
Interest	195,770	215,770
Fiscal agent fees	930	425
Total expenditures	<u>761,700</u>	<u>761,195</u>
Revenues over expenditures	35,444	26,862
Fund balance - January 1	<u>394,699</u>	<u>367,837</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u><u>\$430,143</u></u>	<u><u>\$394,699</u></u>

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SUPPLEMENTARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMBINING BALANCE SHEET
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND
December 31, 2014
With Comparative Totals For December 31, 2013

	<u>1.0 Floodplain Management</u>	<u>2.0 Stormwater Management</u>	<u>3.0 Water Quality</u>	<u>4.0 Wetlands</u>	<u>5.0 Natural Resources</u>
Assets					
Cash and investments	\$226,288	\$7,590,912	\$1,730,017	\$217,771	\$578,651
Restricted cash and investments	-	1,275,674	-	-	-
Accounts receivable	-	-	-	-	-
Due from other governments	-	352,751	6,408	-	-
Taxes receivable:					
Delinquent	-	-	-	-	-
Due from county	26	99	556	-	25
Stormwater utility fees receivable:					
Delinquent	-	-	-	-	-
Due from county	59	4,769	1,014	-	174
Prepaid expense	-	-	-	-	-
Total assets	<u>\$226,373</u>	<u>\$9,224,205</u>	<u>\$1,737,995</u>	<u>\$217,771</u>	<u>\$578,850</u>
Liabilities, inflow of resources, and fund balance					
Liabilities:					
Accounts payable	\$ -	\$70,174	\$6,150	\$ -	\$ -
Due to other governments	-	-	-	-	-
Contracts payable	-	25,607	-	-	-
Salaries payable	67	367	911	149	116
Unearned revenue	-	-	69,608	-	-
Total liabilities	<u>67</u>	<u>96,148</u>	<u>76,669</u>	<u>149</u>	<u>116</u>
Deferred inflows of resources:					
Unavailable revenue	-	340,000	-	-	-
Fund balance:					
Nonspendable	-	-	-	-	-
Restricted	-	1,267,214	-	-	-
Committed	226,236	7,504,635	1,660,417	217,605	549,955
Assigned	70	16,208	909	17	28,779
Total fund balance	<u>226,306</u>	<u>8,788,057</u>	<u>1,661,326</u>	<u>217,622</u>	<u>578,734</u>
Total liabilities, inflow of resources, and fund balance	<u>\$226,373</u>	<u>\$9,224,205</u>	<u>\$1,737,995</u>	<u>\$217,771</u>	<u>\$578,850</u>

6.0 Groundwater	7.0 Erosion Sediment Control	8.0 Education	9.0 Long Range Workplan	10.0 Data Management	Totals	
					2014	2013
\$1,033,392	\$149,546	\$277,957	\$1,500,450	\$457,276	\$13,762,260	\$12,801,719
-	-	-	-	-	1,275,674	1,504,301
-	-	-	-	-	-	2,640
-	-	-	-	-	359,159	499,211
-	-	-	-	6,887	6,887	8,314
49	39	178	130	748	1,850	3,016
-	-	-	-	17,306	17,306	27,126
381	-	-	2,409	-	8,806	16,141
-	-	-	-	-	-	500
<u>\$1,033,822</u>	<u>\$149,585</u>	<u>\$278,135</u>	<u>\$1,502,989</u>	<u>\$482,217</u>	<u>\$15,431,942</u>	<u>\$14,862,968</u>
\$350	\$ -	\$5,500	\$170,000	\$44,477	\$296,651	\$303,237
-	-	-	-	-	-	103,620
-	-	-	-	-	25,607	367,592
68	187	115	422	552	2,954	2,597
-	-	-	-	-	69,608	34,345
<u>418</u>	<u>187</u>	<u>5,615</u>	<u>170,422</u>	<u>45,029</u>	<u>394,820</u>	<u>811,391</u>
-	-	-	-	24,193	364,193	395,440
-	-	-	-	-	-	500
-	-	-	-	-	1,267,214	1,495,845
1,033,168	149,379	272,404	1,331,141	400,950	13,345,890	12,113,228
236	19	116	1,426	12,045	59,825	46,564
<u>1,033,404</u>	<u>149,398</u>	<u>272,520</u>	<u>1,332,567</u>	<u>412,995</u>	<u>14,672,929</u>	<u>13,656,137</u>
<u>\$1,033,822</u>	<u>\$149,585</u>	<u>\$278,135</u>	<u>\$1,502,989</u>	<u>\$482,217</u>	<u>\$15,431,942</u>	<u>\$14,862,968</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMBINING SCHEDULE OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND
CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND - PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION FUND
For The Year Ended December 31, 2014
With Comparative Totals For The Year Ended December 31, 2013

	<u>1.0 Floodplain Management</u>	<u>2.0 Stormwater Management</u>	<u>3.0 Water Quality</u>	<u>4.0 Wetlands</u>	<u>5.0 Natural Resources</u>
Revenues:					
Property taxes	\$6,267	\$24,074	\$135,619	\$11,848	\$5,984
Stormwater utility fees	13,794	1,109,338	235,748	-	40,529
Permits	-	-	-	-	-
Intergovernmental	-	67,107	59,893	6	3
Investment income	15	671	220	7	28
Miscellaneous	-	-	-	-	5,279
Total revenues	<u>20,076</u>	<u>1,201,190</u>	<u>431,480</u>	<u>11,861</u>	<u>51,823</u>
Expenditures:					
Current:					
Legal	-	7,503	-	-	-
Engineering	6,755	129,530	-	-	-
Salaries and benefits	2,519	13,543	34,042	5,088	4,414
Projects and studies	-	625,186	144,395	286	33,900
Total expenditures	<u>9,274</u>	<u>775,762</u>	<u>178,437</u>	<u>5,374</u>	<u>38,314</u>
Revenues over (under) expenditures	10,802	425,428	253,043	6,487	13,509
Fund balance - January 1	<u>215,504</u>	<u>8,362,629</u>	<u>1,408,283</u>	<u>211,135</u>	<u>565,225</u>
Fund balance - December 31	<u>\$226,306</u>	<u>\$8,788,057</u>	<u>\$1,661,326</u>	<u>\$217,622</u>	<u>\$578,734</u>

6.0 Groundwater	7.0 Erosion Sediment Control	8.0 Education	9.0 Long Range Workplan	10.0 Data Management	Totals	
					2014	2013
\$3,419	\$9,403	\$43,338	\$31,812	\$182,504	\$454,268	\$447,956
85,270	-	-	560,377	-	2,045,056	2,024,362
-	-	-	-	6,500	6,500	-
2	4	20	15	84	127,134	678,607
52	6	26	349	108	1,482	3,282
-	-	-	-	-	5,279	10,084
<u>88,743</u>	<u>9,413</u>	<u>43,384</u>	<u>592,553</u>	<u>189,196</u>	<u>2,639,719</u>	<u>3,164,291</u>
-	-	-	-	-	7,503	19,609
-	-	-	-	-	136,285	364,439
2,520	6,946	4,344	15,747	20,789	109,952	22,678
500	-	25,200	323,929	215,791	1,369,187	5,779,701
<u>3,020</u>	<u>6,946</u>	<u>29,544</u>	<u>339,676</u>	<u>236,580</u>	<u>1,622,927</u>	<u>6,186,427</u>
85,723	2,467	13,840	252,877	(47,384)	1,016,792	(3,022,136)
<u>947,681</u>	<u>146,931</u>	<u>258,680</u>	<u>1,079,690</u>	<u>460,379</u>	<u>13,656,137</u>	<u>16,678,273</u>
<u>\$1,033,404</u>	<u>\$149,398</u>	<u>\$272,520</u>	<u>\$1,332,567</u>	<u>\$412,995</u>	<u>\$14,672,929</u>	<u>\$13,656,137</u>

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OTHER INFORMATION - UNAUDITED

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
COMBINED SCHEDULE OF INDEBTEDNESS
December 31, 2014

	<u>Interest Rates</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Final Maturity Date</u>
General Obligation Bonds:			
Crossover Refunding Bonds of 2007A	4.00%	12/27/2007	3/1/2017
G.O. Bonds of 2011A	3.47%	5/1/2011	3/1/2031
 Total			

Prior Years		Payable 01/01/14	2014		Payable 12/31/14	Principal Due In 2015	Interest Due In 2015	Interest Payable to Maturity
Original Issue	Payments		Issued	Payments				
\$2,795,000	\$855,000	\$1,940,000	\$ -	\$455,000	\$1,485,000	\$475,000	\$52,275	\$93,075
3,945,000	110,000	3,835,000	-	110,000	3,725,000	130,000	120,120	1,280,245
<u>\$6,740,000</u>	<u>\$965,000</u>	<u>\$5,775,000</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$565,000</u>	<u>\$5,210,000</u>	<u>\$605,000</u>	<u>\$172,395</u>	<u>\$1,373,320</u>

SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT
TAXABLE VALUATIONS, TAX LEVIES AND TAX RATES

Exhibit 2

	Tax Capacity Values <u>2014/2015</u>	Tax Capacity Values <u>2013/2014</u>	Tax Capacity Values <u>2012/2013</u>	Tax Capacity Values <u>2011/2012</u>
Taxable valuations:				
Real estate	\$106,026,391	\$92,671,717	\$88,701,090	\$93,765,826
Personal property	2,093,645	2,031,095	2,003,137	1,860,021
Total	<u>108,120,036</u>	<u>94,702,812</u>	<u>90,704,227</u>	<u>95,625,847</u>
Tax increment captured	(744,925)	(758,479)	(1,127,089)	(1,271,066)
Fiscal disparities:				
Distribution	11,983,912	11,929,117	11,981,051	13,296,859
Contribution	<u>(8,286,528)</u>	<u>(8,105,430)</u>	<u>(8,488,654)</u>	<u>(8,322,319)</u>
Total	<u>\$111,072,495</u>	<u>\$97,768,020</u>	<u>\$93,069,535</u>	<u>\$99,329,321</u>
	<u>2014/2015</u>	<u>2013/2014</u>	<u>2012/2013</u>	<u>2011/2012</u>
	<u>Certified Levy</u>	<u>Certified Levy</u>	<u>Certified Levy</u>	<u>Certified Levy</u>
Taxes levied:				
Administration levy	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000	\$250,000
Management plan implementation levy	<u>527,591</u>	<u>496,293</u>	<u>468,025</u>	<u>461,044</u>
Total	<u>\$777,591</u>	<u>\$746,293</u>	<u>\$718,025</u>	<u>\$711,044</u>

OTHER REPORTS

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REPORT ON INTERNAL CONTROL

To the Board of Managers and Management
South Washington Watershed District
Woodbury, Minnesota

In planning and performing our audit of the financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of South Washington Watershed District as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, we considered South Washington Watershed District's internal control over financial reporting (internal control) as a basis for designing audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances for the purpose of expressing our opinions on the financial statements, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of South Washington Watershed District's internal control. Accordingly, we do not express an opinion on the effectiveness of the South Washington Watershed District's internal control.

Our consideration of internal control was for the limited purpose described in the preceding paragraph and was not designed to identify all deficiencies in internal control that might be material weaknesses or significant deficiencies and, therefore, material weaknesses or significant deficiencies may exist that were not identified. However, as discussed below, we identified certain deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be significant deficiencies.

A *deficiency* in internal control exists when the design or operation of a control does not allow management or employees, in the normal course of performing their assigned functions, to prevent, or detect and correct misstatements on a timely basis. A *material weakness* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies in internal control, such that there is a reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control that we consider to be material weaknesses.

A *significant deficiency* is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. We consider the deficiency in the South Washington Watershed District's internal control as described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses as item 2014-001 to be a significant deficiency.

South Washington Watershed District's written response to the significant deficiency identified in our audit is described in the accompanying Schedule of Findings and Responses. We did not audit the South Washington Watershed District's response and, accordingly, we express no opinion on it.

This communication is intended solely for the information and use of management, the South Washington Watershed District's Board of Managers, and others within the Organization, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

March 27, 2015

2014-001 Lack of Segregation of Duties

Criteria: Generally, a system of internal control contemplates separation of duties such that no individual has responsibility to execute a transaction, has physical access to the related assets, and has responsibility or authority to record the transaction.

Condition: Substantially all accounting procedures are performed by one person.

Cause: This condition is common to organizations of this size due to a limited number of staff.

Effect: The lack of ideal segregation of duties subjects the District to a higher risk that errors or fraud could occur and not be detected in a timely manner.

Recommendation: Any modification of internal controls in this area needs to be viewed from a cost/benefit perspective.

Management Response: The District has internal control policies and procedures in place to adequately compensate for the lack of segregation of duties, such as having all disbursements reviewed and approved by staff, administration, and the Board. Any modifications will be viewed from a cost/benefit perspective.

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MINNESOTA LEGAL COMPLIANCE REPORT

To the Board of Managers
South Washington Watershed District
Woodbury, Minnesota

We have audited, in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America, the financial statements of South Washington Watershed District, as of and for the year ended December 31, 2014, and the related notes to the financial statements, and have issued our report thereon dated March 27, 2015.

The *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*, promulgated by the State Auditor Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 6.65, contains six categories of compliance to be tested: contracting and bidding, deposits and investments, conflicts of interest, public indebtedness, claims and disbursements, and miscellaneous provisions. Our study considered all of the listed categories.

In connection with our audit, nothing came to our attention that caused us to believe that South Washington Watershed District failed to comply with the provisions of the *Minnesota Legal Compliance Audit Guide for Political Subdivisions*. However, our audit was not directed primarily toward obtaining knowledge of such noncompliance. Accordingly, had we performed additional procedures, other matters may have come to our attention regarding the South Washington Watershed District's noncompliance with the above referenced provisions.

This report is intended solely for the information and use of those charged with governance and management of South Washington Watershed District and the State Auditor, and is not intended to be, and should not be, used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Redpath and Company, Ltd.

REDPATH AND COMPANY, LTD.
St. Paul, Minnesota

March 27, 2015

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Appendix B Education



2014 Annual Report



Above: A Lake Elmo area Girl Scout troop pulls weeds during a raingarden maintenance workshop.

Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Brown's Creek Watershed • Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed •
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove •
Dellwood • Forest Lake • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed •
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed • Stillwater •
South Washington Watershed • Valley Branch Watershed • Willernie •
West Lakeland • Woodbury • Washington Conservation District • Washington County

**East Metro Water Resource Education Program
2014 Annual Report**

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About the East Metro Water Resource Education Program

Background: The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership that was formed in 2006 to develop and implement a comprehensive water resource education and outreach program for the east metro area of St. Paul, MN. Current EMWREP partners include Brown's Creek, Carnelian-Marine-St Croix, Comfort-Lake Forest Lake, Rice Creek, Ramsey-Washington Metro, South Washington, and Valley Branch Watershed Districts, Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, the cities of Cottage Grove, Dellwood, Forest Lake, Lake Elmo, Stillwater, Willernie, and Woodbury, West Lakeland Township, Washington County and the Washington Conservation District.

Purpose: The purpose of the shared education program is to provide education about the impacts of non-point source pollution on local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and to engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve water quality in the region. In addition to educating the public, EMWREP also provides training for city, county and watershed staff and local elected officials.

Partnership Structure: EMWREP is guided by a steering committee comprised of representatives from each of the 18 partner organizations. The committee generally meets twice a year to provide recommendations on the program budget and activities. During 2013, EMWREP staff included Angie Hong, full-time education specialist and coordinator for the program, Jenn Radtke, half-time education assistant, and Wendy Griffin, a Washington Conservation District natural resource specialist who provided 170 hours of support for rural education activities. The EMWREP coordinator sends a quarterly e-newsletter to all partners' staff, council members and board members, and communicates one-on-one with individual partners on projects throughout the year. The EMWREP education plan is revised every two to three years to accommodate changing priorities and new target audiences. In addition, the EMWREP coordinator prepares an annual report on program activities and provides outreach data and statistics for partners' MS4 Permit reports. All EMWREP reports, plans, and education updates are available on-line at www.mnwcd.org/emwrep.

Coordination with Other Regional Education Efforts: One of the major benefits of the EMWREP program is that it has helped to strengthen relationships between Washington Conservation District, Washington County and the eight watershed management organizations and eight cities that constitute the partnership, which has resulted in better coordination and less overlap in the management of local water resources. By promoting partner's BMP programs, EMWREP has helped to increase the total number of water quality improvement projects implemented and to target these projects in priority areas.

EMWREP has also played a central role in the coordination and development of two regional education programs, Blue Thumb and WaterShed Partners. Blue Thumb is a partnership of more than 70 public and private entities in the Upper Midwest, developed to promote the use of native plantings, raingardens and shoreline plantings to conserve water resources and reduce runoff pollution. WaterShed Partners, which manages the Clean Water Minnesota media campaign, is a collaborative of more than 70 non-profit and public entities in the Twin Cities metro area that work together to educate the public about stormwater pollution. Additionally, EMWREP frequently partners with organizations within the St. Croix River Basin for educational events and activities.

Accolades: In 2012, the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts recognized EMWREP as the Watershed Program of the Year.

2014 Executive Summary

General Education Campaign: During 2014, EMWREP continued to use a variety of strategies to educate the general public about stormwater pollution and other issues affecting the quality of surface and groundwater resources, and to inform them about partner programs and activities. Major strategies include more than 100 articles per year in local newspapers and community newsletters, ample use of social media, direct mailings to specific audiences, and participation in more than 15 community events.

Though the impact of these larger public education and awareness raising efforts is often hard to measure directly, we know they greatly improve the success of our targeted outreach activities and are usually the initial gateway through which people learn about EMWREP partner organizations and engage at a higher level by attending a workshop, participating in a watershed planning process, or installing a clean water project on their property.

In 2014, EMWREP also conducted the following special education projects:

- 1) Held a series of three focus groups with representatives from homeowners' associations (HOAs), property management companies, and lawn care companies.
- 2) Developed an e-newsletter for area congregations and new educational resources for this audience; and
- 3) Created a Clean Water Geocaching Trail to highlight partner projects.

Blue Thumb Program: The Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water program (www.BlueThumb.org) was developed by the Rice Creek Watershed District in 2006 and EMWREP has been a key member since then. During 2014, the Blue Thumb partnership included more than 70 public and private entities - nurseries, landscaping companies, watershed agencies, cities, non-profits and citizen groups.

EMWREP uses Blue Thumb tools and resources, such as the website and print materials, to conduct public education and enhance outreach efforts. Last year, EMWREP:

- 1) Conducted four raingarden design workshops, one shoreline planting workshop, and two raingarden maintenance workshops;
- 2) Coordinated neighborhood gatherings in Bayport, Lake Elmo, Stillwater, Forest Lake, and Wyoming;
- 3) Supported targeted outreach efforts in Stillwater and North St. Paul / Maplewood;
- 4) Helped to promote watershed best management practices (BMP) programs; and
- 5) Contributed to the new Washington County BMP database.

EMWREP education continues to amplify the impact of partner BMP clean water programs. Out of 961 voluntary urban BMPs built in Washington County between 2007 and 2013, 115 (12%) came from people who attended Blue Thumb workshops hosted by EMWREP. Furthermore, of the 362 people who attended workshops between 2007 and 2013, 106 (29%) went on to install BMP projects on their land. In 2014, BMP program staff reported:

- 233 site visits
- 33 new projects installed; 34 projects from previous years completed
- 68.75 pounds of phosphorus (P) captured by all projects installed in 2014
- 58,122 pounds of total suspended solids (TSS) captured by all projects in 2014

Rural Outreach: During 2014, EMWREP offered several programs specifically designed to engage rural property owners. These included a workshop for horse owners, a cover crop field seminar, and support for nitrates well water testing in southern Washington County. In addition, EMWREP also provided outreach support for targeted implementation efforts, including Washington Conservation District's Turf to Prairie and Top50P! projects.

Blue Biz: The Blue Biz program consists of a website (www.cleanwaterMN.org/businesses) and outreach materials that partners can use to engage commercial property owners in BMP projects.

Stormwater U: In 2014, EMWREP coordinated with Minnesota Extension, the University of Minnesota Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Programs, and the Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) to provide professional training and workshops for local government staff and consultants, as well as builders, developers and contractors, including:

- 1) Innovation in Stormwater Best Management Practices;
- 2) Erosion and Sediment Control Inspections and Enforcement; and
- 3) P8 Modeling

During 2014, EMWREP also developed a series of ten 10-minute PowerPoint presentations for partners to use during monthly staff meetings. The presentations cover training topics included under Minimum Control Measure 6 of the MS4 permit.

NEMO: The Northland NEMO program (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials) provides local elected officials and decision makers with resources and information to make informed decisions about land use and water quality in their communities. Northland NEMO is hosted by the University of Minnesota Extension and EMWREP is a partner organization.

During 2014, EMWREP collaborated with several other partners to hold the fifth annual *Workshop on the Water* for St. Croix Basin communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Nearly 120 people attended. EMWREP also provided support for a grant project to help communities in Washington County adopt Minimal Impact Design Standards, including conducting a special workshop for city attorneys. In addition, EMWREP staff presented to the Oakdale Environmental Commission and helped to coordinate Washington County Water Consortium activities.

MS4 Toolkit: EMWREP developed the MS4 Toolkit (www.cleanwatermn.org/MS4toolkit) several years ago with a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The toolkit includes educational materials that partners can use to meet the six minimum control measures in the MS4 permit, such as brochures, posters, slide shows, training videos and more. In addition to the on-line materials, training videos for parks and public works staff and pop-up banners for community events are available partners to borrow. The Metro WaterShed Partners MS4 work group is currently discussing strategies for updating the MS4 Toolkit and website.

General Education Campaign

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: General Public

Program Goals:

1. Provide education on water resource issues and stormwater pollution prevention for people living and working in the east metro area.
2. Collaborate with state and local government as well as non-profit and community groups to carry out educational activities.
3. Utilize master gardeners and other citizen volunteers to help conduct education and outreach.
4. Promote EMWREP partners and their BMP (Best Management Practices) programs.
5. Engage community members and other stakeholders in TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) and Non-Degradation Plan processes.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Increase the overall understanding and awareness of water resources and storm water runoff among the general public.
2. Increase understanding of the connection between individual actions and water resource quality among the general public.
3. Increase awareness of storm water best management practices among the general public.
4. Increase understanding of the roles that cities, watershed agencies, counties and conservation districts play in managing water resources.

Behavior Change

1. Engage the public in the prevention of storm water pollution at home.
2. Increase the utilization of storm water best management practices and adoption of desirable clean water practices among the general public.
3. Engage the public and other stakeholders in creating and implementing watershed, TMDL and Non-Degradation plans.
4. Unite government, non-profit and community based organizations with a common clean water theme.
5. Develop leaders among citizens and other water related organizations that can carry water resource education to the general public.

Water Quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:

Maintaining and developing educational partnerships: EMWREP continues to work collaboratively with governmental, non-profit, private and citizen partners to engage the public, promote and execute events and activities, and develop and distribute educational materials and resources. EMWREP works with partners in both the Twin Cities Metro area and the St. Croix River Basin. Some of these many partners include:

- Local units of government: The 18 partnering entities within EMWREP, as well as other LGUs inside and outside of Washington County;
- Non-profits: St. Croix River Association, Friends of the Mississippi River, Family Means, local nature centers, sportsman groups;
- Private partners: Corporations such as 3M and Blue Cross – Blue Shield; and
- Citizens: Master Gardeners, church members, and other community leaders.

Community events: EMWREP participated in more than a dozen local community events, either by helping to plan, sending materials, staffing a table or giving a presentation:

- St. Croix Basin Conference – April 8 (River Falls)
- Mahtomedi Rite of Spring – April 26
- Waterfest – May 31 (Lake Phalen)
- Landscape Revival – May 31 (Roseville)
- Explore Your Parks Day – June 7 (Lake Elmo Regional Park)
- Master Gardener Plant Sale – June 2 (Lake Elmo)
- Belwin Bison Release – June 14 (Afton)
- Family Means Garden Tour – July 12-13 (Stillwater)
- Washington County Fair – July 30 – Aug. 3
- Heritage Day – Aug. 5 (Lake St. Croix Beach)
- Minnesota State Fair – Aug. 21 – Sept. 1
- Warner Nature Center Open House – Oct. 5
- Newport Community Buckthorn Pull – Oct. 25

Student Programs: EMWREP participated in the following children's education events:

- Da Vinci Festival, Stillwater ISD - Jan. 5 (2500 K-12 students and parents)
- MN Youth Outdoor Expo, Hugo, May 18-19 (2500 children and parents)
- OH Anderson Field Day, Mahtomedi – May 10 (100 3rd-5th grade students)
- Cottage Grove Safety Camp – July 9 (200 children, ages 8-11)



Above: WaterShed Partners exhibits at Minnesota State



Above: During Safety Camp, the kids created maps of the Mississippi River in South Washington County.

Special Mailings: EMWREP helped partners to send out special mailings during the year, including:

- Mailings to Comfort Lake – Forest Lake and Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watersheds to promote the Aquatic Invasive Species workshop and watershed cost-share programs (February)
- Washington Conservation District newsletter (March & November)
- Mailing to the Croixwood neighborhood (Stillwater) in Brown’s Creek Watershed, for a neighborhood raingarden project (May)

Newspaper articles: EMWREP coordinator Angie Hong writes regularly for several local papers. Read the articles on-line at www.eastmetrowater.areavoices.com. Education assistant Jenn Radtke also sends news articles and press releases to papers. In 2014, the following articles were sent to or published in area papers:



Chisago County Press

- Feb. 19 – Press release: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) workshop
- May 22 – *Native plants keep bees buzzing*
- June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*

Forest Lake Press (5258 readers)

- Feb. 19 – Press release: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) workshop
- July 8 – Press release: Clean Water Geocaching Trail
- Aug. 4 – Press release: Forest Lake shoreline neighborhood event
- Sept. 8 – Press release: Washington County septic replacement loan program

Forest Lake Times (13,029 readers)

- Feb. 11 – Press release: Over \$1 million in Clean Water grants for Washington Co., 2014
- Feb. 19 – Press release: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) workshop
- Feb. 27 – *The battle of the invasives* (AIS workshop)
- May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
- June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*
- June 18 – *Safe passage for turtles*
- July 2 – *A plea for sane lawn watering*
- July 8 – Press release: Clean Water Geocaching Trail
- Aug. 4 – Press release: Forest Lake shoreline neighborhood event
- Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*
- Sept. 8 – Press release: Washington County septic replacement loan program
- Nov. 4 – *Fall chores* (leaf raking and water quality)

Hastings Star Gazette (34,614 subscribers)

- July 25 – *Where the Mississippi River wanders*
- Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*

Hugo Citizen (10,000 readers)

- Feb. 27 – *The battle of the invasives* (AIS workshop)
- April 4 – *Local cities adapt to changing groundwater availability*
- May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
- May 27 – *Native plants keep bees buzzing*
- June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*

June 18 – *Safe passage for turtles*
Aug. 21 – Column: *The year the lawn didn't sleep*
Sept. 17 – Column: *In search of Hardwood Creek*
Oct. 16 - Press Release: WCD Board visits White Bear Yacht Club and other conservation projects
Dec. 16 – Column: *Under the ice aquatic life*

Oakdale- Lake Elmo & Maplewood – North St. Paul Reviews (10,873 readers)

Feb. 5 – *Healing from groundwater contamination in Washington County* (PFC monitoring project in Oakdale and Lake Elmo)
Feb. 21 – *Get gardening* (Raingarden workshops on March 4 and 11)
April 4 – *Local cities adapt to changing groundwater availability*
May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
May 15 – *WaterFest and Explore Your Parks Day*
May 22 – *Native plants keep bees buzzing*
June 2 – *Lake report for Valley Branch Watershed*
June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*
June 18 – *Safe passage for turtles*
June 27 – *Get inspired at the Family Means St. Croix Garden Tour*
July 2 – *A plea for sane lawn watering*
July 21 – *Monarchs in the trees* (An Evening in the Big Backyard event in Lake Elmo)
Aug. 4 – *Grimy, green and gross*
Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*
Sept. 2 – *A refresher course on sewers and pipes*
Sept. 17 – Review article: Big Backyard workshop in Lake Elmo and Juran gardens
Sept. 30 – *Goosy, goosy, gander*
Nov. 4 – *Fall chores*
Nov. 6 – *Exploring the new Brown's Creek Trail*
Nov. 25 – *Wearing high heels in the winter* (salt and water quality)
Dec. 22 – Minnesota lakes

Pioneer Press (308,860 daily readers / 511,190 Sunday readers / 2.7 million on-line visitors)

Feb. 11 – Press release: Over \$1 million in Clean Water grants for Washington Co., 2014

Scandia Country Messenger (1075 readers)

Feb. 11 – Press release: Over \$1 million in Clean Water grants for Washington Co., 2014
Feb. 19 – Press release: Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) workshop
May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*
July 8 – Press release: Clean Water Geocaching Trail
July 14 - *Water monitoring data for lakes and streams in Scandia, Marine and May*
Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*
Sept. 8 – Press release: Washington County septic replacement loan program
Nov. 4 – *Farewell to the geese*

South Washington County Bulletin (8616 readers)

Feb. 11 – Press release: Over \$1 million in Clean Water grants for Washington Co., 2014
April 4 – *Local cities adapt to changing groundwater availability*
April 22 – *Happening on the St. Croix River*
May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
June 12 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*

July 2 – *A plea for sane lawn watering*
July 25 – *Where the Mississippi River wanders*
Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*
Sept. 5 – *Explore Ravine Lake and the wetlands of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park*
Oct. 20 – *The falliest fall ever* (leaf raking and water quality)
Nov. 4 – Fall chores
Nov. 10 – *Central Draw Project*
Nov. 25 – *Wearing high heels in the winter* (salt and water quality)

St. Croix 360 (local e-newspaper reaching 25,000+ people)

Aug. 27 - Middle St. Croix Watershed meeting - Sept. 2 (from Stillwater Current)
Aug. 25 – *Obsolete septic systems spoil St. Croix streams*
Dec. 9 – Article about conservation projects for rural landowners

Stillwater Gazette (6,966 readers)

April 7 – Gazette staff attended Stillwater raingarden workshop & wrote article
May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
May 20 - Press release: Stillwater Area High School wins State Envirothon
June 30 –Pastor’s column: St. Peter’s Church builds raingardens and community
Aug. 22 - Press release: Middle St. Croix Watershed meeting - Sept. 2
Sept. 16 - Press Release: WCD Board visits Blueberry Fields and other conservation projects

Woodbury Bulletin (7811 readers)

April 4 – *Local cities adapt to changing groundwater availability*
May 15 – Press release: MASWCD Day at the Capitol
July 2 – *A plea for sane lawn watering*
Aug. 4 – *Grimy, green and gross*
Nov. 10 – *Central Draw Project*
Nov. 25 – *Wearing high heels in the winter* (salt and water quality)

Valley Life (48,000 readers – Angie Hong has a weekly column)

Jan. 2 – *How to walk in the winter* (salt use and water quality)
Jan. 9 – *Ten things you might not know about water resources in Washington County*
Jan. 16 – *Where the water goes*
Jan. 26 – *Clean Water Legacy Funding to benefit Washington County*
Feb. 4 – *Healing from groundwater contamination in Washington County*
Feb. 5 – *Things change* (Wild Ones native plant conference)
Feb. 20 – *Get gardening Stillwater*
Feb. 27 – *The battle of the invasives*
March 10 – *Ready for the melt*
March 18 – *The Lake Detective* (AIS workshop)
March 25 – *Walking on water* (spring events and St. Croix River)
March 31 – *Scooping the poop with style*
April 4 – *Local cities adapt to changing water availability*
April 15 – *Pharmaceuticals in Minnesota lakes*
April 22 – *Happening on the St. Croix River*
April 30 – *Shoreline living*
May 6 – *Caring for your horse and your land*
May 12 – *Searching for spring*
May 15 – *WaterFest and Explore Your Parks Day*

May 19 – *Native plants keep bees buzzing*
 June 2 - *VBWD lakes report*
 June 3 – *Beware the Grecian foxglove*
 June 11 – *Stopping the nitrogen superhighway*
 June 13 – *Safe passage for turtles*
 June 27 – *Get inspired at the Family Means St. Croix Garden Tour*
 July 2 – *Plea for sane lawn watering*
 July 14 – *Stillwater area water monitoring report*
 July 21 – *Monarchs in the trees*
 July 25 – *Where the Mississippi River wanders*
 Aug. 4 – *Grimy, green and gross*
 Aug. 11 – *Summer 2014 church raingarden tour*
 Aug. 19 – *Failing septic systems contaminate area streams and lakes*
 Sept. 2 – *A refresher course on sewers and pipes*
 Sept. 5 – *Explore Ravine Lake and the wetlands of Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park*
 Sept. 15 – *Getting to know your neighborhood fish*
 Sept. 30 – *Goosy, goosy, gander*
 Oct. 9 – *Beautiful race* (water improvements on Minneapolis Chain of Lakes)
 Oct. 20 – *The falldest fall ever* (leaf raking and water quality)
 Oct. 22 – *Imagine how it could be*
 Nov. 3 – *Exploring the new Brown’s Creek Trail*
 Nov. 10 – *Central Draw Project*
 Nov. 18 – *Finding peace by the water’s edge*
 Nov. 25 – *Wearing high heels in the winter* (salt and water quality)
 Dec. 2 – *Minnesota lakes*
 Dec. 9 – *Minnesota rivers*
 Dec. 16 – *Reducing runoff at the Oneka Ridge Golf Course*
 Dec. 23 – *As the waterdrop roles* (summary of 2014 watershed activities)

City newsletter articles: Information about stormwater pollution, water resources and EMWREP partner activities reached more than 175,000 people through community newsletters in 2014. Below are some of the topics covered in these newsletters:

- Afton (pop. 2800) – [newsletter](#)
 - Jan – Tree Sale
 - March – Blue Thumb workshops
 - April - Blue Thumb and buckthorn workshops
 - May – Spring Yard Care Tips
 - June – Invasive species
 - August – Clean Water geocaching
 - September – Buckthorn
 - October – County Septic Program
- Bayport (pop. 3200) – [newsletter](#)
 - March – Planting for Clean Water
- Baytown Twp. (pop. 1723) – no newsletter
- Birchwood (pop. 875) - [newsletter](#)
- Cottage Grove (pop. 34,000) - [newsletter](#)
 - Feb – Blue Thumb workshop
 - April – Buckthorn
 - June – Groundwater

- Dellwood (pop. 1063) – annual Mayor’s Letter, not posted on-line
- Denmark Twp. (pop. 1737) – no newsletter
- Forest Lake (pop. 18,957) - [newsletter](#)
 - Winter – road salt, WCD tree sale
- Grant (pop. 4026) – twice yearly, not posted on-line
- Hugo (pop. 14,000) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring – water conservation, abandoned well sealing
 - Fall – Oneka Ridge water reuse project
- Lake Elmo (pop. 7647) - [newsletter](#)
 - Summer – Stormwater and drinking water supplies, car wash, native plants, lawn watering
 - Fall – proper disposal of household hazardous wastes, sweep up leaves and grass clippings, lawn watering.
- Lake Elmo Fresh – e-newsletter
 - Featured several EMWREP and partner events in the Lake Elmo area
- Lake St. Croix Beach (pop. 1051) - [newsletter](#)
 - Jan – Annual Tree Sale, non-toxic cleaners
 - Feb – Annual Tree Sale, county septics program
 - March – Blue Thumb workshop
 - April – Blue Thumb workshops, rain barrels
 - May – rain barrels, spring clean-up tips
- Lakeland (pop. 1830) - [newsletter](#)
 - June, July, August – Grass clippings
 - October, November – County septic program
- Lakeland Shores (pop. 355) – [newsletter](#)
- Mahtomedi (pop. 8000) - [newsletter](#)
 - April – June: 10 Stormwater tips
 - Jan - Mar: road salt, tree sale
- Maplewood (pop. 39,337) – only current month’s newsletter posted on-line
- Marine on St. Croix (pop. 700) – [newsletter](#)
- May Twp. (pop. 761) – twice annually, not posted on-line
- Newport (pop. 3435) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring – community buckthorn pull
 - Fall – Controlling stormwater pollution
- North St. Paul (pop. 11,694) – [newsletter](#)
 - April – spring cleaning
- Oakdale (pop. 27,726) – only current newsletter posted on-line
- Oak Park Heights (pop. 4724) - [newsletter](#)
 - First Quarter – Annual tree sale
- Pine Springs (pop. 408) – no newsletter or website
- Scandia (pop. 3934) - [newsletter](#)
- Stillwater (pop. 18,000) - [newsletter](#)
- Stillwater Twp. (pop. 3000) - [newsletter](#)
- St. Mary’s Point (pop. 370) – no newsletter

- West Lakeland (pop. 3547) - [newsletter](#)
 - Spring – County septic program,
 - Summer – Evening in the Big Backyard
- Willernie (pop. 511) – Mayor’s letter sent occasionally
- Woodbury (pop. 57,345) - [newsletter](#)
 - Feb – pet waste
 - Nov. – Water conservation, winter salt use

Radio programming: On March 22, Angie Hong talked about raingardens and other water-friendly planting projects on the Karin Housley Network – KLBB Radio, a local station serving the St. Croix Valley.



Websites and Social Media: EMWREP uses several websites to provide information and resources for the public and also uses social media, such as Facebook, Twitter and the East Metro Water blog to reach people in the community:

- **Washington Conservation District:** In 2014, the WCD website (www.mnwcd.org) received 7,609 visits from 5,531 visitors. The WCD has 202 Facebook “Likes” and EMWREP has 92 Twitter followers.
- **Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water:** The website (www.BlueThumb.org) received 22,400 visits from 18,048 visitors. Blue Thumb has 956 Facebook likes and 480 Twitter followers.
- **WaterShed Partners:** The Clean Water Minnesota website (www.cleanwatermn.org) received 1691 visits from 1376 visitors. StormDrain Goalie, a new social media initiative of WaterShed Partners has 1407 Facebook likes.
- **East Metro Water Blog:** The blog (www.eastmetrowater.areavoices.com) had 6,051 visits in 2014.
- **Advertising:** EMWREP purchased Facebook advertising for the first time in 2014 to promote several spring workshops. Analytics showed that these ads were a cost effective method to reach a new audience and resulted in more people registering for the workshops. Below is a summary of the number of people reached by each ad and the number of people who “clicked” through to a website to get registration information:
 - Lake Elmo horse workshop: 2946 reached, 56 clicks
 - Scandia aquatic invasive workshop: 1983 reached, 18 clicks
 - Forest Lake shoreline workshop: 1962 reached, 33 clicks
 - Stillwater raingarden workshop: 1315 reached, 66 clicks
 - Woodbury raingarden workshop: 3947 reached, 78 clicks
 - Oakdale raingarden workshop: 2851 reached, 126 clicks

TOTAL: 15,004 people reached by ads; 377 clicked to get registration info



Above: An example of one of the Facebook advertisements.

WaterShed Partners: EMWREP is one of 65 partners in the WaterShed Partners, an innovative, dynamic coalition of public, private and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities metro area that work collaboratively to teach residents how to care for area waters. WaterShed Partners coordinates the Clean Water Minnesota Media Campaign, maintains the www.cleanwatermn.org website, the MS4 Toolkit, and the StormDrain Goalie program, and has prominent exhibit space in the Eco Experience and DNR Buildings at the Minnesota State Fair. EMWREP educator Angie Hong is a member of the WSP steering committee.



Above: Dave Wall, MPCA, talks about nutrients in the Mississippi.

In addition to holding monthly meetings for metro area water educators, WSP coordinated the following special events and professional trainings in 2014:

- *More than a Message*, professional training with Eric Eckl: February, 12
- Mississippi River on-the-water boat workshop: June, 11
- *Sustainability, Behavior Change, and Making the Invisible Visible*, roundtable discussion: November, 12

EMWREP education assistant Jenn Radtke presented at the October WSP meeting about working with faith-based communities, and Angie Hong was one of the panelists at the November roundtable discussion. The 2014 WaterShed Partners and Media Campaign annual report is included along with this report.

Special Projects

- Outreach to Homeowners Associations and Lawn Care Companies: In 2014, the Washington Conservation District was awarded a \$50,000 “Green Communities” Clean Water Fund Grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to build off of previous outreach to HOAs and lawn care companies in the east metro. During the fall, EMWREP staff conducted focus group sessions with HOA board members, property managers, and landscape companies to identify opportunities for, and barriers to, adopting clean water practices, lower-impact lawn care and stormwater BMPs at local HOAs. Groups ranged in size from 5 to 12 participants. The three focus groups that were conducted included:
 - HOA Board Members – September 30th
 - Property Managers – October 2nd
 - Landscape Companies – October 7th

Focus group participants provided the following feedback at these sessions:

- The best way to reach new HOAs is through property management companies and landscape companies working with HOAs. For these two groups, phone calls are the best form of communication.
- To work successfully with an HOA, you must first build relationships, and this can take time. For the purposes of grant projects, it is usually easiest to work with HOAs that are already organized and have expressed an interest in working with their city, watershed or the WCD.
- Most HOA residents have very high expectations for the appearance of turf areas in their neighborhoods and low tolerance for weeds in native areas. Most also expect

water quality improvement projects such as raingardens and pond buffers to be manicured and attractive.

- Maintenance expenses and the availability of maintenance assistance are major concerns for any type of HOA project.
- HOA boards and property managers are unlikely to install stormwater BMPs or retrofit their irrigation systems without financial incentives. They are also more likely to be motivated by long-term cost savings (such as reducing irrigation fees), or fixing a problem (such as flooding) than by improving water quality or beautifying their landscaping.

Moving into 2015, EMWREP staff will be reaching out to up to six HOAs in Washington County to complete clean water grant projects and will also prepare a guidebook with lessons learned and recommended practices for conducting outreach with HOAs.

- **Green Congregations:** In 2014, EMWREP initiated new strategies for increasing the educational value of clean water projects and staying connected with faith-based communities that have installed projects in the past. Responding to feedback from a focus group conducted in 2013, EMWREP created a monthly e-newsletter, which is sent to 30 church leaders. The newsletter contains tips for project maintenance and stormwater pollution prevention, as well as info for congregations to include in their bulletins and newsletters. A new webpage - www.mnwcd.org/green-congregations - was also created to help connect congregations with info and resources. A summer tour of six churches with clean water projects was poorly attended, however, a number of the churches have scheduled site visits with the Washington Conservation District to get advice on project maintenance.
- **Clean Water Geocaching Trail:** In June of 2014, EMWREP debuted a new geocaching trail as a unique way to connect with new audiences and young families. Geocaching is a popular recreational activity in which people hunt for hidden caches using GPS coordinates instead of maps. The EMWREP trail includes nine caches hidden in locations where EMWREP partners have completed clean water projects, including:
 1. Bone Lake Fish Barrier (CLFLWD)
 2. Square Lake Clean Water Project (CMSCWD, WCD, Washington County Parks)
 3. Hugo City Hall (RCWD)
 4. Lake Phalen Shoreline Restoration (RWMWD)
 5. Sunfish Lake Park (Lake Elmo and VBWD)
 6. Oak Glen Golf Course (BCWD)
 7. Lily Lake Boat Launch (Stillwater, WCD, and MSCWMO)
 8. Wilmes Ravine Restoration (SWWD and Woodbury)
 9. Washington Conservation Center (WCD and RWMWD)
- **Aquatic Invasive Species Workshop:** Fifty-five people attended an AIS workshop held in Scandia on March 15. At the workshop Comfort Lake – Forest Lake and Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed Districts provided updates on lake aquatic invasive species inventories and DNR watercraft inspections, Angie Hong shared a success story from a Lake Minnetonka boat launch retrofit, and participants practiced identifying common native and invasive aquatic species.



Above: EMWREP summer intern Hannah Keller places a geocache near Brown's Creek.



Above: Front side of door hangers.

- Door hangers: During the summer of 2014, EMWREP designed and distributed approximately 750 door-hangers in neighborhoods around Colby Lake, Woodbury reminding people to sweep up their grass clippings and advising them of other water-friendly lawn care practices. South Washington Watershed District, Woodbury and Washington Conservation District recently installed 25 right-of-way raingardens in the neighborhood to reduce runoff pollution to Colby Lake, and staff had observed that grass clippings in the street were washing into the new raingardens.
- Teacher education: In August, EMWREP staff took 20 local teachers on a tour of conservation and water quality improvement projects in the Stillwater area as part of a training organized by the St. Croix River Association and Earth Partnership for Schools. The group visited Lily Lake and raingardens in the surrounding neighborhoods, the ravine and stream flowing out of Lake McKusick, the Trinity Lutheran Church parking lot, the Olson prairie near Silver Creek and Goldstrand grassed waterway in Stillwater Twp.



Above: Teachers walk through a prairie in Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed.

Evaluation: Though the impact of public education and awareness raising efforts is often hard to measure directly, we know they greatly improve the success of our targeted outreach activities and are usually the initial gateway through which people learn about EMWREP partner organizations and engage at a higher level by attending a workshop, participating in a watershed planning process, or installing a clean water project on their property.

Facebook advertising purchased by EMWREP in 2014 proved to be a successful and inexpensive way to reach new audiences and increase workshop participation. Knowledge gained during HOA focus groups will help us to develop appropriate educational tools and resources for this audience in the future. EMWREP will also continue to actively support WaterShed Partners as that group develops a strategic plan for reaching a variety of audiences in the Twin Cities metro area in 2015.

Blue Thumb

Planting for Clean Water

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Homeowners

Program Goals:

1. Promote native gardens, raingardens and shoreline plantings in targeted areas within EMWREP partner communities.
2. Coordinate Blue Thumb outreach with partner BMP programs and TMDL implementation.
3. Coordinate with landscapers, nurseries, Master Gardeners, and others to conduct outreach and implement projects.
4. Publicize and utilize demonstration gardens created by the program to increase educational benefit. Create signage, conduct tours and highlight demonstration projects.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Provide a visible “hook” to discuss and encourage people to think about stormwater and water resources.
2. Increase understanding of native plants, raingardens and shoreline stabilization as best management practices for clean water.

Behavior Change

1. Engage the public in preventing non-point source water pollution.
2. Increase the utilization of native plantings, raingardens and shoreline stabilization by local residents.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:



Regional collaboration: EMWREP has been a key member of the Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water partnership since the program was developed by Rice Creek Watershed District in 2006. During 2014, the Blue Thumb partnership included more than 70 public and private entities - nurseries, landscaping companies, watershed agencies, cities, non-profits and citizen groups. EMWREP has used Blue Thumb tools and resources, such as the website and print materials, to conduct public education and enhance outreach efforts. Angie Hong also served on the Blue Thumb steering committee between 2007 and 2014.

Moving forward into 2015, Blue Thumb will undergo a major transformation, and the non-profit organization formerly known as Metro Blooms will now be operated as a new non-profit called Blue Thumb. This new organization will continue to provide public education about native plants, raingardens and shoreline plantings; however, the change in structure will likely mean that Blue Thumb will no longer be a central component of the EMWREP work plan in future years. EMWREP will continue to promote watershed cost-share programs, conduct targeted outreach for neighborhood raingarden projects, and conduct educational workshops for homeowners using already developed materials.

Workshops: EMWREP holds community workshops to promote native gardens, raingardens and shoreline plantings. These workshops are open to interested community members and are promoted through flyers, press releases and community newsletters. In 2014, EMWREP conducted raingarden design workshops in four communities and held one shoreline workshop and two raingarden maintenance workshops:

- Raingarden design workshops
 - Oakdale - March 4 (21 participants)
 - Participants from Middle St. Croix, Ramsey-Washington Metro, Rice Creek, South Washington, and Valley Branch Watersheds
 - Woodbury - March 11 (32 participants)
 - Participants from Ramsey-Washington Metro, Rice Creek, South Washington, and Valley Branch Watersheds
 - Stillwater - April 7 (30 participants)
 - Participants from Brown's Creek, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, Valley Branch and Middle St. Croix Watersheds
 - Bayport - April 24, 29 and May 1 (28 participants)
 - Participants from Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, Comfort Lake – Forest Lake, Valley Branch and Middle St. Croix Watersheds
- Shoreline planting workshop, Forest Lake – May 6 (28 participants)
 - Participants from Brown's Creek, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, and Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watersheds
- Raingarden maintenance workshops
 - Lake Elmo, Lake Demontreville – for the Girl Scout Troop who “adopted” the raingarden
 - Lake Elmo, Tablyn Park – for local residents

Neighborhood Parties: EMWREP helped to coordinate five neighborhood gatherings in 2014:

- Bayport, May 3: Blue Thumb party at Julie Grecian's home
 - Approximately 10 people in the Inspiration neighborhood attended.
- Lake Elmo, Aug. 7: Evening in the Big Backyard
 - Co-hosted by two families who built raingardens with assistance from the Valley Branch WD and Washington CD in previous years. At least 50 people came to visit both homes to learn more about raingardens and landscaping for large lots.
- Forest Lake, Aug. 14: Evening Along the Shore
 - Hosted by the Haider's, who installed a shoreline planting in 2010 with assistance from the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District and Washington Conservation District. Approximately 25 people came.
- Stillwater, Sept. 4: Lily Lake Picnic at Peterson's home
 - Lily Lake Association, Mike Isensee (Middle St. Croix WMO) and Angie Hong talked about raingardens, shoreline plantings and other things local residents can do to improve lake water quality. Approximately 30 people attended.
- Wyoming, Sept. 6: Comfort Lake Picnic
 - Hosted by the Spence's and co-sponsored by EMWREP, the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed and the Comfort Lake Association. Approximately 20 people attended.



Above: Neighbors gather at Lily Lake in Stillwater.

Presentations: In addition to workshops, EMWREP presented to the Pine Ridge Garden Club in Cottage Grove on January 15.

Targeted homeowner outreach: During 2014, EMWREP provided outreach and educational support for the following neighborhood stormwater retrofit projects:

- Croixwood – Stillwater (Brown's Creek Watershed District)
- Lily Lake – Stillwater (Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization)
- Casey Lake – North St. Paul/Maplewood (Ramsey-Washington Metro WD)

Integration with partner Best Management Practices programs: EMWREP continues to integrate public education and outreach with partner BMP programs, using workshops, neighborhood gatherings and community events to promote cost-share programs and recommended practices. The BMP program liaisons report the following for 2014:

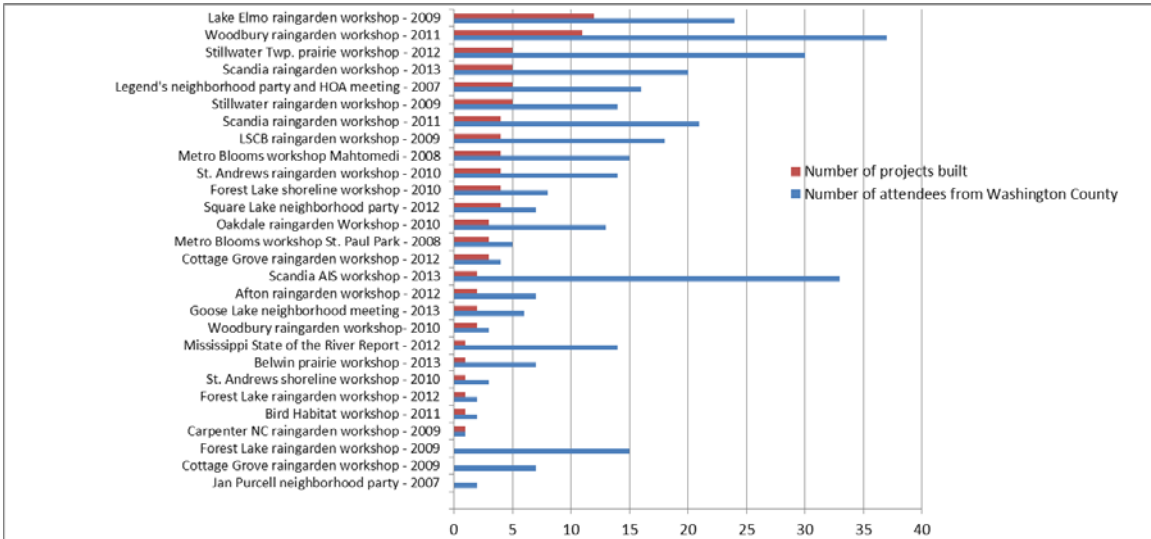
- 233 site visits
- 33 new projects installed; 34 projects from previous years completed
- 68.75 pounds of phosphorus (P) captured by all projects installed in 2014
- 58,122 pounds of total suspended solids (TSS) captured by all projects in 2014

Promotional materials: EMWREP has created a suite of print materials and brochures to promote Blue Thumb practices. We also have interactive displays, digital photo frames, posters and banners that we use ourselves and loan out to other for use at community education events.

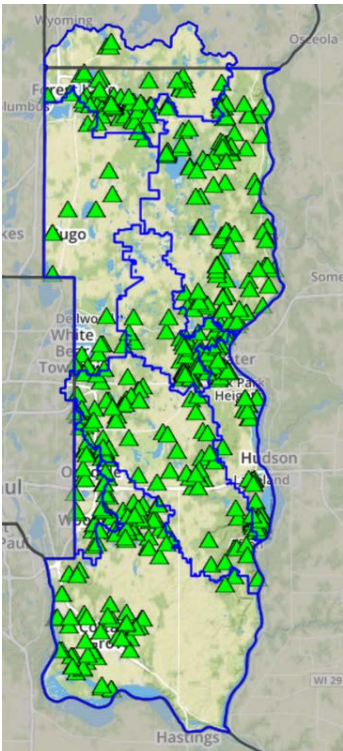
- In 2014, EMWREP coordinated with University of Connecticut on an effort to expand their newly created raingarden app to other states, including Minnesota. For the project, staff compiled a list of 450 raingarden plants for Minnesota and provided the app designers with information about raingarden design standards in Minnesota. The app should be available for mobile devices in Minnesota in 2015.

Evaluation: The number of raingardens and other residential projects installed in Washington County remains high each year, at least in part, as a result of EMWREP education and outreach efforts. One of the biggest developments for 2014 was the debut of a new web based project database for all of Washington County, developed by the Washington Conservation District in partnership with the county and several watershed management organizations. This new database makes it much easier to track whether people attending workshops eventually complete clean-water projects, as well as to visually demonstrate the reach of EMWREP educational activities over the years. Information in the database indicates that:

- Out of 961 voluntary urban BMPs built in Washington County between 2007 and 2013, 115 came from people who attended EMWREP workshops – **12%**.
- Of 362 workshop attendees (2007-2013), 106 installed BMP projects – **29%**.



The table above shows the number of people who attended EMWREP workshops, 2007-13, as well as the number of attendees from each who built clean water projects (does not include workshop attendees from Ramsey or Chisago Counties or people who did not provide complete contact information).



The image on the left shows where people live who attended EMWREP workshops, 2007-2013. A publicly accessible version of the map and database can be found at <http://www.mapfeeder.net/wcdbmp/>.

Rural Outreach

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Rural landowners

Program Goals:

1. Find creative ways to engage rural landowners in projects that improve habitat and also reduce erosion and non-point source water pollution.
2. Promote projects on sensitive and highly erodable lands, such as steep slopes, ravines and bluff tops; encourage buffer plantings on streams, lakes and wetlands; and help people to restore wetlands and natural stream corridors.
3. Coordinate outreach with partner BMP programs and TMDL implementation.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Increase awareness about watersheds and water resource issues in the East Metro, as well as the causes of non-point source water pollution.
2. Increase awareness of and knowledge about wildlife habitat requirements.
3. Increase public knowledge about forest, prairie and wetlands systems, including;
 - a. The roles that plants, animals and non-living components such as soil and water play in ecosystems; and
 - b. The threats posed by invasive species, habitat fragmentation and degradation and loss of natural processes.
4. Educate local residents about how to improve existing and create habitat on their property to attract wildlife and reduce runoff pollution.

Behavior Change

1. Engage private property owners in projects that will improve habitat and reduce non-point source water pollution. Specific actions may include:
 - a) Removing buckthorn and other invasive plant species, especially on steep slopes, ravines and bluff tops, and in floodplains and drainage paths.
 - b) Planting native trees, shrubs and plants, especially on steep slopes, ravines and bluff tops, and in floodplains and drainage paths.
 - c) Repairing ravines, gullies and other erosion areas with native plants that also provide habitat.
 - d) Establishing buffer plantings on streams, lakes and wetlands.
 - e) Restoring wetlands and natural stream corridors.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:

Collaboration with local non-profits and sportsmen groups: EMWREP continues to seek out opportunities for collaboration with local non-profits and sportsmen groups in order to better reach rural landowners.

Horse owner's workshop: EMWREP collaborated with Hagberg's Country Feed, LLC to put on a three-hour workshop for people who own and board horses in Washington County. Washington County has the most horses of any county in Minnesota and horse owners and boarders generally do not qualify for agricultural assistance programs because they are not considered producers.

Workshop topics included:

- Equine dentistry and nutrition
- Preventing polluted runoff
- Basic first aid for horses

Cover Crop Workshop: On June 12, Washington Conservation District and Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District worked with local farmer Pam Arnold to host a cover crop workshop in Scandia. Area landowners came to learn how cover crops can improve soil health as well as prevent runoff pollution during the winter and early spring.



Above: Pam Arnold (host), Jim Shaver (CMSCWD), and area landowners learn about cover crops.

Nitrates Water Testing: In September, Washington Conservation District and Washington County began reaching out to landowners with private wells in Cottage Grove and Denmark Twp. as part of an initiative to test wells in southern Washington County for nitrates contamination. The project included outreach, water testing, and follow-up site visits with landowners (to be conducted in 2015) to identify possible sources of contamination.

Support for targeted implementation projects: During 2014, EMWREP provided outreach assistance for several targeted implementation projects, including:

- Washington Conservation District – Turf to Native project
 - A grant project to help landowners along the St. Croix River with more than one acre of lawn convert their turf to native prairie
- Washington Conservation District – Top50P!
 - A grant project to identify fifty of the biggest sources of phosphorus to the St. Croix River in rural portions of Washington County and work with willing landowners to install clean water practices

Integration with partner BMP programs: EMWREP strives to integrate outreach and education efforts with partner BMP programs by encouraging landowners to schedule free site visits with Conservation District staff and apply for cost-share funding through their local watershed organization for habitat and clean water projects on their land.

Promotional materials: EMWREP distributes educational materials dealing with a variety of topics, including yard care, shoreline plantings, native plantings, well water and invasive species management.

Evaluation: During 2014, EMWREP did not conduct any audience research with rural landowners. Previous focus groups and surveys have indicated that rural landowners in our area are interested in creating and improving wildlife habitat on their land and managing invasive species, so we have modified our outreach to highlight the connections between habitat and clean water.

Blue Biz

Helping local businesses go blue

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Commercial property owners, business owners, property managers and commercial developers

Program Goals:

1. Promote stormwater BMP’s for businesses in targeted areas within EMWREP partner communities.
2. Encourage use of LID techniques for new commercial development.
3. Coordinate commercial outreach with partner BMP programs and TMDL implementation.
4. Publicize and utilize demonstration projects created by the program to increase educational benefit. Create signage, conduct tours and highlight demonstration projects.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Help business owners, property managers and commercial developers to understand that impervious surfaces on commercial properties contribute significantly to stormwater pollution in local water bodies.
2. Increase understanding of best management practices and low impact development techniques.

Behavior Change

1. Engage commercial entities in preventing non-point source water pollution.
2. Involve local businesses as active partners in watershed and TMDL plan implementation.
3. Increase the utilization of BMP’s and LID by local businesses.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:

Website: EMWREP has a website (www.cleanwatermn.org/businesses) where commercial entities can go to find information about Low Impact Development and BMP’s, as well as case studies and links to resources for cost-share and technical assistance.

Print materials: EMWREP has a one-page fact sheet that summarizes information available on the website and several one-pg fact sheets about local commercial BMP projects. These print materials are available for business owners when BMP staff meet one-on-one to discuss conservation projects.

Targeted outreach: EMWREP did not do any targeted outreach to businesses in 2014.

Coordination: EMWREP will continue to coordinate outreach efforts with partner BMP programs.

Evaluation: EMWREP did not conduct any audience research or evaluation with business owners in 2014.

Stormwater U

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Municipal staff, consultants, and contractors

Program Goals:

1. Provide technical training for municipal staff, consultants and contractors to help them meet MS4 Permit requirements and reduce stormwater pollution.
2. Work with local communities and EMWREP partners to identify training needs and topics.
3. Develop high-quality trainings that can be carried to communities outside the EMWREP region by the University of Minnesota Extension and other partners.
4. Encourage EMWREP partners and local MS4 communities to send at least one staff person or contractor to each Stormwater U workshop.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Increase understanding of non-point source water pollution and water resource connections among municipal staff, consultants and contractors.
2. Increase this audience's understanding of their role in achieving and maintaining clean surface and groundwater resources.

Behavior Change

1. Through training, enable EMWREP partners and local communities to reduce stormwater pollution through illicit discharge detection and elimination, construction site runoff controls, post-construction stormwater management and municipal pollution prevention.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:

Coordination with University of Minnesota Programs: In 2014, EMWREP coordinated with Minnesota Extension, the University of Minnesota Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Programs, and the Minnesota Erosion Control Association (MECA) to provide professional training and workshops for local government staff and consultants, as well as builders, developers and contractors.

Hosting and developing new workshops: EMWREP co-hosted the following workshops:

- *Innovation in BMPs* – April 1, Maplewood (43 participants)
 - Co-sponsored by MN Extension, U of MN Stormwater Mgmt. Certification, Capitol Region and Ramsey-Washington Metro WDs and Washington CD
 - Presenters talked about innovative applications of stormwater BMPs, as well as new and experimental materials, installation techniques and maintenance strategies from local implementers.
 - Staff from the following EMWREP area entities attended:
 - Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
 - Forest Lake
 - Ramsey County Parks and Recreation
 - Roseville
 - St. Paul Park
 - Woodbury
- *Erosion and Sediment Control – Reg. Enforcement* – May 14, Cottage Grove (23 participants)
 - Led by U of MN Stormwater Management Certification Program
 - A one-day course on inspecting construction sites for NPDES compliance as part of MS4 permits – party taught outside in the field.
- *P8 Modeling Workshop* – Sept. 28, Oakdale (28 participants)
 - Developed by a partnership between University of Minnesota Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Program and Extension Water Resources Team in collaboration with Barr Engineering Company
 - Participants learned about P8, a model for predicting the generation and transport of stormwater runoff pollutants in urban watersheds
 - Staff from the following EMWREP area entities attended:
 - Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District
 - Cottage Grove
 - Focus Engineering (Lake Elmo)
 - Rice Creek Watershed District
 - South Washington Watershed District
 - Stillwater
 - Woodbury

Presentations: During 2014, EMWREP also began developing a series of short 10-min PowerPoint presentations for partners to use during monthly staff meetings. The presentations cover training topics listed in the MS4 permit, including:

- Waste disposal and storage, including dumpsters;
- Management of temporary and permanent stockpiles of materials such as street sweepings, snow, deicing materials (e.g., salt), sand and sediment removal piles;
- Vehicle fueling, washing and maintenance;
- Routine street and parking lot sweeping;
- Emergency response, including spill prevention plans;
- Cleaning of maintenance equipment, building exteriors, dumpsters, and the disposal of associated waste and wastewater;
- Use, storage, and disposal of significant materials;
- Road maintenance, including pothole repair, road shoulder maintenance, pavement marking, sealing, and repaving;
- Right-of-way maintenance, including mowing; and
- Application of herbicides, pesticides, and fertilizers.

Currently, the new presentations are available in draft format for EMWREP partners, as well as Minnesota Pollution Control Agency staff and Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition members to review. Cottage Grove and Forest Lake used two of the presentations for staff training in 2014.

For two other training topics listed in the MS4 permit, EMWREP will continue to use previously created materials and host trainings for city staff in conjunction with Fortin Consulting.

- Landscaping, park, and lawn maintenance (Will use video created for MS4 Toolkit and continue to host Summer Turf Maintenance workshops with Fortin Consulting.)
- Cold-weather operations, including plowing or other snow removal practices, sand use, and application of deicing compounds (Will use training materials created by MPCA and Mississippi Watershed Management Organization and continue to host Winter Snow and Ice Maintenance trainings with Fortin Consulting.)

Metro Chloride Management Plan: EMWREP staff participated in development of the MPCA led Metro Chloride Management Plan and education and outreach components of the plan.

Evaluation: Workshop evaluations collected at the April 1 Stormwater U workshop indicated that participants learned about stormwater best management practices and acquired information they will use in their jobs. Participants said they were interested in learning about the following topics at future trainings:

- Stormwater BMP inspections, maintenance & monitoring techniques
- BMPs to use in problem soils (clay soils, compacted soils, karst regions, high water, table, contaminated soils)

Northland NEMO

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: Local elected officials and decision makers

Program Goals:

1. Work with NEMO partners to develop outreach programs for local communities that cover a range of topics related to water resources management.
2. Use NEMO programs to provide local decision makers such as city councils, planning commissions, watershed boards and county commissioners with the information they need to make land use decisions and protect water resources.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Increase understanding of water resources and storm water management among elected officials and decision makers.
2. Increase understanding among elected officials and decision makers of the connection between land use and water quality.

Behavior Change

1. Increase the implementation of city ordinances, zoning and planning practices that enable low impact development and stormwater best management practices.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Prevent non-point source water pollution from new development and redevelopment.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals:

Regional workshops: On July 29, EMWREP worked with several other partners, including the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, University of Minnesota Extension, the St. Croix River Association and partners in Wisconsin to hold a workshop on the St. Croix River for local decision makers from Minnesota and Wisconsin. The workshop was the fifth “on-the-water” workshop we have held and was attended by 119 people, including representatives from:

- Afton, Bayport, Cottage Grove, Denmark Twp., Forest Lake, Hastings, Lakeland, Lake St. Croix Beach, Marine on St. Croix, Scandia, Stillwater, St. Mary’s Point, Woodbury;



Above: Jenn Radtke leads St. Croix River “on-the-water” workshop participants in a small group discussion.

- Brown’s Creek, Comfort Lake – Forest Lake, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, Middle St. Croix, South Washignton, and Valley Branch Watersheds; and Washington Conservation District; and
- Washington County Board of Commissioners and Washington County Board of Adjustment and Appeals.

The program objectives were to:

- Increase knowledge of the multiple benefits of a healthy St. Croix River and inland lakes and streams, including the economic, recreational, ecological, and quality of life values;
- Acquire new knowledge about actions community leaders can take to protect and improve water resources and how to make those happen in their communities;
- Share and learn from leaders in other communities who are facing challenges and changes in urban, developing, rural, and agricultural communities and how they are addressing issues and opportunities;
- Work in small community teams to identify key take-away messages and learn how to effectively communicate those with decision makers and others in the community; and
- Build relationships with neighboring communities to develop a strong coalition that will work to protect St Croix River health.



Above: The Washington County Water Consortium visits a clean water project in Denmark Twp.

Community Workshops and Presentations: On April 21, Angie Hong spoke to the Oakdale EMC about raingardens, their role in stormwater management, and other stormwater management efforts underway at the local and state level.

St. Croix Basin Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) grant project: EMWREP continued to provide support for the MIDS St. Croix Community Assistance project in 2014. On Dec. 16, a workshop was held for attorneys from local communities considering MIDS. Five attorneys attended, representing all of the target communities in Washington County except for Afton.

Washington County Water Consortium: In addition to conducting education and workshops for local communities, EMWREP staff provides support to Washington County for the Water Consortium, a group that includes city, county and watershed staff and officials, as well as state agencies and others working on surface and groundwater issues in Washington County. EMWREP helps to plan monthly meetings, schedule speakers, facilitate group conversations during the meetings, and plan the annual BMP tour.

Evaluation: Consistently high levels of participation from local communities indicate that our educational offerings are filling a need for local decision makers. Evaluations from the workshop on the water showed that participants highly valued the program and being on the river itself greatly enhanced their learning experience. Participants indicated that they learned the most about actions urban and developing communities can take to protect water resources, including learning more about MIDS, stormwater best management practices (BMPs), and low impact development (LID). They also said they would share this information with others in their communities and would take action as a result.

MS4 Toolkit

Minimum Control Measure Addressed

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public education & outreach	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction site runoff controls
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public participation & involvement	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Post-construction storm water management
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Illicit discharge detection and elimination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Municipal pollution prevention & good housekeeping

Audience: General public, municipal staff and contractors, local elected officials, and other target audiences

Program Goals:

1. Provide simple and effective materials to MS4 staff to use when educating target audiences.
2. Help EMWREP partners to meet MS4 permit requirements.

Educational Goals:

Learning

1. Increase understanding of non-point source water pollution and stormwater best management practices among the target audiences.

Behavior Change

1. Engage municipalities and MS4 staff as active partners toward reducing non-point source water pollution from stormwater runoff and illicit discharges.
2. Increase the utilization of stormwater best management practices among the target audiences.
3. Increase the detection and elimination of illicit discharges to storm water systems.
4. Increase the utilization of best management practices in street sweeping, salt application, landscaping and other municipal operations.

Water-quality Improvement

1. Reduce and prevent non-point source pollution of surface and groundwater resources.
2. Maintain adequate groundwater and drinking water resources.

Activities used to reach goals: The Metro WaterShed Partners MS4 work group is currently discussing strategies for updating the MS4 Toolkit and website. EMWREP has participated in these conversations and will provide assistance as needed to move this process forward.

Evaluation: Though EMWREP used surveys with city staff during the creation of the MS4 Toolkit, we do not currently have measures in place to evaluate the use or impact of education materials available through the toolkit. Website analytics tell us that more than 200 people have created profiles to access materials in the toolkit.

APPENDIX A: EDUCATION PROGRAM BUDGET FOR 2013-2015

**Shared Water Resource Education Program - Washington Conservation District
Annual Budget**

Staff Support (2650 hours/year)	Materials	Total
\$119,780	\$6,000	\$125,780

MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS*

* PARTNER contributions will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis, as needed and in accordance with the terms of the Agreement.

PARTNER	Annual Contribution
SWWD	\$22,000
VBWD	\$16,750
BCWD	\$16,750
CLFLWD	\$16,750
CMSCWD	\$11,000
RWMWD	\$11,000
RCWD	\$2,225
Washington County	\$11,000
MSCWMO	\$5,500
Cottage Grove	\$2,225
Forest Lake	\$2,225
Lake Elmo	\$2,225
Stillwater	\$2,225
Woodbury	\$2,225
Dellwood	\$560
Willernie	\$560
West Lakeland Twp	\$560
	\$125,780.00

*The table above shows funding contributions for EMWREP members during 2014.

Appendix C Local Articles



Arbor Day tree planting brings out 125 volunteers in Cottage Grove/Woodbury area

By [William Loeffler](#) Today at 2:47 p.m.

[Email](#)

Nearly 125 volunteers turned out Friday to help plant trees along the South Washington County Conservation Corridor.

The big dig took place on an 80-acre parcel of rolling grassland between Cottage Grove and Woodbury. The land is an environmentally significant area that links with the Mississippi watershed.

Volunteers planted white oak, bur oak, American plum, hawthorn and hazel trees. It may be a while before they can provide shade or a safe place for a red-headed woodpecker to build a nest, but the 1,400 saplings and shrubs that took root by day's end will help retain stormwater runoff during heavy rains.

It's also a step toward transforming the area back to its former incarnation as a lush savannah that sustained hundreds of native species.

"Basically (the goal) is to restore that natural system closer to the way it was 150 or 200 years ago," said Wayne Ostlie, director of conservation programs for Great River Greening, which organized the project.

Jeff Elias, of Woodbury, wielded his shovel as part of a volunteer contingent from Dell Compellent, where he works as a support engineer.

A few feet away, Ira Signalness of Hudson, Wis., showed his son Noah, 3, the correct way to dig a hole for sapling. "You don't want it too deep," he told Noah, who will be 4 in two weeks. "You don't want to compact the soil too much or it will suffocate the roots."

Jake Greeley and Jess Randall, both 30, drove from St. Paul with their baby daughter, Layla, to help with the effort.

"You can't go wrong planting trees," Greeley said. "It beats watching TV."

The restoration plan included the planting of bur oak saplings in groups of 12 that will mature into groves.

Ecologist Steve Thomforde, project manager for Great River Greening, waxed rhapsodic about the bur oak and its role in sustaining life on the prairie. "They knew buffalo," he said. "They knew passenger pigeons."

Funding was provided by the South Washington Watershed District and the Minnesota and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Washington County projects cut flow of contaminants

Article by: Kevin Giles

Star Tribune

October 11, 2014 - 12:02 AM

Watershed districts are countering phosphorus contamination in Washington County with dozens of projects to prevent runoff, monitor groundwater and restore prairie.

One of them was the Colby Lake rain garden project in Woodbury, which County Commissioner Lisa Weik said already is improving the lake's clarity.

"It comes down to these neighborhood projects where citizens are really proud of the effort," she said during a budget presentation to the County Board last week.

The watershed districts have an increasingly visible role as water quality becomes a more urgent public issue. Phosphorus and sediment are the leading causes of water contamination, said Jessica Collin-Pilarski, a senior planner in the county's environmental division.

One pound of phosphorus can grow 300 to 500 pounds of algae, she said.

Projects this year target those problems, ranging from new stormwater systems to planting trees and improving drainage for big-box retailers.

Another priority has been the removal of aging septic systems, hundreds of which are leaking into groundwater supplies.

"We're out there advocating on a daily basis for clean water," said Jay Riggs of the Washington Conservation District, which works with the county's eight watershed districts. More than 70 percent of land in the county is privately owned, he said, and conservationists hold workshops to help landowners improve their water resources.

In the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed, reconstructing a ravine will sharply reduce phosphorus and sediment flowing into the St. Croix River, Collin-Pilarski said.

In the Middle St. Croix Watershed, a rain-garden project involving partners Valley Ridge Mall and nearby employer DiaSorin Inc. will improve water quality in Stillwater's Lily Lake, she said.

That \$248,450 project, completed this year, will reduce phosphorus runoff by 13.2 pounds a year and stormwater runoff by 11.6 acre-feet a year, and significantly lower the use of groundwater for irrigation, she said.

In the Rice Creek watershed, a water quality treatment project on Clear Lake will remove up to 83 pounds of phosphorus. That's as much as a 60 percent reduction of the total pollution for the lake.

Another project, in the South Washington Watershed District, involves restoring 200 acres of prairie to improve infiltration and groundwater discharge.

Conservationists have said that it will take hundreds and possibly thousands of smaller projects to improve water quality in the St. Croix and Mississippi rivers and area lakes, as sources of contamination are so numerous.

"This is one part of the government that gets no recognition," Commissioner Ted Bearth said of watersheds.

"People don't understand what you do or why you do it," and yet, he said, the work is vitally important to environment health.

Proposed budgets vary at individual watersheds. Money for their operation comes from levies, business partnerships and

grants. Since 2009, the districts have obtained \$7.4 million in grants, Collin-Pilarski said.

Kevin Giles • 651-925-5037

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City plunging into water usage data

By Michelle Leonard on Nov 29, 2014 at 7:50 a.m.

Email

News Alerts

The city of Woodbury plans to lead by example when it comes to future water conservation efforts.

At the Wednesday, Nov. 19, Woodbury City Council workshop, Water Resources Specialist Jim Westerman reviewed five new pilot programs to cut back on water use within the city over the next year.

ADVERTISEMENT

The pilot programs are part of an overall plan to address the groundwater management concerns facing Woodbury and surrounding communities. Earlier this year, Woodbury officials adopted a policy statement and strategies that outline the city's intent to address a depleting water supply and future environmental management issues.

According to Westerman, Woodbury residents will use approximately 4.8 billion gallons of water in 2014. Of that, 2 billion gallons are used inside of buildings like homes or businesses.

Common uses are bathing, drinking water, for cooking and washing clothing.

Another 1 billion gallons of water use in 2014 has been attributed to irrigation. In fact, Westerman said, irrigation makes up approximately one-third of the city's annual usage of

water. Remediation and crop use round out the city's water use.

Left unchecked, Woodbury consumers could use as much as 6.1 billion gallons of water annually by 2030, according to Westerman. With conservation efforts in place, though, the city hopes to bring that proposed number down to today's usage rates, and keep those rates consistent into the future.

Working within guidelines and suggestions from the Woodbury Resource Policy Statement and Strategies, staff developed five programs that will be launched in 2015. Those programs will be started, managed and reviewed by city staff over the next year. Should staff see success in one or more of the areas identified, Westerman said, the programs may be implemented community wide, or worked into the city's water use policies, in the future.

Pilot programs

Working with the South Washington Watershed District, the Top 100 Irrigation Program will identify the top 100 residents who use the most water. Staff will reach out to those top 100 consumers, ask for their voluntary participation in irrigation system inspections, and then facilitate installation of state-of-the-art irrigation system controls on those properties.

This program will hopefully allow city staff the ability to monitor before-and-after totals when it comes to water use, and to see what kind of impact state-of-the-art irrigation systems can have on properties.

Likewise, Westerman said, the New Development Irrigation Pilot Test Program will also call for installation of state-of-the-art irrigation control systems. The city of Woodbury has

established partnerships with developers who have agreed to install systems with newer technology so the city can monitor the effectiveness of those systems. Right now, Westerman said, there is not a lot of data available to show and compare older systems against the newer ones.

“They have great lab data, but very little real data,” he said.

The city also plans to expand its education program in regards to water conservation, Westerman said. Woodbury has applied for, and received, grant funding to help fund an educational video focused on irrigation.

In 2014, the City of Woodbury moved away from the odd/even watering pattern to watering several of the city’s properties only twice a week. It was a small scale study, Westerman said, which was designed to help identify any problems that could come along if the city were to change the watering restrictions from the odd/even plan to a twice-weekly plan.

Initial results indicated a 42 percent reduction in water used through irrigation for the city properties that were monitored, Westerman said. But within that same study, the city found that several of its older systems are simply not designed to water any less than three days a week and cannot be converted to a twice-weekly schedule.

The final pilot program introduced is a Home Fixture Swap Program, which would focus on water conservation within the home. At this time, Woodbury is working with the Metropolitan Council and the Clean Water Fund to get funding for this program, Westerman said.

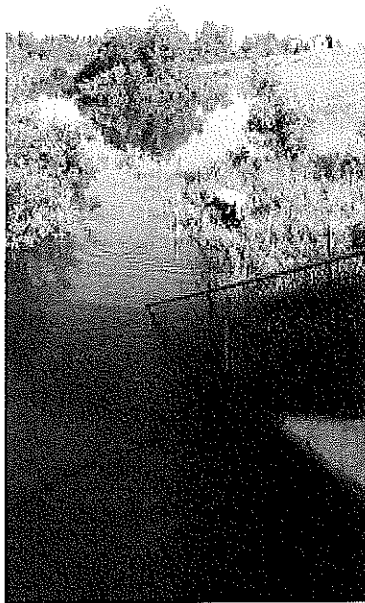
Creating an outlet to the Mississippi River in southern Washington County

Posted by **Angie Hong** | Posted in **Partners And Updates** | Posted on 01-12-2014

Tags: Flood Control, South Washington Watershed District, Stormwater

In a county hemmed on both sides by the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers, it may come as a surprise to some people that much of central Washington County is actually landlocked. In fact, most of our local Watershed Districts were originally formed not to deal with water quality issues, but to build infrastructure that carries water away from homes and businesses in landlocked areas during exceptionally wet years.

The **Carnelian-Marine Watershed District**, which later merged with the Marine Water Management Organization, formed in 1981 to address flooding concerns around Big Marine, Big Carnelian and Little Carnelian Lakes. The district constructed outlets and pipes to create an overflow pathway to the St. Croix River so that homes around these three lakes would no longer get flooded when lake levels rose. The **Valley Branch Watershed District**, established in 1968, spent its first 19 years completing a massive flood relief project that connects Silver Lake in North St. Paul, the Tri-Lakes, Lake Elmo and many smaller lakes in Lake Elmo and West Lakeland to the St. Croix River via a large pipe that travels alongside Hwy 94. Now, the **South Washington Watershed District** is midway through with a colossal project that will provide flood relief for southern Woodbury and northern Cottage Grove as those two communities continue to develop.



The Central Draw Storage Facility in June 2014. Often the area is completely dry.

Between Colby Lake in Woodbury and the **Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park**, acres of farmland are quickly giving way to new roads, neighborhoods, buildings and businesses. But, there is not always enough room in every new neighborhood to absorb all of the runoff from rain and melting snow without flooding buildings and roads, especially during very wet months, like the spring and early summer of 2014. To address this problem, the South Washington Watershed District built a regional infiltration basin, called the Central Draw Storage Facility, which straddles the border between Woodbury and Cottage Grove. During spring snow melt and very heavy rains, the basin fills up with runoff as well as overflow water pumped from Baily Lake. It is capable of soaking up 1500 acre feet of water, which is enough to fill 740 Olympic sized swimming pools. Once Woodbury and Cottage Grove are fully developed, however, even this basin won't have enough capacity to handle all of the runoff.

Recently, South Washington Watershed District completed the first phase of a **long-term project** to eventually connect the Central Draw Storage Facility to the Mississippi River in southern Cottage Grove. Capitalizing on the opportunity to install stormwater pipes below ground during the realignment of

Keats Ave., Military Road and 70th St. S, the district connected the existing infiltration basin to the Cottage Grove stormwater network and constructed a 6-foot diameter pipe leading to a new stormwater infiltration basin. Eventually, the watershed district plans to connect these new areas to Cottage Grove Ravine Lake, which overflows to East Ravine, a perennial stream that passes through 3M property to the Mississippi River.

Due to the massive scale of South Washington's flood prevention project, they are completing their work incrementally, as development happens in Woodbury and Cottage Grove. The District is also coordinating with city and county parks and green space plans. The long-term vision is to link together trails, parks and other planned green spaces in southern Washington County and to allow water to flow overland, as it would in a perennial stream, in as many places as possible. The District also plans to work with Washington County Parks, 3M, and local non-profits to improve habitat and reduce erosion within Cottage Grove Ravine Regional Park and the East Ravine.



Matt Moore, SWWD District Administrator, shows the Washington County Water Consortium where new pipes are being laid for the overflow project.

