

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

This report presents the Watershed Management Plan (WMP) for the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD). The WMP lays out the rationale and means by which the Watershed District will manage the water and natural resources of the watershed. The WMP has been prepared in accordance with Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410, "Metropolitan Area Local Water Management," May 27, 1992.

Under the Watershed Act, the South Washington Watershed District exercises a series of powers to accomplish its statutory purposes. The legislature has recognized the public need to conserve water and natural resources through land utilization and flood control based upon sound scientific principles.

The District will deal with all forms of water and associated natural resources within its boundaries and will manage those resources with attention to the watershed as a whole. The Board of Managers will continuously cooperate with and seek the help of municipalities, other government agencies, and citizens within the District as it carries out its work. It recognizes that zoning and land use planning are the primary responsibility of municipalities, while the District's primary responsibility is to plan and manage water and natural resources at a district-wide scale.

Land alteration affects the rate, volume, and quality of surface water runoff which ultimately must be accommodated by the existing surface and sub-surface water systems within the District.

Land alteration and utilization also can degrade the quality of runoff entering the streams and waterbodies of the District due to non-point source pollution. Sedimentation in lakes and streams from ongoing erosion processes and construction activities reduces the hydraulic capacity of waterbodies and degrades water quality. Water quality problems already exist in many of the lakes and wetlands throughout the District.

Projects which increase the rate of stormwater runoff can aggravate existing flooding problems and contribute to new ones. Projects which fill floodplain or wetland areas can reduce flooding storage and hydraulic capacity of waterbodies and can degrade water quality by eliminating the filtering capacity of such areas. Dredging projects can also degrade water quality and eliminate the natural appearance of waterbodies.

The Board also believes that changing relationships among agencies, municipalities, and individuals affect water and natural resources management on a watershed basis, and that the District is needed to deal with the conflicts that normally arise in the use of water and related land resources. The District will expend financial resources as needed to improve or correct particular water-related problems.

The Board will also use its taxing authority to alleviate water and natural resources management problems that transcend municipal boundaries and to resolve problems that cannot be resolved by a less expensive approach.

B. Background

The boundaries of the SWWD are shown in Figure IV-1. The watershed is located entirely in Washington County and contains portions of five cities: Afton, Cottage Grove, Lake Elmo, Oakdale,

and Woodbury. The watershed area and the relative portions of the watershed contained in each of the five cities are presented in Table I-1.

Table I-1. Area of Cities within the Watershed *

City	Acres	Square Miles	Percentage
Afton	441	0.7	1.3
Cottage Grove	17,418	27.2	50.1
Lake Elmo	677	1.1	2.0
Oakdale	643	1.0	1.8
Woodbury	15,569	24.3	44.8
Totals	34,748	54.3	100

* Based on legal boundaries

The watershed contains a number of landlocked areas; however, the drainage is generally south, by either overland or subsurface flow, to the Mississippi River.

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 in 1995. The SWWD was formed under, and operates in accordance with, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B, "Water Planning and Project Implementation," and Chapter 103D, "Watershed Districts."

C. Board of Managers

The 1996 SWWD Board of Managers, their post, and the City where they reside is listed below.

Richard Hammero, President	Cottage Grove
Robert Koch, Vice President	Oakdale
Patrick Rice, Secretary	Cottage Grove
Christian Hiniker, Treasurer	Woodbury
James Wessman	Woodbury

D. Citizens Advisory Committee

The Citizens Advisory Committee that assisted the Board in developing goals and policies and reviewing the Watershed Management Plan is listed below:

Citizens Advisory Committee

Derwyn Peterson (Co-Chair)	Cottage Grove
Wali Naibi (Co-Chair)	Woodbury
Gerhard Benz	Cottage Grove
Glen Brown	Cottage Grove
Tom Goebel	Cottage Grove
Tom Halfpenny	Woodbury
Wilmer Holz	Cottage Grove
Jack LaVold	Cottage Grove
Myra Peterson (County Board Member)	Cottage Grove
Sue Seligas (Former SWCD Supervisor)	St. Paul Park
Louise Smallidge (New SWCD Supervisor)	Cottage Grove

E. Mission Statement

The SWWD Mission Statement is:

"To effectively manage the environmental resources of the South Washington Watershed District in cooperation with our citizens and communities."