

I. Introduction

A. Purpose

~~South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) This report presents the~~ Watershed Management Plan (WMP) ~~for the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD). The WMP lays out the rationale and provides the~~ means ~~for the SWWD by which the Watershed District will to~~ 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, ~~the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, Minnesota Statute 103B and Minnesota Statute 103D.~~

~~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 benefit need to conserve~~ managing water and natural resources ~~through land utilization and flood control~~ based upon sound scientific principles. ~~The SWWD through a combination of authorities granted in through the enactment of these laws, will prepare a plan that inventories resources, assesses the quality, and establishes regulatory controls or physical improvements to maintain environmental quality of the watershed.~~

~~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 SWWD Board of Managers will continuously cooperate with and seek the help assistance of municipalities, other government agencies, and citizens within the SWWD District to accomplish the goals of the PLAN as it carries out its work. It recognizes that Land use zoning and land use planning are the primary~~

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~~municipal responsibility of municipalities, while the District's primary SWWD's responsibility is to plan and manage water and natural resources, at a district-wide scale.~~

Land ~~use changes 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. The SWWD WMP will work with the planned land use according to the 2020 comprehensive plans. A connection to land use decision through planning and management of the resource will help to ensure the future quality of the natural resources while accommodating growth in the watershed. The WMP will focus on controlling non-point source impacts to water resources.~~

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~~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 SWWD implementation is a function of three primary areas of focus; 1) Physical improvements; 2) Regulatory controls; 3) Water resource monitoring and evaluation. In general, projects and programs are separated into three categories; 1) flood control; 2) water quality; 3) natural resource management. Every project or program in the WMP or on an annual basis has an public information component, to assist residents of the watershed with a general understanding of water resource management.~~

~~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-eight cities: Afton, Cottage Grove, Grey Cloud Island Township, Lake Elmo, Newport, Oakdale, St. Paul Park and Woodbury. The watershed area and the relative portions of the watershed contained in each of the eight-five cities are presented in Table I-1.

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

City	Acres	Square Miles	Percentage
Afton	4481	0.7	1.3
Cottage Grove	17,418 <u>21,011</u>	32.8 <u>27.2</u>	50.1 <u>46</u>
Grey Cloud Island	<u>2,432</u>	<u>3.8</u>	<u>5</u>
Lake Elmo	677 <u>704</u>	1.1 <u>1.1</u>	2.0
Newport	<u>2,490</u>	<u>3.9</u>	<u>5</u>
Oakdale	643	1.0	1.8
St. Paul Park	<u>1,498</u>	<u>2.3</u>	<u>3</u>
Woodbury	16,397 <u>15,569</u>	25.6 <u>3</u>	36 <u>4.8</u>
Totals	<u>45,619</u>34,748	<u>54.3</u>71.3	100

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* 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

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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."~~ Completion and approval of the SWWD WMP was completed in September, 1997.

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. This watershed area included all or portions of Grey Cloud Island Township, and the Cities of Cottage Grove, Woodbury, St. Paul Park and Newport. The enlargement of the SWWD was completed as part of the recommendations from the Washington County Water Governance Study, 1999. The enlargement petition was approved on May 28, 2003.

C. Board of Managers

~~A historical list of the 1996 SWWD Board of Managers, the terms they served, their post,~~ and the City where they reside is listed below.

Richard Hammero, President	<u>1993-1998</u>	<u>Cottage Grove</u>
Robert Koch, Vice President	<u>1993-1998</u>	<u>Oakdale</u>
Patrick Rice, Secretary	<u>1993-1998</u>	<u>Cottage Grove</u>
Christian Hiniker, Treasurer	<u>1993-1998</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>
James Wessman	<u>1993-2002</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>
<u>Jack Lavold</u>	<u>1998-Present</u>	<u>Cottage Grove</u>
<u>Carol Hockert</u>	<u>1999-2000</u>	<u>Cottage Grove</u>
<u>Mike Gallagher</u>	<u>1999</u>	<u>Oakdale</u>
<u>Don Wodek</u>	<u>1999-2004</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>
<u>Don Pereira</u>	<u>2000-Present</u>	<u>Cottage Grove</u>

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<u>Mike Pouliot</u>	<u>2002-Present</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>
<u>Denny Hanna</u>	<u>2003-Present</u>	<u>Grey Cloud Island</u>
<u>Brian Johnson</u>	<u>2004-Present</u>	<u>Woodbury</u>

~~**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 — Cottage Grove
(Co-Chair)~~
- ~~Wali Naibi — Woodbury
(Co-Chair)~~
- ~~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 — Cottage Grove
(County Board Member)~~
- ~~Sue Seligas — St. Paul Park
(Former SWCD Supervisor)~~
- ~~Louise Smallidge — Cottage Grove
(New SWCD Supervisor)~~

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."