

Annual Report

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Watershed District of the Year

2008 Award Winners

50 Years of Watershed Management

2009 Legislative Session Update

District Directory



Watershed District News & Notes

Watershed District Anniversaries - Congratulations!

5 years:	Shell Rock River
10 years:	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake
35 years:	Sand Hill River
40 years:	Buffalo Creek Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek

50 years:
Coon Creek
Crooked Creek
Nine Mile Creek

50+
High Island
Joe River
Two Rivers
Stockton-Rolling-Stone-Minnesota City

MAWD 2010 Calendar of Events

- **Legislative Breakfast - March 18-19**
- **Summer Tour - June 24-26**
Hosted by Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- **Annual Meeting - December 2-4**

President's Report

By Barbara Haake

In my "rookie" year as your MAWD President several initiatives we have been working on have come to fruition. Last year we told you that Dennis Kral from the Pelican River WD was appointed as the new Education/Training Committee chair for MAWD. He got right to work and after the appointment of an entirely new committee, set about working with the committee to figure out what type of training was needed for our managers and staff.

The committee established a "Leadership Workshop" in mid-September for managers and key staff geared towards financial and legal issues, roles and responsibilities of managers and staff, and additional board dynamics training. The training was very successful with over fifty watershed district officials in attendance.

I would like to thank Dennis and the Education/Training Committee for all of their hard work in putting this important training workshop together.

Another important initiative that we have started this year is joint meetings with the leadership of the Association of Minnesota Counties, the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and MAWD. These meetings are designed to discuss issues of common concern and determine how we can work together for the benefit of all. We were all very pleased with the results of the first meeting and are looking forward to meetings in the near future.

The 2009 Legislative Session went extremely well for watershed districts. Our lake drawdown bill advocated by MAWD was passed requiring 75% approvals from landowners and was signed by the governor. The capital investment bill passed with significant increase in bonding for the Flood Hazard Mitigation.

Legislation dealing with county approval of watershed districts levies was not heard in either body, but was introduced as amendments on both floors of the legislature. Fortunately, both amendments were defeated. We'll have to continue to keep a close watch on this legislation to ensure it does not pass. There were also a number of other initiatives and bills effecting watershed districts.

These items are outlined in our legislative update in this annual report.

I want to thank all of those who attended the MAWD Day at the Capitol and Legislative Breakfast for your support of our legislative needs. The turnout was terrific and your help in taking our message to the legislature was very much appreciated!

The 2009 MAWD Summer Tour was hosted by one of our newest watershed districts, the Shell Rock River Watershed District located in Freeborn County. This new watershed district's programming was very impressive, not only because the district has only been in existence six years, but because of the amount of work they have accomplished already and are working on at this time. Projects include carp fish barriers, storm water management BMP implementation, water quality monitoring, lake improvement project planning, flood mitigation projects, rain gardens, rules promulgation, and strong local partnerships with the City of Albert Lea, Freeborn County, Freeborn County SWCD, Mower County SWCD, and other local watershed districts. Truly impressive work.

Warren Seykora, past president of MAWD and member of the Wild Rice WD Board of Directors departed the local board in May and was replaced on the MAWD Board by Lee Coe, a member of the Red Lake WD. We'd like to send our best wishes to Warren and a big thank you for all of his hard work serving his watershed district and the state by his service on the MAWD Board.

Also, special thanks to Ray & Peg Bohn, and Jonathan Bohn for all of their hard work this past year. We appreciate their efforts and organizational skills.

I look forward to an excellent Annual Meeting program and hope you all take advantage of the learning opportunities that the Annual Meeting and Trade Show present to us as managers and staff.

The past year has been very fulfilling for me personally and I appreciate the opportunity to serve as your president. I have enjoyed working with the entire Board of Directors and have appreciated the contributions they have made to our organization.

2009 Board of Directors

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

OFFICERS	<i>President</i>	Barb Haake	<i>Vice President</i>	Larry Kuseske
	<i>Secretary</i>	Jerome Deal	<i>Treasurer</i>	Marvin Brunsell

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Clearwater River
Region II Term 2010
9701 Jeske Avenue NW
Annandale, MN 55302
320-274-5018 (W)
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Roger Hanson
Sand Hill River
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Beltrami, MN 56517
218-926-5770 (H)
Email: hansonr@gvtel.com



Larry Kuseske
Sauk River
Region II Term 2009
15809 145th Avenue
Villard, MN 56385
320-554-2535 (H)
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Craig Leiser
Brown's Creek
Region III Term 2011
10300 Kismet Lane N
Stillwater, MN 55082-9447
651-439-4008 (O)
651-303-6545 (C)
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STAFF

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Phone: 651-452-8506
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Web Page: www.mnwatershed.org



Barbara Haake
Rice Creek
Region III Term 2009
3024 County Road I
Moundsview, MN 55112
763-786-1022 (H)
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Darrel Ellefson
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank
Region II Term 2011
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Dawson, MN 56232
320-598-3117 (O)
612-756-1898 (C)
Email: darrele@frontiernet.net



Roger Lake
Ramsey- Washington Metro
Region III Term 2010
2442 Jansen Ave.
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-777-3426 (H)



Jerome Deal
Bois De Sioux
Region I Term 2011
1501 2nd Ave. So.
Wheaton, MN 56296
320-563-8377 (H)
320-815-2296 (C)
Email: bds wd@frontiernet.net



Lee Coe
Red Lake
Region I Term 2009
3948 Nebish Road NE
Tenstrike, MN 56683
218-243-2597 (H)
Email: leecoe@paulbunyan.net

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts provides educational opportunities, information and training for watershed district managers and staff through annual tours, meetings.

2010 Calendar

MAWD Legislative Breakfast and Day at the Capitol
March 10-11, 2010

MAWD Summer Tour
June 24-26, 2010

Hosted by Nine Mile Creek Watershed District

MAWD Annual Meeting & Trade Show
December 2-4, 2010

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Statement of Revenue and Expenditures
November 1, 2008 to October 31, 2009

11/ 1/2008 to 10/ 31/ 2009

REVENUE	
Dues	\$ 79,845
Interest	\$ 879
Annual Meeting	\$ 21,325
Summer Tour	\$ 10,235
Legislative Breakfast	\$ 4,628
Trade Show Fees	\$ 14,990
ADA Training	\$ 2,025
Drainage Seminar	\$ 3,075
New Managers Training	\$ 2,025
Advanced Managers Training	\$ 1,800
Education/Training/Services	\$ 5,420
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 146,247
EXPENDITURES	
Administration & Lobbying	\$ 70,317
Lobbyist, Admin Expenses	\$ 6,143
Printing	
Supplies & Equipment	\$ 263
Newsletter/Communications	\$ 650
Telephone	\$ 766
Directors/Committee PerDiem/Expenses	\$ 19,992
Directors Meeting Expenses	\$ 567
Payroll Taxes	\$ 894
Legal Fees	\$ 440
Accounting Fees	\$ 4,720
Watershed District Handbook	\$ 719
Liability Insurance	\$ 1,475
Contingency	
Website & Internet Expenses	\$ 4,617
Credit Card & Bank Charges	\$ 1,750
ADA Seminar Expenses	\$ 816
Trade Show Expenses	\$ 9,300
Annual Meeting Expenses	\$ 18,566
Summer Tour Expenses	\$ 11,972
Summer Tour Stipend	\$ 1,000
Legislative Breakfast Expenses	\$ 4,005
Education/Training/Services	\$ 4,739
Drainage Seminar Expenses	\$ 1,206
New Managers Training Expenses	\$ 1,331
Advanced Managers Training Expenses	\$ 710
SUB TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 166,958
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 166,958
REVENUE MOR THAN(LESS THAN)	
EXPENDITURES	\$ (20,711)
YE 10/31/ 08_ BUDGET ACTIVITY:	
Drainage Seminar Fees	
Drainage Seminar Expenses	
Deferred Fees	\$ 4,835
Deferred Expenses	\$ 1,978
	\$ 6,813
Subtotal	\$ (13,898)
BEGINNING CASH BALANCES	\$ 85,681
ENDING CASH BALANCES	\$ 71,783



Land and Water Shall be Preserved

MAWD Annual Events

Training & Education are the basis of MAWD annual events.

Annual Meeting & Trade Show

December 4-6, 2008

Arrowwood Conference Center, Alexandria, MN

Over 550 watershed district managers, staff and key partners attended the Annual Meeting in 2008 on the first weekend in December. Annual Meeting & Trade Show attendees were offered fourteen training seminars, two technical sessions and over 50 Trade Show booths featuring resources for watershed districts and organizations involved in water management.

In addition to the Annual Meeting seminars, four pre-conference seminars were offered on Thursday. They included a drainage workshop, a watershed district administrators seminar, new manager orientation workshop and an advanced manager workshop with over 130 total participants for the day.

MAWD awards were presented for outstanding watershed district program and project and retiring managers were honored.

For information on MAWD visit www.mnwatershed.org.

Legislative Breakfast & Day at the Capitol

March 18-19, 2009

Watershed managers and staff gathered for a legislative briefing on Wednesday evening. Speakers covered proposed legislation and the status of each bill of interest to watershed districts.

Thursday morning began with breakfast as Representatives Kent Eken and Marty Seifert and Senator Keith Langseth spoke about active legislation in their respective committees.

Managers and staff spent Thursday visiting with legislators and educating them on the process of clean water, flood damage reduction, drainage and wetland restoration.

The MAWD Legislative Update can be seen on pages 7-9 of this Annual Report and at www.mnwatershed.org

Summer Tour - Hosted by Shell Rock River Watershed District

June 25-27, 2009

Managers and staff visited the Shell Rock River Watershed District for the annual Summer Tour.

The Shell Rock River Watershed area is unique in that All water in the watershed starts here. This watershed receives no water from anywhere else — local water quality reflects local practices. The poor water quality of local streams and lakes is the effect of direct and indirect pollution within the watershed. All water drains to a common point - the Shell Rock River, which flows into the Cedar, Iowa and Mississippi rivers.

Tour attendees visited carp management sites, a flood mitigation site, fish barrier, shore reclamation, water monitoring sites, rain gardens and a ditch restoration site toured Shell Rock River on the Pelican Breeze - a touring pontoon.



The Pelican Breeze tour of Albert Lea Lake was hosted by Shell Rock River Watershed District.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

Websites can be reached through mnwatershed.org - WHERE IS MY WATERSHED?

Bear Valley

25409 County 16 Blvd.
Goodhue, MN 55027-8602
Phone: 612-923-4038
Region III

Belle Creek

Rt. 1, Box 158
Goodhue, MN 55027
Phone: 612-258-4115
Region III

Bois De Sioux

704 South Highway 75
Wheaton, MN 56296
Phone: 320-563-4185
Administrator: Jon Roeschlein
bdswd@frontiernet.net
Region I

Brown's Creek

1380 W Frontage Road, Hwy 36
Stillwater, MN 55082
Phone: 651-275-1136
Administrator: Karen Kill
karen.kill@mnwcd.org
Region III

Buffalo Creek

Box 55
Glencoe, MN 55336
Phone: 320-864-6250
Contact: L. Phillips
lphillips6@msn.com
Region II

Buffalo-Red River

123 Front Street, Box 341
Barnsville, MN 56514
Phone: 218-354-7710
Administrator: Bruce Albright
brwd@bvillemn.net
Region I

Capitol Region

1410 Energy Park Drive, Suite 4
St. Paul, MN 55108
Phone: 651-644-8888
Administrator: Mark Doneux
mark@capitolregionwd.org
Region III

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix

21150 Ozark Avenue, PO Box 188
Scandia, MN 55073
Phone: 651-430-2793
Administrator: Jim Shaver
jimshaver@cmscwg.org
Region III

Cedar River

1408 - 21st Avenue NW, Suite 2
Austin, MN 5591
Phone: 507-434-2603
Administrative Services: Bev Nordby
bev.nordby@mn.nacd.net
Region II

Clearwater River

PO Box 481
Annandale, MN 56302
Phone: 320-202-0554
Administrator: Merle Anderson
pacma@frontiernet.net
Region II

Comfort Lake - Forest Lake

220 North Lake Street
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Phone: 651-209-9753
Administrator: Randy Anhorn
randy.anhorn@clflwd.org
Region III

Coon Creek

12301 Central Av NE #100
Blaine, MN 55434
Phone: 763-755-0975
Administrator: Tim Kelly
tkelly@cooncreekwd.org
Region III

Cormorant Lakes

10929 County Highway 5
Pelican Rapids, MN 56572
Phone: 218-439-6044
Administrator: Duane Henrikson
Region I

Crooked Creek

603 N. Sprague, Ste. 1
Caledonia, MN 55921
Phone: 507-724-5261
Region II

Heron Lake

PO Box 345
Heron Lake, MN 56137
Phone: 507-793-2462
Administrator: Jan Voit
hlwd@roundlk.net
Region II

High Island

c/o C. Thomas Wilson, Attorney
2700 South Broadway, P.O. 458 New
Ulm, MN 56073
Phone: 320-328-5908
Region II

Joe River

Box 27
Humboldt, MN 56731
Phone: 218-379-3205
Contact: John Finney
finney@invisimax.com
Region I

Kanaranzi- Little Rock

215 Maine Ave
Adrian, MN 56110
Phone: 507-483-2971
Administrator: Kevin Norskog
comserv@frontiernet.net
Region II

Lac Qui Parle-YellowBank

600 6th Street, Courthouse
Madison, MN 56256
Phone: 320-598-3132
Administrator: Trudy Hastad
thastad@mail.co.lac-qui-parle.mn.us
Region II

Lower Minnesota River

112 E 5th Street #102
Chaska, MN 55318
Phone: 952-227-1037
Administrator: Terry Schwalbe
Terry@watersheddistrict.org
Region III

Middle Fork Crow River

174 Lake Avenue North PO 8
Spicer, MN 56288
Phone: 320-796-0888
Administrator: Chad Anderson
chad@mfcrow.org
Region I

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers

453 N McKinley St. Box 154
Warren, MN 56762
Phone: 218-745-4741
Administrator: Nick Drees
mrsrwd@wiktel.com
Region I

Minnehaha Creek

18202 Minnetonka Blvd.
Deephaven, MN 55391
Phone: 952-471-0590
Administrator: Eric Evenson
eevenson@minnehahacreek.org
Region III

Nine Mile Creek
7710 Computer Avenue, Suite 135
Edina, MN 55435
Phone: 952-835-2078
Administrator: Kevin Bigalke
kbigalke@ninemilecreek.org
Region III

North Fork Crow River
PO Box 40, 100 Prairie Av N
Brooten, MN 56316
Phone: 320-346-2869
Administrator: Allan Kuseske
nfcrrwd@tds.net
Region II

Okabena- Ocheda
960 Diagonal Road PO Box 114
Worthington, MN 56187
Phone: 507-372-8228
Administrator: Dan Livdahl
dan.livdahl@okabenaokedawd.org
Region II

Pelican River
211 Holmes St W, Suite 201
PO Box 1043
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501
P) 218.846.0436 F) 218.846.0778
Administrator: Tera Guetter
Tera.Guetter@arvig.net
Region I

Prior Lake- Spring Lake
15815 Franklin Trail SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372-2926
Phone: 952-447-4166
Administrator: Mike Kinney
mkinney@plslwd.org
Region III

Ramsey- Washington Metro
2665 Noel Drive
Little Canada, MN 55117
Phone: 651-792-7950
Administrator: Cliff Aichinger
Cliff@rwmwd.org
Region III

Red Lake
1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
Phone: 218-681-5800
Administrator: Myron Jesme
rlwaters@wiktel.com
Region I

Rice Creek
4325 Pheasant Ridge Drive, Suite 611
Blaine, MN 55449-4541
Phone: 763-398-3070
Administrator: Doug Thomas
dthomas@ricecreek.org
Region III

Riley-Purgatory Bluff Creek
100 S 5th #1900
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Phone: 612-333-7400
Contact: Paul Haik
PHaik@haik.com
Region III

Roseau River
307 8th Avenue NE
Roseau, MN 56751
Phone: 218-463-0313
Administrator: Rob Sando
rrwd@mncable.net
Region I

Sand Hill River
P. O. Box 584
Fertile, MN 56540
Phone: 218-945-3204
Administrator: Dan Wilkens
shrwd@gvtel.com
Region I

Sauk River
524 South 4th Street
Sauk Centre, MN 56378
Phone: 320-352-2231
Administrator: Holly Kovarik
Holly@srwdmn.org
Region II

Shell Rock River
Box 1147 Freeborn County Courthouse
Albert Lea, MN 56007
Phone: 507-402-4806
Administrator: Brett Behnke
brett.behnke@co.freeborn.mn.us
Region II

South Washington
2301 Tower Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125
Phone: 651-714-3729
Administrator: Matt Moore
mmoore@ci.woodbury.mn.us
Region III

Stockton- Rollingstone-MN City 23886
PO Box 129
Stockton, MN 55988
Phone: 507-689-2546
Region II

Thirty Lakes
17064 Commercial Park Road
Brainerd, MN 56401
Phone: 218-828-0243
Administrator: Marty Peisch
lakeswsd@brainerd.net
Region III

Turtle Creek
P.O. Box 45
Hollandale, MN 56045
Phone: 507-889-8111
Administrator: Justin Hanson
justin.hanson@mn.nacdnet.net
Region II

Two Rivers
410 South 5th Street, Suite 112
Hallock, MN 56728
Phone: 218-843-3333
Administrator: Dan Money
daniel.money@mn.nacdnet.net
Region I

Upper Minnesota River
211 2nd Street SE
Ortonville, MN 56278
Phone: 320-839-3411
Administrator: Diane Radermacher
radermacher@wat.midco.net
Region II

Valley Branch
P.O. Box 838
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
Phone: 651-738-6342
Contact: John Hanson
jhanson@barr.com
Region III

Warroad
307 Lake Street NE
Warroad, MN 56763
Phone: 218-386-4520
Contact: Rick Battles
watershed@mncable.net
Region I

Wild Rice
11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510
Phone: 218-784-5501
Region I

Yellow Medicine River
215 North Jefferson Street
Minneota, MN 56264
Phone: 507-872-6687
Administrator: Cindy Potz
ymrw@centurytel.net
Region II

2008 MAWD Project of the Year Award Winner

Capitol Region Watershed District Arlington Pascal Stormwater Improvement Project

The CRWD, along with the cities of St. Paul, Falcon Heights, and Roseville, and Ramsey County worked cooperatively to evaluate, design, construct, and fund several stormwater facilities to address intercommunity flooding issues and water quality problems in a subwatershed of Como Lake in St. Paul.

In total, these various facilities included:

- 8 constructed rain gardens to address volume control and water quality
- 8 infiltration trenches under Arlington and Nebraska Avenues to address stormwater rate and volume control.
- A large underground infiltration/storage facility to reduce flooding and improve water quality by allowing stormwater to infiltrate.
- A Regional Pond redesign in Como Park Golf Course that incorporated a 30" diversion pipe.
- Storm drain improvements.

This project:

- Met the Como Lake Strategic Management Plan goals to improve water quality by reducing phosphorus inputs to Como Lake. By decreasing phosphorus levels, algal bloom levels will be reduced and fewer of these events will be experienced by Como Lake and its surrounding recreational area.
- Reduced the frequency and duration of flooding in the subwatershed and adjacent subwatersheds by addressing stormwater rate and volume overflows.
- Provided cost-effective design solutions and kept the overall budget down.
- Developed a financial plan that equally divided the financial burden among the four cities and corresponding county.
- The rain gardens act as educational tools for stormwater management.
- The project received the 2007 Sustainable St. Paul Award which increased public exposure to creative stormwater management solutions and also brought attention to the efforts of the local communities.



**Front Row: Manager Marylyn Deneen, Anna Eleria, Dawn Nelson, Elizabeth Beckman
Back Row: Bob Fossum, Manager Mike Thienes, Forrest Kelley, Administrator Mark Doneux, Manager Joe Collins, Melissa Baker (partially obscured).**

www.capitolregionwd.org

The Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Board of Directors asked for nominations for the MAWD Awards Program to recognize watershed districts throughout Minnesota for their achievements. This awards program gives special recognition to those watershed districts that deserve a pat on the back for a job well done.

The program has two award categories. They are: **Capital Improvement Project of the Year** and **Watershed Program of the Year**. One award is given in each category. The MAWD Awards committee, chaired by Jan Voit, Heron Lake WD selected and the board ratified the 2008 MAWD award winners.

2008 MAWD Program of the Year Award Winner

Rice Creek Watershed District Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water

The Blue Thumb - Planting for Clean Water™ is a web-site-based education program that makes it easy for residents interested in doing their part to protect water quality to plan, purchase and plant native gardens, raingardens and shorelines with native plants. Residents can go to <http://bluethumb.org> and find planting plans, a plant selector tool, workshops, participating nurseries, grant information, how-to information for the do-it-yourselfers and who to hire for others.

The Blue Thumb program was started by the Rice Creek Watershed District as an outreach program to meet water quality goals identified in their strategic plan and to help their cities meet their federal Clean Water Act mandates. Now Blue Thumb reaches beyond the Rice Creek Watershed District boundaries into the Twin Cities metro area and greater Minnesota through its 56 partners.

The Blue Thumb partnership works together to provide workshops, resident assistance, services and materials and educational materials to the public to help residents plant for clean water.

The goal of the Blue Thumb program is to educate residents about what they can do in their own yards to help curb water pollution. Since streets connect to lakes and rivers through storm sewer pipes and stormwater runoff is listed as the EPA's number one cause for water pollution, what individual residents plant in their yard to help water soak in makes a difference.

A goal of this program is to make it easy for residents to do complete these projects on their own (without government assistance) by using the Blue Thumb website. For example, a stumbling block for the average citizen was commonly, 'where does a person get these types of plants?' or 'how do I start a project like this?' The Blue Thumb program provides comprehensive resources online.

Another goal of this program was to export it so it can be used across the Metro, the state and even the mid-west region. Since the program's inception (August 2006), this program has expanded from just being a Rice Creek Watershed District outreach program to have 55 partners including, LGUs, non-profits, private businesses and civic organizations.

Still another goal, is helping cities meet their Clean Water Act (NPDES Phase II - MS4) requirements for outreach, education and participation. All of the materials (bookmarks, banners, stickers, posters, kiosks, brochures, rain garden manuals) are available for cities to purchase and use at their public events and celebrations.

www.ricecreek.org



Rice Creek Watershed District manager Barb Hakke and administrator Doug Thomas accept the 2008 Program of the Year Award from MAWD president Warren Seykora.

For more information, or if you would like to join Blue Thumb, contact Dawn Pape, RCWD Environmental Education Coordinator
763-398-3070 x 178
dpape@ricecreek.org



2009 Legislative Session Report

by Ray Bohn

The last month of session was spent working on spending and tax bills. As indicated previously, with the exception of the new monies forthcoming as a result of the constitutional amendment in November, spending cuts, tax increases, and vetoes were the centerpieces of legislative action.

The governor's announcement that he would unallot monies after signing all the new spending bills sent the legislature into a tailspin. The final tax bill sent to the governor at the last moments of the session was vetoed by the governor and he recently made known his unallotment strategy.

It is still unclear at this time how that unallotment strategy will directly affect BWSR. BWSR already has taken a much larger hit than most other agencies on the administrative portion of its budget (11%), so they have a good argument not to be hit again by another reduction of 2.25% as leveled against cabinet level agencies by the governor.

The constitutional amendment legislation was finally agreed to in the final hours of the session. A good share of what was advocated for by the G16 and the Clean Water Council was adopted in the end. Attached is a session summary prepared by BWSR which outlines in detail the final spending bills and other legislation of interest.

The lake drawdown legislation advocated by MAWD passed both bodies (75% approval from landowners) and was signed into law by the Governor.

The Drainage Work Group legislation was moving through both bodies and is in the finance committee in the Senate but stalled in the local government committee in the House. The press of other budget legislation put this bill on the back burner and it did not pass.

The Capital Investment bill passed with a significant increase in bonding for the Flood Hazard Mitigation program in DNR. \$53.8 million was appropriated for the FHM program.

Legislation dealing with county approval of watershed district levies was not heard in committee in either body but Sen. Vandever introduced an amendment to require that approval on the Senate floor during the Senate Tax committee debate and it was rejected 18-45. Rep. Dettmer (Washington County) also introduced the same amendment during debate on the environment policy bill in the House and it too was rejected 44-88.

Several other bills of interest to watershed districts included:

HF0952 Eken, SF0850 Chaudhary; Board of Water and Soil Resources membership modified. Referred to environment policy committees. Both bills incorporated into Environment Policy bills in House (HF1237) and Senate (SF1110) and adopted by conference committee.

HF1182 Bly, SF 1182 Dahle; Public service corporation exemptions repealed. Eminent domain legislation. Amendment added on state government bill to narrow just to utilities work with high-line placement. Not adopted in conference committee.

HF 2110 Marquart, SF 2110 Skogen; Invasive species management provisions modifications. Referred to Environment Policy Committees. Discussions with DNR took place and will continue over the interim.

BWSR Legislative Summary (Excerpted) Omnibus Environment, Natural Resources and Energy Finance Bill

BWSR General Fund. Session Law Chapter 37, BWSR items in Section 5. BWSR reductions amount to about a 10.8% general fund decrease.

The law makes the following budget reductions:

- Cost Share Grants: decrease by 17% from \$6.3M in 2008-09 to \$5.2M for the 2010-11 biennium. At least \$900K per year is designated for riparian buffers which allows for no more than \$1.1M per year for regular cost-share. Feedlot Cost Share is funded at \$500K per year. Rider language

in the bill allows the Board to shift cost-share funds if needed to leverage federal funds or to address high-priority projects identified in local water management plans.

- Natural Resource Block Grants: decrease of 5% from \$8.2M in 2008-09 to \$7.8M for 2010-2011.

- Funding for the Red River Basin Commission and the MN River JBP decreased from \$200K each in 2008-09 to \$180K each in 2010-11. The Area II Flood Plain Mgmt Board decreased 7% from \$280K in 2008-09 to \$260K in 2010-11.

- BWSR Administration: decrease of 8.8% from \$10.4M in 2008-09 to \$9.4M for 2010-2011.

The law also includes the following rider language provisions:

- Cost-share program has been provided greater flexibility. Now the Board is allowed to shift cost-share funds and to adjust the technical and administrative assistance portion of the grant to leverage federal funds or to address high-priority projects identified in local water management plans.

- Native seed language also was adjusted to provide greater flexibility by stating, "To the extent possible, any person conducting a restoration with money appropriated in this section must plant vegetation or sow seed only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the restoration site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination". This means the definitions in MS 84.02 for distance and diversity of seed sources will not be limiting as they were in the past biennium.

- Increased accountability and reporting requirements, as outlined in the following language, "A recipient of a grant funded by an appropriation under this section shall display on its Web site detailed information on the expenditure of the

grant funds, and measurable outcomes as a result of the expenditure of funds, and submit this information to the board by June 30 each year. A recipient without an active Web site shall report to the board by June 30 each year detailed information on the expenditure of the grant funds, and measurable outcomes as a result of the expenditure of funds. The board shall display the information received by recipients under this paragraph on the board's Website".

Constitutional Amendment Dedicated Funding House File 1231, Session Law Chapter 172.

Constitutionally Dedicated Funding Governance Provision: The Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) will develop and maintain a user-friendly, public-oriented website that informs, educates and demonstrates how the funds are being expended to meet the requirements of the constitution. Must include proposed measurable outcomes, the plan for measuring outcomes, and the measured outcomes and evaluation of the projects.

Clean Water Fund 2010 2011 Biennium

Buffer easements \$3.25M \$3.25M \$6.5M Purchase and restore permanent conservation easements on riparian buffers adjacent to public waters, except wetlands. Buffers must be at least 50 ft where possible and no more than 100 ft. May be used for restoration of riparian buffers and stream bank restoration.

WD/WMO BMPs \$2.8M \$3.124M \$5.924M Grants to WDs and WMOs for: 1) structural or vegetative practices that reduce storm water runoff from developed or disturbed lands or 2) to leverage federal funds for restoration, protection or enhancement of water quality in surface waters and to protect groundwater. Must have longlasting benefit, include local match (which can be staff/admin), and be consistent with TMDL implementation plans or local water management plans. Priority may be given to school projects demonstrating water retention practices.

Non-point implementation grants \$3.0M \$3.0M \$6.0M Grants to WDs, WMOs, Counties and SWCDs to keep water on the land and to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water. Must have long-lasting

benefit, include local match, and be consistent with TMDL implementation plans or local water management plans. Priority may be given to school projects that demonstrate water retention practices.

Anoka Conservation District \$0.4M \$0.6M \$1.0M For 7-county metropolitan landscape restoration program for water quality and improvement projects.

Feedlot Water Quality Improvement Grants \$2.0M \$2.0M \$4.0M For feedlots under 300 animal units on riparian land, to include water quality assessment to determine the effectiveness in protecting, enhancing and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and in protecting groundwater from degradation.

Stream bank, stream channel, and shoreline \$2.33M \$1.83M \$4.16M

• Conservation Drainage \$0.33M \$0.33M \$0.6M

Technical assistance and grants to establish a conservation drainage program in consultation with the DWG. Program consists of projects to retrofit existing drainage systems with water quality practices, evaluate outcomes, and provide outreach.

• Hennepin County \$0.5M -0- \$0.5M

Grant for riparian restoration and stream bank stabilization in the 10 primary stream systems in Hennepin County. County will work with WDs and WMOs to identify and prioritize projects. To the extent possible, county shall employ youth through MCC and Tree Trust. Must be matched by non-state sources, including in-kind contributions.

Oversight, support, accountability reporting \$0.275M \$0.315M \$0.59M Includes an annual report to the legislature prepared jointly with DNR and MPCA, detailing recipients and projects funded; anticipated water quality benefits; relationship of restoration projects to TMDL load allocations; relationship of protection projects to monitored water quality trends; and individual county progress in implementing SSTS programs and upgrading open lot feedlots <300 AU in shoreland areas. Organizations receiving grants under this section shall provide this information to BWSR. BWSR will require grantees to specify outcomes achieved by the grants prior to any grant awards.

Technical Assistance and Engineering \$1.25M \$1.5M \$2.75M

Targeted nonpoint restoration technical assistance and engineering.

Other Agency items of note:

- MPCA:
 - o \$0.25M total for TMDL pilot project with Buffalo Red River WD
 - o \$2.5M total for the Clean Water Partnership Program
 - o \$0.346M total for Red River Watershed Management Board for river watch programs
 - o \$0.5M total for St. Croix Basin Water Resources Planning Team and St. Croix River Assn to implementing monitoring and phosphorus reduction activities.
 - o \$0.25M total for civic engagement in TMDL development, consideration shall be given to the Mississippi Headwaters Board, Mn River JBP, Area II MN River Basin, and the Red River Basin Commission.

• MN Department of Natural Resources: o \$5.6M total for LiDAR

o \$0.5M total to adopt rules for the Mississippi River Corridor critical area

o \$0.75M total for the development of a comprehensive statewide sustainable water resources 10-year plan and 25-year detailed framework. This will be developed in cooperation with BWSR, WMOs, WDs, SWCDs and others.

Outdoor Heritage Fund 2010

RIM Wetlands Reserve Program \$9.058M

In cooperation with USDA WRP. A list of proposed acquisitions and a list of proposed projects, describing types and locations of restorations, must be provided as part of the required accomplishment report.

Items of note:

- All Outdoor Heritage funds are appropriated for 2010 only.
- An accomplishment plan and periodic accomplishment reports in a form determined by the LSOHC (Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council) must be submitted to the LSOHC.

The accomplishment plan must account for the use of the appropriation and outcomes of the expenditures and an

Nine Mile Creek Watershed District Commemorates 50 Years of Watershed Management

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2009. Established in September, 1959, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District was one of the first watershed districts established in the State of Minnesota.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District commissioned award-winning author Deborah Morse-Kahn to research and write a book on the history of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed and the Watershed District.

The commemorative book titled: *The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District – Preserving Heritage*

and Environment documents the early days and peoples of the Nine Mile Creek watershed, the establishment of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District, and the efforts and activities the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District has implemented to preserve the unique heritage and natural resources of the watershed.

In addition to the commemorative book, the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District worked with the book's author to host a series of programs on the book and history of the watershed. The book and the program events were well received and attended by residents throughout the Nine Mile Creek Watershed.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District also hosted several educational events in celebration of its 50th Anniversary. The education events included a rain barrel

art contest, adopting a segment of Highway 62 through the MNDOT's Adopt-A-Highway program, and a native gardening/landscaping competition.

The Nine Mile Creek Watershed District hosted a Fall Virtual Tour and Celebration Dinner on September 30, 2009, the District's establishment date. The event was attended by residents of the watershed,

State agency staff, and representatives of each of the cities within the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District. Kevin Bigalke, District Administrator, gave a virtual tour of the District and the projects implemented by the District over the past 50 years.

Ray Haik was the keynote speaker and talked about his involvement in the development of watershed law in the State of Minnesota. The evening was capped off by the Board of Water and Soil Resources presenting the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District with an award recognizing the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District for its efforts to protect and improve the water resources of the Nine Mile Creek Watershed.



Present and former managers of Nine Mile Creek Watershed District gathered to accept a plaque from Jim Haertl of BWSR to commemorate the district's 50th anniversary. From left, Bob Kojetin-Manager, Claire Bleser-Education/Outreach Coordinator, Jim Haertl-BWSR, Kevin Bigalke-Administrator, managers LuAnn Tolliver, Steve Kloiber, Corrine Lynch and Geoff Nash.

Crooked Creek Watershed celebrates 50-year anniversary

Reprinted with permission from the Spring Grove Herald

By Jan Lee Buxengard
Community Reporter

The Crooked Creek Watershed District was recognized for 50 years of bringing water management and conservation to the people of land of the Crooked Creek Watershed at the Root River Soil and Water Conservation District awards and luncheon event on Nov. 3 in Caledonia.

Board members Wilfred Pohlman, Maynard Welscher and Tim McCormick, accepted the plaque presented by Mary Kells of Rochester, Board Conservationist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

In addition, Wilfred Pohlman was honored with a plaque for his 50 years of leadership and dedication as chairman of the Crooked Creek Watershed District from 1959-2009.

In making the presentation, Rich Stemper, District Technician with RRSWCD, stated, "Fifty years is a long time. With all the leg work, working on this is closer to 65-70 years."

Pohlman responded that he didn't work on this effort alone. "Everybody had a part in this."

The current Crooked Creek Watershed District board consists of Pohlman, chairman; Tim McCormick, vice chairman; Maynard Welscher, treasurer; Robert Mierau, secretary; and Dan Goetzinger, board member.

Because of the devastating flood of June 16, 1946, and repeated occurrences, conservation-minded farmers and residents in the valley of Crooked Creek were instrumental in organizing the Crooked Creek Watershed.

They worked with the Root River Soil and Water Conservation district who worked with individual farmers laying out terraces, contour strips, grassed waterways, and ponds to conserve the soil and moisture.



Maynard Welscher, Tim McCormick, Wilfred Pohlman and presenter Mary Kells (Board conservationist with Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources, Rochester office) awarded Crooked Creek Watershed District for 50-years of water management and flood control. The district has five large dams and other smaller structures.

Manager Wilfred Pohlman has served on the board for all 50 years of the district's existence

The watershed drains a 70 square mile area into the Mississippi River. It is 13 miles long and four to seven miles wide, and inclusive of 23,000 acres of cropland, 9,000 acres of pasture and 11,000 acres of woodland.

Local, state and federal funding was granted to construct an earthen floodwater control dam on the South Fork of Crooked Creek, which at the time was the largest earthen dam in the state of Minnesota. Construction of floodwater control dams R1, R2, and R3 dams followed soon after.

A continual maintenance program is in effect to keep the structural measures in repair. An annual inspection is made, and the watershed board directs any maintenance work that is needed, with costs covered by assessments on landowners in the watershed who benefit from the installed projects.

The practices in this watershed continue to be a visible sign of the watershed's effort to improve the environment.

evaluation of results. None of the money may be expended unless the council has approved the plan.

- Native species language: same as above.
- All easements involving restoration: must be permanent; include a long-term stewardship plan and funding for monitoring and enforcing the easement agreement; have an ecological restoration and management plan including timetable for implementation.

- BWSR must submit documentation of selection process and provide documentation of all related transaction costs.

Bonding/Red River Valley Flood Relief Bill: HF 855. Session Law Chapter 93

RIM Reserve Program: \$0.5M total.

Disaster Relief: \$2.0M total

- RIM Easements on marginal land: \$0.5M

- Erosion, Sediment and water quality control cost share program: \$1.0M

- Red River Basin Commission Grant: \$0.5M for comprehensive plan to address, mitigate, and respond to flooding and related water quality and land conservation issues. Commission will report to the legislature progress on goals and outcomes by January 15, 2010. Any remaining money can be used to implement the plan

- Cost share program waivers provided in the same manner as for the southeast flood.

Omnibus Environmental Policy Bill: BWSR items HF 1237, Session Law Chapter 176

- Carbon sequestration added as a wetland functions based on broad scientific findings, but defers incorporation into rulemaking until after August 2009 so that the current Wetland Conservation Act rulemaking now nearly completed is uninterrupted. This provision will not substantively change the application of the law

- Counties provided the flexibility to derive their local grant matching contribution to the local water planning program grant from a source other than a dedicated levy. This is agency proposed legislation that had full consensus.

- "Reinvest in Minnesota" (RIM) Reserve Law updated. Technical updates provide flexibility to RIM to take full advantage of partnerships with federal, local and nongovernment partners. The language delete's the reference to the "conservation reserve program". In addition, references to specific payment rates for conservation easements and practices are modified to allow for a consistent but adaptable framework for establishing fair land acquisition payment rates. Repeals outdated and unneeded statute and related rule provisions that prescribed certain technical assistance roles. This is agency proposed legislation has had full consensus.

- BWSR Board Membership Expanded: The board will be expanded by three board members who are the Governor's appointees. Two are representatives of cities,

Other bills of interests:

- **Drainage (HF162/SF364):** Although the bills contain the consensus recommendations from the Drainage Work Group, it did not progress this year because of attention and time focused on budget issues this year.

- **Public Waters Temporary Drawdown:** Government agencies that want to drawdown lake water to control invasive species need 75 percent of the lakefront owners to agree to the method, instead of the unanimous approval currently required. Session law chapter 48.

- **State agencies electronic meeting authority (SF 764):** State boards and agencies are allowed to meet electronically instead of in person, as long as the public still has access to the meetings. The bill states that the electronic meetings must be accessible to the public, and that at least one member of the board or agency must be present at the regular meeting location. Session Law Chapter 80.

MAWD Legislative Breakfast

March 10 - 11, 2010

- **Board Meeting & Legislative Briefing Wednesday, March 10**
- **ADA Meeting**
- **Legislative Breakfast Thursday, March 11**
- **Visit with your legislators**



Kelly Inn Capitol - St. Paul, MN

2008 DNR Watershed District of the Year Award

The Department of Natural Resources recognized the Bois de Sioux Watershed District for its excellence in water management in 2008 at the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts annual conference in Alexandria. DNR Waters annually recognizes an outstanding watershed district for their leadership and direction in addressing water resource management challenges. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District was recognized for their leadership in finding watershed solutions that contribute to flood damage reduction efforts in their watershed and also benefit downstream watersheds in the Red River. Major projects that help store floodwaters, such as the North Ottawa Impoundment, Moonshine Lakebed Restoration, Redpath Impoundment, and Eldorado 7 are important efforts in helping solve local and regional flooding problems. The watershed district was also recognized for their active stream monitoring program, permitting program, educational outreach efforts, and buffer incentive program and demonstrating new stormwater management applications at their new office building site.



Pictured left to right, front row: Jon Roeschlein, Administrator; Monica Wilson, Assistant Administrator; Jerome Deal, Board Chairman. Standing: Charlie Anderson, Engineer; Tom Athens, Watershed Attorney; Board Members Jon Pansch, John (Jack) Lampert, Don Davenport, Dan Ellison, Robert Marts, Dennis Zimbrick. Not Pictured: John Kapphahn.

“Our accomplishments are the results of a team effort” said Jon Roeschlein, Administrator for the district, “None of this could have been done without the working relationships developed between the staff and board of managers, but most of all the support from the residents of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. This is their award too. Thank you and congratulations to all!”

Watershed Districts are special purpose units of local government whose boundaries follow those of a natural watershed (an area of land in which all water flows to one outlet).

All other government units, such as states, counties and cities have political boundaries. Water, however, knows not political boundaries and instead goes where it wants to, when it wants to.

Watershed Districts honored for 50 years of outstanding watershed management

Coon Creek Watershed District - established May 28, 1959

Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) marked its 50th year in 2009. As the second watershed district established in Minnesota, CCWD was part of a 1950’s trend to manage water resources at the watershed level and based on sound scientific principles per the 1955 MN Watershed Act.

Accordingly, in 2009 CCWD relied on latest scientific research to revise its Rules to usher in the Water Quality era; used GIS to refine its legal boundary with its hydrological one by going through the boundary amendment process with Rice Creek WD and Upper and Lower Rum River WMOs; implemented three bank stabilization projects; assisted a lake association with implementing its new comprehensive management plan; and funded Demonstration Grant projects of new infiltration BMPs. Jim Haertel, BWSR, gives plaque to CCWD Board President Byron Westlund.



Jim Haertel, BWSR, gives plaque to CCWD Board President Byron Westlund.

As for the 50th Anniversary, BWSR recognized the CCWD with an honorary plaque and letter (photo), and CCWD developed a traveling exhibit. The exhibit included a map of the 1856 Public Land Survey (pre-ditching), and “Drainage Ditches: Functional Heritage” info complete with a full 1888 ditch petition, live peat, and digital oral history stories of farming the peat. Oral histories of some long-time residents, including the farmer in the exhibit, are now on our website: cooncreekwd.org.

50+

Watershed districts that have previously celebrated their 50th anniversary are:

- High Island
- Joe River
- Two Rivers
- Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City