



WATERSHED UPDATE

Formed in 1981, the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District oversees a variety of projects and programs to assess and improve the health of our 81-square mile watershed – which includes 31 lakes, three designated trout streams, hundreds of acres of wetlands and over 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline. The Watershed District is managed by the following volunteer board of residents appointed by Washington County:

- President**..... Steve Kronmiller, 651.433.4042
- Secretary/Treasurer** Kristin Tuegne, 651.433.3763
- Manager** Richard Caldecott, 651.439.7385
- Manager** Victoria Dupre, 651.439.8266
- Manager** Jason Husveth, 651.433.4410
- Manager** John Lennes Jr., 651.433.3063
- Manager** Thomas Polasik, 651.430.0263

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT MEETINGS are open to the public and take place the first Monday of every month at 6:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia.

If you have questions or would like information on any of the District's programs, contact Administrator Jim Shaver at 651.433.2150 or jshaver@cmscwd.org

NEW, IMPROVED DISTRICT WEBSITE

The District recently launched a revamped Website. Plans and reports, permit and cost share information and applications, along with general and historical information about the watershed are available to review and download. **Visit our new site at www.cmscwd.org.**



MEET THE BOARD OF MANAGERS

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Managers are selected to ensure that all of the hydrologic areas within the watershed are represented. When the District was expanded in 2007, for example, new members were added to represent the St. Croix, Silver Creek and Marine subwatersheds.

Each manager brings a unique perspective on the importance of protecting our water resources. Many also possess specific expertise in ecology, biology, law, planning or other disciplines. The District's newest manager, Kristin Tuegne, is a resident of Scandia and her home is in the St. Croix Scenic Riverway. She is president of a citizen group that is providing comments to Scandia about a proposal to reopen gravel operations near the St. Croix. She worked for Washington County for many years and is now retired.

As we welcome Kristin we would also like to give a special thanks to John Bower, who served on the board from 1994 until July 2010. John continues to serve on the Citizen's Advisory Committee and share his years of watershed knowledge and know-how.

Improving Square Lake Water Quality

Square Lake Regional Park is one of the most popular destinations in the District, offering swimming and picnic areas, a boat launch, fishing pier and clear water enjoyed by scuba divers and others. Protecting the lake's water quality is a top priority and the District recently completed a partnership effort to reduce the stormwater runoff flowing into the lake from the upper parking lot.

The project involved creating a specially landscaped and planted "swale" along the edge of the parking lot, and pervious paving stones at the main pedestrian access point. Both of these strategies allow stormwater to seep naturally into the ground, and if there is extra water it is directed to a rainwater garden.

Before the improvements, water collected on one side of the parking lot and rushed down an asphalt driveway into the lake, often carving gullies in the beach along its way.

Partners expect that the project will cut the runoff in half — reducing erosion and preventing chemicals and warm water from washing into the lake.

Although it is among the cleanest lakes in the Metro Area, District water monitoring had found recent declines in Square Lake's water clarity. "The parking lot project was an excellent opportunity to catch a potential problem before it caused significant impacts," said District Administrator Jim Shaver. "More than 80,000 people visit the lake each year and the high profile location of the project also makes it a valuable tool for public education."

A true partnership effort, the improvement project featured strong support from the Square Lake Homeowners Association, leadership from Washington County Parks and funding and technical assistance from the District, Washington Conservation District, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Environmental and Natural Resources Trust. The project was completed in June 2010 and partners will hold an opening celebration in summer 2011, when the plantings are in full bloom.



Members of the Minnesota Conservation Corps installed the pervious paving stones that allow water to seep into the ground.



Now complete, the improvements include an educational sign to help visitors understand stormwater runoff problems and solutions.

COST SHARE PROGRAM PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR CLEAN WATER

As the busy summer season winds down, it's a great time to start thinking about next year's improvement projects! Any landowner — particularly those with significant acreage and people who live near a lake, stream or wetland — can make changes on their property to improve water quality.

A wide range of projects can make a difference, from rain gardens that capture stormwater from driveways or roofs to shoreline plantings that stabilize the soil along lakes and streams. And all of these projects and more are eligible for assistance through the District's Cost Share Program.

Through the program, formerly known as the District Best Management Practices (BMP) program, landowners apply for technical support and funding for specific projects to improve water resources. If approved, the landowner can be reimbursed for up to 50% of the cost of their project.

"It's a win-win situation for property owners and our water," said District Administrator Jim Shaver. The District is focusing specific effort on providing support to agricultural landowners interested in reducing runoff from farm fields, changing pasture operations or taking other steps to improve water quality. For more information, contact the District or visit our website: www.cmscwd.org.



A wide range of projects can qualify for Cost Share support, from residential raingardens to this larger effort to address an eroding farm field.



Fall is a great time to remove buckthorn, the invasive tree that threatens to choke out native plants. The District has two buckthorn pullers available for loan (this service is free, though a damage deposit is required.) Contact the District for details.

INSIDE

Updates on Square Lake improvements, the District's 2011 budget and more!

New Watershed Management Plan Completed!

Every ten years watershed districts are required by state law to update their management plans. Over the past two years, the District has held workshops and meetings with our Technical Advisory Committee, Citizen Advisory Committee and representatives from local government agencies to gather input and direction. After a formal review process, including public hearings, the Board of Soil and Water Resources officially approved the plan on August 26, 2010.

A guiding document for the District's work over the next ten years, the plan contains District objectives and policies and a description of operations and programs — including a list of projects and budget priorities. The plan also includes individual management plans for 31 lakes and 22 streams; resource management plans for district wetlands and groundwater; physical and societal characteristics; an overall watershed assessment; a list of priorities; future resource goals; and a comprehensive land and natural resource inventory. The full plan is available on the District's website at www.cmsc wd.org.

A NEW APPROACH TO PROTECTING OUR LAKES

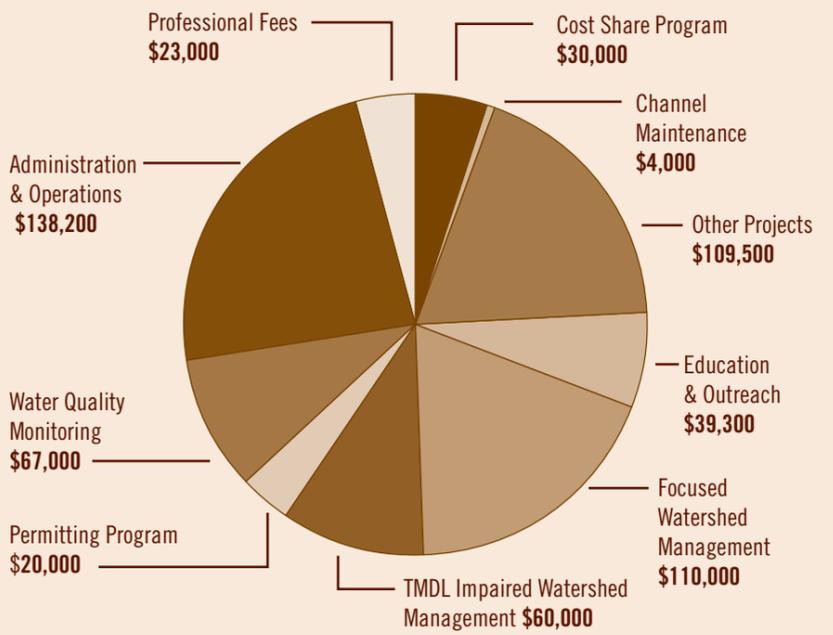
Some local lakes that are still relatively clean are showing a distinct trend toward poorer water quality. In an effort to protect these waters before they become impaired by pollution, the District has launched a new Focused Watershed Management Effort. This approach, identified during the development of the Watershed Management Plan, focuses additional resources on specific lakes selected due to declining water quality and other criteria. The district has selected Sand, Square and May Township's Long Lakes as the focus of initial efforts, and leveraged a two-year cost share grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to fund the project. The District is currently launching the project and is working with homeowners and lake associations to identify improvement projects to help achieve lake water quality goals.



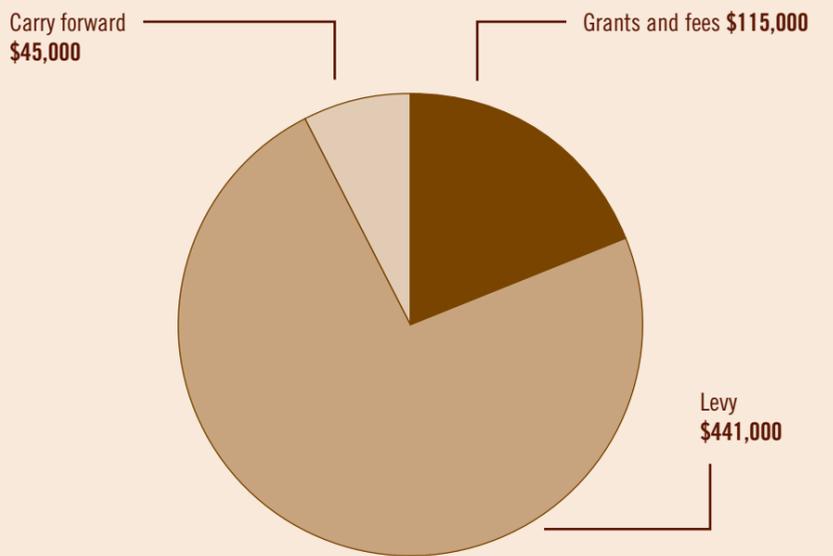
Sand Lake

2011 BUDGET

The District Board of Managers adopted its 2011 budget at the annual meeting on August 2, 2010. The budget includes the new and refined projects and programs identified in the process of creating the District's Watershed Management Plan. For the second year in a row the District has lowered its levy request.



DISTRICT PROJECTS AND EXPENSES



SOURCES OF REVENUE