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 1.7 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..............Krista Tureng, 651.433.3783
Manager.........................Dave DeVault, 651.670.5530
Manager...........................Victoria Dupre, 651.439.8266
Manager.........................Andy Weaver, 651.491.2656
Administrator.....................Jim Shaver, 651.433.2150

Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District meetings are open to the public and take place the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the Heritage Room of the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia.

Big Marine Update
At its meeting on June 12, 2013, the board allocated up to $2,000 to the Big Marine Lake Association to treat for curly leaf pondweed. Infected areas to be treated are the north landing and farm, south of the Girl Scout Camp, southeast of Big Marine Park, and the southwest corner of the lake. The Association already works with the District and Department of Natural Resources to treat for Eurasian milfoil. The Association provides the labor. Funding is to purchase the herbicide to treat curly leaf pondweed which is known to lower water quality.

Mapping Project
Over the past year the District has been working with the environmental consulting firm Emmors & Olivier Resources (EDR) to map the District’s subwatersheds. EDR identifies the inflows and outflows to water bodies and maps water drainage systems. It then overlays its maps with information about topography, vegetation and other natural features. The maps will eventually be imported into Google Earth to make information more accessible to managers and the public.

More Help On The Way For Sand Lake And Long Lake

The two lakes remain high priorities as the Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District enters the second phase of its MPCA-funded protection project.

Three years after receiving an initial $39,000 state grant to conduct water quality assessments on Sand Lake and Long Lake, the District has been awarded another grant—one totaling $136,000—to take the next step in protecting those lakes. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced in May that the District’s Sand Lake–Long Lake protection project was one of twelve programs to receive Clean Water Partnership grants for fiscal year 2013. The District will use the grant funds to develop and implement water quality maintenance and improvement projects in the subwatersheds feeding the two lakes.

Sand Lake and Long Lake both meet the state’s new clean water standards for shallow lakes, but their status remains tenuous. The assessments conducted during the first phase of the project indicate that both lakes could easily slip into impaired status. Projects implemented during the project’s second phase will seek to ensure that does not happen.

The District is now developing a work plan for implementing water quality projects in the two subwatersheds. The initial focus may be on Sand Lake. “Sand Lake is more critical than Long Lake because it’s closer to being considered impaired,” District Administrator Jim Shaver says. “I would lobby for a good portion of the money to go to an iron filter for Sand Lake.” Among the other projects under consideration: permeable parking lot pavers, rain gardens, and wetland reconstruction at Lilleskogen Park and in the Long Lake subwatershed. The District plans to update homeowners on the project’s progress at a public meeting later this summer.

The Minnesota legislature created the Clean Water Partnership program in 1987 to address surface and ground water pollution from agricultural and urban sources. Since then the MPCA has awarded more than $83 million in grants and loans to watershed projects around the state and helped its public and private partners achieve significant improvements in water quality.

“Sand Lake is more critical than Long Lake because it’s closer to being considered impaired,” District Administrator Jim Shaver says.

Legacy Funds
In 2008, Minnesota's voters passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (Legacy Amendment) to the Minnesota Constitution to: protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent beginning on July 1, 2009 and continuing until 2034. The additional sales tax revenue is distributed into four funds as follows: 33 percent to the clean water fund; 33 percent to the outdoor heritage fund; 19.75 percent to the arts and cultural heritage fund; and 14.25 percent to the parks and trails fund.
The Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District’s efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of aquatic invasive species (AIS) may enter a new phase later this year with the adoption of a new AIS program. Over the past several years the District has devoted more and more resources to the fight against invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and purple loosestrife. The Board of Water and Soil Resources has advised the District that a new program should be part of an amendment to its 10 Year Management Plan. Under the new AIS program, it would be able to focus on four implementation strategies:

- Conducting regular assessments of district lakes to determine the presence and prevalence of AIS
- Developing a prioritized list of known AIS with corresponding protection and management strategies
- Developing and implementing a ten-year education, assessment, inspection and management plan in collaboration with relevant stakeholders including state and federal agencies, county and local governments, lake owners associations and other district residents
- Exploring ways to mitigate the effects of native vegetation on recreational usage

The invasive species threatening our watershed were originally introduced by humans and it is up to us to prevent those species from spreading even further. Over the past several years the District has devoted more and more resources to the fight against invasive species such as Eurasian watermilfoil, zebra mussels and purple loosestrife.

An invasive species workshop was held on March 9, 2013 at the Scandia Community Center. The workshop was sponsored jointly by the CMSCWD, the Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District and Chisago County. More than 75 residents attended. The guest speakers, aquatic scientist Steve McComas and invasive species specialist Byron Karns, discussed common AIS and highlighted new and emerging threats including Asian carp. Attendees learned how to identify aquatic invasives, received updates on where those species can be found and learned about the latest state and local efforts to keep them under control.

Working With Local Communities

On May 14, 2013, the District met with the Scandia City Council and the Planning Commission to discuss impaired and priority water bodies in Scandia and to identify projects worth pursuing. Among the potential projects discussed:

- Outfall BMPs (rain gardens or vegetated swales) at Goose Lake and Log House landings
- Guilty reconstruction on 197th Street
- Drainage BMPs (rain gardens or sand-iron filters) in the Bliss Addition
- Restoration of Lilleshagen Park

Earlier, on April 4th, several Board members attended a May Township meeting to discuss the District’s programs and methods to work together in permitting improvements in the Township’s lakeshore districts. The Town Board invited Administrator Shaver to accompany them on their road tour on Wednesday, May 8th where they discussed several potential projects.

District receives Clean Water grant to cleanup lakes

Watershed Update

CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
Scandia Plaza II • 21150 Dark Avenues • PO. Box 188 • Scandia, MN 55073

Great news for Sand Lake and Long Lake, updates on the fight against aquatic invaders, and much more!

MEET MANAGER TORI DUPRE

Tori Dupre was fairly new to her position as a senior planner with the Metropolitan Council when she first became interested in the Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District back in 1999. Her job at the time brought her into regular contact with city, township and county governments, and it was during her work on a water governance study for Washington County that she began to realize how important watershed districts were. She decided to become more involved in the implementation of policy. A resident of May Township, she applied for a manager position with the CMSCWD and was appointed to the board in 2002.

Dupre’s interest in water policy implementation was just one of the factors in her decision to seek a position with the District. She also wanted to learn about watershed districts’ authority and responsibilities, and to get involved in watershed education. “Going on ten years as a manager, I’ve accomplished those goals and then some,” she says.

Dupre says she’s proud to have contributed to many of the District’s accomplishments over the past decade including the adoption of a watershed management plan, the hiring of an administrator, the securing of a permanent office and implementation of many water quality and erosion control projects.

“The experience is an obvious asset to my professional goals,” she says, “but it also has been fun and rewarding. The Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed is rich in resources of all kinds and a great spot in which to live—even for a Wisconsin native and a Green Bay Packer fan!”

HELP WANTED

The District is still seeking representatives from several water bodies to serve on its Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The CAC is appointed annually to advise and assist managers on all matters affecting the watershed district and to make recommendations on all contemplated projects and improvements. Among the recent and current projects that the CAC has considered: the Invasive Species Program, the Watershed Comprehensive Plan amendment, the budget and the Cost Share Program. If you are interested in serving on the CAC, contact District Administrator Jim Shaver.