



Benthic invertebrate sampling

This section will give the reader an understanding of the District's objectives & policies for the following:

Section Contents

- A. Watershed Management and Operations**
 - Objectives
 - Policies

- B. Surface Water Management**
 - Objectives
 - Policies

- C. Groundwater**
 - Objectives
 - Policies

- D. Education, Communication, and Outreach**
 - Objectives
 - Policies

- E. Habitat and Open Space**
 - Objectives
 - Policies

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK



Yellow water lily, typical on many District lakes

A. Watershed Management and Operations

Objectives:

1. Manage the affairs of the District in an open, accessible, and transparent manner - *Strategic Plan Objective 3*
 2. Operate in an efficient, cost-effective, collaborative way to minimize costs to citizens
 3. React in a timely manner to the concerns of citizens, agencies, and local governments - *Strategic Plan Objective 3*
 4. Set goals based on the best science available and obtain measurable results
 5. Manifest flexibility while striving to achieve the Mission of the Watershed District
 6. Anticipate future issues and proactively search for solutions
 7. Seek feedback from citizens and other constituents - *Strategic Plan Objectives 3 and 6*
-

Policies:

The District will:

- a. Review its Strategic Plan annually - *Objectives 2, 3, 5, and 6*
- b. Maintain an open office centrally located within the District - *Objectives 1, 3, and 7*
- c. Employ professional administration, staff, and/or consultants to manage the daily affairs of the District and to implement this plan as well as other policies of the Board - *Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 7*
- d. Actively solicit public input in annual budgeting - *Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 7*
- e. Utilize public opinion through active involvement of a Citizens' Advisory Committee - *Objectives 3 and 7*
- f. Increase awareness of the District's Mission and operations - *Objectives 2 and 7*
- g. Seek financial partners both private and public at the local, regional, state and national level to leverage funding - *Objective 2*
- h. Solicit Board representation that is diverse and distributed evenly throughout the District - *Objectives 1, 3, and 7*



Big Marine Flooding prior to 1985 outlet project

B. Surface Water Management

Objectives:

1. Maintain or improve the quality and ecological integrity of all water resources in the District
- *Strategic Plan Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6*
2. Be proactive in assessing potential problems including declining water quality - *Strategic Plan Objectives 1 and 2*
3. Promote understanding of the linkages between land use, surface water quality and quantity, and ground water quality and quantity - *Strategic Plan Objectives 2 and 7*
4. Prevent flooding and manage future water levels to limit damage to District resources while conserving upstream water storage capacity
5. Preserve wetlands for water retention while maintaining or improving the ecological integrity of high quality wetlands
- *Strategic Plan Objective 5*
6. Protect stream corridors to maintain natural functions, minimize erosion and sedimentation, and preserve habitat
- *Strategic Plan Objective 7*
7. Preserve the floodplain of lakes, wetlands and watercourses from encroachment
8. Minimize the impacts of storm water runoff

Policies:

The District will:

- a. Maintain a water monitoring program which drives the District's watershed management, and identifies areas of concern, prioritizes problems, and results in programs and projects whose goals are realistic and achievable with results that are measurable. Design and create projects to mitigate effects of land use on District water
- *Objectives 1, 2, 3, 5, 6, and 8*
- b. Cooperate with the MPCA's TMDL program and partner with agencies and local governments to achieve water quality improvements on the District's impaired waters including the St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix
- *Objectives 1, 2, and 3*
- c. Update and utilize the subwatershed based individual resource management plans in Section V. District will seek citizen input when updating individual resource management plans
- *Objectives 1, 2, 4, 5, and 6*



Low water level at Big Marine Lake

Surface Water Management Policies – cont:

- d. Formulate, implement, and enforce Rules to maintain and improve District resources, minimize storm water runoff, erosion and downstream sedimentation while maximizing infiltration of storm water. Coordinate permitting and enforcement with member communities and other agencies
- Objectives 1, 3, 4, 5, 7, and 8
- e. Review all local surface water management plans and insure that they reflect the goals and design standards of the District's Plan & Rules
- Objectives 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, and 8
- f. Promote sustainable development as a means to protect and improve the District's resources
- Objective 3
- g. Implement policies defined in the District's Comprehensive Wetlands Management Plan
- Objectives 1, 4, and 5
- h. Coordinate District permitting with local WCA authorities and participate on all appropriate technical advisory panels. Assume local WCA authority at the request of local government for the benefit and protection of the District's water resources and if deemed necessary by the Board of Managers
- Objectives 1, 4, and 5
- i. Insure access to areas requiring periodic or regular maintenance by acquiring easements and other means of access
- Objectives 1, 2, 4, 6, and 7
- j. Utilize District Programs to encourage and incentivize the use of sustainable development and agricultural practices, and to maintain the integrity of shorelands, wetlands and shoreland vegetation including ice ridges.
- Objectives 1, 3, 6, and 8
- k. Support County and City Floodplain Ordinances
- Objectives 1, 4, and 7



Groundwater Spring

C. Groundwater

Objectives:

1. Protect the quality of groundwater
- *Strategic Plan Objectives 5 and 7*
 2. Improve and protect groundwater recharge areas
 3. Support Washington County Groundwater Plan
- *Strategic Plan Objectives 1 and 2*
-

Policies:

The District will:

- a. Incorporate by reference the Washington County Groundwater Plan and include relevant watershed implementation actions from the County Ground Water Workplan into the District Annual Workplan
- *Objectives 1, 2, and 3*
- b. Participate in Washington County Groundwater Committee
- *Objective 3*
- c. Implement Rules to protect groundwater dependent water resources
- *Objectives 1 and 2*



District / community meeting

D. Education, Communication, and Outreach

Objectives:

1. Increase public awareness and participation in the District's activities, plans, and programs
- *Strategic Plan Objectives 3 and 6*
 2. Add to public's knowledge of water and natural resource issues
- *Strategic Plan Objective 6*
 3. Enable and promote natural resource based neighborhood groups such as Lake Homeowner's Associations
 4. Concentrate education efforts in areas of impaired waters and Focused Watershed Management
- *Strategic Plan Objective 1*
-

Policies:

The District will:

- a. Encourage public to participate in volunteer water quality monitoring
- *Objectives 1, 2, and 4*
- b. Offer educational opportunities to the District's residents of all ages to protect and improve the quality of both surface and groundwater through the use of seminars and workshops
- *Objectives 1, 2, 3, and 4*
- c. Inform public and local governments about water resource issues including land use impacts and the link between land protection and water quality improvement projects
- *Objectives 1, 2, and 4*
- d. Solicit public's input on District issues
- *Objectives 1 and 4*
- e. Share information with the public through the use of an informative website, semi-annual newsletters and an effective public relations policy
- *Objectives 1 and 2*
- f. Encourage and support neighborhood groups
- *Objectives 1, 2, and 3*



Wetland photo courtesy of the Washington Conservation District

E. Habitat and Open Space

Objectives:

1. Maintain the quality and quantity of fish and wildlife habitat
- Strategic Plan Objectives 2 and 5
 2. Preserve and increase bio-diversity of District resources
 3. Promote conservation and land protection strategies throughout the District
- Strategic Plan Objective 2
-

Policies:

The District will:

- a. Encourage landowners to maintain wetlands and open space for the benefit of wildlife
- Objectives 1 and 3
- b. Promote ecologically sound public access to and responsible use of District resources
- Objective 1
- c. Encourage introduction and growth of native vegetation, particularly buffer strips
- Objectives 1 and 2
- d. Minimize removal of native aquatic vegetation
- Objectives 1 and 2
- e. Prevent or slow the spread of invasive species into and within the District
- Objectives 1 and 2
- f. Discourage placement of chemicals into District water resources except for the use of MNDNR-approved chemicals for the treatment of Aquatic Invasive Species
- Objectives 1 and 2
- g. Establish and maintain protective corridors on major streams in the District
- Objectives 1, 2, and 3
- h. Participate in the continued planning and development of local, regional, state and national parklands in the District
- Objectives 1, 2, and 3
- i. Support existing and proposed Greenways consistent with the District's mission
- Objective 3