MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2018 ANNUAL REPORT

Prepared by:
MIDDLE ST. CROIX WMO BOARD OF MANAGERS
APPROVAL DATE: April 11th, 2019
# Table of Contents

**INTRODUCTION**......................................................................................................................... 2

**ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET**........................................................................................................ 3

MSCWMO BOARD OF MANAGERS.......................................................................................... 3

MSCWMO CONTRACT SUPPORT STAFF .................................................................................. 3

AUDIT REPORT ........................................................................................................................ 5

**2018 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS**............................................................................................ 6

2018 IMPLEMENTATION OF PERFORMANCE STANDARDS ..................................................... 6

2018 PROJECTS IMPLEMENTATION ........................................................................................... 7

  Best Management Practices and Subwatershed Implementation Program .................................. 8

  Construction Monitoring Program ........................................................................................... 9

  BMP Inspections and Maintenance .......................................................................................... 9

  Groundwater ............................................................................................................................ 10

  Local Government Controls .................................................................................................. 10

  One Watershed One Plan ......................................................................................................... 11

INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM ........................................................................ 11

  Shared Water Resource Educator .......................................................................................... 11

  Website .................................................................................................................................. 12

2018 DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM .................................................................................. 12

  Water Quality Monitoring Program ....................................................................................... 12

**2019 WORKPLAN** .................................................................................................................... 13

  Best Management Practices Program ..................................................................................... 13

  Subwatershed Analyses and Implementation ........................................................................... 13

  Water Monitoring ..................................................................................................................... 13

  Public Education and Outreach Programs ................................................................................. 13

  Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively with 15 units of government charged with water governance in the Lower St. Croix HUC8 watershed to develop a coordinated management plan................................................................................................................................. 13

  Development Plan Reviews and Erosion Monitoring Program; MSCWMO Policies and Performance Standards .................................................................................................................. 13

  Website Update and Maintenance ........................................................................................... 13

**APPENDIX A** ............................................................................................................................ 14

  2018 Annual Communications ................................................................................................. 14
INTRODUCTION

The Middle St. Croix WMO encompasses approximately 19.8 square miles and is located in the east-central part of Washington County. A distinction exists between the Middle St. Croix watershed and the other watersheds of Washington County in that the Middle St. Croix watershed has many small, parallel watersheds that all flow to the St. Croix, whereas the other watersheds in the County generally have one major drainage with a headwaters and outlet. Land use in the watershed is evenly distributed between agricultural uses, rural residential, high-density residential and commercial land uses.

The Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) is a Joint Powers Watershed Management Organization composed of ten St. Croix Valley communities that was established under State Statute 103B to cooperatively manage water resources within the watershed. The ten member communities of the MSCWMO are: Afton, Bayport, Baytown Township, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary’s Point, Stillwater, and West Lakeland Township.

In general, the purposes of a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) are to conserve natural resources through land use planning, flood control, and other conservation projects in order to ensure continued public health and welfare. The specific purposes of a watershed management organization are:

- Cooperatively manage water resources in the watershed.
- Inventory and assess the resources of the watershed.
- Monitor the water quality of lakes and streams in the watershed.
- Provide education on water related issues in the watershed.
- Review development plans for stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, and provide wetland and shoreland protection.
- Plan and implement capital improvement projects that enhance the water resources of the watershed.

The mission of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization is to jointly and cooperatively manage the water resources of the watershed. The ten member communities will do so to conserve and protect the water resources in an efficient and effective manner.
ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET

MSCWMO Board of Managers

Each member municipality or township within the MSCWMO appoints one member to the MSCWMO Board. The 2017 representatives from each participatory community are listed below.

Annie Perkins  
4042 River Road S.  
Afton, MN 55001  
651-592-3007

Tom McCarthy  
16455 20th St. S.  
Lake St. Croix Beach, MN 55043  
651.436.7031

Brian Zeller (Chair)  
55 Lakeland Shores Rd  
Lakeland Shores, MN 55043  
612.325.3038

Nancy Anderson  
2870 Itasca Ave. S.  
St. Mary's Point, MN 55043  
651.436.7157

Mike Runk  
5525 O'Brien Ave N  
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082  
651-439-5458

John Fellegy  
4220 Osgood Ave N.  
Baytown Twp., MN 55082  
612.275.2200

Doug Menikheim  
527 Broadway Ave. S.  
Stillwater MN 55082  
612.382.4929

Joe Paiement  
1190 St. Croix Trail South  
Lakeland, MN 55043  
651-436-4430

Dan Kyllo  
1891 Oldridge Ave. N.  
West Lakeland Township, MN 55082  
651.436.1134

Dan Goldston  
294 North Third St.  
Bayport, MN 55003  
651-275-4404

MSCWMO Contract Support Staff

The MSCWMO does not employ staff but does contract with several organizations for professional services. The organizations providing these services are listed below.

Administrator  
Mikael Isensee  
Washington Conservation District  
455 Hayward Avenue,  
Oakdale MN 55128  
651.330.8220 Ext. 22

Attorney  
Troy Gilchrist  
470 Pillsbury Center  
200 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55402  
612.337.9215  
tgilchrist@kennedy-graven.com

Recording Secretary  
Washington Conservation District  
455 Hayward Avenue,  
Oakdale MN 55128  
651.330.8220 Ext. 27
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<tr>
<th>Administration Budget</th>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
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**TOTAL**                                   **$ 133,070**
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<tr>
<th>Administration Budget</th>
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**Project Budget**

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<th>Budget Category</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal</strong></td>
<td><strong>$ 93,870</strong></td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**                                    **$ 133,070**
AUDIT REPORT

Michael Peterson, Certified Public Accountant & Consultant, completed an audit of the financial management of the WMO for the year 2018. The result of this audit disclosed no instances of noncompliance or other matters that are required to be reported under Government Auditing Standards, and that the MSCWMO does comply with the material terms and conditions of applicable legal provisions. In the opinion of the auditor, the financial statements of the MSCWMO for the year ending December 31, 2018 were in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
2018 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

2018 Implementation of Performance Standards

The mission of the MSCWMO is to jointly and cooperatively manage water resources within the WMO and to provide effective and efficient services to the residents of the watershed. To work towards meeting this goal, the MSCWMO adopted Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) developed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The watershed also provided assistance to member communities to integrate MIDS into local ordinance. Rather than create its own separate permit program, the MSCWMO reviews projects that meet the criteria listed in section 7.0 of the 2015 Watershed Management Plan. Member communities do not issue permits until the project has met all applicable watershed performance standards.

Table 3: MSCWMO Project Reviews and Total Phosphorous Load Reductions of Permanent Stormwater Best Management Practices Estimated with the MIDS Calculator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Projects Reviewed</th>
<th>Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)</th>
<th>Redevelopment BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>26.7</td>
<td>25.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017*</td>
<td>19</td>
<td>133.6</td>
<td>124.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>25.8</td>
<td>17.2</td>
</tr>
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</table>

*2017 includes the permanent stormwater BMPs installed as part of the St. Croix Crossing project.
2018 Projects Implementation

The MSCWMO 2015-2025 Watershed Management Plan targets goal reductions of Total Phosphorus to each of the three major watersheds draining to impaired surface waters listed on the State of Minnesota 303 D list: Lake St. Croix, Lily Lake, and Perro Creek. From 2015 to 2018, table 6.6 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies a total target of 70.1 lbs. total phosphorus load reduction to be completed by voluntary retrofitting. To date, 31 water quality improvement projects have been installed totaling an estimated annual total phosphorus reduction of 132.5 lbs.

Table 4: MSCWMO Water Quality Retrofits and Total Phosphorous Load Reductions of Permanent Stormwater Best Management Practices Estimated with the MIDS Calculator.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total Projects Installed</th>
<th>Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)</th>
<th>Targeted Subwatersheds</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2015</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>17.3</td>
<td>Lake St. Croix and McKusick</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>48.8</td>
<td>Lake St. Croix and Perro</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2017</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10.1</td>
<td>Lake St. Croix and Lily</td>
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<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>56.3</td>
<td>Lake St. Croix and Lily</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
'Best Management Practices and Subwatershed Implementation Program

The MSCWMO continues to seek partnerships to construct high-performing and low-cost stormwater best management practices identified in its subwatershed analysis. In 2018, three projects were completed that were identified in a subwatershed analysis and received local funding and clean water funding to design and construct:

These projects were installed in 2018:
- Greeley Gully Stabilization Project, Stillwater in the Lily Lake Subwatershed
- Greeley Gully Biofiltration Basin, Stillwater in the Lily Lake Subwatershed
- Stillwater Junior High School Iron Enhanced Sand Filter, Stillwater, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed

The following work was also completed in preparation for future projects in each of the subwatersheds:

Lake St. Croix Direct South
In 2018 the MSCWMO completed the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis and was successful at securing a 2019 Clean Water Fund Grant and a 2019 St. Croix River Association Grant to design and install high priority projects identified in the report. Two large bluff stabilization projects are now being designed in coordination with landowners and municipalities. Additionally, during the development of the subwatershed analysis a large actively eroding gully discharging into Lake St. Croix was identified on MnDOT and railroad land. MnDOT is currently designing a repair to the gully and is anticipating gully stabilization work will occur in 2019 or 2020.

Lake St. Croix Direct North
The MSCWMO received a 2018 Board of Water and Resources Clean Water Fund grant to install stormwater treatment features as prioritized in the 2014 Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge Subwatershed Analysis. In partnership with the Stillwater Country Club and the City of Stillwater, the MSCWMO is currently designing a gully stabilization and bioinfiltration project that will reduce phosphorus directly discharging to Lake St. Croix by 25 lbs. per year. Construction is anticipate in 2019.

Additionally, Andersen Windows Bayport manufacturing facility installed a large infiltration basin treating eight acres of impervious surface that was discharging directly to Lake St. Croix. The basin is one phase of a multiphase stormwater management plan that the MSCWMO assisted to develop.

Lily Lake, Stillwater
In 2018 the Greeley Gully stormwater diversion, filtration basin and gully stabilization project was completed reducing 40 lbs. per year of total phosphorus discharging to Brick Pond, then to Lily Lake. Also in 2018 the MSCWMO completed the Lily Lake Delisting Roadmap which identifies projects and treatments to complete the total phosphorus load reductions to Lily Lake and remove it from the impaired waters list by 2022. The final report is located on the MSCWMO website: [http://www.mscwmo.org/subwatershed-assessments](http://www.mscwmo.org/subwatershed-assessments)

Perro Creek:
In 2017 MSCWMO received funding from the BWSR’s Clean Water Fund Program to fund urban stormwater quality improvement for Perro Creek. Outreach and design were completed in 2018. The bioretention projects are planned for construction in 2019.

In addition to the subwatershed programs, the MSCWMO continues to promote its Best Management Practices Program during 2018. In 2018 3 voluntary best management practices were designed and installed in partnership with local residents:

- Perro Creek Native Buffer Restoration, Bayport, Perro Creek Subwatershed
- Peoples Church Native Prairie Restoration, Bayport, Perro Creek Subwatershed
- Anderson Native Prairie and Buckthorn Removal, Afton, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed

**Construction Monitoring Program**

The MSCWMO construction-monitoring program was developed to ensure that the policies and performance standards of the MSCWMO were implemented on the ground for qualifying projects. Staff continues to monitor projects, which were reviewed by the MSCWMO board. The MSCWMO coordinates its inspection program with its member communities and their building/permit inspectors.

**BMP Inspections and Maintenance**

The MSCWMO BMP Inspection and Tracking Database was developed to ensure that the installed practices are meeting functional and aesthetic expectations. In 2018 105 MSCWMO projects were inspected. Utilizing the Washington Conservation District Maintenance Crew, Minnesota
Conservation Corps, and volunteers, maintenance was performed on BMPs that are municipalities responsibility to maintain.

The watershed also worked in partnership with the East Metro Water Resource Education Program, Sustainable Stillwater, the Lily Lake Association, and the Stillwater Foundation to develop and Pilot an Adopt a Raingarden Program in Stillwater. The program will continue in 2019.

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**Groundwater**

The MSCWMO continued to recognize the Washington County Groundwater Plan during 2018 and continued to participate in County wide technical advisory committee meetings to prioritize implementation and identify responsible parties for specific activities.

**Local Government Controls**

The MSCWMO continued to work with its member communities to strengthen water quality and natural resource management. Through a Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation grant the MSCWMO is assisting its member communities to update their local controls. In 2018 all communities except Stillwater adopted Minimum Impact Design Standards (MIDs) into local ordinance and code. All communities will continue to participate in the MSCWMO’s project review program. The City of Stillwater has drafted MIDS standards.
One Watershed One Plan
In 2018, the MSCWMO has worked collaboratively with 15 local governments participating in the Lower St. Croix One Water One Plan planning efforts. The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively to develop a coordinated management plan on the large HUC 8 basin scale.

Information and Education Program

Shared Water Resource Educator
The MSCWMO continues to participate in the shared East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP). During 2018, EMWREP continued to use a variety of strategies to educate the general public about stormwater pollution and other issues affecting the quality of surface and groundwater resources, and to inform them about partner programs and activities. EMWREP contributed 52 press releases and news columns on a weekly basis in 2018, in addition to producing educational content for city newsletters, social media, and on-line news sites. EMWREP staff attended more than 10 community events and participated in the planning and program development for several regional water education initiatives as well.

In 2018, the watershed also completed the following activities

- Engaged lake shore residents on Lily Lake and Lake McKusick through two workshops and a semi-monthly newsletter.
- Engaged 60 realtors in groundwater and wells; septic systems; shoreline and riverway rules; watershed district programs through two workshops.
- Created and piloted an Adopt A Raingarden Program in Stillwater.
- Conducted a stakeholder engagement meeting for the Lily Lake Impaired Waters Delisting Road Map on March 28th at the Stillwater Library.
- Hosted three Open Yard events on June 18, June 27, and July 18 in Stillwater
- Provided information at the Feb. 27 Lift Bridge Event in Stillwater, the May 5 Stillwater Raingarden Spring Cleanup event in Stillwater, and the Washington County Fair.

Residential Water Quality Program: EMWREP conducted public education and outreach efforts, as well as promoted watershed cost-share programs, conducted targeted outreach for neighborhood raingarden projects, and teach educational workshops for homeowners.

- In 2018, EMWREP conducted raingarden Urban Landscaping design workshops.
- EMWREP also conducted an Open House Event to educate and gather input from residents for the Lily Lake Final 45 Project.

Stormwater U: The watershed also provided educational presentations on winter salt training for parking lot and road maintenance crews in Blaine, Shoreview, Hugo, Woodbury.

NEMO: The Northland NEMO program (Non-point Education for Municipal Officials) provides local elected officials and decision makers with resources and information to make informed decisions about land use and water quality in their communities. Northland NEMO is hosted by the University of Minnesota Extension and EMWREP is a partner organization.
• During 2018 the watershed collaborated with St. Croix River Association, NEMO and local partners to host the annual St. Croix River Workshop on the Water on July 11 for 155 local decision makers.

The MSCWMO will continue providing funding and staff time to support EMWREP in 2019. A full report of EMWREP activities completed in 2017 can be viewed at the following link:
http://www.mscwmo.org/watershed-education

Website
The MSCWMO continued to update its website in 2018. The website contains up to date meeting dates, agendas, minutes, annual reports, water monitoring information, contact information and more. In addition, the website also contains a section for grant reporting which highlights projects completed as part of the BWSR Clean Water Legacy Program. The website also contains a tab “for developers” and “for builders” which provides all necessary information on the MSCWMO’s project review process. The MSCWMO website can be viewed at the following link:
http://www.mscwmo.org

2018 Data Collection Program

Water Quality Monitoring Program
In 2018 the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) continued condition monitoring and water quality and elevation biweekly on McKusick Lake and Lily Lake. Information from the Brown’s Creek Diversion Drainage which flows to McKusick Lake is monitored by the Brown’s Creek Watershed District, but resulting information is also provided to the MSCWMO for use in management planning. The MSCWMO established a permanent monitoring station at the stormsewer connection from Brick Pond to Lily Lake. This station will measure the annual volume of water and concentration of phosphorous flowing from Brick Pond to Lily Lake. The MSCWMO monitored volume and concentration of discharge for both based flow and storm flows from Perro Creek and intensified bacteria sampling efforts to more accurately identify areas impacted by high E.coli levels. The watershed also applied to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency water monitoring grant to request genetic testing of E.coli to determine if it is human or not. That application was declined.

Full water monitoring reports can be viewed on our website. The 2018 monitoring report will be available in July of 2019.
http://www.mscwmo.org/water-monitoring
2019 WORKPLAN

Best Management Practices Program
The MSCWMO will continue to promote its Best Management Practices Program in 2019. The MSCWMO will continue to work to engage landowners in the Lily Lake, McKusick Lake, Perro Creek, Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge North and South subwatersheds.

Subwatershed Analyses and Implementation
In 2019 the MSCWMO will continue working with the City of Stillwater, Stillwater Country Club, City of Bayport, City of Lake St. Croix Beach, MnDOT, and private landowners to design and install targeted stormwater quality best management practices identified in subwatershed analyses. The MSCWMO will apply for a Clean Water Fund Grant to implement the findings of the Lily Lake Impaired Waters Delisting Road Map.

Water Monitoring
The MSCWMO will continue water quality condition monitoring program for Lily and McKusick Lakes and Perro Creek. The MSCWMO has hired the Washington Conservation District to complete monitoring and reporting again in 2019. The MSCWMO is planning to apply for funding to monitor the volume and concentration flowing out from the Mulberry Ravine and select stormwater outfalls in the City of Stillwater discharging directly into Lake St. Croix.

Public Education and Outreach Programs
The MSCWMO will continue to participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program. The activities and programs offered through this partnership will help MSCWMO meet its goals for education and outreach.

Lower St. Croix One Watershed One Plan
The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively with 15 units of government charged with water governance in the Lower St. Croix HUC8 watershed to develop a coordinated management plan.

Development Plan Reviews and Erosion Monitoring Program; MSCWMO Policies and Performance Standards
The MSCWMO will continue to review qualifying projects for consistency with the 2015 Watershed Management plan, and will continue to coordinate its review process with its member communities. Staff will also continue to monitor current and past projects to ensure stormwater management features are functioning as planned. The MSCWMO will promote trainings and events that will improve performance on future projects.

Website Update and Maintenance
The MSCWMO continues to update and maintain its website.
APPENDIX A

2018 Annual Communications

AFTON
The City of Afton is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Afton to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the MSCWMO watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Annie Perkins, the City of Afton appointed MSCWMO Board Manager at 651-592-3007.

BAYPORT
The City of Bayport is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Perro Creek and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Bayport to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Perro Creek and the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Council Member Patrick McGann, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 651-275-4404.

BAYTOWN TWP
Baytown Township is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to Baytown Township to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Township Board Member John Fellegy, the Township appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 651-275-2200.

LAKELAND
The City of Lakeland is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Lakeland to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation
projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Council Member Joe Paiement, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 651-206-5200.

LAKEST CROIX BEACH
The City of Lake St. Croix Beach is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Lake St. Croix Beach to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Mayor Tom McCarthy, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 651-436-7031.

OAK PARK HEIGHTS
The City of Oak Park Heights is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Perro Pond and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Oak Park Heights to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Perro Pond or St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Council Member Mike Runk, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at (651) 439-5458.

ST. MARY’S POINT
The City of St. Mary’s Point is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of St.
Mary’s Point to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Council Member Nancy Anderson, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 651-436-7157.

STILLWATER
The City of Stillwater is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, and Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to the City of Stillwater to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering Lily Lake, Lake McKusick, or the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Council Member Doug Menikheim, the City appointed Board Manager on the watershed, at 612-382-4929.

WEST LAKELAND TWP
West Lakeland Township is one of ten member communities of the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization (MSCWMO) that collectively works to improve the water quality of Lake St. Croix. The MSCWMO provides educational, technical, and financial assistance to West Lakeland Township to effectively manage water resources. They also partner with the Washington Conservation District to provide design and cost share assistance for voluntary conservation projects on private lands that reduce sediment and phosphorous pollution entering the St. Croix River. If you are considering a conservation project on your property or have any questions about the watershed please contact Mike Isensee, Administrator of the MSCWMO at misensee@mnwcd.org or Board Member Dan Kyllo, the Township appointed Board Manager and Treasurer for the watershed, at 612-436-1134.