

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2023 ANNUAL REPORT



Lakeland

Prepared by:

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WMO BOARD OF MANAGERS
APPROVAL DATE: March 14th, 2024

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INTRODUCTION

The Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization 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 2023 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)
84 St. Croix Trail S
Lakeland, MN 55043
612.325.3038

Beth Olfelt-Nelson
2990 Itasca Ave. S.
St. Mary's Point, MN 55043
612.417.5394

Carly Johnson
14418 57th St N
Oak Park Heights, MN 55082
651.261.5801

Avis Peters
13045 53rd Street Pl.
Stillwater., MN 55082
651.430.8163

Ryan Collins
1467 Benson Blvd E
Stillwater MN 55082
651.246.8264

Dave Millard
16051 Quality Ct
Lakeland, MN 55043
651.408.3483

John Buelow
13250 20th Street N.
West Lakeland Township, MN 55082
651.436.2244

John Dahl
775 3rd Ave N.
Bayport, MN 55003
651.439.7312

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
Matt Oldenburg-Downing
Washington Conservation
District
455 Hayward Avenue
Oakdale, MN 55128
651.796.2227

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. 2225

Table 1: 2023 Budget

Administration Budget	Community Contributions
Administration - General	\$ 31,160
Accounting	\$ 1,550
Legal Fees – General	\$ 1,000
Audit	\$ 2,100
Insurance	\$ 2,600
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$ 625
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,180
Copying/printing	\$ 625
Subtotal	\$ 40,840
Project Budget	
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000
Engineering - Project	\$ 5,700
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 5,040
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,250
BMP Program Tech. Assistance	\$ 27,768
BMP Program Cost Share	\$ 20,000
Community TA	\$ 3,000
Water Resource Educator	\$ 6,300
Website	\$ 800
Inspection and Tracking Database	\$ 900
Water Monitoring	\$ 22,000
Water Monitoring Equip. Savings	\$ 750
2025 WMP Update	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$ 101,508
TOTAL	\$ 142,348

Table 2: 2024 Budget

Administration Budget	Community Contributions
Administration - General	\$ 32,095
Accounting	\$ 1,600
Legal Fees – General	\$ 900
Audit	\$ 2,800
Insurance	\$ 2,600
Office supplies/equipment/postage	\$ 625
Minutes/Clerical	\$ 1,215
Copying/printing	\$ 625
Subtotal	\$ 42,460
Project Budget	
Project Contingency	\$ 2,000
Engineering - Project	\$ 5,500
Development Plan Reviews	\$ 5,200
Erosion Monitoring Program	\$ 2,315
BMP Program Tech. Assistance	\$ 28,600
BMP Program Cost Share	\$ 20,000
Community TA	\$ 3,000
Water Resource Educator	\$ 6,300
Website	\$ 900
Inspection and Tracking Database	\$ 900
Water Monitoring	\$ 23,000
Water Monitoring Equip. Savings	\$ 750
2025 WMP Update	\$5,000
Subtotal	\$ 103,865
TOTAL	\$ 146,325

AUDIT REPORT

Michael Peterson, Certified Public Accountant & Consultant, has been contracted to complete an audit of the financial management of the WMO for the year 2023. At the time of writing this report the audit process is underway. The audit will be presented to the State of Minnesota and posted to the MSCWMO website upon completion.

2023 PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS

2023 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 to meet 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 2015-2025 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.

Year	Total Projects Reviewed	Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)	Redevelopment BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)
2016	19	26.7	25.6
2017*	19	133.6	124.7
2018	18	25.8	17.2
2019	13	17.9	6.0
2020	11	51.7	0.2
2021	13	14.0	7.6
2022	18	7.2	7.2
2023	22	13.0	11.1

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

2023 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 2023, table 6.6 of the MSCWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies a total target of 197.1 lbs of total phosphorus load reduction to be completed by voluntary retrofitting. To date, 73 water quality improvement projects have been installed totaling an estimated annual total phosphorus reduction of 264.3 lbs. Fifteen projects were installed in 2023.

- Buffer Enhancement
- Native Landscaping
- Bioretention
- Grade Stabilization

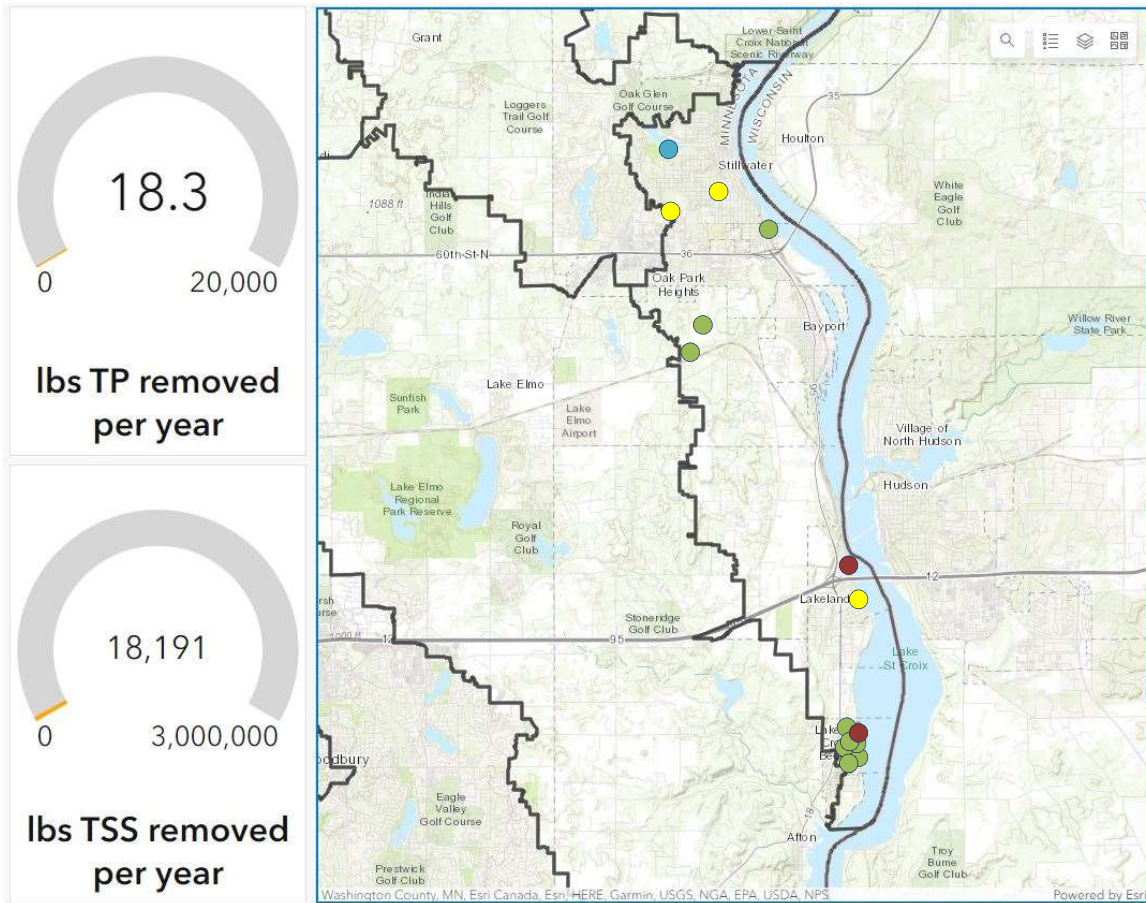


Figure 1. 2023 Installed Practices with Total Phosphorus (TP) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) Reductions

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

Year	Total Projects Installed	Total BMP Estimated TP Reduction (lbs./yr.)	Targeted Subwatersheds
2015	17	17.3	Lake St. Croix and McKusick
2016	3	48.8	Lake St. Croix and Perro
2017	5	10.1	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2018	6	56.3	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2019	7	39.4	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2020	4	0.8	Lake St. Croix and Perro
2021	4	65.3	Lake St. Croix and Lily
2022	12	8.0	Lake St. Croix and McKusick
2023	15	18.3	Lake St. Croix, Lily, and McKusick

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 analyses. In 2023, four projects were completed that were either identified in a subwatershed analysis or located in priority direct drainages that were part of these analyses. These projects received state and local funding to design and construct:

Projects that were installed in 2023:

- Quixote Avenue Drainage Improvements, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed.
- Lake St. Croix Beach Bluff Toe Stabilization, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed.
- Lakeland Beach Stabilization, Lake St. Croix Subwatershed.
- Forster Curb-Cut Bioretention, Lily Lake Subwatershed.

The following is a summary of work that was completed in 2023:

Quixote Avenue Improvements, Lakeland:

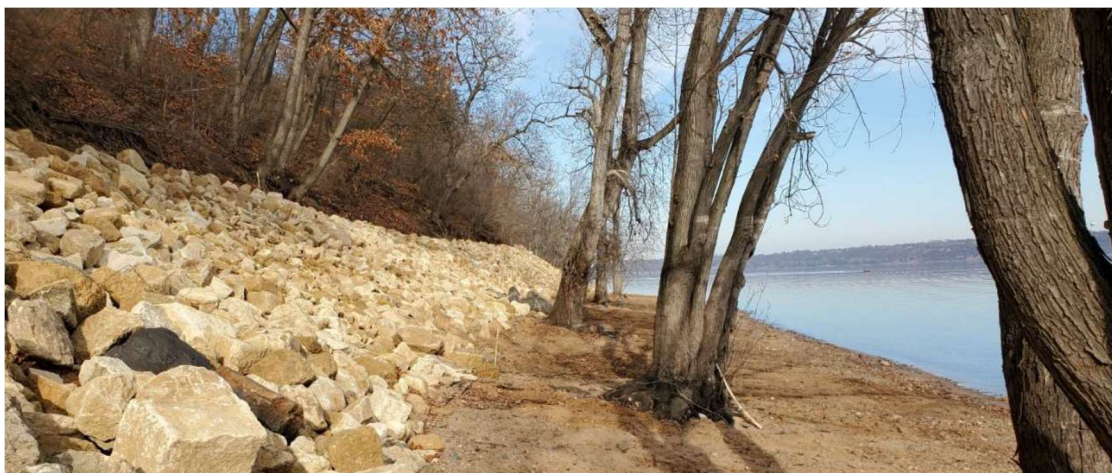
In 2014 the MSCWMO secured a 2014 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant to implement high priority projects in the Lake St. Croix Subwatershed. Several projects were completed in 2015 along Quixote Avenue North in Lakeland with 2014 grant funding. In 2023, MSCWMO and the WCD worked with landowners and the City of Lakeland to install one additional bioretention practice at 661 Quixote Ave N, a prioritized parcel between two existing practices installed as a part of the original 2015 Quixote Avenue N Drainage Improvements project. The basin enhances the treatment train effect of adjacent practices (both upstream and downstream) installed along Quixote Avenue N and will retain approximately 0.68 lbs TP and 123.5 lbs TSS annually.



[Above] 661 Quixote Avenue N Bioretention.

Lake St. Croix Beach – Bluff Toe Stabilization:

In 2018 the MSCWMO completed the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis and was successful at securing a 2019 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant and a 2019 St. Croix River Association Grant to design and install high priority projects identified in the report. 404 linear feet of bluff stabilization was constructed in coordination with the city of Lake St. Croix Beach utilizing 2019 CWF, 2019 Watershed Based Funding (WBF) and city funds in 2020. The first phase was completed in spring of 2021. In 2023, the WMO engaged the city to utilize remaining funds from the WMO's 2021 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant to stabilize an additional 94 feet, completed in August of 2023.



[Above] Lake St. Croix Beach bluff toe stabilization.

Lakeland Beach Stabilization, Lakeland:

In 2018 the MSCWMO completed the Lake St. Croix Direct South Subwatershed Analysis and was successful at securing a 2019 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Grant and a 2021 CWF Grant to design and install high priority projects identified in the report. After implementing seven projects identified in

this report, there were funds remaining in the FY21 Grant. These remaining funds were leveraged against City and WMO funds to perform stabilization and restoration of the Lakeland City Beach. This project stabilized 160 feet of shoreline on the St. Croix River and improved public access and use areas. The project will reduce total phosphorus to the river by approximately 7.62 lbs per year.



[Above] *Lakeland Beach stabilization (October 2023).*

Forster Curb-Cut Bioretention, Stillwater:

In 2023 MSCWMO and WCD staff worked with landowners and the City of Stillwater to install a 250 square-foot curb-cut bioretention practice at the Forster residence at 1401 Driving Park Road. The basin will retain approximately 0.45 lb TP and 86.7 lbs TSS annually. The landowners received \$1,500 in MSCWMO cost-share and \$3,200 in state cost-share through the WCD for project implementation.



[Above] *Forster curb-cut bioretention, Lily Lake subwatershed.*

Lawns to Legumes, Lake St. Croix Beach:

In 2022 the WCD secured FY22 Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood grant funding to implement pollinator-friendly practices in Lake St. Croix Beach (LSCB) and St. Mary’s Point (SMP). Nine “pollinator pocket planting” projects were installed in LSCB and SMP in 2023, including six within the WMO. All Lawns to Legumes grantees received either MSCWMO cost-share funding for additional project support and/or technical assistance from the WMO.



[Left] Paulson pollinator pocket planting. [Right] Downing pollinator pocket planting.

Middle St Croix Mini-Grant Cost Share program:

The Middle St Croix WMO offers mini-grants (up to \$500) to qualifying landowners to install low cost BMPs in priority areas. The program saw 11 installations (including Lawns to Legumes Demonstration Neighborhood projects) and 46 inquiries (likely future applicants). These projects included one native shoreline buffer enhancement on Lake McKusick, one native planting associated with a voluntary curb-cut bioretention practice (Forster), and nine native plantings for pollinator benefit.



[Left] Bulera pollinator pocket planting. [Center] Sunnyside Condos native landscaping. [Right] Peterson pollinator pocket planting.

Erosion Monitoring Program

The MSCWMO erosion control inspection program was developed to ensure that the policies and performance standards of the MSCWMO were implemented on the ground for qualifying projects. Staff continue to inspect active projects, which were reviewed by the MSCWMO board. The MSCWMO coordinates its inspection program with its member communities and their building/permit inspectors.

In 2023, 18 erosion control inspections were conducted at 8 sites. Compliance over the year was high, with 66.7% of inspections receiving an A grade, 16.7% a B, 16.6% a C, and 0% a D or F. Drought conditions throughout the year were favorable for building conditions, and were reflected in the high compliance rates observed. For the purposes of this summary, compliance rates for inspection items were only considered when the item was marked “compliant” or “non-compliant”, and all “not inspected” items were removed from the total number of inspections for each inspection item. The most common non-compliant items noted on sites were lack of maintenance for damaged or missing perimeter controls (23.1% of inspections) and improperly installed perimeter controls (13.3% of inspections). Lack of soil stabilization within seven days of stopping work in an area was also found on two inspections (12.5% of inspections). Similar to 2022, compliance with soil stabilization for disturbed areas not being worked (75.0% of inspections) and adequate maintenance of previously installed soil cover (90.9% of inspections) was high. Generally, it is considered more effective to prevent erosion via soil cover and stabilization than it is to control sediment that has been eroded via perimeter controls, so this is a positive finding. Other notable items found to have a high rate of compliance were prevention and cleaning of sediment trackout onto paved surfaces (100% of inspections), proper installation of perimeter controls (86.7% of inspections), proper storage and handling of solid waste and hazardous materials (91.7% of inspections), and limiting disturbance of steep slopes (90.0% of inspections). No sediment discharges to water resources were recorded on any inspection in 2023.

Other activities conducted in 2023 intended to improve compliance were distribution of “reminder flyers” to project contacts in the spring and fall to prepare sites for wet conditions, and more critical inspections of permanent stormwater treatment features, such as rain gardens, to ensure they meet design and function standards. Improved communication and on-site meetings with project contacts regarding expected siting and function of features helped ensure proper construction in order to minimize any modifications or reconstruction of features.

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 2023, 168 MSCWMO projects were inspected. Utilizing the Washington Conservation District Maintenance Crew, Minnesota Conservation Corps, and volunteer effort, 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 2024 under volunteer management.



Groundwater

The MSCWMO continued to recognize the Washington County Groundwater Plan during 2023 and continued to participate in County wide technical advisory committee meetings to prioritize implementation and identify responsible parties for specific activities. The MSCWMO also participated in the Washington County Groundwater Plan Update process in 2023.

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 assisted 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 adopted MIDS standards by resolution in 2019 but has not codified.

One Watershed One Plan

In 2023, the MSCWMO has worked collaboratively with 15 local governments participating in the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The MSCWMO will continue to work collaboratively to implement a coordinated management plan on the large HUC 8 basin scale.

Information and Education Program

Shared Water Resource Educator

MSCWMO continues to participate in the East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP), as well as the Lower St. Croix Partnership Education Program (LSCP). The partnerships were formed in 2006 and 2021 respectively to educate community residents, businesses, staff, and decision-makers about issues affecting local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and to engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve the health of these water resources.

In 2023, EMWREP/LSCP programming and activities within the MSCWMO included:

Community Events

- Barbara Heitkamp led a native plant interactive activity at the local parent night at Andersen Elementary (February 7)
- Presentation for Daughters of the American Revolution, Stillwater (April 20)
- Land stewardship & restoration presentation (June 11: People’s Park, Bayport)
- Presentation for Sentence to Serve (July 27: Washington County)
- National Night to Unite (Aug 1: Lake St. Croix Beach)
- Trillium Garden Club climate resiliency presentation (Sept 13: Stillwater)
- Leadership in the Valley event, Bayport (Oct. 12)
- We Are Water Exhibit at Stillwater Library (Oct 12 – Dec. 4)
 - We Are Water is an interactive traveling exhibit showcasing our shared water heritage across Minnesota. It is a collaboration led by the Minnesota Humanities Center, joined by key partners including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and Board of Water and Soil Resources. Angie Hong participated in planning meetings and event promotion, provided photos for the exhibit, and gave a keynote presentation during the opening week boat workshop.
- Barbara led a habitat fragmentation activity for 60 fifth graders at Andersen Elementary in Bayport (November 30)

Media and Communications

- 52 articles in the Stillwater Gazette
- 70+ short videos on TikTok and Instagram (Combined reach of 140,700 followers)
- Featured media about Lily Lake:
 - **What’s next for Lily Lake? Delisting achieved, partners consider possibilities – St. Croix 360:** (Oct. 5, 2023) The water-quality improvement work didn’t stop once Lily Lake was removed from the state’s impaired waters list — an effort that took 20 years, involved a host of partners including the city of Stillwater, and tapped nearly \$1 million in Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
 - **Saving Lily Lake:** (Oct. 18, 2023) on KSTP television.

- **Neighbors of Lily Lake celebrate decades long cleanup:** (Oct. 20, 2023) in the Star Tribune.

Volunteer Engagement

- **Water Stewards:** Barb Bickford and Mike McCarthy (Middle St. Croix WMO) built a gravel bed tree nursery at their home in Stillwater and are engaging members of the Lily Lake Association to remove and replace invasive buckthorn in the woods surrounding the lake.
- **Adopt a Raingarden:** In 2023, EMWREP continued to collaborate with Sustainable Stillwater MN to support Adopt a Raingarden volunteers and ensure that 31 adopted raingardens are well-maintained.

Other measures of citizen engagement

- 43 MSCWMO residents applied for Lawns to Legumes grants (9 received grants)
- 47 site visits completed by WCD staff
- 288 storm drains adopted in MSCWMO communities. Volunteers reported collecting 755lbs of debris that would have otherwise flowed into lakes, rivers, and wetlands.
 - Stillwater – 231 drains adopted
 - Oak Park Heights – 31 drains adopted
 - West Lakeland - 12 drains adopted
 - Bayport – 11 drains adopted
 - Baytown Twp - 3 drains adopted

Engaging local decision makers

- **Lily Lake de-listing featured presentation** at April Watershed Partners meeting
- **St. Croix River Workshops on the Water:** We hosted workshops in Taylor’s Falls (June 27) and Stillwater (July 25), attended by more than 140 local community leaders from 54 communities in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Speakers highlighted the risk of vanishing shorelines and shared strategies for de-listing lakes. The Lily Lake de-listing was featured in the Stillwater workshop, with Matt Downing, Mike Lyner, and Jay Michels presenting on a panel.
- **Chloride presentation:** On Oct. 17, Angie gave a presentation to the Stillwater City Council about chloride pollution

Stormwater Education:

- **SMART Salting**
 - 63 public works staff and private contractors from MSCWMO communities are SMART Salt certified (Bayport, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, and West Lakeland)

- In January 2023, we mailed educational packages to seven private contractors in MSCWMO to share information about SMART Salting best practices and upcoming trainings.
- Six staff from City of Stillwater attended the SMART Salt workshop for snow plow drivers, hosted by EMWREP on Sept. 19
- **Enhanced street sweeping programs** developed for Afton, Bayport, Baytown, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Oak Park Heights, St. Mary's Point, West Lakeland. (Lower St. Croix initiative)

The MSCWMO will continue providing funding and staff time to support EMWREP in 2023.

A full report of EMWREP activities completed in 2023 can be found at www.mnwcd.org/emwrep-partners.

Website

The MSCWMO continued to update its website in 2023. 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. Project review applications can be submitted online, as well as all necessary information on the MSCWMO's project review process. The MSCWMO website can be viewed at the following link:

<http://www.mscwmo.org>

2023 Data Collection Program

Water Quality Monitoring Program

In 2023 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 storm sewer 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. In 2022 a fully automated monitoring station was established on Perro Creek to better characterize loading from Perro Creek to the St. Croix. The MSCWMO monitored volume and concentration of discharge for both base flow and storm flows from Perro Creek in 2023.

Full water monitoring reports can be viewed on our website. The 2023 monitoring report will be available in May of 2024.

<http://www.mscwmo.org/water-monitoring>

2024 WORKPLAN

Best Management Practices Program

The MSCWMO will continue to promote its Best Management Practices Program in 2024. 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.

Watershed Management Plan Update; Subwatershed Analyses and Implementation

In 2024 the MSCWMO will continue working with the City of Stillwater, City of Bayport, City of Lake St. Croix Beach, other member communities, MnDOT, and private landowners to design and install targeted stormwater quality best management practices identified in subwatershed analyses. As part of the management plan update, the MSCWMO will re-analyze existing subwatershed analyses and implementation to determine what practices are outstanding or are in need of retrofit or reinstallation.

Water Monitoring

The MSCWMO will continue water quality condition monitoring program for Lily and McKusick Lakes and Perro Creek. The MSCWMO will be conducting macrophyte surveys on Lily and McKusick Lakes. The MSCWMO has contracted with the Washington Conservation District to complete monitoring and reporting again in 2024. 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 implement a coordinated management plan.

Development Plan Reviews and Erosion Control Inspection 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 inspect current and past projects to ensure erosion control practices are implemented, and 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

2023 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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member John Dahl, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-439-7312.

BAYTOWN TOWNSHIP

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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Township Board Member Avis Peters, the Township appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-430-8163.

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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Councilman Dave Millard, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-408-3483.

LAKELAND SHORES

The City of Lakeland Shores 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 Shores 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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Brian Zeller, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 612-325-3038.

LAKE ST 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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Mayor Tom McCarthy, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, 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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member Carly Johnson, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-261-5801.

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

MIDDLE ST. CROIX WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Council Member Beth Olfelt-Nelson, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager and the Treasurer for the watershed, at 612-417-5394.

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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at molding@mnwcd.org or Council Member Ryan Collins, the City appointed MSCWMO Board Manager, at 651-246-8264.

WEST LAKELAND TOWNSHIP

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 Matt Oldenburg-Downing, Administrator of the MSCWMO at moldenburg-downing@mnwcd.org or Board Member John Beulow, the Township appointed Board Manager, at 651-436-2244.