

2016 LMRWMO news

Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization

www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo

GOAL: *Water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and integrity through member city collaboration and partnerships with other water management organizations with member city citizen support and participation.*

PROJECTS TO IMPROVE WATER QUALITY IN LOCAL LAKES

The LMRWMO has applied for and been awarded funding from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment for the Sunfish Lake and Lake Augusta Internal Loading and Thompson Lake Water Quality Improvement projects. These projects were identified through a series of studies addressing water quality and pollution sources of the three lakes.

The studies showed that Lake Augusta and Sunfish Lake have similar depth and watersheds and identified the source of phosphorus, which is the pollutant in the lakes causing algae blooms. Phosphorus can come from a variety of sources but monitoring and modeling results indicated that the majority, 87% Lake Augusta and 90% for Sunfish Lake, comes from the sediments at the bottom of the lake or "internal loading."

The solution for this type of

internal phosphorus is an application of aluminum sulfate (alum) into the lake. This non-toxic material is commonly used to treat and clarify drinking water and can have the same effect on a lake. The alum binds with phosphorus particles in the water and makes them unusable for plants, thereby reducing the production of algae in the lake.



Thompson Lake also has an issue with too much phosphorus, but the studies done by the LMRWMO showed that the majority was coming from the surrounding watershed and being washed into the lake with stormwater runoff. This project

will involve construction of a stormwater pond and treatment wetland to remove phosphorus from the stormwater before it enters Thompson Lake. Large sediment particles bound to the phosphorus will be settled out in the pond and smaller particles will be taken up by the plants in the treatment wetland.

WATER QUALITY MONITORING

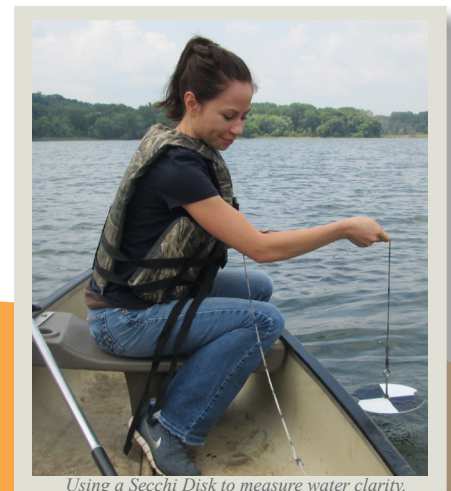
The LMRWMO monitored Pickerel Lake in 2015 through the Metropolitan Council's Citizen Assisted Monitoring Program.

Monitoring involves Secchi disk measurements to measure transparency of the water as well as measurements of phosphorus and chlorophyll in the lake. These give an indication of how much nutrients are in the lake causing excess algae growth.

If you would like to volunteer to become a water monitor, contact the LMRWMO to learn how!

(651) 480-7777

joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us



Using a Secchi Disk to measure water clarity.

WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION FACTS:

- WMOs are funded by the municipalities within their jurisdiction.
- WMOs are governed by a board appointed by the member municipalities.
- WMOs deal with surface water and typically not groundwater issues.

LANDSCAPING FOR CLEAN WATER - CLEAN WATER STARTS AT HOME

The Landscaping for Clean Water program makes it easy for residents of the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization to turn their yards into an attractive force for clean water rather than a contributor to water pollution. Each of us has the opportunity to create a landscape on our property which will benefit our lakes, streams, and wetlands by soaking water into the ground, providing pollinator habitat, or stabilizing eroded slopes and shorelines. Through this program, we give you the tools and knowledge to transform your yard for the better. Register today to attend an introductory Landscaping for Clean Water workshop to learn about low-maintenance native gardens, raingardens, and native shoreline planting projects.

The workshop provides an overview of water quality challenges in Dakota County and provides beautiful and practical ways to transform conventional urban yards into beautiful and beneficial landscapes. You will also learn about financial incentives that are available. After the introductory workshop, you can sign up for a \$25 Landscaping for Clean Water Design workshop where you will work with professionals to design a project specific to your property.

Workshops are held annually from March to June and attendance at the introductory workshop is free. Register or find out more by calling (651) 480-7777 or visiting www.dakotacountyswcd.org



Example of a Residential Raingarden

ABOUT THE WATERSHED

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed, located in Northern Dakota and Southern Ramsey counties covers 35,548 acres and includes Inver Grove Heights, St. Paul, South St. Paul, West St. Paul, Lilydale, Mendota Heights, and Sunfish Lake. The LMRWMO was established by a Joint Powers Agreement to meet the requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982.

The premise of the Surface Water Management Act is that rain and storm-water runoff are not contained within municipal boundaries. Rain that falls in one community may run through another causing flooding, erosion, or the degradation of water quality downstream. The LMRWMO addresses intercommunity stormwater issues and ensures that all stormwater projects and studies follow accepted engineering standards. The costs incurred are allocated proportionately to member cities. Other efforts of the LMRWMO include protection of surface waters, water monitoring, and public education.

The public is welcome to attend LMRWMO board meetings held on the second Wednesday of each month at 3:00 p.m. (No meetings typically held in January or July.) Meetings are located at the member cities' city halls. For upcoming meeting information, contact your Board of Managers representative or visit: www.dakotaswcd.org/watersheds/lowermisswmo/agendas.html

NEW LOOK!

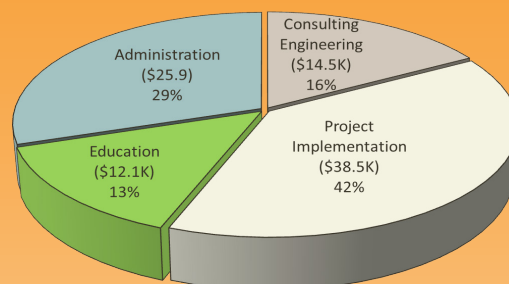
The LMRWMO recently created a new logo, shown below, after incorporation of additional areas of Mendota Heights and revision of the 2011 Watershed Management Plan.



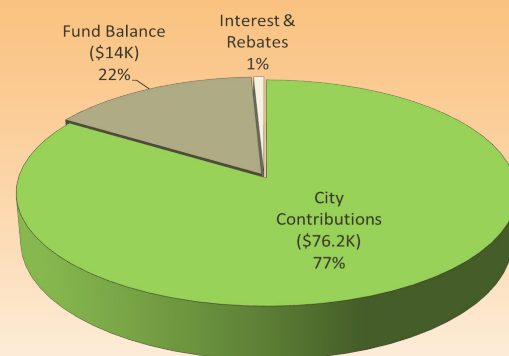
2016 BUDGET

The LMRWMO is funded through contributions from its member cities based on area within the watershed and valuation of that area. Funding and grant assistance is also provided through partnerships with other entities to help the LMRWMO fulfill its mission.

2016 EXPENDITURES



2016 REVENUE



The Board of Managers is comprised of appointed representatives from each member City.

2016 LMRWMO Representatives:

Bob Bullard (Board Chair) - Lilydale
Sharon Lencowski (Vice Chair) - Inver Grove Heights
Mary Jeanne Schneeman (Sec/Tres) - Mendota Heights
Jill Smith (Alternate) - Mendota Heights

Marilyn Lundberg (Alternate) - Lilydale
Anne Weber (Member) - St. Paul
Edward Blaeser (Manager) - South St. Paul
Chris Hartzell (Alternate) - South St. Paul

Richard Williams (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake
Molly Park (Alternate) - Sunfish Lake
Scott Deyo - West St. Paul
Administrator: Joe Barten (651) 480-7777