

# North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization 2020 Annual Report

***Mission Statement:*** “Managing groundwater and surface water to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, and protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat through collaboration among member communities.”

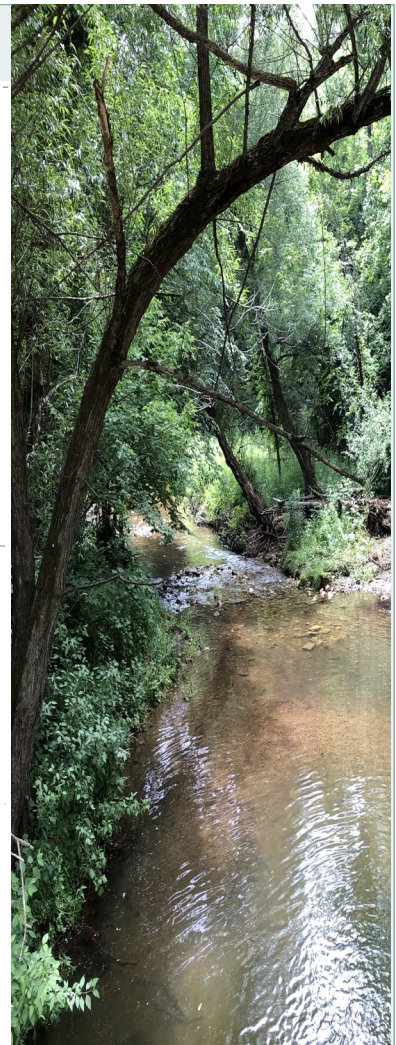
## ABOUT US

The North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization (NCRWMO) is a government unit formed through a joint powers agreement signed by eight townships and three cities in southern Dakota County. Its jurisdiction covers approximately 150 square miles.

The sub-watersheds within its boundaries are Chub Creek, Trout Brook, Pine Creek, Mud Creek, and the Cannon River from Northfield to Lake Byllesby. The NCRWMO is predominantly rural in nature with agriculture as its primary landuse.

The NCRWMO was created in 1983 as a result of the State of Minnesota’s Surface Water Management Act. Minnesota Statute 103B.201 states that the purposes of a Watershed Management Organization shall be to:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems.
2. Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems.
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality.
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management.
5. Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems.
6. Promote groundwater recharge.
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.
8. Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater.



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*Moving dirt for a Water and Sediment Control Basin at Rodney Weber project*



*Few weeks of growth on Winter Cereal Rye cover crop at Callister's after seed corn*

## 2020 ACTIVITIES

### The NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the following projects and tasks:

- ◆ Monitor water quality and water quantity in Chub Creek.  
*Status:* Water quality and quantity monitoring in Chub Creek was completed in 2020 through a Joint Powers Agreement with the SWCD. Ppartners, including Dakota County Parks, provided additional funding for water quality monitoring at sites through the entire NCRWMO watershed. A summary is available on the NCRWMO website.
- ◆ Conduct nitrate monitoring at springs in Trout Brook Watershed.  
*Status:* Partnerships with Dakota County SWCD and Parks, as well as the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Geological Survey have allowed for the continued and expanded monitoring of springs. Springs monitored are Fox, LeDuc, Beaver and Swede. Results are analyzed in the Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report.
- ◆ Cooperate with agencies to update nitrogen fertilizer rates; disseminate nitrogen fertilizer management recommendations.  
*Status:* Through partnerships with Dakota County SWCD and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), efforts have been made with a Local Advisory Team. However, the MDA Groundwater Rule now focuses on the Hastings DWSMA and does not overlap with Cannon Watershed. SWCD Staff will made efforts to spread BMP information to all producers in the County.
- ◆ Collaborate with communities to help identify buffer priorities.  
*Status:* Efforts were completed by Dakota County SWCD and Dakota County due to the State Buffer Law.
- ◆ Provide grant match for water quality BMPs, BMPs that reduce rate and volume of runoff, nutrient management practices, wetland restoration projects, and shoreline BMPs.  
*Status:* The NCRWMO annually provides approximately \$4,000 to the Dakota County SWCD to be used for projects or as grant match to leverage grant funding.
- ◆ Promote and encourage volunteer water monitoring.  
*Status:* The NCRWMO continues to sponsor the Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP). Furthermore, through partnerships with Dakota County SWCD and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, monitoring of streams is promoted and multiple streams within the watershed have been monitored by volunteers.
- ◆ Provide education and partner with others; find funding to educate and engage agricultural producers.  
*Status:* The Watershed Based Funding grant through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has helped the NCRWMO accomplish this task. Through a partnership with Dakota County SWCD outreach was provided on a number of BMPs.

## 2020 PROJECTS

### STRUCTURAL

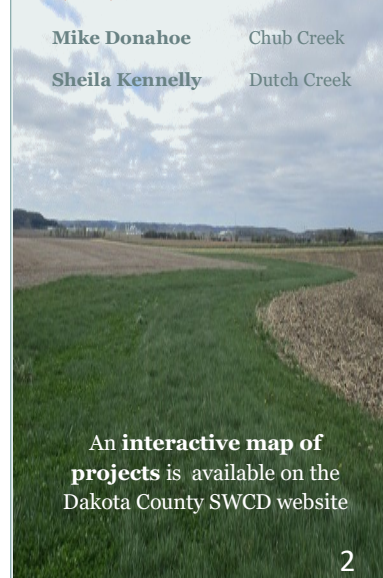
<b>Ken Taylor</b> Grassed Waterway	Cannon River
<b>Mike Conzemius</b> Basins	Trout Brook
<b>Rodney Weber</b> Basins	Trout Brook
<b>Ed Graff</b> Basins	Mud Creek
<b>Peter Schweich</b> Basins	Trout Brook
<b>Harold Peine</b> Basins	Trout Brook
<b>Rollo Hohnman</b> Basin	Chub Creek

### COVER CROPS

<b>William Callister</b> 3 yr	Pine Creek
<b>M &amp; J Grain</b> 3 yr	Cannon River
<b>Randy Peine</b> 3 yr 3 yr	Trout Brook Trout Brook
<b>Peter Schweich</b> 3 yr	Trout Brook
<b>Roger Peine</b> 3 yr	Trout Brook
<b>Jeff Peine</b> 3 yr	Trout Brook
<b>Pat Schaffer</b> 1 yr	Trout Brook
<b>Tom Sorem</b> 3 yr	Mud Creek
<b>Tom Endres</b> 3 yr	Pine Creek
<b>Robert Winter</b> 3 yr	Mud Creek

### NATIVE PRAIRIE

<b>Mike Donahoe</b>	Chub Creek
<b>Sheila Kennelly</b>	Dutch Creek



An interactive map of projects is available on the Dakota County SWCD website





**Beaver Spring** in Miesville Ravine Park is one of four natural springs in the **Trout Brook** Watershed that are monitored for **Nitrates**

The **Department of Natural Resources** maintains an online **spring inventory** that allows users to submit locations of springs they have **located**

### CANNON RIVER WATERSHED JOINT POWERS BOARD (CRWJPB)

The NCRWMO is a member of the CRWJPB along with thirteen other Local Government Units within the Cannon River Watershed for implementing the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The **mission** of the CRWJPB is to:

*“Work collaboratively to improve and protect the natural resources within the **Cannon River Watershed** to ensure prosperity of our urban and agricultural communities.”*

## 2021 WORK PLAN

The NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the following projects and tasks scheduled for 2020:

- ◆ Monitor water quality and water quantity throughout the watershed.
- ◆ Cooperate with agencies to update nitrogen fertilizer rates; disseminate nitrogen fertilizer management recommendations.
- ◆ Provide grant match for water quality BMPs, BMPs that reduce rate and volume of runoff, nutrient management practices, wetland restoration projects, and shoreline BMPs.
- ◆ Track groundwater quantity and quality through reports by others.
- ◆ Promote and encourage volunteer water monitoring.
- ◆ Provide education and partner with others; find funding to educate and engage agricultural producers.
- ◆ Update NCRWMO website in coordination with other Dakota County WMOs

The following tasks are not identified in the NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan but are needed in order to address State strategies:

- ◆ Participate in the Cannon River One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning process and the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board.
- ◆ Participate in the Watershed Based Funding grant process through the Board of Water and Soil Recourses (BWSR).

## WETLAND HEALTH EVALUATION PROGRAM

The NCRWMO sponsored a Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) team and two wetlands were monitored for the fourth consecutive year. Conditions at one location warranted a switch to a new wetland. The new location is a restoration near Highway 3 and County Road 86 in Castle Rock. The WHEP program was modified to ensure safety precautions due to the pandemic.

WHEP helps the NCRWMO reach their Watershed Plan goals for Education and Outreach. A team of approximately 5 volunteers learned about wetland health and how to monitor macroinvertebrates and vegetation. The monitoring results are then used to look at the health of a wetland over time. Most importantly, the program familiarizes watershed residents with their local water resources and the benefits they provide.

We thank all of our WHEP volunteers and extend a special thanks to the team lead, Tom Loretto. When Tom was asked about the program he said “We had a small but enthusiastic crew of volunteers on our WHEP wetlands. Our forays in waders, in the muck, through canary grass and cattails, proved most enjoyable to our team as it marked a departure from their normal routine.”

Wetland Code	Description	Vegetation Score	Invertebrate Score
NC-1	A 0.5 acre restoration completed in 1996	Moderate (23)	Excellent (24)
NC-2	Not monitored in 2020 due to water level conditions	—	—
NC-3	A 36 acre restoration completed in 2019	Poor (15)	Moderate (16)





## WATERSHED BASED FUNDING

Clean Water Land and Legacy funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is shifting from competitive to Watershed Based Funding (WBF). Watershed Based means that Watershed Plans are referenced in order to prioritize and target funding for measurable results. In 2018, NCRWMO executed a grant for activities in the watershed. This funding is to be spent by the end of 2021. In 2020, the Watershed Based Funding program changed slightly from the pilot year. Partners came together and are funding activities in the watershed, but this grant is funneled through Dakota SWCD. Dakota SWCD manages both grants either directly or through a JPA with NCRWMO.

Below is a list of some activities in these grants, a description and an update on progress:

### ♦ Structural Erosion Control Practices

*Description:* Funds will be prioritized for projects in areas where a Sub-watershed Analysis (SWA) is complete and according to their cost-benefit ratio.

*Progress:* Trout Brook was the first SWA focus area. Since then additional SWAs have been completed. In Pine Creek, North Lake Byllesby, Cannon Direct and in progress for North Branch Chub Creek. Subsequent grant activities will focus on completing SWAs for two more sub-watersheds.

### ♦ Non-Structural Erosion Control Practices

*Description:* Funds will be used primarily for cover crops, and may include perennial cover or perennial crops. Priority is based on location (i.e. groundwater susceptibility) and project details (i.e. other pollutant concerns addressed).

*Progress:* Funding is spent from the first WBF grant and the second grant will allocate more to these activities. Common cover crops include oats, radishes, and winter cereal rye.

### ♦ Irrigation Water Management

*Description:* Provide tools and assistance for producers to schedule irrigation which can reduce groundwater demand and reduce the potential of nitrate leaching.

*Progress:* Partnering with MDA allowed for installation of a weather station near Hastings with data online. The next grant will allow for development of an online tool, that can automatically integrate weather data.

### ♦ Drainage Water Management Outreach

*Description:* Provide education and outreach on suitable drainage water management (DWM) practices in the NCRWMO area.

*Progress:* Staff coordinated with Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) as they are doing similar outreach work. Staff developed materials in anticipation of an outreach event. Due to the pandemic, events were not held.

### ♦ Wetland Restorations

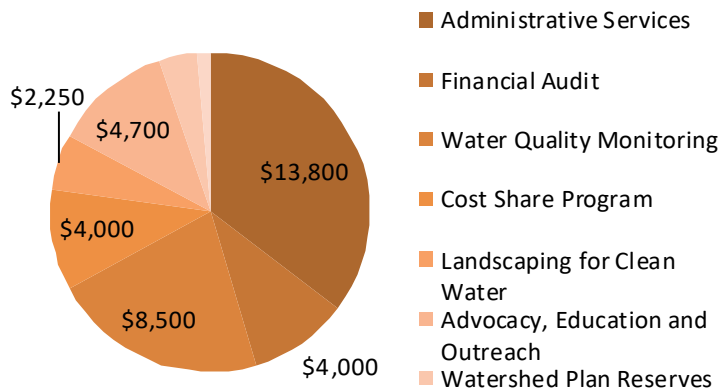
*Description:* Target areas in the Chub Creek sub-watershed for wetland restorations.

*Progress:* This is an activity in the new grant and outreach will begin in 2021.

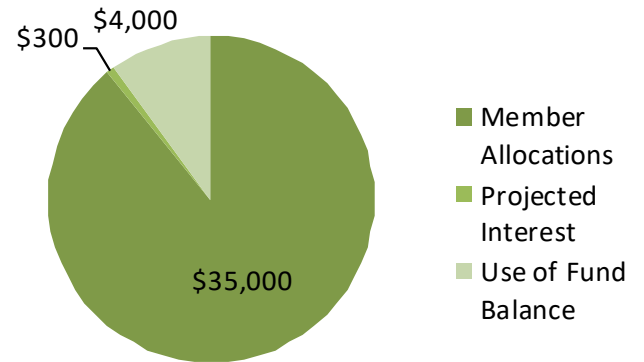


## 2020 BUDGET

### EXPENSES



### REVENUE



## 2020 MEMBER DUES

Community	% of Watershed	Tax Capacity in Watershed	% Tax Capacity	50/50 Share	Member Dues
Castle Rock Township	10.31	1.09	11.21	10.76	\$3,778.60
Douglas Township	17.78	1.19	12.24	15.01	\$5,088.66
Eurkea Township	7.43	0.61	6.28	6.85	\$2,366.76
Greenvale Township	19.97	1.55	15.95	17.96	\$6,289.52
Hampton Township	15.68	1.17	12.04	13.86	\$4,891.28
Randolph Township	6.98	1.66	17.08	12.03	\$4,262.54
Sciota Township	9.99	0.88	9.05	9.52	\$3,229.58
Waterford Township	9.90	0.99	10.19	10.04	\$3,557.80
Miesville	1.17	0.20	2.06	1.61	\$570.71
New Trier	0.12	0.06	0.62	0.37	\$138.66
Randolph	0.67	0.32	3.29	1.98	\$825.89
<b>Total Dues</b>					<b>\$35,000.00</b>



## 2020 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

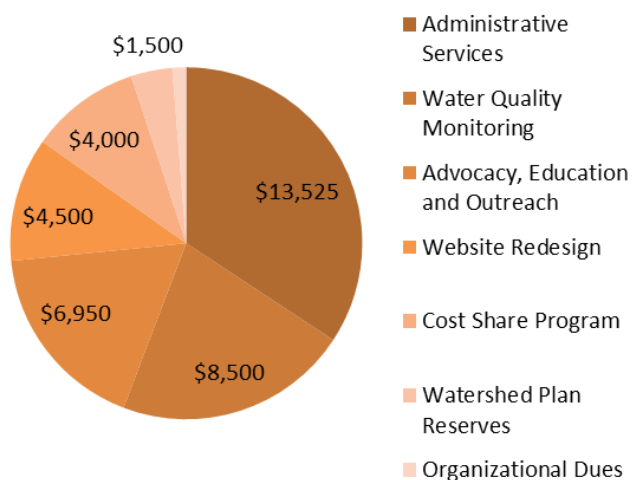
<b>Revenues</b>	
Member City Assessments	\$35,000.00
Interest Income	\$282.95
Total Revenues:	\$35,282.95
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administrative Services	\$18,426.88
Financial Audit	\$3,200.00
Water Quality Monitoring	\$5,841.49
Advocacy, Education, Outreach	\$2,520.00
Agricultural Conservation	\$4,000.00
Landscaping for Clean Water	\$2,250.00
Organizational Dues	\$500.00
Total Expenses:	\$36,738.37
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>-\$1,455.42</b>
<b>Watershed Based Funding Grant</b>	
Total Grant Funds Received	\$68,260.00
Grant Expenses	
Grant Administration	\$449.44
Project Development	\$1,082.04
Agricultural Practices	\$0.00
Subwatershed Analysis	\$2,531.48
Drainage Water Management	\$446.22
Total Expenses:	\$4,509.18
Previous Grant Expenses	\$45,190.00
Grant Balance	\$17,712.26

## 2020 YEAR END FINANCIALS

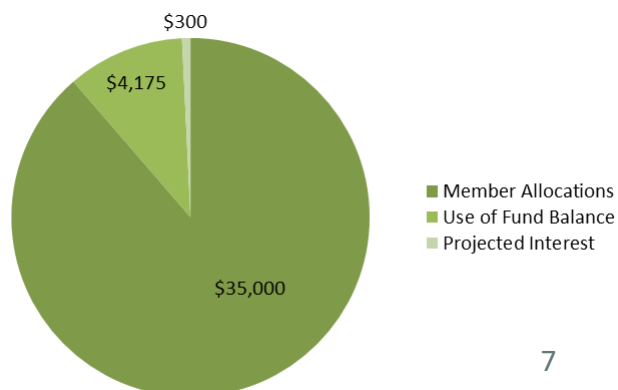
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash in Checking	\$68.26
Cash in Savings	\$76,679.75
Certificate of Deposit 11236	\$12,470.11
Total Cash:	\$89,218.12
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	\$138.66
Total Assets:	\$89,356.78
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$18,376.50
Accounts Payable WBF Grant	\$643.23
Total Liabilities:	\$19,019.73
<b>Grant Funds Deferred</b>	\$17,712.26
<b>Equity</b>	
General Fund Balance January 1	\$43,580.21
Reserve for Watershed Plan	\$12,000.00
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	-\$2,955.42
Total Equity:	\$52,624.79
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity:</b>	<b>\$89,356.78</b>

## 2021 BUDGET

### EXPENSES



### REVENUE



## ADMINISTRATION

The Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) provides administrative and technical support to the NCRWMO through an annual Joint Powers Agreement. The Dakota County SWCD can be contacted at :

**4100 220th St West, Suite 102,  
Farmington, MN 55024**

**(651) 480-7777**

**www.dakotacountyswcd.org**

## 2021 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 20th

April 21st

July 21st

November 17th

*Locations to be Determined*

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

Member	Appointee
Castle Rock Township	Primary: Sandy Weber (Chair) Alternate: Vacant
Douglas Township	Primary: Jeff Reed Alternate: Vacant
Eureka Township	Primary: Donovan Palmquist Alternate: Vacant
Greenvale Township	Primary: Greg Langer Alternate: Wayne Peterson
Hampton Township	Primary: Dan Peine Alternate: Doug Wille
City of Miesville	Primary: Vacant Alternate: Vacant
City of New Trier	Primary: Vacant Alternate: Vacant
City of Randolph	Primary: Harlan Lichty Alternate: Vacant
Randolph Township	Primary: Mark Elliott Alternate: Don Dinesen
Sciota Township	Primary: Tony VanDeSteege Alternate: Vacant
Waterford Township	Primary: Frank Wergin (Treasurer) Alternate: Vacant

