



NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2021 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 soil for a Water and Sediment Control Basin at Square Deal Dairy



One week of Winter Cereal Rye cover crop growth at Peine Cattle Co after corn silage

2021 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 2021 through a Joint Powers Agreement with the SWCD. Partners, 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. Dakota County consulted the agricultural community for input on their Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) which includes reducing nitrate levels in drinking water.
- ◆ 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 \$4,000 to be used for projects or as grant match to leverage grant funding. The NCRWMO also provides \$3,000 annually for raingardens, shoreline restorations or native plantings through the Dakota SWCD Landscaping for Clean Water Program.
- ◆ 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.

2021 PROJECTS

STRUCTURAL

Molitor Farms	
Grassed Waterway	Trout Brook
Dan Duncomb	
Basin	Trout Brook
Leonard Brochman	
Basins	Mud Creek
Grassed Waterway	Mud Creek
Fasbender Trust	
Grade Stabilization	Trout Brook
Rodney Weber	
Basins	Trout Brook
Caroline Leifeld Trust	
Basins	Trout Brook
Square Deal Dairy	
Basins	Lake Byllesby

COVER CROPS

Peine Farms	
3 Contracts x 3 yrs	Trout Brook
DST LLP	
1 yr	Trout Brook
Peine Cattle Company	
3 yrs	Trout Brook
Bryce Kimmes	
1 yr	Trout Brook
Dave Stein	
1 yr	Trout Brook

NATIVE PRAIRIE

Nolie Freeman	Trout Brook
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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.”*

2022 WORK PLAN

The NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the following projects and tasks scheduled for 2022:

- ◆ 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 as a member of the Cannon River Watershed Joint Powers Board.
- ◆ Participate in the Watershed Based Funding grant process through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

The NCRWMO started the process of updating their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in 2021 and will continue this work in 2022. The updated Plan should be complete by August 2023.

WETLAND HEALTH EVALUATION PROGRAM

The NCRWMO sponsored a Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) team and two wetlands were monitored for the fifth consecutive year. Water levels were low which made monitoring difficult. For the second year in a row, NC-2 was not monitored.

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 leads, Katie Hoffman and Nicole Ruppert.

Below is a summary of results from 2021 based on the Index of Biotic Integrity. A full report of the WHEP program can be viewed on the program website at www.mnwhep.org.

Wetland Code	Description	Vegetation Score	Invertebrate Score
NC-1	A 0.5 acre restoration completed in 1996	Moderate (17)	Moderate (16)
NC-2	Not monitored in 2021 due to water level conditions	—	—
NC-3	A 36 acre restoration completed in 2019	Moderate (21)	Poor (14)



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. NCRWMO has participated in two WBF funding rounds. Partners came together and are funding activities throughout the watershed. Dakota SWCD manages both grants either directly or through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with NCRWMO.

Below is a list of some activities in these grants, a brief 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 North Branch Chub Creek. SWAs for Mud Creek and Headwaters Chub Creek are in progress. Structural practices have been installed in some priority locations in all completed SWAs.

◆ 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: Initial round of funding has been spent or encumbered. This funding is leveraged with local county dollars and competitive CWF grants.

◆ 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: Entered into a contract for developing the Irrigation Management Assistant (IMA) tool. Tool halfway complete and will be available and promoted prior to the 2022 growing season.

◆ Drainage Water Management Outreach

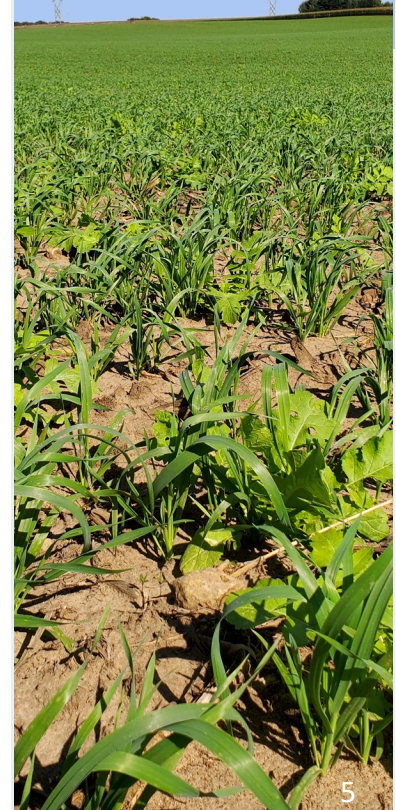
Description: Provide education and outreach on suitable drainage water management (DWM) practices in the NCRWMO area.

Progress: Targeted outreach to landowners along North Branch Chub Creek. This sub-watershed has conditions that are conducive to DWM practices.

◆ Wetland Restorations

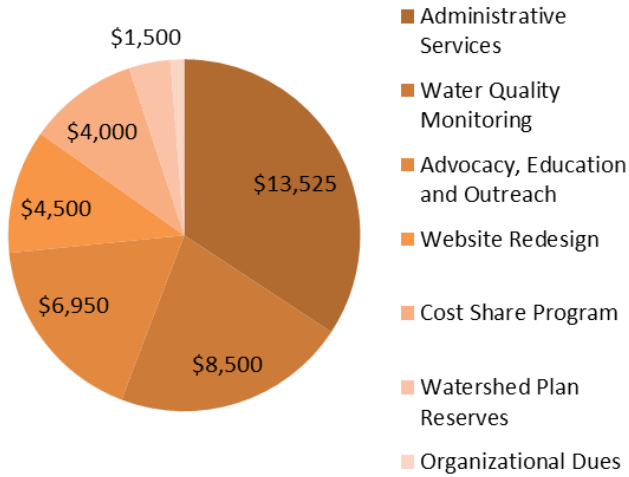
Description: Target areas in the Chub Creek sub-watershed for wetland restorations.

Progress: Modeling tools used to show priority locations. Tracked progress on private wetland banks and developed strategies for outreach and new restorations.

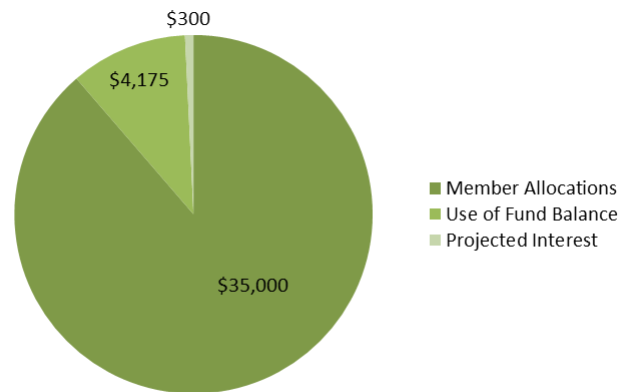


2021 BUDGET

EXPENSES



REVENUE



2021 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
Eureka 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
Total Dues					\$35,000.00



2021 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

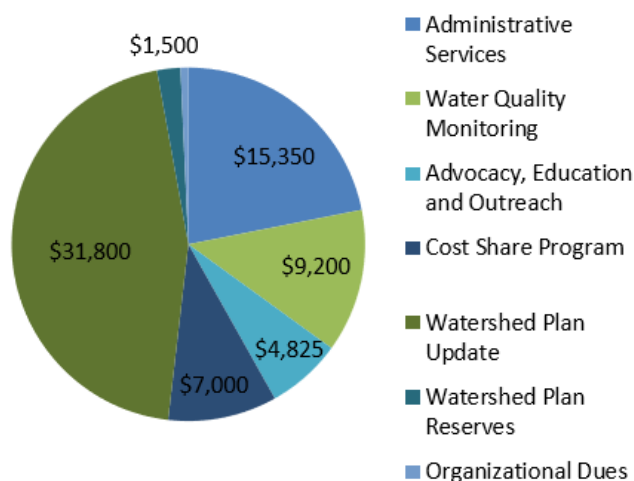
Revenues	
Member City Assessments	\$35,000.00
Interest Income	\$125.86
Total Revenues:	\$35,125.86
Expenses	
Administrative Services	\$20,980.00
New Website	\$4,225.00
Organizational Dues	\$500.00
Advocacy, Education, Outreach	\$2,940.00
Agricultural Conservation	\$5,500.00
Landscaping for Clean Water	\$750.00
Water Monitoring	\$2,686.74
4th Generation WM Plan	\$6,338.00
Total Expenses:	\$43,919.74
Net Surplus/Deficit	-\$8,793.88
Watershed Based Funding Grant	
Total Grant Funds Received (50% of Total)	\$68,260.00
Grant Expenses	
Grant Administration	\$1,914.24
Project Development	\$13,521.33
Agricultural Practices	\$39,711.53
Subwatershed Analysis	\$16,221.01
Drainage Water Management	\$2,104.22
Total Expenses:	\$73,472.33
Previous Grant Expenses	\$50,547.74

2021 YEAR END FINANCIALS

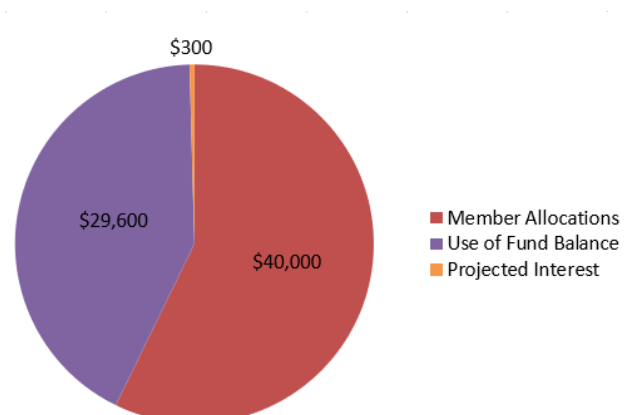
Assets	
Cash in Checking	\$11,769.34
Cash in Savings	\$58,243.15
Certificate of Deposit 11236	\$12,532.57
Total Cash:	\$82,545.06
Accounts Receivable	\$138.66
Accounts Receivable WBF	\$55,760.07
Total Assets:	\$138,443.79
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$32,901.40
Accounts Payable WBF Grant	\$61,711.48
Total Liabilities:	\$94,612.88
Grant Funds Deferred	\$17,712.26
Equity	
General Fund Balance January 1	\$39,124.79
Reserve for Watershed Plan	\$13,500.00
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	-\$8,793.88
Total Equity:	\$43,830.91
Total Liabilities and Equity:	\$138,443.79

2022 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

2022 MEETING SCHEDULE

January 19th

April 20th

July 20th

November 16th

Locations to be Determined

****NEW WEBSITE****

www.northcannonriverwmo.org

BOARD OF MANAGERS

Member	Appointee
Castle Rock Township	Primary: Sandy Weber (Chair) Alternate: Vacant
Douglas Township	Primary: Jeff Reed Alternate: Vacant
Eureka Township	Primary: Nancy Sauber 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

