



NORTH CANNON RIVER



WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

2022 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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Erosion along an old grassed waterway before it was reconstructed.



One week of oat cover crop growth after sweet corn harvest.

2022 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 2022 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. An Annual Water Quality Monitoring Report is available on the NCRWMO website.
- ◆ Conduct nitrate monitoring at springs in Trout Brook Watershed.

Status: Partnerships with Dakota County SWCD and Parks, allow for the continued monitoring and expansion of four-times per year monitoring of the Springs in Trout Brook watershed. The 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 adopted the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan which aims to increase voluntary practices that reduce nitrate levels in drinking water.
- ◆ 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 grants through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) have helped the NCRWMO accomplish this task. Through a partnership with Dakota County SWCD outreach was provided on a number of BMPs.

2022 PROJECTS

STRUCTURAL

Jeremy Irrthum
Grassed Waterways
Pine Creek

Randy Peine
Basins
Trout Brook

Caroline Leifeld
Basins
Trout Brook

Ista-Messner
Grassed Waterways
Cannon River

NEW COVER CROPS

Peine Farms
4 Contracts x 1 & 3 yrs
Trout Brook

DST LLP
2 contracts x 1 yr
Trout Brook

Peter Schweich
2 contracts x 1 yr
Trout Brook

Paul Gergen
3 contracts x 1 yr
Pine Creek

Dave Stein
2 contracts x 1 yr
Trout Brook & Pine Creek

George Feidt
1 yr
Pine Creek

Doug Wille
3 contracts x 3 yrs
Pine Creek

Dan Peine
3 yrs
Trout Brook

SCPF, LLC
1 yr
Trout Brook

NATIVE PRAIRIE

MMDDDB, LLC
Trout Brook

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 that implement 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.”*

2023 WORK PLAN

The NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the following projects and tasks scheduled for 2023:

- ◆ 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.

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 Implementation Funding grant process through the Board of Water and Soil Recourses (BWSR).

The NCRWMO started the process of updating their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in 2021. In 2022 NCRWMO worked with the Advisory Committee and Technical Committee to develop a draft plan. The Draft Watershed Plan was released for 60-day agency and public comment in November 2022. It is anticipated that the updated Plan should be adopted by August 2023.

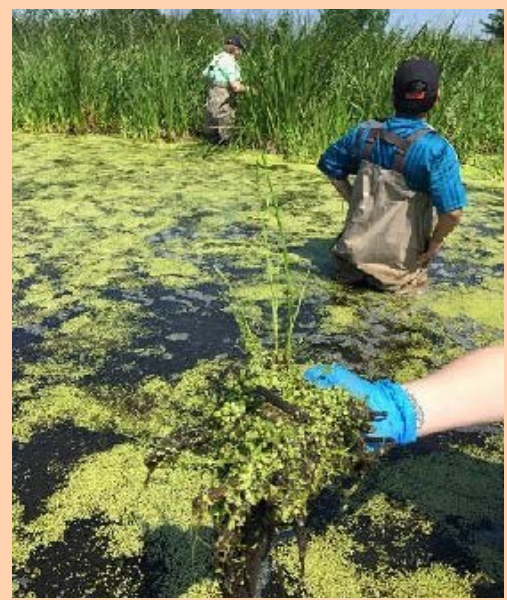
WETLAND HEALTH EVALUATION PROGRAM

For the sixth consecutive year the NCRWMO sponsored a Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) team and two wetlands were monitored. Water levels were low which made monitoring difficult. Over the six years data has been collected at three different sites.

WHEP helps the NCRWMO reach their Watershed Plan goals for Education and Outreach. Each year a team of volunteers learns 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 wetlands provide.

Below is a summary of results from 2022 based on the Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI). The IBI is a tool for assessing the health of a body of water by analyzing how the biology—including creatures living in the water—are responding to human behavior. Trends for the NC-1 wetland are stable. The NC-3 site does not have enough data yet to establish trends. 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)	Excellent (24)
NC-2	Not monitored in 2022	—	—
NC-3	A 36 acre restoration completed in 2019	Moderate (19)	Moderate (20)



WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Clean Water Land and Legacy funding through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is shifting from competitive grants to Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). Watershed Based means that Watershed Plans are referenced in order to prioritize and target funding for measurable results. NCRWMO has participated in three WBIF funding rounds. Partners work together and are funding activities throughout the watershed. Dakota SWCD manages these 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 Subwatershed Analysis (SWA) is complete and according to their cost-benefit ratio.

Progress: SWAs are complete for the sub-watersheds of Trout Brook, Pine Creek, North Lake Byllesby, Cannon Direct, North Branch Chub Creek, and Headwaters Chub Creek. Mud Creek, Dutch Creek and Hazelwood Creek are scheduled to be complete in 2023-2024. 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: The Irrigation Management Assistant (IMA) tool is now available to all producers. The free online scheduling tool expanded to include crops beyond corn and soybeans, such as peas, potatoes and sweet corn. Partners will continue to provide resources on irrigation.

◆ Drainage Water Management Outreach

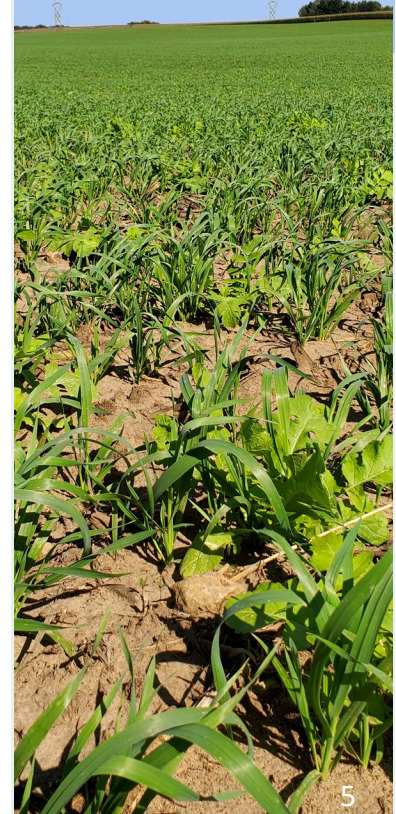
Description: Provide education and outreach on suitable drainage water management (DWM) practices in the NCRWMO area.

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

◆ Wetland Restorations

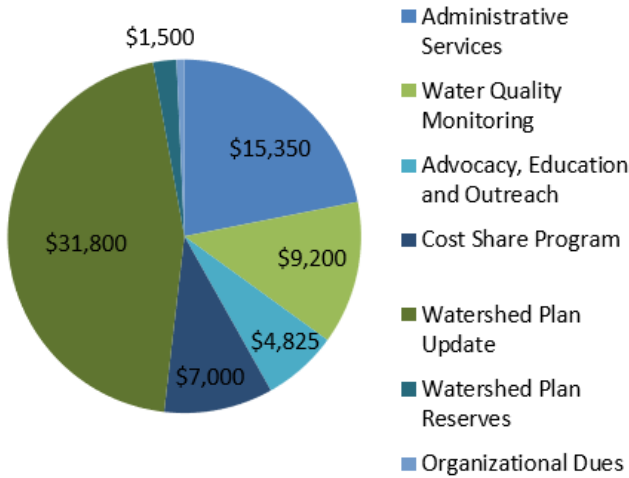
Description: Target areas in the Chub Creek sub-watershed for wetland restorations.

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

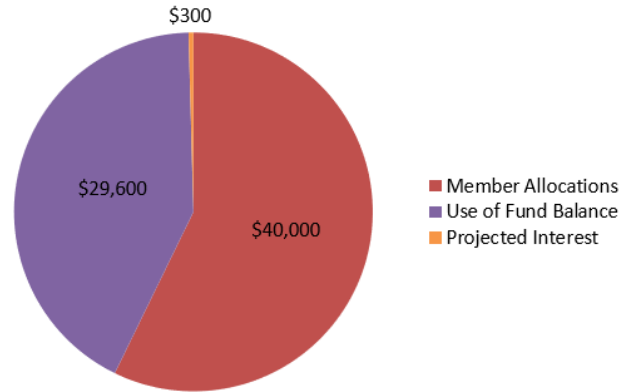


2022 BUDGET

EXPENSES



REVENUE



2022 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	\$4,318.40
Douglas Township	17.78	1.19	12.24	15.01	\$5,815.61
Eureka Township	7.43	0.61	6.28	6.85	\$2,704.87
Greenvale Township	19.97	1.55	15.95	17.96	\$7,188.02
Hampton Township	15.68	1.17	12.04	13.86	\$5,590.04
Randolph Township	6.98	1.66	17.08	12.03	\$4,871.47
Sciota Township	9.99	0.88	9.05	9.52	\$3,690.95
Waterford Township	9.90	0.99	10.19	10.04	\$4,066.06
Miesville	1.17	0.20	2.06	1.61	\$652.24
New Trier	0.12	0.06	0.62	0.37	\$158.47
Randolph	0.67	0.32	3.29	1.98	\$943.87
Total Dues					\$40,000.00



2022 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

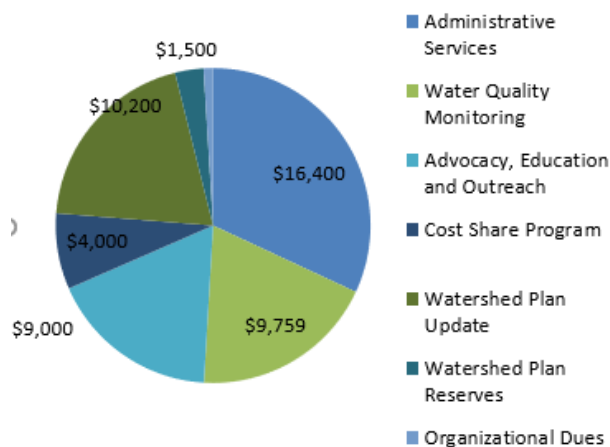
Revenues	
Member City Assessments	\$40,000.00
Interest Income	\$57.73
Total Revenues:	\$40,057.73
Expenses	
Administrative Services—General	\$17,195.00
Administrative—Watershed Plan Update	\$9,477.50
Organizational Dues	\$500.00
Advocacy, Education, Outreach	\$2,742.50
Agricultural Conservation	\$4,000.00
Landscaping for Clean Water	\$0.00
Water Monitoring	\$4,473.28
4th Generation WM Plan	\$25,774.00
Total Expenses:	\$64,162.27
Net Surplus/Deficit	-\$24,104.54
Watershed Based Funding Grant	
Total Grant Funds Received (90% of Total)	\$122,868.00
Grant Expenses	
Grant Administration	\$1,296.50
Project Development	\$0.00
Agricultural Practices	\$18,261.51
Subwatershed Analysis	\$0.00
Drainage Water Management	\$1,791.00
Total Expenses:	\$21,349.01
Previous Grant Expenses	\$115,431.50

2022 YEAR END FINANCIALS

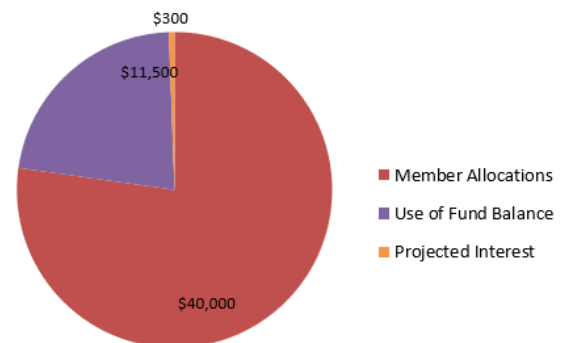
Assets	
Cash in Checking	\$1,096.20
Cash in Savings	\$26,514.06
Certificate of Deposit 11236	\$0.00
Total Cash:	\$27,610.26
Accounts Receivable	
Accounts Receivable WBF	\$13,912.51
Total Assets:	\$41,522.77
Liabilities	
Accounts Payable	\$11,816.60
Accounts Payable WBF Grant	\$9,979.80
Total Liabilities:	\$21,796.40
Grant Funds Deferred	\$0.00
Equity	
General Fund Balance January 1	\$43,830.91
Reserve for Watershed Plan	\$0.00
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	-\$24,104.54
Total Equity:	\$19,726.37
Total Liabilities and Equity:	\$41,522.77

2023 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. Dakota County SWCD can be contacted at :

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

(651) 480-7777

2023 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 1st
April 12th
July 19th
November 15th
Locations to be Determined

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: Vacant
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: Don Dinesen Alternate: Tom Krauter
Sciota Township	Primary: Tony VanDeSteege Alternate: Vacant
Waterford Township	Primary: Frank Wergin (Treasurer) Alternate: Vacant

