



# NORTH CANNON RIVER



## WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

# 2023 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.

### ACTIVITY REPORT

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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.



Completed grassed waterway with erosion control blanket.

## PROGRESS TOWARDS WATERSHED PLAN GOALS

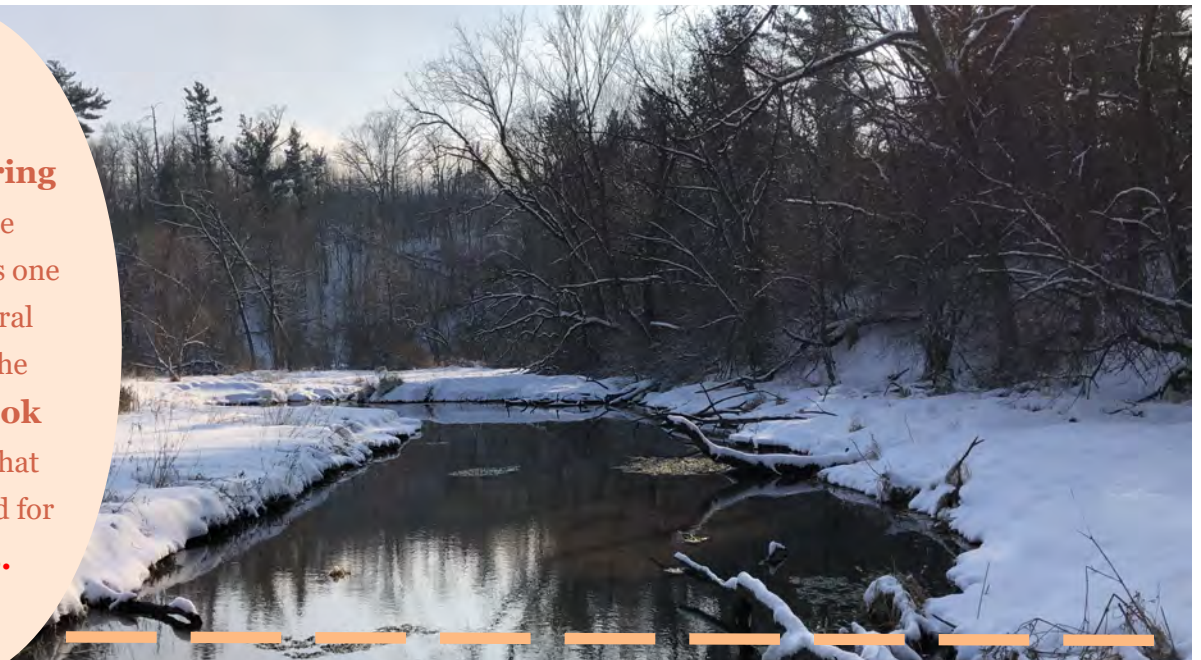
The NCRWMO Watershed Management Plan identifies the following activities and goals:

Issue	Measurable Goals	Activities Completed in 2023	Progress
Surface Water	Establish 5,000 acres of cover crops.	New SWCD contracts in 2023 totaled 560 acres, second and third year contracts totaled 1,160. Estimated 1,500 additional acres installed through NRCS or independently.	Significant progress made
Surface Water	Increase wetland area within WMO by 60 acres.	Work continues on private wetland bank application, outreach to landowners regarding Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program, and report completed to prioritize potential restoration and retention sites.	Significant progress made
Surface Water	Establish 10 nutrient management plans.	No plans written, future funding through NRCS Climate-Smart Ag practices will help further this goal.	Need to increase efforts
Surface Water	Reduce runoff of sediment by 7,300 tons/yr total phosphorus (TP) by 500 lbs/yr and total nitrogen by 8,500 lbs/yr. These reductions will achieve progress towards meeting the reduction goals identified in the Cannon River WRAPS.	Structural practices installed in 2023 reduce TSS by 250 tons/yr and phosphorus by 1,000 lbs/yr over the lifespan of the practice (10 years). Management practices, all cover crops in 2023, reduce nitrogen by 2,900 lbs/yr.	Significant progress made
Surface Water	Continue current Dakota County jurisdiction over county ditches in the watershed.	SWCD and County staff continue to work with landowners as needed.	Current efforts sufficient
Ground-water	Establish 5,000 acres of cover crops.	New SWCD contracts in 2023 totaled 560 acres, second and third year contracts totaled 1,160. Estimated 1,500 additional acres installed through NRCS or independently.	Significant progress made
Ground-water	Establish 2,000 acres utilizing Irrigation Water Management	Irrigation Management Assistant users increased by 6 for a total of 17 users. Acres unknown, but most users likely operate multiple center pivots that cover at least 80 acres each.	Current efforts sufficient
Ground-water	Enroll 2,000 into Conservation Crop Rotation	No contracts through SWCD, efforts through NRCS unknown.	Need to increase efforts
Ground-water	Establish 1,000 acres of Perennial Crops	Contracted 20 acres of new perennial crops.	Need to increase efforts

## PLAN PROGRESS CONTINUED....

Policy and Regulation	Complete gaps analysis of ordinances and establish three model ordinances, then encourage all member LGU's to implement consistent ordinances.	Model Mining Ordinance written and provided to members for review and/or incorporation into local ordinances as they choose.	Current efforts sufficient
Policy and Regulation	Coordinate 2 meetings per year for partner entities to discuss enforcement of existing ordinances and improve coordination efforts between entities. Meetings should address any hurdles identified with coordination and enforcement of ordinances.	Use existing NCRWMO meetings to discuss ordinances.	Current efforts sufficient
Outreach and Education	Track effort and location of actions for surface water and groundwater outreach and education at least once every other year.	Efforts are tracked every year.	Current efforts sufficient
Outreach and Education	Develop three new surveys that will be sent to landowners following key project milestones (post outreach, post project, and during project lifespan).	No surveys completed in 2023, efforts being made on survey for future years.	Current efforts sufficient
Outreach and Education	At least twice in the life of the plan evaluate survey results, record findings, and update approach if needed.	No action needed in 2023.	Current efforts sufficient
Habitat	Develop one adaptive lake management plan for Chub Lake.	Gathered data for development of plan in 2024.	Current efforts sufficient
Data and Studies	Complete one comprehensive gaps analysis.	No gaps analysis completed in 2023.	Need to increase efforts
Data and Studies	Revisit gaps analysis 5 years into planning period to assess what data/studies require updating.	No action needed in 2023.	Current efforts sufficient
Emerging Issues	Biannually, incorporate at least one piece of information into O&E.	Discussion at regular NCRWMO meetings.	Current efforts sufficient

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



## WETLAND HEALTH EVALUATION PROGRAM

For the seventh consecutive year the NCRWMO sponsored a Wetland Health Evaluation Program (WHEP) team and two wetlands were monitored. Over the seven 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 2023 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. Due to low to no water in both wetlands in 2023, volunteers were unable to collect and analyze macroinvertebrates. Therefore, no scores are provided, but trends are reported. A full report of the WHEP program can be viewed on the program website at [www.mnwhep.org](http://www.mnwhep.org).

Wetland Code	Description	Vegetation Trend	Invertebrate Trend
NC-1	A 0.5 acre restoration completed in 1996	Stable	Variable
NC-2	Not monitored in 2023	—	—
NC-3	A 36 acre restoration completed in 2019	Not Enough Data	Not Enough Data



## 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.



## DAKOTA COUNTY FUNDING

Dakota County supports Dakota SWCD cost-share programs by providing annual funding for projects and practices. Projects and practices are implemented through Dakota SWCD, which helps the County achieve goals in their plans, including the Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) Plan and Land Conservation Plan.



## 2023 CONSERVATION PRACTICES

An interactive map of projects is available on the [Dakota County SWCD website](#):

### STRUCTURAL

**Chip Callister**  
Grassed Waterway  
Pine Creek

**Richard Betzold**  
Basin  
Pine Creek

**Swedin Trust**  
Basins and  
Grassed Waterway  
Chub Creek

### NATIVE PRAIRIE

**Cikanek**  
0.6 acres  
Cannon River

### NEW COVER CROPS

**Rodney Kimmes**  
90 acres  
Trout Brook

**Ken Betzold**  
55 acres  
Chub Creek

**Tom Leifeld**  
159 acres  
Trout Brook

**Paul Gergen**  
54 acres  
Pine Creek

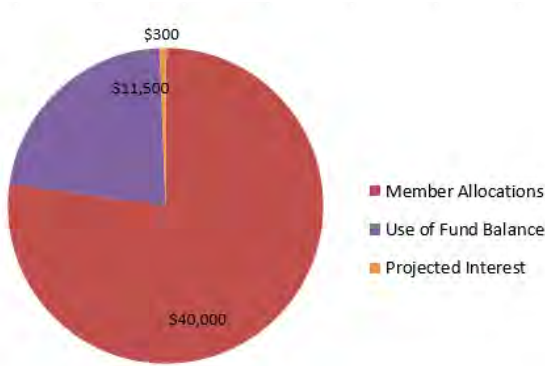
**DST LLP**  
63 acres  
Trout Brook

**Chip Callister**  
100 acres  
Pine Creek



# 2023 BUDGET

## REVENUE



## EXPENSES



# 2023 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
<b>Total Dues</b>					<b>\$40,000.00</b>



## 2023 REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

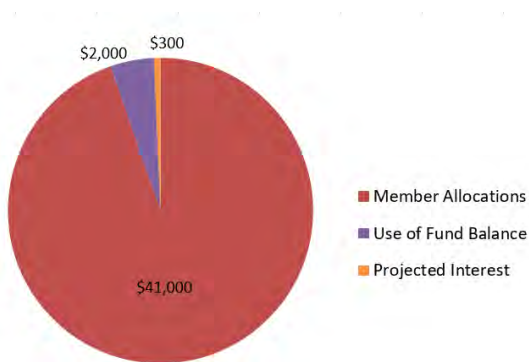
<b>Revenues</b>	
Member City Dues	\$40,000.00
Interest Income	\$38.84
<b>Total Revenues:</b>	<b>\$40,038.83</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Administrative Services—General	\$11,350.00
Administrative—Watershed Plan Update	\$3,486.16
Organizational Dues	\$500.00
Advocacy, Education, Outreach	\$3,024.90
Agricultural Conservation	\$4,000.00
Landscaping for Clean Water	\$3,300.00
Water Monitoring	\$2,450.95
<b>Total Expenses:</b>	<b>\$28,112.01</b>
<b>Net Surplus/Deficit</b>	<b>\$11,926.82</b>

## 2023 YEAR END FINANCIALS

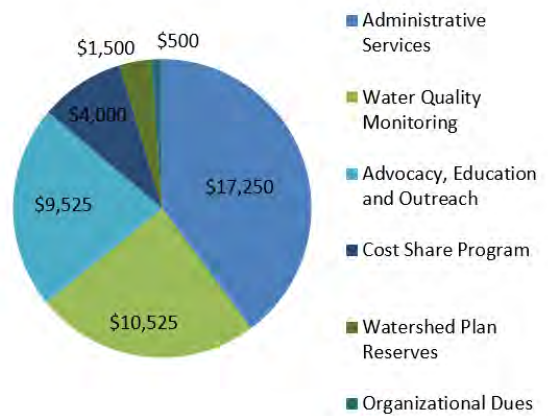
<b>Assets</b>	
Cash in Checking	\$81.63
Cash in Savings	\$40,664.83
<b>Total Cash:</b>	<b>\$40,746.46</b>
Accounts Receivable	\$0.00
<b>Total Assets:</b>	<b>\$40,746.46</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>	
Accounts Payable	\$9,353.78
<b>Total Liabilities:</b>	<b>\$9,353.78</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
General Fund Balance January 1	\$19,465.86
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	\$11,926.82
<b>Total Equity:</b>	<b>\$31,392.68</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Equity:</b>	<b>\$40,746.46</b>

## 2024 BUDGET

### REVENUE



### EXPENSES



## 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**

## 2024 MEETING SCHEDULE

February 17  
April 17  
July 17  
November 20  
*Locations to be Determined*

## WEBSITE

[www.northcannonriverwmo.org](http://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: Wayne Peterson (Vice Chair) Alternate: Tom Wirtzfeld
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: Todd Carlock Alternate: Vacant
Randolph Township	Primary: Tom Krauter Alternate: Vacant
Sciota Township	Primary: Tony VanDeSteege Alternate: Vacant
Waterford Township	Primary: Frank Wergin (Treasurer) Alternate: Vacant

