



2023 Education Plan



Members of the East Metro Water Resource Education Program:

Bayport • Brown's Creek Watershed • Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed • Chisago County
 Chisago Lake Improvement District • Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District
 Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed • Cottage Grove • Dellwood • Forest Lake • Grant • Hugo
 Isanti County • Isanti Conservation District • Lake Elmo • Middle St. Croix Watershed • Newport
 Oak Park Heights • Oakdale • Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed • Rice Creek Watershed
 South Washington Watershed Stillwater • St. Paul Park • Valley Branch Watershed
 Washington Conservation District • Washington County • Willernie • West Lakeland • Woodbury

Members of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership:

Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District • Brown's Creek Watershed •
 Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed • Chisago County • Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District
 Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed • Isanti County • Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District
 Middle St. Croix Watershed • Pine County • Pine Soil and Water Conservation District
 South Washington Watershed • Valley Branch Watershed • Washington County
 Washington Soil and Water Conservation District

**East Metro Water Resource Education Program
&
Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership**

2023 Education Plan

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About the Shared Education Programs

Background: The East Metro Water Resource Education Program (EMWREP) is a partnership hosted by Washington Conservation District that was formed in 2006 to educate community residents, businesses, staff and decision-makers about issues affecting local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and groundwater resources and to engage people in projects that will help to protect and improve the health of these water resources.

Over the past 17 years, the EMWREP program has grown from seven local government partners to 30. In 2022, five new members joined the partnership: Chisago County, Chisago Lake Improvement District, Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Isanti County, and Isanti Conservation District.

EMWREP Partnership Structure:

**Indicates members that are also in the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership*

In 2023, EMWREP partners include:

- Cities and Townships: Bayport, Cottage Grove, Dellwood, Forest Lake, Grant, Hugo, Lake Elmo, Newport, Oakdale, Oak Park Heights, Stillwater, St. Paul Park, Willernie, and Woodbury, West Lakeland Township
- Counties: *Chisago, *Isanti, *Washington
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts: *Chisago, *Isanti, *Washington (host)
- Watershed Management Organizations: *Brown's Creek, *Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix, *Chisago Lake Improvement District, *Comfort-Lake Forest Lake, Rice Creek, Ramsey-Washington Metro, *South Washington, and *Valley Branch Watershed Districts, and the *Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization

EMWREP partners jointly fund the program based on a set formula, with fees determined by population (cities and counties) or taxable market value (watershed organizations). See [Appendix A](#) for more detail. The program funds 1.5 FTE, plus materials and other expenses.

EMWREP staff communicate regularly with local staff at partner organizations, council members, and board members; prepare an annual report detailing program activities; and provide data for partners' MS4 Permit reports. A steering committee comprised of representatives from each of the partner organizations meets twice a year to provide recommendations on the program budget and activities. EMWREP plans and reports are available on-line at www.mnwdc.org/emwrep.

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership:

The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership includes 14 local government partners in Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Pine and Washington Counties and is part of the statewide "One Watershed, One Plan" effort. Partners work together to implement a 10-year Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (2020-30) and receive Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Info about the Lower St. Croix Watershed plan and partnership can be found at www.lscwlp.org.

Priority education activities for the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership include education and outreach to agricultural landowners and producers, local decision-makers, riparian land owners, and the general public. The partnership funds 1 FTE agronomy outreach specialist and 0.5 FTE education specialist. Because there is considerable overlap in membership for the EMWREP and Lower St. Croix Partnerships, education staff are shared between the two programs.

Coordination and collaboration: The EMWREP and Lower St. Croix Watershed partnerships help to strengthen relationships between member entities and allows for better coordination and less overlap in the management of local water resources.

EMWREP staff provide leadership for several regional partnerships including Watershed Partners; St. Croix Environmental Education Partnership (SWEEP); Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water; and Minnesota Water Stewards. In addition program staff regularly collaborate with nonprofit and citizen-led groups in the Twin Cities and Lower St. Croix regions.

Education Program staff:

- Angie Hong, Water Resource Education Senior Specialist, angie.hong@mnwcd.org
 - EMWREP (95%) – Overall program coordination, education and outreach
 - Lower St. Croix Partnership (5%) - Policy committee coordination
- Barbara Heitkamp, Water Resource Education Specialist, bheitkamp@mnwcd.org
 - EMWREP (50%) – Education and outreach
 - Lower St. Croix Partnership (50%) – Education and outreach
- Jennifer Hahn, Extension Educator - University of Minnesota, jhahn@umn.edu
 - Lower St. Croix Partnership (100%) – Agronomy outreach

Additional staff support for education programming is provided by seasonal employees and contractors, as needed.

Funding for special programs:

Additional funding for special programs is provided through grants and partner contracts. Grant funds help to support contract services such as graphic design, videography, language interpretation, and youth education. In 2023, grants and special contracts include:

- \$10,000 grant from National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) to conduct focus groups and develop programming with emerging farmers.
- \$8500 contract with Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District to support enhanced educational programming
- \$200,000 soil health grant from the Clean Water Fund to support farmer outreach and education
- \$4500 in grant funds from the MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program to support farmer field days
- \$6000 from Washington County to support groundwater education
- Contract between South Washington Watershed District and Carpenter Nature Center to support youth watershed education (~\$25,000)
- Contract between Washington County and Washington Conservation District for aquatic invasive species (AIS) education (~\$5000 for education)

PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT

Audience: General Public, Urban and Rural Landowners, Youth

Program Goals:

1. Educate the public about nonpoint source water pollution, groundwater conservation, and basic watershed ecology and management.
2. Build partnerships with state and local government, non-profit organizations, and community groups.
3. Engage citizen volunteers to help conduct education and outreach.
4. Motivate urban and rural landowners to practice behaviors that protect water resources.
5. Train and assist urban and rural residents to complete projects on their land that reduce runoff pollution, conserve groundwater, and increase infiltration.
6. Support EMWREP partners in meeting MS4 Stormwater Permit public education and public engagement requirements.

Educational Objectives:

Citizens will learn:

1. That nonpoint source water pollution comes from a variety of land uses - residential, commercial, and agricultural.
2. That common pollutants impacting surface and groundwater resources in the east metro area include phosphorus, sediment, nitrates, *E. coli*, chloride, and mercury.
3. That a watershed includes all of the land draining to a lake, stream or river, and that Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations are special-purpose local units of government charged with managing the resources of a given watershed to prevent flooding and protect water quality.
4. That surface and groundwater resources interact.
5. That area residents can help to prevent nonpoint source water pollution through a variety of behaviors, including raking leaves and grass clippings out of the street, using less fertilizers and chemicals on lawns and gardens, covering bare soil during landscaping and construction, picking up pet poop, replacing failing septic systems, using less salt for winter maintenance and water softening, disposing of household waste properly, and using less electricity.
6. That landowners can help to reduce runoff pollution, conserve groundwater, and increase infiltration by installing best management practices such as habitat plantings, raingardens, and shoreline plantings; repairing erosion; and managing drainage around homes, farms, and commercial buildings.

Remember:

Scoop the poop!

Please pick up poop in your yard and on city streets.

Dog poop can contain harmful bacteria. Protect our water and help keep our city clean.

Don't forget to bring a bag.



PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ENGAGEMENT: STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

1. MS4 Stormwater Education Support for MS4 Permit Compliance

The MS4 General Permit requires permittees to educate the public about illicit discharge detection and elimination (IDDE), pet waste, and winter salt and deicing materials. In addition, permit holders must identify two additional stormwater education priorities within their communities. The permit also requires at least one opportunity for public input on the stormwater program each year and one public participation activity.

To support partners in meeting these requirements; EMWREP will continue to conduct educational programs and activities throughout the year and will also deliver monthly emails with print materials, videos, and social media graphics, and other content for partners to use in their communications.

In addition, EMWREP staff have created and uploaded educational materials to the [MPCA Stormwater Wiki – MS4 Toolkit](#) and [EMWREP Resources page](#) for partners to access at any time.

At the end of each calendar year, EMWREP will prepare an annual report that summarizes education activities throughout the year and also evaluates the effectiveness of outreach efforts.

Stormwater related priorities for EMWREP (partners can choose different priorities for themselves if needed)

1. Reducing stormwater runoff through landscape changes to commercial, residential, and public properties (ie. Installing raingardens or converting turf to native plantings)
 - May include public projects, completed with support from community residents, or landowner-led projects, completed with encouragement and/or support from EMWREP partners.
2. Encouraging residents to keep leaves and grass clippings out of roadways, ditches, and drainage pathways in order to reduce nutrient inputs to stormwater runoff
 - May include promotion of the Adopt a Drain program.

2023 Calendar of Public Education messaging

- Jan./Feb.
 - Reminder about SMART salting practices
- March
 - Reminder to collect and dispose of pet waste safely (timed to coincide with snow melt)
- March/April/May
 - Promotion for workshops and site visits to initiate residential landscape projects
 - Promotion of Adopt a Drain (could be timed to coincide with Earth Day events)
- June/July/Aug
 - Information about lawn care best practices, including water conservation
 - Reminder to keep grass clippings out of streets and drainage pathways
 - Information about small-scale construction best practices
 - Potential IDDE messages: proper disposal of concrete washout; best practices for car washing

- Sept.
 - Potential IDDE message: proper draining of swimming pools and hot tubs
 - Reminder to collect and dispose of pet waste properly
- Oct.
 - Reminder to rake leaves out of street & not dump into ditches, ravines or wetlands
 - Promotion of Adopt a Drain
- Nov.
 - Potential IDDE messaging: waste disposal (general); proper disposal of carpet cleaning wastewater
- Dec.
 - Information about SMART salting

Public Participation and Involvement

- EMWREP partners should provide an opportunity, either in-person or virtually, for community members to provide input and feedback about the stormwater education program. A few potential ways to meet this requirement include:
 - Posting the SWPPP online with a short, easy-to-understand summary, and a link to provide feedback via email or a comment form. Share the website address via newsletter, email or social media post.
 - Providing an opportunity for public to comment on the SWPPP at a city council or watershed district board meeting.
 - Creating a short survey to solicit feedback on a community stormwater issue or to learn more about residents' concerns.
- EMWREP can also help partners to conduct additional public involvement activities, such as:
 - Promoting the Adopt a Drain program
 - Promoting a partner-led community clean-up event or household waste collection day
 - Conducting workshops and webinars about residential landscaping

2023 Focus – Chloride

Activities planned include:

- Mailing to contractors operating in Washing, Chisago, and SE Isanti Counties to share SMART Salting info and upcoming workshops
- Creating a “What to ask for from your winter maintenance provider” fact sheet



2. Volunteer engagement

Minnesota Water Stewards

17 active stewards, 1 new enrolled in 2023

EMWREP has participated in the [Minnesota Water Stewards](#) program since 2018, through a partnership with [Freshwater](#). Water stewards participate in 50-hours of in-person and on-line training and complete a capstone project to become certified. Once certified, they volunteer 50-hours during their first year of service and 25-hours per year afterwards to remain in the program.

Meet the stewards: Check out this [virtual tour](#) to meet some of the water steward volunteers in Washington County.

2023 Water Steward programming: There are currently 17 active water stewards working in Washington County. One new steward, Kim Ury, will be joining in 2023 as a volunteer for the Valley Branch Watershed District. EMWREP will continue to engage water steward volunteers in conservation projects, community outreach, and watershed programming. Ongoing projects that will be completed in 2023 include gravel bed tree nurseries in Scandia and at the Washington County Fairground.

In 2023, EMWREP staff will work with Freshwater to develop a grant application for an Artist Steward cohort in 2024. Funds would be used to recruit and train ~10 local artists as water steward volunteers. EMWREP will also explore opportunities to recruit stewards in Chisago and Isanti Counties in 2024.

One goal for this program is to increase volunteer engagement in 2023.



Adopt a Drain

961 drains adopted in Washington County – **59 drains** adopted in Chisago County
19,315 drains adopted in Minnesota

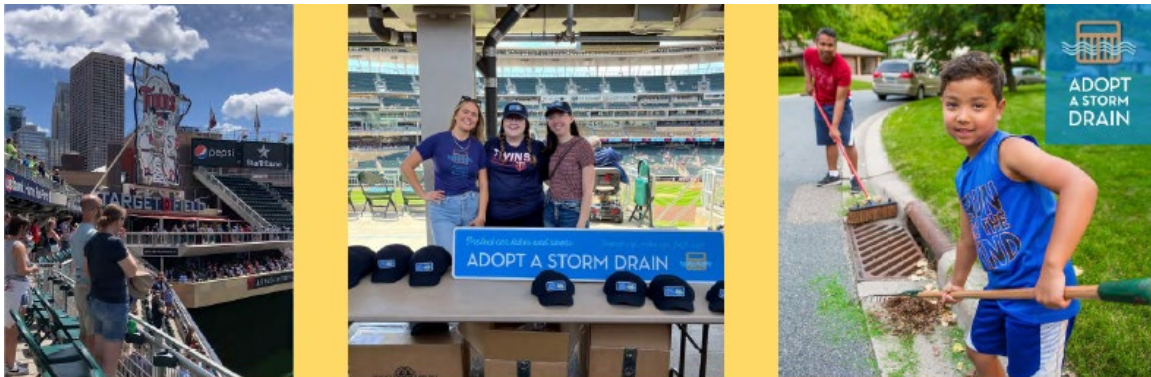
The [Adopt-a-Drain](#) program engages community residents in helping to prevent stormwater pollution by cleaning leaves, litter and other debris off of storm drains near their homes. Volunteers get reminders via text or email and are asked to report their actions on-line so that cities can track the program's impact.

The Adopt-a-Drain program was created by Hamline University's Center for Global Environmental Education on behalf of Watershed Partners, a metro area collaborative with 60+ partners.

In 2023, EMWREP will continue to promote the program through a variety of means, including:

- Participating in Watershed Partners and financially supporting the Adopt-a-Drain
- Publishing articles in local newspapers and city newsletters
- Working with volunteers, high school environmental clubs, and community groups to promote adoptions

A goal for 2023 is to increase storm drain adoptions in Bayport, Forest Lake, Hugo, Newport, St. Paul Park, and Chisago County.



Adopt a Rain garden

31 raingardens adopted in Stillwater and Oak Park Heights

The Adopt-a-Raingarden program engages community volunteers to care for raingardens in Stillwater and Oak Park Heights. Volunteers commit to removing weeds, litter, and built-up sediment during the growing season and reporting larger maintenance concerns to staff at Washington Conservation District.

In 2023, EMWREP will continue to collaborate with Sustainable Stillwater MN to engage Adopt a Raingarden volunteers and ensure that gardens are well-maintained:

More info at: www.mnwcd.org/adoptaraingarden.

Nonprofit, citizen, and community groups

In addition to these larger volunteer programs, EMWREP works closely with nonprofit, citizen, and community groups in our area, including:

- Master Gardeners
- Lake associations
- Wild Rivers Conservancy of the St. Croix and Namekagon
- Pollinator Friendly Alliance
- Wild Ones
- Sustainable Stillwater MN

Library outreach: EMWREP staff are currently working to build a collaboration with the East Central Regional Library System in Chisago, Pine, and Isanti in order to offer educational programming in the future.

We Are Water, Minnesota: In October 2023, ArtReach St. Croix will be hosting the [We Are Water](#) traveling exhibit at the Stillwater Library. EMWREP will be partnering with ArtReach to plan a variety of events and programs under the theme of “SolarPunk.” Solarpunk is a literary and artistic movement that envisions and works toward actualizing a sustainable future interconnected with nature and community. In addition, EMWREP is helping Chisago County to prepare an application to host the We Are Water exhibit in 2024.

Lake Associations: EMWREP and Lower St. Croix partners work with lake association on a variety of educational initiatives related to aquatic invasive species prevention, runoff reduction, and shoreline protection and restoration.

Activities planned in 2023 include:

- Complete a 4pg handout for new shoreline buyers in Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District and offer as a template for other partners to use
- Work with SWCD staff to pull an address list of new shoreline owners twice per year in summer and winter and deliver mailings, as needed
- Conduct neighborhood “show and tell” events on Green Lake, Center Lake and Big Carnelian
- Develop education materials on the following topics - lake levels, how do weirs work, what to expect at an AIS watercraft inspection, what are AIS Detectors doing?, reminder to check lifts and docks at the end of the season, shoreline restoration success stories
- Deliver a semi-monthly e-newsletter to 160+ lake association leaders in Anoka, Chisago, Isanti, Ramsey and Washington Counties

3. Education Partnerships

One the most important strategies utilized by the EMWREP program is to build partnerships and work collaboratively with federal, state and local government; non-profit organizations; and community groups to educate and engage the public.

Two of our key partnerships include:

Watershed Partners
70 partners in the Twin Cities

Metro Watershed Partners is a coalition of more than seventy public, private and non-profit organizations in the Twin Cities metro area. Through collaborative education and outreach, the Metro Watershed Partners promote a public understanding that inspires people to act to protect water in their watershed. Since 1996, partners have cooperated through educational projects, networking, and resource sharing.

The mission of the Metro Watershed Partners is two-fold:

- To provide and promote collaborative watershed education programs with consistent messages to the general public, local government staff and elected officials; and
- To provide WSP members a place and means to share information, generate ideas, and coordinate and support collaborative watershed education programs.

Watershed Partners holds monthly meetings with special presentations, publishes blog-style stories through its www.cleanwatermn.org website, produces content for partners to use in their educational programming, and is host to the Adopt a Drain program.

In 2023, EMWREP coordinator Angie Hong will continue to serve on the Watershed Partners' steering committee and act as convener for large group meetings.

EMWREP partners will also present at the April 12, 2023 Watershed Partners meeting: Lakes De-listed – How did they do it? Speakers will include Matt Downing (MSCWMO), Angie Hong (EMWREP), Casey Thiel (Chisago SWCD), and Ben Elfelt (Chisago LID).

St. Croix Watershed Environmental Education Partnership (SWEEP)
78 partners in the Lower St. Croix Watershed

SWEEP (St. Croix Watershed Environmental Education Partnership) brings together staff from parks and nature centers, non-profit organizations, local government, and community groups in the Lower St. Croix watershed to inspire leadership in environmental education through networking, community engagement and collaborative events within the St. Croix River Watershed.

In 2023, EMWREP coordinator Angie Hong will continue to serve as a member of the SWEEP leadership team. The group hopes to plan one large workshop for volunteers in the spring and a professional training for group members in the fall.

4. Youth education

Though K-12 students are not a primary audience for our education programming, EMWREP provides support for partner-led youth education initiatives.

In 2023, these will include:

- **Promoting and teaching lessons at the Metro and Chisago Children’s Water Festival**
- **South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) Campus Greening program:** This year, the program will be offered to all middle schools in the South Washington School District at the 6th grade level, in order to reach more students. SWWD provides the majority funding for this program, with support from Washington County. The program may expand to include one school in Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District as well. Funds allow for staff from Carpenter Nature Center to conduct a series of five classes and one field trip with students, with additional staff support from Washington Conservation District.
- **Family activities and community events**
- **Possibly collaborating with high school environmental clubs** on projects such as Adopt a Drain promotion, pollinator gardens, and stormwater reuse education



South Washington – Campus Greening Program

South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) and South Washington County School District collaborate on a unique program to renovate school campuses and provide students with hands-on, environmental education. The SWWD created its Campus Greening program to provide schools with an alternative way to meet their stormwater management rules during construction and redevelopment. Typically, when schools and businesses expand their parking lots and buildings, they build stormwater retention ponds to manage the extra runoff pollution that is generated. Instead, this program takes a more holistic approach.

So far, seven schools within SWWD have participated in the program. At Lake and Middleton Schools in Woodbury, the school district replaced 15 acres of non-active use turf with native prairie and planted 200 trees (with help from the kids). At Crestview in Cottage Grove, the school converted 2.5 acres of turf to prairie and rehabbing 7.5 acres of low-quality woodlands. Similar projects have also been completed at Valley Crossing (Woodbury), Nuevas Fronteras (St. Paul Park), Grey Cloud Elementary (Cottage Grove), and Cottage Grove Middle School and Elementary.

In addition to replacing turf with native habitat, SWWD also builds outdoor classrooms and works with Carpenter Nature Center to provide hands-on watershed education for students. [Learn more about the program.](#)

5. Groundwater education

EMWREP provides support for implementation of the Washington County Groundwater Plan through a separate annual contract with Washington County.

Education activities planned for 2023:

- Help to promote Children’s Water Festival.
- Conduct one well water testing clinic in southern Washington County in partnership with Minnesota Well Owners Association and Minnesota Groundwater Association. EMWREP is also exploring the possibility of conducting an additional clinic in North Branch for Chisago County residents, in partnership with Chisago SWCD.
- Support SWWD campus greening program
- Support SMART salt training
- Support St. Croix River Workshop on the Water
- *Possibly* creating a new interactive groundwater-stormwater model to use at community events

6. Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

EMWREP staff provide support for AIS education, as needed. 2023 activities planned:

- Write articles and develop social media content
- Recruit volunteers to participate in the Minnesota AIS Detectors program
- Work with local partners to support additional education, including bait shop outreach, signage for shore fishing, and videos.



7. Media and Communications

In 2023, EMWREP will continue to use a variety of communications platforms to share watershed and stormwater information, promote partner projects and programs, and publicize events and activities.

Deliverables for 2023 will include:

- Weekly articles for East Metro Water blog and local newspapers
- 1-2 article per month for Knickpoints blog
- Short-form videos, graphics, and formatted content
- 2-4 posts per week for TikTok, Facebook, Instagram and YouTube
- Articles for partner newsletters

Print Communications

Newspaper articles: Angie Hong has published a weekly column for the Valley Life – Stillwater Gazette since 2006. The articles are posted on-line at www.eastmetrowater.org and frequently appear in other local newspapers as well.

- **Chisago Press** (Circulation - 3963)
- **Forest Lake Lowdown** (Circulation – 13,997)
- **Forest Lake Times** (Circulation - 13,029) – *Hong column featured monthly*
- **Hugo Citizen** (Circulation – 14,500)
- **Scandia Country Messenger** (Circulation - 1075)
- **St. Croix 360** (On-line: 25,647 followers)
- **St. Croix Lowdown** (Circulation – 5000)
- **Valley Life / Stillwater Gazette** (Circulation - 17,479) – *Hong column featured weekly*
- **White Bear Press** (Circulation – 19,331)

Newsletters: EMWREP will also continue to provide content for city, watershed and WCD newsletters.

Online Communications

EMWREP uses a variety of online communication platforms to educate and engage with the public, including websites, social media (TikTok, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, YouTube), webinars, and story maps, and our blogs.

Social media accounts include:

- TikTok - [@mnnature_awesome](https://www.tiktok.com/@mnnature_awesome) 82,000 followers
- Facebook - [@mnwcd](https://www.facebook.com/mnwcd) – 1200 followers
- Instagram - [@wcd_mn](https://www.instagram.com/wcd_mn) – 677 followers; [@mnnature_awesome](https://www.instagram.com/mnnature_awesome) 15,800 followers
- Twitter - [@angiehongwater](https://twitter.com/angiehongwater) – 411 followers
- East Metro Water blog – www.eastmetrowater.org - 1,868 subscribers
- Knickpoints blog - <https://knickpoints.blog>
- YouTube – [Washington Conservation District](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...), [Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)



Over the past three years, EMWREP has dramatically increased its social media outreach in response to changes in the media landscape. We recognize that different platforms reach different audiences and demographics and have also observed that fewer people are getting their news from traditional sources, such as the Star Tribune / Pioneer Press and broadcast television news programs.

We use social media as part of a comprehensive education and communications strategy that also includes community partnerships, articles in local newspapers and partner newsletters, email outreach, volunteer engagement, online and in-person workshops, community events, and more. Social media posts help us to reach a larger audience that is younger and more diverse and also help us to build longer term relationships with community members that support our work.

In particular, we have found TikTok to be a highly interactive platform for engaging the public. Our videos receive thousands of comments and questions from viewers, who in turn share our messages in their own social circles. These interactions also help us to gauge public understanding of local water resource issues and support for various programs and practices.

Clean Water MN: Watershed Partners produces photos and articles for the www.cleanwatermn.org website, and also allows partners to use this content in their own communications. We also rely on the campaign for high quality photos to use in our web and print communications.

Websites:

In addition to individual partner websites, EMWREP and the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership use the following websites to share education and information:

- Washington Conservation District: www.mnwcd.org
 - [/events](#) – event info and registration
 - [/emwrep](#) – annual reports and plans
 - [/planting-for-clean-water](#) – resources for planting projects
 - [/virtual-tour](#) – short videos highlighting outdoor destinations and activities
- Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership: www.lsc1w1p.org
 - [/events](#) – event info and registration
 - [/farmers](#) info on incentive payments for nonstructural conservation practices; contact info for county, state and federal programs; and links to educational videos and articles about farming.
 - [/for-communities](#) to find information about [Minimal Impact Design Standards \(MIDS\)](#) and links to [Minnesota Stormwater Manual](#), [Restore Your Shore](#), [Growing Shade](#), and [iTree](#).
- East Metro Water: <https://eastmetrowater.org>
 - Tips and tales on keeping water clean
- Knickpoints blog: <https://knickpoints.blog/>
 - Stories of transition and change in the Lower St. Croix watershed
- Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water: www.bluethumb.org
 - Resources for raingardens, native plants, shoreline buffers, and Lawns to Legumes
- Clean Water Minnesota: www.cleanwatermn.org
 - Watershed Partners produces high quality photos and articles for partners to use in their communications. Blog stories highlight actions that Minnesotans are taking to protect water.

WCMP 100.9 FM Radio: Jennifer Hahn provides information about agricultural conservation planning services available, ag program updates, what's happening out in the field, and upcoming events on WCMP 100.9 FM radio the 1st Wednesday of the month. To listen, find it on [WCMP's website](#), [Apple Podcast](#), [Google Podcast](#), or [Spotify](#).

OUTREACH SUPPORT FOR PROGRAM AND PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

Audience: General public, landowners and land managers

Program Goals:

1. Publicize EMWREP partner programs and projects.
2. Engage public and private land owners to complete habitat and water quality improvement projects on their land.
3. Promote partners' BMP (Best Management Practices) and cost-share incentive programs and connect landowners with state and federal grants for water quality improvement projects.
4. Engage community members and other stakeholders to help meet water quality goals identified through local water plans, TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) studies, WRAP (Water Restoration and Protection) strategies, and regulatory programs.
5. Educate the public and engage community members to support implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Educational Objectives:

1. Community members will be aware of partner projects and programs happening in their communities and understand the benefits of these activities.
2. Landowners will develop the knowledge and skills to complete habitat and water quality improvement projects on their land, including: native plantings, raingardens, and native shoreline buffers.
3. Landowners will be aware of and utilize BMP, cost-share and other incentive programs to complete projects.
4. Community members will participate in public meetings, provide input for plans, and take action to support the goals outlined in local and regional plans.

OUTREACH SUPPORT: STRATEGIES & ACTIVITIES

1) Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water

The Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water Program is a Minnesota partnership hosted by Metro Blooms. Public, private and nonprofit partners work together to educate the public about native plants, raingardens and shoreline plantings and encourage homeowners to complete projects on their land. The program operates the www.BlueThumb.org website, hosts workshops and other events, delivers educational messaging through several media platforms, and has produced numerous print resources, including the Blue Thumb Guide to Year Round Yard Care.

Blue Thumb is affiliated with the Minnesota Lawns to Legumes program and offers web resources and workshops to help landowners develop pollinator-friendly gardens and plantings.

EMWREP helped to launch the Blue Thumb partnership in 2007 and developed many of the original education materials for the program. Currently, we use the website as a resource for the public and collaborate with Blue Thumb to promote and conduct workshops in our region. Workshops help residents to connect with local resources including, incentive grants, free site visits, garden designs, plant lists, and conservation plans for larger properties.

In 2023, EMWREP plans to hold workshops on the following topics:

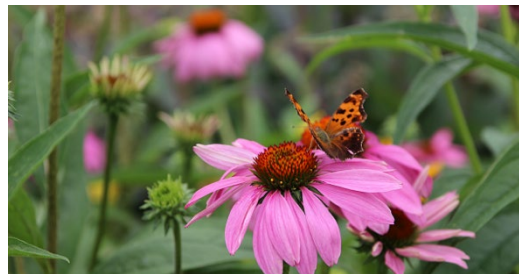
- [Shoreline workshop for realtors](#) – Feb. 9, 1-4:30pm at Chisago County Government Center. Co-hosted by St. Paul Area Association of Realtors.
- [Planting for Pollinators](#) – March 2, 6-7:30pm via zoom. Speakers will include Angie Hong and Cody Sipe, Prairie Restorations.
- [Bee Lawns and Lawn Alternatives](#) – April 3, 6-7:30pm. Speakers will include Angie Hong and James Wolfen, Twin City Seed.
- Shoreline buffer protection
- Shoreline restoration
- Prairie restoration – in-person hike series
- Solar Punk (in conjunction with We Are Water – Stillwater)
- Woodland management
- Wetland restoration

Other planned activities include coordination and promotion of No Mow May and a direct mailing to St. Croix River bluffland owners, in partnership with Wild Rivers Conservancy.

BMP PROJECT MAINTENANCE

EMWREP has a project maintenance calendar for Google and Outlook to provide landowners with raingardens monthly reminders for common maintenance activities (ie. cleaning inlets or weeding): www.mnwcd.org/maintenance-guide.

Additional resources for raingarden maintenance are also available at www.mnwcd.org/adoptaraingarden.



2) Promotion of BMP and cost-share incentive programs

During 2023, education staff will continue to promote best management practices and cost-share programs.

Possible areas of focus include:

- Working with Marathon Refinery to develop a large-scale landscape restoration in Newport / St. Paul Park
- Working with Rice Creek Watershed District to recruit more large-scale projects in Washington County
- Working with Woodbury to develop a story map about practices at the City Hall
- Working with Middle St. Croix WMO to promote cost-share grants in Lakeland, St Mary's Point, and Baytown Township

A map showing all conservation projects completed in Washington County during the duration of the EMWREP partnership can be found at: www.mnwcd.org/project-map.

3) Community Forestry



In 2022, the Washington Conservation District launched a new initiative to develop a countywide community forestry program, in partnership with cities, volunteers, and the AmeriCorps Climate Impact Program (Ampact). Over the next year, Tim Foss will be helping to engage community volunteers around community forestry and climate projects, conducting tree inventories for demonstration projects, and mapping the different organizations doing tree and forestry work in the county so that partners can visualize how all of the pieces fit together.

Read more about large and small scale forestry efforts in our area: [New Initiatives to Grow and Tend the Forests in Washington County](#)

In addition to providing numerous other benefits, urban tree canopies also help to reduce stormwater runoff and filter pollutants. Learn more about [Minnesota's Stormwater Credit System for Trees](#).



Here's how two new community forestry projects are taking shape:

Landfall is a mobile home park community, incorporated as a city, which is located on Tanners Lake in the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (RWMWD). It is a high-density neighborhood with a large amount of impervious surface; however, there are a number of mature trees within the community as well. These trees help to filter

air pollution from nearby Interstate 94, shade homes during the summer, and provide a better quality of life for community residents.

Currently, the WCD has a Lawns to Legumes grant to improve pollinator habitat in Landfall. This will likely entail replacing turf islands with native plantings, as well as creating raingardens near the lake to treat runoff pollution. In addition, the Green Crew (a youth-led initiative of the Izaak Walton League) is working with Landfall to replace ash trees with climate-adapted native species to protect the long-term health of the tree canopy.

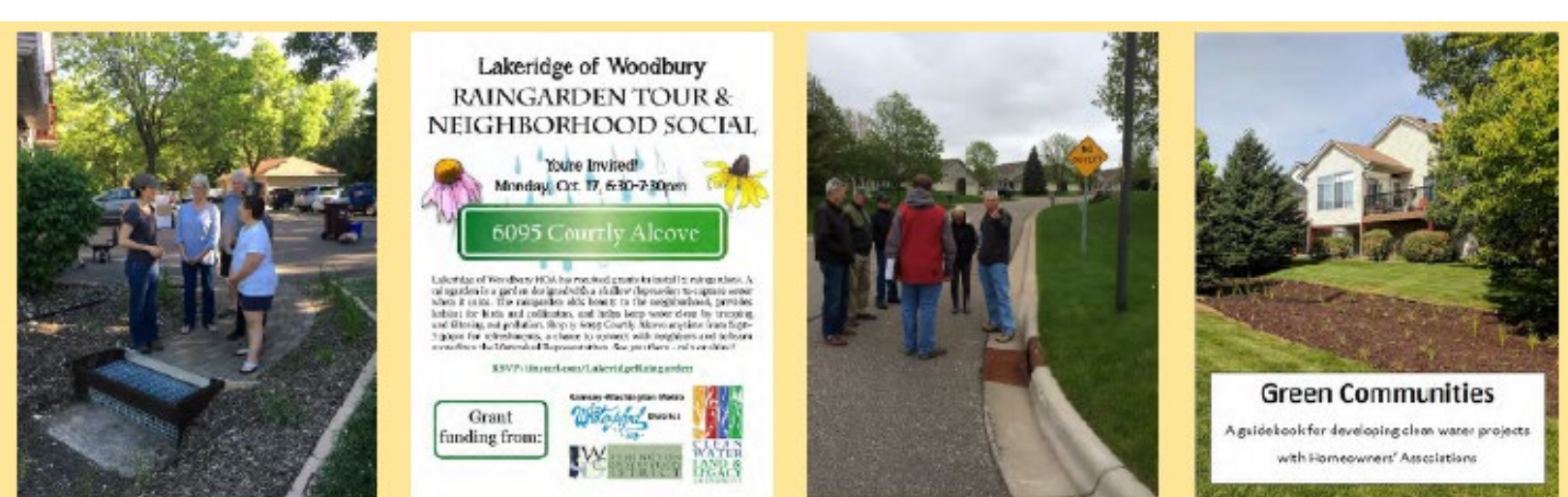
EMWREP's role has been to bring together partners in this project – City of Landfall, RWMWD, WCD, Green Crew, Washington County, and Family Means – and think of creative ways to engage Landfall residents and amplify the educational aspect of the project.

Gravel Bed Tree Nurseries can be used to increase the fibrous root volume of bare root seedlings so that planted trees are healthier and more likely to survive. Two years ago, MN Water Steward John Goodfellow (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed) worked with volunteers to build a gravel-bed nursery for community planting projects in Marine on St. Croix. Now, with new grant funds, Water Stewards Anna Barker (Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed) and Tom Furey (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed) are working to build gravel bed nurseries at the Washington County Fairground and City of Scandia.

EMWREP's role in supporting the community forestry initiative has been three-fold. To begin, EMWREP secured Clean Water grant funds and provided mentorship to train and certify 20 Minnesota Water Stewards, including John, Anna, and Tom in 2017-2020. Then, in 2022, EMWREP acquired new grant funds from the North Woods and Waters of the St. Croix Heritage Initiative to support volunteer-led projects in our area. Lastly, EMWREP has established a new relationship with Ampact in order to bring in Tim Foss as a community forestry coordinator from 2022-23, at no cost to the WCD.

4) Homeowners Associations

Construction of stormwater BMPs, including stormwater ponds, infiltration basins, stormwater reuse systems, and vegetated buffers has been standard practice in Minnesota for more than 20 years. Long-term maintenance of these practices to ensure that they continue functioning properly, however, can be a challenge, especially for practices that are privately owned and located within homeowners' associations and commercial properties. Additionally, HOAs and commercial properties can negatively impact water resources and reduce the longevity and effectiveness of stormwater BMPs through their irrigation, lawn care, and winter maintenance practices.



Previous work with HOAs:

In 2014, the Washington Conservation District was awarded a \$50,000 Clean Water Fund Grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources to conduct audience research and develop clean water projects with Homeowners' Associations (HOAs) in Washington County. As part of this project, the WCD conducted three focus group sessions with HOA board members, property managers, and lawn care companies to identify opportunities for and barriers to implementing clean water projects.

Barriers identified by focus group participants included: lack of interest; member turnover and generational tension; limited funding; unwillingness to deviate from conventional landscape aesthetics; and concerns about maintenance and liability.

In 2018, Washington Conservation District conducted a survey of 62 stormwater professionals in Minnesota to gather input for development of new MS4 education materials.

In this survey, 76% of respondents indicated that HOAs are a priority audience that they are currently working with or would like to work with in the future. Forty-eight percent of respondents listed large and small businesses as a priority audience. In addition, several survey respondents listed HOAs and commercial properties as audiences that they struggle to reach. "Each [HOA] is different and most are not well-organized, they have their set way of doing things, limited contact information." "[Commercial properties are] on a completely different wavelength, it is difficult to find the right people to speak with that make decisions on lawn maintenance and snow removal."

As part of the MS4 Toolkit project, WCD staff also gathered input from approximately 30 stormwater professionals during a facilitated Watershed Partners meeting on 10/10/18. At this meeting, participants identified stormwater ponds and their maintenance as a priority topic for education, and also listed renters and residents in multi-family housing as audiences they would like to better reach.

New work in 2023:

Last year, EMWREP developed an unsuccessful grant to support new social research and development of educational materials for HOAs and commercial property owners.

This year, we hope to complete a scaled-back outreach effort instead that would include:

- Hosting an HOA mini "conference" for HOAs in the area in the fall
 - Theme: Common stormwater practices and maintenance needs.
 - Topics: buffers and native plantings, Reduce environmental impact and extend lifespan of your stormwater BMPs, erosion and sediment control, best practices for irrigation, best practices for snow and ice management
 - What do they need to budget for annual and long-term maintenance? (Ex. plan to budget for stormwater pond maintenance at 25yr mark)
- Developing short-form videos and simple fact sheets to share information about topics listed above
- Potentially writing an article in Minnesota Community Living magazine

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS FOR BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audience: Water resource professionals, municipal staff, consultants and contractors, local elected and appointed officials, business owners, lawn care providers, winter maintenance providers

Program Goals:

1. Provide technical training to help EMWREP partners meet MS4 Permit requirements and reduce stormwater pollution.
2. Work in partnership with University of Minnesota to provide high-quality professional education at a local level.
3. Provide local decision makers (city councils, planning commissions, watershed boards, county commissioners, etc.) with information and training needed to implement policies, programs, and practices that protect and restore water resources. This includes, but is not limited to, Minimal Impact Development Standards (MIDS) and Shoreland/Buffer rules.
4. Offer professional trainings for area business owners, lawn care providers, and winter maintenance contractors to share information about local water issues and encourage business practices that protect surface and groundwater resources.

Educational Objectives:

1. Municipal employees will understand that stormwater runoff, erosion, and illicit discharge contaminate surface and groundwater resources and, also, that there are best management practices to reduce these causes of water pollution.
2. Local decision makers will understand that land use impacts water quality and that there are a variety of policies, programs and practices cities, counties, and watershed management organizations can implement to protect their water resources, including MIDS and shoreland/buffer rules.
3. Area business owners, lawn care providers, and winter maintenance contractors will learn how to conserve groundwater resources and reduce surface and groundwater pollution through a variety of practices, including:
 - a. Completing water efficiency audits;
 - b. Mowing higher and using fewer lawn chemicals; and
 - c. Reducing road salt application by using new technology, calibrating equipment, and adjusting anti-icing and deicing methods based on weather forecasts; and storing salt properly to reduce leaching.
 - d. Using and storing pesticides and fertilizers safely.

PROFESSIONAL TRAININGS FOR BUSINESS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1) Stormwater U Training for Municipal Staff and Businesses

In 2023, EMWREP will work with Washington Conservation District staff to plan a quarterly training series for natural resources staff in the region. The events will cover topics such as raingarden maintenance and invasive species management.



SMART Salting Certification: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency offers SMART Salting certification for plow drivers, contractors, and property managers. In 2023, EMWREP will work with Washington and Dakota Counties to host a training in southern Washington County. Staff will also share information about online workshops that partners can attend.

Targeted Enhanced Street Sweeping: In November 2022, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership allocated \$40,000 in state funding to help 16 local communities develop targeted, enhanced street sweeping programs in order to reduce stormwater runoff pollution to the St. Croix River and its tributary lakes and streams. The communities include Afton, Lake Elmo, Bayport, Baytown, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Linwood Twp., Marine on St. Croix, North Branch, Oak Park Heights, Rush City, Scandia, St. Mary's Point, West Lakeland, and Wyoming. In addition, the communities of Forest Lake, Stillwater, and Woodbury are already implementing enhanced street sweeping programs.



In Forest Lake, the city has implemented an enhanced street sweeping program in partnership with the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake and Rice Creek Watershed Districts for three years. This year, the program earned a City of Excellence Award from the League of Minnesota Cities' and a Watershed Champion award from the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District.

Research from the University of Minnesota and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency shows that street sweeping is one of the most cost-effective ways for communities to reduce urban water pollution (see [MPCA Street Sweeping Phosphorus Credit Calculator](#)). Street sweeping also helps to extend the lifespan of stormwater infrastructure, reduce maintenance costs, and reduce the risk of localized street flooding due to clogged storm drains.

In 2023, education staff will provide support for communities as they implement their new plans.

MS4 Municipal Training Resources

MS4 Permittees are required to provide training for staff on a variety of topics related to stormwater and pollution prevention. Below are links to eleven short videos developed by EMWREP that partners are encouraged to share via email or incorporate into staff meetings and training workshops.

- [Stockpile Management](#)
- [Use and Storage of Significant Materials](#)
- [Routine Street and Parking Lot Sweeping](#)
- [Pesticides and Fertilizers](#)
- [Right of Way Maintenance](#)
- [Vehicle Maintenance](#)
- [Road Maintenance](#)
- [Waste Disposal](#)
- [Emergency Response](#)
- [Cleaning of maintenance equipment, building exteriors, and dumpsters](#)
- [Illicit Discharge Detection and Elimination](#)
- [Raingarden Maintenance](#)
- [Parks Maintenance](#)

EMWREP has also developed print resources to help partners explain MS4 permit requirements to the public, and understand requirements related to stormwater inspections and maintenance.

- [Stormwater pollution and the MS4 permit program](#)
- [Stormwater systems mapping and inspections](#)

In addition to the videos listed above, EMWREP staff are able to speak at staff trainings on request.

2) Education for Local Decision Makers

EMWREP and the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership work with community leaders to implement policies, programs, and practices that minimize stormwater runoff pollution and preserve habitat corridors for pollinators, birds and wildlife.



Workshops on the Water: In 2023, EMWREP plans to collaborate with Wild Rivers Conservancy, Minnesota and Wisconsin DNRs, National Park Service, and local government in Wisconsin to host a St. Croix River Workshop on the Water in summer, departing out of Stillwater or Hudson.

In addition, the Lower St. Croix Partnership plans to have a second boat workshop in Taylors Falls for northern communities.

Minimal Impact Development Standards (MIDS): In 2023, the Lower St. Croix Partnership will be working with priority communities to update ordinances for stormwater management,

erosion control, and vegetation management, including MIDS. Focal communities include Chisago City, North Branch, Rush City, Scandia and Marine on St. Croix.

Planning for new development: EMWREP is working with videographer Jill Zimmerman to create a short animated video that can be shared with community leaders to introduce concepts related to conservation development.

3) Other education opportunities for local staff and decision-makers

In addition to recruiting speakers for Watershed Partners and the Washington County Water Consortium, education staff are frequently invited to share their expertise at local, state and national conferences.

Educational opportunities offered by other organizations are also shared with partners via email on a monthly basis.

EQUITY AND ACCESSIBILITY

EMWREP and Lower St. Croix partners recognize the importance of fully engaging communities in order to protect and restore water resources.

Over the past ten years, education staff have participated in and helped to plan diversity and equity workshops, in conjunction with Watershed Partners, and also conducted a series of internal, staff-led trainings and conversations about racial and gender equity in 2020-22. Staff also participate in Watershed Partners' CARE (Culturally Aware and Relevant Education) subcommittee, which meets monthly.

Washington Conservation District incorporated equity priorities into its Comprehensive Plan Update in 2021 and secured grant funding for projects in Landfall and Big River Farms that will engage low-income and culturally diverse residents in Washington County.

EMWREP also worked with language interpreters in 2019 to create stormwater education videos and print materials in Spanish, Somali, and Hmong.

In 2023, Washington Conservation District will be working with equity consultant Barbara Raye to develop 5-year equity goals for the organization. These include:

1. Developing an internal/external equity-focused mentorship program
 - Implementing more inclusive hiring processes to reach new applicants – both seasonal and full-time positions
 - Asking for and prioritizing bilingual applicants
 - Developing a mentorship program for interns, seasonals, and new staff.
 - Considering a mentorship program for high school students
2. Incorporating equity into prioritization processes for water quality and natural resources restoration work
3. Developing an urban agriculture program that engages emerging farmers from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds

In February, WCD plans to have a large half-day workshop with board, staff and organizational partners, during which we will refine our equity goals and objectives and work with organizational partners to identify strategies and collaboration opportunities. Barbara Raye will facilitate this workshop.

LOWER ST. CROIX AGRONOMY OUTREACH

The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership formed in response to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) deployment of the One Watershed One Plan Program. Starting in 2017, 16 local government partners worked together to develop a comprehensive watershed management plan that helps align local water planning priorities and create a systematic, watershed-scale, approach to watershed management.

VISION: The St. Croix River, groundwater, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and upland habitat in the Lower St. Croix watershed sustain healthy ecosystems, recreation, public health, tourism, agriculture, the economy, and quality of life in our communities.

MISSION: Through the Lower St. Croix “One Watershed, One Plan” process, partners will develop a collaborative and comprehensive plan to guide the protection and restoration of priority natural resources in our region over the next ten years.

STRATEGIES:

- Enhance collaboration and consistency between upstream and downstream neighbors, and between different levels of government;
- Identify and address gaps in data, technology, or implementation funding across the region;
- Avoid duplication of efforts; and
- Make efficient use of federal, state and local funds to address priority issues and protect/improve valuable natural resources in the Lower St. Croix watershed.

Agriculture in the Lower St. Croix Watershed

There is a high value placed on the rural character of the watershed, and strong recognition that farming and the health and availability of water resources are connected. Partnering with farmers and rural landowners to protect groundwater and surface water resources is essential to meeting plan goals and ensuring that efforts create a durable impact. The Lower St. Croix Partnership supports farmers in adopting practices that reduce surface and drinking water pollution. This work will be accomplished through a combination of continuing to implement existing programs, increasing capacity to expand programs, technical assistance, financial assistance, and providing opportunities to build and expand networks and outreach/educational activities.

The following list details specific education and outreach goals proposed for calendar year 2023 for the LSC Extension Educator Agronomist and the LSC Shared Services Educator. Education and outreach efforts conducted by the LSCWP partners are above the efforts described here but are applicable for tracking progress to achieving overall comprehensive management plan goals.

Farmer Education and Engagement Initiatives

The core component of the LSCWP ag program includes engaging and working with farmers across the Lower St. Croix watershed to adopt practices that reduce surface and drinking water pollution. This requires getting to know farmers across the watershed, gaining a better understanding of their goals, and providing opportunities for farmers to network with and learn from each other, while also being present to promote practices and programs that protect our water resources.

Priorities

Proposed Outreach Activities:

1. Large-acreage farmers (>40 acres)
 - Three growing season field days geographically spread across the Lower St. Croix watershed, covering a variety of topics, including equipment, in-field cover crops, various tillage management, demonstration plots, field tours, and pasture management
 - Three off-season meetings, including such topics/activities such as farm planning, farmer presentations, external speakers, soil health training, development of farmer groups, and farmer panels
 - Support the creation of farmer groups
 - Support the creation of the farmer champion network
2. Smaller-acreage farmers (<40 acres)

Two growing season field days geographically spread across the Lower St. Croix watershed, covering a variety of topics, including equipment, in-field cover crops, various tillage management, demonstration plots, field tours, and pasture management

 - Two off-season meetings, including such topics/activities such as farm planning, farmer presentations, external speakers, soil health training, development of farmer groups, and farmer panels
 - Support the creation of farmer groups
 - Support the creation of the farmer champion network
3. Collaborate to obtain local data to utilize in outreach, education, and program development to evaluate:
 - Soil health including in-field and laboratory testing (contingent on securing additional funds)
 - Field scale economics
 - Crop productivity including emergence, health, pests/disease, weeds, yields
 - Compile annual data and track over time

Education Partnerships

Partnerships play a crucial role to help build momentum and identify opportunities and programs that can help to wider adoption of practices that protect water quality and our natural resources.

Proposed Outreach Activities:

1. Continued support to all LSCWP partners and staff to promote existing programs and education efforts, including support in development of new programs or funding opportunities.
2. Build new and strengthen existing partnerships with aligned-purpose groups including:
 - Cooperatives
 - Agronomists
 - Seed dealers
 - Equipment dealers
 - Farmer organizations
 - Conservation organizations
 - Others

Media and Communications

The following mechanisms will be used to help build and amplify ag conservation messaging across the Lower St. Croix watershed:

Proposed Outreach Activities:

1. Regular monthly radio segment on WCMP radio
2. Creation of monthly video spotlights/interviews/podcasts hosted on the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership YouTube, including interviews from farmers, partners, agronomists and others, as well as continued videos for the Out Again with Jenn YouTube series, including technical information regarding soil, soil health, nutrient/pest management, cover crops, planting into covers, planting cover crops, grazing management, etc.
3. Creation of a LSCWP Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram accounts with relevant time of year messaging about programs, technical information, meetings/events, etc.
 1. Submitting semi-regular articles to local newspapers or other relevant local publications (community newsletters)
 2. Creating case study profiles for farmers practicing different types of tillage and conservation best management practices
 3. Updates on Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership website, including further building out the “For Farmers” resource page to include updated program data, videos, materials, and events.

Program Budget

- Outreach Available Funds 2023 (total up to \$23,363.98, have to spend \$8,763.98)
 - WBIF21 \$8,763.98 (spend by 12/31/2023)
 - CWF Soil Health Grant \$4,600 (\$13,800 total for 3 years)
 - WBIF23 \$10,000 (\$30,000 outreach funds for Barbara and I , 3 years)
- Implementation 2023
 - WBIF21 \$REMAINING (\$18,000 for 2 years)
 - CWF Soil Health Grant \$176,200 (for 3 years)
 - WBIF23 \$0
- Expense Items Annually
 - Mailings \$4,000
 - Field Days \$5,000 (large scale), \$2,000 (small scale), \$7,000 total
 - Meetings \$2,500
 - Promotional Items \$200 pens, \$400 hats/other, total \$1,000
 - **Total \$14,500**



Appendix A: EMWREP Program Budget 2022-24

Each PARTNER is suggested to contribute annually in accordance with the following funding structure.

- County or SWCD (Population > 100,000): \$13,583.48/year
- County or SWCD (Population < 100,000): \$6,685.62/year
- County or SWCD partially within the Lower St. Croix watershed: \$1337.12/year
- Small Watershed Districts (Taxable Market Value < \$1 Billion): \$13,477.35/year
- Medium Watershed Districts (TMV \$1-5 Billion): \$20,481.33/year
- Large Watershed Districts (TMV >\$5 Billion): \$26,530.23/year
- Watershed Management Organizations and Lake Improvement Districts: \$6685.62/year
- Large MS4 Cities (Population > 5,000): \$2,865.26/year
- Small MS4 Cities (Population > 5,000): \$742.85/year

In-kind matches from existing educational staff from within partner organizations are also encouraged. The WCD shall provide \$13,477.35 of in-kind match to the program per year. As shown in Exhibit B, PARTNER contributions will be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis, as needed.

Staff Support and Overhead Expenses	Materials	Total
\$174,112.37	\$13,000	\$187,112.37
MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE AND FUNDING CONTRIBUTIONS		
South Washington Watershed District	\$26,530.23	
Valley Branch Watershed District	\$20,481.33	
Browns Creek Watershed District	\$20,481.33	
Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District	\$20,481.33	
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District	\$13,477.35	
Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District	\$13,477.35	
Rice Creek Watershed District	\$3,183.63	
Washington County	\$13,583.48	
Middle St. Croix Watershed Management	\$6,685.62	
Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District	\$6,685.62	
Chisago Lakes Improvement District	\$6,685.62	
Chisago County	\$6,685.62	
City of Cottage Grove	\$2,865.26	
City of Forest Lake	\$2,865.26	
City of Lake Elmo	\$2,865.26	
City of Hugo	\$2,865.26	
City of Oakdale	\$2,865.26	
City of Stillwater	\$2,865.26	
City of Woodbury	\$2,865.26	
Isanti County	\$1,337.12	
Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District	\$1,337.12	
City of Bayport	\$742.85	
City of Dellwood	\$742.85	
City of Grant	\$742.85	
City of Newport	\$742.85	
City of Oak Park Heights	\$742.85	
City of St. Paul Park	\$742.85	
West Lakeland Township	\$742.85	
City of Willernie	\$742.85	
TOTAL	\$187,112.37	

Appendix B: Activity detail for Lower St. Croix Partnership Agronomy Outreach and Shared Education services WBIF grant, 2023-25

Activity 5: Agronomy Outreach Specialist

eLINK Activity Category: Project Development

Grant: \$225,000

Lead Agency: Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs (partnership with UMN Extension)

Co-lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell

Priority areas: Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

CWMP Reference: Page 61 ([see plan](#))

Activity Description: Agronomy outreach specialist. (A) Shared Services: Work with an agricultural conservationist (one individual) for basin wide assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Approximately 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations. See Attachment A – Agronomy Outreach Specialist Details & Milestones for more information.

This would allow for 1 full time agronomy outreach specialist to work basin-wide. Staff will work basin-wide and may have more than one office space. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.

Costs billed to this item for the embedded Extension Agent will include the following: Staff salary, supervisory time (by University of MN), benefits, travel expenses, training expenses, and office supplies. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to direct landowner outreach and technical assistance, as described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the shared services educator, coordinated planning efforts, regular basin-scale coordination meetings with LSC partners and other agencies as appropriate.

Subcommittee: A subcommittee composed of LSC partners will meet on an as-needed basis in order to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: Not applicable. Approval for expenditure of grant dollars under this activity is inherent in work plan approval.

Activity 6: Shared Services Education

eLINK Activity Category: Education/Information

Grant: \$270,500 (includes additional contract services for MIDS adoption initiative)

Match: \$2,857.90

Match Source: Parties to the LSC JPC

Lead Agency: Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs

Co-lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (Subcontract with WCD to act as host entity)

Priority areas: Basin-wide

CWMP Reference: Page 65 ([see plan](#))

Activity Description: Facilitate shared education and outreach program across basin to provide education; engage residents, businesses, and local officials; and promote and market programs and practices. Education and outreach tasks will serve the goals outlined in the LSC CWMP and may not always pertain to the implementation items described in this WBIF grant work plan, but will always have a primary benefit to water quality in priority resources.

- 90% = develop, distribute and implement outreach programs that result in behavioral changes achieving water quality benefits;
- 10% = solicit willing landowners to install BMPs that are goals within this plan. Promoted practices will be in line with BWSR eligibility requirements and will focus on water quality.

[0.5 FTE to expand EMWREP basin wide]. Outreach will specifically include MIDS promotion to communities. Outreach will also include preliminary work with LGUs to set shoreline "view corridors" to 25% of lot width or maximum 35' width and maximum vegetation clearing standards or adopt innovative shoreland standards to protect buffers, native ecosystems, and habitat corridors. This work will provide water quality benefits through their protection of shoreline and streambank buffers. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements. See Attachment B Education Details & Milestones for more information.

Costs billed to this item will include staff pay, program expenses, and contracted services for MIDS adoption initiative. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to the outreach tasks described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the agronomy outreach specialist, coordinated planning efforts.

Subcommittee: A subcommittee composed of LSC partners will meet on an as-needed basis in order to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: This activity is composed of three types of education & outreach expenditures.

Shared Services Educator: Approval for expenditure of grant dollars for this task is inherent in work plan approval. 9

Education Materials/Expenses: Approval for expenditure of grant dollars for this task is inherent in work plan approval.

MIDS Adoption Initiative: MIDS Adoption Initiative expenditures will be composed of professional services (technical assistance from a MIDS subject matter expert). See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.