



No tax hike in CRWD's proposed 2012 levy

Board keeps same level as 2011 budget; now only can decrease amount in Dec.

AUSTIN, Minn. – Thursday, Aug. 18, 2011 – Property taxes collected by the Cedar River Watershed District in 2012 will not be any higher than this year's amount.

On Wednesday night, the Cedar River Watershed District's Board of Managers approved setting the maximum tax levy at \$225,000 for 2012 – the same levy it approved for 2011. This amount now only can be reduced by the CRWD board in December when it sets its final '12 levy amount.

CRWD managers set the maximum levy during its monthly meeting at the Jay C. Hormel Nature Center's Ruby Rupner Auditorium in Austin.

Leaders with the CRWD also are proposing to use an additional \$30,000 from the watershed district's project fund balance, making for an overall \$255,000 proposed 2012 budget.

CRWD officials have been setting aside "seed money" for future projects once the district had rules, which were approved by the board this past July and will be effective Dec. 1, 2011. All watershed districts are required by state law to implement rules to accomplish their purpose.

Included in the proposed 2012 budget is \$90,000 for CRWD projects; \$75,000 for personnel; \$35,000 for engineering/technical services; \$21,400 for administrative expenses; \$16,004 for water monitoring; \$9,500 for public education/outreach; and \$8,096 for training/travel expenses.

CRWD projects are focused on the district's two main goals of reducing flooding and improving water quality within the Cedar River Watershed.

Formed in 2007 in response to the area's frequent major floods, the CRWD covers 278,540 acres that include much of western Mower County and parts of Dodge, Steele and Freeborn counties.

Copies of the final rules are available at the Mower County Soil & Water Conservation District office in Austin and online at the CRWD's website – www.cedarriverwd.org.

Who: The Cedar River Watershed District's Board of Managers.

What: Voted to set the CRWD's maximum tax levy at \$225,000 for 2012 – the same level that was approved for 2011.

Where/When: Jay C. Hormel Nature Center in Austin on Wed., Aug. 18.

Why: The CRWD board needed to set a maximum levy for the 2012 budget. The amount now only can be decreased when finalizing the levy in December.

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