



Cedar River Watershed District

Draft Watershed Management Plan

Planning Process

The Cedar River Watershed District (CRWD) Board recognizes that its success and the success of the CRWD Draft Watershed Management Plan (WMP) are dependent on developing and maintaining cooperative relationships with the stakeholders in the watershed. Stakeholders include four counties, four Soil & Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), nine cities, 22 townships, the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and adjoining watershed districts. As a result, the planning process includes a number of stakeholder involvement tasks, including:

- Five joint meetings of the CRWD Board and the Planning Advisory Group (PAG)
- CRWD Board/staff attendance at county board, city council and town board meetings to present the draft WMP and gather feedback (current step)
- BWSR public hearing on the draft WMP
- CRWD Board action will be required at a number of points in the WMP process

The WMP is in draft form. The CRWD Board is seeking feedback on the draft WMP from the counties, cities and townships before the WMP is submitted for its required formal review by BWSR, the counties, the cities and townships in the CRWD, the SWCDs, and the MDNR. The CRWD Plan will also be sent to the MPCA, the MDA, the PAG, and the two adjoining watershed districts (Shell Rock River and Turtle Creek) for review.

CRWD Board of Managers

7 members appointed for staggered three-year terms.

Mower County Representatives

Dan Regner, Chair
Jim Gebhardt, Vice Chair
Al Layman, Manager
Harlen Peck, Manager

Freeborn County Representative

Steve Kraushaar, Secretary

Steele County Representative

Mike Jones, Treasurer

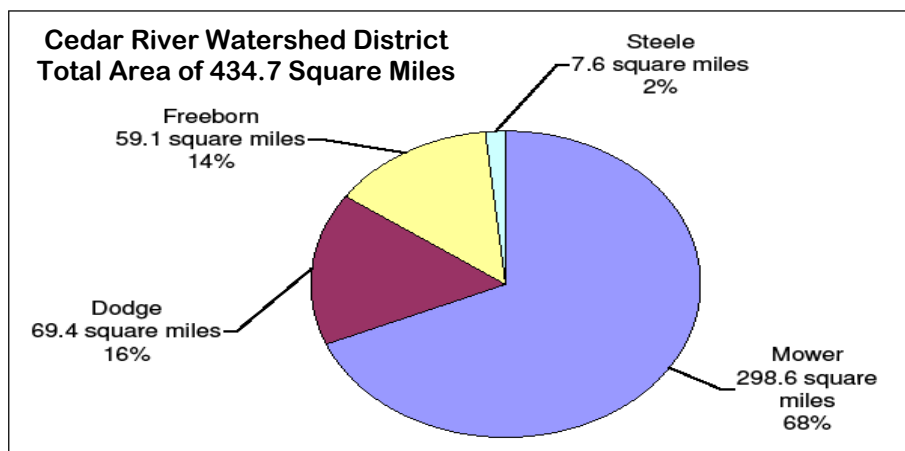
Dodge County Representative

Al Kording, Manager

Mower SWCD Staff Assisting the Watershed District

Bev Nordby, Administrator
Justin Hanson, Project Coordinator
Matt Taylor, Monitoring
Jeanne Crump, Administrative

Please send your comments & suggestions A.S.A.P. to:
Cedar River Watershed District
1408 21st Ave. SW
Austin, MN 55912
or
bev.nordby@mn.nacdnet.net



Plan Organization & General Content

Chapter 1 - Executive Summary

Provides background information about the CRWD and summarizes the highlights of the WMP, including the WMP purpose and scope, goals, objectives, and implementation tasks.

Chapter 2 - Physical Environment Inventory

Provides technical information describing the surface and subsurface conditions of the CRWD. Presents mostly a watershed-wide inventory, including climate and precipitation, topography, soils, geology, groundwater, MDNR public waters, wetlands, surface water resource monitoring information, floodplain information, unique features and scenic areas, pollutant sources, and major watersheds.

Includes a number of maps, such as watershed-wide maps of land cover, MDNR public waters, impaired waters, wetlands, and watersheds, and also a number of tables, such as precipitation information, and water quality information.

Chapter 3 - Assessment of Issues

Assesses the issues, challenges, and problems the CRWD faces in managing water resources on behalf of the public. Presents and discusses watershed-wide and specific issues under a number of topic areas, including; flood control, water quality, erosion and sediment control, agricultural and urban drainage systems, wetlands, groundwater, land use management, public education, and funding.



Chapter 4 - Goals, Objectives and Actions

Presents the CRWD's goals, objectives and actions that will guide the CRWD in accomplishing its mission over the 10-year life of the WMP. This is done under a number of topic areas, including; flood control, water quality, agricultural and urban drainage systems, erosion and sediment control, wetlands and natural resources, land use, recreation, habitat, shoreland management, groundwater, administration, and funding.

Chapter 5 - Implementation Program



Describes the components of the CRWD's implementation program, including administrative activities, data collection and reporting, studies and capital projects. Describes the available funding options, how projects can be initiated, the WMP review and approval process, the procedures for updating and amending the WMP, and the regulatory framework.

Chapter 6 - References

Lists the documents and other references used in the preparation of the WMP.

Goals

Flood Control:

- Protect human life, property, and surface water systems that could be damaged by flood events.
- Correct/address existing flooding problems.
- Prevent future flooding problems.

Water Quality:

- Encourage and implement practices to address current water quality problems, and to maintain or improve the quality of surface waters in the CRWD.
- Improve and increase the understanding and knowledge of the quality of the surface water resources in the Cedar River watershed.
- Promote and enhance the full economic value and benefits of the Cedar River watershed.

Agricultural and Urban Drainage Systems:

- Inventory and analyze the state of the agricultural and urban (public and private) drainage systems within the CRWD.

Erosion and Sediment Control:

- Minimize erosion and its effects on water quality.

Wetlands and Natural Resources:

- Maximize the water quality and quantity benefits of wetlands.

Land Use:

- Protect water resources from impacts associated with land use and land development in the CRWD.
- Promote the coordination of land use management and regulation with other land use authorities in the CRWD.
- Encourage water resource protection in the Cedar River watershed through land conservation programs.

Recreation, Habitat, and Shoreland Management:

- Attain a high degree of recreational use of the surface water resources in the Cedar River watershed.

Groundwater:

- Protect groundwater resources in the Cedar River watershed.
- Improve and increase the understanding and knowledge of the groundwater resources in the CRWD.
- Encourage the wise use of groundwater resources in the Cedar River watershed.

Administration:

- Apply statutory authorities in ways that protect and enhance safety, commerce, and natural resources.
- Develop and maintain successful interagency working relationships to effectively implement the CRWD Plan.

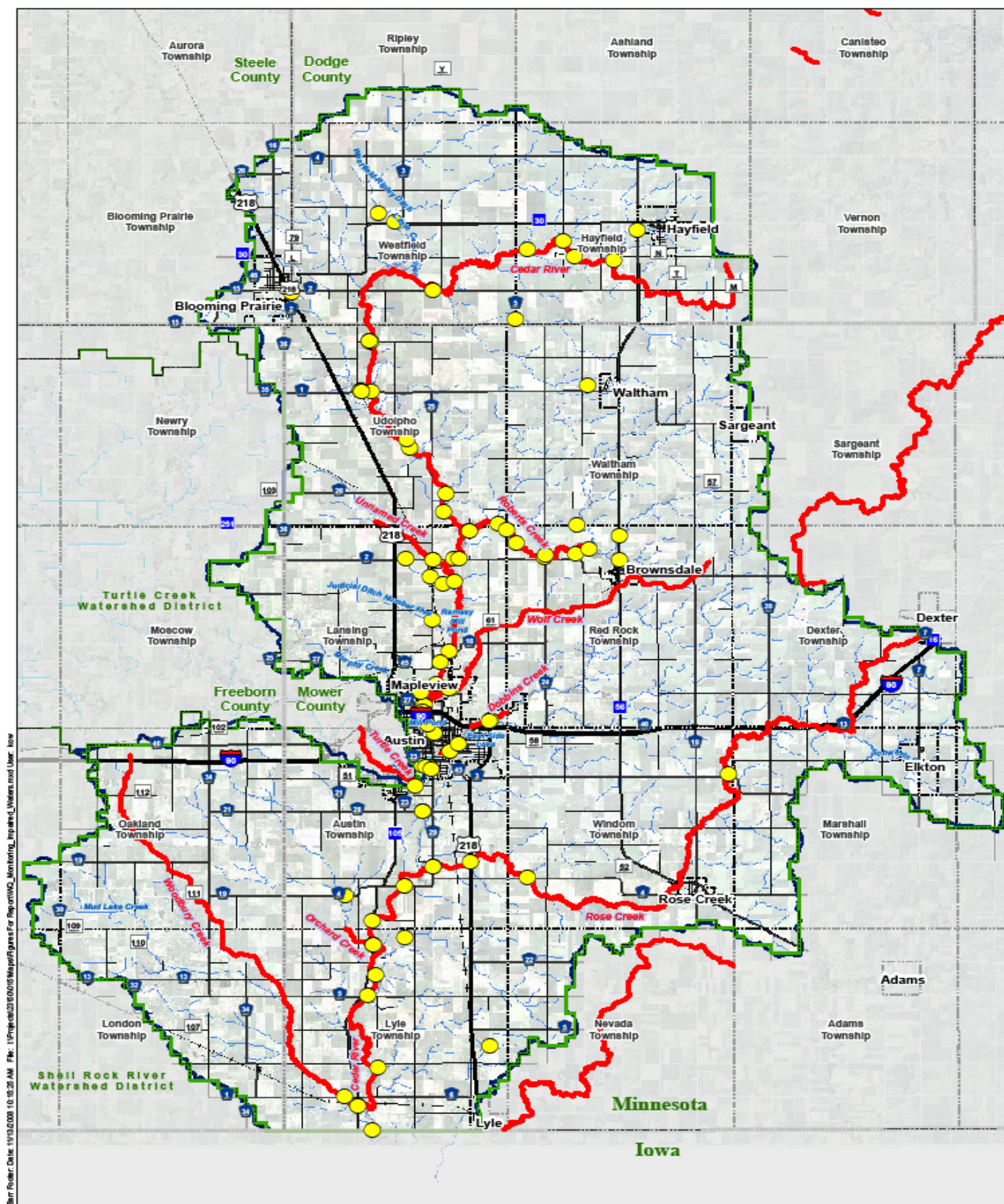
Education and Public Involvement:

- Maximize awareness and understanding of the value of water resources by all citizens living, working and recreating in the Cedar River watershed.
- Encourage active public participation in the implementation of this plan and future plan updates and amendments.

Funding:

- Achieve fair and fiscally responsible management of the affairs of the CRWD.





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Miles

Impaired Waters & Water Quality Monitoring Locations in the Cedar River Watershed District

Legend

- Water Quality Monitoring Locations
- 2008 Impaired Streams

Communities in Cedar River Watershed District:

Mower County

Townships

Adams

Austin

Clayton

Dexter

Grand Meadow

Lansing

Lyle

Marshall

Nevada

Red Rock

Sargeant

Udolpho

Waltham

Cities

Austin

Brownsdale

Dexter

Elkton

Lyle

Mapleview

Rose Creek

Sargeant

Waltham

Steele County

Townships

Blooming Prairie

Cities

Blooming Prairie

Dodge County

Townships

Ashland

Hayfield

Ripley

Westfield

Cities

Hayfield

Freeborn County

Townships

Hayward

London

Moscow

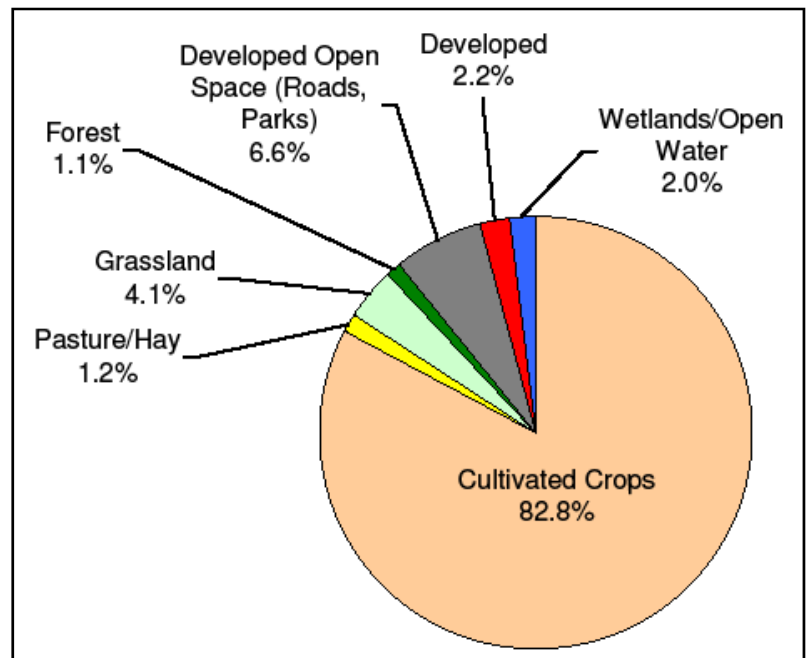
Newry

Oakland

Shellrock

Cities

No Freeborn Cities

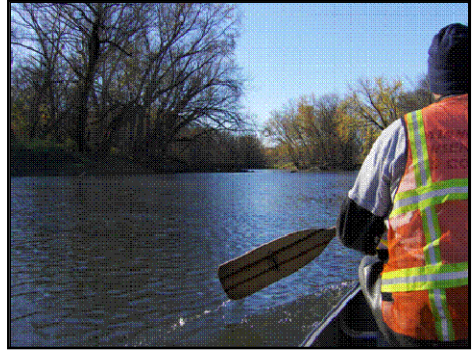


Land Cover of the Cedar River Watershed District
(Data from 2001 National Land Cover Dataset)

Initial Plan Implementation Activities

To achieve the 20% flood reduction and water quality improvement goals, the CRWD will focus its efforts on the following tasks:

- Increase public involvement & public education
- Provide support (incentives) for implementing best management practices on agricultural land that includes buffers, erosion control practices, wetland restorations and flood retention areas
- Implement a water quality and water quantity monitoring program
- Research & implement best management practices to reduce flows in Dobbins Creek watershed
- Review & comment on construction projects



Funding

The CRWD will fund its implementation program through a series of taxing authorities authorized by state statute, and will seek to obtain grant funds, cost-sharing, in-kind contributions, etc. to offset implementation costs.



The following fiscal pools are available to the CRWD:

- Grants
- Ad valorem taxes
- Special assessments
- Watershed district bonds
- Water management charges
- Donations and in-kind contributions

Through state statute, the CRWD is allowed to establish a number of funds for the purpose of carrying out its powers and duties. Each fund has specific limits as authorized by state statute.

Upon BWSR approval and CRWD adoption of the CRWD Watershed Management Plan, the Board of Managers can begin implementing the projects contained in the WMP. The WMP remains in effect for 10 years.



Cedar River Watershed District

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