

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. Minutes.

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Version 3
August 20, 2018

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
Telephone: (612) 296-3767

Regional Offices

Northwest Region
1819 Bemidji Ave.
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3963

Northeast Region
Government Service Center
320 W. 2nd Street
Room 603
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

West Central Region
611 Iowa Avenue
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1692

South Central Region
Box 756
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-2196

Southeast Region
Friedell Bldg., Room 100
1200 S. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

East Central Region
90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

June 14, 1988

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members and Advisors

FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director

SUBJECT: June 22, 1988 Board Meeting

Attached is a preliminary agenda and informational material for the June 22nd meeting. The meeting will start at 9:00 a.m. in Conference Room A of the Department of Agriculture Building, 90 West Plato Blvd., St. Paul.

Following are some details on agenda items:

- FY89 Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  Enclosed is a handout describing each of the grant programs and the existing policies with regard to granting these funds. Also enclosed is a staff analysis of the special project applications and applications for the Streambank, Lakeshore, and Roadside Program. Board discussion and action is required.

- Strategic Planning Issues
  This discussion will focus on two items. First, the draft mission statement prepared by the Board subcommittee is enclosed for your review and discussion at the meeting. Secondly, action is needed to select the strategic issues which will be the basis for the stategic plan. Please bring your thoughts on these issues to the meeting.

- Consideration of LCMR Proposals
  Enclosed is a summary of potential LCMR proposals which could be submitted by the BWSR. Staff will make brief presentations on each proposal. Board action is required on which proposals to submit as well as any additional proposals. The Board may wish to prioritize the proposals also. Deadlines for submitting proposals is June 30.

- 509 Metropolitan Water Planning Program
  Enclosed are the written responses we received on the proposed 509 procedures and policies. Board direction is needed on establishing these policies to lend direction to the metro water planning program. Also enclosed are the status reports on active WMO plans.

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

- Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Revised Overall Plan Review
  Enclosed is a staff analysis of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District revised overall plan. Board discussion of the plan is needed at the meeting

- Discussion of Proposed Legislation
  This will be a discussion of potential legislative concepts for BWSR sponsored legislation. Attached is a copy of the draft local assistance bill which was not discussed fully at the last Board meeting. Other potential legislation will be addressed at the meeting for discussion purposes.

Enclosed is the invitation of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District for the September 10 dedication ceremony. Please respond directly to the district office if you will be attending. All Board members are encouraged to attend.

The announcement of the north central meeting of the NACD in Peoria, Illinois is also enclosed. Any Board members wishing to attend should contact Mary Jo as soon as possible.

You may receive some questions regarding haying or grazing on RIM Reserve lands. As you are aware, the RIM Reserve Program is technically a Department of Agriculture program, but is administered by this Board. After meeting this morning with Commissioner Nichols and DNR staff, it has been decided that limited grazing of RIM Reserve lands may be permitted later this summer but only upon written permission of the Commissioner. Haying of RIM Reserve land is illegal under the law. The administrative process and direction for local districts will be forthcoming. Under no cases will grazing be allowed prior to July 15 in recognition of the needs of nesting wildlife. This process is seen to be the best agreement possible between the wildlife intent of the RIM program and the needs of individual farmers as drought conditions continue.

Please call the Board office or Chairman Ogaard if you have any questions or comments about the Board meeting agenda. Travel safely. Say prayer for rain!

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
90 West Plato Boulevard
Conference Room A
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
June 22, 1988

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of May 25, 1988
4. Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard
5. Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz
6. EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Loni Kemp
7. FY89 Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts
   - General Service Grant
     - Pilot District Manager Program
   - TED
   - Water Permits
   - Cost-Share Program
     - Special Projects
   - SLR Program
   - RIM Reserve Services Grant
8. Strategic Planning Issues - Jim Birkholz
   a) Discussion of Draft Mission Statement
   b) Selection of Strategic Issues
9. Consideration of LCMR Proposals - Jim Birkholz

Noon — Lunch

1:00 p.m.

10. 509 Metropolitan Water Planning Program
    a) Comments on Draft 509 Procedures & Policies - Mel Sinn
    b) Coon Creek Watershed District 509 Plan Review Update - Dan Steward
    c) Six Cities WMO 509 Plan Review - Dan Steward
    d) Richfield/Bloomington WMO 509 Plan Review - Dan Steward
11. Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Revised Overall Plan Review - Mel Sinn
12. Discussion of Proposed Legislation - Jim Birkholz

3:30 p.m. — Adjourn

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
FY89 GRANT ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

1. General Services Grant ($696,150): This is a general purpose grant to SWCDs. Available funds will be divided equally to the 91 SWCDs.

2. Pilot District Manager Program: This program was originally funded in FY86 using a portion of the General Service Grant funds. The program was designed to demonstrate the value of a professional manager within a SWCD. There are presently 6 SWCDs in the program. The percentage of matching funds each will receive from the State for FY89 is as follows:

Kanabec	50%	Mille Lacs	25%
Traverse	50%	No. St. Louis	25%
Mahnomen	25%	Wadena	25%

3. TED Grant ($152,300): This grant provides funds for technical assistance, educational activities and conservation tillage demonstrations. Available funds will be divided equally to the 91 SWCDs.

4. Water Permits Grant ($12,400): This grant provides funds for reviewing water permit applications for the DNR. The allocation is based upon the number of permits reviewed in prior years.

5. Cost-Share Program ($1,541,400): Grant funds are used to provide financial assistance to land occupiers for the installation of erosion and sediment control practices. The allocations are based upon a formula which considers the resource treatment needs within each SWCD.

6. Special Projects (approximately $100,000): This program is funded with returned Cost-Share Program funds. It is intended to provide funding for large scale projects which are beyond the normal cost-share allocation of a SWCD. All project applications submitted are reviewed and prioritized by a review committee of the staff. Factors considered in the review process include (1) the degree of public benefit resulting from the project; (2) the urgency of the project; (3) the degree of the erosion, sedimentation or water quality problem occurring; and (4) the time table for practice completion.

7. SLR Program ($158,700): Grants funds are used to provide 50% funding to local units of government for the control of streambank, lakeshore, or roadside erosion problems. Individual projects are submitted by SWCDs. The applications are reviewed by Board Representatives to determine eligibility. All applications are then reviewed and prioritized by a review committee of the staff. The following criteria are considered in the review process: (1) the degree of public benefit resulting from the project; (2) the extent of on-site and off-site damages; (3) whether federal matching funds are available; (4) the ability of the local unit of government to finance the installation and maintenance of the project; and (5) whether the problem causing area is publicly owned.

8. RIM Services Grant: This grant provides funds for administration of the Reinvest In Minnesota Conservation Reserve Program. Each SWCD will receive $100 for each easement conveyed in prior years to defray the administrative cost of maintenance follow-up and spot-checks. Additional amounts will be allocated based on the number of signups received during the August signup period. The base will be approved in June and the additional amount in October.

SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM
FY89 ALLOCATIONS

AITKIN SWCD: LAKESHORE PROTECTION

Amount Requested: $19,500
Amount Recommended: $19,500

Funds will be used to control lakeshore erosion on small inland lakes using innovative techniques. This is a continuation of FY88 fundings in cooperation with Itasca SWCD.

BELTRAMI SWCD: MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS WATERSHED ANALYSIS PROJECT

Amount Requested: $9,075
Amount Recommended: $-0-

Funds would be used to purchase satellite infrared image photographs of the Lake Bemidji Watershed to be used in identifying areas of critical erosion. Cost Share funds cannot be used for this purpose. The SWCD is encouraged to submit projects for erosion control projects identified within this watershed.

BROWN SWCD: MINNESOTA RIVER EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Amount Requested: $7,500
Amount Recommended: $7,500

The Minnesota River is causing bank erosion adjacent to CSAH 10 in Home Township. Funds will be used to reshape and stabilize the bank.

HENNEPIN SWCD: URBAN EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL HANDBOOK

Amount Requested: $20,000
Amount Recommended: $-0-

Funds would be used to prepare an erosion and sediment control handbook. This is ineligible expense under the Cost Share Program.

ITASCA SWCD: LAKESHORE PROTECTION

Amount Requested: $19,500
Amount Approved: $19,500

Funds will be used to control lakeshore erosion on small inland lakes using innovative techniques. This is a continuation of FY88 funding in cooperation with Aitkin SWCD.

LAKE SWCD: GULLY EROSION IN TWO HARBORS

Amount Requested: $11,040
Amount Recommended: $11,040

Severe gully erosion is occurring on a public golf course within the city limits of Two Harbors and contributing sediment to Lake Superior. Funds will be used to stabilize the eroding waterway.

SCOTT SWCD: CHANNEL STABILIZATION

Amount Requested: $17,610
Amount Recommended: $13,900

Funds will be used to stabilize channel banks and bottom of a channel on private property. The SWCD requested 75% cost-sharing, however, 50% is the maximum for streambank erosion.

WILKIN SWCD: Streambank Erosion

Amount Requested: $57,000
Amount Recommended: $57,000

This is a reallocation of a FY87 project which did not get started prior to deadline dates. The SWCD returned the funds and is requesting a reallocation now that the project is ready to commence.

WINONA SWCD: PICKWICK PROJECT

Amount Requested: $34,000
Amount Recommended: $34,000

Cost estimates for the Pickwick Project funded in FY88 are in excess of original estimates. Additional funding is required if the project is to proceed.

SLR PROGRAM
FY89 ALLOCATIONS

AITKIN SWCD: HILL CITY EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Amount Requested $4100
Amount Recommended $4100

This application is an amendment to an SLR project originally funded in FY85. Additional funds are needed to cover increased construction costs.

DAKOTA SWCD: MIESVILLE RAVINE PARK

Amount Requested $7500
Amount Recommended: $7500

This project would control streambank erosion on Trout Brook in the Miesville Ravine Regional Park. Excessive erosion is causing water quality degradation in the stream and into the Canon River.

ITASCA SWCD: CARIBOU LAKE CULVERT INSTALLATION

Amount Requested $10,000
Amount Recommended $ -0-

Funds would be used to install a culvert under MN State Hwy 38 between Caribou and North Star Lake to control the water level in Caribou Lake. The SWCD should resubmit applications for lakeshore erosion control once the water level has stabilized.

OLMSTED SWCD: GENOA-ZUMBRO RIVER STREAMBANK PROTECTION

Amount Requested $5750
Amount Recommended: $5750

Serious streambank erosion is occurring along the South Bank Middle Fork Zumbro River. Erosion is threatening a township road in New Haven Township near the town of Genoa.

RAMSEY SWCD: WHITE BEAR LAKE PUBLIC BEACH

Amount Requested: $30,000
Amount Recommended: $30,000

Funds will be used to protect and enhance 700 feet of public beach in the White Bear Lake public beach.

TODD SWCD: TODD COUNTY BRIDGE

Amount Requested: $4262
Amount Recommended: $4262

Misalignment of a stream is causing erosion adjacent to the wingwalls of a bridge. Funds will be used to abate the erosion problem and protect the bridge.

WASECA SWCD: CLEAR LAKE SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

Amount Requested: $51,938
Amount Recommended: $51,938

Maplewood Park in Waseca is comprised of banks 5-60 feet in height. Wave action is causing shore erosion on the lower portion of these banks. Funds will be used to stabilize these banks. This is a continuation of Waseca's efforts to improve Clear Lake.

YELLOW MEDICINE: YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER STABILIZATION PROJECT

Amount Requested: $55,000
Amount Recommended: $55,000

This is continued funding to control streambank erosion along the Yellow Medicine River. The project was initially funded in FY88.

DRAFT

MISSION STATEMENT

The BWSR has a unique organizational membership and structure that enables it to deal directly with local government and citizens, permitting the most direct and effective process for two-way communication and project administration.

The BWSR approaches resource problems from a holistic perspective, recognizing the inter-relationship between surface water, groundwater, people, and the land.

MISSION STATEMENT

We at the BWSR consider water and soil to be our most precious natural resources. It is our mission to provide leadership in managing policies and programs that encourage Minnesota's citizens to be stewards of our irreplaceable land and water.

We accomplish our mission in the following ways:

Policy Development: The BWSR serves as a forum for policy development relating to water and soil resource management and encourages public agencies and citizens to become involved through local units of government.

Service to Local Units of Government: The BWSR provides local governments with guidelines, training and technical assistance in developing, implementing, and administering water and soil resource management plans. It offers leadership training to local officials and provides local government with educational materials on resource management issues.

Coordination: The BWSR uses its plan-approval authority guidelines, rules and staff assistance to ensure effective management of natural resources and to foster communication and understanding among the various units of government involved in natural resource protection.

Education: The BWSR develops information and education programs to increase awareness of local water and soil resource problems and to promote opportunities for individual action and local government involvement. The BWSR's information and education programs stress creative problem solving and prevention.

Funding: The BWSR advocates funding for water and soil management activities. It provides funding to local units of government to help them accomplish their resource management goals. Funding includes financial incentives to landowners.

Conflict Resolution: The BWSR acts as a mediator in resolving conflict between people and agencies, and recommends procedures to avoid future conflict.

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5/31/88

LOCAL WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

A bill for an act
relating to water resource protection and management; financial assistance to local units of government for local resource protection programs; water quality; local water planning;

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA:

Section 1. [Short title]
Sections 1 through 6 may be cited as the "LOCAL WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION AND MANAGEMENT PROGRAM"

Section 2. [Purpose]
It is the purpose of the LWRPM Program to protect and improve surface and ground water in Minnesota through state financial assistance to local units of government to develop local programs to protect and manage water resources.

Section 3. [Definitions]

*. [Board] "Board" means the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

*. [Director] "Director" means the Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

*. [Local Unit of Government] "Local Unit of Government" means a statutory or home rule charter city, town, county, soil and water conservation district, watershed district, an organization formed for the joint exercise of powers under section 471.59, and other special purpose district or authority exercising authority in water and related land resources management at the local level.

*. [Local water plan] "Local water plan" means a comprehensive water plan authorized under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 110B; a surface water management plan required under Minnesota Statutes, section 473.878; an overall plan required under Minnesota Statutes, chapter 112; or until July 1, 1991, any other local plan that provides an inventory of existing physical and hydrologic information on the area, a general identification of water quality problems and goals, and that demonstrates a local commitment to water quality protection or improvement.

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*. [Nonpoint Source] "Nonpoint source" is a land management activity or land use activity that contributes or may contribute to ground and surface water pollution as a result of runoff, seepage, or percolation and that is not defined as a point source in section 115.01, subdivision 15. Nonpoint sources include, but are not limited to rural and urban land management activities and land use activities and specialty land use activities such as transportation.

Section 4. [Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program]

Subdivision 1. [Establishment of Program] A local water resources protection and management program is established as provided in sections 1 to 6. The Board shall administer the program in accordance with those sections. The board shall provide financial assistance to local units of government for technical assistance activities which protect or improve water quality. These activities may include, but are not limited to, planning, zoning, official controls and use of local knowledge, information and technical resources. Financial assistance may be provided for water quality management activities and associated technical and administrative expenses.

Subdivision 2. [Local Unit of Government Sponsorship] Funding requests must be submitted to the Board by a locally designated sponsor. The sponsor must be a local unit of government. Other participating local units of government must co-sponsor the request. An explanation of the roles of participating local units of government must accompany the funding request.

Subdvision 3. [Financial Assistance] The Board may award grants for up to fifty percent to local units of government to implement this program. Grants may be used to:

1. develop, amend or implement local water plans authorized or required by Minnesota Statutes chapter 110B, 112, or 473.775-.882;

2. adopt a county Feedlot Permit Program;

3. adopt shoreland management, wetland protection, soil loss or other water quality protection ordinances;

4. provide technical assistance through soil and water conservation districts to local units of government and individuals for land and water resources management;

DRAFT

5. enforce local regulations of onsite sewage treatment systems and provide information concerning their installation, operation and maintenance;

6. implement other activities related to water quality protection and management; and

7. manage or protect groundwater including locating and sealing abandoned wells and protection of susceptible groundwater and wellhead areas.

Subdivision 4. [Program Administration]
Subpart 1. [Rulemaking]
The Board shall adopt rules and is authorized to adopt emergency rules in order to implement sections 1 to 5. The rules shall specify:

(a) that state agencies retain overall program authority;

(b) that local units of government must participate in training programs to retain eligibility; and

(c) the maximum grant allowed per county.

Subpart 2. [Eligibility] A local unit of government requesting funds must meet the following conditions:

(a) a grant request must be submitted in accordance with rules adopted by the Board;

(b) availability of local matching funds to support the grant must be verified by a resolution;

(c) the grant request must be sponsored as provided in Subd. 2;

(d) the grant request must demonstrate coordination of local units of government; and

(e) a local water plan must be completed or under development.

Subdivision 5. [Priorities] The rules of the Board must provide that priority be given to requests which:

(a) indicate the participation of several local units of government;

(b) are consistent with local water plans;

(c) are consistent with the state water quality management plans and other state and local resource management programs; and

(d) complement existing efforts of local units of government to assume delegation of state programs.

Section 5. [Public Agency Coordination]

Subdivision 1. [Project Review Team] The director must coordinate efforts with the appropriate public agencies to achieve optimum public benefits. The director shall establish a team made up of representatives of the Pollution Control Agency, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, State Planning Agency, Minnesota Extension Service, USDA Agricultural Stabilization Service, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, Association of Minnesota Counties, League of Minnesota Cities, Minnesota Association of Townships and other agencies the director invites.

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Subdivision 2. [Duties] The project coordination team shall advise the board in preparation of rules, evaluate requests, and recommend to the director those requests that the team believes should receive financial or assistance from the board. After approval of assistance for a project by the board, the team shall review project activities and assist in the coordination of the state program with other state and federal resource management programs.

Section 6. [Appropriation and Complement]

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
90 West Plato Boulevard
First Floor
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of the Petition to Increase the Number of Managers of the Pelican River Watershed District (Minn. Stat. Section 112.421)

NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a petition was filed with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (MBWSR) seeking an increase in the number of managers of the Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD). The petition was filed by the Becker County Board of Commissioners and the PRWD on April 28, 1988. The existing board of managers consists of five members. The petition proposes that the board be increased to seven members.

The PRWD encompasses about 120 square miles of the headwaters of the Pelican River basin, including the City of Detroit Lakes. Nearly all of the PRWD lies in Becker County, except for about two and one-half square miles located in Otter Tail County.

The petition states that the proposed increase in the number of PRWD managers would allow for broader representation on the board of managers, and would serve the public welfare and public interest.

The MBWSR invites written comments on the petition. All comments received will be considered before a decision is made on the petition. Any person who objects to the proposed increase may

submit a written request for hearing to the MBWSR. If no written requests for a hearing are received by July 18, 1988, the MBWSR will consider all of the comments and information received and will make a decision on the petition at a regular meeting.

For further information, contact Mel Sinn at the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources at 612 - 297-2622, or the Becker County Auditor at 218 - 847-7659.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota this 31st day of May 1988.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Mel Sinn by DS

Mel Sinn

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District
Revised Overall Plan Review

- July 29, 1985 - The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMRWD) submitted its revised overall plan (Plan) to the Water Resources Board for review.

- December 31, 1985 - Water Resources Board staff completed preliminary review of the Plan, and forwarded comments and recommendations to the UMRWD. (copy attached)

- December 17, 1987 - The UMRWD submitted the second draft of its Plan to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (MBWSR) for review.

- April 1988 - Notice of Filing of Watershed Plan was published in each of the five counties having territory in the UMRWD. Since no requests for hearing were received by May 13, 1988 the Board can handle the matter administratively.

- June Board Meeting - UMRWD Plan summary.

- July Board Meeting - Action on UMRWD Plan.

Staff Summary of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Revised Overall Plan

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMRWD) was established September 7, 1967 after the Water Resources Board received an establishment petition from Big Stone County. The UMRWD's original overall plan was prescribed in July 1971. The Minnesota Watershed Act (Chapter 112) requires that watershed districts revise their overall plans at least every ten years.

The UMRWD is located in west-central Minnesota along the east shore of Big Stone Lake, at the headwaters of the Minnesota River. The UMRWD covers 505 square miles and extends into five counties. (See attached location map).

The topography of the UMRWD consists of gently rolling glacial drift plain interspersed with many depressions. Many of these depressions include shallow lakes or marshes that are land-locked.

The District's most striking surface feature is Big Stone Lake and the Minnesota River Valley through which the lake and the District drain. Big Stone Lake is a 12,360-acre elongated lake. The lake is 25 miles long and about one mile wide. The centerline of the lake is part of the west boundary of Minnesota and the UMRWD. Ortonville, the District's largest city, (1980 population, 2,550) is located at the southeast corner of the lake adjacent to the Minnesota River. The river flows southeasterly in a large valley which varies from 1 to 4 1/2 miles in width, and 80 to 100 feet deep. The Minnesota River, only 75 feet in width, seems strangely narrow in this wide, deep valley. This "misfit stream" developed after huge glacial Lake Agaasiz drained through the Minnesota River as the great continental glacier receded to the north. In the process a huge valley was cut, and a small river left to drain the reduced flows.

Bedrock in the District is ovelain by 100 to 300 feet of glacial drift, except in the valley, where granite outcrops are exposed. Soils are fertile, and agriclutural activities are the predominant land use. Although 80% of the soils have slopes less than 6%, waterborne sediment is a more serious concern than wind erosion. According to the Big Stone County Land and Related Resources Plan, 49% of the county's soils are considered prime agriclutural lands, 29% good, 6% marginal, and 16% non-tillable. The Plan states "Marginal farmland has substantial limitations to support food production, even with the application of intensive management practices."

The District's original vegetation was dominated by prairie grasslands with some wooded areas in the Minnesota River Valley.

The District includes about 40 lakes, although about half of Big Stone Lake is located in South Dakota.

The District's glacial legacy included thousands of wetlands. Although many wetlands have been drained and converted to cropland, the plan estimates there are over 3,000 remaining.

All but one of the District's 11 public ditch systems were constructed before 1920. The newest public ditch in the UMRWD was constructed in 1960. A large network of public road ditches and private ditches also drain the District.

Groundwater is found in three geologic sites; sandstone bedrock aquifers, buried sand and gravel aquifers, and surficial sand and gravel aquifers. Municipal water supplies are generally produced from buried sand and gravel aquifers. Groundwater supplies for municipal and rural uses are generally adequate. Groundwater flows in the direction of Big Stone Lake and the Minnesota River.

The District's economy is based on the production of food and fiber by farmers. The primary agricultural crops raised are corn, wheat, soybeans, and oats. The total value of farm products was $39 million in 1982, 63% of which was from the sale of crops, with 37% from the sale of livestock.

The Plan includes a section that estimates the economic impact of various levels of water quality in Big Stone Lake on the local economy. In general, decreasing water quality in Big Stone Lake has reduced the contribution of recreation to the local economy.

Tables from pages 171 and 174 of the Plan indicate the projected effect of water quality on the economy and have been attached.

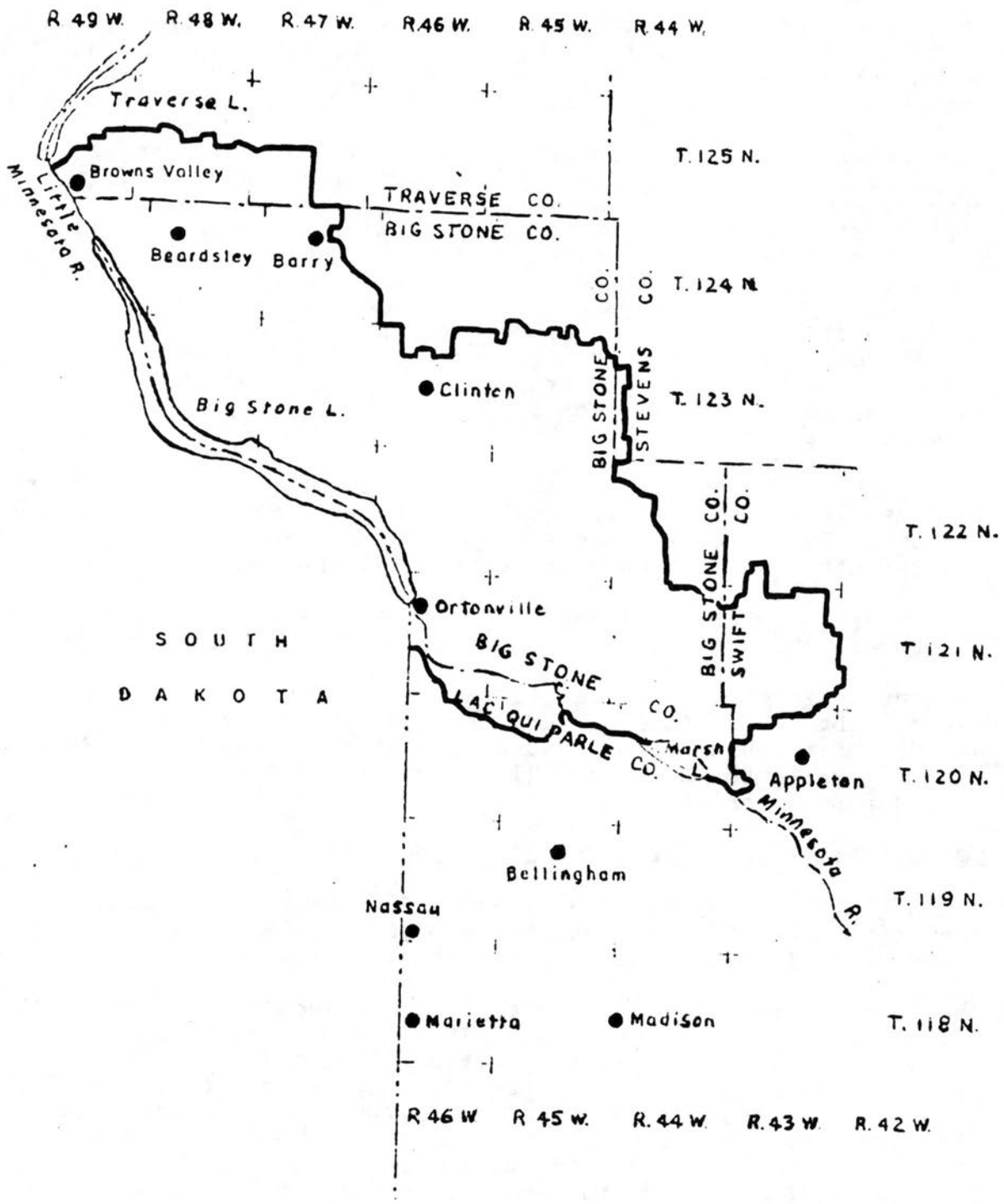
Population trends in the District and in west-central Minnesota in general have been in long-term decline. Big Stone County, which makes up 81% of the UMRWD area, had a population of 10,477 in 1940; by 1980 it had declined 24% to 7,716. Projections for 1980-1990 indicate a stable population for the area.

UMRWD Activities - Past, Present, and Future

Although there were concerns about Big Stone Lake's water quality at the time the District began operations in 1971, it was the issue of flood control that received the most attention.

The Big Stone Lake/Whetstone River Project was the District's main effort during its first decade. This project was constructed with the assistance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The District served as the local sponsor. The project included construction of the Hwy. 75 dam and associated channel improvements on the Minnesota and Whetstone Rivers. The project also included a silt barrier, bank stabilization, improvements to the Big Stone Lake outlet structure, and establishment of the Big Stone Lake National Wildlife Refuge. Total project costs were $13,021,000. Local costs were $153,000. The project benefits included: flood control, improvement of Big Stone Lake water quality, and wildlife habitat enhancement. The UMRWD is responsible for operation and maintenance of the project.

During the 1980s the UMRWD's focus turned from flood control to concern for deteriorating water quality in Big Stone Lake. The Citizens For Big Stone Lake raised study funds and helped bring the issue to public attention. In 1980 the South Dakota Department of



Map No. 3

Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

Table 34 presents the projected revenues associated with resorts. As in the earlier section it was assumed that an average of six cottages were available per resort. Under the deteriorating water column it was assumed that the number of resorts would continue to decline to some new level arbitrarily selected as two. Therefore it was assumed that starting in 1985 until 1990 at least one resort went out of business per year. Also, as with the visitations to State Parks, the dollar value generated by visiting the resort, above the cost of the cottage was decreased from $1.88 to $1.83 after five years. The general equation used to calculate revenues form resorts is:

$35.00 per cottage+(general recreation dollar) (a family of 4) (no. of cottages) (123 days the cottages were available) = revenues generated per season.

Table 34

Projected changes in revenues generated from resorts if water quality deteriorates, water quality is maintained and water quality is improved.

	Revenues Generated From Resorts Deteriorating Water Quality	Revenues Generated From Resorts-Water Quality is Maintained	Revenues Generated From Resorts-Water Quality is improved
1983	251,038	251,038	251,038
1984	251,038	251,038	251,038
1985	219,658	251,038	251,038
1986	188,279	251,038	282,418
1987	156,899	251,038	313,798
1988	124,929	251,038	378,328
1989	93,696	251,038	441,383
1990	62,464	251,038	504,438
1991	62,464	251,038	567,492
1992	62,464	251,038	630,547
Total	1,472,929	2,510,380	3,871,518

Table 35

Revenues generated from fishermen if water quality deteriorates, if water quality is maintained and if water quality is improved.

	Revenues Generated From Fishermen with Deteriorating Water Quality	Revenues Generated From Fishermen with Water Quality Maintained	Revenues Generated From Fishermen with improved Water Quality
1983	$907,179	$907,179	$ 907,179
1984	825,552	907,179	988,806
1985	743,925	907,179	1,070,433
1986	662,298	907,179	1,152,060
1987	508,671	907,179	1,233,687
1988	499,044	907,179	1,315,314
1989	417,417	907,179	1,396,941
1990	335,790	907,179	1,478,568
1991	254,163	907,179	1,560,195
1992	172,536	907,179	1,641,822
Total	$5,298,575	$9,071,790	$12,745,005

Overall it is felt that the proposed Big Stone Lake project has the potential to reverse or to slow the decline of Big Stone Lake. Also it is felt that the monies invested in a restoration effort will be repayed severalfold through the increase in recreational spending.

Water and Natural Resources (SDDWNR) received an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant for a diagnostic study of the lake. In 1984 applications for EPA Phase II Step I - Implementation funds were received by both SDDWNR ($156,500) and the UMRWD ($91,366).

Improving Big Stone Lake's water quality is an ambitious goal, especially when the project area lies in two states. 81% of the lake's watershed is in South Dakota. The project is further complicated by the sheer size of the lake (19 square miles) and the 1,140-square mile contributing drainage area. The project goal is to upgrade water quality from hypereutrophic to eutrophic; thereby improving recreational potential.

In 1985 the project was furthered with the receipt of an additional $629,521 grant from the EPA. The project objective is to apply a watershed management plan to control agricultural non-point pollution in targeted subwatersheds. The Salmonsen Creek subwatershed was selected as the Minnesota target subwatershed. The subwatershed has been modeled to indicate which 40-acre cells are likely to be contributing the heaviest loads of sediment and nutrients to the lake. The attached table 21 indicates the priority cells and recommended practices for the Salmonsen Creek subwatershed. Project funds are then directed to landowners in critical cells for cost-sharing of voluntary installation of conservation practices.

Other efforts funded by the project include a no-till drill rental program, monitoring of groundwater quality, and the restoration of an in-stream wetland. The Meadowbrook restoration project consists of a cooperative effort to restore a 70-acre wetland in order to increase nutrient and sediment entrapment, and reduce bank erosion and peak flows. Attached is a map of the Meadowbrook project. The District hopes to restore other key wetlands in the future. The Plan contains excellent information on wetland values and the importance of protecting the remaining wetland basins.

The District realizes the road to improvements of Big Stone Lake's water quality is long and hard. Consequently, the District expects to continue working on the lake project well into the 1990s.

Table 21

Critical Erosion Areas in the Salmonsen Creek Watershed

Priority*	Critical Areas Cell Numbers	Recommended BMPs
First (36 cells)	12, 26, 33, 39, 40, 42, 46, 75, 97, 101, 109, 110, 112, 122, 125, 131, 164, 183, 186, 204, 207, 216, 226, 244, 253, 256, 265, 271, 307, 38, 350, 357, 364, 365, 367, 369	13 grassed waterways 24 residue management 2 Terraces 5 contour farming 8 no-till farming
Second (21 cells)	21, 32, 44, 60, 85, 117, 159, 168, 191, 197, 198, 212, 223, 235, 291, 297, 300, 325, 334, 356, 383	3 grassed waterways 14 residue management 1 terrace 1 contour farming 6 no-till farming
Third (26 cells)	4, 11, 16, 17, 23, 65, 68, 69, 73, 96, 113, 141, 142, 146, 179 209, 225, 282, 286, 295, 310, 31, 348, 374, 377, 382	2 grassed waterways 21 residue management 2 terraces 4 no-till farming
Changes not feasible**	384, 388, 390	None

* Cells were ranked according to the amount of sediment and phosphorus they exported. First priority cells exported 60 tons or more of sediment and/or 2 lbs/acre of phosporus or more. Second priority cells exported 50-59 tons of sediment and/or 1.5-2 lbs/acre of phosphorus. Third priority cells exported 30-39 tons of sediment and/or .75-1.49 lbs/acre of phosphorus.

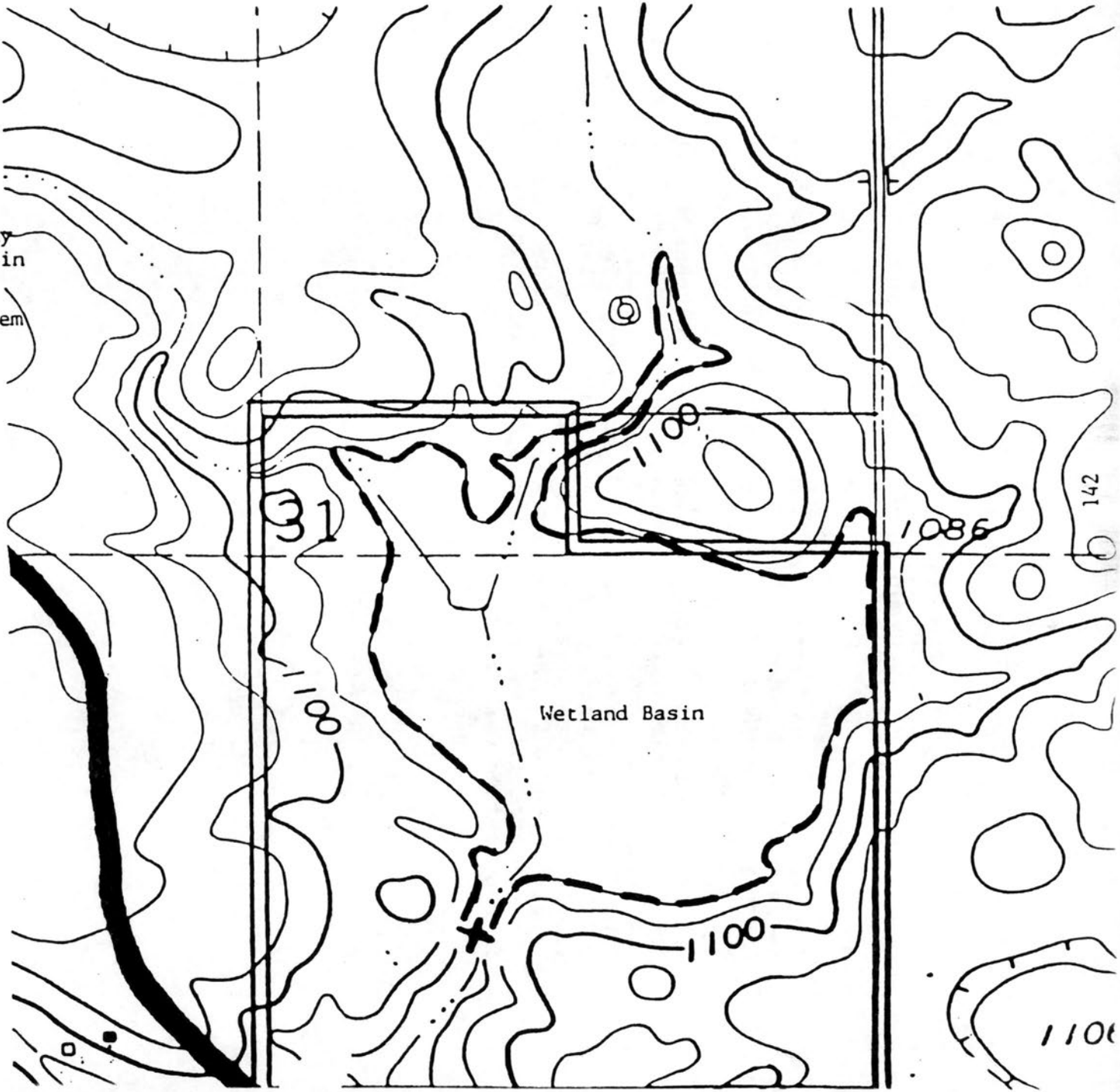
**These cells have been identified as critical but they are presently in a condition that would not be feasible to improve.

Figure 15 - Detailed Topography Map of Wetland Basin

—·—·— Present Ditch system which drained the wetland.

† Proposed location of the outlet control structure

═══ Boundary of the 185 acres to be purchased.



Staff Comments and Recommendations on the UMRWD Revised Overall Plan

The managers and staff of the UMRWD have developed a very good revised overall plan (Plan). The Plan summarizes the District's history, resources, past and present activities, future direction, and philosophy.

The District has completed the massive Big Stone/Whetstone Project, and now has embarked on another, the Big Stone Lake Restoration Project. The managers are to be commended for their broad, comprehensive view of watershed management. The UMRWD's activities include groundwater quality monitoring, wetland restoration and protection, lake level control, lake water quality restoration, and erosion control. The District has developed a broad range of water and related land resource protection programs that are well described in the revised Overall Plan.

MAY 26 1988

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District

Ortonville, Minnesota 56278

— MANAGERS —
Mr. Everard Berdan
Ortonville, Minn. 56278
Mr. C. A. Hundeby
Beardsley, Minn. 56211
Mr. James W. Metz
Browns Valley, Minn. 56219
Mr. Loren Harste
Appleton, Minn. 56208
Wilfred C. Hansen
Ortonville, Minn. 56278

May 19, 1988

A personal invitation...

The managers of the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District invite you to attend the dedication of the Big Stone Lake/Whestone River Control Works Project, Saturday, September 10, 2:00 p.m. This gala community celebration will be held in Ortonville's Lakeside Park at the foot of beautiful Big Stone Lake. During the ceremony, the US Army Corps of Engineers will formally present the project to the local sponsors. Local sponsors are the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District and the East Dakota Water Development District, South Dakota.

The project to be dedicated is the final phase of a $13,021,000 project which includes the Big Stone Wildlife Refuge. Primary benefits are water quality, flood control and wildlife. Tours of the project and an explanation of our current Big Stone Lake Restoration Project activities are planned.

A noon meal will be served in Lakeside Park prior to the dedication. We invite you to join other special guests as our guest for that meal. Please let us know if you will be attending and the number in your party, by phoning our Office Manager, Dianne Pfingsten, (612)-839-3411. If you will be staying over and need lodging information please let us know. We look forward to hearing from you at your earliest convenience.

THE ASSOCIATION OF ILLINOIS SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS
and
ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE - DIVISION OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Invite you to attend the
NACD NORTH CENTRAL REGION MEETING, JULY 17-20, 1988
Pere Marquette Hotel - Peoria, Illinois

Come to Peoria and EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS. We've got a smorgasbord of topics and presentations planned to help you do just that. And we have even added extra time for them.

Beginning Sunday afternoon, the RC&D folks have scheduled presentations on rural development which will be open to everyone and will include a banquet on Sunday evening.

And, of course, we will continue with our traditional specific sessions on Monday morning for the Regional Council, NASCA/SCS/EPA, RC&D, District Employees and State Association Executives.

We will be focusing on FSA during the regional meeting with a wide variety of workshops — forestry, wildlife, group planning, cooperative agreements, life beyond CRP and more. Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Peter Myers will join us for the opening session Monday afternoon.

We will highlight our water resources with a keynote speaker and workshops — looking at groundwater protection, groundwater and pesticides, funding water quality programs, and conservation tillage and groundwater.

There will be workshops exclusively for district employees to improve their skills — memory training, computers, leadership development, and how to introduce speakers . . . properly.

Members of the Past Presidents Association will hold a Breakfast/Meeting on Tuesday morning. The host Auxiliary has scheduled a full agenda for Auxiliary members, including a special luncheon and style show on Tuesday and a demonstration program on Wednesday, besides the regular business meeting.

NACD President-Elect Bob Wetherbee will have some remarks for us, and we'll be highlighting our regional Conservation Education Award winners.

Sound like we'll be hopping? Well, we didn't forget recreation time. The Caterpillar folks are going to EXPAND OUR HORIZONS with a tour of their proving grounds, followed with a cookout at the 1640-acre Wildlife Prairie Park. So . . . **come and see how soil and water conservation programs play in Peoria!** Mark your calendar — complete and mail the room reservation form on the back today!

Howard Guse

Howard Guse, NACD North Central Region Director and Chairman

Dress code is casual . . . as usual!

PROGRAM IN BRIEF

Registration begins Sunday afternoon - 12:30 p.m.

Sunday, July 17

2:00-5:00 pm	RC&D Training Session
6:00-7:00 pm	RC&D Reception
7:00-9:00 pm	RC&D Banquet

Monday, July 18

8:30 am	RC&D Meeting
9:00-11:30 am	North Central Region Council - State Soil Conservation Administrators/SCS/EPA - District Employees - State Association Executives
1:00 pm	General Session Address: Peter C. Myers, Deputy Secretary of Agriculture Address: Robert Wetherbee, NACD President-Elect
2:30-9:30 pm	Caterpillar Proving Grounds Tour/Cookout - Wildlife Prairie Park

Tuesday, July 19

7:30 am	Past Presidents Association Breakfast/Meeting
8:30 am	Auxiliary Business Meeting/Luncheon/Style Show
9:00 am	General Session - State Perspectives on the FSA
10:30 am	Workshops - Beyond CRP/Group Planning/Group Application/ FSA Cooperative Agreements
Noon	NACD Luncheon Conservation Education Awards Address: Donald Etchison, Director, Illinois Department of Energy and Natural Resources
1:45 pm	General Session Address: Ernest C. Shea, NACD Executive Vice President
2:15 pm	Workshops - Groundwater Protection/EPA Funding/CTIC/Pesticides in Groundwater/Conservation Tillage and Groundwater
Evening	An Evening Out - Riverboat Cruise, Dinner and Dancing

Wednesday, July 20

8:30 am	Workshops - For District Employees/Legislative Process/FSA - Forestry and Wildlife/Running Effective Meetings
10:00 am	Auxiliary Microwave Demonstration
11:30 am	NACD Luncheon Address: (Speaker to be Announced)

TO: Hotel Pere Marquette
501 Main Street
Peoria, IL 61602-9990
(309) 637-6500

GROUP: National Association of Conservatio Districts
North Central Region Meeting
July 17-20, 1988

NAME _____

REPRESENTING _____

ADDRESS _____
(Street) (City) (State/Zip)

_____ Single (1 person, 1 Bed) @ $42

_____ Double (2 persons, 1 Bed) @ $52

_____ Double Double (2 persons, 2 Beds) @ $52

_____ Extra Person _____ Number @ $10 each

Arrival Date _____ Arrival Time _____ Guaranteed Late Arrival _____

Enclosed One Night Advance Deposit _____ Type of Credit Card _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Confirmation Requested _____

ALL ROOM REQUESTS *MUST* BE RECEIVED BY JULY 4, 1988.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

90 West Plato Boulevard
Conference Room A
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
June 22, 1988

AGENDA

9:00 a.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Adopt Agenda
3. Approve Minutes of May 25, 1988
4. Chairman's Report - Donald Ogaard
5. Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz
6. Winona Tour Report - Gene Kalmes
7. EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Loni Kemp

10:00 a.m.

8. RIM Reserve Program Grazing Issue - Jim Birkholz
9. FY89 Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts
   - General Service Grant
     - Pilot District Manager Program
   - TED
   - Water Permits
   - Cost-Share Program
     - Special Projects
   - SLR Program
   - RIM Reserve Services Grant
10. Strategic Planning Issues - Jim Birkholz
    a) Discussion of Draft Mission Statement
    b) Selection of Strategic Issues

Noon

Lunch

11. Consideration of LCMR Proposals
    - Staff presentations
12. 509 Metropolitan Water Planning Program
    a) Comments on Draft 509 Procedures & Policies - Mel Sinn
    b) Coon Creek Watershed District 509 Plan Review Update - Dan Steward
    c) Six Cities WMO 509 Plan Review - Dan Steward
    d) Richfield/Bloomington WMO 509 Plan Review - Mel Sinn
13. Upper Minnesota River Watershed District Revised Overall Plan Review - Dan Steward
14. Mower SWCD Nomination Districts Boundary Change - Jim Birkholz (time optional pending Mower SWCD attendance)
15. Discussion of Proposed Legislation - Jim Birkholz (optional agenda item if time allows)

Adjourn

MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 1988
OF THE
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Appointed Members in Attendance

Donald Ogaard
John Williamson
John Boulton
Eugene Kalmes
Douglas Bade
Lowell Moen
Natalie Haas Steffen
John Brooks, Jr.
Howard Peterson
William Cofell
Loni Kemp
Don Warner
Ken Schellack
James Hoese

Appointed Members Absent

Loren Harste
Jack Graba

Others in Attendance

Allen Dornfeld, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Warren Wallgren, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Mary Peterson, Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Marlyn Libbesmeier, Minnesota Association of Townships
Lance Yohe, Coordinator, International Coalition
Sonja Jacobson, Soil Conservation Service
Paul Burns, Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Staff in Attendance

Jim Birkholz
Greg Larson
Wayne Edgerton
Kim Benson
Denice DeFrates
Mel Sinn
Dan Steward
Mary Jo Anderson

Call Meeting to Order - Chairman Ogaard called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m., in Conference Room A, Department of Agriculture Building, 90 W. Plato Blvd., St. Paul, Minnesota.

Adopt Agenda - John Brooks, Jr., requested that an additional item be added
88-92 to the agenda regarding the starting time of the Board meeting. Moved by Brooks, Jr., seconded by Warner, to adopt the agenda as presented. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None.

88-93 **Approval of Minutes of May 25, 1988** - Moved by Cofell, seconded by Moen, to approve the minutes of May 25, 1988. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

John Williamson entered the meeting at 9:10 a.m.

Chairman's Report - Chairman Ogaard reported that a chemical problem in his area destroyed several hundred acres of sugar beets. He used a new chemical for broad leaf weed control. Don stated that he sprayed less than 1/4 ounce per acre of the chemical 2300 acres of grain and it killed 150 acres of his sugar beets and 250 acres of his neighbors' beets. Don wanted to inform the Board members of this problem so they can be cautious if they intend to use the product. Chairman Ogaard attended the Coon Creek WMO Plan hearing. This hearing did not have very good attendance, less than a dozen people were present. The Dispute Resolution Committee met to consider the Coon Creek watershed District appeal. The parties appear to be very close to a stipulated settlement. Chairman Ogaard met with the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District and the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District concerning possible boundary changes between the two districts. Don said he believed the groundwork has been set for the districts to work together as an alternative to modifying legal boundaries. Chairman Ogaard reported that the statewide River Clean-Up Program is progressing well. Chairman Ogaard stated that the Bois de Sioux Watershed District will be touring the Wild Rice Watershed District on July 1 to look at the operations and activities of the Wild River district. The managers are very enthused about getting the Bois de Sioux District moving forward.

Executive Director's Report - Jim Birkholz commented on the Board's budget. He stated that the budget will be spent down to "0". He asked that Board members submit expense claims to Mary Jo by June 30. Jim reminded Board members that at the May meeting, a commitment was made to hold the September meeting in Cloquet on September 28-29. A meeting and tour of Area 3 will be held. Details will be presented at a later date. Jim reported that the BWSR staff met with managers and staff of Coon Creek Watershed District on June 8 to work on improving the overall operations of Coon Creek. The state auditors office will conduct an audit of the Coon Creek district's program. Jim will keep the Board members updated on progress of this prototype evaluation. Jim reported that on June 14-16, the annual BWSR staff meeting was held in southeastern Minnesota to develop the staff work plan. A tour of karst topography, Mystery Cave, Root River, and sustainable agriculture practices was also conducted. Representatives of the Land Stewardship Project and John Moncrief, University of Minnesota; conducted the tour to discuss sustainable ag practices. Rick Gauger, MDA/Planning arranged and conducted the tour. Loni Kemp stated that Ron Kroese of the Land Stewardship Project would be interested in attending a BWSR meeting at a future date to make a short presentation regarding the Land Stewardship Project. Jim updated the Board on staffing. Dennis Pond, Grants Analyst, has resigned effective July 5.

Natalie Haas Steffen entered the meeting at 9:35 a.m.

Jim Birkholz stated that the Assistant Director position now has a Hay rating as of yesterday. DOER is now ready to advertise the position starting July 22. The position will be advertised for a minimum of six weeks. If Board members know of people interested in the Assistant Director position, they should contact Jim with those names. Jim stated the three 110B position descriptions are almost completed. They will then be sent to DOER by the end of this week. Jim reported that drought response meetings are being held by DNR. DNR will be cutting off irrigation permits if river levels continue to drop. DNR has requested groundwater monitoring assistance from Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Winona Tour Report - Gene Kalmes reported that a tour was held in his area sponsored by the University of Minnesota/Extension Service. They looked at nitrogen plots, a research farm, conservation tillage practices, and a weed control plot. Gene met with Senator Steve Morse while on the tour and they discussed the importance of protecting groundwater quality. He also met with Senator Pat Piper and discussed the issue of capping abandoned wells. Gene also met with Senator Earl Renneke, who felt that water quality issues should be prioritized. Gene felt that it was a very well planned day.

EQB/Water Resources Committee Report - Loni Kemp reported that the EQB/Water Resources Committee met in the first part of June and discussed the Groundwater Strategy and the Pest & Nutrient Management Strategy. The EQB/WRC received 36 responses from groups on the pest and nutrient management strategy; and 23 responses from groups on the groundwater strategy. The comments conveyed were: more urgency; it's important to keep comprehensive approaches; it was unanimously agreed that nondegradation is supported as a goal for all groundwater; felt that the pest and nutrient strategy is of importance to the federal farm programs; the EQB should continue the role with state agencies; there is a need for state financial assistance on implementing the water plans. It was proposed that the legislature form a special commission on water. The WRC will review the draft on all comments in July and finalize them in August. The WRC ~~received~~ sent a letter ~~from~~ to EPA on the ~~Durenberger bill~~ pesticide strategy. EPA emphasizes the state role, but is not at all consistent with the State of Minnesota. Loni reported that the Environmental Congress plans to hold five conferences this fall: September 8 in Mankato; September 15 in Alexandria; September 22 in Duluth; October 6 in Bemidji; and October 20 in St. Paul. Loni stated that the staff of all agencies is working on a tentative agenda. Loni reported that LCMR proposals must be submitted by June 30. LCMR has a total $8 million to work with for the projects. LCMR's number one priority is groundwater, and number two priority is surface water priorities. Mick Finn, Minnesota Department of Health, stated that ten states in the nation, Minnesota being one of the ten, would have their own pest management plans for aldicarb. The Minnesota Department of Health will know the outcome of this today.

RIM Reserve Program Grazing Issue - Jim Birkholz explained to Board members that because of the drought situation, Commissioner Jim Nichols has raised a number of significant policy challenges for the RIM Reserve Program. By law, the BWSR is the implementing agency for the RIM Reserve Program even though the Commissioner of Agriculture has statutory authority for it. Commissioner Nichols informed Wayne Edgerton, RIM Reserve Coordinator, that he was going to open the RIM Reserve lands to haying and grazing as a bargaining chip to offer Secretary of Agriculture Lyng in return for his opening CRP lands. Wayne

and Jim attempted to discourage the Commissioner from taking any action prior to discussing it with the RIM Coalition, BWSR, and Department of Natural Resources. The Commissioner refused to reconsider and delivered his message to Washington. Jim and Wayne then met with Steve Thorne, DNR; Attorney General's staff, and Commissioner Nichols to discuss legal issues surrounding his decision and to appeal to him to reconsider. They then agreed on a compromise that states that after a county board declares a local drought emergency, a landowner with RIM lands may apply through his local SWCD for permission to graze that land between July 15 and August 31. The July 15 date is set to protect nesting wildlife. The August 31 date would ensure regeneration of vegetation for the next year's nesting cover. This compromise was seen as showing compassion for farmers who may need forage during late summer and still holding the line on the wildlife, soil conservation and water quality priorities of the program.

A news release was issued from the Department of Agriculture, and instructions were sent to SWCDs from the BWSR central office on the opening of RIM Reserve lands to possible grazing after July 15. Jim reported that many groups including the RIM Coalition are upset over this chain of events. Some of its members are calling for removing the RIM Reserve Program from the Department of Agriculture. Wildlife interests which supported passage of the RIM program feel betrayed by what they term is a premature reaction on the part of the Commissioner. It is felt that the action of Commissioner Nichols and the way he went about it has jeopardized the future of RIM and potentially set back for years agriculture and wildlife working relationships. The RIM Program was founded on trust among all the various support groups and agencies involved. The RIM Reserve Program was originally established in the Department of Agriculture because at that time its implementor, the Soil and Water Conservation Board, was a part of the Department. The BWSR inherited the implementation responsibility but is autonomous from MDA. It was recommended by staff that a BWSR policy statement regarding future administration of the RIM Reserve Program should be considered. By successfully implementing the RIM Reserve program the BWSR has obtained the confidence of agricultural, environmental, wildlife and sportsmens groups. This confidence may be shattered and their support for us lost if the Board does not assure them that their interests will be considered in future program decisions.

Chairman Ogaard commended those for trying to do what they could. Jim explained that there are 20,000 total RIM acres, of which 10,000 acres have enough cover to be available for grazing, and another 1,000 acres of those are planted to trees and shrubs. So realistically, there are 9,000 acres available, with optimistically 4-5,000 acres actually available. Most RIM Reserve landowners do not have livestock. It was stated that maybe several dozen people would benefit by opening up those RIM acres. The biggest casualty would be losing support of the RIM Coalition, with big costs in return for low return or benefit. It was asked, how do you explain to the public why CRP is open to haying and not grazing and RIM to grazing not haying? CRP acres are not near proximity for cattle, livestock population. It was noted that there is a Hay Hotline available which is administered by the MDA Commissioner's Office and the University of Minnesota/Extension Service.

Haas Steffen suggested that staff work on changing language in the legislation of the program, but first, get BWSR approval on those changes. She felt that the drought issue should be given consideration on both sides. Salvage what we have, and do something positive now rather than let this issue continue

to fester. Chairman Ogaard suggested that a step-by-step procedures policy is needed. Wayne Edgerton stated that he attended the June 14 Fish & Wildlife Legislative Alliance meeting. The FWLA's concern is what will become of the RIM Reserve Program in the future - the intent of the program was for hunting and fishing, not relief. What type of support will be given from groups involved in the Environmental Trust Fund? Jim Birkholz suggested that two items need to be addressed by the BWSR: 1) the grazing issue on RIM Reserve lands; and 2) dealing with similar issues in the future with Commissioner of Agriculture. A position statement from the BWSR needs to be sent to the RIM Coalition and the FWLA. Haas Steffen suggested developing long-term criteria and when the draft has been completed, present it to the Commissioner of Agriculture, with time given for people to react. Chairman Ogaard once again stated that to

88-94 off-set future problems, good analysis of the present issue is needed. Moved by Cofell, seconded by Haas Steffen, that the BWSR support the staff's letter of June 14, 1988, to SWCD Rim Coordinators, regarding the opening of RIM Reserve lands to grazing. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

88-95 Moved by Haas Steffen, seconded by Cofell, that the BWSR direct staff to develop policy statements to be brought before the BWSR at the July meeting for consideration of the guidelines. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried. Wayne Edgerton stated that the guidelines will be sent to SWCDs. Howard Peterson felt that potential exploitation of grazing permission needs to be avoided, while giving aid to the intended persons.

Chairman Ogaard called for a break in the meeting at 11:02. The meeting reconvened at 11: 10 a.m.

FY89 Grants to Soil and Water Conservation Districts - Greg Larson discussed with the Board each of the FY89 grant allocation procedures as distributed

88-96 earlier to Board members (see attached). Discussion followed. Moved by Boulton, seconded by Schellack, to approve all FY89 Grant Allocations as presented to the Board. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Greg Larson explained the RIM Service Grant. This grant provides funds for administration of the Reinvest In Minnesota Conservation Reserve Program. Each SWCD will receive $100 for each easement conveyed in prior years to defray the administrative cost of maintenance follow-up and spot-checks. Additional amounts will be allocated based on the number of sign-ups received during the August sign-up period. The base will be approved in June and the additional

88-97 amount in October. Moved by Schellack, seconded by Williamson, to approve the staff recommendation for the RIM Services Grant. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Chairman Ogaard adjourned the meeting for lunch at 11:50 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 12: 50 p.m.

Strategic Planning Issues - Jim Birkholz read the updated draft Mission Statement for the Board's information. Haas Steffen felt that legislation needs to be developed as a separate issue of the mission statement. Peterson felt that an issue should follow Conflict Resolution. Three changes were made in paragraph three. The new paragraph now reads: The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources considers water and soil to be our most precious natural resources. It is the BWSR mission to provide leadership in managing policies and programs that encourage our citizens to be wise stewards of irreplaceable land and water.

88-98 Moved by Boulton, seconded by Warner, that the BWSR approve of the Mission Statement as presented. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Discussion followed on the selection of strategic issues. It was decided to change the 'Forestry/Land Use' issue to 'Land Use Management', with forestry listed under that category. The 'Flooding' issue would be renamed to 'Water Management', with drainage listed under that category. Jim distributed a listing of Board member assignments for strategic issues. Staff assignments will be made this week. It was suggested that during the July Board meeting, discussion take place on strategic planning. This will be incorporated into the next meeting.

Consideration of LCMR Proposals - Greg Larson presented to the Board a proposal on Comprehensive Local Water Plan Development. Approximately $400,000 total would be needed to fund 27 counties with authorities under MS 110B to develop comprehensive water plans have not received funding to facilitate the initiation of water plans. Blanket coverage of the state with water plans would facilitate orderly management of statewide surface and groundwater resources and would

88-99 ensure local government access to state water resource programs. Moved by Kemp, seconded by Haas Steffen, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Comprehensive Local Water Plan Development. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Jim Birkholz presented to the Board a proposal on Development of Metropolitan Area Groundwater Plans, with approximately $30,000 per county per year. The 1987 legislature authorized voluntary development of groundwater plans in the seven county metropolitan area. Seed grants to facilitate plan development would ensure the development of sound groundwater strategies for this area

88-100 which contains over 1/2 the states population. Moved by Haas Steffen, seconded by Brooks, Jr., to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Development of Metropolitan Area Groundwater Plans. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Mel Sinn presented a potential LCMR proposal on Resolving Water Management Disputes, with approximately $70,000 needed for funding. Minnesota Statutes Ch. 110B.35, subd. 8 establishes a committee of the Board of Water and Soil Resources to hear and resolve disputes, appeals and interventions under various water related statutes. This proposal would provide for appropriate legal, research, informational and technical resources to allow the committee to effectively resolve the increasing number of water management disputes as an alternative to the courts system. Staff was directed to include in the proposal the idea of attempting to save taxpayer money, and including SWCDs in detecting

88-101 disputes. Moved by Haas Steffen, seconded by Kalmes, to approve the potential

LCMR proposal on Resolving Water Management Disputes. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Mel Sinn presented a potential LCMR proposal on a Handbook for Applying Drainage Law in an Environmentally Sensitive Manner. Using statutes 106A, 112 and 473, drainage authorities have a mixture of old, established and new, unexplored options for conducting drainage activities which can also accomplish environmental goals such as wetlands protection/reestablishment. Many local drainage authorities have expressed an interest in receiving more guidance on use of these statutes to conduct drainage activities in an environmentally sensitive manner which addresses the concerns of both citizens in their communities and natural resource agencies. This project would provide a handbook and workshops for drainage authorities. It requires coordination with DNR.

88-102 It was decided that there is a need for education. Moved by Cofell, seconded by Schellack, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Handbook for Applying Drainage Law in an Environmentally Sensitive Manner. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Greg Larson presented a potential LCMR proposal on the Impact of Long Term Agricultural Land Retirement Program on Water Quality, Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry, with approxiamtely $200,000 needed for funding. State and federal programs have existed for several years to take marginal agricultural land out of production and put them in a conserving use. This project would provide for research to identify the impacts of taking marginal lands out of production. Results would guide future program decisions and identify the most appropriate applications of this approach to protecting water quality, fisheries, wildlife and forests. Requires coordination with DNR and MPCA. It was decided that the proposal should include an assessment of the affect of opening up CRP and

88-103 RIM lands. Moved by Cofell, seconded by Moen, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Impact of Long Term Agricultural Land Retirement Programs on Water Quality, Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Jim Birkholz and Denice DeFrates presented a potential LCMR proposal on Controlling Wind Erosion in the Red River Valley, with approximately $400,000 needed for funding. The windy, dry conditions this spring have highlighted a perennial problem in the Red River Valley - lack of field windbreaks and surface residue has left the soil exposed to wind erosion. Wind blown sediment has filled drainageways, causing drainage and water quality problems and damages to crops and other facilities. Traditional conservation programs have not been effective to change landowner practices. Many areas are not classified as highly erodible and are not eligible for cost-sharing programs, but wind erosion is still significant on an annual basis and severe one year out of five. This proposal is for a pilot program to establish field windbreaks on every section line in the Red River Valley. It would involve a blend of cost-sharing, tree maintenance and information/education to influence land management decisions. It was decided that the DNR conservation corp, minimal chemical use, and landowner share in the cost should be included. This would be a pilot program, with the bulk of the program being an information/education program. The information and education program includes a proposal for Public Service Announcements for Soil and Water Conservation. Research has shown that a large source of information for land use decisionmakers is various

broadcast media from metro area television to farm broadcast radio stations. This project would provide high quality public service announcements on soil and water conservation to broadcast media in the Red River Valley. It would be aimed at influencing land management decisions and giving citizens a sense of responsibility for stewardship of their basic soil and water resources.

88-104 This would be broadcast during the Fargo and Grand Forks prime time. Moved by Moen, seconded by Schellack, to approve the potential LCMR proposal for Controlling Wind Erosion in the Red River Valley and Public Service Announcements for Soil and Water Conservation. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Jim Birkholz presented a potential LCMR posposal on Training Program to Control Erosion & Sedimentation in Urbanizing Areas, with approximately $20,000 needed for funding. This handbook application is for developers and local government

88-105 officials. Involving MPCA and DNR. Moved by Kalmes, seconded by Haas Steffen, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on a Training Program to Control Erosion and Sedimentation in Urbanizing Areas. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Chairman Ogaard introduced Lance Yohe. He and Greg Larson presented a potential LCMR proposal on Updating LMIC Land Use Data Base, with approximately $400,000 needed for funding. Lance Yohe has been working with fifteen counties in the northwestern part of Minnesota on local water planning. The land use data base would be a statewide product showing more specifically land uses from 40 acres to five acres. It would be considered in the metro area. Paul Burns, MDA, stated that the department is interested in this proposal. They will support the BWSR on this, and would like to work on a cooperative effort with

88-106 the BWSR on this proposal. Moved by Brooks, Jr., seconded by Cofell, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Updating LMIC Land Use Data Base. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Chairman Ogaard called a break in the meeting at 2:55 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 3:15 p.m.

Jim Birkholz stated that the Minnesota Department of Health is meeting this afternoon on potential LCMR proposals. He stated that the Department of Health will take the lead on any proposal to seal abandoned wells with the BWSR as a cooperating agency.

Jim Birkholz presented the issue of Stream Corridor Protection as a potential item, with no specific proposal at this time.

Jim Birkholz presented a potential LCMR proposal on a Dissemination System for Environmental Education, with approximately $300,000 needed for funding. This system would be used to catalog and make available in school curriculum K - 12 environmental education materials tailored to required major curriculum subjects. The Department of Education should be contacted on this proposal.

88-107 Moved by Cofell, seconded by Kalmes, to approve the potential LCMR proposal on Dissemination System for Environmental Education Program. Affirmative: Ogaard, Boulton, Williamson, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Hoese, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

509 Metropolitan Water Planning Policies and Procedures - Mel Sinn stated that the draft 509 policy and procedures had been sent out to metro WMOs, cities, townships, counties, SWCDs, and various organizations for comment. Only five written responses were received. The policy statement focuses on a few of the key issues contained in the earlier WRB 509 "guidelines", particularly wetland protection. Mel felt it was vitally important for the BWSR to urge WMOs to establish a strong partnership with state and federal resource agencies in the area of wetland preservation. Cofell felt that staff needs direction and support on this issue.

John Boulton left the meeting at 3:45 p.m.

Loni Kemp suggested a one-letter response be made to all five written comments. Haas Steffen suggested staff send out the guidelines to WMOs, alerting them of the criteria and stating that the BWSR is willing to work with them not against them in developing plans that are in conformance with the intent of the law. Mel stated that the law is broadly worded and needs to be interpreted by the BWSR in carrying out its plan review responsibility.

James Hoese left the meeting at 4:00 p.m.

Discussion followed.

John Williamson left the meeting at 4:05.

88-108 Moved by Kemp, seconded by Cofell, to adopt the 509 draft policies and procedures as presented by staff, with the understanding that individual elements could be reconsidered by the BWSR. Affirmative: Ogaard, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Haas Steffen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

509 Plan Review

Coon Creek Watershed District 509 Plan Review Update - Dan Steward stated the plan had been summarized at the last Board meeting. He asked that staff be given additional time to review the plan and develop recommendations for strengthening it. The BWSR advised the staff to continue the review process.

Six Cities WMO 509 Plan Review - Dan Steward introduced Fred Salsbury, engineer for Columbia Heights, who has been working with the WMO. Dan stated that he will be meeting with the representatives of the WMO next month, and he will report back to the BWSR with specific recommendations on the plan at the July meeting.

Natalie Haas Steffen left the meeting at 4:10 p.m.

88-109 **Mower SWCD Nomination Districts Boundary Change** - Jim Birkholz explained the requested boundary changes to the BWSR. Discussion followed. Moved by Brooks, Jr., seconded by Kalmes, to approve the Mower SWCD's Nomination Districts Resolution. Affirmative: Ogaard, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

John Brooks, Jr., requested changing the time of the BWSR starting time from 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. It was decided to bring this before the full Board at the July meeting, since many of the members had left the meeting already.

Gene Kalmes invited the Board to hold their out-state meeting in the southeastern part of the state in September of 1989. Chairman accepted the request.

88-110 Moved by Kalmes, seconded by Brooks, Jr., to adjourn the meeting at 4:20 p.m. Affirmative: Ogaard, Warner, Kalmes, Bade, Schellack, Moen, Brooks, Jr., Peterson, Kemp, and Cofell. Opposed: None. Carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald Ogaard

Donald Ogaard
Chairman

STATE OF MINNESOTA

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
Telephone: (612) 296-3767

Regional Offices

Northwest Region
1819 Bemidji Ave.
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3963

Northeast Region
Government Service Center
320 W. 2nd Street
Room 603
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

West Central Region
611 Iowa Avenue
Staples, MN 56479
218-894-1692

South Central Region
Box 756
New Ulm, MN 56073
507-354-2196

Southeast Region
Friedell Bldg., Room 100
1200 S. Broadway
Rochester, MN 55904
507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

East Central Region
90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

June 17, 1988

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members

FROM: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director

SUBJECT: RIM Reserve Program

Dry weather conditions in general and the actions of Commissioner Nichols specifically, have raised a number of significant policy challenges for the RIM Reserve program this past week. By law the BWSR is the implementing agency for the RIM Reserve program even though the Commissioner of Agriculture has statutory authority for it. As Board members, you should be aware of the chain of events which led to the decision on the part of Commissioner Nichols to open RIM Reserve lands to possible grazing after July 15. Attached is a copy of our instructions to the SWCDs regarding this decision as well as MDA's news release.

Friday afternoon, June 10, the Commissioner informed Wayne Edgerton, RIM Reserve Coordinator, that he was going to open RIM Reserve lands to haying and grazing as a bargaining chip to offer Secretary of Agriculture Lyng in return for his opening CRP lands. Wayne and I attempted to dissuade Nichols from taking any action prior to discussing it with the RIM Coalition, the BWSR and DNR. He refused to reconsider and said his mind was made up. Nichols delivered his message to Washington on Monday, June 13.

On Tuesday, Wayne and myself; Steve Thorne, DNR; and Attorney General staff met with Nichols to discuss legal issues surrounding his decision and to appeal for him to reconsider. We were able to convince him to accept the compromise position listed on the attachments. Basically it states that after a county board declares a local drought emergency, a landowner with RIM lands may apply through his local SWCD for permission to graze that land between July 15 and August 31. The July 15 date is set to protect nesting wildlife. The August 31 date would ensure regeneration of vegetation for next year's nesting cover. This compromise was seen as showing compassion for farmers who may need forage during late summer and still holding the line on the wildlife, soil conservation and water quality priorities of the program.

Needless to say many groups are upset over this chain of events. The RIM Coalition is in an uproar. Some of its members are calling for removing the RIM Reserve program from the Department of Agriculture. Wildlife interests which supported passage of the RIM program feel betrayed by what they term is a premature reaction on the part of the Commissioner. The RIM Coalition is the best cooperative effort to care for Minnesota's resources which we have witnessed in a generation. It is a delicate balance of diverse interest groups. The action of Commissioner Nichols and the way he went about it has jeopardized the future of RIM and potentially set back for years agriculture and wildlife working relationships.

Of particular importance to this Board was the lack of consultation with us by the Commissioner. Involved in delivering the RIM program is virtually the entire BWSR staff including Regional Board Representatives who review easements and provide training to SWCDs. The four RIM staff are technically MDA employees, but for day-to-day operations are part of the BWSR staff. The 91 SWCDs, their 455 elected supervisors and 240 employees who all, in part, make the program work were also left out of the decision-making. This raises the question how the BWSR and SWCDs can administer this program effectively when the Commissioner of Agriculture can pull the rug out from under us at any time.

The RIM program was founded on trust among all the various support groups and agencies involved. The RIM Reserve program was originally established in the Department of Agriculture because at that time its implementer, the Soil and Water Conservation Board, was a part of the department. The BWSR inherited the implementation responsibility but is autonomous from MDA. As Board members, you should be aware that parties who disagree with Commissioner Nichols decision or the way he went about making it may not understand the distinction between the BWSR and MDA. They throw us into the same category.

I believe a Board policy statement regarding future administration of the RIM Reserve program should be considered. By successfully implementing the RIM Reserve program the BWSR has obtained the confidence of agricultural, environmental, wildlife and sportsmens groups. This confidence may be shattered and their support for us lost if the Board does not assure them that their interests will be considered in future program decisions. The implication is that they will not support BWSR involvement in future resource protection programs. We have the opportunity to discuss this at the June 22 Board meeting. Please give it your careful consideration.

JB:mja
Enc.

STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107
Telephone: (612) 296-3767

June 14, 1988

Regional Offices

Northwest Region
1819 Bemidji Ave.
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-755-3963

Northeast Region
Government Service Center
320 W. 2nd Street
Room 603
Duluth, MN 55802
218-723-4752

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611 Iowa Avenue
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Box 756
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1200 S. Broadway
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507-285-7458

Southwest Region
Box 111
1400 E. Lyon Street
Marshall, MN 56258
507-537-7260

East Central Region
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St. Paul, MN 55107
612-296-3767

To: SWCD RIM Coordinators

From: Jim Birkholz, Executive Director, and Wayne A. Edgerton

Wayne A. Edgerton

Subject: Opening RIM Reserve Lands to Grazing

As you know the Commissioner of Agriculture, Jim Nichols, has opened the RIM Reserve lands to grazing as of July 15 with certain limitations. This memorandum is intended to advise you of the limitations so you can better respond to landowner inquiries.

Prior to grazing of RIM Reserve lands the following must occur:

1) The County Board of Commissioners must declare a local emergency due to the severe drought, as provided in Minnesota Statutes Section 12.29;

2) the RIM Reserve enrollee must apply to the local SWCD for authorization to graze their RIM Reserve acres;

3) the local screening committee must review the applications and recommend approval or denial to the SWCD Board. The SWCD Board will then act on the application recommending approval or denial and send it to the RIM Reserve Coordinator for Commissioner action.

The landowner must understand that:

1) The authorization is only for grazing - no haying is allowed;

2) grazing cannot begin before July 15 or before the authorization is approved for each application by the Commissioner;

3) the grazing right may be given to someone else with livestock but cannot be sold;

4) if seedings and/or tree and shrub plantings are damaged due to the grazing, it is the responsibility of the landowners to reseed or replant at landowners expense;

5) any fencing needed to enclose the area for grazing is the responsibility of the landowner (remember CRP acres are not at this date open to grazing); and

6) an ending date, no later than August 31, will be established for each authorization to allow for regrowth for winter cover and spring nesting.

We realize that this is extremely short notice and if you have grazing applicants, a lot must happen before July 15. Do your best, and we'll be sending out the grazing applications soon. (also, pray for rain).

Also, enclosed you will find a copy of the Commissioner's news release concerning this issue.

JB/WAE:lb
cc: Jim Nichols
Steve Thorne
Scott Strand
Carl Conney
RIM Reserve Work Group
RIM Coalition
BWSR
Enc:

MINNESOTA GROWN

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
90 WEST PLATO BOULEVARD
SAINT PAUL MINN 55107

News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 1988

CONTACT: (612) 297-1551

NICHOLS RELEASES RIM
FOR LIVESTOCK GRAZING

Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Nichols announced plans today for the release of acreage enrolled in the Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve program (RIM) for livestock grazing after July 15.

Nichols said about 20,000 acres enrolled in the RIM program will be opened on a county-by-county basis following a resolution from the county board that severe drought conditions exist. After the resolution is passed, RIM enrollees may apply for authorization to graze the acres. Application may be made through the local Soil and Water Conservation District office.

Nichols said the action is necessary if the severe drought continues throughout the duration of the 1988 growing season. Dry conditions have created a shortage of pasture, hay and are causing damage to crops.

The RIM statutes allow the Commissioner of Agriculture to open RIM lands for grazing to landowners involved in the program. The law does not provide for cutting hay on RIM acreage. In addition, grazing authority may not be sold. "The RIM lands are actually better suited for grazing, since unlike the USDA's Conservation Reserve Program lands, the majority of RIM acres are seeded to a mixture of grasses and not alfalfa," Nichols said.

-more-

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources advises that waterfowl nesting will not be concluded until mid–July. The end of the grazing authorization will be early enough to allow regrowth of the vegetation for fall cover and spring nesting.

"I feel I've done as much as I can under state law to help farmers who need forage while protecting the wildlife and habitat on RIM Reserve acres," Nichols said.

–30–

Suggested Board Member Assignments for Strategic Issues

Issue	Board Member
Groundwater	MDH, Kalmes, Kemp, Haas Steffen
Nonpoint Source Pollution Control	MPCA, Williamson, Harste, Bade
~~Forestry~~ Land Use Mgmt.	DNR, Warner, Graba, Brooks
~~Flooding~~ Water Mgmt.	Boulton, Schellack, Moen
Wetlands Management	MDA, Hoese, Peterson, Cofell

V. DETAIL ON STRATEGIC NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

GROUNDWATER
- Quality/Quantity
- Planning
- Implementation
- Role of State Agencies
- Role of Local Governments
- Disposal of Wastes
- Feedlots
- Land Use Activities
- Plan Contents
- Review/Groundwater Strategy

NONPOINT POLLUTION CONTROL
- CWP (Clean Water Partnership)
- Implementation of Nonpoint Issues Team Report
- Water Quality Focus of Erosion Control
- Ag Waste Management
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Best Management Practices
- Appropriate Land Use
- Focus on Erosion Control from Productivity, Off-site Damages or Water Quality Perspective
- Construction Site Erosion
- Rural Upland (soil erosion)
- Streambank/Lakeshore

~~FORESTRY~~/LAND USE Mgmt.
- Productivity on Private Forest Lands
- Erosion Control
- Role of SWCD's
  - Southeast
  - North
- Resource Inventory Needs
- Relationship to CLWMP
- forestry

~~FLOODING~~ water mgmt.
- Damage Control
- Prevention
  Link with Flood Damage Reduction Program (DNR)
- Study Area II
- Erosion and Sediment Control
- Local Ordinances
- Local Plan and Project Review
- drainage

WETLANDS MANAGEMENT
- Preservation
- Restoration
- Management
- Inter-relationship with Other Issues

IV. SUGGESTED BWSR STRATEGIC NATURAL RESOURCE ISSUES

What is the role of the BWSR in:

- Groundwater
- Nonpoint pollution control
- Forestry land use
- Flooding
- Wetlands management

In addressing each issue, the Board's role involves either:

- Restoration, or
- Protection

Suggested keys to achieving success:

1. Comprehensive local water planning
2. Coordination role (including education)

Question: are major key issues missing?

(over)

6-21-88

DRAFT

MISSION STATEMENT

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has a unique organizational membership and structure that enables it to deal directly with local government and citizens, permitting the most direct and effective process for two-way communication and project administration.

The BWSR approaches resource problems from a holistic perspective, recognizing the inter-relationship between surface water, groundwater, people, and the land.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources considers water and soil to be ~~Minnesota's~~ our most precious natural resources. It is the BWSR mission to provide leadership in managing policies and programs that encourage ~~Minnesota's~~ our citizens to be wise stewards of irreplaceable land and water.

The mission is accomplished in the following ways:

Policy Development: The BWSR serves as a forum for policy development relating to water and soil resource management and encourages public agencies and citizens to become involved through local units of government.

Service to Local Units of Government: The BWSR provides local governments with guidelines, training and technical assistance in developing, implementing, and administering water and soil resource management plans. It offers leadership training to local officials and provides local government with educational materials on resource management issues.

Coordination: The BWSR uses its plan-approval authority guidelines, rules and staff assistance to ensure effective management of natural resources and to foster communication and understanding among the various units of government involved in natural resource protection.

Education: The BWSR develops and provides information and education programs and materials to increase awareness of local water and soil resource management problems and to promote opportunities for individual citizen action and local government involvement. The BWSR's information and education programs stress creative problem solving and prevention.

Funding: The BWSR advocates funding for water and soil management activities. It provides funding to local units of government to help them accomplish their resource management goals. Funding includes financial incentives to landowners.

Conflict Resolution: The BWSR acts as a mediator in resolving conflict between people and agencies, and recommends procedures to avoid future conflict.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
FY89 GRANT ALLOCATION PROCEDURES

1. General Services Grant ($696,150): This is a general purpose grant to SWCDs. Available funds will be divided equally to the 91 SWCDs.

2. Pilot District Manager Program: This program was originally funded in FY86 using a portion of the General Service Grant funds. The program was designed to demonstrate the value of a professional manager within a SWCD. There are presently 6 SWCDs in the program. The percentage of matching funds each will receive from the State for FY89 is as follows:

Kanabec	50%	Mille Lacs	25%
Traverse	50%	No. St. Louis	25%
Mahnomen	25%	Wadena	25%

3. TED Grant ($152,300): This grant provides funds for technical assistance, educational activities and conservation tillage demonstrations. Available funds will be divided equally to the 91 SWCDs.

4. Water Permits Grant ($12,400): This grant provides funds for reviewing water permit applications for the DNR. The allocation is based upon the number of permits reviewed in prior years.

5. Cost-Share Program ($1,541,400): Grant funds are used to provide financial assistance to land occupiers for the installation of erosion and sediment control practices. The allocations are based upon a formula which considers the resource treatment needs within each SWCD.

6. Special Projects (approximately $100,000): This program is funded with returned Cost-Share Program funds. It is intended to provide funding for large scale projects which are beyond the normal cost-share allocation of a SWCD. All project applications submitted are reviewed and prioritized by a review committee of the staff. Factors considered in the review process include (1) the degree of public benefit resulting from the project; (2) the urgency of the project; (3) the degree of the erosion, sedimentation or water quality problem occurring; and (4) the time table for practice completion.

7. SLR Program ($158,700): Grants funds are used to provide 50% funding to local units of government for the control of streambank, lakeshore, or roadside erosion problems. Individual projects are submitted by SWCDs. The applications are reviewed by Board Representatives to determine eligibility. All applications are then reviewed and prioritized by a review committee of the staff. The following criteria are considered in the review process: (1) the degree of public benefit resulting from the project; (2) the extent of on-site and off-site damages; (3) whether federal matching funds are available; (4) the ability of the local unit of government to finance the installation and maintenance of the project; and (5) whether the problem causing area is publicly owned.

8. RIM Services Grant: This grant provides funds for administration of the Reinvest In Minnesota Conservation Reserve Program. Each SWCD will receive $100 for each easement conveyed in prior years to defray the administrative cost of maintenance follow-up and spot-checks. Additional amounts will be allocated based on the number of signups received during the August signup period. The base will be approved in June and the additional amount in October.

13-Jun-88

FY~~88~~ GRANT ALLOCATIONS

DISTRICT	COST SHARE		GENERAL SERVICES					
	REGULAR ALLOCATION	SPECIAL PROJECTS	REGULAR ALLOCATION	SWCD MANAGER PILOT PROGRAM	SLR	TED	WATER PERMITS	TOTAL
AITKIN	5,200.00	$19,500.00	$7,650.00		$4,100.00	$1,675.00	$315.00	$38,440.00
ANOKA	7,400.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	275.00	17,000.00
BECKER	34,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	160.00	43,485.00
BELTRAMI	12,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	200.00	21,525.00
BENTON	11,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		20,825.00
BIG STONE	18,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		27,825.00
BLUE EARTH	27,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	185.00	36,510.00
BROWN	16,000.00	7,500.00	7,650.00			1,675.00		32,825.00
CARLTON	5,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		14,325.00
CARVER	25,600.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	210.00	35,135.00
CASS	8,200.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	680.00	18,205.00
CHIPPEWA	13,500.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		22,820.00
CHISAGO	14,300.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	210.00	23,835.00
CLAY	25,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		34,325.00
CLEARWATER	10,000.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		19,320.00
COOK COUNTY	2,100.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	145.00	11,570.00
COTTONWOOD	19,800.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	120.00	29,245.00
CROW WING	6,100.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	810.00	16,230.00
DAKOTA	31,000.00		7,650.00		7,500.00	1,675.00	210.00	48,035.00
DODGE	14,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		23,325.00
DOUGLAS	23,300.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	285.00	32,905.00
EAST AGASSIZ	20,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		29,325.00
FARIBAULT	17,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		26,825.00
FILLMORE	33,200.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	115.00	42,635.00
FREEBORN	23,100.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	155.00	32,580.00
GOODHUE	35,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	235.00	45,060.00
GRANT	14,700.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		24,020.00
HENNEPIN	14,400.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	775.00	24,500.00
HUBBARD	6,900.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	260.00	16,485.00
ISANTI	8,500.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		17,820.00
ITASCA	5,700.00	19,500.00	7,650.00			1,675.00	380.00	34,905.00
JACKSON	21,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	145.00	30,970.00
KANABEC	7,100.00		7,650.00	12,400.00		1,670.00	135.00	28,955.00
KANDIYOHI	19,800.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	145.00	29,270.00
KITTSON	7,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		16,325.00
KOOCHICHING	2,300.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	160.00	11,780.00
LAC QUI PARLE	30,100.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		39,425.00
LAKE	4,700.00	11,040.00	7,650.00			1,675.00	135.00	25,200.00
LAKE OF THE WOODS	3,400.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		12,720.00
LESUEUR	23,100.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	130.00	32,555.00
LINCOLN	16,200.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		25,525.00
LYON	20,900.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	185.00	30,405.00
MAHNOMEN	9,100.00		7,650.00	6,500.00		1,675.00	130.00	25,055.00
MARSHALL	11,600.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		20,925.00
MARSHALL-BELTRAMI	5,700.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		15,020.00
MARTIN	30,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		39,325.00
MCLEOD	18,900.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		28,225.00
MEEKER	24,000.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		33,320.00
MILLE LACS	10,500.00		7,650.00	5,500.00		1,675.00		25,325.00
MORRISON	29,800.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	170.00	39,295.00
MOWER	11,300.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		20,620.00
MURRAY	16,700.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		26,025.00
NICOLLET	11,700.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		21,025.00
NOBLES	36,000.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	160.00	45,480.00
OLMSTED	44,500.00		7,650.00		5,750.00	1,675.00		59,575.00
OTTERTAIL EAST	27,600.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	150.00	37,075.00
OTTERTAIL WEST	29,000.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	150.00	38,470.00
PENNINGTON	10,800.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		20,125.00
PINE	12,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		21,325.00
PIPESTONE	18,000.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		27,320.00
POLK EAST	13,600.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		22,925.00
POLK WEST	22,200.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		31,525.00
POPE	28,800.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	250.00	38,370.00
RAMSEY	10,700.00		7,650.00		30,000.00	1,675.00	265.00	50,290.00
RED LAKE	7,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		16,325.00
REDWOOD	12,900.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		22,220.00
RENVILLE	12,600.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		21,925.00
RICE	21,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		30,325.00
ROCK	18,800.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		28,120.00

13-Jun-88

89

FY~~88~~ GRANT ALLOCATIONS

DISTRICT	COST SHARE		GENERAL SERVICES					
	REGULAR ALLOCATION	SPECIAL PROJECTS	REGULAR ALLOCATION	SWCD MANAGER PILOT PROGRAM	SLR	TED	WATER PERMITS	TOTAL
ROOT RIVER	26,400.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	155.00	35,880.00
ROSEAU	13,300.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	145.00	22,770.00
SCOTT	23,800.00	13,900.00	7,650.00			1,670.00	315.00	47,335.00
SHERBURNE	4,400.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	290.00	14,015.00
SIBLEY	15,100.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		24,425.00
STEARNS	55,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	695.00	65,020.00
STEELE	11,500.00		7,650.00			1,670.00		20,820.00
STEVENS	26,500.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		35,825.00
ST. LOUIS NORTH	3,600.00		7,650.00	6,000.00		1,670.00	555.00	19,475.00
ST. LOUIS SOUTH	8,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	555.00	17,880.00
SWIFT	13,000.00		7,650.00			1,675.00		22,325.00
TODD	25,800.00		7,650.00		4,262.00	1,670.00	365.00	39,747.00
TRAVERSE	7,500.00		7,650.00	12,000.00		1,675.00		28,825.00
WABASHA	25,300.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	145.00	34,770.00
WADENA	6,200.00		7,650.00	12,200.00		1,675.00		27,725.00
WASECA	11,400.00		7,650.00		51,938.00	1,675.00	155.00	72,818.00
WASHINGTON	16,900.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	350.00	26,575.00
WATONWAN	9,700.00		7,650.00			1,675.00	170.00	19,195.00
WILKIN	12,700.00	57,000.00	7,650.00			1,675.00		79,025.00
WINONA	20,400.00	34,000.00	7,650.00			1,675.00	130.00	63,855.00
WRIGHT	21,500.00		7,650.00			1,670.00	340.00	31,160.00
YELLOW MEDICINE	19,700.00		7,650.00		55,000.00	1,675.00		84,025.00
STATE TOTAL	$1,547,600.00	$162,440.00	$696,150.00	$54,600.00	$158,550.00	$152,300.00	$12,400.00	$2,784,040.00
PROGRAM TOTAL	$1,710,040.00		$750,750.00					

* Isanti's entire Cost Share allocation will be withheld as partial repayment for past violations.
* Itasca's TED allocation will be reduced $476.13 as repayment of violations.
* Koochiching's Cost Share allocation will be reduced $515.50 and their General Services Grant 998.93 as repayment for past violations.
* Kanabec's Cost Share allocation will be reduced $3193.21 as final repayment of past violations.
* Lyon's Cost Share allocation will be reduced $4033 as repayment for past violations.

SPECIAL PROJECTS PROGRAM
FY89 ALLOCATIONS

AITKIN SWCD: LAKESHORE PROTECTION

Amount Requested: $19,500
Amount Recommended: $19,500

Funds will be used to control lakeshore erosion on small inland lakes using innovative techniques. This is a continuation of FY88 fundings in cooperation with Itasca SWCD.

BELTRAMI SWCD: MISSISSIPPI HEADWATERS WATERSHED ANALYSIS PROJECT

Amount Requested: $9,075
Amount Recommended: $-0-

Funds would be used to purchase satellite infrared image photographs of the Lake Bemidji Watershed to be used in identifying areas of critical erosion. Cost Share funds cannot be used for this purpose. The SWCD is encouraged to submit projects for erosion control projects identified within this watershed.

BROWN SWCD: MINNESOTA RIVER EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Amount Requested: $7,500
Amount Recommended: $7,500

The Minnesota River is causing bank erosion adjacent to CSAH 10 in Home Township. Funds will be used to reshape and stabilize the bank.

HENNEPIN SWCD: URBAN EROSION AND SEDIMENT CONTROL HANDBOOK

Amount Requested: $20,000
Amount Recommended: $-0-

Funds would be used to prepare an erosion and sediment control handbook. This is ineligible expense under the Cost Share Program.

ITASCA SWCD: LAKESHORE PROTECTION

Amount Requested: $19,500
Amount Approved: $19,500

Funds will be used to control lakeshore erosion on small inland lakes using innovative techniques. This is a continuation of FY88 funding in cooperation with Aitkin SWCD.

LAKE SWCD: GULLY EROSION IN TWO HARBORS

Amount Requested: $11,040
Amount Recommended: $11,040

Severe gully erosion is occurring on a public golf course within the city limits of Two Harbors and contributing sediment to Lake Superior. Funds will be used to stabilize the eroding waterway.

SCOTT SWCD: CHANNEL STABILIZATION

Amount Requested: $17,610
Amount Recommended: $13,900

Funds will be used to stabilize channel banks and bottom of a channel on private property. The SWCD requested 75% cost-sharing, however, 50% is the maximum for streambank erosion.

WILKIN SWCD: Streambank Erosion

Amount Requested: $57,000
Amount Recommended: $57,000

This is a reallocation of a FY87 project which did not get started prior to deadline dates. The SWCD returned the funds and is requesting a reallocation now that the project is ready to commence.

WINONA SWCD: PICKWICK PROJECT

Amount Requested: $34,000
Amount Recommended: $34,000

Cost estimates for the Pickwick Project funded in FY88 are in excess of original estimates. Additional funding is required if the project is to proceed.

SLR PROGRAM
FY89 ALLOCATIONS

AITKIN SWCD: HILL CITY EROSION CONTROL PROJECT

Amount Requested $4100
Amount Recommended $4100

This application is an amendment to an SLR project originally funded in FY85. Additional funds are needed to cover increased construction costs.

DAKOTA SWCD: MIESVILLE RAVINE PARK

Amount Requested $7500
Amount Recommended: $7500

This project would control streambank erosion on Trout Brook in the Miesville Ravine Regional Park. Excessive erosion is causing water quality degradation in the stream and into the Canon River.

ITASCA SWCD: CARIBOU LAKE CULVERT INSTALLATION

Amount Requested $10,000
Amount Recommended $ -0-

Funds would be used to install a culvert under MN State Hwy 38 between Caribou and North Star Lake to control the water level in Caribou Lake. The SWCD should resubmit applications for lakeshore erosion control once the water level has stabilized.

OLMSTED SWCD: GENOA-ZUMBRO RIVER STREAMBANK PROTECTION

Amount Requested $5750
Amount Recommended: $5750

Serious streambank erosion is occurring along the South Bank Middle Fork Zumbro River. Erosion is threatening a township road in New Haven Township near the town of Genoa.

RAMSEY SWCD: WHITE BEAR LAKE PUBLIC BEACH

Amount Requested: $30,000
Amount Recommended: $30,000

Funds will be used to protect and enhance 700 feet of public beach in the White Bear Lake public beach.

TODD SWCD: TODD COUNTY BRIDGE

Amount Requested: $4262
Amount Recommended: $4262

Misalignment of a stream is causing erosion adjacent to the wingwalls of a bridge. Funds will be used to abate the erosion problem and protect the bridge.

WASECA SWCD: CLEAR LAKE SHORELINE EROSION CONTROL

Amount Requested: $51,938
Amount Recommended: $51,938

Maplewood Park in Waseca is comprised of banks 5-60 feet in height. Wave action is causing shore erosion on the lower portion of these banks. Funds will be used to stabilize these banks. This is a continuation of Waseca's efforts to improve Clear Lake.

YELLOW MEDICINE: YELLOW MEDICINE RIVER STABILIZATION PROJECT

Amount Requested: $55,000
Amount Recommended: $55,000

This is continued funding to control streambank erosion along the Yellow Medicine River. The project was initially funded in FY88.

LEGISLATIVE COMMISSION ON MINNESOTA RESOURCES
1989

ISSUE AREA PRIORITY RANKING

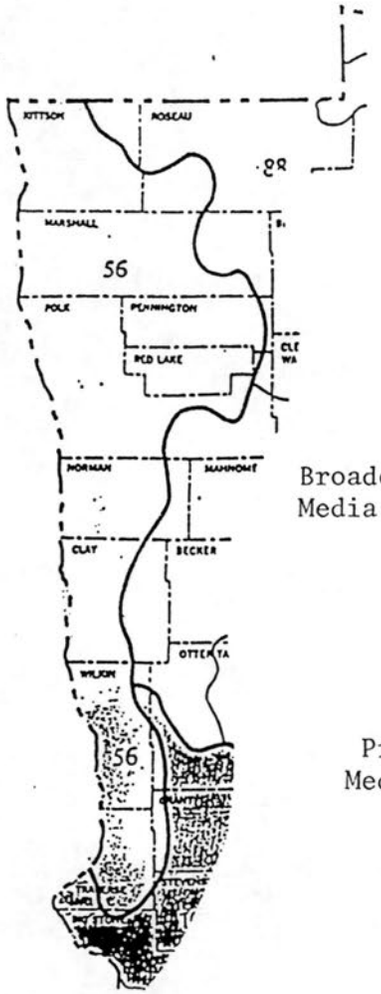
Groundwater
Surface Water
Recreation
Fisheries
Wildlife
Minerals
Forestry

ACTIVITY PRIORITY RANKING

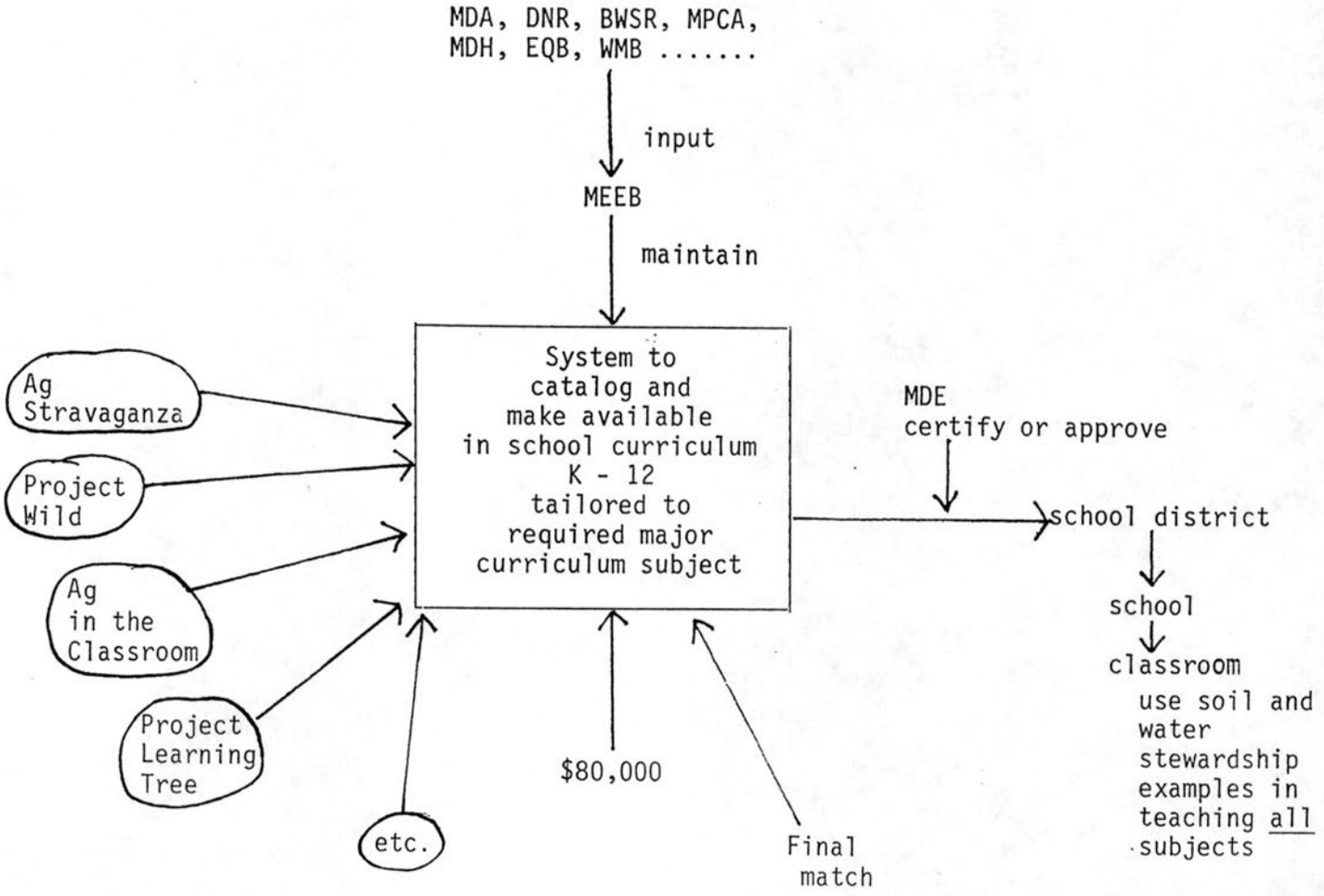
Education
Development
Information
Research and Planning
Marketing
Acquisition
Arbitrated Dispute Resolution
Preservation
Inventory

LCMR Proposal - Controlling Wind Erosion in the RRV

BUDGET



		Budget to be developed
	Establishing and maintaining windbreaks	
	Information and Education	
	Staff position - Info Officer II 25,000 a year for two years	50,000
	Office expenses	30,000
	Production costs - written materials (brochures, posters, ad slicks, etc.)	10,000
Broadcast Media:	PSAs - 3 a year @ 3,000 each	18,000
	Radio spots - 3 30 sec. prime-time spots a wk. KFGO - Fargo	10,920
	a Grand Forks station	10,920
Print Media:	Agweek Magazine (Grand Forks) ¼ page ad, one a week for 104 weeks	22,360
	Farmer's Forum (Fargo) same as above	34,217
	TOTAL	187,417



Good programs
need more widespread use

BWSR draft proposal Chris → discuss buy in MEEB → Present to MASWCD → Goal
3 party proposal
- BWSR
- MASWCD
- MEEB

other agencies endorse

DRAFT

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
Potential LCMR Proposals

1. Comprehensive Local Water Plan Development – Greg ~ seek volunteers $400,000 (#8)

27 counties with authorities under MS 110B to develop comprehensive water plans have not received funding to facilitate the initiation of water plans. Blanket coverage of the state with water plans would facilitate orderly management of statewide surface and groundwater resources and would ensure local government access to state water resource programs.

2. Development of Metropolitan Area Groundwater Plans – Jim ~ (#9) $30,000/co./year

The 1987 legislature authorized voluntary development of groundwater plans in the seven county metropolitan area. Seed grants to facilitate plan development would ensure the development of sound groundwater strategies for this area which contains over 1/2 the states population.

3. Resolving Water Management Disputes – Mel ~ $70,000 attempt to save taxpayer $ include SWCDs; detecting disputes

MN Statutes Ch. 110B.35 subd. 8 establishes a committee of the Board of Water and Soil Resources to hear and resolve disputes, appeals and interventions under various water related statutes. This proposal would provide for appropriate legal, research, informational and technical resources to allow the committee to effectively resolve the increasing number of water management disputes as an alternative to the courts system.

4. Handbook for Applying Drainage Law in an Environmentally Sensitive Manner – Mel #4

Using statutes 106A, 112 and 473, drainage authorities have a mixture of old, established and new, unexplored options for conducting drainage activities which also accomplish environmental goals such as wetlands protection/reestablishment. Many local drainage authorities have expressed an interest in receiving more guidance on use of these statutes to conduct drainage activities in an environmentally sensitive manner which addresses the concerns of both citizens in their communities and natural resource agencies. This project would provide a handbook and workshops for drainage authorities. It requires coordination with DNR.

need to educate; practical

5. Impact of Long Term Agricultural Land Retirement Programs on Water Quality, Fisheries, Wildlife and Forestry – Greg ~ $200,000

State and federal programs have existed for several years to take marginal agricultural land out of production and put them in a conserving use. This project would provide for research to identify the impacts of taking marginal lands out of production. Results would guide future program decisions and identify the most appropriate applications of this approach to protecting water quality, fisheries, wildlife and forests. Requires coordination with DNR and MPCA. Include what opening up CRP + RIM will do in the future.

DNR conservation corp
minimize chemical use;
landowner share in the cost ~ $400,000

6. Controlling Wind Erosion in the Red River Valley – Jim + Denice pilot program bulk be info/ed. pkg.
Windy, dry conditions this spring have highlighted a perennial problem in the Red River Valley - lack of field windbreaks and surface residue has left the soil exposed to wind erosion. Wind blown sediment has filled drainageways, causing drainage and water quality problems and damages to crops and other facilities. Traditional conservation programs have not been effective to change landowner practices. Many areas are not classified as highly erodible and are not eligible for cost-sharing programs, but wind erosion is still significant on an annual basis and severe one year out of five. This proposal is for a pilot program to establish field windbreaks on every section line in the Red River Valley. It would involve a blend of cost-sharing, tree maintenance and information/eduction to influence land management decisions.
slogan: "1 million trees planted by 1991"

7. Public Service Announcements for Soil and Water Conservation – Denice Fargo + Grand Forks prime time
Research has shown that a large source of information for land use decisionmakers is various broadcase media from metro area television to farm broadcast radio stations. This project would provide high quality public service announcements on soil and water conservation to broadcast media across Minnesota. It would be aimed at influencing land management decisions and giving all Minnesota citizens a sense of responsibility for stewardship of their basic soil and water resources.

8. Training Program to Control Erosion & Sedimentation in Urbanizing Areas ~ $20,000 – Jim
Handbook application for developers and local government officials. Involve MPCA and DNR.

9. Updating LMIC Land Use Data Base – Greg + Lance Yohe ~ $400,000
statewide product from 40 acres to 5 acres.
consider metro area

10. Identifying and Sealing Abandoned Wells - MDH Request? – Jim

11. Stream Corridor Protection - Ideas?

Others . . .

12. Information Dissemination System for env. ed.
LCMR · groundwater w/ $80,000 on Ag Land Preservation = Jim = intent to focus on
~ $300,000 $120,000 ← LCMR
contact Dept. of Ed. on this

SF-00006-05 (4/86)

DEPARTMENT : Board of Water and Soil Resources

STATE OF MINNESOTA

Office Memorandum

DATE : June 10, 1988

TO : Board Members

FROM : Mel Sinn MS

PHONE : 612 - 297-2622

SUBJECT : Draft 509 Review Procedures and Policies

As directed at the May Board meeting, the draft 509 review procedures and policies statement was distributed to all metro townships, cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, associations of local government, and agencies (roughly 275 mailings). Responses were requested by June 3, 1988, in an explanatory cover letter that accompanied the mailing.

As of June 9th, we received the attached four written responses and seven phone calls. The four written comments will have to be responded to in writing. Two principal concerns were expressed by the eleven respondents.

The first concern was that WMOs near to completion of their initial 509 Plan should not be faced with any "new requirements". The MBWSR has already discussed this problem in connection with its consideration of the possible need for 509 rules for second generation plans. Because the Legislature saw fit to create a new state board last October, you inherited the responsibility of determining with the aid of staff whether individual 509 plans conform to the requirements of the law. In some respects this will always be a judgment call because each WMO is unique in its physical setting, degree of development, local political structure, resource problems, and opportunities. I think it is appropriate, however, for the MBWSR to do the best job it can at this time, even though it is late in the initial planning process, in letting WMOs know how it views the intent of 509 and what plan elements it sees as being the most important.

The second principal concern expressed by the eleven respondents was over the "concrete" plan elements listed in Paragraph 5, particularly items 5f, 5g, and 5h. Carver County wrote an excellent letter addressing these three items. These items represent the "guts" of the policy statement because they bear directly on the fundamental purpose of 509 - to preserve and use natural water storage and retention systems - and deserve careful Board consideration because the Board is responsible for ensuring that the plans conform to the intent of the law.

MEMORANDUM

Members of Board of Water and Soil Resources

Re: Draft 509 Review Procedures and Policies

I think 509 plans must do more than recite the statute and "encourage" adherence to good water management principles. To be effective tools, plans must include policy statements and set forth standards and procedures that are concrete and specific enough to allow one to judge 1) whether the plan is being followed, and 2) whether the plan is achieving its purposes.

The first step in preserving natural water storage areas is to find out where they are. Currently, the National Wetlands Inventory Maps are the best source for this information. The second step is to consider alternative mechanisms to preserve them for beneficial public purposes, by methods such as easements, acquisition, regulation, landowner education, etc. The Carver County letter makes the excellent point that regulation by local ordinance is not the sole protection option available.

The bottom line I urge the Board to adopt concerning this key issue is the following: Plans should either 1) demonstrate how these systems will be protected to achieve the purposes of 509, or 2) demonstrate that these systems or some of them do not need to be protected to achieve the purposes of 509. In other words, I think the law itself establishes as policy that these valuable natural retention systems deserve sound local management, and the burden should be on the WMO to make the case that some or all of them in a particular watershed can be written off, without significantly contributing to increased runoff rates, poorer water quality, diminished recreational opportunities, and so on.

MS:ks
Attach.

Office of
COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
Phone 448-3435, Ext. 213



CARVER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
600 EAST 4TH STREET
CHASKA, MINNESOTA 55318

COUNTY OF CARVER

31 May 1988

JUN 01 '88

Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources
90 W. Plato Blvd.
St. Paul Mn 55107

Subject: Comments & proposed 509 review policies & urban erosion strategy

Dear Members of the Board,

The Carver County Board of Commissioners would like to take this opportunity to comment on the proposed urban erosion control strategy and the proposed 509 plan review policies & procedures.

Urban erosion & sedimentation control - The Board supports the development of a set of erosion and sedimentation control standards for the Metropolitan area. A uniform set of standards to be adopted and implemented by all WMO's would avoid the situation where a unit of government that is in several watersheds is required to enforce several different sets of standards. The MBWSR should work closely with local units of government and WMO's in developing the standards.

Policies & Procedures for 509 Plan Review - the Board has a number of concerns with Section 5, subsections 5f, 5g, & 5h. It is not clear as to whether it is mandatory that the items in this section be addressed in a WMO or local unit plan. If it intended that these items are mandatory and the absence of one or more of these items would be the basis for rejection of a plan, the Board questions whether there is sufficient statutory authority to require the activities specified in 5f, 5g, & 5h.

5f - The National Wetland Inventory should be viewed as a data source subject to further refinement and review by the WMO's. It should be made clear by the MBWSR that this Inventory, while it is an excellent source of information, is clearly that and does automatically <u>not</u> have any legal regulatory status insofar as the State and local governments are concerned. It could certainly be used as a basis for regulation if a WMO so desired.

Local units of government should not be required to be an enforcement arm of the Corps of Engineers. Local units can be expected to address Corp concerns as part of local permitting processes and to provide information to the public, but should not be expected to enforce Corps regulations beyond that level required in the administration of local permits.

5g - In some cases local units have adopted inventories of protected waters for shoreland zoning purposes. In some cases the protected waters are referred to by their DNR inventory number in listing in the body of the ordinance. In cases where an inventory of this type is included in the zoning ordinance, a map should not be required.

5h - The Board has particular concern with this proposed requirement for a wetland protection ordinance. There is the question as to whether statutory basis for making this requirement mandatory. The Board recognizes that such an ordinance can be a valuable tool in water management, but questions whether such an ordinance should be mandatory. A more appropriate standard for plan review might be whether a plan adequately inventories the wetland in a watershed and adequately analyzes the role and importance of the various wetlands in the watershed, and whether the plan includes adequate management & implementation strategies relating to wetlands. The strategies could certainly include a protection ordinance, but an ordinance should not be required. The criteria for the review of a wetland ordinance should be flexible so that the needs and circumstances the individual WMO's and local units of government can be accommodated.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these matters.

Sincerely,

Earl F. Chan, Chairman
Carver County Board Of Commissioners

DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Farmington Professional Building
P.O. Box 129
821 Third Street
Farmington, MN 55024
Phone: (612) 463-8626

MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

JUN 8 1988

June 6, 1988

Jim Birkholz, Executive Director
Board of Water and Soil Resources
90 West Plato Blvd.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

RE: 509 Plan Review Procedures and Policies

Dear Jim,

We have reviewed the 509 plan review procedures and policies and have the following comments.

1. Timing: While the intent to provide specific direction to WMOs on certain key topics has merit, the timing of this effort could create several practical difficulties for WMOs who have recently approved, or are in the process of approving their plans. We feel that BWSR should clarify the relationship between these policies and plans that have started the review process or are about to begin the review process.

2. Policy 2: Response or Incorporation of Comments: This policy should reflect the time and stage in the review process this is expected. The WMOs in Dakota County have chosen to collect all comments and append them to the plan until the review process is over. We feel the approach taken by the WMOs prudent and reasonable and avoids unnecessary reprinting costs, the potential of being caught between reviewing agencies with different opinions, or being accused of bait and switch policy planning.

3. Policy 4: Items the Plan should Address: Addressing items A-F have merit. However, the emphasis in all of the WMOs reflect the emphasis in the 509 legislation-- the physical components of storm water management. Policy analysis, conflict resolution and programming of a coordinated physical, financial and regulatory system is not something that has been emphasized in the 509 process.

While ongoing management of a watershed is a subject that needs more discussion, many of the requirements for ordinance review and coordination read as a new and additional requirement. We feel that BWSR should clarify its expectations for WMO management and provide some guidance in addressing the operation of a joint powers water management board.

4. Policy 5: Plan Requirements: We have two concerns;

1. Urban erosion and sediment control. At present all of the WMOs in Dakota county have adopted the General Criteria for urban erosion and sediment control into their plans as requirements for urban development. How will this situation relate to proposals for revising M.S. 40, the Urban Erosion Control Handbook, and MPCA's urban non-point program that is being developed?

2. In sections 5 e. & f. BWSR appears to be promoting the adoption of land use controls based on general and philosophical values of wetlands. We are concerned that this promotion does not provide:
A. Sound legal standing or protection to the WMO.
B. Adequate articulation of the role of any given wetland in protecting the health, safety, and welfare.
C. The definitions or conditions needed to ensure the continued performance, utility and protection of that wetland as a natural system for either storm water or wildlife.

We feel that BWSR should be more specific in the guidance and encouragement it provides in wetland management and that BWSR should provide this in the form of performance criteria which would facilitate resolving mitigation and repair issues.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on the procedures and policies. If you have any questions please call. We look forward to your response to the questions and concerns we have raised.

Sincerely,

Tim Kelly,
Administrator

JUN 3 1988

SCOTT SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

107 Water Street
Jordan, Minnesota 55352
Telephone (612) 492-2636

June 1, 1988

MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

State of Minnesota
Board of Water & Soil Resources
90 West Plato Blvd
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

To Whom It May Concern:

Comments on WMO plan reviews -

1) We feel it may be a little late in the planning process to incorporate any new requirements unless these requirements were clearly stated in the original guidelines. Any plan that is in the final stages of completion should be exempted from meeting these new requirements.

Wilmer Gruetzmacher

Wilmer Gruetzmacher by m d
Scott SWCD

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

TOWN OF EUREKA

JUN 2 1988

Board of Water & Soil Resources

In reply to your letter of some time ago regarding the W. M. O.s the town of Eureka is not very enthused about the W. M. O. our first letter in our file was dated '83. Five years later nothing has been done except that we got a statement calling for a payment of $3,406.00. We asked for a statement as to what they have done in Eureka or for Eureka but did not get a reply. I brought up this bill at our annual town meeting and the taxpayers were quite concerned as to what the bill would do for us. we have no water problems in Eureka, no flooding or erosion. The town meeting was not in favor of W. M. O.s. To us it seems a waste of tax money, especially in these drought years, we would like an explanation of W. M. O.s.

H. Simon Leins
Clerk

MINNEHAHA CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

P.O. Box 387, Wayzata, Minnesota 55391

BOARD OF MANAGERS: Camille D. Andre, Pres. • Albert L. Lehman • John E. Thomas
James R. Spensley • Richard R. Miller • Robert D. Erickson • C. Woodrow Love



June 13, 1988

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Mr. Mel Sinn
Board of Water and Soil Resources
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

RE: Comments regarding the proposed Metropolitan Water Management Act Plan Review Procedures and Policies

Dear Mr. Sinn:

The Board of Managers of the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District reviewed and discussed the proposed Plan Review Procedures and Policies at the May 1988 meeting. The Managers offer the following comments and concerns.

Procedure/Policy 4(c), 4(e) state:

4. Place emphasis on determining how the plan addresses:

   c. Recognition of existing local, state and federal water management programs and regulations;

   e. Communication and coordination between the WMO and other local governmental units, and state and federal resource agences;

Comments: The Board is concerned about the increased costs that will be incurred by greater involvement by and communication with state and federal agencies. At present, District staff does not as a matter of course prepare and send written notice to state and federal agencies about a proposed project. The permit applicant is apprised of his or her responsibilities in this regard verbally and also on the permit application form itself. To require more formal notice of other agencies without providing a funding mechanism through Chapter 112 or 509 to pay the increased costs incurred is a heavy burden.

Another concern about policy 4(e) is the potential for a greatly expanded role for state and federal agencies in local water management planning and implementation. The Board questions whether the intent of the 509 legislation was to expand state and federal regulation as some of the proposed policies appear to do or rather to encourage and foster a serious and comprehensive inventory and planning effort at a watershed, county and municipal level.

Procedure/Policy 5(c), (d), (f), (h) state:

5. Determine whether the WMO has incorporated into its plan:

   c. A chart showing whether the existing local controls of affected local governmental units conform to the policies and standards of the WMO plan;

   d. A requirement that the WMO or local units exercising planning and zoning authority incorporate uniform minimum urban erosion and sediment control criteria into their local controls;

   f. A requriement that each local unit exercising planning and zoning authority: maintain a copy of the national wetland inventory map at their principal place of business; notify persons proposing or carrying out filling or other development activity in areas identified as wetlands on the national wetland inventory map that their activity may require a Corps of Engineers 404 permit; and notify the Coprs of Engineers regulatory branch of any proposed or initiated activity that would result in placement of fill in any area identified as wetland on the national wetlands inventory map;

   h. A requirement that the WMO or local units exercising planning and zoning authority adopt a wetland ordinance that prohibits drainage, grading, or filling of wetlands without a permit; and that requires consideration of the affected wetlands' values for stormwater runoff storage and detention, sediment and nutrient trapping and retention, fish and wildlife habitat, and the recreation and open space needs of the community before a permit is issued;

Comments: The preparation of the chart listed in Policy 5(c) and described earlier in correspondence from MBWSR staff in March 1988 is burdensome to the District which includes two counties, three townships and 27 municipalities within its boundaries. A chart or matirx system seems more appropriate for use by districts which have fewer governmental units involved. In hopes of ensuring a thorough review and consideration of the implications of the 509 plan by the municipalities and other local governmental units involved, the Managers consulted with a Technical Advisory Committee comprised of City staff during preparation of the preliminary draft, twice requested comments during the formal review period and extended the review time by an additional 30 days. The wording in Policy 5(d) is somewhat ambiguous. Although various efforts by the PCA, MBWSR and various counties and watershed districts are underway to prepare "uniform" standards for this area, it is our understanding that no such approved standards exist at a state, metropolitan, county, or municipal level at the present time. Accordingly, the District suggests the inclusion of the language "when such standards become available" after the last word and before the semi-colon in Policy 5(d).

Policy 5(f) requires a greatly expanded role for the municipalities in an effort to notify the Corps of Engineers of the 404 permit program. The District views this policy as very controversial for several reasons. First, it appears that MBWSR is requiring the governmental entity that (i.e. the WMO)

will review and approve local water management plans to impose a requirement on local governmental units that it has not imposed on itself nor had imposed on it by the 509 law itself. The inclusion of this element into the planning process at this late date seems to be a very broad interpretation of plan content requirements as required in M.S. 473.879 Subd. 2. Second, as has already been mentioned, an expanded notification program is very expensive and will undoubtedly burden city staffs with yet another task. The additional costs associated with seeking and obtaining the necessary permit reviews and approvals should continue to be borne by the permit applicants, not the permit reviewers. Third, a wetland definition to include the broader categories in use by the Corps of Engineers will cause further confusion both with the municipalities and developers about what agency is regulating which water resource. The District modified its wetland alternation rules in 1986 to more closely conform to current DNR descriptions and regulations which protect Type 3, 4 and 5 wetlands and to better define by what standards wetland regulation will further cloud the issue and burden the regulatory process. Fourth, the District would expect to incur increasd costs from the implementation of Policy 5(f) because of the need to explain a more complicated regulatory framework to the municipalities, developers, and interested citizens.

The District views Policy 5(h) as containing certain elements which, as a practical matter, are difficult to define and enforce. Under its present rules, the District reviews wetland alteration permits on the basis of how the project will affect the wetland's capacity to store stormwater runoff and to improve water quality. The District considers these criteria to be reasonable and defensible because the decision whether or not to issue a permit is based on an analysis which is objective and quantifiable. The District is concerned that a wetland alteration policy based upon less quantifiable and more subjective criteria such as the preservation of fish and wildlife habitat and the need for recreational and open space, while laudable, will be difficult to enforce and would leave the District vulnerable to legal challenge. If these broadened wetland alteration standards are seen to be necessary, the District encourages the MBWSR staff to draft criteria and standards to guide the WMO's while reviewing permits of this type.

On behalf of the Board of Managers, thank you for the opportunity to comment. Please contact me at 473-4224 if you or other members of the MBWSR staff require additional information or clarification. The District looks forward to working with the MBWSR in the future.

Sincerely,
Engineers for the District
E.A. HICKOK AND ASSOCIATES,

James J. Mahady

James J. Mahady, District Engineer

cc: Board
L. Smith
G. Macomber

6-21-88

REVISED DRAFT

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
Metropolitan Water Management Act
Plan Review Procedures and Policies

In reviewing 509 plans, Board of Water and Soil Resources staff shall:

1. Read the plan and consider all written comments submitted by local governmental units, the metropolitan council, pollution control agency, department of natural resources, department of health, and any other interested agencies, organizations, or individuals.

2. Determine how pertinent comments have been responded to by the WMO. ~~or incorporated into plan amendments.~~

3. Review the plan's content for consistency with the requirements of the Metropolitan Water Management Act and other pertinent laws and rules, using the guidelines developed in cooperation with the "509 Local Advisory Committee" as a general checklist.

4. Place emphasis on determining how the plan addresses:

   a. Preservation and use of wetlands and other natural water storage and retention systems;

   b. Protection of water quality;

   c. ~~Recognition of~~ Coordination with other existing local, state, and federal water management programs and ~~regulations~~ plans;

   d. Conflicts and gaps between the WMO plan, local comprehensive plans, and other existing plans of affected local governmental units;

   e. Communication and coordination between the WMO and other local governmental units, and state and federal resource agencies; ~~and~~

   f. Use of local authorities to manage existing problems and prevent potential water and related resource problems, and

   g. Public participation in plan development and implementation.

5. Determine whether the WMO ~~has incorporated into its~~ plan:

   a. Includes ^ An executive summary that concisely describes the WMO's primary problems, opportunities, goals, and the future management responsibilities assigned to the WMO and the affected local units;

   b. ~~A summary of~~ Summarizes available information on groundwater resources;

   c. Includes ^ A chart or matrix ^ showing whether the existing local controls of affected local governmental units conform to the policies and standards of the WMO plan;

d. ~~A requirement that~~ Requires the WMO or local units exercising planning and zoning authority to incorporate uniform minimum urban erosion and sediment control criteria into their local controls; when uniform criteria are made available through the MBWSR;

e. Includes A statement of wetland values; and requires that they be reflected in local plans;

f. Requires ~~A requirement that~~ each local unit exercising planning and zoning authority to: maintain a copy of the national wetland inventory map at their principal place of business; notify persons proposing or carrying out filling or other development activity in areas identified as wetlands on the national wetland inventory map that their activity may require a Corps of Engineers 404 permit; and copy ~~notify~~ the Corps of Engineers regulatory branch ~~of any proposed or initiated activity that would result in placement of fill in any area identified as wetland on the national wetlands inventory map;~~ on such notifications.

g. Requires ~~A requirement that~~ each local unit exercising planning and zoning authority to amend the zoning map in their local comprehensive plan to reflect DNR-regulated public waters; notify persons proposing or carrying out filling or other development activity in public waters that their activity may require a DNR permit; and copy the DNR on such notifications.

h. Requires ~~A requirement that~~ the WMO or local units exercising planning and zoning authority to adopt a wetland ordinance that: prohibits drainage, grading, or filling of wetlands without a permit; ~~and~~ that requires consideration of the affected wetlands' values for stormwater runoff storage and detention, sediment and nutrient trapping and retention, fish and wildlife habitat, and the recreation and open space needs of the community before a permit is issued; and explains that state DNR or federal Corps of Engineers permits may be required for land disturbing activity in wetlands.

i. Contains A section describing any conflicts between the watershed plan and existing plans of local units; and standards and schedules for local units to follow in making any needed amendments to existing comprehensive plans and official controls or in adopting new local controls.

6. Discuss any significant issues, or recommended additions or amendments, with the WMO and any affected local unit, person, or agency. Ask the WMO whether it would be advisable to proceed directly to a public hearing. If no significant problems are anticipated, proceed to publish notice of filing of the plan pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 112.401. If staff determines that a public hearing should be ordered, staff should consult with the Chairman before proceeding to publish notice of and order for hearing.

7. Prepare a concise plan summary that includes a section explaining any significant plan deficiencies and unresolved issues. Place the plan on the Board's regular meeting agenda and include the plan summary in the Board meeting mailing. Transmit a copy of the plan summary to the WMO along with a notice of the Board meeting. Make a presentation about the plan at the Board meeting and provide an opportunity for the WMO to address the Board.

8. If a public hearing is required, place have the Board the matter on the Board's regular meeting agenda and determine which ~~Board~~ members will attend the hearing. Make all necessary hearing arrangements and assist the Board's hearing panel in conducting the hearing and reporting its recommendations back to the full Board.

9. Consult with the WMO to resolve issues through negotiation. Offer the WMO advice, ideas, examples from other WMO plans, and general assistance in bringing the plan into conformance with the requirements of pertinent state law and rule. Make use of the review principles listed at Minnesota Rules, part 9300.0170, subpart 4 in analyzing plan issues.

10. If plan approval is recommended, present a draft Order for Board action at the regular meeting following the meeting at which the Board receives its initial plan briefing (or a later meeting if needed).

11. If disapproval of all or parts of a plan would be recommended due to failure to reach agreement with the WMO on one or more significant issues, present the Board with a written report on the unresolved issues ~~plan elements~~. Provide notice and opportunity for the WMO to address the Board at a regular meeting.

12. Provide notice to all affected local units, agencies, interested organizations, and individuals of final Board approval of the plan.

OUTLINE OF 509 PLAN CONTENT GUIDELINES

Left Column	Middle Column	Right Column
Items that must be included in a watershed plan (unless they are not applicable to the watershed) to meet the basic requirements of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act.	Items that could be included in a watershed plan, if the data are available or the WMO determines that they are needed for proper management of surface water.	Possible sources of information and assistance.

COVER:

- Title

  ("_____ Watershed Management Plan")

- Date

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

I. Introduction	Appendices
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III. Existing and Potential Problems	References
IV. Goals and Objectives	Glossary
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VI. Implementation Program	
VII. Amendment Procedure	

I. INTRODUCTION

- Description of WMO	
Type (joint powers, watershed district, or county)	Background information on establishment process
Date established	Summary of provisions in joint powers agreement
List of affected local units	
Make-up of governing body	
- Description of Watershed Area	
Location	Historical information on watershed area
Size	
General characteristics	
- Description of Planning Process	
Delegation of responsibility	Public participation efforts
Technical advisor(s)	Planning budget and expenditures
Use of advisory committee(s)	List of agencies contacted and description of information or assistance received
- Summary of Plan	
Statement of primary problems, opportunities, and objectives	Executive summary

II. WATERSHED INVENTORY

A. PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. TOPOGRAPHY

- Topographic map	- List of areas where detailed topographic survey is available	U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps
- Description of watershed relief		MDOT

Examples:

- General profile
- Bluff areas

2. GEOLOGY

- Geologic cross-section map	- Description of important aquifer systems, and known inter-connections with the surface water system	Minnesota Geological Survey
- Buried valleys map		Metropolitan Council
- Description of special geologic conditions		

Examples:

- Karst areas
- Sand plains

3. SOILS

- General soils map and description of infiltration capacities	- Soil infiltration capacity map	Soil Surveys
- Erosion-prone soils map	- Soil suitability information	Soil and Water Conservation Districts
	- Detailed soils map	Soil Conservation Service Agricultural Extension Service

B. LAND USE AND DEVELOPMENT

-Existing land use map, showing general land uses and location of feedlots and landfills	-Aerial photo composite for watershed area	Comprehensive Plans
		Metropolitan Council
Examples of general land use categories:	- Detailed land use breakdown for hydrologic modeling purposes	State Planning Agency
		Pollution Control Agency

- Urban residential
- Rural residential
- Commercial
- Industrial
- Transportation
- Cultivated
- Pasture
- Wooded
- Parks and recreation
- Water/wetlands
- Extractive

- Proposed land use map
- Map identifying regional parks, regional sanitary sewers, and location of current Metropolitan Urban Services Area line
- Identify sources of public water supply systems
- Identify community wastewater treatment facilities and location of discharge points

C. HYDROLOGIC SYSTEM

1. SURFACE WATER

a. Subwatersheds

- Map of minor watershed units - Area of minor units - Outlet locations and flow directions - Identification of significant land-locked areas - Identification of significant land-locked areas	Maps showing detailed breakdown of subwatersheds for modeling purposes or for analysis of priority problem areas	DNR Watershed Inventory Maps U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps Public Ditch Records Local Stormwater Plans

b. Public Waters

- DNR protected waters inventory map		DNR Protected Waters Inventory Maps

c. Watercourses

- Map of natural watercourses, public and private ditch systems, and stormsewer trunks - Locations of bridges and culvert crossings on identified watercourses - Locations of outlets of stormsewer trunks - Description of watercourse conditions - Location of watercourse reaches with severe gradients - Available floodplain maps and highest known water elevations - Identification of stream-gauging stations and periods for which discharge records are available - Available water quality data - Description of public access, public use, and related public lands and recreational facilities	- Detailed watercourse data for hydrologic modeling purposes Examples: • Channel cross-sections • Profiles • Roughness coefficients • Contributing drainage areas above crossings • Channel lengths • State-discharge curves	U.S.G.S. Topographic Maps U.S.G.S. DNR MPCA Metropolitan Council

d. Lakes

- DNR identification number - Classification - Area - Depth - Outlet location, and elevation if known - Map of contributing drainage area - Established DNR OHWL - Highest and lowest known elevations - Public access and adjoining public lands and facilities - Recreational uses - Locations of storm sewers outletting directly into lakes - Identification of shoreland areas served by public sanitary sewer systems - Available water quality information	- Detailed lake information Examples: • Shoreline length • Inventory of individual septic tanks • Bottom contour maps • Historical water level graphs • Vegetative types and distribution • WMO-collected water quality measurements • Nutrient budgets • In-lake chemistry and biology • Trophic status • Fishing surveys and stocking records • Spawning areas • Stage-discharge curves	DNR MPCA Metropolitan Council State Planning Agency

e. Wetlands

- Inventory map of wetland types 2 through 7 (down to 2 1/2 acres in unincorporated areas, and 1 acre in municipalities)	- Inventory map of wetlands down to 1 acre for entire watershed - Detailed data on significant wetlands Examples: • Wetland type • Area • Water storage capacity • Contributing drainage area • Value for wildlife habitat • Value for water quality • Value for aesthetics • Value for floodwater retention • Value for groundwater recharge - Historical wetland map	
2. GROUNDWATER	- Tables or graphs of historical aquifer levels and withdrawals	Minnesota Geological Survey
- Available information on recharge areas	-Inventory of improperly constructed or abandoned wells	DNR U.S.G.S. Metropolitan Council
- Available information on groundwater table elevations	- Data on groundwater use by large appropriators	
- Available information on groundwater quality	- Irrigated acreage	
	- Artificial discharge of groundwater to the surface water system by irrigation wells and high capacity air conditioning or heating systems utilizing groundwater	
3. PRECIPITATION		
- Rainfall frequency	- Maps and tables of rainfall distribution, frequency, duration, depth, and intensity	Metropolitan Council

III. EXISTING AND POTENTIAL PROBLEMS

A. WATER QUANTITY

1. FLOODING	- Hydrographs for subwatersheds for selected recurrence intervals	
- Description of existing flooding problems	- Preparation of flood hazard maps based on ultimate development conditions and existing ordinances	
- Description of causes of existing problems Examples: • Diminished channel capacity (sedimentation, vegetative growth, channel and culvert obstructions, etc.) • Increased runoff rates and volumes (loss of upstream storage areas, increase in upstream impervious areas, upstream drainage improvements, etc.) • Floodplain development (filling of floodplain areas) • Diversion of runoff (road construction, development activities, drainage modifications, etc.) • Rising water table	- Estimates of existing and potential average annual flood damages	
- Description of potential for future problems in view of expected changes in land use		

2. LOW FLOWS

- Description of existing low flow problems

  Examples:

  - Water supply shortages
  - Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
  - Decreased ability of streams to assimilate waste discharges
  - Loss of recreational opportunities and aesthetics

- Description of causes of existing problems

  Examples:

  - Drought conditions
  - Drainage or filling of natural water storage areas
  - Water diversions
  - Over-appropriation

- Description of potential for future problems in view of expected changes in land use

B. WATER QUALITY

- Description of existing water quality problems, including available data on measured water quality parameters

  Examples:

  - Nuisance conditions in lakes and streams (excessive weed growth, algae blooms, diminished water clarity, odors, fish kills, etc.)
  - Contamination of drinking water supplies

- Description of causes of existing problems

  Examples:

  - Erosion of agricultural land, construction sites, streambanks, and lakeshores
  - Runoff from urban areas carrying pollutants such as nutrients, suspended solids, oil, heavy metals, etc.
  - Over-application or improper application of fertilizers, pesticides, or herbicides
  - Discharges from feedlots and waste treatment systems, including septic systems
  - Loss of natural vegetative buffer strips adjacent to lakes and streams
  - Drainage and filling of natural water storage and retention systems, decreasing the opportunity for settling and filtration of pollutants
  - Conversion of open or wooded upland areas to more intensive land use, increasing runoff or pollutant loadings to lakes and streams

- Description of potential for future problems in view of expected land use changes

- Evaluate need for establishment of vegetative buffer strips adjacent to lakes and watercourses
- Evaluate and prioritize need for waste management systems on feedlots in shoreland areas
- Collect new water quality data
- Inspect shoreland septic systems, run dye tests
- Utilize water quality models to evaluate effects of land use changes and alternative management practices; such as diversion of storm water through wetlands, protection or re-establishment of wetlands, erosion control, requiring settling basins on new development, etc.

Pollution Control Agency
DNR
Metropolitan Council (208 Plan)
Advisory Committees

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

- Description of existing erosion and sedimentation problems	- Map critical erosion areas - Map critical sedimentation areas	Soil and Water Conservation Districts Soil Conservation Service Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Advisory Committees

Examples:

- Loss of channel capacity
- Transport of nutrients and suspended solids into lakes
- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities

- Description of causes of existing problems

Examples:

- Lack of agricultural conservation practices on erosion-prone land
- Lack of erosion control practices on construction sites
- Excessive runoff rates and volumes
- Livestock grazing on streambanks and lakeshores
- Poor vegetative cover on undeveloped lands
- Off-road vehicles
- Lakeshore erosion due to high water levels

- Description of the potential for future problems in view of expected land use changes

D. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

- Description of existing problems related to ground water recharge

Minnesota Geological Survey
DNR
U.S.G.S.
Health Department
MPCA

Examples:

- Groundwater contamination
- Declining or rising groundwater levels
- Well interference

- Description of causes of existing problems

Examples:

- Leaching of pollutants from landfills and other waste disposal sites
- Over-application of nitrogen fertilizers on pervious soils
- Groundwater appropriations exceeding sustainable yield

- Description of potential for future problems in view of expected land use changes

E. RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

- Description of existing problems relating to recreation and fish and wildlife habitat	- Lake user survey data - Fishing survey data	DNR U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Examples:

- Loss of fish and wildlife habitat
- Loss of recreational values of lakes and streams for swimming, boating, fishing, etc.
- Loss of local water-related recreational resource base and recreation-related economic inputs

— Evaluation of economic values of surface waters and related land resources — Metropolitan Council

- Description of causes of existing problems

Examples:

- Eutrophication
- Drainage and filling of wetland habitats
- Sedimentation in fish spawning areas
- Diminished aesthetics

- Description of potential for future problems in view of expected land use changes

IV. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

A. WATER QUANTITY

Example:

Goal - To alleviate recurrent flood damages along a certain portion of a particular watercourse.

Objective - To investigate the feasibility and cost effectiveness of possible retention projects in the contributing drainage area by January 1988.

B. WATER QUALITY

Example:

Goal - To maintain the water quality in the watershed's five lakes at 1980-81 levels.

Objective - To initiate a water quality monitoring program for the five lakes beginning in March 1987.
- To investigate the potential for protection and utilization of natural retention areas to control peak discharges and filter runoff from proposed new development within the five lakes' contributing drainage areas by July 1987.

C. EROSION AND SEDIMENTATION

Example:

Goal - To reduce the rate of sedimentation in County Ditch X to minimize the public expenditures required for clean-out projects.

Objective - To establish and protect a one-rod filter strip along County Ditch X by November 1989.
- To adopt the Department of Agriculture's and Soil and Water Conservation Board's model loss ordinance by January 1989.

D. GROUNDWATER RECHARGE

Example:

Goal - To maintain base flows in a particular watercourse to maintain fish and wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities.

Objective - To adopt a wetland ordinance by January 1990 to protect wetlands that discharge into the surficial groundwater system and augment base flows in the watercourse.

E. RECREATION AND FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

Example:

Goal - To provide greater public access to major water retention areas to enhance recreational opportunities.

Objective - To develop a capitol improvement budget for purchasing land or easements from willing sellers.

V. POLICIES AND MANAGEMENT STRATEGY

A. POLICIES

- Development of watershed policy statements to help define WMO priorities and management strategies, and to provide guidance to local units.

  Examples:

  - Peak discharge rates will be kept within the capacity of downstream conveyance systems by use of a subwatershed detention approach.
  - Whenever practicable, storm sewer discharges must be routed through detention basins before outletting into lakes and streams.
  - Cultivation within one rod of lakes and watercourses will be prohibited.
  - Stormwater handling facilities for new development should be designed to promote groundwater recharge whenever safe, feasible, and practicable.
  - The WMO will seek opportunities to protect and enhance recreational facilities and fish and wildlife habitat in conjunction with all water resource projects within the watershed.

B. LAND USE ZONING AND OFFICIAL CONTROLS

- Review existing land use zoning and official controls (including special controls under the Critical Areas Act, Wild and Scenic Rivers Act, or other laws) and evaluate their adequacy for achieving watershed goals and objectives.
- Identify needed amendments to existing land use zoning and official controls to achieve watershed goals and objectives.

  Examples:

  - Requirements for greater percentage of open space in new plats
  - Zoning changes to provide buffer zones adjacent to lakes and watercourses
  - Official controls to require dedication of important stormwater retention systems in new plats
  - Zoning changes to protect unique natural features adjacent to lakes and watercourses
  - Wetland protection ordinance
  - Site planning standards to control runoff rates and water quality
  - Erosion control ordinance
  - Feedlot ordinance
  - Well construction and abandonment ordinance
  - Septic system ordinance beyond shoreland areas

C. IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND MAINTENANCE PROGRAMS

- Identify and prioritize improvements necessary to alleviate severe existing water problems

- Identify opportunities for potential improvements or maintenance programs that could help achieve watershed goals and objectives

- Identify need for detailed studies to analyze problems and determine the feasibility of alternative solutions

Examples of possible actions:

- Installation of water detention facilities
- Improvements to water conveyance systems
- Establishmnt of buffer strips on lakes and watercourses
- Diversion of runoff through artificial or natural detention basins
- Stabilization of critically eroding areas
- Sewage system improvements
- Comprehensive lake restoration/ management projects
- Protective easements on or acquisition of critical water storage and retention basins
- Floodproofing of buildings
- Improved maintenance of existing channels and stormwater handling facilities
- Recreation and fish and wildlife habitat improvement projects that would also help solve water quality or water quantity problems

D. MONITORING AND DATA COLLECTION

- Identify information needed to monitor the effectiveness of the watershed plan, determine the need for future plan amendments, and determine the feasibility of possible solutions

Examples:

- On-going data collection program
- Specific feasibility studies

E. EDUCATION

- Identify process that will be used to inform local units and the public of watershed plan objectives and requirements

Examples:

- Local meetings
- Press releases
- Direct mailings
- Landowner contacts

VI. IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAM

A. CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

- List of contemplated capital improvement projects, including their priority, need, estimated cost, source of financing, responsible governmental units, and timing

B. LOCAL COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND OFFICIAL CONTROL AMENDMENTS

- List of required amendments required to local comprehensive plans and official controls to bring them into conformance with the watershed plan, including schedules for making the amendments

- Establishment of water quantity and quality performance standards for local water plans

C. ASSIGNMENT OF MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITIES

- Identification of the management responsibilities of the WMO and the affected local governmental units

- Identification of the process that will be used to monitor implementation of and compliance with the watershed plan

VII. AMENDMENT PROCEDURE

- Identification of a watershed plan amendment procedure

- Identification of the year to which the watershed plan extends

Minnesota Water Resources Board
First Floor
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55146

Coon Creek Watershed District - 509 Plan Review Update

- On May 15, 1988 MBWSR staff toured the watershed with representatives of the District.

- On May 23, 1988 staff met with representatives of the Coon Creek Watershed District and discussed staff recommendations on the CCWD Plan.

- On May 25, 1988 staff presented the Board with a summary of the CCWD 509 Plan.

- On June 3, 1988 the CCWD submitted several additions to their Plan to the MBWSR.

- On June 6, 1988 the Board held a public hearing on the CCWD's 509 Plan at the Bunker Hills Activity Center.

- Staff intends to work with the CCWD to see that the Plan is improved in several areas, including the following: scope of the CIP; focusing water quality and quantity control on non-structural opportunities; ditch repair schedule; wetland protection procedures; clarification of local plan standards; wetland values statements; fine-tuning of management responsibilities chart; statement on uniform erosion control standards; and summary of the problems regarding high water tables and septic systems.

- Staff recommends that the Board allow it adequate time to work with the District to improve the Plan.

Six Cities WMO 509 Plan Review

- June 3, 1988 - Dan Steward and Kim Benson of MBWSR staff toured the Six Cities WMO with John Flora, Larry Peterson, and Tom Mathieson, representatives of the WMO.

- Notice of Filing of WMO Plan will be published in the Anoka County Union on June 10 and June 17, 1988. If no requests for hearing are received by July 18, 1988, the Board could act on the Plan at the July Board meeting without conducting a formal hearing.

- June 21, 1988 - MBWSR staff will meet with WMO representatives to discuss Board staff comments and recommendations concerning the Six Cities WMO Plan.

- June 22, 1988 - Summary of Plan will be presented at MBWSR meeting.

- July 27, 1988 - MBWSR staff will present recommendations on the Plan. MBWSR action possible, if no public hearing required.

Staff Summary of the Six Cities WMO Water Management Plan

The Six Cities Watershed Management Organization (SCWMO) is a joint powers organization between six cities in Anoka County. The WMO was formed in December 1983 shortly after passage of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. The six member communities are Blaine, Columbia Heights, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Hilltop, and Spring Lake Park. The attached map shows the location of each of the member communities and the WMO's six subwatersheds. The WMO covers a total area of 21 square miles, and is one of the smallest of the 46 WMOs.

The SCWMO is divided into three separate parts. The Coon Creek Watershed District and Rice Creek Watershed District lie between these three small watershed areas that make up the SCWMO.

The WMO's geomorphic makeup includes: sandy outwash plains along the Mississippi River; sandplains with high water tables in Spring Lake Park and east Fridley; glacial moraines with short slopes, organic soils, wetlands and small lakes in Hilltop and Columbia Heights, and level, poorly drained areas in Blaine.

The Plan states on page 15: "The Six Cities Watershed is on the northern edge of the metropolitan area. Those areas in the southern portion of the watershed, including Columbia Heights, Hilltop, Spring Lake Park, and most of Fridley, are almost completely developed. Minor changes in land use can be expected as some areas are redeveloped.

The cities of Blaine, Coon Rpaids and portions of Fridley have substantial undeveloped areas within the watershed boundary. These remaining areas are developing quickly."

The primary purpose of metropolitan water planning is to set in place a process that will preserve natural water retention areas. The SCWMO's undeveloped areas still offer opportunities to preserve natural water retention sites.

Although the Plan includes good mapping of existing and future land uses, and subwatershed areas, it lacks a good wetland inventory. The Plan has a map identifying the ten lakes and wetlands regulated by the DNR, but fails to identify the "unprotected" wetlands, which are a key element in 509 planning.

The National Wetland Inventory (NWI) indicates numerous wetlands in the central portion of the WMO, but far fewer in the southern and northern portions of the WMO. A copy of the DNR protected waters map from the Plan is attached, along with a copy of the NWI for the central portion of the SCWMO. These maps indicate the large acreages of wetlands not subject to DNR jurisdiction.

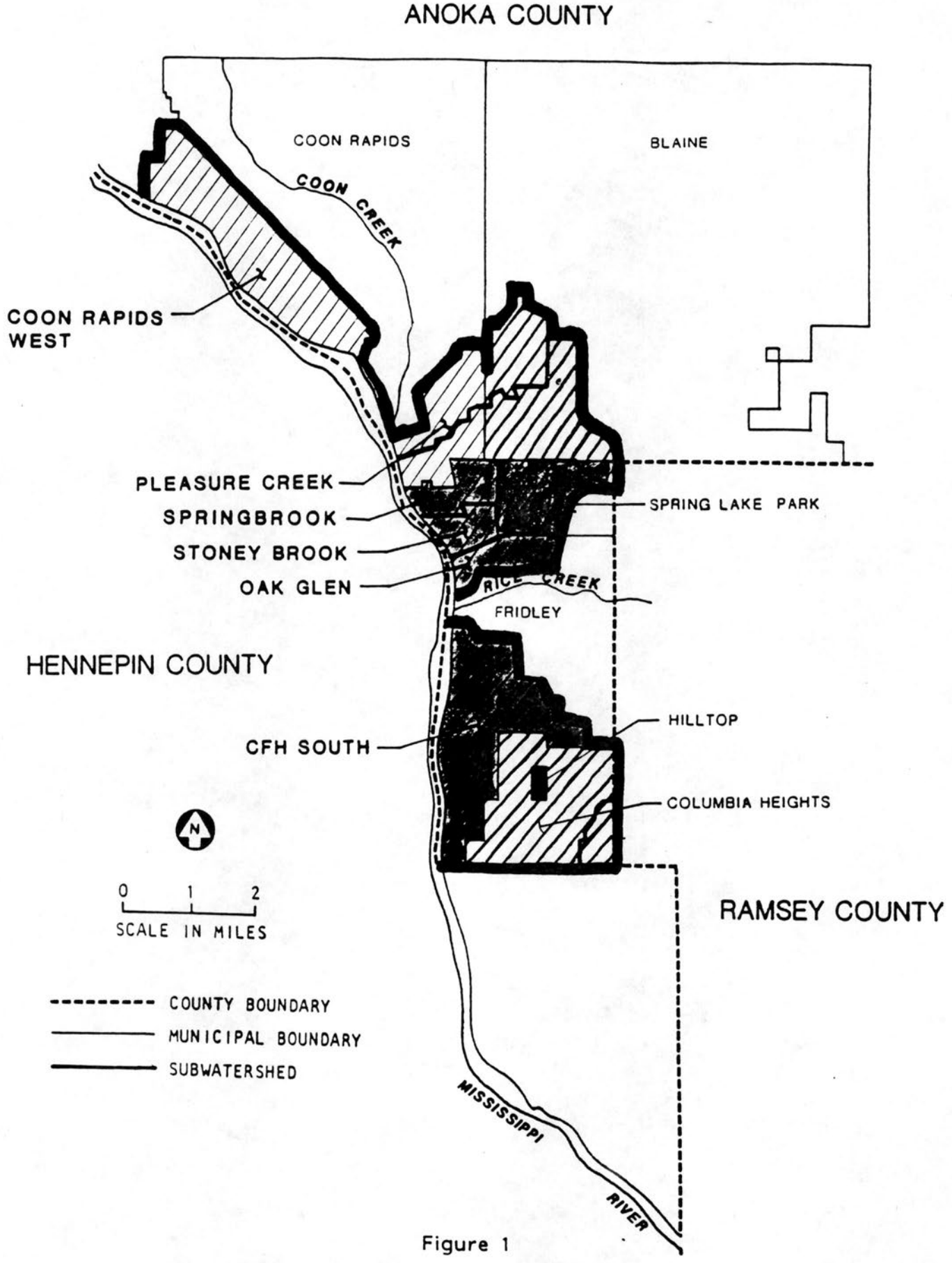
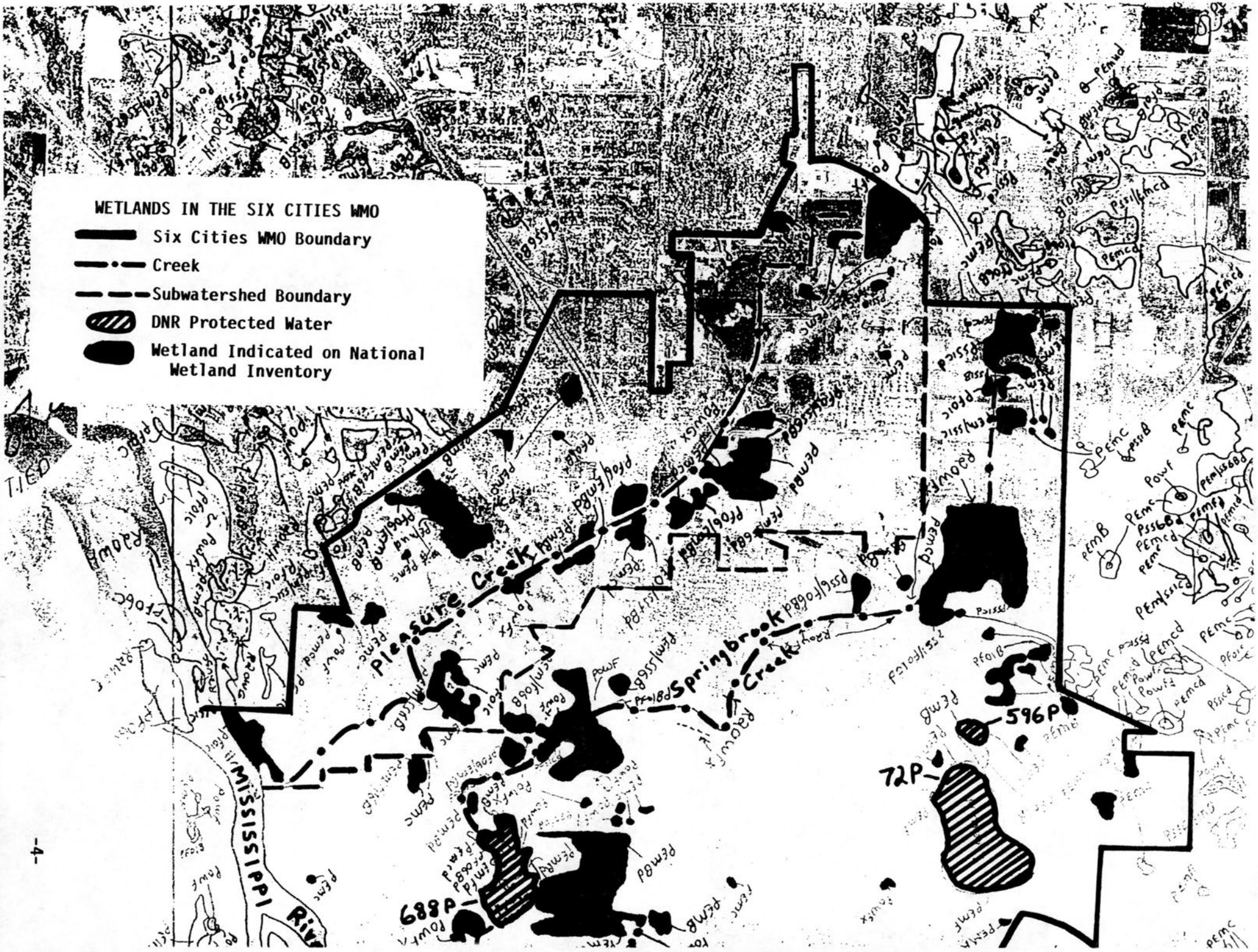


Figure 1
LOCATION


WETLANDS IN THE SIX CITIES WMO
Six Cities WMO Boundary
Creek
Subwatershed Boundary
DNR Protected Water
Wetland Indicated on National Wetland Inventory
Pleasure Creek
Spring Brook Creek
Mississippi River
596P
72P
689P

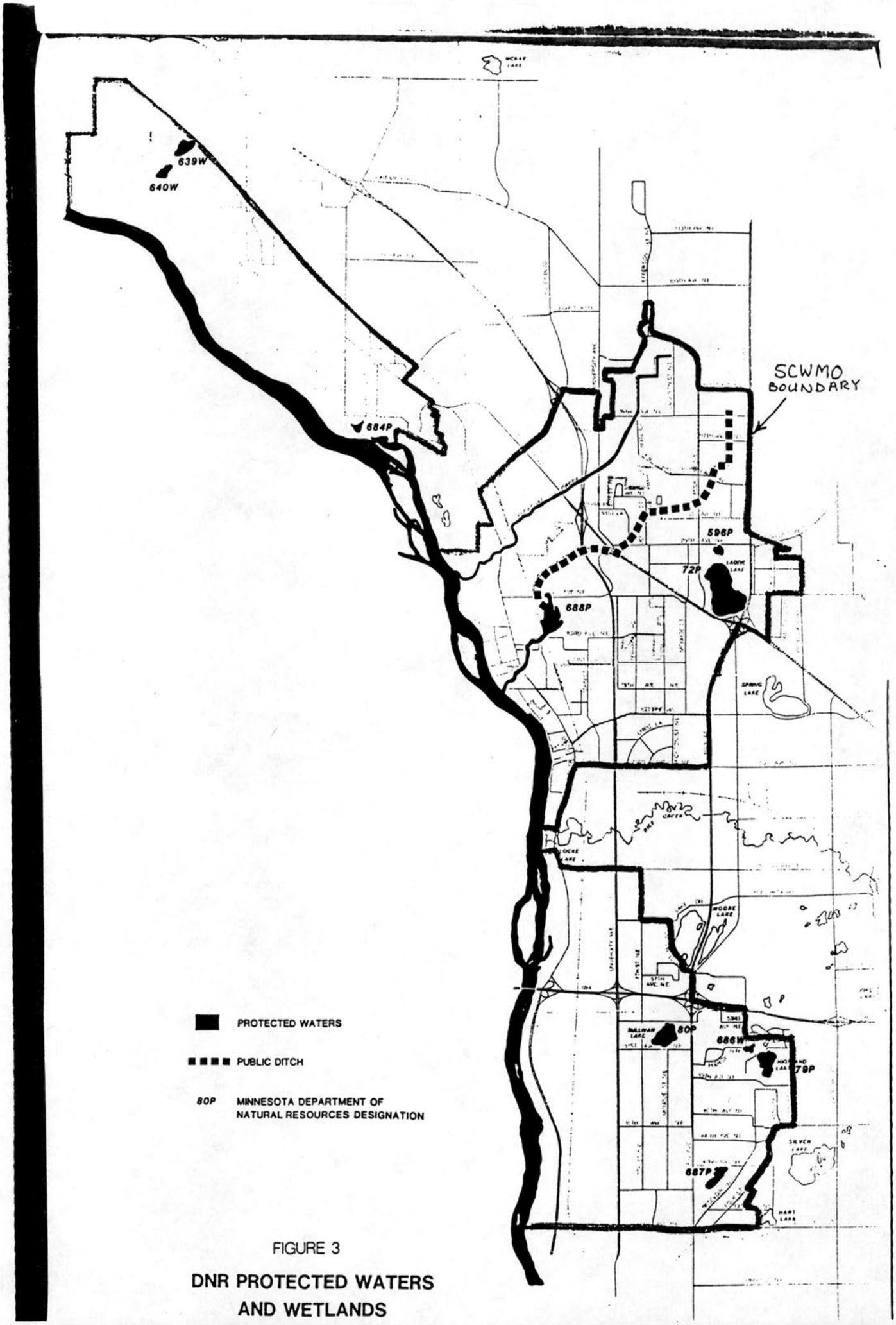


FIGURE 3

DNR PROTECTED WATERS AND WETLANDS

The Plan clearly identifies the cause and effect relationship between urban development and increased flooding, channel erosion, and water quality degradation. For example, on page 34 the Plan in its summary of the Stoney Brook subwatershed states: "The creek is meandering and eroding its bed since the natural system was upset when the upstream drainage was storm sewered and developed. The storm sewer caused the water to reach the creek faster, which increased the peak stormwater runoff flows. In addition, the creek has a steep slope."

On page 38 the Plan summarizes the Springbrook Creek subwatershed and states:

"The creek serves as the stormwater outlet for the subwatershed. There are many areas that serve to detain stormwater and effectively reduce the peak flows. Reportedly, the creek is not causing any current flooding problems. When the subwatershed is fully developed, however, the additional runoff could create problems unless care is taken."

On page 42 the Plan summarizes projected development and land use changes in the Pleasure Creek subwatershed:

> The relief is generally low with the exception of a steep bluff near the Mississippi River. The creek has eroded a gully through the bluff to near the East River Road.
>
> The existing land use is largely undeveloped open space, with several tracts of low density residential development scattered throughout. The future land use replaces most of the open space with large areas of commercial, industrial, and high density residential development. The low density residential areas will cover approximately half of the subwatershed.

The Pleasure Creek subwatershed wetlands are shown on the attached NWI map.

The subwatershed summaries include proposals for dealing with many of the identified problems. In some cases the Plan discusses other options that were considered and why they were rejected.

The Plan identifies three lakes within the WMO. Kodiak or Highland Lake in Columbia Heights has a surface area of 17 acres and has a depth of three feet. The Plan indicates Anoka County intends to initiate a lake restoration program in 1986. Sullivan Lake is also in Columbia Heights and has a surface area of 19 acres and a maximum depth of seven feet. The WMO's water quality goal for the lake hopes to maintain current water quality levels. However, the Plan doesn't identify current water quality or propose how it will be maintained.

Laddie Lake is on the Blaine-Spring Lake Park boundary. The lake has an area of 73 acres and is 10 feet deep. The Plan states that the Metropolitan Council's study of the lake's water quality in 1980 found it to be eutrophic. The City of Blaine is aerating the lake in an attempt to improve water quality.

The Plan includes general WMO goals, and also identifed policies for 12 issues. The attached pages A and B identify SCWMO policies for several issues. Although the WMO policies include several good statements about local water management, the Plan in general lacks clear procedures for achieving its goals.

Water Quality

1. The organization will seek to maintain or improve the overall water quality of water resources within the watershed.

2. The WMO will seek to achieve water quality levels for water resources consistent with applicable State and Federal water quality standards.

3. Water quality will be maintained at the highest level consistent with a responsible economic benefit/cost relationship.

Stormwater Runoff

1. The WMO encourages the optimal use of lakes, ponds, and wetlands throughout the watershed for storing stormwater runoff and improving water quality and related amenities.

2. The WMO encourages and will assist in planning for the retainment of as much precipitation as possible on and in the soil. Temporary surface storage facilities and infiltration techniques will be used wherever practical.

3. Stormwater management improvements will be designed based on the critical storm event for the drainage area.

4. Subwatershed discharge rates and flood storage volumes shall be maintained to be consistent with the management plan.

Drainageway Maintenance

1. Member municipalities will maintain waterways and water management structures between protected and managed water resources in coordination with the WMO.

Flooding

1. Local units of government, in cooperation with the WMO and other involved agencies, will manage development based on the 100-year flood level on all open channels, storm sewer overflow areas, depressions, wetlands, and lakes.

2. The WMO may establish regional 100-year flood elevations based on critical storm events on the water bodies within the watershed.

3. All municipalities within the watershed will adopt, as a minimum, floodplain zoning ordinances that conform to state regulations.

4. Until a municipality adopts a floodplain zoning ordinance acceptable to the WMO, the WMO shall manage the floodplain as the floodway for regulatory purposes.

5. Stormwater conveyance systems shall be designed to ensure flood protection for the drained area and for all receiving water resources downstream.

Wetlands

1. Wetlands that are tributary to a protected water resource and that perform a beneficial water quality function will be maintained in their natural condition or improved to provide more benefits for water quality management, with consideration for other amenities.

Groundwater

1. The WMO encourages sound, contemporary land use development that incorporates grassed open spaces to allow infiltration of precipitation in all land use categories.

2. The WMO encourages the use of facilities to enhance groundwater infiltration whenever possible and practical.

Six Cities WMO 509 Plan - MBWSR Staff Comments and Recommendations

The SCWMO Plan includes good goals and policies, but does not set forth a "management plan" that explains how the policies will be implemented and the goals achieved.

It was apparent from the tour that the member communities of the SCWMO are carefully reviewing and evaluating the water-related impacts of new development. Some of staff's key Plan recommendations could be addressed by simply adding information on the WMO's current development review procedures. For example, the Plan doesn't indicate how the policy of maintaining current discharge rates and storage volumes will be achieved. The WMO Plan needs to include an explanation of how the policies will be implemented.

The Plan should make clear the WMO's intention to preserve and use natural water retention systems in order to reduce the costs of water management, prevent flooding, protect water quality, and secure other benefits. The preserve and use purpose of 509 should be added to the WMO's goals and several of its policies.

The WMO's "game plan" for preserving natural retention areas can also be strengthened by improving the wetland inventory. The NWI is available for use as a comprehensive inventory of the WMO's wetlands. The Plan also needs to clarify and define the various levels of wetland protection and regulatory jurisdiction including: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Department of Natural Resources, WMO, and municipal.

Board staff will meet with WMO representatives on Tuesday June 21, 1988 to discuss recommendations concerning the Plan. A final list of staff recommendations is not ready at this time. In addition to the items discussed above, staff will be preparing additional recommendations including the following plan elements: local wetland ordinances, localized flooding in the Jackson and Border Pond areas, amendment of comprehensive plans to reflect the protected waters inventory, updating the summary of WMO water quality efforts, uniform erosion control standards, a summary of management responsiblities, and a plan amendment procedure.