



**Minnehaha Creek Watershed District
2015 Annual Report to the
Board of Water and Soil Resources**



2015 Annual Report

1.0 Introduction 3

2.0 Annual Audit Report 3

3.0 Annual Activity Report 4

 3.A. Board Members 4

 3.B. Staff Contact Information 4

 3.C. Assessment of 2015 Work Plans 7

 3.D. 2016 Work Plans 8

 3.E. Evaluation of Progress on Goals and Implementation Actions 8

 3.F. Trends in Monitoring Data 8

 3.G. Annual Communications 10

 3.H. Solicitation of Services 10

 3.I. Status of Local Plans 10

 3.J. Status of Locally Adopted Ordinances 10

 3.K. Permits, Variances, and Violations 10

Tables

Table 1	2015 Budget, Revenues, and Expenditures
Table 2	MCWD Board of Managers
Table 3	MCWD Staff Contacts
Table 4	Significant water quality trends for lakes within MCWD

Appendices

Appendix 1	MCWD 2015 Audit Report
Appendix 2	MCWD 2015 Year in Review Brochure

1.0 Introduction

This report has been prepared to satisfy the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD or District) annual reporting requirements set forth in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.351, which requires watershed districts to file an annual report with the Board of Soil and Water Resources. Metro watershed districts are required to follow reporting requirements described in MR 8410.0150.

2.0 Annual Audit Report

Provided below is a summary of the District's 2015 budget, revenues, and expenditures. The full 2015 audit report is included as Appendix 1.

Table 1. 2015 Budget, Revenues, and Expenditures

Budget	
General Operations and Management Planning	2,628,525
Projects and Programs	11,578,324
Total Budget	14,206,849
Revenues	
Levy	8,266,011
Intergovernmental	2,619,259
Permits	104,986
Investment income	69,773
Rental income	1,384,135
Other	40,269
Total Revenues	12,484,433
Total Expenditures	13,187,762

3.0 Annual Activity Report

The following information is provided to satisfy the requirements of MN Rules 8410.0150, Subpart 3.

3.A. Board Members

Below is a list of the District's current Board of Managers, designated officers, and the county that appointed each member.

Table 2. MCWD Board of Managers

Manager	County	Contact Information
Sherry Davis White, President	Hennepin	swhite@minnehahacreek.org
Brian Shekleton, Vice President	Hennepin	bshekleton@minnehahacreek.org
Richard Miller, Treasurer	Hennepin	rmiller@minnehahacreek.org
Kurt Rogness, Secretary	Hennepin	krogness@minnehahacreek.org
Bill Becker	Hennepin	bbecker@minnehahacreek.org
Pamela Blixt	Hennepin	pblixt@minnehahacreek.org
Bill Olson	Carver	bolson@minnehahacreek.org

3.B. Staff Contact Information

The District currently employs 35 staff. The names, job titles, and contact information are provided in Table 3. The District maintains an office for staff and meetings. The address is given below:

Minnehaha Creek Watershed District Office
15320 Minnetonka Blvd.
Minnetonka, MN 55345
Ph: 952-471-0590 Fax: 952-471-0682
Email: admin@minnehahacreek.org
www.minnehahacreek.org

Table 3. MCWD Staff Contacts

Name	Job Title	E-mail	Phone
Lars Erdahl	District Administrator	lerdahl@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4505
Telly Mamayek	Communications and Education Director	tmamayek@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4508
Darren Lochner	Education Program Manager	dlochner@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4524
Trevor Born	Communications Coordinator	tborn@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4520
Sarah Fellows	Education Coordinator	sfellows@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4507
Brett Eidem	Cost Share Grant Administrator	beidem@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4523
David Mandt	Operations and Support Services Director	dmandt@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4503
Debora Smith	Office Administrator	dsmith@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4502
Jen Scharlow	Technical Support Services Specialist	jscharlow@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4500
Chris Lizee	Receptionist / Administrative Assistant	clizee@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4500
Katherine Sylvia	Permitting Program Lead	ksylvia@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 473-2855
Heidi Quinn	Permitting Technician	hquinn@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4504
Rachel Workin	Permitting Technician	rworkin@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4518
Theresa Zerby	Permitting Clerk	tzerby@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4519
Lauren Sampedro	District Representative - Permitting	lsampedro@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4517
Miriam Eason	District Representative - Permitting	meason@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4586
Terrence Chastan-Davis	District Representative - Permitting	tchastan-davis@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4581
James Wisker	Planning and Projects Director	jwisker@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4509
Rena Clark	Planner - Project Manager	rclark@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4510

Becky Christopher	Lead Planner - Project Manager	bchristopher@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4512
Michael Hayman	Planner - Project Manager	mhayman@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-8226
Anna Brown	Planner - Project Manager	abrown@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4522
Matt Cook	Planning Assistant	mcook@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4506
Tiffany Schaufler	Project and Land Program Manager	tschaufler@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4513
Laura Domyancich	Project and Land Technician	ldomyancich@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4582
Craig Dawson	Research and Monitoring Director	cdawson@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-8306
Eric Fieldseth	AIS Program Manager	efieldseth@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-7873
Yvette Christianson	Water Quality Manager	ychristianson@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4514
Kelly Dooley	Water Quality Manager	kdooley@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4515
Kailey Kreatz	Water Quality Technician	kkreatz@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4501
Jill Sweet	AIS Technician	jbjorklund@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 471-8976
Rachel Fleck	District Representative – AIS	rfleck@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4517
Johanna Grimsley	District Representative - Water Quality	jgrimsley@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4517
Andy Swanson	District Representative - Water Quality	aswanson@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4517
Marcie Lapointe	District Representative - Water Quality	mlapointe@minnehahacreek.org	(952) 641-4517

3.C. Assessment of 2015 Work Plans

District staff prepared 32 individual work plans for 2015 as listed below. All program and project activities were substantially completed as proposed. Expenditures under each work plan are included in the audit report in Appendix 1.

- Operations and Support Services:
 - Information Technology (1003)
 - Government Relations (1004)
- Planning and Permitting:
 - Permit Administration (2001)
 - Planning and Projects (2002)
 - Project Maintenance and Land Management (2003)
 - Land Conservation (2004)
 - Land Restoration (2005)
 - Habitat Restoration Initiative (2006)
 - Low Impact Development Grant (3121)
- Capital Projects:
 - Six Mile Marsh Prairie Restoration (3106)
 - Minnehaha Falls/Gorge (3120)
 - Minnehaha Creek Infiltration (3125)
 - Big Island (3126)
 - Gleason Lake Projects (3129)
 - Minnehaha Creek Reach 19-21 (3133)
 - Steiger Lake Wetland Restoration (3135)
 - Six Mile Creek (3139)
 - Taft/Legion Improvements (3140)
 - Minnehaha Creek Reach 14 Stabilization (3141)
 - Long Lake Creek Corridor Projects (3142)
 - Halsted Bay Internal Load Management (3144)
 - 325 Blake Rd Stormwater Management (3145)
 - Cottageville Park (3146)
 - 54th St. Stream Restoration (3147)
- Education and Communications:
 - Cynthia Krieg (4001)
 - Education (4002)
 - Communications (4003)
 - Cost Share (4005)
- Research and Monitoring:
 - Water Quality (5001)
 - E-Grade (5002)
 - Lake Nokomis Project (5003)
 - Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) (5005)

Appendix 2 includes the District's 2015 annual report publication highlighting major activities from each of the District's programs.

3.D. 2016 Work Plans

District staff prepared 33 individual program and project work plans for 2016 which can be found on the District website at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/district-finances/budget>.

3.E. Evaluation of Progress on Goals and Implementation Actions

The annual reporting requirements under the newly revised MN Rules 8410 call for an evaluation of progress toward goals and implementation actions every two years. As a part of its 2017 Comprehensive Plan update, the District is in the process of compiling information on progress made toward the goals set in the 2007 Plan. This information will be included in next year's annual activity report to BWSR.

Also in 2016, the District is undertaking a strategic planning process through which it will evaluate and align all of its programs under its new, refocused mission and goals. The District will be assessing all of its activities to identify the projected outcomes, resources allocated, and metrics that will be used to measure progress. This process will provide a framework for future evaluation and reporting.

3.F. Trends in Monitoring Data

The Research and Monitoring Department evaluated long-term trends on lakes in the District. The water quality for the majority of lakes was assessed from 2001-2015. Using R-studio statistical package, trends were computed using the Mann-Kendall test on water clarity (SECC), algal abundance (CHLA) and total phosphorus (TP) in the epilimnion on lakes with at least eight years of consecutive data. 45 lakes within the Watershed District met this criteria. An alpha of 0.1 was used to determine if the p-value is significant. Lakes with significant trends are displayed in Tables 4. The statistics for all the lakes analyzed will be included in the 2015 Research and Monitoring Report which will be available in June 2015 on the District website at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/data-center/annual-monitoring-reports>.

Lake Harriet and Schutz Lake had significant degradation in at least one water quality parameter. Lake Nokomis had significant improvements in chlorophyll and phosphorus concentrations. The biomanipulation study the District conducted to improve water quality in Lake Nokomis occurred during this time frame. Further analysis is needed to determine if there was significant changes in water quality after the study was implemented.

For Lake Minnetonka, the eastern bays had the most significant change observed over the fourteen-year period. Most of those bays had significant improvements in chlorophyll-*a* and phosphorus concentrations and water clarity. The significant improvement in water clarity for the eastern bays was less than 0.25 m/year. Peavey Lake and Priests Bay, a western bay, were the only Lake Minnetonka waterbodies with significant degrading water quality. Zebra mussels were discovered in Lake Minnetonka in 2011. As an extension of the zebra mussel study conducted by the District, water quality from 5 years before and after 2011 was statistically compared. The eastern bays had significant improvements in water clarity, chlorophyll-*a*, and phosphorus after the introduction of zebra mussels.

A handful of lakes in the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District had data analyzed from 2002-2015, 2002-2014, and 2007-2015. The majority of these lakes were found to have significant improvements in water quality. Zumbra-Sunny Lake, specifically, the Zumbra bay, has significant improvements in water quality across all three parameters. Cedar Lake, is the exception, with significant degradation in water clarity at about 0.07 m/year.

Table 4. Significant water quality trends for lakes within Minnehaha Creek Watershed District

Trends: 2001-2015					
Lake	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Improving or Degrading
Harriet	TP	0.469	0.629	0.001	Degrading
Isles	CHLA	-1.225	-0.371	0.060	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Black	CHLA	-1.800	-0.578	0.025	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Carsons	SECC	0.250	0.545	0.016	Improving
	CHLA	-0.254	-0.394	0.086	Improving
	TP	-0.773	-0.424	0.064	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Crystal	SECC	0.115	0.486	0.013	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Grays	SECC	0.182	0.455	0.047	Improving
	TP	-0.814	-0.455	0.047	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Lower Lake South	SECC	0.157	0.410	0.037	Improving
	CHLA	-0.191	-0.410	0.038	Improving
	TP	-0.572	-0.410	0.038	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Priests	TP	1.762	0.778	0.002	Degrading
Lake Minnetonka: St Albans	SECC	0.101	0.448	0.023	Improving
	CHLA	-0.220	-0.410	0.038	Improving
	TP	-0.687	-0.467	0.018	Improving
Lake Minnetonka: Wayzata	SECC	0.145	0.505	0.010	Improving
	CHLA	-0.154	-0.352	0.075	Improving
	TP	-0.419	-0.333	0.092	Improving
Long	SECC	0.040	0.462	0.033	Improving
Nokomis	CHLA	-0.964	-0.429	0.029	Improving
	TP	-1.789	-0.410	0.038	Improving
Peavey	SECC	-0.018	-0.438	0.026	Degrading
	TP	4.569	0.429	0.029	Degrading
Schutz	CHLA	0.933	0.484	0.018	Degrading
Tamarack	SECC	0.070	0.371	0.060	Improving
Trends: 2002-2015					
Lake	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Improving or Degrading
Cedar	SECC	-0.070	-0.407	0.049	Degrading
Steiger	SECC	0.079	0.527	0.029	Improving
	CHLA	-0.646	-0.491	0.043	Improving
Zumbra-Sunny (Zumbra Bay)	SECC	0.184	0.758	0.0002	Improving
	CHLA	-0.678	-0.473	0.020	Improving
	TP	-0.728	-0.648	0.001	Improving
Trends: 2002-2014					
Lake	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Improving or Degrading
Grass	CHLA	-2.840	-0.571	0.063	Improving
Twin	TP	-5.841	-0.462	0.033	Improving
Trends: 2007-2015					
Lake	Parameter	Slope	Tau	p-value	Improving or Degrading
Stone	CHLA	-1.888	-0.643	0.035	Improving

3.G. Annual Communications

MCWD developed a strategic plan for communications in 2013 which guides how the District delivers messages to key audiences. In 2015, MCWD issued a total of 30 news releases, 16 newspaper columns, and 47 e-newsletters on topics including capital projects, program activities, water quality data, events, and finances. The District distributed both a mid-year and annual report to cities, counties, state agencies, and other stakeholders. The annual report can be found in Appendix 2. Other past news releases and newsletters can be found at: <http://www.minnehahacreek.org/about/newsroom>. The MCWD website received more than a quarter-million views in 2015 and the District continued an active social media presence on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.

3.H. Solicitation of Services

In 2015, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.227, the District solicited professional services for legal counsel, engineering, managed service provider, and government relations. The process will be repeated in 2017.

3.I. Status of Local Plans

There are three of twenty-nine communities in the watershed that have not completed updates to their local water management plans in response to the District's last plan update: Chanhassen, Watertown Township, and Laketown Township. These plans have been requested repeatedly by the District. With revised local water plans now due for all communities in 2017-2018, the District will focus its effort on ensuring that the next round of plans are completed in compliance with Minnesota Statutes 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0160.

The primary requirement of local government units (LGUs) in the District's 2007 Plan was the assignment of load reduction targets. The District's 2007 Plan requires that LGUs report annually to the District regarding progress toward these targets and other implementation activities in their local plans. Several LGUs have already met these targets, and others are still in progress. Since the adoption of the 2007 Plan, the MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) completed Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for the majority of nutrient-impaired lakes in the District. The load reduction requirements placed on LGUs under these TMDLs are generally higher than those required under the District's 2007 Plan. The District's 2017 Plan will be updated to align with the TMDL goals and will establish a framework for working cooperatively with communities to make progress toward these reductions.

3.J. Status of Locally Adopted Ordinances

The District's Plan did not establish any requirements for local ordinances.

3.K. Permits, Variances, and Violations

In 2015, the MCWD reviewed and processed 704 permits. This is the highest number of permit applications the District has ever received, and a 12.5% increase from 2014. One permit application was denied and one exception was granted in 2015. A total of 668 inspections were

completed in 2015. 577 were for permitted sites and 91 were for non-permitted sites. Staff turnover and the increase in permit applications influenced a decline from 2014 in the number of inspections completed. The majority of non-compliant sites were resolved through MCWD inspection reports to permittees and on-site meetings to go over corrections and solutions to site-specific issues. MCWD issued 8 notices of probable violation in 2015, all of which were resolved. No formal enforcement action was taken by the MCWD Board.