



WATERSHED UPDATE

Formed in 1981, the Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District oversees a variety of projects and programs to assess and improve the health of our 81-square-mile watershed—which includes 31 lakes, 20 streams of which three are designated trout streams, hundreds of acres of wetlands, and over 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline. The Watershed District is managed by the following volunteer board of residents appointed by Washington County:

- President**..... Kristin Tuegne, 651.433.3763
- Vice President**..... Dave DeVault, 651.670.5530
- Treasurer**..... Andy Weaver, 651.491.2656
- Manager**..... Steve Kronmiller, 651.433.4042
- Manager**..... Victoria Dupre, 651.439.8266
- Manager**..... Eric Lindberg, 612.760.6695
- Manager**..... Thomas Polasik, 651.430.0263
- Administrator**..... Jim Shaver, 651.433.2150

Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District meetings are open to the public and take place the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m., in the Heritage Room of the Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia.



Meet Manager Kristin Tuegne



Kristin Tuegne possesses many qualities that make her a great District Manager, including a lifelong connection to the St. Croix Valley, thirty-five years of county government with 20 years of management experience, and a deep appreciation for clear, clean water.

Appointed in 2010 and President since 2013, Tuegne says she has always been aware of the quality water bodies in the area. Early in life, while living in Stillwater, she spent most weekends canoeing. She moved to Scandia 30 years ago and continued to learn about the rare and special qualities of what she calls, “this river valley of wild flower-laden ravines and clear seeps and streams.”

Tuegne strongly values community involvement and ecological approaches to protecting the many lakes and streams in the District. Groundwater issues and collaboration with lake homeowners to manage invasive species also are important issues for her.

As she looks to increase the District’s contribution to worthwhile projects, and address the time and expense involved in completing large projects, Tuegne makes it clear that people are key. “Our watershed continues to need qualified individuals who are willing and able to make a major time commitment as a manager or advisory committee member,” she said. “There isn’t a more important and timely focus than protecting our waters.”

For more information on District managers, and opportunities to get involved in the watershed, visit www.cmscwd.org.

Visit our updated website at www.cmscwd.org

District Cost Share Program Stimulates Improvements

Protecting and improving the lakes, rivers, streams and wetlands in the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District requires a group effort, and landowners play a key role.



This buffer installed on Big Carnelian Lake protects the shoreline from erosion and reduces phosphorus runoff that causes algae blooms.

“Fixing an eroding shoreline, a problem gully or agriculture-related stormwater pollution has an enormous impact on the health of our waters,” says District Administrator Jim Shaver. “When we share the cost of projects to correct resource issues, landowners can take on projects they would not otherwise be able to afford, and we all get the benefit of improved water quality.”

The District’s Cost Share grant program, in operation since 2001, provides 50 percent of eligible on-the-ground implementation costs for selected projects. It also connects landowners to experts in erosion, landscaping and water quality.

The Cost Share program has supported more than 109 projects to date, from residential raingardens that filter stormwater flowing off of roofs and driveways to feedlot improvements that keep animal waste out of streams.

Shoring up our shores

Lakeshore landowners have used the cost share program to address eroding, unsightly shorelines by creating a buffer of native plants. The long roots of the native plants hold soil in place and filter and absorb stormwater runoff pollution before it enters the lake.

In addition to being beautiful and increasing water quality and property values for everyone on the lake, shoreline buffers have the added benefit of discouraging geese, which tend to congregate on shorelines with short turf grass.

Salt and Pepper Farm: agricultural cost share in action

In one of its 2014 cost share projects, the District is helping Pam Arnold and her partner environmentalist and explorer Ann Bancroft to transition a field that had been conventionally farmed into a cover crop of organic hay.

While much of their Salt and Pepper Farm property is already organic, Arnold and Bancroft made a commitment “practice what they preach” more fully by changing this land area to support more flowering plants for bees and to improve water quality.

Unlike traditional crops that are harvested every year leaving the soil bare and vulnerable to erosion, cover crops stabilize the soil, improve soil health, suppress weeds naturally and provide habitat.

“Farming practices can help to improve the watershed,” emphasizes Arnold. “I am happy to be part of a dialogue at any level about this issue.”

Visit the District website at www.cmscwd.org for a map and information about each project installed under the District’s Cost Share Program, plus information on the program, including how to apply for a Cost Share Grant.



Pam Arnold and Ann Bancroft host a District sponsored cover crop workshop.

LEARN ABOUT AND SHAPE THE DISTRICT PLAN

The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District is in the process of amending its Watershed Management Plan, which will serve as the official operational guide for the District until 2020. The plan update includes:

- revisions to resource management goals and priorities
- a new Aquatic Invasive Species Program
- revisions to Implementation Program, Schedule, and Budgets

The public is invited to comment on a draft version of the Plan Amendment which will be available on the District website after November 20. Please join us at the first public meeting:

Tuesday, December 2, Scandia Community Center, 14727 209th St. N. in Scandia, 6:30 p.m.



SQUARE LAKE—TAKING STEPS TO IMPROVE WATER CLARITY

Square Lake's crystal-clear waters have been treasured for generations. As water clarity has decreased in recent years, the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District has worked with the Square Lake Association and other partners to take action on multiple fronts.

In 2012 the District asked the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to stop stocking rainbow trout for three years because monitoring indicated that a tiny lake animal (*Daphnia pulicaria* a type of zooplankton) that eats algae was being eaten by the trout. Based on initial data, this approach is showing results.

“In 2015 we are going into the third summer of the program hoping to see a marked improvement in water clarity.”

“We are feeling cautiously optimistic,” said Scott Alexander, President of the Square Lake Association, which has engaged lake area residents in monitoring and improvement efforts since 1988. “In 2015 we are going into the third summer of the program hoping to see a marked improvement in water clarity.”

To address threats from invasive species, the District is supporting an early summer inspection of the lake to catch curly leaf pondweed, which often grows quickly in the spring and begins crowding out native species. The inspection will complement fall monitoring, which is already under way.



Manager Tuenge and aquatic biologist Ray Valley assessed aquatic vegetation on Square Lake.

The District also supported the Lake Association in improving signage at the public boat ramp to educate lake users on the importance of carefully checking their boat to avoid bringing invasive “hitch hikers” from infested lakes into this precious lake resource.



Get involved in the future of the watershed!
Join us at a public meeting on December 2.



CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX WATERSHED DISTRICT
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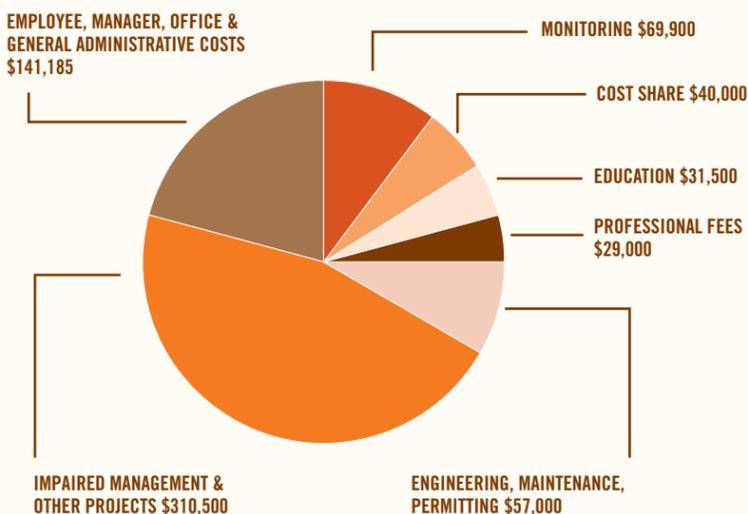
INSIDE

Improving Square Lake, District Cost Share program results, 2015 budget and more!

Proposed 2015 Budget

On September 10, 2014 the District Board of Managers adopted the 2015 budget at its regular meeting. Although both the budget and levy increased significantly from last year, the levy remains less than 2008 and 2009 and represents an average annual increase of less than 1 percent since then. In 2015 the additional funding will be used to install on-the-ground water quality improvement projects using best management practices.

EXPENSES \$679,085



INCOME \$679,085

