

2019 Annual Plan

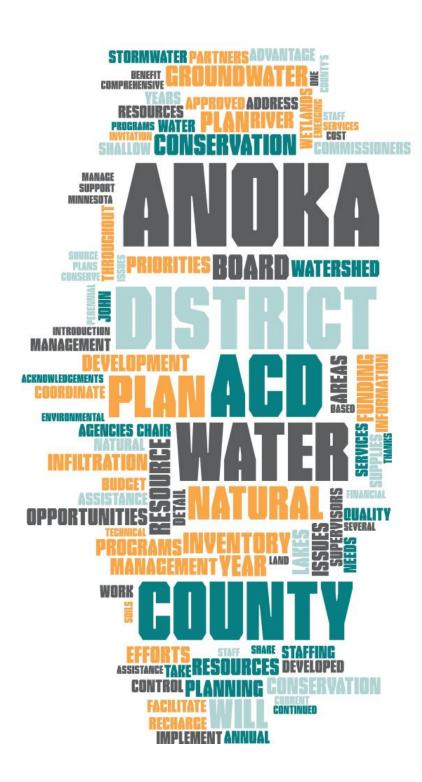
1318 McKay Drive NE, Suite 300 Ham Lake, MN 55304 (763) 434-2030 www.AnokaSWCD.org

Photo: Box net carp management in Sunrise River WMO lakes



# **Table of Contents**

| AN INVITATION FROM THE CHAIR              |          |
|---|----------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS                          | 2        |
| INTRODUCTION                              |          |
| PERENNIAL AND EMERGING CHALLENGES         | 3        |
| ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION       | 7        |
| GUIDING PRINCIPLES                        | 7        |
| PRIORITIES/GOALS                          | 7        |
| Water Quality                             | 7        |
| Water Quantity                            | 7        |
| Natural Habitats                          | 7        |
| Wetlands                                  | 7        |
| Soils                                     | 7        |
| COLLABORATION ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT         | DEFINED. |
| DISTRICT SUPERVISORS                      | 8        |
| Election Districts                        | 9        |
| Committee/Entity Participation            | 9        |
| DISTRICT STAFF                            | 11       |
| WORKLOAD TASKS                            | 12       |
| STAFFING REQUIREMENTS                     | 18       |
| PROGRAMS AND SERVICES                     | 18       |
| General Operations                        | 19       |
| Monitoring                                | 20       |
| Inventory                                 |          |
| Analyses                                  |          |
| Planning                                  |          |
| Land Protection                           |          |
| Technical Assistance                      | 22       |
| Financial Assistance                      | 26       |
| Administrative Assistance                 | 27       |
| Products & Equipment                      |          |
| Information & Outreach                    |          |
| POTENTIAL INITIATIVES FOR 2019 AND BEYOND | 32       |
| ADJUSTMENTS IN AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS   | 35       |
| COST SHARE POLICY                         | 35       |
| Project Selection and Funding             | 35       |
| Application and Funding Process           |          |
| PERFORMANCE BASED COST SHARE              | 38       |
| STAFF TRAINING & CERTIFICATION NEEDS      | 39       |
| FUNDS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION           | 41       |
| Revenue Detail                            |          |
| Expense Detail                            |          |
| Pass Through Detail                       |          |
|   |          |



#### AN INVITATION FROM THE CHAIR

Our ACD Board welcomes you to look over our Annual Plan for 2019. We are excited about what ACD is poised to accomplish in Anoka County this year and what resources we have to accomplish our goal. You might be surprised at the range of conservation now underway, and at the creativity of our dedicated staff in finding funds to make local conservation happen. The Soil and Water Conservation District is the only locally elected body whose job it is to put natural resources first in our plans. We must be extra resourceful because we do not have statutory authority to levy for Anoka County's real needs.

This year we are writing a new 10-year Comprehensive Plan to guide us into the future. What has changed since our last Comp Plan was written five years ago? We are urbanizing at a more rapid pace; our weather events are more extreme; we have the opportunity to collaborate on a watershed basis to use taxpayer dollars more effectively; pollinator habitat is in rapid decline, and groundwater issues are emerging. How can we protect and improve the natural resources of Anoka County - unique in the metro area - into the next decade? And most importantly, will our young people see our natural resources as a priority?

We at ACD are excited to take on these and other challenging issues. If you have ideas for us, please share your thoughts. You can find us at our office in Ham Lake or at our website.

Mary Jo Truckon,

Chair, Board of Supervisors

#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

The Anoka Conservation District (ACD) Board of Supervisors would like to extend our thanks to the following agencies and individuals for their assistance throughout the year.

## Anoka County Board of Commissioners

Our sincere appreciation goes to the Anoka County Board of Commissioners. In 2019 the Commissioners are:

District 1 Matt Look
District 2 Julie Braastad
District 3 Robyn West
District 4 Mandy Meisner
District 5 Mike Gamache
District 6 Rhonda Sivarajah
District 7 Scott Schulte

It is the continued financial support of Anoka County that enables our District to manage and direct the programs protecting Anoka County's environmental assets.

#### Anoka County Departments

Several Anoka County departments provide ACD with the benefit of their expertise in complex matters. Their professionalism and diligence is greatly appreciated.

Parks - Jeff Perry, and Glenn Fuchs

Risk Management - John Sullivan, Bill Keller, and Cheryl Alberts

Attorney's Office - Dan Klint, Nancy Norman, and Pam McCabe

Environmental Services - Bart Biernat

Geographic Information Systems - John Slusarczyk

#### Natural Resources Conservation Service

ACD appreciates the continued support, technical assistance and training provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Soil Conservationist Yara Gonzalez merits special thanks for assisting Anoka County's agricultural producers.

#### Introduction

Established in October 1946, 2019 begins the 74th year of operation for the Anoka Conservation District (ACD). During this time the District has developed programs and applied technology to address natural resource issues. Originally, the main responsibility of soil and water conservation districts was to control soil erosion caused by runoff and wind. Changing land uses have expanded those responsibilities to encompass a broad spectrum of conservation and natural resource practices. The District strives to provide a well-rounded suite of conservation services to meet the needs of Anoka County residents.

Every ten years ACD analyzes resource needs and issues to develop an inventory for planning purposes in our Comprehensive Plan. The annual plan is the written directive for achieving the goals set forth in the Comprehensive Plan. This annual plan outlines the objectives to be pursued in the upcoming year to improve present conditions and address future needs. The document outlines a plan of work with respect to the natural resources

of Anoka County and how legislative actions, funding, staffing, public interest, and growth affect them.

Throughout the year, ACD staff and supervisors reassess priorities and workloads and take advantage of funding opportunities and partnerships as they arise that are consistent with the goals of this plan. Deviations from this plan are reflected in periodic updates to ACD's budget, which itemizes the revenues, expenses, and staffing projections in much greater detail. As such, the most recently approved budget should be looked to as the most comprehensive and up-to-date reflection of ACD's plan of work.

ACD will continue the successful programs and services developed in prior years and initiate efforts to address emerging issues and take advantage of opportunities. Some 2019 initiatives include:

- Complete ACD's comprehensive plan in a manner that advances SWCD comprehensive planning process and content.
- Promote and oversee the installation of water quality improvement practices in the Sunrise River WMO.
- Develop an e-Newsletter and enhanced social media presence.
- Develop educational materials to facilitate participation in community and civic events such as the county fair and municipal expos.
- Promote wetland restoration in partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Promote the development of a protocol to salvage rare plant species slated for taking.
- Develop and install riverbank stabilization projects that are designed to improve fish and wildlife habitat on the Rum River via an OHF grant application.
- Participate in 1-Watershed, 1-Plan for the Rum River.
- Develop effective pretreatment options for NYC Greenstreets bioretention practices.
- Oversee the design and installation of a riverbank stabilization project on the Mississippi River in partnership with the City of Anoka.

## PERENNIAL AND EMERGING CHALLENGES

Climate change, such as more frequent and intense storms, can significantly impact natural resource management. While we don't have all the answers, measurable and mounting changes in the composition of atmospheric gases are occurring. Resultant changes in local weather patterns, precipitation regimes, rising average temperatures in lakes and shifts in vegetation will necessitate an adaptive management approach. To effectively manage natural resources in this era of accelerated change, agencies must be prepared to quickly and decisively adjust programs and services in response to everevolving conditions and trends.

**Groundwater supply** projections indicate that areas of Anoka County may experience aquifer declines and localized supply issues within 20 years. As surficial groundwater is depleted, we anticipate shallow domestic wells drying up; wetlands being converted to nonwetland; compromised stream base flows; shallow lakes converting to wetlands;

recreational lakes becoming smaller, shallower, and potentially experiencing water quality problems; and vegetation transitioning to more drought tolerant species.

Anoka County is a recharge area for many of the aquifers relied upon by the Twin Cities and surrounding suburbs to the south for commercial and domestic water supplies. Overuse in those communities will result in lowering water tables in Anoka County. Efforts to conserve water by optimizing turf and crop irrigation techniques, hold water on the landscape through private ditch abandonment, and increase rain water infiltration should be a priority during planning efforts and project design.

Infiltration and groundwater quality protection can be in conflict with each other. Under the direction of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), many municipalities continue to have source water protection strategies that strongly discourage the infiltration of stormwater in an effort to protect shallow groundwater from contamination. Several stormwater pollutants such as nitrates, chlorides, pathogens, and heavy metals are not adequately filtered by the sandy soils of the Anoka Sand Plain. Ultimately, policy makers have to choose between having adequate ground water quantities that require treatment before consumption, or groundwater supplies that don't require treatment but are in a constant state of decline. Historic strategies have favored the latter.

**Impaired waters** are lakes and streams that fail to meet state water quality standards. They are prevalent locally and statewide. In Anoka County there are 16 impaired lakes and 13 impaired streams (not including mercury and fish consumption impairments). Efforts that successfully improve water quality to meet state standards can result in delisting (i.e. removal of the waterbody from the impaired waters list).

**Watershed-level management** is a longstanding concept in Minnesota but is now being applied at a larger scale. While Anoka County has had watershed organizations and districts to assist with local water management for more than 30 years, the new statewide approach of "One Watershed, One Plan" further seeks to coordinate management across multiple organizations within the same larger watershed (e.g. the Rum River watershed). In the seven county metro area, this may require substantial leadership from ACD and other SWCDs to collaborate across county and water management entity boundaries.

**Nitrogen pollution in surface water**, most prevalently in the form of nitrate, has emerged in recent years as a priority concern statewide due to a number of studies showing the toxic effects of nitrate on aquatic life, nitrogen's role in the dead zone in the Gulf of Mexico, and the potential to contaminate drinking water beyond the 10mg/L consumption threshold. An extensive MPCA report completed in June 2013 indicates that the bulk of the problem in Minnesota is found in the drain tiled agricultural areas of the southern third of the state. Current nitrate discharge concentrations in Anoka County watersheds all appear to be well below the 10 mg/L threshold.

Chloride pollution in surface water and groundwater has been slowly trending upward. Chloride is highly soluble and accumulates over time until concentrations exceed healthy levels for consumption or irrigation. In urban environments chloride is primarily introduced into the environment from road salt application. Due to the delivery mechanism and timing of application when soils are frozen, much of this chloride finds its way through the stormwater conveyance system into the Mississippi River and ultimately the Gulf of

Mexico, where it contributes to the Dead Zone. In rural environments, chloride added to the environment due to water softeners is of greater concern. Water softeners cycle hundreds of pounds annually per household into groundwater through septic system drain fields.

Soil health is being compromised by a lack of vegetative cover and diversity, excessive cultivation, removal of topsoil, application of pesticides (e.g. fungicides, insecticides, and herbicides), and compaction. Healthy soil provides a stable matrix that resists erosion, infiltrates water, cycles nutrients, adsorbs pollutants, provides drought tolerance, drives plant productivity, and sustains a complex food web. Healthy soils support a diverse ecosystem of bacteria, fungi, invertebrates (e.g. worms and arthropods), and other microscopic organisms in a matrix of mineral and organic matter that provides structural stability. All soil ecosystem elements are interdependent and comprise a living system that needs to be nourished with water, organic matter, nutrients, warmth, and atmospheric gases. Maintaining healthy soils is critical to maintaining healthy terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems and is the foundation of a robust food web.

Declining pollinator populations in Minnesota and nationwide threaten to undermine food production and native ecosystem functions. Loss of pollinator habitat, such as oak savanna and prairie, is of serious concern. Additionally, in 1991 a new type of insecticide was developed that works in very low concentrations and functions as a systemic pesticide, being taken up by plants and migrating throughout every part of the plant. From roots and stems, to leaves and pollen, neonicotinoid based insecticides provide full plant protection and one treatment can last for many months and can remain in the soil for years. This combination of persistence and systemic function make all plant components poisonous to insects for as long as the plant lives. Even the pollen becomes poisonous to bees, moths, and butterflies that consume and transport it. Neonicotinoids are known to disorient pollinators that consume it, making them less resistant to disease and contributing to honeybee hive collapse.

Invasive species threaten native ecosystems and the functions they provide in all Minnesota biomes, which has broad implications for natural resource managers. Invasive species can compromise fisheries and aquatic recreation, degrade water quality, diminish forest products, and denude habitat for wild game, often by displacing native species and reducing species diversity. The only viable long-term strategy is to slow the spread and reduce the damage until biological controls can be developed to keep invasive species populations in check. Purple Loosestrife is a good example of an invasive species brought under control with the introduction of biological control agents. Well-established invaders such as Eurasian water milfoil, reed canary grass, curly-leaf pondweed, Gypsy moths, spiny water fleas, common buckthorn, leafy spurge, common carp, zebra mussel, garlic mustard, and spotted knapweed continue to consume a lot of technical and financial resources. Emerging threats include:

- Wild parsnip a roadside weed that causes severe blistering rashes upon contact
- Palmer amaranth an annual weed that developed herbicide resistance and outcompetes crops such as corn and soy beans
- Asian silver carp known for jumping in response to boat motors
- Emerald ash borer threatens to decimate extensive ash tree stands and has been

- confirmed in Anoka County
- Manchu tuber-gourd recently found in Anoka County, is a fast growing vine that spreads via rhizomes and is highly resistant to many herbicides and grows over and smothers other vegetation

Habitat loss and fragmentation due to development, disturbance, and invasive species encroachment, has the potential to push many indigenous species out of the county. When the housing market crashed and development came to an abrupt halt in the late 2000s, this issue took a back seat to more pressing economic challenges. With the recovery of the housing sector, we are once again seeing many of our remaining natural areas forever lost to development. This occurs not only due to mass grading and the installation of roads, utilities, dwellings and structures, but also due to large acreage mowing, which essentially converts complex ecosystems into biological voids.

Threatened and endangered species management both at the state and federal level is developing as an issue that impacts local project permitting. As local resource managers have become more aware of habitat requirements for rare species, populations that heretofore may have gone unidentified are now documented during permit reviews. Restrictions intended to preserve rare species from harvest prohibit resource managers from attempting to transplant or propagate populations that are authorized for destruction under a permit. Some are concerned that short-term success transplanting rare species could undermine the message to avoid remnant populations. Furthermore, transplanted populations may not become self-sustaining. This area of natural resources management is has local, state and federal governmental entities grappling to find workable solutions. Initiating a program to salvage rare plants and long term monitoring would provide insight to the feasibility for species specific ex-situ conservation.

### **ANOKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT MISSION**

We conserve and enhance the natural resources of Anoka County. We do this by;

- conducting monitoring and analysis,
- informing landowners and local governments in natural resource management, and
- leveraging technical and financial resources to promote natural resource stewardship practices.

#### **GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

- Focus on long-term resource sustainability.
- Make informed and ethical decisions.
- Promote cost-effective and efficient resource management.
- Partner with both public and private sectors.
- Retain highly qualified, knowledgeable staff.
- Utilize technology to achieve efficiency and enhance work products.
- Keep natural resource issues visible in Anoka County.
- Respond to opportunity and changing needs.
- Develop diverse programs, partners, and funding sources.
- Utilize education and outreach in addition to technical and financial assistance to encourage natural resource stewardship.

## PRIORITIES/GOALS

Listed in descending order of priority as identified in the ACD's 2014-2019 Comprehensive Plan are the five priority resource areas (underlined) with corresponding goals (bulleted).

## WATER QUALITY

- Maintain high quality surface waters.
- Improve impaired surface waters.
- · Protect drinking water.

## WATER QUANTITY

- Stop long-term depletion and where possible replenish aquifer levels.
- Control stormwater runoff and the resultant erosion.
- Reduce localized flooding and related damage.

## NATURAL HABITATS

- Preserve and enhance diversity in Anoka County.
- Maintain ecological corridors and systems to support indigenous wildlife.

#### **W**ETLANDS

 Achieve no net loss in, and where possible improve, the quality and quantity of wetlands.

#### Soils

Maintain and enhance soil health.

#### **SERVING THE COMMUNITY**

#### WORKING WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT ENTITIES

Natural resources valued by Anoka County residents require collaborative management by entities with varying jurisdictions within and across city, county and watershed boundaries. It is important that ACD remains continually engaged with each entity to

- avoid duplication,
- maximize efficiencies,
- capitalize on common interests,
- direct limited financial and staff resources to the most cost-effective approaches, and
- apply management strategies at a scale most appropriate to meet identified goals and objectives (e.g. multi-city lakesheds vs. multi-county aquifer recharge areas).

The comprehensive plan includes detailed tables that further illustrate the breadth and scale of partnerships and collaboration.

#### WORKING WITH THE PUBLIC

Over 78% of Anoka County is privately owned and over 340,000 residents call Anoka County home. Effective natural resource management requires that we actively partner with those who live, work and play in Anoka County, whether or not they own land in the county. ACD enlists the public to assist with natural resource management by offering the following services:

- Technical assistance providing project design and installation management.
- Financial assistance securing, allocating and administering grant funding to install conservation projects.
- Regulatory assistance providing guidance to help keep landowners out of regulatory harm's way with regard to several federal and state laws, and local
- Outreach and engagement providing information resources and opportunities assist with community efforts to improve our natural resources.

#### **DISTRICT SUPERVISORS**

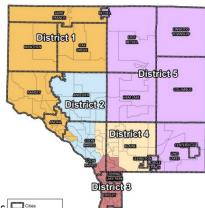
| Dist. | Name               | Area Represented  |
|-------|--------------------|---|
| 1     | Steve Laitinen     | St. Francis, Nowthen, Oak Grove, Ramsey, Anoka, and a small portion of Coon Rapids  |
| 2     | Jim Lindahl        | Andover and portions of Coon Rapids   |
| 3     | Glenda Meixell     | Columbia Heights, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Hilltop, and the southern portion of Coon Rapids and Blaine (largely south of Hwy 610) |
| 4     | Mary Jo<br>Truchon | Lexington, most of Blaine, and a portion of eastern Coon Rapids   |
| 5     | Sharon LeMay       | Bethel, East Bethel, Linwood, Columbus, Ham Lake, Lino Lakes,<br>Centerville, and Circle Pines                                      |

Regular ACD board meetings are generally held on the third Monday of each month. A yearly meeting schedule is posted on ACD's official website, AnokaSWCD.org. Board and committee meetings are held at the District office in Ham Lake unless otherwise noted.

## **ELECTION DISTRICTS**

ACD supervisors are elected by populationbased districts.

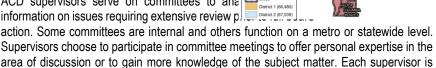
| District | Start  | End      |
|----------|--------|----------|
| 1        | 1/1/17 | 12/31/20 |
| 2        | 1/1/19 | 12/31/22 |
| 3        | 1/1/19 | 12/31/22 |
| 4        | 1/1/17 | 12/31/20 |
| 5        | 1/1/17 | 12/31/20 |



## COMMITTEE/ENTITY PARTICIPATION

ACD supervisors serve on committees to ana information on issues requiring extensive review p District 2 (67,039)

encouraged to serve on at least two committees.



#### Internal Committees:

Personnel

Operations

Finance

#### External Committees:

Regional and State Associations:

Metro Conservation Districts

MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Area IV)

Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC):

Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) CAC

Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) CAC

Watershed Management Organization (WMO) Liaison:

Sunrise River WMO (SRWMO)

Upper Rum River WMO (URRWMO)

Lower Rum River WMO (LRRWMO)

Mississippi River WMO (MWMO)

One-Watershed, One-Plan (1W1P):

Lower St. Croix Policy Committee

Rum River Policy Committee

#### **DISTRICT STAFF**

ACD employs ten to fifteen people with approximately 10.5 full time equivalents (FTEs). ACD has 2581 staff workdays to address goals and objectives. Planned objectives should require 2442 workdays to complete. As such current and proposed staff should be sufficient. Programs and services are continually prioritized, often favoring those that are self-funded, to maintain fiscal and programmatic stability.

| ACD                    | Position                                    |
|------------------------|---|
| Chris Lord             | District Manager (1 FTE)                    |
| Kathy Berkness         | Office Administrator (1 FTE)                |
| Jamie Schurbon         | Watershed Projects Manager (1 FTE)          |
| Mitch Haustein         | Stormwater and Shoreland Specialist (1 FTE) |
| Becky Wozney           | Wetland Specialist (1 FTE)                  |
| Jared Wagner           | Water Resource Technician (1 FTE)           |
| Carrie Taylor          | Restoration Ecologist (1 FTE)               |
| Aaron Diehl            | Conservation Specialist (.5 FTE)            |
| Becky Hammer-Lester    | Water Resource Technician (1 FTE)           |
| Emily Johnson          | Outreach and Engagement Coord. (.75 FTE)    |
| To Be Determined       | Assist. District Technician (.85 FTE)       |
| Buckthorn Crews        | Assist. District Technicians (.4 FTE)       |
| Rain Guardian Assembly | Assist. District Technician (.1 FTE)        |
| MN GreenCorps          | Position                                    |
| Jaron Cook             | Apprentice (.65 FTE)                        |
| NRCS                   | Position (Elk River field office)           |
| Yara Gonzalez          | Soil Conservationist                        |

## **WORKLOAD TASKS**

The ACD Board of Supervisors identified five natural resource priority areas. The

| following table highlights how workload tasks address priorities.   | nity a        |                |                  |          |       |
|---|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| Workload Tasks  | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands | Soils |
| General Operations: This includes activities generally considered overhead that support the overall function of ACD.  |               |                |                  |          |       |
| District administration   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Human resource management   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Financial administration  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Planning and reporting  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Clerical  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Staff development – staff training and professional development   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Paid leave – holidays, flexible time off, leaves of absence, comp time  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Landlord – general upkeep and maintenance of the office headquarters  |               |                |                  |          |       |
| Monitoring: Collect and manage data regarding the physical, che characteristics of natural resources with specified frequency, loc protocols that must be adhered to as identified in contracts with plans of work. | ation         | , para         | amete            | ers, a   |       |
| Development and oversight – Determine sites, parameters, frequency, and protocols, and ensure QAQC  | ✓             | ✓              |                  |          |       |
| Hydrology – Lake, stream, groundwater, and wetland levels, and stream flow  |               | ✓              |                  |          |       |
| Chemistry – Lakes and streams   | ✓             |                |                  |          |       |
| Biota – Stream benthic macroinvertebrates and aquatic invasive species early detection  | ✓             |                | ✓                |          |       |
| Precipitation – Volunteer observation network and automated sampling network  |               | ✓              |                  |          |       |
| Data management – Compile and organize data to ensure data integrity and facilitate analysis and reporting  | ✓             | ✓              |                  |          |       |

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands       | Soils |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|-------|
| Inventory: Collect and map geospatial data on the condition, dist regulatory compliance of natural resources using Global Position Geographic Information Systems (GIS), aerial photo interpretation informational surveys, and/or historic records.   | ning S        | Syste          | ms (C            | , and<br>SPS), |       |
| Erosion – Lakeshore and streambank condition   | ✓             |                | <b>✓</b>         |                |       |
| Buffers – Buffer law compliance tracking   | ✓             |                | ✓                | $\checkmark$   | ✓     |
| Land cover – Land use and land cover updates to facilitate analyses  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓     |
| Invasive species – Aquatic and terrestrial   | ✓             |                | ✓                | ✓              |       |
| Analyses: Synthesize and interpret monitoring, geospatial, and r varying scales to draw conclusions and inform management dec natural resource quality, quantity, and distribution in user-friendly  | ision         | s to o         |                  |                |       |
| Monitoring data - characterize conditions and trends in a statistically valid manner   | ✓             | ✓              |                  |                |       |
| Properties and landscapes – individual and small groupings of properties with a narrow scope of concerns   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓     |
| Development proposals – comment on regulatory compliance and design standards for development proposals, which typically involve subdivision, grading, and installation of stormwater treatment infrastructure   | ✓             | ✓              | <b>√</b>         | ✓              | ✓     |
| Subwatersheds and catchments - identify and rank project opportunities in rural and urban settings by cost-effectiveness to improve management of high priority resources  | ✓             | ✓              |                  |                |       |
| Watersheds – diagnose the cause of impairment of priority resources. e.g. Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) and Watershed Restoration and Protection Plans/Strategies (WRAPP/S)   | ✓             | ✓              |                  |                |       |
| Resource scale – analyses focused on a narrow resource concern with scales ranging from local to regional such as threatened and endangered species, aquifer recharge areas, aquifer use areas, drinking water source management areas, invasive species infestations, wetland restoration opportunities, etc. | ✓             | ~              | ✓                | ✓              | ✓     |

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands | Soils |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| <u>Planning:</u> Develop policy, strategies, and plans of action in coop partners to optimize natural resource quality, quantity, and distrit analyses and with consideration of financial, logistical, social, an | outior        | n bas          | ed or            | 1        | 5.    |
| ACD planning – natural resource issue and trend identification and prioritization through 10-year comprehensive plans, biennial budget requests, annual plans, and project/program/grant work plans                | <b>√</b>      | <b>√</b>       | <b>√</b>         | ✓        | ✓     |
| Partner planning – review and comment on project applications, permits, EAW/EIS, water management plans, comprehensive wetland management plans, and plans from Federal, State, and local entities                 | ✓             | <b>√</b>       | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Watershed and ecoregion-scale – Large scale planning (e.g. WRAPP/S, 1W1P, Ecoregion, and local water management plans in cooperation with partners   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Groundwater – plan collaborations and protocol development to ensure sustainable groundwater supplies  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        |       |
| Ecological integrity – identify restoration and protection opportunities and priorities  |               |                | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Land Protection: Protect high priority parcels to sustain population enhance ecological diversity, and preserve rare species by connict funding sources and entities capable of accepting and managing             | ectin         | g lan          | down             | ers w    |       |
| Acquisition – secure fee title ownership   | ✓             |                | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Easements – secure conservation easements  | ✓             |                | ✓                | ✓        | ✓     |
| Density transfers – identify and encourage use of opportunities to employ development rights transfers and cluster development to accommodate development and ecological preservation                              | <b>√</b>      |                | <b>√</b>         | ✓        | ✓     |
| Compliance and management – ACD held protected lands inspection and management to verify compliance and apply for grants to pursue restoration and management activities   | <b>√</b>      |                | <b>√</b>         | <b>√</b> | ✓     |
| Technical Assistance: Provide site specific technical consultation   | ı and         | expe           | ertise           | ίO       |       |

 $\underline{\text{Technical Assistance:}} \ \text{Provide site specific technical consultation and expertise to} \\ \text{advance concepts to the point of project design and implementation individually and in collaboration with partners.}$ 

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands | Soils    |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| Landowner inquiries – landowner consultation using desktop analysis, literature reviews, and site investigations   | <b>✓</b>      | <b>√</b>       | <b>✓</b>         | <b>√</b> | ✓        |
| Practice promotion – engage decision makers and landowners to pursue implementation of projects and activities identified in watershed plans, stormwater retrofit analyses (SRAs), and other plans                       | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                |          |          |
| Conservation plans – prepare plans for agricultural operations, water conservation, ecological restoration, and backyard habitat   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Practice design – generate detailed plan sets (grading plans, planting plans, and materials specifications) and cost estimates for rural and urban conservation practices  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Grant applications – conceptualize and prepare grant applications  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Project management (simple) – manage all project components for projects with simple designs or plans, not likely to need professional contractors   | ✓             | ✓              | <b>√</b>         | ✓        | ✓        |
| Project management (complex) – manage all project components for projects with detailed plan sets, likely to include hiring and close oversight of professional contractors throughout an extended installation timeline | ✓             | ✓              | <b>√</b>         | ✓        | <b>√</b> |
| Project installation support – assist project managers with all aspects of project installation  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| BMP inspections – post-construction and routine inspections to document conditions and provide maintenance guidance  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Invasive species – facilitate regional terrestrial and aquatic invasive species management efforts   |               |                | ✓                |          | ✓        |
| Technical Evaluation Panels – serve on TEPs for Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) regulatory analysis   |               |                | ✓                | ✓        |          |
| WCA Enforcement – processing violations and preparing restoration/replacement plans/orders for WCA   |               |                | ✓                | ✓        |          |
| Wetland Consultation – review and perform wetland determinations, delineations, and functions and values analysis in accordance with accepted protocols  |               |                |                  | ✓        |          |

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands    | Soils    |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|-------------|----------|
| Wetland restoration – design and review wetland restoration/creation project plans   |               |                | <b>~</b>         | <b>&gt;</b> |          |
| <u>Financial Assistance:</u> Facilitate the acquisition, distribution, and achieve natural resource management objectives individually an partners.                |               |                |                  |             |          |
| Local funds – secure funding commitments from local sources (e.g. cities and watershed districts) to pursue priority natural resource management initiatives       | ~             | ~              | ✓                | ✓           | <b>✓</b> |
| Block grant – administer the Natural Resources Block Grant to fund water management, WCA, Shoreland, and Subsurface Sewage Treatment System program implementation | ✓             | ✓              |                  | <b>✓</b>    |          |
| Technical Service Area – manage Metro TSA funds for conservation practice design, engineering, construction management, and equipment                              | ✓             | ✓              |                  |             |          |
| State Cost Share – administer state cost share allocations to fund practice design, engineering, construction management, and construction                         | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| District capacity funds – allocation of annually appropriated funds to support ACD's mission   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Competitive grants – secure grant funds from local, regional, state, and federal sources   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Product sales – expand product sales and distribution to support local conservation initiatives  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Conservation utility fee – seek legislation to gain authority to assess conservation utility fees  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Administrative Assistance: Provide assistance administering reg and grants individually and in cooperation with partners.  | ulatio        | ns, p          | rogra            | ıms,        |          |
| General administration – program development advice, reporting, and contract management  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Website hosting – websites for water management organizations  | ✓             | ✓              |                  | ✓           |          |
| Buffer law - implement mandated elements of the buffer law   | ✓             |                | ✓                | ✓           | ✓        |
| Soil loss law – implement mandated elements of the soil loss law   | ✓             |                |                  | ✓           | ✓        |

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands | Soils    |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|----------|
| WCA – assist WCA Local Government Units (LGUs) with WCA implementation and report annual activities as necessary   |               |                |                  | <b>√</b> |          |
| Grant administration – grant reporting and compliance assistance   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Program administration – Administer local cost-share programs and assist landowners with applications  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| <u>Products and Equipment:</u> Provide products and equipment useful practices for sale, rent, and loan to generate revenue and to propractice implementation. |               |                |                  |          |          |
| Rain Guardian sales – manage Rain Guardian pretreatment chamber sales, inventory, materials acquisition, assembly, and distribution                            | ✓             | <b>√</b>       | <b>~</b>         | <b>√</b> | <b>~</b> |
| Rain Guardian business development – product development, distributorship management, market expansion, and optimize manufacture and distribution of product   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Rain Guardian promotion – promotion, distributorship support, fielding technical inquiries, and customer service   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Plant materials – manage seedling, plug and seed sales, inventory, and order processing and distribution, including assisting customers with product selection | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Equipment, tools, and supplies – manage landowner use of ACD equipment, tools, and supplies  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Information and Outreach: Develop and disseminate information resource topics through targeted or mass distribution using appr                                 |               |                |                  |          |          |
| General public – brochures, displays, newspaper articles, website, and videos  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Conservation site owners – direct contact to promote site specific conservation activities   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Students – work with students to encourage conservation in a manner that is age appropriate  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Advocacy groups – customize and provide topic specific information to advocacy groups e.g. lake associations   | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |
| Policy makers – advise on pertinent natural resource concepts, issues and solutions  | ✓             | ✓              | ✓                | ✓        | ✓        |

| Workload Tasks   | Water Quality | Water Quantity | Natural Habitats | Wetlands | Soils |
|--|---------------|----------------|------------------|----------|-------|
| Legislators – encourage legislative solutions as appropriate to address local, regional and statewide concerns | ✓             | <b>~</b>       | <b>&gt;</b>      | <b>~</b> | ✓     |

## STAFFING REQUIREMENTS

| Program                              | FTEs              |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------|
| General Operations                   | 2.018             |
| Paid Leave                           | 1.297             |
| Landlord                             | .083              |
| Monitoring                           | <mark>.801</mark> |
| Inventory                            | .203              |
| Analyses                             | <mark>.331</mark> |
| Planning                             | <mark>.675</mark> |
| Land Protection                      | <mark>.021</mark> |
| Technical Assistance – General       | <mark>.300</mark> |
| Technical Assistance – Ecological    | <mark>.902</mark> |
| Technical Assistance – Water Quality | 1.063             |
| Financial Assistance                 | .030              |
| Administrative Assistance            | <mark>.936</mark> |
| Products & Equipment                 | <mark>.558</mark> |
| Information & Outreach               | <mark>.174</mark> |
| Unallocated Staff Time               | <mark>.540</mark> |
| Total Full Time Equivalents          | 9.93              |

The programs above are explained in detail in the following section.

## **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES**

Addressing identified objectives requires many programs and services. Following is a summary of ACD's ongoing and proposed 2019 efforts. Specific monitoring, inventory, and project site selection is done in coordination with local and state funding partners. ACD often provides staffing resources under contract with water management organizations, watershed districts, municipalities, and state agencies to address mutual goals and objectives. By acting as a centralized staffing resource for many natural resource management entities, ACD coordinates programs across jurisdictional boundaries.

The logo for the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment is displayed adjacent to programs and projects that are funded in part with Legacy funds. The revenue tables in the budget section of the report provide a more detailed accounting of how projects are funded including the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting of how projects are funded including the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting of how projects are funded including the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of the report provide a more detailed accounting the section of t



provide a more detailed accounting of how projects are funded including the many local partners that contribute financially to these conservation efforts.

#### GENERAL OPERATIONS

One of the largest funding challenges for ACD is covering expenses associated with general operations. Grant funds typically restrict the amount and type of administrative and operational expenses that can be reimbursed or considered as match. General services funds received from the state are insufficient to cover otherwise ineligible operational expenses. Combined, the following operations categories account for approximately \$320,000 of ACD's staff time and expenses.

General Administration – This category accounts for that portion of each employee's time that is dedicated to general district business. For technical staff, this is limited to general correspondence, time tracking, and reporting. For administrative and managerial staff this encompasses the following:

- District administration negotiate and manage contracts, leases, and agreements; maintain adequate insurance, and develop and implement policies to minimize risk exposure; facilitate Board communications and meetings; update and administer supervisor and operations handbooks; maintain office supplies; coordinate computer technology services; enact policies and procedures to ensure compliance with the MN Government Data Practices Act and Public Open Meeting Law; payroll and employee benefits administration; payment of sales, property, and payroll taxes
- Human resource management attend to employee recruitment, evaluation, discipline, supervision, workload management, and professional development; update and administer a personnel handbook; develop and administer a classification and compensation plan
- Financial administration prepare and maintain budgets; complete timely bill payment
  and invoicing; collect accounts receivable; deposit receipts; track financial activities;
  prepare monthly financial reports for the Board and annual financial reports to the
  state; reconcile accounts, administer payroll and benefits; coordinate annual financial
  audits
- Planning and reporting prepare annual reports of activities; complete pay equity reports every two years; update workload plans and budgets regularly
- Clerical process mail; maintain files per records retention schedule; prepare and post official notifications and records of meetings

General Planning – Effective natural resource management requires both cooperative planning with other agencies, as well as internal prioritization. These efforts involve ACD staff, supervisors, other elected officials, and other agencies. Comprehensive planning is completed every ten years with annual plans completed each year.

Program Development – Program development activities include efforts that increase program visibility, build mutually beneficial partnerships with other entities, and secure new grants to fund projects and programs that address the objectives identified by the Board of Supervisors.

Staff Development – The Board of Supervisors is committed to retaining highly qualified staff by providing competitive wages, offering professional development opportunities, and providing updated software and technology. ACD is also committed to sharing expertise via staff cross-training to ensure program continuity during staff turnover particularly with

highly technical proficiencies such as GIS, WinSLAMM, Vectorworks, and Total Station Surveying.

Paid Leave - Regular full-time and part-time staff earn up to twelve paid holidays as well as eighteen to thirty-four days of flexible time off per year. Use of comprehensive time earned and extended medical benefits leave occurs to a lesser extent.

Landlord - In 2011 ACD purchased its office headquarters, which has six rentable suites, one of which is occupied by ACD staff. All direct expenses and staff time associated with ACD's role as landlord is tracked separately from conservation oriented activities. Rental revenues are sufficient to cover all expenses.

#### MONITORING

In order to focus limited financial and technical resources it is important to continually monitor resource quality, quantity, and biology. ACD's extensive water quality and

hydrology monitoring program, coupled with inventories and diagnostic studies, ensures that efforts are focused where they will provide the most benefit.

Routine Monitoring - Site selection is completed in the early months of each year in collaboration with funding partners. The adjacent table shows the number of each type of monitoring site in 2019, which includes the addition of three electronic rain gauges.

| Resource |               | Quality | Quantity | Biota |
|----------|---------------|---------|----------|-------|
| •        | Lakes         | 11      | 25       | 5     |
| •        | Streams       | 19      | 13       | 3     |
| •        | Wetlands      |         | 20       |       |
| •        | Rain Gardens  |         | 1        |       |
| •        | Groundwater   |         | 24       |       |
| •        | Precipitation |         | 12       |       |

Rain Garden Efficacy Testing – To determine the effectiveness of curb cut rain gardens over time and in different landscapes, ACD has initiated an effort to monitor hydrology and conduct rudimentary debris analysis. This was initiated in 2017 and will be continued for several years.



#### INVENTORY

Resource inventories are just as important as monitoring. Inventories provide geospatial resource information essential to the development of successful conservation projects. ACD is equipped to complete a variety of inventory projects, having many years of aerial photos, GPS equipment, GIS software and the expertise to use them. ACD staff engage in routine inventories and updates while also tackling 'once in a career' efforts like the geologic atlas.

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) – ACD provides inventory services to map AIS on Lake George and as the foundation of an early detection program for the Coon Creek Watershed District.

Shoreland Photo Inventory – Staff will conduct a photo inventory of lake shorelines using a 360-degree camera. The photos will be uploaded to Google, where they can be viewed by the public similar to



StreetView. The inventory will aid staff when fielding calls from lakeshore property owners.

Buffer Law Compliance – As new aerial photo flights are completed, ACD staff will complete a county-wide review of ditch buffers to update compliance maps. The timing of aerial photo flights is often not known beforehand, as such this activity will be opportunistic.

#### **A**NALYSES

ACD staff conducts natural resource analyses at varying scales to diagnose the reason for problems and identify management strategies. Most of these efforts are done under contract with local and state funding partners to achieve their goals.

Water Resources Almanac – Each year ACD staff complete a water resources almanac to summarize the year's monitoring data and provide rudimentary analysis of resource condition and trends.

Mississippi River Direct Drainage SRA — Utilizing funds from the Enhanced Technical Assistance program hosted by the Metro Conservation Districts, ACD staff will work with the Mississippi WMO to complete an SRA for the subwatersheds of Highland and Sullivan Lakes in the southern most portion of Anoka County that drains directly to the Mississippi River.

#### PLANNING

Metro Conservation Districts (MCD) – MCD is a Joint Powers Organization (JPA) composed of eleven SWCDs in the Twin Cities Metro Area. ACD has been a member of the MCD since the 1970's. The MCD works collaboratively to prioritize metro-wide conservation initiatives, pursue funds, and implement activities.

Ecological Restoration Opportunities – ACD will partner with public land managers, private landowners, and technical and financial partners to identify and prioritize ecological restoration sites. ACD will seek necessary funding sources to implement priority projects.



1W1P Rum River – The counties and SWCDs throughout the Rum River watershed have secured funding from BWSR to complete a 1W1P. While ACD's participation is not mandatory, ACD staff is ready

to assist in any way possible.

Sunrise River WMO Plan Update – The Sunrise River WMO plan update is scheduled for completion in 2019. ACD staff is preparing the plan and coordinating it with the 1W1P planning effort being completed for the Lower St. Croix watershed.



1W1P Lower St. Croix – A partnership of water management entities in the Lower St. Croix watershed has secured funding from BWSR to complete a 1W1P. ACD staff are assisting with this effort.



Campus Groundwater Conservation Planning (CGCP) – CGCP involves development and refinement of procedures to identify water conservation measures on campuses. In 2018 the protocol was

finalized. In 2019 each of the 11 metro districts will complete at least one analysis on a campus. In addition to identifying opportunities to reduce groundwater usage, measures to increase stormwater infiltration will also be noted. All opportunities will be ranked by cost-effectiveness. ACD staff are leading this effort with funding from a BWSR Clean Water

Fund (CWF) grant through the MCD.

ACD Comprehensive Plan – ACD's comprehensive plan for 2020-2029 is due in 2019. In 2018 an outreach strategy and a general approach for the plan were developed. A kickoff event was hosted to solicit input from county and state elected officials that involved fast-paced discussions at six topic stations and an aerial tour of several sites by helicopter. The remainder of the plan will be completed in 2019.

#### LAND PROTECTION

Preservation of parcels that are of particular importance for wildlife habitat or support rare species is a high priority. Efforts to preserve land should be limited to parcels that fall within the identified wildlife corridor network to make the best use of limited funds. Whether land is in public or private ownership, the best way to achieve permanent land protection is by using conservation easements held by multiple parties dedicated to natural resource conservation and management.

Conservation Easement Maintenance and Inspection – ACD holds several conservation easements either solely or in conjunction with the Minnesota Land Trust (MLT) and owns one property with an MLT conservation easement.

Land Protection Outreach – Under contract with MLT, ACD may promote land protection funding sources to owners of high priority parcels and assist owners with coordination efforts.

#### TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

While monitoring, inventory, analysis, and planning are important, they achieve nothing unless they result in changes in practices on the ground to improve natural resource quality, quantity, and distribution.



ACD provides technical assistance to facilitate conservation practice implementation.

Conservation Project Services -

Project implementation services provided:

- project promotion,
- site consultations,
- planning and design,
- bidding and contract management,
- installation oversight,
- grant fund acquisition and grant management, and
- post-construction monitoring.

Project types most often considered include:

- curb-cut rain gardens,
- lakeshore and riparian buffer plantings,
- lakeshore restoration,
- lakeshore and streambank stabilization.

- stormwater pond modification,
- ecosystem restoration,
- backyard habitat enhancement, and
- invasive species control (aquatic and terrestrial).

Design/plan services provided include:

- property level conservation plans and BMP designs,
- water appropriation conservation plans per MN DNR water appropriation permit requirements, and
- conservation easement management plans per easement requirements.

WMO Grant Search and Application – Several WMO's contract with ACD to identify and pursue grant opportunities on their behalf to secure funds to implement projects and programs they have identified as priorities.

RCWD Landowner Assistance (design and cost share) – RCWD contracts with ACD to field landowner inquiries for conservation technical assistance. If site conditions warrant, ACD staff will prepare a project design and assist with project funding applications.

MN Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is an initiative that the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA) is expanding to cover the entire state. Technical Service Areas (TSA) host the program. Agricultural producers who upgrade their operations to achieve certification receive several benefits including: exemption from regulatory changes for ten years, access to exclusive project cost-share funds, and the right to promote their farms as water quality certified. ACD will promote the program with direct outreach to agricultural producers throughout the county.



Project Profiles – For each project installation in which ACD is an active partner, we prepare a project profile. Project profiles include images of the project site before and after, benefits received, expenses incurred,

and partners with corresponding cash and in-kind contributions to the project. All project profiles are available online at AnokaSWCD.org through the project mapping feature.



BMP Inspection and Maintenance – ACD staff will continue to conduct site inspections and contact landowners where conservation practices were previously installed with ACD assistance to ensure practices are

being maintained and functioning. Inspections will be followed up with guidance on maintenance needs.

WCA Enforcement – Potential violations of the WCA are processed by ACD staff, who are charged with determining if there is a violation, the extent of the violation, and the nature of remediation required to resolve the matter.

Wetland Consultation – For a modest fee, ACD staff will provide landowners with wetland consultation services to determine wetland boundary locations, determine the applicability of exemptions, aid with project concept adjustments to facilitate future permitting, and assist them in navigating the regulatory process.

Wetland Restoration and Banking – Restoration of wetland hydrology and ecology is not only good for water quality, habitat and flood control, but may also be 'banked' for credit. The WCA requires mitigation for wetlands drained or filled in excess of exemptions by restoring wetland of equal value or purchasing credits from those who have previously completed wetland restoration projects. ACD staff provides technical assistance with the design, review, and monitoring of wetland restoration projects. The US Fish and Wildlife Service is a partner capable of providing design assistance and modest cash grant toward wetland restorations that are not to be used for banking credit or part of a compensatory wetland mitigation plan.

#### 2019 Ecological Management Activities

Anoka Nature Preserve Restoration – Ongoing maintenance of the Anoka Nature Preserve restoration project is needed to keep germinating buckthorn seedlings at bay. Each year ACD staff use a combination of brush mowing and herbicide application to maintain the progress made in 2013. The recent purchase of a brush mower by the City of Anoka will greatly enhance this effort.

Beach Property Enhancement – Funds secured from the OHF are being used to enhance habitat on the Herbert Beach property in St. Francis. The Beach property is owned by ACD and has a protective conservation easement held by the Minnesota Land Trust. Planned



conservation easement held by the Minnesota Land Trust. Planned activities for 2019 include completing buckthorn treatment and follow up spot spraying in the restored wetlands and prairies.

Kern Property Enhancement – OHF and NFWF Monarch Conservation funds have been used to enhance habitat on a 55-acre property in Nowthen that has been protected with a conservation



easement. Enhancement activities since 2016 include: a prescribed burn; supplemental seeding in the prairies; planting trees, shrubs, and wildflowers; invasive species control; and wet meadow site preparation and seeding. Follow up spot spraying will be conducted in 2019.

Buckthorn Treatment – Buckthorn is a highly invasive woody plant. Common Buckthorn invades upland areas, while Glossy Buckthorn takes over wetland fringes. Both species displace native plants and



the wildlife that depends on them. ACD has been actively combating buckthorn in those portions of the county where it is just becoming established.

- Brigade ACD staff will continue a program to recruit and equip private landowners to treat buckthorn on their properties.
- Mikkelson Wildlife Management Area (WMA) OHF funds have been secured to treat common and glossy buckthorn throughout this 840-acre WMA. Basal bark and cut-stump herbicide application was initiated in the fall of 2017 and 2018, and will continue in 2019.
- Anoka Cooperative Weed Management Area Cost Share Projects ACD staff has begun working with four private landowners to treat buckthorn on

their properties. Funds remain to initiate additional cost share projects on private lands.



Blaine Preserve SNA – ACD secured OHF funding to enhance 53 acres of wet prairie/rich fen that supports MN Threatened/Endangered/Special Concern species. Enhancement activities will

begin in 2019 and include reed canary grass, buckthorn, and aspen treatment.



Burman WMA – ACD secured OHF and NWTF funding to enhance 89 acres of the 204 acre Robert and Marilyn Burman WMA. Enhancement activities will begin in 2019 to enhance 58 acres of oak savanna, 16

acers of prairie, and 15 acres of wetland.

Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) – ACD secured funding from BWSR to establish a CWMA. The Anoka CWMA Partnership activities include strategic planning and coordination, invasive species outreach, monitoring, mapping, and a cost share program to control invasive species and revegetate with natives on public and private lands.

Minnesota Rare Plant Salvage - ACD will work in partnership with the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum and Critical Connections Ecological Services to pursue funding to develop a pilot project for salvaging rare species from permitted development sites where such rare plants would otherwise be destroyed. Ecologically appropriate and permanently protected recipient sites will be identified. Protocols for salvage, transplantation, species specific management, and monitoring will be developed.

#### 2019 Water Quality Management Activities



Carp Management (Martin and Typo Lakes) – Following installation of rough fish barriers on the Martin-Typo chain of lakes, a carp geotagging and trapping effort was initiated in 2017 with a MN Department

of Natural Resources (DNR) Conservation Partners Legacy (CPL) grant. Analysis was completed to identify the movement and congregation patterns of the carp to inform management. Tracking and trapping was implemented throughout 2018 and will continue in 2019.



Carp Management (Linwood Lake) – With funding through BWSR from the Watershed Based Funding (WBF) of the CWF, the SRWMO opted to undertake a carp geo-tagging and trapping effort on Linwood Lake.

ACD is implementing this effort on behalf of SRWMO.



Mississippi Riverbank Stabilization (Anoka) – The LRRWMO dedicated its portion of WBF toward a large riverbank stabilization project on the Mississippi River in the City of Anoka. ACD has been

contracted to manage the project in conjunction with a local engineering firm, as well as administering the grant.



Mississippi Riverbank Stabilization – Two separate CWF grants have been secured to assist landowners on the Mississippi River with riverbank stabilization projects, preferably using bioengineering

techniques. In 2017 ACD reached out to landowners and began developing designs/plans. Installation of the first round of projects is likely in the summer of 2019. Several rounds of installation are anticipated.

Golden Lake IESF 2 (City of Circle Pines) – Funds for an IESF just upstream from Golden Lake have been secured from the City of Circle Pines, the Rice Creek Watershed District, and the CWF. Site survey and initial project planning and design were completed in 2017. Landowner outreach, final design, permitting, and bidding occurred in 2018. In the late fall of 2018 installation was initiated. Installation will be completed in the spring of 2019. The 2019 treatment season will be used to refine operations protocols.

Revetments on the Rum – CPL Funds have been secured to assist riparian owners on the Rum River with stabilization of mild to moderate bank erosion. Cedar tree revetments will be used on at least 1500 linear feet to satisfy the grant. In 2017 1300 linear feet of revetments were installed. In 2018 an additional 1190 linear feet were installed. Sufficient funds remain to complete another round of implementation in 2019.

Rum River Stabilization – Anoka County allocated funds to address a severe riverbank erosion problem in Rum Central Regional Park that is undermining a bituminous trail. ACD allocated \$22K+ of state cost share and \$18K in 2018 District Capacity funds to assist with this effort. ACD staff completed the design, secured permits, bid the project, and managed construction. Installation of most of the project was completed in the early winter of 2018. Final site stabilization and vegetation management will occur in spring of 2019.

HOA Smart Irrigation – ACD staff will conduct site assessments and assist HOAs when appropriate to apply for cost share to install smart control panels to improve irrigation efficiency on homeowner association managed properties.



## FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Project Cost-Share — Financial assistance in the form of project cost-share grants is sometimes available along with our technical services to encourage projects that will have public benefits of water quality improvement, flood reduction, or wildlife habitat enhancement. There are several potential sources of funding, and ACD works with landowners to coordinate the application process. ACD encourages performance-based cost-share, which is an approach wherein funding sources contribute to a project based on the benefits derived from the project. Other factors may also be considered such as landowner actions that may have exacerbated the problem and any other properties that could benefit from the solution.

Engineering/Technical Assistance – Funding is available through the MCD Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEAP) and the Enhanced Technical Assistance (ETA) program to build internal capacity within SWCDs and fund contracts with consulting engineers for the design of conservation practices. Requests must be made through ACD for projects in Anoka County.

Local Water Planning (LWP) – ACD applies for and manages LWP implementation funds through the BWSR Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG). These funds help offset the cost of assisting WMOs with implementation of their water plans. Anoka County receives approximately \$8,000 to be shared among the water management entities.

WCA Administration – ACD applies for and distributes funds through the NRBG to reimburse LGUs a portion of the cost of implementing the WCA. Approximately \$63,000 is available for Anoka County LGUs, which covers approximately 25% of reported expenses.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment System – ACD applies for and distributes funds through the NRBG to reimburse LGUs a portion of the cost of implementing SSTS related programs.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Upgrades – ACD secured funds through the MPCA to assist landowners that meet income eligibility limits with the upgrade of failing septic systems. Priority is given to systems that are likely to be polluting public water bodies.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANCE

Grant Administration – ACD has become proficient with administration of various federal, state, and regional grants. Many project partners have neither the resources nor inclination to dedicate staff to tend the logistics of grant administration. As a contribution to project implementation, ACD often assumes this role.

ACD Website – Much of ACD's website, AnokaSWCD.org is dedicated to posting and reporting compliance matters. The site includes staff and supervisor contact information; board meeting agendas, packets, and minutes; fee schedules; the handbooks; financial reports; the comprehensive plan and annual plans; and annual reports.

WMO Reporting – Water management entities are required to submit annual reports of activities and finances to BWSR. ACD prepares annual reports on behalf of three of the four WMOs for a fee.

Website Hosting – ACD designed and manages websites for the Upper Rum, Lower Rum, and Sunrise River WMOs. Routine management includes posting information on meetings and activities.

WCA Administration – ACD assists LGUs with administration of the WCA to varying degrees. LGUs throughout Anoka County differ greatly in terms of the staffing levels and expertise dedicated to implementing the WCA. As such, some LGUs take greater advantage of ACD's assistance than others.

Buffer Law Implementation – ACD provides several services related to the buffer law; 1) compliance reviews using remote sensing or site inspections, 2) consultation on buffer establishment, 3) development and authorization of alternative practices, and 4) facilitation of project cost share and implementation. Due to ACD staff efforts to work with all formerly non-compliant property owners, Anoka County is now 100% compliant with the buffer law.



Watershed Based Funding Coordination (WBF) – ACD facilitated discussions in 2018 between water management entities throughout

Anoka County to determine how to allocate non-competitive BWSR WBF CWF. A similar process may be necessary again in 2019.

#### PRODUCTS & EQUIPMENT

Tree Sales – ACD sells approximately 25,000 tree and shrub seedlings to 300 landowners annually. Seedlings are sold in bundles of 10 and 25, as our focus remains habitat improvement, not individual landscaping trees. The tree sale is an opportunity to provide one-on-one consultations with landowners about habitat improvement. We also provide some native grass and wildflower seed.

Rain Guardian Pretreatment Chamber – ACD staff designed and patented the Rain Guardian pretreatment chamber for curb-cut rain gardens to greatly reduce the time and effort of required maintenance. The RainGuardian.biz website provides promotional, technical, installation, and maintenance materials along with ordering instructions. Distributorships are in place for 31 states. We will continue to seek a west coast distributor and actively promote sales of the Foxhole as well as provide greater support to our distributor network. Rain Guardian revenues support other conservation efforts in Anoka County.

Equipment Rental – ACD has invested in several pieces of equipment that help landowners implement conservation practices. The equipment is available for rent and is used to install ACD coordinated conservation practices. Available equipment includes:

- Truax 3' native seed drop seeder,
- 25-gallon herbicide tank and boom sprayer,
- 52" pull behind brush mower,
- 14" chain saws,
- Gas powered post-driver for cedar tree revetments, and
- Backpack herbicide sprayers.

Safety equipment and training is included with rental.

Miscellaneous Conservation Materials – Many materials needed for conservation projects are not readily available, or are only available in bulk quantities. This can discourage landowners from moving forward with a project. To facilitate project installation ACD has several items on hand and provides them at cost, including herbicide, erosion control fabric, biodegradable stakes, duckbill anchors, galvanized steel cable, and horseshoe clamps.

## INFORMATION & OUTREACH

Outreach and Engagement Coordinator – Partners throughout Anoka County agreed to allocate approximately 15% of WBF to jointly employ a Public Outreach and Engagement Coordinator for two years. The



position will coordinate the newly formed county-wide outreach network, develop a work plan of activities of common interest to the partners, create audience appropriate outreach materials, provide information to target audiences, and create opportunities for the public to engage in activities that improve natural resources quality or quantity. ACD has agreed to serve as the host for this position.



e-Newsletter – ACD intends to develop and launch an e-newsletter that provides updates on projects and services, grant awards, staffing, and Board activities as a means to better reach out to public officials and others who subscribe.

WMO Education/Newsletters – ACD provides content to WMOs to incorporate into their member city newsletters related to the implementation of their water plans. Some WMOs also contract with ACD to provide project specific education work products such as displays, signs, and brochures.



Video Development – Videos can be used to highlight ACD projects, inform other professionals on the elements of project design and construction, inform the public on natural resources issues, and

engage the public. Subject to time and budget constraints the following video projects may be pursued.

- Host a theme based video contest with prizes promoted through local high schools or other venues
- Animated video introduction to groundwater for the general public
- Virtual reality footage highlighting local natural resources to engage audiences at events through an immersive experience

All ACD videos are available on the AnokaSWCD YouTube page.

Website – ACD's AnokaSWCD.org website describes ACD's programs and services, provides project information, and serves as an archive for myriad natural resource management reports and analyses such as the Water Resources Almanac and Stormwater Retrofit Analyses. The website provides the public with direct access to ACD's series of brochures, displays, and videos.



Website Blog – Blogs are an actively updated section of a website intended to provide a more comprehensive narrative of priority topics than can be accomplished in a newsletter, Facebook post, or typical

webpage. In 2018, ACD intends to add a blog to the AnokaSWCD.org website including a 'lessons learned' section. Topics such as soil health, the ecological impact of pesticides, and conservation lawn care are anticipated.



Website Data Access Tool – Under contract and in partnership with several water management entities, ACD staff collect and analyze water quality, quantity, and biology data. Providing our partners and

the public with timely access to the data as it is being collected is a high priority. Developing the means to do so in a manner that provides a user friendly interface, is easy to maintain, facilitates data management and reporting, is cost-effective, and avoids redundancy is very challenging. ACD will continue to research options and pursue any that meet the aforementioned criteria.

Web Story Map – In 2017, ACD incorporated a GIS interface into the website called Story Map. This feature provides public access to project profiles and other project information through an interactive mapping interface. This feature will require continuing management to ensure it remains current and all projects are accessible and up to date.

Workshops and Presentations – ACD periodically partners with cities and watershed districts to provide information on a variety of natural resource topics. Presentations are tailored to the audience and range from 'how-to' workshops for landowners to implement projects at home, to highly technical presentations to other professionals in the natural resources management field.

Newspaper Articles – ACD periodically submits articles to local newspapers to promote programs and services and to educate the public on topics related to natural resource stewardship.

*Brochures & Displays* – ACD has developed a series of brochures and table top displays promoting conservation in the community. The following are available for use by partners in Anoka County.



| Topic  | Brochure | Display |
|--|----------|---------|
| Lakeshore Restoration: Enhancing water quality and habitat on your shore | х        | х       |
| Riverbank Stabilization: Understanding water flow and managing erosion   | х        | х       |
| Backyard Habitat: Attracting wildlife to your property                   | Х        | Х       |
| Water-Smart: Conserving water at home                                    | Х        | Х       |
| Rain Gardens: Treating runoff at the source                              | Х        | Х       |
| Wetlands: Benefitting wildlife and people.                               | Х        | Х       |
| Stormwater Management: Improving water quality and reducing runoff       | х        | Х       |
| Native Plants: Restoring habitat in Anoka County                         | Х        |         |
| Natural Resource Threats   |          | Х       |
| Land Protection: Establishing a legacy                                   |          | Х       |
| Soil Health (US Dept. of Ag. NRCS design)                                |          | Х       |
| Invasive Species: Restoring ecosystem health                             |          | Х       |

In 2019, ACD will work to develop a multi-purpose booth and display materials that can be used by ACD staff and our partners at local events. Additional table top displays addressing ecological health, pollinators, and groundwater are on the docket.

MN GreenCorps Outreach – In 2017-2018, ACD became a host site for a MN GreenCorps member, whose focus was stormwater. In 2018-2019, the MN GreenCorps member will work on a variety of outreach



activities. While many activities have yet to be determined, the MN GreenCorps member will work to promote Chloride awareness and develop an outreach campaign centered on groundwater. Some District Capacity funds have been set aside to cover the cost of materials for the position.

*Tours* – In 2019, ACD will continue to sponsor ad hoc tours for ACD supervisors as projects are being installed, with the potential to expand invitations to other public officials. The tours are generally held one hour prior to regularly scheduled board meetings. Starting in 2020 in conjunction with updates to ACD's comprehensive plan, we intend to host tours

for public officials in even numbered years.

*Public Officials Outreach* – As projects are being developed and installed/implemented, ACD staff will provide updates to county commissioners, state legislators, city officials and ACD supervisors via direct email, e-newsletter, Facebook links, and blog links.

Day at the Capitol – In most years, ACD supervisors and staff spend time visiting with legislators regarding natural resource issues in Anoka County. During the legislative session in particular, ACD will often organize a 'Day at the Capitol' whereby we meet with as many of our seventeen elected representatives as possible to promote the highest priority issues of ACD. The structure of this process may be modified but the commitment to engage state legislators remains.

Outreach to Local Government Units – LGU officials and staff routinely make important decisions about land use and land management that can have lasting effects on natural resources. It is in the mutual interest of ACD and LGUs to implement approaches that accommodate growth, minimize capital investment, and efficiently deliver public services, while maintaining the quality and quantity of water and other natural resources. ACD is uniquely qualified to assist LGUs to consider natural resources during the decision making process by providing updated monitoring and inventory data, and by addressing inquiries about the often complex physical, chemical, and biological natural resource interactions that may influence LGU decisions.

# POTENTIAL INITIATIVES FOR 2019 AND BEYOND

| Initiative  | Potential Grant   | Potential<br>Partner                            | Approx.<br>Total Cost   |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| Ditch 20 Wetland<br>Restorations                          | BWSR Banking, District<br>Capacity, DNR CPL,<br>MPCA Section 319  | Landowners, District Capacity                   | \$95,000 -<br>\$190,000 |
| Lake George Phase II – In-Lake                            | CWF – Accelerated<br>Implementation   | GLID, LG Cons.<br>Club,<br>URRWMO               | \$50,000                |
| Alum Treatment<br>Efficacy                                | CWF – Accelerated<br>Implementation,<br>WMOs/WDs  | LIDs, WMOs                                      | \$80,000                |
| Large Campus Stormwater Retrofits with Community Partners | CWF – Community<br>Partners   | Campuses  | \$150,000               |
| Linwood Lake Carp<br>Management                           | CWF – Fund the Plan   | SRWMO,<br>Linwood Lake<br>Assoc.                | \$70,000                |
| St. Francis Retrofits                                     | CWF – Fund the Plan,<br>CWF – Projects and<br>Practices, Met Council,<br>Dept. of Health, MPCA<br>Section 319 | URRWMO, St.<br>Francis                          | \$25,000 -<br>\$200,000 |
| Rum River WRAP<br>Retrofits                               | CWF – Fund the Plan,<br>MPCA Section 319  | URRWMO,<br>LRRWMO, The<br>Nature<br>Conservancy | \$250,000               |
| Campus Ground Water<br>Conservation                       | CWF – Projects &<br>Practices, MDH – Source<br>Water Protection   | Campuses  | \$10,000 -<br>\$200,000 |
| Lake George Retrofits                                     | CWF – Projects &<br>Practices, MDH – Source<br>Water Protection, MPCA<br>Section 319                          | GLID, Co.<br>Parks,<br>URRWMO                   | \$200,000               |
| Anoka Retrofits   | CWF – Projects &<br>Practices, MPCA Section<br>319  | LRRWMO,<br>Anoka                                | \$25,000 -<br>\$800,000 |
| MWMO Retrofits  | CWF – Projects &<br>Practices, MPCA Section<br>319  | MWMO  | \$15,000 -<br>\$175,000 |
| Ramsey Retrofits  | CWF – Projects &<br>Practices, MPCA Section<br>319  | LRRWMO,<br>Ramsey                               | \$15,000 -<br>\$250,000 |

| Initiative  | Potential Grant                               | Potential<br>Partner   | Approx.<br>Total Cost  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Weed Management   | CWMA  | County and City<br>Staff,<br>Landowners  | \$20,000   |
| Promote Ecological Health Practices in Residential Landscapes | District Capacity                             | Landowners,<br>Non-Profits   | \$10,000   |
| Promote Sustainable Urban Farming                             | District Capacity, USDA EQIP                  | Landowners,<br>Non-Profits   | \$10,000   |
| Noxious Weed<br>Management                                    | MDA   | County and City<br>Weed<br>Inspectors  | \$15,000   |
| Smart Irrigation  | Met Council, MDH –<br>Source Water Protection | Cities,<br>homeowner<br>associations,<br>landowners                                      | \$10,000   |
| SSTS Fix-Up   | MPCA SSTS Fix-Up<br>Fund                      | No match required  | \$20,000   |
| Blaine SNA Restoration  | OHF   | DNR, City of Blaine  | \$50,000   |
| Promote Land Protection of Savanna and Natural Communities    | OHF, District Capacity                        | MLT, TNC, TPL  | \$10,000   |
| WMA Habitat<br>Enhancement                                    | OHF, NWTF, PF, DU                             | DNR, Sport<br>Orgs.  | \$50,000   |
| CCCA – Buckthorn  | OHF, NWTF                                     | Anoka County<br>Parks  | \$50,000   |
| Rum Central Buckthorn   | OHF, NWTF                                     | Anoka County<br>Parks  | \$50,000   |
| Cedar Creek Ecosystem Science Reserve – Invasive species      | CPL, OHF                                      | CCESR,<br>ISWCD  | \$300,000  |
| Rum River Bank Stabilization Program                          | CPL, OHF, CWF                                 | Anoka County,<br>URRWMO,<br>LRRWMO,<br>Landowners,<br>Isanti SWCD,<br>Mille Lacs<br>SWCD | \$1,500,000<br>(total need<br>much<br>higher, to be<br>phased) |

## **ADJUSTMENTS IN AUTHORITIES AND PROGRAMS**

ACD will support program changes, funding options, legislation, and local ordinances that achieve the following:

- Operational and programmatic levy authority for SWCDs
- Groundwater conservation through mechanisms such as mandated rain/soil moisture sensors on irrigation systems, private well regulation, limits on lawn size, and plumbing code updates to allow gray water segregation, reuse, and/or infiltration
- Reimbursement of full fee schedule rates from state grants for SWCDs or grants that are performance-based, lump-sum contracts and not based on actual expenses
- Funding for the long-term inspection and maintenance of BMPs
- Development of a technical approval authority training and certification program by BWSR that doesn't rely on NRCS provided training and oversight. An online module based system would be ideal to accommodate training needs arising from staff turnover and workload variability over time and would follow employees as they move between jobs
- Eligibility of watershed-based funding to be applied to SWCD plan priorities
- Increase reimbursable staff expenses associated with the CPL grant program
- Creation of an ecological planning grant element in the OHF similar to CWF's Accelerated Implementation Grants
- Acknowledgement of long term O&M costs as a portion of required match
- Extend OHF grant terms for ecological restoration/enhancement projects
- Increase NRBG WCA funding and reduce the match requirement
- Modification of BWSR billing rate formula to consider paid leave earned, instead of paid leave used thereby simplifying planning, project management, and reporting (currently, rates cannot be calculated for a guarter until after the guarter has ended)

#### **COST SHARE POLICY**

ACD will support funding options, legislation, and local ordinances that achieve the following:

ACD's program to assist with the cost of installing conservation practices to achieve the goals of the district consists of several funding sources, each with its own set of requirements. These funding sources change from year to year and so detailed procedures and policies are not included in this document. There are, however, some general policies that ACD has adopted to facilitate program administration and improve program outcomes.

ACD reserves full discretion for funding decisions and may deviate from these policies.

## PROJECT SELECTION AND FUNDING

- Projects must benefit Anoka County natural resources.
- The following will be considered when determining grant awards and funding amounts (up to 100%) to ensure the greatest public benefit.

- Natural resource benefited
- Amount of benefit
- Cost-effectiveness relative to similar projects
- Multiple benefits
- o Cause of the problem
- Benefactors of the solution
- o In-kind or cash match of non-public funds
- A single application may include multiple project types.
- Cost-benefit analysis will be conducted with consideration of all benefits and costs over the life of the project.
- Public benefits for projects will be measured in terms of the actual benefits to the priority resource.
- When determining project benefits, water quality, water quantity, ecological, and soil health benefits will be considered.
- Grant awards will be based on the lowest cost option that achieves the project objective.
- 100% of project costs may be paid for with public funds provided the project cooperator is not substantially at fault for creation of the problem. A curb cut rain garden that treats water from much of the neighborhood but very little of the cooperator's property is an example.
- Investment of public funds into a project will be considered in terms of the benefits received by the public.
- ACD will consider all public funds going toward a project when determining if the
  project is worthwhile on a cost-benefit basis, not just those funds invested by or
  through ACD.

## APPLICATION AND FUNDING PROCESS

- Projects are reviewed by ACD staff and complete grant applications are considered for funding by ACD's Board of Supervisors at their monthly meeting.
- Grant applications should be submitted to ACD staff at least two weeks prior to regularly scheduled board meetings.
- The ACD board may act to obligate funds toward a project without fully encumbering those funds within a contract. This serves to reserve funds for projects while other elements of project planning, design, and coordination can be finalized.
- Case by case, project sponsors/landowners/applicants may be required to provide an escrow in the amount of anticipated design and engineering costs. If the project construction bids come in within 10% of the engineer's estimate and the applicant does not move forward with project installation, the escrow may be used to reimburse ACD for the cost of the design. If the applicant moves forward with construction, these funds shall be applied toward construction costs.
- Cost share rate maximums will be the same as those prescribed by the funding source.
- Grant recipients will not be compensated for their labor. Grant recipient labor may be considered an in-kind contribution.

- The value of in-kind services/equipment/materials provided by landowners/project sponsors will be based on state approved prevailing wage guidance for services, documented market rates for rental equipment, or documented actual cost/value for materials.
- Principal or Specialist level staff shall oversee project installation and maintenance.
   Specialist level staff have not less than a four year degree and four years' experience in natural resource management or related field along with substantial on-the-job training and professional development training.
- The NRCS Field Office Technical Guide or other standard generally accepted by the engineering profession will be used for project design, construction, operations and maintenance.
- Projects are reviewed by ACD staff and complete grant applications are considered for funding by ACD's Board of Supervisor at their monthly moeting.
- Grant applications should be submitted to ACD staff at least two weeks prior to regularly scheduled board meetings.
- Grant awards will be based on the lowest cost option that achieves the project objective.
- Expenses incurred prior to grant approval are ineligible.
- Grants are reimbursement grants, unless otherwise approved in advance. Grant recipients must submit receipts for eligible expenses to ACD. Reimbursement checks will be issued within six weeks.
- A single application may include multiple project types.
- Applicants may apply to other entities for grants. In no case will funding from all sources to the grant recipient exceed eligible project expenses.
- Grant recipients will not be compensated for their labor. Grant recipient labor may be considered an in-kind contribution.
- Grant recipient must assume operations and maintenance responsibilities for the life of the project.
- Grants will not be awarded for projects required by permit or law.
- ACD reserves full discretion for funding decisions and may deviate from these policies.
- Policies specific to certain funding source may differ, and supersede those found in this document. Cost share payments are not to exceed the cost of installation.
- Performance based cost share approaches are encouraged.
- Cost share contract non-compliance will be reviewed by the operations committee with a recommendation to the full board. The committee shall seek input from staff of the agencies that provided funding. The primary goal will be to maintain/restore the project benefits. Failing that, a pro-rata refund of cost share funds will be sought based on the benefits received compared to the anticipated benefits over the planned life of the project.

## LOGISTICS AND LIMITATIONS

 Grant recipient must assume operations and maintenance responsibilities for the life of the project.

- Grants will not be awarded for projects required by permit or law.
- Principal or Specialist level staff shall oversee project management. Specialist level staff have not less than a four-year degree and four years' experience in natural resource management or related field along with substantial on-the-job training and professional development training.
- The NRCS Field Office Technical Guide or other standard generally accepted by the engineering profession will be used for project design, construction, operations and maintenance.
- Grant agreement non-compliance will be reviewed by the operations committee with a recommendation to the ACD Board. The committee shall seek input from staff of the agencies that provided funding. The primary goal will be to maintain/restore the project benefits. Failing that, minimally, a pro-rata refund of cost share funds will be sought based on the benefits received compared to the anticipated benefits over the planned life of the project.

•

## PERFORMANCE BASED COST SHARE

Performance based cost share is an approach by which public investment into projects is measured by the amount of benefit that results from the project. Funds received by a landowner/project sponsor/applicant are independent of the installation cost of the project but rather are based on how much benefit is received with consideration of whether or not the applicant is culpable for a portion of the problem.

## STAFF TRAINING & CERTIFICATION NEEDS

| STAFF TRAINING & CERTIFICATION NEEDS     |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
|--|---------|-------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------------|
|  |         |             | St          | aff M        | emb       | er           |          |                  |
| Conservation Practice                    | C. Lord | M. Haustein | J. Schurbon | B. Wozney    | J. Wagner | C. Taylor    | A. Diehl | B. Hammer-Lester |
|  |         |             |             | <u>P</u> lan | or [      | <u>D</u> esi | gn       |                  |
|  | Eng     | . Clo       | ıss I-      | -V           |           |              |          |                  |
| Ecological Science                       |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Alum addition - In lake (563M)           |         |             | D           |              | D         |              |          |                  |
| Aquatic Vegetation Management (565M)     |         |             |             |              | D         |              |          |                  |
| Bioretention Basin (712M)                | D       | D           |             |              | D         |              | D        |                  |
| Brush Management (314)                   | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          |                  |
| Conservation Cover (327)                 |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Conservation Crop Rotation (328)         |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Conservation Easement (327M)             | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          |                  |
| Contaminant Source Inventory (300M)      | D       | D           | D           |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Cover Crop (340)                         |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Critical Area Planting (342)             | D       | D           |             |              |           | D            | D        | D                |
| Early Successional Hab. Dev./Mgmt. (647) | D       | D           |             |              |           | D            |          | D                |
| Erosion Control (148M)                   | D       | D           |             |              |           |              | D        | D                |
| Field Border (386)                       |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Filter Strip (393)                       | D       |             |             |              | D         |              |          |                  |
| Fish Management (392M)                   |         |             | D           |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Forestry Management (147M)               | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          |                  |
| Groundwater Monitoring (500M)            |         |             |             |              | D         |              |          | D                |
| Infiltration Trench (803M)               | D       | D           |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Nutrient Management Plan (590, 509M)     |         |             |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Permeable Surfaces (804M                 |         | D           |             |              |           |              |          |                  |
| Ravine/Gully Inventory (302M)            | D       | D           |             |              |           |              |          | D                |
| Resto. & Mgmt. Declining Habitats (643)  | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          |                  |
| Riparian Forest Buffer (391)             | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          |                  |
| Riparian Herbaceous Cover (390)          | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          | D                |
| SSTS Inventory (305M)                    |         |             | D           |              | D         |              |          |                  |
| Stream Habitat Imprv. & Mgmt (395)       |         | D           | D           |              | D         | D            | D        | D                |
| Subwatershed Analysis (510M)             | D       | D           |             |              | D         |              | D        |                  |
| Surface Water Monitoring (501M)          |         | D           | D           |              | D         |              |          | D                |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment (612)           | D       |             |             |              |           | D            |          | D                |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. (645)      | D       |             |             | 1            |           | ם            | D        | D                |

|   | Staff Member |             |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
|---|--------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|-----------|--------------|----------|------------------|--|
| Conservation Practice                     | C. Lord      | M. Haustein | J. Schurbon | B. Wozney | J. Wagner | C. Taylor    | A. Diehl | B. Hammer-Lester |  |
|   | Ecol<br>Eng  |             | VCI !       |           | or I      | <u>D</u> esi | gn       |                  |  |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Mgmt. (644)      |              |             |             | D         |           | D            | D        | D                |  |
| Windbreak/Shelterbelt Estab. (380)        |              |             |             |           |           | D            |          |                  |  |
| Engineering                               |              |             |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Clearing and Snagging (326)               | >            | >           |             |           |           |              | >        |                  |  |
| Grade Stabilization Structure (410)       | 1            | I           |             |           |           |              | I        |                  |  |
| Multi-stage Ditch (807M)                  |              |             |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Stormwater Runoff Control - Infilt. (570) | I            | -           |             |           |           |              | _        |                  |  |
| Streambank & Shoreline Prot. (580)        | II           | =           |             |           |           |              | =        |                  |  |
| Water & Sediment Control Basin (638)      | IV           |             |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Wetland Restoration (657)                 | I            | I           |             | I         |           | I            | I        |                  |  |
| Other Certifications                      |              |             |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Wetland Delineator                        |              |             |             | Х         |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Prof. in Erosion & Sediment Control       |              | X           |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |
| Prof. in Storm Water Quality              |              | X           |             |           |           |              |          |                  |  |

# FUNDS NEEDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION

| Revenue Summary              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| Charges for Services         | \$23,440    |
| Interest                     | \$7,800     |
| Intergovernmental - County   | \$190,932   |
| Intergovernmental - Local    | \$222,867   |
| Intergovernmental - Regional | \$44,415    |
| Intergovernmental - State    | \$503,366   |
| Product Sales                | \$464,700   |
| Rents                        | \$87,589    |
| Total                        | \$1,545,109 |
|                              |             |
| Pass Through Summary         | \$711,346   |
|                              |             |
| Expenditure Summary          |             |
| Capital Expenses             | \$78,200    |
| Materials/Supplies           | \$338,139   |
| Office Overhead              | \$88,528    |
| Personnel                    | \$855,686   |
| Contracts - Tech/Engineering | \$109,821   |
| Contracts - Admin            | \$23,191    |
| Development                  | \$2,600     |
| Office Headquarters          | \$56,282    |
| Total                        | \$1,552,447 |

| REVENUE DETAIL            | Charge for<br>Service | Interest | County | Local | Regional | State  | Product Sales<br>Rents | Grand Total |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------|----------|--------|------------------------|-------------|
| Ag. Conservation Planning |                       |          |        |       | 2000     |        |                        | 2000        |
| Annual Report             |                       |          |        | 2450  |          |        |                        | 2450        |
| Aquatic Invasive Species  |                       |          |        | 3300  |          |        |                        | 3300        |
| Auditor Report            |                       |          |        | 620   |          |        |                        | 620         |
| Biomonitoring             |                       |          | 1900   | 3550  |          |        |                        | 5450        |
| BMP Consultation          |                       |          | 8000   | 10000 | 14000    |        |                        | 32000       |
| CGCP                      |                       |          |        |       | 6100     |        |                        | 6100        |
| Easements                 |                       | 300      |        |       |          |        |                        | 300         |
| General Operations        |                       | 7500     | 166992 |       |          | 135965 |                        | 310457      |
| Grant Preparation         |                       |          |        | 1000  |          |        |                        | 1000        |
| Lake Levels               |                       |          |        | 7680  |          |        |                        | 7680        |
| Lake Water Quality        |                       |          | 4040   | 14600 |          |        |                        | 18640       |
| Newsletter                |                       |          |        | 1700  |          |        |                        | 1700        |
| Obwells                   |                       |          |        |       |          | 2400   |                        | 2400        |
| Office Headquarters       |                       |          |        |       |          |        | 87589                  | 87589       |
| On-Call                   |                       |          |        | 16200 |          |        |                        | 16200       |

| REVENUE DETAIL          | Charge for<br>Service | Interest | County | Local | Regional | State | Product Sales | Rents | Grand Total |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------|----------|-------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Rain Guardian           |                       |          |        |       |          |       | 434700        |       | 434700      |
| Restoration - Kern      | 100                   |          |        |       |          | 900   |               |       | 1000        |
| Rum River Stabilization |                       |          |        |       | 375      |       |               |       | 375         |
| Stream Hydrolab         |                       |          |        | 2800  |          |       |               |       | 2800        |
| Stream Hydrology        |                       |          |        | 7000  |          |       |               |       | 7000        |
| Stream Water Quality    |                       |          |        | 38250 | 1440     |       |               |       | 39690       |
| Tree Sales              |                       |          |        |       |          |       | 30000         |       | 30000       |
| WCA Admin               | 1500                  |          |        |       |          | 63191 |               |       | 64691       |
| Website                 |                       |          |        | 2215  |          | 4000  |               |       | 6215        |
| Wetland Consultation    | 400                   |          |        |       |          |       |               |       | 400         |
| Wetland Hydrology       |                       |          |        | 11917 |          |       |               |       | 11917       |
| Golden Lake IESF 2      |                       |          |        | 14000 |          |       |               |       | 14000       |
| Buffers                 |                       |          | 10000  |       |          | 10000 |               |       | 20000       |
| SSTS                    |                       |          |        |       |          | 22360 |               |       | 22360       |
| Revetments - CPL        | 12300                 |          |        | 27907 |          |       |               |       | 40207       |
| Shoreland Admin         |                       |          |        |       |          | 2615  |               |       | 2615        |

| REVENUE DETAIL                     | Charge for<br>Service | Interest | County | Local | Regional | State | Product Sales | Rents | Grand Total |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|-------|----------|-------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Local Water Plan<br>Implementation |                       |          |        |       |          | 8094  |               |       | 8094        |
| Restoration - Beach                |                       |          |        |       |          | 10000 |               |       | 10000       |
| Carp Management                    | 2900                  |          |        | 3411  |          | 12946 |               |       | 19257       |
| Revetments - OHF                   |                       |          |        |       |          | 4000  |               |       | 4000        |
| Brochures/Displays/Videos          |                       |          |        | 500   |          |       |               |       | 500         |
| Plan Updates                       |                       |          |        | 17210 |          |       |               |       | 17210       |
| Stream Flow - Rating Curve         |                       |          |        | 7500  |          |       |               |       | 7500        |
| 1W1P St. Croix                     |                       |          |        | 2288  |          |       |               |       | 2288        |
| Weed Management                    |                       |          |        |       |          | 11300 |               |       | 11300       |
| Buckthorn - Mikkelson              |                       |          |        |       |          | 4100  |               |       | 4100        |
| HOA Smart Irrigation               |                       |          |        |       |          | 5200  |               |       | 5200        |
| 1W1P Rum River                     |                       |          |        |       |          | 3554  |               |       | 3554        |
| Lake Water Quality Profiles        |                       |          |        | 600   |          |       |               |       | 600         |
| Mississippi Stabilization 2        |                       |          |        |       |          | 48750 |               |       | 48750       |
| Mississippi Stabilization 1        |                       |          |        |       | 5000     | 27350 |               |       | 32350       |
| Restoration - Burman WMA           | 6240                  |          |        |       |          | 38400 |               |       | 44640       |

| REVENUE DETAIL                | Charge for<br>Service | Interest | County | Local  | Regional | State  | Product Sales | Rents | Grand Total |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------|--------|--------|----------|--------|---------------|-------|-------------|
| Restoration - Blaine SNA      |                       |          |        |        |          | 24000  |               |       | 24000       |
| WBF - Sunrise                 |                       |          |        | 10420  |          | 13460  |               |       | 23879       |
| WBF - Lower Rum               |                       |          |        | 15750  |          |        |               |       | 15750       |
| WBF - County Outreach         |                       |          |        |        |          | 50781  |               |       | 50781       |
| SRA Highland & Sullivan Lakes |                       |          |        |        | 15500    |        |               |       | 15500       |
| Grand Total                   | 23440                 | 7800     | 190932 | 222867 | 44415    | 503366 | 464700        | 87589 | 1545109     |

| Expense<br>Detail       | Capital | Materials/ Supplies | Office Overhead | Personnel | Contracts - Tech/<br>Engineering | Contracts - Admin | Contracts - Project<br>Development | Office Headquarters | Grand Total |
|-------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Biomonitoring           |         | 90                  |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 90          |
| CGCP                    |         | 100                 |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 100         |
| General Operations      | 3200    | 14000               | 82828           | 855686    |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 955714      |
| Lake Water Quality      | 5000    | 3225                |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 8225        |
| Office Headquarters     | 70000   |                     |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    | 56282               | 126282      |
| Rain Guardian           |         | 259334              |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 259334      |
| Restoration - Kern      |         | 100                 |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 100         |
| Rum River Stabilization |         |                     |                 |           | 375                              |                   |                                    |                     | 375         |
| Stream Water Quality    |         | 9845                |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 9845        |
| Tree Sales              |         | 12000               |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 12000       |
| WCA Admin               |         |                     |                 |           |                                  | 23191             |                                    |                     | 23191       |
| Website                 |         |                     | 2200            |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 2200        |
| Wetland Consultation    |         | 400                 |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 400         |
| Golden Lake IESF 2      |         |                     |                 |           | 10000                            |                   |                                    |                     | 10000       |
| Training                |         |                     | 3500            |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 3500        |

| Expense<br>Detail           | Capital | Materials/ Supplies | Office Overhead | Personnel | Contracts - Tech/<br>Engineering | Contracts - Admin | Contracts - Project<br>Development | Office Headquarters | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------|-----------------|-----------|----------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| SSTS                        |         | 17000               |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 17000       |
| Envirothon                  |         | 600                 |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 600         |
| Revetments - CPL            |         | 5854                |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 5854        |
| Restoration - Beach         |         | 1000                |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 1000        |
| Carp Management             |         | 1000                |                 |           | 14846                            |                   |                                    |                     | 15846       |
| Weed Management             |         |                     |                 |           |                                  |                   | 2600                               |                     | 2600        |
| Buckthorn - Mikkelson       |         | 350                 |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 350         |
| HOA Smart Irrigation        |         | 3200                |                 |           |                                  |                   |                                    |                     | 3200        |
| Mississippi Stabilization 2 |         |                     |                 |           | 41000                            |                   |                                    |                     | 41000       |
| Mississippi Stabilization 1 |         |                     |                 |           | 22000                            |                   |                                    |                     | 22000       |
| Restoration - Burman WMA    |         | 6840                |                 |           | 17600                            |                   |                                    |                     | 24440       |
| Restoration - Blaine SNA    |         | 3200                |                 |           | 4000                             |                   |                                    |                     | 7200        |
| Grand Total                 | 78200   | 338139              | 88528           | 855686    | 109821                           | 23191             | 2600                               | 56282               | 1552447     |

| Pass Through Detail         | Charge for Service | County | Local  | State  | Grand Total |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|--------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Rum River Stabilization     |                    | 26906  |        |        | 26906       |
| Golden Lake IESF 2          |                    |        | 99992  | 72968  | 172960      |
| BMP Construction            |                    | 8000   |        |        | 8000        |
| SSTS                        |                    |        |        | 26355  | 26355       |
| Revetments - CPL            |                    |        | 2500   |        | 2500        |
| LRRWMO Retrofits            |                    |        | 342    |        | 342         |
| Mississippi Stabilization 2 | 29500              |        |        | 70500  | 100000      |
| Mississippi Stabilization 1 | 59000              |        |        | 141000 | 200000      |
| WBF - Sunrise               |                    |        |        | 60009  | 60009       |
| WBF - Lower Rum             |                    |        |        | 114274 | 114274      |
| Grand Total                 | 88500              | 34906  | 102834 | 485106 | 711346      |