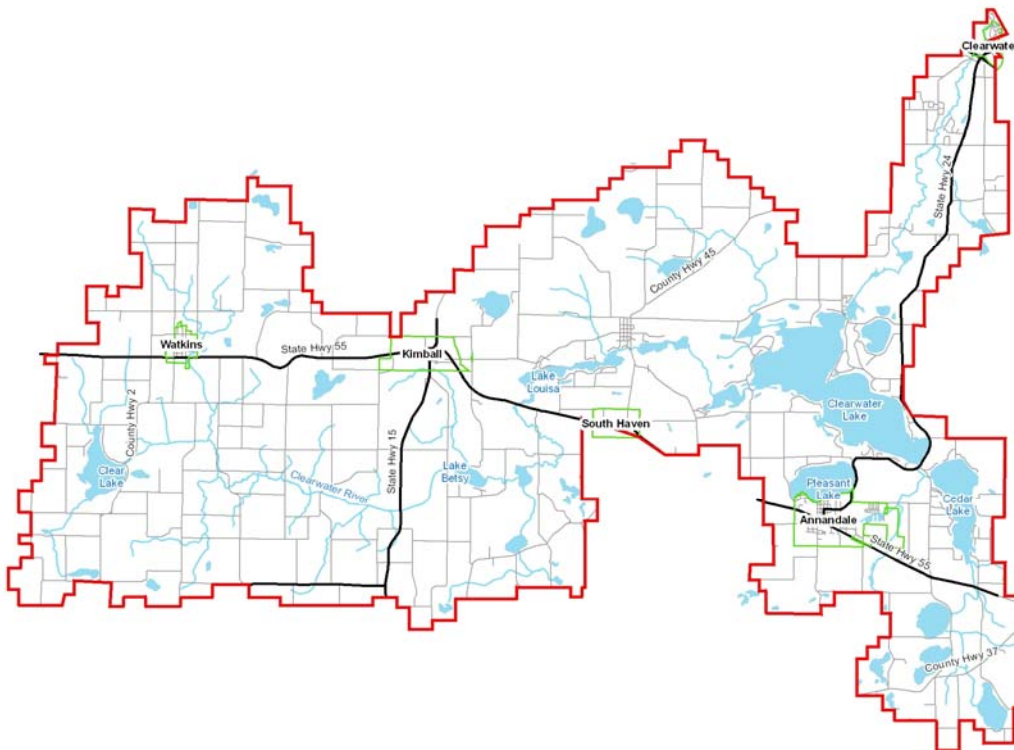


Clearwater River Watershed District

April 2006



Map of the Watershed

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CRWD

Buffer Incentives

The Clearwater River Watershed District (CRWD) can help you establish buffers, whether you farm or live on a lake. Why does the CRWD provide these buffer incentives? Buffers prevent sediment and nutrients from entering rivers, streams, county drainage ditches, and lakes. Please contact us for more information about the following buffer options.

1. If you enroll and establish a buffer in the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program), the CRWD will pay you an additional one-time incentive of \$200/acre made directly to you when USDA authorizes your contract.
2. Under the seeded buffer incentive option, the producer can establish a buffer that can be harvested for hay. The one-time upfront payment from the CRWD for a three-year period is \$350/acre. This seeded buffer is intended for use along rivers, streams, and county ditches.
3. The third option is intended for the corn, soybean, or small grain rotation. The CRWD will pay you \$50/acre per year to not till a certain area after harvest. This option is intended for use where soybeans or small grain have been harvested. The following spring you simply till and plant like you always do.
4. The CRWD is willing to pay you \$50/year if you seed a 50'x50' area around your tile intakes into permanent grass. You will be paid \$100/year if the permanent grass area is 100'x100' and \$200/year if the permanent grass buffer around your intake is one-half acre in size. Some producers want to remove their open intakes and replace them with an underground rock inlet. We'll help you do that too. The one-time payment is \$400/intake replacement.

For Lakeshore Buffer options, see page 2.

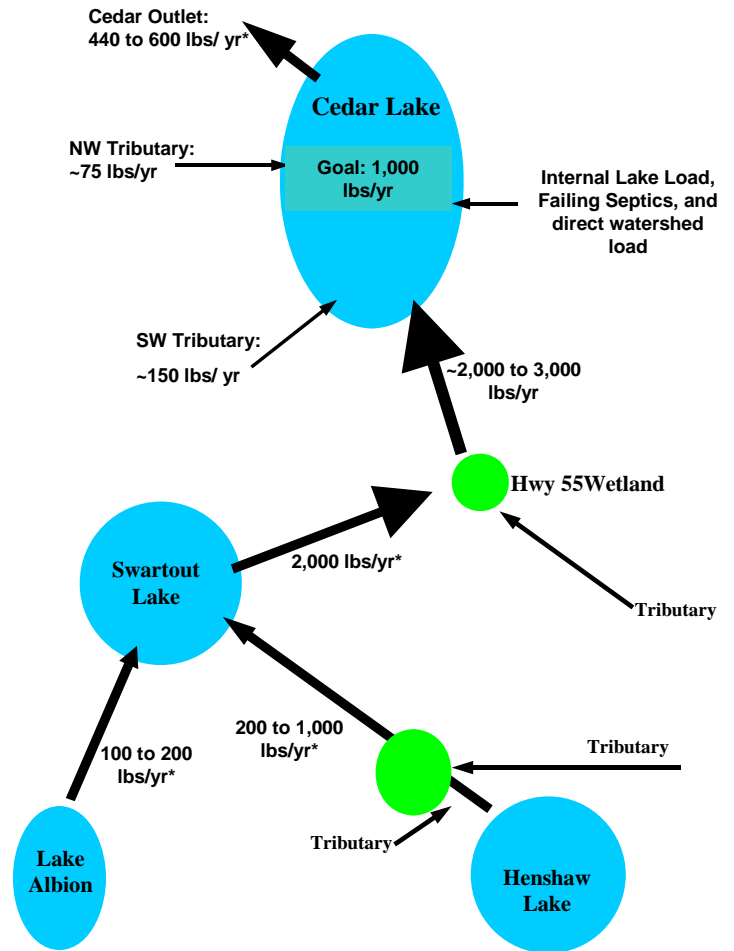
A Disturbing Trend in Cedar Lake Uncovered



Water quality monitoring conducted through the CRWD's Annual Monitoring Program, started by the CRWD in 1980, showed an abnormally high phosphorus concentration in Cedar Lake in the fall of 2003. This coupled with citizen concerns over algal blooms prompted a closer look at the entire Cedar Lake Chain, which includes Albion Lake, Henshaw Lake and Swartout Lake. The CRWD conducted additional water quality monitoring in 2004 and 2005 and convened several meetings with concerned citizens to discuss the matter and get input.

The data show high phosphorus loadings in the upstream lakes such as Swartout, Albion and Henshaw Lakes. To maintain water quality in Cedar Lake, the phosphorus loading must be 1,000 lbs/year or less. Data collected show the current load from Swartout Lake alone is 2,000 to 3,000 lbs/year.

The CRWD is using the data collected, sound scientific evaluation, and citizen input to determine how best to reduce phosphorus loadings and improve the water quality in the entire Cedar Lake Chain. Potential solutions will be identified in cooperation with area residents. Each potential solution will be evaluated based on goals of area residents, feasibility, effectiveness, costs and benefit to determine the best possible solution.



Lakeshore Buffers

Lakeshore residents can buffer their lawns and we will help. The DNR (Department of Natural Resources) provides grant money, the local SWCD (Soil and Water Conservation District) provides technical assistance, and the CRWD will pay a one-time \$250 incentive for you to participate in lakescaping on your lakeshore property. While there are certain requirements for the size of the lakescaping buffer, when completed the buffer protects the lake, provides beautiful flowers, and attracts butterflies and birds. Contact the CRWD or your local SWCD for more details.

Working to Protect Water Quality and Economic Growth

The recent development restriction in Annandale and Maple Lake due to impaired waters brings to light the economic impacts of neglecting the health of our lakes, streams and rivers. Annandale and Maple Lake were denied a permit to expand their wastewater treatment system because there was an impaired water downstream of the proposed discharge. The denial means that these communities are not able to grow until a TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load) study is conducted for the impaired water and a plan is approved by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

TMDL is the total allowable load of a given pollutant that a water body can handle without becoming impaired. A water body is impaired when the level of a given pollutant interferes with the designated use of the water. For example, if nutrients are too high in a given lake, swimming opportunities are limited due to the excessive algae caused by high nutrients.

The CRWD recognized early on that clean water was essential to maintaining the economic health of the towns within its borders like Annandale, Kimball, Watkins, and Clearwater. Starting in 2002, the CRWD began meeting with landowners and local and state government representatives to talk about impaired waters in the CRWD. Public participation is a key element of any TMDL Study. Those that participate decide the direction of development. In 2003, the CRWD won a grant from the MPCA to conduct a TMDL to study the District's impaired waters and find ways to reduce the pollutant loads to listed waters including the Clearwater River and Lake Louisa. Currently, the CRWD is collecting data it will need to write the TMDL study. Look for announcements about additional meetings to present the results of the study and to discuss ways to improve the listed water bodies.



Sanitary Sewer Collection Systems

The CRWD has four wastewater collection and treatment systems which it owns and operates at various locations near Clearwater Lake, Grass Lake and Lake Louisa. These systems serve developments or areas of various sizes ranging from eight to 82 parcels. These systems were either installed by the developer or by the CRWD and are operated by the CRWD. Users are

billed quarterly for the operating and maintenance expenses. Systems under 10,000 gallons per day are permitted by the County, while larger systems are permitted by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Each system includes a collection system, gravity or pressure, followed by primary and secondary treatment before the treated waste water is disposed of by a drainfield system.

The CRWD is responsible for all record keeping, short term and long term maintenance, monitoring and reporting.

Other areas of the CRWD have indicated interest in developing similar systems and CRWD staff is available to assist you with this planning effort.

www.crwd.org

Sewer Needs

The CRWD has assisted two townships with evaluations of Individual Sewage Treatment Systems (ISTS) in selected areas. The

evaluation began with review of the County files of septic system information. A site walk over and interviews with property owners, if available, were conducted. Septic tank drainfields, ports, and wells were located, and limited soil borings were conducted.

Signs of poor septic systems such as standing water, groundwater, or poor soil conditions were also noted.

A total of 59 parcels were evaluated with the following results. Nineteen percent of the systems were installed between 1970 and 1979, 12% between 1980 and 1989, 28% between 1990 and 1995, 19% between 1996 and present, 20% were unknown and 2% were vacant lots. Twenty-seven percent of the properties have holding tanks, 7% mounds, 44% drainfields, 7% pressure beds and 15% of the systems were unknown or could not be located.

Nineteen percent of the parcels were found to have a possible secondary site while 54% of the systems would have to be replaced at the same location as the present system and 27% of the parcels have no possibility of a standard drainfield system and must have holding tanks. The findings of the evaluations were given to the townships for their planning efforts.



Meet Your CRWD Board Members and District Staff

Board of Managers

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A five-member Board of Managers governs the CRWD. The Managers serve three-year terms on a staggered basis. The Wright County Board of Commissioners appoints two, the Stearns County Board appoints two, and the Meeker County Board appoints one. (The largest portion of the District lies in Wright and Stearns Counties, with a smaller portion in Meeker.) The powers and duties of Watershed Districts and their Boards of Managers are set forth in Minnesota Statute 103D.

District Staff

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CRWD Board Meetings

Regular meetings of the CRWD Board of Managers are held on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. at the middle school in Annandale, and the fourth Wednesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. at Stanley's Restaurant in Kimball. Meetings are open to the public. Meeting notices and minutes are published in the Annandale, Kimball, and Watkins weekly papers, and posted on the website at www.crwd.org.