



# Sunrise River WMO 2020 Mini-Report

**INFO FOR  
CITY  
COUNCILS  
AND TOWN  
BOARDS**  
ABOUT THE  
SUNRISE RIVER  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT  
ORGANIZATION

## SRWMO BOARD

### City of Columbus

Janet Hegland  
Tim Melchior

### City of East Bethel

Tim Harrington  
Leon Mager

### City of Ham Lake

Matt Downing  
Sandy Flaherty

### Linwood Township

Dan Babineau  
Candice Kantor  
Tim Peterson

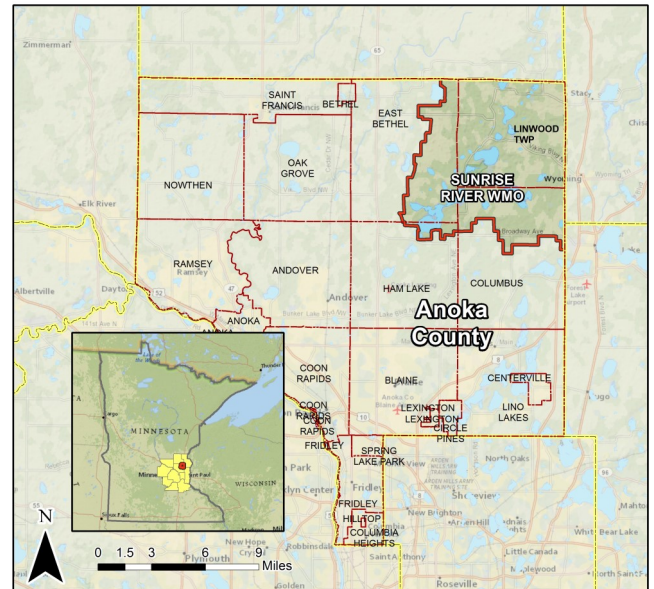
## SRWMO Part of Lower St. Croix One Watershed

The Sunrise River WMO's jurisdictional area is a little impractical. Our north and east boundaries are county boundaries. This is because a 1980's law required water management organizations only in the 7-county metro. To manage water quality, flooding, and other issues it is best if we cover or collaborate over the true watershed area.

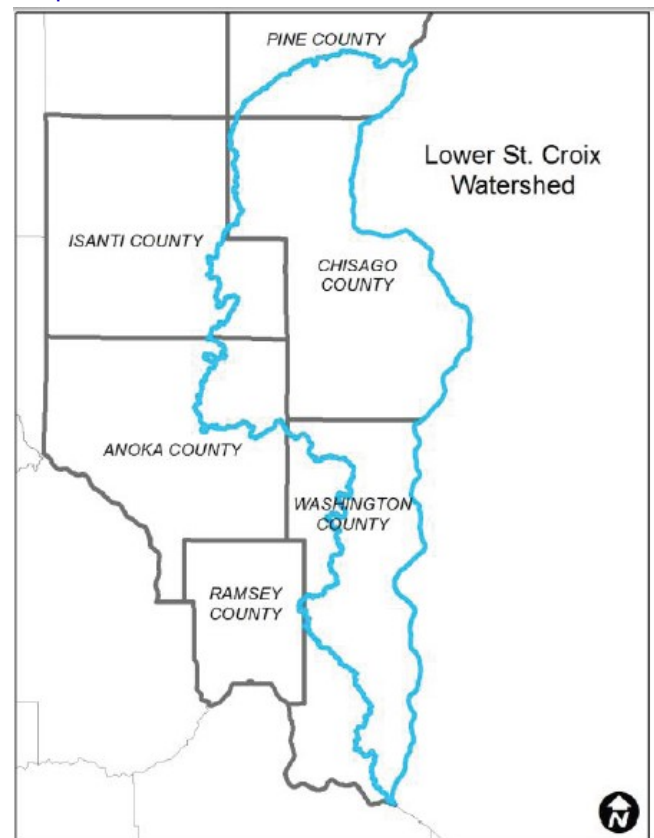
A "One Watershed One-Plan" (1W1P) was recently completed to coordinate efforts across the Lower St. Croix basin. We worked with 16 counties, watershed organizations, and soil and water conservation districts who have water plans in the basin. The 1W1P contains our mutual priorities.

The new 1W1P plan comes with funding to implement it. The State is providing approximately \$1.2M every two years during the 10-year plan life. Projects in the 1W1P are eligible for funding. Some local eligible projects are stormwater treatment, in-lake pollutant removal, and studies. Some priority local lakes are Coon, Linwood, and Martin.

The SRWMO has adopted the 1W1P and officially joined the group directing implementation.



Map of the SRWMO



Map of the Lower St. Croix Watershed

## 2020 Highlights

- ◆ **Installed 3 water quality projects** — Installed two stormwater pond renovations at Martin Lake and one rain garden at Coon Lake. Photos below.
- ◆ **Carp management**—Box netted Martin and seined Linwood Lake. Common carp are detrimental to water quality and lake health. Results in 2020 were lackluster compared to the 11,000 carp removed in total during the 3 previous years. Grant funding is secured through 2022.
- ◆ **Positive lake water quality trends**—Maintained positive trends at Martin and Typo Lakes.
- ◆ **Infographics**— Boosted our presence in city and lake association newsletters with a series of six infographics about lakeshore stewardship.
- ◆ **Lakeshore stewardship video**— Supported creation of an animated video. We hoped to distribute it at workshops, but had to settle for virtual.



## 2021 Plans

- ◆ **Public officials tour**—If possible in late summer, we'll host an in-person tour of recent projects.
- ◆ **Stormwater retrofits construction**— Due to a wonderfully low construction bid 2020, we have about \$56,000 in State grant funds remaining to install projects that treat stormwater draining to Martin or Coon Lake. Grant expires the end of this year.
- ◆ **Linwood Elementary rain garden** — Refurbishing the rain garden at the schools entrance, in collaboration with fourth grade classes.
- ◆ **Carp management**—Use a water quality grant to remove carp from Typo, Martin and Linwood Lakes.
- ◆ **Community events**— We hope to return to involvement in community events like Booster Days, Snow Bowl, Family Fun Day and Fall Fest. We have a new display and grant-funded staff time for outreach.
- ◆ **Monitor six lakes**— Linwood, Martin, Typo, Coon, and Linwood Lakes will be monitored. Monitoring schedules differ for each lake.



## Watershed Based Funding Grants

In the past, every grant we received was through a competitive process. That was aimed at ensuring only the best projects were funded. Recently, the State recognized that the legally-required process for developing our 10-year watershed plans had similar rigor. So, there is now a new category of non-competitive grants called Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Those grants fund projects in State-approved plans.

There are metro-only and whole-watershed versions of these grants. The SRWMO has opportunities to use both. This year, we're working with partners throughout the Lower St. Croix basin to decide how to use \$1.2M of these funds. While the SRWMO will only receive a portion of these funds, some likely projects are a Linwood Lake stormwater projects study, feasibility study for alum treatments at Martin and Linwood

Lakes, a wetland restoration along Ditch 20 draining to Typo Lake, and a bolstered public education program. 10% local matching funds are required and projects must measurably improve water quality.

These funds, and most other SRWMO-secured grants, are from the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment that was passed by voters in 2008.



### Photos of some recent Projects



Stormwater pond rehabilitation—Martin Lake



Stormwater pond rehabilitation—Martin Lake



Rain garden —Coon Lake