MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS
Connecting People. Protecting Water.

SEPTEMBER 2026

In the News

The following stories were either found in the news or submitted by members. The stories feature news related to conservation and the environment and/or the work of Minnesota's watershed organizations.

DNR issues permit for water quality project on ISD 518 property
After four years of waiting, the **Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District** finally received its permit from the Department of Natural Resources. (By Julie Buntjer, The Globe, September 5, 2026)

Beloved ag advocate passes away suddenly
Minnesota agriculture recently lost an advocate in the environmental world as Warren Formo passed away on August 29. (By Kevin Schulz, The Farmer, September 9, 2026)

Hubbard, Schultz, Wheeler lakes near Atwater to be drawn down
The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, in coordination with the **Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District** and other partners, will begin a planned drawdown this fall of Hubbard, Schultz and Wheeler lakes in western Kandiyohi County near Atwater. (By DNR, September 10, 2026)

Conservation Corps improves Cedar River watershed
For seven days in mid-August, the Corps worked in Austin under a **Cedar River Watershed District** request for assistance with water-quality projects. (By Tim Ruzek, CRWD, September 10, 2026)

PLSL Watershed District awarded $1.8M grant to advance water quality efforts
The **Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District** has been awarded a $1,831,095 Clean Water Fund grant through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to support an iron-enhanced sand filter which will clean water draining to Spring Lake and an alum treatment on Fish Lake. (By *Prior Lake NEWS COMPASS*, September 16, 2026)

Saint Paul, Capitol Region Watershed District to break ground on McMurray Athletic Fields Park and stormwater improvements

The City of Saint Paul and Capitol Region Watershed District will break ground on a renovation project at McMurray Athletic Fields, including upgraded athletic facilities and stormwater improvements that will help protect Como Lake. (By *Monitor*, September 22, 2026)

[Restoration creates wildlife habitat, water quality benefits]

The **Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District** leads the $12.9 million multi-benefit, multi-partner undertaking. (By BWSR, Snapshots, 2026 October Snapshots)



BWSR to seek feedback on proposed Wetland Conservation Act rules

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has entered the final phase of a multi-year process to update the administrative rules for the state's Wetland Conservation Act. (By BWSR, Snapshots, 2026 October Snapshots)

Red River Basin conservation projects highlight progress across the region

The Minnesota Watersheds 2026 Summer Tour showcased conservation projects that are improving water quality, reducing flood risks, controlling erosion and sediment, restoring habitat, and reconnecting rivers across the Red River Basin. (By BWSR, Snapshots, 2026 October Snapshots)

Employment Announcements

Watershed Job Openings. Minnesota Watersheds will post job openings for members on its website and promote them on social media. It is one of our most popular pages so email Maddy at mnwatershed@gmail.com to get yours listed today.

- Capitol Region WD: Water Resources Regulator Specialist
- Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD: Communications, Outreach, and Program Specialist
- Coon Creek WD: Administrative Services Coordinator
- Ramsey-Washington Metro WD: Watershed Engagement Intern
- South Washington WD: Watershed Restoration Specialist

Annual Conference Update

Join us for the 2026 Annual Conference and Trade Show from December 2-4, 2026, at the beautiful Grand View Lodge in Nisswa, MN.

This event presents a fantastic opportunity for managers, commissioners, staff, researchers, and consultants across various fields—such as data collection, permitting, construction, engineering, education and outreach, and administration—to come together to share insights and advancements. Here is a tentative schedule of events.

To make your lodging reservations, please fill out this form and submit your deposit information from a secure link via Canary sent

Registration for attendees will go live mid October, if you're interested in sponsoring or exhibiting at the event you can register now.

State Agency Advocacy

Partner Meetings

Drainage Work Group. The DWG met in St. Cloud on September 10. Meeting notes can be found here. Highlights include:

- an update on Wetland Conservation Act rulemaking,
- an update on the DWG evaluation process,
- a presentation and discussion regarding a proposed framework to amend M.S. 103E.811 for drainage system abandonment,
- information about BWSR's development of a decision matrix for contracts, and
- consensus to move forward with M.S. 103E notice streamlining.

Board of Water and Soil Resources. The BWSR Board met on September 23. The agenda and August 27 meeting minutes were approved. New staff were introduced. Reports included Executive Director Jaschke. No state agency updates or advisory comments were given. Board action included authorization of the Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY 27 program and approval of the South Washington Watershed District 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan. The meeting packet can be found here.

Clean Water Council. The Council met on September 28. The meeting packet can be found here.

Education, Grant and Training Opportunities

EDUCATION, GRANT, AND TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES! Continuing education is a pivotal component to organizational success. Minnesota Watersheds is committed to connecting you with high quality training whether it is offered at our events or through our partners. Check out the Minnesota Watersheds **online training calendar** for information regarding upcoming education and training.

Training Videos by BWSR

- **Who's Who in Minnesota Water Management Video Series**. Learn about Minnesota's multi-layered model for water management in this four part "Who's Who in Minnesota Water" video series, created for members of local government boards and commissions.
- **Watershed Management Video Series**. Learn about watershed management in this nine-part video series, created as an introduction for board/commission members of watershed districts and watershed management organizations/commissioners.

Other Grant and Training Opportunities

- **October 1, October 29, November 12:** 2026 Improving Restorations webinar: registration link
- **October 6, 2026:** Soil Restoration for Stormwater Workshop: registration link
- **October 28, 2026:** Save the Date: AIS Research and Management Showcase

- **Environmental Assistance Loans** are available through the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis.
- **Smart Salting Training Program** is ready to work with your organization to schedule and host trainings for your staff and community. Schedule trainings now for your pick of dates throughout the year by emailing smartsalting.pca@state.mn.us.
- **BWSR Train Tracks**
- BWSR offers a **searchable library** of recorded modules, webinars, videos, and other resources to find professional development information on a variety of topics.
- Minnesota Watersheds offers an online library in the **Members Only** section of our website.

Please forward opportunities that would be of value to our members to Jan Voit at jvoit@mnwatersheds.com.

October Meetings and Events

September Partner Meetings

- Drainage Work Group: October 8
- Clean Water Council: October 19
- BWSR Board: October 28

Key Dates

To assist members with key dates for Minnesota Watersheds Board and committee meetings, as well as information related to dues and events, a schedule is included below. It has been revised based on the new timeline for resolutions and the Annual Meeting on Resolutions and Petitions.

Key Dates	Meetings, Events, and Deadlines
October 6, 2026	Legislative Committee meeting - review and recommend legislative priorities
October 7, 2026	Finance Committee meeting - review and recommend budget and dues
October 13, 2026	Bylaws-MOPP Committee meeting - review MOPP and Bylaws
October 26, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting - review budget, dues, and priorities
October 28, 2026	Distribute dues statements
October 30, 2026	Distribute annual meeting packet to members
December 2-4, 2026	Annual Conference - Grand View Lodge, Nisswa
December 4, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting (election of officers)
December 28, 2026	Minnesota Watersheds meeting (tentative)

Connect with Minnesota Watersheds

Minnesota Watersheds Board members are available to meet with you at one of your future board meetings. They also welcome the opportunity to meet with you one-on-one to hear about your successes and ideas where Minnesota Watersheds could be of assistance. Contact information is on our website. **We greatly appreciate your support!**

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