

INTRODUCTION

The Valley Branch Watershed District was established November 14, 1968 by the Minnesota Water Resources Board, now the Board of Water and Soil Resources. Flooding problems in the area led to the citizens' petition to establish the District. Up until May 27, 2009, the Valley Branch Watershed District covered approximately 64 square miles. On May 27, 2009, approximately six square miles in southern Afton, which had previously been part of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, was added to the Valley Branch Watershed District through a Washington County petition. On December 16, 2009, approximately 30 square miles in Denmark Township, southern Afton, and northeast Cottage Grove was transferred to the Valley Branch Watershed District from the South Washington Watershed District through a citizens' boundary change petition. Approximately one square mile of the Valley Branch Watershed District is in Ramsey County; the remainder of the District lies in Washington County. The figure on the next page shows the location and communities of the District.

This 2009 Annual Report is intended to furnish public officials and agencies with information about the Valley Branch Watershed District and to satisfy the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 103D.351 and MN Rules Chapter 8410, the Metro Area Local Water Management Rules. This report summarizes District activities during the period of January 1, 2009 through December 31, 2009.

The remainder of this annual report is organized into two sections. Section 1 is the report on activities of the Board of Managers, and includes 2009 and 2010 organization and budget information, a summary of 2009 projects and accomplishments, and a list of goals for 2010.

Section 2 is a summary of the District Engineer's activities. Technical data collected during 2009 is tabulated in the appendices to this report.

2009 ANNUAL REPORT

VALLEY BRANCH WATERSHED DISTRICT

SECTION 1: ACTIVITIES OF THE MANAGERS

PART I

2009 ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET INFORMATION

A. Board of Managers

Name	Address	County	Year First Appointed	Term Expires
Lincoln Fetcher President	2634 E. 19 th Avenue N. St. Paul, MN 55109 651-779-9780 lfetcher@isd.net	Ramsey	03/1999	11/13/10
David Bucheck Vice President	2301 Legion Avenue Lake Elmo, MN 55042 651-770-1730 djbuecheck@yahoo.com	Washington	12/1995	11/13/11
Donald Scheel Secretary	13404 S. 15 th Street Afton, MN 55001 651-436-2203 dgscheel@visi.com	Washington	11/1999	11/13/11
Dale Borash Treasurer	996 Neal Avenue Stillwater, MN 55082 651-337-0000 dbortash@msn.com	Washington	08/1996	11/13/12
Ray Lucksinger Manager	12775 - 5 th Street N. Lake Elmo, MN 55042 651-436-3368	Washington	11/2007	11/13/10

B. District Information

District Address

The official address of the Valley Branch Watershed District is *P.O. Box 838, Lake Elmo, Minnesota 55042*. The District does not have a central office. Interested citizens may write to the District at the address above or contact one of the Managers.

District Website

The District's website address is www.vbwd.org. The website includes permitting information; manager and consultant information; agendas and minutes from managers' meetings; links to other state, county, and community sites; water quantity and quality information; annual reports; information regarding stormwater best management practices; and the 2005-2015 watershed management plan.

District Consultants

The District has no full-time employees. As required by Minnesota Statutes, the Managers solicit proposals for legal and professional consultant service biennially. The Managers solicited proposals in the fall of 2008 and voted on December 11, 2008, to retain the legal, engineering, and auditing consultants. In October 2009, the Managers contracted new secretarial services.

The following consultants serve the Managers.

Attorney

Ray Marshall & Barbara Wolle
Lawson, Marshall, McDonald, Galowitz &
Wolle, P.A.
10390 39th Street North
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-777-6960
ray@lawsonlawfirm.com
bwolle@lawsonlawfirm.com

Engineer

John Hanson
Barr Engineering Company
4700 West 77th Street
Minneapolis, MN 55435
952-832-2622 (MWF)
651-748-4230 (TTh)
jhanson@barr.com

Recording Secretary (January-July)

Karen Schultz
2470 East Ripley Avenue
North St. Paul, MN 55109
651-777-6190
kschultz03@msn.com

Recording Secretary (Oct.-Dec.)

Melissa Imse
9348 Wentlock Road
Woodbury, MN 55125
651-730-1612
mimse1994@msn.com

Inspector

Ray Roemmich
301 Crestwood Terrace
Stillwater, MN 55082
651-439-4551

Accountant

Nancy Martinson
HLB Tautges Redpath
4810 White Bear Lake Parkway
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-407-5844
nmartinson@hlbtr.com

Auditor

Mark Gibbs
HLB Tautges Redpath
4810 White Bear Lake Parkway
White Bear Lake, MN 55110
651-487-5840
mgibbs@hltbtr.com

District Bank

The Managers annually designate an official District bank. On December 11, 2008, the Managers selected Lake Elmo Bank as the District's official bank for 2009.

District Newspaper

The Managers annually select an official District newspaper. On December 11, 2008, the Managers retained the Lillie Suburban Newspaper as the District's Legal Newspaper for 2009.

Scheduled Meetings

The regularly scheduled District meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursdays of every month, in the Lake Elmo City Council Chambers located at 3800 Laverne Avenue North in Lake Elmo. At times the regular meeting dates are changed, and when necessary, the meetings are canceled. As in other years, the managers held only one meeting in November and one in December 2009.

District Plan

The 2005-2015 Valley Branch Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on October 26, 2005. The District Managers adopted the Plan on November 10, 2005. The Plan is posted to the District's website.

Local Plans

In 2009, the District continued to work with the 14 cities and townships with territory within the VBWD to review and approve their local surface water management plans. As of January 14, 2010, the District had approved plans of seven communities. Two

communities plan to submit their plans in the spring of 2012, within two years after another watershed district covering more of the cities' area adopts an updated plan. The District is continuing to work with the remaining five communities on revisions to their draft plans. The following table summarizes the status of the local plans.

Community	Deadline	Status
Afton	11/10/2007	Afton submitted a draft local water management plan as part of its comprehensive plan in early 2009. VBWD provided comments to Afton on March 6, 2009. As of December 31, 2009, Afton had not resubmitted a plan that addressed VBWD's comments. VBWD has not approved an Afton local plan.
Baytown Township	05/2008	Baytown Township included a local water management plan in its draft comprehensive plan, submitted in June 2008. VBWD commented on the draft plan on October 24, 2008. On July 9, 2009, VBWD approved the Township's local plan.
Grant	11/10/2007	Grant included a local water management plan in its draft comprehensive plan that it submitted to VBWD in July 2008. VBWD responded with comments on September 26, 2008. In May 2009, VBWD sent another comment letter, indicating that issues still needed to be addressed before the VBWD would approve the City's plan. On December 2, 2009, the VBWD received another version of Grant's plan, and the VBWD approved the plan on January 14, 2010.
Lake Elmo	3/31/2009	Lake Elmo requested an extension to the deadline for a local water management plan in 2008. On March 13, 2008, VBWD granted an extension until March 31, 2009. In April 2009, VBWD sent draft comments on the plan. In December 2009, VBWD sent comments on the second draft of the plan. VBWD has not approved a Lake Elmo local plan.
Mahtomedi	11/10/2007	In March 2009, VBWD sent comments on their comprehensive plan. In December 2009, VBWD sent a letter to Mahtomedi requesting an update on the plan status. Mahtomedi anticipates completing a local plan by spring 2012, which is within two years of the Rice Creek Watershed District adopting an updated watershed management plan. VBWD has not approved a Mahtomedi local plan.
Maplewood	11/10/2007	In April 2009, VBWD responded with comments. In August 2009, VBWD approved the plan.
North St. Paul	11/10/2007	North St. Paul submitted a water management plan to VBWD in September 2008. After the City responded to VBWD comments, VBWD approved the plan on November 13, 2008.

Community	Deadline	Status
Oak Park Heights	05/2008	Oak Park Heights submitted a water management plan to VBWD in June 2008. VBWD replied with comments on September 12, 2008. Oak Park Heights submitted a revised plan, and the VBWD approved the plan on May 29, 2009.
Oakdale	11/10/2007	In November 2007, Oakdale requested and received an extension to May 2008 for the completion of a water management plan. Oakdale submitted a draft water management plan in April 2008. VBWD replied with comments on May 28, 2008. In December 2009, VBWD sent a letter to send an update on the plan status. VBWD has not approved an Oakdale local plan.
Pine Springs	11/10/2007	In June 2009, the City submitted a draft comprehensive plan, and the VBWD responded with comments. On December 2, 2009, the VBWD received another version of Pine Springs' plan, and the VBWD approved the plan on January 14, 2010.
St. Mary's Point	05/2008	St. Mary's Point submitted a water management plan to VBWD in March 2008. VBWD replied with comments on May 23, 2008. As of December 31, 2009, the VBWD had not approved the plan.
West Lakeland Township	05/2008	On January 22, 2009, West Lakeland Township submitted a local water management plan as a chapter of its draft comprehensive plan. On March 2, 2009, the VBWD submitted comments on the Township's plan. In December 2009, VBWD sent a letter to the Township, requesting an update on the plan status. VBWD has not approved a West Lakeland Township Plan.
White Bear Lake	11/10/2007	White Bear Lake submitted draft comprehensive plan in June 2008. VBWD responded with comments on September 26, 2008. In December 2009, VBWD sent a letter to send an update on the plan status. White Bear Lake anticipates completing a local plan by spring 2012, which is within two years of the Rice Creek Watershed District adopting an updated watershed management plan. VBWD has not approved a White Bear Lake local plan.
Woodbury	11/10/2007	In August 2007, Woodbury requested and received an extension from VBWD to complete its local water management plan by May 2008. A draft plan was submitted in August 2008 and the VBWD responded with comments on September 26, 2008. After Woodbury addressed the VBWD comments, VBWD approved the plan on January 22, 2009.

Locally Adopted Wetland Banks

The District Managers, as the Local Government Unit responsible for administering the Wetland Conservation Act, have certified one wetland bank within the District. The

wetland bank is within the Whistling Valley 2nd Addition in the City of Lake Elmo. The Managers certified the wetland bank on November 9, 2006. For more information on wetland credits available from this wetland bank, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources should be contacted.

C. 2009 Administrative Budget

The Administrative Budget for the year beginning January 1, 2009 was as follows:

Accounting and Audit	\$	12,000
Dues and Publications		4,000
Engineering/ Administration*		127,000
Engineering/Project Review*		28,000
Insurance & Bonds		14,000
Legal Services		40,000
Managers' Expenses		1,500
Managers' Per Diem		11,350
Office Expense		2,000
Payroll Taxes		1,500
Postage		250
Salaries, Secretary		5,400
Salaries, Inspection		<u>3,000</u>
Total Administrative Budget	\$	250,000

*These budget items are completed by Barr Engineering Company. They include:

1. Responding to information requests
2. Reviewing non-escrow projects, which require a District permit
3. Reviewing and preparing correspondence for the managers
4. Attending managers' meetings
5. Completing special projects and studies, as authorized by the managers
6. Assisting in the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act
7. Representing the managers at meetings and other functions

The District's 2009 annual financial report and audit is being prepared. The 2009 financial report and audit will contain the content required of Minnesota Rule 8410.0150, Subpart 2 and Subpart 3, Paragraph d.

D. Technical/Advisory Committee

The District's Advisory Committee is comprised of interested individuals and representatives of affected statutory and home rule charter cities, counties, and soil and water conservation districts.

Individuals

Charles Taylor
4677 Birch Bark Trail N.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-777-2979

James Kubiak
13761 Tomahawk Dr. S.
Afton, MN 55001
612-940-9842

Jeff Berg
3271 Lampert Ave. N.
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-779-3640

Jill Lucas
14888 50th Street S.
Afton, MN 55001
651-436-2409

Roger Johnson
8048 Hill Trail
Lake Elmo, MN 55042
651-777-7766

Community Representatives

Community

City of Afton
Baytown Township
City of Grant
City of Lake Elmo
City of Mahtomedi
City of Maplewood
City of North St. Paul
City of Oak Park Heights
City of Oakdale
City of St. Mary's Point
West Lakeland Township
City of White Bear Lake
City of Woodbury
Ramsey County
Ramsey Conservation District
Washington County
Washington Conservation District

Representative

John Parotti/Diane Hankee
Pat Windler
Diane Hankee
Ryan Stempski
Jay Kennedy
DuWayne Konewko
Dave Kotilinek/Jay Kennedy
Dennis Postler/Chris Long
Brian Bachmeier
John Parotti
Matt Woodruff/Ryan Stempski
Mark Burch
Steve Kernik
Terry Noonan
Tom Petersen
Amanda Strommer/Jessica Colin-Pilarski
Jyneen Thatcher, Jay Riggs

PART II

2009 Valley Branch Watershed District Goals and Initiatives

A. Communicating with Constituents

1. Re-activate the VBWD Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and help with organizational and educational efforts.
2. Continue to provide useful, informative, and timely reports on activities and finances.
3. Develop a communications strategic plan, including a plan for the VBWD website, and begin improvements.
4. Recognize VBWD volunteers.
5. Continuing to work with communities who are developing stormwater management plans, comprehensive plans, floodplain ordinances, and other plans to ensure water resource issues are considered.
6. Meeting with the Valley Creek Subwatershed Plan representatives to review the status of the plan.

B. Improving and Protecting Water Quality and Habitat

1. Continue to implement projects to stabilize and protect Valley Creek.
2. Implement the stabilization management plan for Raleigh Creek.
3. Continue best management practices (BMP) cost share program.
4. Develop and begin to implement an incentive BMP cost-share program for private, non-profit and government land developers of residential, commercial, and industrial sites.
5. Investigate the feasibility of preventing the migration of invasive species into Rest Area Pond and Valley Creek.
6. Finalize the wetland inventory and assessments and share information with communities.
7. Implement recommendations from habitat monitoring program.
8. Continue to implement water quality improvement projects at Long Lake and Sunfish Lake and monitor the effects.
9. Cooperate with the Minnesota Department of Transportation to investigate the feasibility of installing BMPs at the Highway 36-Interstate 694 interchange to improve the water quality of Long Lake.
10. Implement, as appropriate, the recommendations from diagnostic feasibility studies of Eagle Point Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Lake DeMontreville.
11. Continue to maintain stormwater ponds, based on inventory program.
12. Continue the revegetation process of the Eagle Point Lake dam.
13. Implement a project to stabilize the ravine north of Lake DeMontreville.

14. Work with Maplewood and North St. Paul to address any instability issues with the ravine on the north side of Silver Lake.
15. Continuing basin, stream, and wetland habitat monitoring and reporting programs.

C. Managing Water Quantity

1. Continue existing system and dam inspections, operations, and reporting programs
2. Continue basin and groundwater level monitoring and reporting programs.
3. Continue managing the water level drawdown program by monitoring District water levels and snow pack

D. Understanding the Effects of Activities on Groundwater

1. Hold a workshop with the Metropolitan Council to discuss the metropolitan water use plan, expected effects on groundwater and groundwater-dependent surface waters, and management suggestions for the VBWD.

E. Regulating Activities

1. Continue permitting program.
2. Consider minor rule changes, including regulating groundwater uses, revising buffer rules to allow flexibility at developed sites, clarifying permit triggers for new impervious surfaces, modifying volume control standard to be consistent with MPCA and Metropolitan Council guidance, etc.

F. Educating Constituents and Managers

1. Continue current education activities, support the East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP), respond to information requests, provide reports on monitoring and projects, and use the cost-share program to educate public on BMPs.
2. Continue providing education and presentations to Managers on topics of interest.
3. Implement invasive species management program with the help of the CAC.

PART III
PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES INITIATED
BY THE BOARD OF MANAGERS
IN 2009

The following is a summary of the projects and activities initiated by the Board of Managers or other significant activities involving the managers in 2009. Figure III-1 shows the locations of the 2009 District-initiated projects.

1. Citizens Advisory Committee

Throughout 2009, the managers worked on the development of an active Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC). In January 2009, the managers had post cards prepared and sent to various potential interested members, including planning commission members from each community within the VBWD, contacts for each lake improvement association within the VBWD, the Ramsey and Washington County Master Gardeners, local newspapers, and Washington Conservation District supervisors who could live within the VBWD. The managers sent letters to the current members of the CAC, explaining the process. The potential CAC members were asked to respond by the end of February 2009. The information was also posted on the VBWD website. After only receiving four applications by March 12, 2009, the managers had posters created which advertised the need for citizens to apply for involvement with the CAC. Twenty five posters were prepared, and each manager placed five posters in strategic places in their residential area. After not receiving any additional applications, the Managers decided in June to move ahead with organizing those individuals who had applied. The Managers held a workshop with three applicants (one who had applied was no longer interested) on September 10. At the workshop, the managers, CAC members, the District's Educator, and the District's Engineer introduced themselves and President Fetcher gave some background on the VBWD and potential roles for the CAC members. The managers, CAC members, the District's Attorney, and the District's Engineer toured various District sites on September 26. The CAC members were then asked to meet and determine their interests and tasks in which they would like to assist the managers. On December 10, 2009, the managers appointed a fourth member to the CAC.

2. Communications Plan

In 2009, the managers discussed developing communications strategic plan, including a plan for the VBWD website. They discussed working with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and other watershed districts to develop the plan. In late 2009, BWSR organized a meeting for early 2010 to discuss the issue.

3. Volunteer Recognition

Throughout 2009, the managers continued to discuss possible events and methods to recognize volunteers. The managers scheduled an event for April 17, 2009, but later cancelled the event due to the climate of the economy.

4. Community Plan Reviews

In 2009, the VBWD reviewed several local stormwater management plans and comprehensive plans, as listed in Part I of this annual report. In addition, the VBWD provided comments on the Afton Center Environmental Assessment Worksheet in February, the Ramsey County floodplain maps in February, the Woodbury Northeast Area Alternative Urban Areawide Review (AUAR) in March, and the Lake Elmo Village AUAR in April.

5. Valley Creek Planning and Stabilization Projects

After constructing the Upstream and Downstream Valley Creek Stabilization Projects in 2008, a significant snowmelt event occurred in early February 2009, which resulted in damage to the downstream stabilization project. Vegetation was not yet completely established in the prairie plantings in the spring and a tree fell immediately upstream of the first constructed riffle forcing water toward the banks. A portion of the upstream stabilization project was also damaged during spring snowmelt due to excessive runoff through a ravine. Repairs were made by a contractor for the VBWD in June 2009. Vegetation growth was slowed at both projects due to lower-than-normal rainfall throughout the summer months, and portions of the projects are still vulnerable to erosion. Approximately 80% of the willow and dogwood stakes planted in the biologs were leafed out and growing by mid-summer. Reed canary grass and other weeds were sprayed by the VBWD contractor in July and September and the prairie plantings were mowed in September to control annual weeds. An inventory of shrub plantings was completed in late September and the contractor will be planting replacement shrubs in the spring of 2010.

Also in 2009, several managers participated in an August 27 meeting at Belwin to celebrate conservation efforts within the Valley Creek watershed.

6. Raleigh Creek Stabilization Project

In 2008, the VBWD engineering consultant was directed to initiate the design documents for the stabilization of the Raleigh Creek erosion sites. Barr Engineering Company completed plans in the summer of 2009 that included stabilizing approximately 1,500 feet of streambank along two reaches of Raleigh Creek and installing outlet structures on two stormwater ponds. The managers solicited comments from the Department of Natural Resources and Board of Water and Soil Resources and published public hearing notice for the project in their legal newspaper. On August 27, 2009, the managers held the public hearing and the project was bid in September 2009. The managers approved the low responsible bid and ordered the project on October 8, 2009. Construction began in late October and was completed by the end of November, including all vegetation plantings.

7. BMP Cost-Share Program

The managers continued their Best Management Practices (BMP) Cost-Share Program in 2009 and they continued to contract with the Washington Conservation District to administer the program. A subcommittee reviews and recommends which projects should be funded by the managers. Thirty-nine BMP cost share proposals were reviewed by the

subcommittee in 2009. Thirty-eight proposals were approved for funding by the managers. Ten of these projects were completed in 2009. Two were withdrawn. Figure III-2 shows the locations of the BMP Cost-Share projects. Photos of the projects are attached in Appendix A.

8. Special Incentive BMP Program

The managers developed a framework for a special incentive BMP cost-share program in 2009. The program is intended to encourage developers to implement practices that go above and beyond the stormwater management requirements. Through the program, the managers approved funding for one project in 2009. The project is located on the west campus of Century College in White Bear Lake. It involved constructing an educational island in a pedestrian walkway of a parking lot. The educational island includes porous asphalt, Silva Cells (plastic frames in uncompacted soil around trees), porous concrete, recycled landscape mulch, and subsurface stormwater recharge chambers. A display board describing the various BMPs within the island is being constructed.

9. Invasive Species Investigation & Implementation

As directed by the managers, Barr Engineering Company published a report in November 2009 regarding invasive species. The managers ordered the report because invasive aquatic species have the potential to cause serious problems in water bodies within the VBWD. The managers will continue to discuss the report and recommendations in 2010 to determine what actions, if any, they should take.

10. Wetland Inventory and Assessment

In 2008-2009, all 1,230 wetlands within the District were inventoried and assessed using the Minnesota Routine Assessment Method for Evaluating Wetland Functions (MNRAM). The assessment results were applied to the wetland management classification system adopted by the District in its 2005 Watershed Management Plan. The project results and suggested modifications to the wetland management classification system were discussed with stakeholders in November 2009 and feedback was solicited. Additional stakeholder meetings will be held in 2010 prior to completing a final report. Based on feedback from stakeholders, proposed modifications to the adopted wetland management classification and standards will be prepared and presented to the managers in 2010 for final consideration.

11. Silver Lake Aquatic Plant Management

After the managers helped fund whole-lake aquatic plant treatment to Silver Lake in 2007 and 2008, the managers scheduled a January 5, 2009 meeting with stakeholders to discuss aquatic plant treatments to discuss the conflicts between lake users' desires and lake managers' mandates, roles of various entities in managing lakes for water quality and aquatic plants, and funding options for aquatic plant treatments. The managers agreed to fund half of the \$36,000 needed to treat the curlyleaf pondweed in the lake, after discussing the Silver Lake Improvement Association's request on April 9, 2009.

12. BMPs at Highway 36-Interstate 694 Interchange

In January 2009, the District Engineer met with staff of the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) to begin discussions regarding the feasibility of installing stormwater best management practices (BMPs) within the Highway 36-Interstate 694 interchange. MnDOT staff indicated that they would consider the possibility, but not until a nearby project at Hilton Avenue and Highway 36 is designed.

13. Long Lake and Sunfish Lake Water Quality Improvement Projects

In November 2007, Barr Engineering Company published a report that the managers had ordered on the water quality of Acorn (Mud) Lake, Long Lake, and Sunfish Lake. The study identified what steps could be taken, if any, such that these lakes do not become listed as impaired for nutrients by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and if listed as impaired, what actions could be taken to remove the impairment.

After discussing the study and recommendations, the managers decided to attempt to demonstrate to the MPCA that Acorn Lake should be designated a wetland rather than a lake because of the basin's bathymetry, littoral area, and aquatic plants.

For Long Lake and Sunfish Lake, the managers decided to meet with residents to get their input on proposed projects to improve each lake's water quality. The managers met with the Long Lake Association and solicited comments from the Department of Natural Resources and Board of Water and Soil Resources. After meeting with the Long Lake Association, the managers published public hearing notices for each project in their legal newspaper. On May 22, 2008, the managers held the public hearings. The Long Lake water quality improvement project involved in-lake alum treatments followed by aeration. The Sunfish Lake water quality improvement project involved in-lake alum treatment and possibly zooplankton seeding.

The managers ordered the projects on September 25, 2008. In-lake alum treatments were conducted at Long Lake and Sunfish Lake in the fall.

The second half of the alum treatment was applied to Long Lake in the fall of 2009. This half of the treatment was designed to extend the overall longevity of the water quality improvement project (between 15 and 20 years). Water quality monitoring conducted in Long Lake during 2009 showed improved water quality due to the first half of the alum treatment applied in the fall of 2008. When the water quality management study was first completed for Long Lake (2007), aeration of the water in Long Lake was also recommended, along with alum treatment, to improve habitat and water quality by increasing oxygen in the water. However, the alum treatment has helped to increase the oxygenation of the water significantly so that aeration (Solarbees) is no longer needed.

Water quality monitoring was conducted on Sunfish Lake during 2009. Results of the monitoring showed little to no improvement in water quality after the initial alum treatment. However, less than half of the required dose of alum was added to the lake in 2008 in the hopes that water quality would not improve too drastically, allowing aquatic plants to grow throughout the lake. Water level was extremely low as well, leading to

shoreline erosion and phosphorus loads in the lake. Based on the 2009 monitoring results, application of the remainder of the recommended alum dose is recommended so that Sunfish Lake's phosphorus concentration improves and meets the water quality standard set by the MPCA for phosphorus in shallow lakes.

14. Eagle Point Lake, Horseshoe Lake, and Lake DeMontreville Water Quality Improvement Projects

On January 1, 2009, Barr Engineering Company published a report that the managers had ordered on the water quality of Eagle Point Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Lake DeMontreville. The study identified what steps could be taken, if any, such that these lakes do not become listed as impaired for nutrients by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and if listed as impaired, what actions could be taken to remove the impairment. For Lake DeMontreville, the study investigated whether an apparent recent degrading water quality trend was real and what actions could be done to not only maintain water quality in Lake DeMontreville, but also to increase water clarity and quality.

After discussing the study and recommendations, the managers decided to conduct some additional monitoring at Lake DeMontreville and to apply for grants to implement improvement projects at Lake DeMontreville and Eagle Point Lake.

Water quality monitoring was conducted in two areas (one shallow and one deep) of Lake DeMontreville during 2009 to assess the potential internal and external phosphorus loading sources on water quality in the lake. Phosphorus in the lake was slightly higher in the North Basin (shallow area), indicating phosphorus from curlyleaf pondweed and sediment sources in shallower areas have negative effects on lake water quality. Macrophyte surveys were also conducted to determine the extent of curlyleaf pondweed growth in the lake. Survey results showed that curlyleaf pondweed is widespread, supporting the water quality data that seem to suggest the plant is negatively affecting water quality in mid- to late-summer when the plant dies back, causing the release of phosphorus from both the plant and sediment surface.

Late in 2009, the VBWD applied for grants to implement water quality improvement projects at Lake DeMontreville and Eagle Point Lake, but none of the grant applications was funded.

15. Stormwater Pond Inventory and Maintenance

Based on the District's 2008 stormwater pond inventory, nine ponds were evaluated in more detail in 2009 for potential maintenance. After this evaluation, only one pond was a candidate for wet storage excavation maintenance. Because this pond is located on Oakdale-owned property and the VBWD has an agreement with Oakdale that Oakdale will maintain all ponds on City-owned properties, the managers deferred the maintenance of the pond to Oakdale. In addition, the managers determined that the City of Lake Elmo was the more appropriate organization to address drainage, design, and erosion issues at two other ponds. Also in 2009, the District's contractor completed excavation and final restoration activities at nine stormwater ponds located in Oakdale

and Mahtomedi.

16. Eagle Point Lake Dam Revegetation

To improve the habitat of Eagle Point Lake, the managers began the first phase of revegetating the earthen dam in the fall of 2008 with a mowing of the site, spraying with herbicide to kill weeds, and installation of temporary erosion control blanket to prevent erosion over-winter. More work continued in 2009 with the temporary erosion control blanket removed in April and the site sprayed with herbicide to kill any remaining weeds in May. The site was seeded in June with a native prairie seed mix and erosion control blanket was installed on the majority of the site after seeding was completed. The site was monitored through the summer and vegetation growth was slowed due to lower-than-normal rainfall throughout the summer months.

17. DeMontreville Ravine Stabilization

The DeMontreville Ravine stabilization project was designed, bid and constructed in 2009. The design consisted of bank grading, installation of a series of boulder riffle grade-controls, construction of a sedimentation basin at the downstream end, and revegetation. The managers solicited comments from the Department of Natural Resources and Board of Water and Soil Resources and published public hearing notice for the project in their legal newspaper. On August 13, 2009, the managers held the public hearing. The project was presented to the Lake Elmo Parks Commission on August 17 and the Lake Elmo City Council on August 18. The managers approved the low responsible bid and ordered the project on September 24, 2009. The VBWD contractor began construction in mid-October and completed the majority of work in early December 2009. Construction was hampered by extremely wet conditions during the fall months. Planting will occur in spring 2010.

18. Long Lake, Goetschel Pond, and Goose Lake Ravine Stabilization Projects

The managers ordered projects for stabilizing the Long Lake, Goetschel Pond, and Goose Lake ravines in 2008. Construction of the Goetschel Pond and Goose Lake ravine stabilizations was largely completed in the fall of 2008. However all trees and shrubs were planted at both the Goose Lake and Goetschel Pond ravine sites in 2009. In addition, the native grass seeding was completed at the Goose Lake site in 2009, since only a cover crop was seeded in 2008 (all seeding was completed at the Goetschel Ravine site in 2008). Construction and planting of the Long Lake ravine stabilization was completed in early summer 2009 (primarily in May).

19. Silver Lake Ravine Stabilization

The managers had considered this project for 2009. However, because the City of Maplewood is planning to reconstruct Joy Park in 2010 and beyond, the VBWD will continue to try to collaborate with Maplewood and the private landowner to stabilize a ravine adjacent to the park as part of the City's reconstruction efforts.

20. Inspections, Operations, Monitoring, Permitting, and Reporting Programs

Inspections of the District's systems and dams were completed in 2009, as usual. Minor maintenance items were noted and the District plans to have the maintenance items completed in 2010. Operation of the Project 1007 drawdown was not necessary in 2009.

The District's monitoring program and data reporting is presented in Part II of the Engineer's Report within this annual report. Permitting is discussed in Part IV of this report.

21. Manager Workshops

The managers held three workshops in 2009: On January 22, the managers heard a presentation on "Metropolitan Council's Water Supply Plan and Groundwater Model" by Lanya Ross of the Metropolitan Council and Ray Wuolo of Barr Engineering Company; on September 10, the managers conducted a workshop to meet with CAC members and discuss possible roles; on July 23, the managers held a workshop with staff from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to discuss questions related BWSR's performance review and assistance program. In addition to these workshops, on September 26, the managers toured projects they had partially funded through the cost-share program – the Century College West Campus stormwater management best management practices education island and the porous concrete parking lot at the Mahtomedi Public Works Building, a recently permitted project at the East Campus of Century College, the DeMontreville Ravine stabilization site, and a reach of the Raleigh Creek stabilization project in Oakdale.

22. Rule Revisions

Draft rule revisions were developed in 2009, but were not finalized. The rules would likely be affected by the comments from stakeholders on the results of the wetland inventory and assessments. The VBWD boundary changes could also affect the rules. The managers will consider rule revisions in 2010.

23. East Metro Watershed Education Program

The VBWD is a member of the East Metro Watershed Education Program (EMWREP). The VBWD pays for approximately 20% of the program. The EMWREP 2009 annual report is attached in Appendix B.

24. Performance Review and Assistance Program

In 2009, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) conducted a Level II review of the VBWD under the BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program. Appendix C includes a summary of the review.

25. Boundary Changes

Two boundary changes affecting the VBWD occurred in 2009. On May 27, 2009, approximately six square miles in southern Afton, which had previously been part of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, was added to the Valley Branch Watershed District through a Washington County petition. On December 16, 2009, approximately 30 square miles in Denmark Township, southern Afton, and northeast Cottage Grove was transferred to the Valley Branch Watershed District from the South Washington Watershed District through a citizens' boundary change petition. Several VBWD managers attended the BWSR metro subcommittee public hearings on these petitions and the BWSR Board meeting regarding the second petition. As of April 1, 2010, both boundary changes have been appealed. The City of Woodbury has filed an appeal of

the May boundary change. The City of Cottage Grove and Denmark Township have filed an appeal of the December boundary change. The District is working with these communities, BWSR, Washington County, and South Washington Watershed District to resolve issues.

26. Written Communication/Information Program

In addition to the East Metro Watershed Education Program discussed in Item 1 of this Section, the Managers use the District's website to communicate with the public. Because the District is an environmental-conscious organization, the managers attempt to reduce mailings of paper documents. Therefore, this annual report, which contains the information required in Minnesota Rules 89410.0100, subpart 54, is posted to the District's website and member communities and other stakeholders are notified when the annual report is posted.

PART IV
DISTRICT PERMIT REVIEW PROGRAM

Table IV-1 is a listing of the permit applications that were reviewed in 2009. Following the table is a figure showing the location of the permits in the District.

PART V

2010 Valley Branch Watershed District Goals and Initiatives

Guided by their mission, the VBWD Managers plan to continue to execute the 2005-2015 Watershed Management Plan in 2010. The VBWD Managers' vision and mission are listed below. Following the vision and mission are the Managers 2010 goals and initiatives organized by each mission subset.

VBWD Vision:

Always be careful stewards of the water resources within our watershed boundaries.

VBWD Mission:

To manage and protect our water resources: lakes, ponds, creeks, streams, wetlands, drainages, and groundwater by:

1. Promoting open communication with our constituents, both our citizen base and pertinent governmental units.
2. Improving and protecting the quality of water for all water bodies within the VBWD.
3. Managing the quantity of water and minimizing the negative impact on the VBWD from floods, high flows, and droughts by providing public works projects and other prudent measures.
4. Understanding the effects of community growth and other activities on groundwater, initially focusing on the groundwater-surface water interface.
5. Continuing to enforce the Wetland Conservation Act requirements as the responsible local unit of government.
6. Educating our constituents and the local units of government within the VBWD on water quality and quantity issues, management, and means of improvement.

2010 Goals and Initiatives:

Communicating with Constituents

1. Direct the efforts of the VBWD Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) with useful and important project ideas.
2. Develop a communications strategic plan and begin to implement.

3. Continuing to work with communities who are developing stormwater management plans, comprehensive plans, floodplain ordinances, and other plans to ensure water resource issues are considered.

B. Improving and Protecting Water Quality and Habitat

1. Continue to implement projects to stabilize and protect Valley Creek as funds allow.
2. Continue best management practices (BMP) cost share grant program.
3. Implement special incentive BMP cost-share program for larger scale projects within the District.
4. Finalize the wetland inventory and assessment report and share information with District communities.
5. Continue to implement water quality improvement projects at Long Lake and Sunfish Lake and monitor the effects.
6. Implement, as appropriate, the recommendations from diagnostic feasibility studies of Eagle Point Lake, Horseshoe Lake and Lake DeMontreville.
7. Continue to maintain stormwater ponds, finish upgrade projects, and remind cities of their requirement to maintain ponds on their lakes.
8. Work with Maplewood and North St. Paul to address any instability issues with the ravine on the north side of Silver Lake.
9. Continuing basin, stream, and wetland habitat monitoring and reporting programs.

C. Managing Water Quantity

1. Continue existing system and dam inspections, operations, and reporting programs.
2. Continue basin and groundwater level monitoring and reporting programs.
3. Continue managing the water level drawdown program for Project 1007.

D. Regulating Activities

1. Continue permitting program.
2. Consider minor rule changes, including regulating groundwater uses, revising buffer rules to allow flexibility at developed sites, clarifying permit triggers for new impervious surfaces, modifying volume control standard to be consistent with MPCA and Metropolitan Council guidance, etc.

E. Educating Constituents and Managers

1. Continue current education activities, support the East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP), respond to information requests, provide reports on monitoring and projects, and use the cost-share program to educate public on BMPs.
2. Continue providing education and presentations to Managers on topics of interest.
3. If appropriate, gather data and assess project opportunities in the area of the District which was formerly within the Lower St. Croix Watershed Management Organization, starting in Afton.

PART VI

2010 ORGANIZATION AND BUDGET INFORMATION

A. Board of Managers

At the December 10, 2009 meeting, the managers elected the following officers for 2010:

Dave Bucheck, President
Lincoln Fetcher, Vice President
Donald Scheel, Secretary
Dale Borash, Treasurer

B. Official Bank and Newspapers

At the December 10, 2009 meeting, the managers unanimously voted to retain the services of the Lake Elmo State Bank as the official bank for the District, and the Oakdale-Lake Elmo Review and Ramsey County Review as the official legal newspapers.

C. 2010 Budget

A public hearing was held on September 10, 2009 on the proposed 2010 budget. The Board of Managers adopted an Administrative Budget of \$224,700, as follows:

Administrative Budget

Audit/ Accounting	\$	17,000
Dues and Publications		4,000
Engineering/ Administration		126,000
Insurance & Bonds		14,500
Legal Services		40,000
Manager Expenses		1,500
Managers' Per Diem		11,500
Office Expense		2,000
Postage		200
Salaries - Secretarial		<u>8,000</u>
Total	\$	224,700

D. Plan Implementation Status

Table VI-1 summarizes the managers' vision and mission statements and the policy statements listed in the 2005-2015 VBWD Watershed Management Plan (Plan). Mission topics are given identification letters A through F. Policy statements are given a short letter prefix and a number.

These codes are used in Table VI-2, and the mission topic and policies are listed in the first two columns of the table, respectively. For some activities, the policy column is blank, especially for activities that reference Section 5 of the Plan. This is because there is no policy reference given for these activities in the Plan. The third column of the table is the action item identification code from the Plan. The action item has a prefix of the type of action and the legend for the prefix is listed in the table footer. A brief description of the action item is included in the fourth column. The reference to the Plan section is in the next column. The sixth column lists the implementation year that was estimated in the Plan. The last column gives the status of the implementation item.