

Table IV-1
Valley Branch Watershed District 2009 Annual Report
Assessing Progress Toward Plan Objectives

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:

- A. Promoting open communication with our constituents, both our citizen base and pertinent governmental units.
- B. Improving and protecting the quality of water for all water bodies within the VBWD.
- C. 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.
- D. Understanding the effects of community growth and other activities on groundwater, initially focusing on the groundwater-surface water interface.
- E. Continuing to enforce the Wetland Conservation Act requirements as the responsible local unit of government.
- F. Educating our constituents and the local units of government within the VBWD on water quality and quantity issues, management, and means of improvement.

VBWD Public Involvement and Public Information (PI) Policies to Accomplish Mission:

- PI-A. Awareness of the VBWD's presence and its role in managing water resources will be increased through expanded communications efforts.
- PI-B. Interest in and support of VBWD will be increased through expanded cooperative education efforts, recruitment of volunteers, and involvement of the public, local units of government, and other agencies in VBWD projects and programs.
- PI-C. 1. Awareness of the impacts that individual/corporate behavior can have on the watershed's water resources will be raised through dissemination of education materials to targeted groups and through other public information efforts.
2. Individual/corporate behaviors that have a positive impact on the water resources will be promoted through coordination/cooperation with other groups, agencies and others. The VBWD will investigate and develop a plan for an incentive program to encourage implementation of best management practices in the watershed.
 3. To assist with the VBWD's watershed education-related efforts, a watershed educator will be hired.

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VBWD Surface Water Quality (WQ) Policies to Accomplish Mission:

- WQ-A. All major water bodies will be classified
- WQ-B. All major water bodies will be managed for non-degradation of water quality, with allowance for natural variability.
- WQ-C. The water quality and habitat of all major water bodies will be monitored to detect changes or trends.
- WQ-D. The water quality monitoring data will be analyzed to track trends.
- WQ-E. The water quality monitoring results will be reported.
- WQ-F. Action triggers will be set to assist in determining appropriate water quality management/improvement actions.
- WQ-G. Appropriate water quality management/improvement actions will be implemented. New technologies/methods will be investigated.
- WQ-H. Current and future VBWD water quality improvement systems will be operated and maintained to ensure they provide the designed benefits.

VBWD Stream Management and Restoration (SM&R) Policies to Accomplish Mission

- SM&R-A. 1. The water quality of VBWD's perennial streams (Valley Creek) will be regularly monitored. The water quality of intermittent streams may be monitored.
- 2. The physical condition of VBWD's perennial streams (Valley Creek) and major intermittent streams (Raleigh Creek) will be monitored on a regular basis.
- 3. Monitoring results will be reported.
- SM&R-B. Stream degradation problems will be prevented through administration of VBWD's permit program, review of community plans, and education.
- SM&R-C. VBWD will implement stream management and stream restoration projects and actions to address identified streambank erosion, gully erosion and other stream degradation problems.
- SM&R-D. VBWD will not allow new buildings to be constructed within the 100-year floodplain of a stream. The VBWD will consider solutions to existing flooding problems.

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VBWD Stormwater Runoff Management (SW) Policies to Accomplish Mission

SW-A. 1. Stormwater and snowmelt runoff rates will be managed so that future peak rates of runoff crossing community boundaries and/or leaving a development are below or equal to existing rates.

2. Stormwater volume control requirements will be developed and adopted.

SW-B. 1. All stormwater runoff will be treated at the time of development, through VBWD's permitting program.

2. Developers will be encouraged to try new and innovative stormwater management techniques.

3. The VBWD will work with local government units to adopt/revise ordinances to allow for runoff pollution prevention methods (e.g., narrower streets, smaller parking lots).

4. Projects and developments plans will be reviewed to evaluate compliance with VBWD standards.

5. Other public agencies will be required to conform to VBWD stormwater quality requirements.

6. Local watershed management plans will be reviewed for compliance with this Plan.

SW-C. Stormwater quality treatment ponds will be inventoried, maintained, repaired and retrofitted to provide the required level of stormwater quality treatment.

SW-D. NPDES Phase II MS4 requirements will be met.

SW-E. 1. A permit program regulating land use and development will continue to be administered and enforced to prevent negative impacts from stormwater runoff.

2. The VBWD will allow local units of government to assume VBWD's permitting authority if certain conditions are met.

3. Submittals will be required for VBWD-permitted projects that must show how the project will meet VBWD requirements for stormwater quality treatment, stormwater rate and volume management, and erosion control.

VBWD Water Level and Floodplain Management (WL&FM) Policies to Accomplish Mission:

WL&FM-A. Data (e.g., lake levels, precipitation records, snowpack monitoring, groundwater levels) will continue to be collected to assist in managing the water levels and floodplains of the VBWD's water resources.

WL&FM-B. This data (e.g., lake levels, precipitation records, snowpack monitoring, groundwater levels) will be reported.

WL&FM-C. The VBWD will determine the appropriate level of its involvement in solving the remaining flooding problems on a case-by-case basis. If determined necessary, the VBWD will take the appropriate water level and floodplain management actions to solve flooding problems in the VBWD.

WL&FM-D. Current and future VBWD flood control systems (e.g., Project 1007) will be operated and maintained to ensure they provide the designed benefits.

WL&FM-E. Flooding problems will be prevented through permit review, community plan review, and education efforts.

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VBWD Groundwater Management (GM) Policies to Accomplish Mission:

- GM-A. Groundwater level data will continue to be collected to assist in managing the water levels and floodplains of the VBWD's water resources.
- GM-B. Groundwater level data will be reported.
- GM-C. 1. The VBWD will cooperate with Washington County to address groundwater quality issues (e.g., failing individual and community sewage systems).
2. The VBWD encourages the cities and other public water suppliers to adopt wellhead protection programs. These programs will include the identification and sealing of abandoned wells. The wellhead protection plans must be submitted to VBWD for review.
3. The VBWD will cooperate with the cities and other public water suppliers to educate the general public concerning the use of best management practices to prevent contamination of groundwater supplies and the importance of these measures in protecting groundwater supplies.
- GM-D. Negative impacts (e.g., reduced flow to surface water bodies, lowering lake or wetland levels, well interference) to groundwater-dependent resources will be prevented through permit review, community plan review, and education efforts.
- GM-E. Negative impacts (e.g., flooding) to surface waters due to groundwater quality mitigation efforts (e.g., pump-out systems) will be prevented through permit review, community plan review, and education efforts.

VBWD Wetland Management (WL) Policies to Accomplish Mission

- WL-A. Revise VBWD rules and regulations to incorporate wetland management standards and a wetland management classification system.
- WL-B. Complete wetland inventories and assessments in targeted areas of the VBWD. The VBWD will meet with agencies, local government units, technical evaluation panel members, and other groups to share the results of the inventories, assessments, and classifications, gather feedback, and explore partnerships and potential projects related to wetland management.
- WL-C. Wetland activities will be managed through VBWD administration of the Wetland Conservation Act and the VBWD rules and regulations.
- WL-D. Develop invasive species control program.

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VBWD Erosion Protection and Sediment Control (EP & SC) Policies to Accomplish Mission

EP & SC-A. 1. Erosion prevention and sedimentation control measures will be implemented on all VBWD projects.

2. Soil erosion and sedimentation problems will be identified, inventoried and monitored.

3. Soil protection, sedimentation controls and/or other measures will be implemented to correct erosion and sedimentation problems that threaten VBWD water resources or the public's health, safety, and welfare.

4. Local watershed management plans will be reviewed for compliance with this Plan.

EP & SC-B. 1. A permit program regulating land use and development will be administered and enforced to prevent erosion and sedimentation impacts to VBWD water resources.

2. VBWD-permitted projects will be inspected to monitor compliance with VBWD rules and regulations and VBWD permit conditions.

3. Cities, townships and counties within VBWD will develop, adopt, administer, implement and enforce erosion prevention and sediment control ordinances, with assistance from VBWD.

EP & SC-C. Good agriculture conservation measures will be encouraged in the watershed.

VBWD Funding (F) Policies to Accomplish Mission

F-A. 1. All of the allowable options for funding administration, programs, studies, and projects will be reviewed each year, as the VBWD Managers set their next budget.

2. All applicable Minnesota Statutes and Rules for notification and hearings on budgets and capital improvement projects will be followed.

3. The VBWD will cooperate/work with Washington and Ramsey Counties to provide project budget, funding, and other information to the counties at a time that meets their finance schedules.

4. Washington County will be informed by April 1 if VBWD's proposed funding request for the following year will be more than 80% higher than the current year's total levy.

5. VBWD's legal boundary will be updated on an as-needed basis.

F-B. Basic operations will be funded using the VBWD's administrative fund.

F-C. Projects will be funded using a combination of allowable funding methods.

F-D. 1. The costs of VBWD's permit program will be defrayed through the charging and collection of application fees.

2. Cash sureties and/or other financial securities will be collected to ensure VBWD-permitted projects are completed in accordance with VBWD requirements.

F-E. Maintenance activities will be funded using the VBWD's administrative fund, water management district (utility), or other authorities (e.g. Minnesota Statutes 103B.251).