Carver County Water Management Organization
2014 Year in Review

Protecting, preserving and managing surface waters and groundwaters in the midst of rapid growth and intensive agricultural activity.

WHO WE ARE

Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) is a local unit of government responsible for performing tasks including planning, funding, regulation, education and implementation of the Carver County Water Management Plan.

Our staff consists of a manager, education coordinator, two water resources specialists, a water technician and two water assistants. The Carver County Board of Commissioners and our CCWMO Advisory Committee guide and govern actions to protect, manage and restore water resources within our boundaries.

WMO BOUNDARIES

The CCWMO includes portions of the following watersheds: Bevens Creek, Carver Creek, East Chaska Creek, West Chaska Creek, Pioneer Sarah Creek and the Crow River. Within the CCWMO there are 35 lakes greater than 10 acres and 365 miles of streams.

CONTACT

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2014 Accomplishments

Protecting Lakes and Rivers

CCWMO staff actively monitor the water quality on 18 lakes and 21 stream sites. The data is used to monitor the health of lakes and streams and plan for restoration or protection projects. 2014 was the third year monitoring for zebra mussels (an aquatic invasive species) on 7 lakes. In addition to adult mussels, staff began sampling for larvae (see photo) to aid in early detection. 10 projects are currently underway to protect waters including Benton Lake's Fish Barrier, Burandt Lake Stormwater Reuse, Fountain Park Pond in Waconia and Fireman’s Lake in Chaska.

Education

CCWMO led or collaborated on 23 different programs and events in 2014. 3,758 people were reached directly through our Wetlands Education Program, Children’s Water Festival, annual advisory committee tour (photo), raingarden workshops, Shallow Lakes Forum, CCWMO online newsletter and others. Additionally, education was conducted through larger public events and media campaigns such as the fishing activity and displays at the County Fair and the monthly Water Column, published in 5 newspapers, reaching several hundred more.

Awards & Funding

In 2014, CCWMO received many grants. Three were from Clean Water Legacy Funds. First, the Exclusion Grant of $40,000 will install fencing on Bevens and Carver Creeks to prevent cattle access (photo) which causes erosion of the streambank and soil and bacteria pollution. Funds will also provide water to the cattle for cooling and hydration. The Carver Clean Water Initiative grant of $150,000 provides funds to non-profits and local businesses to install water protecting practices. The Burandt Lake Stormwater Reuse grant of $200,000 installs a water reuse system at Bayview Elementary to capture and treat stormwater and use it to irrigate ballfields. Lastly, the Fountain Park Stormwater Retrofit grant of $75,000 from Clean Water Partnership will treat stormwater from downtown Waconia.

Get Involved

Thought about building a raingarden (photo) or water reuse project on your property? CCWMO has a cost share program for both citizens and city governments to help install projects that protect lakes and rivers. To learn tips and tricks for protecting waters in your everyday lifestyle visit our website or sign up to receive the monthly CCWMO online newsletter and keep up to date on projects, events and water news, or our volunteer list to learn of opportunities to help out! www.co.carver.mn.us/water