



Sunrise River WMO 2022 Mini-Report

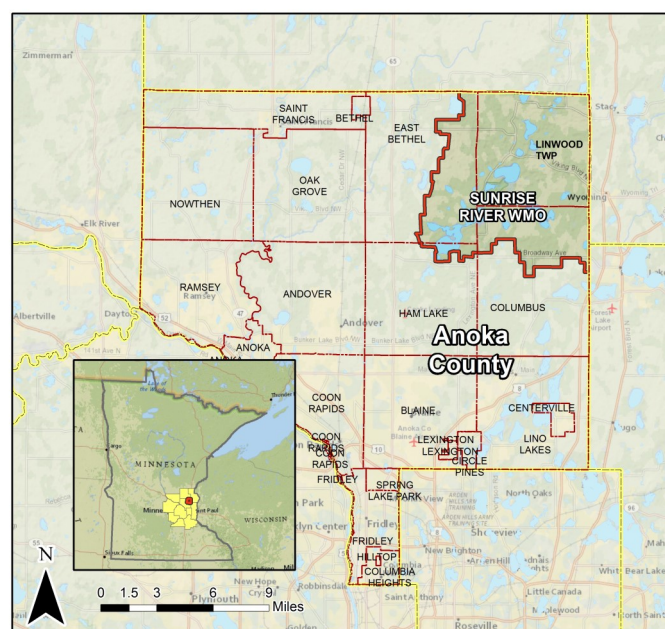
March 8, 2023

INFO FOR CITY COUNCILS AND TOWN BOARDS

ABOUT THE
SUNRISE RIVER
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

About the SRWMO

The Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) is a joint powers board of four communities collaborating to manage water resource issues. The area includes all of Linwood and portions of East Bethel, Columbus, and Ham Lake. Contributions from these communities, plus any secured grants, make up the annual budget. The organization and its partners have secured nearly \$1.2M in grants in the last 9 years for area water resource projects, while requesting <\$50k/yr from member communities.



Map of the SRWMO

SRWMO BOARD

City of Columbus

Janet Hegland (VChair)
Tim Melchior

City of East Bethel

Tim Harrington (Treas)
Leon Mager

City of Ham Lake

Troy Wolens
Jeff Entsminger

Linwood Township

Candice Kantor (Chair)
Ashley Millerbernd
Jonn Olson (alternate)

Priorities

SRWMO priorities are detailed in a 10-year state-approved plan. The plan is founded upon input from the member communities and other stakeholders such as lake groups. Some top priorities are:

- ◆ Get Martin & Linwood Lakes removed from the state "impaired" water list.
- ◆ Manage carp to below 89 lb/ac in Martin, Linwood, & Typo Lakes.
- ◆ <20% of lake shoreline is manicured to the edge.
- ◆ >50% of expenditures come from grants & communities contribute <\$50k/yr. Strive to always have match funds available to take advantage of grants.

JPA Status

The SRWMO board recommended joint powers agreement (JPA) amendments to member communities in 2021. Meetings with community administrators & elected officials were held in 2022, resulting in agreement on most edits. Additionally, the group attempted to work through concerns, particularly from the City of Ham Lake, regarding the funding formula & budget approval process. As of March 2023, the funding formula, unanimous budget ratification (which appears prohibited by MN Statute 103B211 Subd. 1(c)) & requirement to assign a councilmember to the board remain as points of disagreement by Ham Lake. Please speak with your community administrator or council liaison for more detail.

Lower St. Croix Partnership

The Sunrise River WMO has left the Lower St. Croix Partnership effective November 2022. The partnership is a joint powers collaboration of 15 counties, watershed organizations, & soil and water conservation districts. The SRWMO left due to concerns about lack of operational policies leading to increased risk exposure.

2022 SRWMO Highlights

Carp Management: Concluded a 5yr effort removing 14,518 carp from Martin & Typo Lakes. The lakes have improving water quality & Martin is nearing state standards.



Lakeshore Projects: Completed a lakeshore restoration Fawn, Linwood, & Martin Lakes, with a total 330 linear ft of shore stabilized & 4,720 sq ft of native plants installed.



Street Sweeping: A study with Linwood Township found sweeping once more per yr in key lakeshore areas results in a 5-fold increase in nutrients kept out of the lakes. Increased sweeping is planned.



Lake Monitoring: Completed once every 3rd year monitoring to track major lakes. Grades included Coon Lake: B, Linwood Lake: C, Martin Lake: C, & Typo Lake: F.



Upcoming in 2023

Lakeshore stabilizations: Secured a State Clean Water Fund grant for \$75,800. The priority lake for work is Martin, then Linwood & Coon Lakes.



Agricultural projects: \$10,000 is available to incentivize farming practices that benefit water quality. Workshops & promotion is ongoing.



Adopt-a-Drain expansion: A pilot effort in 2022 was a hit. Residents clean drains leading to Martin, Fawn, Linwood, & Coon lakes.

