



Sunrise River WMO 2023 Mini-Report

February 6, 2024

INFO FOR CITY COUNCILS AND TOWN BOARDS

ABOUT THE
SUNRISE RIVER
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT
ORGANIZATION

SRWMO BOARD

City of Columbus

Janet Hegland (Treas.)
Tim Melchior (Sec.)

City of East Bethel

Brian Mundle (Chair)
Leon Mager

City of Ham Lake

Brian Kirkham
Troy Wolens

Linwood Township

Jonn Olson
Kevin Kelly (V. Chair)

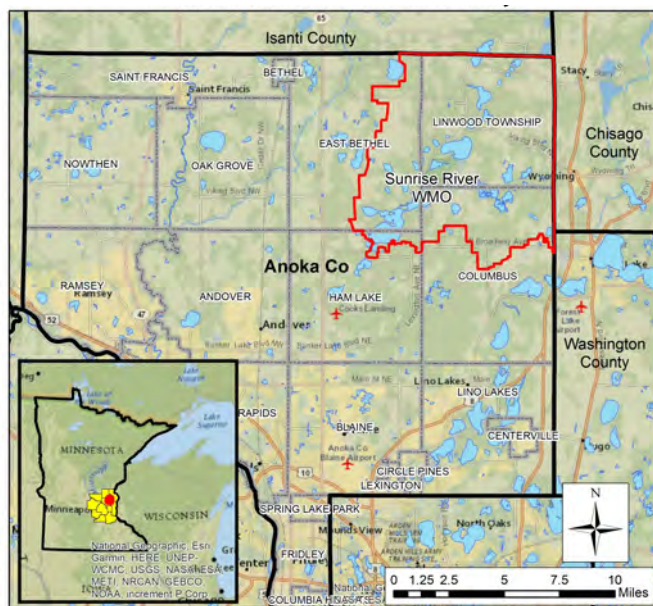
About the SRWMO

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 \$1.3M in grants in the last 10 years for area water resource projects, while requesting <\$50k/yr from member communities.

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.



Map of the SRWMO

JPA, Bylaws Update Finished!

A SRWMO joint powers agreement (JPA) update was finalized in October 2023. After two years of discussions, agreement was found on several issues. Going forward, each community will contribute a fixed percentage toward non-operating SRWMO costs rather than a percentage calculated by a formula including land area and market values. Each community is now required to assign a city council or town board member to the SRWMO board to improve communication.

The SRWMO has also adopted its first-ever bylaws. The bylaws provide additional structure to organizational operations.

Boundary Update

The Sunrise River WMO boundary has officially been updated in the City of Ham Lake area. The previous boundary followed old, larger parcel boundaries which have since been subdivided. The new boundary better follows the hydrologic watershed. 198 acres were moved from the Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) to SRWMO. 172 acres moved from the SRWMO to CCWD.

2023 SRWMO Highlights

Septic System Fix Ups: Three failing septic systems near lakes were fixed. Funding is from a state grant for low income homeowners, and a landowner contribution.



Rain garden rehab at Coon Lake Beach Community Center: Boy scouts helped fix a 2015 rain garden that had become clogged. It captures runoff headed for the lake.



Street Sweeping: Linwood Township completed a 1st year of enhanced sweeping around Linwood & Martin Lakes. The new schedule resulted in a 5x increase in nutrients kept out of the lakes. Partially grant-funded.



Community events: SRWMO board members staffed booths at Linwood Family Fun day, Columbus Fall Fest, and an East Bethel open house. The booth featured live critters.



Upcoming in 2024

Construct lakeshore stabilizations: Eight projects to be constructed at Martin Lake. Funding is from two grants and landowners.



Linwood Lake tributaries: Three lake inlets will be monitored to inform a possible 2025 watershed study that would identify water quality projects.



More lakeshore erosion fixes: A \$107,000 grant was just secured to do more lakeshore stabilization projects. Construction likely in 2025.

