

To keep our partners better informed of our activities in the district, we've committed to providing regular snapshots. This installment includes announcements and highlights of recently completed projects and programs.

ACD's mission is to: Holistically conserve and enhance Anoka County's natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations through partnership and innovation.

**Strong partnerships. Innovative solutions.  
Healthy environments.**

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[www.AnokaSWCD.org](http://www.AnokaSWCD.org)

## The City of Anoka Selected as Outstanding Conservationist

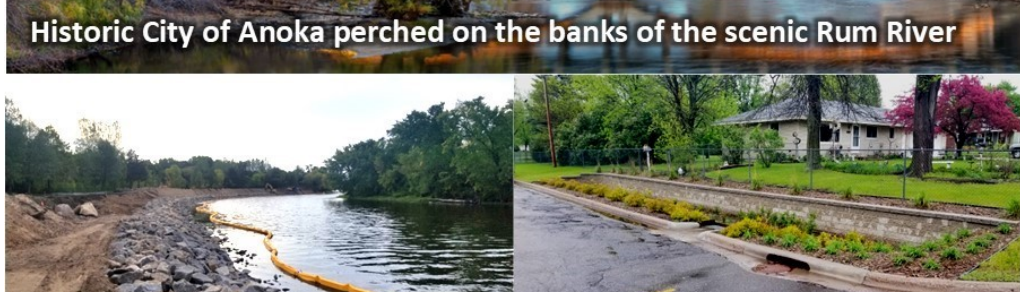
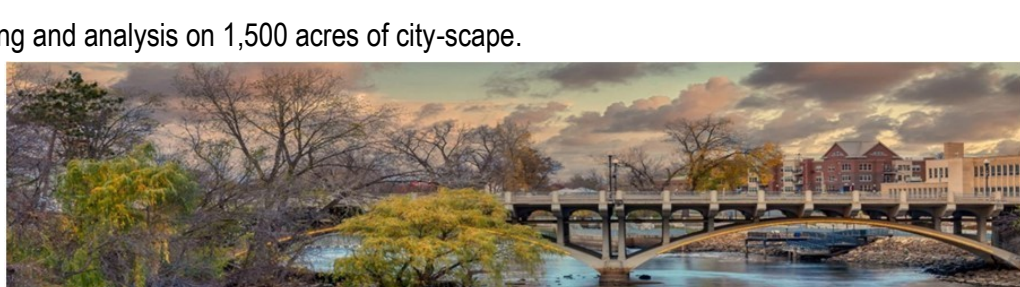
Each year, Anoka Conservation District (ACD) supervisors consider the work we've done in partnership with landowners, cities, private sector partners, and other organizations to complete natural resources conservation work in Anoka County. The list is distilled down to a single conservation partner who most emulates a conservation ethic put to action. That individual or entity is acknowledged as Anoka County's Outstanding Conservationist. The 2021 Anoka County Outstanding Conservationist is the City of Anoka.

The projects the City of Anoka implemented in partnership with ACD and on their own over the years have demonstrated an enduring commitment to both steward and enjoy our natural resources.

The following list of conservation initiatives completed by, or in partnership with, the City of Anoka demonstrates their breadth of commitment;

- Donation of a conservation easement to ACD on the 200-acre Anoka Nature Preserve (ANP).
- Enhancement of 70 acres of forest habitats on ANP with buckthorn control.
- Sponsoring annual goose hunts at ANP for veterans.
- Construction of the state of the art stormwater treatment facility at the Rum River boat launch.
- Installation of several stormwater treatment hydrodynamic separators.
- Installation of five rain gardens.
- Stabilization of 300 feet of riverbank at Rum River shores.
- Stabilization of 1,500 feet of riverbank at Mississippi Community Park
- Enhancement of bank stability on 350 feet of Rum River shoreline with cedar tree revetments on school property with the city trail easement
- Enhancement of floodplain forest at Kings Island Park
- Wetland enhancement at the ANP
- Subwatershed retrofit modeling and analysis on 1,500 acres of city-scape.

This acknowledgment is part of a larger program, wherein SWCD's from throughout MN submit their outstanding conservationists to the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts in nomination for the MN State Outstanding Conservationist. In early December, at their annual convention each outstanding conservationist is recognized during a large banquet whereat they will also unveil the state winner.



Congratulations on this well-deserved award and thanks go to the City of Anoka council and staff for all they have done. ACD staff and supervisors genuinely look forward to partnering with the City of Anoka on projects in the future.

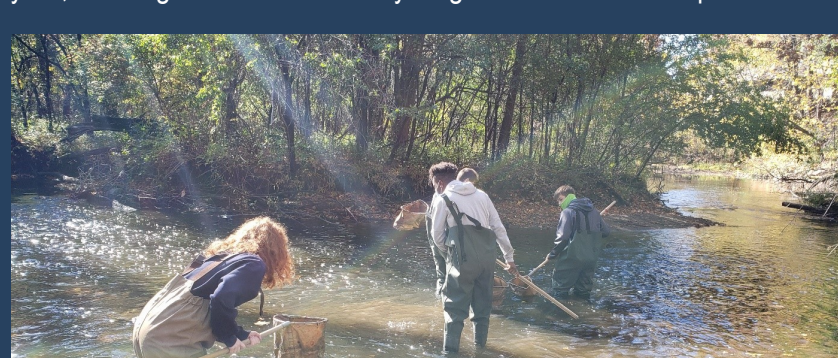
ACD Contact: [Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Chris.Lord@AnokaSWCD.org)

## Biomonitoring with High School Students

Every spring and fall, staff members from Anoka Conservation District lead several high school classes through a hands on biomonitoring session. These students don waders, grab a D-net, and wade into the shallow waters of a particular stream or river in Anoka County. They use these nets to scrape rocks, down trees, or vegetation in hopes of finding macroinvertebrates, which are collected. During the classroom portion of this lesson, the students identify and label these macroinvertebrates species. ACD then reevaluates and counts all specimen. The same stream and river locations are sampled almost every year, allowing ACD to monitor any long-term trends in the species found.



Biomonitoring is a useful tool because macroinvertebrates live on the bottom of rivers and streams. During their aquatic life cycle, which can be multiple years, they cope with chemical, physical, and biological influences in their habitat. They are less mobile than fish, making them less able to avoid the effects of these pollutants and changes to aquatic habitats. Macroinvertebrates also have a wide range of pollutant tolerances amongst the various species. The numbers and types of



organisms present in a water body reflect the quality of their surroundings. Inventorying the makeup of aquatic communities can help determine if changes in the environment are causing effects such as the loss of sensitive groups of organisms. Macroinvertebrates are also practical and easy to sample, making them perfect for a high school science class.

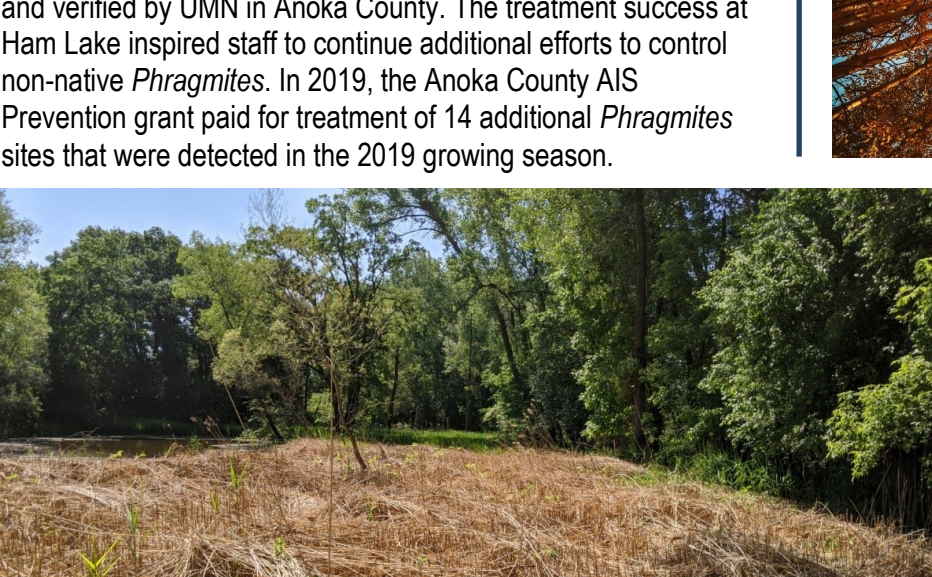
ACD Contact: [Mollie.Annen@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Mollie.Annen@AnokaSWCD.org)

## Collaborations are Critical to controlling Invasive *Phragmites australis* throughout Minnesota

Non-native *Phragmites* is a highly invasive plant that can invade wetlands and shorelines, outcompete native vegetation, and degrade wildlife habitat. Fortunately, most of the infestations in Minnesota are small and there is hope that the invasive grass can be controlled.

Coon Creek Watershed District and ACD staff first detected non-native *Phragmites* in Anoka County in 2018 along the Ham Lake shoreline. The 2,500 square foot stand was herbicide treated in fall 2018 and mowed in January 2019. No *Phragmites* was found at the Ham Lake site in 2019 and 2020. One sprout of *Phragmites* was found in 2021 and dug up.

Additional non-native *Phragmites* infestations have been found and verified by UMN in Anoka County. The treatment success at Ham Lake inspired staff to continue additional efforts to control non-native *Phragmites*. In 2019, the Anoka County AIS Prevention grant paid for treatment of 14 additional *Phragmites* sites that were detected in the 2019 growing season.



The MN Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed grant provided funds for the Metro Counties to collaborate and treat over 80 sites in MN, 2020 and 2021. The University of Minnesota and MN DOT are also tracking and treating additional sites throughout the state. Sites will continue to be monitored to determine treatment needs.

Photo at left shows a stand of *Phragmites* at a site in Anoka County being monitored in 2020. Follow up treatment occurred in September 2021.

Find more information and distribution maps can be found at the links below:

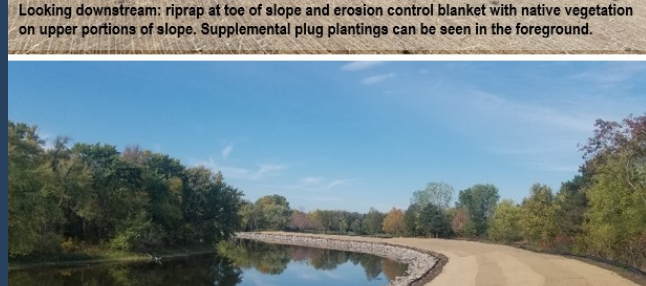
<https://www.eddmaps.org/distribution/viewmap.cfm?sub=59038>

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/aquaticplants/phragmites/index.html>

<https://maisrc.umn.edu/phragmites>

ACD Contact: [Carrie.Taylor@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Carrie.Taylor@AnokaSWCD.org)

## Update - Riverbank Stabilization Project Construction in Mississippi River Community Park, Anoka



The riverbank stabilization project in Mississippi River Community Park is nearly complete. Tree clearing, bank reshaping, riprap installation, seeding, and erosion control blanket installation have all been completed. Planting of supplemental bare root shrubs, trees, and dormant live stakes will be completed by the end of November. The project stabilized approximately 1,500 linear feet of severely eroding riverbank.

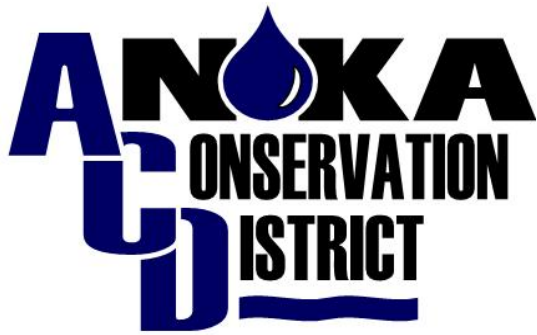
The project is funded by a Clean Water Fund grant, a Watershed Based Funding grant, and match from the City of Anoka.

Read additional updates on our blog:

<https://www.anokaswcd.org/blog/mississippi-community-park-riverbank-stabilization-project-update.html>

ACD Contact: [Mitch.Haustein@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Mitch.Haustein@AnokaSWCD.org)





# AGENDA

SUPERVISOR REGULAR BOARD MEETING  
1318 MCKAY DR. NE SUITE 300, HAM LAKE  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 18, 2021 5PM

## Remotely Join ACD Board Meeting:

We are attempting a new technology to provide the option for the public and partners to join our monthly meetings remotely, while the Board meets on-site. If you are interested in attending remotely, please contact

[Kathy.Berkness@AnokaSWCD.org](mailto:Kathy.Berkness@AnokaSWCD.org)

4:30 Supervisor - None

## **5:00 - Regular Meeting – START RECORDING THE MEETING**

### **Public Comments**

Approve the October Agenda - Call for additions, deletions, or transferring consent agenda items to the regular agenda

### Consent Agenda

- A. Approval of Regular September Board Meeting Minutes
- B. Review of Staff Activity Reports and Programs
- C. Approval of September Financial Reports

### New Business Informational Items

- D. Partner Report
- E. Watersheds

### New Business-Action Items

- F. Seasonal Hire Memo
- G. Lawns to Legumes Reimbursement
- H. NACD Dues - \$501 paid last year
- I. Burman Payment Request
- J. Phragmites Treatment Payment Request
- K. Rum River Enhancement (OHF) Miller Riverbank Stabilization Bid Tabulation
- L. Anoka County Liability Coverage Waiver
- M. Well Sealing Contract Approval
- N. Well Sealing Payment Approval

### Additions

- O.
- P.
- Q.
- R.
- S.
- T.
- U.
- V.

## Pay Bills

### FYI /Meetings

- November 15 – ACD Board Meeting Office in Ham Lake 5pm
- November 3 – MASWCD Metro Area 4 Meeting – virtual (more information to come)
- November 11 – Veterans Day
- November 25 & 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 12-14 - MASWCD Convention – Double Tree in Bloomington



## BOARD MEETING MINUTES

DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

TIME: 5:00 PM

LOCATION: ACD OFFICE: 1318 MCKAY DR NE  
HAM LAKE MN 55304

Members Present: Mary Jo Truchon, Chair  
Jim Lindahl, Vice Chair  
Sharon LeMay, Secretary  
Glenda Meixell, Treasurer  
Colleen Werdien, Supervisor

Others Present: Chris Lord, District Manager  
Kathy Berkness, Office Administrator  
Maery Rose, Interested Citizen  
Rani Nichols, Interested Citizen (signed off Zoom at 6pm)

Chair Truchon Called the meeting to order 5:02pm

Public Comments – None.

**Approve the September Agenda** - Call for additions, deletions, or transferring consent agenda items to the regular agenda. Noted as additions: item (Q) 2020 Audit (R) Einstein Lease (S) ACDs budget with Anoka County.

- Lindahl moved to approve the amended August Agenda. Meixell seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

### **A. Approval of the Special Meeting Minutes**

Lord stated the meeting was on September 7 to approve a revetment installation agreement, which could not wait until the next board meeting because of available CCM crew time.

- Meixell moved to approve the Special September Meeting Minutes. Werdien seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

### **B. Approval of August Minutes**

- Lindahl moved to approve the August Meeting Minutes. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

### **C. Correction of the July Meeting Minutes**

Lord noted the striking of the following sentence in item E: "If the County applied it would take too long as there are many hoops to jump through".

- LeMay moved to approve the amended July Minutes. Lindahl seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

### **Consent Agenda**

#### **D. Review of the Staff Activity Reports**

#### **E. Approval of the August Financial Reports**

- Meixell moved to approve the consent agenda. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

### **New Business-Information Items**

#### **F. Partner Report**

Nothing to report

#### **G. Watershed Meetings**

The Board discussed watershed organization meeting attendance as follows:

- Jim Lindahl; CCWD Advisory Committee Meeting –Attended the Meeting
- Sharon LeMay; Lower St. Croix 1W1P – No Meeting
- Glenda Meixell; MWMO Citizens Advisory Meeting – Attended the MWMO Meeting and MWMO Tour for Elected Officials
- Collen Werdien LRRWMO & Rum River 1W1P – Attended both Meetings in addition to the MWMO Tour for elected officials
- Mary Jo Truchon Rice Creek Watershed District Citizen’s Advisory Committee – Attended the meeting

### **New Business – Informational Items**

#### **H. Choose Outstanding Conservationist**

The Board reviewed a memo prepared by Berkness outlining the staff suggestion to nominate the City of Anoka as the Outstanding Conservationist. Lord explained that over the years, they have more than earned this award and they have come up several times when choosing an outstanding conservationist. Lord detailed the City of Anoka’s many conservation efforts further stating they are a great partner. Lord provided details about the MASWCD convention and the banquet where the Outstanding Conservationist attends.

- Lindahl moved to approve nominating the City of Anoka as the Outstanding Conservationist. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### **I. SSTS Fix up Grant Payment Approval**

The Board reviewed material prepared by Watershed Projects Manager Jamie Schurbon requesting payment to the contractor for a septic system replacement. Lord explained the details of the grant.

- Meixell moved to approve payment of \$10,723.50 to Ronnie Bowman Excavating and Trenching Contractor using 2021 PCA Septic System Fix-Up Grant funds for replacement of a failing septic system at 7361 Viking Blvd NE in Linwood Township. Werdien seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### **J. Burman WMA Payment Approval**

The Board reviewed a memo prepared by Restoration Ecologist Carrie Taylor related to the Burman WMA requesting payment to Landbridge Ecological for tree and harvest removal.

- Werdien moved to approve payment of \$4,450.05 for Landbridge Ecological Invoice No. 669 for land management services provided for the LSOHC ASP 6 grant. Lindahl seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### **K. Rum River 1W1P Executive Summary (covered in item G)**

Werdien brought everyone up to date on the Rum River 1W1P executive summary stating comments were due September 13 and there were 96 comments. The group will meet again on September 23, to discuss. Werdien mentioned that she met with Schurbon to work through her comments. The Board reviewed the map and discussed the different natural resource needs of the various member organizations along the river. Werdien noted that the biggest resource issue outlined is surface water quality to restore and protect it and went on to provide additional details.

#### **L. Mikkelson WMA Prairie Enhancement Contractor Payment**

The Board reviewed a memo and contract prepared by Taylor to Native Resource Preservation for work done at the Mikkelson WMA.

- Meixell moved to approve payment of \$750.00 for NPR Invoice 1549 for services provided for CPL grant #156253. Lindahl seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

**M. District Capacity Targeted Shoreline Stewardship Cost Share**

The Board reviewed a memo and cost share material prepared by Taylor for a Shoreline stewardship project.

- Meixell moved to approve the Lausche Cost Share Contract not to exceed \$1,700 using District Capacity Stewardship funds. Werdien seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

**N. Well Sealing Contract Approval**

The Board reviewed a memo prepared by Water Resource Technician Kris Larson requesting approval of a well sealing contract.

- Lindahl moved to approve the Well Sealing Cost Share Contract listed below. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Activity Name	Bastian Well Service, Inc.	Salverda Well Co.	Bergerson-Caswell Inc	McCullough & Sons Well Drilling	Grant Match 60% for resident cost share
CWFWA-2021-23-Fridley-Burdick			\$3,605.00	\$2,100.00	\$1,260.00
CWFWA-2021-24-Fridley-Boegerhoff	\$575.00	\$775.00			\$345.00

**O. Well Sealing Cost Share Payment**

The Board reviewed a memo prepared by Larson requesting approval for a well sealing cost share reimbursement.

- Lindahl moved to approve reimbursement for well sealing cost share contracts listed below. Werdien seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

Activity Name	Budget		Remaining Budget
	Reimbursement Amount	Total Project Cost	
CWFWS-2021-21-Coon Rapids-Remick Donna Remick	\$ 345.00	\$ 575.00	
CWFWS-2021-8-Blaine-Goettsch Carol Goettsch	\$ 540.00	\$ 975.00	
			\$ 170,575.10

**P. Approve Ferden Lakeshore Project on Martin Lake**

The Board reviewed a memo and stewardship cost share material prepared by Water Resource Technician Kris Larson.

- Lindahl moved to approve a cost share grant for the Ferden Lakeshore project in an amount not to exceed \$1,481.62 using District Capacity Shoreline Stewardship funds and authorize the chair’s signature. The grant will pay 75% of actual expenses up to the grant maximum. Meixell seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

**Additions**

**Q. 2020 Audit**

The Board reviewed a representation letter for the 2020 Audit. Lord explained that he was confused by the letter and its intent but then realized it is outlining how ACD completes their finances. Lord stated that Peterson Company does a thorough job when completing the audit.

Peterson Company does realize that with a small office is difficult to have ideal segregation of duties.

- Meixell moved to approve the 2020 audit representation letter and authorize Lord and and the Chair to sign it. Lindahl seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### **R. Einstein Lease**

The Board reviewed an updated lease agreement with Einstein SEO, LLC. Lord explained that he used the previous tenant, Tebco's template. Lord pointed out that they are just month-to-month and they like it. Their square footage did go down when moving to suite 200. Lord explained the fee structure.

- Meixell moved to approve the month-to-month lease with Einstein. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

#### **S. ACD's Budget with the County**

Lord explained that he reached out to Commissioner Julie Braastad and has a meeting set up on Wednesday at her office. Lord is seeking her insight on discussions had by the County Budget Committee regarding ACD's budget and allocation. We need to understand the Anoka County Board's position on funding ACD operations before we reach out to our legislators to ensure that we are accurately representing the situation.

#### **PAY BILLS**

- Meixell moved to approve electronic payments EP1508- EP1527 & DD2216-DD2250 & check numbers 15535-15571. LeMay seconded the motion. All ayes, motion carried.

The Board reviewed the FYI meetings. After some discussion, the Board decided on the morning of October 27, for the ACD fall tree planting at Mississippi Community Park.

#### **FYI /Meetings**

- October 18 - ACD Board Meeting Office in Ham Lake 5pm
- October 27 - Supervisor and Staff Tree Planting at Mississippi River Park- Time TBD
- November 11 – Veterans Holiday
- November 25 & 26 – Thanksgiving Holiday
- December 12-14 - MASWCD Convention – Double Tree in Bloomington
  
- Anoka County WROC Events - Go to Anoka SWCD website Click on "Outreach" then "Events" from Dropdown (direct link: <https://www.anokaswcd.org/index.php/educational/events.html>)
- Lindahl moved to adjourn at 7:29pm. Werdien seconded the motion. Five ayes, (Werdien, LeMay, Lindahl, Meixell, Truchon), no abstentions, no nays. Motion carried.

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Prepared by Kathy Berkness, Office Administrator

Date

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Approved as to form and content by Mary Jo Truchon, Chair

Date