

## **Appendix C – Glossary**

## GLOSSARY

### GLOSSARY

AQUIFER	A formation, group of formations, or part of a formation that contains enough saturated permeable material to yield significant quantities of water.
BEDROCK	The solid rock that underlies the soil and other unconsolidated material or that is exposed at the surface.
BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)	State-approved and published practices that have been determined to be the most practical and effective means of controlling point and non-point pollutants levels for environmental quality goals.
BUFFER	An upland area adjacent to the wetland, lake, or stream that is covered with natural vegetation that experiences little to no human impact such as mowing. The buffer begins at the delineated wetland edge or top of bank of a stream.
CONVEYANCE SYSTEM	A surface water transport system that may include rivers, streams, man-made channels, grass waterways, storm water sewers, culverts, and other control structures.
CRITICAL EVENT	For a given frequency (i.e. 100-year frequency), it is the event that produces the highest water level and/or the highest discharge rate. For example, the runoff from a 24-hour duration rainfall versus the runoff from a 10-day snowmelt may be greater and therefore be considered the critical event.
DRIFT (GLACIAL)	Rock material transported by glacial ice or material deposited by streams from glaciers.
EROSION	Process by which land is worn away by water or wind.
EUTROPHIC	A condition where a body of water has a reduced level of dissolved oxygen producing an increased level of plant life. A water body with a Trophic State Index from 51 to 70.
FLOOD FRINGE	The areas adjacent to the floodway within the 100-year floodplain.
FLOODWAY	Channel of a watercourse, such as a stream or river, and the adjacent land areas that must be reserved in order to discharge the base flood without cumulatively increasing the water surface elevation.
FREEBOARD	A factor of safety expressed in feet above the 100-year floodplain.
GEOMORPHOLOGY	The geologic study of the configuration and evolution of land forms.

## GLOSSARY

HWL	High Water Level. The highest water level achieved in a pond that is predicted by the 100-year critical event.
HYDRAULIC	Involving, moved, or operated by a fluid, especially water, under pressure.
HYDRIC SOIL	Soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions in the upper part.
HYDROLOGIC BOUNDARY	The boundary defining watershed or subwatershed units.
HYDROLOGY	The science concerned with waters of the earth, their occurrence, distribution, and circulation; their physical and chemical properties; and their reaction to the environment.
INFILTRATION	The passing of water or other substance through pores or small openings, such as through soil.
LOCAL CITY/COMMUNITY	The member communities of Elm Creek Watershed.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT (LGU)	Agency (city, town board, or watershed management organization) that has the primary responsibility for administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).
MAJOR SUBWATERSHED	One of the 81 watersheds identified by the State of Minnesota.
MEAN	Average. The sum of the magnitudes of all items of a set, divided by the items.
NORMAL WATER LEVEL (NWL)	The lowest controlling elevation of the pond.
100-YEAR FLOOD PLAIN	That flood plain associated with an event that has a 1 percent chance of being equaled or exceeded during any year (100-year frequency or recurrence interval). Usually calculated assuming a 100-year frequency critical event.
ORDINARY HIGH WATER LEVEL (OHW)	The boundary of Protected Waters and Wetlands as defined in Minnesota Statutes
OUTWASH	Stratified sand and gravel produced by glaciers and carried, sorted, and deposited by glacial melt water.
OUTWASH PLAIN	A land form of mainly sandy or coarse textured material of glacial origin created by melting glaciers. An outwash plain is commonly smooth; where pitted, it is generally low in relief.

## GLOSSARY

PERMEABILITY	A characteristic of soil that enables water to move downward through the profile. Measured in inches per hour.
PUBLIC WATERS AND WETLANDS	Those waters of the state identified as Public Waters or Wetlands under Minnesota Statutes 6115.0170. Generally including Type 3, 4, and 5 wetlands as identified in the U.S. Department of Interior Circular 39, Wetlands of the United States, 1971. Public waters and wetlands are generally those 10 or more acres in size in unincorporated areas, or 2.5 or more acres in size in incorporated area
SOIL ASSOCIATION	A group of soils geographically associated in a characteristic repeating pattern defined and delineated as a single map unit.
SUBWATERSHED	A minor drainage unit and a hydrologic component of a watershed.
SURFICIAL MATERIAL	Unconsolidated deposits of variable content and texture that overlie the bedrock surface. Major textural categories include alluvium, terraced sands and gravels, loess, till and outwash.
WATER RESOURCE LIBRARY	A compilation of information from various agencies and cities used in the Preparation of the Watershed Management Plan. This library is available at the Watershed offices.
WATERSHED	All lands that are enclosed by a continuous hydrologic drainage divide and lie upslope from a specified outlet point.
WETLAND	Transitional land between terrestrial and aquatic systems where the water table is usually at or near the surface or the land is covered by shallow water. Wetlands must have a predominance of hydric soils, be inundated or saturated with water at a frequency and duration to support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation typically adapted for life in saturated soil conditions, and under normal circumstances, support a prevalence of hydrophytic vegetation.
WETLAND BANK	System of identifying wetlands restored or created for replacement credit, providing for, and facilitating and tracking the exchange of wetland banking credits for projects that require replacement plans or wetland mitigation.