



WEST METRO WATER ALLIANCE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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West Metro Water Alliance Will Host 2011 Workshop Series

The West Metro Water Alliance will host a series of educational workshops in 2011 targeted to city elected officials, advisory commission members, and city staff. In partnership with Hennepin County Environmental Services, the Three Rivers Park District, and the Freshwater Society, this consortium of five watershed management organizations will target three topics of particular interest: stormwater volume management to reduce runoff; nutrient management to improve water quality; and integrating TMDLs into city planning and management.

A telephone survey conducted for the Alliance found very strong support for protecting and improving Minnesota's lakes and streams, with 75 percent of respondents believing that clean water is very important, even considering all the other issues and needs facing their communities. The goal of the workshops is to help key decision-makers and their advisors make informed decisions that will protect and improve water quality, sustain property values, and make the most effective use of tax dollars. These evening workshops are intended to provide information and management tools as well as an opportunity to share success stories and learn from peers in other cities and counties.

Recognizing that cities in the western Metro area run from highly developed to suburban to agricultural, the first two workshops will be offered as two sessions: the first will be tailored to issues facing developed and redeveloping cities, and the second to developing and predominantly agricultural communities. The final TMDL workshop will be offered as one session, applicable to all. Each session will start with networking and a keynote speaker, continue with a presentation covering the latest techniques and planning tools for stormwater management and conclude with a panel presentation and discussion of specific examples of successful projects, research, development, and regulation. A light dinner will be served.

The West Metro Water Alliance (WMWA) is a consortium of the Shingle Creek, West Mississippi, Bassett Creek, Elm Creek, and Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commissions. This consortium provides coordinated water resources education and outreach for nearly 30 cities in western Hennepin County.

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BASSETT CREEK: Crystal • Golden Valley • Medicine Lake • Minneapolis • Minnetonka • New Hope • Plymouth • Robbinsdale • St. Louis Park
ELM CREEK: Champlin • Corcoran • Dayton • Hassan • Maple Grove • Medina • Plymouth • Rogers
PIONEER-SARAH CREEK: Greenfield • Independence • Loretto • Maple Plain • Medina • Minnetrista
SHINGLE CREEK: Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Crystal • Maple Grove • Minneapolis • New Hope • Osseo • Plymouth • Robbinsdale
WEST MISSISSIPPI: Brooklyn Center • Brooklyn Park • Champlin • Maple Grove • Osseo