

“What Did You Just Call Me?!”
A Guide to Water Resources Acronyms
for Anoka County, Minnesota

- ACD - Anoka Conservation District**
Formerly the Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). This is not a regulatory agency – their role is to provide technical assistance and help link local landowners and governments to a myriad of financial resources. Most watershed organizations work closely with their SWCD.
- BMP - Best Management Practices**
Practices to keep pollutants out of waterways, as defined in standards manuals. This term is often referred to when talking about construction site practices, but can be much more broad.
- BWSR - Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**
The state agency that oversees watershed districts and watershed management organizations, administers several grants, and has various other responsibilities.
- CCWD - Coon Creek Watershed District**
Includes portions of Ham Lake, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Andover, and Columbus. See WD.
- CO - Conservation Officer**
State Department of Natural Resources law enforcement officer.
- COE or USACOE - Corps of Engineers
US Army Corps of Engineers**
Federal agency with jurisdiction over navigable waterways.
- CREP - Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program**
A program that combines the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) with the state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program. It’s goal is to protect environmentally sensitive lands and marginal croplands by providing incentives for landowners. It is specially focused on improving water quality in the watersheds where it is authorized.
- CRP - Conservation Reserve Program**
A federal program which pays landowners to take environmentally sensitive lands or marginal croplands out of production for wildlife and other environmental benefits.

- DNR - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources**
The state agency that has many natural resources management responsibilities. They have jurisdiction over anything below the ordinary high water level on area lakes and some wetlands. Permits are required for any work in these areas.
- EIS - Environmental Impact Statement**
A study and accompanying report that details the likely environmental impacts of a project. An EIS is sometimes required, sometimes not required, and sometimes optional. The EIS does not require that the most environmentally conservative decisions be made regarding a project, it only requires that the decision makers are informed about environmental issues. This description applies for Minnesota's EIS program; a separate federal program exists for projects with federal involvement.
- EQIP - Environmental Quality Incentives Program**
A federal program that provides cost share and incentive payments to agricultural producers for conservation practices. State agencies partner with the federal agencies to broaden the scope of this program to include education programs, demonstration projects, and others.
- EPA - Environmental Protection Agency**
Federal Environmental Protection Agency, which regulates pollution control programs of many kinds.
- EQB - Environmental Quality Board**
State of Minnesota Environmental Quality Board, made up of the heads of 10 state agencies, five citizens, and a chair. This board develops policy, creates long-range plans and reviews proposed projects that would significantly influence Minnesota's environment. For instance, the Environmental Assessment Worksheets and Environmental Impact Statements that are required of some projects are administered by EQB. Their publication, the *EQB Monitor* is an important place for official posting of environmental review documents and public comment periods.
- GIS - Geographic Information Systems**
This refers to a suite of computer programs that combine mapping with databases. It is a common and powerful tool for mapping, spatial analysis, and much more.
- GPS - Geographic Positioning Systems**
These are satellite-based navigation systems, developed by the military. Today, they are used widely to navigate or record precise locations of interest that can later be used in GIS software.
- ISTS - Individual Sewage Treatment Systems**
Private septic systems.



- LGU - Local Unit of Government**
Often referred to with in the context of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) – the city, county, watershed district or other may be the LGU that is responsible for administering WCA.
- LRRWMO - Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization**
Includes Anoka, Ramsey, and portions of Andover and Coon Rapids. See WMO.
- Met Council - Metropolitan Council**
The regional planning agency with jurisdiction throughout the 7-county metro.
- MOU - Memorandum of Understanding**
A type of contractual agreement. It describes the responsibilities of two or more parties toward reaching some goal.
- MPCA - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**
The state agency charged with regulation of pollution, in its many forms, including water pollution. They are also the agency who produces the state list of “impaired waters” and administers the TMDL program to correct those problems.
- MS4 - Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System**
These are communities in urbanized areas (defined by census data) that have a storm water collection system of some kind. These communities, often referred to as MS4’s, must have a NPDES Phase II permit.
- NPDES - National Pollution Discharge Elimination System**
This federal law, administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, requires permits for discharge of pollutants into waterways. In recent years, Phase II of NPDES has greatly broadened the number of cities and projects which must have SWPPP’s under this law. Cities and townships that are MS4’s must have and NPDES permit for the discharges from their stormwater conveyance systems.
- NPS - Non-Point Source (pollutants)**
Those pollutants that come from diffuse sources. If it doesn’t come directly out of a pipe, then it is a NPS.
- PDF - Portable Document Format**
A format for computer files. In this format, computer files are easily transported or emailed and virtually anyone with a computer can read them (provided they first download the free “adobe reader” software).

- PUD - Planned Unit Development**
A zoning ordinance that allows for alternative development techniques. It often allows variances from typical lot dimensions in order to shape the development around important natural areas, while still maintaining the desired average lot size and other factors. A PUD can be many things, and need not be focused upon natural resource concerns.
- RCWD - Rice Creek Watershed District**
Includes Centerville, Circle Pines, Lexington, and portions of Blaine, Circle Pines, Fridley, Spring Lake Park, Columbia Heights, and other areas in Ramsey and Washington Counties. See WD.
- SCWMO - Six Cities Watershed Management Organization**
Includes portions of Coon Rapids, Spring Lake Park, Fridley, Columbia Heights, Hilltop, and Blaine. See WMO.
- SNA - Scientific and Natural Areas**
A type of state-owned property managed by the MN DNR. These, unlike most wildlife management areas, have strict limitations on the activities allowed. Many don't allow public access at all. These are especially valuable or unique natural areas.
- SRWMO - Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization**
Includes Linwood and portions of Columbus, Ham Lake, and East Bethel. See WMO.
- SWCD - Soil and Water Conservation District.**
See ACD for more info.
- SWPPP - Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan**
A plan required in any urbanized area (defined by census data) for discharges to the storm water system or any land disturbance activity affecting >1acre. Required by the NPDES laws.
- TEP - Technical Evaluation Panel**
A panel of experts convened to sort out complex disputes regarding wetland regulation under the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA).
- TMDL - Total Maximum Daily Load**
A study or project under the Federal Clean Water Act to clean up an "impaired" lake, stream, or river. The term originated for the early days of the Clean Water Act, when industry was regulated to only dump a certain maximum daily load of pollutants into a lake, river, or stream. This maximum amount was the amount that the natural system could acceptably tolerate. Today the term is used much more broadly, for any study designed to figure out where pollutants are coming from, how much we need to reduce the pollutants, and how we might do that.



- URRWMO - Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization**
Includes Bethel, Burns, Oak Grove, St. Francis, and portions of East Bethel and Ham Lake. See WMO.
- USDA - United States Department of Agriculture**
- VLAWMO - Vadnais Lake Area Watershed Management Organization**
Includes a portion of Lino Lakes and other areas in Ramsey County. See WMO.
- WCA - Wetland Conservation Act of 1991**
State law that regulates draining, filling, and excavation of wetlands. Not all wetland types are subject to every restriction. Often verbally referred to as “Wack-a.”
- WD - Watershed District**
There are 2 WD’s in Anoka County. They, like WMO’s, have jurisdictional boundaries based upon watershed boundaries and not city boundaries. Unlike WMO’s, WD’s typically have staff, issue permits, have certain regulatory authorities, and levy their own taxes. WD’s and WMO’s are required throughout the 7-county metro, but are formed voluntarily in some other areas.
- WMO - Watershed Management Organization**
There are 5 WMO’s in Anoka County. Each is a joint powers organization of the cities it includes. The boundaries of these organizations do not usually follow city boundaries, they are based on watershed boundaries. These are the most local-level government organizations for water resources management. WMO’s get their funding through the tax levies of the member cities and townships. WMO’s are required throughout the 7-county metro, but are formed voluntarily in some other areas.