



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization (VLAWMO) was organized by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) in 1983 in response to the Minnesota Metropolitan Surface Water Act of 1982 (Minnesota Statutes {M.S.}, Section 473.875 to 473.883). This act required that watershed management organizations be established throughout the seven county metropolitan area to, among other goals, reduce flooding, improve water quality, prevent erosion, promote ground water recharge, and to provide for wildlife habitat. VLAWMO's JPA provides VLAWMO with the authority and the duty to prepare and implement a watershed management plan for the Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed (watershed). The first VLAWMO Watershed Management Plan was prepared, approved, and adopted in 1987.

The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Program (M.S. 103B) requires the VLAWMO to review and update its Water Management Plan (the Plan) every ten years. The second generation VLAWMO plan was prepared and adopted in 1995. That plan expired in 2006. The current Plan will be effective starting in 2007 and shall be updated by the year 2017. In addition to complying with the above laws, this Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Rules 8410, 8420, and 8750. The Plan includes management standards and procedures for surface water, wetland, and groundwater issues.

The Plan also includes an inventory of existing physical and hydrological conditions and anticipated land use through the year 2030. This inventory, together with the general purposes of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act and input from the public, State and local agencies, were used to determine water resources goals, water resources policies, management strategies, and development of the implementation programs and priorities.

The current State rules require the Plan to include the following:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention system;
2. Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality;
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
5. Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;



6. Promote groundwater recharge;
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
8. Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface water and groundwater.

As regulations change, VLAWMO will amend the existing sections or add new sections to the Plan. These changes will be made following the amendment procedures outlined in this Plan.

There are 11 separate governmental units within VLAWMO: five cities, one township, one water commission, two counties and two special purpose districts. The City of Shoreview also occupies a small portion of the watershed. These governmental units are listed in Table 1-1 and Figure 1-2. VLAWMO comprises approximately 23.5 square miles of area and generally follows the natural watershed boundaries. It extends over portions of Ramsey and Anoka counties, with greater surface area located in Ramsey County. The watershed is bounded on the north, west, and east by the Rice Creek Watershed District, on the southwest by the Grass Lake Watershed Management Organization and on the southeast by Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District (Figure 1-1).

**TABLE 1-1
GOVERNMENTAL UNITS IN VLAWMO**

Counties	Cities/Townships
Anoka County	Lino Lakes
	*Anoka County Soil and Water Conservation District
Ramsey County	Gem Lake
	North Oaks
	Vadnais Heights
	White Bear Lake
	Board of Water Commissioners of the City of St. Paul
	White Bear Township
	*Ramsey County Soil and Water Conservation District
*Special Purpose Districts	

Parties to the JPA include the cities of Lino Lakes, Gem Lake, North Oaks, Vadnais Heights, White Bear Lake, and White Bear Township.