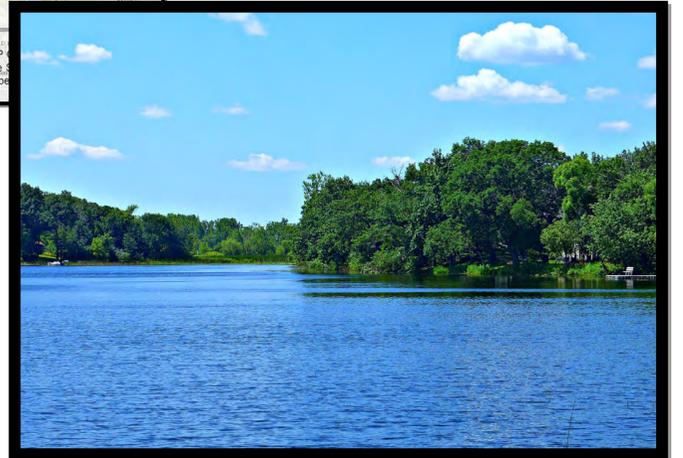
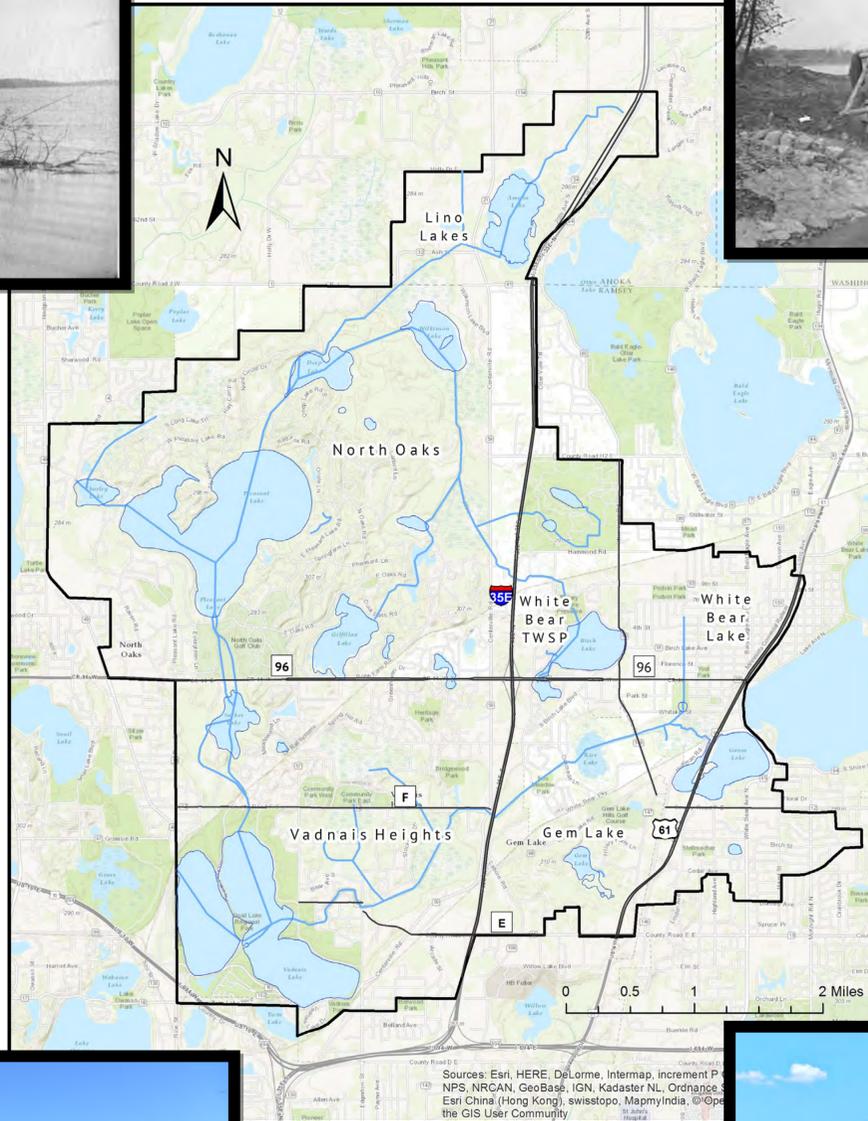
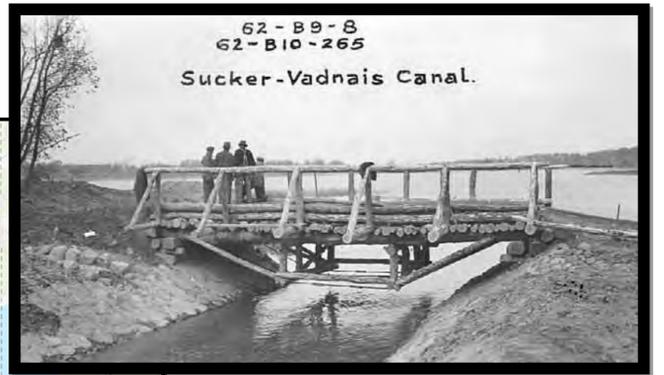




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## OUR WATERSHED

VLAWMO was formed in 1983 to protect the Vadnais Lake watershed area in northern Ramsey County and a small portion of Anoka County. Our organization was formed through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) with the 6 municipalities that encompass part or all of the watershed.

VLAWMO covers approximately 25 square miles and includes portions of Vadnais Heights, White Bear Township, White Bear Lake, Gem Lake, Lino Lakes and all of North Oaks. Every drop of water that falls within our watershed ends up in Vadnais Lake. Vadnais Lake is the drinking water reservoir for approximately 400,000 customers in the St. Paul area.

VLAWMO manages: 17 Lakes — 4.5 miles of creek — 500+ wetlands

# Why Water Matters



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## WORKSHOPS & TRAININGS

Shallow Lakes Forum  
Soggy Yard Solutions  
Raingardens/BMP Workshops  
Teacher Trainings

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

Marketfest  
Taste of Vadnais  
North Oaks Community Fair  
Water Resource Expo  
Minne-taste

## DRAGONFLY CITIZEN SCIENCE

139 volunteers in 2014  
Programs for:  
Kids/students ages 3-16  
Families  
Adults & Senior Citizens

## VOLUNTEERS

Citizen Lake Monitoring Program (CLMP)  
Watershed Action Volunteers (WAV)

## REGULATORY

MS4 training - in Partnership with MECA and MPCA  
Turf Management training  
TMDL Implementation Plan Workshops

# EDUCATION

# COMMUNICATION

## PUBLICATIONS

News columns in local paper  
E-newsletter  
Brochures and Handouts  
Interpretive project signs

## ANNUAL REPORT

Redesigned in 2014  
New Infographic Summary for 2014

## WEBSITE

Redesigned in 2014  
More visual and user friendly

## SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook  
Twitter

## EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION PROGRAMS

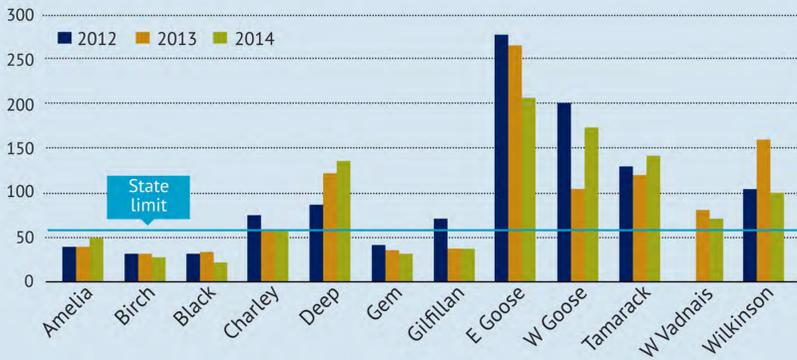
ADDRESS THESE PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Threatened or impaired natural and surface water resources
- Threatened or impaired groundwater
- Need for education and involvement from citizens and stakeholders
- Invasive and exotic species



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### How our lakes are doing: Average Lake Total Phosphorus (ug/L)

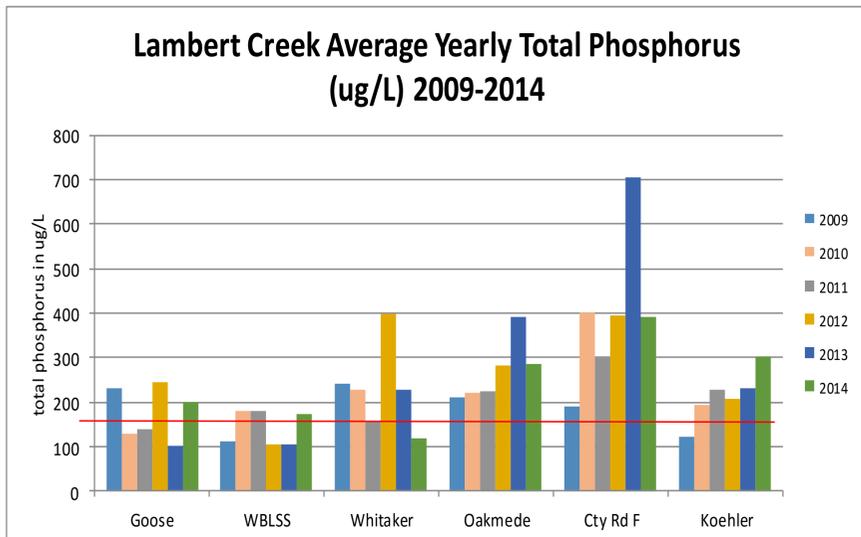


Elevated phosphorous levels lead to growth in algae populations, which can harm fish and plant life by consuming oxygen and blocking sunlight. **1 pound of phosphorus feeds 500 pounds of algae.**

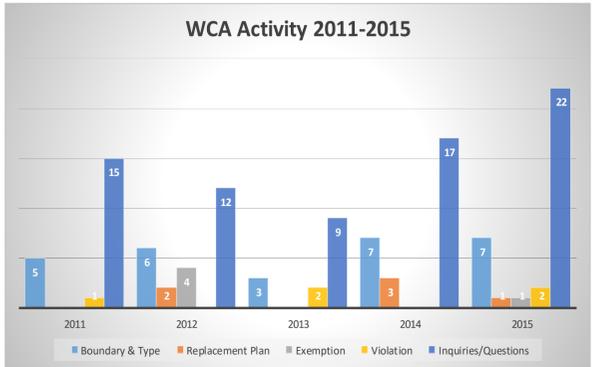
## Lakes

During the period of VLA WMO's current water plan, the trend of data shows that much of the water within the area has not worsened, or has improved from previous decades, largely satisfying the policy of maintaining water quality.

## Creek



## Wetland Conservation Act



## Field Work



Sediment core sampling on East Goose Lake July, 2015

# Monitoring

Monitoring our lakes, streams, and wetlands gives us vital information to track water quality trends, and to identify the best places to build projects to protect and improve our water and natural resources. This means we spend money more efficiently and reach our water quality goals faster.

VLA WMO samples 12 lakes and 6 locations on Lambert Creek. We also measure water flow rates, precipitation, and lake water levels. Part of monitoring includes tracking of aquatic plants and animals, including invasive species like the Zebra Mussel. Cutting edge technology is used for projects such as lake sediment coring and biological bacterial source tracking to make sure we have the most accurate data for research and projects.

# Why Water Matters

## LANDSCAPE 1

Year started: 2007  
Total grants awarded: 62  
Total funds awarded: \$53,500

## LANDSCAPE 2

Year started: 2009  
Total grants awarded: 5  
Total funds awarded: \$21,000

## RAINBARREL

Year started: 2011  
Total grants awarded: 59  
Total funds awarded: \$3,980

## COMMUNITY BLUE

Year started: 2015  
Total grants awarded: 2  
Total funds awarded: \$9,950

# GRANT PROGRAMS



The Landscape Level 1 Program reimburses property owners 75% of the costs associated with implementing approved water quality improvement projects. The maximum reimbursement is \$2,000 for this program. Typical projects include raingardens, shoreline restoration, native habitat restoration, or pervious paver installation.



The Landscape Level 2 Program is for projects with a larger total cost (minimum total cost of \$10,000) and will reimburse up to 75% of the installation and design costs.



The Rainbarrel Program reimburses residents 50% of the cost towards the purchase of up to 2 rainbarrels. Applicants are limited to \$125 maximum reimbursement per rainbarrel.



Grants up to \$10,000 are awarded to those who accomplish grant goals through education, collaboration, innovation, and meaningful interactions between citizens and our local water resources. Examples include Heritage Estates Outdoor Learning Center, and Tamarack Nature Center's "Under the Boardwalk" macroinvertebrate and education program.

## GRANT PROGRAMS

### ADDRESS THESE PRIORITY CONCERNS

- Threatened or impaired natural and surface water resources

- Need for education and involvement from citizens and stakeholders



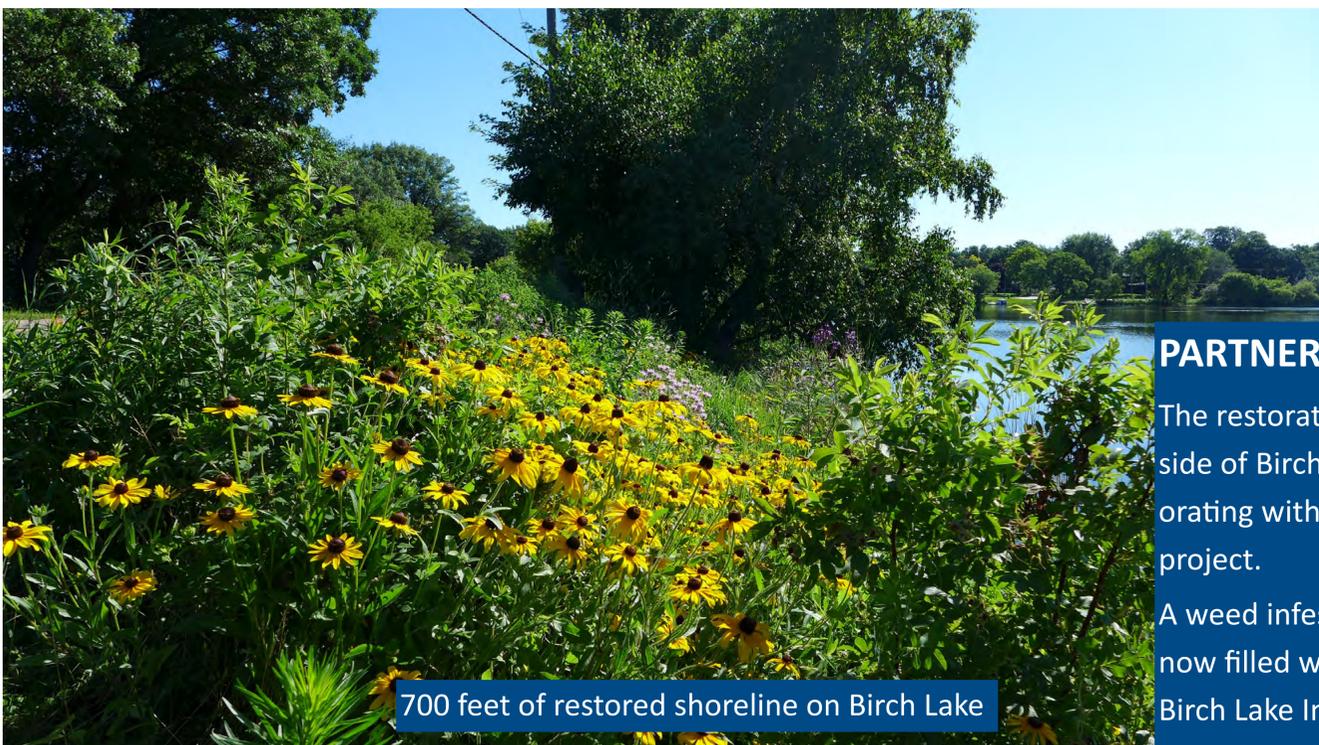
# Why Water Matters



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## IT TAKES A VILLAGE: THE PEOPLE BEHIND VLAWMO

- **Board of Directors**—one elected official from each of the six communities in VLAWMO
- **Technical Commission**—representative from each community appointed by the Board
- **Staff**—Four full-time plus a summer intern
- **Consultants** are required for a variety of purposes including auditing, bookkeeping, engineering, and technical assistance



700 feet of restored shoreline on Birch Lake

## PARTNERSHIP IN ACTION:

The restoration of the shoreline on the north side of Birch Lake is an example of how collaborating with our partners makes for a fantastic project.

A weed infested area with erosion issues is now filled with native plants thanks to the Birch Lake Improvement District, Ramsey Conservation District, the City of White Bear Lake, the DNR and VLAWMO.

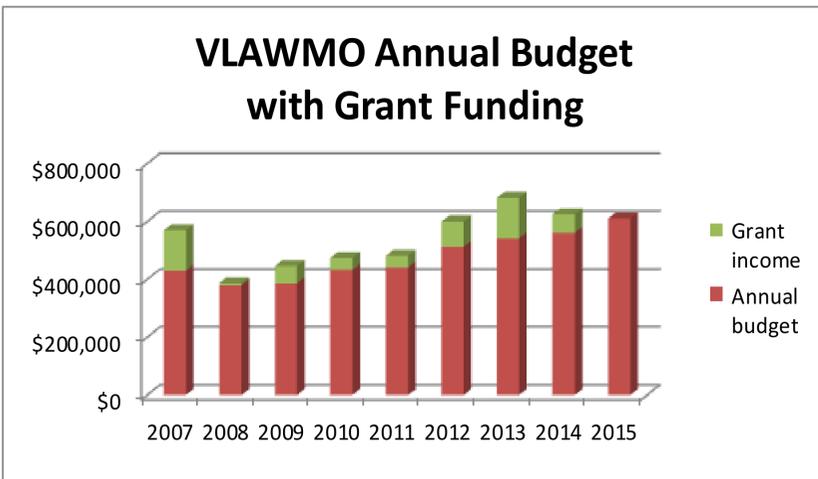
## PARTNERSHIPS

One of VLAWMO's greatest successes is working together with partners to use resources wisely and maximize our effectiveness and existing capacity. VLAWMO has been fortunate to receive grants over the years to implement some of our projects which allows us to do more to protect our water resources.

Partners include Cities, Counties, the State of Minnesota, homeowners associations, lake associations, educational groups such as SEEK and Northland NEMO, water resource groups such as Blue Thumb and Metro Watershed Partners and many others. Working together we are able to get more done to protect our water resources!



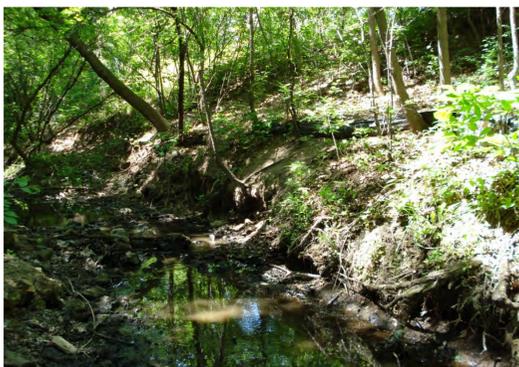
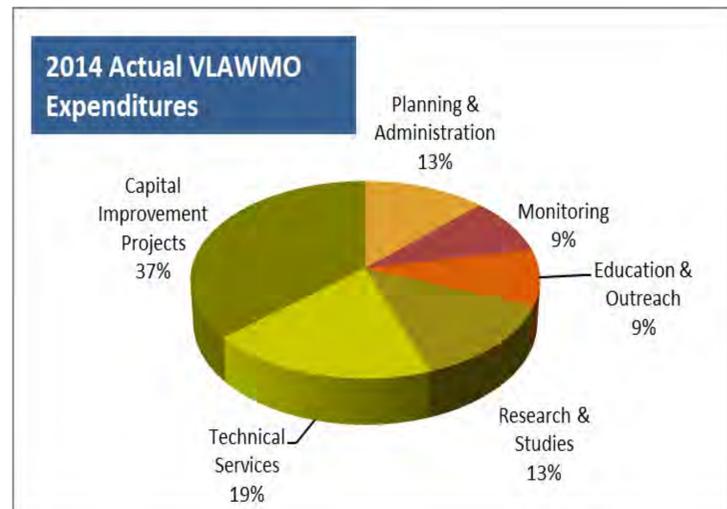
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**INCOME:** The VLAWMO is funded through a Storm sewer utility (SSU) fee. The SSU fee support is based on an average amount of stormwater flowing off of impervious surface of a property rather than its tax value. Grants provide an important but unpredictable source of income.

**EXPENSES:** about 70% of the VLAWMO budget spent on direct project related expenses. Materials, labor, technical assistance, site assessment and analysis, grant management and an education component have gone into multiple projects around the watershed.

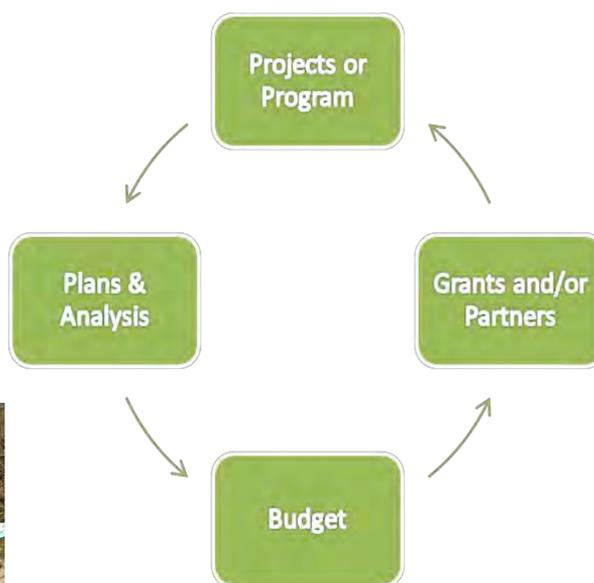
The other 30% of expenditure support the programs critical to the mission of the watershed including the monitoring program, education and outreach, and planning and administration.



Lambert Creek Bend 2009



Creek Bend project Spring 2011



Fall 2001

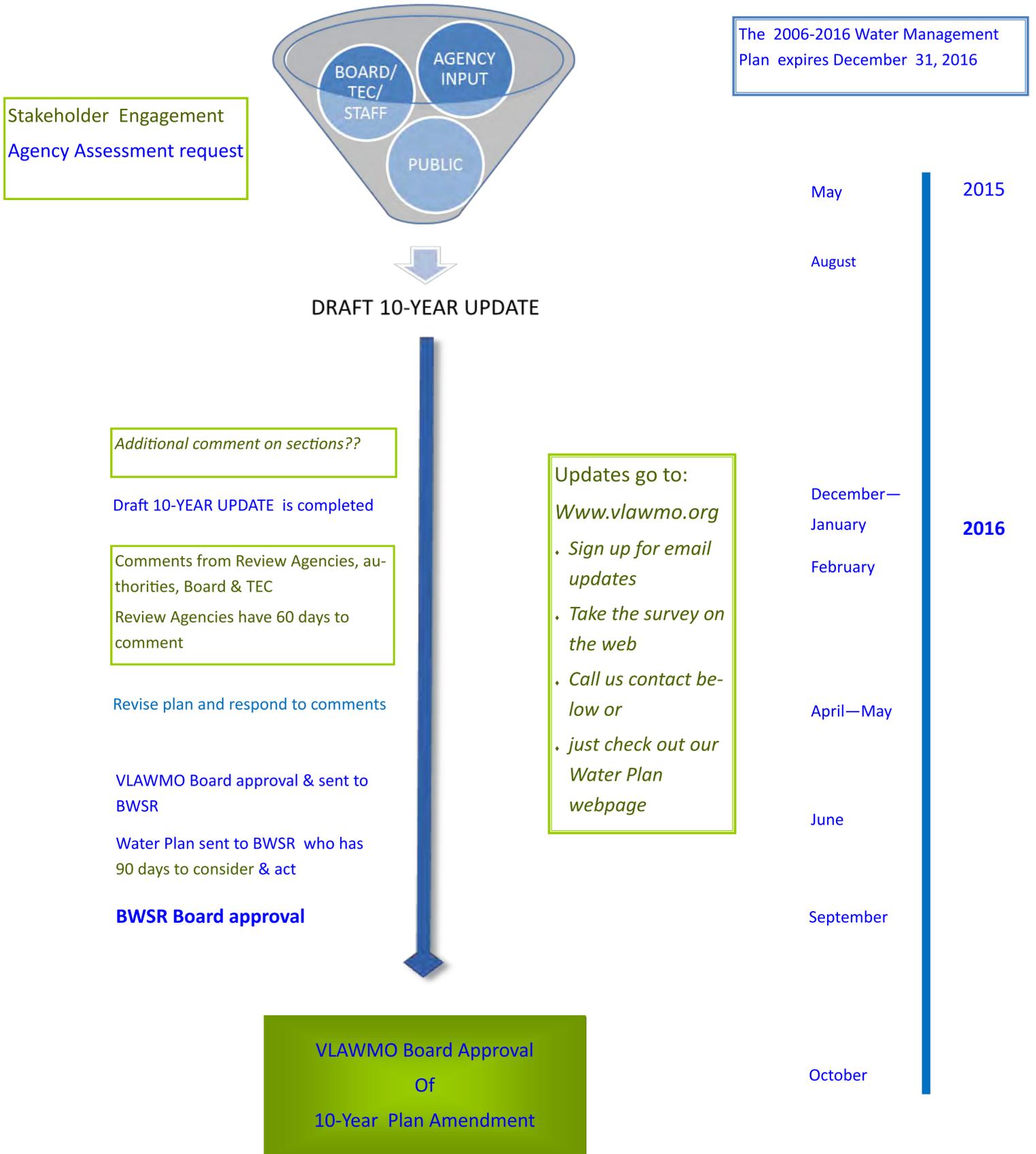
## VLAWMO OPERATIONS

Plans & analysis identify possible projects to help our ailing impaired waters (TMDL Report) or keep healthier waters clean (Birch Lake and other Sustainable Lake Management Plans (SLMP) and Subwatershed studies prioritizing cost effective projects.

Budgeted funds, grants and critical partnership are the foundation of getting effective Programs or targeted Projects like the Lambert Creek Bend project installed



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## Plan Timeline

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Kristine Jenson  
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Vanessa Strong  
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Brian Corcoran  
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