

TERMS AND ACRONYMS

Term	Acronym	Definition/Description	For more information
Aquatic Invasive Species	AIS	Non-native plants, animals or pathogens that live primarily in water, thrive in new environments and can cause economic, environmental damage, and harm human health.	www.dnr.state.mn.us
Best Management Practice	BMP	Structural or engineered control devices and systems (e.g. retention ponds, raingarden) to treat polluted stormwater, as well as operational or procedural practices.	www.epa.gov
Birch Lake Improvement District	BLID	A tax district with a public board that governs lake improvement projects.	www.birchlakeimprovementdistrict.org
Board of Directors	Board	The governing board of VLAWMO consisting of one elected official from each of the municipalities within the watershed.	www.vlawmo.org
Capital Improvement Program		An itemized program for at least a five-year period, and any amendments to it, subject to at least biennial review, setting forth the schedule, timing, and details of specific contemplated capital improvements by year, together with their estimated cost, the need for each improvement, financial sources, and the financial effect that the improvements will have on the local government unit or watershed management organization.	
Capital Improvement Project	CIP	A physical improvement that has an extended useful life.	
Citizens Lake Monitoring Program	CLMP	Volunteers who assist with the water quality monitoring program by collecting water samples and gathering other applicable water resource information.	www.vlawmo.org
Colony Forming Units	CFU	Bacterial pollution, measured as the concentration of fecal coliform or E. coli organisms.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Designated Uses		Specific uses identified for all waterbodies, both surface water and groundwater. Examples of designated uses are drinking water, aquatic life and recreation, aesthetic enjoyment, and wildlife.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Dissolved Oxygen	DO	The amount of oxygen dissolved in a body of water as an indication of the degree of health of the water and its ability to support an aquatic ecosystem.	www.pca.mn.us
Environmental Protection Agency	EPA	A federal agency with a mission to protect human health and the environment.	www.epa.gov
Environmental Quality Information System	EQulS	A database managed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to store water-related monitoring data and associated laboratory results from sampling locations across the state.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Geographic Information System	GIS	A computer based program used to develop maps and analyze data.	
Impaired Waters List or 303d List		As required by the Clean Water Act, if a water body does meet one or more water quality standards (bacteria, nutrients, turbidity, mercury, etc.) and cannot meet its designated uses (drinking water, fishing, swimming, etc.), it is added to the MN Impaired Waters 303d list and a TMDL study is completed to set pollution reduction goals needed to restore the waterbody.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Joint Powers Agreement	JPA	A formal, legal agreement between two or more public agencies that share a common power and want to jointly implement programs, build facilities, or deliver services.	www.vlawmo.org
Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources	LCCMR	A 17 member commission whose function is to make funding recommendations to the legislature for special environment and natural resource projects.	www.lccmr.leg.mn
Load Allocation	LA	A calculation of the total amount of a pollutant from point and non-point sources that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards. Related: Waste Load Allocation (WLA).	www.pca.state.mn.us
Local Government Unit	LGU	All divisions of government below the regional level.	

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Local Water Management Plan	LWMP	A plan prepared and implemented by local water management authorities to manage surface water. Minnesota Rule Chapter 8410 defines the plan content.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us
Mercury	Hg	A toxic metal that becomes airborne as a byproduct of coal-burning power plants. Mercury deposited at high enough levels into water resources can bioaccumulate in fish tissue, posing a health risk to people and animals that eat the fish.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Metropolitan Council Environmental Services	MCES	MCES provides services to the seven-county metro area regarding wastewater collection and treatment, water resources, energy and sustainability.	www.metrocouncil.org
Micrograms per liter	µg/L	A measurement unit used in water analysis. Also equal to parts per billion (ppb).	
Milligrams per liter	mg/L	A measurement unit used in water analysis. Also equal to parts per million (ppm).	
Minimum Impact Design Standards	MIDS	MIDS consist of performance standards, design standards, or other tools to enable and promote the implementation of low impact development and other stormwater management techniques.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources	BWSR	BWSR is the state soil and water conservation agency, and it administers programs that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect wetlands.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Agriculture	MDA	MDA's mission is to ensure the integrity of the food supply, the health of the environment, and the strength of the agricultural economy.	www.mda.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Health	MDH	MDH's mission is protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans.	www.health.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources	DNR	DNR works with citizens to conserve and manage the state's natural resources, to provide outdoor recreation opportunities, and to provide for commercial uses of natural resources in a way that creates a sustainable quality of life.	www.dnr.state.mn.us
Minnesota Department of Transportation	MnDOT	MnDOT's mission is to plan, build, and maintain a safe, accessible, efficient, and reliable multimodal transportation system.	www.dot.state.mn.us
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	PCA	The PCA monitors environmental quality, offers technical and financial assistance, and enforces environmental regulations.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System	MS4	An MS4 is a conveyance or system of conveyances (roads with drainage systems, municipal streets, catch basins, gutters, ditches, storm drains, etc.) that is publicly owned. Stormwater discharges associated with MS4s are subject to regulation under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). MS4s in VLAWMO are: Cities of White Bear Lake, Vadnais Heights, Gem Lake, North Oaks, Lino Lakes, and White Bear Township, Anoka and Ramsey Counties, and MnDOT.	www.pca.state.mn.us
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	NOAA	A federal agency under the Department of Commerce charged with evaluating and predicting changes in climate, weather, oceans, and coasts; sharing that knowledge and information with others, and conserving and managing coastal and marine ecosystems and resources.	www.noaa.gov
National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System	NPDES	A permit program authorized by the Clean Water Act that controls water pollution by regulating point sources that discharge pollutants into waters of the United States.	www.epa.gov

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National Wetlands Inventory	NWI	The NWI is managed by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and provides information to the public on the extent and status of the Nation's wetlands. The NWI produces maps or digital databases regarding wetlands and reports on wetland trends.	www.fws.gov
Nitrate	NO ₃	A compound used in fertilizer that acts as a nutrient in soil and a pollutant when found at high levels in groundwater and surface water.	
Nonpoint Sources		Pollution in runoff and seepage from land areas. Within VLAWMO, this is largely due to urban road runoff from streets, yards, and construction sites.	www.pca.state.mn.us
pH	pH	A measure of how acidic or basic a substance, such as water, is. The range of measurement goes from 0-14. Values above 7 indicate alkalinity; values below 7 indicate acidity. How acidic water is has a significant effect on chemical and biologic processes within the water.	
Phosphorus	P	A chemical element used in fertilizers and other products that acts as a nutrient in soil and a pollutant when found at high levels in groundwater, surface water, and wastewater. Related: Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) and Total Phosphorus (TP).	
Point sources		Pollution from municipal or industrial facilities, usually entering a waterbody via discharge from a pipe or channel.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Public Waters Inventory	PWI	The DNR conducted the original public waters inventory in the late 1970s, maintains and updates the inventory records, and provides maps of public waters.	www.dnr.state.mn.us
Quality Assurance/ Quality Control	QA/QC	The process or set of processes used to assure the quality of water samples and monitoring data. VLAWMO has a QA/QC in place for its water quality monitoring program.	www.vlawmo.org
Riparian		Relating to, living on, or located on the bank of a natural watercourse or lake.	
St. Paul Regional Water Service	SPRWS	SPRWS supplies water to the City of St. Paul and neighboring communities. The water is pumped from the Mississippi River and runs through a chain of lakes (Charley, Pleasant, Sucker, and East Vadnais) within VLAWMO.	www.stpaul.gov
Secchi Disk Transparency	SDT	The term used describing the results of a Secchi reading, expressed in feet or meters. It measures the clarity of the water.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Soil and Water Conservation District	SWCD	LGUs that manage and direct natural resource management programs at a local level. Districts work with landowners and other units of government to carry out a program for the conservation, use, and development of soil, water, and related resources.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us
Soluble Reactive Phosphorus	SRP	Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP) is the form of P directly taken up by plant cells. Related: Phosphorus (P) and Total Phosphorus (TP)	
Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan	SWPPP	Holders of NPDES permits must prepare a SWPPP in order to obtain permit coverage for stormwater discharges.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Subwatershed		A smaller geographical unit of a watershed.	
Sustainable Lake Management Plan	SLMP	A report covering the subwatershed area of a particular waterbody which provides information about the overall health of the lake and trends within the ecosystem, along with lake management plans.	www.vlawmo.org

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Technical Advisory Committee	TAC	A group consisting of stakeholders and partnering agencies which provides guidance and input for VLAWMO.	
Technical Commission	TEC	A commission composed of persons appointed by each municipality within VLAWMO assigned with technical business decisions or to give recommendations to the Board.	www.vlawmo.org
Technical Evaluation Panel	TEP	A group consisting of a representative from the SWCD, BWSR, DNR, and WCA LGU to review actions affecting wetlands.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us
Total Maximum Daily Load	TMDL	A calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards, as well as an allocation of that load among the various sources of that pollutant. A TMDL Study identifies all sources of the pollutant and determine the load reductions needed to meet state standards. The TMDL Implementation Plan identifies strategies to achieve the necessary reductions.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Waste Load Allocation	WLA	Pollutants that originate from a point source are given allowable levels of contaminants to be discharged. The WLA is assigned to MS4s as part of the TMDL study.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy	WRAPS	A document summarizing scientific studies of a major watershed; identification of impairments and waterbodies in need of protection; identification of biotic stressors and sources of pollution; TMDLs for the impairments, and an implementation table containing strategies and actions designed to achieve and maintain water quality standards and goals.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Total Phosphorus	TP	A chemical element used in fertilizers and other products that acts as a nutrient in soil and a pollutant when found at high levels in groundwater, surface water, and wastewater. TP levels are monitored as an indicator of water quality. Related: Phosphorus (P), Soluble Reactive Phosphorus (SRP)	
Total Suspended Solids	TSS	Measurement of suspended materials (soil particles, algae, plankton, microbes, etc.) which limit sunlight, inhibit oxygen uptake by fish and alter habitat.	www.pca.state.mn.us
Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization	VLAWMO	The abbreviated name of the organization that will carry out this Water Plan.	www.vlawmo.org
Water Management Organization	WMO	An organization mandated by the State to create and implement a watershed management plan as detailed by Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us
Watershed		An area of land draining into a river, river system, or waterbody which can cover tens to hundreds of square miles and cross several jurisdictions.	
Watershed Action Volunteers	WAV	A group of citizens who participate in a variety of watershed projects from monitoring to working with local PreK-12 youth programs. VLAWMO's name for their Citizen Advisory Committee.	www.vlawmo.org
Wellhead Protection Areas		A surface or subsurface land area regulated to prevent contamination of a well or well-field supplying a public water system.	www.health.state.mn.us
Wetland Conservation Act	WCA	A State law that requires anyone proposing to drain, fill, or excavate a wetland first to try to avoid disturbing the wetland; second, to try to minimize any impact on the wetland; and, finally, to replace any lost wetland acres, functions, and values. VLAWMO acts as the LGU for WCA within the watershed except in MnDOT right of ways.	www.bwsr.state.mn.us