

Acronyms often used in water resources

Coon Creek Watershed District

2014

Terms often used at Coon Creek Watershed District (listed alphabetically)

ACD Anoka Conservation District

A county Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) that is a partner and subcontractor of Coon Creek Watershed District. ACD is contracted to do our lake, stream, and water quality monitoring, and produce an annual Water Almanac.

BMP Best Management Practice Any of the recognized practices and techniques to prevent soil erosion or maintain or increase water quality.

BWSR Board of Water and Soil Resources

State administrative agency for 90 soil and water conservation districts, 46 watershed districts, 23 metropolitan watershed management organizations, and 80 county water managers. Core functions include implementing state soil and water conservation policy, comprehensive local water management, and the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) as it relates to the 41.7 million acres of private land.

CCWD Coon Creek Watershed District

A special purpose unit of government established in 1959 to manage water resources such as flooding, ditch maintenance, stormwater, wetlands, and water quality.

DNR MN Department of Natural Resources

State agency that oversees conservation and management of state's natural resources for multiple uses; including public waters protection and water supply management.

D.O. Dissolved Oxygen

The oxygen available in water and used by aquatic animals. It is one factor often used to determine the health of a water body compared to state standards.

E. Coli Escherichia coli, a subgroup of fecal coliform bacteria that is present in the intestinal tracts and feces of warm-blooded animals. It is used as an indicator of the potential presence of pathogens. There are many different strains of E. coli and although most strains of E. coli are harmless and live in the intestines of healthy humans and animals, the E. coli O157:H7 strain produces a powerful toxin and can cause severe illness. (MPCA)

ESC Erosion & Sediment Control

Devices used to protect waters, storm sewers, and adjacent properties from land disturbance activities. Examples: silt fencing, rock construction entrance.

LGU Local Governmental Unit

Local authority agency. Examples: city (municipal), watershed district.

MPCA MN Pollution Control Agency

State agency that carries out the US EPA charge to implement Clean Water Act. For CCWD, MPCA is our primary regulator of water quality for surface waters.

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MUSA Metropolitan Urban Service Area

A regional boundary of the orderly extension of sewer and water infrastructure for the regional planning authority, the Metropolitan Council of the Twin Cities.

MS4 Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System

A conveyance of, or system of conveyances of, stormwater including roads with drainage systems, streets, catchbasins, curbs, gutters, ditches, man-made channels, or stormdrains that are owned or operated by a governmental body.

NPDES National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, Phase II

The permitting system under the Clean Water Act & implemented in MN by the MPCA that regulates the discharge of stormwater for small MS4s such as Coon Creek Watershed District. It is a 5-year permit, recently renewed, with the goal of controlling and reducing the discharge of pollutants from MS4s.

N Nitrogen

Essential for the growth of plants & animals; too much can degrade water quality.

P, TP Phosphorus, Total Phosphorus

A nutrient essential to the growth of organisms, and is often the limiting factor in their growth. Total phosphorus includes the amount of phosphorus in solution (reactive) and in particle form. Measured in milligrams per liter (mg/L).

SAMP Special Area Management Plan

A management plan for a small defined area that needs coordinated management but may not be required to develop a Local Water Plan or SWPPP.

SW Stormwater

As defined under [Minn. R. 7077.0105, subp. 41\(b\)](#), means precipitation runoff, stormwater runoff, snowmelt runoff, and any other surface runoff and drainage.

SWPPP Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan

A plan for stormwater discharge that includes erosion prevention measures and sediment controls that, when implemented, will decrease soil erosion on a parcel of land or decrease off-site nonpoint pollution.

TMDL Total Maximum Daily Load

Calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards and an allocation of that amount to the pollutants source.

TSS Total Suspended Solids

A measure of particles remaining dispersed in a liquid due to turbulent mixing that can create turbid or cloudy conditions. TSS cause: a) interference with light penetration, b) buildup of sediment and c) potential reduction in aquatic habitat. Solids also carry nutrients that cause algal blooms and other toxic pollutants that are harmful to fish.

WCA Wetland Conservation Act

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A 1991 MN law that requires a regulatory program to achieve a no-net-loss of wetlands.
CCWD is the wetland regulator throughout its boundary.