

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

MEETING DATE: April 27, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 14
ITEM: Watershed Management Videos

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

None

PURPOSE

Provide Board members with accessible watershed management training resources to strengthen understanding of District roles, responsibilities, and governance and support more informed decision making.

BACKGROUND/CONTEXT

In December 2025, a video series developed by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for members of local government boards and commissions was shared with the Board.

At the January 12, 2026, Board meeting, the Board expressed interest in reviewing the video series at future meetings as time allows. This staff report is intended to serve as a standing reference so the Board may review the videos incrementally over time.

[Who's Who? An Overview](#) {4:29} Minnesota's water management involves multilevel partnerships—federal, tribal, state, and local governments, as well as others. *(Viewed at March 23, 2026 Board meeting)*

[Who's Who? Local Governments](#) {9:15} Minnesota's local governments for water management include municipalities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed authorities, each with unique funding, skills, relationships, and terminology.

[Who's Who? State Agencies](#) {12:00} Minnesota's state water agencies—BWSR, DNR, MDA, MDH, MPCA, and Met Council—collaborate on conservation, regulation, monitoring, grants, and planning for surface/groundwater quality and quantity, often overlapping to support local governments.

[Who's Who? BWSR](#) {5:03} The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), with a 20-member governor-appointed board and 130 staff, partners with locals via grants, conservation easements, wetland regulation, and water plan reviews to protect Minnesota's land, water, and wetlands.

[What is a Watershed?](#) {8:06} A watershed is land that drains to a common water body. Key concepts: land-water connections, nested scales, and relationship to political units for watershed management.

[Watershed Authorities: Types and Statutes](#) {11:57} Minnesota's watershed management authorities include watershed districts, joint powers WMOs, and county-based WMOs—

each shaped by chapters 103B and 103D—to address water issues across natural boundaries.

[Watershed Authorities: Purpose and Power](#) {8:56} Watershed authorities are special purpose units of government with powers including tax levies, planning, rules, and contracts under chapters 103B and 103D.

[Watershed Authorities: Boards and Policies](#) {7:45} Boards are appointed by counties or cities and they have specific their policy-setting duties and governance responsibilities.

[Watershed Authorities: Structure and Roles](#) {10:41} Clearly defined roles for boards, administrators, are important for effective watershed operations.

[Watershed Authorities: Meetings, Committees, and Public Input](#) {11:12} Boards must follow open meeting laws, use advisory/technical committees for input, hold public hearings, and ensure data access.

[Watershed Authorities: Budgeting and Finance](#) {10:13} The budget must connect to the watershed plan and be developed with public input, implemented through a statutorily defined fund structure, and audited annually.

[Watershed Authorities: Planning](#) {12:54} The plan is a process with robust public involvement and a product, based on science, that clearly signals goals and intended actions.

[Watershed Authorities: Implementation](#) {9:54} Watershed authorities execute plans through projects (e.g., flood control, restorations), regulations via permits and rules under and programs like cost-share, outreach, monitoring.

Additionally, the Anoka Conservation District has produced similar videos related to general watershed management.

[ACD Our Watershed and Stormwater Connection](#) {9:56} This video explains complex concepts about watersheds and stormwater in simple terms using engaging animation. It's beneficial for all ages, from an elementary classroom to a city council chamber. Learn what watersheds are, why they are important, and some of the challenges watershed managers face. This ties into stormwater management and what public officials are doing to prevent flooding and improve water quality as well as what we all can do to become part of the solution.