



BROWN'S CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

Preserving the integrity of the watershed for future generations

www.bcwd.org | 455 Hayward Ave N, Oakdale, MN 55128 | 651-330-8220

MEMORANDUM

TO: Brown's Creek Watershed District Board
FROM: Karen Kill
RE: Minnesota Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium
DATE: March 3, 2026

Background

The University of Minnesota's Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) is putting on its first Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium from March 31, 2026 to April 1, 2026 in Saint Louis Park, MN. The focus will be wet stormwater pond use, operations, maintenance, management and retrofits to maintain and improve desired functions. A symposium agenda is included in this memo.

Costs

Registration is \$100 per person.

Requested Action

Approve registration and attendance of Karen Kill and Hannah Peterson from account 200-4265.

Managers:

Klay Eckles, President | Chuck LeRoux, Vice President | Celia Wirth, Treasurer
Debra Sahulka, Secretary | Griffin Brod, Manager



Minnesota Stormwater Pond Research and Practice Symposium Agenda

Draft - subject to changes. Check the [symposium website](#) for updates

About the symposium and agenda components

The symposium embraces the exchange of ideas, input, discussion, and prioritization of needs, not simply conference presentations. Therefore, the agenda offers a variety of interactive components to accomplish these ideals. More information on these components is found further below.

Tuesday, March 31st

Pond fundamentals, hydrology, pollutants, inspections, monitoring and diagnosis

7:45 - 8:30 am	Registration and light breakfast
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome
8:45 - 10:00	Part I. Ponds as a stormwater practice in Minnesota - <i>History, original genesis, extent of use, truths and myths</i> Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ross Binter, City of Edina and MSRC Advisory Board• David Filipiak, retired, SRF Consulting and MSRC Advisory Board• Todd Smith, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 12:00	Part II. Pond hydrology and pollutants inputs and internal pond dynamics Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Brian Beck, Minnehaha Creek Watershed District• Ben Janke, UMN SAFL• Bill Herb, UMN SAFL• Michael McKinney, Barr Engineering Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
12:00 - 1:00	Lunch (<i>provided</i>)

1:00 - 2:15	Part III. Pond inspections, monitoring and diagnosis Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poornima Natajara, UMN SAFL • John Chapman, UMN BBE • Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
2:15 - 2:45	Small group discussions on pond inspections and monitoring
2:45 - 3:00	Break
3:00 - 3:45	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shahram Missaghi, City of Minneapolis • Carolyn Eckstein, Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board • Kristin Seaman, City of Woodbury • Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
3:45 - 5:30	Poster session Appetizers served and cash bar available.

Wednesday, April 1st

Pond maintenance, practices, techniques and retrofits

This session will focus on three areas of ponds; biota (plants, algae & fish), sediments and dredging, and pond treatments. There will be near-future programs, events and opportunities on other pond maintenance, practices, techniques and retrofits. Some of these are already scheduled and will be announced at the symposium. More information will be available on the symposium website.

7:45 - 8:30 am	Registration and light breakfast
8:30 - 8:45	Welcome
8:45 - 9:30	Part IV - Pond biota - plants, algae and fish Presentations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jacques Finlay, UMN EBB • Dan Larkin, UMN • Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
9:30 - 10:00	Small group discussions plants and other biota management
10:00 - 10:15	Break
10:15 - 11:00	Panel discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jack Distel, City of Bloomington & MSRC Advisory Board • Steve McComas, Blue Water Science

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt Lasch, Resource Environmental Solutions (RES) • Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
11:00 - 12:15	<p>Part IV. Pond dredging and sediment management</p> <p>Case Study</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dave Vlasin, Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District • Gareth Becker, Barr Engineering <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Gulliver, UMN SAFL • Paula Kalinosky, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
12:15 - 1:15	Lunch (<i>provided</i>)
1:15 - 2:00	<p>Part IV: Pond treatments - types, advantages and disadvantages</p> <p>Presentations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joe Bischoff, Barr Engineering • John Gulliver, UMN SAFL
2:00 - 2:30	Small group discussions on pond treatments
2:30 - 2:45	Break
2:45 - 3:30	<p>Panel discussion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anne Wilkinson, Emmons & Olivier Resources (EOR) • Greg Wilson, Barr Engineering • Jesse Carlson, City of Savage • Audience Q&A (featuring a smartphone app)
3:30 - 3:45	<p>Closing</p> <p>Summary of on-going research and future MSRC pond efforts</p> <p>Invitation to pond symposium follow-up events</p>
3:45 - 4:30	<p>Social</p> <p>Refreshments. Networking. Appetizers and cash bar available.</p>

Symposium components

Presentations

Each presentation will address a specific, well-thought out list of prescribed questions related to the topic. Don't expect typical research or demonstration project presentations. Rather, knowledge and skill building will be delivered by invited experts, practitioners, and researchers.

Practitioner panels

Following some of the presentations, there will be panel discussions featuring local practitioners and other experts who can share their experiences. A selection of panelists have been invited, who can offer diverse perspectives. Panelists will address several key introductory questions and then there will be time for audience Q&A.

Audience Q&A

Audience Q&A with presenters and panelists will be conducted using a smartphone app. Participants will be able submit questions and up-vote those asked by others.

Small group discussions

Participants will be able to offer their experiences, expertise, and input throughout the symposium. To accomplish this, round tables of 6-10 participants will be the seating arrangement throughout the two days. Each table will have a discussion host and recorder. Depending on the topic, responses received, and knowledge recorded, the information generated by these discussions will be shared with participants following the symposium.

Poster session

Posters will provide an opportunity for professionals, practitioners, researchers, and others to share specific pond demonstration projects, maintenance projects, or research. Since the symposium cannot provide time for a presentation on all of these, the poster session will allow participants to explore these themselves. In addition, all of the posters will be made available after the symposium through an electronic flipbook.

Posters about ponds are welcomed from practitioners and researchers who would like to showcase a pond project or story in one or more of these categories:

- **Pond story** - Present a story about a pond construction, maintenance, remediation, monitoring, prioritization/analysis, or retrofit project
- **Innovation project** - Showcase a pond demonstration project or pond innovations. Did you try something new and learn from it? Your colleagues want to know about it! Failures are just as instructive as successes.
- **Research*** - Summarize a current and past pond research project(s)

More information about submitting a poster proposal is available on the [symposium website](#) and you can submit a poster proposal [HERE](#).

Follow-up programs and events

The MSRC, WRC and partners are providing opportunities for follow-up pond programs and events in part to cover topics we are not able to at the symposium and continue the learning. Mark your calendar for these programs and events.

- April 9th [Minnesota Stormwater Seminar Series](#) - Stormwater ponds and PAHs in sediment, featuring Francine Kelly-Hooper
- May 21st [Minnesota Stormwater Seminar Series](#) - Adaptive level control systems for stormwater ponds, featuring the results of a MSRC funded project
- July 16th [MSRC Annual meeting and tour](#) with a focus on pond forebays, aeration, and other remediation efforts
- More coming soon

For more information

Visit the [symposium website](#) for updates on the agenda. Specific questions can be emailed to msrc@umn.edu

Sponsors and acknowledgements

The symposium is brought to you and sponsored by the [University of Minnesota Water Resources Center](#) and the [Minnesota Stormwater Research Council](#) (MSRC). Financial support is provided by the following:

- [Minnesota Clean Water Fund](#)
- Minnesota Stormwater Research Council member organizations, including
 - Barr Engineering Company
 - Bolton and Menk
 - Capitol Region Watershed District
 - City of Edina
 - Coon Creek Watershed District
 - Emmons & Olivier Resources, Inc.
 - Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
 - Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
 - Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
 - Rice Creek Watershed District
 - Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek Watershed District
 - South Washington Watershed District
 - Stantec
 - Valley Branch Watershed District
 - WSB Engineering
- The [Minnesota Clean Water Fund](#)
- [Institute on the Environment](#)
- [Minnesota Sea Grant Program](#)
- [Cold Climate Stormwater Center of Excellence](#)

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) is an organization of stormwater professionals, practitioners, managers, engineers, researchers and others that seeks to facilitate and complete research on urban stormwater management and transfer that knowledge to professionals that can use it to prevent, minimize and mitigate the impacts of runoff. The MSRC is administered by the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (WRC).