



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

Watershed Management Organization

AGENDA

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

October 21, 2025 at 5:30 P.M.

Inver Grove Heights City Hall

8150 Barbara Ave, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Agenda
3. Consent Agenda
 - 3.1. September 30, 2025
 - 3.2. Invoices for Payment
 - 3.3. 2025 Year-to-Date Financial Summary
4. Watershed Plan Update
5. New Business
 - 5.1. Finances, 2026 Budget Discussion
6. Community Updates
7. Adjournment

A Joint Powers Organization of the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights

3830 Pilot Knob Road, Eagan, MN 55122-1810

Phone: (651) 675-5300



1. Call to Order

Chair Jennifer Workman-Jesness called meeting to order at 6:35 pm.

Present: Chair Jennifer Workman-Jesness (Eagan)*, Vice Chair Kathleen Reitz (Eagan)*, Monica Foss (Eagan), Sarah Saito (Inver Grove Heights)*

Others: Victoria Ranua (E-IGHWMO), Gregg Thompson (Eagan)

*Remote attendee

2. Workshop: Watershed Plan Update—Issues and Goals

The Board held a workshop session to discuss and refine key issues and goals for the Watershed Plan update. Following a review of the current draft plan text, the Board identified and prioritized the following three primary issues:

1. Nutrient pollution (Nitrogen and Phosphorus)
2. Chloride contamination
3. Groundwater use and sustainability

The Board felt that most goals of the updated Watershed Plan should be centered around addressing these priority issues. The Board authorized Administrator Ranua to collaborate directly with Board Member Foss and Eagan Water Resources staff Thompson to develop draft language based on the discussion, to be shared with the consultant.

3. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Victoria Ranua
Administrator

Approved by Board
10/XX/2025

DAKOTA COUNTY



— SOIL & WATER —
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District

4100 220th Street West, Ste 102
Farmington, MN 55024
(651) 480-7777
DakotaSWCD.Accounting@CO.Dakota.MN.US

Invoice

DATE	INVOICE #
10/1/2025	3492

BILL TO

Eagan-Inver Grove Heights WMO
C/O Jenna Olson
3501 Coachman Point Road
Eagan, MN 55122

AGREEMENT

2025 Agreement

BILLING PERIOD

Jul - Sep 2025

TERMS

Net 30 Days

DESCRIPTION

HRS/COUNT

RATE

AMOUNT

ADMINISTRATION

Financial Reports, Audit, Board Meeting Preparation, and General Correspondence.

21 100.00 2,100.00

Watershed Plan Updates

71.5 100.00 7,150.00

Fee: Printing and Postage

1 25.00 25.00

Fees: ECM Publishers (legal services bids)

1 59.40 59.40

EDUCATION AND OUTREACH

Website Maintenance

2 100.00 200.00

Fee: Website Hosting

0 900.00 0.00

Advocacy and Outreach:

0 100.00 0.00

Landscaping for Clean Water Intro Class

0 2,000.00 0.00

Landscaping for Clean Water Design Class

0 4,000.00 0.00

Landscaping for Clean Water Maintenance Workshop

0 2,000.00 0.00

Lawns Reimagined Workshop

0 3,000.00 0.00

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

Landscaping for Clean Water Technical Assistance:

6 600.00 3,600.00

COST SHARE

Landscaping for Clean Water Grants: Glockner, Shrider, Phipsek, Godfrey, Barker, Olmanson

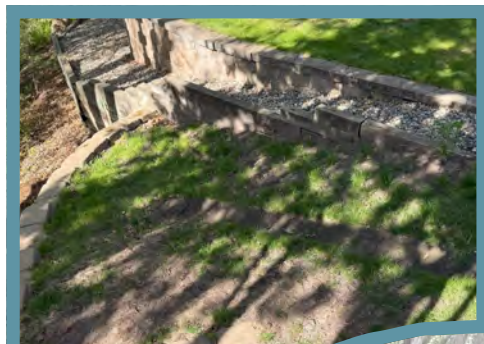
6 250.00 1,500.00

It's been a pleasure working with you!

Total \$14,634.40

OLMANSON

RESIDENTIAL NATIVE GARDEN



BEFORE

A native garden, also called natural landscaping, uses plants, trees and grasses that are suitable for growth in a particular geographical area



AFTER

PRACTICE:

- Native Garden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Slope stabilization
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025

PROJECT: Installation of a 160 sq. ft. residential native garden.

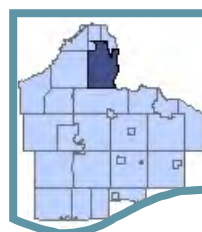
COST: Project materials cost estimated at \$392

FUNDING: Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Golden Meadow Rd
Eagan



BARKER

RESIDENTIAL RAINGARDEN



BEFORE

A raingarden is a shallow depression that captures rainwater, removes pollutants, and soaks the water into the ground.



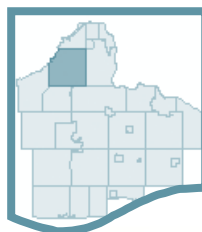
AFTER

- PROJECT:** Installation of a 100 square foot residential raingarden.
- COST:** Project materials cost estimated at \$293
- FUNDING:** Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Cliff Road
Eagan



PRACTICE:

- Raingarden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025



GODFREY

RESIDENTIAL NATIVE GARDEN



BEFORE

A native garden, also called natural landscaping, uses plants, trees and grasses that are suitable for growth in a particular geographical area



AFTER

PRACTICE:

- Native Garden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Slope stabilization
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025

PROJECT: Installation of a 130 sq. ft. residential native garden.

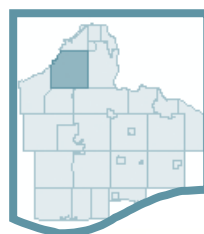
COST: Project materials cost estimated at \$326

FUNDING: Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Yorktown Drive
Eagan



PHILIPSEK

RESIDENTIAL RAINGARDEN



A raingarden is a shallow depression that captures rainwater, removes pollutants, and soaks the water into the ground.



PROJECT: Installation of a 140 square foot residential raingarden.

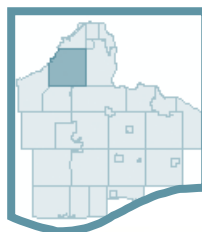
COST: Project materials cost estimated at \$1,120

FUNDING: Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Canary Way
Eagan



PRACTICE:

- Raingarden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

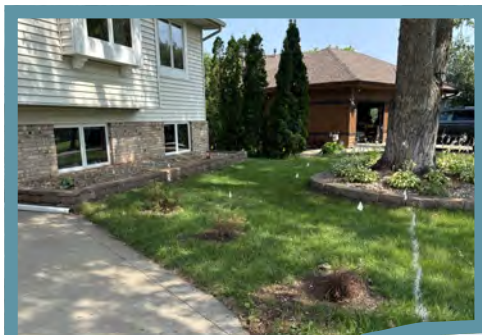
- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025

SHRIDER

RESIDENTIAL NATIVE GARDEN



BEFORE

A native garden, also called natural landscaping, uses plants, trees and grasses that are suitable for growth in a particular geographical area



AFTER

PROJECT: Installation of a 141 sq. ft. residential native garden.

COST: Project materials cost estimated at \$313

FUNDING: Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Manor Drive
Eagan

PRACTICE:

- Native Garden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Slope stabilization
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025



GLOCKNER

RESIDENTIAL RAINGARDEN



BEFORE

A raingarden is a shallow depression that captures rainwater, removes pollutants, and soaks the water into the ground.



AFTER

PRACTICE:

- Raingarden

BENEFITS:

- Runoff volume reduction
- Improved water quality
- Improved wildlife habitat
- Opportunity for public education and outreach
- Improved aesthetics

PARTNERS:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization

WATERSHED:

- Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

INSTALLATION:

- Summer 2025

PROJECT: Installation of a 154 square foot residential raingarden.

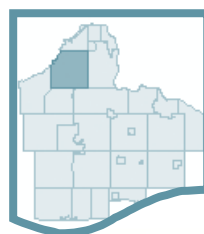
COST: Project materials cost estimated at \$328

FUNDING: Landowners receive a \$250 Landscaping for Clean Water grant as well as technical assistance provided by the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights
Watershed Management Organization

LOCATION: Chipmunk Court
Eagan



E-IGH Watershed Management Organization

2025

Revenue and Expense Summary

	1st Qtr JAN-MAR	2nd Qtr APR-JUN	3rd Qtr JUL-SEP	4th Qtr OCT-DEC	2025 TYD	2025 Budget	Remaining	% Utilized
General Fund								
Revenues:								
Member Allocations			\$ 52,000.00		\$ 52,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ -	100%
Interest Income					\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%
Use of Restricted Fund Balance	\$ 15,537.00	\$ 27,531.84	\$ 16,097.50	\$ -	\$ 59,166.34	\$ 66,970.00	\$ 7,803.66	88%
Total Revenues:	\$ 15,537.00	\$ 27,531.84	\$ 68,097.50	\$ -	\$ 111,166.34	\$ 118,970.00	\$ 7,803.66	93%
Expenses:								
Work Program								
A. File Annual Activity Report, Finance Report and Audit		\$ 4,040.00			\$ 4,040.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ (40.00)	101%
B. Publish/Distribute Annual Newsletter or Communication		\$ 25.00			\$ 25.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 275.00	8%
C. Web Site	\$ 1,150.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 200.00		\$ 1,850.00	\$ 1,000.00	\$ (850.00)	185%
D. Board Education					\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	0%
E. Implement Watershed Plan								
1. Support Existing Programs (LCW, CLIMB, MWS)	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 6,100.00		\$ 17,100.00	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 9,100.00	65%
2. WMO Education and Outreach Programs (+LRI)	\$ 800.00	\$ 50.00			\$ 850.00	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 3,150.00	21%
3. Water Conservation Marketing Campaign					\$ -	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 7,500.00	0%
Organizational Administration								
Staff Services (general)	\$ 6,425.00	\$ 4,700.00	\$ 2,184.40		\$ 13,309.40	\$ 22,000.00	\$ 8,690.60	60%
Engineering and Consulting Services (general)	\$ 87.00				\$ 87.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 2,913.00	3%
Legal Consulting Services (general)					\$ -	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	0%
Watershed Plan - RESTRICTED FUNDS								
Consulting Services	\$ 15,537.00	\$ 22,881.84	\$ 8,947.50		\$ 47,366.34	\$ 49,970.00	\$ 2,603.66	95%
Adminstrative Services		\$ 4,650.00	\$ 7,150.00		\$ 11,800.00	\$ -	\$ 18,950.00	
Total Expenses:	\$ 25,999.00	\$ 45,846.84	\$ 8,484.40	\$ -	\$ 96,427.74	\$ 118,970.00	\$ 22,542.26	81%
Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	\$ (10,462.00)	\$ (18,315.00)	\$ 59,613.10	\$ -	\$ 14,738.60	\$ -		

E-IGH Watershed Management Organization

2025

Balance Sheet

Assets

Cash in Checking	\$80,856.58
Cash in Savings	\$ 1.00

Total Cash: \$ 80,857.58

Accounts Receivable	\$ -
---------------------	------

Total Assets: \$ 80,857.58

Liabilities and Equity

Accounts Payable	\$ 14,634.40
------------------	--------------

Equity

General Fund Balance January 1	\$ 50,650.92
--------------------------------	--------------

Fund Balance Reserved for WP	\$ 833.66
------------------------------	-----------

Net Surplus / (-) Deficit	\$ 14,738.60
---------------------------	--------------

Total Equity: \$ 66,223.18

Total Liabilities and Equity: \$ 80,857.58



Eagan - Inver Grove Heights

Watershed Management Organization

BOARD AGENDA ITEM REPORT

MEETING DATE:	October 21, 2025
AGENDA ITEM:	4.0
AGENDA ITEM:	Watershed Plan Update

BACKGROUND: At the WMO Workshop meeting held on September 30, 2025, the board provided guidance on the watershed plan's prioritized issues and goals. Board member Monica Foss and I worked together to structure the guidance provided into the existing plan.

This proved a bit more difficult, so I created a separate document using the numbered outline of the draft plan and the state's administrative rule on required watershed plan elements. I submitted this to Stantec.

Before Stantec incorporates these elements, the board should review this and help provide Stantec guidance that can inform the timeline for providing a revised final draft for Board approval before submission to BSWR.

BUDGET IMPACT: TBD.

RECOMMENDED MOTION: A motion for a special meeting in November.

ATTACHMENT: Document submitted to Stantec on clarified issues and goal and streamlined structure.

E-IGHWMO Watershed Management Plan 2026–2035 DRAFT

Executive Summary (Info to be included)

Board-Identified Priority Issues

Through this process the Board identified three priority issues that will guide actions during 2026–2035:

1. **Nutrient Pollution (Nitrogen and Phosphorus):** Excess nutrients from urban runoff and connected stormwater systems continue to threaten lake and wetland water quality. Some lakes have been removed from the impaired-waters list, but ongoing attention is needed to sustain these gains.
2. **Chloride Contamination:** Accumulated salt from winter de-icing and water-softening contributes to rising chloride levels with the watershed and waters leaving the watershed. Fish Lake has been identified by the MPCA as at risk for impairment.
3. **Groundwater Use and Sustainability:** High summer irrigation demand places stress on local aquifers. Conservation and public education remain central to long-term groundwater health.

Our Role

Because both member cities already operate comprehensive stormwater and water-quality programs, the E-IGHWMO focuses its direct efforts on:

- **Education and outreach** to residents, businesses, and local decision-makers;
- **Partnerships and cost-share programs** that supplement city projects; and
- **Aid in monitoring support and volunteer initiatives** such as shoreline or aquatic-vegetation surveys.

Commented [VR1]: This may or may not be a role the entire board is supportive of.

Looking Ahead

From 2026 to 2035, the WMO will continue to support its member cities in implementing best management practices that protect local lakes, wetlands, and groundwater. The plan emphasizes measurable, achievable goals and coordination among local and state partners. Progress will be reviewed annually through reporting to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose and Legal Framework

The Eagan–Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO) prepares this Watershed Management Plan to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes §103B.231 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410. These laws require each metropolitan watershed organization to prepare and implement a plan that protects, preserves, and uses natural surface and groundwater systems to best serve the public's health and welfare.

This plan serves as the guiding document for the Organization's programs and priorities from 2026 through 2035. It establishes measurable goals, policies, and implementation strategies designed to maintain or improve water quality, reduce flooding risk, promote groundwater sustainability, and protect wetlands. The plan also provides a framework for coordinated action with the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights, Dakota County, the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and state and regional agencies.

1.2 Relationship to Local and Regional Planning

The E-IGHWMO is a partner to, not a substitute for, local water management. Both member cities operate stormwater utilities, hold MS4 permits from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and have their own approved local water management plans. The Organization provides coordination, technical review, and education to ensure those local plans and activities align with shared watershed goals.

This watershed plan also supports and complements regional efforts by the Metropolitan Council, Dakota County, and the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), as well as state programs related to chloride reduction, groundwater sustainability, and wetland protection.

Examples of related plans and how they inform this document include:

- City of Eagan Water Quality and Wetland Management Plan (2018): Reports improving lake and wetland conditions due to long-term stormwater retrofits and wetland protection, but continuing nutrient and chloride challenges.
- City of Inver Grove Heights 4th Generation Water Resources Management Plan (2018): Focuses on runoff volume control, retrofitting older developments, and enhancing coordination with regional partners.
- Dakota County Groundwater Plan (2021): Identifies high municipal pumping-to-recharge ratios in some areas and promotes conservation through smart irrigation and land-use planning.
- Metropolitan Council Water Supply Planning Atlas (2025): Provides subregional data confirming that this area relies entirely on groundwater and that demand rises sharply in summer months.

Together, these plans establish a strong foundation for continued collaboration. The E-IGHWMO will use this plan to focus on actions that add value through education, partnership, and targeted investment, rather than duplicating city or county efforts.

1.3 Watershed Overview

The E-IGHWMO watershed covers approximately 30 square miles in northwest Dakota County and drains toward the Minnesota River. About 96 percent of the watershed lies within Eagan, with the remaining portion in Inver Grove Heights. The landscape is characterized by numerous glacially formed lakes, wetlands, and rolling topography that influence local drainage patterns. Major lakes include Fish Lake, Baldwin Lake, and Thomas Lake.

Most of the watershed was surveyed as part of the Public Land Survey of 1856, and settlement and land-use conversion followed soon after. Urban development expanded rapidly from the 1960s through the early 2000s. Today, the watershed is largely built out, with limited remaining undeveloped land.

The area's soils and landform patterns produce a mix of surface-water and groundwater interactions. Many wetlands and lakes have outlets connected to stormwater conveyance systems, while others remain landlocked. The watershed's position near the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers makes it an important contributor to downstream water quality.

1.4 Planning Process and Public Involvement

This plan was developed through a Board-led process during 2025. The Organization prioritized a clear, concise plan that highlights achievable goals and measurable outcomes. The process included:

- Soliciting input from technical partners (Dakota County, SWCD, BWSR, MPCA, MDH, MDNR, MnDOT, and others);
- Engaging advisory commissions and residents through the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights; and
- Reviewing the previous plan and identifying which sections no longer served practical or regulatory purposes.

The Board emphasized simplifying the plan to improve its usability for decision-making and public understanding. Redundant sections and technical appendices from the prior plan were condensed or removed, while maps and figures were retained as visual aids.

1.5 Organization Structure and Role

The E-IGHWMO operates under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) between the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights. The Board of Managers, composed of appointed representatives from each city, governs the Organization. The Board is supported by city staff, contracted technical consultants, and the Dakota SWCD as needed.

The Organization's primary role is to:

- Provide education and outreach on watershed and groundwater issues;
- Support member cities through cost-share and partnership programs;
- Participate in coordination among local, county, and state partners when requested by member cities; and
- Report annually on progress to BWSR and the member cities.

2.6 Updates from the Previous Plan

This 2026–2035 plan replaces the previous (2015–2025) plan and incorporates the following key updates:

- Streamlined organization following Minnesota Rule 8410 structure;
- Updated lake and groundwater data through 2024;
- Revised goals focused on nutrient reduction, chloride management, and groundwater sustainability;
- Enhanced emphasis on measurable outcomes;
- Removal of redundant or obsolete sections; and
- Clarity in defining the Organization’s supportive role relative to member cities.

4. Assessment of Issues and Priority Concerns

4.1 Overview

The Eagan–Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO) conducted an assessment of watershed issues based on technical review, partner input, and local plan data. The assessment focused on areas where the WMO can add value through coordination, education, and cost-sharing, rather than duplicating city functions.

4.2 Prioritized Issues

The Board selected three top issues for the 2026–2035 plan period. Other resource concerns remain relevant but are primarily managed by the member cities.

1. Nutrient Pollution (Nitrogen and Phosphorus):

Excess nutrients—primarily nitrogen and phosphorus—remain a persistent water quality threat in the watershed, from direct land use practices and human-created interconnectivity with impervious surface and stormwater conveyance systems. Both member cities (Eagan and Inver Grove Heights) have made significant capital investments over time to reduce nutrient loading, but it remains an issue requiring vigilance. Several waterbodies have been removed from the impaired waters list over the past decade, and continued focus in this area will help sustain those improvements and protect past investments.

2. Chloride Contamination:

Rising chloride levels from cumulative winter de-icing and water softeners (septic systems and at the downstream Seneca WWTP) practices pose a growing risk to aquatic life and water quality. Since the last watershed plan, the state has adopted a chloride water quality standard (230 mg/L) and issued a Chloride Management Plan. Fish Lake has been identified by the MPCA as an at-risk waterbody for chloride impairment.

3. Groundwater Use and Sustainability:

Groundwater demand remains a concern, with consistently high winter-to-summer pumping ratios, mainly to support lawns. Long-term groundwater sustainability is a concern in this mature suburban watershed.

4.3 Supporting Issues

While not a top priorities for direct intervention by the WMO, they did identify relevant issues:

1. Fishing and Fish Consumption Awareness:

Fishing fosters lake stewardship, but there are some known consumption concerns related to Mercury and emerging contaminants like PFAS.

2. Data Centers:

A new watershed-scale stressor across Dakota County is high-capacity data centers. They pose high-volume groundwater withdrawal and thermal-discharge challenges that fall right at the intersection of water-quantity, water-quality, and interjurisdictional coordination. No known data centers are proposed within the WMO at the writing of this plan. If a project of this type is proposed within or near the watershed, the WMO will coordinate with appropriate government units to evaluate potential groundwater and stormwater implications and determine whether plan amendments or monitoring support are warranted.

5. Goals and Implementation

The Minnesota Administrative rules require goals in the following area:

- Water quantity¹
- Water quality²
- Public drainage systems³
- Groundwater⁴; and
- Wetlands⁵

5.1 Overview

The goals in this section define how the E-IGHWMO will carry out its mission from 2026 through 2035.

They translate the priority issues into achievable, measurable outcomes.

Because the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights already operate comprehensive water-management programs, the WMO's role is primarily to support, coordinate, and educate. Its work emphasizes:

- Encouraging behaviors and investments that protect and improve water quality;
- Helping secure funding for partner-led projects; and
- Ensuring consistency with state and regional goals.

¹ MN Administrative Rule 8410.0080 Subpart 2

² MN Administrative Rule 8410.0045 Subpart 3

³ MN Administrative Rule 8410.0045 Subpart 6

⁴ MN Administrative Rule 8410.0045 Subpart 7

⁵ MN Administrative Rule 8410.0045 Subpart 8

Progress toward these goals will be evaluated annually in the WMO's report to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and member cities.

5.2 Water Quantity Goals

Goal 1 – Protect existing flood-storage and conveyance capacity.

Continue to support city management of stormwater infrastructure to maintain designed flood protection levels.

Goal 2 – Promote infiltration and volume-control practices.

Through outreach and cost-share incentives, encourage projects that reduce runoff volume and peak flow—especially in redevelopment areas.

Goal 3 – Support stormwater reuse.

Assist cities and partners in identifying opportunities for irrigation reuse or stormwater harvesting where technically feasible.

Measure of Progress: Number of WMO-supported or funded projects that include infiltration or reuse elements; summary of city system upgrades that reduce localized flooding.

5.3 Water Quality Goals

Goal 1 – Reduce nutrient loading to lakes and wetlands.

Promote best management practices (BMPs) that lower phosphorus and nitrogen inputs from urban runoff. Support programs such as *Landscaping for Clean Water* and *Lawns Re-Imagined* that encourage native or low-input plantings.

Goal 2 – Reduce chloride inputs.

Support and participate in behavior changing efforts such as:

- The **Low Salt, No Salt Initiative** (Dakota County), can be paired with popular salt cup distribution efforts;
- The **Low Salt Model City Program** (Eagan); and
- Promoting the **MPCA Smart Salting Program** to enact changes in winter maintenance service providers and the business's and HOA's that engage their services.

Goal 3 – Support nutrient- and chloride-focused retrofits.

Provide cost-share assistance for retrofit or maintenance projects that improve impaired or at-risk waterbodies.

Goal 4 – Support responsible fishing and lake stewardship.

Partner with cities and the MDNR to promote fishing as a community recreation activity. Assist with signage or outreach regarding **mercury** and **PFAS** fish-consumption advisories, and explore helping fund fish-testing efforts led by member cities.

Measure of Progress: Participation in salt-reduction programs, BMP installations near priority lakes, and public engagement metrics (events, workshops, or materials distributed).

5.4 Public Drainage System Goals

Goal 1 – Support maintenance of city-owned stormwater systems.

Assist member cities with identifying and pursuing grants or cost-share funding for maintenance, repair, or retrofit projects that provide measurable water-quality improvements.

Goal 2 – Prioritize water-quality enhancements in drainage projects.

When streets or drainage systems are reconstructed, encourage inclusion of water-quality BMPs (e.g., pretreatment basins, iron-enhanced sand filters, underground infiltration).

Measure of Progress: Number of projects where WMO contributed technical or financial support to drainage-related water-quality improvements.

5.5 Groundwater Goals

Goal 1 – Encourage groundwater conservation.

Support education about efficient outdoor water use, smart-irrigation controllers, and advances in low-input turf such as fine fescue lawns.

Goal 2 – Promote awareness of surface- and groundwater connections.

Through outreach, highlight how salt, fertilizer, and household chemical use affect both groundwater quality and surface-water ecosystems.

Goal 3 – Coordinate with Dakota County and member cities on groundwater planning.

Participate in county and regional planning efforts that promote sustainable groundwater management.

Measure of Progress: Workshops, public-education campaigns, and participation in regional groundwater initiatives.

5.6 Wetland Goals

Goal 1 – Support small-scale restoration and enhancement projects.

Provide matching or partnership funding for wetland restoration or enhancement when aligned with city priorities.

Goal 2 – Increase public understanding of urban wetlands.

Develop or sponsor educational materials explaining how wetlands store runoff, filter pollutants, and support wildlife—even in developed areas.

Measure of Progress: Number of outreach efforts or restoration projects supported by the WMO.

5.7 Implementation and Measurement

Because the WMO's role is primarily supportive and educational, most implementation actions involve:

- Coordinating with member cities and partner agencies;
- Assisting with funding and grant opportunities;
- Conducting public education and outreach; and
- Reporting progress to BWSR and the member cities.

The WMO will review implementation progress annually and update the program as needed.

6.8 Implementation Framework

Implementation occurs through four main avenues:

1. **Education and Outreach** – Building community understanding and engagement.
 2. **Partnership and Cost-Share Support** – Funding or assisting with local projects.
 3. **Monitoring and Data Support** – Helping track conditions and results.
 4. **Administration and Reporting** – Maintaining accountability and compliance.
-

5.9 Education and Outreach Program

Education is the WMO's most visible and influential role.

Efforts will emphasize practical, Minnesota-appropriate actions that residents, businesses, and maintenance crews can take to protect water resources.

Priority Activities

- Continue participation in residential-based behavior changing initiatives like Dakota SWCD's Landscaping for Clean Water and Lawns Re-Imagined programs.
- Support chloride reducing initiatives like Low Salt, No Salt and MPCA Smart Salting outreach to winter maintenance staff, HOAs, and businesses.
- Sponsor and distribute informational materials on our priority issues of nutrient pollution reduction, chloride reduction, and groundwater protection.
- Collaborate with city communications staff to share seasonal tips through newsletters, social media, and city websites.
- Help fund fishing and lake-stewardship signage including addressing fish-consumption advisories (mercury / PFAS).

Performance Measures

- Number of residents or properties reached annually through WMO-supported programs.
- Number of chloride-reduction trainings or outreach events supported.
- Feedback from participant surveys or partner agencies.

5.10 Partnership and Cost-Share Support

The WMO will maintain a small annual cost-share budget to leverage city, county, or state investments.

Eligible Project Types

- Retrofit of stormwater ponds or basins near impaired or at-risk lakes
- Rain-garden or infiltration retrofits where appropriate.
- Wetland enhancement or buffer-restoration projects.
- Education and monitoring projects led by partners.

Funding Approach

- Maintain flexible annual allocations approved by the Board.
- Prioritize projects demonstrating clear water-quality benefit, visibility, and partner commitment.
- Use state or regional grants (e.g., BWSR Clean Water Fund) whenever possible.

Performance Measures

- Number of cost-shared projects completed per year.
- Estimated pollutant reductions or volume reductions reported by partners.
- Total outside funding leveraged.

5.11 Monitoring and Data Support

Monitoring ensures that WMO and city efforts remain data-driven.

Focus Areas

- Support city and county monitoring programs, through funding assistance or information outreach.

Performance Measures

- Number of waterbodies with monitoring data reported annually.
- Summary statistics (e.g., trends in phosphorus or chloride).

- Amount of WMO funding dedicated to data support.

5.12 Administration and Reporting

Efficient administration ensures that resources are directed toward on-the-ground results.

Ongoing Responsibilities

- Prepare annual budget and report to BWSR and member cities.
- Conduct periodic plan reviews and updates consistent with Minn. R. 8410.
- Maintain accurate financial and project records.
- Provide administrative support for Board operations and partner coordination.

Performance Measures

- Timely submission of annual reports and audits.
- Documentation of measurable outcomes.
- Board evaluation of program effectiveness every five years.

5.13 Implementation Schedule and Evaluation

A detailed Implementation Table

will accompany the final plan (to be refined with the Board after review of this draft).

It will identify for each action:

- Responsible party,
- Implementation timeframe,
- Estimated cost, and
- Evaluation metric.

The Board will review the table annually, update actions as needed, and ensure consistency with evolving city and county plans.

5.14 Funding Summary

The Eagan–Inver Grove Heights Watershed Management Organization (E-IGHWMO) operates with a modest annual budget that reflects its supportive and partnership-based role. Most implementation activities are carried out by the member cities or partner entities (SWCD, County), with the WMO providing coordination, education, and targeted funding assistance.

Primary Revenue Sources

Funding Source	Description	Typical Range / Notes
Member City Assessments	Annual financial contributions from the Cities of Eagan and Inver Grove Heights as established in the Joint Powers Agreement (JPA). These assessments support administration, education, and small cost-share projects.	~\$45,000–\$55,000 total annually (shared between cities)
Grants	Competitive grants from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund, Metropolitan Council, or other state and regional programs.	Variable; applied for as opportunities arise
Partner Cost-Share Contributions	Matching funds from member cities, Dakota County, or the Dakota SWCD for specific education or retrofit projects.	Typically 25–50% match
In-Kind Support	Technical assistance, communications, and project management provided by city and SWCD staff.	Non-monetary value, reported annually

Budget Emphasis

The WMO budget emphasizes education and outreach, small-scale implementation, and administrative compliance:

Program Area	Approx. % of Annual Budget	Examples
Education & Outreach	35 %	Workshops, printed materials, digital media, and signage support
Cost-Share & Partnerships	25 %	Retrofit assistance, volunteer monitoring, and small restoration projects
Monitoring & Data Support	10 %	Support monitoring and data coordination with cities
Administration & Reporting	30 %	Annual report, audits, meeting expenses, and staff/consultant services

Commented [VR2]: Not sure if that is true. We don't do this now.

Fiscal Management

- Annual budgets are adopted by the Board of Managers and incorporated into city assessments.

- The Administrator and Fiscal Agent maintain transparent accounting consistent with Minnesota Statutes § 103B.227.
- The WMO submits annual financial reports and audits to BWSR and the State Auditor.

5.15 Summary

The E-IGHWMO maintains a lean structure focused on leveraging partnerships and external funding to achieve its mission. While its annual budget is small, the Organization's investments in education, collaboration, and cost-sharing continue to generate measurable benefits for local and downstream waters.

Table 4. Estimated 10-Year Implementation Costs (2026–2035)

(Rounded to nearest thousand dollars)

Program Area	Estimated Annual Investment (2025 Dollars)	10-Year Total (2025 Dollars)	10-Year Inflation-Adjusted Total (2.5 % Annual Increase)	Typical Funding Sources
Education & Outreach	\$18 000 / yr	\$180 000	≈ \$210 000	City assessments, Dakota SWCD, BWSR Clean Water Fund, grants
Cost-Share & Partnerships	\$12 000 / yr	\$120 000	≈ \$140 000	WMO cost-share budget, city matches, Clean Water Fund grants
Monitoring & Data Support	\$5 000 / yr	\$50 000	≈ \$58 000	MPCA Citizen Monitoring Program, city programs, WMO funds
Administration & Reporting	\$15 000 / yr	\$150 000	≈ \$175 000	City assessments (operating budget)
Plan Evaluation & Update Reserve	\$3 000 / yr	\$30 000	≈ \$35 000	City assessments, carryover reserves, BWSR planning grants
Total Estimated 10-Year Cost	≈ \$53 000 / yr	≈ \$530 000 (2025 \$)	≈ \$620 000 – \$630 000 (adjusted)	Combined city assessments, partner

Program Area	Estimated Annual Investment (2025 Dollars)	10-Year Total (2025 Dollars)	10-Year Inflation-Adjusted Total (2.5 % Annual Increase)	Typical Funding Sources
				contributions, and grants