

## PRAP

### Performance Review and Assistance Program

#### 2011 Level II Review:

**Wild Rice WD** (*Mahnomen, Clay, Norman, Becker, Clearwater, Polk Counties*)

#### Why BWSR did this review

BWSR conducts Level II performance reviews to help local government water management entities to be the best they can be in plan implementation and overall operational effectiveness. In 2011 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of seven different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the Wild Rice WD because they are approaching the time to update their 10-year watershed management plan.

This document includes findings and recommendations to enhance the overall operation and effectiveness of the district. The board of managers is responsible for taking any actions they deem necessary in response to the findings and recommendations in this report.

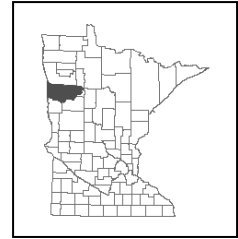
## Wild Rice Watershed District Summary of Performance Review Results

### What BWSR Found

The WRWD finds itself in the position of having managers and an administrator who were all appointed to their positions after the current watershed management plan was developed.

Consequently, the managers are not unanimous in their support of the plan goals and objectives.

This lack of consensus on the priorities of the watershed district is a factor that may be affecting the board's expressed difficulty in implementing flood damage reduction projects.



It is not uncommon for other watershed districts to face such issues in their project development/implementation, but in the Wild Rice it seems this lack of a common agenda about how best to manage the district's resources is a particular liability. Most of the successes in project implementation that the staff identified are the result of efforts by former managers.

The managers do a good job of pursuing options, investigating alternatives on projects, and taking advantage of their experienced district engineer. Also, the district provides good financial support for and works well with the soil and water conservation districts in their watershed, particularly the Norman SWCD.

### Action Items (need short-term attention)

- Annual report: submitted by mid-year
- Rules: date of last revision or review
- Website: content compliant
- Communication piece: sent within last 12 months

### Commendations (show exemplary performance)

- ★ Administrator on staff
- ★ Staff training: orientation & cont. ed. plan
- ★ Public drainage records: meet modernization guidelines
- ★ Implementation and/or strategic review every 2-3 yrs
- ★ Website: contains additional content
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input: within last 5 yrs
- ★ Coordination with County Board and City/Twp officials
- ★ Partnerships: cooperative projects/tasks done with neighboring LGUs.

Four recommendations offered to the board of managers.