



## STAFF REPORT

DATE: November 10, 2020

### **DISCUSSION**

**AGENDA ITEM:** Flooding Discussion

**SUBMITTED BY:** Kristina Handt, City Administrator

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#### **BACKGROUND:**

A number of properties experienced flooding issues this spring/summer due to the high ground water levels. The city council last discussed flooding issues at their February work session. Since that time the city has provided sand and bags to Lake Elmo property owners, assisted Valley Branch Watershed District (VBWD) in the pumping of two ponds-Legion Ave and Reid Park, provided information to Cimarron management about flooding, and attended a tour hosted by the county in July of flooded areas in Lake Elmo. At the tour it was mentioned the county and watershed district would be having a work session to discuss next steps. We have invited the county and watershed to this work session to provide an update to the council.

#### **ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL:**

Receive update from Washington County and Valley Branch Watershed District and provide feedback as appropriate.

#### **PROPOSAL DETAILS/ANALYSIS:**

Per the watershed district, the typical flood management options are usually grouped into 1) reduce the runoff coming into the basin (e.g., divert, hold back, etc.) to lower the flood level, 2) create an outlet to lower the flood level, and/or 3) remove or structurally protect the problem structures from the floodplain (e.g., raise, fill basements, berm, remove, etc.).

The VBWD began the process to amend their plan in September to allow for the purchase of flooded property on Klawitter Pond and Freidrich's Pond in Lake Elmo. These were both visited during the tour in July.

The VBWD is also preparing a work plan to submit with an application to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the feasibility of creating permanent outlets from several landlocked basins, most within the City of Lake Elmo. The work plan is not expected to be completed until the end of this year. The study will involve stakeholders, including the city of Lake Elmo and Washington County, and will likely take at least a year to complete. If VBWD orders a construction project, another Plan amendment would be needed.

Funding for the study and pumping of areas in Lake Elmo is included in the draft 2021 VBWD budget.

#### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

NA

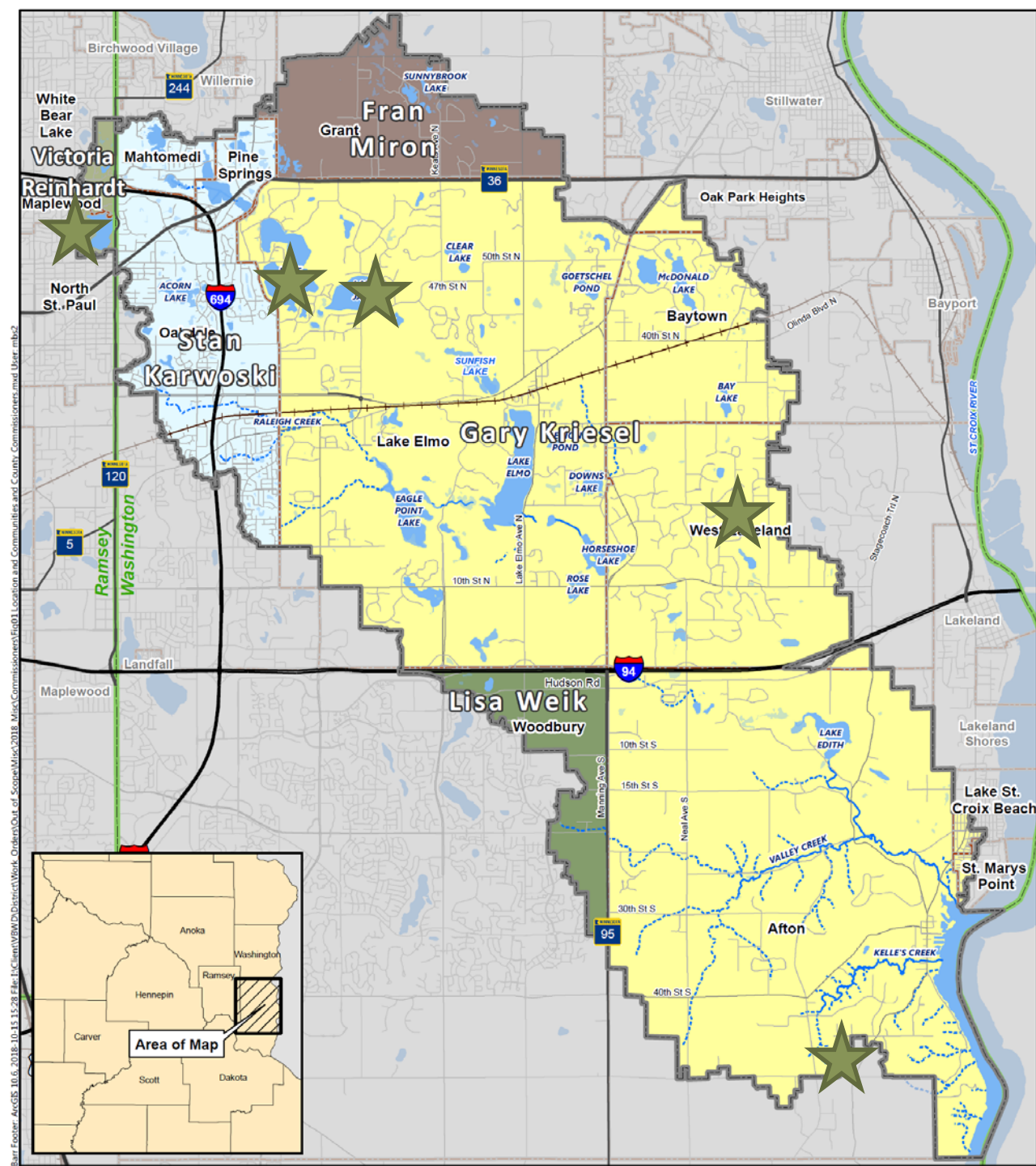
#### **ATTACHMENT:**

- 2021 VBWD Budget



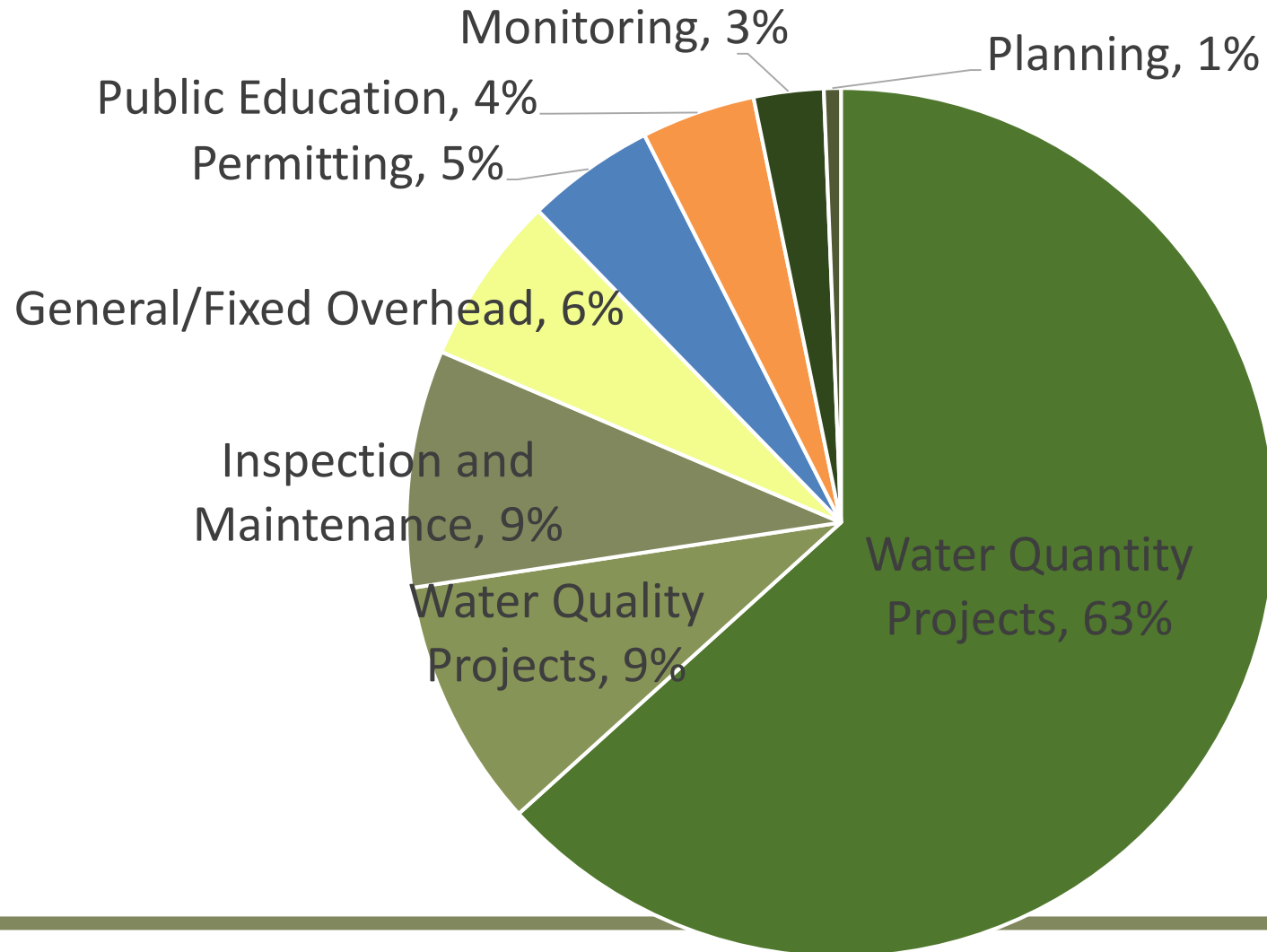
# Valley Branch Watershed District 2021 Levy and Budget Overview

October 2020



John Hamerly—Lake Elmo  
Ed Marchan, Treasurer—West Lakeland  
Dave Sewell, Vice President—Lake Elmo  
Jill Lucas, President—Afton  
Rick Gelbmann, Secretary—North St. Paul

# Valley Branch Watershed District 2021 Budget





	2020	2021
Water Quantity Projects	\$1,350,972	\$2,508,400
Water Quality Projects	552,000	368,000
Basin, Stream, and Groundwater Monitoring	111,000	103,000
Inspection and Maintenance	415,000	350,000
Public Education	120,000	168,000
Permitting	170,000	190,000
Planning	10,000	25,000
General/Fixed Overhead	250,000	250,000
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>\$2,978,972</b>	<b>\$3,962,400</b>
Estimated Carryover	\$711,401	\$1,343,100
Estimated Revenue from Grants	293,504	243,000
Levy	1,974,067	2,376,300
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$2,978,972</b>	<b>\$3,962,400</b>
<i>Potential Bond (If bond obtained, 2020 expenses would increase. Carryover expected to higher.)</i>	\$5,115,000	
<b>Total Revenue with Bond</b>	<b>\$8,093,972</b>	





	2021
<b>Water Quantity Projects</b>	<b>\$2,508,400</b>
Emergency Fund	\$50,000
Home Buyouts/Floodproofing	\$202,600
Carryover from Bond for Future Projects	\$374,800
Payment on 2019 Bond	\$226,000
Payment on 2020 Bond	\$315,000
Watershed Modeling	\$100,000
Feasibility Study for Permanent Outlets at Landlocked Basins (Manning Avenue corridor basins (\$390,000), Goose Lake (\$29,000), four other basins at \$130,000/basin)	\$940,000
Pumping at Legion Pond, Reid Park Ponds, Friedrich's Pond, Downs Lake/Eden Park Pond	\$300,000

# Tax Impact of Watershed Districts covering Washington County



Watershed District	2020 Estimated Tax Paid to Watershed District	
	\$250,000 Property	\$400,000 Property
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake	\$126	\$214
Brown's Creek	\$114	\$193
Valley Branch	\$81	\$137
Ramsey-Washington Metro	\$78	\$132
Carnelian Marine St. Croix	\$72	\$122
	\$17	\$29
South Washington	(plus fee of \$41, \$47, \$49, or \$62)	(plus fee of \$41, \$47, \$49, or \$62)
Rice Creek	\$41	\$70
Average (assuming SWWD total is \$58 for \$250K and \$91 for \$400K)	\$81	\$137

\*Based on Washington County's tax impact worksheet calculator

\*\*The South Washington Watershed District fees might be different than listed

\*\*\*The estimated tax impact of the 2021 VBWD levy would be \$95 on a \$250k property and \$161 on \$400K property