

FINAL REPORT SUMMARY

PRAP

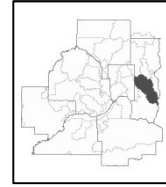
**Performance Review and Assistance Program
2009 Level II Review:
Valley Branch Watershed District** (*Ramsey and Washington Counties*)

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 2009 BWSR is conducting Level II performance reviews of nine different local water management entities.

BWSR has conducted a routine Level II performance review of the **Valley Branch Watershed District** because they are near the midpoint in implementing their 10-year local water management plan.

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

Valley Branch Watershed District Summary of Performance Review Results



What BWSR Found

The VBWD is successfully implementing an ambitious mix of watershed management activities from their 2005 Watershed Plan. Implementation is well-balanced between administrative responsibilities and plan execution. The district benefits from a strong and involved board, focused on achieving goals. The VBWD is a competent and ambitious organization that achieves good projects using skillful watershed management.

The VBWD meets almost all of BWSR's basic and high performance standards for metro area watershed districts. While the district adequately meets basic responsibilities for coordination and communication, their many accomplishments are not broadly recognized.

BWSR identified two action items that need additional attention: encouraging the communities lacking district approved local water plans to complete their plans and to build on the recent citizen advisory committee start-up.

The Valley Branch Watershed District is commended for meeting these high performance standards.

- ★ Board training: orientation and continuing ed
- ★ Plan goals and objectives guide annual budgeting
- ★ Water quality tracked for priority water bodies
- ★ Website: additional content beyond minimum
- ★ Obtain stakeholder input within the last 5 years
- ★ Track outcomes for public information/education objectives
- ★ Coordination with local officials by managers
- ★ Partnerships: cooperative projects with local gov'ts

BWSR made recommendations regarding completion of local water plan approval, continuing progress on the citizen advisory committee, and considering how to increase the visibility of the district's accomplishments and priorities among the district's clientele. The district's board of managers submitted written comments on the draft of this report.