



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide fiscal years 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) program grants to MN Counties.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) program provides assistance to local governments to implement statutory natural resource programs of Comprehensive Local Water Management (LWM), the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shoreland Management, BWSR Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) to rural landowners and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) SSTS.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Section 4(a) appropriated fiscal year (FY) 2022 SSTS and FY 2022 and 2023 LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Natural Resources Block Grant funds to BWSR.
3. The MPCA will transfer 2022 SSTS program funds to BWSR to be allocated with the FY 2022 NRBG.
4. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with this appropriation.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 8, 2021 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

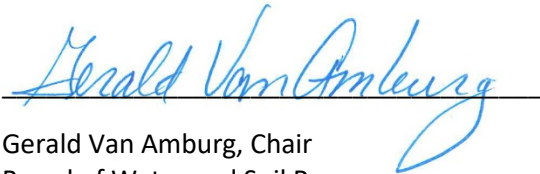
1. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with counties meeting the NRBG Program requirements and consistent with the attached table *Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant allocations*, for grant programs funded by BWSR appropriations, as determined by the BWSR and DNR, and totaling:

Grant	FY 2022	FY 2023
LWM	\$1,139,152	\$1,139,152
WCA	\$1,906,479	\$1,906,479
DNR Shoreland	\$377,369	\$377,369
BWSR SSTS	\$1,399,750	-

2. Resolves that for LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland programs, grantees have the flexibility to shift the amount of grant between these three BWSR programs consistent with local program needs.
3. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.
4. Rescinds Board Order #21-17.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this September 22, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Attachments: *Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant allocation*

Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants					
COUNTY	LWM	WCA	SHORELAND	BWSR	MPCA SSTS
AITKIN	\$13,888	\$33,240	\$10,786		TBD
ANOKA	\$8,094	\$63,191	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
BECKER	\$13,071	\$24,237	\$10,739		TBD
BELTRAMI	\$13,688	\$64,600	\$5,505	\$25,450	TBD
BENTON	\$13,271	\$31,598	\$3,286	\$25,450	TBD
BIG STONE	\$15,711	\$8,777	\$2,690	\$25,450	TBD
BLUE EARTH	\$10,023	\$18,178	\$3,243		TBD
BROWN	\$13,633	\$8,778	\$2,675		TBD
CARLTON	\$13,349	\$22,507	\$3,927	\$25,450	TBD
CARVER	\$8,094	\$31,599	\$2,615		TBD
CASS	\$10,502	\$44,766	\$10,699	\$25,450	TBD
CHIPPEWA	\$14,881	\$8,778	\$2,625	\$25,450	TBD
CHISAGO	\$11,243	\$27,700	\$4,943	\$25,450	TBD
CLAY	\$12,673	\$16,447	\$2,944		TBD
CLEARWATER	\$15,256	\$19,909	\$3,163	\$25,450	TBD
COOK	\$14,832	\$12,985	\$4,196	\$25,450	TBD
COTTONWOOD	\$14,844	\$8,778	\$2,772		TBD
CROW WING	\$8,094	\$38,088	\$19,128	\$25,450	TBD
DAKOTA	\$8,094	\$52,804	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
DODGE	\$14,484	\$16,444	\$2,675	\$25,450	TBD
DOUGLAS	\$12,077	\$21,641	\$8,544	\$25,450	TBD
FARIBAULT	\$14,550	\$8,778	\$2,735	\$25,450	TBD
FILLMORE	\$14,278	\$8,778	\$2,692		TBD
FREEBORN	\$13,120	\$8,778	\$3,139	\$25,450	TBD
GOODHUE	\$9,433	\$16,447	\$2,772		TBD
GRANT	\$15,503	\$13,850	\$3,056		TBD
HENNEPIN	\$8,094	\$57,133			TBD
HOUSTON	\$14,699	\$12,985	\$2,725		TBD
HUBBARD	\$13,245	\$25,103	\$8,434		TBD
ISANTI	\$13,251	\$25,103	\$4,004	\$25,450	TBD
ITASCA	\$10,447	\$44,148	\$10,107	\$25,450	TBD
JACKSON	\$14,717	\$8,778	\$3,011		TBD
KANABEC	\$15,071	\$25,103	\$4,090		TBD
KANDIYOHI	\$12,023	\$21,641	\$6,753	\$25,450	TBD
KITSON	\$15,279	\$16,447	\$2,647	\$25,450	TBD
KOOCHICHING	\$15,025	\$28,913	\$2,722		TBD
LAC QUI PARLE	\$15,453	\$8,778	\$2,629	\$25,450	TBD
LAKE	\$14,736	\$16,447	\$4,614		TBD
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$15,809	\$33,760	\$3,492	\$25,450	TBD
LE SUEUR	\$13,501	\$16,447	\$4,918		TBD
LINCOLN	\$15,488	\$8,778	\$2,768	\$25,450	TBD
LYON	\$13,689	\$8,778	\$2,738		TBD
MAHNOMEN	\$15,838	\$12,985	\$3,360	\$25,450	TBD

MARSHALL	\$14,993	\$20,308	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
MARTIN	\$13,697	\$8,778	\$3,024	\$25,450	TBD
MCLEOD	\$12,642	\$16,447	\$2,988		TBD
MEEKER	\$13,990	\$19,044	\$4,735		TBD
MILLE LACS	\$14,361	\$22,507	\$4,808	\$25,450	TBD
MORRISON	\$13,609	\$30,298	\$3,945		TBD
MOWER	\$13,047	\$12,985	\$3,264	\$25,450	TBD
MURRAY	\$15,050	\$8,778	\$3,221	\$25,450	TBD
NICOLLET	\$13,156	\$16,447	\$2,682		TBD
NOBLES	\$14,402	\$8,778	\$2,661		TBD
NORMAN	\$15,541	\$12,985	\$2,624	\$25,450	TBD
OLMSTED	\$8,094	\$25,103	\$3,149	\$25,450	TBD
OTTER TAIL	\$9,824	\$59,729	\$17,747	\$25,450	TBD
PENNINGTON	\$15,341	\$16,447	\$2,833	\$25,450	TBD
PINE	\$13,855	\$34,626	\$5,899	\$25,450	TBD
PIPESTONE	\$15,247	\$8,778	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
POLK	\$13,468	\$21,641	\$3,457	\$25,450	TBD
POPE	\$15,095	\$15,581	\$4,250	\$25,450	TBD
RAMSEY CD	\$8,094	\$16,677			TBD
RED LAKE	\$15,857	\$12,985	\$2,873	\$25,450	TBD
REDWOOD	\$14,472	\$10,387	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
RENVILLE	\$14,047	\$8,778	\$2,662	\$25,450	TBD
RICE	\$10,457	\$24,238	\$4,189		TBD
ROCK	\$15,175	\$8,778	\$2,615		TBD
ROSEAU	\$15,131	\$24,238	\$2,697	\$25,450	TBD
SCOTT	\$8,094	\$41,551	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
SHERBURNE	\$8,094	\$31,599	\$4,872	\$25,450	TBD
SIBLEY	\$14,615	\$13,452	\$2,700	\$25,450	TBD
ST. LOUIS	\$8,094	\$75,657	\$19,936	\$25,450	TBD
STEARNS	\$8,094	\$45,879	\$9,003	\$25,450	TBD
STEELE	\$12,460	\$12,118	\$2,867	\$25,450	TBD
STEVENS	\$15,305	\$8,778	\$2,728	\$25,450	TBD
SWIFT	\$15,051	\$12,118	\$2,744		TBD
TODD	\$14,676	\$21,641	\$4,933	\$25,450	TBD
TRAVERSE	\$15,585	\$8,778	\$2,804	\$25,450	TBD
WABASHA	\$14,177	\$12,118	\$3,518		TBD
WADENA	\$15,390	\$19,909	\$3,084	\$25,450	TBD
WASECA	\$14,271	\$12,118	\$3,006	\$25,450	TBD
WASHINGTON	\$8,094	\$41,551	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
WATONWAN	\$15,108	\$8,778	\$2,733		TBD
WILKIN	\$15,232	\$8,778	\$2,632	\$25,450	TBD
WINONA	\$11,847	\$12,118	\$2,652		TBD
WRIGHT	\$8,094	\$42,416	\$9,339		TBD
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$15,175	\$8,778	\$2,629	\$25,450	TBD
TOTALS	\$1,139,152	\$1,906,479	\$377,369	\$1,399,750	TBD

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 SWCD Capacity Grants Program

PURPOSE

Provide Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Fund Capacity Grant Funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Capacity Program supports implementation of the various duties and responsibilities of SWCDs as provided for in Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103C.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 6(q), appropriated \$12 million in Fiscal Year 2022 SWCD Capacity Program funds.
3. This appropriation limits funds for the Board's administration of the program to two percent.
4. The appropriation includes language that requires providing an increase in the base amount of \$100,000 per year, and for remaining funds to be distributed to each SWCD based on county allocations to SWCDs and on the amount of private land and public waters.
5. The attached allocation table includes: a) a \$107,500 per SWCD base amount, b) 10% of the funds to the land and water portion using a distribution of 75% based on private land and a distribution of 25% based on public waters, c) an amount based on the 2020 county allocation to the SWCD, and d) an attenuation cap of $\pm 7.5\%$ as compared to a SWCD's FY21 Capacity grant.
6. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 21, 2021 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocations in the attached table which includes: a) a \$107,500 base amount per eligible SWCD and Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, b) 10% of the funds to the land & water portion using a distribution of 75% based on private land and 25% based on public waters per each eligible SWCD and Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, c) an amount per SWCD based on the 2020 county allocation to the SWCD, consistent with the attached table and d) an attenuation cap of $\pm 7.5\%$ as compared to a SWCD's FY21 Capacity grant .
2. Establishes that the 2022 Capacity Grants awarded pursuant to this resolution will conform to SWCD Conservation Delivery and Capacity Grants Policy.
3. Acknowledges the two percent limit prescribed in statute for agency costs.
4. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.

Dated this September 22, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Attachments: FY2022 SWCD Capacity Grants Allocation Table

FY2022 SWCD Capacity Grants Allocation Table

SWCD Name	FY22 Base Grant	Land & Water Allocation	County Contribution Allocation	Total FY22 Allocation
AITKIN	\$107,500	\$17,892	\$8,514	\$133,906
ANOKA	\$107,500	\$9,312	\$14,488	\$131,300
BECKER	\$107,500	\$23,429	\$10,715	\$141,644
BELTRAMI	\$107,500	\$20,074	\$7,300	\$134,874
BENTON	\$107,500	\$7,056	\$15,065	\$129,621
BIG STONE	\$107,500	\$9,533	\$5,661	\$122,694
BLUE EARTH	\$107,500	\$13,502	\$7,043	\$128,045
BROWN	\$107,500	\$10,541	\$13,317	\$131,358
CARLTON	\$107,500	\$12,036	\$9,606	\$129,142
CARVER	\$107,500	\$7,339	\$16,900	\$131,739
CASS	\$107,500	\$22,766	\$7,234	\$137,500
CHIPPEWA	\$107,500	\$9,974	\$5,599	\$123,073
CHISAGO	\$107,500	\$7,886	\$18,078	\$133,464
CLAY	\$107,500	\$17,897	\$13,758	\$139,155
CLEARWATER	\$107,500	\$12,458	\$4,363	\$124,321
COOK	\$107,500	\$14,424	\$5,946	\$127,870
COTTONWOOD	\$107,500	\$11,299	\$9,335	\$128,134
CROW WING	\$107,500	\$18,571	\$7,717	\$133,788
DAKOTA	\$107,500	\$10,368	\$15,848	\$133,716
DODGE	\$107,500	\$7,476	\$5,881	\$120,857
DOUGLAS	\$107,500	\$13,711	\$15,494	\$136,705
FARIBAUT	\$107,500	\$12,382	\$5,356	\$125,238
FILLMORE	\$107,500	\$14,806	\$2,038	\$124,344
FREEBORN	\$107,500	\$11,671	\$11,511	\$130,682
GOODHUE	\$107,500	\$13,548	\$25,160	\$146,208
GRANT	\$107,500	\$10,529	\$8,959	\$126,988
HENNEPIN	\$107,500	\$13,145	\$0	\$120,645
HUBBARD	\$107,500	\$12,984	\$2,426	\$122,910
ISANTI	\$107,500	\$8,146	\$34,876	\$150,522
ITASCA	\$107,500	\$30,986	\$308	\$138,794
JACKSON	\$107,500	\$12,034	\$1,419	\$120,953
KANABEC	\$107,500	\$8,782	\$8,124	\$124,406
KANDIYOHI	\$107,500	\$15,125	\$9,605	\$132,230
KITSON	\$107,500	\$16,790	\$2,043	\$126,333
KOOCHICHING	\$107,500	\$17,477	\$3,564	\$128,541
LAC QUI PARLE	\$107,500	\$13,226	\$7,384	\$128,110
LAKE	\$107,500	\$21,120	\$3,611	\$132,231
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$107,500	\$7,603	\$6,906	\$122,009
LE SUEUR	\$107,500	\$8,606	\$14,549	\$130,655
LINCOLN	\$107,500	\$9,960	\$9,435	\$126,895

SWCD Name	FY22 Base Grant	Land & Water Allocation	County Contribution Allocation	Total FY22 Allocation
LYON	\$107,500	\$12,202	\$0	\$119,702
MAHNOMEN	\$107,500	\$9,746	\$6,761	\$124,007
MARSHALL	\$107,500	\$27,178	\$6,101	\$140,779
MARTIN	\$107,500	\$12,617	\$6,353	\$126,470
MC LEOD	\$107,500	\$8,904	\$5,743	\$122,147
MEEKER	\$107,500	\$11,772	\$8,729	\$128,001
MILLE LACS	\$107,500	\$8,642	\$8,255	\$124,397
MORRISON	\$107,500	\$18,163	\$8,251	\$133,914
MOWER	\$107,500	\$12,074	\$11,144	\$130,718
MURRAY	\$107,500	\$12,845	\$12,346	\$132,691
NICOLLET	\$107,500	\$7,658	\$14,787	\$129,945
NOBLES	\$107,500	\$12,895	\$7,234	\$127,629
NORMAN	\$107,500	\$16,109	\$0	\$123,609
OLMSTED	\$107,500	\$11,352	\$15,304	\$134,156
OTTERTAIL EAST	\$107,500	\$19,418	\$9,058	\$135,976
OTTERTAIL WEST	\$107,500	\$20,738	\$7,991	\$136,229
PENNINGTON	\$107,500	\$9,905	\$7,065	\$124,470
PINE	\$107,500	\$19,447	\$3,418	\$130,365
PIPESTONE	\$107,500	\$8,309	\$9,121	\$124,930
POLK EAST	\$107,500	\$13,903	\$1,791	\$123,194
POLK WEST	\$107,500	\$20,388	\$0	\$127,888
POPE	\$107,500	\$13,634	\$4,602	\$125,736
RAMSEY	\$107,500	\$3,434	\$0	\$110,934
RED LAKE	\$107,500	\$7,639	\$7,670	\$122,809
REDWOOD	\$107,500	\$14,870	\$6,290	\$128,660
RENVILLE	\$107,500	\$16,015	\$7,863	\$131,378
RICE	\$107,500	\$9,185	\$14,008	\$130,693
ROCK	\$107,500	\$8,472	\$2,340	\$118,312
ROOT RIVER	\$107,500	\$9,922	\$7,745	\$125,167
ROSEAU	\$107,500	\$20,878	\$6,058	\$134,436
SCOTT	\$107,500	\$7,262	\$49,533	\$164,295
SHERBURNE	\$107,500	\$7,673	\$17,336	\$132,509
SIBLEY	\$107,500	\$10,157	\$5,963	\$123,620
ST. LOUIS N.	\$107,500	\$48,257	\$3,261	\$159,018
ST. LOUIS S.	\$107,500	\$18,091	\$4,340	\$129,931
STEARNS	\$107,500	\$25,195	\$10,672	\$143,367
STEELE	\$107,500	\$6,895	\$9,499	\$123,894
STEVENS	\$107,500	\$10,178	\$6,919	\$124,597
SWIFT	\$107,500	\$12,739	\$4,623	\$124,862
TODD	\$107,500	\$17,146	\$978	\$125,624
TRAVERSE	\$107,500	\$9,890	\$6,903	\$124,293
WABASHA	\$107,500	\$9,235	\$2,964	\$119,699
WADENA	\$107,500	\$8,614	\$8,073	\$124,187

SWCD Name	FY22 Base Grant	Land & Water Allocation	County Contribution Allocation	Total FY22 Allocation
WASECA	\$107,500	\$7,502	\$3,920	\$118,922
WASHINGTON	\$107,500	\$8,316	\$16,538	\$132,354
WATONWAN	\$107,500	\$7,874	\$24,176	\$139,550
WILKIN	\$107,500	\$11,962	\$7,690	\$127,152
WINONA	\$107,500	\$10,927	\$9,215	\$127,642
WRIGHT	\$107,500	\$13,464	\$15,142	\$136,106
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$107,500	\$13,838	\$10,416	\$131,754
ALLOCATED TOTALS	\$9,675,000	\$1,199,993	\$799,325	\$11,674,318



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grants Approval

PURPOSE

Approval of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Biennial Work Plan and fiscal years (FY) 2022 and 2023 General Fund Floodplain Management Grants to Area II.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4(g), appropriated \$140,000 for each fiscal year 2022 and 2023 for administrative and implementation efforts of Area II within their nine-county project area.
2. The Area II Floodplain Management Grant has a 25 percent match requirement which has been secured by Area II.
3. The Southern Regional Committee, at their September 14, 2021 meeting, discussed and reviewed the Area II Biennial Work Plan and grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the Area II FY 2022 and 2023 Biennial Work Plan.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2022 and 2023 Area II Floodplain Management Grant consistent with the provisions of the appropriation and this Board Order.
3. Authorizes staff to review and approve the FY 2023 annual update to the Biennial Work Plan prior to payment of the FY 2023 grant funds.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: September 22, 2021

Attachment: *Area II FY 2022 and 2023 Biennial Work Plan*

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on July 8, 2021 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #18-14, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan.

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in February of 2019 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Beltrami County, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Cass County, Cass SWCD, Clearwater County, Clearwater SWCD, Hubbard County, Hubbard SWCD, Itasca County and Itasca SWCD.
2. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan program. And, on March 28, 2018 Board Decision #18-14 adopted Version 2.0 of the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.

Nature of the Watershed. The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed is located in north central Minnesota and is rich in surface water resources, with approximately 685 river miles and more than 1,000 lakes totaling 180,375 acres. This abundance of water resources includes some of Minnesota's most famous lakes and streams including Cass and Winnibigoshish, two of the ten largest inland lakes in the state. The land cover in the Watershed is dominated by natural areas with a few pockets of concentrated development. Forest cover most of the Watershed (42%), followed by wetlands and open water (37%). Agricultural activity is moderate, accounting for approximately 10% of the available acres,

while urban areas account for just 3%. The largest city, Bemidji, has a population of 14,942 (2016). Other sizable cities in the Watershed include Cohasset (population 2,728), Deer River (population 933), and Cass Lake (population 749). Approximately 44% of the land is privately owned, with the remaining portion being state, county, federal, or tribal land. The total population count of the Watershed is around 55,715 people, and there are an estimated 586 farms.

3. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies, and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses, and drinking water sources in the watershed.
4. **Plan Review.** On July 8, 2021, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Decision #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA did not confirm receipt of the Plan or provide comments.
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan and had no further comments. MDH looks forward to continuing in this partnership by assisting with implementation of the approved plan.
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the formal review and did not submit additional comments. The agency recommended approval of the Plan and looks forward to continued participation and support throughout the implementation of this protection focused plan.
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the formal review and did not submit additional comments. The agency recommended approval of the Plan and commended the efforts of the plan partners.
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not confirm receipt of the Plan or provide comments.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Regional Staff: BWSR staff provided comments during the 60-day review commending the Partnership for inclusion of initial priority issues submitted by BWSR and other state agency staff. All comments submitted throughout the planning process were adequately addressed in the final Plan and BWSR staff recommended approval of the Plan.
5. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
 - The planning partners chose to write the Plan themselves rather than using the services of a consultant. The Beltrami and Hubbard SWCDs were the lead preparers of the Plan with contributions from Technical Service Area 8 staff, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota DNR, MPCA and BWSR staff.

- The Plan followed BWSR’s Suggested Boundary Map. The planning process identified four different Implementation Regions that were based on geographic similarities of land use, current level of protection, and actions from primary and secondary issues.
 - The Plan development process generated 9 issues using a combination of existing reports, data, and stakeholder input. The issues were ranked based on responses from the public and the Advisory Committee. The highest priority issues were Lake Stewardship, Forest Stewardship, Urban Stewardship and Agricultural Stewardship.
 - A major component of the Plan is maintaining current forest cover up to 75% for prioritized lake drainage areas (lake watersheds). Research by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified forest cover as a crucial element in protecting water quality. This Plan also focuses on issues developed on a case-by-case basis throughout the Watershed based on impact to water resources, termed resource stewardship. Geographic information and multi-criteria data analysis were used to identify priority implementation efforts based on risk and value attributes of the resource.
 - The Plan is written to include issue chapters which identifies the priority areas, measurable goals, and targeted implementation schedule for each issue. The Priority Issues Implementation Summary consolidates the goals and examples of implementation into the planning regions.
 - The estimated costs for Plan implementation including staff, projects, programs, data collection, and outreach amount to just over 50 million dollars over the next 10 years. The largest expenditures in this Plan are due to actions implementing the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) and conservation easements which will be funded through other state programs outside Watershed Based Implementation Funding.
 - The Plan partners incorporated a workload analysis into the implementation tables which has been helpful to assess local staff capacity to implement the Plan.
6. **Northern Regional Committee.** On September 1, 2021, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Committee Chair Rich Sve, Theresa Ebbenga, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Jeff Berg, and LeRoy Ose. Board staff in attendance were Northern Regional Manager Ryan Hughes, and Board Conservationist Chad Severts. The representatives from the Partnership were Zachrie Gutknecht, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff; Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD staff; Calvin Saari, Itasca SWCD Supervisor; Ted Van Kempen, Hubbard County Commissioner; Craig Gaasvig, Beltrami County Commissioner; David Peterson, Cass SWCD Supervisor; and Sam Christenson, Beltrami SWCD Supervisor. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee’s decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
7. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until September 22, 2031.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi Headwaters Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #18-14.

3. The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #18-14.
5. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed, dated September 2021.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Date: September 22, 2021

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated July 2021 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The Middle Mississippi WMO was established in 1985 and included the University of Minnesota. The first watershed management plan was published in December 1986. In 1997, a Joint and Cooperative Agreement, more commonly entitled “Joint Powers Agreement” across the metropolitan area, was entered into by the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, St. Anthony, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The agreement changed the name to Mississippi WMO and replaced the agreement executed in 1985 that created the original organization. In 1999, the MWMO’s legal boundary was redrawn to exclude the City of Falcon Heights, which is now a part of the Capitol Region Watershed District. The second watershed management plan was approved by the Board in 2000. In 2001 the legislature granted MWMO the authority as a “special purpose taxing district” under Minnesota Statutes Section 275.066. In April 2011, the third-generation watershed management plan was approved by the Board. In 2012, following the dissolution of the Six Cities WMO, the Cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop were added.
2. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The MWMO is located in Hennepin, Anoka and Ramsey Counties in the heart of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound on the west by the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Organizations and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south by Minnehaha Creek Watershed

District, on the east by the Capitol Region Watershed District, and on the north and east by the Rice Creek Watershed District. The MWMO consists of portions of the Cities of Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Paul, Fridley, Columbia Heights, and all of Hilltop. An additional member of the MWMO is the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The current area is approximately 40 square miles most of which is contained within the City of Minneapolis. The majority of the MWMO has been developed for commercial, industrial or residential uses and covered in impervious surfaces. The Mississippi River is the primary water resource in the MWMO, however other water resources include Loring Park Pond – an eight acre, annually stocked recreational fishing lake, Mallard Marsh, Kasota Ponds, Sullivan Lake, and Highland Lake. There are three dams with navigational locks on the Mississippi River within the MWMO. Subwatersheds in the region that were historically defined by topography are now defined by extensive networks of stormwater tunnels and pipes. Bassett Creek flows by way of a tunnel through the MWMO.

3. **Plan Development and Review.** As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. In July 2019, stakeholders were identified, and notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. The public input was accepted at the November 2019 MWMO Board meeting plan and staff began drafting the plan which included opportunities for members of the Citizen Advisory Committee to guide the update. The 60-day draft Plan was released in October 2020 which generated 169 comments. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. The MWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on July 13, 2021. Two comments were made during the public hearing which were addressed by the MWMO. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on July 22, 2021. No additional comments were received during the 90-day review period.
4. **Local Review.** The MWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government and other partners for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Fridley, City of Minneapolis, City of St. Anthony, City of St. Paul, Hennepin County, Anoka Conservation District, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Rice Creek Watershed District, and the Friends of the Mississippi River. The MWMO adequately responded to all comments and made necessary revisions.
5. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council noted a list of priorities with issues that should be addressed through projects and actions. The Council also requested a stronger connection between activities in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the goals and strategies. The MWMO noted the comments and revised the Plan as necessary.
6. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not have any comments.
7. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** The MDH did not provide comments.
8. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR recommended using the Watershed Health Assessment Framework tool to assist in identifying gaps, prioritizing actions, and examining opportunities. The DNR also provided recommendations for further actions that the MWMO could take part in that are directly identified in the Plan. The MWMO noted each of the comments and made the necessary revisions.

9. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA requested updates to information and data included in the Plan. The MWMO made revisions and noted that it now includes the most current information.
10. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** DOT requested the removal of language regarding the DOT's local water plan requirements as well as language from an activity in the CIP where practices are inconsistent with DOT's standards. The MWMO removed the language as suggested.
11. **Board Review.** Board staff requested clarification on the CIP actions regarding funding. MWMO provided additional detail on this. BWSR noted that the ten focus areas of the plan remain unchanged from the third-generation plan. MWMO responded that they did reassess these and are still the highest priorities. BWSR also commended the MWMO for their high prioritization of the Creation and Implementation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.
12. **Plan Summary.** The Plan has ten focus areas that are directly in-line with that of an urban watershed which include water quality, ecosystem health, and emergency preparedness & response. The Plan identifies a Purpose, Challenges, Target audiences, and Indicators & Measures of Performance for each Focus Area. The MWMO implements its Plan through the following work areas: Capital Projects, Outreach, Stewardship Grants, Communications, Monitoring, Planning, and Watershed Assessment.

The Plan acknowledges the benefits of collaboration in avoiding redundancies and expanding off MWMO partners to further leverage resources. This recognition as a key principle has allowed the MWMO to move to a systems-based approach where the interconnectedness of their work with less traditional watershed partners has realized benefits of other systems (e.g., energy, food, transportation, solid waste, cultural, social, and economic) alongside their own.
13. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On September 2, 2021 the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via teleconference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Joe Collins (chair), Jayne Hager Dee, Mark Zabel, Andrea Date, Joel Larson, Melissa Lewis, Steve Robertson, and Grant Wilson. Board staff in attendance were Central Region Manager Marcey Westrick and Board Conservationist Steve Christopher. MWMO Executive Director Doug Snyder and MWMO Planning Principal Dan Kalmon, MWMO Projects and Outreach Director Nancy Stowe, and MWMO Project Planning and Implementation Specialist Brett Eidem were also in attendance. Dan Kalmon provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff provided an overview of how the Plan met all statutory and rule requirements and recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.

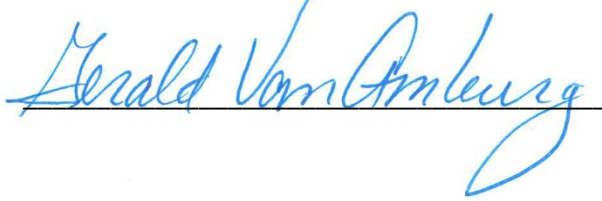
3. The MWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the MWMO's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2031.
4. The MWMO Watershed Management Plan will be effective September 22, 2021 through September 22, 2031.
5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan dated July 2021.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Gerald Van Amblerg", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-41

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art.1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(f) and ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(i) designated funds “acquire and restore permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat” (ML20) and “to acquire and restore land in fee and permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat.” (ML21); and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Pine and Leech Watersheds as important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River which provides high quality riparian and in-stream habitat and which is the source water for numerous Twin City and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the fee title acquisition funds are appropriated to DNR for a direct agreement with the SWCD; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Pine and Leech Watersheds are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds program Phases 1 and 2.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Pine and Leech Rivers Watersheds.

3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for "Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region".
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Riparian Habitat Protection in the Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds program Phases 1 and 2.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-42

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(g) designated funds “to acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat in the Kettle and Snake River watersheds”; and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds as important yet threatened tributaries to the St. Croix River which is a high-quality State and nationally designated Wild and Scenic River; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Snake and Kettle River Watersheds are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-43

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Rum River Watershed Protection

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Clean Water Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2 Sect. 6(l) designated funds “to purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but that are threatened with degradation”; and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Rum River Watershed as one of the most important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River which is the source water for many Twin Cities metropolitan and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Rum River Watershed are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Rum River Watershed Protection program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Rum River Watershed.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-44

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Clean Water Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and,

WHEREAS, the funds have been designated “to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore wetlands and native grassland habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.” and “for permanent conservation easements to protect and restore wetlands and associated uplands”; and,

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, has identified the importance of restoring wetlands and associated uplands; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Wetlands Programs are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

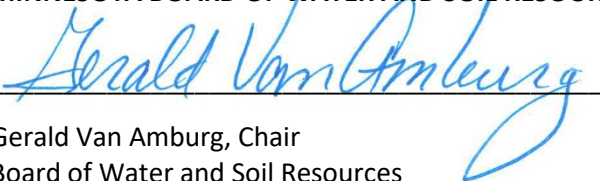
WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommended the following.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM Wetlands program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Wetlands Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-45

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Riparian Programs Authorization: OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program and CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to acquire and restore Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program as provided in Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 2, Subd. 2(g) is to purchase and restore conservation easements on riparian land buffers of at least 50 feet in width to protect, restore and enhance habitat, including by expanding the riparian buffer and floodplain program under the clean water fund for wildlife benefits from buffers on private land; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program as provided in Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6(f) is to develop a pilot working lands floodplain program and to purchase, restore, or preserve riparian land and floodplains adjacent to lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries, by conservation easements or contracts to keep water on the land, to decrease sediment, pollutant, and nutrient transport; reduce hydrologic impacts to surface waters; and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge; and,

WHEREAS, the source of funds for easements enrolled into either the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program or CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program will determine the length of protection (e.g., limited duration or permanent) and allowable activities (e.g., working lands) after enrollment; and,

WHEREAS, the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program and CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program are administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and,

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and,

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement rates; and,

WHEREAS, limited duration and/or working lands easements will utilize a modified RIM easement rate; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the programs warrant an amendment; and

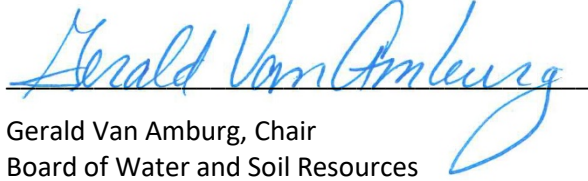
WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources RIM Reserve Committee met on September 08, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program and the CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused in priority areas.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for permanent easements.
4. Utilize a modified RIM easement payment rate structure for limited duration and/or working lands easements.
5. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program and the CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021

Board Resolution # 21-46

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, funds were designated “to acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements along the lower Otter Tail River”; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates; and

WHEREAS, the lands protected in easement under this program are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the lower Otter Tail River corridor.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: September 22, 2021