

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26, 2023**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kurt Beckstrom, Neil Peterson, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Jeff Berg, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Carly Johnson

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Travis Germundson, Matt Fischer, Suzanne Rhees, Dave Weirens, Annie Felix-Gerth, Karli Swenson, Dusty VanThuyne, Dan Shaw, Steve Christopher, Shaina Keseley, Anne Sawyer, Ryan Hughes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jan Voit, MAWD; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Amanda Bilek, Janine Lovold, Keith Mykleseth, Ann Marcelle Lewandowski, Brad Jordahl Redlin, Anna Cates

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

23-18 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Ted Winter, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Jill Crafton noted a couple of corrections in the minutes.

23-19 **MINUTES OF MARCH 22, 2023 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the minutes of March 22, 2023, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

“A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today’s business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by members or staff before any vote.”

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the committee has not met. Noted the performance review of the Executive Director John Jaschke was carried out and a report is included in the day of packet.

Jayne Hager Dee congratulated John Jaschke.

Chair Van Amburg stated Mark Zabel was recognized as Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation District’s Supervisor of Year.

John stated those who are not in-person at the meeting today will receive a paper copy of the Executive Director Performance Review Report in the mail.

Ted Winter asked during their conversations of John’s performance review if there was anything they thought needs to be a priority of John or for the organization. John stated they are working on updating the Strategic Plan. They will present a BWSR Board authorities/responsibilities overview to board members once new members have been appointed.

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke thanked Chair Van Amburg for his membership on the board and presented him with a recognition gift. Stated the legislative is moving along. The bill to increase the per diem rate is likely to pass. This year’s Board Tour will be taking place in Dakota County.

John reviewed the Day of Packet that included Snapshots and the Executive Director’s Performance Review Report.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported the committee has not met.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Rich Sve reported the committee has not met. Travis Germundson reported there are presently four appeals pending. There has been one new appeal filed since the last report.

File 23-3 is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a replacement plan in Lake of the Woods County. The appeal regards the denial of an after-the-fact replacement plan for wetland impacts associated with the placement of a concrete driveway and boat ramp area. A previous decision by staff was upheld under appeal by the County Board of Commissioners and now that decision is being appealed. The appeal has been denied.

Travis gave a buffer compliance status update. Stated there were no significant changes since the last report. There have been six to seven new cases that have been resolved across the state. A new database for tracking and reporting compliance will help keep track of numbers consistently on a month-to-month basis.

Travis thanked Chair VanAmburg for his work.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported they have decision items on the agenda for today. They have been looking at the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) formula and decided not to recommend changes at this time.

Todd Holman thanked Chair VanAmburg for his service.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported they have three decision items on the agenda for today.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins reported they met in March and had an informational meeting on procedures to amend the comprehensive plan to One Watershed One Plan that's in process. They also met in March and had a joint meeting with the Grants Program and Policy Committee. In April they reviewed two comprehensive plans that are on the agenda today.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported the committee has not met. Stated staff have been working on the Wetland Conservation Act Rule and expect to hear from them on how that's been coming along.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel reported the committee has not met. Planning for an in-person meeting in Saint Cloud on May 3rd.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Neil Peterson reported they have not met. Dave Weirens reported there is a subgroup that has been meeting on outlet adequacy.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Jeff Berg reported the Ag bill has passed both Senate and House. At legislature for funding is Forever Green, Soil Health Equipment Grants, Continuous Living Cover Grants, a Pollinator Research Account, and Noxious Weed Grants to local communities. Stated most of the western half of Minnesota is still abnormally dry.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported legislature continues to move along. The Minnesota Groundwater Association is having its spring conference tomorrow with the topic of *A Drinking Water Journey: an exploration of unique public water supplies across Minnesota*. On May 8th there is a forum for private well owners with the topic of *Working Together to Overcome Barriers*.

Stated a petition from some of the local NGOs to the EPA to invoke the emergency powers of the Safe Drinking Water Act. It's to protect citizens of the karst region from imminent and substantial endangerment to public health caused by nitrate contamination of underground sources of drinking water.

John Jaschke asked if there was a specific geography of the petition. Steve stated it was the karst area of southeastern Minnesota. There is a map shown in the petition that will be sent to Rachel Mueller to share.

Jill Crafton asked if a database was started to collect well samples for nitrate. Steve stated there is some talk at the legislature and hopefully the Clean Water Fund appropriations continue but there is nothing in place yet.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported they are working with partners in the state on flood preparedness. Stated at legislature the major difference between the House and the Senate bill is that the House includes the user fee and regulatory fee increases they requested while the Senate does not include them.

Ted Winter asked what the fee increase amount is. Sarah stated for water fees it depends on the size of your boat. For fishing licenses, the amount would go up \$5 a year for residents.

Chair Van Amburg asked how flooding affects carp control. Sarah stated there are various kinds of barriers and once there's high water, they are less effective. It's something they continue to work on and has been a subject of legislative discussion. They will continue to receive funding to continue design of the acoustic and bubble barriers and will have a public conversation about solutions to controlling carp.

Jill Crafton stated she listened to a recent NESP meeting about the ecosystem. They focus some of their work on fish passages to create ecosystem improvements. Jill asked if Minnesota was involved and if there was an update that could be given. Sarah stated Minnesota is involved but doesn't have that information and will connect Jill with Vanessa Perry, DNR Mississippi River Coordinator.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson thanked John Bilotta and Marcelle Lewandowski for filling in during his absence.

During the legislative session they are following funding for a cadre of climate extension professionals who will build up their ability to provide extension education and expertise on climate adaptation across a range of sectors.

Stated they are offering various trainings and classes. One program that they help run in coordination with several other groups is to provide an introduction to science identification and surveillance. It then creates a group of citizen scientists who can help them with new work on aquatic invasive species.

A new program that they partnered with MPCA and Minnesota Sea Grant on was to develop the Clean Sweep Program. It assists municipalities and local communities in implementing street sweeping to help achieve some of their clean water goals.

Stated the Minnesota Soil Action Framework later in the agenda and will be interesting.

Joe Collins asked how they will announce the street sweeping workshops. Joel stated he can get more information on that.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta reported Commissioner Kessler is in Chicago at the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative meeting. Next week a preventing fish kill public education and communication campaign is going to launch.

Stated the 79th of 80 WRAPS reports for MN watersheds was approved last week. The last initial WRAPS review will go on notice May 8th. They will meet their statutory deadline to have WRAPS for all 80 watersheds completed by June 30th.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck reported they are requesting \$22 million per year from legislature and the Governor's budget is at \$12 million per year. They are paying close attention to Inflation Reduction Act and the Farm Bill. They are looking at modernizing the SWCD Erosion Control and Water Management Program (SWCD Cost Share Program). There has been discussion to a change of allocating the Clean Water Funds to one year and stated they are in opposition to it. LeAnn stated their Board of Directors is looking at identifying tracking tools to be able to communicate with partners.

Ted Winter asked where the House and Senate is at on their funding. LeAnn stated the House is at \$22 million for the next two years and then drops to \$14 million and the Senate is at \$12.7 million.

Mark Zabel stated the District Capacity Funding is to help provide district capacity for operational type costs rather than project costs.

Kurt Beckstrom stated increasing capacity is important and won't be easy.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported they completed their ARPA Project and Expenditure Report for 2023. Eunice reviewed their legislative priorities.

Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit reported she has been invited to participate in planning a leadership event for Watershed Administrators and SWCD Managers. Summer Tour registration went live last week. Stated she participated in BWSR Academy planning session and continues to meet with Justin Hanson. They are working on updating their handbook and will be submitting to Craig Engwall with BWSR for his review. April 13th general levy bill was heard in the Senate Tax Committee and was included in Senate Omnibus Bill.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

Chair Van Amburg called a recess at 10:38 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:45 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Approval of FY23 HELP Program Funding Recommendations – Dan Shaw presented FY23 HELP Program Funding Recommendations.

The BWSR HELP grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota on conservation lands, natural areas, and open spaces to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity. The program also provides co-benefits of carbon sequestration, soil health, water quality improvements, and increased landscape resiliency. On October 26, 2022 the board adopted Board Order #22-48 which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposal (RFP) for the FY23 HELP grants. An application period was open from November 3, 2022 to February 23, 2023. Twelve (12) applications were received requesting a total of \$503,180. Grants were ranked by an advisory team on March 13, 2023. These results were presented to the BWSR Senior Management team on March 14, 2023. The BWSR Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations on March 27, 2023 and made a recommendation to the full Board. The funding recommendations included in the board order are the result of that meeting.

Chair Van Amburg asked what the acreage is for each awardee. Dan stated most of the awardees have multiple projects and the size varies.

Ted Winter asked if some of this money was already delegated and if this is what's left over from the first initial round of applications. Dan stated we had 11 projects that have been funded and these are the ones that are using up the rest of the funding.

Sarah Strommen stated there is a more demand than we have funds available.

Jill Crafton stated it's good to hear parks and cities are included.

Moved by Kurt Beckstrom, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve the Approval of FY23 HELP Program Funding Recommendations. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Award Recommendations – Shaina Keseley presented Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Award Recommendations

The purpose of this agenda item is the allocation of the FY 2022/2023 Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grants. On October 26, 2022, the Board adopted Board Order #22-49 which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposal (RFP) from NGOs and tribal governments for the Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot grant program. The RFP combined FY22/23 funds for a total of \$1M that was split into \$500,000 available for NGOs and \$500,000 for tribal governments. The RFP was open from November 17, 2022 through February 15, 2023. There were a total of 22 applications received; 19 from NGOs (totaling \$2,766,767) and three from tribal governments (totaling \$530,000). BWSR staff, along with staff from MPCA and MDA, reviewed and scored applications to develop the list of applications recommended for funding. On March 27th, the Grants Program and Policy Committee made the funding recommendation

to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if organizations will be held to the same standards as Watershed Districts and SWCD when they receive grants. Shaina stated they will.

John Jaschke stated the Governor's and Clean Water Council's recommendations include the renewal of this initial pilot. John also stated that the grant process will be adjusted and the grant agreement that is used with the Tribal Governments will be custom designed for them.

Chair VanAmburg asked about the Spark-Y Youth Action Labs and if there was anything they could share about it. Stated they are working with a local artist and youth to design stormwater related projects.

Glenn Skuta asked if the funding will be the same if renewed. Shaina stated the funding will be the same for the next biennium.

Ted Winter asked where the Spark-Y Youth projects will be. Shaina stated they will be in the Metro Area.

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23-21

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Award Recommendations. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Board Order Authorizing the Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment (RIPE) 100 Partnership Program – Dave Weirens and Suzanne Rhees presented Board Order Authorizing the RIPE 100 Partnership Program.

BWSR will be participating in a grant under the USDA Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Program along with Virginia Tech, the RIPE organization, and the States of Arkansas, North Dakota, and Virginia. The program will pay farmers and ranchers for conservation practices with payments that reflect multiple environmental benefits. The Board Order and slides provided additional details about the program.

Rich Sve stated he would like to see as many dollars go to the ground versus administrative costs.

Jill Crafton asked if the power point could be shared. Suzanne will send a PDF to Rachel to share.

Jayne Hager Dee asked with the size of the turkey and pork industry in the state and the amount of manure they produce why isn't the cattle organization participating. Suzanne stated this came to them about a year ago and was told who the participants were and didn't have an opportunity to recruit other participants. LeAnn Buck stated there's some connections at a national level. Eunice Biel stated they spoke to other groups, and they support it but aren't ready to jump in.

Mark Zabel asked how this intersects with existing programs. Suzanne stated if you want to be eligible, you'd need to withdraw from other programs and that you can't double dip. Mark stated that we continue to pay for practices and are not transitioning to pay for performance. John Jaschke stated individual districts that are involved have discretion as to how they aim for places that will provide the most public benefit.

Todd Holman left the meeting at 11:31 a.m.

Ted Winter stated we need to attract new people to use these kinds of practices on their land.

Kurt Beckstrom stated he would like them to consider some of the good things that have been done over several years and not only the new practices.

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23-22 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Ron Staples, to approve the Board Order Authorizing the Rural Investment to Protect Our Environment (RIPE) 100 Partnership Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Pilot Program – Dusty Van Thuyne presented Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Pilot Program.

In 2022, the MN Legislature appropriated funds to BWSR to provide onetime state incentive payments to enrollees in the federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) during the continuous enrollment period and to enroll land in conservation easements consistent with Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.

BWSR staff recommended providing Conservation Reserve Program State Incentive Pilot Program grants to eligible watersheds with greater than 40% cropland that have approved and locally adopted watershed plans to provide onetime incentive payments to landowners enrolling or re-enrolling into the Continuous Conservation Reserve Program.

The program policy and allocation amounts have been reviewed by Senior Management Team and Grants Program and Policy and received recommendation for Board approval.

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23-23 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Kurt Beckstrom, to approve the Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Pilot Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

RIM Reserve Committee

RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Program – Dusty Van Thuyne presented RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Program.

Board Resolution # 21-45 authorized the use of ML 2021 Outdoor Heritage Fund and Clean Water Fund appropriations to secure limited duration or permanent RIM easements through the OHF Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program and the CWF Pilot Working Lands Floodplain Program. ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(f) (Outdoor Heritage Fund) designated funds “to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, to protect, restore, and enhance habitat by expanding the riparian buffer program under the clean water fund for additional wildlife benefits from buffers on private land.”

This resolution authorizes staff to utilize the funds authorized under Board Resolution # 21-45, the ML 2022 Outdoor Heritage Funds, and any future funds appropriated by the Minnesota State Legislature to implement the RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Program.

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23-24 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve the RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Easement Alteration Request for Public Road Project – RIM Easement #07-17-01-01 – Karli Swenson presented Easement Alteration Request for Public Road Project – RIM Easement #07-17-01-01.

The Blue Earth County Highway Department is undertaking the reconstruction of a segment of County State Aid Highway (CSAH) 16 that they have deemed “significantly deteriorated”. The aim of the project is to correct deficiencies and address safety and maintenance concerns. The project will address poor site distances, steep vertical curves, and narrow road shoulders. Road safety improvements will include widening of lanes and shoulders and flattening backslopes, designed to meet MNDOT standards. The project will require acquisition of additional right-of-way lands adjacent to the highway. The County Highway Department is requesting the release of 0.16 acres from the RIM easement to accommodate the expanded road right-of-way. The supporting map shows the existing RIM easement and the area proposed for release.

BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects allows for release of land from the easement if the public entity compensates BWSR for the released acres at two times the current RIM payment rate, plus re-imburement of state funds paid for conservation practices, and a \$500 administrative fee. Blue Earth County has already submitted the \$500 application fee and has agreed to pay BWSR the additional amount calculated below for the release:

RIM Rate for Rapidan Township = \$7040.70/acre
2x the RIM rate = 7040.70 x 2 = \$14,081.40/acre
0.16 acres released x 14,081.40 = \$2253.02
State funds paid for restoration of native grasses and forbs = \$200/acre x 0.16 acres = \$32.00
Total to release the proposed 0.16 acres = 2253.02 + 32.00 = \$2285.02

The Blue Earth County highway department has met all requirements of BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects. The Blue Earth SWCD Board has also voted in favor of the easement alteration request (meeting minutes attached).

Recommendation

Easement staff recommends approval to formally amend easement 07-17-01-01 to release 0.16 acres, as proposed. The RIM Reserve Committee voted in favor of this request at their April 14, 2023 meeting.

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23-25

Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Ron Staples, to approve the Easement Alteration Request for Public Road Project – RIM Easement #07-17-01-01. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #86-06-91-01 – Karli Swenson presented Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #86-06-91-01.

BWSR acquired the 30.3-acre RIM Reserve Easement, in Corinna Township, Wright County on November 9, 1993. The current landowners, Eric and Michelle Chlan, purchased the property in September 2012.

In 2021, Wright SWCD reported after a routine RIM Site Inspection that a house had been built within the easement area, and that grazing was also occurring within the RIM easement. When notified of the violation, the landowners stated that they were unaware that there was a perpetual RIM Easement in place at the time they purchased the property, or when they applied for (and were granted) the building permit to build their home. They also stated that before they purchased the land, they were told by the township planning and zoning department that there was a “building entitlement” on the land. Approximately 4.5 acres of the parcel were excluded from the original RIM easement, but unfortunately that is not where the landowners ultimately built their home. The landowners had also worked with NRCS to develop and implement a rotational grazing plan that was in place at the time of the 2021 RIM

site inspection. Upon learning of the violation, the landowners subsequently ceased the grazing operation and removed all animals from the RIM easement area.

Due to the circumstances surrounding the easement violation, and as an alternative to pursuing an official enforcement action, BWSR staff suggested that the landowner could potentially resolve the violation by submitting an easement alteration proposal that would offer sufficient replacement lands to compensate for the impacts of the easement violation, and also satisfy the requirements of BWSR's board approved Easement Alteration Policy.

Mr. and Mrs. Chlan submitted an initial easement alteration proposal in November of 2022 which was ultimately rejected by the RIM Reserve Committee as it did not meet the minimum replacement ratios required under agency policy. Through further discussion with Mr. Chlan and Wright SWCD, the current proposal was agreed upon and staff feel the proposal is sufficient to move forward with a recommendation for approval.

The current proposal is to release 3.2 acres from the RIM Easement, containing the landowner's house, driveway, and yard. The landowner has offered to add 11.2 acres to the RIM easement in return. The replacement lands consist of the remaining 4.5 acres within the same parcel (3.2 acres of which have crop history) and an additional 6.7 acres on an adjacent parcel, consisting of existing woodland and wetlands. The total of these acres satisfies the required replacement ratios for cropland and non-cropland according to the policy. (Wetland acres were not counted toward the replacement ratio but will still be added to the easement.)

The replacement lands not only compensate for the 3.2 acres impacted by the easement violation but will add sufficient natural resource value to the easement by expanding permanently protected buffer areas around the existing wetlands and protecting wildlife habitat corridors between the RIM easement and adjacent protected lands. The net gain in perpetual easement acres would be 8 acres in addition to the direct replacement of the impacted acres and would result in added natural resource benefits to the state in alignment with the goals of the RIM program.

The Wright SWCD Board and DNR Area Wildlife Manager have each submitted letters in support of the current proposal. The landowners have also submitted the required \$500 application fee for BWSR to consider the proposal.

Recommendation

Staff recommend approval of this request. The request meets all conditions of BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy, would compensate for the loss due to the unintentional easement violation, and would further protect additional land with added benefits to the RIM Program.

Jayne Hager Dee thanked Karli for her work.

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23-26 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Kurt Beckstrom, to approve the Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #86-06-91-01. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Central Region Committee

Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions Watershed Management Plan— Steve Christopher presented Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

Joint Powers Agreements established the Shingle Creek and the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions (SCWM WMC) in 1984. Each Commission is comprised of one member appointed from each community by their respective city council. The first Watershed Management Plan was published in April 1990. During the development process of the second-generation Plan, both Commissions agreed upon merging the plan preparation, operating policies, and administration for efficiency purposes, but remain separate, politically distinct Watershed Management Organizations. Four out of the five member cities of the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commission are also members of the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission. The third-generation watershed management plan was approved by the Board in March 2013. The Plan has also been amended annually to maintain a current Capital Improvement Program and to take advantage of funding through Minnesota Statute 103B.251.

The Shingle Creek and the West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions are located exclusively in Hennepin County in the northwest portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. They are bound by the Mississippi River to the north and east, on the southeast by the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, on the south by Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, and on the west by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission. Both watersheds encompass all or part of the following ten municipalities: Brooklyn Center, Brooklyn Park, Champlin, Crystal, Maple Grove, Minneapolis, New Hope, Osseo, Plymouth, and Robbinsdale. The Shingle Creek and West Mississippi watersheds cover 44.5 square miles and 23 square miles respectively. There are sixteen lakes in the Shingle Creek watershed, and none in West Mississippi. Combined, the watersheds have approximately 20.5 miles of stream. Both watersheds are predominantly fully developed, with the remaining land being currently developed.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The SCWM WMC initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in mid-late 2021 soliciting input from its stakeholders, convening its Technical Advisory Committee, as well as holding a joint workshop with the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission focusing on environmental justice, diversity, equity, and inclusion.

Through the process identified above, the SCWM WMC identified the following as their highest priority issues:

- Achieve lake and stream goals
- Stimulate implementation
- Engage and educate
- Develop climate resiliency and sustainability

The four overarching goals for the Plan are as follows:

1. Protect, maintain, and improve the water quality and ecological integrity of the water and natural resources within the watersheds and the downstream receiving waters.
2. Reduce stormwater runoff rates and volumes to limit flood risk, protect conveyance systems, protect surficial groundwater, and reduce or mitigate impacts that have already occurred.
3. Educate and engage all stakeholders in the watersheds on surface water issues and opportunities.
4. Anticipate and proactively work to withstand adverse impacts from changing environmental and climate conditions

Both the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions commitment to addressing the needs identified in the Total Maximum Daily Load studies is exemplary. They have effectively utilized both competitive and non-competitive grants as well as local (Hennepin County, City, Watershed Cost-Share) funds to accomplish these successes.

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23-27 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Commissions Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization 4th Generation Watershed Management Plan – Anne Sawyer presented North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization 4th Generation Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The NCRWMO was established in 1983. The mission of the NCRWMO is “Managing groundwater and surface water to prevent property damage, maintain hydrologic balance, and protect water quality for the safety and enjoyment of citizens and the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat through collaboration among member communities.” (Adopted July 18, 2012) The current plan was approved by the Board in August 2013.

The NCRWMO lies within the southern third of Dakota County, along the southernmost edge of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Although Dakota County is considered a metropolitan county, the 150 square miles encompassed by the NCRWMO is rural in nature, with a population of 5,624 (2022) and agriculture as the predominant land use. The NCRWMO is bound by Rice County to the south and west, the Cannon River and Goodhue County to the south and east, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the north. The NCRWMO as a unit of government is composed of eight townships (Castle Rock, Douglas, Eureka, Greenvale, Hampton, Randolph, Sciota, and Waterford) and three small cities (Miesville, New Trier and Randolph).

Plan Process and Highlights:

The NCRWMO initiated the process of updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in mid-2021, soliciting input from stakeholders, convening an Advisory Committee and a Technical Committee, and hosting both virtual and in-person events in the fall of 2021 to gather public input. The NCRWMO developed priorities and goals for the next ten years of implementation based on existing plans, studies, monitoring data, and public/committee input, which were then validated and approved by the NCRWMO Board in 2022.

Through the process identified above, the NCRWMO identified the following as their highest priority issues:

- Tier 1
 - Surface water quality and quantity in priority water bodies
 - Groundwater quality and quantity in vulnerable aquifers
 - Supporting local governments with policy and regulations through partnerships
 - Outreach and education across all communities in the watershed
- Tier 2
 - Habitat protection and restoration for high-quality natural areas
 - Data and studies to support targeted implementation
 - Providing education and support for local partners regarding emerging issues

The NCRWMO developed a list of priority water resources based on opportunities for measurable improvements in land protection, erosion mitigation, and water quality. Those subwatersheds with greater potential for implementation activities and improvements are ranked higher than those where measurable outcomes will be harder to obtain. Priority water resources, ranked from highest to lowest, are Chub Creek, Chub Lake, Mud Creek, Pine Creek, Trout Brook, and Lake Byllesby.

The NCRWMO's implementation will focus on building relationships with local landowners to improve soil health and will continue to rely on valuable partnerships and collaboration with local governments, including Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County, for many implementation activities. The NCRWMO will continue its strong education and outreach program, making targeted efforts to gather feedback from participants to foster program improvement. Overall, this Plan will position the NCRWMO to prioritize and target implementation activities that benefit the most important water resources within the watershed.

Ted Winter asked why this was named the 4th Generation Watershed Management Plan. Anne stated this is their fourth generation of the plan and that plans are updated every ten years.

Mark Zabel stated this is one of the plans from the Seven County Metro where Watershed Management was mandated in 1982. It's different from 1W1P in Greater Minnesota, which is a voluntary program.

John stated its also different from Watershed District statues that have a different prescription for a watershed plan.

Joe Collins welcomed Anne to Central Region area. Stated he liked how the plan stated it was an adaptive management plan recognizing that things change and evolve. Joe also noted at the end of the plan there is a cost assumption chart and thought it was a good reference.

Sarah Strommen stated their letter and comment from DNR area hydrologist noted and appreciated the commitment of this plan to floodplain management control of aquatic invasive species, as well as protection and restoration of natural areas, native communities, water quality, and groundwater sustainability.

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23-28 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Rich Sve, to approve the North Cannon River Watershed Management Organization 4th Generation Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Northern Region Committee

Roseau River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – LeRoy Ose, Matt Fischer, and Ryan Hughes presented Roseau River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Roseau River Watershed Planning Partnership established a Memorandum of Agreement between the planning partners for the purposes of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in May of 2021 and was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan planning grant in August of 2021. The partners include Roseau County, Roseau Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), and Roseau River Watershed District.

The partnership held a 60-day review process that ended on February 14, 2023, and the required public hearing on March 1, 2023. The final draft of the updated Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments were submitted to the state review agencies on March 10, 2023. The

partnership has incorporated most of the agency and public comments received throughout the Plan development process. Final state review agency comments were submitted by March 30, 2023, and all agencies that submitted comments recommended approval.

The Northern Regional Committee met on April 5, 2023, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board.

Kurt Beckstrom stated he appreciates the outreach.

Sarah Strommen noted that Theresa Ebbenga their Regional Director in the Northwest has been positive and enthusiastic about how the comprehensive watershed planning process has gone.

**
23-29 Moved by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the Roseau River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

Kelly Kirkpatrick left the meeting at 12:31 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Minnesota Soil Health Action Framework – Interim Update– Suzanne Rhees, Tome Gile and Marcelle Lewandowski presented Minnesota Soil Health Action Framework – Interim Update.

In February 2022, BWSR received a grant from the McKnight Foundation for a two-year program to develop shared goals and strategies for increasing soil health management practices across Minnesota. BWSR has collaborated with the Minnesota Office for Soil Health (MOSH) throughout this process. Other participants include the MN Department of Agriculture, NRCS, local government associations, agricultural and environmental organizations, co-ops and agronomists, ag retailers, private sector food companies, University researchers and Extension advisors. A preliminary report has been developed but is still going through review by these stakeholders; this presentation will focus on the process to date and include some highlights from the report.

Joel Larson thanked them for their work. Stated he is looking forward to seeing what the process can do for bringing partners together and then the outcomes and reporting.

Chari Van Amburg asked if there was any discussion on specific crops that contribute to the problems we have as far as quality, biodiversity, greenhouse gas, etc. and of economics and politics that influence our cropping systems. Suzanne stated the Forever Green Crops has potential and are getting increasingly funded and the markets and supply chains are developing. Chair Van Amburg stated they need to be given a chance and recognized. Jeff Berg stated the Forever Green is part of the MDA portfolio. Kurt Beckstrom stated people will grow what makes money.

Glenn Skuta stated there was a good session on soil health and cover crops at the Red River Watershed Management Board and Flood Damage Reduction joint conference that was given by Anna Cates.

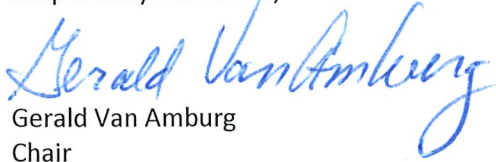
UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., May 3, 2023, location TBD.

- Northern Region Committee is scheduled for 1:00 p.m., May 3, 2023, in Bemidji and by MS Teams.
- BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., May 24, 2023, in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 1:08 PM

Respectfully submitted,



Gerald Van Amburg
Chair