

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 27, 2024**

AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JANUARY 24, 2024 BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Jen Dullum, Board Conservationist

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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 – Todd Holman
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Joe Collins
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Rich Sve
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Mark Zabel
- RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – LeRoy Ose
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Mike Schultz
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Pollinator Pathways Request for Proposal – Erin Loeffler and Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants – Request for Proposals – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Red River Basin Commission FY24/25 Grant Approval – Henry Van Offelen – ***DECISION ITEM***

Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee

1. BWSR Strategic Plan – Jenny Gieseke – ***DECISION ITEM***

Southern Region Committee

1. Upper Minnesota River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ted Winter and Doug Goodrich – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. South Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ted Winter and Jeremy Maul – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Northern Region Committee is scheduled for April 3rd at 10:00 a.m. in Duluth and by MS Teams.
- RIM Committee is scheduled for April 10th at 10:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for April 15th at 8:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- Administrative Advisory Committee is scheduled for April 24th at 8:00 a.m. in St. Paul.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for April 24th at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

Internal Memo

Date: March 27, 2024

To: BWSR Board

From: Julie Westerlund, One Watershed, One Plan Program Coordinator

RE: One Watershed, One Plan Program Update

This memo gives an update on One Watershed, One Plan Planning efforts, describing developments since the last program update for the BWSR board in August 2023.

The table below provides a summary of progress to date on the goals in BWSR’s *One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan*. There are currently 60 planning boundaries outside the Twin Cities Metro Area.

Year	Planning Grants Awarded (cumulative)		1W1P Completed (cumulative)
	Transition Target	Grants Awarded	
2014-15	5	5	0
2016	6 (11)	7 (12)	2
2017	6 (17)	6 (18)	2 (4)
2018	7 (24)	9 (27)	1 (5)
2019	7 (31)	3 (30)	5 (10)
2020	7 (38)	8 (38)	9 (19)
2021	7 (45)	11 (49)	5 (24)
2022	7 (52)	5 (54)	6 (30)
2023	7 (59)	3 (57)	11 (41)
2024	2 (61)		3* (44)

*includes two plans recommended for Board approval at the March 27, 2024 meeting.

I have also attached a map of participating planning boundaries and a list of the local governments that are participating in each planning effort for your information.

Please see planning websites (linked in the interactive map on the BWSR *One Watershed, One Plan – Participating Watersheds* web page) for more information about individual planning efforts.

In this memo, “plan” = comprehensive watershed management plan. “Collaborative” refers to an implementation structure in which the policy committee is advisory to the boards, who make final decisions. “Entity” refers to a new joint powers board that has been delegated authority to make decisions by the member entities. August – December dates are 2023 – other dates are 2024 unless otherwise noted.

Approved Plans (includes two plans recommended for approval at the March 27, 2024 board meeting)

The following planning partnerships have completed their plans and are now implementing them: Root River; Yellow Medicine River; Lake Superior North; Red Lake River; North Fork Crow River; Leech Lake River; Lake of the Woods; Pine River; Missouri River Basin; Cedar Wapsipinicon; Thief River; Cannon River; Pomme de Terre River; Leaf, Wing, Redeye; Buffalo-Red River; Lower St. Croix; Nemadji; Wild Rice – Marsh River; Watonwan River; Bois de Sioux and Mustinka; Two Rivers Plus; Sauk River; Mississippi Headwaters; Greater Zumbro; Hawk Creek-Middle Minnesota; Shell Rock – Winnebago; Rum River; Middle Snake-Tamarac Rivers; Long Prairie River; Clearwater River; Snake River; Otter Tail River; St. Louis River; Lower Minnesota River West; Des Moines River; Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank, Mississippi Winona/La Crescent; Roseau River; Rainy-Rapid River; Le Sueur River; Mississippi River – Brainerd; Sand Hill River; Upper Minnesota River; South Fork of the Crow River.

2021 Starts

Chippewa River: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on February 27. The public hearing is being scheduled; the partners will revise the plan based on all comments and anticipates submitting the plan to BWSR by summer 2024. The group also formed a subcommittee for the transition to implementation.

Kettle and Upper St. Croix: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on January 16. Two policy committee held two public hearings: February 20 in Sandstone February 26 in Carlton. They are finalizing the responses to comments on the draft, and the group anticipates that participating boards will act on the comments and final plan at their April meetings, with submission to BWSR in April for consideration at BWSR's June meeting.

Lower MN River East: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on March 22. They anticipate a public hearing in late April or early May and subsequent submittal for consideration at BWSR's June or August meetings. Overall, the Partnership has done an excellent job in creating a quality plan; the local staff are dedicated to the planning effort, the Policy Committee is engaged and supportive, and everyone is looking forward to implementation.

Mississippi River St. Cloud: The group continues to work on the implementation table, multi-benefit analysis for prioritization, and fine-tuning measurable goals. An agreement to form a joint powers entity has been drafted; Policy Committee will review it in spring of 2024. The group considered a boundary adjustment with the Sauk River Watershed District due to improved watershed delineation data within the City of St. Cloud relative to the state-delineated major watershed boundary upon which the 1W1P planning boundary is based. The group decided to leave the 1W1P planning boundary as is, and they added the Sauk River Watershed District as a steering team partner because they have jurisdictional area within the MRSC boundary. The partners anticipate a draft plan for review in spring 2024 and submission to BWSR late in the year.

Rainy River Headwaters-Vermillion: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on January 6. The policy committee held a public hearing on January 26. The group finalized the responses to comments on the plan draft and the participating boards approved submittal to BWSR on February 6. Because the March BWSR North Region Committee meeting was canceled, the plan will be presented to the committee in April and anticipates BWSR Board consideration in April.

South Fork of the Crow River: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on October 13. The policy committee held a public hearing on November 27 and submitted the final draft to BWSR on February 6. On February 27, the BWSR South Region Committee recommended approval by the BWSR board at the March BWSR Board meeting.

Upper Minnesota River: The group completed the draft plan and the 60-day review period ended on September 21. The policy committee held a public hearing on October 31 and submitted the plan to BWSR on December 11. On February 27, the BWSR South Region Committee recommended approval by the BWSR board at the March BWSR Board meeting. The policy committee developed an implementation agreement establishing a joint powers collaboration and bylaws. They are ready to move forward with implementation once BWSR approves the plan and the partners adopt it.

2022 Starts

Cottonwood – Middle Minnesota River: The steering team has been meeting monthly and the policy committee has been meeting every other month. They hosted an extensive advisory committee meeting which brought great conversations to help the group develop priority resources and issues and measurable goals. The group anticipates deciding on draft priority areas, measurable goals and implementation schedules in May and plan to begin internal review of a full plan draft in early summer of 2024.

Crow Wing River: The steering committee reviewed comments from the citizen advisory committee; the policy committee will review a draft vision statement, priority resources and measurable goals on March 27. The group will also discuss potential implementation funding levels and amounts. The partnership anticipates a draft for review in the summer of 2024.

Rainy River-Rainy Lake: The group recently completed a series of topic-specific meetings (water quality; water quantity and hydrology; groundwater and drinking water; & habitat and forests) and a topic wrap up meeting. The group anticipates completing the plan for BWSR consideration and local adoption by March of 2025.

Upper and Lower Red Lake: The policy committee approved the land and water resource narrative and the priority issues. The group completed a series of topic-specific meetings and drafted measurable goals.

Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids: The policy committee will review draft goals and priority lakes on March 28. These goals address the priority issue statements that came from each of the topic meetings (lakes; forests; wetlands and ditching; rivers and streams; stormwater; farms & groundwater). The group anticipates a draft plan for review June of 2024.

2023 Starts

Blue Earth River: The group finalized their planning agreement on September 26 and the first policy committee meeting was on November 29. Their initial comment period was from January 4 to March 8 and their planning grant was executed on January 10. They sent a request for qualifications to five consulting firms and a subcommittee of staff and elected officials reviewed, interviewed, and ranked responses. The fiscal agent is currently in negotiations with a consulting firm. The kickoff meeting is tentatively planned for May or June of 2024.

The planning partners include Blue Earth, Faribault, Freeborn, Jackson, and Martin counties and SWCDs as well and the City of Fairmont.

Minnesota River Mankato: The group is finalizing the planning agreement and anticipates submitting their planning grant work plan by mid-March. The policy committee had an orientation meeting on February 26th. Their initial comment period started on March 4 and will end May 3. They anticipate having a consultant contract in place by late May.

The planning partners include Nicollet, Blue Earth, and Le Sueur counties and SWCDs as well as 4 municipalities: Mankato, North Mankato, St Peter, and Lake Crystal.

Redwood River: The group has a planning agreement and executed planning grant in place. The partners held an orientation session on December 8. The first policy committee meeting will be in April.

The planning partners include Lincoln, Lyon, Pipestone and Redwood counties and SWCDs, Murray County, Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area as well as the cities of Marshall, Redwood Falls, and Ghent. The Lower Big Sioux Indian community opted out of the formal partnership but expressed interest in being a part of the advisory committee.

ATTACHMENTS:

Map of participating watersheds

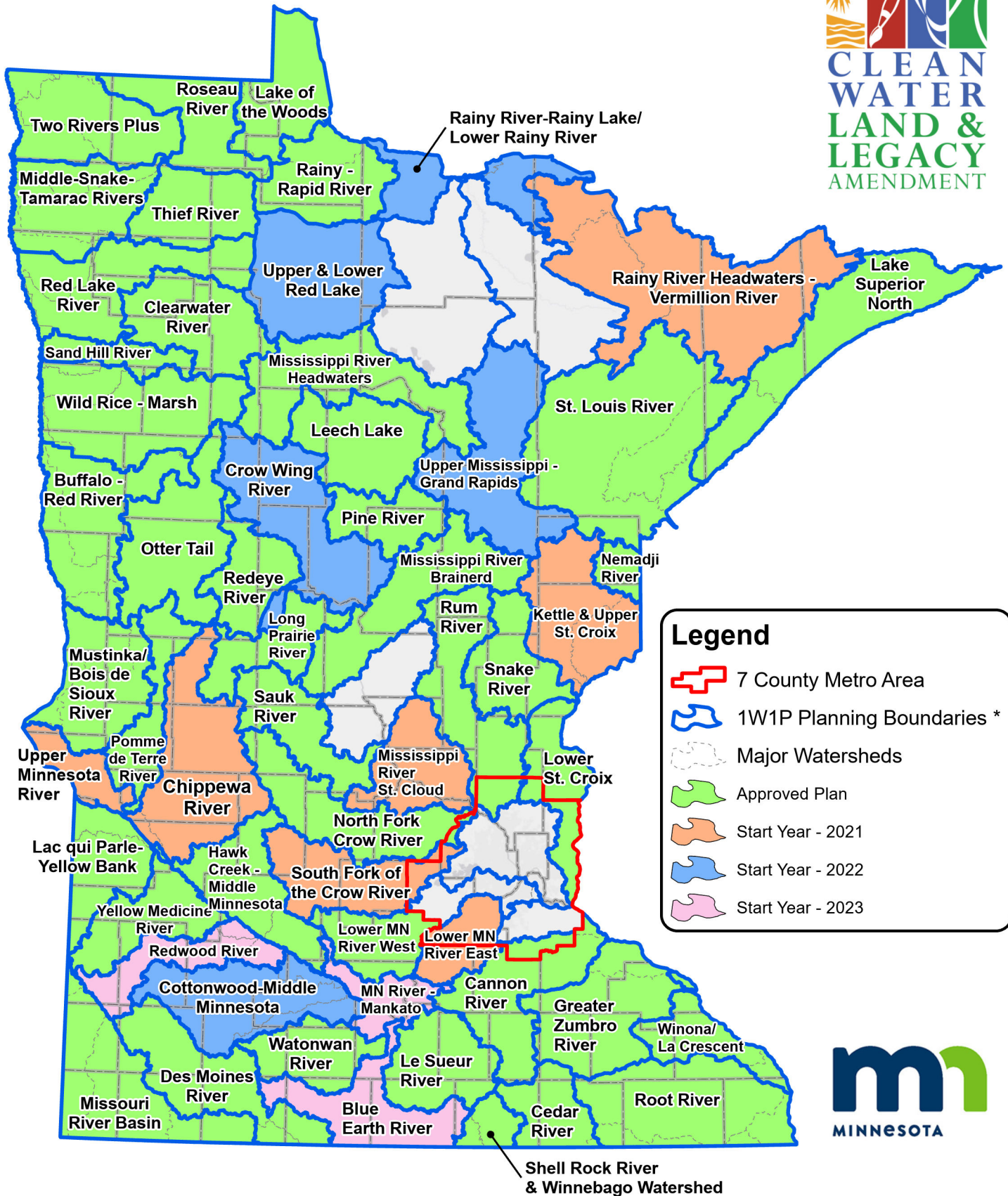
List of participating local governments

One Watershed, One Plan

Participating Watersheds



**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**



*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.



Local and Tribal Governments Participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program. (# of partners). Some names are truncated to conserve space.

2023					
Blue Earth (11)		Minnesota-Mankato (10)		Redwood (11)	
Blue Earth County	Freeborn SWCD	Blue Earth County	City of St. Peter	Area II MN River Basin Projects	Pipestone County
Blue Earth SWCD	Jackson County	Blue Earth SWCD	Le Sueur County	Lincoln County	Pipestone SWCD
City of Fairmont	Jackson SWCD	City of Lake Crystal	Le Sueur SWCD	Lincoln SWCD	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers
Faribault County	Martin County	City of Mankato	Nicollet County	Lyon County	Control Area
Faribault SWCD	Martin SWCD	City of North Mankato	Nicollet SWCD	Lyon SWCD	Redwood County
Freeborn County				Murray County	Redwood SWCD

2022							
Cottonwood-Middle MN (13)		Crow Wing (14)		Upper and Lower Red Lake (4)		Upper Miss – Grand Rapids (11)	
Brown County	Rainy River-Rainy Lake/Lower	Becker County	Beltrami County	Aitkin County			
Brown SWCD	Rainy River (4)	Becker SWCD	Beltrami SWCD	Aitkin SWCD			
Cottonwood County	City of International Falls	Cass County	Red Lake Nation	Carlton County			
Cottonwood SWCD	City of Ranier	Cass SWCD	Red Lake Watershed District	Carlton SWCD			
Lyon County	Koochiching County	Crow Wing County		Cass County			
Lyon SWCD	Koochiching SWCD	Crow Wing SWCD		Cass SWCD			
Murray County		Hubbard County		Itasca County			
Murray SWCD		Hubbard SWCD		Itasca SWCD			
Redwood County		Otter Tail County		Logan Township			
Redwood SWCD		Otter Tail SWCD		Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians			
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects		Todd County		Salo Township			
Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area		Todd SWCD					
City of Springfield		Wadena County					
		Wadena SWCD					

2021									
Chippewa (16)		Lower MN East (7)		Mississippi River Brained (10)		Mississippi River St. Cloud (12)		Rainy R Hdwtrs/Vermilion R (6)	
Chippewa County	Kettle and Upper St. Croix (5)	Le Sueur County	Mississippi River Brained (10)	Aitkin County	Mississippi River St. Cloud (12)	Benton County	Rainy R Hdwtrs/Vermilion R (6)	Cook County	
Chippewa SWCD	Carlton County	Le Sueur SWCD	Aitkin County	Aitkin SWCD	Benton County	Benton SWCD	Cook County	Cook SWCD	
Douglas County	Carlton SWCD	Lower MN River Watershed District	City of Baxter	Meeker County	Meeker County	Meeker SWCD	Lake County	Lake SWCD	
Douglas SWCD	Kanabec SWCD	Rice County	City of Brainerd	Mille Lacs SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Mille Lacs SWCD	North St. Louis SCWD	North St. Louis SCWD	
Grant County	Pine County	Rice SWCD	Crow Wing County	Sherburne County	Mille Lacs SWCD	Sherburne County	St. Louis County	St. Louis County	
Grant SWCD	Pine SWCD	Scott County WMO	Crow Wing SWCD	Sherburne SWCD	Sherburne SWCD	Sherburne SWCD			
Kandiyohi County	South Fork of the Crow River (13)	Scott SWCD	Morrison County	Stearns County	Morrison County	Morrison SWCD	Stearns County	Stearns SWCD	Upper Minnesota River (7)
Kandiyohi SWCD	Buffalo Creek Watershed District		Morrison SWCD	Stearns SWCD	Morrison SWCD	Todd County	Stearns SWCD	Wright County	Big Stone County
Otter Tail County	Carver SWCD	Sand Hill River (8)	Todd County	Wright County	Todd County	Todd SWCD	Wright County	Wright SWCD	Big Stone SWCD
Pope County	City of Winsted	East Polk SWCD	Todd SWCD						
Pope SWCD	Kandiyohi County	Mahnomen County							

Stevens County	Kandiyohi SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rainy-Rapid (2)	Swift County
Stevens SWCD	McLeod County	Norman County	Lake of the Woods County	Swift SWCD
Swift County	McLeod SWCD	Norman SWCD	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Traverse County
Swift SWCD	Meeker County	Polk County	Roseau County	Traverse SWCD
West Otter Tail SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Sand Hill River Watershed District	Roseau River Watershed District	Upper MN River Watershed Dist
	Renville County	West Polk SWCD	Roseau SWCD	
	Renville SWCD			
	Wright County			
	Wright SWCD			

2020

Clearwater (9)	Des Moines (13)	Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank (8)	Le Sueur (8)	Long Prairie (7)	Winona-La Crescent (10)
Clearwater County	Cottonwood County	Area II Minnesota River Valley Proje	Blue Earth County	Douglas County	City of Winona
Clearwater SWCD	Cottonwood SWCD	Lac qui Parle SWCD	Blue Earth County SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Houston County
East Polk SWCD	Heron Lake Watershed District	Lac qui Parle County	Faribault County	Morrison County	Olmsted County
Pennington County	Jackson County	Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank WD	Faribault County SWCD	Morrison SWCD	Olmsted SWCD
Pennington SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Lincoln SWCD	Freeborn County	Todd County	Root River SWCD
Polk County	Lyon County	Lincoln County	Freeborn SWCD	Todd SWCD	Stockton-Rollingstone-MN City WD
Red Lake County	Lyon SWCD	Yellow Medicine SWCD	Waseca County	West Ottertail SWCD	Wabasha County
Red Lake SWCD	Martin County	Yellow Medicine County	Waseca SWCD		Wabasha SWCD
Red Lake Watershed District	Martin SWCD			Otter Tail (6)	Winona County
	Murray County			Becker SWCD	Winona SWCD
Middle-Snake Tamarac (5)	Murray SWCD			Becker County	
Marshall County	Nobles County			Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	
Marshall SWCD	Nobles SWCD			East Otter Tail SWCD	
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD				Otter Tail County	
Polk County				Pelican River Watershed District	
West Polk SWCD				West Otter Tail SWCD	

2019

Lower Minnesota River West (7)	Snake (8)	St. Louis (6)
High Island Creek WD	Aitkin County	Carlton County
McLeod County	Aitkin SWCD	Carlton SWCD
McLeod SWCD	Kanabec County	Fond du Lac Band of Lk Superior Chippewa
Nicollet County	Kanabec SWCD	North St. Louis SWCD
Nicollet SWCD	Mille Lacs County	St. Louis County
Sibley County	Mille Lacs SWCD	South St. Louis SWCD
Sibley SWCD	Pine County	
	Pine SWCD	

2018					
Hawk Creek Middle MN (6)	Nemadji (4)	Rum (17)	Mississippi Headwaters (10)	Wild Rice and Marsh (14)	Greater Zumbro (12)
Chippewa County	Carlton County	Aitkin County	Beltrami County	Becker County	Dodge County
Chippewa SWCD	Carlton SWCD	Aitkin SWCD	Beltrami SWCD	Becker SWCD	Dodge SWCD
Kandiyohi County	Pine County	Anoka SWCD	Cass County	Clay County	City of Rochester
Kandiyohi SWCD	Pine SWCD	Benton County	Cass SWCD	Clay SWCD	Goodhue County
Renville County		Benton SWCD	Clearwater County	Clearwater County	Goodhue SWCD
Renville SWCD		Crow Wing County	Clearwater SWCD	Clearwater SWCD	Olmsted County
	Redeye (5)	Crow Wing SWCD	Hubbard County	Mahnomen County	Olmsted SWCD
	Becker SWCD	Isanti County	Hubbard SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rice County
Shell Rock - Winnebago (4)	East Otter Tail SWCD	Isanti SWCD	Itasca County	Norman County	Rice SWCD
Freeborn County	Otter Tail County	Kanabec County	Itasca SWCD	Norman SWCD	Wabasha County
Freeborn SWCD	Wadena County	Kanabec SWCD		Polk County	Wabasha SWCD
City of Albert Lea	Wadena SWCD	Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians	Two Rivers Plus (4)	East Polk SWCD	Bear Valley WD
Shell Rock River WD		Mille Lacs County	Kittson County	West Polk SWCD	
		Mille Lacs SWCD	Kittson SWCD	Wild Rice WD	
		Morrison County	Roseau County		
		Morrison SWCD	Roseau SWCD		
		Sherburne County			
		Sherburne SWCD			

2017					
Buffalo-Red River (9)	Lower St. Croix River (15)	Mustinka/Bois de Sioux Rivers (13)	Pine River (4)	Sauk River (11)	Watonwan River (12)
Becker County	Anoka SWCD	Big Stone County	Cass County	Douglas County	Blue Earth County
Becker SWCD	Brown's Creek WD	Big Stone SWCD	Cass SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Blue Earth SWCD
Buffalo-Red River WD	Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD	Bois de Sioux WD	Crow Wing County	Meeker County	Brown County
Clay County	Chisago County	Grant County	Crow Wing SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Brown SWCD
Clay SWCD	Chisago SWCD	Grant SCWD		Pope County	Cottonwood County
Otter Tail County	Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD	Otter Tail County		Pope SWCD	Cottonwood SWCD
West Otter Tail SWCD	Isanti County	West Otter Tail SWCD		Sauk River Watershed District	Jackson County
Wilkin County	Isanti SWCD	Stevens County		Stearns County	Jackson SWCD
Wilkin SWCD	Middle St. Croix WMO	Stevens SWCD		Stearns SWCD	Martin County
	Pine County	Traverse County		Todd County	Martin SWCD
	Pine SWCD	Traverse SWCD		Todd SWCD	Watonwan County
	South Washington WD	Wilkin County			Watonwan SWCD
	Valley Branch WD	Wilkin SWCD			
	Washington County				
	Washington SWCD				

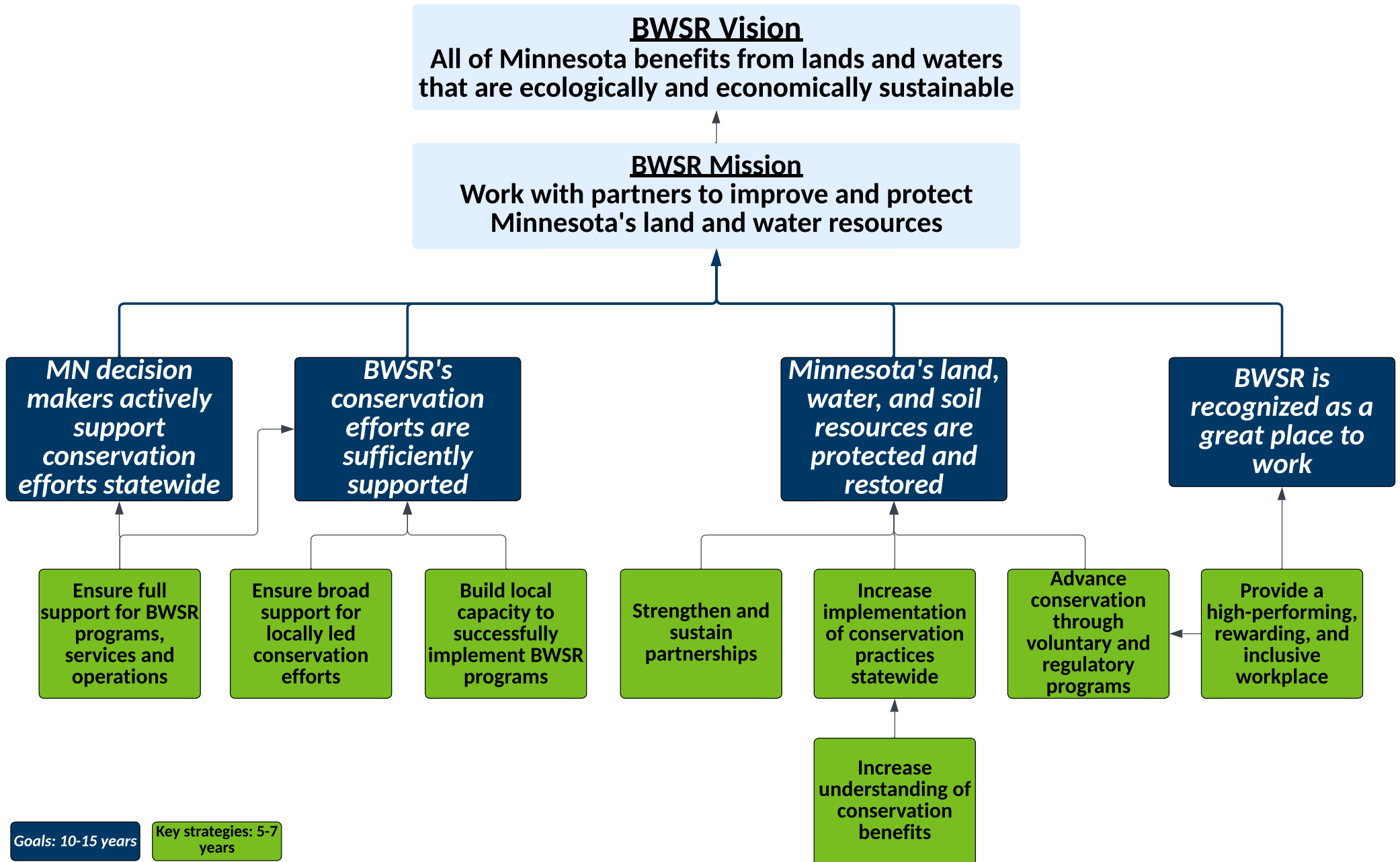
2016

Cannon River (14)	Cedar River (11)	Pomme de Terre River (13)	Leech Lake River (4)	Missouri River Basin (14)	Thief River (7)
Belle Creek WD	Cedar River WD	Big Stone County	Cass County	Jackson County	Beltrami County
Dakota County	City of Austin	Big Stone SWCD	Cass SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Beltrami SWCD
Dakota SWCD	Dodge County	Douglas County	Hubbard County	Kanaranzi - Little Rock WD	Marshall County
Goodhue County	Dodge SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Hubbard SWCD	Lincoln County	Marshall SWCD
Goodhue SWCD	Freeborn County	Grant County		Lincoln SWCD	Pennington County
Le Sueur County	Freeborn SWCD	Grant SWCD		Murray County	Pennington SWCD
Le Sueur SWCD	Mower County	Otter Tail County	Lake of the Woods (5)	Murray SWCD	Red Lake WD
North Cannon WMO	Mower SWCD	West Otter Tail SWCD	Lake of the Woods County	Nobles County	
Rice County	Steele County	Stevens County	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Nobles SWCD	
Rice SWCD	Steele SWCD	Stevens SWCD	Roseau County	Okabena-Ocheda WD	
Steele County	Turtle Creek WD	Swift County	Roseau SWCD	Pipestone County	
Steele SWCD		Swift SWCD	Warroad River WD	Pipestone SWCD	
Waseca County		Pomme de Terre River Association		Rock County	
Waseca SWCD				Rock SWCD	

Pilots

Lake Superior North (4)	North Fork Crow River (14)	Red Lake River (7)	Root River (13)	Yellow Medicine River (10)
Cook County	McLeod County	Pennington County	Crooked Creek WD	Area II MN River Basin Projects, Inc.
Cook SWCD	McLeod SWCD	Pennington SWCD	Dodge County	Lac Qui Parle County
Lake County	Kandiyohi County	Polk County	Dodge SWCD	Lac Qui Parle SWCD
Lake SWCD	Kandiyohi SWCD	West Polk SWCD	Filmore County	Lincoln County
	Meeker County	Red Lake County	Filmore SWCD	Lincoln SWCD
	Meeker SWCD	Red Lake SWCD	Houston County	Lyon County
	Pope County	Red Lake WD	Root River SWCD	Lyon SWCD
	Pope SWCD		Mower County	Yellow Medicine County
	Stearns County		Mower SWCD	Yellow Medicine SWCD
	Stearns SWCD		Olmsted County	Yellow Medicine River WD
	Wright County		Olmsted SWCD	
	Wright SWCD		Winona County	
	Middle Fork Crow River WD		Winona SWCD	
	North Fork Crow River WD			

BWSR 2024 Strategic Plan Framework



Metro lakes' delistings tied to Clean Water Fund-backed work



THREE MORE DELISTINGS TIED TO CLEAN WATER FUNDS FROM BWSR: Three more delistings involved improvements tied to Clean Water Fund grants from BWSR. Fish Lake in Hennepin County was the subject of a [February Snapshot](#). Details about two more — a 48-mile-long Wright County segment of the North Fork Crow River; and a stretch of Beaver Creek, a Winona County trout stream — are featured in a [BWSR blog post](#), which also contains more detail about those described here.

Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) supported conservation work that contributed to seven Twin Cities metro lakes' proposed removal from the state's impaired waters list. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approval finalizes that status. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) staff will submit the list to the EPA by April 1; it has 30 days to respond.

Alum treatments, iron-enhanced sand filters, rain gardens and a wetland rehabilitation are among the Clean Water Fund-backed projects and practices that contributed to water-quality improvements. BWSR awarded the Clean Water Funds — in the form of competitive grants and, more recently, via [Watershed-Based Implementation Funding](#) (WBIF) — to the soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts and watershed management commissions that worked directly with partners and private landowners.

Anoka County

BALD EAGLE LAKE: Deemed “the most popular muskie lake in the east metro” by the [Minnesota Department of Natural Resources](#), 1,010-acre Bald Eagle Lake offers a public boat access at Ramsey County's [Bald Eagle-Otter Lakes Regional Park](#). Listed as impaired for aquatic recreation in 2002, the lake lies within a

heavily developed suburban area north of White Bear Lake. (The lake spans Ramsey, Washington and Anoka counties. Anoka is the county named in the MPCA's list of delisted waters.)

“Prior to any of the restoration work, there could be some pretty severe blue-green algae blooms out there that would maybe scare away some fishermen later in the summer,” said Matt Kocian, lake and stream manager at [Rice Creek Watershed District](#) (RCWD).

Clean Water Fund grants supported two RCWD projects that contributed to phosphorus reductions leading to the delisting: a stormwater reuse project in Hugo and an iron-enhanced sand filter in Ramsey County's White Bear Township. Both phosphorus and algae levels have decreased by about 50% compared with 2014, and water clarity has increased by about 50% during the same timeframe, according to the RCWD's long-term data.

“This went from a resource where residents would say, ‘I need to shut my windows late in the summer because the blue-green algae blooms are so bad and they smell,’ to they're using the lake more than ever,” Kocian said. “They're swimming in it again.”

The \$689,000 Oneka Ridge Golf Course stormwater reuse project in Hugo drew from a \$497,100 Clean Water Fund

Left: The Minnesota DNR stocks Bald Eagle Lake with muskellunge and walleye. Clean Water Funds supported stormwater reuse and iron-enhanced sand filter projects that contributed to improvements in the lake's water quality.

Middle: Golden Lake is a popular fishing and paddling lake. Clean Water Funds supported the Anoka Conservation District's iron-enhanced sand filter projects designed to reduce phosphorus-loading. **Photo Credits:** Rice Creek Watershed District

Right: A Clean Water Fund grant awarded to the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission backed an alum treatment that addressed in-lake phosphorus-loading on Bass Lake in Plymouth. **Photo Credit:** Ben Scharenbroich, City of Plymouth



From left: A Clean Water Fund grant awarded to the Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission supported an alum treatment on Pomerleau Lake in Plymouth. **Photo Credit:** Ben Scharenbroich, City of Plymouth Kohlman Lake is the first lake in the Phalen Chain of Lakes. The Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District and its partners completed projects that contributed to water-quality improvements. **Photo Credit:** Gareth Becker, Barr Engineering The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District's water-quality improvement work has focused on a 5,586-acre drainage area affecting Bone Lake. **Photo Courtesy of Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District**

grant awarded in 2012. Work finished in 2014. Now, stormwater runoff from 915 acres irrigates 116 acres of the golf course. RCWD provided matching funds; Hugo provided in-kind support.

The \$499,900 iron-enhanced sand filter and pond project on Ramsey County Ditch 11 drew from a \$392,000 Clean Water Fund grant awarded in 2019. It pumps ditch runoff to a series of iron-enhanced sand filters on township-owned land adjacent to the ditch. The constructed pond allows sediment and the pollutants it carries to settle out.

“The iron-enhanced sand filter would not have been done without those funds,” Kocian said.

The RCWD provided matching funds; the township and lake association were project partners.

GOLDEN LAKE: Bisected by an Anoka County ditch and bordered by a Circle Pines city park, 55-acre Golden Lake feeds into Rice Creek. Situated in a fully developed area of the Twin Cities metro, the lake — popular among paddlers — was listed as impaired for aquatic recreation in 2002.

“Without the Clean Water Fund, neither of these projects would have gone in the ground. Typically, the

financial hurdles are often the hardest to get over, and the Clean Water Fund provides a fantastic opportunity to bridge that gap,” said Mitch Hausteine, Anoka Conservation District stormwater and shoreland specialist.

Working with the city of Blaine, the RCWD and an \$88,950 Clean Water Fund grant awarded in 2014, the district retrofitted a [stormwater treatment pond in Blaine](#) with an iron-enhanced sand filter bench, estimated to achieve 11% of phosphorus-reduction goals needed to meet state water-quality standards. The project was completed in 2015 at Centennial Green Park. An iron-enhanced sand filter bench was installed along the perimeter of an existing stormwater pond, which captures runoff from about 200 acres. Water now filters through the pond bench before entering the ditch.

A \$467,970 Clean Water Fund grant awarded in 2017 supported a pump-controlled iron-enhanced sand filter basin installed near an existing stormwater pond on Circle Pines-owned property adjacent to Golden Lake. The project targeted dissolved phosphorus entering the pond from Anoka County Ditch 53-62, which carries stormwater runoff from about 6,425 acres.

Partners included the city of Circle Pines and the RCWD. The project was completed in 2019. Water is pumped from an existing pond to two iron-enhanced sand filter beds, and then drained and filtered before it reaches an outlet to the lake.

Over the past eight years, RCWD monitoring data show phosphorus levels are down 20% to 50% compared with the longtime average. Golden Lake monitoring records date to 1976.

Hennepin County

BASS & POMERLEAU LAKES:

Alum treatments on two Plymouth lakes — Bass and Pomerleau — achieved the phosphorus reductions necessary to be considered for delisting in 2024.

The two-part treatments, applied to each lake in fall 2019 and fall 2020, drew from a \$267,040 Clean Water Fund grant awarded to the [Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission](#) (WMC) in 2018. The treatments addressed internal phosphorus-loading, following nutrient-load reduction work in the watershed.

Bass and Pomerleau are part of a three-lake chain listed as impaired for nutrients in 2002. The third, Schmidt Lake, was delisted in 2014.

Ringed by homes and bordered by a small city park with a fishing pier, 183-acre Bass Lake flows to Bass Creek, a Shingle Creek tributary. The shallow lake is heavily used by lakeshore residents with private access.

Twenty-six feet deep at its deepest point, 26-acre Pomerleau Lake is bordered by wetlands within the [Northwest Greenway](#). Rapid residential development about 20 years ago helped to protect Pomerleau Lake’s water quality because it coincided with efforts to preserve natural areas, and infiltration stormwater ponds were built into the new development.

“It was something that the city really saw as being a gem, and that just added to the value of undertaking the alum treatment,” said Diane Spector, a senior water resources planner with the engineering consultant firm Stantec who advises the WMC on technical matters.

While delisting Shingle Creek, a highly impacted urban stream, “is going to be a long haul,” Spector said the proposed delistings demonstrate the possibility — and the necessity of partnerships among the WMC, cities, lake associations, citizen groups and funders.

Ramsey County

KOHLMAN LAKE: First in the six-lake Phalen Chain of Lakes, Kohlman Lake draws wildlife-watchers — plus paddlers, anglers and boaters who gain access via Lake Gervais. The 79-acre shallow lake in Maplewood is part of the chain of lakes' [water trail](#).

A nutrient impairment affecting aquatic recreation put Kohlman Lake on the state's impaired waters list in 2002. After years of work to curb runoff and pollutants, it's poised to shed that impairment. Phosphorus levels began meeting the state standard for shallow lakes in 2010, and Chlorophyll-a in 2011.

Drawing from six Clean Water Fund grants plus two WBIF awards from BWSR, the [Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District](#) (RWMWD) and its partners worked with property owners, churches, schools and businesses to install retrofits, rain gardens and other best management practices — projects that directly contributed to the water-quality improvements.

From 2010 through 2016, BWSR awarded the RWMWD Clean Water Fund grants totaling \$1,208,515, plus WBIF dollars in 2019 and 2021.

Among those grant-funded projects affecting Kohlman Lake: stormwater treatment at six churches — Lakeview Lutheran, Redeeming Love, St. Stephen's, Parkview United, North Presbyterian and House of Prayer Lutheran; runoff filtration projects at Harmony Learning Center and Maplewood Middle School; rain garden installations in the 208-acre Casey Lake neighborhood, a 15-acre wetland; stormwater treatment at Target in North St. Paul; and stormwater

MPCA Details

IMPAIRED WATERS DEFINITION: The MPCA defines an impaired water as one that fails to meet water-quality standards (which define how much of a pollutant can be present before it's no longer considered drinkable, swimmable, fishable or usable in other defined ways) in one or more of seven areas: nutrients that grow algae, sediment that clouds water, bacteria that can make swimming unsafe, unhealthy insect and fish habitat, mercury levels that limit safe fish consumption, PFOS in fish

tissue, sulfate that may affect wild rice production.

IMPAIRED WATERS LIST: Updated every other year, the [Impaired Waters List](#) includes a tab for delistings.

MEETING STANDARDS: Removal from the impaired waters list requires meeting the standard for phosphorus levels, and either Secchi disk readings, which measure clarity, or Chlorophyll-a levels.

treatment via a cistern, tree trenches, rock filter, permeable pavers and rain gardens at the Maplewood Mall.

The RWMWD's targeted retrofit and stewardship grant programs prioritized impaired or at-risk waters — including Kohlman Lake and the waters that drain to it.

Paige Ahlborg, RWMWD project manager, described the impact of Clean Water Funds combined with watershed district dollars: "We were able to create these partnerships where we could approach the churches and schools that usually don't have those extra funds to put these projects in."

The \$858,000 project at Target in North St. Paul drew \$93,000 from WBIF. Completed in 2021, it removed 50 parking spaces, and treated the remaining 4 acres of impermeable surface with rain gardens and tree trenches.

The \$6.5 million Maplewood Mall retrofit treats 20 million gallons of stormwater a year, handling runoff from 35 acres of pavement and concrete that carried phosphorus to Kohlman Lake. A \$500,000 Clean Water Fund grant awarded to the RWMWD in 2010 supported the work. The project filters 67% of rainwater — compared with 3% previously.

Delisting Kohlman Lake's

nutrient impairment was based on data from 2011-21.

"Just because it has been delisted, we can't just forget about it. We want to keep these good projects going in, maintain that good water quality," Ahlborg said.

An uptick in phosphorus and Chlorophyll-a levels over the past few years has prompted the watershed district to examine whether another alum treatment is necessary.

Washington County

BONE LAKE: Stocked with walleye and accessible via public access, 220-acre Bone Lake lies in Scandia, where homes surround about 75% of the lake. A county highway parallels its undeveloped northwestern edge.

Bone Lake was listed as impaired for aquatic recreation in 2004.

Four Clean Water Fund grants totaling nearly \$823,500 have supported \$1.2 million in the [Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District's](#) (CLFLWD) water-quality improvement work that contributed to Bone Lake's proposed delisting — including projects centered on Moody Lake. One more Moody Lake project, estimated to cost \$299,375 and supported by a \$239,500 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded in 2022, is underway.

Monitoring data show Bone Lake has met or exceeded the state standard for phosphorus levels each year since 2015. Water clarity has shown improving trends since 2011.

"We focused on the main contributing drainage areas into Bone Lake for a truly targeted approach," said CLFLWD Administrator Mike Kinney.

That, in turn, helped to improve the water quality downstream from Bone Lake, which flows through a series of lakes before it reaches Comfort Lake, and then the Sunrise, St. Croix and Mississippi rivers.

"One of the things to help Bone Lake was to improve the water bodies that were contributing water to Bone Lake," Kinney said. "Our sequential diagnostic monitoring indicated to us, based on real data that was incorporated into the modeling that we did, how important that amount of water coming in from Moody Lake is to the water quality for Bone Lake."

A Moody Lake wetland rehabilitation completed in 2020 contributed to 78% of the phosphorus reduction from the external load. That \$561,700 project drew from a \$429,280 Clean Water Fund grant awarded to the CLFLWD in 2016. Diagnostic monitoring revealed the problem, which the CLFLWD addressed before tackling Moody Lake's internal phosphorus load with an alum treatment in 2019. A \$135,000 Clean Water Fund grant awarded in 2018 supported the alum treatment.

The current work, designed to achieve the 12% phosphorus reduction needed for Moody Lake to meet state water-quality standards, includes a wetland enhancement.

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix projects tackle Goose Lake phosphorus load



A \$108,430 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the CMSCWD in 2015 backed the iron-enhanced filter project. Part of a Watershed-Based Implementation Fund grant BWSR awarded to the Lower St. Croix Partnership supported a related wetland restoration. WBIF grants are funded by the Clean Water Fund.

SCANDIA — The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District’s (CMSCWD) work with one landowner on two Clean Water Fund grant-supported projects targeting nutrient-impaired Goose Lake has resulted in phosphorus reductions that contribute to improvements in water quality and water clarity.

“It’s just a really nice, natural-environment lake with a solid biotic community. And so if we can get the water-quality component addressed, then it will remain a great asset for the community and the folks who live and visit up here,” said CMSCWD Administrator Mike Isensee.

A 76-acre lake with a small public water access, Goose Lake in Scandia attracts anglers and duck hunters.

The projects — an iron-enhanced sand filter and a wetland restoration — were installed across the road from the public access on Ellen St. Sauver’s farm.

“I’m getting older, and you want to leave something for the next generation. I was from a farm. My father was from a farm. My husband was. So it’s just nice to carry on the tradition,” St. Sauver said. “It’s nice to do something positive.”

The \$231,350 iron-enhanced sand

filter was completed in fall 2019. It filters water from about 50 acres of agricultural land before it reaches the lake. A \$108,430 Clean Water Fund grant the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to the CMSCWD in 2015 is in play. A \$76,000 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency plus a \$46,920 local match covered the balance.

The \$58,000 wetland restoration finished in December 2022. It excavated phosphorus-enriched soils that were leaching phosphorus into the lake. The project drew \$10,000 in Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) — which is funded by the Clean Water Fund — from a WBIF grant BWSR awarded to the Lower St. Croix Partnership. The CMSCWD covered the balance.

Together, the iron-enhanced sand filter and wetland restoration keep an estimated 37 pounds of phosphorus out of the lake annually. One pound of phosphorus can produce 500 pounds of algae.

Goose Lake was listed as impaired for aquatic recreation in 2002 because of excessive phosphorus. That impairment, coupled with its recreational value, made the lake a

From left: Clean Water Funds from BWSR are in play in the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District’s Goose Lake phosphorus reduction project. The lake is impaired for nutrients. Landowner Ellen St. Sauver of Scandia looked over Goose Lake water quality monitoring results with CMSCWD Administrator Mike Isensee in November 2019. Farm manager Brandon Murray, left, and project manager and engineer Carl Almer of Emmons & Oliver Resources looked on. Grasses and forbes planted as part of the iron-enhanced sand filter project flourished with that year’s wet growing season.
Photo Credits: Ann Wessel, BWSR



Left: Isensee checked on the iron-enhanced sand filter project across the road from Goose Lake. **Middle:** Drainage from about 50 acres of agricultural land upstream flows across the iron-enhanced filter. **Right:** Almer checked on the project.

priority for the watershed.

“The district has been working to get those water bodies off the impaired waters list,” Isensee said. “We have three that have been removed, and we’re hoping that this will be our fourth.”

Jellum’s Lake (AKA Big Marine Lake), South Twin Lake and Hay Lake were delisted in 2022. All three had been impaired for aquatic recreation because of excessive nutrients.

Data from 2022 show an improving trend in the average readings of total phosphorus entering Goose Lake. Secchi disk readings (a measure of water clarity) and Chlorophyll-a readings (a measure of how much algae is growing) remained constant.

Drought conditions over the past three years reduced water flow from the wetland to the lake. Monitoring will continue, to more accurately measure performance during non-drought years and to determine if maintenance is required.

The watershed district is

“ The district has been working to get those water bodies off the impaired waters list. ... We have three that have been removed, and we’re hoping that this will be our fourth. ”

— Mike Isensee,
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District administrator

responsible for long-term maintenance of the iron-enhanced sand filter and wetland.

“With projects like this, the biggest challenge is finding a willing landowner,” Isensee said.

“It takes a lot of time to foster that relationship and help the landowner understand what it is that you would like to do and why you’re doing it. More importantly for the landowner (is) how it’s going to impact their property,” he said. “You’re really asking landowners to voluntarily give you land in order to improve the water quality.”

Isensee’s predecessor, Jim Shaver, had worked with Ellen St. Sauver on agricultural conservation practices. Throughout the

Goose Lake watershed, the CMSCWD had been working with landowners on water-quality improvement projects for 10-plus years.

“The iron-enhanced sand filter was probably the largest load reduction that we were able to achieve on the lake,” Isensee said.

After the iron-enhanced sand filter was installed and treating the water flowing from the ag land, monitoring in 2020 showed that the wetland — a 0.40-acre site that had absorbed decades worth of livestock and ag land runoff — was contributing phosphorus to the lake.

The Washington Conservation District’s soil core sampling and chemical evaluation revealed a 2-foot-deep layer where phosphorus levels were higher than average for a

wetland. Those phosphorus-enriched soils were leaching soluble reactive phosphorus — which is five times more bio-available than particulate phosphorus, making it a significant contributor of phosphorus to the lake.

The findings led to the second project: The contractor, Peterson Companies of Chisago City, dewatered the wetland, excavated the phosphorus-rich layer, spread it on farm fields, and then re-established the wetland in 2022. The Washington Conservation District restored the vegetation and worked on narrow-leaf cattail control in 2023.

“I’m hoping that this will do it for Goose Lake and the water quality will be wonderful,” St. Sauver said.

Next, the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District in 2025 plans to evaluate Goose Lake’s internal phosphorus-loading along with its fishery, plant community and internal lake chemistry to determine what — if any — type of internal lake treatment to pursue.

Setting Mille Lacs priorities via Aitkin County SWCD-led drone study



Watershed-Based Implementation Funding is supported by the Clean Water Fund.

Improving the overall condition of Mille Lacs Lake is the goal of a shoreline improvement effort that started with a 2,000-parcel drone study led by the Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Aitkin County SWCD used Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to the Rum River watershed planning partnership to support a drone study of Mille Lacs Lake's entire shoreline. The SWCD, with assistance from the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Department of Natural Resources (DNR), captured video footage of the shoreline, which includes Aitkin, Mille Lacs and Crow Wing counties and the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Reservation. The study aims to identify and prioritize shoreline properties that could benefit from restoration work, especially work related

to curbing erosion, which sends soil and the pollutants it carries into the lake.

The second-largest inland lake in the state, Mille Lacs Lake covers more than 200 square miles. The lake is the headwaters of the Rum River, and water-quality improvements affecting the lake translate to water-quality benefits downstream.

"It's really nice to be able to get an overall view of what the shoreline is actually doing, and what parts might need a little bit more help and which parts are doing pretty good. When you're looking from a point of view of just a lake association, or individual landowners, you only get a partial view of what's going on in the lake," said Sam Seybold, the SWCD's buffer specialist.

The Rum River comprehensive watershed management plan developed under BWSR's One Watershed, One Plan

Mille Lacs Lake has more than 80 miles of shoreline. The lake is the headwaters for the Rum River. An Aitkin County SWCD drone study prioritized restoration projects that aim to improve the lake's water quality for future generations. Photo Credits: Aitkin County SWCD

(1W1P) program identified the need for the study, which cost \$26,800. WBIF covered study costs.

The grant funds covered SWCD staff members' time spent filming, analyzing footage and then scoring over 2,000 parcels across more than 80 miles of shoreline. Veronica Lundquist, Aitkin County SWCD technician, was among those who reviewed the footage and developed a scoring system.

"We wanted to try and figure out a way where we could look at the whole lake and determine which properties needed the most help, and that's kind of where we came up with the drone study," Lundquist said.

From a boat, a crew of SWCD and Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe DNR staff spent five days on Mille Lacs Lake in June 2023 collecting footage via a drone above public waters. The DNR staff donated their time to the project and provided and navigated the boat.

Aitkin County SWCD forester Kyle Fredrickson flew the drone about 45 feet above the water, 300 feet from the shore, and at about 8 mph, while the drone collected footage.

"We've been doing some other studies from the shore, and it is a lot more challenging. You need to maintain sight of the drone," Fredrickson said. "(If) you're in a boat you can keep moving and save a lot on return trips. ... This was the first time we've flown from a boat. So, we were trying to really figure out the logistics of taking off from a boat and then landing on a boat."

The Aitkin County SWCD created a scoring system, which it used to prioritize



Aitkin County SWCD Forester Kyle Fredrickson flew a drone around the perimeter of Mille Lacs Lake to capture video footage in summer 2023.

for restoration or protection the segments of shoreline that pose the greatest risk to the lake's water quality. The scoring system helps identify parcels where erosion and the lack of vegetation is a concern, and where protective measures would help to keep banks from eroding, and pollutants and runoff from entering the lake.

By February, Lundquist and Seybold had reviewed the footage and scored each lakeshore parcel. Among the metrics: They considered the severity of erosion, and whether Kentucky bluegrass lawns extended to the shoreline — or if native plants provided a buffer.

Dilapidated boathouses were another common high-priority shoreline issue that emerged. Collapsing boathouses can drop chemically treated lumber, shingles and tar into the lake, which can pollute the water and harm water quality. Once the boathouses were removed, the area could

be planted with shoreline-stabilizing native vegetation.

"One thing we were noticing (was) boathouses that were kind of just rotting into the lake. I think that was a really valuable thing to understand, seeing how many boathouses were there, because it's kind of hard to conceptualize when you're just on a boat," Fredrickson said, "but to actually intentionally count them out and see how many structures are right there on the water that probably should be decommissioned or should be addressed was a really valuable part of this study."

Lundquist and Seybold identified 4,831 best management practices that could be implemented to address high priorities identified in the study. Those included 3,087 within Mille Lacs County, 1,593 in Aitkin County and 151 in Crow Wing County.

Across the shoreline properties, the need to

address mowed lawns was the most common issue, with 1,639 parcels listed as a high priority in that category. A potential BMP solution is to plant native vegetation to buffer the lake from excess nutrients, such as nitrogen and phosphorus, that are carried by runoff. Phosphorus can feed the algae that turns lakes green.

"A best management practice to help with erosion could be planting more native species, getting good roots down in the ground to help prevent erosion," Lundquist said. Other options might involve installing a coconut fiber log to help stabilize the slope.

The Aitkin County SWCD will share the footage and scoring results with surrounding SWCDs, the tribe and 1W1P partners, so they can pinpoint projects within their work areas. The data includes timestamps, so if the other partners want to look for erosion concerns, they can query the high-erosion parcels, look at the timestamp and view that parcel on the footage.

"We wanted to make it as simple and user-friendly as possible," Lundquist said.

Now, Lundquist will start contacting landowners about potential conservation practices and funding assistance. The Aitkin County SWCD plans to use funding set aside from the Rum River 1W1P for lakeshore landowners who want to implement restoration practices. The SWCD aims to start individual projects this summer.

"Individual projects that get implemented are just one more step toward better water clarity and progress across the lake," Lundquist said.

New online tool will track condition of state's wetland restorations



Above: A conservation easement on Paul Brutlag's farm in Otter Tail County is one of more than 8,000 easements across the state that include wetland restorations. A new tool being developed by BWSR will help soil and water conservation district staff track the condition of structural components included in restored wetlands. **Right:** A restored wetland sustained wave damage along an embankment. **Photo Credits:** BWSR



A new online tool being developed by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will help track the condition of structural components — such as embankments, pipes and weirs — incorporated into wetland restorations that are part of conservation easements across the state.

Wetland restorations are part of nearly 8,000 conservation easements covering about 340,000 acres across Minnesota. Many of these restoration projects require structural components that restore wetland functions, protect downstream properties from flooding and maintain

drainage for neighboring landowners. Examples of common structural components include embankments, pipes, rerouted tile and sheetpile weirs.

While the easements are permanent, the structures built to support wetland functions can deteriorate over time, depending upon changing site conditions and natural elements. Rodents — such as muskrats — can burrow into embankments, creating weak spots. Metal pipes will eventually rust. Frost can shift sheetpile weirs. Waves can erode embankments where vegetation has died. In cases where the drainage systems have grown or stormwater

runoff has increased, some components may no longer be large enough to handle the volume.

“SWCD (soil and water conservation district) field office staff are usually the first to discover these issues,” said Sharon Doucette, BWSR easements section manager. “These staff members are required to complete on-site inspections as part of our stewardship process, and they often identify these types of issues during these inspections or when a landowner alerts the SWCD about an issue.”

Because many easements have complex restoration plans, it can be difficult to identify and describe components in need of attention. Last year, BWSR engineering staff began developing an online structural asset reporting tool to make it easier for SWCD staff to report structural issues on wetland easements and streamline the response process. The tool is expected to be available in the coming months.

“The reporting tool will provide a consistent level of detail about structural issues, making it easier for BWSR to track these issues and assess the need for further investigation and response,” said Aaron Peter, BWSR training engineer and one of the BWSR staff members building the tool. “Information entered into the tool will help give BWSR engineering staff an idea of the problem’s severity.”

The tool’s five sections will cover typical wetland restoration components and common maintenance issues: general/vegetation, embankments, pipe outlets, open spillway outlets and drainage systems. Each section will contain a brief description of the structures, along



Wetland restorations — such as this one in Pope County — help to increase water storage, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat.

with photos that illustrate restoration components.

Designed to be user-friendly and fast, the form SWCD staff members fill out to describe the property and easement will consist of checkboxes and drop-down menus, with minimal narrative. Photos illustrating structural concerns may be uploaded directly from a smartphone or computer. A GIS mapping tool helps

to pinpoint locations within an easement that may be difficult to describe.

After an issue is reported using the tool, BWSR engineering staff will evaluate the problem based on its severity and its impact to the restoration or affected properties. If immediate repairs are not needed, SWCD staff may be advised to schedule a follow-up visit with the landowner and track the

issue over the next several years. If repairs are needed, BWSR engineering staff will design a solution the landowner can review, and then coordinate with the landowner and their contractor to complete the repairs, providing construction oversight. Costs will be reimbursed by BWSR.

More information about how to access the tool will be shared once the tool is fully developed and available online.

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- Office & Admin Spec.: Donna Caughey, Carrie Rust-Moline, Vacant

SWCDs, FBA, Federal Partners, landowners | WCA LGUs, SWCDs, Local Road Authorities, Counties, Landowners | WCA LGUs, SWCDs, Local Road Drainage Authorities, Landowners | SWCDs, WDs, TSAs, WCA LGUs, Drainage Authorities, landowners | SWCDs, WDs, WMOs, Counties, JPB, TSA, Federal Partners | SWCDs, WDs, TSAs | SWCDs, WDs, WMOs, Counties, JPB, TSA | SWCDs, WDs, Counties, JPB, TSA | SWCDs, WDs, Counties, JPB, TSA

<input type="checkbox"/> IN-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM ADVANCE	SEMA4 EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if advance was issued for these expenses
<input type="checkbox"/> OUT-OF-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECURRING ADVANCE		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL EXPENSE(S) FOR THIS TRIP?

Employee Name	Home Address (Include City and State)	Permanent Work Station (Include City and State)	Agency	1-Way Commute Miles	Job Title
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Employee ID	Rcd #	Trip Start Date	Trip End Date	Reason for Travel/Advance (30 Char. Max) [example: XYZ Conference, Dallas, TX]				Barg. Unit	Expense Group ID (Agency Use)
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Chart String(s)	A	Accounting Date	Fund	Fin DeptID	AppropID	SW Cost	Sub Acct	Agncy Cost 1	Agncy Cost 2	PC BU	Project	Activity	Srce Type	Category	Sub-Cat	Distrib %
		B														

A. Description: _____ B. Description: _____

Date	Daily Description	Itinerary		Trip Miles	Total Trip & Local Miles	Mileage Rate	Meals ✓			Total Meals (overnight stay)	Total Meals (no overnight stay) taxable	Lodging	Personal Telephone	Parking	Total
		Time	Location				B	L	D						
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
				VEHICLE CONTROL #		Total Miles 0	Figure mileage reimbursement below			Total MWI/MWO 0.00	Total MEI/MEO 0.00	Total LG/LGO 0.00	Total PHI/PHO 0.00	Total PKI/PKO 0.00	Subtotal (A) 0.00

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CALCULATION	OTHER EXPENSES – See reverse for list of Earn Codes.
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Enter the rates, miles, and total amounts for the mileage listed above. Get the IRS rate from your agency business expense contact.	Rate	Total Miles	Total Mileage Amt.	Date	Earn Code	Comments	Total
1. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at equal to the IRS rate.			0.00				
2. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at less than the IRS rate.			0.00				
3. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at greater than the IRS rate.			0.00				
4. Add the total mileage amounts from lines 1 through 3.			0.00				
5. Enter IRS mileage rate in place at the time of travel.							
6. Subtract line 5 from line 3.	0.000						
7. Enter total miles from line 3.		0				Subtotal Other Expenses: (B)	0.00
8. Multiply line 6 by line 7. This is taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box C)</small>			Total taxable mileage greater than IRS rate to be reimbursed: (C)	0.00 <small>MIT or MOT</small>
9. Subtract line 8 from line 4. If line 8 is zero, enter mileage amount from line 4. This is non-taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box D)</small>			Total nontaxable mileage less than or equal to IRS rate to be reimbursed: (D)	0.00 <small>MLI or MLO</small>
Grand Total (A + B + C + D)							0.00

If using private vehicle for out-of-state travel: What is the lowest airfare to the destination? _____ Total Expenses for this trip must not exceed this amount.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that this claim is just, correct and that no part of it has been paid or reimbursed by the state of Minnesota or by another party except with respect to any advance amount paid for this trip. I AUTHORIZE PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF ANY SUCH ADVANCE. I have not accepted personal travel benefits.

Employee Signature _____	Date _____	Work Phone: _____	Appointing Authority Designee (Needed for Recurring Advance and Special Expenses)
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Approved: Based on knowledge of necessity for travel and expense and on compliance with all provisions of applicable travel regulations.

Supervisor Signature _____	Date _____	Work Phone: _____	Signature _____ Date _____
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Amount of Advance to be returned by the employee by deduction from paycheck: **0.00**

Total amount to be reimbursed to the employee: **0.00**

Less Advance issued for this trip: _____

EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT (Instructions)

DO NOT PAY RELOCATION EXPENSES ON THIS FORM.

See form FI-00568 Relocation Expense Report. Relocation expenses must be sent to Minnesota Management & Budget, Statewide Payroll Services, for payment.

USE OF FORM: Use the form for the following purposes:

1. To reimburse employees for authorized travel expenses.
2. To request and pay all travel advances.
3. To request reimbursement for small cash purchases paid for by employees.

COMPLETION OF THE FORM: Employee: Complete, in ink, all parts of this form. If claiming reimbursement, enter actual amounts you paid, not to exceed the limits set in your bargaining agreement or compensation plan. If you do not know these limits, contact your agency's business expense contact. Employees must submit an expense report within 60 days of incurring any expense(s) or the reimbursement comes taxable.

All of the data you provide on this form is public information, except for your home address. You are not legally required to provide your home address, but the state of Minnesota cannot process certain mileage payments without it.

Supervisor: Approve the correctness and necessity of this request in compliance with existing bargaining agreements or compensation plans and all other applicable rules and policies. Forward to the agency business expense contact person, who will then process the payments. Note: The expense report form must include original signatures.

Final Expense For This Trip?: Check this box if there will be no further expenses submitted for this trip. By doing this, any outstanding advance balance associated with this trip will be deducted from the next paycheck that is issued.

1-Way Commute Miles: Enter the number of miles from your home to your permanent workstation.

Expense Group ID: Entered by accounting or payroll office at the time of entering expenses. The Expense Group ID is a unique number that is system-assigned. It will be used to reference any advance payment or expense reimbursement associated with this trip.

Earn Code: Select an Earn Code from the list that describes the expenses for which you are requesting reimbursement. Be sure to select the code that correctly reflects whether the trip is in state or out-of-state. **Note:** Some expense reimbursements may be taxable.

Travel Advances, Short-Term and Recurring: An employee can only have one outstanding advance at a time. An advance must be settled before another advance can be issued.

Travel Advance Settlement: When the total expenses submitted are less than the advance amount or if the trip is cancelled, the employee will owe money to the state. Except for rare situations, personal checks will not be accepted for settlement of advances; a deduction will be taken from the employee's paycheck.

FMS ChartStrings: Funding source(s) for advance or expense(s)

Mileage: Use the **Mileage Reimbursement Calculation** table to figure your mileage reimbursement. Mileage may be authorized for reimbursement to the employee at one of three rates (referred to as the equal to, less than, or greater than rate). The rates are specified in the applicable bargaining agreement/compensation plan. Note: If the mileage rate you are using is above the IRS rate at the time of travel (this is not common), part of the mileage reimbursement will be taxed.

Vehicle Control #: If your agency assigns vehicle control numbers follow your agency's internal policy and procedure. Contact your agency's business expense contact for more information on the vehicle control number procedure.

Personal Travel Benefits: State employees and other officials cannot accept personal benefits resulting from travel on state business as their own. These benefits include frequent flyer miles/points and other benefits (i.e. discounts issued by lodging facilities.) Employees must certify that they have not accepted personal travel benefits when they apply for travel reimbursement.

Receipts: Attach itemized receipts for all expenses except meals, taxi services, baggage handling, and parking meters, to this reimbursement claim. The Agency Designee may, at its option, require attachment of meal receipts as well. Credit card receipts, bank drafts, or cancelled checks are not allowable receipts.

Copies and Distribution: Submit the original document for payment and retain a copy for your employee records.

Description	Earn Code		Description	Earn Code	
	In State	Out of State		In State	Out of State
Advance	ADI	ADO	Membership	MEM	
Airfare	ARI	ARO	Mileage > IRS Rate	MIT*	MOT*
Baggage Handling	BGI	BGO	Mileage < or = IRS Rate	MLI	MLO
Car Rental	CRI	CRO	Network Services	NWK	
Clothing Allowance	CLA		Other Expenses	OEI	OEO
Clothing-Non Contract	CLN		Parking	PKI	PKO
Communications - Other	COM		Photocopies	CPI	CPO
Conference/Registration Fee	CFI	CFO	Postal, Mail & Shipping Svcs.(outbound)	PMS	
Department Head Expense	DHE		Storage of State Property	STO	
Fax	FXI	FXO	Supplies/Materials/Parts	SMP	
Freight & Delivery (inbound)	FDS		Telephone, Business Use	BPI	BPO
Hosting	HST		Telephone, Personal Use	PHI	PHO
Laundry	LDI	LDO	Training/Tuition Fee	TRG	
Lodging	LGI	LGO	Taxi/Airport Shuttle	TXI	TXO
Meals With Lodging	MWI	MWO	Vest Reimbursement	VST	
Meals Without Lodging	MEI*	MEO*	Note: * = taxable, taxed at supplemental rates		