

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

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

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Le Sueur River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on May 1, 2023, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14 and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Partnership Establishment.** The Le Sueur River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan Partnership (Partnership) was established in 2020 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Blue Earth County, Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Faribault County, Faribault County SWCD, Freeborn County, Freeborn County SWCD, Waseca County, and Waseca SWCD. Per the BWSR Operating Procedures, if less than 10% of the jurisdictional land area of the local government is within the watershed planning boundary, participation by that local government is optional. Le Sueur County, Le Sueur County SWCD, Steele County, and Steele County SWCD opted out of the planning process.
- Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. Board Resolution #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures version 2.0 and Board Resolution #19-41 adopted the Plan Content Requirements version 2.1.
- Nature of the Watershed.** The Le Sueur River Watershed encompasses a total of 1,112 square miles, or 711,000 acres, in portions of Blue Earth, Faribault, Freeborn, Le Sueur, Steele, and Waseca counties. The predominant land use is agriculture at over 83% of the watershed. There are a total of 20 municipalities also found within the watershed.

4. **Plan Development.** The Le Sueur River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is a restoration-based Plan. The Plan focuses on restoring impaired waters and habitats, protecting high quality lakes, reducing peak flows through water storage, and protecting groundwater quality through resource management.
5. **Plan Review.** On May 1, 2023, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following State review comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture offered the following comments: “The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has received and reviewed the final draft of the Le Sueur Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. MDA does not have any further comments as part of the official 90-day review and comment period and recommends the Plan for approval.”
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) offered the following comments: “The Minnesota Department of Health has received the final draft plan to review and does not have any further comments or suggestions. MDH recommends approval of the Le Sueur River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.”
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) offered the following comments: “The Minnesota DNR has received and reviewed the final draft plan and does not have any further comments or suggestions. The DNR recommends approval of the Le Sueur Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.”
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) provided a letter which included the following statement: “Overall, the Plan is very well written, concise, and thorough. We have no comments as part of the official 90-day Review and Comment period and recommend it for approval.”
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board provided an acknowledgement that it had received the draft plan but did not offer comments, as is customary.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff have conducted a review of the Plan and find the Plan meets all relevant BWSR CWMP Plan Content requirements. BWSR staff recommend BWSR Board approval of the Plan.
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:
 - Organizing the watershed into the three main tributaries - the Cobb, Le Sueur, and Maple Rivers - and dividing each of these tributaries into an upper, middle, and lower zone.
 - A total of nine Resource Concerns, listed here in order of priority: Water Quality in Rivers and Streams, Water Quality in Lakes, Erosion, Water Quantity and Flooding, Wetlands, Leadership, Bacteria in Rivers and Streams, Riparian and Shorelands, and Groundwater Protection.
 - A total of six Emerging Issues were also referenced in the Plan based on the aggregated data that was reviewed: Chlorides, Climate Change, Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Land Development and Changes, Pesticide and Fertilizer Impacts, and Other Emerging Issues.
 - The Partnership established a Water Storage goal of 11,246 acre-feet.

7. **Southern Regional Committee.** On July 25, 2023, the Southern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Jeff Berg, Eunice Biel, Steve Robertson, Scott Roemhildt, and Ted Winter. Board staff in attendance were Southern Regional Manager Ed Lenz; Board Conservationists Jason Beckler, David Copeland, and John Shea; and Office and Administrative Specialist Carla Swanson-Cullen. The representatives from the Partnership were Rachel Wehner, Freeborn County; Scott Salisbury, Blue Earth County; Jared Bach, Blue Earth County SWCD; Nathan Carr, Faribault County SWCD; Eric Miller, Waseca County; and Mark Schaetzke, Waseca SWCD. Board regional staff provided their recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 24, 2033.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Le Sueur River Watershed Partnership pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Le Sueur River Watershed Planning Partnership Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #19-41.
5. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Le Sueur River Watershed Partnership, dated August 24, 2023.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this 24th of August 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


BY: Todd Holman, Chair

Board Resolution # - 23-47

City of Beardsley Dry Lake Grant

WHEREAS, The City of Beardsley is eligible to receive a \$2,000,000 FY 2024 grant through Minnesota Statutes 2023 Regular Session, Chapter 72, Article 2, Section 5 from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).; and

WHEREAS, This grant is available for the removal, and replacement or repair of a portion of drain tile in the gravity pipe system designed to remove excess water from Dry Lake and prevent flooding in the City of Beardsley.; and

WHEREAS, The City of Beardsley must undertake this project in coordination with the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District.; and

WHEREAS, On July 25, 2023, the Southern Regional Committee met to review the City of Beardsley Dry Lake Grant. The Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of this Grant to the Board.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement with the City of Beardsley consistent with this resolution.



Todd Holman, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grants Approval

PURPOSE

Approval of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Biennial Plan and fiscal years (FY) 2024 and 2025 General Fund Floodplain Management Grants to Area II.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2023 Session, Chapter 60, Article 1, Section 4(f), appropriated \$190,000 for each fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for administrative and implementation efforts of Area II within their nine-county project area.
- B. Area II has developed a Biennial Plan to cover activities for FY 2024 and 2025.
- C. The Area II Floodplain Management Grant has a 25 percent match requirement which has been secured by Area II.
- D. The Southern Regional Committee, at their July 25th meeting, discussed and reviewed the Area II Biennial Work Plan and grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the Area II FY 2024 and 2025 Biennial Plan.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2024 and 2025 Area II Floodplain Management Grant consistent with the provisions of the appropriation and this Board Order.
3. Authorizes staff to review and approve an annual update to the Biennial Plan prior to payment of the FY 2025 grant funds.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this 24th of August 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023

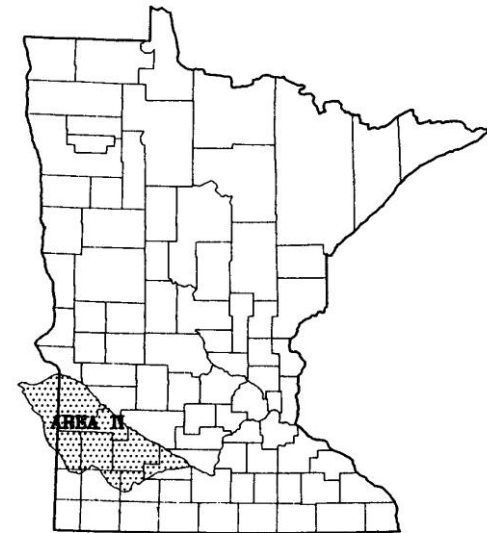
Attachment: *Area II FY 2024 and 2025 Biennial Plan*

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

JULY 1, 2023 – JUNE 30, 2025



Springdale 19 Grade Stabilization (Lyon County)



Member Counties

*Brown • Cottonwood • Lac qui Parle
Lincoln • Lyon • Murray • Pipestone
Redwood • Yellow Medicine*

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

1424 EAST COLLEGE DRIVE - SUITE 300 - MARSHALL, MN 56258

WWW.AREA2.ORG



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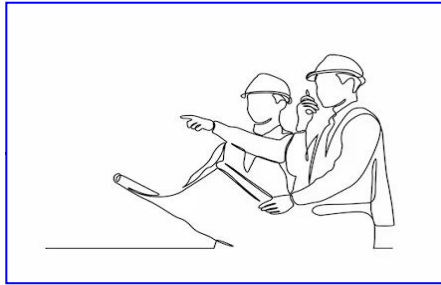
FY 2023 TECHNICAL OFFICE BUDGET - PAGE 9

ATTACHMENTS:

A – FY 2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS

B – FY 2023 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY

C – FY 2022 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY



2023 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

BROWN COUNTY

JEFF VEERKAMP

BRIAN BRAUN (ALTERNATE)

MURRAY COUNTY

LORI GUNNINK

MOLLY MALONE (ALTERNATE)

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

LARRY ANDERSON – CHAIR

KEVIN STEVENS (ALTERNATE)

PIPESTONE COUNTY

LUKE JOHNSON

DALLAS ROSKAMP (ALTERNATE)

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

JOHN MAATZ

STACY TUFTO (ALTERNATE)

REDWOOD COUNTY

RICK WAKEFIELD

DENNIS GROEBNER (ALTERNATE)

LINCOLN COUNTY

JOE DRIETZ

COREY SIK (ALTERNATE)

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

GLEN KACK – VICE CHAIR

RON ANTONY (ALTERNATE)

LYON COUNTY

GARY CROWLEY – SECRETARY/TREASURER

TOM ANDRIES (ALTERNATE)



WORK PLAN NARRATIVE

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

Area II, formed in 1978 as a non-profit organization, works to alleviate the recurrent flood problems which plague this area of southwestern Minnesota. This organization is recognized as a leader in flood damage reduction by the installation of dams, reservoirs, grade stabilizations and road retentions. Area II assists member counties with the engineering design, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, construction and inspection, and finance of flood damage reduction projects. Due to the unique landforms of this region, particularly the Coteau de Prairies (the Buffalo Ridge), Area II receives a 75/25 cost-share rate for office administration and project implementation. Oversight of this grant-in-aid program is provided by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

This Biennial Plan provides direction for a two-year period while the Technical Office Budget serves one fiscal year. By June 30, 2024, updates to the Biennial Plan and the Technical Office Budget for FY 2025 will be provided for BWSR staff review.

1) Initiative: FY 2024 – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Description: Provide administrative and coordination oversight for the Area II Board of Directors. Provide financial reports and records that meet State accounting and auditing standards, prepare budgets, provide supervision and management of staff, evaluate employee performance, draft agenda and minutes of monthly board meetings. Conduct local government and citizen outreach and education.

Actions:

- Maintain a complete Board of Directors of nine (9) delegates and nine (9) alternates; conduct monthly board meetings.
- Maintain adequate staffing to address the goals of Area II. Evaluate job performance of all employees yearly.
- Utilize engineering consultant services to assist with engineering, hydrologic and project planning and prioritization.
- Maintain policies and procedures. Review and update Operating Policies, Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws annually.
- Maintain a public outreach and information program. Accomplish by maintaining the Area II website; conduct tours as necessary to highlight projects completed; prepare an annual report. Complete website reporting requirements by March 15 of each year.
- Provide fiscal accountability by preparing and adopting an annual budget; reviewing monthly financial reports, and annually obtaining a professional audit of the financial records.
- Provide administrative services to the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) via an approved Contract for Services Agreement. Each organization maintains its organizational purpose and goals while sharing an executive director and office space. Continue operational efficiency measures with RCRCA. Ensure that office operations, income and expenditures for each organization are clearly separate and documented including time tracking, monthly billing of contract services, and Board approval.
- Meet and communicate with member county commissioners, engineers, water planners, watershed districts, SWCD, NRCS, watershed project staff regarding technical services and potential projects.
- Serve on technical committees (as requested) for watershed projects, TMDL project assessment and implementation efforts.

2) Initiative: FY 2024 – ENGINEERING SERVICES

Description: Employ a senior engineering technician and a registered consultant engineer to provide design services which include planning, hydrologic and hydraulic design, construction, and inspection of floodwater retention projects to the member counties. Provide engineering services for projects funded through outside sources involving USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Clean Water Funds, Disaster Relief Funds and other state funding acquired by SWCDs, RCRCAs and counties.

Actions:

- Continue contracting professional engineering services through Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Schedule and complete annual operation and maintenance inspections and reports for nine (9) existing reservoirs.
- Ensure annual inspection of road retention projects by owners and keep inspection reports on file. Follow up on noted concerns.
- Provide wetland monitoring and annual reporting for mitigation sites associated with constructed project.
- Provide project management and coordination with local/state/federal permitting authorities.
- Coordinate with local/state/federal agencies for early project review and coordination regarding wetland impacts.
- Process payment requests in a timely manner and provide as-built plans and construction documentation.
- Assist in securing the local matching funds for projects from eligible partners and sources.

3) Initiative: FY 2024 – OPERATIONAL & SUPPORT EXPENSES

Description: Utilize funding for operational and support expenses of Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects for payroll, consultant engineering fees, field and office supplies, telephone / internet and computer services, training and certification, vehicle and equipment expenses, liability / business / auto insurance, and general business expenses.

4) Initiative: FY 2024 – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION VIA ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT

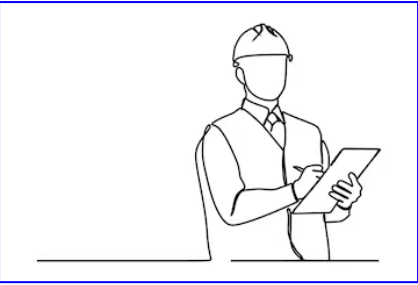
Description: See Potential Project List for FY 2024 & FY 2025 – Page 7 of this document.

5) Initiative: BONDING APPROPRIATIONS (if applicable)

Description: Provide project management and engineering services to construct flood damage reduction structures to meet the 3:1 match requirement and provide the most floodwater storage as practicable.

Actions:

- Administer the appropriation and report project outcomes in eLINK and to the BWSR Board annually.
- Process cost-share contracts with landowners with approval by the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Board of Directors.
- Complete fiscal expenditure report due at end of grant period listing total costs and cost-sharing by all partners.
- Facilitate wetland mitigation if required for proposed projects.
- Provide project management and coordination with local/state/federal permitting authorities.
- Process payment requests in a timely manner and provide as-built Plans and construction documentation.
- Assist in securing the local matching funds for projects from eligible partners and sources.



OTHER ENDEAVORS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

● WATER QUALITY & STORAGE GRANT APPLICATIONS

Area II submitted two projects for consideration in May 2023: Alta Vista 27 Road Retention (Lincoln County) and the Redwood Falls 8/9 Grade Stabilization in conjunction with Redwood Falls 8/14 WSCBs (Redwood County). If successfully funded, Area II will provide grant, project and construction management for the applications.

● WATER QUALITY & STORAGE PILOT PROGRAM (*Custer 10 Grade Stabilization – Lyon County*)

Area II was successfully awarded \$94,723.84 for the Custer 10 Grade Stabilization in Lyon County. The project will provide 30.4 acre-feet of storage for the 100-year storm, reducing flows 45.8% (181 cfs). This project will reduce sediment by 213 tons/year as the confluence with the Cottonwood River is approximately ¼ mile downstream. Due to the unavailability of concrete pipe in 2022, the project will be constructed in 2023. Area II provides grant, project, and construction management.

● ENGINEERING FOR PLUM AND PELL CREEK CLEAN WATER FUND GRANTS

Significant federal and state funds have been received by these two subwatersheds within the Cottonwood River Watershed. Several projects involve floodwater storage in addition to water quality benefits which has involved Area II's services for surveying, engineering, and construction management.

● ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota

Area II is a MOA partner with this newly-funded planning effort which began in Spring 2023.

Yellow Medicine

The Yellow Medicine River watershed was one of the five pilot projects offering a plan with a regional approach. This was desirable as many commonalities of the five Area II major watersheds exist due to the Buffalo Ridge. Although these watersheds have unique issues of their own, topography and flooding bind these southwestern watersheds together.

As the Plan implementation moves forward, Area II has been challenged with a key role in the **Priority Concern: Mitigate Altered Hydrology and Minimize Flooding**. One of the measurable goals is to “Add 1,000 acre-feet of new stormwater storage” by means of capital improvement projects. Although 1,000 acre-feet is achievable in the 10-year period, a more restrictive calculation was added to this goal whereby the overall drawdown time must be greater than 48 hours for 10-year summer rainfall event. This restriction has created a severe obstacle as the steep topography of this area most often does not allow for lengthy drawdown times as compared to projects located in the Red River Valley.

Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank Plan was approved in March 2024 and is entering the implementation phase. Area II will have a similar role as with the Yellow Medicine 1W1P to assist with providing floodwater retention.

Redwood

Area II has expressed their support via resolution for the planning effort and application for plan funding. Planning is anticipated to begin in early 2024.

- **LCCMR (*Building Resiliency to Extreme Precipitation in Minnesota, \$192,000*)**

This project was funded by LCCMR in 2023 which analyses the Cottonwood River Watershed as a ‘climatic phenomenon’ for the amount of extreme precipitation events. Jason Ulrich from the St. Croix Research Station is leading this effort with assistance from many partners throughout the watershed. The timeline of this project overlays nicely with the Cottonwood-Middle Minnesota 1W1P with findings of both efforts being shared mutually. Public infrastructure within the City of Springfield has been devastated by recurrent flood events, and the research findings will hopefully identify how proactive efforts can benefit the City of Springfield once the resiliency of the watershed is more fully understood.

- **LEGISLATIVE FUNDING REQUESTS**

Requests to the 2023 Legislature were made for an increase to the biennial appropriation to Area II (\$190,000 per year), and for \$1,500,000 of Capital Investment funds for floodwater retention.

The administrative appropriation was included in the omnibus environmental bills at differing amounts and was resolved in conference committee at \$190,000 per year for FY24-25. Funding for FY26-27 would fall back to \$140,000 per year.

As for the bonding request, Area II was included in the cash portion of the bonding bill (hf 670) for the full \$1.5 million. No bonding funds have been received since the FY2019 appropriation which justified the increased amount.



POTENTIAL PROJECTS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

KEY: *FY 2024 Construction Planned*

BROWN COUNTY

- Leavenworth 11 Grade Stabilization
- Stately 5 Grade Stabilization
- Stately 29 Grade Stabilization Repair

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

- Ann 17 Grade Stabilization
- Storden 10 Grade Stabilization Repairs (3)

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

- Lac qui Parle River Diversion Restoration

LINCOLN COUNTY

- Alta Vista 18 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Lake Shaokatan Outlet Restoration
- Marble 23 Grade Stabilization

LYON COUNTY

- Amiret 6 Grade Stabilization
- *Custer 10 Grade Stabilization*
- Island Lake 27 Grade Stabilization
- Lynd 2 Grade Stabilization
- Lynd 31 Road Retention
- *Nordland 6 Dam Restoration*
- Nordland 18 Grade Stabilization
- Nordland 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Sodus 24 Grade Stabilization

MURRAY COUNTY

- Dovray 16 Grade Stabilization
- *Holly 10 Grade Stabilization*
- *Holly 21 Grade Stabilization, Restoration, WSCB*

- Milford 12 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Stately 9 Grade Stabilization

- *Storden 2 Grade Stabilization*

- *Alta Vista 27 Road Retention*
- Marble 11 Wetland Restoration

- Amiret 28 Grade Stabilization
- Island Lake 6 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Lake Marshall 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Lynd 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Monroe 30 Grade Stabilization
- Nordland 8 Dam Restoration
- Nordland 23 Grade Stabilization
- Sodus 22 Grade Stabilization
- Stanley 19 Grade Stabilization

- Holly 4 Grade Stabilization
- *Holly 11 Grade Stabilization*
- Holly 22 Road Retention

POTENTIAL PROJECTS

CONTINUED

REDWOOD COUNTY

- Delhi 24 Dam Restoration
- Lamberton 26 Grade Stabilization
- North Hero 34 Road Retention
- Sherman 6 Streambank Stabilization
- Springdale 26 Grade Stabilization
- Swede's Forest 19 Dam Restoration

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

- Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Norman 7 Grade Stabilization Repair

- Lamberton 22 Grade Stabilization
- North Hero 31 Grade Stabilization Repair
- ***Redwood Falls 8/9 Grade Stabilization***
- North Hero 26 Restoration
- ***Springdale 24 Grade Stabilization***
- Swede's Forest 27 Dam Restoration

- Florida 15 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Norman 10 Grade Stabilization





FY 2024 TECHNICAL OFFICE BUDGET

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

OFFICE OPERATIONS

PERSONNEL SERVICES:

Directors' Compensation.....	\$	600.00
Directors' FICA.....		45.90
Employees' Salaries.....		158,048.22
Employees' FICA.....		11,101.16
Employees' Medical Insurance.....		36,150.00
Employees' Retirement.....		11,853.62
Employees' FlexPlan.....		66.00
Total Personnel Services.....	\$	217,864.90

SUPPLIES:

Office & Field.....	\$	1,750.00
Investigation & Testing		30,000.00
Capital Outlay.....		25,000.00
Total Supplies.....	\$	56,750.00

OTHER SERVICES AND COSTS:

Directors' Expenses.....	\$	500.00
Employees' Expenses.....		1,000.00
Contract Services.....		16,000.00
Professional Services.....		65,000.00
Permit Expense.....		300.00
Telephone.....		600.00
Postage.....		350.00
Vehicle Expense.....		3,500.00
Rent.....		10,044.00
Insurance.....		5,900.00
Website Expenses.....		150.00
Maintenance & Repairs.....		4,250.00
Miscellaneous Expenses.....		2,000.00
Total Other Services and Costs.....	\$	109,594.00

TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS.....	\$	384,208.90
Total Ineligible for Cost-Share by the State.....		1,145.90*
Total Eligible for Cost-Share by the State.....	\$	383,063.00

** These items not cost-shared by the State*

STATE SHARE OF ELIGIBLE OFFICE COSTS.....	\$	190,000.00
Local Share of Eligible Office Costs.....	\$	92,000.00
Income from Other Sources & Grants.....	\$	188,566.02
Anticipated Income.....	\$	470,566.02

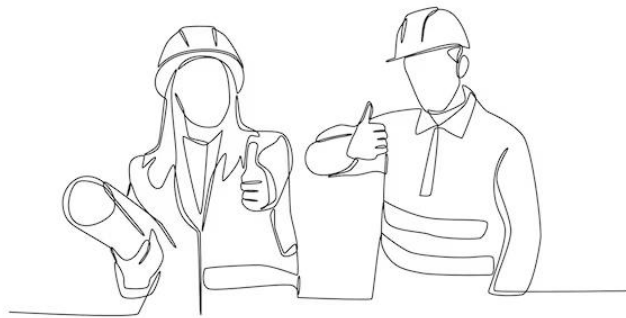
ATTACHMENTS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY2024 & 2025

ATTACHMENT A – FY2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS

ATTACHMENT B – FY2023 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT C – FY2022 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY



ATTACHMENT A

FY2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS

Amiret 28 Water Diversion - Lyon	<u>\$ 27,359.91</u>
Lyon SWCD Cons. Delivery Funds	\$ 17,200.43
Landowner	\$ 3,233.48
Amiret Township	\$ 2,500.00
Area II Counties (engineering)	\$ 1,106.50
Lyon SWCD	\$ 3,319.50

Amiret 31 Streambank Stabilization - Lyon	<u>\$ 17,879.85</u>
Landowner	\$ 17,623.00
Area II Counties (engineering)	\$ 256.75

Lake Benton Outlet Restoration – Lincoln	<u>\$ 73,589.15</u>
Lincoln County	\$ 72,398.40
Area II Counties (engineering)	\$ 1,190.75



Holly 9 Dam Repair - Murray	<u>\$ 20,462.20</u>
Plum Creek Clean Water Funds	\$ 2,773.08
Plum Creek 319 Federal Funds	\$ 11,092.32
Landowner	\$ 4,621.80
<i>Area II provided professional engineering reimbursed by Clean Water Funds.</i>	

Fortier 24 Repair – Yellow Medicine	<u>\$ 50,629.56</u>
Del Clark Lake Clean Water Funds	\$ 45,882.55
LQP-YB Watershed District	\$ 2,747.01
Landowner	\$ 2,000.00
<i>Area II provided professional engineering reimbursed by Clean Water Funds.</i>	

FY2023 COMPLETED PROJECTS	
Clean Water Funds	\$ 48,655.63
319 Federal Funds	\$ 11,092.32
Townships	\$ 2,500.00
Watershed Districts	\$ 2,747.01
SWCD Funds	\$ 20,519.93
County Funds	\$ 72,398.40
Area II Counties	\$ 2,554.00
Landowners	\$ 27,478.38
TOTAL	<u>\$ 187,945.67</u>

ATTACHMENT B

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

GRANT PERIOD:
From: August 3, 2022
To: June 30, 2023

**AREA II STATUTORY
AUTHORITY:**
MN Statutes, Sections
103F.171 - 103F.187

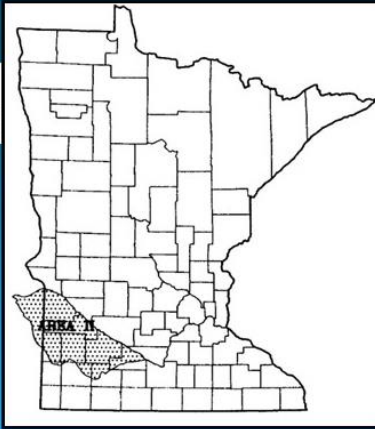
Administrative Services Grant Expenditures

*NOTE: Totals from
Area II Profit & Loss Statement
for the 10-month period of
Aug. 3, 2022 – May 31, 2023*

Personnel Services	\$ 170,439.03
Other Services	\$ 31,902.13
Prof. Services	\$ 54,934.75
Supplies	\$ 698.77
Investigation & Testing	\$ 49,113.00
Business Insurance	\$ 5,936.00
Project Expenses	\$ 18,190.88
TOTAL FY23 EXPENDITURE (to date)	\$ 331,214.56

PROJECT CONTACT:
Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
(507) 537-6369
kerry.netzke@area2.org

Project Title: FY'23 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANT
CONTRACT NO. P23-1141 \$140,000.00



Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Watershed Boundary

Member Counties:

- Brown*
- Cottonwood*
- Lac qui Parle*
- Lincoln*
- Lyon*
- Murray*
- Pipestone*
- Redwood*
- Yellow Medicine*

Overall Project Description

Minnesota Statutes establish a grant-in-aid program administered by BWSR for providing financial and technical assistance to local government units (counties, SWCDS, and watershed districts) located in Area II for project and construction costs of floodwater retarding and retention structures within a general plan for floodplain management.

Nine counties within Area II have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement since 1978 to coordinate the implementation of such floodwater retarding and retention projects, and for this purpose, established Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects.

Statute authorizes BWSR to supervise the program and provide individual project grants not to exceed 75% of total project costs where federal funds are not utilized, or 50% of the nonfederal costs where federal funds are utilized.

Area II has an established office which houses Area II personnel and equipment to provide the engineering and other technical services of projects cost-shared through this program.

Costs eligible for cost-sharing under this Grant Agreement include technical office administration costs, but do not include the compensation, expenses, or insurance costs for the Area II Board of Directors.

The combination of the nine member counties provide \$92,000.00 to the Administrative Services Grant of \$140,000.00. This far exceeds the required 25% local match of \$46,666.67.

ATTACHMENT C

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

GRANT PERIOD:
From: July 1, 2021
To: June 30, 2022

**AREA II STATUTORY
AUTHORITY:**
MN Statutes, Sections
103F.171 - 103F.187

Administrative Services Grant Expenditures

*NOTE: Totals from
Audited Financial Statements
for FY2022
July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022*

Personnel Services	\$ 205,585
Other Services	\$ 39,518
Prof. Services	\$ 54,160
Supplies	\$ 879
Investigation & Testing	\$ 0
Prop. Insurance	\$ 4,701
Capitol Outlay	\$ 62,291 <i>(Right-to-use Lease Asset)</i>
TOTAL FY22 EXPENDITURE	\$ 367,134

PROJECT CONTACT:
Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
(507) 537-6369
kerry.netzke@area2.org

Project Title: FY'22 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANT
CONTRACT NO. P22-5880 \$140,000.00



Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Watershed Boundary

Member Counties:

- Brown*
- Cottonwood*
- Lac qui Parle*
- Lincoln*
- Lyon*
- Murray*
- Pipestone*
- Redwood*
- Yellow Medicine*

Overall Project Description

Minnesota Statutes establish a grant-in-aid program administered by BWSR for providing financial and technical assistance to local government units (counties, SWCDS, and watershed districts) located in Area II for project and construction costs of floodwater retarding and retention structures within a general plan for floodplain management.

Nine counties within Area II have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement since 1978 to coordinate the implementation of such floodwater retarding and retention projects, and for this purpose, established Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects.

Statute authorizes BWSR to supervise the program and provide individual project grants not to exceed 75% of total project costs where federal funds are not utilized, or 50% of the nonfederal costs where federal funds are utilized.

Area II has an established office which houses Area II personnel and equipment to provide the engineering and other technical services of projects cost-shared through this program.

Costs eligible for cost-sharing under this Grant Agreement include technical office administration costs, but do not include the compensation, expenses, or insurance costs for the Area II Board of Directors.

The combination of the nine member counties provide \$92,000.00 to the Administrative Services Grant of \$140,000.00. This far exceeds the required 25% local match of \$46,666.67.



BOARD ORDER

Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects 2024 Floodwater Retention

PURPOSE

Approval of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) 2024 Bonding Floodwater Retention Grant to Area II.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2023 Session, Chapter 71, Article 1, Section 4, appropriated \$1,500,000 for capital improvements to prevent or alleviate flood damage in Area II of the Minnesota River Basin.
- B. This appropriation is not available until the Board determines that \$1 has been committed from nonstate sources for every \$3 of State grant funding.
- C. The Southern Regional Committee, at their July 25, 2023 meeting, discussed and reviewed the Area II Bonding statute and grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2024 Floodwater Retention (Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects).

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this 24th of August 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: 8/24/2023

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD ORDER

Revisions to the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* and the *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements*

PURPOSE

Adopt revised versions of the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* and the *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements*.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program, also known as the One Watershed, One Plan Program, and directs the board to develop policies for coordination and development of comprehensive watershed management plans and required comprehensive watershed management plan content.
- B. The Board approved the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* on March 23, 2016 and approved subsequent revisions on March 28, 2018 and March 24, 2021.
- C. The Board approved the *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements* on March 23, 2016 and approved subsequent revisions on March 28, 2018, August 29, 2019, and December 15, 2022.
- D. The agency’s water planning team identified the need to revise the One Watershed, One Plan policies, including changes related to plan amendments and the Minnesota Climate Action Framework, and recommended revisions to the Senior Management Team.
- E. The Board’s Senior Management Team on July 11, 2023 reviewed revisions to the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* and the *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements* and recommended both policy revisions to the Board’s Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee for consideration.
- F. The Board’s Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the revisions on July 26, 2023 and recommended approval of both policy revisions to the full board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Adopts the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* version 3.0, dated August 24, 2023
- 2. Adopts the *One Watershed, One Plan, Plan Content Requirements* version 3.0, dated August 24, 2023.
- 3. Authorizes staff to implement the revised *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and One Watershed, One Plan, Plan Content Requirements*.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this August 24th, 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023



BOARD ORDER

One Watershed, One Plan FY24 Planning Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2024 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. The Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i) and the Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6 (i) appropriated funds for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D and 114D.
- B. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 and §103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project, practice or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan.
- C. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
- D. The Board on June 22, 2016 adopted a One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan (Board Resolution #16-53) for development, approval, adoption, and coordination of plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103A.212.
- E. The Board on March 22, 2023 authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for planning grants for the One Watershed, One Plan Program and a formal request for proposal was noticed on March 24, 2023 with a submittal deadline of June 19, 2023.
- F. The BWSR Senior Management Team met on July 11, 2023 and reviewed the applications with consideration of staff, consistency with the Transition Plan, and the selection criteria within the RFP and recommended providing planning grant funds to the following three watershed planning boundaries: Blue Earth River, Minnesota River Mankato, and Redwood River.
- G. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on July 24, 2023 and reviewed the Senior Management Team's recommendations for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants and recommended board approval of planning grants for the Blue Earth River, Minnesota River Mankato, and Redwood River watershed planning boundaries.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves and authorizes three One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants: Blue Earth River, Minnesota River Mankato, Redwood River watershed planning boundaries.
2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements with these watershed areas for development of One Watershed, One Plans.
3. Approves the allocation of grants funds for the three watershed areas not to exceed \$800,000 in total.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this 24th of August 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023

BOARD ORDER

One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants and delegate approval of these grants to the Executive Director.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Past appropriations have been made to BWSR and BWSR anticipates future appropriations for transitioning local water management plans to a watershed approach.
2. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
3. An evaluation of the administration of the One Watershed, One Plan Program was completed by the Management Analysis and Development (MAD) in May 2022 with a specific recommendation regarding supporting successful plan maintenance.
4. In December 2022, the Board reviewed and approved via Board Order 22-54 the initial One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants to support local governments' efforts to evaluate progress on implementation of comprehensive watershed management plans and/or amend comprehensive watershed management plans.
5. The Board anticipates continued requests for Mid-Point Grants.
6. The timing of Mid-Point Grants will depend on readiness of each plan implementing partnership.
7. SMT reviewed and approved a staff recommendation consistent with this proposed Board Order on August 8, 2023.
8. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 14, 2023 meeting, reviewed this request and recommended Board approval of this order.

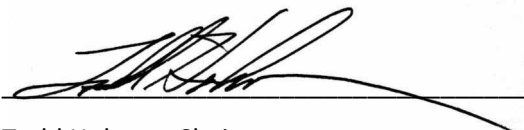
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to establish a grant application process and delegates authority to the Executive Director to approve Mid-Point Grants up to \$75,000 per One Watershed, One Plan planning boundary for a mid-point assessment and /or comprehensive watershed management plan amendment.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements or contracts for these purposes.
3. Directs staff to provide quarterly reports to the grants program and policy committee on this program.

Dated Apple Valley, Minnesota, this August 24th, 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023

BOARD ORDER

FY 2024-2025 Buffer Program Implementation Grants

PURPOSE

Provide Buffer Program funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement buffer program activities for fiscal year 2024-2025.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has the responsibility to oversee the provisions of Minnesota Statute 103F.48 (the Buffer Law) and to provide funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to implement the law.
- B. The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6(e) appropriated fiscal year 2024 and 2025 Buffer Program Implementation funds.
- C. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with these appropriations.
- D. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their July 24, 2023 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

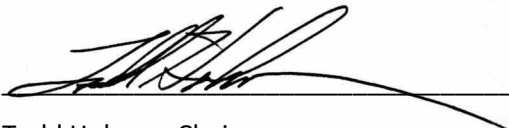
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements with eligible SWCDs, and Hennepin and Ramsey Counties that are meeting statute, policy, or grant program requirements for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 up to the amounts listed in the attached allocation table and totaling up to \$1,805,000 each year.
2. Establishes that the Buffer Program Implementation grants awarded pursuant to this order are to be used to fulfil the obligations of SWCDs under Minnesota Statute 103F.48 and has no required match.
3. Authorizes staff to carry out the Buffer Implementation Grant Program pursuant to this order and adopt grant management procedures consistent with requirements for Clean Water Fund expenditures.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this 24th of August 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023

Attachment: FY2024-2025 Buffer Program Implementation Grant Allocations

FY23 Buffer Program Implementation Grant Allocations

SWCD	Proposed FY 23 Allocation
AITKIN	\$8,500
ANOKA	\$8,500
BECKER	\$21,500
BELTRAMI	\$17,000
BENTON	\$17,000
BIG STONE	\$21,500
BLUE EARTH	\$25,500
BROWN	\$25,500
CARLTON	\$2,500
CARVER	\$17,000
CASS	\$8,500
CHIPPEWA	\$25,500
CHISAGO	\$8,500
CLAY	\$30,000
CLEARWATER	\$17,000
COOK	\$2,500
COTTONWOOD	\$25,500
CROW WING	\$8,500
DAKOTA	\$17,000
DODGE	\$21,500
DOUGLAS	\$17,000
FARIBAULT	\$25,500
FILLMORE	\$25,500
FREEBORN	\$25,500
GOODHUE	\$21,500
GRANT	\$21,500
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$8,500
HUBBARD	\$8,500
ISANTI	\$8,500

SWCD	Proposed FY23 Allocation
ITASCA	\$2,500
JACKSON	\$25,500
KANABEC	\$8,500
KANDIYOHI	\$25,500
KITTSOON	\$30,000
KOOCHICHING	\$2,500
LAC QUI PARLE	\$25,500
LAKE	\$2,500
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$8,500
LE SUEUR	\$21,500
LINCOLN	\$21,500
LYON	\$25,500
MAHNOMEN	\$17,000
MARSHALL	\$38,500
MARTIN	\$30,000
MC LEOD	\$17,000
MEEKER	\$21,500
MILLE LACS	\$8,500
MORRISON	\$21,500
MOWER	\$25,500
MURRAY	\$25,500
NICOLLET	\$17,000
NOBLES	\$30,000
NORMAN	\$30,000
OLMSTED	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL E	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL W	\$21,500
PENNINGTON	\$21,500
PINE	\$8,500
PIPESTONE	\$21,500
POLK E	\$21,500

SWCD	Proposed FY23 Allocation
POLK W 45	\$38,500
POPE	\$21,500
RAMSEY	\$2,500
RED LAKE	\$17,000
REDWOOD	\$30,000
RENVILLE	\$38,500
RICE	\$17,000
ROCK	\$21,500
ROOT RIVER	\$17,000
ROSEAU	\$30,000
SCOTT	\$8,500
SHERBURNE	\$8,500
SIBLEY	\$21,500
ST. LOUIS N	\$2,500
ST. LOUIS S	\$2,500
STEARNS	\$30,000
STEELE	\$21,500
STEVENS	\$25,500
SWIFT	\$25,500
TODD	\$17,000
TRAVERSE	\$25,500
WABASHA	\$17,000
WADENA	\$8,500
WASECA	\$17,000
WASHINGTON	\$8,500
WATONWAN	\$21,500
WILKIN	\$30,000
WINONA	\$17,000
WRIGHT	\$17,000
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$30,000
	\$1,698,500

SWCD	Proposed FY 24 25 Allocation
COOK	2500
LAKE	2500
RAMSEY	2500
ST. LOUIS N	2500
ST. LOUIS S	2500
CARLTON	2500
ITASCA	2500
KOOCHICHING	2500
AITKIN	10000
CASS	10000
CROW WING	10000
ISANTI	10000
MILLE LACS	10000
WADENA	10000
HUBBARD	10000
KANABEC	10000
PINE	10000
ANOKA	10000
SCOTT	10000
SHERBURNE	10000
HENNEPIN COUNTY	10000
WASHINGTON	10000
CHISAGO	10000
LAKE OF THE WOODS	10000
CLEARWATER	20000
ROOT RIVER	20000
WABASHA	20000
WINONA	20000
DAKOTA	20000
BENTON	20000
TODD	20000
MAHNOMEN	20000
RICE	20000
CARVER	20000
NICOLLET	20000
BELTRAMI	20000
RED LAKE	20000
WRIGHT	20000
WASECA	20000
MC LEOD	20000
DOUGLAS	20000
DODGE	20000
OLMSTED	20000
MORRISON	20000

SWCD	Proposed FY 24 25 Allocation
GOODHUE	20000
STEELE	20000
POPE	20000
LINCOLN	20000
MEEKER	20000
PIPESTONE	20000
ROCK	20000
SIBLEY	20000
OTTER TAIL E	20000
OTTER TAIL W	20000
BECKER	20000
LE SUEUR	20000
BIG STONE	20000
WATONWAN	20000
GRANT	20000
PENNINGTON	20000
POLK E	20000
FILLMORE	25000
SWIFT	25000
FARIBAULT	25000
JACKSON	25000
MOWER	25000
MURRAY	25000
BROWN	25000
LAC QUI PARLE	25000
FREEBORN	25000
CHIPPEWA	25000
COTTONWOOD	25000
BLUE EARTH	25000
STEVENS	25000
TRAVERSE	25000
LYON	25000
KANDIYOHI	25000
MARTIN	35000
STEARNS	35000
NOBLES	35000
ROSEAU	35000
KITTSOON	35000
WILKIN	35000
YELLOW MEDICINE	35000
CLAY	35000
NORMAN	35000
REDWOOD	35000
RENVILLE	45000
POLK W	45000
MARSHALL	45000



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Soil and Water Conservation District Grants Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide fiscal years 2024 and 2025 Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) grants.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- 1. Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 60 Article 1, Section 4 appropriated fiscal year (FY) 2024 and 2025 funds for Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Program grants to BWSR.
- 2. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statute 103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- 3. The provisional allocations in this order were developed consistent with this appropriation.
- 4. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their May 22 and July 24 2023 meetings reviewed the allocations and Conservation Contracts Program Policy and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Adopts the Conservation Contracts Program Policy
- 2. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with SWCDs for fiscal year 2024 and 2025 consistent with legislation and currently totaling:

Grant	FY 2024	FY 2025
Conservation Delivery	\$1,765,001	\$1,765,001
Conservation Contracts	\$1,460,000	\$1,460,000

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this August 24, 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: 8/24/2023

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: *FY2024 and 2025 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants*

FY 2024 and 2025 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants		
SWCD	Conservation Delivery	Conservation Contracts Program
AITKIN	\$20,212	\$10,000
ANOKA	\$20,765	\$13,896
BECKER	\$19,026	\$28,833
BELTRAMI	\$26,376	\$12,911
BENTON	\$19,224	\$13,958
BIG STONE	\$18,037	\$10,000
BLUE EARTH	\$18,868	\$20,098
BROWN	\$18,947	\$17,546
CARLTON	\$18,670	\$10,790
CARVER	\$19,698	\$19,462
CASS	\$18,275	\$11,136
CHIPPEWA	\$18,947	\$14,002
CHISAGO	\$19,737	\$11,633
CLAY	\$19,263	\$19,257
CLEARWATER	\$18,750	\$10,295
COOK	\$18,196	\$12,931
COTTONWOOD	\$18,947	\$16,880
CROW WING	\$18,354	\$12,396
DAKOTA	\$21,240	\$24,843
DODGE	\$19,343	\$12,697
DOUGLAS	\$20,172	\$19,199
FARIBAULT	\$19,343	\$15,440
FILLMORE	\$20,133	\$27,078
FREEBORN	\$19,145	\$19,271
GOODHUE	\$20,054	\$28,644
GRANT	\$19,026	\$14,121
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$25,930	\$16,181
HUBBARD	\$18,157	\$10,550
ISANTI	\$20,172	\$10,000
ITASCA	\$18,828	\$10,000
JACKSON	\$18,314	\$14,558
KANABEC	\$18,710	\$12,396
KANDIYOHI	\$19,501	\$17,083
KITTSOON	\$19,184	\$12,396
KOOCHICHING	\$18,472	\$12,931
LAC QUI PARLE	\$18,750	\$23,310
LAKE	\$18,314	\$12,931
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$18,037	\$12,931
LE SUEUR	\$19,619	\$22,268
LINCOLN	\$19,896	\$18,316
LYON	\$19,224	\$16,930
MAHNOMEN	\$18,117	\$13,588
MARSHALL	\$29,596	\$12,280
MARTIN	\$18,908	\$20,734
MC LEOD	\$18,789	\$13,776

MEEKER	\$18,552	\$17,766
MILLE LACS	\$18,868	\$10,000
MORRISON	\$20,252	\$25,597
MOWER	\$20,805	\$13,608
MURRAY	\$18,235	\$13,673
NICOLLET	\$19,224	\$15,651
NOBLES	\$18,512	\$20,172
NORMAN	\$18,986	\$12,394
OLMSTED	\$21,754	\$33,431
OTTER TAIL EAST	\$18,986	\$18,743
OTTER TAIL WEST	\$18,986	\$23,721
PENNINGTON	\$18,710	\$13,827
PINE	\$18,986	\$15,834
PIPESTONE	\$18,670	\$18,662
POLK EAST	\$18,828	\$13,082
POLK WEST	\$18,828	\$16,203
POPE	\$18,592	\$22,716
RAMSEY	\$19,343	\$12,952
RED LAKE	\$18,077	\$10,000
REDWOOD	\$19,343	\$16,365
RENVILLE	\$19,501	\$13,249
RICE	\$22,940	\$17,680
ROCK	\$19,343	\$18,712
ROOT RIVER	\$22,505	\$23,690
ROSEAU	\$18,750	\$13,314
SCOTT	\$19,935	\$21,155
SHERBURNE	\$21,635	\$10,282
SIBLEY	\$18,868	\$11,794
ST. LOUIS NORTH	\$18,789	\$11,339
ST. LOUIS SOUTH	\$18,789	\$10,000
STEARNS	\$22,030	\$39,603
STEELE	\$20,014	\$13,398
STEVENS	\$19,184	\$18,098
SWIFT	\$18,592	\$12,844
TODD	\$20,054	\$19,384
TRAVERSE	\$19,145	\$10,000
WABASHA	\$19,619	\$18,190
WADENA	\$18,710	\$12,931
WASECA	\$18,986	\$13,341
WASHINGTON	\$20,568	\$14,525
WATONWAN	\$18,394	\$12,483
WILKIN	\$19,263	\$16,216
WINONA	\$20,963	\$14,418
WRIGHT	\$21,358	\$18,586
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$19,263	\$19,849
ALLOCATED TOTALS	\$1,765,001	\$1,460,000



BOARD ORDER

Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal years 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program and adopt the Program Policy.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6 (a) appropriated \$39,500,000 for fiscal year 2024 and \$39,500,000 for fiscal year 2025 to implement activities in watershed plans.
2. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
3. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 to approve comprehensive watershed management plans, Minnesota Statutes §103B.255 to approve county groundwater plans, Minnesota Statutes §103C.401 to approve soil and water conservation district plans, and Minnesota Statutes §103B.231 to approved watershed management plans.
4. WBIF is based on a comprehensive and holistic approach to watershed management and includes funding local implementation actions to restore and protect both groundwater and surface water.
5. The fiscal years 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund WBIF Program policy was created to provide expectations for subsequent implementation activities conducted with these funds.
6. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their July 24 and August 14, 2023 meetings, discussed and recommended allocations of fiscal years 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund WBIF that includes: a) a \$250,000 base per watershed planning area outside of the Metro, b) a \$100,000 base per watershed planning area inside of the metro, and c) a distribution of funds based on a weighting of 90% private land and 10% on public waters to all eligible areas.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their July 24 and August 14, 2023 meetings, reviewed the fiscal year 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund WBIF Program policy, and proposed funding allocations, and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached fiscal years 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund WBIF Program Policy.
2. Adopts the attached map in Figure 1: Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Allocation Boundaries for depicting the metro allocations in Table 2.
3. Authorizes staff to establish a schedule and enter into grant agreements consistent with statutory appropriations and the attached:
 - a. Table 1: FY2024 and FY2025 WBIF Grant Allocations (excludes 7-county metro area)
 - b. Table 2: FY2024 and FY2025 WBIF Metro Only Grant Allocations

Note: Fiscal 2025 funds will not be available until July 1, 2024, and some recipients may not receive funds until after this date.

4. Authorizes staff to adjust the timing and availability of funding identified in Tables 1 and 2 based on timing of plan approval, sufficiency of partner coordination, readiness to proceed, commitment of nonstate match, or expenditure of previously awarded Watershed Based Implementation Funds.
5. Authorizes staff to distribute remaining or otherwise undesignated grant funds from FY2024-2025 and previous WBIF appropriations, consistent with the purpose of the WBIF program.

Dated at Apple Valley, Minnesota, this August 24, 2023.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 8/24/2023

Attachments:

- FY 2024-2025 Clean Water Fund WBIF Program Policy

Table 1. FY 2024-2025 WBIF Grant Allocations (excludes 7-county metro area)

1W1P Planning Area #	1W1P Name	FY 24-25 Allocation Amount	Allocation Year
35	Bois de Sioux-Mustinka	\$ 1,594,226	2025
37	Buffalo-Red River	\$ 1,906,278	2024
54	Cannon River	\$ 1,536,990	2025
33	Cedar River	\$ 974,677	2024
20	Chippewa River	\$ 2,163,227	2024
43	Clearwater River	\$ 1,485,882	2025
23	Cottonwood River	\$ 1,958,370	2025
7	Crow Wing River	\$ 1,677,248	2025
34	Des Moines River	\$ 1,736,891	2025
30	Greater Zumbro River	\$ 1,897,768	2024
53	Hawk Creek - Middle Minnesota	\$ 1,504,444	2024
27	Kettle and Upper St. Croix	\$ 1,412,047	2024
18	Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank	\$ 1,228,526	2025
51	Lake of the Woods	\$ 621,173	2024
1	Lake Superior North	\$ 1,043,910	2024
26	Le Sueur River	\$ 1,355,872	2024
4	Leech Lake River	\$ 598,665	2024
9	Long Prairie River	\$ 1,032,278	2025
56	Lower Minnesota River East	\$ 538,396	2024
55	Lower Minnesota River West	\$ 1,004,297	2025
29	Lower St. Croix River	\$ 778,691	2025
44	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers	\$ 1,620,713	2025
5	Mississippi River - Grand Rapids	\$ 1,324,119	2025
61	Mississippi River Brainerd	\$ 1,492,655	2024
3	Mississippi River Headwaters	\$ 1,013,278	2024
11	Mississippi River St. Cloud	\$ 1,271,008	2025
52	Missouri River Basin	\$ 2,096,184	2024
64	Nemadji River	\$ 469,317	2025
12	North Fork Crow River	\$ 1,518,486	2024
36	Otter Tail	\$ 1,507,070	2025
6	Pine River	\$ 634,381	2024
17	Pomme de Terre River	\$ 1,006,033	2025
50	Rainy - Rapid River	\$ 520,667	2024
67	Rainy Lake Koochiching Co (butterfly)	\$ 558,419	2025
47	Rainy River Headwaters - Vermillion River	\$ 1,004,508	2024
41	Red Lake River	\$ 1,700,439	2024
8	Redeye River	\$ 1,112,800	2025
32	Root River	\$ 2,300,950	2024
46	Roseau River	\$ 864,534	2025
15	Rum River	\$ 1,331,559	2025

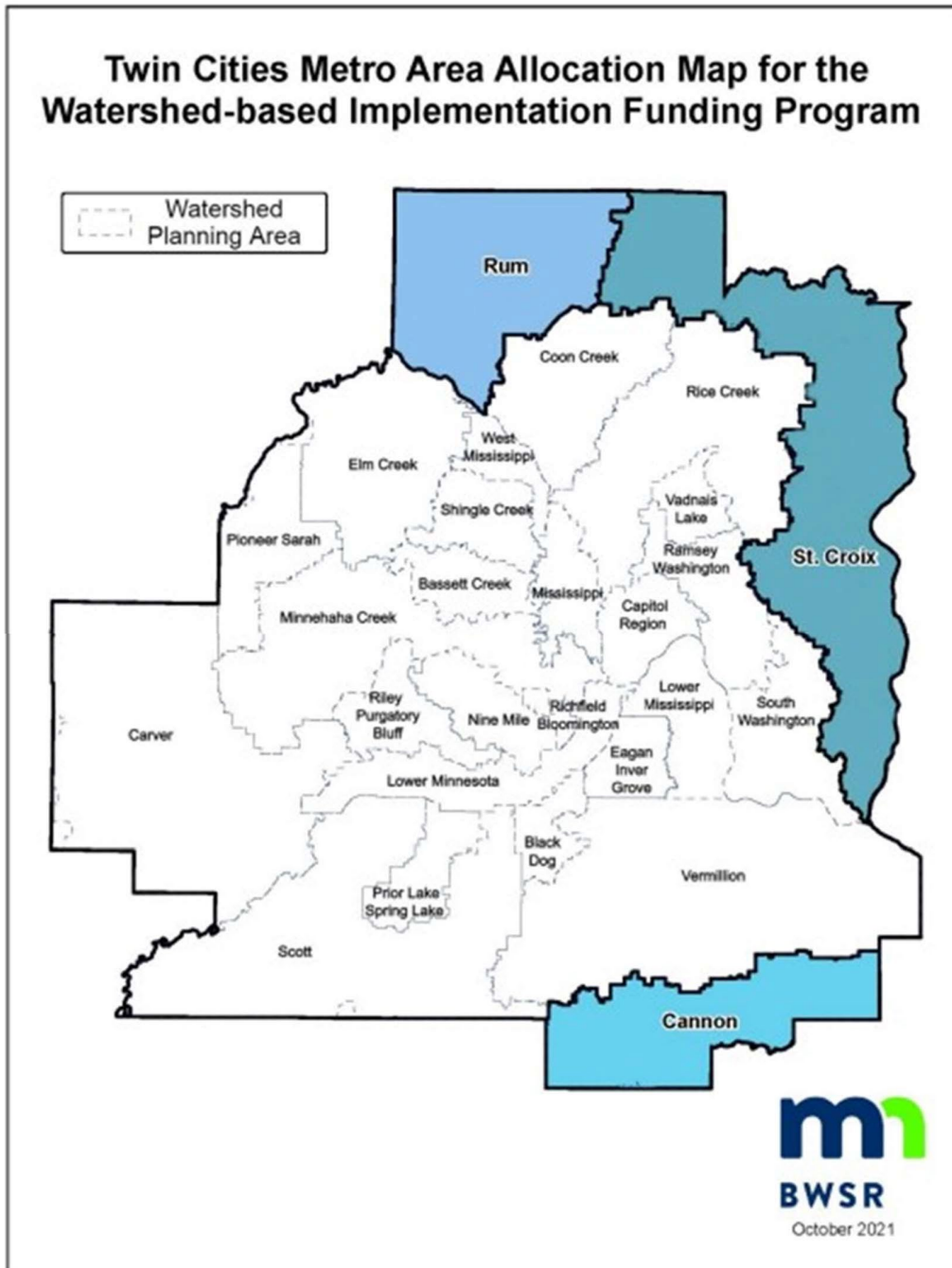
39	Sand Hill River	\$ 705,267	2024
10	Sauk River	\$ 1,212,865	2024
63	Shell Rock River/Winnebago Watershed	\$ 547,409	2024
28	Snake River	\$ 1,024,471	2024
13	South Fork of the Crow River	\$ 1,286,465	2024
2	St. Louis River	\$ 2,228,654	2024
42	Thief River	\$ 702,239	2024
45	Two Rivers Plus	\$ 1,662,685	2024
16	Upper Minnesota River	\$ 675,322	2024
40	Upper/Lower Red Lake	\$ 782,449	2025
25	Watonwan River	\$ 1,136,479	2024
38	Wild Rice - Marsh	\$ 1,993,181	2025
31	Winona/La Crescent	\$ 896,267	2025
19	Yellow Medicine River	\$ 1,323,460	2024

TOTAL \$ 67,574,192

Table 2. FY 2024-2025 WBIF Grant Seven County Metro Allocations

1W1P Planning Area #	Metro Watershed Planning Area (WPA) or 1W1P Name	FY24-25 Funding Amount	Allocation Year
Metro	Bassett Creek WPA	\$ 183,256	2025
Metro	Black Dog WPA	\$ 151,542	2025
54	Cannon River (Metro)	\$ 395,361	2025
Metro	Capitol Region WPA	\$ 176,241	2025
Metro	Carver County WPA	\$ 721,325	2025
Metro	Coon Creek WPA	\$ 294,100	2025
Metro	Eagan-Inver Grove WPA	\$ 162,370	2025
Metro	Elm Creek WPA	\$ 373,590	2025
Metro	Lower Minnesota River WPA	\$ 217,485	2025
Metro	Lower Mississippi River WPA	\$ 208,410	2025
29	Lower St. Croix River (Metro)	\$ 1,266,380	2025
Metro	Minnehaha Creek WPA	\$ 424,534	2025
Metro	Mississippi WPA	\$ 176,951	2025
Metro	Nine Mile Creek WPA	\$ 195,026	2025
Metro	Pioneer-Sarah Creek WPA	\$ 240,415	2025
Metro	Prior Lake-Spring Lake WPA	\$ 169,935	2025
Metro	Ramsey Washington Metro WPA	\$ 230,182	2025
Metro	Rice Creek WPA	\$ 448,016	2025
Metro	Richfield-Bloomington WPA	\$ 114,644	2025
Metro	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WPA	\$ 197,194	2025
15	Rum River (Metro)	\$ 569,378	2025
Metro	Scott County WPA	\$ 646,054	2025
Metro	Shingle Creek WPA	\$ 191,662	2025
Metro	South Washington WPA	\$ 228,539	2025
Metro	Vadnais Lake Area WPA	\$ 147,921	2025
Metro	Vermillion River WPA	\$ 717,191	2025
Metro	West Mississippi WPA	\$ 152,299	2025
Metro Subtotal		\$ 9,000,000	

Figure 1. Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Allocation Boundaries



Watershed-Based Implementation Funding FY24-25 Policy

From the Board of Water and Soil Resources, State of Minnesota

Effective: August 23, 2023
Approval: Board Decision #23-55

Policy Statement

This policy provides expectations for implementation activities conducted via the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) program as defined by the Clean Water Fund appropriation under Laws of Minnesota 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6 (a).

The Clean Water Fund was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, and Minnesota Statutes §114D with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.

Reason for the policy

These funds are specifically to be used to advance Minnesota's water resource goals through prioritized and targeted cost-effective actions with measurable water quality results. The primary purpose of activities funded through this program is to implement projects and programs that protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams; protect groundwater from degradation; and protect drinking water sources.

Grant Administration

BWSR will use grant agreements for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties or future sanctions on the grant recipient. BWSR's Grants Administration Manual (GAM) provides the primary framework for local management of all state grants administered by BWSR (<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/>).

Program Requirements

1. Eligibility

All grantees must be in compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations. Recipients who have previously received a grant from BWSR must be in compliance with BWSR requirements for grantee website and eLINK reporting before grant execution and payment

For areas outside of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area: To be eligible, local governments must have a current state approved and locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan authorized under Minnesota statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 or §103B.801 and have entered into an implementation agreement with other members of the planning partnership. If a local government within the geographic area of the plan has not adopted the plan, these funds can still be spent on implementation in that area by another eligible local government.

In the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan (Metro) Area: To be eligible, counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts¹, and municipalities² must have a current state approved and locally adopted watershed management plan as required under §103B.231, county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255, or soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan under Minnesota statutes §103C.331, Subd. 11. Participants, including one representative from each watershed district, watershed management organization, soil and water conservation district³, county with a county groundwater plan, up to two municipalities, must coordinate within the designated watershed planning areas before submitting a watershed-based implementation funding budget request that is prioritized, targeted and measurable.

Federally Recognized Minnesota Tribal Nations are eligible if they are implementing projects or programs for the purpose of this funding that are identified in a state approved 1) comprehensive watershed management plan developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program, or 2) plan developed under the seven-county metropolitan groundwater or surface water management frameworks.

BWSR staff will work with Minnesota Tribal Nations and implementing partners regarding tribal interest in this program.

2. Match Requirements

All grants require a non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the Watershed Based Implementation Funding received. Match can be provided by landowners, land occupiers, private organizations, local governments or other non-state sources. Match can be in the form of cash or the cash value of services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives.

3. Eligible Activities

All eligible activities must have a primary benefit towards water quality. Activities that result in multiple benefits are strongly encouraged. Eligible activities must be identified in the implementation section of a state approved,

¹ BWSR has established the content and process for metro soil and water conservation districts to develop an enhanced comprehensive plan consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103C.331 if the SWCD determines that an eligible 103B plan does not sufficiently and comprehensively include their activities. The plan content must include priority issues, measurable goals, and a targeted implementation action table. The process must include stakeholder input, establishment of an advisory committee, a public notice and comment period, a public hearing, and BWSR Board approval. See the [Metro Enhanced SWCD Comprehensive Plan Options](https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2022-02/Metro%20SWCD%20Comp%20Plan%20Options_v2.pdf) document on the BWSR website: https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2022-02/Metro%20SWCD%20Comp%20Plan%20Options_v2.pdf

² Municipalities (cities and townships) in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have a water plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minn. Stat. 103B.235.

³ Including Hennepin and Ramsey Counties if they have an enhanced comprehensive plan authorized under Minn. Statute 103C.331.

locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan developed under Minnesota statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 or §103B.801, watershed management plan required under §103B.231, county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255, or a Metro soil and water conservation district enhanced plan as identified in the “Metro Enhanced SWCD Comprehensive Plan Options Guidance Document” (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/watershed-based-implementation-funding-program>) and authorized under §103C.331.

Eligible activities can consist of structural and non-structural activities; program and project support, including staffing; easements; and grant management and reporting. Technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement these activities are considered essential and are eligible to be included. The BWSR website has activity category and practice lists (not all are eligible for this grant), see <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink-guidance-activity-categories>; <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink-guidance-practices>.

The following categories describe the eligible activities in more detail:

Structural and non-structural practices and activities

- All structural practices must be designed and maintained for a minimum effective life of ten years for best management practices and 25 years for capital improvement practices. The beginning date for a practice’s effective life is the same date final payment is approved and the project is considered complete. Where questions arise under this section, the effective lifespan of structural practices and projects shall be defined by current and acceptable design standards or criteria as defined in Section 5: Technical Expertise.
- Incentive payments should be reasonable and justifiable, supported by grant recipient policy, consistent with prevailing local conditions, and must be based on established standards. BWSR reserves the right to review and approve incentive payment rates established by grant recipient policy. Incentives to install or adopt best management practices must have a maximum duration of three years with a goal of ongoing landowner adoption unless otherwise approved by the Assistant Director of Regional Operations prior to work plan approval.
- Non-structural practices and activities that supplement or exceed current minimum state standards or procedures for protection, enhancement, and restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams or that protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation are eligible. Any projects proposing to provide financial assistance for installing or adopting non-structural land management practices for a duration longer than three years must be reviewed by BWSR staff and approved by the Assistant Director of Regional Operations prior to workplan approval.

Program and project support

- Staffing and/or technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement these activities.

- Public participation and engagement, equipment⁴, and other activities necessary for the implementation of water quality practices and programs consistent with the purposes of these funds.
- Actual technical and administrative expenses to advance plan implementation, site investigations and assessments, design and cost estimates, construction or installation supervision, and inspections.
- Developing of ordinances to protect water quality (example: Minimal Impact Design Standards) and must supplement existing federal/state/local requirements.

Easements

Easements and payment amounts must be reviewed and approved by BWSR staff prior to expenditure of grant funds to acquire an easement. When implementing perpetual easements, state easement payments shall not exceed current standard Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) rates.

Grant management and reporting

Eligible activities include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity. All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. Grant management and reporting expenditures must be documented according to the Grants Administration Manual (See Reporting Requirements for BWSR Grants).

WBIF Specific Requirements

The following activities have specific definitions and requirements in addition to the Grants Administration Manual:

In-lake or in-channel treatment

Eligible practices include management practices such as rough fish management, vegetation management, lake drawdown, and alum treatments that have been identified as an implementation activity in a TMDL study or Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies report and/or in a comprehensive watershed management plan or metro watershed management plan. Eligible expenses include only initial costs for design and implementation. All subsequent applications and treatments under this subsection are considered to be a local operation and maintenance expense responsibility. A feasibility study must be completed, reviewed and approved by BWSR staff prior to these activities being proposed in a grant work plan. The feasibility study must include:

- a) Lake and watershed information based on data that has been collected within the last 10-years (at minimum, include lake morphology and depth, summary of water quality information, and the assessment of aquatic invasive species);
- b) Description of internal load vs. external load nutrient reductions needed to meet the state's water quality standard;

⁴ See the Allowable and Unallowable Costs section of the Grants Administration Manual for Capital Equipment Purchases.

- c) History of projects completed in the lake's watershed (if none have been completed, that should be stated), as well as other in-lake activities if applicable;
- d) Cost benefit analysis of all options considered and reasons given for why you are choosing the proposed activities;
- e) Projected effective life of the proposed activities;
- f) Expected water quality outcome of the proposed activity;
- g) Plan for monitoring water quality to assure the proposed activity's total phosphorus goal will be achieved during its effective life (monitoring plans should include monitoring through the effective life), and
- h) For activities related to rough fish (example carp), the feasibility study must also include:
 - i. Methods used to estimate adult and juvenile carp populations;
 - ii. Description of the known interconnectedness of waterbodies (lakes, ponds, streams, wetlands, etc.);
 - iii. Identified nursery areas;
 - iv. Methods used to track carp movement;
 - v. Proposed actions to limit recruitment and movement; and
 - vi. Proposed actions to reduce adult carp populations.

Feedlots

Eligible practices are limited to: livestock management systems that were constructed before October 23, 2000; and livestock operations registered with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Database or its equivalent, not classified as a Concentrated Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO), and with less than 500 animal units (AUs) in accordance with Minnesota Rule Chapter 7020. BWSR reserves the right to deny, postpone or cancel funding where financial penalties related to violations have been imposed on the operator.

- a) Funded projects must comply with standards in MN Rule Chapter 7020 upon completion.
- b) Eligible practices are limited to best management practices listed by the Minnesota NRCS.
- c) Eligible practices and project components must meet all applicable local, State, and federal standards and permitting requirements.
- d) Feedlot roof structures are eligible up to \$100,000 per project with state grant funds and not to exceed 100% of construction costs.
- e) Feedlot relocations are eligible, up to \$100,000 per project with state grant funds and not to exceed 100% of the construction costs. The existing eligible feedlot must be permanently closed in accordance with local and State requirements. The existing and relocated livestock waste management systems sites are considered one project for grant funding.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems.

- a) Local governments should first exhaust SSTS grant funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.
- b) Eligible activities are limited to identified imminent threat to public health systems (ITPHS) and systems that fail to protect groundwater. Land occupiers must meet low-income thresholds. Low-income guidelines from U.S Rural Development are strongly encouraged as the basis for the definition of low income.
- c) Proposed community wastewater treatment solutions involving multiple landowners are eligible for funding but must be listed on the MPCA's Project Priority List (PPL) and have a Community Assessment Report (CAR)

or facilities plan (Minn. Rule 7077.0272) developed prior to work plan submittal. For community wastewater system applications that include ITPHS, systems that fail to protect groundwater are also eligible.

- d) In an unsewered area that is connecting into a sewer line to a municipal wastewater treatment plant (WWTP), the costs associated with connecting the home to the sewer line is eligible for funding if the criteria in b. and c. above are met.

Drainage Systems

Funds can be used as an external source of funding for Minnesota Statutes §103E.011 Subd. 5 to facilitate multi-purpose drainage management practices with a primary purpose of improving water quality to reduce erosion and sedimentation and provide secondary benefits of reducing peak flows and flooding while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance.

4. Ineligible Activities

Activities that do not have a primary benefit of water quality are ineligible. Common examples include:

- a. Water quality monitoring such as, but not limited to, routine, baseline, diagnostic, or effectiveness monitoring. This includes both surface and groundwater monitoring activities.
- b. Household water conservation appliances and water fixtures.
- c. Wastewater treatment systems with the exception of Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems that are listed in the Eligible Activities section above.
- d. Municipal drinking water supply facilities or individual drinking water treatment systems.
- e. Stormwater conveyances that collect and move runoff, but do not provide water quality treatment benefit.
- f. Replacement, realignment or creation of bridges, trails or roads.
- g. Aquatic plant harvesting.
- h. Routine maintenance activities or repair of capital equipment and infrastructure within the effective life of existing practices or projects.
- i. Feedlots
 - 1) Feedlot expansions beyond state registered number of animal units, and
 - 2) Slats placed on top of manure storage structures.
- j. Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)
 - 1) Small community wastewater treatment systems serving over 10,000 gallons per day with a soil treatment system, and
 - 2) A small community wastewater treatment system that discharges treated sewage effluent directly to surface waters without land treatment.
- k. Drainage management
 - 1) Drain tile, except for tile outlets required for water and sediment control basins, tile required to make eligible drainage water management practices function, tile required to collect and move runoff to treatment system, and dense pattern tile to replace open tile inlet(s).
 - 2) Ditching except if needed for the creation of a storage and treatment wetland restoration.

- 3) Back-flow preventing flap gates on side inlet structure pipes where a system-wide analysis has not been completed.
 - 4) Continuous berms greater than an average of 3 feet high (above existing ground) along Chapter 103E drainage ditches.
- l. Fee title land acquisition or easement costs, unless specifically allowed. If not specifically allowed, land acquisition and easement costs can count toward the required match if directly associated with the project and incurred within the grant period (costs may count towards match).
 - m. Buffers or other alternative practices that are required by law (e.g., Buffer Law, Drainage Law, Shoreland Law).
 - n. Contribution to a contingency or reserve fund or payment(s) to an equipment replacement fund that extends beyond the grant agreement period.
 - o. Activities that outlet landlocked basins.
 - p. Development and delivery of educational activities and curriculum that do not support or lead to the implementation of water quality practices.
 - q. Components required by 103E Drainage Law.
 - r. Any project that contributes to, or otherwise is used to replace wetlands impacted under the Wetland Conservation Act (per Minn. Rules 8420).
 - s. Activities required under the Groundwater Protection Rule.
 - t. Permanent stormwater treatment activities required to only meet the minimum requirements in Section 15 (Permanent Stormwater Treatment System) of the NPDES Construction Stormwater Permit which addresses development projects that creates a net increase of one or more acres of cumulative impervious surface.

5. Technical Expertise

Consistent with the Grants Administration Manual (GAM), grantees have the following responsibilities to ensure long-term public benefit of projects. See the following sections of the GAM for more details: Technical Quality Assurances (TQA), Projects and Practices Assurances (PPA), Operation, Maintenance, and Inspection of Practices (OMIP), and Implementing Contracts with Landowners (ICL).

- **Technical Assistance Providers.** Ensure that identified technical assistance provider(s) have the appropriate technical expertise, skills, and training to their assigned role(s). (TQA)
- **Standards.** Ensure the use of appropriate standards for design and installation. Innovative approaches may be incorporated on a case-by-case basis. (TQA)
- **Vegetation Requirements.** Non-structural vegetative practices must follow the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, see <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8806>.
- **Project Assurances.** Provide assurances that landowners or land occupiers receiving this funding will keep the practice in place for its intended use for the expected lifespan of the practice. (PPA)
- **Certification.** Certify that the project was installed according to applicable plans and specifications. (TQA)
- **Operation and Maintenance.** Ensure an appropriate operation and maintenance plan is developed by qualified staff that identifies necessary activities and timing. (TQA, OMIP)

- **Periodic Project Inspection.** Conduct periodic project inspections to confirm the operation and maintenance plan is being followed and the project has not been altered or removed. (TQA, OMIP)

6. BWSR Grant Budget Request, Work Plan, Reporting and Reconciliation Requirements

Activities must be first submitted through a budget request and work plan that will be reviewed by BWSR. The work plan must be approved by BWSR prior to funds being distributed. Metro grantees must request state funds that equal or exceed \$50,000. Applications submitted that do not meet this minimum dollar amount will not be accepted.

BWSR staff is authorized to develop grant agreements and requirements and processes for budget requests, work plans, project outcomes reporting, fiscal reconciliations, and grant closeouts. In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, up to and including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement.

Important information below:

- All grantees must follow the relevant elements of the Grants Administration Manual policy and guidance including requirements for proposed work plan revisions and grant amendments.
- The grantee board has the authority and responsibility to approve the expenditure of funds within their own organization. The approval or denial of individual expenditures of funds must be documented in the grantee board's meeting minutes.
- Funds repaid to a grantee from a landowner or other land occupier who has failed to maintain a practice for its effective life must be reallocated to a local cost share program or project account consistent with MN Statutes Chapter 114D.50, less the administrative cost of the grantee.

7. Assurance Measures

WBIF assurance measures are based upon fiscal integrity and accountability for achieving measurable progress towards water quality elements of eligible watershed management or comprehensive watershed management plans. BWSR will use the measures to summarize and communicate about the use of WBIF relative to BWSR's expectations in accelerating clean water outcomes. The following assurance measures are supplemental to existing reporting and on-going grant monitoring efforts.

1. Prioritized, targeted, and measurable work is making progress toward achieving clean water goals.
2. Programs, projects, and practices are being implemented in priority areas.
3. Grant work is on-schedule and on-budget.
4. Leverage of non-state funds.

History

This policy may be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Description	Date
This policy was originally created in 2019.	9/25/19
This policy was updated in 2021 to add a few ineligible activities and clarify language related to eligible activities and entities and change Metro soil and water conservation district annual work plans to enhanced plans under eligible activities.	10/27/2021
This policy was updated in 2023 to add tribal nations to eligibility list, and clarify language related to eligible and ineligible activities.	6/28/2023