

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
7083 153RD STREET WEST
APPLE VALLEY, MN 55124
THURSDAY, AUGUST 24, 2023**

AGENDA

8:30 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JUNE 28, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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

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 – Mark Zabel
- 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

Southern Region Committee

1. Le Sueur River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ted Winter and Ed Lenz ***DECISION ITEM***
2. City of Beardsley Dry Lake Grant – Ed Lenz – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan & Area II Floodplain Management Grant – John Shea – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Bonding Work Plan & Grant – John Shea – ***DECISION ITEM***

Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee

1. One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY 2024 & FY 2025 Buffer Implementation Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Soil and Water Conservation District Grants Authorization – James Adkinson – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. FY24-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for September 27, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2023**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

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

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kurt Beckstrom, Carly Johnson

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Annie Felix-Gerth, Mike Nelson, Rita Weaver, Dave Weirens, Ryan Hughes, Melissa King, Julie Westerlund, Craig Engwall, Justin Hanson, James Adkinson, Steve Christopher, Jenny Gieseke

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Brian Martinson, AMC; Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds; Rob Sip, RRWMB; Sheila Vanney, MASWCD; Keith Mykleseth, Sarah Boser, Morteza Maher

Rich Sve was nominated to be Chair for the June Board meeting.

Chair Rich Sve called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

23-35 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Thom Petersen, seconded by Jill Crafton, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

23-36 **MINUTES OF MAY 24, 2023 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Thom Petersen, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the minutes of May 24, 2023, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Sve read the statement:

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

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – No report was provided.

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke reported our Chief Financial Officer accepted a position with the Department of Agriculture. Paul Erdman also accepted a new position at Ramsey Washington Metro District. Our PRAP Coordinator Jenny Mocol-Johnson accepted a position in the private sector. Stated they hired a couple staff in the Easement Section. John attended the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape event in early June with Todd Holman. John stated they are figuring out what the best paths are to pursue for the federal funding that passed in the Inflation Reduction Act.

John reviewed the Day of Packet that included an agenda, two updated board orders, and Snapshot articles.

Jayne Hager Dee asked where appointments are at. John stated they are being worked on but has not heard when they will be announced.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported they have not met.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently five appeals pending and one new appeal since the last report. Stated it includes an appeal of a WCA notice of decision in Aitkin County. The appeal regards the approval of the Mille Lacs Meadows North Wetland Mitigation Bank consisting of an area of approximately 617 acres generating approximately 450 wetland credits. The appeal contends the site is ineligible for replacement and credits, no decision has been made.

Travis provided a Buffer Compliance Status Update.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported there are items on the agenda for action today. Staff have been tracking legislative and funding changes and provided updates at the committee meeting. Stated they are trying to find a new standing meeting time.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported the committee has not met.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins reported they had an informational meeting about the One Watershed One Plan amendment process and a climate change discussion for the One Watershed One Plan. The next meeting is July 26th.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported the committee has not met.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel reported the committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Tom Gile reported they met and discussed prioritization of activities from the legislative session along with the structure and process of the Drainage Work Group. Stated they are looking to schedule a meeting in August in St. Cloud.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reported they are working on some of their legislative pieces. They have a lot of interest in their Soil Health Equipment Grants and BMP loan program. Stated they are watching the drought situation. Reported pork and dairy prices are at an all-time low. They are working on finalizing a letter regarding the Farm Bill from the administration and received input from DNR and BWSR.

Jill Crafton stated she read an article about the dairy farm with extra milk and asked if that was organic milk. Thom stated most of it is organic.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported the PFAS effort is largely complete, and results are available online. Also available online is a technical report about work they've been doing to look at pathogens or viruses in public water system wells.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported they are working on implementation of policy changes and financial appropriations from the last legislative session. The Governor went to Mankato and highlighted some of the investments in fish hatcheries. Commissioner Strommen stated they have been part of conversations with BWSR, NRCS, Nature Conservancy, and SWCDs on the federal money, in particularly the forestry practice dollars and figuring out how to bring maximum Federal dollars to match State dollars. Stated they are also monitoring the drought. Stated they received a proposal from Talon Metals for a new mining project in Aitkin County. They are working on a fisheries management plan for the Minnesota River that is out for public comment through August 11th. They are also in a public comment period on the EIS for the Grindstone Dam removal through July 26th.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if the Southern Minnesota hatchery is in Waterville and asked what the difference is between a hatchery and a fishery. Commissioner Strommen stated one of the main hatcheries is in Waterville and is responsible for a lot of the fishing opportunities in Southern Minnesota. Stated a fishery is the assembly of fish in a particular location.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported they received funding to develop and build their climate extension programming. They have a new Extension Educator position who's focusing on agricultural climate resiliency. The Minnesota Climate Resilience Conference is going to be in Duluth this October 25th through the 27th. The annual Minnesota Water Resources Conference is October 17th through 18th in St. Paul.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Melissa Lewis reported they are working through the legislative outcomes. In June they finished the last WRAPS report for Minnesota watersheds. Staff meteorologists have been busy with the air quality index.

Thom Petersen left the meeting at 9:52 a.m.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported they completed their spring District meetings. Stated they feel the legislative session was successful with additional county program aid funds. They will be working with BWSR staff on how to implement funding and new programs.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – No report was provided. John Jaschke stated they have an opportunity for a pass-through grant from the National Association that Mike Schultz is leading along with LeAnn Buck.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – Sheila Vanney reported they've had a series of regional meetings. Their focus has been on the SWCD involvement in comprehensive watershed management planning and implementation.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel gave a legislative update. Township Tuesday calls will be on the first and third Tuesday with transcripts available online.

Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit reported they completed a statewide organization survey. Will be working with administrators to review and present a report at the annual conference in December. Had their summer tour last week co-hosted by Shell Rock River Watershed District, Turtle Creek Watershed District, and Cedar River Watersheds. Stated they are actively participating with the Drainage Work Group. Jan has been asked to serve on a committee that's looking at early coordination pilot projects. Stated they have been working to develop a handbook for Watershed District and Watershed Management Organization Board and staff. They are ready to put online with links to statutes and examples and will have ready for training at their annual conference in December.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

Chair Sve called a recess at 10:08 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:18 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Historical Context: Tribes – Melissa King and Craig Engwall presented Historical Context on Tribal Relations and Governments.

As part of continuous learning, a summary was shared of historical events that have shaped and impacted Tribal Nations that share geography with Minnesota.

Jill Crafton asked if the presentation could be shared. John Jaschke stated Rachel Mueller can share the presentation.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Administrative Advisory Committee

Bylaws Update – John Jaschke presented the Bylaws Update.

Proposed bylaws updates were reviewed by the Administrative Advisory committee on May 15, 2023 and reviewed by the Board on May 24, 2023.

John Jaschke noted Commissioner Petersen needed to step away and Jeff Berg will be voting for Department of Ag.

**
23-37 Moved by Ron Staples, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the Bylaws Update. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District – Watershed Project Tracking Grant– Justin Hanson presented Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District – Watershed Project Tracking Grant.

In December of 2022, MASWCD passed a resolution that asked BWSR to create a “Tracking Tool” that would support local watershed partnerships and help them track their work. In response, BWSR assembled a work group that would assess the local watershed partnership needs of SWCD’s and WD’s. The work group met during the early part of 2023. The outcome from that meeting:

- The workgroup does not desire a uniform tracking tool for the entire state. Unless it is a program that could be directly integrated into ELINK and add efficiency values to their work.
- The workgroup identified the biggest need is uniform standards for tracking their work. Many are already using locally developed tools and want to continue with that process. However, standardized methods will help create a statewide consistency regarding how those activities are described across partnerships.
- The workgroup recognized that many partnerships do not have any tracking mechanism in place. There are several partnerships that have already started working on a specific tool called “MS4Front” which is being developed by watershed partnerships in the Missouri and Des Moines watersheds. Collectively, it was decided that an example prototype tool could be developed, using the Missouri and Des Moines project tool as an option for those partnerships that wish to utilize a tool that is ready to go.

BWSR is not in a position (in the near term) to develop a tool that will integrate ELINK into a statewide tool. It’s not clear that BWSR would have the capability to integrate the needs of locals into the current ELINK program. ELINK has never been designed for project tracking. There are also proprietary challenges with how outside information is integrated into ELINK. The workgroup has expressed interest in having something in place that they can start using in the near term.

Rock SWCD has been out in front of this process and is currently developing a process that addresses the work group recommendations above (#2 and #3). In the interest of time and effectiveness, BWSR is proposing that we contract with Rock SWCD to support their local tracking process. By doing so, we can capture the progress that they have made. Then leverage their work to develop the work group priorities outlined in #2 and #3 above.

This project does not create a tool that BWSR will own. Therefore, there is no proprietary ownership of a product.

LGU partners will utilize local funding resources to support ongoing subscription fees or licenses available to manage any tracking tool that they elect to use. They may or may not use WBIF funding resources to support this administrative work.

Thom Petersen rejoined the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

John Jaschke stated if members have a conflict of interest to note it orally during the roll call vote or on the form included in the day of packet.

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23-38

Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve the Rock County Soil and Water Conservation District – Watershed Project Tracking Grant ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Approval of FY23 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program Funding Recommendations – Rita Weaver presented Approval of FY23 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program Funding Recommendations

The Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant program was passed into law by the MN Legislature in 2021. The intent of the program is to fund projects that will reduce runoff volume or peak flow rates by implementing storage practices. This is the second year of the pilot program.

On January 25, 2023, the Board adopted Board Order #23-05, which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposals for the FY23 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program grants. An application period was open from March 13, 2023 to May 4, 2023. Six (6) applications were received requesting a total of approximately \$3.075M.

Grants were scored and ranked by a team of BWSR staff, and the scoring team recommends that two projects be fully funded, and that one additional project be partially funded with the remaining FY22-23 funds.

The staff recommendations were presented to the BWSR SMT June 13, 2023 and the Grants Program and Policy Committee on June 26, 2023. The funding recommendations included in the board order are a result of those meetings.

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23-39

Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by LeRoy Ose, to approve the Approval of FY23 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program Funding Recommendations. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Chair Sve called a recess at 11:22 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:31 a.m.

FY 2024 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria – Annie Felix-Gerth presented FY 2024 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria.

The Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy is reviewed and approved annually. For FY 2024, the policy will apply to Projects and Practices and Projects and Practices Drinking Water grants.

The changes in this policy from the previous year include:

- Drinking Water grant only – public water suppliers and rural water systems are eligible to directly apply for the grant.
- Match changed from 25% to 10%
- Eligible practices section: 1) Practice Standards updated to include CWF statute language related to “demonstrated effectiveness and provide the greatest long-term positive impact on water quality. Innovative approaches may be incorporated on a case-by-case basis.” 2) Non-Structural Practices and Measures updated to include “Any projects proposing to provide cost share 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.”
- Ineligible practices section: 1) Drainage law language simplified. 2) Permanent stormwater treatment activities added.

In addition to approving the policy, the board order also authorizes the fiscal year 2024 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program and authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these recommendations on May 22 and June 26, 2023 and recommends the attached policy and order to the board.

**
23-40 Moved by Mark Zabel, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the FY 2024 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization – James Adkinson presented Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization.

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate Natural Resources Block Grants. The recommended grants reflect at 36.5%, one-time increase for the biennium, applied uniformly across all grants, using the existing allocation formula. The Grants Program & Policy Committee (GP&P) reviewed the recommendations at their May 22 meeting and recommended approval of the order to the board.

**
23-41 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Mark Zabel, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Technical Service Area Grants Authorization – James Adkinson presented Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Technical Service Area Grants Authorization.

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate Technical Service Area (TSA) Grants. The recommended grants are consistent with allocations to each TSA except for the equipment funds which are rotated on an established schedule. The Grants Program & Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations at their May 22, 2023 meeting and recommended approval of the order to the board.

**
23-42 Moved by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Technical Service Area Grants Authorization. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Central Region Committee

North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan 2018-2028 Plan Amendment – Steve Christopher presented North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan 2018-2028 Plan Amendment.

Background:

The current North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved on June 27, 2018 and expires on June 27, 2028. The Plan partners of the North Fork Crow River Watershed Planning Partnership (NFCRWPP) include McLeod County, McLeod Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Meeker County, Meeker SWCD, Kandiyohi County, Kandiyohi SWCD, Pope County, Pope SWCD, Stearns County, Stearns SWCD, Wright County, Wright SWCD, Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District, and North Fork Crow River Watershed District.

Plan Amendment:

Following approval from each of the NFCRWPP respective boards and concurrence with the partnerships Policy Committee, the Wright SWCD submitted a draft amendment to the Plan on their behalf on September 29, 2022. The NFCRWPP received initial input on the draft in fall 2022, then held a 60-day review that ended on April 23, 2023. The Wright SWCD held a public hearing on the Plan amendment on May 8, 2023. The 90-day review began on May 17, 2023.

The purpose for the Plan amendment is to make the Plan more usable for the NFCRWPP, provide clarity on implementation actions and goals, and make clerical revisions. A significant portion of the implementation tables in the Plan included items that local government units were not the lead entity. The tables have been revised in the amended draft to include only those actions undertaken by the “Local Leads.” The implementation tables have also been simplified to only include actions relevant to the highest priorities as identified for each of the seven planning regions. Maps have been provided to highlight areas where the NFCRWPP will focus their efforts and create priority areas geographically that align with their resource goals. Lastly, since the Plan was approved, the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) has discontinued its operations. All references to the CROW in the Plan have been removed and the action items within the implementation section have been reassigned.

Comments on the draft amendment were received from BWSR, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the City of Otsego. The NFCRWPP provided a written response to all comments and made edits to the draft amendment as needed. BWSR staff worked closely with the NFCRWPP in the development of the Amendment and through the review process. BWSR staff has completed its review and recommends approval of the North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Amendment.

**
23-43 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan 2018-2028 Plan Amendment. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Joint summer tour and meeting, August 23-24, 2023.

Chair Sve adjourned the meeting at 11:57 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Holman
Chair



August 24, 2023

Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects
1424 East College Drive, Suite 300
Marshall, MN 56258

RE: FY 2024-2025 Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grant

Dear Ms. Netzke:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grant were approved at its regular meeting held on August 24, 2023. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval.

BWSR looks forward to working with you as you address the issues laid out in your biannual plan in the Minnesota River Watershed Basin.

Please contact Board Conservationist John Shea of our staff at 507-838-9423 or john.shea@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Holman, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

- c: Ed Lenz, BWSR Regional Manager (via email)
- John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist (via email)
- Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)



August 24, 2023

Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects
1424 East College Drive, Suite 300
Marshall, MN 56258

RE: FY 2024-2025 Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grant

Dear Ms. Netzke:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Bonding Work Plan and Grant were approved at its regular meeting held on August 24, 2023. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval.

BWSR looks forward to working with you to address issues laid out in your biannual plan in the Minnesota River Watershed Basin.

Please contact Board Conservationist John Shea of our staff at 507-838-9423 or john.shea@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Holman, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

c: Ed Lenz, BWSR Regional Manager (via email)
John Shea, BWSR Board Conservationist (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)

Internal Memo

Date: August 24, 2023

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 March 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)	10* (40)

*includes three planning grants and one plan recommended for Board approval at the August 24, 2023 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. All dates are 2023 unless otherwise specified.

Approved Plans (includes one plan recommended for approval at the August 24, 2023 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.

2020 Starts

Le Sueur: The policy committee held a public hearing for input on their final plan draft on March 24; on May 1 they submitted the plan for BWSR consideration. BWSR and local staff presented the plan to the BWSR Southern Region Committee on July 25, and the committee recommended approval by the full BWSR board, who will consider the plan at their August 24 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.

2021 Starts

Chippewa River: The group completed an informal review of the initial plan draft in late July and are working on incorporating comments. The partners anticipate submitting the draft plan for formal 60-day review before the end of 2023 and submitting the final draft to BWSR in late winter 2024. Partners are beginning to transition from the planning mentality to the implementation mentality.

Kettle and Upper St. Croix: The policy committee met in August to approve prioritization and review the implementation tables. The group anticipates the following timeline: internal review process in September, formal 60-day review starting in October, public hearing in December, and BWSR board consideration in March 2024.

Lower MN River East: The group identified priority issues and waterbodies, are close to finalizing measurable goals, and are well into in the process of drafting the targeted implementation table. They have formed planning subcommittees for in-depth discussion of specific issues: groundwater, stormwater/shoreland, and outreach/engagement. Representatives from several municipalities as well as from the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community have joined these discussions. The policy committee voted in July to form a joint powers entity; staff are working to draft a joint powers agreement for implementation. The group anticipates completing the plan for BWSR review and local adoption in mid-2024.

Mississippi River Brainerd: The group submitted the draft plan for 60-day review in June, with comments due on August 30. The public hearing is scheduled for Sept. 26 at Camp Ripley. The group plans to submit the final plan in November and anticipates review by the Northern Region Committee in December and BWSR Board consideration in January 2024. The group intends to form a joint powers collaboration to implement the plan.

Mississippi River St. Cloud: The policy committee agreed on a vision statement, reviewed the priority waters list for approval and began discussing options for implementation structures. They also requested a minor boundary change to incorporate a small area of Sherburne County adjacent to the Anoka County border that otherwise would not have been covered by a watershed plan. The technical advisory committee modified measurable goals for several issue statements (soil health, habitat, altered hydrology, and internal loading) and reviewed the targeting strategy and goals for gaps. They intend to have a draft plan for review in winter 2024.

Rainy River Headwaters-Vermillion: The policy committee approved goals and the implementation table in August. In September the group will conduct an internal review process, with a the formal 60-day review starting in October. The group aspires to conduct the public hearing in January and submit the plan for BWSR board consideration in March of 2024.

Sand Hill River: The group completed an informal plan review that resulted in very few comments; the policy committee initiated the 60-day formal review period on August 11 and scheduled a public hearing on November 14. They anticipate submitting the plan for consideration at the January 2024 BWSR board meeting and plan to make their first WBIF fund request shortly thereafter.

South Fork of the Crow River: The group completed an informal plan review on August 8. The policy committee submitted a draft for formal 60-day review on August 14 and scheduled a public hearing on November 27. They anticipate submitting the plan shortly thereafter for consideration at the March 2024 BWSR board meeting.

Upper Minnesota River: The policy committee submitted the draft for formal 60-day review on July 24. They anticipate a public hearing in October and final submittal in late 2023 for consideration by BWSR in early 2024.

2022 Starts

Cottonwood – Middle Minnesota River: The policy committee approved the Land and Water Resources Narrative. They also hosted two kickoff meetings, gathering input from the public to identify and prioritize resource issues. The group is working to complete their plan by the end of 2024.

Crow Wing River: The partnership hosted two public kickoff meetings in June and on July 26 the policy committee went on a bus tour to see completed and potential projects within watershed. The next step will be to combine the public input with priorities from state agencies and existing county water plans to create and prioritize a comprehensive watershed issues list. The partnership anticipates a draft for review in fall of 2024.

Rainy River-Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River: All parties signed the planning agreement. The budget and work plan are approved and the planning grant is executed. The group hired Houston Engineering, Inc. as the plan consultant. The notice of intent to plan was sent out and the comments were returned on July 14. The planning partners are Koochiching SWCD and County, City of International Falls and the City of Ranier.

Upper and Lower Red Lake: The group hired Houston, Engineering, Inc. as the plan consultant. The advisory committee met for the first time in July and the first public kickoff meeting was August 15. They drafted a Land and Water Resources Narrative. The planning partners are Beltrami SWCD and County, Red Lake Nation and the Red Lake Watershed District. The group anticipates completing the plan in early 2025.

Upper Mississippi – Grand Rapids: The policy committee approved bylaws and added new partners to the planning agreement (Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe Indians, Logan Township, and Salo Township). They reviewed comments from the kickoff meetings and discussed inviting more townships and municipalities into the partnership (possibly creating a citizens advisory committee). They are currently moving through a series of topic-specific meetings (lakes; forests; wetlands and ditching; rivers and streams; stormwater; farms & groundwater) to get public input through the fall. The next policy committee meeting will be in January 2024 to begin prioritization following the topic meetings.

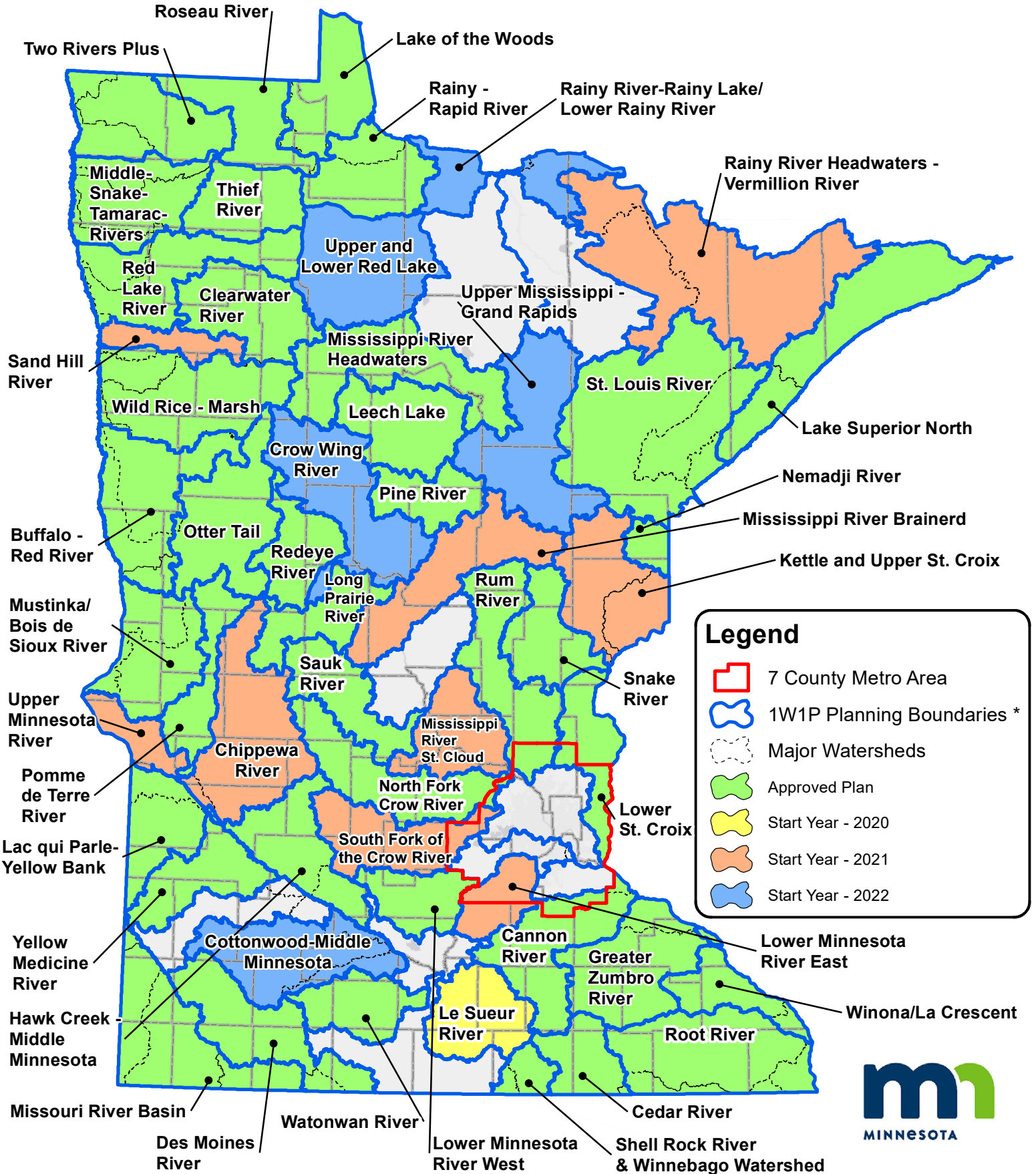
ATTACHMENTS:

Map of participating watersheds

List of participating local governments

One Watershed, One Plan

Participating Watersheds



*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.

2022					
Cottonwood-Middle MN (13)	Crow Wing (14)	Rainy River-Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River (4)	Upper and Lower Red Lake (4)	Upper Miss – Grand Rapids (11)	
Brown County	Becker County	City of International Falls	Beltrami County	Aitkin County	
Brown SWCD	Becker SWCD	City of Ranier	Beltrami SWCD	Aitkin SWCD	
Cottonwood County	Cass County	Koochiching County	Red Lake Nation	Carlton County	
Cottonwood SWCD	Cass SWCD	Koochiching SWCD	Red Lake Watershed District	Carlton SWCD	
Lyon County	Crow Wing County			Cass County	
Lyon 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 Project	Todd County			Salo Township	
Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Contr	Todd SWCD				
City of Springfield	Wadena County				
	Wadena SWCD				
2021					
Chippewa (16)	Kettle and Upper St. Croix (5)	Lower MN East (7)	Mississippi River Brained (10)	Mississippi River St. Cloud (12)	Rainy R Hdwtrs/Vermilion R (6)
Chippewa County	Carlton County	Le Sueur County	Aitkin County	Benton County	Cook County
Chippewa SWCD	Carlton SWCD	Le Sueur SWCD	Aitkin SWCD	Benton SWCD	Cook SWCD
Douglas County	Kanabec SWCD	Lower MN River Watershed District	City of Baxter	Meeker County	Lake County
Douglas SWCD	Pine County	Rice County	City of Brainerd	Meeker SWCD	Lake SWCD
Grant County	Pine SWCD	Rice SWCD	Crow Wing County	Mille Lacs SWCD	North St. Louis SCWD
Grant SWCD		Scott County WMO	Crow Wing SWCD	Sherburne County	St. Louis County
Kandiyohi County	South Fork of the Crow River (13)	Scott SWCD	Morrison County	Sherburne SWCD	
Kandiyohi SWCD	Buffalo Creek Watershed District		Morrison SWCD	Stearns County	
Otter Tail County	Carver SWCD	Sand Hill River (8)	Todd County	Stearns SWCD	
Pope County	City of Winsted	East Polk SWCD	Todd SWCD	Wright County	Upper Minnsota River (7)
Pope SWCD	Kandiyohi County	Mahnomen County		Wright SWCD	Big Stone County
Stevens County	Kandiyohi SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rainy-Rapid (2)		Big Stone SWCD
Stevens SWCD	McLeod County	Norman County	Lake of the Woods County		Swift County
Swift County	McLeod SWCD	Norman SWCD	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Roseau River (3)	Swift SWCD
Swift SWCD	Meeker County	Polk County		Roseau County	Traverse County
West Otter Tail SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Sand Hill River Watershed District		Roseau River Watershed District	Traverse SWCD
	Renville County	West Polk SWCD		Roseau SWCD	Upper MN River Watershed Dist
	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	<u>West Ottertail SWCD</u>	Wabasha County
Red Lake SWCD	Martin County	Yellow Medicine County	Waseca SWCD	Otter Tail (6)	Wabasha SWCD
Red Lake Watershed District	Martin SWCD			Becker SWCD	Winona County
	Murray County			Becker County	Winona SWCD
Middle-Snake Tamarac (5)	Murray SWCD			Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	
Marshall County	Nobles County			East Otter Tail SWCD	
Marshall SWCD	Nobles SWCD			Otter Tail County	
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD				Pelican River Watershed District	
Polk County				West Otter Tail SWCD	
West Polk 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	<u>Pine SWCD</u>	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
	<u>Redeye (5)</u>	Crow Wing SWCD	Hubbard County	Mahnomen County	Olmsted SWCD
	Becker SWCD	Isanti County	Hubbard SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rice County
<u>Shell Rock - Winnebago (4)</u>	East Otter Tail SWCD	Isanti SWCD	Itasca County	Norman County	Rice SWCD
Freeborn County	Otter Tail County	Kanabec County	<u>Itasca SWCD</u>	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	<u>Two Rivers Plus (4)</u>	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)	Watowan 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	Watowan County
	South Washington WD	Wilkin County			Watowan SWCD
	Sunrise River WMO	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			



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

Date: _____

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

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

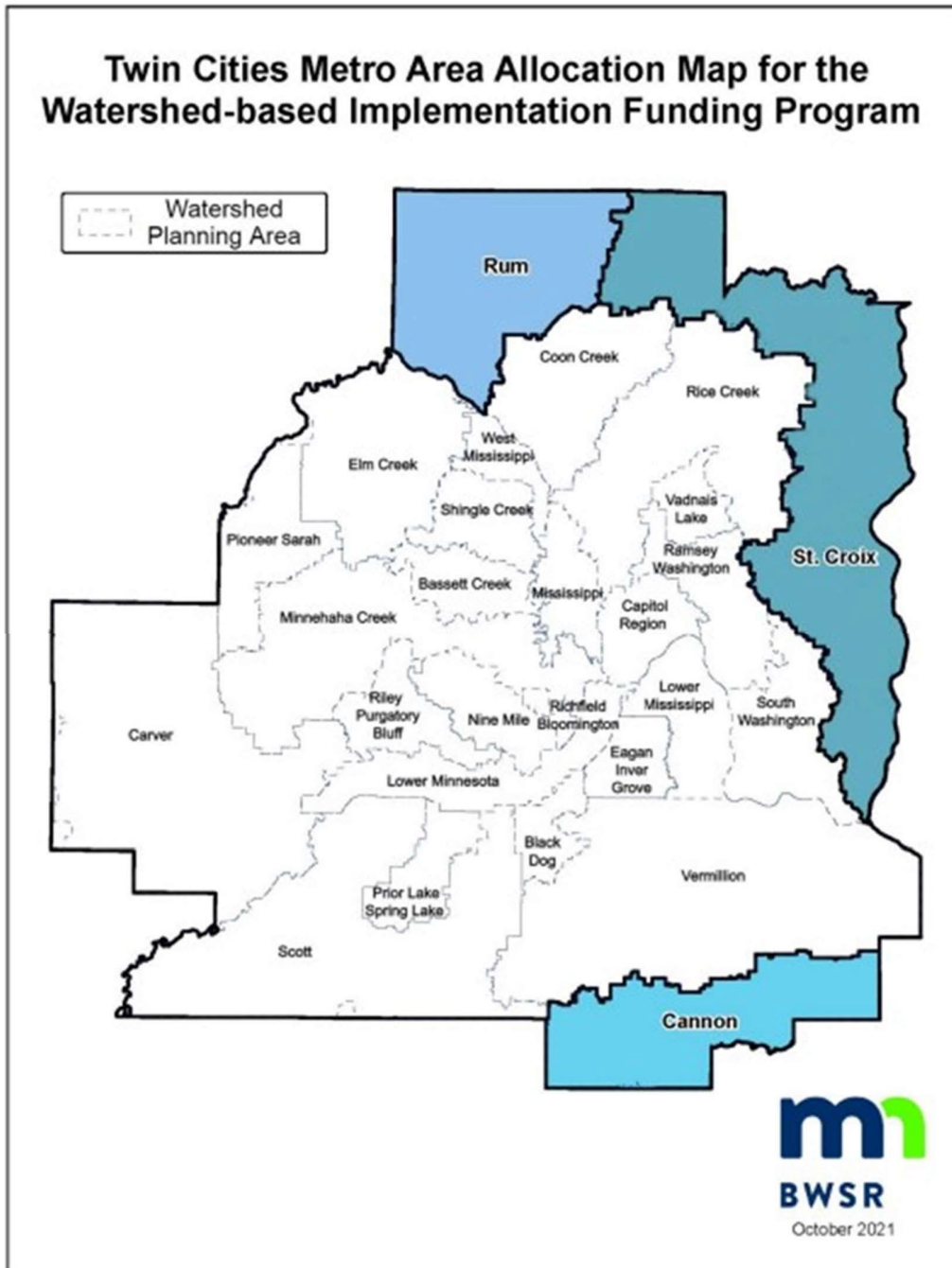
39	Sand Hill River	\$ 705,267	2024
10	Sauk River	\$ 1,212,865	2024
63	Shell Rock River/Winnebago Watershed	\$ 547,409	2024
28	Snake River	\$ 1,024,471	2024
13	South Fork of the Crow River	\$ 1,286,465	2024
2	St. Louis River	\$ 2,228,654	2024
42	Thief River	\$ 702,239	2024
45	Two Rivers Plus	\$ 1,662,685	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



BWSR Board Member Conflict of Interest in Grant Review – Disclosure Form

Meeting: BWSR Board Meeting

Date: August 24, 2023

I certify that I have read and understand the descriptions of conflict of interest provided, reviewed my participation for conflict of interest, and disclosed any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts. As a BWSR Board member, appointed according to Minnesota Statute Section 103B.101, I am responsible for evaluating my participation or abstention from the review process as indicated below. If I have indicated an actual conflict, I will abstain from the discussion and decision for that agenda item.

Please complete the form below for all agenda items. If you indicate that you do not have a conflict for an agenda item, you do not need to fill out additional information regarding that agenda item.

Agenda Item	No conflict (mark here and stop for this row)	Grant applicant(s) associated with conflict (required if conflict identified)	Conflict Type (required if conflict identified)	Will you participate? (required if conflict identified)	Description of conflict (optional)
One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization				Yes / No	
FY 2024 & FY 2025 Buffer Implementation Grants				Yes / No	
Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025 Soil and Water Conservation District Grants Authorization				Yes / No	
FY24-25 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program				Yes / No	

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Committee Roster
Effective August 2023

ADMINISTRATIVE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (AAC)

Membership:	Todd Holman, chair	citizen
	Mark Zabel	soil & water conservation district
	Jayne Hager Dee	soil & water conservation district
	Rich Sve	county commissioner
	Joe Collins	watershed district
	Jill Crafton	watershed district
	Leroy Ose	watershed district
	John Jaschke	staff
	Rachel Mueller	staff

Responsibility: *The AAC consists of the Board's chair and vice-chair and the chairs of the Board's standing committees. The AAC may make evaluations and recommendations to the Board on various Board issues including ethics; expenses/per diem; bylaws; and implementing legislation and budgets. The AAC will act as the personnel committee for personnel actions relating to the Board's executive director. The chair may include additional members ad hoc to address special or unique topics or issues.*

Meetings: *The committee will meet at the call of the chair.*

AUDIT & OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE (A&O)

Membership:	Joe Collins, chair	watershed district
	Todd Holman	citizen
	Ted Winter	citizen
	Rich Sve	county commissioner
	Kurt Beckstrom	soil & water conservation district
	Mark Zabel	soil & water conservation district
	Kelly Kirkpatrick	Greater MN city
	Andrea Fish	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee consists of the Board's chair, vice-chair, and appointed at-large members. It appraises the effectiveness of the agency's internal controls and risk assessment and provides an avenue of communication between BWSR's internal audit function and external auditors, management, and the Board. In addition, the A&O is also responsible for the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) oversight and receives reports on BWSR and Local Government Unit program evaluations and fiscal compliance matters.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet at least once during the year or at the call of the chair or a majority of the members.*

BUFFERS, SOILS & DRAINAGE COMMITTEE (BSDC)

Membership:	LeRoy Ose, chair	watershed district
	Rich Sve	county commissioner
	Neil Peterson	county commissioner
	Ron Staples	county commissioner
	Ted Winter	citizen
	Mark Zabel	soil & water conservation district
	Kelly Kirkpatrick	Greater MN city
	Jeff Berg	Department of Agriculture
	Jason Garms	Department of Natural Resources
	Heather Johnson	Pollution Control Agency
	Joel Larson	University of Minnesota Extension
	Tom Gile	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for reviewing buffer, drainage and soil conservation statutes, rules, policies, guidelines, programs and special projects and related plans, operational partnerships, and opportunities to enhance the agency's implementation of programs; and for making the resulting recommendations to the Board.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as determined by the Committee chair in consultation with the Board Chair or staff.*

DISPUTE RESOLUTION COMMITTEE (DRC)

Membership:	Rich Sve, chair	county commissioner
	Jayne Hager Dee	soil & water conservation district
	Todd Holman	citizen
	Joe Collins	watershed district
	Mark Zabel	soil & water conservation district
	Travis Germundson	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for hearing appeals, including those related to the Wetland Conservation Act, watershed district rule and permit decision appeals, and, under MS103A.301, determinations of water law and policy. The authority of the DRC is established in statute and assigned to the DRC by the Board. Under current guidelines the DRC hears the appeals and makes recommendations to the Board.*

Per M.S. 103B.101, Subd.10, the committee is appointed by the board chair.

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as needed to process appeals that have been filed with the Board.*

GRANTS PROGRAM AND POLICY COMMITTEE (GP&PC)

Membership:	Mark Zabel, chair	soil & water conservation district
	Todd Holman	citizen
	Ted Winter	citizen
	Kurt Beckstrom	soil & water conservation district
	Mike Runk	Metro cities
	Neil Peterson	county commissioner
	Rich Sve	county commissioner
	Jill Crafton	watershed district
	Kelly Kirkpatrick	Greater MN city
	LeRoy Ose	watershed district
	Melissa Lewis	Pollution Control Agency
	Jeff Berg	Department of Agriculture
	Marcey Westrick	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for reviewing grant allocations, policies, and related procedures and making recommendations to the Board.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as determined by the Committee chair in consultation with the Board Chair or staff.*

RIM RESERVE COMMITTEE (RRC)

Membership:	Jayne Hager Dee, chair	soil & water conservation district
	Ted Winter	citizen
	Lori Cox	citizen
	Kurt Beckstrom	soil & water conservation district
	LeRoy Ose	watershed district
	Ron Staples	county commissioner
	Steve Robertson	Department of Health
	Jeff Berg	Department of Agriculture
	Jason Garms	Department of Natural Resources
	Sharon Doucette	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for reviewing RIM Reserve Program statutes, rules, policies, guidelines, rates and for considering strategic plans, operational partnerships, and opportunities to enhance the agency's conservation easements programs; and for making the resulting recommendations to the Board.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as determined by the Committee chair in consultation with the Board Chair or staff.*

WATER MANAGEMENT & STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE (WMSPC)

Membership:	Joe Collins, chair	watershed district
	Jayne Hager Dee	soil & water conservation district
	Kurt Beckstrom	soil & water conservation district

Mark Zabel	soil & water conservation district
Eunice Biel	townships
Mike Runk	Metro cities
Steve Robertson	Department of Health
Joel Larson	University of Minnesota Extension
Melissa Lewis	Pollution Control Agency
Jason Garms	Department of Natural Resources
Jeff Berg	Department of Agriculture
Marcey Westrick	staff
Jenny Gieseke	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for the development of strategic plans for the Board including identification of key outcomes, partnerships and opportunities. The WMSPC is also responsible for the development of program and policy to guide and direct implementation of local water and watershed management plans, including the One Watershed - One Plan program.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as determined by the Committee chair in consultation with the Board Chair or staff.*

WETLAND CONSERVATION COMMITTEE (WCC)

Membership:	Jill Crafton, chair	watershed district
	Ted Winter	citizen
	Neil Peterson	county commissioner
	Ron Staples	county commissioner
	Lori Cox	citizen
	Eunice Biel	townships
	Jason Garms	Department of Natural Resources
	Jeff Berg	Department of Agriculture
	Les Lemm	staff

Responsibility: *The Committee is responsible for reviewing Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and wetland banking rules, policies, guidelines and plans.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as determined by the Committee chair in consultation with the Board Chair or staff.*

DRAINAGE WORK GROUP (DWG) LIAISON

Neil Peterson	county commissioner
Ron Staples	county commissioner
Tom Gile	staff

Responsibility: *The Drainage Work Group is responsible for developing recommendations for drainage system management and related water management, including recommendations for updating Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E Drainage and related provisions.*

Meetings: *The work group will meet as determined by the staff.*

REGIONAL COMMITTEES:

Membership:

Northern

Rich Sve, chair – CC
Neil Peterson – CC
Ron Staples – CC
Todd Holman – CIT
LeRoy Ose – WD
Kurt Beckstrom – SWCD
Jeff Berg – MDA
Theresa Ebbenga – DNR
Theresa Haugen – PCA
Ryan Hughes – staff

Southern

Ted Winter, chair – CIT
Eunice Biel – TWP
Kelly Kirkpatrick – GMC
Jeff Berg – MDA
Steve Robertson – MDH
Scott Roemhildt – DNR
Heather Johnson – PCA
Ed Lenz – staff

Central

Joe Collins, chair – WD
Jill Crafton – WD
Jayne Hager Dee – SWCD
Mark Zabel – SWCD
Mike Runk – MC
Lori Cox - CIT
Joel Larson – UME
Heather Johnson – PCA
Steve Robertson – MDH
Grant Wilson – DNR
Marcey Westrick – staff

Responsibility: *Each Committee has the responsibility to review county water plans, water management organization plans, watershed district plans, comprehensive wetland plans, comprehensive watershed management plans and alternatives or amendments to same and to advise the Board on the adequacy of the plans. The Committee may also hold hearings and make recommendations to the Board on establishment, dissolution, boundary changes and other specific local government plans and governance matters.*

Meetings: *The Committee will meet as necessary to review plans and amendments and hold hearings as ordered or as delegated by the Board. Staff will coordinate meeting locations and schedules with members.*

CC = county commissioner

CIT = citizen

SWCD = soil and water conservation district

WD = watershed district

UME = University of Minnesota Extension

WMO = watershed management organization (metro)

MC = metro cities

NMC = non-metro cities

TWP = townships

NOTE: *Committee membership and proceedings are guided by the [Board Bylaws](#).*

Rain Check: State funding aims to increase floodwater storage



Some projects supported by BWSR's Water Quality and Storage Grant Program also tap Clean Water Fund grants.

New funding will help the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) support water storage projects that make landscapes more resilient as Minnesota experiences increasingly heavy and frequent rains.

BWSR's Water Quality and Storage Grant Program received \$17 million in general funds from the state Legislature this year. BWSR created the program in 2021 to offer financial assistance to local governments to control water rates and volumes.

The program is part of a suite of legislation passed in recent years to mitigate negative environmental impacts caused by climate change. Increasingly frequent and intense rains have created a need for additional water storage. The program's goal is to protect infrastructure, reduce erosion and improve water quality by temporarily



Weaver

holding water on the landscape after heavy rains or runoff events.

"BWSR's programs implement water storage in many different ways," said BWSR Chief Engineer Rita Weaver. "Water

can be stored through soil health practices and water is stored through structural projects. This program focuses more on those structural storage practices like grade stabilizations (small dams) and retention basins."

Since the program launched, BWSR has awarded six grants to four organizations: Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II), the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, the Lyon County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Le Sueur County SWCD. Grants require

An Area II grade stabilization structure (a small dam) in Redwood County's Springdale Township was constructed in 2021. BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant Program funds will help Area II implement grade stabilization structure projects in two other townships within its nine-county region.
Photo Credit:
Bolton & Menk Inc.

a 25% match from the recipient.

The program prioritizes projects in the Minnesota and Lower Mississippi river basins. Both areas contain topography with steep elevation changes that make flooding and erosion pressing concerns. Five of the funded projects are within the Minnesota River basin.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District received the largest grant: \$1 million from BWSR will combine with \$7.7 million in leveraged funds to construct a gated impoundment along the Mustinka River at Traverse County Road 13. The project anticipates increased flood storage capacity of 19,000 acre-feet (1 acre-foot is equal to the volume of water contained on 1 acre of land at a depth of 1 foot). Other funding sources for the project include Clean Water Funds from BWSR; an Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund grant, as recommended by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources; an Outdoor Heritage Fund grant, as recommended by the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council; and a grant from the Red River Watershed Management Board.

The Le Sueur County SWCD plans to use its \$408,187 water storage grant plus \$102,047 in matching funds to increase the storage capacity of an existing wetland. The project is slated to involve four landowners, converting degraded wetlands and farmland and creating 150 acre-feet of water storage. Estimates show the project would reduce phosphorus by 274 pounds and sediment by 44.9

“ Floodwater storage isn’t just for flood damages, there’s a lot of other benefits down the road. Ponding water has some resiliency benefits: It helps with groundwater infiltration, it’s helpful for climate change and soil health.



— Kerry Netzke, executive director, Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects

tons per year.

The Lyon County SWCD will also pursue wetland modifications, plus a grade stabilization structure to add storage capacity. A \$340,940 BWSR water storage grant plus \$85,235 in matching funds will help reduce erosion and flooding impacts. The project is estimated to reduce phosphorus by 172 pounds per year and sediment by 172 tons per year, plus add 47 acre-feet of water storage.

“Our partners play an important role in finding projects,” Weaver said of participating local governments. “They identify areas with flooding or water-quality issues and then work with landowners to come up with ideas for storage.”

Area II — a Marshall-based joint powers organization comprised of nine southwestern Minnesota counties — received three of the six grants. Executive Director Kerry Netzke said the Water Quality and Storage Grant Program is a good fit for the type of projects Area II typically pursues.

“We kind of specialize in structural projects — we provide financial and technical assistance to get these projects on the ground,” Netzke said. “There’s many ways to do

water storage, but they all involve some temporary impoundment of floodwater.”

A planned grade stabilization structure in Lyon County’s Custer Township would add 30.4 acre-feet of flood storage capable of holding water on the landscape for 18 hours. The project would remove an estimated 213 tons of sediment per year and reduce flows to a downstream ravine by 46%. Work is slated to begin this fall and finish by late December. BWSR’s Water Quality and Storage Grant Program will contribute \$94,723 toward the project. Area II and a landowner associated with the project will contribute a \$31,577 match.

“People downstream will benefit from reduced flows,” Netzke said. “By reducing the flows, we’re going to reduce damage to properties and streambanks.”

In Redwood County, Area II will use a \$140,214 BWSR water storage grant paired with a \$46,737 local match to install terraces and a grade stabilization structure to address gully erosion. Redwood SWCD staff will assist with engineering work associated with the terraces on the north side of the Redwood River. These terraces fill and

empty quickly, holding approximately 46 acre-feet of water for about an hour. The terraces would reduce sediment by approximately 1,935 tons per year. Directly downstream on the south side of the Redwood River, a small grade stabilization structure would be designed to store 10 acre-feet of water for 18 hours, removing 125 tons of sediment per year. Sediment reductions would benefit the Redwood River and Lake Redwood. Work on this project is slated to begin this fall or in spring 2024.

Area II’s third grant would target a culvert replacement in Lincoln County at the intersection of two township roads, where steep and sloughing banks are creating public safety concerns. The project involves a dry dam that would reduce flows by 25% and hold 96 acre-feet of water for 36 hours. Annual sediment reductions are estimated at 971 pounds. BWSR’s contribution totals \$586,813. Local partners contributing to the \$195,605 match include Area II, Alta Vista Township and the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. Construction is expected to begin in fall 2024 or spring 2025.

Netzke said each of the planned projects would yield multiple benefits.

“Floodwater storage isn’t just for flood damages, there’s a lot of other benefits down the road,” Netzke said. “Ponding water has some resiliency benefits: It helps with groundwater infiltration, it’s helpful for climate change and soil health.”

More [BWSR Water Quality and Storage Grant Program](#) grants will be available to local governments in early 2024.

Wilkin SWCD leverages private funds to expand soil health options



Sugarbeets were planted between rows of cereal rye, seen here in spring 2021 in a Wilkin County field 3 miles east of Breckenridge. The cereal rye was planted on Sept. 20 the previous fall. Photo Credits: Kim Melton, Wilkin SWCD

Producers working with Wilkin Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff have incorporated soil health practices into their operations, leveraging Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) with private funds — including contributions from Cargill and General Mills.

Two watersheds that cover Wilkin County — the Buffalo-Red River and the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka watersheds — prioritized sedimentation as a concern in their comprehensive watershed management plans, developed under BWSR's One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program. Wilkin SWCD staff members were involved in developing both plans. The goal: improve water quality by curbing

runoff and the sediment it carries.

A \$200,000 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the Wilkin SWCD in 2022 supports its soil health efforts. Partners include Wilkin County, the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BDSWD). More recently, the SWCD partnered with two private companies, Cargill and General Mills, securing an additional \$1.45 million that allowed the SWCD to expand soil health incentives.

The Wilkin SWCD started its Cover Crop Incentive (CCI) program in 2019. Farmers could enroll up to 50 acres in a yearlong contract and receive a per-acre payment, which helped to cut the financial risk of trying something new. Farmers can enroll in the program



Clean Water Funds from BWSR contributed to the Wilkin SWCD's soil health efforts.



A turnip, radish and clover cover crop mix was broadcast, seen here in August 2019 in a field in Wilkin County. The cover crop mix was planted in June 2019 to combat unproductive headlands. Unproductive headlands are areas that do not grow a crop, usually run parallel to the road, and are where disturbances due to equipment and truck traffic are heavy.

for up to five years. Those who signed up also received free annual soil health assessments. The program launched with funds from the BRRWD and the BDSWD plus Wilkin County.

“(CCI) expired every fall, but after they put down cover crops, they weren’t allowed to do any tillage and so it kind of gave us a gateway into not doing tillage after cover crops are down, and it tried to lessen the tillage passes in the fall,” said Kim Melton, Wilkin SWCD technician.

Wilkin County lies within the fertile Red River Valley, where the soils range from heavy clay to sandy. Melton said some farmers were hesitant about trying cover crops in areas with heavy clay soils, which tend to take longer to dry out.

“Farmers think they need tillage because they’ve got to open up their soil,

Wilkin SWCD Soil Health 2022 Stats

In 2022, producers entered into 92 contracts, covering 7,391 acres through three programs that included a total of \$257,835 in incentives for cover crop implementation. Wilkin SWCD’s soil health programs include:

SHIP: 50 contracts, 6,395 acres, \$312,701 in incentives

CCI: 39 contracts, 1,900 acres, \$66,310 in incentives

WBIF: 3 contracts, 374 acres, \$12,000 in incentives

they’ve got to aerate it and they don’t want to cover it or do no-till because they don’t think it’ll ever dry out,” Melton said.

“Our soils are a challenge here in the valley, and incorporating cover crops is something that I like to tell farmers, ‘Let’s armor your soil and let’s protect it. Let’s cover it. Let’s build infiltration and aggregation and be able to combat these fluxes that Mother Nature is throwing at us with the weather.’ Farmers are sick of watching their dirt blow

away. They pay for that soil. They purchase the field. They want that soil to help them with production,” Melton said.

Farmers enrolled about 700 acres the first year CCI was available.

The next year, Wilkin SWCD staff sought additional funding to offer incentives for enrolling more acres. Partnerships with Cargill and General Mills secured \$1.45 million in private funds. [MBOLD](#), a coalition of Minnesota agriculture

and food companies, contributed an additional \$45,000.

The SWCD created the Soil Health Incentive Program (SHIP) with the funding from Cargill, General Mills and MBOLD. The three-year contract offered via SHIP gave producers the option to implement one or more soil health practices — cover crops, nutrient management, crop rotation and reduced tillage — on up to 160 acres. Participating producers received a financial incentive per acre of practice. If producers sign up for all four practices, they receive \$65 per acre.

“We were able to offer farmers a better incentive program to install four practices instead of just one, and so this sold like hotcakes,” Melton said. “The money was all encumbered in two months.”

With private funds, the

SWCD could offer more flexibility in applying soil health practices than what is allowed through state or federal program-backed incentives. For example, growers could use a lower cover crop seeding rate than what might typically be required to meet Natural Resources Conservation Service standards.

“It’s nice to be able to try to experiment and work with these farmers and give them the flexibility that they need,” Melton said. “We’re supporting their ideas on how to get these incorporated in the valley.”

In 2022, SHIP covered 50 contracts and 6,395 acres. That year, farmers throughout Wilkin County enrolled a total of 7,391 acres in one of the SWCD’s cover crop programs — including SHIP, CCI and a third program funded through Watershed-Based Implementation Funding.

With the SWCD’s private funding, the SWCD gives farmers one year, if they do not plant or if weather or field conditions make planting impossible, they can opt out. They do not get paid for the practices they do not complete. Despite last fall’s dry conditions, no one backed out of the contract.

“That is telling me that these guys are in it; it’s here to stay,” Melton said. “They’re going to try to combat Mother Nature and they’re going to make that attempt to improve their soil health and improve their organic matter and keep farming sustainable because that’s what we need for the next generation.”

Melton noted another indication that soil health



After an aerial cover crop seeding in late summer, cereal rye grew between corn rows in fall 2020 in Wilkin County.

practices are catching on in Wilkin County: Some landowners are taking small chunks of land out of their “production crop” rotation and planting rye to use as a cover crop seed source for the fall.

Melton said area agronomists have helped to make producers more aware of conservation practices such as cover crops, and the SWCD’s incentives that support them. For the past five or six years, Melton has invited agronomists into the office where she lets them know what is available so they can relay that information to producers.

Greg LaPlante is an

independent crop consultant with decades of experience in regenerative farming practices, and whose working territory includes Wilkin County. Since the severe wind erosion that occurred in spring 2021 and 2022, LaPlante said producers in the watershed have been more receptive to soil conservation options.

LaPlante said one of his clients enrolled 500 acres in SHIP. That client is in the third year of planting rye cover crops in the fall, and minimally tilling sugarbeets, corn, soybeans and sunflowers.

“Growers have been

implementing different types of cover crops, especially for the sugarbeets. Mostly a barley or oats spring-seeded cover crop ahead of the sugarbeets,” LaPlante said, adding that growers sometimes get nervous about planting a winter rye cover crop because they are not sure when to terminate it. That is where he can help.

“I’ve seen the continuous degradation of our soils, either through wind or water erosion. And I’ve been involved in soil sampling those profiles in those fields for 40 years and I see that our topsoil degradation has been pretty severe,” LaPlante said.

“I get more involved in trying to change perspectives based upon I think we’re running out of time as far as productivity of our soils,” he said, adding that he’s seen how topsoil erosion negatively affects yield.

Healthier soil leads to reduced runoff, which in turn means less flooding downstream and less sediment and pollutants such as phosphorous and nitrogen in the water.

“It’s the foundation of all living things,” Melton said. “I like to tell kids to name one thing that they don’t think comes from the soil, and they always yell, ‘Pizza!’ And I’m like, ‘Hey the crust comes from wheat; your cheese comes from dairy, and where do you think (the cows) get their food? Corn. Even the clothes you’re wearing can be tied back to our soil producing crops for us to utilize to sustain life. We need healthy soil.’”

Sauk River Chain of Lakes water-quality solutions start with livestock producers



The \$392,500 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the Stearns County SWCD in 2017 addressed Sauk River and Sauk River Chain of Lakes nutrient impairments via feedlot fixes. Annual reduction estimates tied to the four Clean Water Fund-backed projects include 242 pounds of nitrogen and 82 pounds of phosphorus. Reduction estimates are not calculated for EQIP-supported projects.

PAYNESVILLE — Eleven Stearns County livestock producers within the Sauk River watershed have installed manure storage solutions and adopted management plans that curb runoff and benefit water quality in the nutrient-impaired Sauk River Chain of Lakes.

What started with a \$392,500 Clean Water Fund grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) targeting five feedlots most susceptible to runoff grew to a \$1.9 million endeavor that leveraged nearly \$1.5 million in Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assistance from the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

Across those 11 farms, Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and NRCS staff worked with producers to install eight stacking slabs and seven manure storage basins, and to implement nutrient management plans affecting 1,664 acres.

“You’re reducing nutrients, runoff from fields,” said Stearns County SWCD Project Management Supervisor Nathan Hylla, who has since left the SWCD to start his own business.

“Producers get long-term storage for their manure — whether it be poultry, beef or dairy — and then they utilize those nutrients when they can use them, and then incorporate them so



water quality.

— Mike Hemmann, NRCS civil engineering technician

“Producers are trying to do the right thing out here environmentally, to protect”

they’re not running off into our streams, lakes and rivers.”

The region’s high water table and rolling topography made the targeted feedlots more susceptible to runoff.



Natural Resources Conservation Service website: www.nrcs.usda.gov

Clean Water Funds supported the [technical assistance](#) SWCD engineers made available to farmers. At four of the 11 sites, the state grant provided cost-share for construction. Seven sites tapped only EQIP assistance to offset construction costs.

“These Clean Water funded projects just add a lot of flexibility,” said Stearns County SWCD Conservation Planning Team Manager Mark Lefebvre, referring to a list of potential projects

From left: Shirley and Kevin Klaphake raise chickens, hogs and cattle on 320 acres in Stearns County’s Spring Hill Township. In September 2020 they had shipped out one batch of 42,000 chickens and were awaiting the next. Constructing a 56-by-96-foot covered stacking slab gave them 12 months of manure storage. By curbing runoff, manure storage solutions supported by Clean Water Funds and NRCS assistance will benefit water quality in the Sauk River, seen here, and in the nutrient-impaired Sauk River Chain of Lakes. David J. Meyer said having a 40-by-100-foot covered stacking slab with 12 months’ storage for poultry litter made it possible to incorporate that nitrogen source in the fall.

Photo Credits: Ann Wessel, BWSR



Shirley and Kevin Klaphake, in back, told NRCS civil engineering technician Mike Hemmann, in white, and Stearns County SWCD Project Management Supervisor Nathan Hylla how a newly constructed, roofed stacking slab built to store 12 months of poultry litter fit into their operation.

that await funding, and to competition for EQIP assistance. “Even if they would be funded in EQIP, with the increased cost of some of these projects, some of these farmers aren’t going to go through with it unless they get supplemental funding.”

In September 2020, Hylla and Mike Hemmann, a Stearns County-based NRCS civil engineering technician who has since moved to NRCS’ Glencoe office, visited two farms where stacking slab construction had just finished. At both sites — the Kevin and Shirley Klaphake farm, and the David J. and JoAnn Meyer farm — the slabs were built to store poultry manure.

“I wanted to be environmental-safe. Instead of putting our manure on the ground all the time and stacking it for a whole year, I wanted to have a stacking slab so water doesn’t leach into the ground,” said Kevin Klaphake. “We probably wouldn’t have been able to

“ I always had to watch when it was going to rain, if there was a snowstorm coming. Now I can come out of the barn and into this building and place the manure in here without having to handle it three times. ”

— David J. Meyer, crop and livestock producer



VIDEO: “Stearns County Feedlot Fixes,” featuring a visit to the Klaphake farm in September 2020

do this project without the assistance.”

With his wife, Shirley, and father, Eldred, Klaphake raises chickens, hogs and cattle on 320 acres in Spring Hill Township. Adding poultry in 1990 and then hogs 10 years later allowed Klaphake to sell the 35-cow dairy herd but stay on the family farm. The Klaphakes typically raise six batches of

42,000 chickens a year.

The 56-by-96-foot covered stacking slab near the poultry barns holds 12 months’ storage. Previously, poultry manure was stored on the ground until fall when it could be spread on the fields. Nearly three years after construction finished, Klaphake reflected on another benefit:

“When you clean the barn out, you don’t have to worry about mud,” Klaphake said in July 2023. “It’s worked out very good. In the fall, too, when you haul it away, you’re always on dry cement. You’re not outside if it rains or something, trying to load in the mud.”

A couple of miles down

the road in Lake Henry Township, David J. and JoAnn Meyer added poultry to their 1,000-acre crop and cattle farm in 2015.

“We were looking to diversify a little bit to help pay our medical insurance. That was what we could do to have a steady monthly income,” David J. Meyer said.

The Meyers had worked with Hemmann on a previous project. They, too, had been storing litter from six batches of 42,000 chickens a year on the ground.

“I always had to watch when it was going to rain, if there was a snowstorm coming,” Meyer said in September 2020. “Now I can come out of the barn and into this building and place the manure in here without having to handle it three times.”

Having 12 months’ storage makes it possible to incorporate that nitrogen source in the fall. Dry manure is also easier to load and spread in the field.

"I think the value of the manure is worth a lot more to me now, being it's more consistent and it's more dry and it's more of an even spread in the field," Meyer said in July 2023. Previously, manure sometimes had to be spread when it was wet, resulting in too much in some spots and not enough in others. Now, Meyer said, "How you set your spreader — that's what you get when you apply."

One drawback: This winter, Meyer said snow drifted into the roofed 40-by-100-foot stacking slab, an issue he fixed with a stack of bales. Like Klaphake, Meyer also appreciated the convenience.

"It seemed like this past winter every time our birds went out (to be processed) it was either a snowstorm or a rainstorm or bitterly cold, so it was nice to have that building. We were able to get the barn cleaned out right away," Meyer said.

The Meyers' three daughters — ages 21, 19 and 16 — and their 11-year-old son also help on the farm.

"I'm hoping doing this building will help with the next generation coming up," Meyer said.

While they may decide to farm one day, Meyer said he encouraged his children to explore other options. One daughter is studying to become an English teacher; one is studying to become a nurse.



Top: The Stearns County SWCD-led effort within the Sauk River watershed benefits the Sauk River Chain of Lakes, which includes Horseshoe Lake. A [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency report](#) in 2021 noted a 68% reduction in phosphorus at the Richmond inlet to the chain of lakes. The report credited 25 years of local, state and federal partners' nutrient and sediment reduction programs. **Bottom:** Rolling topography and the region's high water table made the Stearns County feedlots targeted for Clean Water Fund and NRCS-supported improvements more susceptible to runoff.



The Klaphakes, too, were looking ahead when they installed the stacking slab and tried new practices.

"Farmers are trying to do the best they can to keep the waters clean — your rivers and creeks. We want to prepare for the future, so things are there for the youngest generation to take over," Klaphake said.

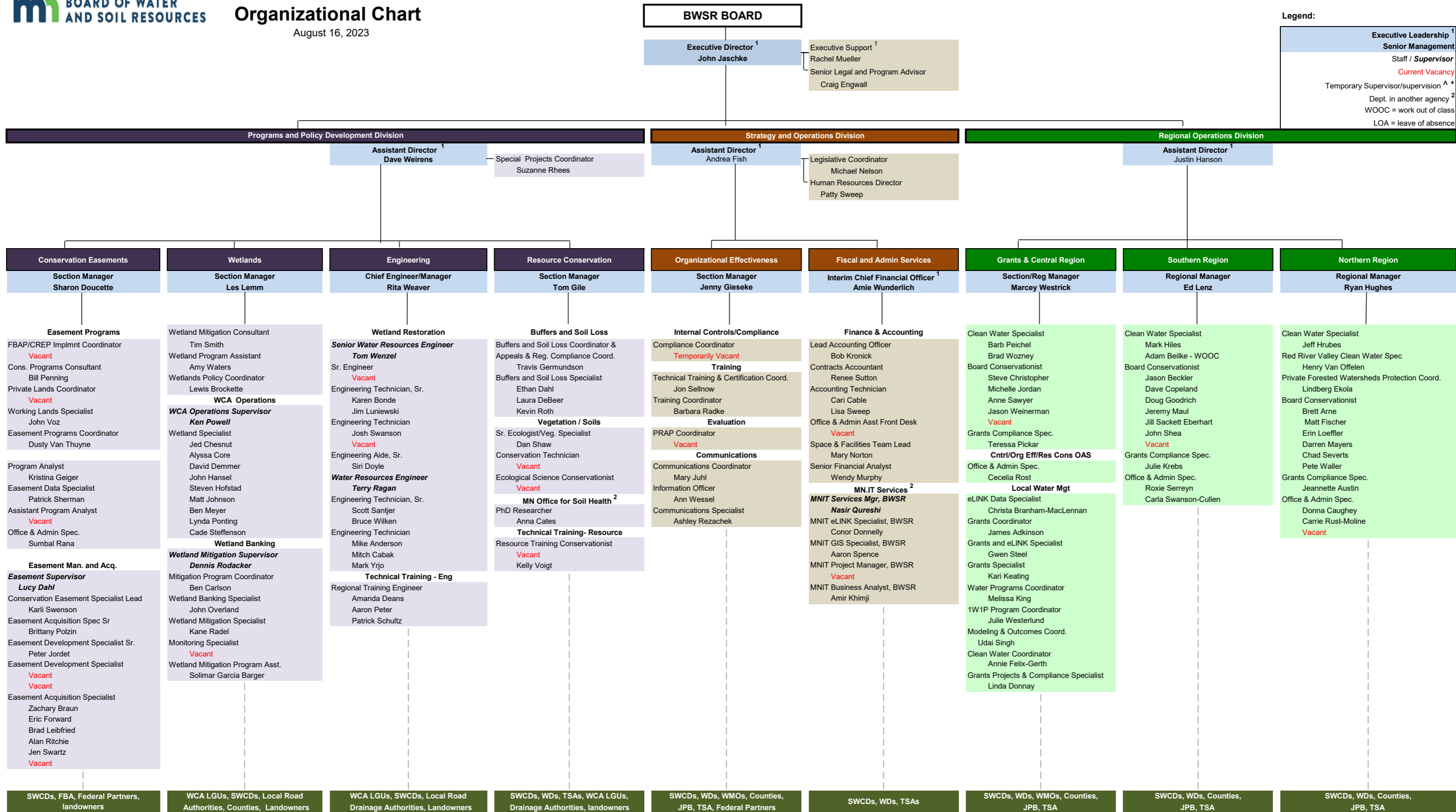
"We're working on our tillage, what can we do to help keep our soil intact instead of the wind or rain washing it away," Klaphake said of his work with Lefebvre. "We've been slowly working with him to change how we're farming. Years ago, my grandpa and dad plowed everything."

One of the changes Klaphake made to become certified through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program: On 120 acres, he switched from moldboard plowing to chisel plowing, which leaves some residue on the field. So far, Klaphake said he's liked the smoother fields but has concerns about weed suppression.

On his own, Klaphake started working with cover crops. For the fourth consecutive season, after this summer's oat harvest he planned to hire an air-flow applicator to seed a radish-turnip cover crop on about 35 acres where he'll plant corn next spring.

"Producers are trying to do the right thing out here environmentally, to protect water quality," Hemmann said.

Executive Leadership¹
Senior Management
 Staff / **Supervisor**
 Current Vacancy
 Temporary Supervisor/supervision^{^ *}
 Dept. in another agency²
 WOOC = work out of class
 LOA = leave of absence



<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 %
		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	Arrive																						
VEHICLE CONTROL #					Total Miles	0	Total MWI/MWO			0.00	Total MEI/MEO			0.00	Total LGI/LGO		0.00	Total PHI/PHO		0.00	Total PKI/PKC		0.00	Subtotal (A)		0.00

Figure mileage reimbursement below

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.

Less Advance issued for this trip:	
Total amount to be reimbursed to the employee:	0.00
Amount of Advance to be returned by the employee by deduction from paycheck:	0.00

Employee Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Approved: Based on knowledge of necessity for travel and expense and on compliance with all provisions of applicable travel regulations. _____

Appointing Authority Designee (Needed for Recurring Advance and Special Expenses) _____

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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		