



MASWCD Area Meeting Update

March 17, 2010

Supplemental Budget:

To address the \$994 million state deficit, the Governor's budget proposal for environment and natural resources included redirecting funds from dedicated accounts to the general fund. The Legislature has rejected this approach, so their proposed general fund reductions are much deeper.

In simple numbers, the Governor's proposal would cut around \$5 million from the general fund and another \$8.7 million from dedicated accounts. The House proposal is to make \$16 million in general fund cuts and the Senate \$19 million. In addition, the Legislature assumes reductions in FY2010 even though those grant funds have already gone out the door, and there are only a few months left of this fiscal year. This means that the majority of the FY2010 and FY2011 reductions would occur in FY2011.

There are still many steps to getting final numbers, and BWSR will do everything possible to reduce the impact of the proposed cuts. Below is a brief summary of the recommendations at this time.

	2010-11 Approp		Governor's Rec			Senate			House		
	2010	2011	2010	2011	Total	2010	2011	Total	2010	2011	Total
Admin	3,961	3,961				-119	-317	-436	-119	-119	-238
WCA Operations	500	500		-40	-40		-40	-40	-33	-33	-66
WCA Monitoring	60	60									
Drainage Assist Operations	212	212		-25	-25		-25	-25	-14	-14	-28
Total Ops	4,733	4,733		-65	-65	-119	-382	-501	-166	-166	-332
Grants											
NRBG	3,900	3,900				-147	-215	-362	-258	-251	-509
SWCD Gen Serv	3,500	3,500				-105	-150	-255	-228	-228	-456
Cost Share Feedlots	500	500				-15	-15	-30	-32	-32	-64
Cost Share	1,100	1,100				-25	-25	-50	-105	-72	-177
Cost Share Veg Buffers	900	900		-20	-20	-25	-25	-50	-67	-58	-125
Cost Share Weed mgmt	100	100							-7	-7	-14
WCA - DNR Pass through	100	100		-100	-100		-100	-100	-7	-7	-14
WCA 11 Cty Metro grants	100	100		-100	-100		-100	-100	-7	-7	-14
Drainage Records	100	100		-100	-100		-100	-100	-7	-7	-14
Red River Basin Comm	90	90								-90	-90
MN Rivers JPB	90	90								-90	-90
Area II	130	130								-130	-130
Total Grants	10,610	10,610		-320	-320	-317	-730	-1047	-718	-979	-1697
Total Ops & Grants *	15,343	15,343		-385	-385	-436	-1112	-1548	-884	-1145	-2029
Returned Grant Funds						-350		-350			
Returned Carryforwards			-384	-310	-694	-775	-377	-1152	-1328	-310	-1638
SE Flood Response	275		-90	-75	-165	-678		-678	-166		-166

* Including SE Flood approp, FY10 = 15,618

Policy:

BWSR is working to pass legislation that streamlines the metro water planning process ([HF3067/SF2843](#)). We are also trying to make some changes to timeframe for LGUs and BWSR to make decisions on WCA ([HF3494/SF3210](#)). The consensus Drainage bill ([HF162/SF364](#)) was heard in the both the House and the Senate and will be moving on to the second reading.

Other bills of interest include: Rep. Morrie Lanning's Basin Management bill [HF1734/SF2085](#) was heard in the House Environmental Policy Committee, was passed and referred to the House Finance Committee. It has not been heard in the Senate yet. Sen. Mary Olson's bill to establish a task force to advise on natural resource agency reorganization [SF1657](#) has been moving through the Senate, but has not been heard in the House yet.

Green Acres/Rural Preserves:

There have been a number of bills authored to address continued concerns over the changes that have been made to the Green Acres program and what is now the Rural Preserves Program. The bills propose a number of changes from complete repeal of previous changes to extending the deadline to withdraw land from the program to reducing or removing the 10-year covenant. It is expected that there will be continued legislative activity regarding this program.

Disappointment for RIM Funding:

The Legislature approved a **bonding bill** (HF2700) just shy of \$1 billion. The bill contained \$25 million for RIM/WRP, which unfortunately was line-item vetoed by the Governor. It had included targeted funding for the Cedar River Turtle Creek WD (at least \$2M), the Red River Basin (up to \$8M), the Rum River watershed (up to \$500K), Area II (up to \$2M), the seven county metro area (\$7.5M), and Freeborn County (up to \$400K). We still hold out hope that the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council recommended \$6.895M in **Outdoor Heritage Funds** for RIM, in cooperation with the NRCS WRP program will hold. The recommendations are now found in [HF2882](#) and SF2564. The bill was heard in the Senate and should be moving through the House soon as well.

LCCMR program:

BWSR's LCCMR proposal for \$368,000 to establish a **Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy** in cooperation with the Minnesota Conservation Corp (MCC) is incorporated into the LCCMR bill which moving through the House ([HF2624/SF2462](#)) and will soon be heard in the Senate. This program will get apprentice staff out in the field working with SWCDs during the peak implementation season for training and assistance. The field staff will be employed by MCC.

Clean Water Fund Activity:

BWSR and the LGU delivery system is receiving a lot of positive attention for the great work in getting the Clean Water Funds out to the folks that can make the most effective use of the funds. BWSR leadership has given well-received presentations to the several committees at the House and the Clean Water Council and will soon be doing the same in the Senate. The presentations are based on the Clean Water Fund Report ([Read the report](#)).

County Support:

There was some discussion at the Capitol about falling county support for SWCDs, so we quickly polled SWCDs to get recent data. We paired your responses with reported 2008 figures and found some surprises. The overall trend is downward, 5% from 2008. From 2008 to 2010, 39 SWCDs have seen increases from their counties. County contributions with the biggest decreases were Beltrami, Crow Wing, Itasca, Dodge, and Cottonwood. There does not appear to be discernable pattern to the decreases. Your partnership with counties is critical. We encourage you to engage in constructive and supportive conversations with County Commissioners and key staff to keep the relationship strong.

Training Program:

With new Clean Water Amendment funding, BWSR recognizes the increased opportunity for program delivery. The purpose of training is to ensure work is implemented with high quality efficiencies that are connected to on-the-ground results. Thank you to Focus Group participants and to the over 400 who have responded to the training priorities survey. The information we received indicates that the key LGU training priorities are to: a) Build capacity of lead staff to manage organizations, seek new funds, and deliver programs; b) Increase ability of boards to govern LGUs and prioritize decision-making; c) Improve technical capabilities to deliver programs. BWSR will also be increasing its effectiveness by: a) Increasing communication to LGUs on training opportunities offered by partner groups and by BWSR; b) Promote low-cost/high impact training opportunities (such as the BWSR Academy); c) Increase our own effectiveness at training delivery, and measure training results.