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BWSR issues \$5.6 million in flood relief grants

St. Paul, Minn. - In the year since heavy rains and flooding in the summer of 2014 devastated landscapes throughout the state of Minnesota, state and local governments have been hard at work on recovery. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced today a second phase of flood relief funding to help counties impacted by those historic rains. \$5.6 million has been awarded to 26 counties in this second phase to accelerate their recovery work. These funds are in addition to \$2.2 million awarded in March 2015.

“Our local government partners have done great work over the past year to determine both where the damage occurred and where the potential exists for new problems to emerge,” explained John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. “These funds will help them install new conservation practices in flood-damaged areas to help keep soil on the land and out of our water.”

On January 27, 2015, Governor Dayton signed legislation that allocated funding to BWSR to assist local governments in repairing conservation practices damaged during the flooding. BWSR activated its Disaster Recovery Assistance Program (DRAP) and began immediately working with local governments to determine need and start the allocation process. Seventeen counties were awarded disaster relief funds during that first phase, which focused on damage to existing practices. This second phase of funding was passed during the June 2015 Special Session and is aimed at installation of new practices.

For more information on BWSR’s DRAP and a list of counties received BWSR flood recovery grants, please visit: www.bwsr.state.mn.us.

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