



2014 BWSR Legislative Summary

June 2014 Snapshots

The Minnesota Legislature officially adjourned its 2013-2014 Session on Friday, May 16. The capital investment (bonding) bill was a focal point of legislative discussion this year, the second year of the biennium. The Legislature ultimately enacted both a capital investment bonding bill and a capital investment cash bill, made possible because of the general fund surplus. BWSR session highlights include:

Capital Investment (Bonding)

- \$2 million for the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program
- \$6 million for Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve

Supplemental Budget

- Reestablishment of the Legislative Water Commission
- \$1 million to the University of Minnesota for the Forever Green Agricultural Initiative
- \$1.4 million to BWSR from the Clean Water Fund

Environmental and Natural Resource Trust Fund (ENRTF)

- \$335,000 for Northeast Minnesota White Cedar Restoration
- \$392,000 for Minnesota Conservation Apprentice Academy
- \$230,000 for Modernization of Drainage Records

Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF)

- \$2.2 million for Riparian Buffers
- \$9.71 million for Wetland Restoration and Protection
- \$862,000 for Wild Rice Shoreland Protection
- \$1.2 million for Camp Ripley Partnership
- \$2.45 million for Accelerated Protection of Grassland and Prairie Habitat

Another focal point this year was Governor Dayton's "Unsession" agenda: an effort to make state government work better, faster, simpler, and more efficiently for Minnesotans. More than 1,100 Unsession provisions were enacted, including several brought forward by BWSR.

Unsession

- SWCD Voluntary Consolidation
- Repeal of Star Lakes Board Language
- Repeal of Minnesota River Board Language

As with every year, there were discussions and actions on a variety of other budget and policy issues. For more detailed information about the highlights listed above, as well as other policy and funding provisions and topics of discussion that affected BWSR, please see the full legislative summary at

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/publications/legislative.html>.