BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

DATE: December 8, 2020

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources' Members, Advisors, and Staff

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – December 17, 2020

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Thursday, December 17, 2020, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx. Due to COVID-19, access to the MPCA/BWSR office is limited. Individuals interested in attending the meeting should do so by either 1) logging into WebEx by going to the following website: https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=e65d247d218b285bba866d16d42c9b3c8, and entering the password: webex, or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 415-655-0003 and entering the access code: 146 400 2214.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award –** The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY21 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 24, 2020, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for eligible local governments to apply for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants in three program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram and Multipurpose Drainage Management (Board order #20-26).

   Applications for the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 29 through August 17, 2020. Local governments submitted 61 applications requesting $19,754,194 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR Clean Water staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards. The BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the recommendations on November 10, 2020 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 23, 2020 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee. ***DECISION ITEM***

2. **Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision -** BWSR has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure public funds are used for their program intent and legislative purpose. The proposed policy revision will allow BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Managment policy.

   The proposed revisions will reduce the frequency of reconciliations from one grant per grant allocation fiscal year per grantee to one grant every third grant allocation fiscal year per grantee.

   Under the current policy, all applicable grants over $50,000 are annually monitored, risk assessed, and based on these risk assessment scores, the Grants Compliance Specialists will select one grant from each fiscal year per grantee to reconcile. All of the high-risk grants are subject to reconciliation. The threshold at which we would consider a reconciliation complete is 70% spent. The 70% threshold reconciliation happens at any point during the grant life.

The proposed revised policy will still require all grants over $50,000 to be annually monitored and risk assessed, but instead of reconciling one grant per grantee every fiscal year, the revised policy would allow flexibility for us to, at a minimum, reconcile one grant per grantee every 3rd year with no change to reconciliations of high risk grants.

The proposed policy revision allows BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Management policies.

This proposed revision to the Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy was developed by BWSR's Grants Monitoring Workgroup and was reviewed by its Grants Team. The policy revision has been reviewed by the Senior Management Team and the Grants Policy and Policy Committee (GPPC). The GPPC recommended approval of the revised policy at its November 23, 2020 meeting. ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. **Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Nemadji River watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2018. The watershed partnership Policy Committee and Advisory Committee members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on November 3, 2020, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on December 2, 2020, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. ***DECISION ITEM***

2. **Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Wild Rice - Marsh River watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2018. The watershed partnership Policy Committee and Advisory Committee members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on November 11, 2020 for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on December 2, 2020 to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. ***DECISION ITEM***

Southern Region Committee

1. **Waseca SWCD –** The Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors filed a resolution with the Board to change the location of their principal office headquarters. Pursuant with statute, BWSR must act on the change of office location. The Southern Regional Committee met on November 19, 2020 to review this request and voted to recommend the change of office headquarters location be approved per the attached draft resolution. ***DECISION ITEM***

2. **Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan –** The Watonwan River Watershed was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant in June of 2017. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Steering Team members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on October 14, 2020 for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 19, 2020 to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board. ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

1. **Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan –** The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) has identified four key areas to focus their implementation effort on in their updated watershed management plan: systematic water quality progress, coordinated efforts through strong partnerships, increasing the profile of the PSCWMC, and serving as the

informational and technical resource for the cities and citizens in the 70 square mile watershed located at the western edge of Hennepin County. The plan update will allow the PSCWMC to systematically build upon recent successes on Lake Independence and Lake Sarah over the next ten years.. ***DECISION ITEM***

2. **Dakota County Groundwater Plan –** Dakota County has submitted a Groundwater Plan to BWSR for review and approval. The Plan defines the County's role in groundwater resource management for the next ten years and identifies the goals, strategies and tactics to address groundwater quality and availability issues facing the County. The Central Region Committee met on December 2, 2020 to review the Plan and recommends approval per the attached draft Order. ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. **EQB Pollinator Report –** The purpose of the presentation is to invite the Environmental Quality Board Pollinator Coordinator Rebeca Gutierrez -Moreno to provide a program background to educate new and current BWSR Members about the Interagency Pollinator Protection Team (IPPT) report and state agencies involvement incorporating pollinator protection into programs and outreach. The IPPT team works together to write an annual report that is due December 1st each year. The 2020 report was presented at the EQB November board meeting and was approved. ***INFORMATION ITEM***
2. **State Water Plan –** Overview of 2020 State Water Plan. ***INFORMATION ITEM***

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-297-4290. We look forward to seeing you on December 17.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2020

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 28, 2020 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 staff before any vote.

REPORTS

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee - Gerald Van Amburg
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Paige Winebarger
- Executive Director - John Jaschke
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Tom Schulz
- RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Todd Holman
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee - Kathryn Kelly
- Drainage Work Group - Tom Loveall/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Steve Colvin
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Chessa Frahm
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision – Kevin Bigalke – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Tom Schulz, Erin Loeffler, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Jeff Berg, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

Southern Region Committee

1. Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters– Ed Lenz – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ed Lenz, Jill Sackett Eberhart, and Shaina Keseley – ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

1. Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Dakota County Groundwater Plan – Melissa King – ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. EQB Pollinator Report – Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno – ***INFORMATION ITEM***
2. State Water Plan – Erik Cedarleaf Dahl – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

ADJOURN

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2020

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jill Crafton, Kathryn Kelly, Rich Sve, Andrea Date, Todd Holman, Jayne Hager Dee, Ted Winter, Tom Loveall, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Gerald Van Amburg, Joe Collins, Harvey Kruger, Paige Winebarger, Neil Peterson, Sarah Strommen, DNR; Thom Peterson, MDA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Steve Robertson, MDH; Katrina Kessler, MPCA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:
John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Dave Weirens, Karli Tyma, Ryan Hughes, Brett Arne, Annie Felix-Gerth, Barb Peichel, Melissa King, Jeremy Olson, Sharon Doucette, Jenny Gieseke, Tom Gile, Julie Westerlund

OTHERS PRESENT:
Jeff Berg, MDA; David Hann, Minnesota Association of Townships; Paul Gardner, CWC/MPCA; Emily Javens, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts; Josie Lonetti, Alex Trunnell, Craig Mell, Jackie Anderson, Mark Doneux

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:06 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**
20-43 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA -** Moved by Thom Petersen, seconded by Joe Collins, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote***.

Roll Call Vote: Adoption of the agenda

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	19			1

**
20-44 **MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2020 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the minutes of August 26, 2020, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Minutes of August 26, 2020 Board Meeting

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			

Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	19			1

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM
No members of the public provided comments to the board.

REPORTS
Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg stated the committee has not met. Thanked Joe Collins for attending the board meeting in person. Chair Van Amburg participated in the EQB meeting on September 9. The 2020 State Water Plan was approved, plan is available on the EQB website. Also discussed the 2020 Pollinator Annual Report at this meeting. The October 21 EQB meeting was a joint meeting with the Climate Change Subcabinet. A draft of the Climate Subcabinet Engagement Concepts was presented. For more information go to www.climate.state.mn.us/get-involved where there is more material available.

Attended the Water Resources Conference October 20-21. It was held virtually and provided good information. Hats off to Joel Larson and others for a successful conference. The Dave Ford award was presented to Dr. Deborah Swackhamer.

Jill Crafton stated there were a lot of good presentations at the Water Resources Conference. The importance of ecosystems was at the heart of a lot of the presentations. Jill is recommending the movie "Kiss the Ground" which gives good information on the ecosystem approach and soil health.
Jill stated she received information via the National Izaak Walton League where 41 conservation minded groups are committed to land and water based solutions for climate change.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Paige Winebarger reported the committee has not met.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke reported that state agencies were directed by MMB that staff will likely continue working from home up until June 2021. We are still in a hiring freeze with a few exemptions being made. BWSR requested two exemptions in the financial services section that were approved by the MMB Commissioner. Will continue to do reassignments as needed. Working on budget preparations and will be presenting to MMB and the Governor's staff.

BWSR Academy is taking place virtually this week.

Attended joint meeting of EQB and Climate SubCabinet. Outreach to the public, used a tool called Slido that worked well to get input.

Water Resources conference had a lot of good topics. Will try to bring some information items to the board in months ahead.

John reviewed the day-of packet that included the summary of the Drainage Workgroup, Snapshots, Org chart, and updated phone list.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently nine appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been one new appeal filed since the last Board Meeting.

File 20-09 (9-23-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption decision in Polk County. The appeal regards the denial of an agricultural exemption request to tile several wetlands. Since the report was issued the appeal has been placed in abeyance for submittal for additional supporting information and they might pursue a replacement plan.

File 20-02 (1-27-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Chisago County. The appeal regards the alleged excavation of new drainage ditches and placement of fill in a wetland. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the appellant to submit additional documentation in support of the appeal. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order. The appeal was denied, and the Restoration Order affirmed.

File 19-7 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA replacement plan decision in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the denial of a replacement plan application associated with wetland impacts described in a restoration order. The restoration order was appealed and placed in abeyance until there is a final decision on the wetland application (File 18-3). The appeal has been placed in abeyance until there is no longer mutual agreement on the viability of proposed actions for restoration. *The LGU has since notified BWSR that there is no longer mutual agreement on continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance. As a result, a decision was made to grant and hear the appeal.*

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 99 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior to initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). So far 61 CANs have been issued by BWSR and 14 Administrative Penalty Orders (APO). Of the actions being tracked over 31 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 24 counties are fully compliant, and 43 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those counties have issued a total of 1,167 CANs and 33 Administrative Penalty Orders. Of the actions being tracked over 870 of those have been resolved.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Tom Schulz reported the committee has not met.

RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall reported that the committee met and has two items on the agenda today.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Todd Holman reported the committee has not met.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported committee has not met. Jill asked for an update on the 404 Assumption and WCA Rule comment period. Dave Weirens reported they are waiting for signature from the Governor's office before they can move onto rule processes.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee - Kathryn Kelly reported they met October 22 and Tom Gile will give an update later in the agenda.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) - Tom Loveall and Tom Gile reported they met on October 8.

DNR provided an update on internal improvement to their drainage review and processes in an effort to ensure a more repeatable and reliable turn around for items submitted for DNR review by the drainage authorities.

- Spent some time discussing the "103E Technical Fix" language. Last year the DWG asked to spend some time developing a draft of 103E proposed revisions, which more comprehensively includes language referring to Watershed Districts as well as the current County and Joint County Board language throughout 103E. This language was drafted over the winter/spring and provided for comment to a small subset of DWG participants. Upon review it was determined that the volume of changes would likely need a comprehensive opening of 103E to make the changes and that at this time that was not an effort the DWG wanted to move forward in a single recommendation at this time. They felt it was better to hold/refine the revisions for more surgical revisions in a more systematic path.
- Some discussion has come from our recent conversations on 103E financing and it has been requested that a "relatively simple" fact sheet be developed on financing options for Counties and for WDs when various 103E proceedings lead to construction.
    - Overview and Discussion
    - Any DWG members uniquely positioned to assist in the development of a fact sheet?
    - Emphasis on keeping it simple.
    - Provide options and aspects of financing for 103E projects
- Staff is working to develop a survey of potential topics for the DWG to consider in the next year. COVID has made it difficult for robust conversation/debate on topics at the DWG and an effort to consider topics for future discussion.
- EQB/MDA/BWSR staff gave an update on and engaged the DWG on the recent development and posting of the State Water Plan

Next DWG meeting is scheduled for November 12, 2020.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reported that the implementation for groundwater protection/nitrogen fertilizer role has been going since September 1.

The Water Certification Program continues to grow. Primary goal of the program is water quality improvements but added additional acknowledgements for soil, integrated pest management, and wildlife.

Announced emerging farmers task force. Looking at how to grow farmers in nontraditional ways. Announced Federal CARES funding for farmers who depopulated hogs and turkeys this spring.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported COVID is up with record new cases. Rural areas are being heavily impacted. Straining resources in the Health department, many staff still in reassignment status. Revenues are going to be affected for various department programs.

Coordinating with NRCS on the 2018 farm bill to identify priority areas.

Statewide effort to sample for PFAS in public water systems throughout the state. Aiming to get a monitoring program to manage the situation if compounds are found.

Commented on the Snapshot article of Rock County Rural Water District. Stated it has been very active in source water protection. Will be collaborating with the Department of Agriculture to do monitoring in that area.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported outdoor recreation opportunities are up about 11%.

Annual DNR Round Table will be going virtual this year. More details to come.

Four silver carp captured in pool 8 of the Mississippi River and tagged with tracking devices and released back into pool 8 to understand the movements of the fish. This is the first time they've captured and tagged more than one in a single operation.

DNR issued 2 permits to Enbridge Line 3 project, the Gully 20 Fen Calcareous Fen Management Plan and Gully 30 Fen Water Appropriation Permit. Several other permits are still being reviewed.

Neil Peterson thanked Commissioner Strommen for moving forward with the Enbridge Line 3 permits.

Jill Crafton asked if DNR is monitoring the fens and how is the protection insured? Commissioner Strommen stated that it's the conditions of the permit and the management plan that details what they need to follow. Monitoring will be done before and after, there is also a monitoring and feedback session that prevent any damage to the fen.

Jill participated in the upper Mississippi River event yesterday where there was talk about Asian carp below lock and damn 19. Jill asked if there are more opportunities to get resources to help fund the upper Mississippi area? Commissioner Strommen stated she doesn't know of any new funding available for this. The hope is we can take the funding available and be strategic with it.

Minnesota Extension – No report was provided.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler reported they completed an update to the state's Nutrient Reduction Strategy. Presented five year update at Upper Mississippi River Basin meeting.

MPCA is actively reviewing Line 3 pipeline permit applications.

In process of reissuing general feedlot permit that expires at the end of January. New permit has already been public noticed.

Supporting Executive Order on climate. Focus teams looking at issues and will bring ideas and strategies forward. If you'd like to attend and bring ideas to a focus teams contact Assistant Commissioner Kessler or Executive Director Jaschke.

Recently evaluated PFAS fish and water quality data from Mississippi River Pool 2 and other metro areas and revised criteria on keeping fish safe for consumption.

Neil Peterson thanked them for their work. Chair Van Amburg stated he appreciates all the work they have been doing.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Rich Sve gave an update from Brian Martinson's email.

AMC is in the middle of their policy development work as they prepare for 2021. Held Fall Policy Committee meetings in mid-September, are now hosting District Meetings and have, in place of our annual conference, a virtual annual business meeting planned for December 7.

AMC has been working closely with Local Government Water Round Table Partners, MAWD and MASWCD, on shared interests over the last few months. This has included a good deal of collaboration and support from BWSR staff, which has been very helpful. The state budget is going to be challenged by the impacts of the pandemic, including special revenue accounts like the Clean Water Fund that support a variety of on the ground efforts, notably 1W1P. Would be helpful for members of this board to be aware and engaged regarding these budget decisions and their impacts on the work of the board and local conservation work, which are state conservation efforts.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen reported there will be a virtual Southern Region Committee meeting in November. Nathan stated he has resigned from his position with Minnesota Association of Townships and will continue serving on the board as he is a township officer.

Nathan stated at the Legislative and Research meeting an item came forward as a resolution that David Hann is standing by to comment on.

David Hann stated the Board of the Association had Legislative and Research committee meeting. A resolution was brought forth by Minerva township in Clearwater County. The township believes there is a problem with a WD project and how the representation of people living in that district happens. They are asking the association to support legislative action to address it. Association is asking BWSR how to proceed with this issue. Executive Director Jaschke asked David to share the resolution with him and he could have a staff assessment done and potentially bring in the AG staff to see what it might mean for their townships concerns.

Emily Javens also said David Hann could contact her and she could help sort it out and understand some of the statutes. (*NOTE: MAWD ED Emily Javens followed up directly with Mr. Hann to clarify the location and the details of the concern.*)

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens reported their conference will be held virtually this year December 1 through 3. Registration will go online next week.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell reported that they will get the Red Lake Watershed District RCPP agreement together soon. Reginal Conservation Partnership Program has ongoing RFP ending mid-November. EQIP sign up was announced for FY21 as well as the Agricultural Conservation Program (ACP).

Neil Peterson thanked Troy for their work in his area.

Chair Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:59 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:10 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Reserve Committee

Jeff Hanratty RIM Easement Alteration (43-02-87-01) – Karli Tyma presented Jeff Hanratty RIM Easement Alteration (43-02-87-01)

BWSR acquired the 9.3 acre RIM Reserve easement in McLeod County on May 6, 1988. In November of 2019, the current landowner, Jeff Hanratty, purchased the parcel containing the RIM easement.

The RIM easement abuts a public road right-of-way and the only access from the public road onto the parcel runs directly into the easement area. The landowner is interested in utilizing an area on the property as a permanent site to park his trailer which would involve frequent mowing, constructing an outhouse or septic and potentially installing a concrete slab in the future. He is proposing to release 1.5 acres of easement land immediately adjacent to the sole access point to utilize for these purposes. The other upland areas of the parcel, not under easement, which the landowner considered utilizing for these purposes would not be accessible as they are either landlocked due to the RIM easement being in place along with an existing wetland near the center of the parcel or do not have an existing access from the public road.

The landowner has offered to add 3.9 acres of cropland acres and another 5.1 acres of existing wetland to the easement, for a total of 9 acres, in exchange for releasing the 1.5 acres for the purposes described. He had originally considered enrolling those tillable acres into the current MN CREP program, but would rather offer those acres as replacement acres and receive no financial gain, if it would allow him to release the area adjacent to the access for his future enjoyment of the property. Adding these 9.0 acres to the easement would greatly exceed the required 2:1 replacement ratio under BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy, at 6:1.

The landowner has identified in his proposal how the public benefit and general welfare would be better served by this change to the easement area. The change will add over 500 feet of riparian buffer along Clear Lake as well as the preservation of land around an existing wetland in the center of parcel. The added acres will reduce soil erosion and nutrient runoff into Clear Lake by decreasing sheet flow across the property. In addition to pheasant and other songbird nesting habitat that the easement provides,

this will create a significant increase in waterfowl nesting habitat directly adjacent to Clear Lake where currently none exists. Additionally, it will create an additional grassland corridor for wildlife travel along the southwest side of Clear Lake. The 1.5 acre portion proposed for removal would have less overall value in terms of habitat or riparian protection.

Both the McLeod SWCD and the MN DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have submitted letters in support of Mr. Hanratty's original proposal, which has since been revised to reduce the number of acres released and increase the replacement area at the request of the RIM Reserve Committee. The RIM Reserve committee unanimously approved the revised proposal at their September 30, 2020 meeting.

Recommendation
Staff recommend approval of this request. The 9 acres being offered as replacement well exceeds the 2:1 acreage replacement criteria and would increase and enhance the wildlife habitat value and riparian protection of Clear Lake. The landowner's proposal meets all other requirements of the Easement Alteration Policy and is supported by the McLeod SWCD, DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor, and BWSR RIM Reserve committee.

Kathryn Kelly thanked the staff for their work.

Tom Loveall stated he thinks we'll keep having RIM acres being looked at for development purposes. Suggested we think about if we should have some parameters or guidance on development.

Chair Van Amburg agreed with Tom.

Jill Crafton stated she shared Tom's concerns.

Kathryn Kelly stated they discussed it at the committee meeting and agrees with Tom. Stated the staff found out as much as they could. Kathryn agrees that they need to look at the requests individually.

Tom Loveall noted that there was a more than 2:1 ratio.

**
20-45

Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the Jeff Hanratty RIM Easement Alteration (43-02-87-01). ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Jeff Hanratty RIM Easement Alteration (43-02-87-01)

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X

Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

2019 Clean Water Fund Appropriation Easement Type Realignment – Sharon Doucette presented 2019 Clean Water Fund Appropriation Easement Type Realignment.

Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(f) appropriated Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Clean Water Fund to "purchase, restore, or preserve riparian land adjacent to lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries, by easements or contracts, to keep water on the land to decrease sediment, pollutant, and nutrient transport; reduce hydrologic impacts to surface waters; and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge."

Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(p) allows the Board to "shift grant, cost-share, or easement funds in this section and may adjust the technical and administrative assistance portion of the funds to leverage federal or other nonstate funds or to address oversight responsibilities or high-priority needs identified in local water management plans."

The Minnesota Conservation Reserve Program (CREP) began in May 2017. Four water quality conservation practices are eligible for enrollment: CP2 – Establishment of Permanent Native Grasses (Wellhead Protection Areas), CP21 – Filter Strips, CP23 – Wetland Restoration, Floodplain, and CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain.

The initial MN CREP proposal anticipated Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage enrollment to be as follows:

- CP2 – 3,000 acres – 5%
- CP21 – 30,000 acres – 50%
- CP23 & CP23A – 27,000 acres – 45%
    - CP23 – 9,000 acres – 30%
    - CP23A – 18,000 acres – 15%

CRP acreage selected for funding through batching period 20-04 (August 10) is as follows:

- CP2 – 378.9 acres – 2%
- CP21 – 700.8 acres – 4%
- CP23 & CP23A – 17,745.5 acres – 94%
    - CP23 – 4,939.5 acres – 26%
    - CP23A – 12,806.1 acres – 68%

With 68% of the acres enrolled being in the form of the CP23A – Wetland Restoration, Non-Floodplain practice and 94% of the acres enrolled being in the form of both wetland practices (CP23 and CP23A), appropriations specifically for wetland practices have been utilized at a much higher rate than anticipated. Shifting easement funds to better align with CREP practice interest and enrollment will allow the state to leverage additional federal funds and meet the needs of landowners.

Jill Crafton asked how long they are locked up, is it permanent or is there an expiration time? Sharon stated RIM easements are all perpetual. CRP contract is their standard 14-15 year CRP contract with FSA.

**
20-46 Moved by Tom Loveall, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the 2019 Clean Water Fund Appropriation Easement Type Realignment. ***Motion passed on a voice vote***.

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the 2019 Clean Water Fund Appropriation Easement Type Realignment

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

Northern Region Committee

Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Neil Peterson, Ryan Hughes, and Brett Arne presented Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

The Buffalo-Red River Watershed is a diverse mix of agriculture, urban and rural settings, lakes, forests, and wetlands. The BRRW planning area drains 1,786 square miles and covers significant portions of Becker, Clay, and to a lesser extent Otter Tail and Wilkin Counties. The planning group received a grant through the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2017 to begin the process of developing a comprehensive watershed management plan.

On September 18, 2020, BWSR received the final Plan, a recording of the required public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On October 7, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton stated that it's good to see more plans embracing soil health.

Jayne Hager Dee stated the maps and the photos told her a lot.

** 20-47 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Tom Schulz, to approve the Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote***.

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Buffalo-Red River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair			X	
TOTALS	17		1	2

Central Region Committee

Rice Creek Watershed District boundary change – Annie Felix-Gerth presented Rice Creek Watershed District boundary change

A petition for a boundary change of the Rice Creek Watershed District (RCWD) and Vadnais Lakes Area Watershed Management Organization (VLAWMO) has been filed with Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) by the two watershed organizations. The proposed boundary change, located in Ramsey County, Minnesota, would correct the assessment designation of five parcels along the common boundaries of the watershed management organizations.

Jill Crafton asked if any of the details of the parcels are relevant? Annie stated the reasoning of the alignment was because of an art center being developed. Did not include in the petition because it didn't have to do a hydrologic reason but wanted to make sure the parcels were in the correct area.

**
20-48 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Rice Creek Watershed District boundary change. ***Motion passed on a voice vote****.*

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Rice Creek Watershed District boundary change

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	17			3

Lower St. Croix River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Barb Peichel presented Lower St. Croix River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

The Lower St. Croix River Watershed planning boundary encompasses approximately 915 square miles including parts of Pine, Chisago, Isanti, Anoka, and Washington Counties. Less than half of one percent of the watershed lies in Ramsey County. There are 60 municipalities and townships located completely

or partially within the boundaries of the watershed. Additionally, there are seven watershed management organizations in the watershed.

The Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was developed as part of the State of Minnesota's One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) program. The State's vision and purpose of the 1W1P program is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. The process results in a comprehensive watershed plan and offers the opportunity for groups and organizations to work together in both planning and implementation across jurisdictional boundaries. While the Plan is comprehensive in that it includes improvements and protection for a variety of natural resources across a large geographic area, it also incorporates detail in its prioritization and targeting actions and outcomes for specific waterbodies.

Priority activities to meet Plan goals include providing financial and technical assistance for installing, implementing, or retrofitting targeted BMPs, upgrading SSTS, restoring shorelines along priority lakes, restoring or creating wetlands, improving ditch maintenance practices to reduce impacts on water resources, and providing cost share for land restoration or easement establishment in critical habitat areas. Priority Plan activities also include sharing services to increase engagement with agricultural landowners, enhance education and engagement programs, and provide support for ordinance development in urban areas. Additional Plan Priorities include conducting subwatershed analyses and other prioritization methods to target best management practices (BMPs) within priority subwatersheds and addressing internal nutrient loading in priority lakes.

Measurable outcomes will be realized in priority locations across the watershed with quantifiable implementation and change measured in a variety of ways including annual pollution reduction goals of 1,363 pounds total phosphorus in regionally significant lakes and 4,140 pounds total phosphorus in key subwatersheds draining to the St. Croix River by the end of the 10-year period. Some of the more significant priority locations where the bulk of the implementation will be focused include the Sunrise River Watershed (highest contributor of total phosphorus in Lake St. Croix), subwatersheds of tributaries draining directly to the St. Croix River, regionally significant lakes, areas where groundwater is sensitive to pollution, and lands where critical habitat needs protection or areas suitable for wetland restoration or creation. The total estimated cost of the 10-years of implementation activities is $15.58M of which $8.85M will need to come from external (non-local) sources of funding.

On August 6, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan. BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On October 13, 2020, the Central Region Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton stated she would like to have issues listed in the Executive Summary included in the board order. Kevin Bigalke referred to the Board Order item six the Plan Summary and Highlights section. Kevin stated that issues are not typically listed in the order but are within the plan. The board order approves

and authorizes the plan as its laid out and approves the issues identified. Jill thought it could be important for transparency to have it listed in the board order.

Joe Collins stated he thinks it's a well written plan and is unique in the metro area.

** 20-49 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Lower St. Croix River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote***.

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Lower St. Croix River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	17			3

Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan – Melissa King presented Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan

Background

The Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) is a special purpose unit of government that was established on September 23, 1998 by order of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in response to a petition filed by residents within the watershed who sought to improve the quality of Como Lake. The CRWD seeks to achieve its vision of 'Cleaner waters through innovative, resilient, effective and equitable watershed management in collaboration with diverse partners'. CRWD's first watershed management plan was approved in 2000. The most recent watershed management plan was approved by the Board on August 26, 2010.

The CRWD is 40.6 square miles, located in southwestern Ramsey County and includes portions of the Cities of Falcon Heights, Lauderdale, Maplewood, Roseville, and St. Paul and the Minnesota State Fairgrounds and University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. The confluence of the Mississippi and Minnesota Rivers is near the District's southern boundary and a number of water resources are present in the CRWD, including Como, McCarrons, Loeb and Crosby lakes as well as several wetlands. The watershed is fully developed and contains areas of dense urban development, including St. Paul's Central Business District. Land use in the District is primarily single-family residential (46%), with commercial and industrial land uses generally located along the major roadway and rail corridors. The Metropolitan Council has identified areas of concentrated poverty (ACP50) – census tracts where greater than 50% of the residents are people of color and at least 40% of the residents living below 185% of the federal poverty threshold—which are present in the eastern half of the watershed.

Plan Process and Highlights
CRWD formally initiated the planning process for the 2021-2030 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on January 16, 2019. As required by MR 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Beginning in February 2019, the CRWD implemented a robust stakeholder outreach effort to solicit input for the 10-year update to the Plan. Notification and request for input was sent to State review agencies and municipal and regional stakeholders on February 8, 2019. Beginning in April 2019, multiple outreach activities were also conducted which included: workshops with the CRWD Board of Managers, staff, technical advisory committee (TAC), and citizen advisory committee (CAC); four community conversation events with watershed residents; face-to-face meetings with three St. Paul District Councils and six community organizations representing different cultural and ethnic groups; and in-person and online surveys. The initial kick-off and planning meeting was held on May 22, 2019 as a workshop for the TAC and local partners. The CRWD received over 800 comments from the combined variety of outreach activities completed from February through June 2019.

CRWD utilized the input received to categorize, define and identify the nine Plan themes, eight resource and organization issue categories, 64 goals and many Plan implementation activities. Implementation activities and projects were prioritized into of one of three classification levels: critical, important, or beneficial. Five subwatershed areas were also targeted with consideration to natural resources, water quality goals, stakeholder input and/or geographic distribution of water quality improvement projects. Three of the five subwatersheds (Phalen Creek, Saint Anthony Hill, Trout Brook) correspond to areas of racially concentrated poverty (ACP50) within CRWD; which were targeted to help CRWD achieve goals that seek to improve representation and diversity, inclusion and equity and to focus Plan implementation including CRWD program, community engagement, and planning efforts.

Some Plan highlights include:

- Continuation of the 'Bring Water Back' campaign and promotion of the physical restoration of water resources and wetlands and daylighting piped streams
- A commitment to achieve specific water quality standards and ecological health goals for Como, McCarrons and Crosby Lakes.
- A commitment to offset the stormwater impacts of development by maximizing the natural water retention, storage and infiltration capacity of the watershed.
- Continued implementation of a robust Monitoring, Assessment, and Research Program.
- Implementation of a Diversity & Inclusion Program with a commitment to provide greater representation, diversity, inclusion and equity to CRWD operations, programs and activities.
- A community engagement program that integrates art and innovative methods to communicate with and educate residents.

- A commitment to develop relationships with audiences that have been and provide grant program outreach and implementation in underserved areas.
- Strengthening community resiliency and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Consideration of requirements for land-disturbances less than 1 acre, for chlorides and to incentivize green infrastructure.
- A diversified funding plan that recognizes cost savings through partnerships and coordination.

Formal Plan Review Process
The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on July 14, 2020 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The draft Plan was also made available for comment by the general public. The CRWD prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on August 19, 2020. Once the Plan revisions to address comments received were completed, the CRWD Board of Managers passed a resolution to send the revised draft Plan to BWSR (and State Review Agencies) for the final 90-day review and approval. This was received by the Board on September 9, 2020. Comments received during the 90-day review period indicated that the reviewers had no further comments.

Recommendation
On October 13, 2020, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met with representatives from the CRWD in St. Paul and virtually via WebEx, to review and discuss the final Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the CRWD Watershed Management Plan by the Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton thinks they've done a great job trying to work on water quality and water improvement.

Joe Collins wanted to recognize and thank Melissa for her work. Joe stated that Capitol Region is a great organization. They need active participation from public and private partners. Joe stated if we want to solve climate change we need community resiliency but also need community engagement. Van Amburg stated he agrees with Joe, we have to represent everyone and have everyone on board.

Tom Loveall asked for clarification in the board order item 13 where it talks of *underserved areas* in the Plan Summary. Joe stated it's an effort to make sure they reach all constituents, including lower income and diverse populations. Goal is to have more community resiliency.

Ted Winter asked if all the organizations that make up this watershed district have been on board and if any letters of support were received? Joe stated they worked closely with the city of St. Paul, Ramsey County, Ramsey County Commissioners, and with St. Paul's Water Resources Coordinator. Stated there was a Citizen Advisory Group that met and commented. Melissa King stated in the board order under item 5, it lists who submitted comments during the review period.

Harvey Kruger asked for clarification in the board order where number 4 shows the effective date through October 31, 2030 and not October 28. Executive Director Jaschke stated they usually use dates issued through the end of the month.

**
20-50 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote****.*

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Capitol Region Watershed District Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins			X	
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	16		1	3

NEW BUSINESS

2021 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule – John Jaschke presented 2021 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule.

Meeting dates are being proposed for board meetings in 2021. Most meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The proposed calendar has meetings held in the following months: January, March, April, May, June, August, September, October, and December.

**
20-51

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the 2021 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule. ***Motion passed on a voice vote***.

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the 2021 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman				X
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			

Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall				X
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter	X			
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	16			4

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 17, 2020 by WebEx.

John Jaschke stated open board positions will be posted in November.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:27 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☐ Decision ☐ Discussion ☒ Information

Section/Region: Central Office

Contact: Travis Germundson

Prepared by: Travis Germundson

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Travis Germundson/Chair Gerald VanAmburg

Time requested: 5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☐ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other: _____	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report.

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with BWSR and buffer compliance status.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

December 1, 2020

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **seven** appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been **one** new appeal filed since the last Board Meeting (October 28, 2020).

Format note: New appeals that have been filed since last report to the Board.
~~Appeals that have been decided since last report to the Board.~~

File 20-10 (11-12-2020) This is appeal of duplicated WCA restoration orders in St. Louis County. The appeal regards the placement of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of fill in a wetland associated an ATV Club trial crossing project that allegedly was approved by the LGU. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 20-09 (9-23-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption decision in Polk County. The appeal regards the denial of an agricultural exemption request to tile several wetlands. At issue is the required planting history qualification associated with the exemption being claimed. The appeal was placed in abeyance for submittal of additional supporting information.

File 20-08 (8-12-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in St. Louis County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of 8,000 sq. ft. of fill in a wetland. The petitioner intends to submit after-the-fact applications for exemption and no-loss to the LGU. The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of additional documentation in support of the appeal.

~~File 20-06 (8-4-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption decision in Benton County. The appeal regards the denial of an exemption request for installation of agricultural drain tile within a 3.5-acre wetland. *The appeal was remanded for expanded technical review and for the TEP to produce written findings of fact and for the LGU to issue a new decision.*~~ *A new decision was sent on October 9, 2020 and that decision was not appealed. (the current appeal is finalized upon a new decision being made under remand and properly noticed).*

File 20-03 (2-26-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Kandiyohi County. The appeal regards the alleged impacts to a wetland associated with the installation agricultural drain tile and lift pump. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the appellant to submit additional documentation in support of the appeal and/or an after-the-fact application and for the Technical Evaluation Penal to develop written finding of fact adequately addressing the wetland boundary and drainage impacts. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the LGU decision.*

~~File 19-8 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Olmsted County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of fill in a floodplain wetland associated with the operation of a sand and gravel mine. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and restoration order stayed for the Technical Evaluation Panel to convene on site and develop a written report on the wetland impacts.*~~ *The Restoration Order was rescinded, and the appeal dismissed.*

File 19-7 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA replacement plan decision in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the denial of a replacement plan application associated with wetland impacts described in a restoration order. The restoration order was appealed and placed in abeyance until there is a final decision on the wetland application (File 18-3). The appeal has been placed in abeyance until there is no longer mutual agreement on the viability of proposed actions for restoration. *The LGU has since notified BWSR that there is no longer mutual agreement on continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance. As a result, a decision was made to grant and hear the appeal.*

File 19-5 (11/15/19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Pine County.
The appeal regards the alleged placement of fill within a shore impact zone of Passenger Lake a DNR Public Water. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the DNR to make a jurisdictional determination for Passenger Lake through the establishment of an OHWL and for the LGU to make a final decision on the application for exemption and no-loss.*

~~File 19-3 (9/20/19) This is an appeal of duplicate WCA restoration orders in Wright County. The appeal regards the alleged draining and filling of approximately 4.79 acres of wetland associated with construction of a drainage ditch. Applications for exemption and no-loss have been submitted to the LGU. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications or finalization of a restoration plan. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order. A revised restoration plan has been agreed to by the parties that would satisfy the restoration orders. As a result, the appeal was withdrawn, and the case dismissed.*~~

File 18-3 (10-31-18) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the alleged filling and draining of over 11 acres of wetland. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications. That decision has been amended several times to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order. The LGU decision was appealed (File19-7).*

Summary Table for Appeals

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2019	Total for Calendar Year 2020
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant		3
Order Modified	1	
Order Remanded		1
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	3	4
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	3	2

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 98 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). Currently there are 34 CANs and 13 Administrative Penalty Orders (APO) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 50 of those have been resolved.

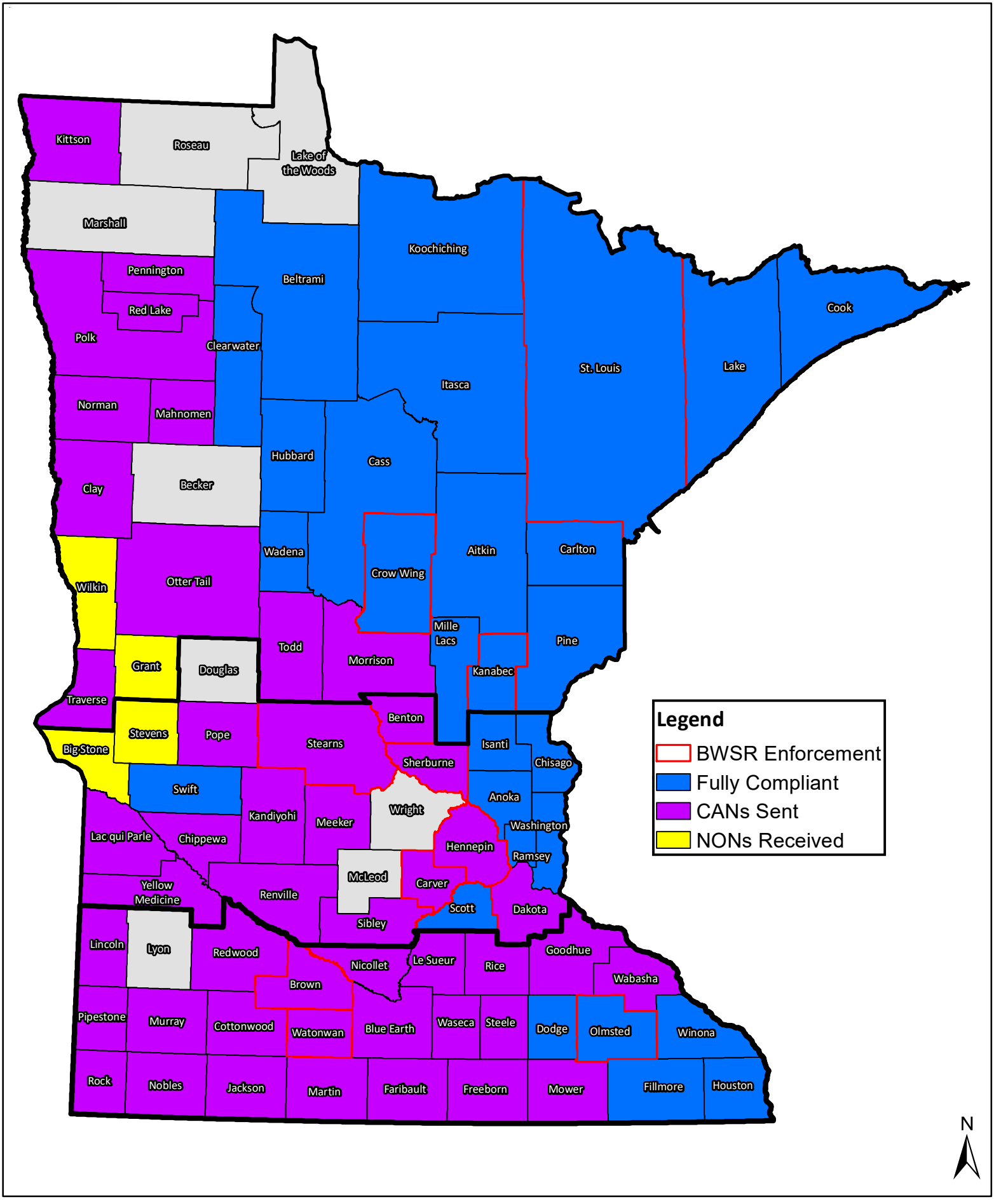
*Statewide 28 counties are fully compliant, and 47 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those of counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 968 CANs and 28 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1188 of those have been resolved.

**Disclaimer: These numbers are generated on a monthly basis from BWSR's Access database. The information is obtained through notifications from LGUs on actions taken to bring about compliance and may not reflect the current status of compliance numbers.*

DATE: 11/24/2020

BWSR

STATEWIDE BUFFER ENFORCEMENT



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision – Kevin Bigalke – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles

Prepared by: Shaina Keseley

Reviewed by: Grants Program & Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles

Time requested: 20 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☐ None
☐ Amended Policy Requested
☐ New Policy Requested
☐ Other:

☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Capital Budget
☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☒ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program Awards.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY21 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 24, 2020, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for eligible local governments to apply for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants in three program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram and Multipurpose Drainage Management (Board order #20-26).

Applications for the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 29 through August 17, 2020. Local governments submitted 61 applications requesting $19,754,194 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR Clean Water staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards. The BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the recommendations on November 10, 2020 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 23, 2020 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

BOARD DECISION #_____

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the Fiscal Year 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant awards for Projects and Practices, Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram, and Multipurpose Drainage Management grants.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sec. 7(b) and (j) appropriated funds to the Board for the fiscal year 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program of which up to $11,700,000 is available for Projects and Practices grants, including the Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram, and up to $700,000 is available for Multipurpose Drainage Management grants.
2. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with these appropriations.
3. On June 24, 2020, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants (Board order #20-26).
4. The request for proposals was noticed on June 29, 2020 with a submittal deadline of August 17, 2020.
5. Applications were scored and ranked by an interagency committee on November 2, 2020.
6. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 23, 2020 Meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocation of funds to each eligible applicant in the amounts listed in the attached allocation tables.
2. Authorizes the shift of unallocated Multipurpose Drainage Management grant funds to allow for the final-ranked Projects and Practices proposal to be fully funded.
3. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.

4. Authorizes staff to fully or partially fund additional applications in rank order until April 6, 2021 unless superseded by a future Board action. For this purpose, staff may separately or in combination: a. allocate remaining appropriation amounts, b. reallocate funds returned from previous years' Clean Water Fund Competitive grant programs, c. reallocate funds that become available if funded projects are withdrawn or do not receive work plan approval by March 15, 2021 unless extended for cause, or d. are modified to reduce the state funding needed to accomplish the project.
5. Authorizes staff to use the prioritization (relationship to plans) score criteria to determine which application will be funded if there is a tied ranking score.
6. Establishes that the grants awarded pursuant to this order will conform to FY21 Clean Water Fund Implementation Program Policy.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 17, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments:

- FY2021 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Allocation Table
- FY2021 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table
- FY2021 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Allocation Table
- Maps of recommended award locations

FY2021 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total ($)
C21-4482	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Construction	Pelican River WD	$ 830,108
C21-4336	Lake Ida Targeted Phosphorus Reduction Project	Douglas SWCD	$ 683,867
C21-4070	The City of Baxter Stormwater Project reduces 50 Tons TSS to the Mississippi River	Crow Wing SWCD	$ 890,000
C21-5161	Whiskey Creek "Enhancement Project"	Wilkin SWCD	$ 340,000
C21-6176	Little Comfort Lake Phosphorus Reduction Implementation	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	$ 354,600
C21-2082	South Branch Buffalo River Restoration - Phase 2	Buffalo-Red River WD	$ 300,000
C21-8494	Pleasure Creek South BIESF	Coon Creek WD	$ 330,000
C21-4566	2021 Lower Clearwater River Subwatershed Water Quality Agricultural Practices (Phase III)	Red Lake SWCD	$ 268,525
C21-3515	Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration BMP Project	Nine Mile Creek WD	$ 750,000
C21-7914	Moore Lake Enhancement Project	Fridley, City of	$ 400,000
C21-1051	Lake Traverse Water Quality Project Phase 2	Bois de Sioux WD	$ 418,235
C21-7520	2021 Priority Implementation Targeting Lawrence Creek, Dry Creek, and Direct Drainage to the St. Croix River	Chisago SWCD	$ 250,000
C21-5270	Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment Project	Red Lake WD	$ 250,000
C21-8059	Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	$ 171,200
C21-0191	County Ditch 96 Outlet Stabilization – Phase 2	Pennington SWCD	$ 516,000
C21-6115	Bayview Elementary Reuse Expansion	Carver County WMO	$ 150,000
C21-5583	Plum Creek Subwatershed Turbidity Reduction	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area	$ 400,805
C21-5927	2021 Lake Minnewaska Targeted Subwatershed Implementation Project Phase IV	Pope SWCD	$ 235,000
C21-6961	2021 Goose Creek Watershed TMDL Implementation	Chisago SWCD	$ 250,000
C21-8244	Net River Watershed Sediment Reduction Project - Stormwater and the Road Stream Interface	Carlton SWCD	$ 596,300

C21-1745	Lake St. Croix Small Communities Urban Phosphorus Reductions Phase II	Middle St. Croix River WMO	$	158,000
C21-7338	2021 Big Elk and Mayhew Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Program	Benton SWCD	$	150,000
C21-2155	City of Hugo County Road 8 Stormwater Reuse Project	Hugo, City of	$	392,400
C21-5134	Grow As You Know- Sauk River	Todd SWCD	$	38,351
C21-7856	2021 East Branch Chippewa River Targeted Subwatershed Implementation Project	Pope SWCD	$	345,000
C21-1048	Lower Mississippi River Targeted Ravine Stabilization Project	Dakota County	$	452,277
C21-2669	Phase 1: Targeted Rum River Bank Stabilization 2021	Anoka CD	$	440,000
C21-1088	2021 Sunrise River Phase II Lower St. Croix CWMP Implementation	Chisago SWCD	$	200,000
C21-0949	Meadow Lake Management Plan	Shingle Creek WMC	$	153,510
C21-9903	Shingle Creek Connections II Stream Restoration	Shingle Creek WMC	$	328,000
C21-2364	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	Kanabec SWCD	$	70,000
		TOTAL	**$**	**11,112,176**

FY2021 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table

C21-0971	St. Peter Wellhead Project 33	Nicollet SWCD	$	374,625
C21-9235	Reducing Nitrates in Drinking Water Through New Irrigation Technologies	East Otter Tail SWCD	$	217,300
C21-8921	Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	$	54,900
		TOTAL	**$**	**646,825**

FY2021 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total ($)	
C21-4946	Judicial Ditch 6 Water Quality Ditch Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD	$	356,359
C21-0361	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 63 Conservation Implementation	McLeod County	$	31,800
C21-2566	CD10 BMP Inventory - Implementation #2	Wright SWCD	$	163,000
		TOTAL	**$**	**551,159**

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
1	C21-4482	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Construction	Pelican River WD	Becker	$ 830,108	$ 830,108	Project funding is requested to construct an on-the-ground implementation project to restore function to the partially drained Rice Lake wetland, which will reduce phosphorous loading to downstream Detroit Lake. By restoring the wetland's hydrology, the District will be able to reduce the annual phosphorous load (1,200-2500 pounds/yr) from this wetland. This project will focus on the Upper Pool Restoration Area, consisting of: a rock fishway water control structure with 15 foot wide low-water crossing and draw-down capability, improvements to the existing access, removal of a two road culverts within the vacated township road section to restore the stream channel within the wetland, replacement of the historic Rice Lake outlet channel culverts with a rock weir grade control structure.	90.55
2	C21-4336	Lake Ida Targeted Phosphorus Reduction Project	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	$ 683,867	$ 683,867	A feasibility study was completed to determine the best options for addressing phosphorus loading to Lake Ida, and will be completed through this grant. These practices include: construction of a 1,899 feet of channel along the wetland edge, repair 741 feet of existing channel, construct one stilling basin, and repair an existing sediment pond. Implementation will prevent loading of 240 pounds/year of phosphorus to Lake Ida. The wetland is leaching phosphorus from legacy pollution and is a major component of the phosphorus load. A subwatershed assessment was also completed for the lake in order to identify other sources of phosphorus. However, none are as significant as the wetland. The DNR lists Lake Ida as highest priority in terms of phosphorus sensitivity, high in biological significance, and is a first ranked waterbody.	86.77
3	C21-4070	The City of Baxter Stormwater Project reduces 50 Tons TSS to the Mississippi River	Crow Wing SWCD	Crow Wing	$ 890,000	$ 890,000	The City of Baxter will develop a 14 acre-feet vegetated stormwater wetland with a multi-stage outlet and restoration of upland habitats. The project site has been determined to be the City's highest performing treatment opportunity within the 400-acre drainage area. This project will reduce 50 tons per year of sediment and 211 pounds per year of phosphorous to the Mississippi River. In the first 400 miles of the upper Mississippi River, this specific subwatershed has the highest percent of developed land use.	86.68
4	C21-5161	Whiskey Creek "Enhancement Project"	Wilkin SWCD	Wilkin	$ 340,000	$ 340,000	The Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District will partner with the Buffalo Red River Watershed District, Natural Resources Conservation Service and landowners to install 75 grade stabilization structures to stabilize priority gullies that are contributing sediment to Whiskey Creek. We will also restore over five miles of stream through the construction of a two-stage meandering channel. When the 75 gullies are stabilized and five miles of channel is restored sediment loading to Whiskey Creek will be reduced by 1,524 tons/year and total phosphorus reduced by 839 pounds/year. Total sediment reduction associated with this project is 30% of the 5,175 tons/year goal set by the TMDL for Whiskey Creek during high flows.	86.45
5	C21-6176	Little Comfort Lake Phosphorus Reduction Implementation	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Chisago	$ 354,600	$ 354,600	The proposed project addresses phosphorus reductions to Little Comfort Lake, a 36-acre impaired lake that is hydrologically connected to Comfort Lake. While the phosphorus improvements of this project are directly for Little Comfort Lake, it also reduces phosphorus to Comfort Lake. The proposed projects include implementation of a variable height weir to impound water in a large wetland complex, a series of beaver dam analogs along the School Lake outlet channel to Little Comfort Lake, and an in-lake alum treatment. These projects are expected to remove 80 pounds/year of phosphorus loads from the east wetland impoundment, 60 pounds/yr of phosphorus from the School Lake outlet channel improvements, and 56 pounds/yr of phsophorus from the in-lake alum treatment. This is a total load reduction of 206 pounds/yr which will achieve the remaining reductions needed for Comfort Lake to a be removed from the impaired waters list.	86.05
6	C21-2082	South Branch Buffalo River Restoration - Phase 2	Buffalo-Red River WD	Wilkin	$ 300,000	$ 300,000	The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District will partner with the Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and landowners to install 54 grade stabilization structures to stabilize gullies that are contributing sediment to the South Branch Buffalo River and complete 4.5 miles of stream restoration, through the construction of a two-stage meandering channel. With these practices implemented, sediment will be reduced by 1,599 tons/year and total phosphorus reduced by 692 pounds/year. This project continues an ongoing effort over the past decade to improve water quality, manage erosion, reduce sediment and enhance natural resources throughout the watershed.	85.50
7	C21-8494	Pleasure Creek South BIESF	Coon Creek WD	Anoka	$ 330,000	$ 330,000	In partnership with the City of Coon Rapids, this project will address Pleasure Creek's aquatic life and recreation impairments by reducing nutrient and bacteria loading attributable to urban stormwater runoff. We will retrofit an existing in-line rate control pond with a 7,000 square foot biochar- and iron-enhanced sand filter to reduce total phosphorus and bacteria loading to Pleasure Creek by 19 pounds and 270 billion organisms per year, respectively. Paired with a similar filtration practice constructed two miles upstream in 2020, this project will achieve the phosphorus reduction goals established for Pleasure Creek as part of the Total Maximum Daily Load study approved in 2016.	85.09
8	C21-4566	2021 Lower Clearwater River Subwatershed Water Quality Agricultural Practices	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	$ 268,525	$ 268,525	The City of East Grand Forks pulls its drinking water from the Red Lake River. The Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District has targeted ten sites based on data analysis and conducted an erosion site inventory which found landowners in these priority areas that were eager to fix the erosion problems on their fields. The structural agricultural practices will include, but are not limited to, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and water and sediment basins. The implementation of these practices is estimated to reduce sediment loading to the Clearwater River by 793 tons/year. This will improve water quality, recreation, fish habitat, and aesthetics, also making these projects a regional concern.	84.86
9	C21-3515	Rosland Park Stormwater Filtration BMP Project	Nine Mile Creek WD	Hennepin	$ 750,000	$ 750,000	The proposed project is a stormwater filtration practice on city park property to remove phosphorus from runoff before it reaches Lake Cornelia. Lake Cornelia, listed as impaired for excess nutrients, has documented toxic blue-green algae blooms in recent years. A study was completed in 2019 identifying internal and external nutrient loads to the lake and potential projects to reduce those loads to work toward meeting state nutrient standards and reduce the frequency of algal blooms. This project will address external loads coming from a 410-acre urban subwatershed that drains to the lake. This practice will pump water from an existing pond (which outlets to Lake Cornelia) through an above ground filtration system, after which the treated water will be discharged to Lake Cornelia. Anticipated phosphorus removal 22 pounds annually.	84.32
10	C21-7914	Moore Lake Enhancement Project	Fridley, City of	Anoka	$ 400,000	$ 400,000	The purpose of this project is to improve water quality and recreation suitability in East Moore Lake. East Moore is imapired for excess nutrients, and water conditions, including periodic high bacteria concentrations, negatively impact the use of the lake and associated park. The proposed project aims to install a biochar- and iron-enhanced sand filter to treat runoff from a 94-acre urban catchment with minimal treatment draining directly into the lake. The project also includes converting shoreline turf into a native plant buffer to discourage geese aggregation and filter runoff. The expected outcomes are improved water quality and clarity, reduced instances of elevated bacteria concentrations in the beach area, and enhanced recreational suitability. Reductions are anticipated to be 18 pounds/year phosphorus and 0.6 tons/year of sediment.	84.00
11	C21-1051	Lake Traverse Water Quality Project Phase 2	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse	$ 418,235	$ 418,235	This project will stabilize approximately 1,600 feet of channel and reduce approximately 450 tons per year of sediment transport to Lake Traverse. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District, in partnership with the Traverse County Soil and Water Conservation District, is proposing to resolve severe downcutting and bank failure in the drainage ditch that directly connects to Traverse County Ditch (TCD) 52. The project will reduce bed and bank scour, stabilize side slopes, and minimize erosion, resulting in a significant reduction in non-point source sediment and nutrient loading to Lake Traverse. The project will have water quality benefits to Lake Traverse and downstream waterbodies and have natural resource benefits to fisheries and wildlife.	83.82
12	C21-7520	2021 Priority Implementation Targeting Lawrence Creek, Dry Creek, and Direct Drainage to the St. Croix River	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	The St. Croix River escarpment has been a focal point for the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District over the past eight years in a multi-phase targeted plan to reduce phosphorus and sediment loading to the St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix. Through this application, the focal area will be subwatersheds in the rural area, which are upstream of the escarpment, or drain directly to the St. Croix River. Lawrence Creek and an unnamed direct drainage stream are the County's only listed trout streams and are Regionally Significant Streams for pollution reduction. A minimum of 20 projects will reduce the phosphorus loading by at least 140 pounds/year and sediment loading by at least 140 tons/year.	83.68
13	C21-5270	Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment Project	Red Lake WD	Pennington	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	The project will restore three acres of an oxbow wetland by removing 17,000 cubic yards of accumulated sediment to restore the wetland's habitat, filtration, and retention qualities. A rock structure will be constructed at the outlet of the restored wetland to stabilize the outlet, improve detention, and oxygenate water as it flows out of the pond. In line hydrodynamic separator structures will be installed to trap pollutants and trash from future stormwater runoff before it enters the wetland or the Red Lake River. A settling pond will be constructed to intercept runoff from a portion of the wetland's drainage area. This project will reduce loading rates for sediment by 4 tons/year and of phosphorus by 28 pounds/year from stormwater runoff as part of a coordinated effort to restore downstream impairments of the Red Lake River.	83.55

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
14	C21-8059	Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Washington	$ 171,200	$ 171,200	The Bone and Moody Lake drainage areas are the headwaters of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District northern flow network, and as such, their water quality sets the stage for downstream waters, many of which are impaired. This project proposes to remove accumulated phosphorus-rich sediment from the northern portion of a wetland directly adjacent to Bone Lake that had a history of receiving direct livestock manure runoff from the dairy farm barnyard located on the same wetland. This project is estimated to reduce watershed phosphorus loads to Bone Lake by 15 pounds/yr. Modest phosphorus reductions to Bone Lake are needed to maintain its recent achievement of state water quality standards and remove Bone Lake from the impaired waters list, making this a statewide priority lake.	81.59
15	C21-0191	County Ditch 96 Outlet Stabilization - Phase 2	Pennington SWCD	Pennington	$ 516,000	$ 516,000	Sediment entering a high priority reach of the Red Lake River will be reduced by repairing the south slope of Pennington County Ditch 96 (CD96). The Red Lake River from CD96 in Pennington County to the Clearwater River becomes impaired for aquatic life due to high levels of sediment. Upstream of the CD96 outlet, it is no longer impaired for aquatic life. The Red Lake River WRAPS estimates 54% of the sediment load comes from instream erosion. This reach has been identified as the highest priority in the middle planning zone for restoration and this project will provide an estimated 559 tons/year of sediment reduction by stabilizing the eroding bank and preventing further erosion resulting in improved water quality, drinking water, recreation, fish habitat and aesthetics.	81.36
16	C21-6115	Bayview Elementary Reuse Expansion	Carver County WMO	Carver	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	The City of Waconia is a pioneer for the way it is approaching stormwater reuse, tapping into stormwater as a utility to irrigate business parcels to meet goals of reducing potable water usage. This project is included as part of the City improvement plan. Two tanks and an updated pretreatment system will be added to the existing Bayview Elementary Underground Reuse System located within a subwatershed of Burandt Lake. The two tanks will increase the annual stormwater reuse by 400,000 gallons and 3 pounds of phosphorus reduction per year being discharged to Burandt Lake.	81.09
17	C21-5583	Plum Creek Subwatershed Turbidity Reduction	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area	Redwood	$ 400,805	$ 400,805	Plum Creek watershed is a highly productive agricultural area in Murray and Redwood Counties. This project will install five grade stabilization structures, three grass waterways, two water and sediment control basins, and one streambank restoration. These practices will be used to capture sediment from excessive overland flows and provide up to 75% cost-share for landowners. Anticipated goals will annually reduce 1,470 tons of sediment through implementation of these shovel-ready projects.	80.91
18	C21-5927	2021 Lake Minnewaska Targeted Subwatershed Implementation Project Phase IV	Pope SWCD	Pope	$ 235,000	$ 235,000	This project will focus on protection of Lake Minnewaska by reducing sediment and phosphorus which are a result of massive gully erosion and eroding ravines that have been converted to row crop production. Pope Soil and Water Conservation District has four landowners ready to implement 10 water and sediment control basins, one lined waterway, one grassed waterway, and one shoreline protection project. These projects have the potential to reduce sediment by 412 tons/year, and 330 pounds/year of phosphorus from entering the lake. We have targeted 54 implemented practices since 2014; this grant would continue this effort.	80.82
19	C21-6961	2021 Goose Creek Watershed TMDL Implementation	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	$ 250,000	$ 250,000	East Rush Lake, West Rush Lake, and Goose Lake are impaired for excess nutrients and have some of the lowest water quality Chisago County, yet they are also some of the most heavily used for recreation. Projects have been prioritized by their potential reduction in total phosphorus loading per year and will be targeted in that order to achieve the greatest reduction per project. The goal of this grant is to provide technical and financial assistance in the Goose Creek watershed for the targeted implementation of at least 20 practices to reduce watershed runoff phosphorus loading to Goose, East Rush, and West Rush Lakes and the St. Croix River by a minimum of 140 pounds/year.	80.09
20	C21-8244	Net River Watershed Sediment Reduction Project - Stormwater and the Road Stream Interface	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	$ 596,300	$ 596,300	The Nemadji Watershed is characterized by its red clay soils and steep slopes, with streambanks that are prone to slumping and erosion and is a major contributor of sediment and phosphorous into Lake Superior. Our project works towards targeting erosion on the Little Net River, a tributary to the Nemadji River and a high-quality trout stream. An undersized culvert was recently completed to improve fish passage to over six miles of stream, but stormwater runoff near the bridge has contributed to a major gully formation upstream of the bridge project, resulting in contributions of 3,517 tons of sediment and 4,045 pounds of phosphorous per year. Our project will address the stormwater runoff and stabilize the failing bank based on recommendations from geotechnical and stormwater engineers. It will also protect the stream bank using fish passage friendly designs. The result will be reduced sediment and phosphorus to the Little Net River, protection of the valuable trout resource and improved public safety.	79.50
21	C21-1850	JD 6 Water Quality Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse;Wilkin	$ 356,359	0 (funded w/MDM)	This project proposes installation of 62 grade stabilization structures and eight miles of continuous berms to be constructed as a permanent part of Judicial Ditch 6. This project will reduce sediment loading to the south fork of the Rabbit River by 417 tons per year and total phosphorus by 384 pounds per year. The overall, long-term benefit of these efforts include reduced soil erosion and sedimentation of the drainage system, reduced pollutant loading, increased ditch functionality, reduced peak flows, and a sustainable solution to the issues that results in lower drainage system maintenance costs while providing water quality benefits.	78.95
22	C21-1745	Lake St. Croix Small Communities Urban Phosphorus Reductions Phase II	Middle St. Croix River WMO	Washington	$ 158,000	$ 158,000	This project will address stormwater discharge from a 1,852 acre pipe shed that is directly discharging to Lake St. Croix. This will be done through the installation of targeted stormwater treatment best management practices prioritized in the Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge Stormwater Retrofit Analysis. The goal of this project is to reduce urban pollutant loading to Lake St. Croix by at least seven pounds of phosphorous, one ton of sediment and one acre-foot of stormwater per year through the installation of up to 15 Low Impact Development stormwater best management practices.	78.68
23	C21-7338	2021 Big Elk and Mayhew Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Program	Benton SWCD	Benton	$ 150,000	$ 150,000	Spring time phosphorus loading has been identified as the main concern for Mayhew Lake, whereas summer loads dominate the Big Elk Lake nutrient impairment and Elk River turbidity impairment. Locations have been pinpointed within the watershed where the phosphorus originates from, as well as strategies that may be undertaken to reduce nutrient loading. Practices were strategically chosen to achieve maximum pollution reduction benefits. Some example practices include, nutrient management, feedlot runoff control, manure storage, riparian pasture management, & cropland & streambank erosion control projects. An estimated 673 pounds per year of phosphorus, 274 pounds per year of nitrogen and 684 tons per year of sediment will be reduced by implementing seven projects.	78.64
24	C21-2155	City of Hugo County Road 8 Stormwater Reuse Project	Hugo, City of	Anoka	$ 392,400	$ 392,400	The City of Hugo is requesting funding to construct a stormwater reuse system that will reconnect irrigation systems, resulting in improved surface water quality through phosphorus reduction, decreased groundwater demand, and volume reduction of stormwater for downstream ditch systems and Peltier Lake. The reuse system will pump water from a stormwater pond to existing irrigation accounts, conserving 14 million gallons of water annually. The existing stormwater pond discharges to Judicial Ditch 3 and connects into Clearwater Creek and Peltier Lake. Peltier Lake is impaired for phosphorus. This reuse project will provide water quality benefits by removing phosphorus and provide stormwater volume reduction, positively impacting water quality and water levels in Peltier Lake.	78.59
25	C21-5134	Grow As You Know- Sauk River	Todd SWCD	Douglas;Todd	$ 38,351	$ 38,351	The goal of this project is to reduce total phosphorous and sediment in lakes within the headwater and upper regions of the Sauk River Watershed. Our mission, along with our partners and farmers, will be to assist landowners with consultation guidance and costs associated with planting, managing, and maintaining effective cover crops on the landscape. There are three zones of cover crop priority within the Sauk River Headwater and Upper Watershed Management Units. The two most critical zones in which the majority of promotion and technical efforts will be targeted are the Lake Osakis Management District and the Todd and Douglas County portions of the Sauk Lake Management District. The third zone, the Adley District, serves as a protection area. The work plan will provide selected landowners with ongoing consultation, mentorship, and differentiated training in cover crops and field assessment, while placing a minimum of 600 new acres under successful cover crops on the ground. Reductions of 33 pounds per acre per year phosphorus and 8 tons per acre per year sediment is anticipated to be achieved.	78.41
26	C21-7856	2021 East Branch Chippewa River Targeted Subwatershed Implementation Project	Pope SWCD	Pope;Swift	$ 345,000	$ 345,000	This project targets restoration and protection of the East Branch Chippewa River and will address non-point source pollution from agricultural lands, specifically those on steep, erodible slopes and ravines that are delivering sediment and phosphorus to the river. Pope and Swift Soil and Water Conservation Districts have partnered and have 10 landowners ready to implement 65 erosion and sediment control practices. These SWCDs partnered and completed a Water Quality Decision Support Application to target projects for the East Branch of the Chippewa River. Based on averages calculated from recently constructed erosion and sediment control practices, these proposed projects have the potential to reduce sediment by 1,462 tons/year, and 1,260 pounds/year of phosphorus.	78.32
27	C21-1048	Lower Mississippi River Targeted Ravine Stabilization Project	Dakota County	Dakota	$ 452,277	$ 452,277	Dakota County is partnering with the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to stabilize two severely eroded ravines and bluff areas within Spring Lake Park Reserve affecting Spring Lake and the Mississippi River. Spring Lake is a portion of Pool 2 of the Mississippi River located three miles upstream of U.S. Lock and Dam No. 2 at Hastings. The proposed project will include finalization of preliminary engineering plan drawings and construction of a variety of ravine stabilization practices along 3,900 linear feet. Stabilization will be accomplished using a combination of practices including retention, regrading of the ravine, hard armoring, and establishment of vegetation to reduce erosion and soil loss within the ravine. The proposed project prevents soil loss by 525 tons/year, and achieves a 13.8 ton annual reduction in TSS and 11.7 pound annual reduction in phosphorus toward the South Metro Mississippi River and Lake Pepin TSS TMDL.	77.82

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28	C21-2669	Phase 1: Targeted Rum River Bank Stabilization 2021	Anoka CD	Anoka	$ 440,000	$ 440,000	The Rum River is on the brink of impairment for phosphorus. The Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy report identifies riverbank stabilization as one of the top strategies for reducing phosphorus and protecting this important regional resource. The 10-year milestone for this strategy is the stabilization of one mile of eroding riverbank. Anoka Conservation District identified over seven miles of eroding streambank on the Rum River in Anoka County. This project will stabilize up to 500 linear feet, targeting the most severe erosion, and reducing total phosphorus loading by 200 pounds/yr and sediment loading by 200 tons/yr.	76.68
29	C21-1088	2021 Sunrise River Phase II Lower St. Croix CWMP Implementation	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	$ 200,000	$ 200,000	The Sunrise River subwatershed has been identified as the top source of phosphorus loading to Lake St. Croix. Due to the large size of the Sunrise River subwatershed, the Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District has implemented a phased approach to prioritize and target the next smaller size subwatersheds within the larger Sunrise River subwatershed. This application targets the North Branch of the Sunrise River subwatershed which receives runoff from both rural and urban areas. A Stormwater Retrofit Assessment is underway to identify the best locations for stormwater projects, including rain gardens, vegetated swales, pervious pavement, infiltration basins, and iron enhanced sand filters. Priority will be given to projects closest to the river and its tributaries. At least 10 conservation projects will be installed, preventing at least 50 pounds/year of phosphorus and 50 tons/year sediment from entering the river.	76.50
30	C21-0949	Meadow Lake Management Plan	Shingle Creek WMC	Hennepin	$ 153,510	$ 153,510	Meadow Lake is listed as an impaired water for excess nutrients and suffers from nuisance levels of curly-leaf pondweed and fathead minnows. Reducing watershed phosphorus loading to the lake has been a priority and many practices have been installed; however, internal phosphorus loading to the lake is still significant and preventing improvement in the lake's condition. In this project, internal phosphorus loading will be reduced by approximately 110 pounds per year through a lake drawdown and two aluminum sulfate treatments. Other outcomes of the project include increased water clarity, reduced chlorophyll-a concentrations, and a diverse native aquatic vegetation community.	76.18
31	C21-9903	Shingle Creek Connections II Stream Restoration	Shingle Creek WMC	Hennepin	$ 328,000	$ 328,000	The purpose of this project is to improve water quality and biotic integrity in Shingle Creek, which is an impaired water for low dissolved oxygen, excess bacteria, and macroinvertebrate community. Approximately 1,750 linear feet will be improved by thinning trees, establishing native vegetation in the buffer and on the banks, repairing erosion, enhancing habitat, and introducing low-flow sinuosity and reaeration opportunities with rock vanes and root wads. Reaches upstream and downstream have been restored; this is a "missing link" segment that will complete a continuous 2.5-mile corridor of urban stream restoration. It is anticipated that annual stream bank sediment loss will be reduced by 20 tons/year and phosphorus loss reduced by 4 pounds/year. The outcome will be enhanced habitat for aquatic and upland wildlife, improved water quality, and improved stream aeration.	75.55
32	C21-2364	Kanabec - Knife River Clean Up	Kanabec SWCD	Kanabec;Mille Lacs	$ 70,000	$ 70,000	practices. Targeted projects include pasture management practices and streambank erosion protection practices including livestock fencing exclusions with the option of providing alternative watering facilities and/or enhancing buffer strips in pasture stream corridors. These projects are well supported by the members of the Knife Lake Sportsman's Club and the Knife Lake Improvement District and are estimated to reduce sediment and phosphorus by eight tons per year and 40 pounds per year, respectively.	74.55
33	C21-0274	FY2021_Eastside_Neighborhood_Stormwater_BMP_Implementation	Olmsted SWCD	Olmsted	$ 238,829	$ -	Stormwater best management practices will be established in an urban, residential neighborhood that contributes runoff to a single outfall location in the turbidity impaired Silver Creek tributary to the South Fork of the Zumbro River. In collaboration with the City of Rochester and the nonprofit Metro Blooms, Olmsted Soil and Water Conservation District will engage urban residents in a portion of the Eastside Neighborhood to identify residential lands to successfully install raingardens and additional practices that improve water quality and create native, pollinator habitat. This project has the goal of 50-60 rain garden installations on private property with up to 10 additional raingardens with pre-treatment in the public right of way. Stormwater capture will result in the reduction of 1 ton sediment, 6 pounds total phosphorus, and 7 acre-ft of runoff per year, which directly addresses targeted sediment sources of impervious surfaces and erosion due to high stream flows within Silver Creek. In addition to practice implementation, equitable engagement is a focus of this project. Installations are paired with education and engagement of property owners, local contractors, and agency staff to increase regional capacity for sustainable source control.	74.45
34	C21-8301	Targeted Protection Plan for Sugar Lake	Wright SWCD	Wright	$ 128,000	$ -	The goal of this application is to protect and maintain the quality of water entering Sugar Lake by reducing sediment and phosphorous through construction of best management practices identified in the Sugar Lake watershed. The project area is the drainage area to Sugar Lake in northwest Wright County, encompassing portions of Clearwater, Silver Creek, and Corinna Townships. A subwatershed assessment, analyzed the drainage area of Sugar Lake and identified 957 potential locations for practices and estimated reductions for phosphorus, nitrogen and sediment. This was combined with Soil and Water Conservation District staff field review to determine the feasibility of the practices. Cost information was then used to determine the 11 most cost-effective structural practices that are anticipated to reduce sediment load by 155 tons/year and phosphorus load by 13 pounds/year.	74.36
35	C21-9470	Wooddale Drive Stormwater Improvement Project	Woodbury, City of	Washington	$ 650,000	$ -	This project will improve and protect water quality in Carver Lake by retrofitting an untreated 37 acre subwatershed in the City of Woodbury. Existing undeveloped parcels within an otherwise largely impervious, commercial area will be converted into a stormwater best management practice that will provide treatment for the directly connected area. The City and Ramsey Washington Metro Watershed District, will remove over 45 pounds of phosphorus, 8,100 pounds of sediment and 55 acre-feet/year of runoff volume from discharging to Carver Lake. Plantings of pollinator-friendly native trees, shrubs, and grasses that reduce runoff, absorb nutrients, and improve infiltration capacity will be installed. Additional flood storage for a downstream system with at risk properties will also occur. Finally, the City trail system that follows Woodlane Drive will gain visibility to the chain of wetlands and Carver Lake.	74.36
36	C21-7448	Clear Lake Soluable Phosphorus Management	Clearwater River WD	Meeker	$ 295,818	$ -	The purpose of this project is to achieve the in-lake water quality goals set in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) for Clear Lake, located in Meeker County. A lake response model for Clear Lake was updated and calibrated in 2016 and showed the need for a 1,978 pound load reduction to meet the phosphorus goals for the lake. Further monitoring and studies have identified that the loading is not internal and found significant loading from a northern complex of wetlands. The installation of an iron-enhanced sand filter at the northern wetland complex targets that loading. Addressing the northern watershed wetland soluble phosphorus export is necessary to meet the water quality goal in Clear Lake. This project estimates a reduction of 2,100 pounds/year of phosphorus to Clear Lake which is more than the load reduction needed to meet water quality standards.	73.27
37	C21-0126	Priority Bacteria Reduction in Mississippi River-Sartell	Stearns SWCD	Morrison;Stearns	$ 462,100	$ -	Bacteria loading into priority streams within the Mississippi-Sartell watershed that are impaired for bacteria will be reduced with this project. Grant funds will be used to implement source controls to limit bacteria entering waterways, including five manure storage facilities, five livestock exclusion from waterways, five feedlot runoff controls, ten edge-of-field buffers, and implementation of nutrient management plans for land application of manure (10 plans, 1,600 acres). Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct outreach related to this project to improve application of manure.	72.41
38	C21-1860	Restoring Critical Shores On Lake Minnewawa	Aitkin SWCD	Aitkin	$ 55,297	$ -	The Aitkin County Soil and Water Conservation District will stabilize and revegetate the shoreline of six properties on Lake Minnewawa. A combination of hard armor and native vegetation will be used to control the erosion that is occurring on a critical five foot vertical bank and will include 414 feet of shoreline being stabilized. Preventing approximately 29 tons/year of sediment and 25 pounds/year of phosphorus from reaching Lake Minnewawa will keep the water quality of this lake on its current improving trend.	71.36
39	C21-8511	Farming for the future in Becker County	Becker SWCD	Becker	$ 480,014	$ -	This project takes steps to build resilient agricultural systems and achieve non-point source pollution reductions by incentivizing producer commitments to shift towards sustainable practices that foster soil fertility, stem loading to impaired waters, increase water holding capacity, decrease economic and environmental flood damages, sequester valuable nutrients and carbon, and reduce overall inputs in ag production. Producers can enroll 25% of their operation up to 160 acres, with priority given to critical areas. Targeting 4,000 acres, this effort takes a cost effective approach to achieving reduction needs in three distinct yet connected watersheds of the Red River Basin. Targeted practices indicate this project will reduce sediment loading by 8,257 tons, phosphorus by 1,338 pounds, and nitrogen contributions by 12,855 pounds annually.	70.86
40	C21-7834	Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project	Brooklyn Park, City of	Hennepin	$ 663,000	$ -	This Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project will enhance water quality, restore natural habitats, and sustain and protect property along the west banks of the Mississippi River. A 5.8-mile shoreline assessment identified numerous portions severely eroding into the river, contributing significant sediment and nutrient loads. This grant request is for stabilization of approximately 715 linear feet in this most critical area on up to seven properties. Design strategies may include hard armoring such as riprap at/below the toe of the slope and/or drain tile to manage groundwater seepages, but will emphasize bioengineering practices that enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats while maintaining long-term environmental sustainability of the practices. An anticipated reduction of 548 tons/year of sediment delivery and 506 pounds/year phosphorus is expected.	69.91
41	C21-2358	Phosphorus protection opportunity on 5 Otter Tail lakes	Otter Tail, East SWCD	Otter Tail	$ 168,950	$ -	Little McDonald, Paul, Kerbs, Devils, and Little Devils lakes had historically high water levels. These five lakes have no natural outlet and a pipeline was installed in 2018 to reduce lake levels. As the water level recedes on these lakes, vulnerable shoreline is being exposed. Several of these lakes have declining trends in phosphorus or aquatic life impairments. This project will target high priority parcels including 25 shoreline restorations or rain gardens based on lakes assessment runoff analysis and five agricultural management practices (cover crops and/or nutrient management). Using a three-year tiered targeting approach, the highest priority parcels will be funded first. These activities are expected to result in a phosphorus reduction of 15 pounds/year and a sediment reduction of 25 tons/year on the five targeted lakes.	69.50

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
42	C21-5254	Bass Creek Restoration	Shingle Creek WMC	Hennepin	$ 336,000	$ -	The purpose of the Bass Creek Restoration Project is to improve water quality and biotic integrity in Bass Creek. Bass Creek is impaired for excess chloride and its fish community. Approximately 1,400 linear feet will be improved by thinning trees, establishing native vegetation in the buffer and on the banks, enhancing habitat, and introducing low-flow sinuosity and reaeration opportunities with rock vanes and root wads. Water aeration will reduce the amount of time dissolved oxygen concentrations fall below 5 milligrams per liter. Sediment will be reduced by 29 tons/year and phosphorus will be reduced by 6 pounds/year. The stream flows through Bass Creek Park with an adjacent bicycle/pedestrian trail so the project will improve aesthetics and provide an opportunity for park user education about native habitat and stream ecology. The outcome will be enhanced habitat for aquatic and upland wildlife, improved water quality, and improved stream aeration.	69.14
43	C21-2219	Dobbins Watershed Restoration Projects	Cedar River WD	Mower	$ 673,500	$ -	This application would constructs four strategic, perpetual-flow reduction projects in the headwaters of Dobbins Creek subwatershed of the Cedar River. When complete, these projects will result in a savings of 35 tons/year of sediment and increase water storage by 102 acre-feet. The result will capitalize on 10 years of land treatment efforts in this area and institute perpetual storage that will reduce the effects of flashy stream conditions, large-scale sediment loading and low biological integrity.	69.09
44	C21-7360	FY2021 SSTS Abatement Program	St. Louis County	St. Louis	$ 200,000	$ -	The goal of this program is to protect surface water, groundwater, and decrease human exposure to harmful pathogens within the eight watersheds of St. Louis County by ensuring use of compliant Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS). In order to meet the goal, failing SSTS systems need to be replaced through voluntary compliance, with enforcement as a secondary option. The program, funded primarily with Clean Water Fund grant dollars, is essential to the success of the compliance/enforcement program, functioning as a "safety net" that provides the financial assistance low income year-round homeowners need to achieve compliance. The goal of this project is to replace up to ten imminent health threat systems in St. Louis County, which will reduce phosphorus by 50 pounds per year, nitrogen by 150 pounds per year and significantly reduce bacteria levels.	66.95
45	C21-9954	Rogers' Fox Creek Streambank Stabilization Project	Rogers, City of	Hennepin	$ 190,000	$ -	The Fox Creek Streambank Stabilization project addresses significant streambank erosion, channelization, and degraded water quality using erosion control and streambank stabilization measures along 1,300 linear feet of Fox Creek. The project will significantly reduce sediment loading to Fox Creek, improving water quality and stream conditions in the stream and in the receiving Crow River and Mississippi River. Streambank and channel erosion caused in part by urbanization and development will be mitigated by using various methods to stabilize and reshape the channel. It is anticipated that this project will reduce sediment delivery by 19 tons/year and phosphorus delivery by 19 pounds/year.	65.95
46	C21-0772	Yellow Medicine County CD 1B Storage Area	Yellow Medicine County	Yellow Medicine	$ 606,400	$ -	This project provides a positive water quality and hydrologic benefit to Boiling Spring Creek. Construction will include excavating existing low areas to create two online storage areas near the outlet of the system. A weir wall with outlets will be installed. Overall, these improvements will reduce the peak flows from more frequent and heavier than historic rainfalls. Approximately 11,658 pounds of phosphorus will be reduced. Nitrogen reduction and downstream streambank erosion prevention benefits are also expected.	65.55
47	C21-9439	Target North St. Paul Stormwater Retrofits	Ramsey-Washington Metro WD	Ramsey	$ 500,000	$ -	The Target North St. Paul Stormwater Retrofit project will target phosphorus removal from stormwater runoff. This runoff receives limited treatment before discharging to Kohlman Creek, a waterbody impaired for excess nutrients. This project is one of many efforts the District has undertaken to improve the water quality of Kohlman Lake and downstream waterbodies. The District has identified commercial properties as a primary target for stormwater management because of their large impervious surface areas with little or no stormwater treatment on site. Using assessment methods this commercial property was identified as a high priority site where stormwater volume and pollution reduction projects can be very beneficial and cost effective. This project is anticipated to reduce phosphorus by 6 pounds/year and 0.6 tons/year of sediment.	63.36
48	C21-4979	Theil Creek Restoration and Protection Project	Clearwater River WD	Stearns	$ 292,602	$ -	Theil Creek is a designated trout stream in southern Stearns County. As of the last assessment by Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District, there were nine stream bank failures along the creek in need of stabilization ranging from 10 to 35 feet in vertical elevation.The purpose of this project is to help restore and protect habitat in Thiel Creek, to reduce sediment loading to the creek which can impair reproductive habitat and to reduce nutrient and sediment loads to downstream impaired lakes Louisa and Marie. A phosphorus reduction of 120 pounds/year and a sediment reduction of 68 tons/year is expected. Bioengineering and installation of two water and sediment control basins is planned to reduce the impact of overland flow from the adjacent fields. An additional project has been identified through work with the Sauk Rapids Department of Natural Resources which will include stabilization and reduction of flow in a road ditch.	49.86
				Total Funding Recommendation		**$ 11,112,176**		

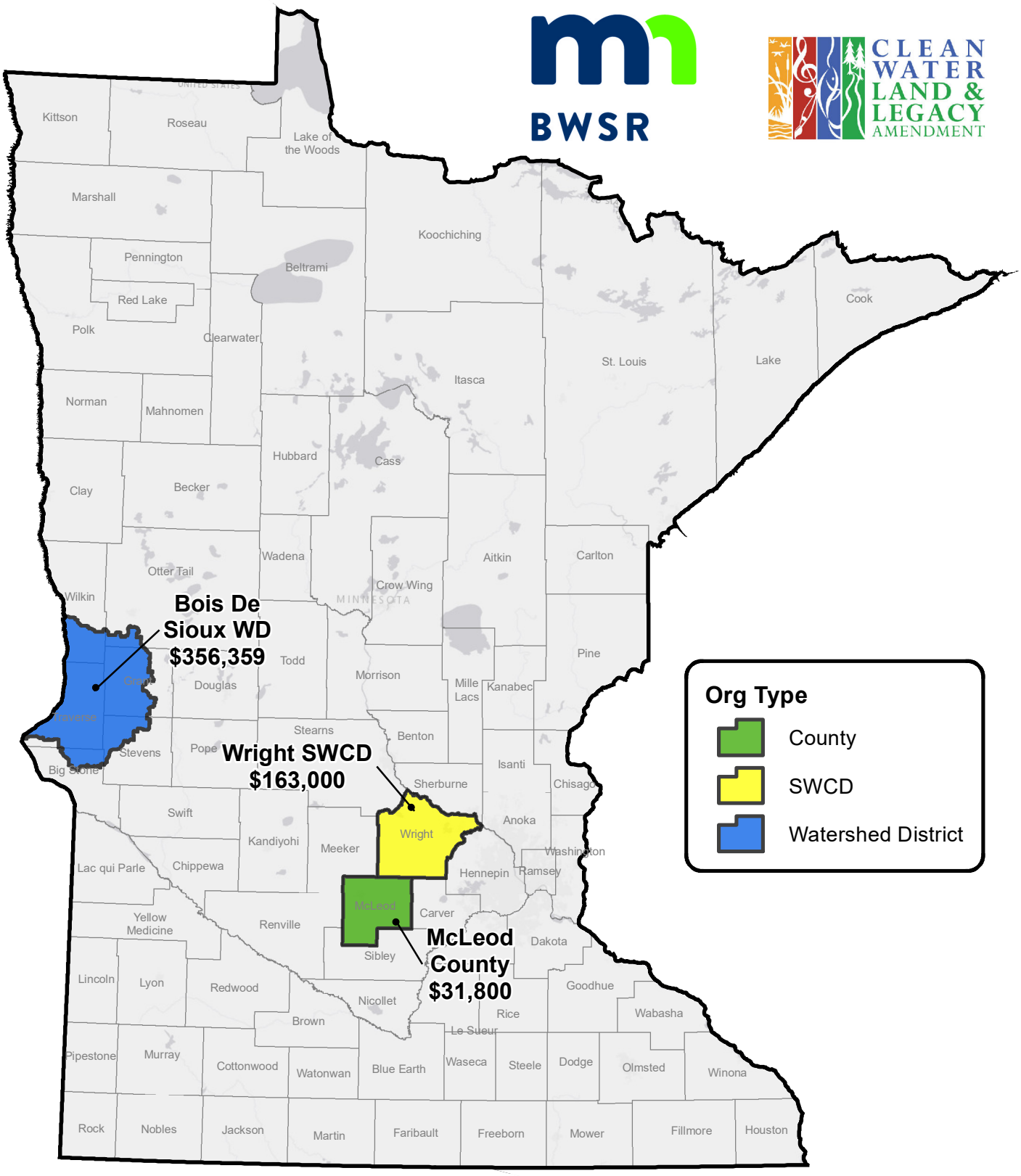
#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
1	C21-0971	St. Peter Wellhead Project 33	Nicollet SWCD	Nicollet	$ 374,625	$ 374,625	Lying in the area west of Saint Peter, MN is the 4,500 Aacre Drinking Water Supply Management Area that serves as the city's only source of drinking water for its 12,000 residents. With the installation of best management practices, the goal of this project is to reduce nitrate levels by 50%, or 6-14 parts per million on average at the source well. To achieve this goal, Nicollet SWCD, along with the City of Saint Peter, Nicollet County and the Project 33 Watershed Committee, will work together to plan and implement water retention practices, and best management practices within the wellhead protection area. Nitrate, phosphorus and sediment reductions will be achieved through structure installation and utilizing beneficial farming practices and nutrient application practices. Nitrogen and sediment reductions of 100 tons/year and phosphorus reductions of 200 pounds/year are expected in the watershed.	84.5
2	C21-9235	Reducing nitrates in drinking water through new irrigation technologies	East Otter Tail SWCD	Otter Tail; Wadena	$ 217,300	$ 217,300	Large areas in Otter Tail and Wadena County are at risk of nitrogen contamination due to sandy soils and nitrogen fertilizer use. Irrigation scheduling and fertilizer management need modern updates through variable rate technology and soil moisture sensors to better utilize and inform irrigators of when to fertilize. East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and Wadena SWCD will use cost share to help establish precision management for variable rate irrigation in one field, soil water sensors in 20 fields, and 10 nutrient management plans for irrigation management on high and medium priority parcels. The SWCDs will develop an assessment report detailing the local results for variable rate irrigation and soil moisture sensors that will provide results to local landowners and for future projects. It is anticipated that nitrate leaching will be reduced by 9 pounds/acre over at least 2,000 acres totalling 17,800 pounds of nitrate reduction.	80.9
3	C21-8921	Watonwan Watershed Drinking Water Protection	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Blue Earth;Brown;Cottonwood;Jackson;Martin;Watonwan	$ 54,900	$ 54,900	The focus of this project will be over 8,800 acres identified as High and Very High Vulnerability areas within six drinking water supply management areas in the Watonwan River watershed. This will be accomplished by using the Drinking Water Wellhead Protection Plans (DWWPP) as a guide to installing conservation practices for the cities of Comfrey, Darfur, La Salle, Madelia, Mountain Lake, St. James, Truman, Windom, and the Red Rock Rural Water well field. Potential contaminants in drinking water will be prevented/reduced by cost sharing recommended practices outlined in the DWWPPs. All practices installed with this grant, with the exception of well sealing, will be in Highly Vulnerable areas only. Practices that will be installed include: 10 or more well sealings, 10 acres of native plant cover, 12.5 acres of urban forest tree planing and other plan identified practices. There will also be a strong information/education effort that will include 10 drinking water public education events, 10 drinking water promotional signs, and 50 drinking water protection public service radio spots projects, cover crops, nutrient management, and erosion control practices. Reductions from these efforts are anticipated to reduce sediment by 150 tons/year, phosphorus by 310 pounds/year and nitrogen by 1,870 pounds/year.	79.7
4	C21-6348	2021 Fairmont Drinking Water Restoration	Martin SWCD	Martin	$ 132,500	$ -	This project will improve water quality in the Fairmont Chain of Lakes. These five lakes are a surface water drinking water source for the City of Fairmont which has over 10,000 people and is a recreational hub of south central Minnesota. All five lakes that constitute the Fairmont Chain of Lakes are impaired for nutrients. In this watershed, there are three decommissioned lime sludge ponds that the City is in the process of closing. This project is planning to install two sediment ponds next to the closed ponds to trap sediment and runoff. These practices will improve water quality in the Fairmont lakes by reducing 30 tons of sediment per year and 35 pounds of phosphorus.	71.4
5	C21-0808	Drinking Water Restoration and Preservation– Harnessing the Power of the Forest to Buffer and Infiltrate in the Rum River Watershed	Mille Lacs SWCD	Mille Lacs	$ 57,746	$ -	This project will improve drinking water by allowing recharge of the aquifer, and by preventing pollutants in runoff from reaching source water via streams. The target zone will be between Milaca and Princeton with course soils, that is highly vulnerable to contamination, and where high levels of nitrates are already present. A second target area will be near Onamia and northwest of Mille Lacs Lake over highly vulnerable geologic features. This zone includes wellhead protection areas for the cities of Foreston, Milaca, Bock, and Pease, as well as riparian areas of streams with high levels of bacteria contributing to source water for the twin cities metropolitan area. Native forest cover is unmatched in its ability to intercept runoff and promote infiltration through the soil. Reforestation of riparian areas will capture nitrates, bacteria and sediment from reaching streams. Providing forest stewardship drinking water protection plans for owners of remnant forested land, not yet disturbed, will ensure continued recharge of the aquifer.	65.09
				Total Funding Recommendation		**$ 646,825**		

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
1	C21-4946	Judicial Ditch 6 Water Quality Ditch Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse;Wilkin	$ 356,359	$ 356,359	The Bois De Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) is partnering with the Traverse County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Wilkin County SWCD, and petitioning landowners to complete a 103E drainage system repair to address erosion and sedimentation issues of Wilkin-Traverse Judicial Ditch (JD) 6. This project will reduce sediment loading to the south fork of the Rabbit River by 417 tons per year and total phosphorus by 384 lbs per year. This is a 12% annual sediment reduction to the Rabbit River making progress toward the 69% annual sediment reduction goal set by the 2010 TMDL to address the Rabbit River's turbidity impairment. This project proposes installation of 62 grade stabilization structures (i.e., side inlet structures) and 8 miles of continuous berms to be constructed as a permanent part of JD 6. The repair proceeding will acquire and establish all legally required grass buffers throughout the drainage system.	85.6
2	C21-0361	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 63 Conservation Implementation	McLeod County	McLeod	$ 31,800	$ 31,800	Through this project McLeod County Drainage Ditch Number 63's Drainage Authority and McLeod SWCD plan to work jointly to improve the function and water quality of County Ditch Number 63 (CD #63). This system has been made a priority due to the current state of the drainage system and landowner desire for conservation implementation. This will be done by implementing 19 grade stabilization structures throughout the drainage systems watershed. Through completion of this project a Total Suspended Solids (TSS) reduction of 43.89 tons per year, a Soil Savings of 43.89 tons per year, and a total phosphorus reduction of 50.54 pounds per year will be achieved annually to CD #63 and the receiving Eagle Lake, designated in the WRAPS Report as a protected waterbody. Eagle Lake outlets into the Buffalo Creek before draining into the impaired South Fork Crow River.	78.8
3	C21-2566	CD10 BMP Inventory - Implementation #2	Wright SWCD	Wright	$ 163,000	$ 163,000	CD 10 is a 16 mile long ditch system located in Wright County and lies within the North Fork Crow River Watershed. CD 10 is one of Wright County's largest public drainage systems with an approximate 16,707 acre watershed. There has been a lack of maintenance on CD 10 since its establishment in 1906. A system wide repair is planned for 2021 (draft repair report is complete and awaiting adoption as of the date of this grant application). The CD 10 drainage system constitutes the headwaters for several impaired waterbodies (Ann, Emma, and Little Waverly Lakes, 12 Mile Creek, and the North Fork Crow River). The goal of this project is to implement 34 alternative side inlet control structures (ASIC's – CPS Code 410) in conjunction with the system wide repair that will reduce downstream sediment and phosphorus loads. Sediment and phosphorus reductions are estimated to be 42.82 tons/year and 73.1 lbs/year respectively. Other eligible practices will be considered depending on site specific information obtained during project development.	78.6
4	C21-2098	North Fork Crow Watershed District 2021 Targeted BMP Project	North Fork Crow River Watershed District	Kandiyohi; Meeker; Pope; Stearns	$ 96,719	$ -	The North Fork Crow River Watershed District's land use is mainly row crop agriculture with extensive public and private drainage systems including open ditches and sub-surface tile. The District plans on implementing agricultural BMPs including 75 alternative inlets (Rock inlets or dense pattern tile intakes), and 15 water quality side inlets resulting in an estimated annual loading reductions to surface water of 1971 tons of sediment and 318.75 lbs of phosphorus. A combination of BMP implementation and outreach education with area land owners will improve water quality through the effectiveness of BMP implementation. The installed practices in high nutrient loading areas within the district will utilize matching funds from landowners, drainage ditch funds and area lake associations. The NFCR flows into Rice Lake which is impaired for aquatic recreation with excessive nutrients. The Rice Lake TMDL (June 2012) results show that 93% of the phosphorus loading is attributed to the NFCR with a goal of a 42% reduction. The TMDL Implementation plan states that a major source of phosphorus loading is from animal manure, which is confirmed by ongoing NFCRWD E. coli testing. Implementation of practices to reduce the nutrient loading from field tile will reduce loading into the NFCR and Rice Lake.	65.6
				Total Funding Recommendation		**$ 551,159**		

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

Total Recommended Funding: $551,159

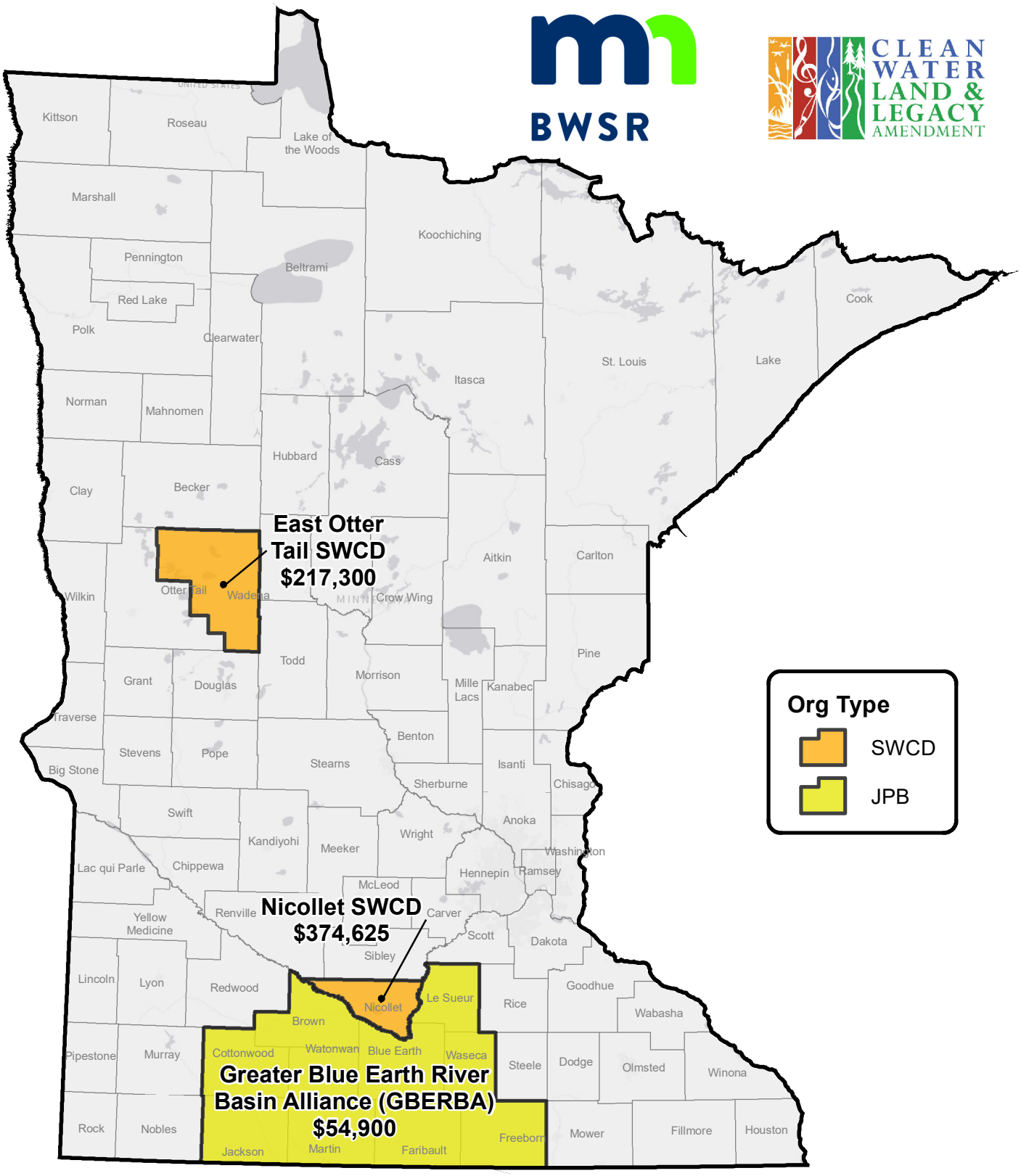


November 2020

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices - Drinking Water

Total Recommended Funding: $646,825



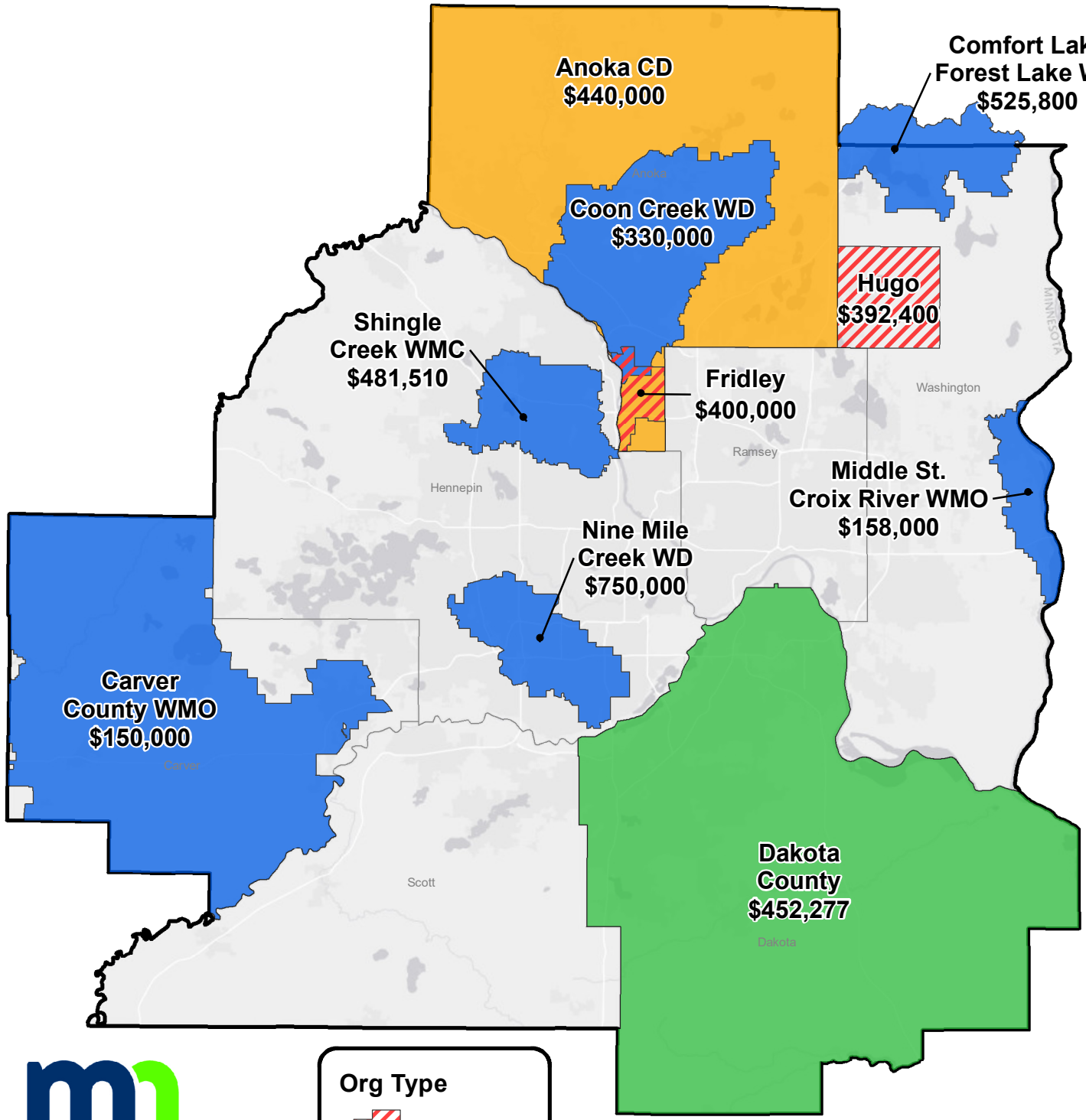
November 2020

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices Recommended Funding

Total Outstate Recommended Funding: $7,032,189

Total Metro Recommended Funding: $4,079,987



BWSR

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

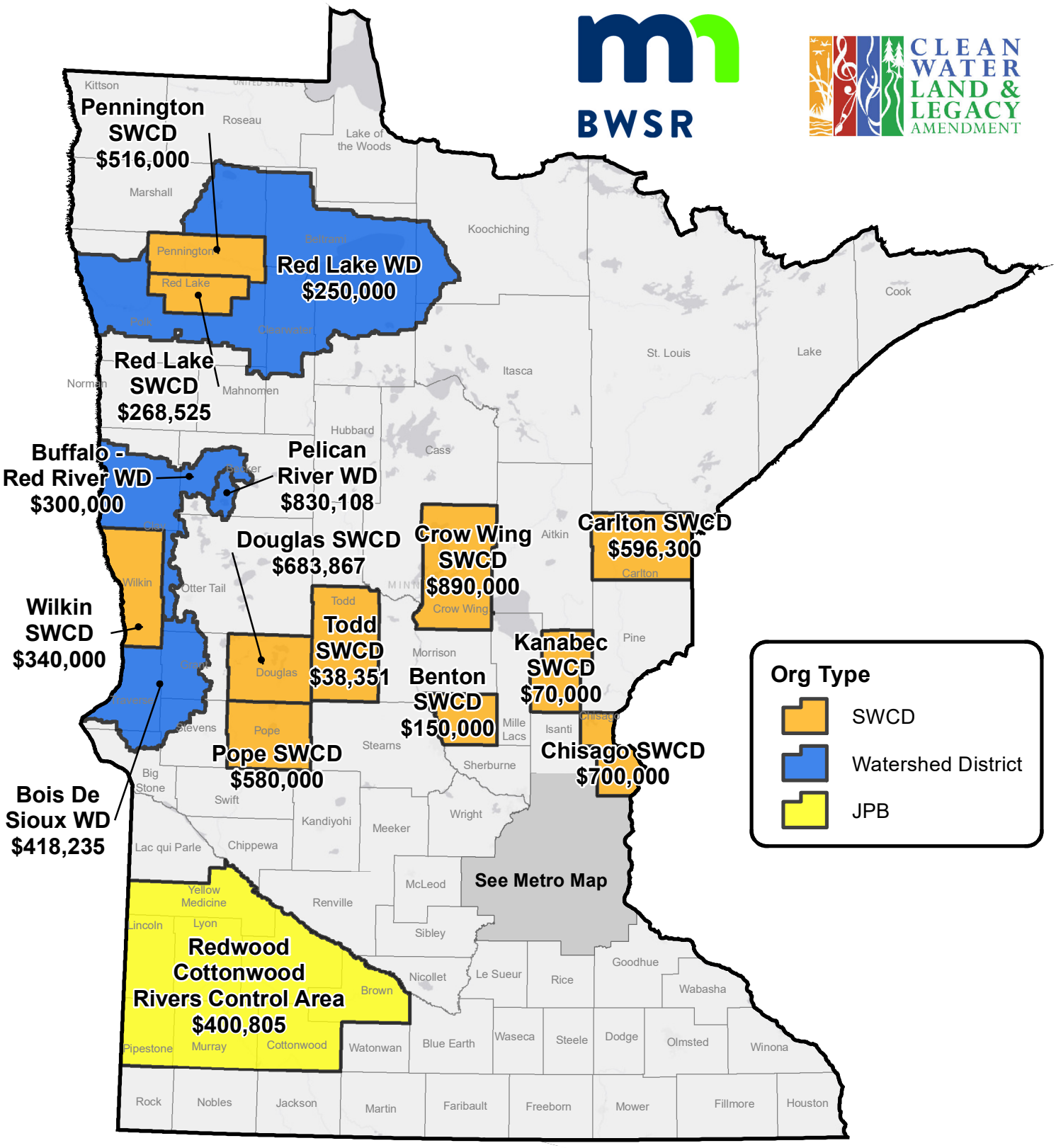
November 2020

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices Recommended Funding

Total Outstate Recommended Funding: $7,032,189

Total Metro Recommended Funding: $4,079,987



November 2020

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy Revision**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Section/Region: Regional Operations

Contact: Kevin Bigalke

Prepared by: Kevin Bigalke

Reviewed by: Grants Program & Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Kevin Bigalke

Time requested: 5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☒ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the revised Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

BWSR has a fiduciary responsibility to ensure public funds are used for their program intent and legislative purpose. The proposed policy revision will allow BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Managment policy.

The proposed revisions will reduce the frequency of reconciliations from one grant per grant allocation fiscal year per grantee to one grant every third grant allocation fiscal year per grantee.

Under the current policy, all applicable grants over $50,000 are annually monitored, risk assessed, and based on these risk assessment scores, the Grants Compliance Specialists will select one grant from each fiscal year per

grantee to reconcile. All of the high-risk grants are subject to reconciliation. The threshold at which we would consider a reconciliation complete is 70% spent. The 70% threshold reconciliation happens at any point during the grant life.

The proposed revised policy will still require all grants over $50,000 to be annually monitored and risk assessed, but instead of reconciling one grant per grantee every fiscal year, the revised policy would allow flexibility for us to, at a minimum, reconcile one grant per grantee every 3rd year with no change to reconciliations of high risk grants.

The proposed policy revision allows BWSR to remain in compliance with Office of Grants Management policies.

This proposed revision to the Grants Monitoring and Reconciliation Policy was developed by BWSR's Grants Monitoring Workgroup and was reviewed by its Grants Team. The policy revision has been reviewed by the Senior Management Team and the Grants Policy and Policy Committee (GPPC). The GPPC recommended approval of the revised policy at its November 23, 2020 meeting.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD DECISION #_____

BOARD ORDER

Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy

PURPOSE

Adopt a revised Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy.

FINDINGS OF FACT/RECITALS

1. Minnesota Statutes §16B.97 provides that the Commissioner of Administration shall create general grants management policies and procedures that are applicable to all executive agencies." This includes policies on Grant Payments (08-08) and Grant Monitoring (08-10) developed by the Office of Grants Management which provide the foundation for the Board's Grant Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy.
2. The current Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy, dated June 27, 2018, was adopted by the Board under an exception to the Office of Grants Management Policies 08-08 and 08-10.
3. The proposed revised Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy meets the recently revised requirements of the Office of Grants Management without requiring exceptions.
4. The Board's Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the revised Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy on December 17, 20202 and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the revised Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy dated December 17, 2020.
2. Establishes that BWSR will monitor all BWSR grants annually.
3. Complete a risk assessment of all BWSR grants $50,000 and over, as required.
4. For grants subject to financial reconciliation, conduct a reconciliation, as required, on:
   i. All BWSR grants that have a high-risk assessment score, as defined in the BWSR Risk Assessment Procedure; and
   ii. At least one grant per grantee every three fiscal years, based on grant allocation fiscal year and BWSR capacity.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 17, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy

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

Version: 2~~1~~.00
Date: ~~06/27/2018~~TBD
Approval: Board Decision #~~18-30~~

Policy Statement

Under this policy, BWSR will:

1. Monitor all BWSR grants annually.
2. Complete a risk assessment of all BWSR grants $50,000 and over, as required.
3. For grants subject to ~~F~~financial~~ly~~ reconcil~~e~~iation, conduct a reconciliation, as required, on:
    a. All BWSR grants ~~subject to financial reconciliation~~ that have a high risk assessment score, as defined in the BWSR Risk Assessment Procedure; and
    b. At least one grant per ~~grant allocation fiscal year per~~ grantee every three fiscal years, ~~that have any grant subject to financial reconciliation,~~ based on grant allocation fiscal year and BWSR capacity.

Requirements for risk assessment and reconciliation in this policy apply to competitive, legislatively made, formula and single and sole source grants, but not bonding and capital grants or grants exempt from Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management Policies 08-08 and 08-10.

This policy replaces the ~~January 15, 2017~~June 27, 2018 BWSR Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy and is effective immediately.

Reason for this Policy

The purpose of this policy is to provide direction on and document BWSR compliance with the Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management Policy 08-08 which requires reconciliation of all advance grant payments over $50,000 and Policy 08-10 which requires state agencies to conduct at least one monitoring visit before final payment is made on all state grants over $50,000.

Requirements

1.0 Implementation

The BWSR Grants Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Policy will be implemented according to procedures developed by staff and reviewed with the Board or its designated committee.

2.0 Definitions

Financial Reconciliation: Comparing a grantee's request for payment for a given period with supporting documentation for that request, such as purchase orders, receipts and payroll records.

Grant Allocation Fiscal Year[1]: State fiscal year in which grants are processed by BWSR.

Monitoring: Reviewing and ensuring progress against the grant's goals, to address any problems or issues before the end of the grant period, and to build rapport between the state agency and the grantee.

Risk Assessment: Evaluating a grant recipient's risk of noncompliance with statutes, rules, grant agreements, and policies, to determine appropriate monitoring and reconciliation procedures.

History

Version	Description	Date
2.00	Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management Policies 08-08 and 08-10 were revised effective 7/1/2020. This policy revision allows greater flexibility when selecting through a documented risk assessment which grant(s) will be financial reconciled in accordance with office of Grants Management Policies 08-08 and 08-10.	TBD
1.00	Modified to address 12/02/16 changes to Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management Policies 08-08 and 08-10 which allows a granting agency with multiple grants of similar grant periods with the same grantee to choose through a documented risk assessment which grant(s) represent a sample that will receive monitoring and financial reconciliation. Reformatted to new policy template and logo.	June 27, 2018
0.00	Edits replaced the previous BWSR Grants Monitoring, Reconciliation and Verification Policy, adopted June 22, 2011	January 25, 2017

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[1] ~~Grants with the same grant allocation fiscal year are defined by BWSR as grants with a "similar grant period" as identified in Department of Administration's Office of Grants Management Policies 08-10.~~

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COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Northern Region Committee

1. Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Tom Schulz, Erin Loeffler, and Ryan Hughes - ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Jeff Berg, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Erin Loeffler

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Tom Schulz/Erin Loeffler/Ryan Hughes

Time requested: 5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Nemadji River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Northern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1I1rdN4InUORsuvMOlbUHeXK38hRjM1nq

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

The Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in northern Pine and central Carlton counties in Minnesota. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On November 3, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On December 2, 2020 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

BOARD DECISION #_____

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

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

ORDER APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Nemadji River Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on November 3rd, 2020, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-4, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Nemadji River Watershed Partnership was established February 11, 2019, through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Pine SWCD, Carlton County, and Pine County.

2. **Authority to Plan**. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program.

3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Nemadji River Watershed is a 473 square mile watershed covering portions of both Minnesota and Wisconsin, of which 276 square miles are in Minnesota. The waters flow from the headwaters located in northern Pine County and central Carlton County, Minnesota to Lake Superior in Superior, Wisconsin. The land is largely forested or wetlands and has over 350 miles of streams most of which are designated trout streams. The clay soils and steep topography of the Nemadji River Watershed pose a risk to the water quality in the steams of the watershed and to Lake Superior.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to

provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.

5. **Plan Review.** On November 3, 2020, the Board received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #18-4. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
   A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): The MDA responded to the notice for the planning process that due to limited capacity they are not able to actively participate in the planning process and did not provide comments for the final review.
   B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): The MDH submitted comments during the 60-day review period and commends the partnership for including drinking water as a priority.
   C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): The DNR appreciated the opportunity to participate and provided input during the planning process. They had no additional comments to provide and DNR recommended approval of the plan.
   D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): The MPCA appreciated the opportunity to participate and provided input during the planning process. They noted the plan was well written, concise, and thorough. MPCA had no additional comments and recommended approval of the plan.
   E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not reply to requests for confirmation of receipt and did not provide comments for the final review.
   F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted for the 60-day review. We commend the partners for their trust level and commitment to the resources of the Plan area. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and look forward to working with the Partnership during implementation.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
   - A thorough incorporation of historical research and planning efforts that date back to 1925.
   - An extensive analysis using existing data and science to help prioritize resource issues in the basin.
   - Exemplary collaboration with City of Superior, Douglas County Wisconsin, in concurrent development of watershed plans.
   - The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa along with the 1854 Treat Authority, also provided data and were active members of the advisory committee.
   - The Nemadji Watershed was originally a part of the St. Louis River Planning area, but the local partners presented a persuasive case that the unique resources and landscape of the Nemadji Watershed deserved a dedicated comprehensive watershed management plan.
   - Expanded coordination and implementation funding from Carlton County Transportation Department to address issues identified during the planning process.
   - A unique blend of roles in developing the plan. Local staff took the lead role in plan coordination, and development and wrote the majority of the plan with assistance in data analysis and plan structure from the consultant.

- Increased participation by using watershed topic areas by bringing in additional experts and interested stakeholders for focused discussions that provided additional context to the advisory committee.
- The watershed is shared with Wisconsin. Data and information were shared across state boundaries, including the use of the primary dataset for watershed analysis developed by St. Mary's University provided by Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- The partnership has developed the Plan to address the following priorities:
  - Increased coordination between entities in forest management at the Nemadji watershed level is needed to maximize environmental and economic benefits.
  - Forest health is vulnerable to climate change and invasive species, which can affect species composition and forest productivity.
  - Wetlands are in continued need of protection and restoration, which provides benefits including but not limited to water quality, peak flow reduction, habitat, recreational and cultural uses, and wildlife.
  - A better understanding of function, historical changes and value is needed to prioritize restoration and protection of wetland function.
  - Alteration of lakeshore/vegetation and conversion of cabins to year-round homes has the potential to negatively affect lake water quality and shoreline habitat.
  - The road and stream interface (culverts, bridges, ditches, road maintenance) can contribute to stream instability, sediment transport, habitat fragmentation, and disruptions in public safety and commerce.
  - High peak flows contribute to stream channel instability, sediment and biological impairments in the watershed.
  - Nutrient runoff from agricultural areas has the potential to impact stream and lake water quality.
  - Livestock access to streams and overgrazed pastures can cause erosion and affect stream habitat.
  - Drinking water is vulnerable to contaminants in karst and sandy soils of the watershed.
  - Noncompliant septic systems are a risk to drinking and surface water in the watershed.
  - Lack of understanding of impacts of land use decisions and technical and financial assistance are barriers for implementing lake, forest and farm best management practices.
- The partnership has developed the plan to address the following goals:
  - Reconnect 46 miles of stream to benefit aquatic life, improve the road/stream interface, and reduce sediment.
  - Increase water storage by 1,174 acre-feet through wetland and floodplain restoration.
  - Increase agricultural best management practices by 4,401 acres.
  - Increase forest management by 5,666 acres and 88 woodland stewardship plans in areas that have the most benefit to reducing peak flows and protecting drinking water.
  - Protect drinking water in areas of high pollution sensitivity by sealing 10 unused wells.
  - Enhance priority lakes by reducing the phosphorus load by 5% and restoring the shoreline on 5% of the parcels.
  - Increase permanent protection by 1,717 acres in the most sensitive areas for habitat, lakes, springs, forests and drinking water.

7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On December 2, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Chair Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Jeff Berg, Tom Schulz, Nicole Blasing and Theresa Ebbenga. Board staff in attendance were Northern Region Manager Ryan Hughes, Board Conservationist Erin Loeffler and Clean Water Specialist Jeff Hrubes. Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD, presented the Plan and represented the Nemadji River Watershed partnership. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

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

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Nemadji River Watershed, submitted November 3, 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this seventeenth day of December 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

Nemadji River Watershed Policy Committee
c/o Melanie Bomeir
Carlton County Soil and Water Conservation District
808 3rd Street
Carlton, MN 55718

RE: Approval of the Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Nemadji River Watershed Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Nemadji River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2020. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the partnership, and for participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Erin Loeffler of our staff at 218-850-1141 or Erin.Loeffler@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Listed on next page

CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)
Chris Parthun, MDH (via email)
Patty Fowler, DNR (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Darrell Schindler, DNR (via email)
Lindsey Krumrie, MPCA (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Erin Loeffler, BWSR (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)
Donna Caughey, BWSR (via email)

Equal Opportunity Employer

Nemadji 1W1P

Nemadji Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

2021-2031

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Nemadji 1W1P

ONE WATERSHED ONE PLAN

Project Partners

Carlton SWCD
Carlton County
Pine SWCD
Pine County

Planning Team

Caleb Anderson, Pine County
Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD
Jill Carlier, Pine SWCD
Karola Dalen, Carlton County
Jeff Hrubes, BWSR
Erin Loeffler, BWSR
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Plan Writer

Melanie Bomier
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Plan Facilitator

Moriya Rufer
Houston Engineering, Inc
7550 Meridian Circle North, Suite 120
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Prepared for

Carlton County Soil & Water Conservation District
808 3rd Street
Carlton, MN 55718

Acknowledgements

Policy Committee
Rick Dalen, Carlton SWCD
Matt Ludwig, Pine County
Jerry Telker, Pine SWCD
Mark Thell, Carlton County

State Agencies
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Advisory Committee
Ryan Clark, Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program
Andrea Crouse, City of Superior, WI
Mike Dahl, Forester, Citizen
Karen Evens, MPCA
Alan Finifrock, Citizen
Patricia Fowler, MN DNR
Kari Hedin, Fond du Lac Band Resource Management
Tyler Kaspar, 1854 Treaty Authority
Lindsey Krumrie, MPCA
Chris Parthun, MDH
Peder Yurista, Citizen, Trout Unlimited

Topic Meeting Contributors
Alyssa Alness, Carlton SWCD
Greg Bernu, Carlton County Land Department
Will Bomier, Carlton County Transportation
Rick Dalen, CSA Farm Owner
Duane Fogard, American Bird Conservancy
Kyle Gill, University of Minnesota
John Jereczek, MN DNR
Ross Korpela, Sappi Forester, Chub Lake Association
Thor Pakosz, MN DNR
Mike Reichenbach, UMN Extension
Mike Salzer, Blackhoof Township Supervisor, Farmer
Kelly Smith, Carlton SWCD
Paul Swenson, Pine County
Mark Thell, Beef Producer
Maren Webb, MN DOT
Mark Westphal, Carlton County Land Department

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

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continued on next page…

Section 1: Executive Summary

SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Anyone who has spent time in the Nemadji Watershed is likely most familiar with the red waters that flow north to Lake Superior. The watershed has a unique geological history, providing clay-rich soils that are prone to slumping and erosion. However, the Nemadji is a largely wild place with abundant forests that are an important resource for wildlife, recreational landowners and industry. In addition, most of the Nemadji's streams are home to sensitive trout species, making the watershed a destination for anglers. Along with its wild places, the Nemadji Watershed feeds the region with a diversity of farms, growing everything from vegetables and fruits to pork and beef. The watershed's streams also contribute to important drinking water supplies for the Cities of Duluth, MN and Superior, WI.

The goal of the Nemadji One Watershed One Plan is to prioritize actions that will protect these valuable resources along with targeting projects to help solve water quality problems. The result will be a measurable improvement in water quality and protection of this important resource for future generations. To accomplish this goal, we first need to understand the resource and the issues it faces.

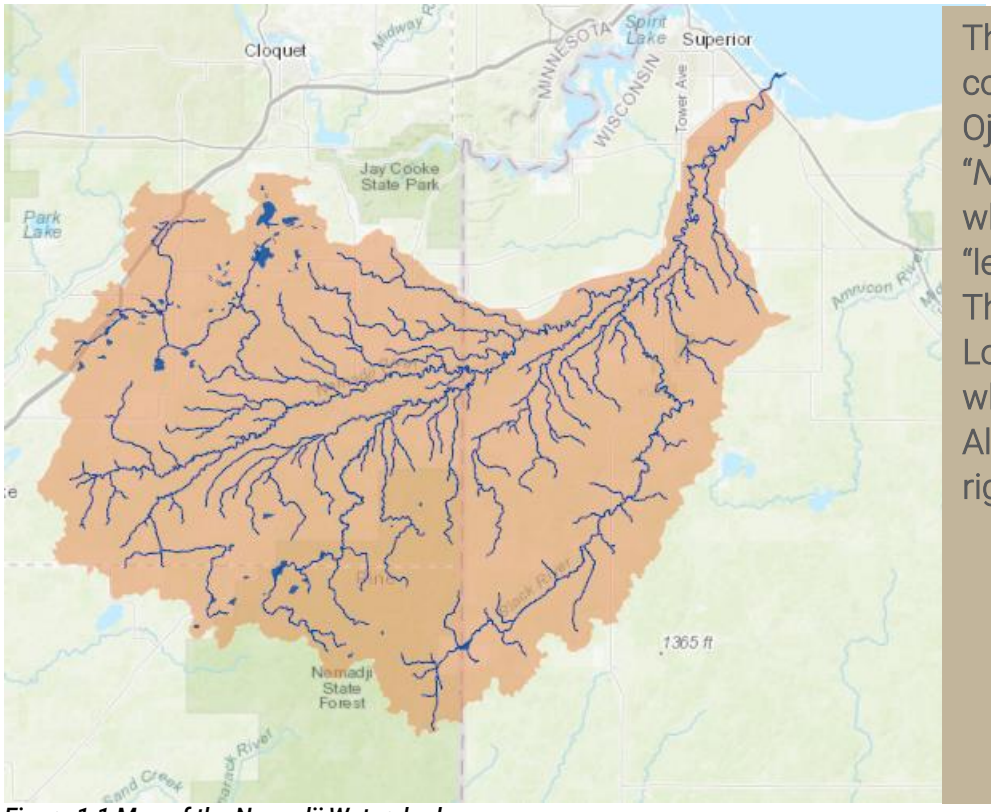
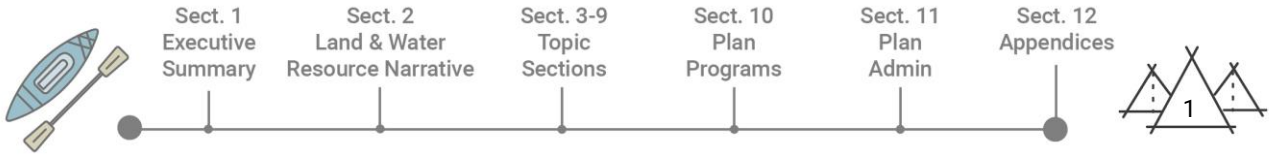


Figure 1.1 Map of the Nemadji Watershed.

The word Nemadji comes from an Ojibwe word "*Nemanjitigweyaag*" which means "left-handed river." This references the St. Louis River, which when viewed from Allouez Bay is the right-handed river.



Vision Statement

The vision statement was developed to describe the sense of place in the watershed and frame the work that this plan outlines. It was formed through input from the public during the planning kickoff bus tour and the Advisory Committee in response to the questions: “what do you value in the watershed and what do you want it to look like in 50 years?”

We honor our deep roots and the connections between people, water, and land in the Nemadji River Watershed, where the fragile red clay slopes cause the river to run red to Lake Superior. We strive to strengthen these connections as we work towards clean water, diverse forests, healthy farms and sustainable communities.

Figure 1.2. North Fork Nemadji River.

Purpose, Roles and Responsibilities

The Nemadji Watershed One Watershed, One Plan was developed following the guidelines set by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The purpose of the process is to align local water planning along major watershed boundaries, not just local governmental jurisdictions. All 1W1Ps must contain targeted, prioritized, and measurable implementation plans, with the purpose of achieving meaningful and lasting results for Minnesota's water resources.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between the Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District, Carlton County, Pine Soil and Water Conservation District and Pine County (Appendix E) was established as the first step in the planning process. A representative from each governmental unit was appointed to serve on the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making body for this plan. Carlton SWCD was the fiscal agent for this project.

An Advisory Committee was formed to provide valuable input to the planning process. For the Nemadji 1W1P, a wide range of stakeholders formed the Advisory Committee and drafted all the major plan content. At each milestone in the process, the Policy Committee provided input and approved the plan's progress (Figure 1.3).

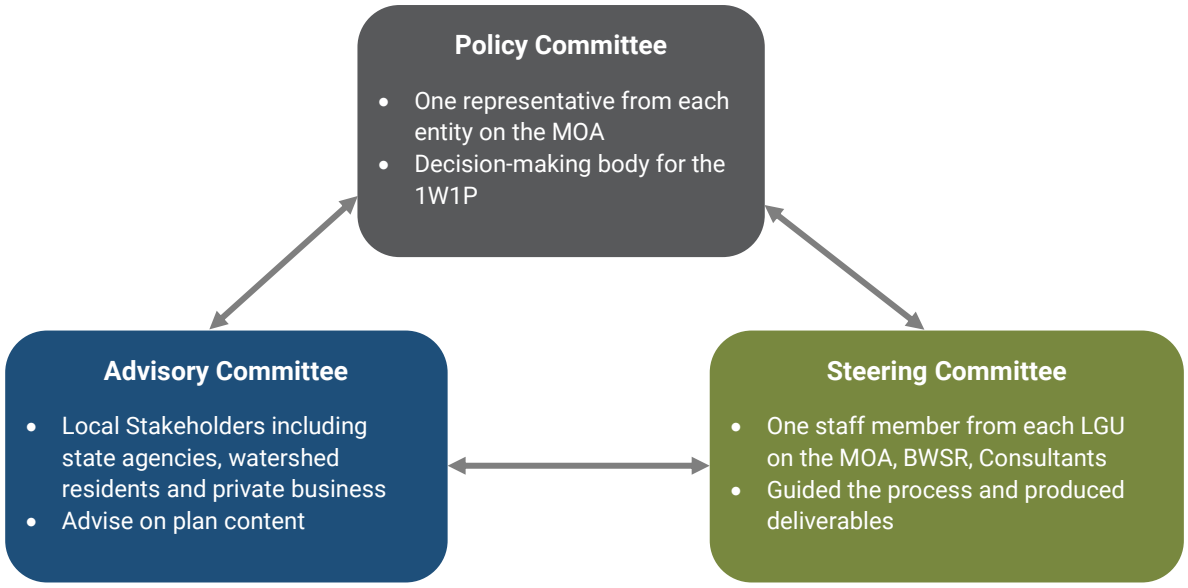
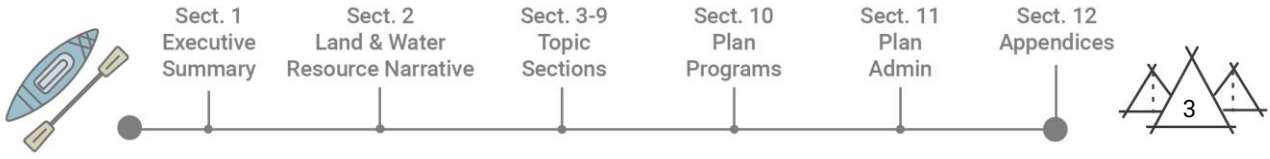


Figure 1.3. The three committees involved in the development of the Nemadji 1W1P and their roles.

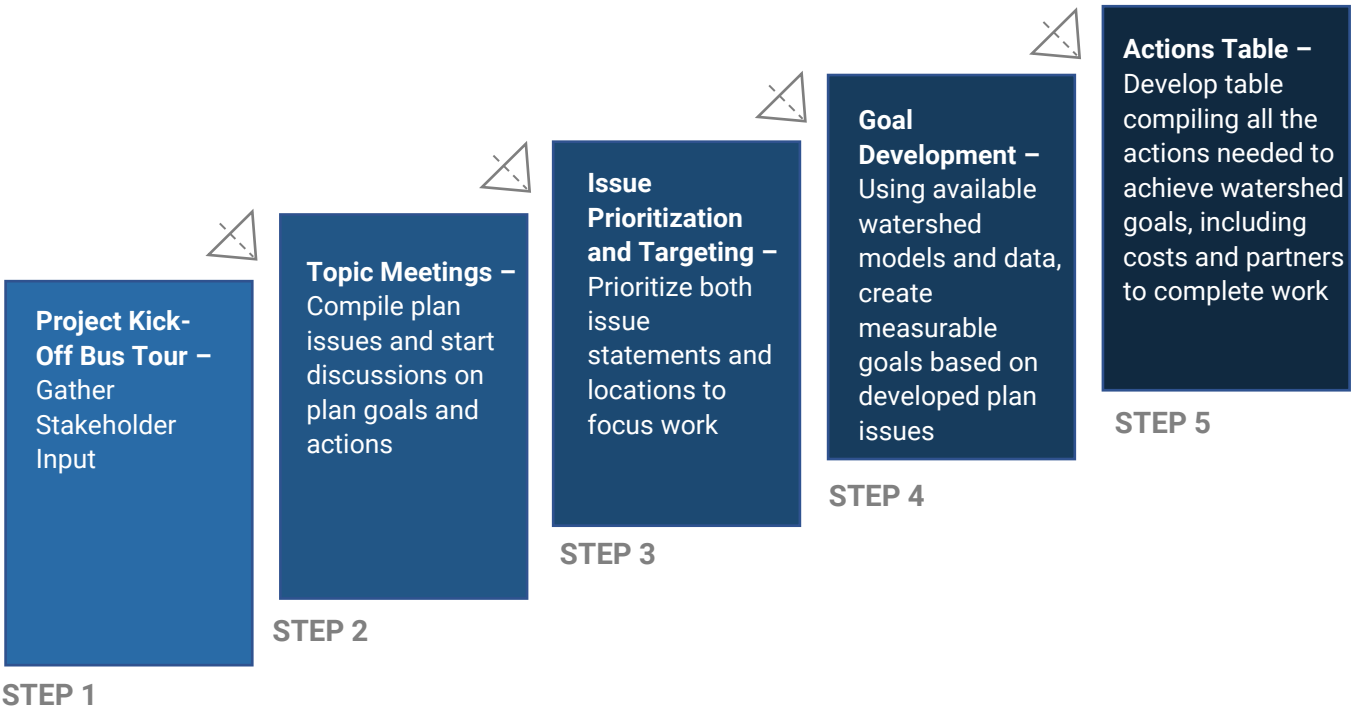


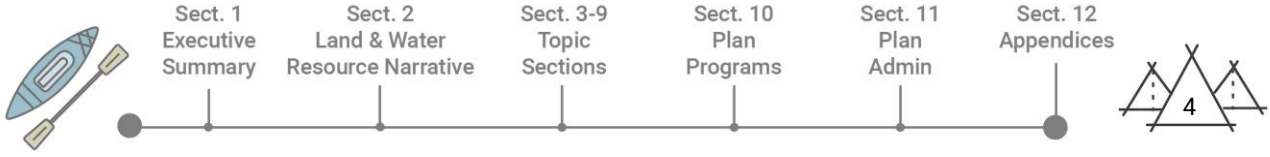
Planning Approach

The Nemadji watershed has a long history of research and planning, dating back to 1925 (see Appendix K for a list). Few watersheds in Minnesota have similar amounts of institutional knowledge. The resulting implementation from past planning efforts provided a variety of actions that succeeded in protecting and restoring resources, along with lessons learned. In addition, these plans helped identify current watershed issues, which was the first step in the planning process. The planning approach used for the Nemadji 1W1P followed the steps outlined in Figure 1.4.

Prioritization and analyses were completed using the latest existing data and science including the Nemadji River Watershed Habitat Assessment Using LiDAR (WI DNR, 2018), Lakes of Phosphorus Sensitivity Significance (Radmonski 2018) Current and Historic Sediment Loading in the Nemadji River Basin (Wisconsin DNR & Tetratech, 2016**)** and the Nemadji Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy, (MPCA, 2017).

Figure 1.4. Steps in the development of the Nemadji 1W1P.

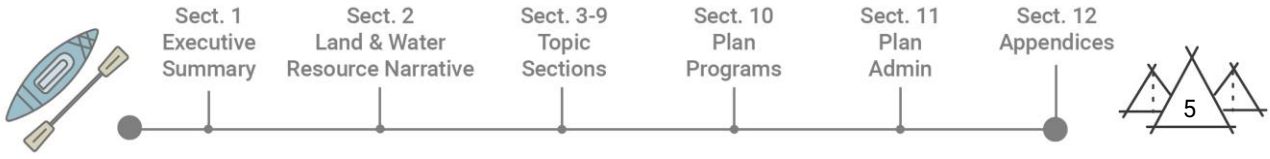




Topic Areas

Early in the planning process, several topic areas became clear priorities for the watershed: Forests, Wetlands, Lakes, Streams, Agriculture and Groundwater. The Planning Team wanted to include a wide variety of stakeholders for each topic but realized that many stakeholders would not be able to commit to a year-long planning process. The solution was to hold several focused topic meetings that invited the Advisory Committee along with topic experts to provide their unique watershed prospective (Figure 1.5). At these meetings, the group developed issue statements, and provided their thoughts on potential goals and actions for the plan. The topic experts reviewed meeting reports and provided further feedback for the plan development, creating in-depth plan content for the Advisory Committee to further develop in later meetings.

Figure 1.5. Topic-focused meetings in the fall of 2019.



Issue Identification

Issues and opportunities for the plan were generated and organized by the six topic areas: Streams, Wetlands, Forests, Agriculture, Drinking Water and Lakes. A kickoff bus tour held in July 2019 gathered watershed residents and stakeholders to showcase these resources and compile stakeholder concerns and priorities to the planning process (Appendix C). In addition, a review of past plans and studies was used to compile previously identified issues. Issues called out in the State Agencies Responses to the planning effort were also added. During fall 2019, four topic meetings were held that included the Advisory Committee and topic experts to review the extensive issues list and help craft issue statements for the plan (Figure 1.6).

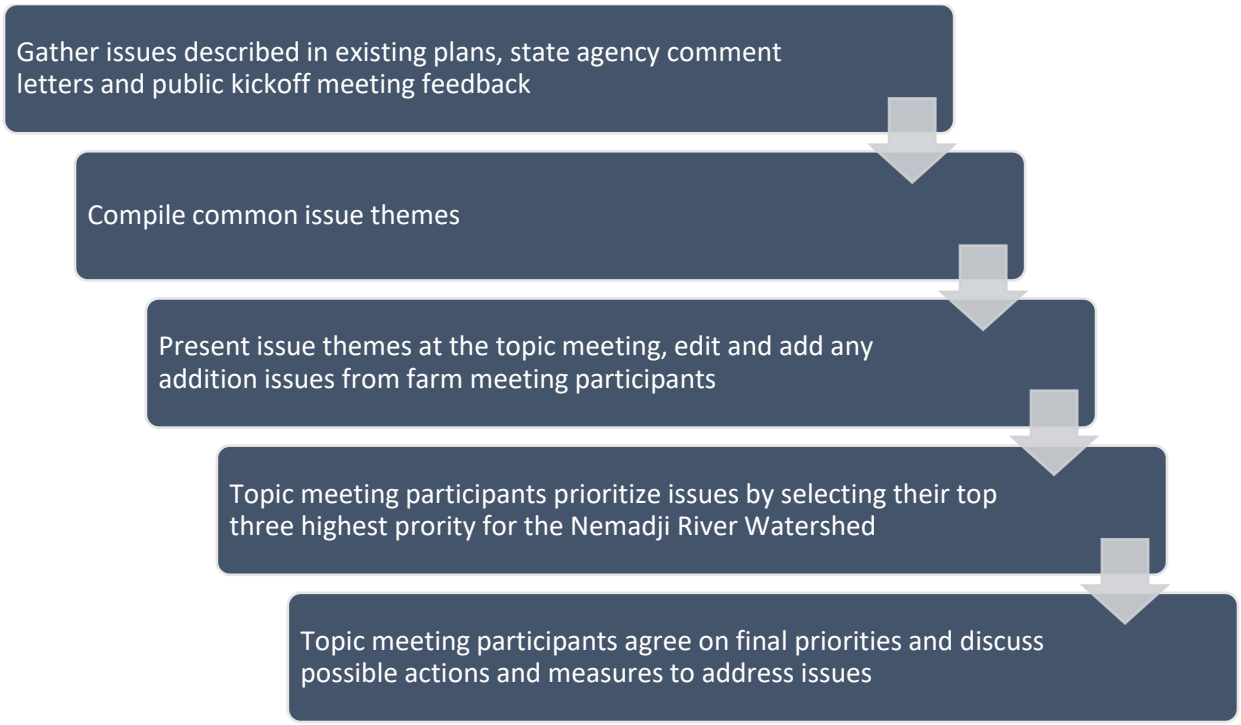


Figure 1.6. Process for developing issue statements.

Emerging Issues

During each topic meeting, emerging issues were discussed by the Advisory Committee and topic experts. An emerging issue is a potential problem or opportunity that is in the early stages of development or has not been addressed in the past but may be influential in the future. Each topic's emerging issues were recorded as part of the process.

Priority Issues

A comprehensive list of issues and opportunities were generated during the topical meetings held in the fall of 2019. Topics included: forestry, lakes & wetlands, streams, farms and drinking water. During these meetings, the most important issues were ranked. The following is a list of priority issues (in no particular order).

- Increased **coordination** between entities in forest management at the Nemadji watershed level is needed to maximize environmental and economic benefits.
- **Forest health** is vulnerable to climate change and invasive species, which can affect species composition and forest productivity.
- **Wetlands** are in continued need of **protection and restoration**, which provides benefits including but not limited to water quality, peak flow reduction, habitat, recreational and cultural uses, and wildlife.
- A better understanding of function, historical changes and value is needed to prioritize restoration and protection of **wetland function**.
- Alteration of **lakeshore/vegetation and conversion of cabins to year-round homes** has the potential to negatively affect lake water quality and shoreline habitat.
- The **road and stream interface** (culverts, bridges, ditches, road maintenance) can contribute to stream instability, sediment transport, habitat fragmentation, and disruptions in public safety and commerce.
- **High peak flows** contribute to stream channel instability, sediment and biological impairments in the watershed.
- **Nutrient runoff** from agricultural areas has the potential to impact stream and lake water quality.
- **Livestock access** to streams and overgrazed pastures can cause erosion and affect stream habitat.
- **Drinking water** is vulnerable to contaminants in karst and sandy soils of the watershed.
- **Noncompliant septic systems** are a risk to drinking and surface water in the watershed.
- **Lack of understanding of impacts of land use decisions and technical and financial assistance are barriers** for implementing lake, forest and farm best management practices.

The next step was to further prioritize these issues to help determine what work should be started first. The Advisory Committee was divided into small groups that ranked each statement based on its degree of difficulty and urgency. The degree of difficulty might be impacted by infrastructure, resources, technology, legislation, intergovernmental commitments, or other impacts. The degree of urgency helps to understand where there may be higher potential for worsening conditions or future consequences if work is not started in the next 10 years (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Explanation of the process used to prioritize the issue statements.

Issues	Difficulty	Urgency	Where
Issue Statement	*Can we make progress in 10 years?*	*What do we want to tackle first?*	*Are there any specific areas that this is a known issue?*

The results of this method helped to organize the issue statements into tiered categories (Table 1.2).

Table 1.2. Tiered priorities determined by the Advisory Committee. 1st and 2nd priority issues are those that we will address first in the plan timeframe and put the most time and funding into.

First Priority	Second Priority	Third Priority
The road and stream interface (culverts, bridges, ditches, road maintenance) can contribute to stream instability, sediment transport, habitat fragmentation, and disruptions in public safety and commerce.	**Livestock access** to streams and overgrazed pastures can cause erosion and affect stream habitat. **Nutrient runoff** from agricultural areas has the potential to impact stream and lake water quality.	Alteration of **lakeshore/vegetation and conversion of cabins to year-round homes** has the potential to negatively affect lake water quality and shoreline habitat.
A lack of public understanding linking impacts of land use decisions to water quality along with a lack of technical and financial assistance are barriers for implementing lake, forest and farm best management practices.	**Drinking water** is vulnerable to contaminants in karst and sandy soils of the watershed.	**Forest health** is vulnerable to climate change and invasive species, which can affect species composition and forest productivity.
Better understanding of function, historical changes and value is needed to prioritize restoration and protection of wetland function. This is needed to protect and restore wetlands, which provides benefits including but not limited to water quality, peak flow reduction, habitat, recreational and cultural uses, and wildlife.	**Noncompliant septic systems** are a risk to drinking and surface water in the watershed.	**High peak flows** contribute to stream channel instability, sediment and biological impairments in the watershed.** ***Although peak flows have a high urgency, the direct actions to affect them are difficult. Instead, we plan to work indirectly through watershed storage (wetland restoration).*
	Increased **coordination** between entities in forest management at the Nemadji watershed level is needed to maximize environmental and economic benefits.	

A repeating discussion point at each topic meetings was the importance of peak flow reduction. Peak flows result in large amounts of sediment erosion, and impact infrastructure and downstream communities. Even though this issue had a high urgency, the Advisory Committee recognized that it is difficult to directly affect peak flows. As a result, it was decided that the plan will focus on actions that will "slow the flow" through forest protection and wetland restoration. Slow the flow actions help flatten the peak flow curve by holding rainfall and snowmelt runoff on the land longer (Figure 1.7). A reduction in runoff results in lower peak stream flows and reduced stress to stream banks. In turn, this will reduce erosion occurring within the riverbanks and stream channels.

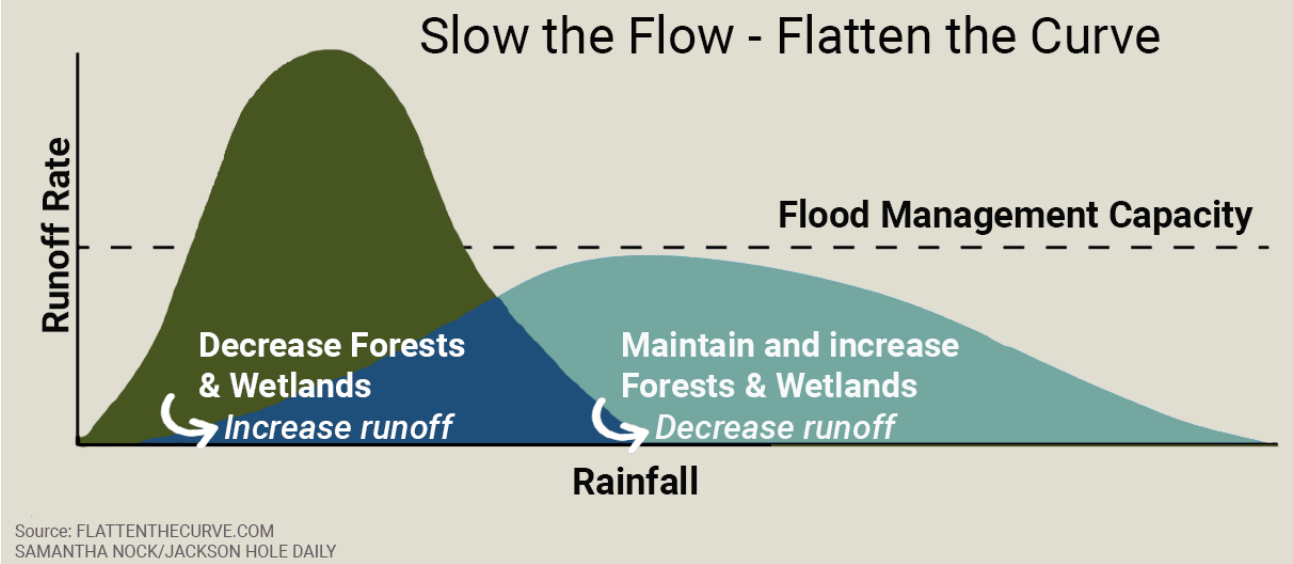


Figure 1.7. Slow the flow – flatten the curve illustration that shows the value of maintaining forests and wetlands in the watershed.

Goals

The priority issues were then used to develop the plan's goals. Goals are a guide for what quantifiable changes the plan can accomplish in its 10-year lifespan and are based on calculations linked to water quality improvements. The goals for the plan were initiated at each topic meeting and further developed by the Advisory Committee at two additional goal meetings held winter 2019-2020.

Each topic area resulted in a single goal. An additional protection goal was developed, as it was recognized that protection activities were an important tool for forest, drinking water, stream, and wetland topics.

Nemadji Watershed Goals

Reconnect 46 miles of stream to benefit aquatic life, improve the road/stream interface, and reduce sediment.

Increase water storage by 1,174 acre-feet through wetland and floodplain restoration.

Increase agricultural best management practices by 4,401 acres.

Increase forest management by 5,666 acres and 88 woodland stewardship plans in areas that have the most benefit to reducing peak flows and protecting drinking water.

Protect drinking water in areas of high pollution sensitivity by sealing 10 unused wells.

Enhance priority lakes by reducing the phosphorus load by 5% and restoring the shoreline on 5% of the parcels.

Increase permanent protection by 1,717 acres in the most sensitive areas for habitat, lakes, springs, forests and drinking water.

Actions

Plan actions and their associated cost estimates can be found in each topic section. Actions were compiled from the public kickoff bus tour, WRAPS, Carlton and Pine County Water Plans, the draft Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy (GRAPS), the Northeast Landscape Stewardship Plan, other past planning efforts and input from topic experts at the topic meetings. The Advisory Committee further developed the actions tables at two additional meetings.

The plan actions focus on outreach, knowledge exchange, and the adoption of conservation practices on the land. These steps are laid out in the communications strategy developed for the plan (Figure 1.8).

Figure 1.8. Communications strategy for the Nemadji 1W1P.

The Nemadji Watershed partners are consistently implementing actions to achieve watershed goals through many different efforts, but to fully implement this plan, additional funding and capacity over current levels will be needed. The implementation table displays funding in three different categories (Table 1.3). Funding categories are calculated by the best available estimates, and limitations in funding levels could limit the goals of this plan.

Table 1.3. Funding categories for plan actions.

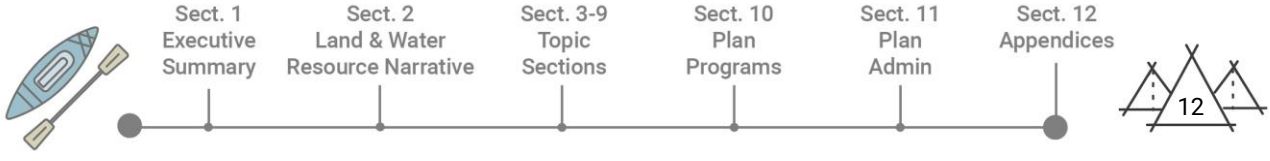
Baseline:	**Local baseline funding**
WBIF:	**Watershed-based Implementation Funding**
Other:	**Other funding sources including competitive grants and partner funding**

The plan provides a framework for the Nemadji Watershed to work towards goals that maximize environmental benefits. Partners that will help with plan implementation include state agencies such as BWSR, MPCA, DNR, MDH, MNDOT and MDA, along with other organizations such as the Carlton County Transportation Department, Townships, Trout Unlimited, Net Lake Association, Minnesota Land Trust, American Bird Conservancy and many others.

Plan Administration

The Nemadji 1W1P planning effort was conducted through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Carlton and Pine Counties and SWCDs (Appendix E). The parties plan to form a new Memorandum of Agreement for administering the plan.

The committees formed during the planning process (Figure 1.3) will continue into implementation. The Policy Committee is the decision-making body for implementation. They will approve the annual work plans, reports, grant applications and any amendments. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet, review, and identify collaborative funding and project opportunities, complete the annual work plan, identify and apply for additional funding opportunities, update the Policy Committee on what projects are completed and where funding is spent, and implement the targeted implementation schedule. Fiscal and administrative duties for plan implementation will be assigned to an LGU through a Policy Committee decision as outlined in the formal agreement.



BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Brett Arne

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Jeff Berg/Brett Arne/Ryan Hughes

Time requested: 5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Wild Rice – Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Northern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

The Wild Rice - Marsh River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in Northwest Minnesota encompassing portions of Becker, Clay, Clearwater, Mahnomen, Norman and Polk counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On November 11, 2020 BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On December 2, 2020 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

BOARD DECISION #_____

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

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

ORDER APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed (WRM) submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on November 11, 2020 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The WRM Watershed Partnership (Partnership) was established in March 2019, through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Clay SWCD, Clearwater SWCD, Mahnomen SWCD, Norman SWCD, East Polk SWCD, West Polk SWCD, as well as Becker County, Clay County, Clearwater County, Mahnomen County, Norman County, Polk County, and the Wild Rice Watershed District.

2. **Authority to Plan**. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program.

3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The WRM Watershed area is a diverse mix of agriculture and mostly rural settings with small towns, lakes, forests, and wetlands. The BRRW planning area drains 1,998 square miles and covers significant portions of Norman and Mahnomen counties, and to a lesser extent Becker, Clay, and Clearwater counties and only a few square miles within Polk county. There are two major watersheds that make up the planning area: the Wild Rice and Marsh rivers, and includes areas of direct drainage to the Red River of the North. Primary municipalities include Mahnomen, Ada, Twin Valley, Halstad, and Hendrum.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.

5. **Plan Review.** On November 11, 2020, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #18-14. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.

   A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA thanked the watershed group for considering MDA input, acknowledged communication at multiple points in the process and had no final comments to provide on the plan.

   B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH staff commended the watershed group for their work in developing the plan and offered no additional comments on the plan. MDH staff recommended approval of the plan.

   C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR staff congratulated the watershed group on a well written comprehensive watershed management plan. DNR staff had no additional comments and recommended approval of the plan.

   D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA staff thanked the watershed group for the opportunity to provide input throughout the plan development process. They noted the plan was well-written, concise, and thorough. MPCA staff had no additional comments and recommended approval of the plan.

   E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not reply to requests for confirmation of receipt and did not provide comments for the final review.

   F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted for the final review. We commend the partners for their trust level and commitment to the resources of the Plan area. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and look forward to working with the Partnership during implementation.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
   - A thorough narrative description of the land and water resource features that shape the planning area and inform the broad priorities within the plan.
   - A collection of 14 priority issues split between two distinct levels as selected by the group to focus efforts and define measurable goals.
   - The plan includes focused priorities for six (6) planning regions to ensure issue prioritization is specific to the needs of each geographical area.
   - Each planning region has unique short and long-term goals and implementation schedules.
   - The Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PMApp) was used to identify, prioritize, and target possible locations of upland structural projects and field management conservation practices in each specific planning region in the plan utilizing direct local input.

- A thorough discussion of capital improvement projects within the watershed.
- A thorough discussion of regulatory and enforcement measures to meet the needs of county and watershed district obligations including shoreland management, public drainage, buffers, and land use planning to name a few.

7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On December 2, 2020 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Chair Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Tom Schulz, Jeff Berg, Theresa Ebbenga and Nicole Blasing. Board staff in attendance were Northern Region Manager Ryan Hughes, Board Conservationist Brett Arne and Clean Water Specialist Henry Van Offelen. The representatives from the Partnership were Frank Gross, Clay County; Joan Lee, Polk County; John Sorenson, West Polk SWCD; Chris Cournia, West Polk SWCD; Pete Revier, Mahnomen SWCD; Mark Harless, Wild Rice Watershed District; Phil Doll, Becker SWCD; Kevin Kassenborg, Clay SWCD; Lynn Foss, Clay SWCD; Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD; Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen SWCD; Lori Thronson, Norman SWCD; Mark Christianson, Norman SWCD; Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD; Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District; Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District; Jerry Bents, Wild Rice Watershed District/Houston Engineering, Inc.; and Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering, Inc. Nicole Bernd presented the Plan on behalf of the partnership. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

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

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed, submitted November 11, 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this seventeenth day of December 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

Wild Rice – Marsh River Watershed Policy Committee
c/o Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District
11 East 5th Ave
Ada, MN 56510

RE: Approval of the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2020. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the partnership, and for participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Brett Arne of our staff at 218-850-0934 or brett.arne@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Listed on next page

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Bemidji, MN 56601
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www.bwsr.state.mn.us TTY: (800) 627-3529 An equal opportunity employer

CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
Ryan Lemickson, MDA (via email)
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)
Annette Drewes, DNR (via email)
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Nicole Blasing, MPCA (via email)
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Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
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Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
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Brett Arne, BWSR (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)
Donna Caughey, BWSR (via email)

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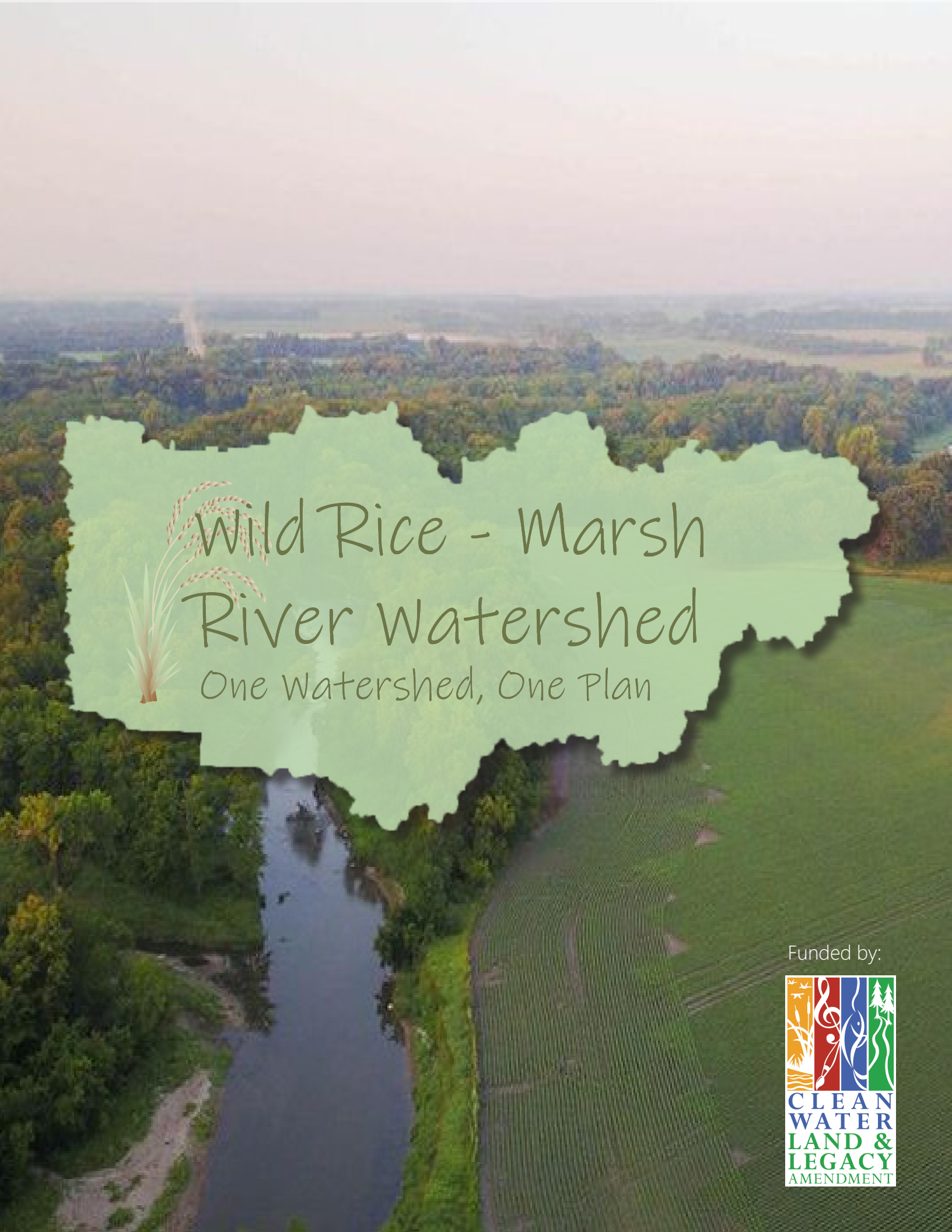
Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed
One Watershed, One Plan
Funded by:
CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed

One Watershed, One Plan

Acknowledgements

Project Partners

Clearwater County and SWCD
Becker County and SWCD
Mahnomen County and SWCD
Norman County and SWCD
Clay County and SWCD
Polk County and East and West Polk SWCDs
Wild Rice Watershed District

Steering Committee

Peter Mead, Becker SWCD
Kevin Kassenborg, Clay SWCD
Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD
Aaron Neubert, Mahnomen SWCD
Lori Thronson, Norman SWCD
Rachel Klein, East Polk SWCD
Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD
Kevin Ruud, Wild Rice Watershed District
Tara Jensen, Wild Rice Watershed District
Jerry Bents, Wild Rice Watershed (Houston Engineering)
Brett Arne, Board of Water and Soil Resources

Prepared by

Moriya Rufer
Houston Engineering, Inc

Contributors

Mary Steinlicht
Red River Valley Conservation Service Area

Prepared for

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, MN 56510

Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed

One Watershed, One Plan

Advisory Committee

Annette Drewes, DNR
Elizabeth Nebgen, MPCA
Ryan Lemickson, MDA
Dan Disrud, MDH
Henry Van Offelen, BWSR
Bob Guetter, NRCS
Dustin Jasken, NRCS
Lynn Foss, Clay SWCD
Tony Nelson, Pheasants Forever
Brian Winter, The Nature Conservancy
Phil Doll, Becker SWCD
Curt Johannsen, Wild Rice Watershed District
Garry Johanson, Norman County Environmental Services
Mark Christianson, Norman SWCD
Jake Snyder, Polk County
Mark Diekman, Mahnomen County Planning and Zoning
Monica Hedstrom, White Earth Nation
Dan McLaughlin, Becker County
Kyle Vareberg, Becker County
Dan Hecht, Clearwater County
Mike Stenseng, Clearwater County
Bruce Cox, Clearwater County
Matt Jacobson, Clay County Planning and Zoning

Policy Committee

Barry Nelson, Becker County
Jerome Flottemesch, Becker SWCD
Frank Gross, Clay County
Richard Menholt, Clay SWCD
Dean Newland, Clearwater County
Alroy Lewis, Clearwater SWCD
David Geray, Mahnomen County
Peter Revier, Mahnomen SWCD
Steve Jacobson, Norman County
Erik Rockstad, Norman SWCD
Joan Lee, Polk County
Scott Balstad, East Polk SWCD
Chris Cournia, West Polk SWCD
Mark Harless, Wild Rice Watershed District

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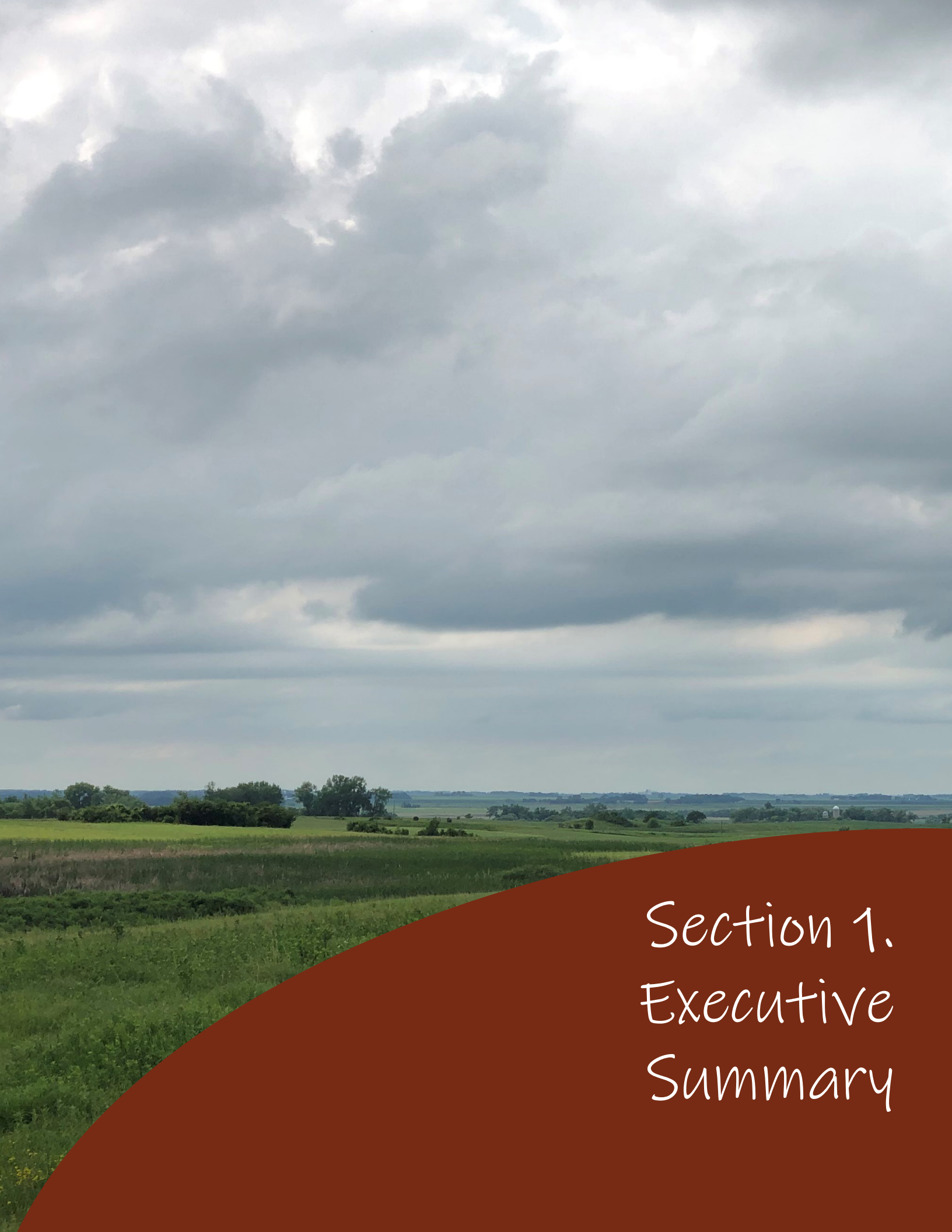


Section 1. Executive Summary

Section 1. Executive Summary

The Wild Rice - Marsh River Watershed plan area includes two major watersheds, the Wild Rice and the Marsh River – Upper Red River of the North. The Marsh River includes areas of direct drainage to the Red River South and North of the Wild Rice River confluence with the Red River (Figure 1-1). The Wild Rice – Marsh Comprehensive Water Management Plan, locally referred to as the Wild Rice – Marsh One Watershed One Plan (WRM1W1P) was developed in 2019-2020 through the One Watershed, One Plan program administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Statutes §103B.801. The purpose of the plan is to guide the watershed managers (local counties and soil and water conservation districts) as they work to protect and restore the watershed's resources.

The primary focus of the actions in this plan is to reduce erosion (sediment) and flood damage in the watershed by retaining water, reducing runoff, and managing the land. The secondary focus includes enhancing agricultural productivity and habitat. This focus is captured in the watershed's vision statement below.

Vision Statement

We embrace our ecological, economic and cultural diversity, and manage the watershed in a fashion that produces plentiful crops, fosters soil health, reduces flood damages, and protects the abundant lakes and rivers within its boundaries for all to enjoy.

Plan Area

The Plan Area spans portions of six counties in order of percentage in the watershed: Norman, Mahnomen, Clay, Becker, Clearwater, and Polk (Figures 1-1, 1-2). Major towns in the watershed include Ada, Halstad, Mahnomen, Twin Valley, White Earth, Waubun, Ulen, and Zerkle. The White Earth Nation spans much of the eastern side of the watershed, and the Wild Rice Watershed District covers the entire planning area.

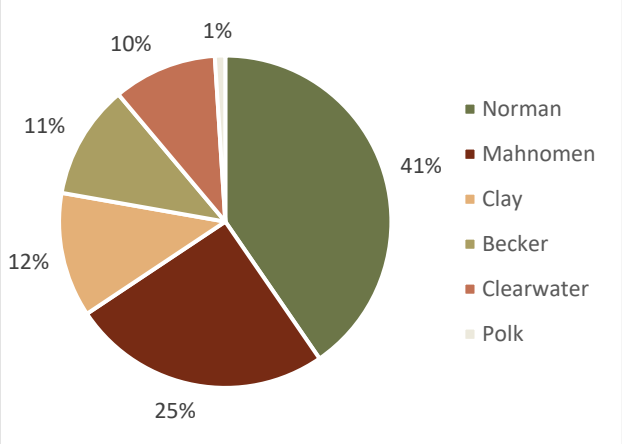


Figure 1-1. Percent of each county in the WRM Watershed.

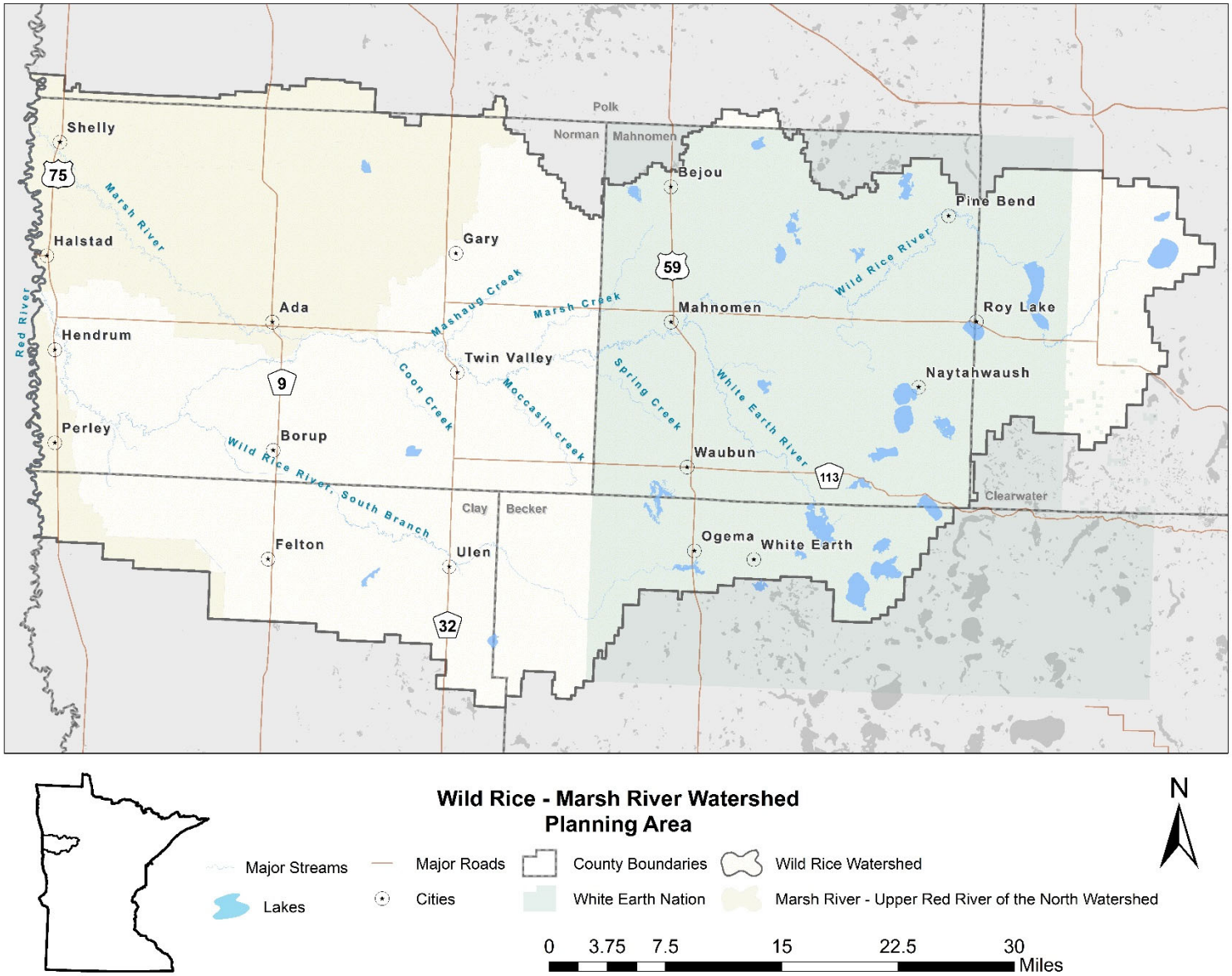


Figure 1-2. Planning area for the Wild Rice - Marsh One Watershed One Plan (WRM1W1P).

Purpose, Roles, and Responsibilities

The purpose of One Watershed, One Plan is to align water planning along watershed boundaries, not juridisctional boundaries such as counties as was done in the past. Prior to this single plan, each of the six counties as well as the watershed district had water-related plans that covered portions of this watershed. Water is connected and ignores county boundaries, so to truly manage the resources on the whole, a watershed scale is most efficient and effective.

The Wild Rice – Marsh Comprehensive Water Management Plan (WRM1W1P) began with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between all the entities in the watershed including Clearwater County, Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Becker County, Becker SWCD, Mahnomen County, Mahnomen SWCD, Norman County, Norman SWCD, Clay County, Clay SWCD, Polk County, West Polk SWCD, East Polk SWCD, and the Wild Rice Watershed District.

The One Watershed One Plan process uses existing authorities; therefore, a representative from each governmental unit in the MOA was appointed by each board to serve on the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making body for this plan. The Wild Rice Watershed District was the fiscal agent for this project.

The Steering Committee consisted of staff from each of the entities in the MOA, and generated the content in this plan. The Advisory Committee consisted of state agencies and local stakeholders, and contributed to plan content in an advisory role (Figure 1-3).

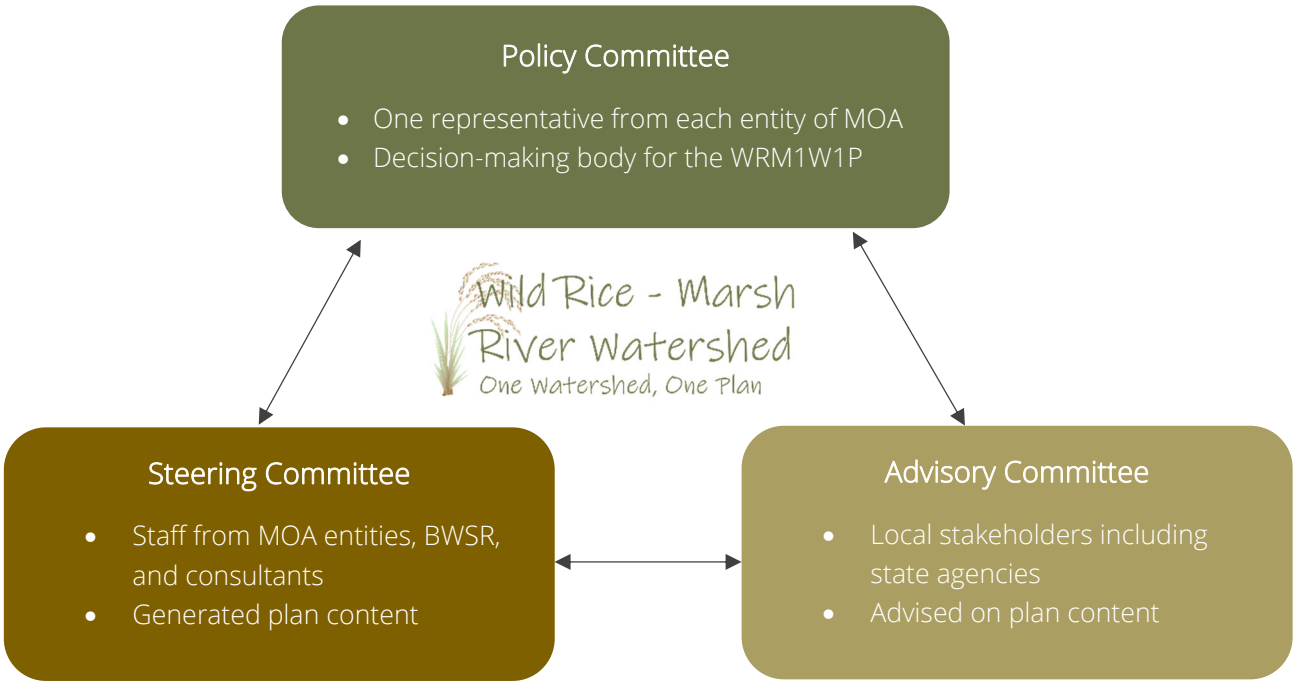


Figure 1-3. Committees formed for the WRM1W1P planning process.

Community Engagement

The MOA entities hosted a Public Open House in July of 2019 to receive input on local priorities for the plan. An online survey was also designed to obtain feedback from people that weren't able to attend the open house. The main focus of the public input process was to get feedback on the following items:

- What are their top-rated issues and opportunities they would like included in the plan?
- What resources would they like prioritized for protection and restoration?

Top Public Issues:

- Flooding
- Unstable and degrading drainage ditches
- Soil erosion
- Wetland protection and restoration

Top Public Resources:

- Wild Rice River
- Productive farmland
- Hunting and recreational land
- Lakes
- Wild Rice

Meeting participants and survey respondents were also asked to reflect on questions about the present and the future of the watershed (Figures 1-4 & 1-5). These responses were used by the Advisory Committee to form the watershed vision statement on page 1.

- Using just 4-5 words, when you think of the Wild Rice - Marsh Watershed, what comes to mind? (Figure 1-4)
- What would you like the Wild Rice – Marsh Watershed to look like in 50 years? (Figure 1-5)

Figure 1-4. Word cloud summarizing the answers to the question, "Using just 4-5 words, when you think of the Wild Rice - Marsh Watershed, what comes to mind?"

Figure 1-5. Word Cloud summarizing answers to the question: "What would you like the Wild Rice - Marsh Watershed to look like in 50 years?"

Planning Regions

The WRM Watershed is very different in land cover and resource quality from east to west as illustrated in Figure 1-6. Six smaller planning regions were defined for the plan to be able to focus on specific concerns in specific regions of the watershed (Figure 1-6). The Steering Committee determined the planning regions based on similar land use, drainage areas, and hydrologic boundaries. The Headwaters Planning Region has a protection focus for lakes and forests while the central transition zone of the Middle Wild Rice and Upper South Branch Wild Rice planning regions focus on restoration projects to reduce sediment, increase water storage and enhance habitat. The western Lake Agassiz Plain consists of the Marsh, Lower Wild Rice, and Red River Direct Drainage planning regions, and management focuses on drainage, flood damage reduction, and sediment reduction.

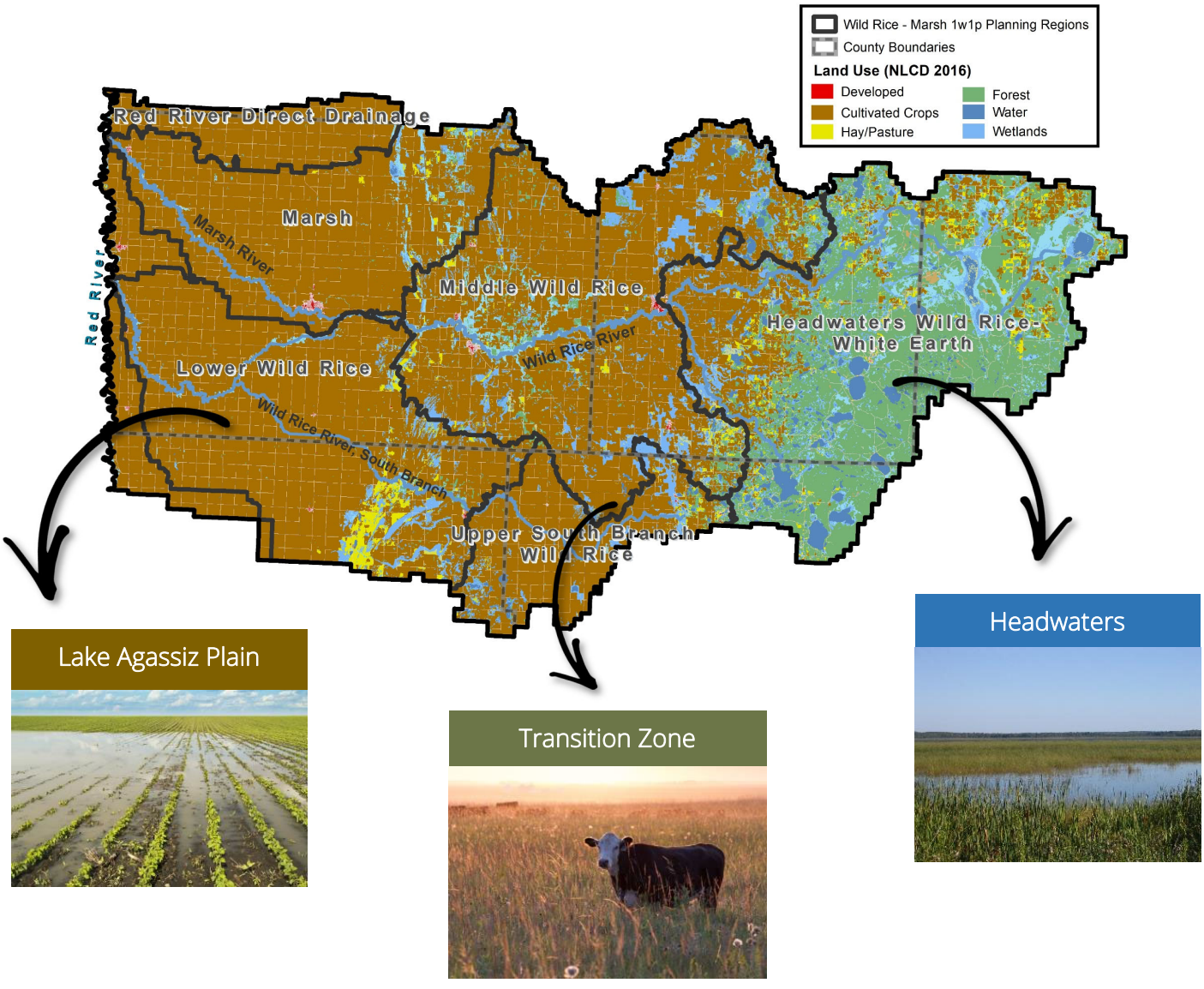


Figure 1-6. Planning regions in the WRM Watershed and their descriptions and land use.

Issue Prioritization

At the beginning of the planning process, thoughtful consideration of issues and resource concerns identified in the watershed are important for developing the priority issues and resources that will be addressed in the plan. The issues for the Wild Rice – Marsh Watershed were generated and prioritized with a variety of input from the general public, the Advisory Committee, State Agencies, and existing local and regional plans (Figure 1-7). These issues are further described in Section 3 of this plan.

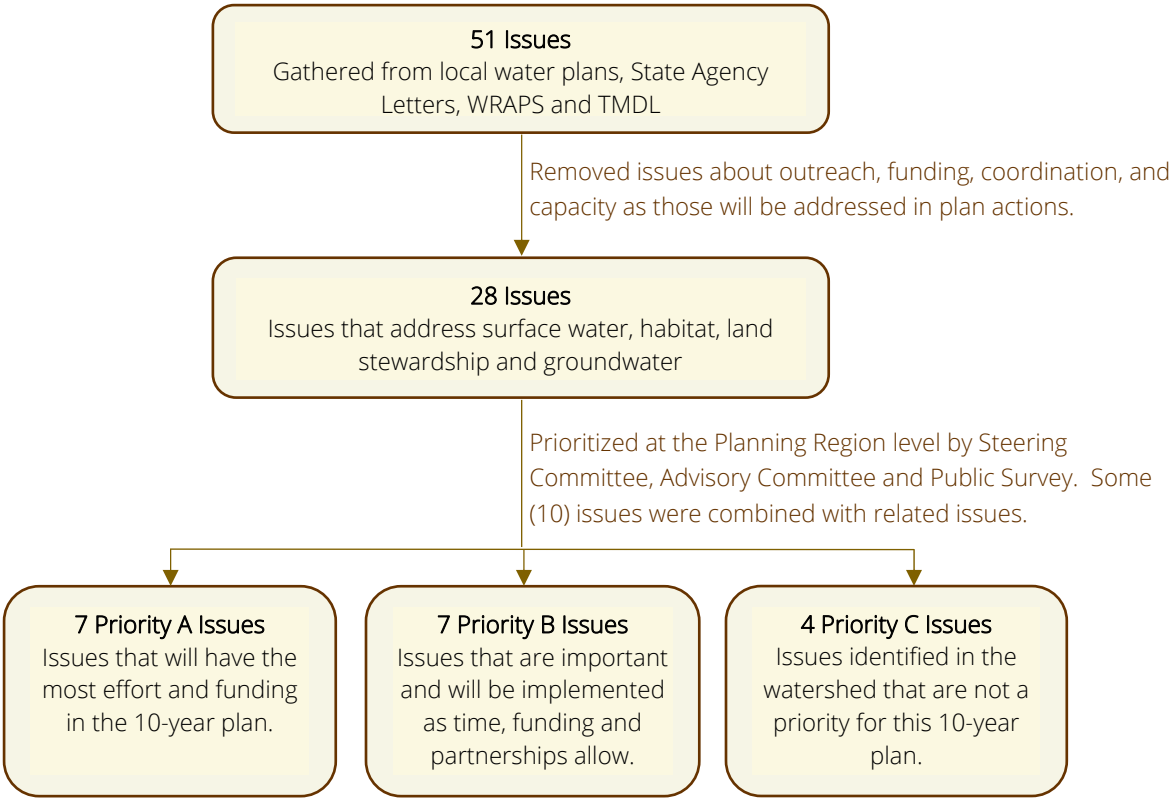


Figure 1-7. Issue prioritization process for the WRM1W1P.

All of these efforts have resulted in the draft issues table in the following pages. The priority A and B issues had goals written for them in the next step of the planning process.

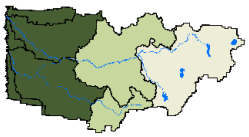
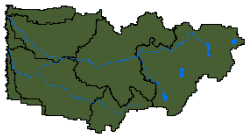
The 28 issues were organized into resource categories for ease of reference: surface water (lakes, streams, wetlands, drainage systems), land stewardship (resources including agricultural land, and land, water and habitat affected by flooding), groundwater (aquifer and drinking water), and habitat (forests, grasslands, aquatic habitat, unique features such as Wild Rice, calcareous fens, and beach ridges).

Priority A Issues

Priority A are the most important issues that will have the most effort and funding in the 10-year plan. Issues are prioritized by their importance in each planning region: high, medium, low. Priority A Issues had a "high" ranking in at least one planning region (Table 1-1).

Planning Region Prioritization Key: = high priority; = medium priority; = low priority.

Table 1-1. Priority A issues for the Wild Rice - Marsh Watershed.

Category	Resource	Issue Statement	Planning Region Prioritization
Land Stewardship	Land, water, habitat	**Flooding** and associated damages has economic, environmental, social, and health and safety implications.	
Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems	Wind and water erosion of cropland and upland delivers **sediment** to streams and drainage systems.	
Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Lakes	Increased **phosphorus** loading contributes to elevated concentrations in lakes and streams, causing eutrophication.	
Land Stewardship	Agricultural land	Decreased **soil health** can impact agricultural productivity and water-holding capacity.	
Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems	**Altered hydrology** associated with a change in the water quantity, timing, and variability of flow in water courses, impacts stream geomorphology and is a stressor for aquatic life.	
Surface Water	Rivers, Streams, Drainage Systems	Riparian instability impacts stream, riverbank and drainage system **channel integrity**.	
Habitat	Wild Rice	**Wild Rice** needs continued protection for habitat, cultural, economic, and wildlife benefit.	

Priority B Issues

Priority B issues are important and they will be addressed as time, funding, and partnerships allow. They received a "medium" ranking in at least one planning region (Table 1-2).

Planning Region Prioritization Key: = high priority; = medium priority; = low priority.

Table 1-2. Priority B issues for the Wild Rice - Marsh Watershed.

Category	Resource	Issue Statement	Planning Region Prioritization
Groundwater	Drinking Water	Groundwater is vulnerable to **contamination** from numerous sources.	
Habitat	Forests, Grasslands	**Terrestrial habitat**, including **forests and grasslands**, is degraded or at risk of degradation, which impacts species richness, diversity and ecologically sensitive resources as well as water quality.	
Habitat	Aquatic Habitat	Insufficient protection of high-quality stream systems, and reduced connectivity and degradation of **stream habitat quality** impacts fish and other aquatic species.	
Habitat	Unique Features	**Sensitive and ecologically significant resources** such as beach ridge areas and calcareous fens need continued and increased protection from degradation.	
Surface Water	Lakes	**Development pressure** on lakes affects riparian habitat, shoreline erosion and runoff.	
Surface Water	Streams	Increased bacteria (**E. coli**) loading contributes to elevated concentrations in waterbodies, which can impact aquatic recreation.	
Surface Water	Wetlands	**Wetlands** are in continued need of protection and restoration which helps with precipitation storage, maintaining lake water levels, and habitat.	

Measurable Goals

The issue statements were used in the development of the plan's goals. The goals guide what quantifiable changes to resource conditions this plan expects to accomplish in its ten-year lifespan. The WRM1W1P goals were developed by the Steering Committee with input from the Advisory Committee and approved by the Policy Committee.

The measurable goals in this plan are laid out in Section 4, and in most cases include specific goals per planning region and a map of where the goals will be targeted. The goals cover the four resource categories: surface water, land stewardship, habitat, and groundwater, and address all the Priority A and B issues of the plan.

Different data sets and models were used to determine the goal numbers. The Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) was used to define load reduction goals for sediment and phosphorus, and acre-feet goals for water storage. Minnesota Department of Health data was used for defining groundwater goals. The Minnesota Prairie Plan was used for grassland and wetland goals, local information from field surveys was used for stream restoration, stream habitat enhancement, and flood damage reduction, and GIS data were used for bacteria, lakes and forest goals.

The goals also prioritized where the work will be targeted. In a perfect world there is enough funding to accomplish everything everywhere. In reality, funding is limited, and targeting where to work first helps focus available funding in priority areas where improvements to the resource condition can be made. Measurable goals allow for the planning partners to track their progress during implementation. The goals for the WRM1W1P are listed in two levels: 1) Goals that address Priority A issues and 2) Goals that address Priority B issues.

Why does it matter?

Erosion is a natural process, but humans have sped up erosion rates by altering the landscape. Reducing wind and water erosion help keep productive soil on the landscape, improves water quality, improves fish habitat, decreases the need for drinking water treatment, and improves wetland quality and function.

Phosphorus is the main nutrient that feeds plants and algae in lakes and streams. Reducing phosphorus improves lake and stream water quality by reducing algal bloom frequency and growth of nuisance plants.

Across the Red River Basin, human alteration of the landscape has increased the precipitation runoff rate and volume, which can contribute to erosion and flooding. Increasing **water storage** in the watershed helps to slow the runoff, reduce flood damage, allow the sediment to settle out and water quality to improve.

Management of the land including forests and grasslands enhances habitat, reduces runoff and erosion, and helps with water infiltration into the ground. Management practices on agricultural lands can improve productivity, increase water storage, and reduce runoff and erosion.

Goals addressing Priority A issues

Goals addressing Priority A issues will have the most effort and funding put towards them during plan implementation (Table 1-3). Planning Region Prioritization Key:

= high priority; = medium priority; = low priority.

Table 1-3. Goals addressing Priority A issues, planning region prioritization, and implementation actions

Category	Plan Goal	Where	How
Surface Water	Reduce **sediment** delivery to streams, lakes, and drainage systems by **9,322 tons/year**.		• Water and sediment control basins • Grade stabilizations • Grassed waterways
Surface Water	Reduce **phosphorous** delivery to streams, lakes, and drainage systems by **1,562 lbs/year**.		• Water and sediment control basins • Grade stabilizations • Grassed waterways
Land Stewardship	Implement **5,823 acres** of regenerative practices, such as **cover crops,** on cultivated crop land with the highest erosion potential to increase soil health.		• Cover crops • Crop rotations • Reduced tillage • Livestock incorporation
Surface Water	Reduce runoff volume to address altered hydrology and reduce flood damage by increasing **storage** in the watershed by **10,750 acre-feet**.		• Regional storage projects • Wetland restoration
Land Stewardship	**Reduce Flood Damages** to Communities, Farmsteads and Farmland		• Ring dikes • Farmland protection • Community levees • Flood walls • Acquisitions
Surface Water	Stabilize **7** priority **ditch miles** and **4 ditch outlets**.		• Ditch stabilization • Outlet stabilization • Drainage management
Surface Water	Stabilize **5 miles** of streams to improve **channel integrity**.		• Streambank stabilization • Stream restoration
Habitat	Protect **250 acres of Wild Rice** with easements.		• Easements

Goals addressing Priority B issues

Goals addressing Priority B issues will be implemented as funding, opportunities and partnerships are available (Table 1-4).

Planning Region Prioritization Key: = medium priority; = low priority.

Table 1-4. Goals addressing Priority B issues, planning region prioritization, and implementation actions.

Category	Plan Goal	Where	How
Habitat	Acquire **6,500 acres of stream corridor** to enable future rehabilitation of the streams.		• Easements • Acquisitions
Land Stewardship	Increase the amount of **grass-based agriculture and perennial grassland vegetation by 2,102 acres** as identified in the Minnesota Prairie Plan		• Prescribed grazing • Grazing Plans • CRP, CREP
Habitat	Maintain **forest** cover by promoting forest management and protection on **2,400 acres**.		• Forest Mangement Plans • Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA)
Habitat	Implement **16 projects** to enhance/restore or **stabilize riparian shoreland** on priority lakes.		• Shoreline restoration • Rain gardens
Surface Water	Develop and implement **20 bacteria management projects** to address sources of bacteria and make progress towards delisting impairments.		• Cattle exclusion and watering facility • Manure management • Septic system maintenance
Groundwater	Protect groundwater by **sealing** on average **15 unused wells per year**, protecting DWSMAs, and addressing emerging contaminants		• Well sealing • Drinking water screening

Implementation

This plan will be implemented to the degree that additional funding is acquired, and at a locally determined pace of progress. Outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation of plan actions on private lands.

The Targeted Implementation Schedule in Section 5 describes what work will be done, who will do it, when it will be done, and how much it will cost.

Three funding levels are provided in this plan. Funding Level 1 is the estimated total of current funding in the watershed. With the completion of One Watershed One Plan, the WRM Watershed will be able to receive Watershed-Based Implementation Funds from the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR), which increases their available funding to Level 2. Level 2 is additive with Level 1, and the watershed partners plan to operate at Funding Level 2 throughout implementation. Level 3 is a way to recognize the contributions of partner groups in the watershed that are doing work in the watershed that can help make progress towards plan goals. Level 3 funding includes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), organizations such as The Nature Conservancy, and state agency projects such as surface and groundwater monitoring that are not contracted through the local governments.

Table 1-5. Funding Levels for the Wild Rice – Marsh River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan.

Funding Level	Name	Description
1	Current Funding	Current local funding (capacity, county ordinances, tax revenue).
2	Current Funding + Watershed-Based Implementation Funds	Current funding + Watershed-Based Implementation Funds (approximately $685,000/year for the first biennium, 2021-2022).
3	Partner and Other Funding	This funding level recognizes that there are other organizations and agencies doing work in the watershed that can help make progress towards plan goals. Example: Conservation Reserve Program (CRP).

With current funding available plus the new watershed-based funding that will be acquired upon completion of this plan, planning partners aim to achieve the following improvements in the watershed (Table 1-6, Figure 1-8)). These improvements are also illustrated in Figures 1-9, 1-10.

Table 1-6. The amount of sediment and phosphorus reduction, storage, and land management and protection in the Level 2 Funding Scenario (sediment and phosphorus reductions are estimated from PTMApp).

Sediment	Phosphorus	Storage	Land Management or Protection
9,322 tons/year reduction (*at catchment*)	1,562 lbs/year reduction (*at catchment*)	16,000 acre-feet	17,075 acres
Focused around rivers: • White Earth River • Marsh Creek • Middle Wild Rice River • Upper South Branch Wild Rice River	Focused around rivers: • White Earth River • Marsh Creek • Middle Wild Rice River • Upper South Branch Wild Rice River	Focused around the transition zone (Dark Green, Fig. 1-8).	Focused around the transition zone (Dark Green, Fig. 1-8): • Soil Health • Grassland • Forest • Wetland • Habitat

The highest priority area for reducing sediment, increasing water storage, and enhancing habitat are in the middle transition zone of the watershed (Figure 1-8).

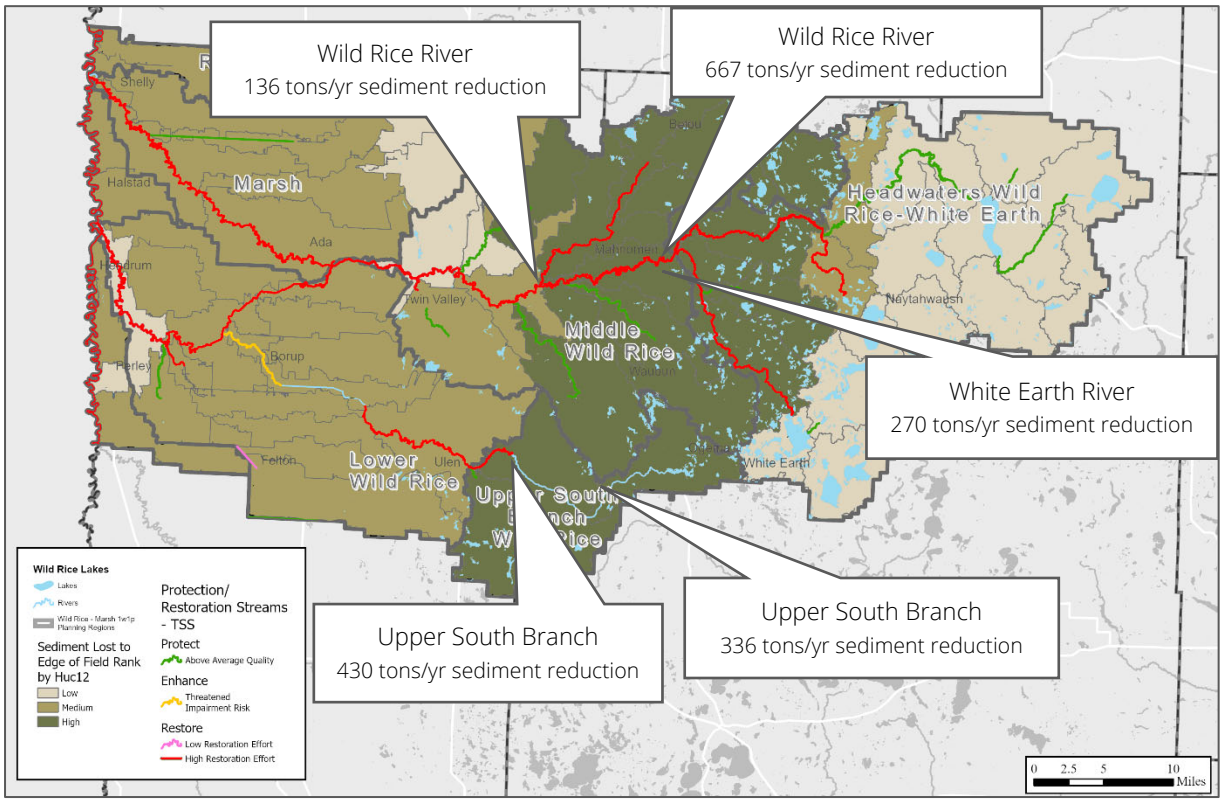


Figure 1-8. Map showing targeted sediment reductions for this plan using watershed-based implementation funding. The highest priority for sediment and phosphorus reduction, increasing storage, and habitat enhancement are in the middle dark green area of the watershed.

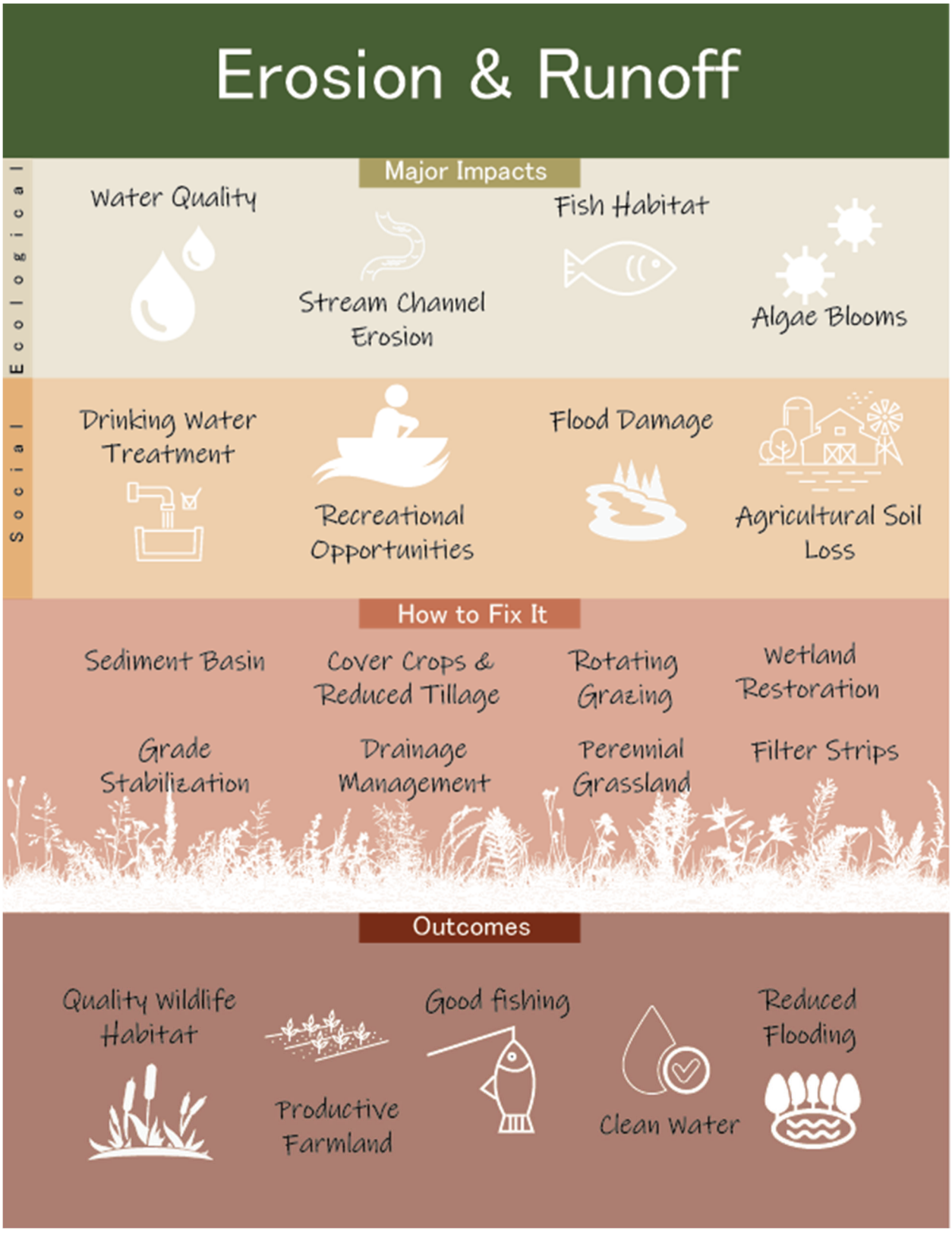


Figure 1-9. Infographic explaining the focus of the WRM1W1P.

The WRM1W1P will be implemented by existing programs distributed between five categories: Projects and Practices, Capital Improvements, Regulatory, Data Collection and Monitoring, and Outreach and Communication (Figure 1-10). These programs are explained in detail in Section 6 of the plan.

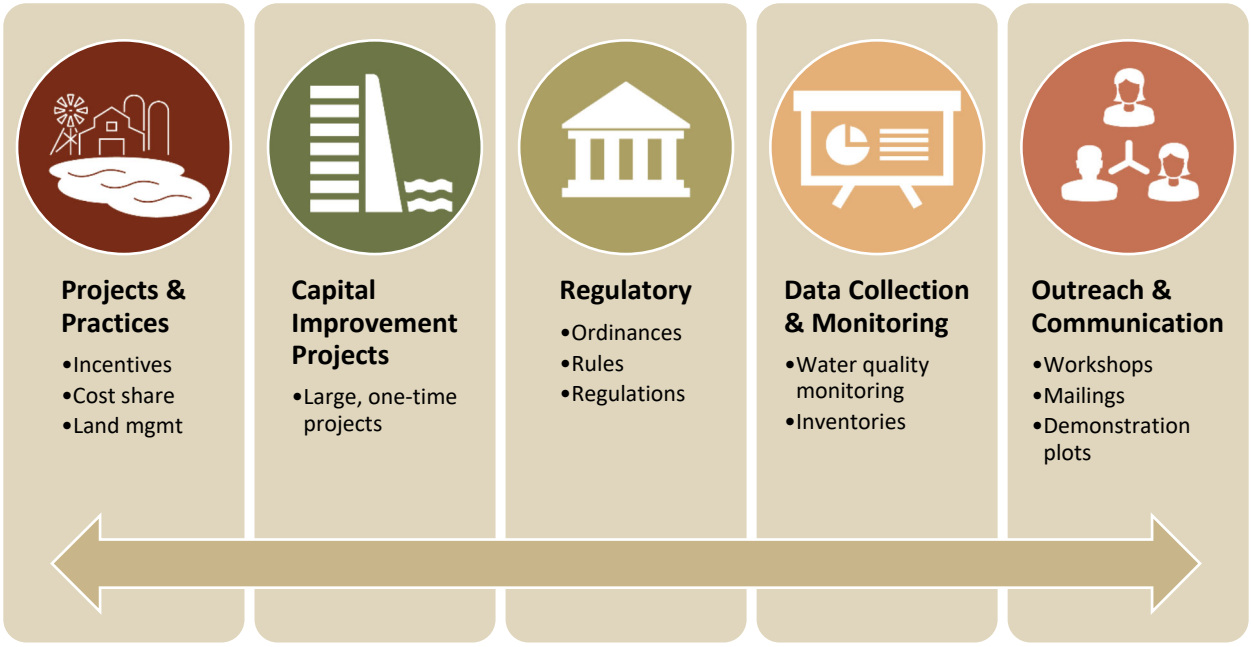


Figure 1-10. Plan Implementation Programs for the WRM1W1P.

Plan Administration and Coordination

Implementation of the WRM1W1P will require increased capacity of plan partners, including increased staffing, funding and coordination from current levels. Successful implementation will depend on continuing and building on partnerships in the watershed with landowners, planning partners, state agencies, and organizations. The details of the Administration of this plan are described in Section 7.

The WRM1W1P will be implemented by the Wild Rice – Marsh Watershed Partnership (WRMWP). The WRMWP is a coalition of the following partners:

- Clearwater County and SWCD
- Becker County and SWCD
- Mahnomen County and SWCD
- Norman County and SWCD
- Clay County and SWCD
- Polk County and East and West Polk SWCDs
- Wild Rice Watershed District

The Partnership previously entered into a formal agreement through an MOA for planning the One Watershed One Plan for the Wild Rice – Marsh Watersheds (Appendix J). The entities will draft a MOA for purposes of implementing this plan. The Policy Committee of the WRMWP oversees the plan implementation with the advice and consent of the individual County and SWCD boards under the umbrella of the implementation MOA.

Two committees will serve this plan during implementation:

- Policy Committee: Comprised of Policy Committee members from the planning process (one county commissioner and one SWCD board supervisor appointed from each of the participating counties in the watershed, plus a manager from the Wild Rice Watershed District). The Policy Committee is the decision-making body for implementation. They will approve the annual work plans, reports, grant applications and any amendments.
- Advisory Committee: Comprised of Steering Committee and Advisory Committee members from the planning process (local government staff and stakeholders including state agencies). The Advisory Committee will continue to meet, review and identify collaborative funding and project opportunities, complete the annual work plan, identify and apply for additional funding opportunities, update the Policy Committee on what projects are completed and where funding is spent, and implement the targeted implementation schedule.

Figure 1-11. Snider Lake.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southern Region Committee

1. Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters – Ed Lenz – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ed Lenz, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Shaina Keseley – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	**Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Change in Location of Principal Office Headquarters**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2020
Agenda Category:	☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business
Item Type:	☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information
Section/Region:	Southern Region
Contact:	Ed Lenz
Prepared by:	Carla Swanson-Cullen
Reviewed by:	Southern Regional Committee(s)
Presented by:	Ed Lenz
Time requested:	15 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☒ Resolution ☐ Order ☐ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103C.221, a change of location of principal office of a district must be approved by BWSR. BWSR must file a certified copy of the resolution with the secretary of state.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

On November 12, 2020, the Waseca SWCD Board of Supervisors passed a resolution approving the district's change of principal office location to 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota from the 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, Minnesota location. BWSR's Southern Regional Committee met on November 19, 2020 to review this request and voted to recommend approval of the change of principal office location to the full BWSR Board.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Board Resolution # 20- _____

Resolution Accepting Change in Principal Office Location for Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

WHEREAS, the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution dated November 12, 2020, to change the principal office location from 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093 to 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources must act on the change of office location pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103C.221.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the change in principal office location of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District from 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093 to 300 North State Street, Waseca, MN 56093.

THREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, this one-page Resolution of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Number 20-XX dated December 17, 2020, approving the change in office location of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District is hereby certified as true and correct.

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

State of Minnesota
County of Ramsey

I attest that the above resolution is true and correct and that a copy of the resolution will be submitted to the Secretary of State's office.

_____

John Jaschke, Executive Directory
Board of Water and Soil Resources

State of Minnesota
County of Ramsey

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 17th day of December 2020.

_____

Notary Public

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

The Honorable Steve Simon
Secretary of State
180 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, MN 55155

Sent Via Email

Dear Secretary Simon:

Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103C.221, hereby enclosed for filing is a certified copy of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Resolution Number 20-XX dated December 17, 2020, one page, which approves the change in the location of the office of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District from 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093 to 56093 to 300 North State Street, Waseca, Minnesota 56093.

Please contact me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

John Jaschke, Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure

cc: Waseca County Administrator
Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District
Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
Ed Lenz, BWSR

Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

105 22nd Ave NE
Waseca, MN 56093
507-835-4800 ext. 3
www.wasecaswcd.org

Minnesota Soil & Water Conservation Districts
RESOLUTION
2020 Waseca Soil & Water Conservation District Change of Location of Principal Office

WHEREAS, the current location of the Waseca SWCD is located at 105 22nd Avenue NE, Waseca, MN 56093.

WHEREAS, on October 15, 2020, the Waseca SWCD entered an Agreement with Waseca County to occupy offices in the Waseca County East Annex, Waseca, MN which will be the location of the principal office on or before January 1, 2021.

WHEREAS, THE majority of the District Board has agreed on the new location.

"WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) must approve a change to the SWCD's headquarters pursuant to Minn. Stat. 103C.221

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors directs the SWCD District Manager to request approval from the Board of Water and Soil Resources to change the SWCD's official headquarters to 300 North State St, Waseca MN 56093

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the official address of the principal office of the Waseca SWCD will be changed with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and the Secretary of State.

Date: 11/12/2020

Wayne Cords, Chairman

Attest: _____

Todd Stencel, Treasurer

CERTIFICATION

I. **Keith Morgan,** secretary of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District, do hereby certify that the above resolution relating to the change of the location of the principal office of the supervisors of the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District was adopted by the said district supervisors at a regular meeting thereof held on October 15, 2020. that I have compared it with the original resolution as set forth in the minutes of the said meeting, and that said copy is a true and correct copy of and transcript from said original and the whole thereof. 1 further certify that said meeting of the Board was duly called and held, that a quorum of the members of said Board was present thereat, and that said resolution was duly adopted thereat by a majority vote of the members present.

Signed: Keith Morgan

Keith Morgan, Secretary of Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	**Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2020
Agenda Category:	☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business
Item Type:	☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information
Section/Region:	Southern Region
Contact:	Ed Lenz
Prepared by:	Jill Sackett Eberhart
Reviewed by:	Southern Regional Committee(s)
Presented by:	Ed Lenz, Jill Sackett Eberhart, Shaina Keseley
Time requested:	15 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Watonwan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Southern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plan is on the Watonwan County website:

- Plan Weblink: http://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/3784
- Plan Appendices Weblink: http://www.co.watonwan.mn.us/DocumentCenter/View/3785

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – The Watonwan River Watershed was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant in June of 2017. The Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership (Partnership) established a Memorandum of Agreement on April 17, 2018, for the purpose of watershed planning. Planning was initiated on July 30, 2018 via notification to

designated plan review authorities. The Partnership has followed One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and the Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Steering Team members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and kept open communication throughout plan development. The Partnership submitted the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on October 14, 2020, for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 19, 2020, to review the planning process, the contents of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.

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

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.	**ORDER APPROVING COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership (Partnership) submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on October 14, 2020, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in 2018 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes: Blue Earth County, Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Brown County, Brown SWCD, Cottonwood County, Cottonwood SWCD, Jackson County, Jackson SWCD, Martin County, Martin SWCD, Watonwan County, and Watonwan SWCD.

2. **Authority to Plan**. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Resolution #16-17 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.

3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Watonwan River Watershed is located in south central Minnesota and covers 873 square miles (approximately 558,964 acres) within the counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan. The landscape is level to gently rolling with soils that are primarily loamy glacial till. Annual precipitation ranges between 28-32 inches. The Watonwan River begins in central Cottonwood County and flows east before reaching its confluence with the Blue Earth River one mile south of the Rapidan Dam near Garden City in central Blue Earth County. The Blue Earth River in turn flows north and outlets to the Minnesota River in the city of Mankato. The

Watonwan River watershed has 367.9 stream miles and approximately 113 public drainage ditch miles. It also includes 36 named and 19 unnamed lakes. Four percent of the watershed is currently in wetlands, and according to the Minnesota National Wetland Inventory, 93% of the historic wetlands have been drained. Agriculture is the predominant land use at 87%. Groundwater accounts for 100% of the watershed's drinking water with nitrate and/or arsenic being of concern in some areas. It is estimated that there are 8,443 individuals and 3,449 households in the watershed.

4. **Plan Development.** The Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership initiated watershed plan development on July 30, 2018, by notifying designated plan review authorities (State agencies, counties, cities, SWCDs, watershed districts, etc.) and other watershed stakeholders. The notification included an invitation to submit priority issues and plan expectations by September 28, 2018. Five letters were received. Additional public input and prioritization of issues was collected at the Public Kick-off Meeting held January 28, 2019, and via an online survey. Approximately 100 people attended the meeting and 22 completed the survey. Combined, the letters, comments, and survey answers were used to develop a list of resource concerns and priority issues. An Advisory Committee was established to assist in finalizing the priority issues and development of measurable goals for each. Measurable goals were based on the Watonwan River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS), groundwater test results and other information from the Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS), Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), local water plans, other studies and reports, and local expertise. Rationale for goals was provided in part by results from modelling through the Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) and spatial analysis. The PTMApp was used to identify the magnitude and distribution of potential pollution sources across the watershed and allowed for targeting of locations for implementing practices to address issues impacting the resources of concern based on cost effectiveness. This was completed for each of the six watershed planning regions. These regions follow the United States Geological Survey Hydrologic Unit Code 10 watershed boundaries. The reduction estimates from the planning region targeted implementation schedules, along with the measurable goals established for the watershed, provide an estimated pace of progress that can be expected through the 10-year planning period. Additionally, implementation categories and initiatives were used to identify where funds will be utilized to accomplish the strategies and actions from the targeted implementation schedule. The draft Plan was approved by the Policy Committee and then distributed to Plan Review Authorities and other watershed stakeholders on May 21, 2020, for the required 60-day review and comment period. Eight letters were received by July 20, 2020, and each comment was considered and addressed by the Partnership. On August 26, 2020, the Policy Committee approved the Draft Plan and moved to proceed to the public hearing process. Per the MOA, six public hearings were held, one in each county of the watershed (September 15, September 22, October 6, 2020). Three additional comments were brought forth by the public, were considered, and addressed by the Partnership. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted to the Board and other plan review agencies on October 14, 2020.

5. **Plan Review.** On October 14, 2020, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #16-17. State agency representatives attended and provided input at both Advisory Committee and Steering Team meetings during development of the Plan. The following State review comments were received during the final comment period.

   A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): As entered into the record at the September 15, 2020, public hearing before the Watonwan County Board, MDA identified issues with wording and illustration in the "Groundwater Issues and Concerns" section and Figure 3-8.

The information was satisfactorily edited and included in the submitted final draft Plan. No additional comments on the final draft Plan. MDA recommends Plan approval.

B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH staff acknowledged receipt of the final draft Plan and had no further comments. MDH recommends Plan approval.

C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR staff reviewed the responses to their comments submitted during the 60-Day review of the draft Plan. They are satisfied with the responses to issues raised during that review and offered no additional comments. DNR recommends Plan approval.

D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA staff requested that issues discussed during the 60-day comment period for the draft Plan be addressed in future Plan updates. These issues pertain to the use of the Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) modeling tool and the responses to issues in the planning process that include:

   a. Information on PTMApp work was provided late in the planning process; towards the final draft stage.

   b. Concerns with how loading and reductions were calculated.

   c. The response from the consultant regarding the previously mentioned concerns was a summary of the PTMApp process which did not provide what the data calculations were based on.

   d. There was discussion on the use of existing flow and load data that was not considered in the calculations.

   e. Time and funds would not allow a recalculation based on available data.

   f. Statement that the Plan meets the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) reduction goals was changed and a future process will be considered to determine reductions achieved from implementation.

   The MPCA expectation is that future local watershed planning efforts using PTMApp will utilize current flow and water quality information. It was stated that MPCA staff are willing to work with local partners earlier in the planning process to identify areas where information, data, or resources are available. MPCA is willing to recommend Plan approval.

E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): No comments received.

F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regional staff: Plan development followed Operating Procedures and the Plan meets Plan Content Requirements. No additional suggestions or required changes are needed. BWSR staff recommend Plan approval.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
   - Section 1 – Executive Summary provides a high-level overview of the watershed and planning partners, a summarization of the prioritization process along with a list of the resource concerns and issue statements, a description of the process used to develop the measurable goals, an overview of the Targeted Implementation Schedule programs and actions and the estimated funding needed, and the anticipated roles of Partnership members in the implementation process.
   - Section 3 – Land and Water Resources Narrative provides a summary of watershed characteristics and issues. Information was included on geology, precipitation, surface water, groundwater, stormwater, drainage, recreation, habitat, land use, and socioeconomics.

- Section 4 – Identification and Prioritization of Resource Categories, Concerns and Issues described the information and process used to develop watershed resource concerns and issues. Particularly important resources included the WRAPS, GRAPS, TMDLs, existing water plans, other management plans, studies and reports, and local expertise. Public input was utilized via invitation to comment, a public kick-off meeting, an online survey, and development of an Advisory Committee. Only Tier 1 priority issues will be addressed in this 10-year Plan: surface water (agricultural drainage systems, lakes, rivers and streams, wetlands, surface runoff and flooding), groundwater (quality, quantity), habitat and recreation (aquatic, terrestrial, recreation), local knowledge base (public awareness), and land stewardship (urban, rural, riparian and shoreland). Maps are included for resource concerns and issues where Geographic Information System (GIS) data was available. Emerging and ongoing issues such as extreme weather events, contaminants, local-State-Federal policies, and funding were all discussed. In addition, each watershed partner was allowed an opportunity to include local priorities not fully addressed by the Plan. Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, and Martin each added a small number of local issues and actions.
- Section 5 – Measurable Goals explains how both short-term and long-term goals were developed for each of the Tier 1 priority issues. This was done primarily through WRAPS data, GRAPS information, PTMApp results, Advisory Committee and Policy Committee input, and local expertise provided by Steering Team members. Maps showing planning region priority ranking were also developed for the resource concerns of surface water, groundwater, and habitat and recreation
- Section 6 – Implementation Schedule begins with a discussion on the funding needed to implement the 10-year Plan. An estimated $18,048,500 is needed to fully fund the Plan; this would include current partner funding levels, Watershed Based Implementation Funding, and competitive grants and outside collaboration. Six planning region implementation schedules were developed to show cost-effectiveness focused practice cost, location, and pollution reductions. These actions are broken down into the PTMApp categories of management practices (e.g. cover crops, conservation tillage), structural practices (e.g. grassed waterways, denitrifying bioreactors), and easement practices. Watershed-wide actions are shown in a series of five additional implementation schedules based on the implementation programs discussed further in Section 7 (e.g. capital improvement projects, education and outreach). To aid in using the Implementation Schedule, a Measurable Goals Reference Guide was included in order to quickly find goal numbers and goal language referenced in the different schedules.
- Section 7 – Implementation Programs describes six implementation programs that will be used to fund and implement the Plan. These programs lay the foundation for how the partnership will provide cost-share funds to landowners, host education and outreach efforts, measure pace of progress of the Plan, and lays out partnership roles and responsibilities for such things as current regulatory administration and operations and maintenance.
- Section 8 – Plan Administration and Coordination provides some details into how the partnership will administer and fund the Plan. The partnership has decided to re-structure an existing joint powers agreement (Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance) for Plan implementation and administration.

7. **Southern Regional Committee.** On November 19, 2020, the Southern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Chair Nathan Redalen (Township), Kathryn Kelly (SWCD), Tom Loveall (County), Jeff Berg (MDA), Harvey Kruger (Watershed District), Ted Winter (Citizen), Steve Robertson (MDH), and Scott Roemhildt (DNR). Board staff in attendance were Southern Region Manager Ed Lenz, 1W1P Coordinator Julie Westerlund, Clean Water Specialist Shaina Keseley, Board Conservationist Jill Sackett Eberhart, and Office and Administrative Specialist Carla Swanson-Cullen. The representatives from the Partnership were Brown

County Environmental Specialist Andy Meyer, Brown SWCD District Manager Melanie Krueger, Cottonwood SWCD District Administrator Kay Gross, Cottonwood SWCD Senior Technician Dave Bucklin, Cottonwood SWCD Supervisor Clark Lingbeek, Cottonwood County Commissioner Tom Appel, Martin SWCD District Manager Ashley Brenke, Watonwan SWCD Assistant Manager Chad Hildebrand, Watonwan County Land Management Director Dave Haler, Watonwan SWCD Supervisor Rich Enger, Watonwan County Commissioner Ray Gustafson, Watonwan County Commissioner Bill Miller and Houston Engineering, Inc. Project Manager Drew Kessler. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
3. The Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership, dated December 17, 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 17th of December 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____

BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership
c/o David Haler, Land Management Director
Watonwan County
108 8th Street South, Suite 2
St. James, MN 56081

RE: Approval of the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership (Partnership):

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Watonwan River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) developed through the One Watershed, One Plan Program was approved at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2020. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until December 17, 2030. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the Partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the Partnership, and for participating in the development of the One Watershed, One Plan Program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Jill Sackett Eberhart of our staff at 507-317-1680 or jill.sackett.eberhart@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

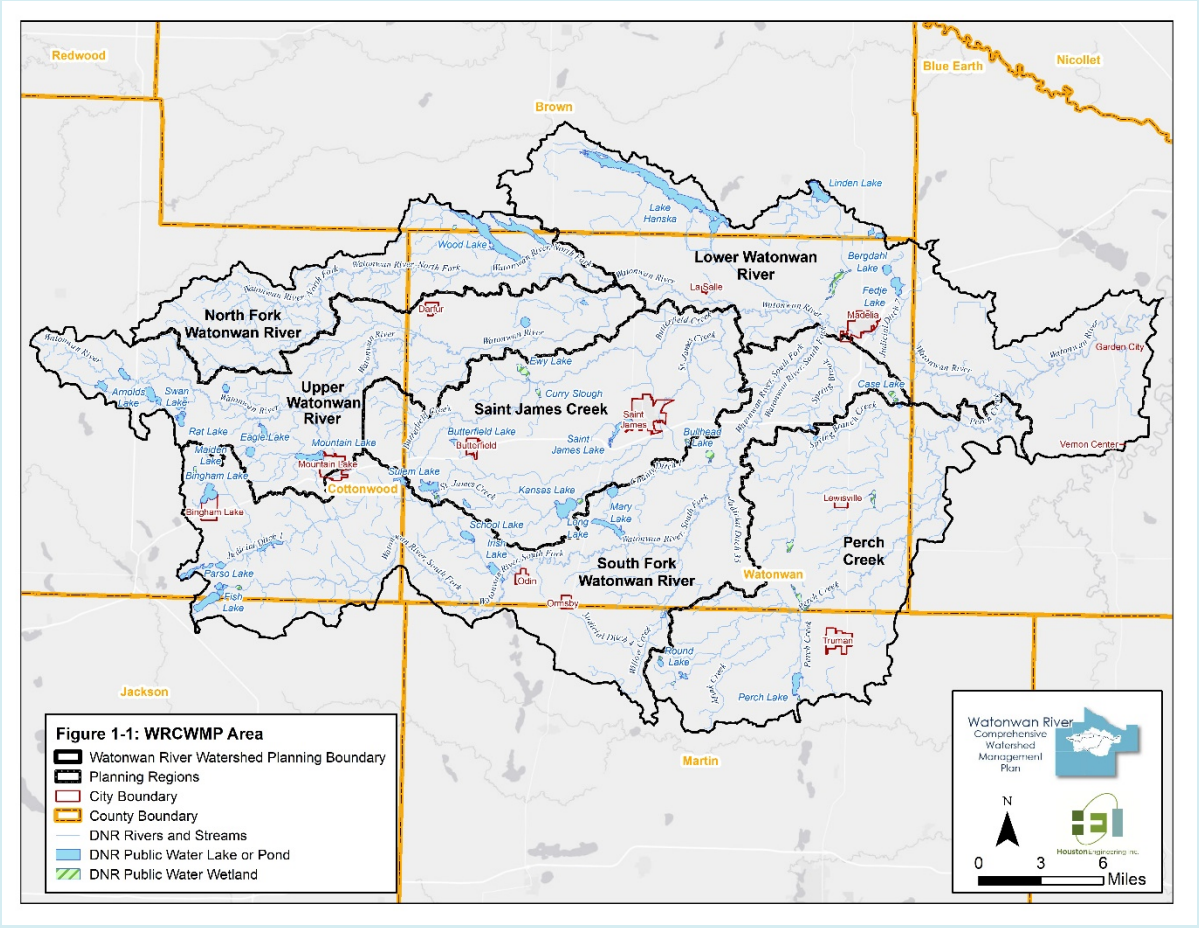
Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Listed on next page

cc: Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)
Amanda Strommer, MDH (via email)
Robert Collett, DNR (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Katie Wigen, DNR (via email)
Paul Davis, MPCA (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
Ed Lenz, BWSR (via email)
Jill Sackett Eberhart, BWSR (via email)
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)
Shaina Keseley, BWSR (via email)

Equal Opportunity Employer

Figure 1-1: Watonwan River Watershed and HUC 10 planning regions.



The Watonwan Watershed Planning Partnership (WWPP) includes all local planning partners primarily involved in developing the WRCWMP. The WWPP developed through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) (Appendix A) adopted by the governing boards of the participating entities:

- The counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan through their respective County Board of Commissioners; and
- The SWCDs of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan through their respective SWCD Board of Supervisors.

The plan area is comprised of six planning regions. These planning regions mirror the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watershed boundaries. Planning regions boundaries allow the WWPP to account for differences in the types of issues, measurable goals, and implementation actions that are needed across the entire Watershed.

Sect. 1

1.
Executive Summary

SECTION 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.1 Watonwan Watershed Background

The Watonwan River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (WRCWMP), developed through the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program represents an evolution from traditional, county-based water planning to watershed-based planning. The 1W1P program is a statewide effort which combines local entities that would otherwise have separate local plans into one combined planning effort to address resource issues considered most important during the planning process. In the Watonwan River Watershed (WRW), this brings six counties and six soil and water conservation districts (SWCD) together to develop one cohesive, comprehensive, and implementation-focused water planning document.

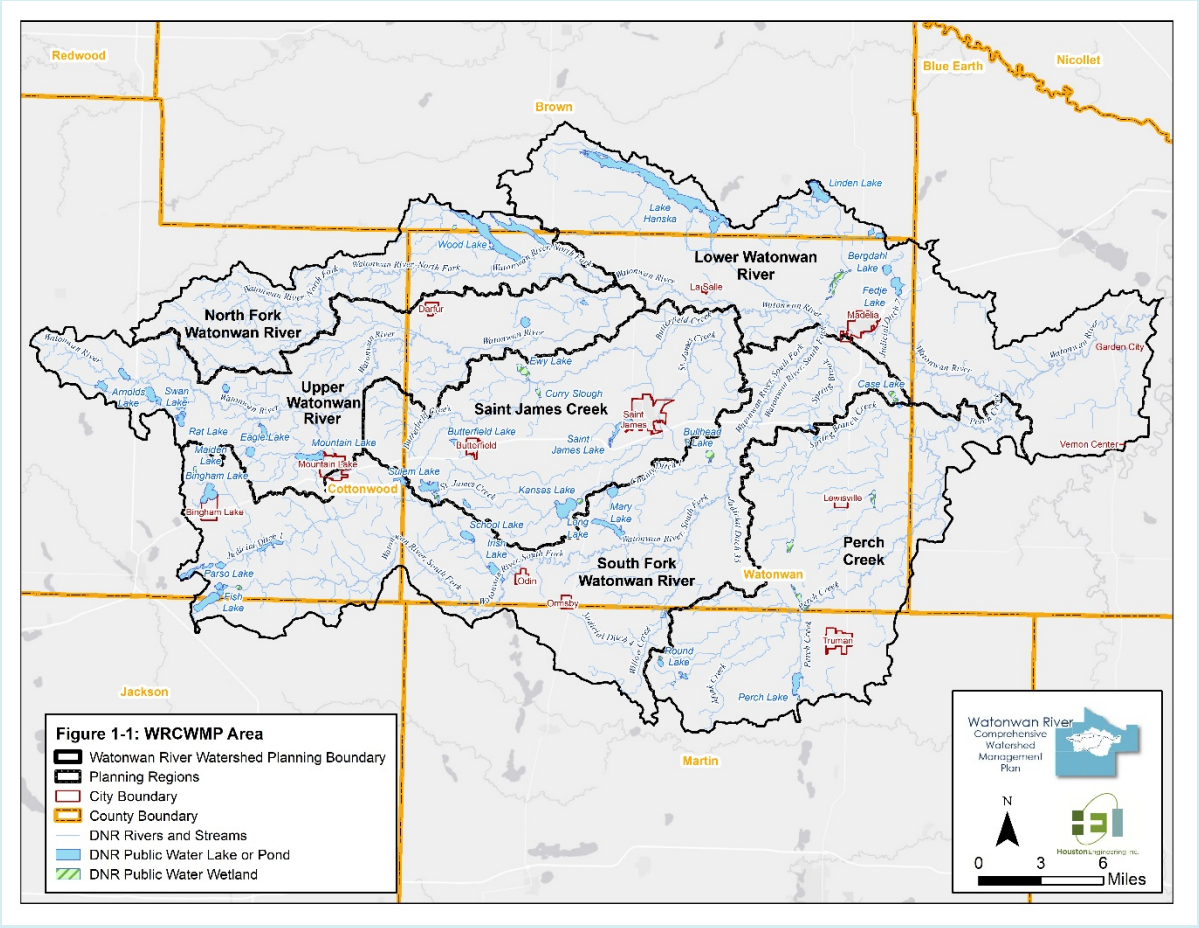
The WRW 1W1P process is intended to result in a more unified, effective, and science-based approach to address resources that are most important locally. The information contained within this plan came from a compilation of existing local water management plans, studies, reports, models, scientific data, and state strategy documents. This comprehensive plan addresses more than just surface water management (rivers, streams, lakes, and agricultural drainage systems), but also considers land stewardship (urban, rural, and riparian/shoreland stewardship), groundwater, and local knowledge base and public awareness. There are a wide variety of actions included in the plan's targeted implementation schedule, aimed to protect and improve these resources and make progress towards stated goals.

The WRCWMP area is located in south central Minnesota and covers 873 square miles. The plan area is within Blue Earth (11%), Brown (6%), Cottonwood (23%), Jackson (1%), Martin (9%), and Watonwan (50%) counties (Table 1-1) (Figure 1-1).

Table 1-1: Counties comprising the WRCWMP area.

County	Square Miles	Acreage	Percentage of Plan Area
Blue Earth	92	58,882	11%
Brown	55	35,272	6%
Cottonwood	197	126,230	23%
Jackson	10	6,218	1%
Martin	81	52,016	9%
Watonwan	438	280,346	50%

Figure 1-1: Watonwan River Watershed and HUC 10 planning regions.



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- The counties of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan through their respective County Board of Commissioners; and
- The SWCDs of Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Jackson, Martin, and Watonwan through their respective SWCD Board of Supervisors.

The plan area is comprised of six planning regions. These planning regions mirror the United States Geological Survey (USGS) Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) 10 watershed boundaries. Planning regions boundaries allow the WWPP to account for differences in the types of issues, measurable goals, and implementation actions that are needed across the entire Watershed.

1.2 Prioritization of Issues

Kickoff Meeting Maps and Resources

As described by the Minnesota Board of Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) 1W1P policy, this plan is not expected to address all identified issues during its ten-year lifespan. This plan does not "reject" any identified issues, but rather places issues into a prioritization structure based on importance or impact to resources in the watershed.

Priority tiers are used to guide creation of measurable goals aimed at addressing priority issues (Section 5), and the timeline and aggressiveness of implementation within the targeted implementation schedule (Section 6).

During plan development, participants followed a thorough and rigorous process to prioritize issues within Tables 1-2 and 1-3. Issues were prioritized by soliciting stakeholder and public input on which issues were most important to them based on how they interact with resources in the watershed and through input from local subject matter experts. To begin the prioritization process, a public kickoff meeting was hosted by members of the WWPP on January 28, 2019 at the St. James American Legion. Approximately 100 people attended the kickoff meeting.

Watershed issues identified as Tier 1 were determined to be plan priorities and will be assigned a measurable goal and will be considered the focus for initial 10-year implementation efforts. Tier 2 issues were not designated as a priority, measurable goals were not established for these issues, and actions were not included in the targeted implementation schedule to directly address these issues.

Tier 1 Priority Issues

Priority issues indicate the highest expressed preference during the issue prioritization process and were confirmed as the highest priority by the Policy Committee (Table 1-2). Each of these issues will have a measurable goal established to address it.

Table 1-2: Tier 1 Priority issues

Resource Concern	Issue Number	Priority Issue Statement
Surface Water		
Agricultural Drainage Systems	SW.1.1	Level of Multipurpose Drainage Management utility to reduce downstream peak flows and flooding, reduce erosion and sedimentation, and protect or improve water quality.
	SW.1.2	Lack of conservation practices on drainage systems.
Lakes	SW.2.1	Elevated nutrients and sediment in lakes.
	SW.2.2	Management of lake levels and associated watershed flow conveyance.
Rivers and Streams	SW.3.1	Elevated nutrients and sediment in rivers and streams.
	SW.3.2	Elevated bacteria levels in rivers and streams.
	SW.3.3	Loss of lateral and longitudinal floodplain access and connectivity.

	SW.3.4	Streambank, ravine, and bluff erosion.
Wetlands	SW.4.1	Loss of wetland functions in watershed.
Surface Runoff and Flooding	SW.5.1	Land use changes leading to loss of vegetative cover and field residue.
	SW.5.2	Land use changes leading to the loss of natural storage.
	SW.5.3	Level of watershed and community resilience to extreme weather events.
Groundwater		
Groundwater Quality	GW.1.1	Elevated levels of nitrates in groundwater.
	GW.1.2	Contaminants in groundwater.
Groundwater Quantity	GW.2.1	Groundwater use and loss of recharge.
Habitat and Recreation		
Aquatic Habitat	HR.1.1	Aquatic and riparian habitat loss from development and flow variability.
	HR.1.2	Aquatic habitat loss from bank erosion and channel instability in creeks, streams, and rivers.
	HR.1.3	Aquatic invasive and nuisance species and their impacts.
Terrestrial Habitat	HR.2.1	Terrestrial habitat fragmentation and loss.
	HR.2.2	Terrestrial invasive and nuisance species and their impacts.
Recreation	HR.3.1	The lack of recreational access and connectivity to natural resources and communities within the watershed.
Local Knowledge Base		
Public Awareness	LKB.1.1	Level of landowner awareness and understanding of Best Management Practices (BMPs) for environmental conservation.
	LKB.1.2	Level of public awareness and knowledge of issues and potential implementation roadblocks associated with surface water, groundwater, habitat and recreation, and land stewardship.
Land Stewardship		
Urban Stewardship	LS.1.1	The impact of impervious surfaces on stormwater runoff and associated impacts on surface water.
	LS.1.2	Ensuring adequate management of wastewater treatment facilities and systems.
Rural Stewardship	LS.2.1	The need to increase soil health and its impact on agricultural productivity and natural resources.
	LS.2.2	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) and their potential to contaminate groundwater and degrade surface water.
	LS.2.3	Addressing inadequate manure management.
Riparian and Shoreland Stewardship	LS.3.1	Level of riparian and shoreland natural resource management.

**Multipurpose Drainage Management, according to BWSR, is the use of various practices and designs to achieve multiple water management purposes and goals, including drainage. These purposes include beneficial use, flood control, water quality, drainage, and wildlife habitat (terrestrial and aquatic).*

Tier 2 Issues

Tier 2 issues are lower priorities than Tier 1 (Table 1-3). These issues received a lower proportion of marks at the public kickoff meeting and were not elevated based on local subject matter expertise. These issues were confirmed by the Policy Committee as having a lower priority at this time. Measurable goals will not be established for these issues.

Table 1-3: Tier 2 Issues

Resource Concern	Issue Number	Issue Statement
Surface Water		
Lakes	SW.2.3	Shoreland instability as it relates to erosion and impacts on surface water quality.
Rivers and Streams	SW.3.5	Elevated concentrations of suspended solids, and sediment approaching (protection) or exceeding (restoration) water quality standards for aquatic life, which can lead to aquatic life impairments.
	SW.3.6	Elevated concentrations of bacteria approaching (protection) or exceeding (restoration) water quality standards which can lead to aquatic recreation impairments.
	SW.3.7	Reduced concentrations of dissolved oxygen approaching (protection) or below (restoration) tolerable levels that can affect the diversity of quality of aquatic life.
Wetlands	SW.4.2	Protect, enhance, and restore wetlands to provide nutrient treatment functions.
	SW.4.3	Protect, enhance, and restore wetlands to provide recreation opportunities.
Groundwater		
Groundwater Quality	GW.1.3	Elevated levels of bacteria in groundwater.
Groundwater Quantity	GW.2.2	Potential droughts will place additional demands on domestic water supply.
	GW.2.3	Nitrate nitrogen in surficial sands and recharge of buried sands and bedrock aquifers.
	GW.2.4	Growing trend of ethanol production may stress ground and surface water supplies during periods of drought.
	GW.2.5	Gravel mining and its impacts on groundwater recharge.
	GW.2.6	Limited amount and extent of aquifers in the watershed to supply groundwater.
Habitat and Recreation		
Aquatic Habitat	HR.1.4	Lack of hydrologic connectivity as the primary stressor on bio-impaired surface waters.
	HR.1.5	Lack of in-stream habitat as a primary stressor on bio-impaired surface waters.
	HR.1.6	Protection and restoration of declining and at-risk aquatic species.
Terrestrial Habitat	HR.2.3	Inadequate riparian cover and connectivity and its impact on terrestrial species habitat.
	HR.2.4	Invasive species and their impacts on high quality areas of native vegetation.

	HR.2.5	Planned and prioritized areas for structural and natural resources protection.
	HR.2.6	Protection and restoration of declining and at-risk terrestrial species.
Local Knowledge Base		
Public Awareness	LKB.1.3	The need for greater understanding and awareness of water issues, like drainage, erosion, fertilizer use, prescription and non-prescription drug disposal, and household hazardous waste disposal, by the general public.
	LKB.1.4	The efficient and effective use of fertilizers and pesticides and its impact on surface and groundwater quality.
Monitoring and Data Collection	LKB.2.1	Lack of high-quality digital elevation data.
	LKB.2.2	The need for expanded monitoring of lakes and streams through MPCA Citizen monitoring programs.
Management, Coordination, and Funding		
Planning and Coordination	MCF.1.1	Need to update floodplain maps and zoning areas to reflect most recent Flood Insurance Rate Maps.
	MCF.1.2	The need for increased coordination on Flood Damage Reduction goals.
	MCF.1.3	The need for water quality management to mitigate impacts to shoreland in lakes and closed basin areas.
	MCF.1.4	Coordination is needed among LGUs administering the Wetland Conservation Act.
Land Stewardship		
Urban Stewardship	LS.1.3	Stormwater and its impacts on urban flooding.
	LS.1.4	The need to preserve the riparian corridor in urban areas for flood mitigation and habitat preservation.
	LS.1.5	The need for mosquito control in urban areas.
Rural Stewardship	LS.2.4	Land use changes, development, increases in irrigated agricultural production and its impacts on runoff and erosion.
	LS.2.5	Direct access of cattle to Watonwan River and tributaries is causing loss of habitat, increased nutrient, sediment, and bacteria transport that disrupt habitat for fish and macroinvertebrates and may potentially threaten human health.
Riparian and Shoreland Stewardship	LS.3.2	Shoreland development pressures leading to increased sediment and nutrient loadings, habitat loss, wetland loss, and degradation.
	LS.3.3	The need for updated shoreland rules and enforcement of existing regulations.

1.3 Establishment of Measurable Goals

Short and long-term measurable goals are presented for each Tier 1 priority issue established in Section 4. A variety of information was used to develop goals, including:

- Goals from the Watonwan River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies report (WRAPS; Appendix B) and the Watonwan River Watershed Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies Report (GRAPS; Appendix C);
- Results from the Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp);
- Input from Advisory and Policy Committee members; and
- The knowledge of local water and resource managers provided by the Steering Team.

Measurable goals for Tier 1 priority issues are organized into chapters by resource. Each resource chapter contains a cover page summarizing which resource concerns will be addressed, and the planning region priority for the resource. Because the WRW is large and issues impact certain areas more than others, this plan prioritizes measurable goals for each resource (surface water, groundwater, and habitat resources) at the planning region scale. The weighting criteria for prioritization consist of data from PTMApp, input from the Steering Team and Advisory Committee, the WRAPS, and the GRAPS. Prioritization criteria and relation to measurable goals is shown in Appendix D. An example of a measurable goal is provided in Figure 1-2 on the following page. For a full list of plan measurable goals, see Section 5.

Figure 1-2: Example measurable goal from the WRCWMP Section 5.

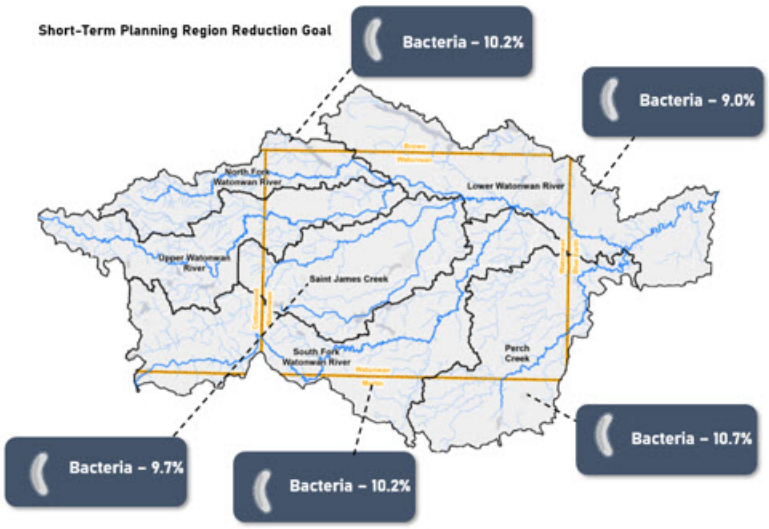
RESOURCE CONCERN: RIVERS AND STREAMS

✓ Issue SW 3.2: Elevated bacteria levels in rivers and streams.

Fecal coliform and E. coli are often referred to as bacteria in water quality contexts. Elevated bacteria in waters are indicators of animal or human fecal matter, which may contain pathogens. Fecal matter can make aquatic recreation unsafe because contact with fecal matter can lead to potentially severe illnesses. Unlike most water quality impairments, fecal bacteria are living organisms. Because bacteria can reproduce or die-off in the environment, bacteria in water is dynamic and can be more challenging to understand.

Of the 18 streams monitored for bacteria as a pollutant, 17 were identified impaired (MPCA, 2020a). Bacteria was identified to be an impairment in ten reaches of the Watonwan River, three reaches of St. James Creek, and one reach each of Butterfield Creek, Perch Creek, Spring Branch Creek, and Judicial Ditch 1.

This goal applies WRAPS defined reduction percentages to the required percent reduction defined by the WRW Total Maximum Daily Load to meet water quality standards, summarized in the maps below (MPCA, 2020a, 2020b).



Measurable Goals

Short-Term:

- SW 3.2a: Planning Region Scale (summarized in Short Term Planning Region Reduction map above):
  - ✓ Restoration: Achieve a **12% reduction in stream bacteria** defined as the WRW WRAPS watershed-wide 10yr target, determined by WRW TMDL total load reduction target.
- SW 3.2b: Reach-Specific Scale:
  - ✓ Restoration: Reduction in the number of streams classified as impaired
  - ✓ Protection: Maintain or reduce stream bacteria in reaches not classified as impaired.
- ✓ SW 3.2c: Conduct 10 educational efforts to highlight watershed livestock BMP and SSTS incentive programs

Desired Future Condition:

- Planning Region Scale (summarized in Long Term Planning Region Reduction map above):
  - ✓ Restoration: Achieve a **65% reduction in stream bacteria** defined as the WRW WRAPS watershed-wide target, determined by WRW TMDL total load reduction target
- Reach-Specific Scale:
  - ✓ Waterbodies achieve their water quality standards.

1.4 Targeted Implementation

The Targeted Implementation Schedule is presented in Section 6. Here, implementation actions are established under the following implementation program categories:

- Structural and Management Practices Cost-Share Incentive Program;
- Education and Outreach Implementation Program;
- Research and Monitoring Implementation Program;
- Regulatory and Administration Program;
- Capital Improvements Implementation Program; and
- Operations and Maintenance

The ability to achieve measurable goals, and the speed at which they are realized, largely depends on the amount of funding available for implementation, as well as the staffing and capacity of the partners working on actions to make progress towards the goal. If more funds are available, more actions within the targeted implementation schedule can be implemented and more progress can be made toward goals. The amount of funding for implementing this plan is uncertain, presenting a challenge for planning purposes. To address this challenge, three funding levels are provided in this plan.

- Baseline Funding: The Baseline Funding scenario provides the 10-yr budget and assumes plan funding will remain similar to current funding focused on water issues within the plan area. Baseline Funding was determined by defining the annual budgets of the WWPP entities and allocating by percent of area each county has in the watershed. Actions included in this scenario are the highest priority for implementation. Ten years of funding is assumed to be $6,811,000 to maintain an existing level of implementation within the WRW.
- Enhanced Funding: The Enhanced Funding scenario provides an alternate 10-yr budget, including ten years of baseline annual funding with additional funding from Clean Water Fund dollars (Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). Actions included in this scenario are second highest priority for implementation. Ten years of Enhanced Funding is assumed to equal $3,373,750. Assuming WBIF is consistently available over the 10-year life cycle of this plan, the amount of implementation dollars available for WRW implementation efforts will be Baseline funds plus Enhanced funds.
- Collaborative Efforts and Competitive Funding: Collaborative Efforts and Competitive Funding values in Table 1-4 (following page) indicate the amount of additional funding needed to complete plan actions that cannot be completed with only Baseline and Enhanced Funding. That is, to implement all Research and Monitoring and Capital Improvement related actions, more money will need to be leveraged by the group than is available with Baseline and Enhanced Funding levels combined. The (*formal name to be determined pending formal agreement*) plans to pursue competitive grant funding and other alternative funding sources to support these actions.

Table 1-4 provides the estimated costs for implementing actions in the plan for the three funding levels. Costs are also included for Operations and Maintenance of natural and artificial waterways at or near their current expenditure level. This plan assumes local, state, and/or federal fiscal support of regulation and enforcement remains unchanged and includes funding for plan administration costs.

Table 1-4: Total Watershed Funding Allocations per Implementation Program.

	$ Baseline Funding Est. 10-year Baseline Budget	$$ Enhanced Funding Est. 10-year Additional Funding Needs	$$$ Collaborative Efforts and Competitive Funding Est, 10-year Budget Shortfall
	Est. 10-Year Cost	Est. 10-Year Additional Funding	Est. 10-Year Additional Funding
Implementation Program			
Structural and Management Practices Cost-Share Incentive Program	$215,000	$2,685,000	N/A
Education and Outreach Implementation Program	$352,000	$240,000	N/A
Research and Monitoring Implementation Program	$79,000	$78,750	$388,750
Regulatory Administration Implementation Program	$685,000	$0	N/A
Capital Improvements Implementation Program	$180,000	$370,000	$7,475,000
Additional Expenses			
Operations and Maintenance	$5,300,000	$0	N/A
Total	$6,811,000	$3,373,750	$7,863,750
Cumulative Total	$6,811,000	$10,184,750	$18,048,500

Total watershed Structural and Management Cost-Share Incentive Program funding was distributed among the six planning regions based on local expertise and a GIS-based ranking criteria guidance by Issue Category (Appendix D). Percent budget allocations to individual planning regions is illustrated in Table 1-5. Each planning region's overall funding was then divided between management practices (40% of overall structural and management and practices budget), structural projects (40%), and easements (20%).

Table 1-5: Total percent of Structural and Management Cost-Budget by Planning Region.

Planning Region	% Budget
Lower Watonwan River	20
North Fork Watonwan River	10
Perch Creek	10
Saint James Creek	25
South Fork Watonwan River	20
Upper Watonwan River	15
Total	100

Actions that summarize projects and practices are planning region specific. The who, what, when, where, and cost of each action dealing with projects and practices are described in an implementation profile for each planning region. An example excerpt profile is shown for the Lower Watonwan River in Figure 1-3

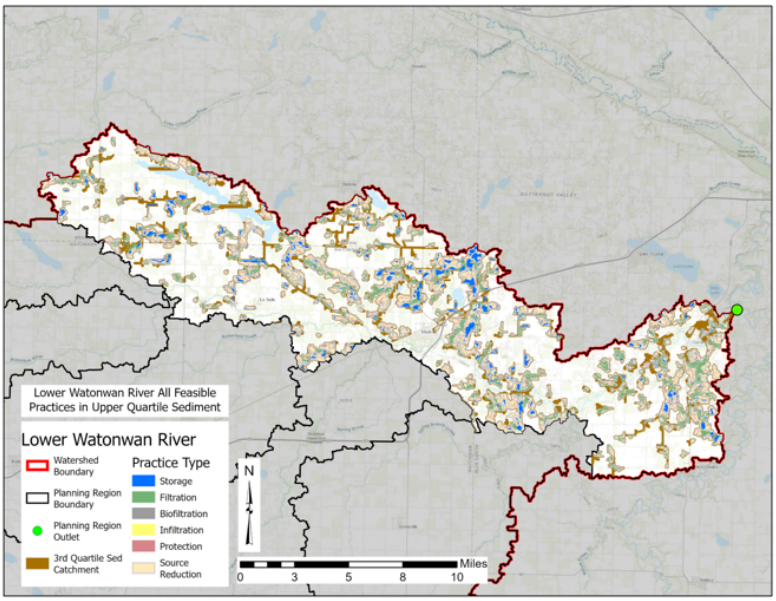
(following page).

The Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) was used to prioritize and target possible locations of upland structural and field management conservation practices in each planning region. The WRW PTMApp implementation approach was designed to select the most cost-effective structural projects for removing sediment, total phosphorus, and total nitrogen until the cost of projects equaled what planning partners are anticipating from the Watershed-Based Initiative Funding (WBIF) on projects within each planning region (Enhanced Funding Level).

The types, numbers, cost, and locations of projects and practices shown will inevitably shift during plan implementation due to a variety of factors, including landowner willingness and field verification. As such, an investment guide was also developed for this plan to provide a guide for evaluating if potential alternative projects and practices provide a cost-effective solution for making progress towards goals.

Figure 1-3: Example excerpt from the Lower Watonwan River planning region implementation profile.

LOWER WATONWAN RIVER PLANNING REGION: FEASIBLE STRUCTURAL AND MANAGEMENT PRACTICES



Feasible Structural and Management Practices

	PTMApp Treatment Group (With Representative BMPs)	Practice Type		Number in Planning Region
		Structural	Management	
	Storage *(e.g. ponds, WASCOBs)*	●		735
	Filtration *(e.g. filter strips, grassed waterways)*	●		1,418
	Biofiltration *(e.g. denitrifying bioreactors, saturated buffers)*	●		43
	Infiltration *(e.g. Multi-stage ditch, infiltration trench)*	●		32
	Protection *(e.g. stream protection, critical area planting)*	●		728
	Source Reduction *(e.g. cover crops, conservation tillage)*		●	24,393 acres (941 practices)

Feasible Structural and Management Practices in the Lower Watonwan River Planning Region

Locations for structural and management practices are initially screened using a set of "practicability" criteria (e.g. minimum load reduction) and cost-effectiveness. The remaining technically feasible practices, summarized and shown in the table and map to the left, highlight those practices that fall within high sediment yield catchments in the Lower Watonwan River Planning Region. There are many more practices summarized here than can realistically be implemented. The number and type of practices which can be implemented is largely influenced by the amount of funding available, what measurable goal(s) are being pursued, and what practices are most locally accepted by the community for voluntary implementation.

This large list of feasible practices is narrowed down by identifying what practices will be the focus of plan implementation efforts assuming funding for implementation largely remains unchanged from current levels. Cost-effectiveness of practices is determined by first estimating the total cost to install the practice and then factoring in the water quality benefit from that practice. The most cost-effective practices that meet all practicability criteria become part of the "**Targeted Implementation Plan**" shown on subsequent pages.

PTMApp Treatment Group	NRCS Practice Type(s)
Structural - Storage	Depressions
	Drainage Water Management
	Nutrient Removal Wetlands
	Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs)
Structural - Filtration	Contour Buffer Strip
	Multi-species Buffer
Structural - Biofiltration	Denitrifying Bioreactor
	Saturated Buffer
Structural - Infiltration	Multi-stage Ditch
	Infiltration Trench
Structural - Protection	Stiff Stemmed Grasses
	Grass Waterways
	Deep Rooted Vegetation
	Stream Bank Stabilization
Management - Source Reduction	Cover Crops and Conservation Tillage

Management Practices Quick Summary:

- Cover crops, tillage management, rotational grazing
- Targeted to areas of highest soil loss

Structural Practices Quick Summary:

- WASCOBS, filter strips, ponds, and waterways
- Most cost-efficient over project life

The rest of the targeted implementation actions were developed to be watershed wide. Table 1-6 supplies a summary of the implementation actions for the rest of the implementation programs. Each action was created to support one, or multiple goals from Section 5 of this plan. In addition, an example action is supplied for each implementation program. Table 1-6 is meant to summarize the expected level of activity within each program. All of the individual actions are provided in Section 6.

Table 1-6: Anticipated roles for WRCWMP implementation.

Implementation Program	Number of Goal-Related Actions	Example Action
Education and Outreach Implementation Program	34	EO-29: Promote the implementation of whole-farm and nutrient management practices to improve farm profitability and reduce nitrogen loss.
Research and Monitoring Implementation Program	21	RM-14: Identify needed improvements to infrastructure relative to public accesses, trails, road maintenance, and signage to promote and increase use of publicly-owned lands.
Regulatory Administration Implementation Program	14	R-12: Adhere to Minnesota Statutes and Rules pertaining to invasive species (Minnesota Statute 84D and Minnesota Rules 6216) and the Noxious Weed Law (Minnesota Statutes Sections 18.76 to 18.91).
Capital Improvements Implementation Program	6	CI-6: Address failing culverts and fish barriers through engagement with county public works, townships and private landowners to accurately size bridges and culverts.
Operations and Maintenance Implementation Program	6	OM-6: Encourage and promote low-impact development techniques and methods.

1.5 Roles and Responsibilities of Participating Local Governments

The WWPP divided into three committees for purposes of drafting this plan: The Policy Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Steering Team. The make-up and roles of these committees is expected to shift to three new committees during implementation: The Policy Committee, the WRW Technical Committee, and Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) Staff. During implementation, these committees will be collectively referred to as the Watonwan River Watershed Partnership (WRWP).

Presented below (Table 1-7) are the probable roles and functions of the WRWP committees. The WRWP fiscal and administrative duties will be assigned to a planning entity through a Policy Committee decision as outlined in the formal agreement. Responsibilities for annual work planning and serving as the central fiscal agent will be revisited by the WRWP on an annual basis.

Initially, the WRWP anticipates use of a Watershed Coordinator housed within the watershed whose role will be to administer implementation of the plan. Technical Service Areas (TSAs) and GBERBA will be utilized as available. Throughout implementation, each local government will annually evaluate the need for additional technical or administrative assistance to implement the plan.

Table 1-7: Anticipated roles for WRCWMP implementation.

Committee Name	Description	Primary Implementation Role/Functions
Policy Committee (Fiscal Agent)	Same as planning Policy Committee (one County Commissioner and one SWCD Board Supervisor appointed from each of the participating counties and SWCDs in the watershed).	• Approve the annual local workplan and any associated revisions • Approve grant workplan(s) and review/approve grant revisions and amendments • Review and approve priority issues and projects
WRW Technical Committee	Same as planning Steering Team (local SWCD and county staff, regional BWSR staff) with state agency representation.	• Prepare annual local workplan • Prepare grant workplan(s) • Pursue funding opportunities for WRCWMP implementation • Review and confirm priority issues and projects
GBERBA Staff	This organization was not formally part of plan development. However, many of their members were part of the planning Steering Team and Policy Committee.	• Submit annual local workplan • Submit grant applications, workplans, and funding requests • Coordinate annual local workplan • Coordinate grant workplans

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

1. Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Dakota County Groundwater Plan – Melissa King – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	**Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan**
Meeting Date:	December 17, 2020
Agenda Category:	☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business
Item Type:	☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information
Section/Region:	Central Region
Contact:	Steve Christopher
Prepared by:	Steve Christopher
Reviewed by:	Central Region Committee(s)
Presented by:	Steve Christopher
Time requested:	5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☒ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full Plan Link as follows:
https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2020-11/PSC_Fourth_Generation_Plan_FinalDraft_October2020.pdf

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

Background:
The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) is located exclusively in Hennepin County in the western portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound by the Crow River to the north, on the northeast by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south and southeast by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and on the west by Wright and Carver Counties. The Commission includes all or parts of the following six municipalities: Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista. The Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed covers approximately 70.5 square miles. There are seventeen lakes in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed and six major streams. The watershed continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture and rural residential development, with some high density housing, commercial, and townhouse developments in the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain.

The cities of Independence, Minnetrista, Medina and the Hennepin Conservation District created the Pioneer Creek Watershed Management Commission on January 13, 1978. On June 7, 1983, the City of Greenfield offered a resolution to the Pioneer Creek Commission requesting a merger of the Sarah Creek and Pioneer Creek Watersheds. This merger combined administrative services and avoided the creation of numerous small watershed organizations. In December 1984, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was formally established through a Joint Powers Agreement. Since that time, Watertown Township in Carver County and the city of Corcoran elected to leave the Commission, becoming members of adjacent WMOs. The current plan was approved by the Board in January 2015.

Plan Process and Highlights:
The Commission initiated work on the Fourth Generation Plan in November 2019. The Commission underwent an early input from the water management agencies as well as its partners in late 2020 and held a kickoff meeting in early 2020. The Commission Board and partners were in agreement that a full re-write of the Plan was not necessary, but the goals and implementation should be addressed and revised as needed. The 60-day draft was submitted in June 2020 and the Commission held their public hearing at the October Commission meeting. The Commission had adequately responded to all comments from the 60-day draft and no additional comments were received on the 90-day draft which was received by BWSR on October 22, 2020.

The Plan includes a self-assessment and information required in Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 8410, Local Water Management: an updated land and water resources inventory, goals and policies; an assessment of problems and identification of corrective actions; an implementation program; and a process for amending the Plan.

Fourth Generation Management Plan Priorities

1. Make systematic progress toward achieving lake water quality goals by 2030:
    a. Delist South Whaletail Lake.
    b. Protect Lake Rebecca so it continues to meet water quality standards.
    c. Meet state water quality standards in the following lakes: Independence, Sarah, Spurzem, Half Moon, and Ardmore.
    d. Achieve a 10% reduction in TP concentration in the other monitored lakes over the previous ten years.
2. Work in a coordinated way with urban and rural property owners, cities, lake associations, public and private entities, Hennepin County, and TRPD building partnerships to conserve our water and natural resources and deliver implementation projects.
3. Raise the profile of the Commission across the watershed, within Hennepin County, the western Metro area, and the Crow River Watershed.
4. Serve as an informational and technical resource for the cities, citizens and property owners in the watershed.

The Commission has made significant water quality improvements to Lake Independence, Lake Sarah and North Whaletail thanks to concentrated efforts and effective use of grant funding. This plan update should allow the Commission to further those improvements and build upon the stronger relationships with partners like Hennepin County, Three Rivers Park District and the landowners of the watershed.

The Capital Improvement Program included in this plan is realistic with the funding availability and allows them to make systematic progress. The Commission also remains committed to working with the member cities to further efforts based upon the available financial resources and landowner willingness.

Attachments:

1. Draft order for approval of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) Watershed Management Plan.
2. PSCWMC Plan Executive Summary.
   Full plan available here:
   https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2020-11/PSC_Fourth_Generation_Plan_FinalDraft_October2020.pdf
3. PSCWMC Capital Improvement Program 2021-2030

BOARD DECISION #_____

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

In the Matter of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

ORDER APPROVING A WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated October 2020 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Watershed District Establishment.** The cities of Independence, Minnetrista, Medina and the Hennepin Conservation District created the Pioneer Creek Watershed Management Commission on January 13, 1978. On June 7, 1983, the City of Greenfield offered a resolution to the Pioneer Creek Commission requesting a merger of the Sarah Creek and Pioneer Creek Watersheds. This merger combined administrative services and avoided the creation of numerous small watershed organizations. In December 1984, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was formally established through a Joint Powers Agreement. Since that time, Watertown Township in Carver County and the city of Corcoran elected to leave the Commission, becoming members of adjacent WMOs. The current plan was approved by the Board in January 2015.

2. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The PSCWMC is located exclusively in Hennepin County in the western portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound by the Crow River to the north, on the northeast by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south and southeast by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and on the west by Wright and Carver Counties. The Commission includes all or parts of the following six municipalities: Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista. The Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed covers approximately 70.5 square miles. There are seventeen lakes in the Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed and six major streams. The watershed continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture and rural residential development, with some high density housing, commercial, and townhouse developments in the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain.

4. **Plan Development and Review.** The PSCWMC initiated the planning process for the 2021-2030 Plan in late 2019. As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Stakeholders were identified, notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. Starting in September 2019, the Commission completed an assessment on the need to re-write the Plan or simply revise it through the evaluation of its goals and a new implementation table. Following the assessment in consultation with Board staff, it was determined that a revision was more appropriate. The PSCWMC held its official kickoff meeting seeking input on January 16, 2020. The Plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on June 26, 2020. The PSCWMC received 53 comments on the 60-day draft Plan. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. After formal review of the Plan, the PSCWMC held a public hearing on the draft Plan on October 15, 2020. No additional comments were received during the 90-day review period. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on October 22, 2020.

5. **Local Review.** The PSCWMC distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from the City of Greenfield, City of Independence and Hennepin County. The PSCWMC adequately responded to all comments and made necessary revisions.

6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council noted the Plan lacks detail in the later years of the implementation period but recognizes the progress that the PSCWMC has made in managing its water resources. The PSCWMC noted the comments and stated that it will continue to update the information in the Plan as resources are available.

7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not have any comments.

8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** The MDH did not provide comments.

9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR provided comments noting that some of the priorities are vague and goals should be further refined specifically water quantity and groundwater. The PSCWMC noted the MR 8410 requirements for some of the priorities and acknowledged that some may receive less attention due to the focus on impaired waters and protection of those waters listed as high priorities.

10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA noted that additional groundwater information would be helpful along with a Best Management Practice Inspection program and evaluation of civic outreach activities. The PSCWMC noted this and much of the progress in those areas is dependent upon city resources.

11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** No comments were submitted by DOT on the Plan.

12. **Board Review.** Board staff identified areas within the Goals where greater measurability could be achieved and offered assistance during Plan implementation on the development of them. Board staff also noted some formatting inconsistencies and clarification of language. The PSCWMC noted the comments and made changes where necessary.

13. **Plan Summary.** The Plan focuses on four main priorities: 1. Make systematic progress toward achieving lake water quality goals by 2030, specifically a) Delist South Whaletail Lake, b) Protect Lake Rebecca so it continues to meet water quality standards, c) Meet state water quality standards in Lake Independence, Lake Sarah, Spurzem Lake, Half Moon Lake, and Lake Ardmore, and d) Achieve a 10% reduction in TP concentration in the other monitored lakes over the previous ten years. 2. Work in a coordinated way with urban and rural property owners, cities, lake associations, public and private entities, Hennepin

County, and Three Rivers Park District building partnerships to conserve our water and natural resources and deliver implementation projects. 3. Raise the profile of the Commission across the watershed, within Hennepin County, the western Metro area, and the Crow River Watershed. 4. Serve as an informational and technical resource for the cities and the citizens and property owners in the watershed.

14. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On December 2, 2020 the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via teleconference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Joe Collins (chair), Paige Winebarger, Jill Crafton, Joel Larson, Jayne Hager Dee, Andrea Date, Kathryn Kelly, Nicole Blasing, Grant Wilson, and Steve Robertson. Board staff in attendance were Assistant Director Kevin Bigalke, Board Conservationist Melissa King and Board Conservationist Steve Christopher. PSCWMC Chair Joe Baker and PSCWMC Plan Consultant Diane Spector were also in attendance. Diane Spector provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.

2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.

3. The PSCWMC Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the PSCWMC's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2030.

4. The PSCWMC Watershed Management Plan will be effective December 17, 2020 through December 17, 2030.

5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Watershed Management Plan dated October 2020.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 17th day of December 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

Board of Commissioners
Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission
c/o JASS
3235 Fernbrook Lane
Plymouth, MN 55447

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2020. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the PSCWMC must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

The managers, staff, consultants, advisory committee members, and all others involved in the planning process are to be commended for developing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the watershed. With continued implementation of your Plan, the protection and management of the water resources within the watershed will be greatly enhanced to the benefit of the residents. The Board looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Steve Christopher of our staff at 651-249-7519, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

Enclosure

CC: John Gleason, DNR (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)
Beth Neuendorf, MN DOT (via email)
Kevin Bigalke, BWSR (via email)
Steve Christopher, BWSR (via email)
File Copy

Executive Summary

This Watershed Management Plan (Plan) describes how the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSC WMC) will manage activities in the watershed in the ten-year period 2021-2030.

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) formed in 1984 using a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) developed under authority conferred to the member communities by Minnesota Statutes 471.59 and 103B.201 through 103B.251. The watershed is in the northwest portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven county Metropolitan Area and is comprised of all or part of the following cities in Hennepin County:

Cities	Area (sq mi)
Greenfield	21.32
Independence	29.72
Loretto	0.26
Maple Plain	0.76
Medina	7.52
Minnetrista	10.70
Total	70.28

The WMO is governed by a Board of Commissioners that is comprised of one member appointed from each community by their respective City Councils. The Commission's purpose is set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.210, Metropolitan Surface Water Planning, which codified the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982:

(1) protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
(2) minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
(3) identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
(4) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
(5) prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
(6) promote groundwater recharge;
(7) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
(8) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.

Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission initiated work on the Fourth Generation Plan in November 2019. The Plan includes a self-assessment and information required in Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 8410, Local Water Management: an updated land and water resources inventory, goals and policies; an assessment of problems and identification of corrective actions; an implementation program; and a process for amending the Plan.

Third Generation Plan Self-Assessment

The Third Generation Plan extended from 2015 to 2020. The Commission has completed or is in ongoing implementation of nearly all the work plan activities and strategies identified in the Third Generation Plan. The most successful achievements over the past six years have been:

- Continued identification and implementation of projects and practices to reduce pollutant loading to the lakes and streams in the watershed.
- Lake Rebecca, originally listed as impaired in 2008 for nutrients, now meets phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi depth standards and has been removed from the Impaired Waters list.
- Built a sense of Commission and City alignment, highlighted by partnerships that identified implementation projects and grant and cost share funding to complete projects.
- Enhanced the working relationship with the Hennepin County Rural Conservationists to enhance visibility and build ties with the agricultural community.
- The Plan set a goal of improving water quality in the lakes by 10% over the previous ten-year period. Table ES.1 shows change in water quality as measured by Secchi depth (SD) (clarity) and Total Phosphorus (TP) in 5 of the 9 lakes with enough data to perform a trend analysis. The improvement in TP in West Lake Sarah and North Whaletail and clarity in North Whaletail and Lake Ardmore is statistically significant. Independence and Hafften are also trending better.

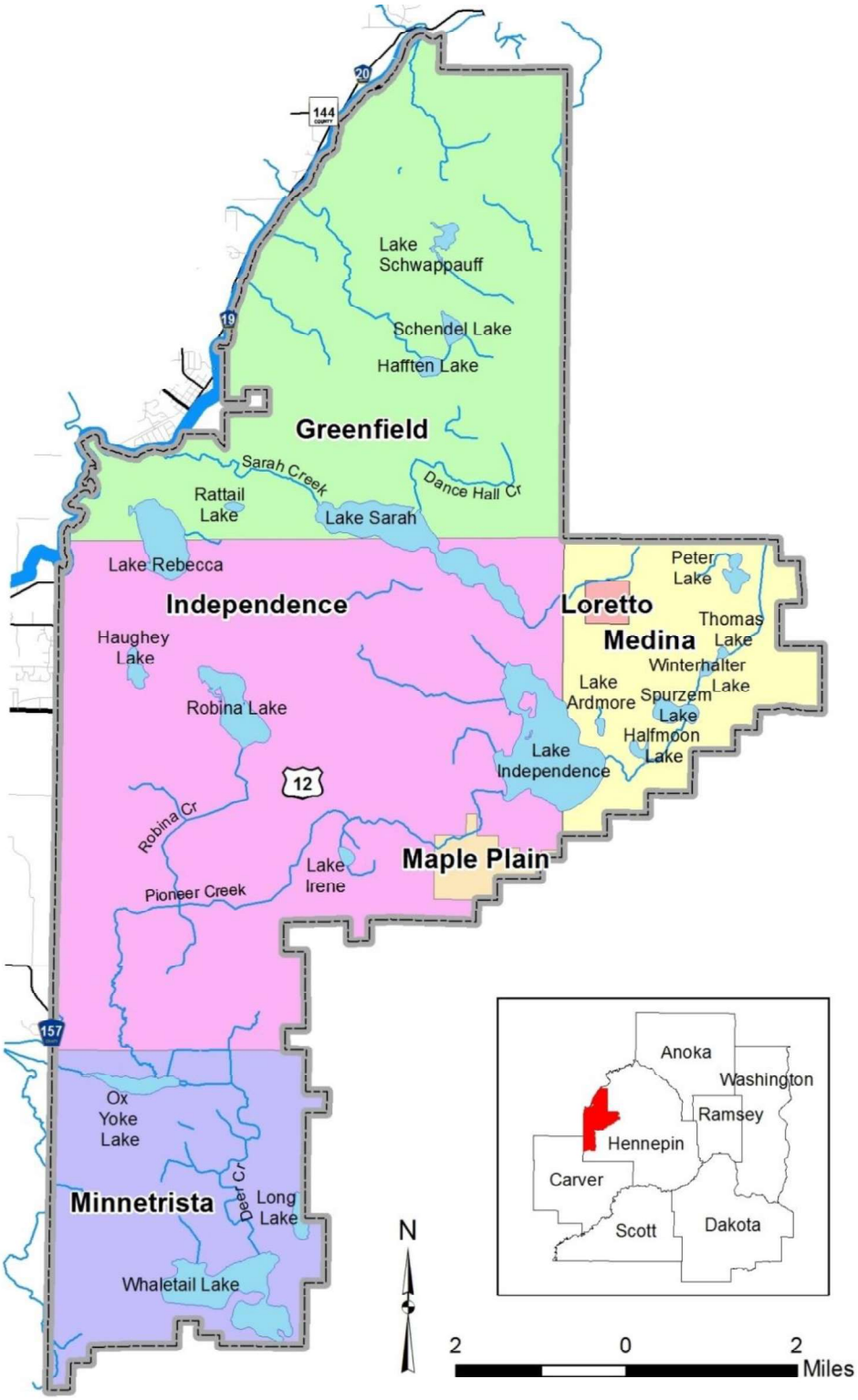
Table ES.1. Ten-year change in lake water quality.

Lake	SD Change*	TP Change*
Lake Ardmore	***+28%***	+9.5%
Hafften Lake	+23%	-15%
Lake Independence	+43%	-10%
Peter Lake	-3%	+24%
Lake Sarah-East	+36%	N/A
Lake Sarah-West	+38%	***-18%***
Spurzem Lake	+38%	N/C
North Whaletail	***+16%***	***-23%***
South Whaletail	+16%	-5%

*Note: a positive Secchi depth change is an improvement, while a negative TP change is an improvement. Values in ***bold italic*** are significant based on a Mann-Kendall trend analysis (ρ=0.05).

Areas where the Commission fell short include:

- No assessment of progress toward meeting Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) load reductions, Watershed Restoration and Protections Strategies (WRAPS) study, or water quality goals has been completed.
- Because much of the implementation opportunity in the watershed is on privately-owned property, there is heavy reliance on finding willing landowners. Additional implementation projects could have been completed had property owners been willing to participate.



- 33 Figure ES.1: Cities in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed.

Fourth Generation Management Plan Issues and Priorities and Goals

The Commission and Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees identified the following issues and issue areas during the planning process:

- Impaired Waters Implementation
- Agricultural Community Outreach
- General Education and Outreach
- Effective Operations

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed is primarily residential and agricultural in land use, with a very limited commercial and industrial tax base. Its financial capacity is limited, but the Commission has been successful at obtaining grants to supplement local funding sources, and at building partnerships to leverage resources. In implementing this Plan, the Commission will continue to work on identifying opportunities, securing grant and other funding, and working jointly with member cities, Hennepin County Environment and Energy (HCEE), the Three Rivers Park District (TRPD), public and private entities, and individual property owners to maximize the cost-effectiveness of implementation activities. The success of this Plan is dependent on continuing and expanding those partnerships and outside resources.

Through the identification of issues in the watershed, the PSC WMC developed the following priorities and goals to guide water resources planning and management functions.

FOURTH GENERATION MANAGEMENT PLAN PRIORITIES

1. Make systematic progress toward achieving lake water quality goals by 2030:
    a. Delist South Whaletail Lake.
    b. Protect Lake Rebecca so it continues to meet water quality standards.
    c. Meet state water quality standards in the following lakes: Independence, Sarah, Spurzem, Half Moon, and Ardmore.
    d. Achieve a 10% reduction in Total Phosphorus concentration in the other monitored lakes over the previous ten years.
2. Work in a coordinated way with urban and rural property owners, cities, lake associations, public and private entities, Hennepin County, and TRPD building partnerships to conserve our water and natural resources and deliver implementation projects
3. Raise the profile of the Commission across the watershed, within Hennepin County, the western Metro area, and the Crow River Watershed.
4. Serve as an informational and technical resource for the cities and the citizens and property owners in the watershed.

Guided by the identification and prioritization of issues in the watersheds, the Commission has established goals that will guide activities over the coming decade.

Goal Area A. Water Quantity
- Goal A. 1. Maintain the post-development 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year peak rate of runoff at pre-development level for the critical duration precipitation event.
- Goal A. 2. Maintain the post-development annual runoff volume at pre-development volume.
- Goal A. 3. Prevent the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year elevation.

Goal Area B. Water Quality
- Goal B. 1. Protect Lake Rebecca and achieve delisting of South Whaletail Lake.
- Goal B. 2. Meet state standards in Spurzem, Half Moon, Ardmore, Independence and Sarah Lakes, making progress towards their removal from the list of Impaired Waters.
- Goal B. 3. Improve water quality in the impaired lakes by 10% over the average of the previous ten years by 2030.
- Goal B. 4. Maintain or improve water quality in the lakes and streams with no identified impairments.
- Goal B. 5. Conduct a TMDL/WRAPS progress review every five years.
- Goal B. 6. Foster implementation of Best Management Practices in the watershed through technical and financial assistance.

Goal Area C. Groundwater
- Goal C. 1. Promote groundwater recharge by requiring abstraction/infiltration of runoff from new development and redevelopment.
- Goal C. 2. Protect groundwater quality by incorporating wellhead protection study results into development and redevelopment Rules and Standards.

Goal Area D. Wetlands
- Goal D. 1. Preserve the existing functions and values of wetlands within the watershed.
- Goal D. 2. Promote the enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the watershed.

Goal Area E. Drainage Systems
- Goal E. 1. Continue current Hennepin County jurisdiction over county ditches in the watershed.

Goal Area F. Commission Operations and Programming
- Goal F. 1. Identify and operate within a sustainable funding level that is affordable to member cities.
- Goal F. 2. Foster implementation of TMDL and other implementation projects by sharing in their cost and proactively seeking grant funds.
- Goal F. 3. Operate a public education and outreach program prioritizing elected and appointed officials' education and building better understanding between all stakeholders.

Goal F. 4. Operate a monitoring program sufficient to characterize water quantity and quality and biotic integrity in the watershed and to evaluate progress toward TMDL goals.

Goal F. 5. Maintain rules and standards for development and redevelopment that are consistent with local and regional TMDLs, federal guidelines, source water and wellhead protection requirements, nondegradation, and ecosystem management goals.

Goal F. 6. Serve as a technical resource for member cities and residents.

Implementation

This Fourth Generation Watershed Management Plan continues and expands activities that have been successful in the past and introduces some new activities, including the development of Lake Management Plans for key resources. The Commission's partnerships with HCEE and TRPD have led to successes such as the delisting of Lake Rebecca from the state's list of Impaired Waters.

Rules and Standards. In the Third Generation Plan the Commission updated stormwater management and water resources protection policies and standards for new development and redevelopment. These were compiled and codified into a Rules and Standards document. In general, those Rules and Standards apply to all development and redevelopment one acre or more in size and require at a minimum: no increase in pollutant loading or stormwater volume; no increase in the peak rate of runoff from the property; and the abstraction/infiltration of 1.1 inches of runoff from impervious surfaces. The Commission reviews 4-8 development projects per year for conformance with those Rules.

Monitoring Program. The monitoring program continues routine monitoring for flow and water quality on Pioneer and Sarah Creeks, with periodic monitoring on other smaller streams and tributaries on a rotating or as-needed basis. Five lakes – Independence, Sarah, both basins of Whaletail, and Little Long – have been classified by the Commission as "Sentinel Lakes," and are monitored every year. Other lakes are monitored on a rotating basis.

Education and Outreach. The Commission has an Education and Outreach program that identifies stakeholder groups in the watershed and key education messages, and uses Web and social media, local newspapers and cable TV to share useful information. In recent years the Commission has partnered with Hennepin County rural conservationists and water resources specialists to expand outreach opportunities for rural and agricultural stakeholders. The Commission also participates in Metro-wide education and outreach initiatives such as Blue Thumb, Watershed Partners and Northland NEMO.

TMDL Implementation. The Commission was identified as being a partner in certain implementation activities in the lake and stream TMDLs and WRAPS in the watershed. Many of those activities are included in the monitoring, education and outreach, and Capital Improvement actions in this Plan.

Capital Improvement Program. The primary focus of the Commission's Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is to systematically make progress toward meeting TMDLs by focusing resources on one or two lakes at a time, periodically reviewing progress and updating realistic five to ten year working plans.

- *Lake Management Plans.* The Commission will prepare lake management plans for Lake Independence, Lake Sarah, and Lake Ardmore that will summarize progress toward their TMDLs and update models and data as necessary. The plans will focus on holistic, whole-lake ecological management that include actions to manage aquatic vegetation and fish communities and internal load in addition to watershed load reductions.
- *Subwatershed Assessments and Studies.* The Commission will complete subwatershed assessments and special studies that will identify cost-effective practices and projects. A priority for assessment is the area tributary to Spurzem Lake, which is tributary to Lake Independence.
- *Capital Projects.* The Commission will focus on subwatershed assessments and other studies and will prioritize cost–share in TMDL/WRAPS implementation projects, starting with Lake Independence and Lake Sarah. The Commission will annually solicit capital projects and cost-share activities from the member cities. The Commission will also consider a policy to supplement Hennepin County incentives for cost-share practices in priority areas.

Local and Watershed Plan Amendments

After final approval of the Plan, cities will update their Local Water Management Plans (LWMPs) as a part of their next Comprehensive Plans. These updates will be expected to include:

- Updated land use, hydrologic, and hydraulic data, and existing or potential water resource related problems that may have changed since the last LWMP.
- An explanation of how the member city will help to implement the actions set forth in the Commission's Plan.
- Action steps detailing how the member city will work to achieve the load reductions and other actions identified in and agreed to in TMDL Implementation Plans.
- Updated Implementation Plan identifying the specific structural, nonstructural, and programmatic solutions to the problems and issues identified in the LWMP.
- Set forth an implementation program including a description of adoption or amendment of official controls and local policies necessary to implement the Rules and Standards; programs; policies; a capital improvement plan; and estimates of cost and funding mechanisms.

This watershed management plan provides direction for PSC WMC activities through the year 2030. The Commissioners intend the Plan to provide a flexible framework for managing the watershed and, as such, may initiate amendments to this plan at any time. The Commission will annually review and refine the budget, monitoring program, education and outreach plan and Capital Improvement Program and may adopt plan amendments adding or revising proposed capital improvement projects or making other revisions to the Plan.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Dakota County Groundwater Plan**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☒ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Dakota County, groundwater, plan

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Melissa King

Prepared by: Melissa King

Reviewed by: Central Region Committee(s)

Presented by: Melissa King

Time requested: 5 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None	☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Amended Policy Requested	☐ Capital Budget
☐ New Policy Requested	☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Other:	☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Dakota County Groundwater Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Link to the final draft plan:
https://www.co.dakota.mn.us/Environment/WaterResources/WellsDrinkingWater/Documents/GroundwaterPlanStateReview.pdf

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

Background

Dakota County (County) is part of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The County is the third most populous in Minnesota, with an estimated 2018 population of 428,558. Between 2010 and 2018 the population of the County increased 20%, and the Metropolitan Council projects that population will reach nearly 514,000 by 2040. Approximately 36% of the County is urbanized, 43% is agricultural land, and 21% some type of open space (forests, shrubland, water, etc.).

Groundwater provides 90% of the water supply in the County, with the majority of the County served by 14 public water suppliers. Contaminants and increasing groundwater demands threaten the drinking water supply. Hastings and Rosemount municipal water supplies have elevated levels of nitrate, with the nitrate concentrations almost doubling in the last 20 years. County research has found that nitrate and pesticides are prevalent in groundwater wells the rural south/southeast portion area of the County where land use is predominantly agricultural, and naturally occurring manganese tends to be above Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water guidelines in the north/northwestern part of the County. Public waters suppliers provide water that meets health standards, however, the groundwater poses health risks that water suppliers and private well owners must address.

The Metropolitan Council estimates that portions of the County may experience 20-30 feet of drawdown in the Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers; the two aquifers that provide most of the County's municipal water supplies and agricultural irrigation water. The largest drawdowns are predicted to occur in areas with high municipal water use and in cities with the highest projected population increases – Apple Valley, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, and Lakeville. Aquifer drawdown is also predicted to occur in heavily irrigated agricultural areas in the southeastern portion of the County.

Plan Process and Highlights

The County began the planning process in early 2019. Throughout 2019 the County completed a substantial outreach effort to engage the public and stakeholders in plan developments. This included activities and events for the general public, meetings with an ad hoc technical advisory group consisting of representatives of various government partners and construction, agriculture, hydrogeology and well drilling interests; and meetings with the County Planning Commission.

The Dakota County Groundwater Plan defines Dakota County's role in groundwater resource management for the next ten years by identifying goals, strategies and tactics the County will complete over the life of the Plan to address groundwater quality and availability issues facing the County. The Plan was developed with significant early involvement from State and local government units, private partners, and the general public and builds off existing resource conservation and improvement efforts.

There are four overarching Plan goals which include:

- Water Quality: Groundwater and drinking water are free from unhealthy levels of contaminants.
- Water Quantity: Groundwater is sufficient to meet human needs and sustain groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
- Education: People who live and work in Dakota County are knowledgeable about water issues, conserve water, and prevent pollution.
- Governance: Groundwater programs and services are efficient and effective.

The Plan includes specific strategies (framework to achieve Plan goals) and tactics (actions to achieve strategies) developed to address specific issues identified through research and by stakeholders, for each goal. Implementation of strategies are prioritized into three classifications (high, medium and low priority) and include annual measures of progress for each tactic, as well as identified outcomes anticipated at the end of the 10-year period. The Plan is well organized and focuses on what the County can realistically accomplish to address the growing needs within Dakota County.

Formal Plan Review Process

The draft Plan was received by the Board for the initial 60-day review on May 20, 2020 per MS §103B.255, subdivision 8. The draft Plan was also circulated to other state agencies, local governments within the county, adjoining counties and was also made available to other stakeholders and the general public for comment. The initial 60-day review period concluded on July 20,2020. The County prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on September 1, 2020. The Board received the revised draft Plan for the final 45-day review and Board approval on September 17, 2020. Comments received during the final 45-day review period indicated that the reviewers had no further comments.

Recommendation

On December 2, 2020, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met with representatives from Dakota County in St. Paul and virtually via WebEx, to review and discuss the final Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Dakota County Groundwater Plan to the Board per the attached draft Order.

BOARD DECISION #_____

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

In the Matter of the review of the Groundwater Plan for Dakota County, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255.

ORDER APPROVING GROUNDWATER PLAN

Whereas, the Dakota County Board of Commissioners submitted a Groundwater Plan (Plan) dated September 2020 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act in Minnesota Statutes section 103B.255 authorized counties in the seven-county metropolitan area to develop and implement groundwater plans, however, development of county groundwater plans is voluntary.

2. **Background and Nature of Groundwater in the County.** Dakota County (County) is part of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The County is the third most populous in Minnesota, with an estimated 2018 population of 428,558. Between 2010 and 2018 the population of the County increased 20%, and the Metropolitan Council projects that population will reach nearly 514,000 by 2040. Approximately 36% of the County is urbanized, 43% is agricultural land, and 21% some type of open space (forests, shrubland, water, etc.).

   Groundwater provides 90% of the water supply in the County, with the majority of the County served by 14 public water suppliers. Contaminants and increasing groundwater demands threaten the drinking water supply. Hastings and Rosemount municipal water supplies have elevated levels of nitrate, with the nitrate concentrations almost doubling in the last 20 years. County research has found that nitrate and pesticides are prevalent in groundwater wells the rural south/southeast portion area of the County where land use is predominantly agricultural, and naturally occurring manganese tends to be above Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) drinking water guidelines in the north/northwestern part of the County. Although public waters suppliers provide water that meets health standards, the groundwater poses health risks that water suppliers and private well owners must address.

   The Metropolitan Council estimates that portions of the County may experience 20-30 feet of drawdown in the Prairie du Chien and Jordan aquifers; the two aquifers that provide most of the County's municipal water supplies and agricultural irrigation water. The largest drawdowns are predicted to occur in areas with high municipal water use and in cities with the highest projected population increases – Apple Valley, Eagan, Inver Grove Heights, and Lakeville. Aquifer drawdown is also predicted to occur in heavily irrigated agricultural areas in the southeastern portion of the County.

3. **Plan Development and Review.** The County began the planning process in early 2019. Throughout 2019 the County completed a substantial outreach effort to engage the public and stakeholders in plan developments. This included activities and events for the general public, meetings with an ad hoc technical advisory group consisting of representatives of various government partners and construction, agriculture, hydrogeology and well drilling interests; and meetings with the County Planning Commission.

   The draft Plan was received by the Board for the initial 60-day review on May 20, 2020 per MS §103B.255, subdivision 8. The initial 60-day review period concluded on July 20,2020. The County prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on September 1, 2020. The Board received the revised draft Plan for the final 45-day review and Board approval on September 17, 2020. Comments received during the 45-day review period indicated that the reviewers had no further comments.

4. **Local Review.** Dakota County circulated a copy of the draft Plan to state review agencies, local government units, and adjacent counties on May 20, 2020 for their review. The draft Plan was also distributed to other stakeholders and was made available to the general public for review. The initial 60-day comment period ended on July 20, 2020. Written comments were received from: Black Dog Watershed Management Organization, Vermilion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, City of Apple Valley, City of Sunfish Lake, Washington County, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, Metropolitan Council, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, the University of Minnesota, the Cannon River Watershed Partnership, Flint Hills Resources Pine Bend LLC Refinery, the Hastings Environmental Partners, the Legislative Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy, and seven individuals. The County addressed the comments received. The County held a public hearing on September 1, 2020. No comments were received at the public hearing.

5. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review the Council commended the County on their efforts. The Council also noted that agency comments were considered during the planning process as part of the Council's participation on the technical advisory group. No additional comments were provided during the final 45-day review.

6. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** Comments were submitted to the County during the 60-day review. MDA thanked the County for referencing the Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (NFMP), Groundwater Protection Rule, and use of nomenclature from the NFMP. The agency recommended consistency in and provided recommendations on terminology used in the Plan. MDA requested clarity and further discussion on nitrogen fertilizer best management practices (BMPs) and alternative management tools (AMTs) and other BMP/water quality conservation practices. MDA provided comments on specific cooperative efforts identified in the Plan and expressed support for continued dialog on implementation of a monitoring networks and collaboration on long-term nitrogen fertilizer and water quality sites. Additional detail and clarity on specific Plan tactics were also requested. Comments were also suggested for typographical and grammar corrections. The County revised the Plan to satisfactorily incorporate suggested changes and additions as a result of these comments. MDA had no additional comment during the final 45-day review.

7. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** MDH provided commendations on including drinking water as a priority concern and thanked the County for allowing the agency the opportunity to participate on the technical advisory group during the 60-day review. It was noted that input from the agency was well received during the planning process and MDH had no further comments. MDH also indicated the agency had no further comment during the final 45-day review.

8. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** During the 60-day review, DNR commended the County's efforts to protect groundwater. DNR provided comment on and requested clarification of specific strategies, tactics, and outcome measures identified in the Plan. The agency expressed support for inclusion of strategies to address chloride contamination, for establishment of a County Groundwater/Source Water Collaborative, and efforts to protect calcareous fens. DNR provided additional references on wastewater reuse and suggested

strategies to improve the success of stormwater infiltration. Additional comment and clarification were provided regarding water appropriation permit review and delegation of authority. The County provided responses to all comments and revised the Plan to satisfactorily incorporate revisions as a result. During the 45-day review, DNR stated that the previous (60-day) comments have been acknowledged by the County and that the DNR had no further comment.

9. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** The PCA did not provide formal comment.

10. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** The DOT did not provide formal comment.

11. **Board Review.** Comments were submitted to the County during the 60-day review. Board staff commended the County on the inclusive planning process and suggested that the Plan incorporate target outputs or outcomes on a ten-year scale. The availability of BWSR staff to assist with on-going development of the interim goals identified in the annual report was also noted. BWSR staff had no additional comment during the final review period.

12. **Plan Summary.** The Dakota County Groundwater Plan defines Dakota County's role in groundwater resource management for the next ten years by identifying goals, strategies and tactics the County will complete over the life of the Plan to address groundwater quality and availability issues facing the County. The Plan was developed with significant early involvement from State and local government units, private partners, and the general public and builds off existing resource conservation and improvement efforts.

    There are four overarching Plan goals which include:

    - Water Quality: Groundwater and drinking water are free from unhealthy levels of contaminants.
    - Water Quantity: Groundwater is sufficient to meet human needs and sustain groundwater-dependent ecosystems.
    - Education: People who live and work in Dakota County are knowledgeable about water issues, conserve water, and prevent pollution.
    - Governance: Groundwater programs and services are efficient and effective.

    The Plan includes specific strategies (framework to achieve Plan goals) and tactics (actions to achieve strategies) developed to address specific issues identified through research and by stakeholders, for each goal. Implementation of strategies are prioritized into three classifications (high, medium and low priority) and include annual measures of progress for each tactic, as well as identified outcomes anticipated at the end of the 10-year period. The Plan is well organized and focuses on what the County can realistically accomplish to address the growing needs within Dakota County.

13. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On December 2, 2020, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via teleconference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Joe Collins (chair), Nicole Blasing, Jill Crafton, Andrea Date, Jayne Hager Dee, Joel Larson, Kathryn Kelly, Steve Robertson, Paige Winebarger, and Grant Wilson. Board staff in attendance were Assistant Director Kevin Bigalke, Board Conservationist Steve Christopher, and Board Conservationist Melissa King. Dakota County staff including Valerie Grover, Groundwater Protection Unit Supervisor, and Jill Trescott, Senior Groundwater Advisor, were in attendance. Jill Trescott and Valerie Grover provided highlights of the Plan and process to the committee. Board staff recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.

2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Groundwater Plan for Dakota County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255, Subd. 10.

3. Dakota County, Minnesota Groundwater Plan 2020-2030, attached to this Order, defines the groundwater and groundwater-related problems within the County, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2030.

4. The Dakota County Groundwater Plan will be effective December 17, 2020 through December 17, 2030.

5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.255.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Dakota County Groundwater Plan dated September 2020.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 17th day of December 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

December 17, 2020

Board of Commissioners
Dakota County Western Service Center
C/o Georg Fischer, Environmental Resources Director
14955 Galaxie Avenue
Apple Valley, MN 55124

Dear Chair and Commissioners:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Dakota County, Minnesota Groundwater Plan 2020-2030 (Plan) at its regular meeting held on December 17, 2020. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the County must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.255, Subd. 11.

Members of the County Board and Planning Commission, county staff, advisory committee members, and all others involved in the planning process are to be commended for developing a plan that clearly presents groundwater management goals, priorities for addressing these goals and establishing outcomes for partners to annually evaluate collaboration and success of the implementation of the Plan. The Plan is well organized and inclusive of groundwater resources issues of the County. The Board looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Melissa King of our staff at 651-350-8845, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

Enclosure

CC: Listed on next page

CC: John Gleason, DNR (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Beth Neuendorf, MN DOT (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Ali Elhassan, Met Council (via email)
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)
Kevin Bigalke, BWSR (via email)
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Melissa King, BWSR (via email)
File Copy

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Sufficient high-quality groundwater is critical for Dakota County's future and the health and wellbeing of its residents, businesses, and ecosystems. Contaminants and increasing groundwater demands threaten the County's drinking water supply, agriculture and industry water availability, and groundwater-dependent resources such as trout streams, springs, and calcareous fens. Human-caused contaminants that include nitrate, pesticides, and chloride are increasing in private wells, community water systems, and surface waters. In addition, increasing population, weather variability, and irrigation needs create extreme uncertainties about the availability of groundwater in the County in coming years. The potential financial, environmental, and intangible costs to treat undrinkable water, develop alternative water supplies besides groundwater, and rehabilitate damaged natural resources are much higher than the dollars needed to implement this Plan fully. As one of the most groundwater-dependent counties in the state, now is the time to act to protect Dakota County's groundwater and prevent public health risks and increasing future costs.

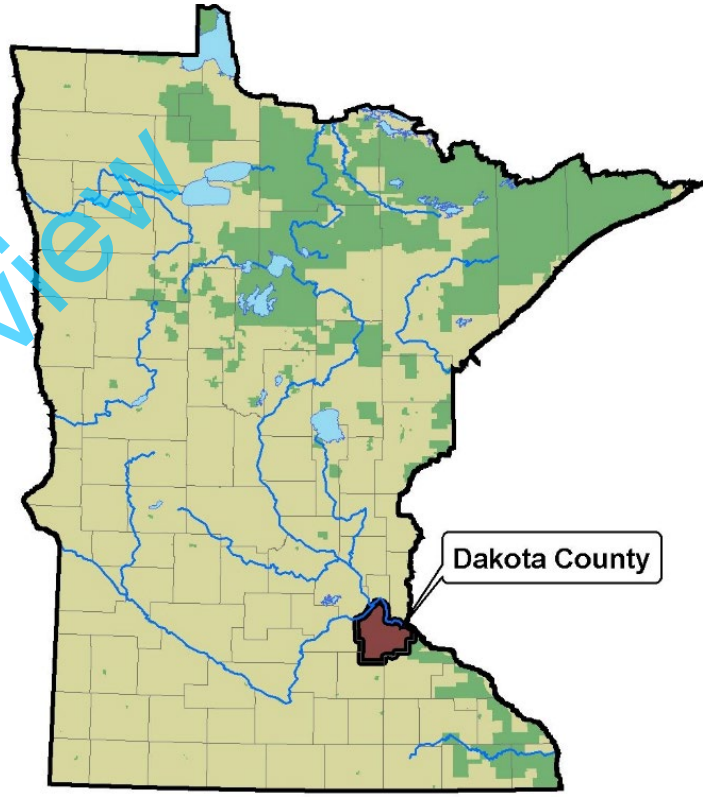


Figure 1 Location of Dakota County

A. Plan purpose

Dakota County is part of the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area (TCMA) and is bordered by Scott, Hennepin, Ramsey, Washington, Rice, and Goodhue Counties in Minnesota and Pierce County, Wisconsin. Groundwater provides 90 percent of the water supply in Dakota County, so groundwater protection is a critical element for meeting the county's 2017 Strategic Plan goals to be a great place to live with a healthy environment with quality natural areas. The Groundwater Plan states the goals, objectives, scope, and priorities for groundwater protection in the county. It describes the County's strategic approach for new and ongoing programs for residents, agricultural interests, businesses, industry, and government to protect and improve groundwater quality and quantity.

B. Water supply challenges

For Dakota County's future, healthy, plentiful water cannot be taken for granted. Providing clean water to all of the county is a challenge: the groundwater is especially vulnerable to contamination because the soils and geology allow pollution that occurs at the surface to soak quickly down to drinking water aquifers. For example, rural Dakota County has widespread, persistent groundwater contamination with agricultural chemicals such as nitrate and pesticides. Furthermore, in parts of the county, the underlying geology leaches naturally occurring arsenic and manganese into the groundwater; in those areas, treating drinking water will be necessary under the best of circumstances. The county has groundwater contamination plumes from Superfund sites, other sources of industrial pollution, and sites that were contaminated in the past that require attention. Other issues facing the county's groundwater quality, such as chloride, stormwater, septic systems, and unsealed wells, are described in more detail within the Groundwater Plan.

In addition, the County has a growing population, increasing the demand for water. Weather patterns are becoming even more unpredictable than before; less water may be available from rainfall or snowmelt to seep down to the groundwater. Like a water "bank account," if withdrawals exceed deposits over time, the "account" will be depleted. The County and its residents must protect groundwater recharge and conserve water to be sure the county's water "balance" stays in the positive in coming years. While it is difficult to predict groundwater recharge rates and availability, future periods of drought are highly likely to result in local shortages. The Metropolitan Council has estimated that parts of the county could have as much as 50% depletion of drinking water aquifers by the year 2040.

Addressing groundwater quality and quantity concerns now is imperative for Dakota County's future. Although there are costs associated with addressing these concerns, not protecting our groundwater can be even more costly in the years to come. For example, treating contaminated water is expensive for both public water suppliers and for people who use private wells. The City of Hastings Public Works Division has already invested more than $3 million in a nitrate removal system and may need to build another one in the near future. For residents who rely on private wells—an estimated 8,000 households—an effective drinking water treatment system may cost $800 to $1,000 to install, plus ongoing maintenance costs. If groundwater supplies run low, an alternative is to use water from the Minnesota or Mississippi Rivers, which is more expensive to transport and treat. Switching to surface water supplies could require as much as $1.2 billion dollars (Metropolitan Council, 2014). The County's current programs to protect groundwater have worked to some degree, but new and expanded programs presented in this Groundwater Plan are needed to address the County's groundwater problems effectively in the long run.

C. Goals, Issues, and Proposed New Activities

A robust process of public engagement (described in the Planning Overview chapter below) guided staff in identifying major issues and concerns. Many agencies, groundwater stakeholders, and residents were engaged through a process designed and carried out with the assistance of Freshwater, a water science, policy, and advocacy organization. Throughout the process, staff developed and, with stakeholder feedback, refined goals, strategies, and tactics to address water quality, water quantity, education, and governance. The following goals (desired future conditions) define the overarching focus of the County's efforts over the next 10 years:

1. **Water Quality: Groundwater and drinking water are free from unhealthy levels of contaminants.**
2. **Water Quantity: Groundwater is sufficient to meet human needs and sustain groundwater-dependent ecosystems.**
3. **Education: People who live and work in Dakota County are knowledgeable about water issues, conserve water, and prevent pollution.**
4. **Governance: Groundwater programs and services are efficient and effective.**

Table 1 Identified Major Issues and Concerns

Goal 1: Water Quality	• Private well owners are at much greater risk of having unhealthy drinking water than are people who use a public water supply. Well construction is regulated, but after that, well owners are responsible for testing and treating their own drinking water. • For low-income households that use private wells, water treatment systems may be cost-prohibitive. • Nitrate and herbicides (especially cyanazine breakdown products) associated with row-crop agriculture are long-standing problems in Hastings and rural Dakota County groundwater. Nitrate concentrations are increasing, and elevated nitrate is being found in deeper wells over time. • The county has groundwater contamination plumes from Superfund sites, other sources of industrial pollution, and sites that were contaminated in the past that require ongoing attention. • Naturally-occurring manganese and arsenic are newly-identified health risks in the county's drinking water aquifers. • Chloride— from road salt, water softeners, fertilizers, or other sources –is rising in the county's groundwater and surface water resources. • Stormwater can be a source of groundwater recharge but also has the potential to contaminate groundwater. • Residents are concerned about potential contamination from unsealed wells, septic systems, and aggregate mining.
Goal 2: Water Quantity	• The public opposes exporting large quantities of Dakota County groundwater. • In coming years, the county's growing population could use groundwater faster than it is replenished. • State regulations or guidance on water reuse are limited. • Land development and extreme weather events may diminish groundwater recharge. • Groundwater withdrawals could interfere with existing wells and damage fragile cold-water ecosystems such as trout streams, wetlands, and fens.

Table 1 Identified Major Issues and Concerns	
Goal 3: Education	• The general public would like more information about where their drinking water comes from, how to conserve water, and how to prevent groundwater contamination. • Public water suppliers could use help with conveying water-related messages. • People who rely on private wells would benefit from more information about health risks from contaminants, what kind of testing to do, and what kind of water treatment to use if it is needed. • More training is needed for people who maintain roads, parking lots, and sidewalks about how to limit risks from snow and ice while reducing salt usage. • More education is needed for homeowners and professionals who maintain turf, golf courses, and other landscapes on how to conserve and protect water.
Goal 4: Governance	• The County could be more of an advocate at the State level for water infrastructure funding and other issues that impact cities and townships in the county. • Communications and collaboration between the County, public water suppliers, State agencies, and other water stakeholders can be improved. • County and State regulatory processes for well and water appropriations permits should be reviewed and streamlined. • The County can do more to make information readily available about groundwater contamination and groundwater levels.
Proposed new activities to address issues and concerns	
• Assist private well owners with testing, understanding results, and selecting appropriate drinking water treatment. • Seek funding to assist qualifying private well owners with cost-share opportunities for water treatment. • Develop a Dakota County Groundwater Agricultural Chemical Reduction Effort (ACRE) that goes beyond the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan and Groundwater Protection Rule. • Address chloride contamination by targeting practices that contribute to contamination of runoff and groundwater, such as de-icing salt practices and inefficient water softeners. • Work with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), other agencies, and local government units as appropriate, on regulatory controls and other measures to limit the exportation of groundwater resources from Dakota County. • Promote water conservation through a countywide conservation initiative, and cost-share for water-efficiency conservation projects. • Support development of alternative water supplies to include water re-use and evaluation of surface water sources. • Support protection of high-quality groundwater recharge areas through land preservation, natural recharge, or artificial recharge projects. • Develop and provide education materials for the general public as well as targeted audiences on groundwater, water conservation, and pollution prevention. • Establish a County Groundwater Collaborative.	

D. Statutory Elements

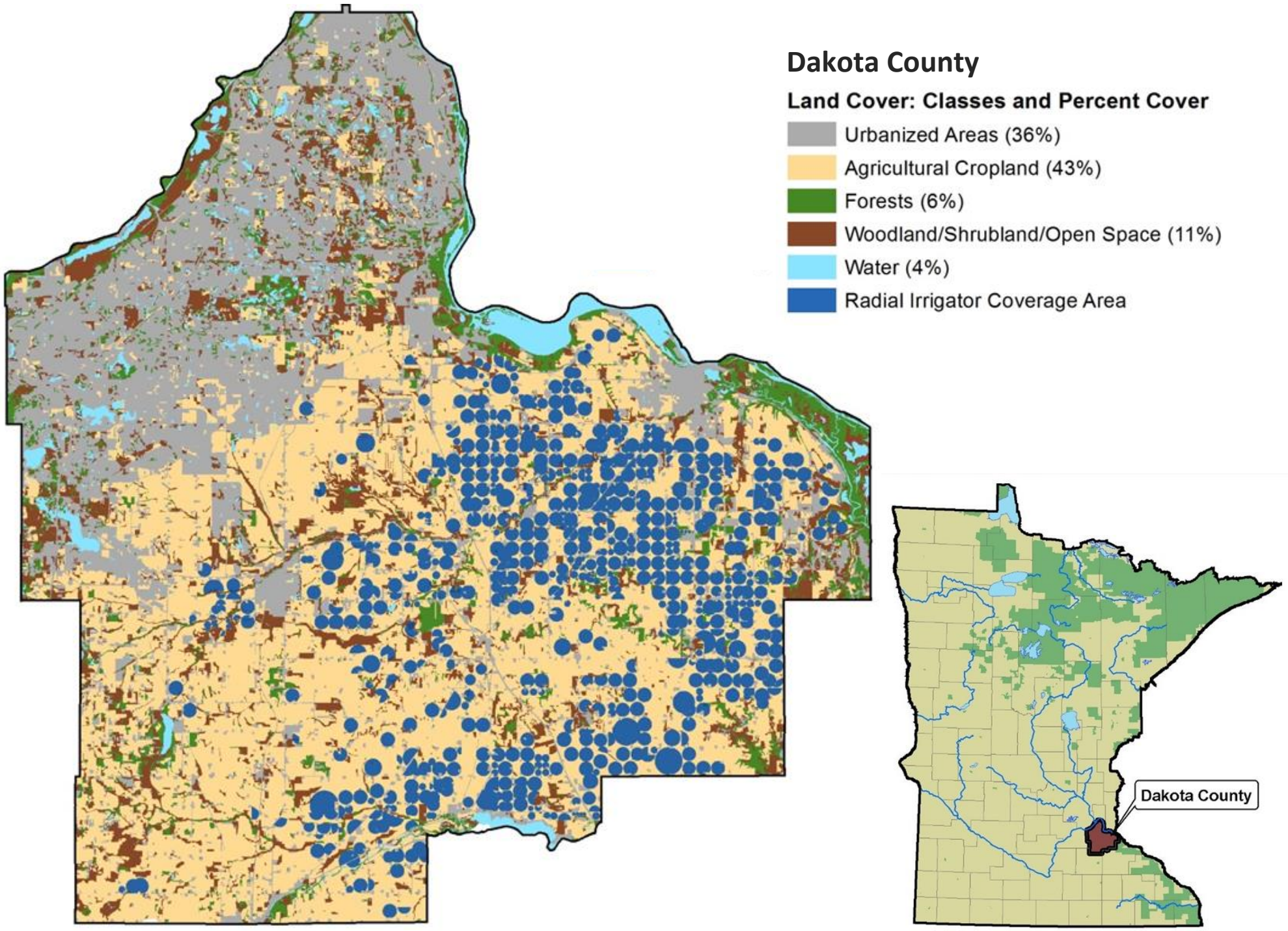
Dakota County adopted its first Groundwater Plan in 1993 in accordance with Minnesota Statute § 103B.255, Metropolitan Groundwater Management, and approved an updated plan in July 2000. The County subsequently integrated all its water management objectives into a comprehensive Environment and Natural Resource Management Policy Plan, which the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved on behalf of the State of Minnesota in October 2006. The County Board adopted a Groundwater Plan in May 2009 as a part of the DC 2030 Dakota County Comprehensive Plan, but it was not submitted to the State for approval.

According to the statute, the period covered by the Groundwater Plan must extend at least five years but no more than 10 years from the date the state approves the plan, so the previous plan expired in October 2016. Dakota County opted to reinstate its Groundwater Plan as a stand-alone document and initiated an update of the plan to fully meet Minnesota Statute requirements. Table 2 provides a comparison between groundwater plan content requirements identified in Minn. Stat. §103B.255 and the Dakota County Groundwater Plan.

Table 2 Minn. Stat. §103B.255 Requirements Compared to Dakota County Groundwater Plan

§103B.255, Subd. 7	Content Requirement	Chapter	Page No.
(1)	Cover the entire area within the county	Chapter 3. Planning Overview	65
(2)	Describe existing and expected changes to the physical environment, land use, and development in the county	Chapter 7. Population, Land Use, and Development Chapter 8. Physical Environment	133 139
(3)	Summarize available information about the groundwater and related resources in the county, including existing and potential distribution, availability, quality, and use	Chapter 5. Groundwater Issues: Quality and Drinking Water Health Chapter 6. Groundwater Quantity Issues: Use, Drawdown, and Recharge	97 123
(4)	State the goals, objectives, scope, and priorities of groundwater protection in the county	Chapter 1. Goals, Strategies, Tactics, and Outcome Measures Chapter 2. Plan Implementation	1 23
(5)	Contain standards, criteria, and guidelines for the protection of groundwater from pollution and for various types of land uses in environmentally sensitive areas, critical areas, or previously contaminated areas	Chapter 2. Plan Implementation	23
(6)	Describe relationships and possible conflicts between the groundwater plan and the plans of other counties, local government units, and watershed management organizations in the affected groundwater system	Chapter 4. Groundwater Management Roles, Responsibilities, and Official Controls	73

Table 2 Minn. Stat. §103B.255 Requirements Compared to Dakota County Groundwater Plan			
(7)	Set forth standards, guidelines, and official controls for implementation of the plan by watershed management organizations and local units of government	Chapter 4. Groundwater Management Roles, Responsibilities, and Official Controls	93
(8)	Include procedures and timelines for amending the groundwater plan	Chapter 3. Planning Overview	70



Source: Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District

NEW BUSINESS

1. Interagency Pollinator Protection Team Overview – Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno – ***INFORMATION ITEM***
2. 2020 State Water Plan: Water and Climate – Erik Cedarleaf Dahl – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **Interagency Pollinator Protection Team Overview**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☐ Decision ☐ Discussion ☒ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Environmental Quality Board, Interagency Pollinator Protection Team

Section/Region: Statewide

Contact:

Prepared by: Tara Perriello

Reviewed by: David Weirens Committee(s)

Presented by: Rebeca Gutierrez-Moreno, EQB State Pollinator Coordinator
Rebeca.Gutierrez-Moreno@state.mn.us

Time requested: 30 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☐ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None
☐ Amended Policy Requested
☐ New Policy Requested
☐ Other:

☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Capital Budget
☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/content/pollinators

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

The PowerPoint presentation will cover an overview of the 2020 Minnesota State Agency Pollinator Report, Interagency Pollinator Protection Team and how the collaboration can further the state's pollinator work and civic engagement.

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: **2020 State Water Plan: Water and Climate**

Meeting Date: December 17, 2020

Agenda Category: ☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type: ☐ Decision ☐ Discussion ☒ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Climate, Water, EQB, Resilience, Plan

Section/Region: Minnesota

Contact: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

Prepared by: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Erik Cedarleaf Dahl

Time requested: 30 minutes

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☐ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

☒ None
☐ Amended Policy Requested
☐ New Policy Requested
☐ Other:

☐ General Fund Budget
☐ Capital Budget
☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
☐ Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/documents/2020_water-plan%20FINAL.pdf

SUMMARY (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

Overview of 2020 State Water Plan.