



Comparison Table for 2021 Restoration Project Options

	Easement Sign-up	Third Party Project	Partnership
Generally, what is the difference between these three options?	State of Minnesota pays landowner in return for obtaining an easement and restoring wetlands. The State owns all generated wetland credits.	State of Minnesota agrees to purchase wetland credits generated from a wetland restoration project completed by the landowner. Credits are purchased by the State at an agreed upon price as they are generated.	State of Minnesota and landowner cooperatively develop wetland credits. Credits are split per the agreement and the State purchases credits from the partner at an agreed upon price.
How are projects identified?	SWCD works with landowner to apply for an easement with BWSR during the enrollment period.	Landowner identifies project, develops a concept plan and submits proposal to BWSR.	Potential partner submits application materials to State.
Who develops the Bank Plan?	State	Landowner	State
Who pays for implementing the bank plan?	State pays for all costs, but landowners hires construction contractor on behalf of the state.	Landowner, with some upfront money for project implementation from the State per the agreement.	Primarily Partner but BWSR could be involved with vegetation work.
Do I have to hire a consultant to prepare the bank plan?	No, the State develops the bank application and implementation/construction plans for the project.	Yes, a consultant is generally required to develop the application and construction plans.	No, the State develops the bank application and implementation/construction plans for the project.
What determines how much money I get?	The landowner is paid a set amount per acre of land within the easement area. Payment rates are based on cropping history and project location. Rates are known at time of application.	The landowner proposes to the State a price per wetland credit generated by the proposed project. Payments from the State represent the cost of the conservation easement and the improvements to the property to generate wetland credits.	Partner and State agree to a price per credit for State credits. Partner also gets to sell their credits in the private market at a price they determine.
When do I get paid?	Once selected for the program, full payment is made upon recording of the easement, typically within 12 to 18 months.	Once an agreement is executed, an initial payment is typically made upon recording of the required easement (typically within 18 months). Other payments are made as credits are deposited into the wetland bank system	Payment schedule is negotiated between the State and partner and included in the agreement. Also, landowner can sell credits when they are deposited into their account.
What are my short and long-term wetland bank monitoring responsibilities?	Landowner has no monitoring responsibilities after the State implements the plan and generates credits. The State does all required monitoring.	The landowner is responsible for five years of bank monitoring (typical) after which time the State takes over long-term monitoring of the easement.	The partner is responsible for five years of monitoring (typical) after which time the State takes over long-term monitoring of the easement.
Risk/Reward?	Because there are no costs to the landowner, the financial risk is low. The reward in terms of payment per acre of land is likely lower than the other two options.	There is a moderate financial risk to the landowner as they will have to provide most of the upfront costs to develop a bank plan and implement the project. However, if successful, there is a guaranteed buyer of the credits (State) at an agreed upon credit price.	The risk for this option is less than for the credit proposal because the State is a partner and is more invested in the planning, review, design, and construction of the project.