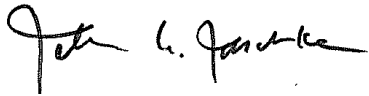




DATE: September 14, 2021

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – September 22, 2021

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, 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=e996caae45225666e33e09c8470f08f14>, 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: 2483 796 7793.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization** – On June 23, 2021, the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Provisional Natural Resources Block Grant Authorization was approved under Board Order 21-17. At the time of this authorization, the appropriation language was not finalized, and additional monies were included for the Natural Resources Block Grants under the Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Section 4(a). In addition to the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Natural Resources Block Grant funds, BWSR also received \$1,400,000 for the first year to provide grants to rural landowners to replace failing septic systems that inadequately protect groundwater. The Grants Program & Policy Committee (GP&P) reviewed the recommendations at their September 8th meeting and recommended approval of the order to the board. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **FY 2022 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization** – The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed options for calculating the allocation formula and grants for the FY22 SWCD Local Capacity grants and is recommending approval. **DECISION ITEM**

Southern Region Committee

1. **Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects FY 2022 & 2023 Biennial Plan (Plan) and Area II Floodplain Grant** – BWSR oversees the administrative funding related to the efforts of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II). The 2021 Minnesota Legislature appropriated administrative funding for Area II Minnesota River Basins Project in the amount of \$140,000 each for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. The overall budget objectives are included in the Plan. Staff recommends approval of this Plan and execution of the administrative grant agreement. The Board's Southern Regional Committee met on September 14, 2021 to review the Area II Biennial Plan and recommends approval of the Plan and execution of the grant. **DECISION ITEM**

Northern Region Committee

1. **Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Mississippi River Headwaters watershed was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan program planning grant in August of 2018. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Steering Team members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on July 8, 2021, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on September 1, 2021, 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**

Central Region Committee

1. **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan** – The Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) has focused a significant portion of their work on the integration of water resource management with the interests and goals of their partners. This plan demonstrates the evolution of a metro watershed and how it can most effectively implement its projects and programs over the next ten years. **DECISION ITEM**

RIM Committee

1. **Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2. This is the first and second appropriations for this program. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds. **DECISION ITEM**
3. **Resolution Reauthorizing the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program. This is the second appropriation for this program. **DECISION ITEM**
4. **Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands program. This is the first time since 2015 that there has been a RIM (only) Wetlands appropriation and subsequent program. While the 2014 resolution (14-66) remains in effect for all wetland appropriations, it was deemed necessary to update the resolution for the current program. **DECISION ITEM**
5. **Resolution Authorizing RIM Buffers Program** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Reserve Committee to authorize the RIM Buffers resolution that provides general authorization for these programs. **DECISION ITEM**
6. **Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration** – The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program. **DECISION 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 September 22.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2021**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF AUGUST 26, 2021 BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Teresa Pickar, Financial Analyst
- Rick Ingle, Easement Acquisition Specialist
- Brittany Polzin, Easement Acquisition Specialist

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
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Joe Collins
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Rich Sve
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman
- RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Andrea Date
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Kathryn Kelly
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

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

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Nicole Bernd
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization – Kevin Bigalke and Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Fiscal Year 2022 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization – Kevin Bigalke and Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

Southern Region Committee

1. Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan & Area II Floodplain Management Grant – Ted Winter – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Rich Sve and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

1. Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***

RIM Committee

1. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2 – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Resolution Reauthorizing the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. Resolution Authorizing RIM Buffers Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Central Region Committee meeting is scheduled for October 7, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul and by WebEx
- Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for October 8, 2021 at 12:30 p.m. 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul and by WebEx
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for October 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
HOLIDAY INN AUSTIN CONFERENCE CENTER
1701 4TH STREET NORTHWEST
AUSTIN, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Andrea Date, Jayne Hager Dee, Kathryn Kelly, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Whitney Place, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Neil Peterson, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Rich Sve, Sarah Strommen, DNR

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Jason Weirnerman, Julie Westerlund, Tom Gile, Kevin Bigalke, Melissa King, Brett Arne, Jenny Gieseke

OTHERS PRESENT:

Peder Kjeseth, MDA; Karl-Christian Johannessen, Minnesota Association of Townships; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Emily Javens, MAWD

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 8:31 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

21-20 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Andrea Date, to adopt the agenda as amended. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

21-21 **MINUTES OF JUNE 23, 2021 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve the minutes of June 23, 2021, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

“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.”

NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chair Election – John Jaschke presented the interim Vice Chair Election process.

Interim Vice Chair needed until regular voting in January of 2022.

Kathryn Kelly nominated Joe Collins and Jill Crafton nominated Todd Holman.

Voting will be accomplished throughout the meeting and Vice Chair will be announced at the end of the meeting.

21-22 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Andrea Date, to cease nominations in the Vice Chair Election. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the committee met on August 24 where they reviewed the process of voting for the interim Vice Chair. They also reviewed the board order to amend and adopt the Revision of the Delegations of Routing Administrative Water Management Decision Policy. The Committee recommends approval of the board order that will be reviewed later in the agenda.

John Jaschke stated future board and committee meetings will be virtual unless a meeting is needed in person – COVID protocols prescribed by MMB will be followed.

Chair Van Amburg thanked Mower and Freeborn Counties and SWCDs, the Cedar and Shell Rock River Watershed Districts, and BWSR staff for an informative and educational tour.

Chair Van Amburg welcomed new board members Todd Holman, citizen; Ron Staples, county commissioner; and LeRoy Ose, watershed district manager.

Chair Van Amburg has been on several calls with the Environmental Quality Board. They are working on integrating climate into the Environmental Review and looking at updating their form so it can be accounted for.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke thanked everyone for their work on the board tour. Stated the hiring freeze was lifted and can start replacing positions that have been vacant.

Legislative session ended in June and the board gave conditional approvals for some grants. All of those passed as anticipated.

Reviewed the day of packet that included DWG Report, 1W1P supplemental document, Snapshot articles, phone list, org chart, expense form.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported the committee has not met.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported they met and have items on the agenda for today.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported the committee has not met. Will be meeting on September 8.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Andrea Date reported they have not met. They are working with Grants Program and Policy Committee on Metro Water Based Implementation Funding.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported the committee has not met.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Kathryn Kelly reported committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Tom Gile reported they have met twice since the last meeting.

July 8, 2021.

- Provided an overview of the BWSR Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management grant program. Some discussion from members who have been a part of these grants in the past. The group is generally supportive of this program and several members are interested in finding ways to increase available funds.
- Provided an update on the Drainage Manual in current WiKi hosted form and anticipated transition to the BWSR website for future hosting. Some updates are anticipated, but we intend to begin on those items after the conversion to the BWSR website is completed.
- We Briefly reviewed a handful of Drainage related items that were introduced at the Legislature during the past session. None of those bills were DWG recommendations previously. The DWG is not currently expecting any to be “High priority” but intends to remain aware and possibly discuss specifics of some this year.
- We spent a fairly significant amount of time working through the prioritization list for this year. Some reorganization was done per membership comments and an updated draft was sent out after the meeting and edits were completed.

August 12, 2021

- The group reviewed the updated Prioritization list. One additional item was separated and clarified and the list is read to work from for this year. This is a living and evolving document so it is never “set in stone.”
- A presentation was given by Al Kean (BWSR Retired) and Chris Otterness (Houston Engineering) on the history and application of the Outlet Adequacy provision of the Drainage Code. This conversation included a very robust discussion with DWG members on the utilization of this process and set some foundation for potential future discussion.
 - One Term “Cumulative Affect” was used regularly in the discussion with seemingly different intention/meaning. I expect a future discussion on this term to build some uniformity in how it is being utilized.
- Rita Weaver (BWSR) gave an overview of the status of the new storage initiative and there was some discussion on anticipated outreach efforts that are in the works for the next month or so.

Virtual Vs In-Person Discussion

During both meetings there was some discussion about future DWG meetings and there was originally some optimism that we may be able to return to In-Person meetings with a potential virtual option at some point. However, with the recent evolution in the situation and policies around COVID management efforts in the workplace we are now anticipating that the remainder of the DWG meetings in 2021 will be done via a virtual format.

Jill Crafton asked what kind of storage will be used. Tom stated that will be part of the conversation around the storage initiative and will also be part of the outreach effort. Stated its likely to be hard storage.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – John Jaschke reported there are presently three appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been no new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting (June 23, 2021).

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 93 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 7 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 86 of those have been resolved.

Statewide 30 counties are fully compliant, and 51 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 840 CANs and 52 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1,741 of those have been resolved.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Whitney Place reported they have been focused on dealing with the drought and their response to drought. They have hosted by-weekly phone calls with different stakeholders to discuss drought issues.

The Ag Water Quality Certification Program has 1,104 farmers certified and 790,000 acres certified and added 2,217 new conservation practices through those certifications. Stated they finalized the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and the first sign up is due this fall.

Department of Agriculture has partnered with multiple organizations on an irrigation RCPP project. It’s \$3.5M will help farmers and assist them in implementation irrigation best management practices. They

are partnering with 20 SWCDs and Central Lakes College is putting in a demonstration piece of equipment to showcase the best management practices.

Joe Collins asked how this drought compares to droughts we've had in the past. Whitney stated the drought of 1976 was worse than the current drought.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson thanked BWSR staff for the tour. Reported the Delta variant is creating more problems with COVID and continues to be a concern. The Health Risk Assessment Program has released their work plan for the next year where there are 10 new compounds. They will also be doing a full review of lithium.

Steve stated the policy analysis that the Health Department has been coordinating for water reuse was derailed by COVID but are starting it back up again. MDH staff that contributed to that effort was invited to participate in a national summit on stormwater capture and reuse.

Jill asked if the PFAS are new or if they have they been on list? Steve stated there are five that already have health based guidance with one in review.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – No report was provided.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported the Water Resources Center hired Maggie Karschnia as the new Extension Educator and will be focusing primarily on urban stormwater management along with a few other topics. Her work will focus on education and training for stormwater professionals, elected and appointed officials, and other organizations and individuals that work on MS4 permits and stormwater management in general.

Joel stated the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Partnership, Extension Climate Specialist Heidi Roop, and others had conversations on the legislative process. They have a block of state funding to development more details on fine scale climate predictions for variables like temperature and rain fall. It can then be used for adaptation plans or even smaller scale things. Stated they are in the process of hiring an Extension Educator that would work specifically with communities and individuals on climate adaptation work.

Joel stated they are working on a project called Watershed Education Program Hub. They have been talking about the requirements within some of those watershed plans for education and outreach. Stated there is quite a bit of variability on what it means and the background of resources and the ability of different units and organizations to respond. Will be working with representatives from those groups to develop a set of standard resources and tools to support education and outreach as part of the implementation of the watershed plans.

They are entering the next phase of their partnership with BWSR on the Minnesota Office for Soil Health. Over the next couple years that work will include projects that quantify the benefits of soil health practices like carbon sequestration and water storage.

Chair Van Amburg asked if they are seeing a lot of interest from cities on what to do with climate adaptation. Joel stated they are getting more interest from medium and small communities and from rural areas of the state. Larger cities have the resources to address themselves. This is part of what they're trying to do through the Climate Adaptation Partnership, these extension education and resources will help communities with this.

Joel stated registration is open for the annual Water Resources Conference being held virtually on October 19-20. Board members can contact Rachel Mueller if they are interested in attending.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler reported as part of the legislative session they received almost \$2M to give out as grants to local units of government for climate resilience and adaptation planning . Hoping to advertise the grants in the next few months and will be hiring a grants coordinator.

Katrina stated they have been doing intensive water quality monitoring in the Minnesota River for the past month. For the past couple decades, it has had a low dissolved oxygen total maximum daily load which has given the state time to invest in upgrades in wastewater treatment plans upstream.

MPCA is working with the planning committee and will have a session on PFAS at the Minnesota Water Resources Conference.

Jill stated her watershed district received a grant from MPCA . They brought in their cities and did resiliency planning that was meaningful for the cities. Jill stated the Green Steps City Program is housed within the PCA, they are looking at some of the resiliency issues and thinks it would be a good workshop to participate in.

Chari Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:02 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:20 a.m.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – No report was provided.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck reported the board of directors met in July and advanced some of their focus areas they started earlier this year. LeAnn stated as an organization they did a national webinar through their National Association on National Strategies for Firewise. At Farm Fest there was a panel on carbon where they brought in the National Association's past president Tim Palmer who is a farmer from Iowa.

LeAnn stated they received a resolution from Fillmore SWCD regarding climate that will come before their members. Also stated that Nature Conservancy had a national pilot in Minnesota with Stearns SWCD leading the way along with the Sauk River Watershed District and other partners.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens thanked everyone for their work on the tour and showing great partnerships between the Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and other partners.

Joe Collins stated when touring yesterday you could see the partnerships.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported at the August district meeting a book was distributed that identifies obnoxious weeds currently found in Minnesota. The Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) is requesting support from the Department of Ag for training on weed inspections throughout Minnesota counties. In the last legislative session \$450,000 was granted to MAT every 2 years for the noxious weed program.

Eunice stated they are encouraging townships to apply for the American Rescue Plan. \$350M will go to towns and cities with a population under 50,000. The grant money can be used for support for medical responders, support for vaccination, revenue lost due to COVID, and infrastructure development for COVID.

Whitney Place stated MDA received funding for noxious weeds and are hoping to seek additional funding to help fund townships and county ag inspectors in the coming years.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

John Jaschke noted that no members of the board have declared actual, perceived, or potential conflicts for any agenda items on today's agenda and so no members will need to abstain from votes due to conflict of interest.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Assistance Service Grants – Brent Arne presented Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Assistance Service Grants.

The authorization of the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP), approved in December 2018 through order #18-71, allows the Executive Director to expend up to \$10,000 per grant or contract for specialized assistance to local government water management entities to address operational or service delivery needs identified through a PRAP assessment or specialized assistance request. Order #18-71 limits grant or contracts to \$10,000 with a maximum of \$50,000 per year. Recently, BWSR has seen an increase in multi-entity requests and believe these requests will become more common as more local governments participate in the One Watershed, One Plan program.

**
21-23 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) Assistance Service Grants. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Reallocating Previous Years' Clean Water Funds for One Watershed, One Plan – Kevin Bigalke presented Reallocating Previous Years' Clean Water Funds for One Watershed, One Plan.

On March 24, 2021, the Board approved resolution #21-10, authorizing staff to reallocate an estimated \$1,400,762 in funds from previous years' Clean Water Targeted Watershed Program to the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program. Due to the high level of interest in the FY2022 1W1P Planning Grants and additional analysis and consideration, the Grants Program and Policy Committee recommends adjusting the reallocation of the estimated \$1,400,762 from Watershed Based Implementation Funding program to the One Watershed, One Plan Program.

Ted Winter asked about \$1M shortfall in a grant application and how it will be made up. Kevin stated we have approximately \$900,000 remaining in FY20/21 1W1P grants and with this additional \$1.4M we'll be able to fund the current round of planning grants without utilizing FY22/23 dollars. John Jaschke stated that dollars have expiration dates so want to spend the oldest money soonest.

**
21-24 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the Reallocating Previous Years' Clean Water Funds for One Watershed, One Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund presented One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization.

The calendar year 2021 (FY22 grants) One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants request for proposal (RFP) period opened on March 26, 2021 and closed on June 11, 2021. BWSR received eleven proposals. Staff reviewed the eleven proposals against the RFP selection criteria and received feedback from the Interagency Water Management and Implementation Team on June 30, 2021. BWSR's Senior Management Team reviewed staff recommendations on July 13, 2021 and recommended funding all eleven proposals. Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed this recommendation on August 11, 2021. A draft board order is attached.

Funds are from the 2020-2021 biennium, Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(i) for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as well as previously returned clean water fund grants.

Jill Crafton stated she appreciated the memo.

**
21-25 Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

FY 22 Buffer Program Implementation Grants – Tom Gile presented FY 22 Buffer Program Implementation Grants

The Clean Water Council recommended, and the Legislature approved the biennial appropriation to fund SWCDs implementation of the State Riparian Protection Law. The appropriation for FY 22 is a reduction from previous years. In addition, due to the COVID 19 Pandemic \$350,000 was held back from the FY 21 Buffer Program Implementation funding as a budgetary precaution. This funding has been released and is being included in the funding distribution for FY22. As a result of these actions, the allocations have changed from previous years.

**
21-26 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the FY 22 Buffer Program Implementation Grants. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

FY 22 Buffer Program Supplemental Grants – Tom Gile presented FY 22 Buffer Program Supplemental Grants

In the Spring of 2021, a survey was sent to all SWCDs asking them if they “needed” additional Buffer Program Implementation funding based on their local needs. More than 60 SWCDs responded to the survey and of those who responded 17 SWCDs identified a specific need for supplemental funding that totaled \$350,000. This proposed action utilizes available Buffer Program implementation funds from the previous two biennia as well as a small portion of BWSR's Riparian Aid funds to provide all of the SWCDs with the supplemental funding they requested. This funding will go out in separate grant agreements and have a grant expiration date of June 30, 2023.

Ted Winter asked what some of the reasons are to request additional money. Tom stated the main reason is to provide additional staffing.

**
21-27 Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the FY 22 Buffer Program Supplemental Grants. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

FY 22 Buffer Cost Share Redistribution Grants – Tom Gile presented FY 22 Buffer Cost Share Redistribution Grants

BWSR has unspent and returned Buffer Cost Share funds totaling approximately \$650,000 with the potential of more funds being returned over the next several months. Staff are proposing to develop an open solicitation for SWCDs to request funds based on demonstrable need for projects that will support landowner compliance with the requirements of the Buffer Law. The proposal is for a monthly “batching” of SWCD requests that would fund those requests that have “shovel ready” projects on a first come first served basis.

We have looked at distributing available funds based on a survey-like response similar to the 2022 Supplemental Buffer Program funding, however with a short window to utilize these funds we don’t want to allocate funds without projects in hand which may result in more unspent funds being returned without adequate time to utilize them prior to their expiration.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if we would have enough money. Tom stated we would probably end up receiving some returned funds.

**
21-28 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the FY 22 Buffer Cost Share Redistribution Grants. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Central Region Committee

Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Approval – Jason Weirnerman presented Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Approval.

The Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in central Minnesota encompassing portions of Todd, Douglas, Pope, Stearns, and Meeker counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On April 29, 2021, 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 Decision #18-14. 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 August 4, 2021, the Central Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee’s decision was to recommend approval of the Sauk River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

**
21-29 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Approval. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan – Melissa King presented Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) was established by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on September 23, 1999. Establishment was in response to a petition filed by residents within the watershed on November 20, 1998. Minnesota Laws 2008, chapter 366. Article 6, section 51 designated the CLFLWD a watershed management organization under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.205, Subd. 13. The 49-square mile watershed is located in the northeast Twin Cities

Metropolitan Area, in Washington and Chisago Counties. Portions of the cities of Wyoming, Forest Lake Scandia, and Chisago City as well as Chisago Lake and Fraconia Townships are all within CLFLWD. There are many small lakes and streams within the watershed including three major recreational lake (Bone, Forest, and Comfort Lakes) and the exceptionally high-quality Keewahtin Lake. CLFLWD is part of the headwaters area of the Sunrise River and ultimately drains to the St. Croix River. The most recent watershed management plan was approved by the Board on September 28, 2011.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The Board completed a Level II Performance Review for the CLFLWD in 2015. The assessment report noted that the CLFLWD “is a proactive organization, one that is willing to set ambitious goals for itself. The Board shows a willingness to challenge itself and staff to achieve impressive results”. The report also identified two recommendations, which CLFLWD addressed in the development of this watershed management plan (Plan) – 1) implement prioritized, targeted, and measurable criteria for goals and objectives in the next watershed plan; and 2) conduct a detailed workload analysis of planned activities.

CLFLWD formally initiated the planning process for the 10-year update to the Plan on April 1, 2019 with the required “Notice of Decision to Update” and a request for State agency and local stakeholder input per Minnesota Rules, part 8410.0045, Subp. 2. and Subp. 3. The initial kick-off event was held on June 11, 2019 with significant efforts made by the CLFLWD to gather input early and throughout the update process including through a technical advisory committee, city & county partners, a standing citizen advisory committee, and other community members and groups including lake associations and sporting and agricultural groups. Efforts also included professionally facilitated public listening sessions; workshops with partners; workshops with municipal staff; and joint workshops with municipalities and the CLFLWD Board. The draft Plan was received for 60-day review on February 26, 2021 and the revised draft Plan received on June 15, 2021 for 90-day review.

The Plan provides for the protection and improvement of water resources within the CLFLWD, recognizing and building on the roles and actions of other stakeholders. The Plan is based on a core framework of adaptive management, diagnostic monitoring, and cost-benefit analysis. With limited funding, the CLFLWD understands that not all projects are good projects, even if they have willing landowners. Therefore, all the CLFLWD’s actions are guided by scientific methods and economic principles (cost-benefit analysis). Unique to the CLFLWD’s water resource management approach is their successful application of an economic/business theory, referred to as the Pareto Principal which states, “that for many outcomes, roughly 80% of consequences come from 20% of the causes”. In terms of water resource management, this means that 80% of the pollutant loads or reductions will be achieved from 20% of the sources or projects. As a result, the CLFLWD focuses most of its implementation efforts on identifying and addressing that 20% of pollutant sources, even if it means saying no to easier to implement projects if they don’t meet these criteria.

The Plan identifies six priority resource issue areas: floodplain, lakes, rivers/streams, wetlands, upland resources, and groundwater; with additional focus on specific priority resources (9 lakes, 4 streams/rivers) and 10 other priority areas (overlapping benefits) within the watershed. Lake water quality, stream water quality, and floodplain management were identified as the highest priority goals. High priority issues and goals are closely related to achieving and maintaining measurable water quality improvements in priority lakes and streams; and include activities to either address lake impairments, protect unimpaired lakes, or ensure water quality improvements are maintained. The CLFLWD’s top priority is achieving in-lake water quality goals within the first five years of the planning period (2022-2026) and all other goals prior to the end of the 10-year period (2022-2033). Other notable goals and activities include increasing water storage by 99 acre-feet, establishment of a farmer-led council to

inform and influence agricultural land management practices, restoration/enhancement of 80 acres of wetlands for wildlife and habitat benefit and cooperating with the Lower St. Croix River partners to achieve the goals of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The draft Plan is an excellent example of a resource that provides focused priorities that are measurable and clearly defines the role of the CLFLWD.

**
21-30 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Administrative Advisory Committee

Revision of the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decision Policy – Kevin Bigalke presented Revision of the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decision Policy.

The first version of the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decision Policy (Policy) was adopted on December 18, 2019. In August 2021, additional decision items to include in the Policy were identified. Staff have proposed additions to the policy and drafted a revised policy for the Board to consider.

Jill Crafton thinks this is a good resolution to the problem and supports it.

**
21-31 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Revision of the Delegation of Routine Administrative Water Management Decision Policy. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

NEW BUSINESS

Votes were tallied up and Chair Van Amburg announced Joe Collins the new interim Vice Chair.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for September 1
- Central Region Committee meeting September 2
- RIM Committee meeting is scheduled for September 8
- Grants Program and Policy Committee Meeting September 8, 14, 21, and October 8
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for September 22

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 11:55 AM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

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/Rich Sve DRC Chair

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report/map.

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.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

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/Rich Sve DRC Chair

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report/map.

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

September 3, 2021

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **six** appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been **three** new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting.

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 21-3 (8-31-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Mille Lacs County. The Restoration Order regards the unauthorized wetland impacts associated with the construction of a pole building. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 21-2 (8-17-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Polk County. The Restoration Order is for the unauthorized wetland impacts associated with the construction of a ditch and placement of spoil material within a wetland bank site. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 21-1 (8-16-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision involving a no-loss determination in Kittson County. The appeal regards the denial of a no-loss determination for wetland impacts associated with the construction of road, ditch, and additional fill material. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 20-10 (11-12-2020) This is an 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 trail crossing project that allegedly was approved by the LGU. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application and/or to give additional time to coordinate with the LGU in attempt to resolve the matter. The timeframe on the abeyance was extended by mutual agreement.*

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. The hearing proceedings have been extended by mutual agreement. The parties are currently reviewing/discussing a settlement agreement.*

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 frame on the stay of the restoration order. The LGU decision was appealed (File19-7).*

Summary Table for Appeals

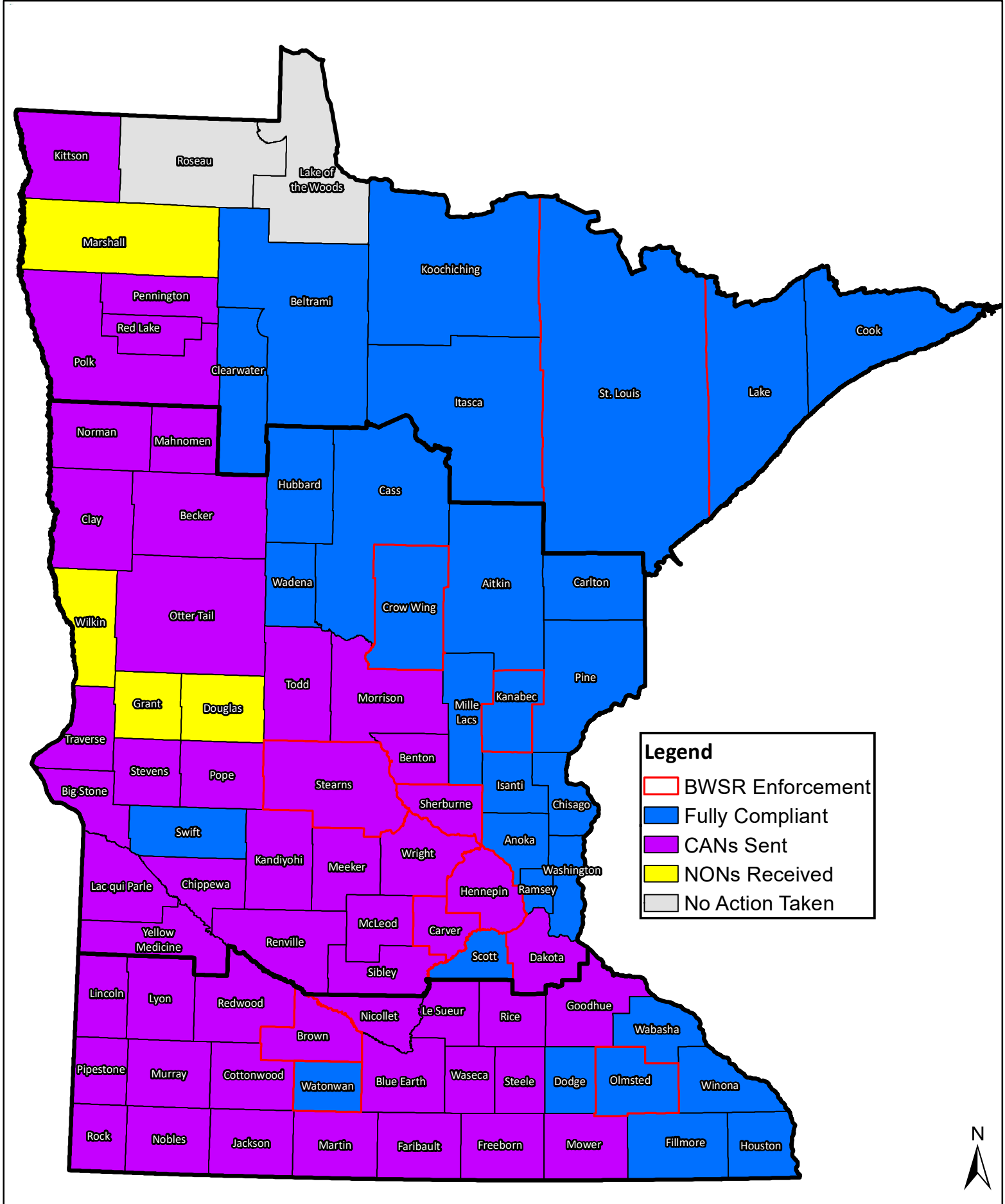
Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2020	Total for Calendar Year 2021
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	7	
Order Modified		
Order Remanded	3	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	4	
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	4	

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 93 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 7 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 85 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 30 counties are fully compliant, and 51 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 775 CANs and 59 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1,811 of those have been resolved.

**Disclaimer: These numbers are generated monthly 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.*

STATEWIDE COUNTY BUFFER ENFORCEMENT



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization – Kevin Bigalke and Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Fiscal Year 2022 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization – Kevin Bigalke and Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	<u>Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants Authorization</u>		
Meeting Date:	<u>September 22, 2021</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Section/Region:	<u>Regional Operations</u>		
Contact:	<u>Marcey Westrick</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Marcey Westrick</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Program & Policy</u>	Committee(s)	
Presented by:	<u>Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick</u>		
Time requested:	<u>10 minutes</u>		

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

On June 23, 2021, the Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Provisional Natural Resources Block Grant Authorization was approved under Board Order 21-17. At the time of this authorization, the appropriation language was not finalized, and additional monies were included for the Natural Resources Block Grants under the Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Section 4(a). In addition to the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Natural Resources Block Grant funds, BWSR also received \$1,400,000 for the first year to provide grants to rural landowners to replace failing septic systems that inadequately protect groundwater.

The Grants Program & Policy Committee (GP&P) reviewed the recommendations at their September 8th meeting and recommended approval of the order to the board.

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide fiscal years 2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) program grants to MN Counties.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) program provides assistance to local governments to implement statutory natural resource programs of Comprehensive Local Water Management (LWM), the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shoreland Management, **BWSR Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) to rural landowners** and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) SSTS.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Section 4(a) appropriated fiscal year (FY) **2022 SSTS** and FY 2022 and 2023 LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Natural Resources Block Grant funds to BWSR.
3. The MPCA will transfer 2022 SSTS program funds to BWSR to be allocated with the FY 2022 NRBG.
4. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with this appropriation.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 8, 2021 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with counties meeting the NRBG Program requirements and consistent with the attached table *Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant allocations*, for grant programs funded by BWSR appropriations, as determined by the BWSR and DNR, and totaling:

Grant	FY 2022	FY 2023
LWM	\$1,139,152	\$1,139,152
WCA	\$1,906,479	\$1,906,479
DNR Shoreland	\$398,332 \$377,369	\$398,332 \$377,369
BWSR SSTS	\$1,399,750	-

2. Resolves that for LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland programs, grantees have the flexibility to shift the amount of grant between these three BWSR programs consistent with local program needs.
3. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.
4. Rescinds Board Order #21-17.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: *Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grant allocation*

DRAFT

Proposed FY2022 and 2023 Natural Resources Block Grants					
COUNTY	LWM	WCA	SHORELAND	BWSR	MPCA SSTS
AITKIN	\$13,888	\$33,240	\$10,786		TBD
ANOKA	\$8,094	\$63,191	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
BECKER	\$13,071	\$24,237	\$10,739		TBD
BELTRAMI	\$13,688	\$64,600	\$5,505	\$25,450	TBD
BENTON	\$13,271	\$31,598	\$3,286	\$25,450	TBD
BIG STONE	\$15,711	\$8,777	\$2,690	\$25,450	TBD
BLUE EARTH	\$10,023	\$18,178	\$3,243		TBD
BROWN	\$13,633	\$8,778	\$2,675		TBD
CARLTON	\$13,349	\$22,507	\$3,927	\$25,450	TBD
CARVER	\$8,094	\$31,599	\$2,615		TBD
CASS	\$10,502	\$44,766	\$10,699	\$25,450	TBD
CHIPPEWA	\$14,881	\$8,778	\$2,625	\$25,450	TBD
CHISAGO	\$11,243	\$27,700	\$4,943	\$25,450	TBD
CLAY	\$12,673	\$16,447	\$2,944		TBD
CLEARWATER	\$15,256	\$19,909	\$3,163	\$25,450	TBD
COOK	\$14,832	\$12,985	\$4,196	\$25,450	TBD
COTTONWOOD	\$14,844	\$8,778	\$2,772		TBD
CROW WING	\$8,094	\$38,088	\$19,128	\$25,450	TBD
DAKOTA	\$8,094	\$52,804	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
DODGE	\$14,484	\$16,444	\$2,675	\$25,450	TBD
DOUGLAS	\$12,077	\$21,641	\$8,544	\$25,450	TBD
FARIBAULT	\$14,550	\$8,778	\$2,735	\$25,450	TBD
FILLMORE	\$14,278	\$8,778	\$2,692		TBD
FREEBORN	\$13,120	\$8,778	\$3,139	\$25,450	TBD
GOODHUE	\$9,433	\$16,447	\$2,772		TBD
GRANT	\$15,503	\$13,850	\$3,056		TBD
HENNEPIN	\$8,094	\$57,133			TBD
HOUSTON	\$14,699	\$12,985	\$2,725		TBD
HUBBARD	\$13,245	\$25,103	\$8,434		TBD
ISANTI	\$13,251	\$25,103	\$4,004	\$25,450	TBD
ITASCA	\$10,447	\$44,148	\$10,107	\$25,450	TBD
JACKSON	\$14,717	\$8,778	\$3,011		TBD
KANABEC	\$15,071	\$25,103	\$4,090		TBD
KANDIYOHI	\$12,023	\$21,641	\$6,753	\$25,450	TBD
KITSON	\$15,279	\$16,447	\$2,647	\$25,450	TBD
KOOCHICHING	\$15,025	\$28,913	\$2,722		TBD
LAC QUI PARLE	\$15,453	\$8,778	\$2,629	\$25,450	TBD
LAKE	\$14,736	\$16,447	\$4,614		TBD
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$15,809	\$33,760	\$3,492	\$25,450	TBD
LE SUEUR	\$13,501	\$16,447	\$4,918		TBD
LINCOLN	\$15,488	\$8,778	\$2,768	\$25,450	TBD
LYON	\$13,689	\$8,778	\$2,738		TBD
MAHNOMEN	\$15,838	\$12,985	\$3,360	\$25,450	TBD

MARSHALL	\$14,993	\$20,308	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
MARTIN	\$13,697	\$8,778	\$3,024	\$25,450	TBD
MCLEOD	\$12,642	\$16,447	\$2,988		TBD
MEEKER	\$13,990	\$19,044	\$4,735		TBD
MILLE LACS	\$14,361	\$22,507	\$4,808	\$25,450	TBD
MORRISON	\$13,609	\$30,298	\$3,945		TBD
MOWER	\$13,047	\$12,985	\$3,264	\$25,450	TBD
MURRAY	\$15,050	\$8,778	\$3,221	\$25,450	TBD
NICOLLET	\$13,156	\$16,447	\$2,682		TBD
NOBLES	\$14,402	\$8,778	\$2,661		TBD
NORMAN	\$15,541	\$12,985	\$2,624	\$25,450	TBD
OLMSTED	\$8,094	\$25,103	\$3,149	\$25,450	TBD
OTTER TAIL	\$9,824	\$59,729	\$17,747	\$25,450	TBD
PENNINGTON	\$15,341	\$16,447	\$2,833	\$25,450	TBD
PINE	\$13,855	\$34,626	\$5,899	\$25,450	TBD
PIPESTONE	\$15,247	\$8,778	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
POLK	\$13,468	\$21,641	\$3,457	\$25,450	TBD
POPE	\$15,095	\$15,581	\$4,250	\$25,450	TBD
RAMSEY CD	\$8,094	\$16,677			TBD
RED LAKE	\$15,857	\$12,985	\$2,873	\$25,450	TBD
REDWOOD	\$14,472	\$10,387	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
RENVILLE	\$14,047	\$8,778	\$2,662	\$25,450	TBD
RICE	\$10,457	\$24,238	\$4,189		TBD
ROCK	\$15,175	\$8,778	\$2,615		TBD
ROSEAU	\$15,131	\$24,238	\$2,697	\$25,450	TBD
SCOTT	\$8,094	\$41,551	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
SHERBURNE	\$8,094	\$31,599	\$4,872	\$25,450	TBD
SIBLEY	\$14,615	\$13,452	\$2,700	\$25,450	TBD
ST. LOUIS	\$8,094	\$75,657	\$19,936	\$25,450	TBD
STEARNS	\$8,094	\$45,879	\$9,003	\$25,450	TBD
STEELE	\$12,460	\$12,118	\$2,867	\$25,450	TBD
STEVENS	\$15,305	\$8,778	\$2,728	\$25,450	TBD
SWIFT	\$15,051	\$12,118	\$2,744		TBD
TODD	\$14,676	\$21,641	\$4,933	\$25,450	TBD
TRAVERSE	\$15,585	\$8,778	\$2,804	\$25,450	TBD
WABASHA	\$14,177	\$12,118	\$3,518		TBD
WADENA	\$15,390	\$19,909	\$3,084	\$25,450	TBD
WASECA	\$14,271	\$12,118	\$3,006	\$25,450	TBD
WASHINGTON	\$8,094	\$41,551	\$2,615	\$25,450	TBD
WATONWAN	\$15,108	\$8,778	\$2,733		TBD
WILKIN	\$15,232	\$8,778	\$2,632	\$25,450	TBD
WINONA	\$11,847	\$12,118	\$2,652		TBD
WRIGHT	\$8,094	\$42,416	\$9,339		TBD
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$15,175	\$8,778	\$2,629	\$25,450	TBD
TOTALS	\$1,139,152	\$1,906,479	\$377,369	\$1,399,750	TBD

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY 2022 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick

Time requested: 15 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the FY 2022 SWCD Local Capacity allocation formula and grants.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed options for calculating the allocation formula and grants for the FY22 SWCD Local Capacity grants and is recommending approval.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southern Region Committee

1. Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan & Area II Floodplain Management Grant – Ted Winter – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan & Area II Floodplain Management Grant

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Area II Biennial Plan Floodplain Grant

Section/Region: Southern

Contact: Ed Lenz

Prepared by: Douglas Goodrich

Reviewed by: Southern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Ted Winter

Time requested: 10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Fiscal Year 2022-23 Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Biennial Plan, execution of Area II Floodplain Management Grant Agreements, and authorization for staff to review and approve the FY 2023 annual update to the Area II Biennial Work Plan prior to payment of the FY 2023 grant funds.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[FY22_23_AREA_II_BIENNIAL_PLAN.pdf \(area2.org\)](http://area2.org/FY22_23_AREA_II_BIENNIAL_PLAN.pdf)

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

The funding provided to the Area II Board via specific legislation is targeted at administration of this nine-county joint powers board in the amount of \$140,000 each for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. This grant requires a 25% local match.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grants Approval

PURPOSE

Approval of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Biennial Work Plan and fiscal years (FY) 2022 and 2023 General Fund Floodplain Management Grants to Area II.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4(g), appropriated \$140,000 for each fiscal year 2022 and 2023 for administrative and implementation efforts of Area II within their nine-county project area.
2. The Area II Floodplain Management Grant has a 25 percent match requirement which has been secured by Area II.
3. The Southern Regional Committee, at their September 14, 2021 meeting, discussed and reviewed the Area II Biennial Work Plan and grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the Area II FY 2022 and 2023 Biennial Work Plan.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2022 and 2023 Area II Floodplain Management Grant consistent with the provisions of the appropriation and this Board Order.
3. Authorizes staff to review and approve the FY 2023 annual update to the Biennial Work Plan prior to payment of the FY 2023 grant funds.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this September 22, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

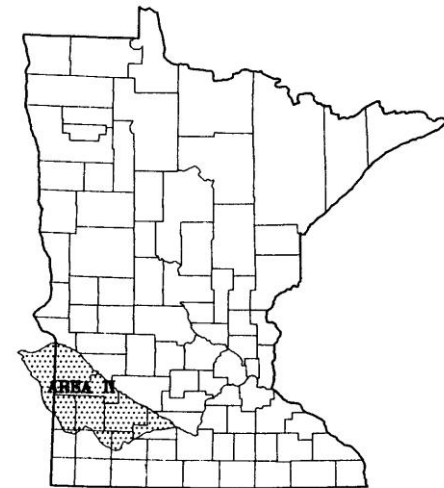
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachment: *Area II FY 2022 and 2023 Biennial Work Plan*

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

JULY 1, 2021 – JUNE 30, 2023



Member Counties

*Brown • Cottonwood • Lac qui Parle
Lincoln • Lyon • Murray • Pipestone
Redwood • Yellow Medicine*

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

1424 EAST COLLEGE DRIVE - SUITE 300 - MARSHALL, MN 56258

WWW.AREA2.ORG



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ATTACHMENTS:

A – SUMMARY OF FY 2019 BONDING PROJECTS

B – FY 2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

C – FY 2021 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY

D – FY 2020 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY



2021 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

BROWN COUNTY

JEFF VEERKAMP

DEAN SIMONSEN (ALTERNATE)

MURRAY COUNTY

LORI GUNNINK

MOLLY MALONE (ALTERNATE)

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

LARRY ANDERSON

NORMAN HOLMEN (ALTERNATE)

PIPESTONE COUNTY

LUKE JOHNSON

DALLAS ROSKAMP (ALTERNATE)

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

JOHN MAATZ – CHAIR

STACY TUFTO (ALTERNATE)

REDWOOD COUNTY

RICK WAKEFIELD

DENNIS GROEBNER (ALTERNATE)

LINCOLN COUNTY

JOE DRIETZ

COREY SIK (ALTERNATE)

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

GLEN KACK – VICE CHAIR

RON ANTONY (ALTERNATE)

LYON COUNTY

GARY CROWLEY – SECRETARY/TREASURER

RICK ANDERSON (ALTERNATE)



WORK PLAN NARRATIVE

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

Area II, formed in 1978 as a non-profit organization, works to alleviate the recurrent flood problems which plague this area of southwestern Minnesota. This organization is recognized as a leader in flood damage reduction by the installation of dams, reservoirs, grade stabilizations and road retentions. Area II assists member counties with the engineering design, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, construction and inspection, and finance of flood damage reduction projects. Due to the unique landforms of this region, particularly the Coteau de Prairies (the Buffalo Ridge), Area II receives a 75/25 cost-share rate for office administration and project implementation. Oversight of this grant-in-aid program is provided by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

This Biennial Plan provides direction for a 2-year period while the Technical Office Budget serves one fiscal year. By June 30, 2022, updates to the Biennial Plan as well as to the Technical Office Budget for FY 2023 will be provided for BWSR staff review.

1) Initiative: FY 2022 – ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Description: Provide administrative and coordination oversight for the Area II Board of Directors. Provide financial reports and records that meet State accounting and auditing standards, prepare budgets, provide supervision and management of staff, evaluate employee performance, draft agenda and minutes of monthly board meetings. Conduct local government and citizen outreach and education.

Actions:

- Maintain a complete Board of Directors of nine (9) delegates and nine (9) alternates; conduct monthly board meetings.
- Maintain adequate staffing to address the goals of Area II. Evaluate job performance of all employees yearly.
- Utilize engineering consultant services to assist with engineering, hydrologic and project planning and prioritization.
- Maintain policies and procedures. Review and update Operating Policies, Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws annually.
- Maintain a public outreach and information program. Accomplish by maintaining the Area II web site; conduct tours as necessary to highlight projects completed; prepare an annual report. Complete website reporting requirements by March 15 of each year.
- Provide fiscal accountability by: preparing and adopting an annual budget; reviewing monthly financial reports, and annually obtaining a professional audit of the financial records.
- Provide administrative services to the Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) via an approved Contract for Services Agreement. Each organization maintains its organizational purpose and goals while sharing an executive director and office space. Continue operational efficiency measures with RCRCA. Ensure that office operations, income and expenditures for each organization are clearly separate and documented including time tracking, monthly billing of contract services, and Board approval.
- Meet and communicate with member county commissioners, engineers, water planners, watershed districts, SWCD, NRCS, watershed project staff regarding technical services and potential projects.
- Serve on technical committees (as requested) for watershed projects, TMDL project assessment and implementation efforts.

2) Initiative: FY 2022 – ENGINEERING SERVICES

Description: Employ a senior engineering technician and a registered consultant engineer to provide design services which include planning, hydrologic and hydraulic design, construction and inspection of floodwater retention projects to the member counties. Provide engineering services for projects funded through outside sources involving USDA Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP), Clean Water Funds, Disaster Relief Funds and other state funding acquired by SWCDs, RCRCAs and counties.

Actions:

- Continue contracting professional engineering services through Bolton & Menk, Inc.
- Schedule and complete annual operation and maintenance inspections and reports for nine (9) existing reservoirs.
- Ensure annual inspection of road retention projects by owners and keep inspection reports on file. Follow up on noted concerns.
- Provide wetland monitoring and annual reporting for mitigation sites associated with constructed project.
- Provide project management and coordination with local/state/federal permitting authorities.
- Coordinate with local/state/federal agencies for early project review and coordination regarding wetland impacts.
- Process payment requests in a timely manner and provide as-built plans and construction documentation.
- Assist in securing the local matching funds for projects from eligible partners and sources.

3) Initiative: FY 2022 – OPERATIONAL & SUPPORT EXPENSES

Description: Utilize funding for operational and support expenses of Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects for: payroll, consultant engineering fees, field and office supplies, telephone / internet and computer services, training and certification, vehicle and equipment expenses, liability / business / auto insurance, and general business expenses.

4) Initiative: FY 2022 – PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION VIA ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT

Description: See Potential Project List for FY 2022 & FY 2023 – Page 6 of this document.

5) Initiative: FY2019 BONDING APPROPRIATION (2018 MN Legislature, Chapter 214, Article 1, Section 9, Subdivision 3)

Description: Provide project management and engineering services to construct flood damage reduction structures to meet the 3:1 match requirement and provide the most floodwater storage as practicable.

Actions:

- Administer the \$700,000 appropriation and report project outcomes in eLINK and to the BWSR Board annually.
- Process cost-share contracts with landowners with approval by the Area II Board of Directors.
- Complete fiscal expenditure report due at end of grant period listing total costs and cost-sharing by all partners.
- Facilitate wetland mitigation/creation if required for proposed projects.
- Provide project management and coordination with local/state/federal permitting authorities.
- Process payment requests in a timely manner and provide as-built Plans and construction documentation.
- Assist in securing the local matching funds for projects from eligible partners and sources.



OTHER ENDEAVORS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

- ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (*Yellow Medicine*)

The Yellow Medicine River watershed was one of the five pilot projects offering a plan with a regional approach. This was desirable as many commonalities of the five Area II major watersheds exist due to the Buffalo Ridge. Although these watersheds have unique issues of their own, topography and flooding bind these southwestern watersheds together.

As the Plan implementation moves forward, Area II has been challenged with a key role in the **Priority Concern: Mitigate Altered Hydrology and Minimize Flooding**. One of the measurable goals is to “Add 1,000 acre-feet of new stormwater storage” by means of capital improvement projects. Although 1,000 acre-feet is achievable in the 10-year period, a more restrictive calculation was added to this goal whereby the overall drawdown time must be greater than 48 hours for 10-year summer rainfall event. This restriction has created a severe obstacle as the steep topography of this area most often does not allow for lengthy drawdown times as compared to projects located in the Red River Valley.

- ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN (*Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank*)

The Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank watershed was approved for planning grant funds. With many of the same partners as the Yellow Medicine 1W1P, this planning effort is moving along swiftly and has recently hired Houston Engineering, Inc. for consulting services. Area II has agreed to be the alternate financial administrator in the event that the LQP-YB Watershed District cannot serve in this role.

- LEGISLATIVE FUNDING REQUESTS

Requests to the 2021 Legislature were made for the biennial appropriation to Area II (\$140,000 per year), and for \$1,000,000 of Capital Investment funds for floodwater retention. The administrative appropriation was included in the omnibus environmental bill and was approved during the special session. In 2020, the same \$1,000,000 request was made. During the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, the bonding decisions were made by party leaders and the governor’s office. Area II was included as part of the DNR Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) Program rather than an appropriation to BWSR. Being added to the FDR list was a way to please local legislators, and meant that no actual funding would be spent as the list of projects far exceeds the appropriation made to the FDR program. As for the 2021 bonding request, Area II testimony was heard in the House committee which was a welcome opportunity, although no bonding bill developed during the legislative session or special session. Another request will be made in 2022.



POTENTIAL PROJECTS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

KEY: *FY 2022 Construction Planned*

BROWN COUNTY

- Leavenworth 11 Grade Stabilization
- Stately 9 Grade Stabilization

COTTONWOOD COUNTY

- Ann 17 Grade Stabilization

LAC QUI PARLE COUNTY

- Lac qui Parle River Diversion Restoration

LINCOLN COUNTY

- Alta Vista 18 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Marble 11 Wetland Restoration

LYON COUNTY

- Amiret 28 Grade Stabilization
- Island Lake 6 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Lynd 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Monroe 30 Grade Stabilization
- Nordland 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Sodus 24 Grade Stabilization

MURRAY COUNTY

- *Holly 2 Grade Stabilization*
- Holly 10 Grade Stabilization

REDWOOD COUNTY

- Lamberton 22 Grade Stabilization
- North Hero 34 Road Retention
- Redwood Falls 8/9 Grade Stabilization
- *Springdale 13/24 Grade Stabilization*
- *Springdale 24 Grade Stabilization*

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY

- *Del Clark Lake Grade Stabilizations*
- Norman 7 Grade Stabilization Repair

- Milford 12 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Stately 29 Grade Stabilization Repair

- Storden 10 Grade Stabilization Repairs (3)

▪ *Lake Benton Outlet Restoration*

- Marble 23 Grade Stabilization

- Custer 10 SE Grade Stabilization
- Lake Marshall 28 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Lynd 31 Road Retention
- Nordland 18 Grade Stabilization
- Sodus 22 Grade Stabilization
- Stanley 19 Grade Stabilization

▪ *Holly 7 Grade Stabilization*

- Holly 22 Road Retention

- Lamberton 26 Grade Stabilization
- North Hero 31 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Sherman 6 Streambank Stabilization
- *Springdale 19 Grade Stabilization*
- Springdale 28 Grade Stabilization

- Fortier 8 Grade Stabilization Repair
- Norman 10 Grade Stabilization



FY 2022 TECHNICAL OFFICE BUDGET

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

OFFICE OPERATIONS

PERSONNEL SERVICES:

Directors' Compensation.....	\$	600.00
Directors' FICA.....		45.90
Employees' Salaries.....	148,885.00	
Employees' FICA.....	10,468.00	
Employees' Medical Insurance.....	34,000.00	
Employees' Retirement.....	11,166.38	
Employees' FlexPlan.....	66.00	
Total Personnel Services.....	\$	205,231.28

SUPPLIES:

Office & Field.....	\$	2,250.00
Investigation & Testing	13,500.00	
Capital Outlay.....	2,000.00	
Total Supplies.....	\$	17,750.00

OTHER SERVICES AND COSTS:

Directors' Expenses.....	\$	500.00
Employees' Expenses.....	1,000.00	
Contract Services.....	15,000.00	
Professional Services.....	50,000.00	
Permit Expense.....	300.00	
Telephone.....	582.00	
Postage.....	300.00	
Vehicle Expense.....	3,500.00	
Rent.....	10,044.00	
Insurance.....	4,800.00	
Website Expenses.....	120.00	
Maintenance & Repairs.....	3,500.00	
Miscellaneous Expenses.....	2,500.00	
Total Other Services and Costs.....	\$	92,146.00

TOTAL OFFICE OPERATIONS.....	\$	315,127.28
Total Ineligible for Cost-Share by the State.....		1,145.90*
Total Eligible for Cost-Share by the State.....	\$	313,981.38

** These items not cost-shared by the State*

STATE SHARE OF ELIGIBLE OFFICE COSTS.....	\$	140,000.00
Local Share of Eligible Office Costs.....	\$	92,000.00 (increased from \$87,000)
Income from Other Sources	\$	84,000.00
Anticipated Income.....	\$	316,000.00

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

ATTACHMENTS

BIENNIAL PLAN – FY 2022 & 2023

ATTACHMENT A – SUMMARY OF FY2019 BONDING APPROPRIATION

ATTACHMENT B – FY 2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

ATTACHMENT C – FY 2021 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY

ATTACHMENT D – FY 2020 ADMINISTRATIVE GRANT SUMMARY (FINAL)

ATTACHMENT A

SUMMARY OF FY2019 BONDING APPROPRIATION (\$700,000)

COMPLETED PROJECTS:

	<u>SPENT</u>	<u>REMAINING</u>
SHERIDAN 1 GRADE STABILIZATION – Redwood County	\$ 33,928.72	
LAKE MARSHALL 32 DAM REPAIR – Lyon County	\$ 14,009.92	
CHARLESTOWN 34 GRADE STABILIZATION – Redwood	\$ 69,768.10	
NORLAND 20 GRADE STABILIZATION – Lyon County	\$ 72,663.15	
SODUS 2 GRADE STABILIZATION – Lyon County	\$ 38,514.10	
MONROE 25 STABILIZATION REPAIR – Lyon County	\$ 18,052.35	
HOLLY 16 STABILIZATION REPAIR – Murray County	\$ 7,969.57	
ROYAL 36 STABILIZATION REPAIR – Lincoln County	\$ 19,135.06	
NORTH HERO 27 GRADE STABILIZATION – Redwood Co.	\$ 18,380.10	
STONY RUN N 32 REPAIR – Yellow Medicine County	\$ 41,010.46	
ISLAND LAKE 11 STABILIZATION REPAIR – Lyon County	\$ 28,648.46	
LAMBERTON 36 GRADE STABILIZATION – Redwood Co.	\$ 15,420.00	
	<u>\$ 377,606.71</u>	

CONTRACTED PROJECTS:

SPRINGDALE 19 GRADE STABILIZATION – Redwood		\$ 322,393.29
		<u>\$ 322,393.29</u>

FY2019 BONDING BALANCE	\$ 377,606.71	\$ 322,393.29
-------------------------------	----------------------	----------------------

APPROPRIATION SUMMARY

Total Project Costs =	\$ 621,036.45
Local Match Provided =	\$ 150,956.61
Other State Funds =	\$ 11,393.21
Federal Funds =	\$ 80,533.92
State/Local Cost-Share Ratio =	1 : 2.50
Acre-Feet of storage created =	175.95
Total Acre-Feet of storage =	210.46

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

ATTACHMENT B

FY2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

Sodus 2 Grade Stabilization - Lyon **\$ 37,844.25**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 28,383.19
Landowner \$ 9,461.06

Royal 36 Dam Repair – Lincoln **\$ 28,509.50**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 19,135.06
Lincoln County \$ 4,461.00
Landowner \$ 2,640.70
Area II Counties \$ 2,092.74

Island Lake 11 Dam Repair – Lyon **\$ 38,197.91**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 28,648.43
Lyon County \$ 4,980.00
Landowner \$ 3,318.85
Area II Counties \$ 1,250.63

Stony Run N 32 Repair – Yellow Med **\$ 63,501.83**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 41,010.46
Landowners \$ 12,150.97
Yellow Medicine SWCD \$ 6,796.65
Yellow Med. River Watershed District \$ 1,500.00
LQP-YB Watershed District \$ 1,500.00
Area II Counties \$ 543.75

North Hero 27 Repair - Redwood **\$ 24,506.80**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 18,380.10
Landowner \$ 5,727.96
Area II Counties \$ 398.74

Holly 16 Dam Repair - Murray **\$ 36,850.10**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 7,969.57
EQIP Federal Funds \$ 16,006.00
Landowner \$ 12,042.65
Area II Counties \$ 831.88

Lamberton 36 Grade Stab - Redwood **\$ 20,560.00**
FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 15,420.00
Landowner \$ 5,140.00

FY2021 COMPLETED PROJECTS

FY2019 Bonding Funds \$ 158,946.81
EQIP Federal Funds \$ 16,006.00
Other State Grants \$ 6,796.65
Watershed Districts \$ 3,000.00
County Funds \$ 9,621.00
Area II Counties \$ 5,117.74
Landowners \$ 50,482.19
TOTAL **\$ 249,970.39**

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS

ATTACHMENT C

AREA II MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS



GRANT PERIOD:

From: July 29, 2020
To: June 30, 2021

AREA II STATUTORY

AUTHORITY:

MN Statutes, Sections
103F.171 - 103F.187

Administrative Services Grant Expenditures

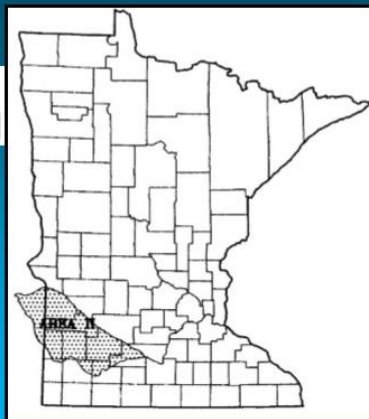
*NOTE: Totals from
Area II Profit & Loss Statement
for the 10 months ended
July 29, 2020 – May 31, 2021*

Personnel Services	\$173,987.94
Other Services	\$ 31,690.98
Prof. Services	\$ 55,757.82
Supplies	\$ 620.34
Investigation & Testing	\$ 4,757.00
Prop. Insurance	\$ 4,808.00
Capitol Outlay	\$ 0.00
TOTAL FY21 EXPENDITURE (to date)	\$271,622.08

PROJECT CONTACT:

Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
(507) 537-6369
area2@starpoint.net

Project Title: FY'21 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANT
CONTRACT NO. P21-1420 \$140,000.00



Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Watershed Boundary

Member Counties:

*Brown
Cottonwood
Lac qui Parle
Lincoln
Lyon
Murray
Pipestone
Redwood
Yellow Medicine*

Overall Project Description

Minnesota Statutes establish a grant-in-aid program administered by BWSR for providing financial and technical assistance to local government units (counties, SWCDS, and watershed districts) located in Area II for project and construction costs of floodwater retarding and retention structures within a general plan for floodplain management.

Nine counties within Area II have entered into a Joint Powers Agreement since 1978 to coordinate the implementation of such floodwater retarding and retention projects, and for this purpose, established Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects.

Statute authorizes BWSR to supervise the program and provide individual project grants not to exceed 75% of total project costs where federal funds are not utilized, or 50% of the nonfederal costs where federal funds are utilized.

Area II has an established office which houses Area II personnel and equipment to provide the engineering and other technical services of projects cost-shared through this program.

Costs eligible for cost-sharing under this Grant Agreement include technical office costs and associated costs, but do not include Area II Directors' compensation, expenses, insurance costs. The combination of the nine member counties provide \$87,000.00 to the Administrative Services Grant of \$140,000.00. This is well beyond the required 25% local match.

ATTACHMENT D

AREA II

MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN PROJECTS



GRANT PERIOD:

From: November 7, 2019
To: June 30, 2021

AREA II STATUTORY

AUTHORITY:

MN Statutes, Sections
103F.171 - 103F.187

Administrative Services Grant Expenditures

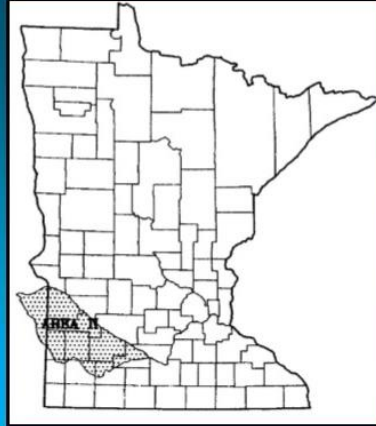
*NOTE: Totals from
Area II Profit & Loss Statement
for 8 months ended
Nov. 7, 2019 - June 30, 2020*

Personnel Services	\$ 129,858.73
Other Services	\$ 21,902.76
Prof. Services	\$ 35,568.25
Supplies	\$ 409.80
Investigation & Testing	\$ 16,500.00
Insurance	\$ 4,395.00
Capitol Outlay	\$ 0.00
TOTAL FY20 EXPENDITURE	\$208,634.54

PROJECT CONTACT:

Kerry Netzke, Executive Director
(507) 537-6369
area2@starpoint.net

Project Title: FY'20 ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES GRANT
CONTRACT NO. P20-7874 \$140,000.00



Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Watershed Boundary

Member Counties:

*Brown
Cottonwood
Lac qui Parle
Lincoln
Lyon
Murray
Pipestone
Redwood
Yellow Medicine*

Overall Project Description

Minnesota Statutes establish a grant-in-aid program administered by BWSR for providing financial and technical assistance to local government units (counties, SWCDS, and watershed districts) located in Area II for project and construction costs of floodwater retarding and retention structures within a general plan for floodplain management.

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Statute authorizes BWSR to supervise the program and provide individual project grants not to exceed 75% of total project costs where federal funds are not utilized, or 50% of the nonfederal costs where federal funds are utilized.

Area II has an established office which houses Area II personnel and equipment to provide the engineering and other technical services of projects cost-shared through this program.

Costs eligible for cost-sharing under this Grant Agreement include technical office costs and associated costs, but do not include Area II Directors' compensation, expenses, insurance costs. The combination of the nine member counties provide \$87,000.00 to the Administrative Services Grant of \$140,000.00. This is well beyond the required 25% local match.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Northern Region Committee

1. Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ryan Hughes and Rich Sve – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Chad Severts

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Rich Sve/Ryan Hughes

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

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

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plan is on the Mississippi River Headwaters 1W1P website: <https://headwatershed.org/>

Direct link: <https://headwatershed.org/plan>

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

The Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in north central Minnesota, encompassing portions of Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Itasca counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Beltrami and Hubbard SWCDs were the lead

preparers of the Plan with contributions from Technical Service Area 8 staff, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota DNR, MPCA and BWSR staff.

On July 8, 2021, 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 September 1, 2021, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

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 Mississippi River Headwaters 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 Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on July 8, 2021 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #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 Partnership was established in February of 2019 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Beltrami County, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Cass County, Cass SWCD, Clearwater County, Clearwater SWCD, Hubbard County, Hubbard SWCD, Itasca County and Itasca 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 program. And, on March 28, 2018 Board Decision #18-14 adopted Version 2.0 of the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.

Nature of the Watershed. The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed is located in north central Minnesota and is rich in surface water resources, with approximately 685 river miles and more than 1,000 lakes totaling 180,375 acres. This abundance of water resources includes some of Minnesota's most famous lakes and streams including Cass and Winnibigoshish, two of the ten largest inland lakes in the state. The land cover in the Watershed is dominated by natural areas with a few pockets of concentrated development. Forest cover most of the Watershed (42%), followed by wetlands and open water (37%). Agricultural activity is moderate, accounting for approximately 10% of the available acres,

while urban areas account for just 3%. The largest city, Bemidji, has a population of 14,942 (2016). Other sizable cities in the Watershed include Cohasset (population 2,728), Deer River (population 933), and Cass Lake (population 749). Approximately 44% of the land is privately owned, with the remaining portion being state, county, federal, or tribal land. The total population count of the Watershed is around 55,715 people, and there are an estimated 586 farms.

3. **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.
4. **Plan Review.** On July 8, 2021, 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 Decision #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA did not confirm receipt of the Plan or provide comments.
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan and had no further comments. MDH looks forward to continuing in this partnership by assisting with implementation of the approved plan.
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the formal review and did not submit additional comments. The agency recommended approval of the Plan and looks forward to continued participation and support throughout the implementation of this protection focused plan.
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the formal review and did not submit additional comments. The agency recommended approval of the Plan and commended the efforts of the plan partners.
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not confirm receipt of the Plan or provide comments.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Regional Staff: BWSR staff provided comments during the 60-day review commending the Partnership for inclusion of initial priority issues submitted by BWSR and other state agency staff. All comments submitted throughout the planning process were adequately addressed in the final Plan and BWSR staff recommended approval of the Plan.
5. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
 - The planning partners chose to write the Plan themselves rather than using the services of a consultant. The Beltrami and Hubbard SWCDs were the lead preparers of the Plan with contributions from Technical Service Area 8 staff, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, Minnesota DNR, MPCA and BWSR staff.

- The Plan followed BWSR’s Suggested Boundary Map. The planning process identified four different Implementation Regions that were based on geographic similarities of land use, current level of protection, and actions from primary and secondary issues.
 - The Plan development process generated 9 issues using a combination of existing reports, data, and stakeholder input. The issues were ranked based on responses from the public and the Advisory Committee. The highest priority issues were Lake Stewardship, Forest Stewardship, Urban Stewardship and Agricultural Stewardship.
 - A major component of the Plan is maintaining current forest cover up to 75% for prioritized lake drainage areas (lake watersheds). Research by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified forest cover as a crucial element in protecting water quality. This Plan also focuses on issues developed on a case-by-case basis throughout the Watershed based on impact to water resources, termed resource stewardship. Geographic information and multi-criteria data analysis were used to identify priority implementation efforts based on risk and value attributes of the resource.
 - The Plan is written to include issue chapters which identifies the priority areas, measurable goals, and targeted implementation schedule for each issue. The Priority Issues Implementation Summary consolidates the goals and examples of implementation into the planning regions.
 - The estimated costs for Plan implementation including staff, projects, programs, data collection, and outreach amount to just over 50 million dollars over the next 10 years. The largest expenditures in this Plan are due to actions implementing the Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) and conservation easements which will be funded through other state programs outside Watershed Based Implementation Funding.
 - The Plan partners incorporated a workload analysis into the implementation tables which has been helpful to assess local staff capacity to implement the Plan.
6. **Northern Regional Committee.** On September 1, 2021, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Committee Chair Rich Sve, Theresa Ebbenga, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Jeff Berg, and LeRoy Ose. Board staff in attendance were Northern Regional Manager Ryan Hughes, and Board Conservationist Chad Severts. The representatives from the Partnership were Zachrie Gutknecht, Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff; Andy Arens, Itasca SWCD staff; Calvin Saari, Itasca SWCD Supervisor; Ted Van Kempen, Hubbard County Commissioner; Craig Gaasvig, Beltrami County Commissioner; David Peterson, Cass SWCD Supervisor; and Sam Christenson, Beltrami SWCD Supervisor. 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.
7. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until September 22, 2031.

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 Mississippi Headwaters Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #18-14.

3. The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed 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 Decision #18-14.
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.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed, dated September 2021.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-second of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

September 22, 2021

Mississippi River Headwaters Policy Committee
c/o Zach Gutknecht, Beltrami SWCD Clean Water Specialist
701 Minnesota Ave., Suite 113
Bemidji, MN 56601

RE: Approval of the Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Mississippi River Headwaters Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Mississippi River Headwaters Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on September 22, 2021. 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 September 22, 2031. 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 Chad Severts of our staff at 218-770-9620 or chad.severts@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)
Nathan Kestner, DNR (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Phil Votruba, MPCA (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Chad Severts, BWSR (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)

Equal Opportunity Employer

Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan



HEADWATERSHED.org





Acknowledgements

Plan Partners

- Beltrami County
- Cass County
- Clearwater County
- Hubbard County
- Itasca County
- Beltrami SWCD
- Cass SWCD
- Clearwater SWCD
- Hubbard SWCD
- Itasca SWCD

Prepared by

- Zach Gutknecht - Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District
- Megan FitzGerald - Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District
- Crystal Mathisrud - Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation District

Contributors

- Dain Erickson - Red Canoe Cre8tive
- Mitch Brinks - Technical Service Area 8
- Eric Krumm - Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
- Will Lee - Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation District
- Alicia Gohmann - Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation District
- Peter Jacobson - Hubbard Soil and Water Conservation District
- Annette Drewes - Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
- Sagor Biswas - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- Chad Severts - Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Jeff Hrubes - Board of Water and Soil Resources

Policy Committee

- Craig Gaasvig - Beltrami County Commissioner
- Scott Bruns - Cass County Commissioner
- Dick Downham - Cass County Commissioner *
- Dean Newland - Clearwater County Commissioner
- Ted Van Kempen - Hubbard County Commissioner
- Davin Tinquist - Itasca County Commissioner
- Sam Christenson - Beltrami SWCD Supervisor
- Del Olson - Beltrami SWCD Supervisor *
- David Peterson - Cass SWCD Supervisor
- Harlan Strandlien - Clearwater SWCD Supervisor
- Marcel Noyes - Hubbard SWCD Supervisor
- Cal Saari - Itasca SWCD Supervisor
- Ted Lovdahl - Itasca SWCD Supervisor *

* Former Policy Committee Members

Advisory Committee

- State
 - Chad Severts
Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - Jeff Hrubes
Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - Annette Drewes
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - Phil Votruba
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 - Chris Parthun
Minnesota Department of Health
 - Rachel Miller
Minnesota Department of Transportation
- Appointed Stakeholders
 - Pete Aube
Beltrami County
 - Mel Milender
Beltrami County
 - Russ Johnsrud
Hubbard SWCD
 - Gary Roerick
Hubbard SWCD
 - Eric Buitenwerf
Hubbard County
 - John Ringle
Cass County
 - Will Pehling
Cass SWCD
 - Richard Lacher
Itasca SWCD
 - Dean Newland
Clearwater County
 - Dan Hecht
Clearwater County
- Additional Stakeholders
 - Dan Pazdernik
Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Jody Peek
Natural Resources Conservation Service
 - Curtiss Hunt
Beltrami County Lakes and Rivers Assn.
 - Patty Dziuk
Itasca Coalition of Lake Assns.
 - Harold Dziuk
Itasca Coalition of Lake Assns.
- Sharon Natzel
Hubbard County Coalition of Lake Assns.
- Perry Loegering
Itasca Waters and Izaak Walton League
- Sam Anderson
City of Bemidji
- Jamin Carlson
Greater Bemidji Area Joint Planning Board
- Tim Terrill
Mississippi Headwaters Board
- Bruce Hasbargen
Beltrami County Highway Department
- Eric Raitanen
United States Forest Service
- Todd Tisler
United States Forest Service
- Eric Krumm
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe

Steering Team

- Brent Rud
Beltrami County
- Jon Ringle
Cass County
- Dan Hecht
Clearwater County
- Eric Buitenwerf
Hubbard County
- Dan Swenson
Itasca County
- Zach Gutknecht
Beltrami SWCD
- Kelly Condiff
Cass SWCD
- Chester Powell
Clearwater SWCD
- Crystal Mathisrud
Hubbard SWCD
- Andy Arens
Itasca SWCD
- Chad Severts
Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Jeff Hrubes
Board of Water and Soil Resources

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The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan is intended to be used by the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed community, including local government units, non-profits, citizen groups, County Commissioners, and Soil and Water Conservation District supervisors for comprehensive, voluntary resource conservation implementation. It is not a complete repository of information, and further information can be found in cited documents or on the Plan website, www.headwatershed.org.

Executive Summary

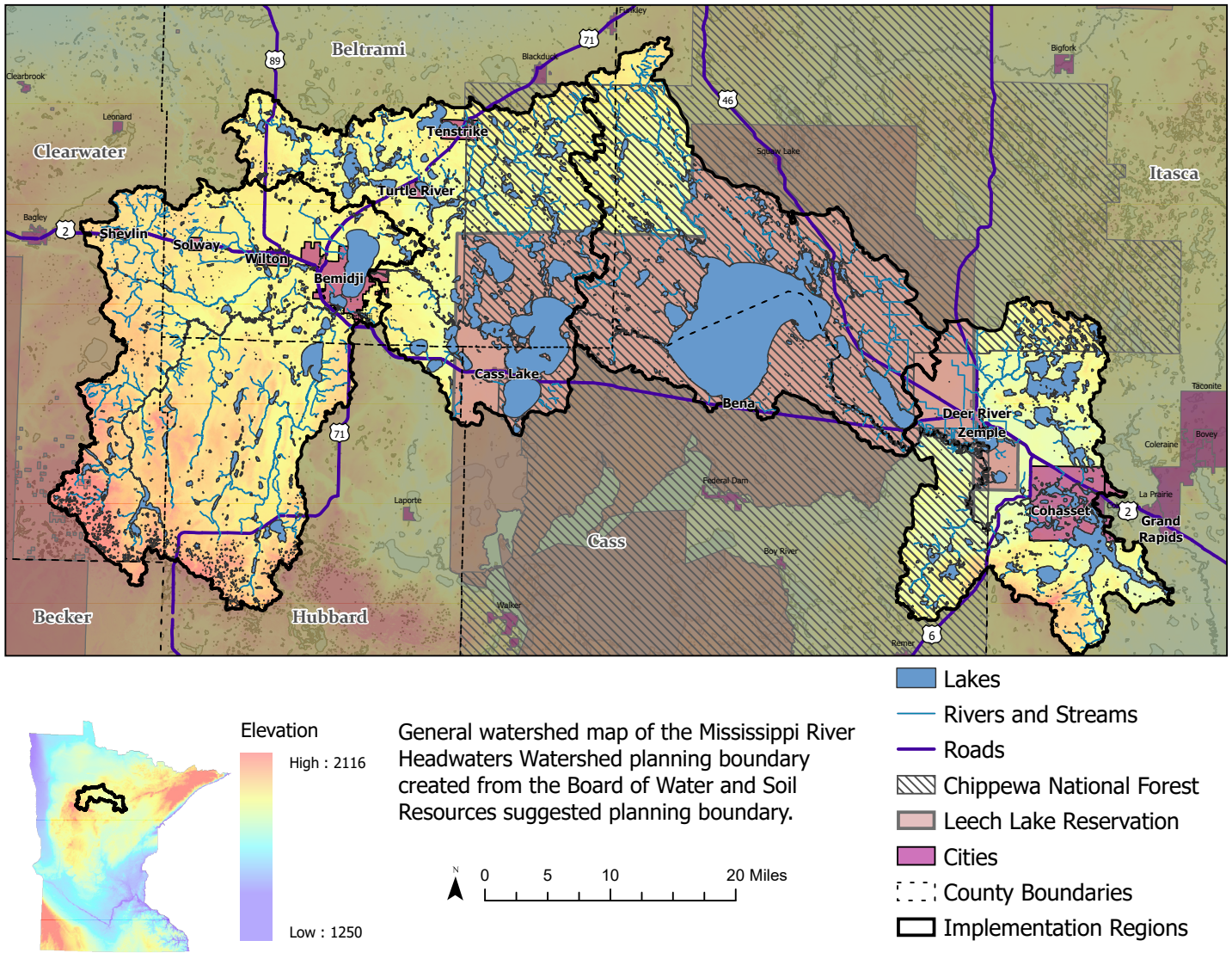
This Plan was developed in accordance with the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program guided by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). There are ten local governments that entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to develop this Plan, which included officials and staff from Soil and Water Conservation Districts and counties including Beltrami, Cass, Clearwater, Hubbard, and Itasca. Each local government has a representative appointed to the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making authority for the planning and implementation effort. Additional representatives and citizens made up the Advisory Committee, including local non-profit organizations, lake associations, cities, townships, state agencies, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, the United States Forest Service, and the Natural Resource Conservation Service. These partners all played critical roles in developing the Plan framework, prioritization, outcomes, and overall review.

When developing our Plan vision, all of the partners recognized that protecting and improving water resources depends on people, communities, and society putting science, technology, and engineering into practice. Early on in the planning process, the Policy and Advisory Committees had joint meetings to develop the vision, determine our values, and give voice to this planning document, as depicted in Figure E.1.

Figure E.1 Planning framework.



Map E.1 Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed.



The Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed (Watershed) has numerous surface water resources, which include 685 river miles and 180,375 lake acres. The abundance of water resources includes some of Minnesota’s largest lakes, including Cass Lake and Lake Winnibigoshish. The Watershed is a popular tourist destination, offering exceptional fishing, hunting, camping, and other recreational opportunities. It is perhaps best known as the birthplace of the mighty Mississippi River, which flows 2,552 miles through ten states before emptying into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Watershed encompasses 1,228,810 acres, of which 53% are publicly owned. Most of these public lands are located in the central part of the Watershed in the Chippewa National Forest. Forests make up 42% (512,638 acres) of the land cover and lakes and wetlands make up 46% (564,312 acres). Because over 80% of the Watershed is forested or covered by water, it has maintained a level of biological integrity, with only two of the 122 lakes assessed failing to meet state water quality standards. The abundance and quality of forests, lakes, and wetlands are critical components of the local economy, which is driven by the forest industry and tourism. However, the Watershed is not without its threats, mainly due to increasing disturbed land cover as a result of agriculture and impervious area expansion. Within the Watershed, agriculture accounts for 10% of land use, while impervious areas make up 3%. There are increasing development trends around area lakes as well as around the cities of Grand Rapids and Bemidji. Additionally, 31,061 acres of forests, mostly in the western portion of the Watershed, have been converted to another land cover type since 2001.

The issues of concern for the Watershed were identified and prioritized with input from the general public, Advisory Committee, Policy Committee, and review of existing local plans and reports. A comprehensive list of key information and actions was grouped into nine separate issues of concern identified in the planning process:

- **Lake Stewardship** - Increased land use pressures adjacent to lakes and subsequent drainage areas to lakes have altered the habitat in the near-shore area and can have substantial negative impacts on water quality.
- **Forest Stewardship** - High-quality water resources found and enjoyed throughout the Watershed are the result of a largely intact, diverse forest landscape. Land use changes can lead to forest fragmentation and potential negative water quality impacts.
- **Agriculture Stewardship** - Depending on how agricultural lands are managed, they could potentially be major sources of sediment, nutrients, and chemicals for surface and groundwater.
- **Urban Stewardship** - Unmanaged or poorly managed land development can have adverse impacts on groundwater recharge and the quality and quantity of stormwater runoff.
- **Environmentally Sensitive Lands** - Terrestrial and aquatic habitats that are biologically diverse and sensitive can be threatened by future potential changes in land disturbances and/or development.
- **Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Management** - Poorly functioning or failing waste management systems are threats to human health and the environment through increased pathogens, nutrients, and chemicals that leach into surface and groundwater resources.
- **Water Course Stewardship** - Human activity has disrupted and disconnected some stream segments, affecting habitat, water quality, and species movement.
- **Drinking Water Stewardship** - Residents within the Watershed use groundwater as their primary drinking water resource. There is an elevated vulnerability of drinking water becoming contaminated from both natural and human causes due to the composition of soils and surficial aquifers.
- **Invasive Species Management** - New species introductions or unimpeded infestations have a negative impact on the local economy, natural environment, and recreational benefits.

The planning process included two community engagement events: one in Bemidji and the other in Grand Rapids. Current Watershed information was presented at these events, but their main focus was to solicit public input early in the process. At each event large maps with various resources were laid out so participants could find where they lived and talk about the issues and opportunities for that area. In addition, we conducted a public survey at each event as well as online, allowing for input from people who could not attend either of the events. Based on the responses from the public and Advisory Committee, issues of concern for the Watershed were identified and prioritized as shown in Figure E.2.

Figure E.2 Issue priority categorization.

Higher Priority	----->	Lower Priority
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lake Stewardship • Forest Stewardship • Urban Stewardship • Agriculture Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Environmentally Sensitive Lands • Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Management • Water Course Stewardship 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drinking Water Stewardship • Invasive Species Management

To prevent the decline of high-quality natural resources, a major component of the Plan will be maintaining current forest cover up to 75% for prioritized lake drainage areas (lake watersheds). Research by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has identified forest cover as a crucial element in protecting water quality. This Plan also focuses on issues developed on a case-by-case basis throughout the Watershed based on impact to water resources, termed resource stewardship. Geographic information and multi-criteria data analysis were used to identify priority implementation efforts based on risk and value attributes of the resource.

The measurable goals identified in the Plan focus on protecting forests, habitat, wild rice waterbodies, and the Mississippi River while restoring riparian areas and reducing stormwater in priority lake watersheds. The implementation actions are a range of conservation tools including planning, best management practices, and protection programs like easements and tax incentive programs. Other actions and programs include acquiring monitoring and study data and conducting outreach and education programs to targeted audiences. Table E.1 is a summary of Plan goals and implementation actions. Measurability and action outcomes are further described in Section 3.

All of the Plan elements will be executed based on a Joint Powers Collaboration (JPC) that emphasizes the shared responsibility for all aspects of the Plan. Local partners intend to work cooperatively to implement Plan actions and coordinate through a structure illustrated by Figure E.3, with participating local government unit (LGU) representatives providing direction for shared implementation. The pace of progress when implementing Plan activities depends on the availability of funds. Staff representatives from each of the JPC members will coordinate the implementation of Plan activities and collaborate to obtain the grants and funding necessary to implement the Plan. The JPC members will meet regularly to ensure progress is being made toward achieving the goals of the Plan. An annual meeting between the Advisory Committee and members of the public will be held so JPC members and staff can provide updates on plan progress and obtain input and recommendations regarding governance, implementation, and funding concerns.

Figure E.3 Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan governance structure.

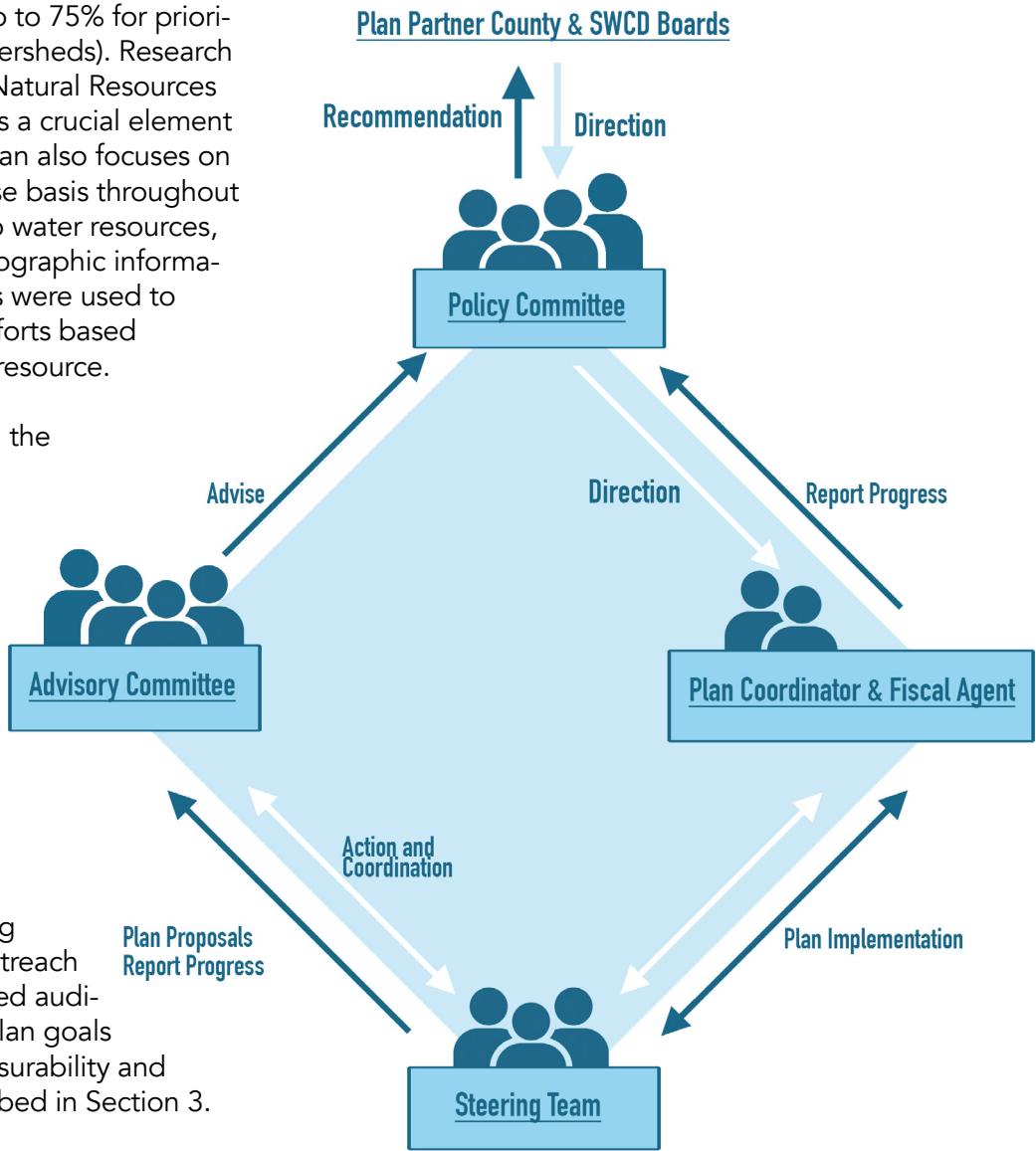


Table E.1 Summary of Plan implementation actions and how they relate to goals in the Watershed.

Primary Issues

Summary of Goals	Examples of Implementation
Lake Stewardship: Restore lakeshore habitat and reduce phosphorus loading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rain gardens, rain barrels, and drainage management • Install riparian buffers • Install bio-engineering practices along the shoreline
Forest Stewardship: Increase forest best management practices and number of protected acres, retain contiguous blocks of forestlands, and minimize forest fragmentation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SWCD tree program • Forest stewardship planning • SFIA, 2c, and conservation easements
Agriculture Stewardship: Improve soil health through best land management practices on cultivated and pasture lands.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soil testing • Sustainable grazing management • Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program • Cover crops, reduced tillage, and nutrient management
Urban Stewardship: Increase understanding of stormwater delivery to priority resources and enhance management of stormwater runoff and chlorides.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Curb cut rain gardens, tree boxes, and native planting areas • Review of current infrastructure • Upgrades to road salt management and equipment

Secondary Issues

Summary of Goals	Examples of Implementation
Environmentally Sensitive Lands: Improve protection of prioritized habitat.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian vegetation best management practices • Wild rice easements • Native pollinator plantings
Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Management: Reduce private wastewater impacts to local drinking water and priority surface waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local voluntary inventories • Voluntary assessments • Zero-interest loan program
Water Course Stewardship: Improve aquatic habitat connectivity and enhance local road and access management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dam replacement • Road salt management • Culvert inventory and replacement • Installation of long-term monitoring gauges

Tertiary Issues

Summary of Goals	Examples of Implementation
Drinking Water Stewardship: Protect drinking water resources through proactive testing, education, and information.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well sealing • Well testing • Flooded well test kits
Invasive Species Management: Enhance coordination of local aquatic and terrestrial invasive species programs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of a cooperative weed management area • Pest management BMPs

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

1. Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan		
Meeting Date:	<u>September 22, 2021</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Section/Region:	<u>Central Region</u>		
Contact:	<u>Steve Christopher</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Steve Christopher</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Committee(s)</u>	
Presented by:	<u>Steve Christopher</u>		
Time requested:	<u>5 minutes</u>		

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full Plan Link as follows:

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2021-08/Draft_MWMO_Watershed_Management_Plan_2021-2031_%28Revised_90-Day_Version%29.pdf

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

Background:

The Middle Mississippi WMO was established in 1985 and included the University of Minnesota. The first watershed management plan was published in December 1986. In 1997, a Joint and Cooperative Agreement, more commonly entitled “Joint Powers Agreement” across the metropolitan area, was entered into by the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, St. Anthony, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The agreement changed the name to Mississippi WMO and replaced the agreement executed in 1985 that created the original organization. In 1999, the MWMO’s legal boundary was redrawn to exclude the City of Falcon Heights, which is now a part of the Capitol Region Watershed District. The second watershed management plan was approved by the Board in 2000. In 2001 the legislature granted MWMO the authority as a “special purpose taxing district” under

Minnesota Statutes Section 275.066. In April 2011, the third-generation watershed management plan was approved by the Board. In 2012, following the dissolution of the Six Cities WMO, the Cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop were added.

The MWMO is located in Hennepin, Anoka and Ramsey Counties in the heart of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound on the west by the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Organizations and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, on the east by the Capitol Region Watershed District, and on the north and east by the Rice Creek Watershed District. The MWMO consists of portions of the Cities of Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Paul, Fridley, Columbia Heights, and all of Hilltop. An additional member of the MWMO is the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The current area is approximately 40 square miles with 75% of the area in the City of Minneapolis. The majority of the MWMO has been developed for commercial, industrial or residential uses and covered in impervious surfaces. The Mississippi River is the primary water resource in the MWMO, however other water resources include Loring Park Pond – an eight acre, annually stocked recreational fishing lake, Mallard Marsh, Kasota Ponds, Sullivan Lake, and Highland Lake.. There are three dams with navigational locks on the Mississippi River within the MWMO. Subwatersheds in the region that were historically defined by topography are now defined by extensive networks of stormwater tunnels and pipes. Bassett Creek flows by way of a tunnel through the MWMO.

Plan Process and Highlights:

As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. In July 2019, stakeholders were identified, and notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. The public input was accepted at the November 2019 MWMO Board meeting plan and staff began drafting the plan which included opportunities for members of the Citizen Advisory Committee to guide the update. The 60-day draft Plan was released in October 2020 which generated 169 comments. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. The MWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on July 13, 2021. Two comments were made during the public hearing which were addressed by the MWMO. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on July 22, 2021. No additional comments were received during the 90-day review period.

The Plan has ten focus areas that are directly in-line with that of an urban watershed which include water quality, ecosystem health, and emergency preparedness & response. The Plan identifies a Purpose, Challenges, Target audiences, and Indicators & Measures of Performance for each Focus Area. The MWMO implements its Plan through the following work areas: Capital Projects, Outreach, Stewardship Grants, Communications, Monitoring, Planning, and Watershed Assessment.

The following is an excerpt of their Plan for the Emerging Issues Focus Area:

Purpose Implementation of Emerging Issues initiatives will develop awareness of new issues and address the related changing conditions, in order to protect water and natural resources.

Challenges *MWMO Watershed Management Plan 2021-2031 pg. 158* The MWMO’s main challenge is the inherent newness of emerging issues. This compounds the difficulty of anticipating and identifying potential impacts to water and natural resources, and possible solutions to these impacts. A history of systemic racism coupled with continued present-day land use patterns; infrastructure, operations, and maintenance patterns; have brought to the forefront unresolved social, economic, and environmental issues of climate change. These climate change impacts are generating greater inequity within communities of black, indigenous, and people of color. MWMO staff need to continue to build public and private partnerships with neighborhoods, governmental and private sector partners to engage early on in planning for new redevelopment activities that bolster the

watershed's resilience to climate change; regain social and environmental equity neighborhoods have lost; and reduce long term infrastructure debt. Private site by site redevelopment and the separation of public and private infrastructure systems to support it has unwittingly contributed to today's issues of climate change, inequity, and infrastructure debt. The MWMO needs to continue to work with its member cities on new district, regional, and restorative infrastructure patterns that help resolve these issues. Staff need to continue to help partners promote and implement systems based designs that utilize stormwater to re-establish connected habitat corridors that has multiple benefits including: reduced crime rates, improved physical and mental health, cooling of the urban heat island, improved work place productivity, increased access to healthy food sources, improved social cohesion and community resilience; absorption of carbon emissions and other air pollutants; regained environmental and economic equity for neighborhoods; more extensive public spaces, lower public infrastructure debt, and lower long-term maintenance costs.

Target Audiences The primary target audience for emerging issues implementation initiatives is MWMO staff and stakeholders with input on key emerging issues.

Indicators and Measures of Performance The performance measure is the retrospective evaluation of how emerging issues were handled, the ability to build awareness and build partnerships and projects that implement corrective actions, the identification of secondary effects avoided, and the perceived preparedness for future changes in conditions.

The Plan acknowledges the benefits of collaboration in avoiding redundancies and expanding off MWMO partners to further leverage resources. This recognition as a key principle has allowed the MWMO to move to a systems-based approach where the interconnectedness of their work with less traditional watershed partners has realized benefits of other systems (e.g., energy, food, transportation, solid waste, cultural, social, and economic) alongside their own.

Attachments:

1. Draft order for approval of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) Watershed Management Plan
2. MWMO Plan Executive Summary
3. MWMO Capital Improvement Program 2021-2031

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 Mississippi Watershed Management Organization, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated July 2021 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 Management Organization Establishment.** The Middle Mississippi WMO was established in 1985 and included the University of Minnesota. The first watershed management plan was published in December 1986. In 1997, a Joint and Cooperative Agreement, more commonly entitled “Joint Powers Agreement” across the metropolitan area, was entered into by the Cities of Minneapolis, St. Paul, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, St. Anthony, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The agreement changed the name to Mississippi WMO and replaced the agreement executed in 1985 that created the original organization. In 1999, the MWMO’s legal boundary was redrawn to exclude the City of Falcon Heights, which is now a part of the Capitol Region Watershed District. The second watershed management plan was approved by the Board in 2000. In 2001 the legislature granted MWMO the authority as a “special purpose taxing district” under Minnesota Statutes Section 275.066. In April 2011, the third-generation watershed management plan was approved by the Board. In 2012, following the dissolution of the Six Cities WMO, the Cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley and Hilltop were added.
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 MWMO is located in Hennepin, Anoka and Ramsey Counties in the heart of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound on the west by the Shingle Creek and West Mississippi Watershed Management Organizations and Bassett Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south by Minnehaha Creek Watershed

District, on the east by the Capitol Region Watershed District, and on the north and east by the Rice Creek Watershed District. The MWMO consists of portions of the Cities of Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Paul, Fridley, Columbia Heights, and all of Hilltop. An additional member of the MWMO is the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

The current area is approximately 40 square miles most of which is contained within the City of Minneapolis. The majority of the MWMO has been developed for commercial, industrial or residential uses and covered in impervious surfaces. The Mississippi River is the primary water resource in the MWMO, however other water resources include Loring Park Pond – an eight acre, annually stocked recreational fishing lake, Mallard Marsh, Kasota Ponds, Sullivan Lake, and Highland Lake. There are three dams with navigational locks on the Mississippi River within the MWMO. Subwatersheds in the region that were historically defined by topography are now defined by extensive networks of stormwater tunnels and pipes. Bassett Creek flows by way of a tunnel through the MWMO.

3. **Plan Development and Review.** As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. In July 2019, stakeholders were identified, and notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. The public input was accepted at the November 2019 MWMO Board meeting plan and staff began drafting the plan which included opportunities for members of the Citizen Advisory Committee to guide the update. The 60-day draft Plan was released in October 2020 which generated 169 comments. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. The MWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on July 13, 2021. Two comments were made during the public hearing which were addressed by the MWMO. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on July 22, 2021. No additional comments were received during the 90-day review period.
4. **Local Review.** The MWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government and other partners for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, City of Fridley, City of Minneapolis, City of St. Anthony, City of St. Paul, Hennepin County, Anoka Conservation District, Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission, Rice Creek Watershed District, and the Friends of the Mississippi River. The MWMO adequately responded to all comments and made necessary revisions.
5. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council noted a list of priorities with issues that should be addressed through projects and actions. The Council also requested a stronger connection between activities in the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and the goals and strategies. The MWMO noted the comments and revised the Plan as necessary.
6. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not have any comments.
7. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** The MDH did not provide comments.
8. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR recommended using the Watershed Health Assessment Framework tool to assist in identifying gaps, prioritizing actions, and examining opportunities. The DNR also provided recommendations for further actions that the MWMO could take part in that are directly identified in the Plan. The MWMO noted each of the comments and made the necessary revisions.

9. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA requested updates to information and data included in the Plan. The MWMO made revisions and noted that it now includes the most current information.
10. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** DOT requested the removal of language regarding the DOT's local water plan requirements as well as language from an activity in the CIP where practices are inconsistent with DOT's standards. The MWMO removed the language as suggested.
11. **Board Review.** Board staff requested clarification on the CIP actions regarding funding. MWMO provided additional detail on this. BWSR noted that the ten focus areas of the plan remain unchanged from the third-generation plan. MWMO responded that they did reassess these and are still the highest priorities. BWSR also commended the MWMO for their high prioritization of the Creation and Implementation of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan.
12. **Plan Summary.** The Plan has ten focus areas that are directly in-line with that of an urban watershed which include water quality, ecosystem health, and emergency preparedness & response. The Plan identifies a Purpose, Challenges, Target audiences, and Indicators & Measures of Performance for each Focus Area. The MWMO implements its Plan through the following work areas: Capital Projects, Outreach, Stewardship Grants, Communications, Monitoring, Planning, and Watershed Assessment.

The Plan acknowledges the benefits of collaboration in avoiding redundancies and expanding off MWMO partners to further leverage resources. This recognition as a key principle has allowed the MWMO to move to a systems-based approach where the interconnectedness of their work with less traditional watershed partners has realized benefits of other systems (e.g., energy, food, transportation, solid waste, cultural, social, and economic) alongside their own.
13. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On September 2, 2021 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), Jayne Hager Dee, Mark Zabel, Andrea Date, Joel Larson, Melissa Lewis, Steve Robertson, and Grant Wilson. Board staff in attendance were Central Region Manager Marcey Westrick and Board Conservationist Steve Christopher. MWMO Executive Director Doug Snyder and MWMO Planning Principal Dan Kalmon, MWMO Projects and Outreach Director Nancy Stowe, and MWMO Project Planning and Implementation Specialist Brett Eidem were also in attendance. Dan Kalmon provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff provided an overview of how the Plan met all statutory and rule requirements and 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 Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.

3. The MWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the MWMO's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2031.
4. The MWMO Watershed Management Plan will be effective September 22, 2021 through September 22, 2031.
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 Mississippi Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan dated July 2021.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

September 22, 2021

Board of Commissioners
Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
c/o Executive Director Doug Snyder
2522 Marshall St. NE
Minneapolis, MN 55418-3329

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization (MWMO) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on September 22, 2021. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the MWMO 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 commissioners, 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)
Marcey Westrick, BWSR (via email)
Steve Christopher, BWSR (via email)
File Copy

2.0 Executive Summary

2.1 History

Today's organization began as the Middle Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization in 1985 with a joint powers agreement executed by the cities of Minneapolis, Saint Paul, Lauderdale, Falcon Heights, Saint Anthony Village, the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board, and the University of Minnesota. For business purposes, the organization shortened its name to the Mississippi Watershed Management Organization. The current joint cooperative agreement, bylaws, and legal description are included in [Appendix A](#). The members now include the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, Saint Paul, and the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board.

History of MWMO's Watershed Management Plans

The First Generation Watershed Management Plan (Plan), published in December of 1986, was never officially approved, resulting in no projects being implemented. In January 1997, the University of Minnesota left the organization and a Second Generation planning effort was initiated. In 1998, the Capitol Region Watershed District (CRWD) was formed adjacent to the MWMO. As part of the creation of CRWD, a small geographic area of Falcon Heights was removed from the MWMO. In 2000, the Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC), MWMO, and the City of Minneapolis entered into a joint and cooperative agreement, which resulted in a boundary change that transferred 1,002 acres from the BCWMC to the MWMO. The agreement defines the responsibilities of the MWMO and the BCWMC with respect to the new and old tunnel. For example, the agreement requires the MWMO to coordinate with the City of Minneapolis regarding flows from Bassett Creek that exceed the 50 cubic feet per second (cfs) overflow that the Old Tunnel must accommodate. The agreement also requires written approval of the BCWMC for changes in the area tributary to the new tunnel, or increases in the rate of runoff to the new tunnel by either the City of Minneapolis or the MWMO. A copy of the agreement is attached as Appendix F.

In 2000, the MWMO Second Generation Plan was approved. In 2006, the Plan was amended to add the Greening Program and clarify existing programmatic efforts. The MWMO's Third Generation Plan was adopted by the MWMO Board of Commissioners on May 10, 2011.

An intentional amendment process every 2 -3 years was built into the MWMO's Third Generation Plan. This process has allowed the MWMO to maintain a "living plan" that is updated regularly to respond to changing conditions in the watershed and better align with our member cities' capital improvement schedules. The first amendment added member cities' projects to the Plan's Capital Improvement Schedule; it was adopted by the MWMO Board of Commissioners on May 8, 2012.

In 2011 the six-city WMO was dissolved. By August 21, 2012, portions or all of the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Hilltop became members of the MWMO. On July 7, 2013, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approved a Plan amendment related to these new member cities. Items added included an updated joint cooperative agreement, a revised legal boundary, and additional stormwater management projects in MWMO's Capital Improvement Schedule.

May 12, 2015, the MWMO Board of Commissioners approved a third Plan amendment that modified the MWMO's standards, added the MWMO's Design Sequence flow chart, and integrated projects, mapping and assessments from our new member cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, and Hilltop into the MWMO's Watershed Management Plan.

In 2016, there were two final amendments to the Plan. The first added the new 8410 amendment process to the Plan, and updated Section 3.2, which provides our member cities guidance on local water plan content requirements. A notification of the changes made was sent out to statutory reviewers. The second was approved by the MWMO's Board of Commissioners on November 16, 2016. This amendment updated the MWMO's Capital Improvement Schedule to ready it for upcoming 2017 projects. Updates to the Capital Improvement Schedule included 6 new projects; 2 modified projects; and 11 completed projects removed from the schedule, with a final budget of \$21,600,000 from 2016 through 2021.

Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going

Over the course of the last 10-year plan there have been a number of significant changes that influenced the MWMO's work between 2011 and 2021 and will continue to influence it moving ahead.

In 2014, The MWMO Board altered its existing policy regarding the use of capital project funds to include redevelopment projects on private land. This opened up all land within the watershed for projects and allows staff to recommend the projects that offer the greatest public benefits in terms of protection and improvement of water quality, habitat and natural resources.

Continuous research, assessments and feasibility studies have improved the MWMO's understanding of the watershed. This creates a process to better inform project selection with relevant science, history, engineering, planning, and design needed to succeed in improving water quality, rate control and habitat within the watershed. The MWMO has invested significant funding and staff expertise in developing hydrologic and hydraulic, ecologic and water quality models throughout the watershed, allowing us to better understand impact of climate on the watershed and our member cities.

In 2016, the Minnesota Department of Health's took the initiative to develop comprehensive statewide guidance or policy on water reuse to ensure that projects are safe and sustainable. Currently, they are assessing data to determine a standard reuse of stormwater depending on the end use and source of the stormwater.

The MWMO has been and will continue to be a leader in reuse of stormwater. The MWMO views stormwater as a valued resource rather than a waste product. Climate trends over the prior decade have shown that we can expect and need to plan for elongated droughts, dwindling aquifers, and water shortages around the U.S. Governmental and private sector entities want to have the ability to reuse stormwater for multiple uses prior to discharging it back into aquifers or surface waters. This growing movement and awareness that stormwater has value has led to many more innovative projects in the watershed.

Due to significant reductions in lake levels on White Bear Lake, landowners sued the MN DNR in 2012. As a result, there has been an increased focus by the MN DNR on the management of groundwater supplies and surficial and groundwater interactions in the Metro Area.

The MWMO has put a significant amount of time and resources into understanding surface and groundwater interactions in the watershed. In 2011, we completed a historic study of the watershed to inform its planning and water resource management efforts. Results from this study were intended to provide a better understanding of the presettlement hydrology and ecology of the MWMO jurisdictional area and how alterations to the present-day urban landscape have affected and are affected by natural features. Included in this report is a review of all pre-settlement water features identifying if they were discharge or recharge areas or both. Research studies such as the Historic Waters of the MWMO, groundwater field studies, and future studies like MN DNR's Ground Water Atlas - Part B will help us continue to better determine the viability of infiltration within the watershed.

In 2013, the MPCA released its Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS). This guidance emphasized keeping the raindrop where it falls in order to minimize stormwater runoff and address multiple pollutants beyond just total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP). MIDS is intended to mimic a site's natural hydrology as redevelopment occurs in order to preserve and protect environmentally sensitive site features. The MWMO contributed a study that compared the effectiveness of urban stormwater standards to their work; in 2016, we worked with our member cities to adopt a new standard based on MIDS into our Watershed Management Plan. Between 2017 and 2019, we secured a commitment by each of our member cities to adopt the new standard as a part of their local water plan approval by the MWMO Board. The MWMO will continue to review the effectiveness of our standards and modify them as needed in the future.

In 2016, the MPCA finalized a Chloride Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) with the approval of the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan. The MWMO has a long history of hosting and supporting the development of training materials for public and private sector winter snow plow and maintenance workers. The effort aims to reduce the amount of chlorides being used on sidewalks, parking lots, and roads. These adaptive management approaches have led to both improvements in water quality and a cost savings due to less materials used annually. We plan to continue these efforts and others like them over the next 10 years.

In 2012, the Prospect Park Partnership, which later became the Minneapolis - St Paul Towerside Innovation District, was established. Over the years, this partnership has provided the vision and capacity to create a district where innovation in systems thinking and design allows for integration of energy, streets, parking, stormwater, parks, habitat, buildings, and transportation for the benefit of the larger surrounding community. Early on, Towerside project partners encouraged the City of Minneapolis to sign a resolution supporting the creation of innovation districts within the City of Minneapolis. The approved resolution and language in the City's 2040 comprehensive plan are opening up opportunities and places to address today's significant social, economic and environmental issues. At the same time, St Paul created a master planning process tied to a city council resolution that allows District systems with multiple public benefits to advance at the pace of redevelopment wherever the best sites present themselves city-wide.

The MWMO has worked closely over the years with the Towerside Innovation District, the City of Minneapolis and St. Paul to establish district stormwater systems that improve water quality, habitat, and emphasize reusing stormwater as a valued resource instead of a nuisance to be disposed of quickly. The MWMO will continue this work over the next 10 years finding ways to bring greater value to our member cities projects.

These environmental initiatives alone would be enough for any organization to take on, but we must also acknowledge we face more than just environmental issues. All governmental entities are being asked to take on deep systemic racism, cultivate diversity, promote equity and foster inclusion, and address aging stormwater infrastructure systems as well continue to develop and pay for new systems needed for future growth. As we move ahead, we are committing ourselves to finding a more restorative path forward that takes into consideration all the above issues.

Following the approval of this 10 year Plan, the MWMO will begin a more thorough planning process that results in equity and climate change plans or policy guidance that encompass all aspects of our organization. This planning process will invite those who would be impacted by the plans to participate in the process of developing them.

A history of systemic racism coupled with continued present-day infrastructure, land use and operations and maintenance patterns have brought to the forefront unresolved social, economic, and environmental issues of climate change. The inequities have had greater impacts on the black, indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) communities in the watershed.

Site by site regulatory standards for redevelopment and the separation of public and private infrastructure systems to support it has unwittingly contributed to today's issues of climate change, inequity, and infrastructure debt. The MWMO will continue to work with its member cities on new district, regional and restorative infrastructure patterns. The MWMO will continue to pursue urban ecologic system improvements including enhancement of habitat corridors and reestablishment of native vegetation to better manage stormwater throughout the watershed.

Studies and work completed by the MWMO indicates that these extensive green and blue infrastructure corridors in public spaces may have multiple benefits including reduced crime rates, improved physical and mental health, cooling of the urban heat island, improved work place productivity, increased access to healthy food sources, improved social cohesion and community resilience, absorption of carbon emissions and other air pollutants, regained environmental and economic equity for neighborhoods, and lower long term maintenance costs.

The MWMO does not take on the long term operations and maintenance of the capital projects funded by the MWMO but not owned by MWMO. However, the MWMO will work with our partners to develop a future strategy that improves long term operations and maintenance of these projects. The MWMO has an interest in assuring that all projects, large or small, are maintained long term to achieve or exceed their designed performance for the lifecycle of the BMP's installed.

The MWMO is continuing with two significant initiatives to address existing inequities in the watershed: The Restorative Development Feasibility study and Community Conversations throughout the watershed.

The MWMO will continue to participate in a partnership established to undertake a Restorative Development Feasibility study. The intent of this partnership is to develop strategy for the future built environment where wastes are seen as valued inputs, and infrastructure sets the stage for a new redevelopment paradigm that results in equitable social, economic, and environmental outcomes in communities.

Recently, the MWMO started the first of a series of watershed-wide Community Conversations in North Minneapolis. We are reaching out and building relationships around water systems and green infrastructure. This campaign is the initial outreach start-up approach to get people interested, to begin to ask questions, explore precedent examples, and build momentum around a community input driven process. We are looking to build off prior efforts to engage the community around the idea of green and blue infrastructure, and our intent is to continue these efforts *at the speed of trust*. We believe this is necessary if these are to be community led conversations.

Plan Comment and Review Opportunities

The MWMO is in the middle of a public engagement and statutory reviewer process that is estimated to be finalized in the late Fall of 2021. Comments received from the public ([Appendix G](#)) during the 10-year plan update are the basis for the focus areas and focus statements, which continue to guide the development and implementation of MWMO's goals and strategies. Comments received from statutory reviewers ([Appendix H](#)) align MWMO's goals and strategies with the needs of our member organizations, agencies, counties, and other watershed entities. These comments will either be integrated into the plan or it will be clarified where they already exist in the plan or that the MWMO is not positioned to or does not intend to take on the issue. Both the general public, MWMO Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC), and statutory reviewers have the opportunity to participate in the 60-day review period of this 10-year plan update as well as the public hearing in July.

Public comments were gathered through an extensive watershed survey effort. Through this effort, the MWMO sought to identify any changes needed in the existing focus statements and corresponding goals and strategies for the management of the water and natural resources in the watershed. The survey was redistributed multiple times over one year through various efforts such as outreach events, direct requests to neighborhood organizations, gov-delivery distribution, the MWMO newsletter, and the MWMO website. The survey consisted of a series of questions around demographics, outdoor recreation, and environmental issues, asking citizens what the MWMO should do about each topic. Comments from the survey were used in a Content Analysis, where they were coded for specific references or issues relative to the content, and then summarized to quantify top responses. Summarized and tabulated responses are shown at the bottom of [Appendix G](#).

The MWMO set aside a two-week pre-draft review period and the 60-day review period to meet with statutory reviewers on an individual basis to ensure reviewers have as much time as needed to clarify any questions or resolve any priority issues. The MWMO used a process similar to this with member cities as they were updating their local water plans. It allowed for the dialogue and time needed to talk through the needs of each organization and come to an agreement on changes to be made.

2.2 Accomplishments

When the 2000 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was adopted, the MWMO consisted of a five-member Board with staffing provided by the City of Minneapolis Environmental Services. In the fall of 2002, the MWMO Board hired an administrator and program manager to build an organization capable of implementing the goals and activities outlined in the 2000 Plan. Since then, the MWMO has established its own offices and added new staff members to develop the initiatives needed to successfully implement goals and strategies found in the plan. A few early successes include the Heritage Park Capital Improvement Project, the creation of the Stewardship Grant Fund, the Hmong Community Project, and a study on the Historic Waters of the MWMO.

MWMO now has a full complement of staff (15 full-time employees) and many additional initiatives have been taken on to achieve the implementation of plan goals. A sampling of the initiatives is described below.

Developer-Led Stormwater Innovation (Partners: City of Minneapolis and Towerside)

The MWMO worked with the City of Minneapolis and a land development team at Towerside to incorporate new and innovative stormwater management practices into a developer-led, neighborhood-supported redevelopment project. This was the MWMO's first effort within the watershed to demonstrate the multiple public and private benefits that a District-scale, integrated stormwater management effort can make in a land use redevelopment project. The practices sought to provide water quality and quantity improvement at less cost, while enhancing quality of life and environmental benefits.

Youth Employment and Training (Partner: Minneapolis Parks & Recreation Board)

For over ten years, the MWMO and the Minneapolis Park & Recreation Board (MPRB) have led a youth employment and training program, with Green Team members coming from North and Northeast Minneapolis. Typical daily activities include working to prevent water pollution, removing invasive species, building raingardens, planting trees and prairie plants, and assisting in citizen science projects. Youth have the chance to participate in the Mississippi River Green Team for two years, and after those two years, they are a part of a supportive network that works with them to help secure jobs to expand their skills and prepare them for the future.

Outreach Activities

The MWMO's Outreach team have continued to implement a number of initiatives including the Stewardship Fund, trainings for public and private land management employees on winter and summer maintenance activities impacting our water resources, and citizen support. For example, Minnesota Water Stewards are certified and supported to prevent water pollution and educate community members to conserve and protect our water resources. The Outreach team is also investigating ways the MWMO might engage these constituents in better managing and maintaining green infrastructure. This will be a critical skill if the MWMO is to maintain stormwater practices.

With the addition of professional communications staff, the MWMO has been able to better tell the story of watershed management and protection. The communication team has updated the watershed's website, social media, and blogs while leading the effort to inform public and partners of activities as capital projects and program initiatives are implemented.

Watershed Assessment and Monitoring Network

The MWMO continues to partner with its member organizations to build a robust watershed assessment and monitoring network. The MWMO currently monitors the water quality entering the river at multiple locations. Due to the closure of the locks at St. Anthony Falls, the team now monitors the river bathymetry to track the impact of no dredging on river morphology. Current monitoring and assessment initiatives also include outfitting some stormwater best management practices with monitoring equipment to assess their performance. The MWMO has continued to build a comprehensive monitoring network that will provide the MWMO and its partners the data needed to evaluate its progress in managing the water resources within the watershed. Over the last five years, the MWMO completed several hydraulic and hydrologic studies of pipesheds in the watershed. Nearly 80% of the watershed has now been modeled for water quantity and water quality parameters.

Through these and other accomplishments, the MWMO has proven to be an effective, motivated, and proactive organization. Through this Fourth Generation Plan, the MWMO lays out an implementation schedule that requires the continued growth and leadership of the organization to achieve its stated goals.

The MWMO received an excellent Performance Review and Assistance Program rating from Board of Water and Soil Resources for effectively carrying out the MWMO's 2011 - 2021 Watershed Management Plan. That said, the MWMO will continue its work in a number of ongoing core initiatives identified in the 2011 - 2021 Plan by carrying them forward into this 2021 -2031 Plan. In addition to continuing this essential work, the MWMO will start new initiatives that address current events, emerging issues, and long-term systemic issues. The MWMO is planning to focus more of our resources on the following: developing an organizational equity strategy, reducing the impacts of climate change, supporting restorative systems-based design approaches for developments, prioritizing projects that support District- and regional-scale infrastructure improvements, providing green infrastructure training, supporting youth engagement programs, longitudinal and latitudinal mixing of the Mississippi River, and conducting monitoring to support city needs, such as meeting TMDLs and implementing BMPs.

2.3 Statutory Background

The 1972 Federal Clean Water Act authorized the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to “protect . . . rights of States to prevent, reduce, and eliminate pollution of . . . land and water resources” (Sec 101, b). The EPA transferred portions of this authority to state legislative bodies. In 1982, the legislature approved the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act. It was later recodified as [M.S. 103B](#). Additional clarification and requirements were included in [MN Rules 8410](#) and its updates.

Since passage of the act, all local units of government in the seven-county metropolitan area have been involved in the preparation and implementation of comprehensive surface water management plans through membership in one or more watershed management organizations based on natural watershed boundaries.

These first plans resulted in two key advances in comprehensive surface water resource management. First, the plans required the adoption, amendment, or update of a variety of local controls to reduce erosion and sedimentation, establish stormwater design standards, and protect wetlands. Second, during the planning

and implementation of the plans, communities within the watersheds developed stronger working relationships.

In 1992, the Board of Water and Soil Resources developed rules (Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410) for plan content. WMOs use these rules in plan revisions, which are required every 5 to 10 years. The rules require, among other items, more specificity in citizen participation, control of erosion and sedimentation, wetland assessment, and the design of new stormwater conveyance and treatment systems.

The [Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act](#) lists a number of responsibilities watershed management organizations can elect to accept and carry out.

The MWMO has the authority to:

- protect, to preserve, and to improve surface and groundwater systems
- establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management
- prevent erosion of soil
- protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities.

These responsibilities affect more than just water resource management; they impact land use, habitat and ecosystem planning, and management connected to water resources.

Additionally, in 2001, the legislature granted the authority of a Special Purpose Taxing District under Minnesota Statute Section 275.066 to the MWMO. This authority continues to be vital to implementing plans and goals of the MWMO.

2.4 Present Day Jurisdictional Area

The MWMO's jurisdictional area includes portions of the cities of Columbia Heights, Fridley, Hilltop, Lauderdale, Minneapolis, Saint Anthony Village, and Saint Paul as well as lands owned by the Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board. The MWMO's current (as of 2020) legal boundary is shown in **Figure 1**.

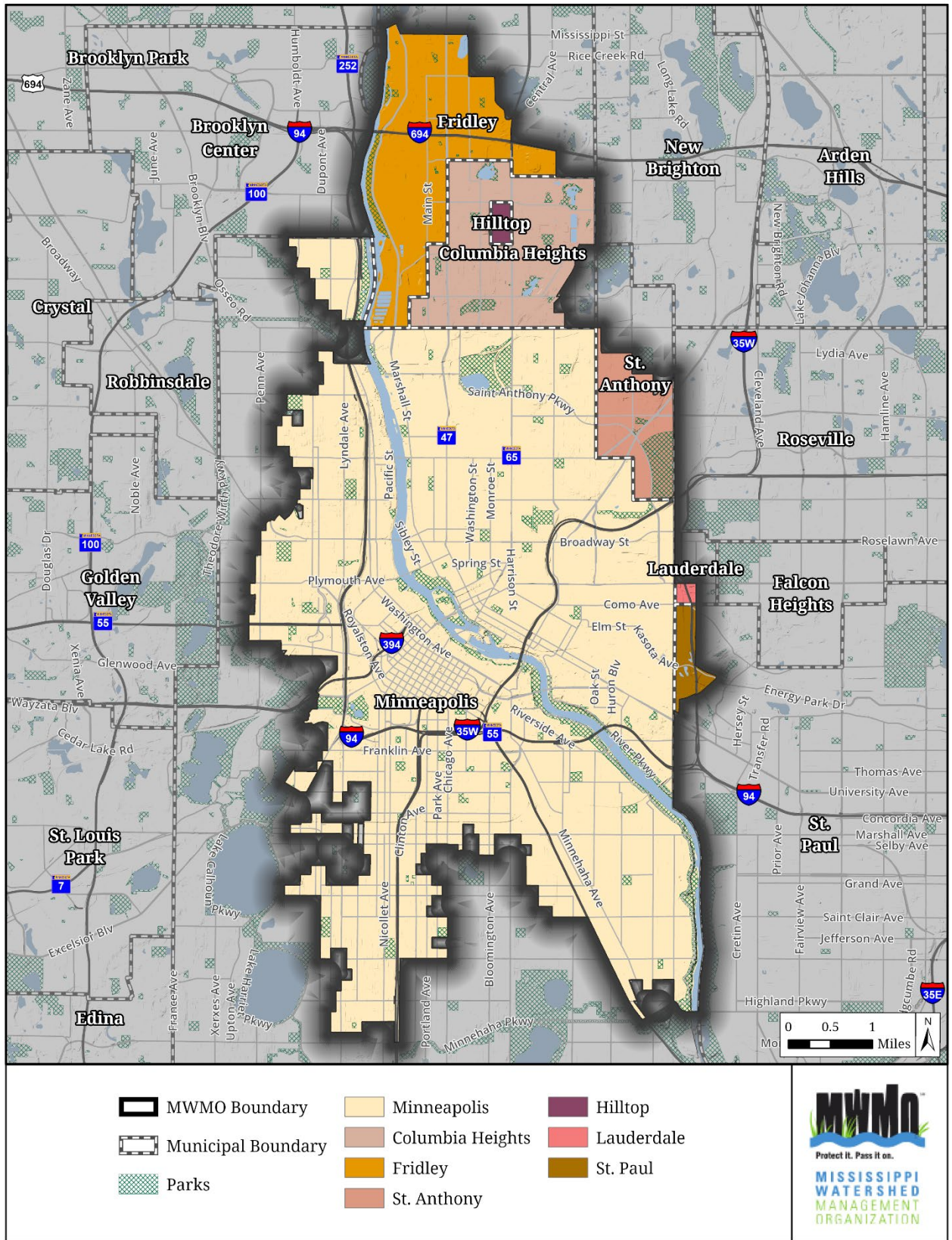


Figure 1: MWMO Legal Boundary and Location of Cities and Parks

Table 1: Percent Coverage of Member Organizations within the MWMO

Municipality	Percent Area of MWMO	Acres within MWMO	Square Miles
Columbia Heights	7.92%	2,025.04	3.16
Fridley	9.51%	2,431.89	3.80
Hilltop	0.32%	81.57	0.13
Lauderdale	0.16%	40.46	0.06
Minneapolis	73.26%	18,729.70	29.27
MPRB*	5.42%	1,386.50	2.17
Saint Anthony Village	2.55%	653.13	1.02
Saint Paul	0.85%	217.34	0.34
Totals	100.00%	25,565.63	39.95

*The MPRB's landholdings are within the Cities of Minneapolis and Saint Anthony Village

2.5 Board of Commissioners

The MWMO's governing Board of Commissioners consists of seven commissioners. There is one commissioner appointed by each member organization, with the exception of a shared seat for the cities of Columbia Heights and Hilltop.

Table 2: 2020 Board of Commissioners of the MWMO*

Member	Position	Member Community
Kevin Reich	Chair	City of Minneapolis
Jeff Dains	Vice-chair	City of Lauderdale
Donna Schmitt	Treasurer	City of Columbia Heights/Hilltop
Chris Meyer	Commissioner	Minneapolis Park and Recreation Board
Randy Stille	Commissioner	City of Saint Anthony Village
Vacant	Commissioner	City of Saint Paul
Steve Eggert	Commissioner	City of Fridley

* Visit www.mwmo.org for a current list of commissioners and alternates.

2.6 Committees

The Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meets at the request of the MWMO Board of Commissioners to assist in managing the water resources of the MWMO. The CAC reviews MWMO's annual budget and Stewardship Fund grant applications and makes recommendations to the Board. The committee also participates in strategic planning for the watershed: <http://www.mwmo.org/about/citizen-advisory-committee/>.

A Technical Advisory Committee also meets at the request of the MWMO Board of Commissioners to assist in managing the water resources of the MWMO. This committee does not have a standing membership; rather, a panel of experts is assembled based on specific project or program needs.

2.7 Focus Areas

The following focus areas were derived from public comments to guide the development and implementation of goals and strategies that advance the MWMO's mission.

Based on over 430 the public comments received between 2019 and 2021, the existing focus statements remain relevant. Rather than narrowing the broader issues of equity and climate change into a single focus area, the MWMO sees these issues permeating throughout all aspects of the MWMO's organization and the work we do.

The mix of sources and manner in which the input was gathered does not lead to a prioritization of the focus areas in of themselves. Rather, it provides us insight into key issues and people's values in the watershed. The focus areas are outlined in further detail in **Section 5** and **Section 6.2, Table 27**.

Water Quality Focus Area (WQ)

- WQ 1- Protect and improve the water bodies of the MWMO
- WQ 2- Account for water quality conditions upstream that impact the MWMO
- WQ 3- Participate in the development and implementation of TMDLs
- WQ 4- Identify the role the MWMO will take in addressing soil contamination and groundwater quality

Water Rate and Volume Focus Area

- WRV 1- Manage the causes and reduce the effects of flooding that impact the watershed
- WRV 2- Manage the causes and reduce the effects of drought that impact the watershed

Monitoring & Data Assessment Focus Area

- MD 1- Make decisions based on science and best available data

Communications and Outreach Focus Area

- CO 1- Provide resources and opportunities to build capacity and leadership and promote responsible stewardship of water and natural resources
- CO 2- Create communication and outreach connections within MWMO programs
- CO 3- Enhance communications between MWMO and constituents

Ecosystem Health Focus Area

- EH 1- Find ways to protect, create, and enhance vegetated areas, native plant communities, habitat, open space, green infrastructure and natural resources
- EH 2- Protect land that significantly impacts surface water and groundwater resources

Regulations & Enforcement Focus Area

- RE 1- Promote consistency in rules, regulations, standards, and enforcement across jurisdictions
- RE 2- Improve compliance and enforcement of regulations related to water and natural resources

Urban Stormwater Management Focus Area

- USM 1- Promote unique and innovative solutions for stormwater management in highly developed urban areas

Emergency Preparedness & Response Focus Area

- ER 1- Protect natural resources when natural disasters and emergencies occur

Emerging Issues Focus Area

- EI 1- Develop new approaches that protect water and natural resources as conditions change and emerging issues arise

Financial Responsibilities and Strategies Focus Area

- FRS 1- Maintain a comprehensive financial framework to implement goals, strategies, and actions of the plan

- FRS 2- Maintain a funding strategy that is effective, efficient, and transparent

The plan identifies several work areas and implementation actions to address each of the focus areas. Work areas are described in in **Section 7.1** and implementation actions are outlined in **Section 6.2**. The MWMO's work areas are:

- Capital Projects
- Outreach
- Stewardship Grant
- Communications
- Monitoring
- Planning
- Watershed Assessment

2.8 Using the Plan

This plan is developed to guide the MWMO Board and staff in the implementation of watershed goals. The plan sets out goals and strategies based on studies and data on the status of the water and natural resources of the watershed. The MWMO Board and staff use the plan to guide watershed management decisions and to assist in the development of annual work plans based on the outlined work areas in concert with goals and strategies.

Member organizations will find the plan useful in developing local surface water management plans and local ordinances through the land and water resource information and by reviewing the requirements for local plans outlined in the Member Authorities and Responsibilities section. Additionally, member organizations may use the MWMO implementation plan to assist in scheduling and coordinating capital improvements and programs.

Residents, businesses, and other organizations within the watershed may use the Plan to learn more about the natural and water resources within the watershed and to be aware of how they can partner with the MWMO on projects. For individual MWMO studies, content, and resources beyond this Plan, please see our website at <https://www.mwmo.org/>.

2.9 General Content of Local Plans

The required content of local plans is specified further in Section 3.3 and generally includes:

- Water, Natural Resources, and Land Use Goals and Policies
- Infrastructure Assessments and Programs
- MWMO Standards
- Surface Water Appropriations
- Evaluation

improvements is dependent on findings of a final feasibility study and/or studies on restoration needs along the Mississippi River. The MWMO will work with its member organizations to identify eroded sites where there is a shared interest in restoration along the river. Single projects that require multi-year funding would need to be amended into the CIP schedule as stand-alone projects. The \$1,000,000 is for implementation of projects that eliminate near bank erosion and improve habitat in the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) in accordance with the MWMO's Bioengineering Installation Manual.

MWMO Towerside Innovation District

The MWMO has completed a Blue/Green Framework Masterplan for the Towerside Innovation District. This framework identifies catchment areas within the pipeshed where storage of stormwater is most likely to occur. It then aligns this storage with above ground green infrastructure opportunities and water reuse opportunities such as irrigation of habitat corridors, greenspaces and community gardens. The MWMO has identified multiple project opportunities on public and private land in this area. The current project underway is the Towerside Phase II District Stormwater System (Malcom Yards). This is a 23-acre redevelopment project adjacent to the Phase I District Stormwater System. This project and others in this area will to improve water quality, create greenspace and habitat corridors, reduce runoff volumes, and manage rates of discharge. Design done in this area will also further the MWMO's understanding for how district stormwater systems can be integrated in with restorative development designs and future opportunities to blend district systems into restorative initiatives in the area.

Table 26: MWMO Capital Improvement Schedule 2021 to 2026

MWMO Capital Improvement Projects	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total funding
Columbia Heights City Hall – Heated Sidewalks along Central Ave		X				\$150,000
Columbia Heights: Gauvitte Park Area Water Quality Improvements and Flood Protection				X	X	\$500,000
Columbia Heights: Huset Park Water Reuse and Water Quality Improvements			X	X	X	\$400,000
Columbia Heights: 4300 Central Ave NE Mixed-Use Development		X	X			TBD
Fridley/Columbia Heights: 53 rd Ave NE Stormwater Improvements		X	X			\$400,000
Fridley: University Avenue Drainage Improvements					X	TBD
Fridley: 2021 Street Project 57th Ave from 7th St to Quincy	X	X				TBD
Fridley: Sylvan Hills Park Stormwater Improvements					X	TBD

MWMO Capital Improvement Projects	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	Total funding
Minneapolis/Columbia Heights: 37 th Ave NE Street Reconstruction			X	X		\$800,000
Mpls: Old Bassett Creek Tunnel Water Quality and Water Conservation Improvements			X	X	X	\$1,711,000
Minneapolis: Near North Combined Pisheds Stormwater Project			X	X	X	TBD
MPRB: Water Works Park	X	X	X			\$100,000
MPRB: Bohanon Park Naturalized Stormwater Management and Ecological Redevelopment			X	X	X	\$600,000
MPRB: Elliott Park Stormwater Management Improvements and Habitat Enhancement			X	X	X	TBD
MPRB: Mississippi River Gorge – Bank Restoration, Water Quality/Habitat Improvements			X	X	X	\$2,000,000
MPRB: Audubon Park Water Quality, Flood Resiliency, and Ecological Improvements			X	X	X	\$600,000
MPRB: Hennepin Island Rehabilitation Project			X	X	X	\$330,000
MPRB: Nicollet Island Bank Stabilization				X	X	\$1,500,000
MPRB: Nicollet Island South Loop Project					X	\$1,000,000
MPRB: Graco Park Development		X	X			\$100,000
MWMO/MPRB/Minneapolis: 1NE Watershed System-Scale / Multiple-Benefit Stormwater Projects	X	X	X	X		\$2,000,000
MWMO/MPRB/Mpls: Upper Harbor Terminal	X	X	X	X	X	\$11,000,000
MWMO: Restoration of Eroded Riverbanks Sites. Water Quality and Habitat Improvements		X	X	X		\$860,000
MWMO: Towerside Innovation District Habitat, Reuse, Water Quality, and Restorative Improvements	X	X	X	X	X	\$3,600,000
Grand Total						\$28,751,000

Note: A feasibility study of the project and the MWMO's funding guidelines will determine what aspects of the project may be funded. MWMO Board will review and approve all final project budgets and agreements.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Committee

1. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2 – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Resolution Reauthorizing the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. Resolution Authorizing RIM Buffers Program – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Meeting Date:

September 22, 2021

Agenda Category:

Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type:

Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability:

Pine River, Leech Lake, RIM, Easement, Outdoor Heritage Fund,

Section/Region:

Easements Section

Contact:

Sharon Doucette

Prepared by:

Bill Penning

Reviewed by:

RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by:

Sharon Doucette

Time requested:

10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2. This is the first and second appropriations for this program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art.1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(f) and ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(i) designated funds “acquire and restore permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat” (ML20) and “to acquire and restore land in fee and permanent conservation easements of high-

quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat. (ML21). This project will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels in the Pine and Leech Watersheds which are as important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River which provides high quality riparian and in-stream habitat and is the source water for numerous Twin City and rural communities. Note that fee title acquisition funds run through DNR to the SWCD and BWSR is not a part of that. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to develop and implement this program.

Board Resolution # 21- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds Phases 1 and 2

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2020, Ch. 104, Art.1, Sec. 2, Subd 5(f) and ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(i) designated funds “acquire and restore permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat” (ML20) and “to acquire and restore land in fee and permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat.” (ML21); and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Pine and Leech Watersheds as important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River which provides high quality riparian and in-stream habitat and which is the source water for numerous Twin City and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the fee title acquisition funds are appropriated to DNR for a direct agreement with the SWCD; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Pine and Leech Watersheds are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds program Phases 1 and 2.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Pine and Leech Rivers Watersheds.

3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Riparian Habitat Protection in the Targeted RIM Easement Program to the Individual Parcel: Pine & Leech Watersheds program Phases 1 and 2.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Snake River, Kettle River, RIM, Easement, Outdoor Heritage Fund,

Section/Region: Easements Section

Contact: Sharon Doucette

Prepared by: Bill Penning

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by: Sharon Doucette

Time requested: 10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(g) designated funds “to acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat in the Kettle and Snake River watersheds.” This project will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds which are important yet threatened tributaries to the St. Croix River, a high-quality State and nationally designated Wild and Scenic River. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to develop and implement this program.

Board Resolution # 21- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(g) designated funds “to acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements of high-quality forest, wetland, and shoreline habitat in the Kettle and Snake River watersheds”; and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds as important yet threatened tributaries to the St. Croix River which is a high-quality State and nationally designated Wild and Scenic River; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Snake and Kettle River Watersheds are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Riparian Habitat Protection in the Kettle and Snake River Watersheds program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Resolution Reauthorizing the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program

Meeting Date: _____

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Rum River, RIM, Easement, Clean Water Fund,

Section/Region: Easements Section

Contact: Sharon Doucette

Prepared by: Bill Penning

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by: Sharon Doucette

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program. This is the second appropriation for this program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/critical-shorelands-rum-river-conservation-easements>

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

ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2 Sect. 6(l) designated funds “to purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but that are threatened with degradation”. This project will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels in the Rum River Watershed, an important and threatened tributary to the Mississippi River and the source water for numerous Twin City and rural communities while providing numerous other benefits. Initial funding for the program was approved by the Board in 2019. Those funds have been allocated and there is a waiting list of landowners who are interested in getting into the program. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to continue to implement this program.

Board Resolution # 21- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Rum River Watershed Protection

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Clean Water Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2 Sect. 6(l) designated funds “to purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but that are threatened with degradation”; and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the Rum River Watershed as one of the most important and threatened tributaries to the Mississippi River which is the source water for many Twin Cities metropolitan and rural communities; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”; and

WHEREAS, riparian lands within the Rum River Watershed are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs in northern forest regions; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM – Rum River Watershed Protection program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the Rum River Watershed.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for “Standard Easement Payment Rates: Northern Forests Region”.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Rum River Watershed Protection Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Wetlands, RIM, Easement, Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund

Section/Region: Easements

Contact: Sharon Doucette

Prepared by: John Voz

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by: Sharon Doucette

Time requested: 10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands program. This is the first time since 2015 that there has been a RIM (only) Wetlands appropriation and subsequent program. While the 2014 resolution (14-66) remains in effect for all wetland appropriations, it was deemed necessary to update the resolution for the current program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

This is the first time since 2015 that there has been a RIM (only) Wetlands appropriation and subsequent program. While the 2014 resolution (14-66) remains in effect for all RIM only wetland appropriations, it was deemed necessary to update the resolution for the current program.

ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sect. 2. Subd. 4(c) designated funds “to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore wetlands and native grassland habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.” (OHF)

ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 2, Sec 6 (o) designated funds “for permanent conservation easements to protect and restore wetlands and associated uplands.” (CWF)

This project will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels and restore wetlands. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to develop and implement this program.

Board Resolution # 21- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Wetlands Program

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Clean Water Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and,

WHEREAS, the funds have been designated “to acquire permanent conservation easements and to restore wetlands and native grassland habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515.” and “for permanent conservation easements to protect and restore wetlands and associated uplands”; and,

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, has identified the importance of restoring wetlands and associated uplands; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Wetlands Programs are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommended the following.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM Wetlands program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established.
4. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Wetlands Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Resolution Authorizing RIM Buffers Program

Meeting Date: September 22, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: RIM, Buffers, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Clean Water Fund

Section/Region: Conservation Easement

Contact: Sharon Doucette

Prepared by: Dusty Van Thuyne

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by: Sharon Doucette

Time requested: 10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Reserve Committee to authorize the RIM Buffers resolution that provides general authorization for these programs.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 2(g) (Outdoor Heritage Fund) designated funds to “acquire permanent conservation easements and restore habitat under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, to protect, restore, and enhance habitat, including by expanding the riparian buffer and floodplain program under the clean water fund for wildlife benefits from buffers on private land.”

ML 2021, First Sp. Session, Ch. 1, Art. 2, Sec. 6(f) (Clean Water Fund) designated funds to “to develop a pilot working lands floodplain program and to purchase, restore, or preserve riparian land and floodplains adjacent to lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries, by conservation 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.”

This program will utilize RIM easements to protect priority floodplain parcels along lakes, rivers, streams, and tributaries either through a permanent or limited duration easement, dependent on funding source. Limited duration easements will utilize a modified RIM rate and pilot a working lands aspect. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to develop and implement this program.

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515; and,

WHEREAS, the purpose of the RIM Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program is to purchase and restore conservation easements on riparian buffers of at least 50 feet in width to keep water on the land in order to decrease sediment, pollutant and nutrient transport, reduce hydrologic impacts to surface waters and increase infiltration for groundwater recharge; and,

WHEREAS, the source of funds for easements enrolled into the RIM Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program will be from either Clean Water Fund or Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriations; and,

WHEREAS, the source of funds for easements enrolled into the RIM Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program determines the length of protection (e.g., limited duration or permanent) and allowable activities (e.g., working lands) after enrollment; and,

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by the BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and,

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and,

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement rates; and,

WHEREAS, limited duration easements will utilize a modified RIM easement rate; and,

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources RIM Reserve Committee met on September 08, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the RIM Riparian Buffer Conservation Easement Program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused in priority areas.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established for permanent easements.
4. Utilize a modified RIM easement payment rate structure for limited duration and/or working lands easements.
5. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the RIM Buffer Conservation Easement Program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Meeting Date:

September 22, 2021

Agenda Category:

Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type:

Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability:

Lower Otter Tail, RIM, Easement, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Otter Tail River

Section/Region:

Easements Section

Contact:

Sharon Doucette

Prepared by:

Sharon Doucette

Reviewed by:

RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by:

Sharon Doucette

Time requested:

10 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

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ML 2021, 1st Special Session, Ch. 1, Art. 1 Sect. 2. Subd. 5(c) designated funds “acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements along the lower Otter Tail River.” This project will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels along the Lower Otter Tail River that are critical to implementing the Buffalo Red River Watershed District’s plans for restoration of the lower Otter Tail River. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds to develop and implement this program.

Board Resolution # 21- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) from the Outdoor Heritage Fund to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, funds were designated “to acquire and restore land in permanent conservation easements along the lower Otter Tail River”; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, SWCDs will be reimbursed for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates; and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolution, has established the process for determining RIM easement payment rates; and

WHEREAS, the lands protected in easement under this program are similar in use and will be valued using the same methods as other RIM programs; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on September 8, 2021 and unanimously recommends the following provisions.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Utilize appropriated funds to implement the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines and outreach efforts focused on priority parcels within the lower Otter Tail River corridor.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established.
Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve - Lower Otter Tail River Corridor Habitat Restoration program.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 22nd day of September 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources