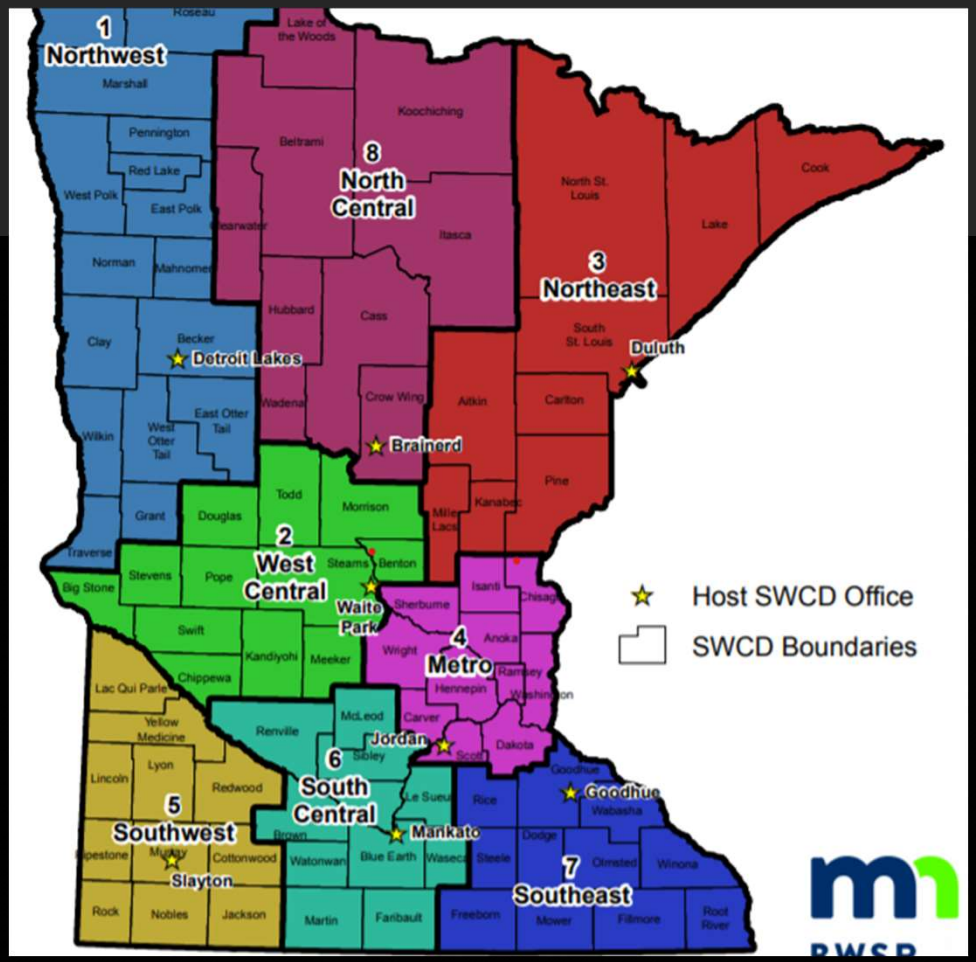
Minnesota Technical Service Areas

Annual Report for 2020



Technical Service Areas

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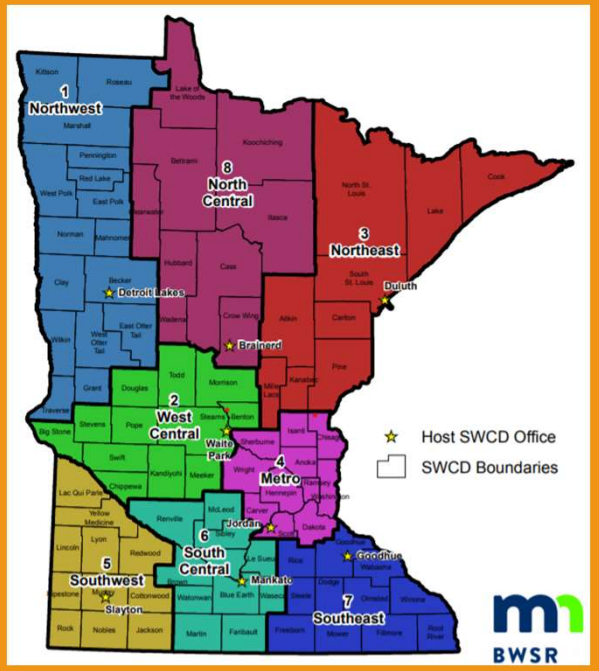


Report Content

Technical Service Areas (TSAs) that receive BWSR grant funding are required to report accomplishments from the previous calendar year, similar to other BWSR grant programs.

This report is focused primarily on the activities completed using BWSR grants to TSAs. However, many TSAs access funding from other sources, including partner dues, other state and federal gov't sources and non-gov't sources. Therefore, where possible, all TSA activities are reported here regardless of funding source.

TSA contribution to conservation delivery

- In 2020, BWSR provided $3M to TSAs for engineering and technical services.
- Approximately 35 TSA staff provided engineering and technical services to their partner members.
- 378 engineering projects completed totaling $9.7M
- Non-engineering technical services provided: GIS, marketing, training, nutrient management and grazing

BWSR Funding to TSAs: FY 20-21 Allocations

TSA	Nonpoint Engineering Assistance Program					Clean Water Fund	FY 2020 Total	FY 2021 Total
	FY20-21 NPEA Grant	FY20 Equipment	FY21 Equipment	**FY 2020 Total NPEA Grant**	**FY 2021 Total NPEA Grant**	FY20-21 Enhanced Technical Assistance		
1	$127,500	$20,000	$0	**$147,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$390,000**	**$370,000**
2	$127,500	$0	$20,000	**$127,500**	**$147,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$390,000**
3	$127,500	$0	$0	**$127,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$370,000**
4	$127,500	$0	$0	**$127,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$370,000**
5	$127,500	$0	$20,000	**$127,500**	**$147,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$390,000**
6	$127,500	$20,000	$0	**$147,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$390,000**	**$370,000**
7	$127,500	$0	$0	**$127,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$370,000**
8	$127,500	$0	$0	**$127,500**	**$127,500**	$242,500	**$370,000**	**$370,000**
	$1,020,000	**$40,000**	**$40,000**	**$1,060,000**	**$1,060,000**	**$1,940,000**	**$3,000,000**	**$3,000,000**

TSA Staff Capacity

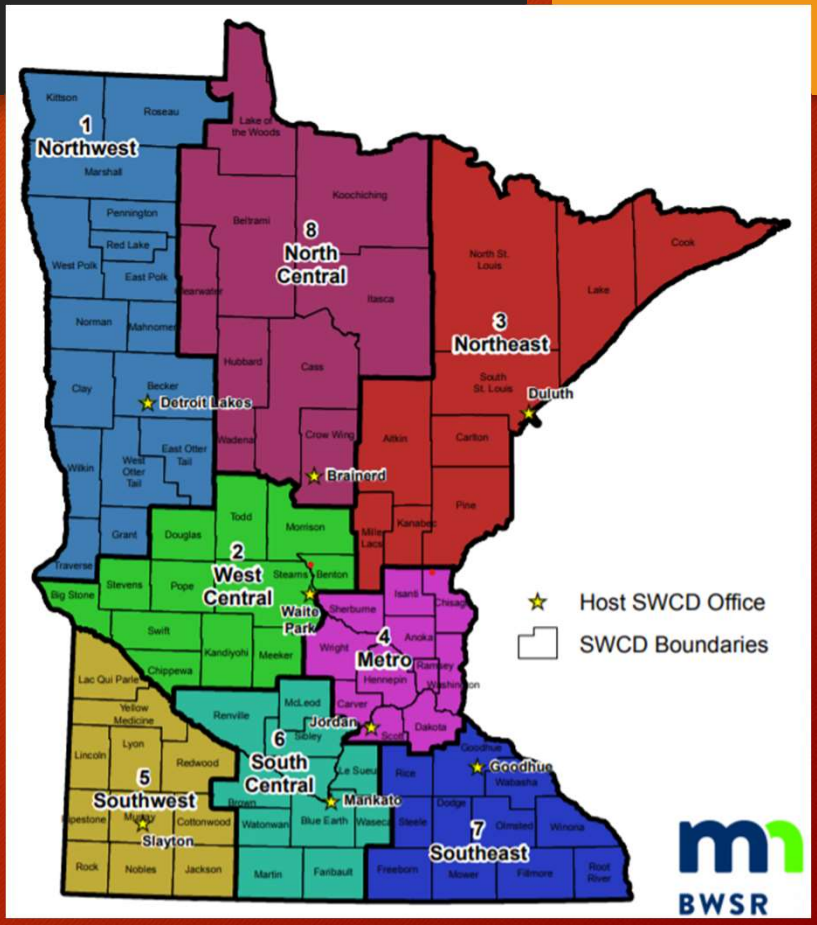
TSA	Full Time Staff	Part Time Staff	Total # Staff
1	1 engineer; 2 engineering technicians; 1 GIS specialist	0	3.15
2	1 engineer; 3 engineering technicians; 1 nutrient management specialist	0	5
3	1 engineer, 3 engineering technicians	1 engineering technician	5
4*	2 engineer, ~11 staff		2.05
5	1 engineer; 3 engineering technicians	1 administrative coordinator; 1 financial coordinator; 1 soil health/training coordinator	5
6	1 engineer; 2.5 engineering technicians	0	3.4
7	1 agricultural engineer, 1 environmental engineer; 2 engineering technicians	0	4
8	1 engineer; 2 engineering technicians	1 GIS specialist, 1 graphics/marketing, project facilitator	6
		TOTAL	**33.6**

**TSA 4: No staff are hired through the TSA. Existing member staff, with various specialties, provide services.*

Engineering Assistance Provided

Statewide in 2020:

- 719 site visits
- 514 completed engineering plans
- 378 projects constructed
- Approx. $9.7 million in constructed projects



TSA 1

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

A full-time GIS Specialist remains on staff to provide support, training and GIS services to the 16 member SWCDs of TSA 1 (see notes).

- Completed maps for Two Rivers and Wild Rice/Marsh Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMP)
- Prepared PTMApp data for scenario building in the Two Rivers 1W1P process
- Set up ArcOnline maps for tracking implementation of completed CWMP's
- Managed ESRI license account for all SWCDs

TSA 2

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

- A nutrient management specialist assists farmers in generating a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP) to make them eligible for federal funding.
- One technician is a certified drone pilot. Drone imagery is made available for member SWCDs for use in promotional and educational materials.

Other funds utilized:

- Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant – Nutrient management specialist
- NRCS Conservation Collaboration Grant - supplementation

TSA 3

Technical/Specialized Services Provided (see notes):

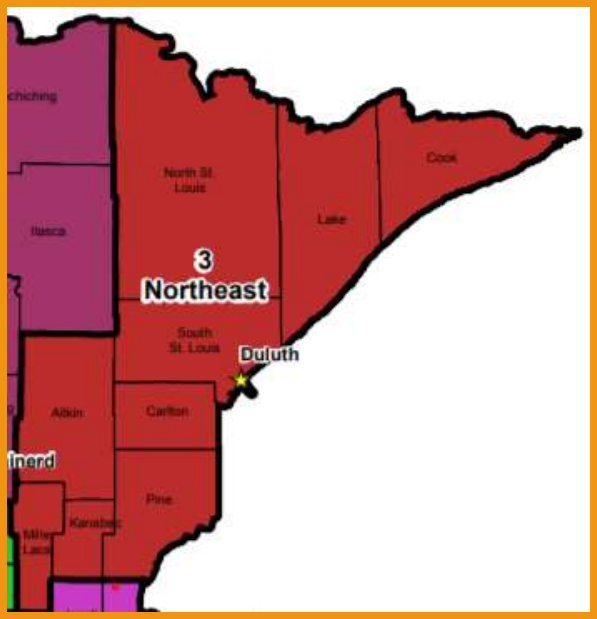
- GIS, SWMM modeling, BANCS assessment, Pfankuch assessment.

Other Funds Utilized (see notes):

- Lessard-Sams OHF: Plans were developed for several stream restoration projects.
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation: develop a proposal for approximately 0.8 miles of streambank restoration on Penobscot Creek

Education/Training Provided (see notes):

- 32 hours training to SWCD staff and landowners



TSA 4

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

- Licensed engineers and technical staff services for planning, feasibility analysis, design, survey, construction oversight and project certification.

Other Funds Utilized:

- Competitive clean water funds (see notes)

Education/Training Provided:

- Held a subwatershed assessment protocols and analysis training for member staff, with continued technical support provided by Washington, Anoka and Chisago SWCDs.
- Supported the professional development of 7 member staff.

TSA 5

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

- Trainer for SWCD technicians to achieve Job Approval Authority and to help write cover crop plans. Contractor to assist SWCD technicians in completing site walkovers.

Other Funds Utilized:

- Received second NACD Technical Assistance grant consisting of $125,000 in grant funding and $31,250 in match (see notes).
- The TSA has an unwritten agreement with the Yellow Medicine and Missouri 1W1P to provide technical and engineering assistance and are reimbursed through their implementation funding.

TSA 6

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

- TSA completed 28 plans and constructed 43 projects. Construction costs for 2020 projects were estimated at $930,000. The TSA staff assisted with a total of 115 projects throughout the year.

Other Funds Utilized:

- TSA staff have been assisting Le Sueur County with multiple projects throughout the German/Jefferson watershed including the Koppelman wetland, which is one of the highlighted projects within this summary (see notes). Several other erosion control and flood damage reduction projects were completed with this same CWF grant funding.
- TSA staff assisted Martin County with projects pertaining to their County Ditch 2 grant they received.

Education/Training Provided:

- TSA 6 Staff assisted with 1 EFT WASCOB training and 2 EFT waterway trainings.

TSA 7

Technical/Specialized Services Provided (see notes):

- Training for SWCD staff, grazing management planning

Other Funds Utilized:

- NACD grant to assist NRCS with EQIP T/A
- Provided TA on CWF projects
- Several Trout Unlimited projects on our local streams
- Feedlot assistance on an EPA grant and Regional RCPP project as well as TA on Watershed Based Implementation Funding projects

Education/Training Provided (see notes):

- 200 hours training provided to SWCD staff
- 13 OJT sessions, 5 training planning meetings, and 3 organized training sessions

TSA 8

Technical/Specialized Services Provided:

- GIS services: PTMapp for Pine River One Watershed, One Plan, Landscape Stewardship Plan mapping
- Increased SWCD implementation with landowners through direct conservation marketing, social media, and videography.

Other Funds Utilized:

- $150,000 of AIG funding utilized to develop forest protection strategies

Education/Training Provided:

- BWSR Academy Training on private forest management
- 910 hours of project management training provided to SWCDs

Highlighted Project:

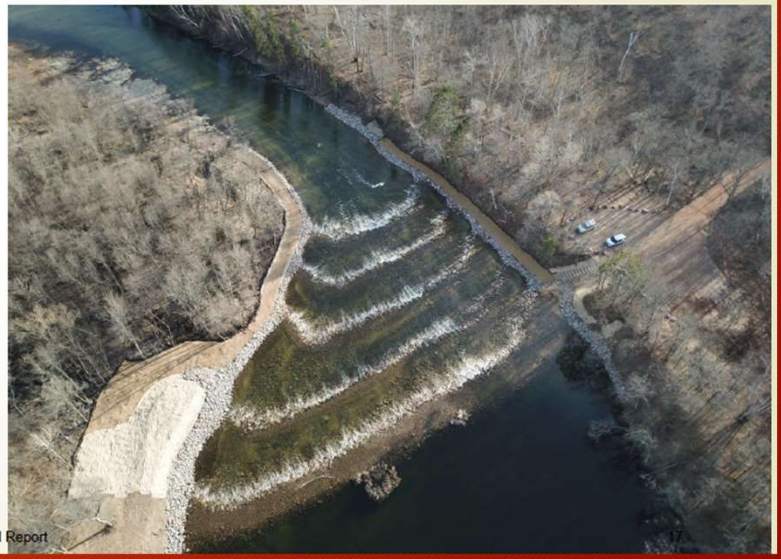
Crow Wing Pine River Fish Passage Project

BEFORE

Large bounce in Big Pine Lake Water Surface
No Fish Passage
Streambank Erosion
Failing Existing Rock Dam

AFTER

Rock Riffle Structure provides fish passage while controlling Big Pine Lake levels with small bounce
Streambank Protection
Improved Access to Structure



Highlighted Project:

Jefferson German phosphorus reduction project

Contractors in summer 2020 excavated more of the wetland to increase flood storage, and installed a culvert connecting it to the upper watershed.

Photo Credit: Le Sueur County SWCD

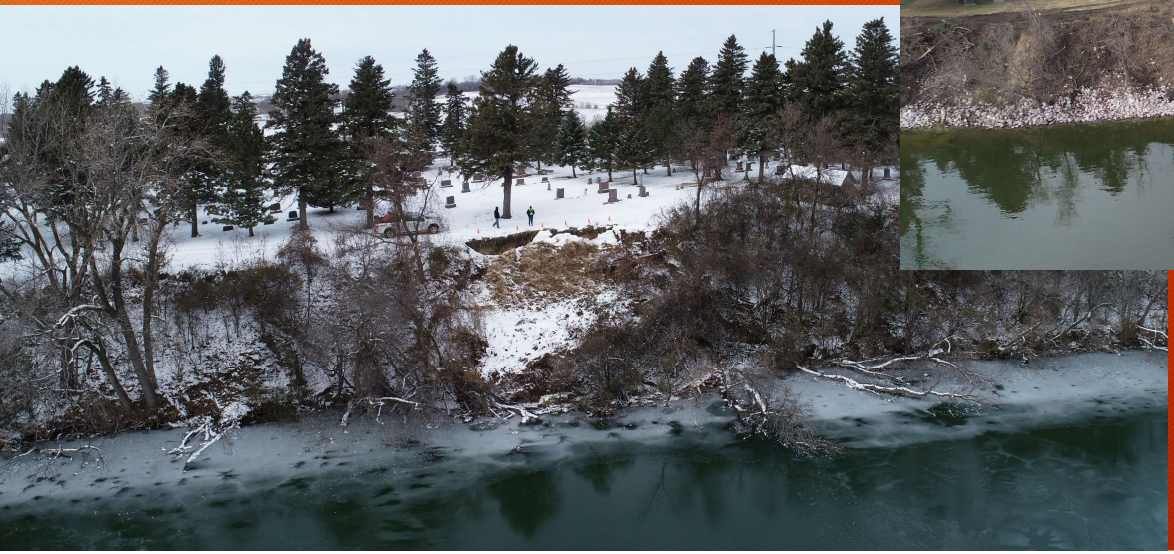
Highlighted Project:

Currier Brothers feedlot project

Highlighted Project:

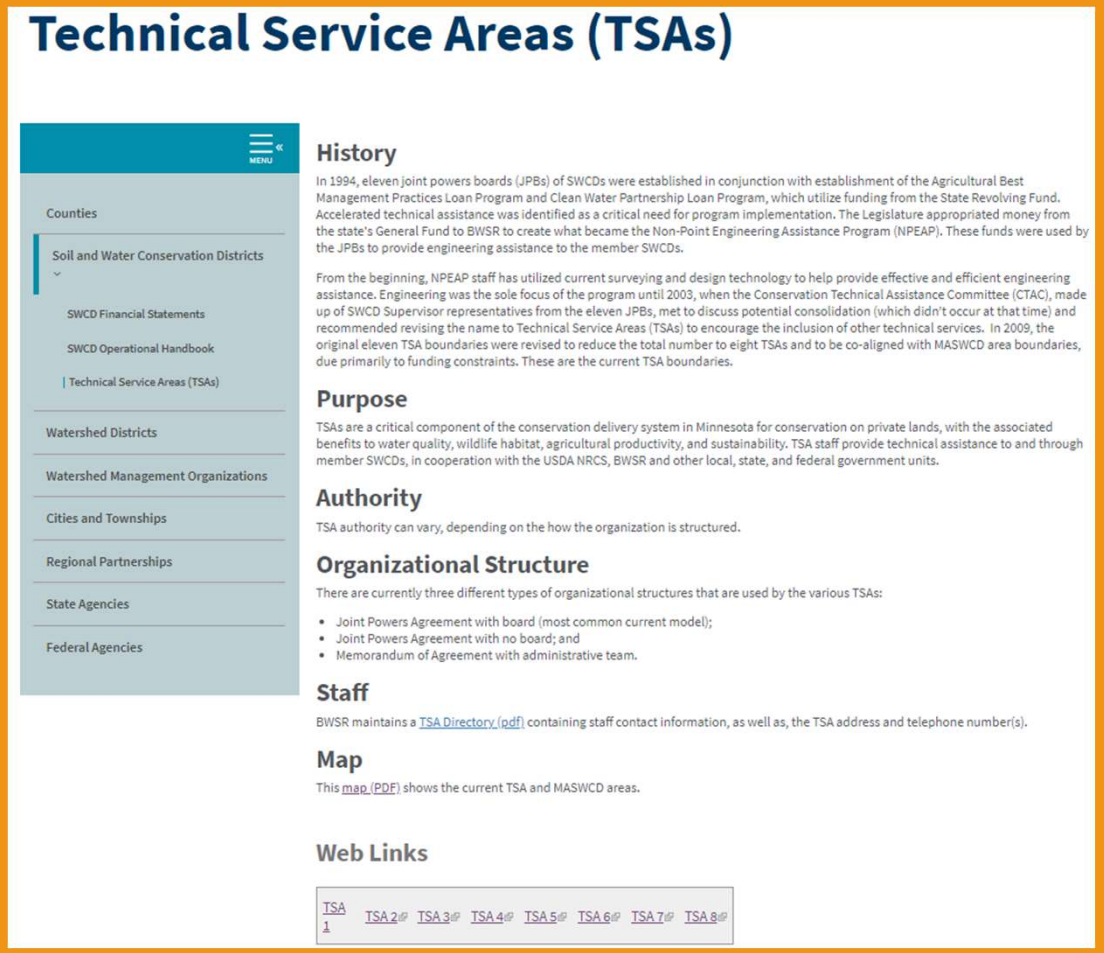
Balaton Cemetery shoreline restoration

Before



After

More info at http://bwsr.state.mn.us/technical-service-areas-tsas



Technical Service Areas (TSAs)

MENU

- Counties
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
  - SWCD Financial Statements
  - SWCD Operational Handbook
  - Technical Service Areas (TSAs)
- Watershed Districts
- Watershed Management Organizations
- Cities and Townships
- Regional Partnerships
- State Agencies
- Federal Agencies

History

In 1994, eleven joint powers boards (JPBs) of SWCDs were established in conjunction with establishment of the Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program and Clean Water Partnership Loan Program, which utilize funding from the State Revolving Fund. Accelerated technical assistance was identified as a critical need for program implementation. The Legislature appropriated money from the state's General Fund to BWSR to create what became the Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program (NPEAP). These funds were used by the JPBs to provide engineering assistance to the member SWCDs.

From the beginning, NPEAP staff has utilized current surveying and design technology to help provide effective and efficient engineering assistance. Engineering was the sole focus of the program until 2003, when the Conservation Technical Assistance Committee (CTAC), made up of SWCD Supervisor representatives from the eleven JPBs, met to discuss potential consolidation (which didn't occur at that time) and recommended revising the name to Technical Service Areas (TSAs) to encourage the inclusion of other technical services. In 2009, the original eleven TSA boundaries were revised to reduce the total number to eight TSAs and to be co-aligned with MASWCD area boundaries, due primarily to funding constraints. These are the current TSA boundaries.

Purpose

TSAs are a critical component of the conservation delivery system in Minnesota for conservation on private lands, with the associated benefits to water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural productivity, and sustainability. TSA staff provide technical assistance to and through member SWCDs, in cooperation with the USDA NRCS, BWSR and other local, state, and federal government units.

Authority

TSA authority can vary, depending on the how the organization is structured.

Organizational Structure

There are currently three different types of organizational structures that are used by the various TSAs:

- Joint Powers Agreement with board (most common current model);
- Joint Powers Agreement with no board; and
- Memorandum of Agreement with administrative team.

Staff

BWSR maintains a TSA Directory (pdf) containing staff contact information, as well as, the TSA address and telephone number(s).

Map

This map (PDF) shows the current TSA and MASWCD areas.

Web Links

TSA 1 TSA 2 TSA 3 TSA 4 TSA 5 TSA 6 TSA 7 TSA 8