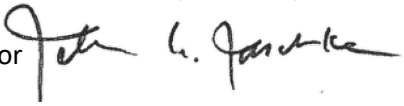


# BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

DATE: August 16, 2022

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – August 25, 2022

The Board of Water and Soil Resources will tour both Minnesota and North Dakota's Red River Basin on Wednesday, August 23, 2022. *See attached tour itinerary.* The accommodations for the Board Tour will be at the [Fairfield Inn & Suites](#) located at 514 Gateway Drive Northeast, East Grand Forks, Minnesota, 56721.

Sleeping rooms for board members who requested accommodations have been reserved at the Fairfield Inn & Suites in East Grand Forks, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, August 23 and 24. Rooms have been direct billed (BWSR Board members, with the exception of agency members, do not pay for the room). Please contact Rachel Mueller if you have any questions about accommodations at [Rachel.L.Mueller@state.mn.us](mailto:Rachel.L.Mueller@state.mn.us).

## Wednesday, August 24<sup>th</sup> – Tour

Breakfast, starting at 6:30 a.m., is included for guests staying at the Fairfield Inn and Suites on Tuesday evening. Registration for the tour will begin at 7:00 a.m. at Canad Inn, located at 1000 South 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, North Dakota. Buses will depart the Canad Inn parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

The tour will consist of a few stops where we will be walking a short distance, wear your comfortable walking shoes, and casual attire. The tour will be held rain or shine, so please dress accordingly.

We will tour projects in the Red River Basin in both Minnesota and North Dakota. These projects will showcase water quality, drainage, flood damage reduction, soil conservation, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation. We will arrive in Warren for lunch at 12:00 p.m. The coach bus will arrive back at Canad Inn around 4:15 p.m. where dinner will be on your own.

## Thursday, August 25<sup>th</sup> – BWSR Board Meeting

Breakfast, starting at 6:30 a.m., is included for guests staying at Fairfield Inn and Suites on Wednesday evening.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources will meet on Thursday, August 25, 2021, beginning at 8:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Fairfield Inn and Suites conference room.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Grants Program and Policy Committee*

1. **One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization** – The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants for calendar year 2023. Five proposals were received and five are recommended for funding. **DECISION ITEM**

2. **Soil Health Cost Share Grant** – The Soil Health Cost Share Grant program combines FY22 and FY23 General Fund dollars for soil health practice adoption purposes consistent with the cost-sharing provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103C.501. The Soil Health Cost Share Grant can be used for the implementation of core soil health practices and the necessary staff time needed for technical assistance and grant and program administration. Grant funds will be made available to Minnesota’s soil and water conservation districts in the effort to increase soil health across the State. **DECISION ITEM**
3. **FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants** – The FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants provide funding for grants to farmers [via local government units] who own or rent land to enhance the adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to public water supplies. The Soil Health Cost Share Grant can be used for the implementation of core soil health practices and the necessary staff time needed for technical assistance, outreach & education and grant and program administration. Grant funds will be made available to Minnesota’s Local government units (counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts) or local government joint power boards working under a current State approved and locally adopted local water management plan or soil and water conservation district (SWCD) comprehensive plan. **DECISION ITEM**
4. **FY2023 Buffer Implementation Grants** – This Board Request is for the FY23 Buffer Implementation Grants. We are asking the Board to approve these grants which are provided to each SWCD to support their efforts to implement the Buffer Law. These SWCD efforts include, but are not limited to, technical assistance, planning assistance and implementation assistance for landowners and operators. In addition, these funds also support the SWCD responsibility to monitor and report on progress towards compliance with the law. The proposed allocations are unchanged from FY 22. **DECISION ITEM**

***Northern Region Committee***

1. **Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers watershed was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan program planning grant in August of 2020. The watershed partnership attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on July 19, 2022, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on August 3, 2022, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-539-2587. We look forward to seeing you on August 24th and 25th.

# RED RIVER PARTNERS SUMMER TOUR

Grand Forks, ND | August 23-25, 2022



Red River Joint  
Water Resource District



**m** BOARD OF WATER  
AND SOIL RESOURCES

**MINNESOTA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICTS, INC**

*Land and Water Shall be Preserved*



## Tuesday, August 23



## Meetings, Dinner, Social, and Presentations

- 1 p.m. MAWD Board of Directors meeting
- 1 p.m. MAWA meeting
- 4 p.m. Registration
- 6 p.m. Dinner and Social
- 7 p.m. 1997 Flood Overview; Presentations: Flood Reduction Efforts

Meetings and registration will be held at the Canad Inn. Dinner and social will be held at the Boardwalk Bar and Grill. Allen Grasser, Grand Forks City Engineer, will give a short overview of the 1997 flood. Summer Tour Partners will give presentations regarding flood reduction/water quality restoration efforts that have occurred over the last 25 years. The event will conclude at 9 p.m. **Shuttles from the Canad Inns will be available.**

## Wednesday, August 24



## Red River Basin Bus Tour (Minnesota and North Dakota sites)

- 7 a.m. **Registration** (Buses will depart the Canad Inn at 8:30 a.m.)

8:00 a.m. – 4:30 pm **Bus Tour** (see tour packet for more details)  
Hop on the bus for a tour of some exciting projects in the Red River Basin in both Minnesota and North Dakota. These projects will showcase water quality, drainage, flood damage reduction, soil conservation, fish and wildlife, and outdoor recreation.

## Thursday, August 25



## Workshop

- 8:30 a.m. Workshops (coffee, pastries, and fruit provided)  
Tracy Halstengard, Roseau River WD and Tara Jensen, Wild Rice WD will provide an update on eminent domain. A presentation about interacting with the media will be given. Workshop ends at 11:30 a.m.
- 8:30 a.m. BWSR Board meeting: Fairfield Inn & Suites in East Grand Forks

## Hotel Accommodations and Registration Details

**HOTEL:** Call 701-772-8404 to reserve your hotel room at Canad Inns, 1000 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201

**REGISTRATION:** [Click this link](#) to register for the Summer Tour

**QUESTIONS:** Contact Rob Sip at: 218-474-1084 or [rob.sip@rwmb.us](mailto:rob.sip@rwmb.us)

# RED RIVER PARTNERS SUMMER TOUR

Grand Forks, ND | August 23-25, 2022



Red River Joint  
Water Resource District



**m** BOARD OF WATER  
AND SOIL RESOURCES

**MINNESOTA  
ASSOCIATION OF  
WATERSHED  
DISTRICTS, INC**

Land and Water Shall be Preserved



## Bus Tour Itinerary Wednesday, August 24, 2022 (Minnesota [MN] and North Dakota [ND] sites)

**8:00 a.m.** Load buses at hotel parking lot for **8:30 a.m. departure:** Canad Inns, 1000 S. 42<sup>nd</sup> Street, Grand Forks, ND 58201

**Oslo:** Participants will see the Red River at Oslo and hear about area flooding and the Border Township Associative Group (BTAG) efforts to address bridges and roadways that connect MN and ND to reduce flooding. **Drive-by location - Arrive: 9:00 a.m. Depart: 9:10 a.m.**

**MN and ND Floodplain easements:** Participants will see efforts since 1997 to provide flood damage reduction to private landowners along the Red, Forest, and Park Rivers using USDA NRCS Emergency Watershed Protection (EWP) and Wetland Reserve Program (WRP) easements. **Tour stop - Arrive: 9:35 a.m. Presentation and Break Depart: 10:05 a.m.**

**City of Drayton:** The tour will look at and hear about the city's efforts for flood protection with dikes. **Drive-by location - Arrive: 10:20 a.m. Depart: 10:25 a.m.**

**Springbrook Flood Protection Project:** This project consisted of constructing approximately eight miles of setback dikes to the 10-year flood elevation to prevent out-of-bank flows and overland flooding. Twenty-eight side water inlets were installed. A 300-acre grass buffer corridor was created. The project has reduced erosion, provided a habitat corridor, and reduced turbidity and suspended solids. Funding sources included the USDA-NRCS's PL566 small watershed program, Reinvest In Minnesota, the DNR's Flood Hazard Mitigation grant program, and The Two Rivers Watershed District. **Tour stop - Arrive 10:50 a.m. Depart: 11:15 a.m.**

**Swift Coulee Channel Restoration:** This project will restore meandering channel across eight sections of McCrea and Warrenton Townships in Marshall County. A setback levee will be included for flood damage reduction benefits and a culvert sizing scheme to reduce peak flows downstream. Side water inlets will be installed to minimize sediment runoff from adjacent agricultural fields. This project will provide flood control, habitat restoration, and soil health/erosion reduction benefits. **Drive-by location - Arrive 11:45 a.m. Depart 11:55 a.m.**

**Warren American Legion:** Box lunch. **Arrive: 12:00 p.m. Speaker: 12:30 p.m. – 12:45 p.m. Depart: 1:00 p.m.**

**Luncheon presentation - Snake River PL-566 Project:** Phase 1 consisted of constructing the lower 4,000 feet of floodway and the outlet chute. Phase 2 included the off-channel floodwater storage area with a flood pool storage area of 6,800 acre/feet. Phase 3 consisted of constructing the Snake River diversion structure and the upper three miles of floodway. Phase 4 called for mitigating 38.73 acres of directly and indirectly impacted wetland acres, as well as seven acres of forest.

**Agassiz Valley Water Resource Management Project:** This project was developed under the Mediation Agreement between the State of Minnesota and the RRWMB. It is a multi-purpose project which combines flood control and environmental enhancement features. It occupies about 2,600 acres in Marshall and Polk Counties in which an off-channel impoundment of approximately 5.25 miles of embankment, 5.5 miles of inlet channels, and two miles of bypass channel were constructed.

**Tour stop - Arrive: 1:15 p.m. Depart: 1:45 p.m.**

**Northwest Research and Outreach Center:** Dr. Lindsay Pease, Assistant Professor and Extension Specialist in Nutrient and Water Management, will share their findings on the water quality and quantity impacts of a new subsurface drainage installation in the Red Lake River watershed. **Tour stop - Arrive: 2:30 p.m. Presentation and Break Depart: 3:15 p.m.**

**Grand Forks Riverside Park Dam:** The dam was converted to a rock riffle structure in 2001. It includes 11 rows of boulders extending 300 feet downstream creating a 5-percent slope that resembles natural rapids. The pools and eddies allow fish to pass upstream. The structure improves the public safety of the area, removing the "undertow" affect that a conventional dam creates. The **Drayton Dam** will be converted to a similar type of structure. Once completed, all eight of the channel dams on the Red River mainstem will have been converted to allow fish passage and to improve public safety. **Tour stop - Arrive: 3:50 p.m. Depart: 4:20 p.m.**

Canad Inns: **Arrive 4:30 p.m.**



**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
514 GATEWAY DRIVE NORTHEAST  
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN  
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

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

**CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION**

*A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by staff before any vote.*

**REPORTS**

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Gerald Van Amburg
- 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 – Joe Collins
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

**AGENCY REPORTS**

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Mark Wettlaufer
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Theresa Ebbenga
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta

**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. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Soil Health Cost Share Grant – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. FY23 Buffer Implementation Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***

##### ***Northern Region Committee***

1. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Matt Fischer and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, September 28, 2022 in St. Paul and by WebEx.

#### **ADJOURN**

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 22, 2022**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kurt Beckstrom, Carly Johnson, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Melissa Lewis, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Jess Richards, DNR

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Neil Peterson, Kelly Kirkpatrick

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Dave Weirens, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Marcey Westrick, James Adkinson, Lucy Dahl, Peter Jordet, Julie Westerlund, Rita Weaver, Annie Felix-Gerth, Mike Nelson, Ryan Hughes, Melissa King

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jeff Berg, MDA; Emily Javens, MAWD; Lizzie McNamara, Jan Voit, Lucas Sjostrom, Alex Trunnell, Julie Blackburn

**Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**\*\***  
**22-29** **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Ron Staples, seconded by Joe Collins, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**\*\***  
**22-30** **MINUTES OF MAY 25, 2022 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the minutes of May 25, 2022, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM**

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

Marcey Westrick introduced James Adkinson, Grants Coordinator and Lucy Dahl introduced Peter Jordet, Easement Development Specialist Sr.

Chair Van Amburg introduced new Metro City Board Member Carly Johnson.

**REPORTS**

**Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee** – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the North Central Region Water Network is having a climate interactions conference in Duluth, July 12-14, 2022.

**Executive Director’s Report** - John Jaschke reported EQB’s Executive Director position is open as Katie Pratt has moved on to the Dept. of Administration. Stated SWCDs are having Area meetings this spring and early summer. John attended the Minnesota River Congress on June 15 in Mankato with Commissioner Strommen and Commissioner Kessler along with others from the basin. Rita Weaver presented on Water Storage, the concepts behind it, and an understanding of engineering factors involved. Stated it is pollinator week and there are a number of pollinator events taking place. BWSR staff are working with SWCDs to determine flood damage in the Red and Rainy River Basins. There is no legislative news.

Joe Collins asked if a bonding bill passed. John stated it did not pass.

John reviewed the Day of Packet that included Snapshots.

Todd Holman asked if there was an update on Diversity Equity and Inclusion (DEI). John stated they are working on a plan and will give an update or presentation at a future meeting.

**Audit and Oversight Committee** – Joe Collins reported they have not met.

**Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report** – Rich Sve reported the committee has not met. They have a meeting scheduled for August 31. On July 18 they will be having a committee workshop to go over the understanding of roles and responsibilities and the purpose for the upcoming meeting.

Travis Germundson reported there are nine appeals pending.



File 21-4 This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Otter Tail County. The appeal regards the alleged wetland impacts associated with the placement of fill. No decision has been made on this appeal.

File 22-3 This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Benton County. The appeal regards the alleged wetland impacts associated with the excavation of two drainage ditches. No decision has been made on the appeal.

Travis stated they have been reaching out to gather information on the status of noncompliant parcels and to obtain some specific plans and timelines to bring those parcels into compliance. Stated the number of Administrative Penalty Orders will be going down to three.

**Grants Program & Policy Committee** – Todd Holman reported they have not met. There is an action item on the agenda. Next meeting is scheduled for July 25.

**RIM Reserve Committee** – Jayne Hager Dee reported the committee has not met.

**Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee** – Joe Collins reported the committee has not met.

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

**Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee** – Mark Zabel reported the committee has not met.

**Drainage Work Group (DWG)** – Tom Gile reported they met and had preliminary discussions on the ranking and prioritization of topics they expect to talk about this season. They discussed the outlet adequacy definition to have a better comprehensive understanding of that term. They also discussed their preliminary overview of the Drainage Registry Bill that was introduced last session.

## **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture** – Thom Petersen reported the 2021 Agricultural Drought Relief Program opened June 21 and had 144 applicants the first day. They are accepting applications until July 6. Stated they have a pilot program for soil health grants that they'll be working on this fall. There is also a grant from the McKnight Foundation to help farmers develop climate smart farming practices.

Jill Crafton asked what cattle do when the temperatures are so high. Commissioner Petersen stated cattle can adapt to the heat, water and shade is always helpful.

Chair Van Amburg asked if there would be a greater demand than resources available for the soil health grants. Commissioner Petersen stated they were only able to do a pilot project from the funds they received. Stated the interest is there and they hope to expand it.

**Minnesota Department of Health** – Steve Robertson reported they launched a PFAS dashboard to view the statewide testing in public water systems.

Stated some of their bills did not pass during the Legislative session. They were seeking funds for a grant program to help communities with lead service line inventories. This would be used to help comply with the new lead and copper rules in October of 2024.

Chair Van Amburg asked how they treat for PFAS. Steve stated there are specialized technologies that can remove it.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources** – Jess Richards reported Commissioner Strommen went to the Minnesota River Congress with Executive Director Jaschke and stated they are look forward to working together on water storage projects and issues. The DNR Round Table was held in person on June 9. Jess gave an update on DEI.

Jill Crafton stated she met Bradly Harrington, their Tribal Liaison and asked what his role is. Jess stated as their Tribal Liaison he helps with cultural differences and how we communicate with each other. He is also working on their policies and procedure development.

**Minnesota Extension** – Joel Larson reported the Northern Central Region Water Network is hosting the Climate Intersections Conference July 12-14 in Duluth. It will focus on how water and natural resource professionals can work with local communities to respond and adapt to a changing climate. Joel stated they are also collaborating with the Network on a Field School for Soil Health Educators event August 9-10 in Waseca. It will focus on soil health and people who are providing education related to soil health.

**Minnesota Pollution Control Agency** – Melissa Lewis gave an update on DEI.

#### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

**Association of Minnesota Counties** – John Jaschke reported for Brian Martinson that the Clean Water Council will be considering budget recommendations for next year in the coming months. They are encouraging BWSR Board members to reach out to their colleagues on the Council about what the priorities should be.

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

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

**Minnesota Association of Townships** – Eunice Biel reported they had a primary election on May 24 and will have a special election on August 9. Stated the Legislature ended without a deal on transportation funding for townships. There will be a second round of ARPA training in June.

**Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts** –Emily Javens reported the Stormwater Summit is next week and she will be doing a presentation with Mark Doneux, Capital Regional Watershed District; Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council; and Andy Erickson, University of Minnesota. It will showcase how we govern, fund, and operate for clean water in Minnesota.

Emily stated the recommendations are in line on the 1W1P Evaluation Summary.

**Natural Resources Conservation Service** – No report was provided.

Chair Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:20 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:30 a.m.

#### **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

##### **Grants Program and Policy Committee**

**FY2023 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria** – Annie Felix-Gerth presented FY2023 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria.

The Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy is reviewed and approved annually. For FY2023, the policy will apply to Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water, Multi-purpose Drainage Management, and Soil Health funding.

The changes in this policy from the previous year include:

- Change in terminology: “Livestock Waste Management Practice” is now “Feedlots” in the Eligible Activities section. The term change and associated information has been changed to be consistent with the FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation policy.
- Addition of the Soil Health grant.

In addition to approving the policy, the board order also authorizes the fiscal year 2023 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program and authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these recommendations on May 23, 2022 and recommends the attached policy and order to the board.

Jill Crafton asked in section 3.8 if the first sentence was defined anywhere. Annie stated the practices are consistent with the Natural Resource’s Conservations Service Field Technical Guide, the Minnesota Stormwater Manual, or a professionally accepted engineering or ecological practice. John Jaschke stated the majority will be in one of those.

Joe Collins referred to section 3.5 Project Support where it says eligible activities. Joe asked if that meant it would be funded locally with the match. Annie stated those are activities that can be funded through this grant.

Chair Van Amburg asked if they could explain the new adoptions in the Soil Health Ranking Criteria. Tom Gile stated by new adoption we can assume that it’s trying to encourage something that hasn’t been done before by that producer. Tom stated they are asking the applicant to tell what specifically they were targeting in terms of new adopters.

\*\*  
22-31 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the FY2023 CWF Competitive Grants Policy and RFP Criteria. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**One Watershed, One Plan Program Evaluation Report** – Lizzie McNamara presented One Watershed, One Plan Program Evaluation Report.

BWSR is nearly halfway to achieving the goal of statewide coverage with approved comprehensive watershed management plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. BWSR conducted an evaluation to determine if the program is meeting the original vision and whether any mid-course corrections were needed for this major shift in Minnesota’s local water planning. BWSR entered a contract with Management Analysis and Development (internal consultants for the state of Minnesota) to conduct a formal evaluation of the One Watershed, One Plan program in Spring 2021. In fall 2021, MAD conducted a survey, interviews, and focus groups involving over 350 One Watershed, One Plan participants and stakeholders. MAD completed a final report in May 2022. A summary of findings and recommendations is in the executive summary. BWSR is working with the Local Government Water Roundtable and staff from partner associations to strategically disseminate the report to 1W1P participants and stakeholders. Staff anticipate a detailed discussion about next steps to act on the report’s recommendations with BWSR’s Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee over the summer of 2022.

Chair Van Amburg asked if the full report will be available. Julie Westerlund stated she will send the full report to Rachel, and it will be available on our website.

Jayne Hager Dee stated we need to look at the people skills and outreach skills to get more public participation.

Joe Collins stated we also need political awareness with the people skills during implementation.

LeRoy Ose stated that staff learn people skills by doing it.

Jill Crafton stated they did a good job of capturing and analyzing feedback. Stated it is hard to go from planning to implementation.

Melissa Lewis stated its exciting to see this evaluation and didn't see any surprises.

Ron Staples asked who is the Local Government Roundtable that started this. John Jaschke stated the participants are AMC, the Association of Watershed Districts, and the Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. It started with the encouragement of the Legislature to come up with a plan that all would support opposed to a plan for each organization. They continue to meet, there is staff level work and board member appointees.

Joe Collins stated the report was good and highlights issues coming up.

Steve Robertson stated he thought it was a good report and is looking forward to seeing how everything works out.

**Update on the FY22 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program**– Rita Weaver presented the Update on the FY22 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program.

The Board passed the first Water Quality and Storage Program policy in January 2022. Since then, BWSR staff have put out the RFP, received applications, and ranked and scored the projects. The intent of this presentation is to discuss the FY22 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program evolution and give an overview of how water storage is considered in our watershed planning and projects.

Jill Crafton asked about the time frame. Rita stated the initial grant will be set up for three years but can be extended two more years.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, July 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., location TBD.
- Joint summer tour and meeting, August 23-25, 2022.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:31 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg  
Chair





## Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

August 8, 2022

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently six appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been one new appeal 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 22-4 (6-21-22) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Ottertail County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of approximately 2,870 square feet of fill in a wetland within the shoreland protection zone of Pelican Lake. No decision has been made on the appeal.

~~File 22-3 (6-1-22) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Benton County. The appeal regards the alleged wetland impacts associated with the excavation of two drainage ditches. The appeal was denied, and the Restoration Order affirmed.~~

~~File 22-2 (2-16-22) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Kanabec County. The appeal regards the excavation of a ditch and placement of spoil material in a wetland. The project and alleged wetland impacts affects multiple property owners. The appeal was placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for submittal of additional documentation in support of the appeal and for Kanabec County to make a final decision on the after-the-fact exemption applications that are associated with the project. The appeal was denied, and the Restoration Order affirmed.~~

~~File 22-1(1-7-2022) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Steele County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of agricultural drain tile through multiple wetlands. The appeal was placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application. An application was not submitted to the local unit of government within the initial time period nor within the amended time period. As such the appeal was denied and the Restoration Order affirmed.~~

File 21-9 (12-17-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a no-loss determination in Pope County. The appeal regards the approval of a 36' inlet structure/tile to reduce inundation and saturated soil on agricultural fields. At issue is the elevation that was approved (to high). The petition request that the appeal be placed in abeyance until technical data can be gathered. Note, this involves the same notice of decision being appealed under File 21-07. *The appeal has been combined with file 21-7 and placed in abeyance to allow the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact following the submission of additional technical analyses. The appeal has been remanded back to the local unit of government for expanded technical review and a new decision because of the submission of additional technical analyses.*

File 21-8 (12-17-21) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Rock County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of tile lines through wetlands. The petition request that the appeal be placed in abeyance for the submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for further investigation and submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application.*

File 21-7 (12-14-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a no-loss determination in Pope County. The appeal regards approval of a 36" inlet structure/tile that allegedly rout water around U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property and impact wetlands. At issue is the elevation that was approved (to low). *The appeal has been combined with file 21-9 and placed in abeyance to allow the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact following the submission of additional technical analyses. The appeal has been remanded back to the local unit of government for expanded technical review and a new decision because of the submission of additional technical analyses.*

File 21-4 (10-26-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Morrison County. The appeal regards alterations to a private ditch and excavation of wildlife ponds. The project allegedly exceeded the project scope and authorization granted by the local unit of government for ditch maintenance under a no-loss determination. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed to determine viability of proposed actions for restoration.*

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. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland restoration and replacement plan application. The appellant's legal counsel notified BWSR that there they are no longer interested in pursuing a new application. As a result, a decision was made on November 3, 2021 to grant and hear the appeal. A hearing on the appeal before the DRC is scheduled for August 31, 2022.*

Summary Table for Appeals

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2021	Total for Calendar Year 2022
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	2	3
Order Modified		
Order Remanded	2	1
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	5	2
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	2	

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 3 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 89 of those have been resolved.

\*Statewide 31 counties are fully compliant, and 53 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 590 CANs and 53 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 3,104 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.*

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Soil Health Cost Share Grant – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. FY23 Buffer Implementation Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization

**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2022

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

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** One Watershed, One Plan; Planning Grants; 2022; 1W1P; FY23

**Section/Region:** Central Region; Land and Water Section

**Contact:** Julie Westerlund

**Prepared by:** Julie Westerlund

**Reviewed by:** Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Julie Westerlund

**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 type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve five planning boundaries for One Watershed, One Plan planning grants.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

The calendar year 2022 (FY23 grants) One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants request for proposal (RFP) period opened on March 26, 2022 and closed on June 11, 2022. BWSR received five proposals. Staff reviewed the five proposals (locations shown on attached map) against the RFP selection criteria and received feedback from the Interagency Water Management and Implementation Team on June 29, 2022. BWSR’s Senior Management Team reviewed staff recommendations on July 12, 2022 and recommended funding all five proposals. Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed this recommendation on July 25, 2022. 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) and the 2022-2023 biennium, Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (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.

## BOARD ORDER

### One Watershed, One Plan FY23 Planning Grants

#### PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2023 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

#### RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(i) and the Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i) appropriated funds for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D and 114D.
2. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project, practice or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan.
3. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
4. The Board on June 22, 2016 adopted a One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan (Board Resolution #16-53) for development, approval, adoption, and coordination of plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103A.212.
5. The Board on March 23, 2022 authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for planning grants for the One Watershed, One Plan Program and a formal request for proposal was noticed on March 26, 2022 with a submittal deadline of June 11, 2022.
6. The BWSR Senior Management Team met on July 12, 2022 and reviewed the applications with consideration of staff and Interagency WRAPS and Implementation Team feedback, consistency with the Transition Plan, and the selection criteria within the RFP and recommended providing planning grant funds to the following five planning areas: Cottonwood – Middle Minnesota River; Crow Wing River Watershed; Rainy River – Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River Watershed; Upper and Lower Red Lake Watershed; Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids Watershed .
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on July 25, 2022 and reviewed the Senior Management Team’s recommendations for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants and recommended board approval of planning grants for the Cottonwood – Middle Minnesota River; Crow Wing River; Rainy River – Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River; Upper and Lower Red Lake; Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids Watershed planning boundaries.

**ORDER**

The Board hereby:

1. Approves and authorizes five One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants: Cottonwood – Middle Minnesota River; Crow Wing River; Rainy River – Rainy Lake/Lower Rainy River; Upper and Lower Red Lake; Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids Watershed planning boundaries.
2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements with these watershed areas for development of One Watershed, One Plans.
3. Approves the allocation of grants funds for the 5 watershed areas not to exceed \$1,300,000 in total.

Dated at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, this twenty-fifth of August, 2022.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

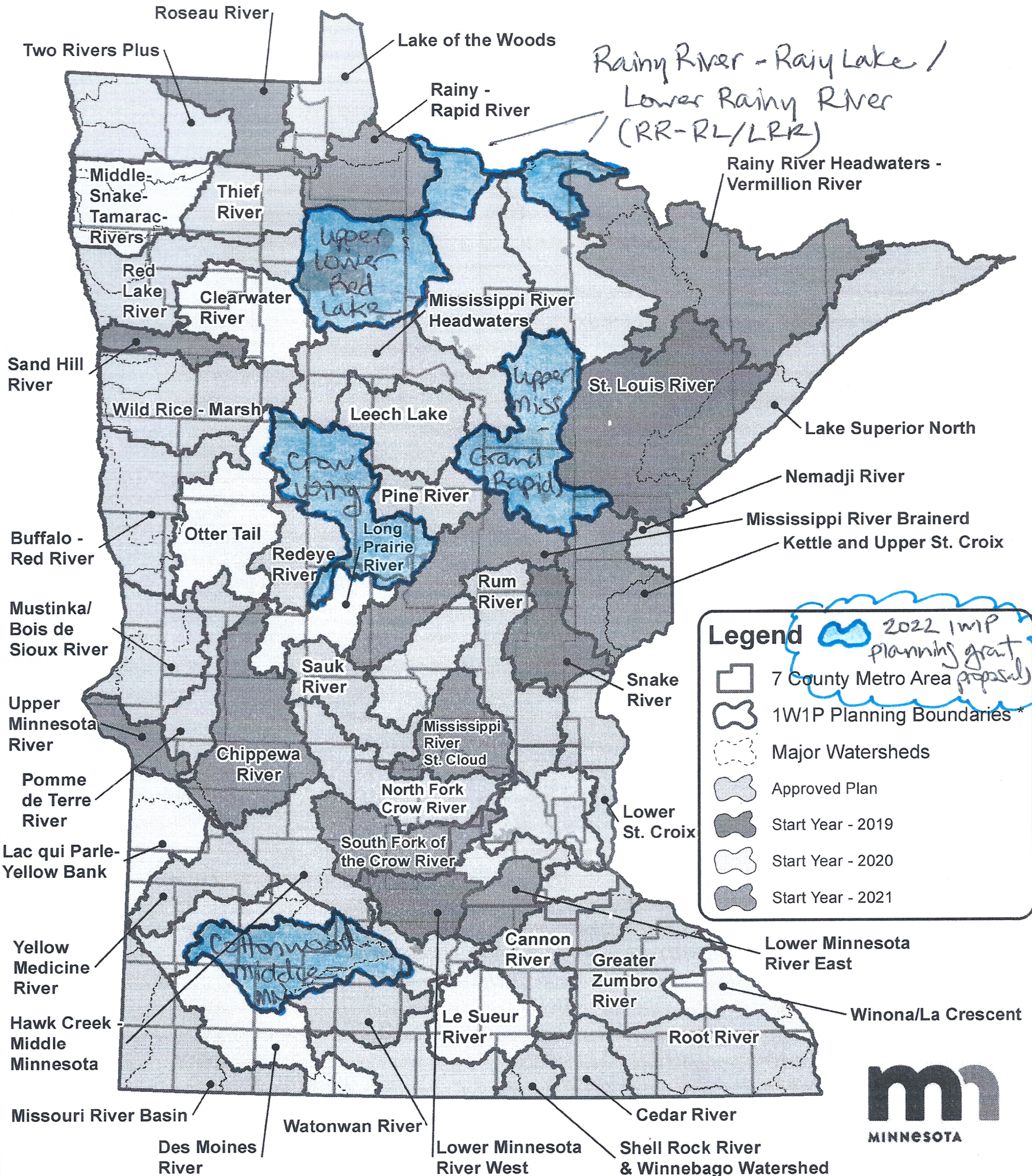
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources



# 2022 IWIP Planning Grant Proposals

## One Watershed, One Plan

### Participating Watersheds



\*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.





## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Soil Health Cost Share Grant

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**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2022

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

**Item Type:**             Decision                                     Discussion             Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** Soil Health, Cost Share, Policy

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**Section/Region:** Regional Operations

**Contact:** Tom Gile

**Prepared by:** Tom Gile and Jill Sackett Eberhart

**Reviewed by:** Grants Program and Policy                                    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Tom Gile

**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 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 Grant allocations and distribution of funding. Includes adoption of Program Policy.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4(K) appropriated \$675,000 for both fiscal years 2022 and 2023 for soil health practice adoption purposes consistent with the cost-sharing provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103C.501, and for soil health program responsibilities in consultation with the University of Minnesota Office for Soil Health.

The Soil Health Cost Share Grant program combines FY22 and FY23 General Fund dollars for the implementation of soil health practices and the necessary staff time needed for technical assistance and grant program administration. Available funding will be split equally between Minnesota’s soil and water conservation districts. The Policy has been developed primarily using the existing Erosion Control and Water Management Policy but includes a list of core soil health practices.

## BOARD ORDER

### FY23 Soil Health Cost Share Grants

#### PURPOSE

Provide Soil Health Cost Share to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement soil health related activities.

#### FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4(K) appropriated \$675,000 in fiscal years 2022 and 2023 respectively for soil health.
2. "Soil Health" is defined in [MS 103C.101, Subd. 10a](#) as the continued capacity of soil to function as a vital living system that sustains plants, animals, and humans. Indicators of soil health include water infiltration capacity; organic matter content; water holding capacity; biological capacity to break down plant residue and other substances and to maintain soil aggregation; nutrient sequestration and cycling capacity; carbon sequestration; and soil resistance.
3. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes § 103B.3369 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
4. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with these appropriations.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 23, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

#### ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached fiscal year 2023 "Soil Health Cost Share Grant Policy" and establishes that FY2023 Soil Health Cost Share grants will conform to this policy.
2. Approves the allocation of funds to each eligible SWCD in the amounts listed in the attached allocation table.
3. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.

Dated at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, this twenty-fifth of August, 2022.

#### MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: FY2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Allocations  
FY 2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Program Policy

## FYs 2023 Soil Health Cost Share Grant Allocations

SWCD	FY22/23 Proposed	SWCD	FY22/23 Proposed	SWCD	FY22/23 Proposed
Aitkin	\$14,175	Koochiching	\$14,175	Root River	\$14,175
Anoka	\$14,175	Lac qui Parle	\$14,175	Roseau	\$14,175
Becker	\$14,175	Lake	\$14,175	Scott	\$14,175
Beltrami	\$14,175	Lake of the Woods	\$14,175	Sherburne	\$14,175
Benton	\$14,175	Le Sueur	\$14,175	Sibley	\$14,175
Big Stone	\$14,175	Lincoln	\$14,175	St. Louis North	\$14,175
Blue Earth	\$14,175	Lyon SWCD	\$14,175	St. Louis South	\$14,175
Brown	\$14,175	Mahnomen	\$14,175	Stearns	\$14,175
Carlton	\$14,175	Marshall	\$14,175	Steele	\$14,175
Carver	\$14,175	Martin	\$14,175	Stevens	\$14,175
Cass	\$14,175	McLeod	\$14,175	Swift	\$14,175
Chippewa	\$14,175	Meeker	\$14,175	Todd	\$14,175
Chisago	\$14,175	Mille Lacs	\$14,175	Traverse	\$14,175
Clay	\$14,175	Morrison	\$14,175	Wabasha	\$14,175
Clearwater	\$14,175	Mower	\$14,175	Wadena	\$14,175
Cook	\$14,175	Murray	\$14,175	Waseca	\$14,175
Cottonwood	\$14,175	Nicollet	\$14,175	Washington	\$14,175
Crow Wing	\$14,175	Nobles	\$14,175	Watonwan	\$14,175
Dakota	\$14,175	Norman	\$14,175	Wilken	\$14,175
Dodge	\$14,175	Olmsted	\$14,175	Winona	\$14,175
Douglas	\$14,175	Otter Tail East	\$14,175	Wright	\$14,175
Faribault	\$14,175	Otter Tail West	\$14,175	Yellow Medicine	\$14,175
Fillmore	\$14,175	Pennington	\$14,175		
Freeborn	\$14,175	Pine	\$14,175		
Goodhue	\$14,175	Pipestone	\$14,175		
Grant	\$14,175	Polk East	\$14,175		
Hennepin	\$14,175	Polk West	\$14,175		
Hubbard	\$14,175	Pope	\$14,175		
Isanti	\$14,175	Ramsey	\$14,175		
Itasca	\$14,175	Red Lake	\$14,175		
Jackson	\$14,175	Redwood	\$14,175		
Kanabec	\$14,175	Renville	\$14,175		
Kandiyohi	\$14,175	Rice	\$14,175		
Kittson	\$14,175	Rock	\$14,175		

## Soil Health Cost Share Grant Policy

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

**Version:** 1.00  
**Effective Date:** 08/25/2022  
**Approval:** Board Resolution #XX-XX

### Policy Statement

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The General Fund Soil Health Grant is to be implemented in a manner consistent with the cost-sharing provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 103C.501. Cost share funds are to be used for activities that further the adoption of practices that improve soil health.

District boards are responsible for the administration and decisions concerning the local use of these funds in accordance with: Minnesota Statutes, §103C.321 and §103C.331; BWSR policies; grant agreement; and all other applicable laws. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance. Failure to comply with relevant statutes, rules, and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient.

### Reason for the policy

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The purpose of this policy is to provide specific requirements for the implementation of funds appropriated to BWSR associated with the General Fund Soil Health Grant.

BWSR's Grants Administration Manual (<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/>) provides the primary framework for local management of all state grants administered by BWSR.

### Eligible Activities and Program Requirements

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#### 1. Eligible and Ineligible Activities

Soil Health Cost Share Grants provides Soil and Water Conservation Districts with funds for the implementation of core soil health practices and associated technical and administrative responsibilities. Funds used from this policy for cost share must follow the BWSR Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy with the following exceptions.

Eligible activities must be identified in the work plan.

**1.1 Eligible Core Soil Health Practices.** The following core soil health practices are eligible statewide:

- ◆ Cover Crops
- ◆ Strip-till / No-till
- ◆ Perennial Crops
- ◆ Stand Diversification
- ◆ Perennial Strips
- ◆ Agroforestry
- ◆ Rotational Grazing

**\*\*Please see the Soil Health Cost Share Grant Profile for a guide of NRCS practice standards that fall under the Core activities listed above\*\***

**Eligible practices are NOT limited to those above.** In addition, local priority or supporting soil health practices may be eligible but grantees need identify those activities in the workplan submittal process.

*For Example: Nutrient Management (NRCS Standard 590) practice(s) would be eligible in the following scenario. The Stormy SWCD is struggling with nitrate concentration increases in several public water supplies. They are proposing Nutrient Management practices emphasizing improvement of organic matter as a BMP, and since the area has a high incidence of confined animal facilities they specifically want to implement Manure Management plans in addition to cover crops for operators who apply manure or other nitrogen fertilizer within the Stormy public water supply.*

## **2. Grant Work Plan**

Work Plans are required for the General Fund Soil Health Grants. Work plans shall be developed in eLINK and must be approved before execution of the grant agreement and before work can begin or grant funds spent. Work plans shall reflect each eligible activity that will be implemented, a description of the anticipated activity outcomes or accomplishments, and grant funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities. If utilizing the percent-based option for projects, local/landowner contributions must also be included. A local cost share policy that includes such information as payment rates, contract terms, etc. should be part of the work plan or referenced and attached.

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants

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**Meeting Date:** Aug 25, 2022

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

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** FY22 FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants

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**Section/Region:** Resource Conservation

**Contact:** Tom Gile

**Prepared by:** Tom Gile

**Reviewed by:** Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Tom Gile

**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 interagency funding recommendation for FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature, in the first Special Session, passed Chapter 1, article 2, Sec. 6(p) (Clean Water Fund Appropriations). The original round of Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants RFP was released this spring. We received 8 applications for a total request of approximately 2.1 million dollars. An interagency scoring team as reviewed the applications submitted and is recommending funding 7 of the 8 applications for approximately 2 million dollars.

This Grant program combines FY22 and FY23 appropriation dollars. Priority for this program is being given to new adoption and understanding of soil health practices through the following efforts: Building local knowledge; Facilitating partnerships; Demonstrating clean water benefits; Identifying methods to increase long term adoption of soil health practices; and Scope and scale of implementation efforts in locally prioritized areas that show a direct benefit to public water supplies.

The first Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grant RFP was released this spring and the recommendations for funding are included in this action item. The submitted applications have been reviewed and scored by an interagency scoring team consisting of membership from MDH, MDA, MPCA, DNR, and BWSR. That team has forwarded the attached funding recommendations for Board consideration. A second round RFP for this program was also available during the BWSR Competitive Clean Water Fund application cycle which closed earlier in August.

**BOARD ORDER**

**Fiscal Year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants**

**PURPOSE**

Authorize the fiscal year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grants.

**FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS**

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1<sup>st</sup> Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 6(p) appropriated \$2,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 the second year for grants to farmers who own or rent land to enhance adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to public water supplies. Up to \$400,000 is for an agreement with the University of Minnesota Office for Soil Health for applied research and education on Minnesota's agroecosystems and soil health management systems.
2. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 and 103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
3. On March 23, 2022, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for FY22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health grants (Board Order #22-11).
4. The request for proposals was noticed on March 28, 2022 with a submittal deadline of May 9, 2022.
5. Applications were scored and ranked on July 20, 2022.
6. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 23, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

**ORDER**

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocation of funds to each eligible applicant in the amounts listed in the attached allocation table.
2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.
3. Establishes that the grant awards pursuant to this order will conform to the FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy.

Dated at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, this twenty-fifth of August, 2022.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grant Allocation Table



**FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grant Allocation Table**

<b>App #</b>	<b>Application Title</b>	<b>Applicant Name</b>	<b>Amount Awarded</b>	<b>Score</b>
C22-4421	Soil Health for Water Quality Protection	Traverse SWCD	\$ 275,000	81.8
C22-7318	Chisago SWCDFY22 LCS Coil Health Grant	Chisago SWCD	\$ 200,000	80.3
C22-6072	GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant	GBERBA	\$ 312,100	79.5
C22-6656	2022 Clean Water Soil Health Grant	Wilkin SWCD	\$ 235,560	76.3
C22-2693	Southwest Minnesota Wellhead Soil Health	Pipestone SWCD	\$ 282,750	76.3
C22-3831	The Future of Farming in Becker County - Phase II	Becker SWCD	\$ 480,014	72.3
C22-6449	Soil Health Practices to Protect Drinking Water in Mississippi River Sartell	Stearns SWCD	\$ 240,625	71.2
		TOTAL	\$ 2,026,049	

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** FY2023 Buffer Implementation Grants

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**Meeting Date:** Aug 25, 2022

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

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** FY 2023 Buffer Implementation

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**Section/Region:** Resource Conservation

**Contact:** Tom Gile

**Prepared by:** Tom Gile

**Reviewed by:** Grants Program & Policy Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Tom Gile

**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 type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approval of Issuance of FY 2023 Buffer Implementation Grants for SWCD use.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

This is the annual Grant support funding for SWCD’s role to provide planning, technical and implementation assistance to landowners under 103F.48 (Buffer Law) as well as their annual monitoring and reporting on compliance status.

**BOARD ORDER****FY 2023 Buffer Program Implementation Grants****PURPOSE**

Provide Buffer Program Funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement buffer program activities for fiscal year 2023.

**FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS**

1. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has the responsibility to oversee the provisions of Minnesota Statute 103F.48 (the Buffer Law) and to provide funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to implement the law.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6(e) appropriated fiscal year 2023 Buffer Program Implementation funds.
3. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with these appropriations.
4. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their July 25, 2022 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 each eligible SWCD, and Hennepin and Ramsey counties that are meeting statute, policy, or grant program requirements for fiscal year 2023, consistent with the attached allocation table and totaling \$1,698,500.
2. Establishes that the Buffer Program Implementation grants awarded pursuant to this resolution will conform to the BWSR FY2023 Clean Water Fund Policy except that no match will be required.

Dated at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, this August 25, 2022.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

See attached FY23 Buffer Program Implementation Grant Allocations

## FY23 Buffer Program Implementation Grant Allocations

SWCD	Proposed FY 23 Allocation
AITKIN	\$8,500
ANOKA	\$8,500
BECKER	\$21,500
BELTRAMI	\$17,000
BENTON	\$17,000
BIG STONE	\$21,500
BLUE EARTH	\$25,500
BROWN	\$25,500
CARLTON	\$2,500
CARVER	\$17,000
CASS	\$8,500
CHIPPEWA	\$25,500
CHISAGO	\$8,500
CLAY	\$30,000
CLEARWATER	\$17,000
COOK	\$2,500
COTTONWOOD	\$25,500
CROW WING	\$8,500
DAKOTA	\$17,000
DODGE	\$21,500
DOUGLAS	\$17,000
FARIBAULT	\$25,500
FILLMORE	\$25,500
FREEBORN	\$25,500
GOODHUE	\$21,500
GRANT	\$21,500
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$8,500
HUBBARD	\$8,500
ISANTI	\$8,500

SWCD	Proposed FY23 Allocation
ITASCA	\$2,500
JACKSON	\$25,500
KANABEC	\$8,500
KANDIYOHI	\$25,500
KITTSO N	\$30,000
KOOCHICHING	\$2,500
LAC QUI PARLE	\$25,500
LAKE	\$2,500
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$8,500
LE SUEUR	\$21,500
LINCOLN	\$21,500
LYON	\$25,500
MAHNOMEN	\$17,000
MARSHALL	\$38,500
MARTIN	\$30,000
MC LEOD	\$17,000
MEEKER	\$21,500
MILLE LACS	\$8,500
MORRISON	\$21,500
MOWER	\$25,500
MURRAY	\$25,500
NICOLLET	\$17,000
NOBLES	\$30,000
NORMAN	\$30,000
OLMSTED	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL E	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL W	\$21,500
PENNINGTON	\$21,500
PINE	\$8,500
PIPESTONE	\$21,500
POLK E	\$21,500

SWCD	Proposed FY23 Allocation
POLK W 45	\$38,500
POPE	\$21,500
RAMSEY	\$2,500
RED LAKE	\$17,000
REDWOOD	\$30,000
RENVILLE	\$38,500
RICE	\$17,000
ROCK	\$21,500
ROOT RIVER	\$17,000
ROSEAU	\$30,000
SCOTT	\$8,500
SHERBURNE	\$8,500
SIBLEY	\$21,500
ST. LOUIS N	\$2,500
ST. LOUIS S	\$2,500
STEARNS	\$30,000
STEELE	\$21,500
STEVENS	\$25,500
SWIFT	\$25,500
TODD	\$17,000
TRAVERSE	\$25,500
WABASHA	\$17,000
WADENA	\$8,500
WASECA	\$17,000
WASHINGTON	\$8,500
WATONWAN	\$21,500
WILKIN	\$30,000
WINONA	\$17,000
WRIGHT	\$17,000
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$30,000
	<b>\$1,698,500</b>

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Northern Region Committee***

1. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Matt Fischer and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

**Meeting Date:** August 25, 2022

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

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information     Non-Public Data

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

**Section/Region:** Regional Operations/Northern

**Contact:** Matt Fischer

**Prepared by:** Ryan Hughes

**Reviewed by:** Northern Region Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Matt Fischer/Ryan Hughes

**Time requested:** 10 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 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District \(mstrwd.org\)](http://mstrwd.org)

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

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Planning Partnership established a Memorandum of Agreement between the planning partners for the purposes of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in May of 2020 and was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan planning grant in August of 2020. The partners include Marshall County, Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Polk County, West Polk SWCD, and Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.

The partnership held a 60-day review process that ended on June 27, 2022, and the required public hearing on July 13, 2022. The final draft of the updated Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments were submitted to the state review agencies on July 19, 2022. The partnership has incorporated most of the agency and public comments received throughout the Plan development process. Final state review agency comments were submitted by July 29, 2022, and all agencies that submitted comments recommended approval.

The Northern Regional Committee met on August 3, 2022, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board.

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

---

**In the Matter** of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers 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 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on July 19, 2022, 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 May of 2020 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Marshall County, Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Polk County, West Polk SWCD, and Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District.
- 2. Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Decision #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures Version 2.0 and Board Decision #19-41 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Plan Content Requirements Version 2.1 policies.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers (MSTR) Watershed encompasses 1,476 square miles (944,640 acres) of land on the Minnesota side of the Red River Basin. Three major rivers, the Tamarac, Middle, and Snake, comprise the MSTR Watershed, draining west to the Red River of the North. This largely rural watershed offers a quality of life that is developed around its fertile soils. Historical prairie landscapes within the Red River Basin have always been a part of the natural heritage



of the community, connecting people to the land. What was once tall grasses of prairie is now a landscape rich with agriculture.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management for the purpose of guiding watershed managers as they work with landowners and communities to protect and restore the watershed's resources. 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, and drinking water sources in the watershed.
  
5. **Plan Review.** On July 19, 2022, 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 confirmed receipt of the Plan and did not provide any comments.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan and recognized the partnerships consideration of all state comments. MDH did not find any inconsistencies with statute or rule requirements in their review and recommended approval of the Plan.
  - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan. DNR is satisfied with the responses to issues raised during the 60-day review, had no additional comments, and recommended approval of the Plan.
  - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA commented that the Plan was very well written, concise, and thorough, and recommended approval of the Plan.
  - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not provide any 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 the initial priority issues submitted by BWSR and for addressing the comments received during the internal review period. All comments submitted throughout the planning process were adequately addressed in the final Plan and BWSR staff recommended approval of the Plan.
  
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:
  - The Plan identifies four different planning regions which were defined based on land use, hydrology, geology, and vegetation. The four planning regions are Headwaters, Lower Tamarac, Lower Middle, and Snake River.
  - The Plan development process generated 17 issues, organized under four resource categories (Groundwater, Surface Water, Land Stewardship and Habitat), using existing reports, plans, studies, data, and stakeholder input. Each issue was assigned as one of three priority levels within each planning region. Five issues were identified as Priority A for having a "high" priority ranking in at least one planning region and will be the focus of initial implementation efforts. Eight issues were identified as Priority B for having a "medium" priority ranking in any planning region and will be addressed during the Plan, likely with additional funding. The remaining four

issues were identified as Priority C for having a “low” priority ranking watershed-wide and are not the focus of the Plan but may be addressed with additional funding.

- The Plan details nine measurable goals that collectively address the 13 Priority A and B issues. The measurable goals are presented as a series of fact sheets. Each fact sheet summarizes the priority issues the goal addresses, the planning region prioritization for each issue, background information about the issue and goal, the long-term and short-term goal, example actions that can be implemented to make progress toward goals, and specific resources and/or subwatersheds that are prioritized for the goal.
  - Separate targeted implementation tables were created for each planning region that include actions within the Projects and Practices implementation program. Watershed-wide implementation tables were created for actions within the Capital Improvement Projects, Regulatory, Outreach, and Data Collection and Monitoring implementation programs.
  - The Plan leverages PTMApp to target the most effective conservation practices to the most effective places. PTMApp provides information about where new conservation practices are feasible, how much implementation will cost, what the estimated water quality benefit is, and how much progress implementation of that action can make toward goals.
  - The Plan recognizes three funding levels for implementation. Level 1 Current Funding, Level 2 Current Funding + WBIF, and Level 3 Partner and Other Funding. Actions pursued under Funding Level 2 are the focus of the Plan and have an estimated annual cost of \$3.1 million.
7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On August 3, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Committee Neil Peterson, Ron Staples, Gerald Van Amburg, Todd Holman, LeRoy Ose, Kurt Beckstrom, Jeff Berg, Theresa Ebbenga, and Theresa Haugen. Board staff in attendance were Northern Regional Manager Ryan Hughes, and Clean Water Specialist Henry Van Offelen. The representatives from the Partnership were Nicole Bernd, West Polk SWCD, and Mori Maher, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee’s decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 25, 2032.

## 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 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers 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 Resolution #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 and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed, dated 2022-2032.

Dated at East Grand Forks, Minnesota, this twenty-fifth of August, 2022.

### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

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BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

August 25, 2022

Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Planning Partnership  
c/o Katrina Haugen, Administrative Assistant  
453 North McKinley St  
Warren, MN 56762

**RE: Approval of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan**

Dear Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Planning Partnership:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on August 25, 2022. 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 August 25, 2032. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the Partnership, and for participating in the 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 Matt Fischer of our staff at 218-766-6496 or [matt.fischer@state.mn.us](mailto:matt.fischer@state.mn.us) for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

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

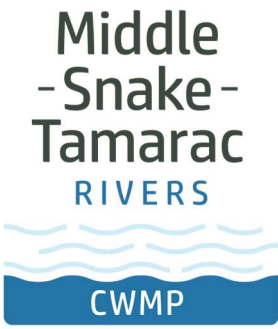
Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Listed on next page.

CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)  
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)  
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)  
Dan Disrud, MDH (via email)  
Stephanie Klamm, DNR (via email)  
Nathan Kestner, DNR (via email)  
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)  
Danielle Kvasager, MPCA (via email)  
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)  
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)  
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)  
Matt Fischer, BWSR (via email)  
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)  
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)

*Equal Opportunity Employer*



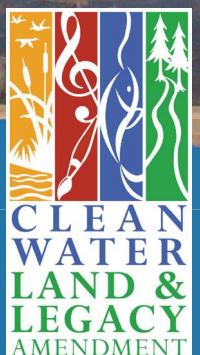


# Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



2022-2032

Funded by:





# Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

## Acknowledgements

### Local Planning Partners

Marshall County  
Marshall Soil and Water Conservation District  
Polk County  
West Polk Soil and Water Conservation District  
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District

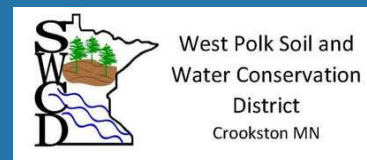
### Advisory Committee

Pennington SWCD  
Kittson SWCD  
United States Fish and Wildlife Service  
Natural Resource Conservation Service  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Marshall/ Polk Rural Water  
Minnesota Department of Transportation  
American Crystal Sugar  
Local Agronomists  
Misselhorn Tiling & Exc.

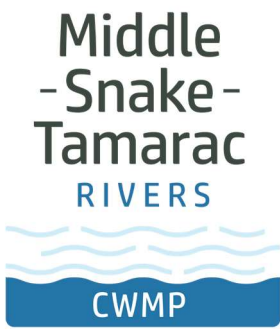
### Contributors

Red River Valley Conservation Service Area

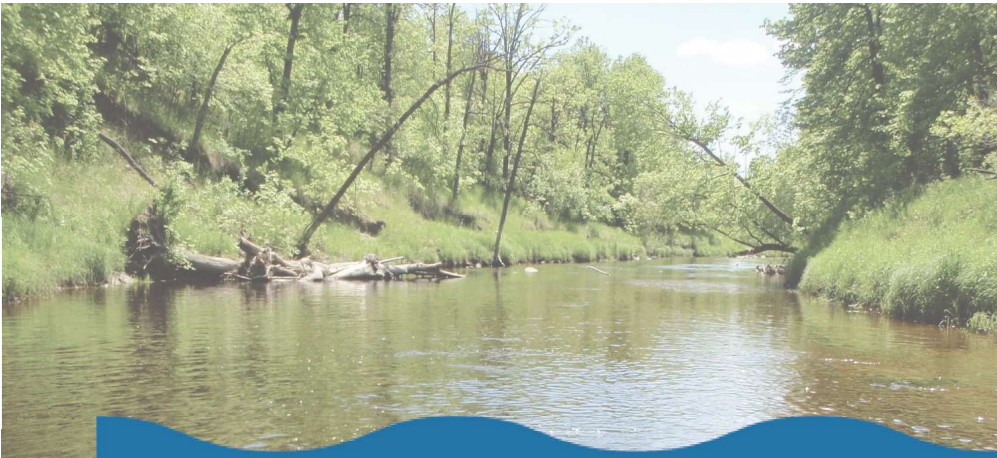
**Created in Collaboration With**  
Houston Engineering, Inc.



*Funding provided from the Clean Water Fund as part of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment.*



# Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



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Appendix D - Public Survey Results

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Appendix G - Local Rules, Ordinances, and Statutes

Appendix H - Local Funding Authorities

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## Plan Acronyms

1W1P	One Watershed, One Plan
ASR	Aquifer Storage and Recovery
BMP	Best Management Practice
BWSR	Board of Water and Soil Resources
CEC	Contaminant of Emerging Concern
CIP	Capital Improvement Project
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSG	Cooperative Stream Gaging
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
CWF	Clean Water Fund
CWMP	Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
DNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DWSMA	Drinking Water Supply Management Area
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentive Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
GAM	Grants Administration Manual
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
IGRAC	International Groundwater Resources Assessment Centre
IWI	International Water Institute
LGU	Local Government Unit
LSOHC	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council
LTFS	Long Term Flood Solutions
MBS	Minnesota Biological Survey
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRWA	Minnesota Rural Water Association
MSTR	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers
MSTRWD	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWS	National Weather Survey
PFA	Public Facilities Authority



# Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

PFAS	Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances
PPCP	Pharmaceuticals and personal care products
PTMApp	Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application
RCPP	Regional Conservation Partnership Program
RIM	Reinvest in Minnesota
RRBC	Red River Basin Commission
RRMB	Red River Management Board
RRRA	Red River Retention Authority
RRVCSA	Red River Valley Conservation Service Area
RRWMB	Red River of the North Watershed Management Board
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment System
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
T&E	Threatened and Endangered
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TP	Total Phosphorus
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
VOC	Volatile Organic Compound
WBIF	Watershed-based Implementation Funding
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WD	Watershed District
WMA	Wildlife Management Area
WMD	Watershed Management District
WPLMN	Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network
WPP	Wellhead Protection Plan
WRAPS	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Reports
WRP	Wetlands Reserve Program
WWTF	Wastewater Treatment Facilities



Middle  
-Snake-  
Tamarac  
RIVERS



# Executive Summary





# 1. Executive Summary



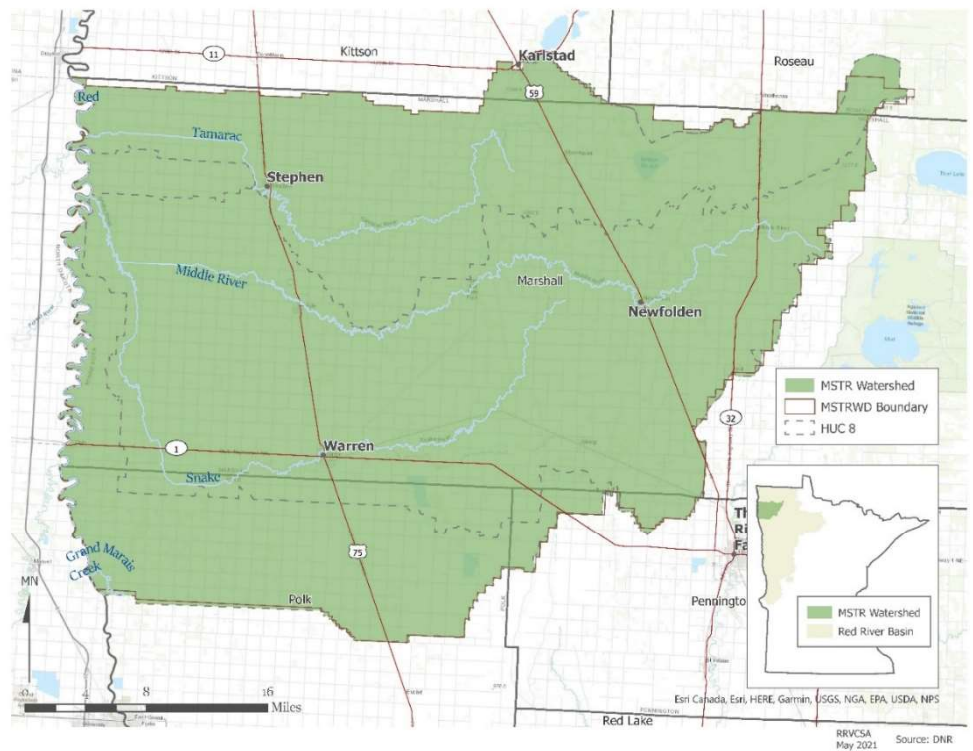
Beginning 10,000 years ago, the retreat of Glacial Lake Agassiz created the fertile soils, beach ridges, and great plains that define the Red River Basin. As part of the Red River Basin, the Middle, Snake, and Tamarac Rivers drain an agricultural landscape that is home to approximately 9,500 residents (United States Census, 2019).

Because water flowing over the landscape is blind to political boundaries, recent resource management approaches aim to manage land and water according to watershed boundaries rather than political ones. A watershed “contains all the land and water features that drain excess surface water to a specific location on the landscape” (DNR, 2021a). The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers (MSTR) Watershed planning area is unique, as it includes all or portions of three major (HUC-8) watersheds:

- The Snake River Watershed - Red River Basin,
- Part of the Red River of the North - Tamarac River Watershed, and
- Part of the Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek Watershed

The MSTR Watershed planning boundary (**Figure 1-1**) nearly aligns with that of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD). The MSTR Watershed encompasses 1,476 square miles (944,640 acres) of land on the Minnesota side of the Red River Basin. Three major rivers, the Tamarac, Middle, and Snake, drain waters within the MSTR Watershed west to the Red River of the North. Counties in the watershed include Marshall, Polk, Kittson, Pennington, and Roseau. Primary towns include Alvarado, Argyle, Holt, Middle River, Newfolden, Oslo, Stephen, Strandquist, Viking, and Warren.

The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) was developed in 2020-2022 through the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Statutes §103B.801. The purpose of this plan is to guide watershed managers (local counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts [SWCDs], and the MSTRWD) as they work with landowners and communities to protect and restore the watershed’s resources.



**Figure 1-1: The Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed**

## Committees Serving the Plan

**During the Planning Process...**



The MSTR 1W1P planning process began with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) (**Appendix A**) between participating governmental entities in the watershed, including:

- Marshall County and Marshall County SWCD,
- Polk County and West Polk County SWCD, and
- the MSTRWD.

Three planning committees served the development of this plan: The Steering Committee, the Advisory Committee, and the Policy Committee (**Figure 1-2**). The Policy Committee, made up of one representative from each entity in the MOA, formed the decision-making body for this plan. The Steering Committee consisted of local staff from each of the entities in the MOA and generated the content in this plan. The Advisory Committee consisted of state agencies and local stakeholders and contributed to plan content in an advisory role. More information about committee roles and responsibilities during the planning process can be found in **Appendix B**.

**During Plan Implementation...**



The entities implementing this CWMP are collectively known as the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed Partnership (Partnership). The Steering and Advisory Committees of the planning process were consolidated for purposes of plan implementation. The Policy Committee continues to function as the decision-making body of plan implementation, with roles summarized in **Figure 1-2** and expanded on in **Section 7- Plan Administration and Coordination**. Successful implementation will depend on continuing and building partnerships in the watershed with landowners, planning partners, state agencies, and organizations.

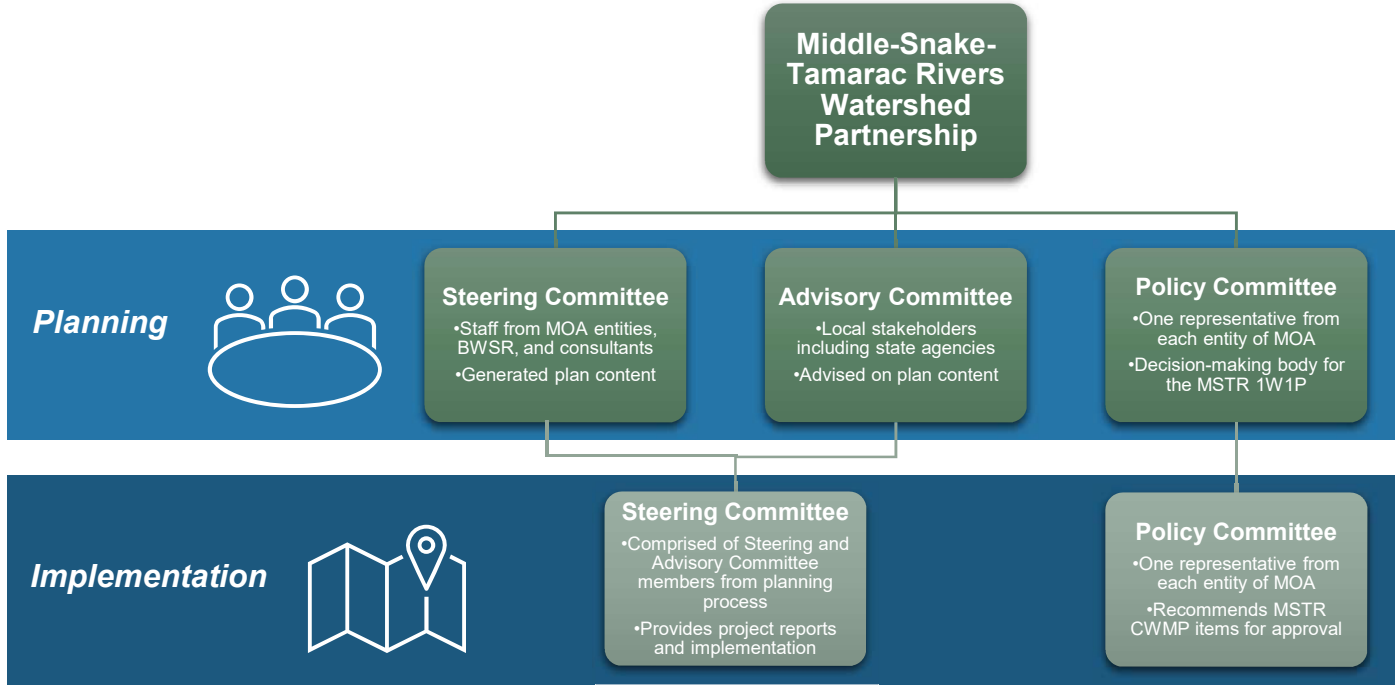


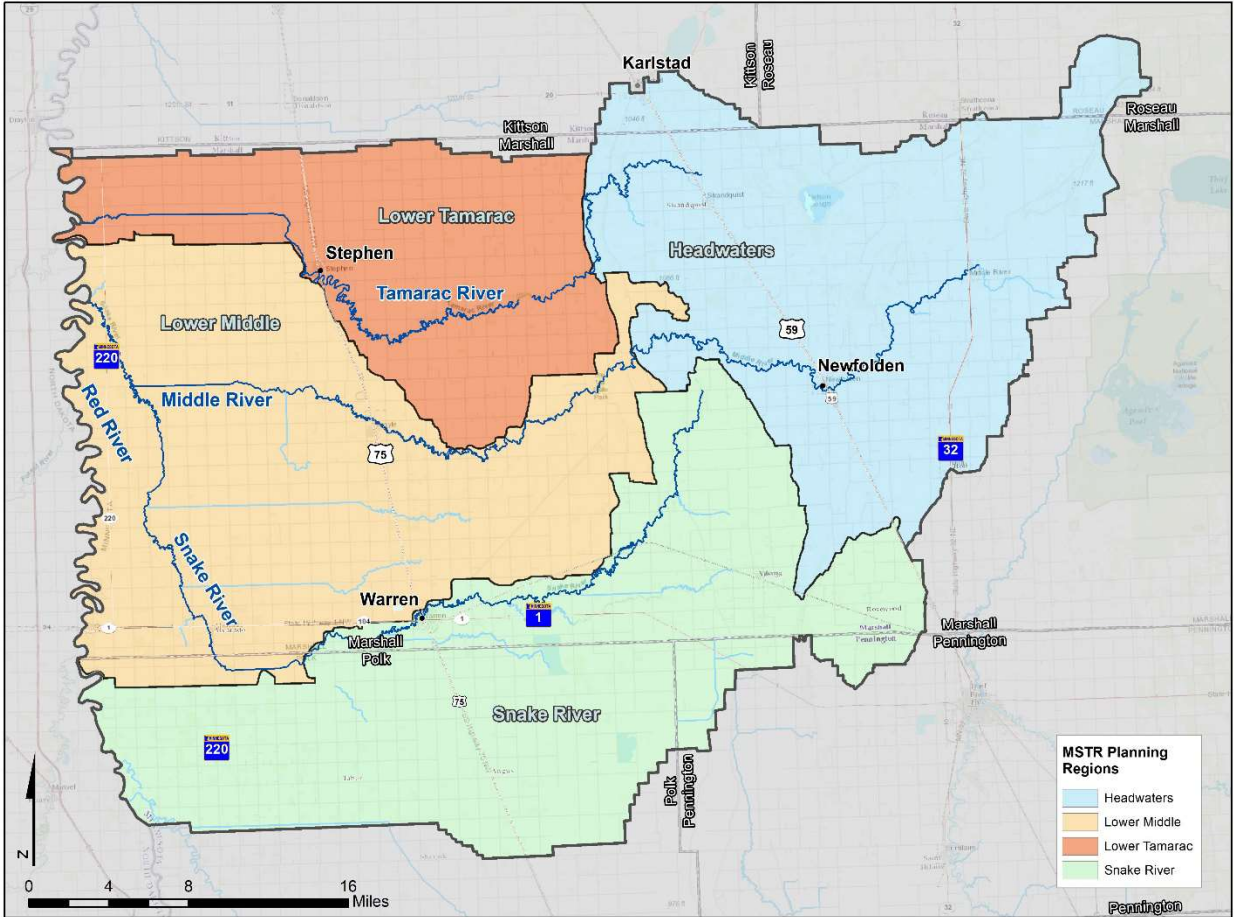
Figure 1-2: Local committee roles for planning and implementing the MSTR CWMP

# Planning Regions

The topography, soils, and land use patterns of the MSTR Watershed change as one moves from the lake basin region in the west up into the higher headwaters region to the east. As such, resources and the issues impacting them also change from west to east. To accommodate this, four smaller planning regions were defined to focus planning on specific issues impacting specific regions of the watershed (**Figure 1-3**). These regions were defined based on land use, hydrology, geology, and vegetation. They provide the framework for this CWMP on how issues are identified and prioritized.

1. **Headwaters:** The Headwaters Planning Region contains natural areas and streams, beach ridges, and prairie. Here, management is focused on surface water storage and protection for water quality and flood control.
2. **Lower Tamarac:** The Lower Tamarac Planning Region is largely agricultural and channelized. Management focus here is centered on drainage and sediment reduction.
3. **Lower Middle:** Like the Lower Tamarac, management efforts in the Lower Middle Planning Region focuses on drainage and sediment reduction.
4. **Snake River:** The Snake River Planning Region has some beach ridges, which are prime locations for the preservation of prairie remnants. Here, management focus combines that of the Headwaters and Lower Middle and Tamarac Planning Regions.

More information about natural resources within the MSTR Watershed can be found in **Section 2- Land and Water Resources Narrative**.



**Figure 1-3: Planning regions in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed**



## Community Engagement and Issue Prioritization

Feedback from the public is critical in creating a plan that reflects the community it serves. As such, the Partnership started the planning process with a public meeting to hear from the residents about the resources and issues important to them. A survey was provided in-person for meeting attendees and was available online for those who could not attend the event.



After review and consolidation of public feedback, local water plans and studies, 1W1P notification responses, and committee input, **17 issues** were identified in the MSTR Watershed. For ease, planning partners organized issues into one of four resource categories:



**Groundwater**



**Surface Water**



**Land Stewardship**



**Habitat**

Because not all issues can be addressed in a 10-year plan, issues are prioritized to focus time, energy, and funding during implementation. Members of the Steering and Advisory Committees used input from the public meeting to prioritize issues by planning region. Other considerations included the location of water quality impairments, groundwater monitoring results, land use data, and existing local capacity. Each issue was categorized as either a Priority A, B, or C. Priority A and B issues are the focus of this CWMP and are detailed on the following pages and in **Section 3- Priority Issues**.

### Plan Issues and Why They Matter



#### Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction

Flooding is a prominent issue in the watershed, impacting safety and crop productivity. Adding storage to the landscape in the form of retention basins or wetlands and maintaining drainage systems can help mediate these issues.



#### Habitat

In-stream, riparian, upland, and wetland habitat can provide numerous benefits including filtering pollutants, storing flood waters, and providing recreation such as fishing and hunting.



#### Erosion

Erosion is a natural process that humans have amplified by altering the landscape. Reducing erosion helps keep healthy soils in place, improves water quality and habitat, and decreases the need for drinking water treatment.



#### Phosphorus

Phosphorus is the main nutrient that feeds plants and algae in lakes and streams. Excess amounts of it causes harmful algae to grow and cuts off oxygen to other aquatic species.



#### Groundwater Quantity and Quality

Groundwater and surface water are connected so when contaminants end up in one, they can travel to the other. All drinking water in the MSTR comes from groundwater, so keeping it clean and conserving supplies improves health and reduces costs.













#### Bacteria (specifically *Escherichia coli*, or *E. coli*)

*E. coli* in water comes from human and animal fecal matter, which can cause illness. Preventing fecal contamination allows us to swim and eat from our local streams.

## Priority A Issues

These issues are the highest priority in this CWMP and are the focus of initial implementation efforts. They have priority resources, goals, and actions assigned to them.

 = High Priority  = Medium Priority  = Low Priority









Category	Impacted Resource	Issue Statement	Planning Region Priority
	Streams, Drainage Systems	Upland erosion and runoff from non-point sources delivering <b>excess sediment</b> to drainage systems and streams	
	Streams	Streambank and <b>in-channel erosion and channel instability</b> impacting water quality and habitat	
	Drainage Systems	<b>Drainage system</b> instability and inadequacy, and need for <b>management and maintenance</b>	
	Agricultural Land	Inadequate <b>drainage of agricultural lands</b> impacting crop productivity	
	Land	Economic and ecological impacts of <b>flooding</b> on the landscape	



## Priority B Issues

Priority B Issues are shown below in no order of priority. These issues will be addressed during implementation and have priority resources, goals, and actions assigned to them.

 = High Priority     = Medium Priority     = Low Priority

Category	Impacted Resource	Issue Statement	Planning Region Priority
	Drinking Water Quality	Contaminants in <b>groundwater</b>	
	Groundwater Supplies	Protection of shallow and deep <b>groundwater supplies</b> from overuse and loss of recharge	
	Streams	<b>Excess bacteria</b> (specifically <i>Escherichia coli</i> , or <i>E. coli</i> ) due to fecal contamination impacting safe access to surface waters	
	Streams and Reservoirs	Increased <b>phosphorus loading</b> from non-point sources causing algal blooms, impacting aquatic life and recreation	

Planning Region Priority

Issue Statement

Impacted Resource

Category



Streams

**Altered hydrology and inconsistent flow** impacting geomorphology and aquatic life



Agricultural Land

Decreased **soil health** and wind erosion and its impact on productivity



Wetlands, Prairie, Wooded Areas

Loss of **upland and wetland habitat** impacting species richness and diversity, water storage, and water quality



Riparian Habitat

Loss of **riparian habitat and inadequate buffer areas**



Executive Summary

Land and Resources Narrative

Priority Issues

Measurable Goals

Targeted Implementation

Plan Implementation Programs

Plan Administration and Coordination

## Measurable Goals

Good resource management – and the ability to demonstrate progress– relies on setting measurable goals for locally important issues and resources. Measurable goals in this plan establish a desired future condition (long-term goal) and what is feasible to achieve in a 10-year timeframe (short-term goal) in terms of specific, measurable outcomes.

In this plan, nine goals address the 13 Priority A or B issues. Because strategies to address issues can be similar, some goals address multiple issues. Multiple datasets and models were used to determine goals and to target where practices would be most effective.

The Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) is a geographic information system (GIS) tool that was used to identify the types and locations of practices that would be most effective as well as the benefits that could be expected in the course of 10 years of plan implementation. PTMApp was used to define realistic short-term goals for issues related to excess sediment, soil health, phosphorus loading, and altered hydrology and flooding. Local experts familiar with the landscape and problem areas identified priority streams and drainage systems to address for the stream stability / riparian habitat and drainage systems goals. The groundwater goal was informed by datasets from the State of Minnesota that locate areas sensitive to groundwater contamination and recharge. The *Minnesota Prairie Conservation Plan* (DNR, 2018) was developed to prescribe management strategies for prairies and wetlands in the region and was used to determine the upland and wetland habitat goal. Both the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports were utilized to identify water quality impairments in the MSTR Watershed, including for *E. coli*, phosphorus, and sediment.

**Table 1-1** shows a summary of the goals established by this CWMP, as well as some of the actions that will address each goal based on watershed need and funding. Example of actions include best management practices (BMPs), projects, educational or regulatory measures, or data collection that helps to address watershed concerns in an efficient and cost-effective manner. The Partnership will work collaboratively with local agencies, organizations, residents, and landowners to implement these actions over the next 10 years.

**Example Measurable Goal:**

### Soil Health

**Short-Term Goal:**  
New soil health practices are implemented on 9,600 farmed acres in the watershed over the ten-year plan

- Metric: Acres of soil health practices implemented

**Long-Term Goal:**  
Soil health practices are implemented in all critical soil loss areas to promote productivity and prevent wind erosion.

**What Can Be Done?**

























- Cover crops
- Reduced tillage
- Tree planting and windbreaks
- Regenerative farming and carbon credits































Table 1-1: Plan goals, issues, and actions within the MSTR Watershed

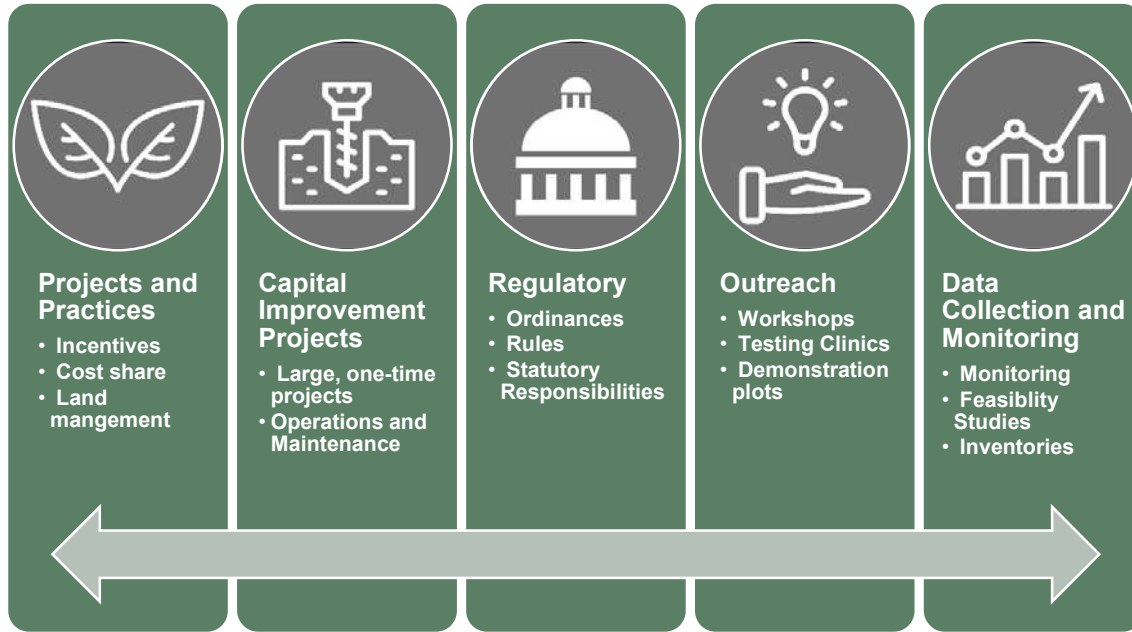
Goal Category	Short-Term Goal	Resource	Priority Issue Statement	Example Actions
<b>Excess Sediment</b>	Overland runoff sediment loading is <b>reduced by 11%</b> watershed-wide.		Upland erosion and runoff from nonpoint sources delivering <b>excess sediment</b> to drainage systems and streams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Grade stabilizations and side water inlets</li> <li> Infiltration basins</li> <li> Cover crops</li> <li> Reduced till</li> </ul>
<b>Stream Stability and Riparian Habitat</b>	<b>Stabilize:</b> 15 miles of prioritized channels are stabilized		Streambank and <b>in-channel erosion and channel instability</b> impacting water quality and habitat	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Channel restoration</li> <li> Bank stabilization</li> <li> Buffer installation/expansion</li> </ul>
	<b>Enhance:</b> 20 miles of prioritized channels are enhanced		Loss of <b>riparian habitat and inadequate buffer areas</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Process to prioritize stream reaches</li> </ul>
<b>Drainage Systems</b>	<b>Stabilize or Repair:</b> 20 miles of prioritized drainage systems are stabilized or repaired		<b>Drainage system</b> instability and inadequacy, and need for <b>management and maintenance</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Large repairs and stabilization</li> <li> Rock structures</li> <li> Culvert replacement</li> </ul>
	<b>Enhance:</b> 27 miles of prioritized drainage systems are enhanced		Inadequate <b>drainage of agricultural lands</b> impacting crop productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Debris removal</li> <li> Multipurpose drainage management</li> </ul>
<b>Altered Hydrology and Flood Damage Reduction</b>	Attain <b>12,660 acre-feet of additional water storage</b> to make 7% progress toward goals established by the RRBC LTFS Basin-Wide Flow Reduction Strategy		<b>Altered hydrology and inconsistent flow</b> impacting geomorphology and aquatic life	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Capital Improvement Projects (impoundments)</li> <li> Grade stabilization</li> <li> Wetland restoration</li> </ul>
			Economic and ecological impacts of <b>flooding</b> on the landscape	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Agricultural levee maintenance</li> </ul>



Goal Category	Short-Term Goal	Resource	Priority Issue Statement	Example Actions
Groundwater	On average, <b>10 unused wells are sealed per year</b> , prioritizing locations near Drinking Water Supply Management Areas		Contaminants in <b>groundwater</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Drought contingency plan</li> <li> Sealing abandoned wells</li> </ul>
	A <b>drought plan or research plan is developed</b> for the planning area		Protection of shallow and deep <b>groundwater supplies</b> from overuse and loss of recharge	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Prioritize outreach for CRP in recharge areas</li> <li> Well testing clinics</li> </ul>
Excess Bacteria ( <i>E.coli</i> )	Implement <b>eight E. coli/fecal contamination management projects</b> at locations identified as likely sources of impairments		<b>Excess bacteria (specifically E. coli due to fecal contamination)</b> impacting safe access to surface waters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Cattle fencing</li> <li> Manure management</li> <li> Upgrade septic systems</li> <li> Updating small municipal wastewater systems</li> </ul>
Phosphorus Loading	Overland phosphorus loading is <b>reduced by 7%</b> watershed-wide		Increased <b>phosphorus loading</b> from non-point sources causing algal blooms, impacting aquatic life and recreation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Infiltration basins</li> <li> Cover crops</li> <li> Reduced tillage</li> <li> Nutrient management</li> </ul>
Soil Health	New soil health practices are implemented on <b>9,600 farmed acres</b> in the watershed over the ten-year plan		Decreased <b>soil health</b> and wind erosion and its impact on productivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Reduced tillage</li> <li> Tree planting</li> <li> Regenerative farming and carbon credits</li> </ul>
Upland and Wetland Habitat	<b>2,150 acres of expired land</b> remain in protection programs using incentives, focusing outreach efforts within the Prairie Core and Corridor areas		Loss of <b>upland and wetland habitat</b> impacting species richness and diversity, water storage, and water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Maintenance and management of invasive species</li> <li> Perennial cover</li> <li> Wetland banking</li> </ul>

## Targeting Implementation

As part of the 1W1P process, the planning partners devised a series of Action Tables that outline each action that will be taken to address issues in the watershed, where and when actions will be targeted, how those actions will be measured, and how much it will cost. Action Tables can be found in **Section 5 – Targeted Implementation**. Similar types of actions are grouped into one of five implementation programs, as shown in **Figure 1-4**, and described in **Section 6 – Plan Implementation Programs**.

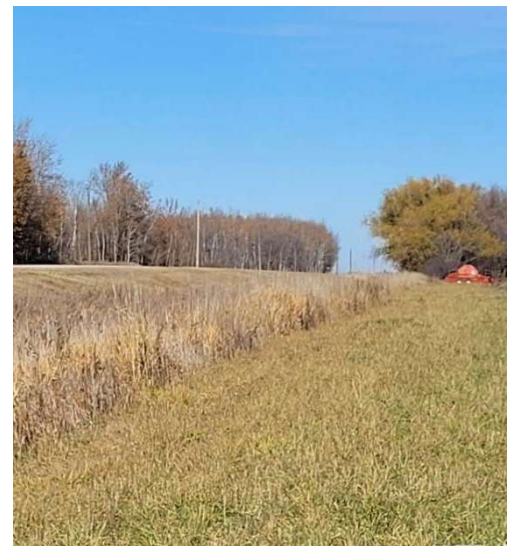


**Figure 1-4: Implementation Programs for the MSTR CWMP**

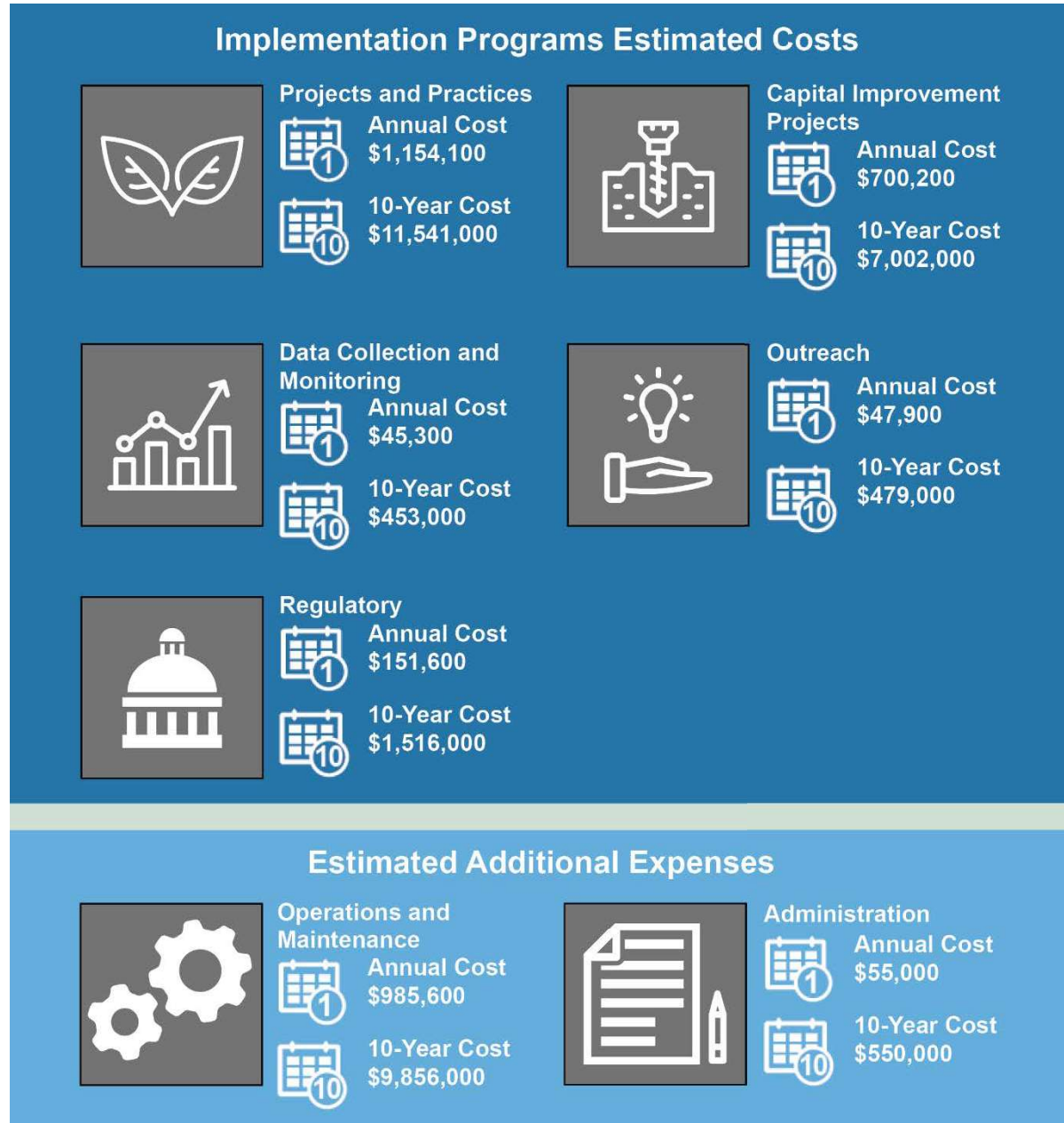
This plan will be implemented to the degree that additional funding is acquired, and at a locally determined pace of progress. Outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation of plan actions on private lands.

Partners established three Funding Levels to estimate allocations to each implementation program and associated actions:

- **Funding Level 1 (Current Funding):** Assumes plan funding is similar in magnitude to current funding focused on water issues within the plan area.
- **Funding Level 2 (Current + Watershed Based Implementation Funding [WBIF]):** This level assumes plan funding is like current funding focused on water issues within the plan area (Level 1), plus an additional \$1,100,000 per biennium (or \$550,000/year) from WBIF dollars.
- **Funding Level 3: (Partner and Other Funding):** This funding level recognizes that there are other organizations and agencies doing work in the watershed that can help make progress towards plan goals. This level contains additional implementation activities identified during the plan development process that are the responsibility of agencies and organizations better suited in the watershed.



Throughout implementation of the MSTR CWMP, the Partnership expects to operate at Level 2 funding. **Figure 1-5** shows the estimated costs for implementing actions in the plan for Level 2 (Current Funding + WBIF). Costs are also included for the operations and maintenance of waterways at or near their current levels, for regulatory actions, and for plan administration and administrative costs related to implementation. This plan assumes local, state, and/or federal fiscal support remains unchanged.



**Figure 1-5: Plan budget for Funding Level 2 to implement the MSTR CWMP**