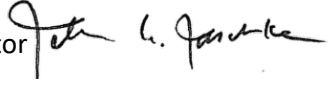


DATE: October 18, 2023

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – October 26, 2022

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, October 26, 2022, beginning at 11:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower-level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by Microsoft Teams. Access to the MPCA/BWSR office is limited. Individuals interested in attending the meeting should do so by either 1) [Click here to join the meeting](#) or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 651-395-7448 and entering the conference ID: 146 109 792#.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP)** – Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. This costshare grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria** – The Legislature appropriated \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund “for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.” The two fiscal year appropriations are combined for this RFP. The Grants Program and Policy Committee recommended the policy and RFP criteria at their meeting on October 24. **DECISION ITEM**

Central Region Committee

1. **Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan** – The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) has been effectively addressing its water resources needs within the watershed and has reduced its waterbodies impaired for nutrients to one. The proposed BDWMO plan continues that success through its partnerships with member cities, Dakota County and Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District. The Plan clearly identifies their focused efforts for the next ten years within the 26 square mile metro watershed. **DECISION ITEM**

Northern Region Committee

1. **Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Clearwater River watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2020. The watershed partnership Policy Committee and Advisory Committee members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on September 27, 2022, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on October 5, 2022, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee unanimously recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Long Prairie River 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 Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on September 23, 2022, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on October 5, 2022, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation. The Committee unanimously 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 October 26.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2022**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

11:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 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 members or staff before any vote.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

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

Northern Region Committee

1. Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Neil Peterson, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Todd Holman, Chris Pence, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 15, 2022 in St. Paul and virtually.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2022**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kurt Beckstrom, Carly Johnson, Neil Peterson, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Peder Kjeseth, MDA; Mark Wettlaufer, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR; John Bilotta, University of Minnesota Extension

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: LeRoy Ose

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, John Voz, Annie Felix-Gerth, Jed Chesnut, Jenny Gieseke, Dave Copeland, Ashley Rezachek, Rita Weaver, Les Lemm, Lindberg Ekola, Suzanne Rhees, Dan Shaw, Dave Weirens, Ryan Hughes, Justin Hanson, Marcey Westrick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Brian Martinson, AMC; Jan Voit, MAWD; Oliver Larson, Attorney General; Jamie Beyer, Paul Gardner, Ryan Malterud, Alex Trunnell, Lucas Sjostrom

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**** 22-39** **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Kurt Beckstrom, seconded by Ted Winter, to adopt the agenda as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**** 22-40** **MINUTES OF AUGUST 25, 2022 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Kelly Kirkpatrick, to approve the minutes of August 25, 2022, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No Members of the public provided comments to the board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Les Lemm introduced Jed Chestnut, Wetland Specialist. Lucy Dahl introduced Brittany Polzin, Easement Acquisition Specialist Sr. Jenny Gieseke introduced Ashley Rezachek, Communication Specialist.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

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

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported he attend the EQB meeting on September 21 where the agenda had several updates related to Minnesota’s Climate Action Framework and the Implementation to the 2020 State Water Plan. Suzanne Rhees from BWSR explained the goals and priorities of the Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program, and how it is integral to the 2020 Water Plan. Paul Gardner, Administrator of the Clean Water Council, provided an update on the Clean Water Fund. Chair Van Amburg stated in 2023 it’s the 50th Anniversary of the Minnesota Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke reviewed the Day of Packet that included updated documents prepared for the board, an updated organizational chart, and Snapshots.

John stated there have been Fall meetings that will continue into November. Stated there has also been some tours.

Stated they are working on the Governors budget proposals, and policy items. The Clean Water Council has met and has published their preliminary recommendations. The Outdoor Heritage Council is holding hearings right now on their annual proposals. LCCMR is also working on their recommendations.

Rich Sve asked when the Outdoor Heritage Council meetings are. John stated dates are available on their website.

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

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently five appeals pending. There has been one new appeal filed since last report. Stated it involves a property in Isanti County and that the appeal has been dismissed. The appeal period for the restoration order was part of this dispute and has expired. There was no evidence of a new restoration order or Local Unit of Government decision having been issued.

File 21-4 (10-26-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Morrison County. Staff have been working with the individual on a restoration plan for over a year and it has now been completed.

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 was before the Dispute Resolution Committee at the end of August and the Committee's recommendation will be presented to the board later in the agenda.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported they discussed the Clean Water Legacy Partnership Program at their committee meeting and had a good discussion. They will be bringing this item to the to the next board meeting.

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) – Neil Peterson and Tom Gile reported they met on September 8th. They reviewed components of the Drainage Registry bill that was introduced last session. Stated they had conversations around what documentation is appropriate to support and demonstrate that a drainage project is completing everything needed for environmental considerations. Stated they briefly discussed the history and background of the Drainage Work Group Membership and decision-making structure.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Peder Kjeseth reported last session Legislature approved \$500,000 for a new grants program called Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program. It will be housed in their Certification Program and they hope to have it up and running by February 2023.

Minnesota Department of Health – No report was provided.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported the Governor was in Moorhead last Friday where he proclaimed Hunting and Fishing Day in Minnesota.

Stated they are working on putting together legislative proposals aimed at policy initiatives and budget. They are also looking forward to a conversation with the Drainage Work Group about the drainage registry and early drainage coordination. They are going to continue looking at proposals related to Climate Action Framework. Stated they are going to explore the use and application of their fees. They are also going to look at ways to increase opportunities for direct support.

Joe Collins commented that the bonding bill didn't pass last year, which would have been more money to Minnesota.

Jill Crafton asked if there are ways to partner in the forestry restoration program. Commissioner Strommen stated there's a lot of conversation and partnerships they could have but need to make sure they get the funding to implement it.

Mark Zabel asked if there have been any communications to remove deer from around feeding stations. Commissioner Strommen stated they are doing a lot in preparation for the upcoming season to talk about expanded feeding bands and attractants during the hunting season, along with requirements and opportunities for voluntary testing.

Mark Zabel asked if fees are allocated to the specific program. Commissioner Strommen stated those fees must go towards those programs.

Board Members discussed matching funds.

Neil Peterson left the meeting at 10:33 a.m.

Minnesota Extension – John Bilotta stated he is the Senior Research and Extension Coordinator at the Water Resources Center and is stepping in as the Minnesota Extension Representative. Stated two of their largest Extension events are coming up. Next week there will be an internal event where all of Extension will gather in Duluth. October 18-19 is the Water Resources Conference. Stated they are hiring two new staff to help with Septic Training for Professionals. John stated Marcel Lewandowski, the lead in the Soil Health Program will sit in on Board meetings when he is not available.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler reported the Climate Action Framework was released on September 16 after 18 months of work and is a big milestone for the State.

Jill Crafton asked where the emphasis is in the water storage area. John Jaschke stated there are local watershed plans with those details.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported AMC Fall Policy Conference was held to prepare for the 2023 Legislative Session. Stated among the five Policy Committees, 19 priorities were identified for the upcoming year and will go to the Membership and the AMC Board for consideration in developing AMC's overall 2023 priorities. The Environment Committee identified three priorities to forward to the Membership and Board. Brian stated there is an item from the Transportation Policy Committee to receive bonding dollars for transportation related programs that includes the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program. Stated there is a continued interest in 404 Assumption. There is also interest in discussing and taking a further look at increases for the Natural Resources Block Grants. Planning and Zoning Administrators are interested in working with the State and other invasive stakeholders on how state and local funds are used. Brian stated County Commissioners will continue to be interested in allowing for the establishment of conservation easements including wetland banks, carbon credits, and ecosystem services on certain tax forfeited properties. They will be holding district meetings over a three-week period in October and final decisions will be made at their annual meeting in December.

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 district meetings were held in August throughout the state. In October and November, the Minnesota Association of Townships will be on the road with local trainings. The annual meeting is in October being held in St. Cloud. Township Tuesday conference calls are on the first and third Tuesday of the month. In 2023 they will have a Day at the Capital, short courses, District Lobby Days, a town law review, more training, and an annual conference.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Jan Voit reported they have been working to provide better communication. Leadership updates were sent to members and state agencies in late August. They will be redesigning their website over the next few months and newsletters will be widely distributed and posted on their website. The Events Committee met in September to review abstracts for their annual conference. They are planning preconference workshops for drainage and for training watershed managers that will be held in conjunction with the annual conference. Their Legislative Committee is meeting to develop a preliminary legislative platform. Resolutions Committee will be meeting on October 11. Stated they have been working on putting together a preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 23. Stated the Red River Partner’s tour was a great success, and the planning team was great to work with. Their Annual conference is being held in person December 1-3 at Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report provided.

Chair Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 11:06 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:15 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dispute Resolution Committee

WCA Appeal File 21-1 of a Notice of Decision for a No-Loss -Kittson County – Rich Sve, Oliver Larson, and Travis Germundson presented WCA Appeal File 21-1 of a Notice of Decision for a No-Loss -Kittson County.

The appeal was brought before BWSR on August 16, 2021, from Steve Anderson with Anderson Law Group PLLC on behalf of Glenn Brazier to appeal a WCA Notice of Decision involving property located in Kittson County. A WCA Restoration Order was issued previously for the property that identified three areas of impact to wetland associated with the excavation of a ditch, construction of a road, and placement of other fill material for amusement rides. The October 15, 2019 Restoration Order was not appealed. The application for a no-loss and notice of decision is only associated with the activity/impact of excavation of material in a wetland. It does not address the other impacts identified in the Restoration Order. Impacts associated with the project also occurred on an adjacent Public Water Wetland that will need to be addressed separately through the Department of Natural Resources.

The Dispute Resolution Committee heard oral arguments from the parties to the appeal on August 31, 2022. After review of the record, written briefs, and oral arguments, unanimously voted to recommend that the appeal be denied and the LGU decision affirmed. A second motion was made on the request for additional evidence to be included in the record. That motion carried to accept the additional information as part of the record with the caveat that it’s not relative to the decision.

Rich Sve thanked everyone for their work. Travis Germundson and Chair Van Amburg also thanked those for their work on this process.

**
22-41 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Joe Collins to approve the WCA Appeal File 21-1 of a Notice of Decision for a No-Loss -Kittson County. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match! Project Partner Grants and Agreements – Lindberg Ekola and Ryan Hughes presented Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match! Project Partner Grants and Agreements.

BWSR applied for and received \$3,318,000 in funding from the Environmental Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) to accelerate tree planting on privately owned lands for water-quality protection and carbon sequestration. This project will be completed in partnership with soil and water conservation districts, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe, and the Department of Natural Resources.

Chair Van Amburg asked about the species composition they talk about. Lindberg stated they are promoting a diverse set of tree species appropriate to the landscape in which they're being planted. A part of how they develop the landscape stewardship plans that provide vegetation guidance comes from the Minnesota Forest Resource Council Landscape Plans.

Mark Zabel stated there was conversation within the Committee on the choice of species that would be appropriate for climate adaptation.

**
22-42 Jaschke noted that no members had a conflict of interest noted on the forms submitted, virtual participants will note any conflict orally. Moved by Mark Zabel, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match! Project Partner Grants and Agreements. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

NEW BUSINESS

2023 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule – John Jaschke presented 2023 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule.

Meeting dates are being proposed for board meetings in 2023. Most meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The proposed calendar has meetings held in the same months as the 2022 calendar.

John proposed to hold our next board meeting in October virtually and to be shortened due to BWSR Academy taking place at the same time. The meeting would be from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. with only Committee items being presented.

**
22-43 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the 2023 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

BWSR Climate Change Trends and Action Plan – Suzanne Rhees and Dan Shaw presented BWSR Climate Change Trends and Action Plan.

The first version of this plan was published in 2013 and updated in 2016 and 2019. This 2022 report summarizes the climate-related benefits of BWSR programs, both for mitigation and adaptation to climate change trends, and estimates the greenhouse gas emission reduction benefits of conservation practices that BWSR programs support (grant, cost-share and easement programs).

Joe Collins stated they use modeling based on ATLAS 14 and asked if that is predictive enough. Suzanne stated they have been starting to get funds lined up to update ATLAS 14 which is out of date. Her understanding is that it is not sufficiently predictive but to look for it in the future. Commissioner Kessler stated the bipartisan infrastructure law comes with money that will be used to update ATLAS 14.

Ted Winter asked what ATLAS 14 is. John Jaschke stated it's a federal sanctioned technical document that predicts how much run off to expect in various landscapes across the country and predicts the frequency of those expected rainfall and run off events.

Jill Crafton asked when we're trying to reduce greenhouse gasses, are we talking about carbon and why aren't we measuring soil organic matter or something else. Suzanne stated organic carbon is one indicator of how much carbon is being stored in the soil. It doesn't directly translate to greenhouse gas reduction. Suzanne stated she will share a link for a report from the Environmental Defense Fund, State of Science: Cropland Soil Carbon Sequestration.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on October 5, 2022 in Detroit Lakes.
- Central Region Committee meeting is scheduled for 2:00 PM on October 6, 2022 in St. Paul and through Microsoft Teams.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for 8:30 AM on October 24, 2022 in St. Paul and through Microsoft Teams.
- Next BWSR meeting is tentatively scheduled for 11:00 AM, October 26, 2022 through Microsoft Teams.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Wetland Conservation Act Appeals/Buffer Compliance

Section/Region: Central

Contact: Travis Germundson

Prepared by: Travis Germundson

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Rich Sve DRC Chair/Travis Germundson

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report.

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

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and summary on buffer compliance/enforcement actions statewide.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

October 11, 2022

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **three** appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been **no** new appeals filed since last report.

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

File 21-9 (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. The 60-day deadline for remand proceedings has been extended.*

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. The 60-day deadline for remand proceedings has been extended.*

~~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. The appeal has been dismissed. A Certificate of Successful Restoration has been issued and the appellants has requested that the appeal be withdrawn.*~~

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	3	3
Order Modified		1
Order Remanded	2	1
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	5	2
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	3	1

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 96 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 90 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 33 counties are fully compliant, and 51 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 513 CANs and 64 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 2,672 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. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP)

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Habitat, Pilot

Section/Region: Resource Conservation Section

Contact: Dan Shaw

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick, Dan Shaw

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Marcey Westrick

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- None
- Amended Policy Requested
- New Policy Requested
- Other: Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund Budget
- General Fund Budget
- Capital Budget
- Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget
- Clean Water Fund Budget

ACTION REQUESTED

To approve the board order to adopt the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy and authorize staff to develop and distribute the Request for Proposals.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. This costshare grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2023 Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the FY23 Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 8(b) appropriated \$750,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board for building a new initiative to strategically restore and enhance approximately 1,000 acres of diverse native habitat to benefit multiple insects through grants, cost-share, and outreach.
- B. On April 27, 2022, by Board Order #22-20, the Board authorized staff "to develop and distribute subsequent Request for Proposals (RFP) for remaining funds similar to the initial RFP with a maximum request amount not to exceed \$60,000, include counties as eligible applicants, allow landscape conversion to native plant communities to be an eligible activity (in addition to pollinator plots and landscape enhancement), and allow pollinator plots and landscape conversions to be up to ten acres in size."
- C. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 26, 2022 meeting, reviewed the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Grant Policy and recommended approval to the full board at the October 26, 2022 meeting.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy.
2. Authorizes staff to develop and distribute the FY2023 Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Request for Proposals.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this October 26, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program Policy

Supporting Pollinators and Other ~~At-risk Wildlife~~ ~~Enhancement Pilot Program~~

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



Version: ~~21.00~~ **DRAFT**
Effective Date: ~~November 3~~ ~~October 26,~~ ~~December 16,~~ 2022
Approval: Board Order #~~221~~-XX



Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide clear expectations for the implementation of grants delivered through this program. More specific requirements or criteria may apply when specified by statute, rule, funding source, or appropriation language.

Reason for the policy

This cost-share grant program ~~is made possible through an appropriation (Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 8b) from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and~~ is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota on conservation lands and natural areas to benefit populations of pollinators, ~~and~~ beneficial insects ~~and other wildlife species and provide co-benefits of carbon sequestration, soil health, water quality improvements, and increased landscape resiliency.~~ ~~\$273,740,674,500 is available through this Request for Proposal. Applicants can apply for grants of \$20,000 to \$640,000 which can include projects on multiple properties.~~

-Grantees are responsible for the administration and decisions concerning the use of these funds in accordance with applicable Minnesota Statutes, state agency policies, and other applicable laws. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with applicable laws and program policies.

The BWSR Grants Administration Manual (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/gam>) is the primary framework for management of these funds.

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Grant Program Requirements

1. Applicant Eligibility

Eligible applicants include any of the following entities from across the State of Minnesota:

- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Watershed Districts
- Watershed Management Organizations
- Counties

2. Match Requirements

A minimum non-state match equal to at least 25% is required.

3. Eligible Activities

The primary purpose of activities funded through this program is to increase the populations of at-risk pollinators and beneficial insects through planting and landscape management activities. Eligible activities include the following categories:

- 3.1 **Technical Assistance.** Eligible activities include but are not limited to: development of project plans and specifications.
- 3.2 **Grant Management and Reporting.** Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the program.
- 3.3 **Conservation Practice Cost Share and Incentives.** Eligible expenses include:
 - Project and plan development
 - Site preparation, planting and management costs (tilling, burning, weed barriers, seeds, erosion fabric, hydromulch, weed free straw, containerized plants, seeding, containerized plant installation, inter-seeding, weed removal, mowing, conservation grazing (but not fencing materials and installation costs), conservation haying, etc.). Note that non-herbicide methods of site preparation and management are preferred, see the Xerces Society guide to "[Organic Site Preparation Methods](#)."
 - Invasive species management as part of efforts to enhance or re-establish native vegetation. Note, the removal of woody invasive species and invasive grasses can be part of projects but should not be a major component of the budget.
 - Tool purchases (weed wrenches, backpack sprayers, hand shovels, hand rakes or similar equipment) must not exceed \$600.00. All tools purchased shall be used as a shared landowner resource and remain with grantee.

- Native flowering trees and shrubs that are beneficial to pollinators and beneficial insects are eligible for funding, as they often provide early season floral resources and nesting resources
- It is encouraged to use this program in combination with other non-state funding sources and practices.

3.4 **Maintenance through grant period.** ~~It is important that~~ plantings that are funded through this program ~~must be~~ maintained ~~for a minimum of ten years~~ through the grant period. All landowners receiving funding ~~must will be asked to~~ sign a cost-share agreement summarizing their maintenance responsibilities and they will receive a copy of the conservation plan template completed for the project.

4. Ineligible Expenses

4.1 See the unallowable costs as defined in the Grant Administration Manual – [Allowable and Unallowable Cost](#) section. ~~as well as 4.2 below. The following activities are ineligible for these funds.~~

~~4.2 Although conservation grazing is an eligible activity for this grant fence materials and installation is not an eligible expense.~~

4.3~~2~~ Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funding cannot be used to pay for space and other associated overhead costs. Billing rates charged to these grants may include the employee's base hourly rate plus benefits. Required match can be provided through other facilities and administration costs such as space, vehicle, computers, and other associated overhead costs.

Grants through this program can only be used for the grant program and not for other Federal or State programs.

5. Technical Quality Assurance

Technical advisors working with landowners on project design and implementation must have experience working on residential habitat, native vegetation projects, and be able to successfully guide project design and maintenance. See also the Technical Quality Assurances section of the Grants Administration Manual.

Conservation plan templates for project implementation and management will be developed to be used on all projects. These templates will include detail on project site preparation, installation and management as well as the need to document the restoration process. Projects must include plans for long-term funding, maintenance, inspection, monitoring and site access for the duration of a project as part of the project file. In addition to being filed with the local ~~government office(s)~~ ~~SWCD office(s)~~ and BWSR, the conservation plans must be provided to landowners to guide long-term management.

6. BWSR Grant Work Plan, Reporting and Reconciliation Requirements

To ensure the success of the program, development of grant work plans, regular reporting of expenditures, and technical assistance and accomplishments are required.

6.1 **Grant Execution.** Grant agreement must be executed (signed by grantee and BWSR) before work can begin. The grant period begins once the grant is executed and all work must occur within the grant period.

6.2 **Grant Work Plan.** Work plans shall be developed in eLINK and must be approved before work can begin on this grant. Work plans shall reflect each eligible activity, a description of the anticipated activity accomplishments, and grant and match funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities.

7 **Grant Reporting.** Descriptions of actual results and financial expenditures for each work plan activity must be reported in eLINK by March 15th and September 15th each year along with any reimbursement requests. Optional reimbursements can also be requested on June 15th and December 15th with a report. A final report and submission of reimbursements is also due by December 31st 2024 which is the completion date for the grant (a December 15th report is not required prior to the final report).

~~Grant Reporting. Descriptions of actual results and financial expenditures for each work plan activity must be reported in eLINK by February 1 of each year. 30 days after quarter end to submit reimbursement receipts. (June 30th, September 30th, December 31st and March 31st)~~

6.37.1 **Grant Closeout.** Within thirty (30) calendar days of the expiration of each grant agreement or expenditure of all grant funds, whichever occurs first, grantees are required to:

- a. Provide a summary of all work plan accomplishments with grant funding in eLINK; and
- b. Submit a signed eLINK Financial Report to BWSR.

6.47.2 **Grant Agreement.** Read through agreement for further directions and reimbursement request deadlines.

7. BWSR Grant Administration Requirements

~~BWSR staff is authorized to review grant applicant's financial records to establish capacity to successfully manage state grant funds, develop grant agreements, including requirements and processes for work plans, project outcomes reporting, closeouts, and fiscal reconciliations.~~ All grantees must follow the grant agreement and applicable sections of the Grants Administration Manual.

In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, up to and including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement.

History

Version	Description	Date
1.00	Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program Policy	December 16, 2021
2.00	<u>Policy added counties as eligible applicants, clarifies maintenance is for 10-years and list fence materials and installation is an ineligible expense.</u>	<u>September 28, 2022</u>

Contact

Dan Shaw, Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Clean water, legacy, partners, policy

Section/Region: Regional Ops, Central Region

Contact: Annie Felix-Gerth

Prepared by: Annie Felix-Gerth

Reviewed by: Grants Program & Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Annie Felix-Gerth & Shaina Keseley

Time requested: 25 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 checked="" 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

In October, the BWSR Board will make a decision to authorize the Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program, including the associated policy and RFP criteria. The Board will be asked to make a funding decision on eligible applications in early 2023.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Attached policy and RFP ranking criteria, draft board order

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

The Legislature appropriated \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund “for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.” The two fiscal year appropriations are combined for this RFP. The Grants Program and Policy Committee recommended the policy and RFP criteria at their meeting on October 24.

BOARD ORDER**Fiscal Year 2022/2023 Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grants****PURPOSE**

Authorize Fiscal Year (FY) 22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grants Program and adopt FY 22/23 Policy and Request for Proposals ranking criteria.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (n) appropriated \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund “for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.”
- B. The proposed policy and request for proposal criteria were created to provide expectations for applicants and subsequent implementation activities conducted with these funds.
- C. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their October 24, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed FY 22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grants Request for Proposals criteria and Policy, and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached FY 22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Grant Policy.
2. Authorizes the FY 22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grants Pilot Program according to the attached ranking criteria for the Request for Proposal.
3. Authorizes staff to finalize and issue an initial Request for Proposals and issue subsequent Request for Proposals as needed.
4. Authorizes staff to develop grant agreements and related processes and protocols for grant management and oversight consistent with statutes and grant administration policies.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this October 26, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

FY22-23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program PILOT

Policy

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

Effective Date: 10/26/2022

Approval: Board Decision #22-XX

Duration: Availability and use of funds appropriated by Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (n).

Policy Statement

This policy provides expectations for activities conducted via the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund (CWF) Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant program as defined by the Clean Water Fund appropriation under Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (n). Activities must align with the purpose of Minnesota's CWF and expand partnerships for clean water in Minnesota.

The CWF was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, and Minnesota Statute §114D with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.

Reason for the policy

A total of \$1,000,000 was allocated to this program for the FY22/23 biennium. BWSR will use grant agreements for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties or future sanctions on the grant recipient. The associated FY 22/23 Request for Proposal (RFP) for these funds identifies additional requirements.

Program Requirements

1. Eligible Applicants

Non-governmental organizations and tribal governments are eligible for this funding.

- Non-governmental organization are defined as an organization that is a nonprofit, also known as a charitable organization, that is formed for the purpose of fulfilling a mission to improve the common good of society rather than to acquire and distribute profits. The organization meets the definition

in Minn. Stat. §309.50 Subd. 4 and meets the definitions defined in the Internal Revenue Service code, with the most common type being a 501 (c) (3), (Policy 08-06 Minnesota Office of Grants Management).

- Minnesota Tribal Governments refers to the federally recognized sovereign tribal nations that share geography with Minnesota (MINN STAT. 10.65).

2. Match Requirements

A non-state match equal to at least 10% of the amount of the grant received is required. Match can be provided by landowners, land occupiers, private organizations, local governments, or other non-state sources and can be in the form of cash or in-kind for services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives. Funds used for match for this program cannot be used as match for any other state grant program.

3. Requirements for Eligible Activities

Eligible activities can consist of structural and non-structural practices; project development (feasibility study, subwatershed assessment, etc.); program and project support (e.g. education, outreach, marketing, staff time); technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement grant activities; and grant management and reporting.

The FY22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Request for Proposal contains information on activities that are considered ineligible for use of these grant dollars.

4. Technical Expertise

Grantees must identify the technical assistance provider(s) for the practice or project and their credentials for providing this assistance. BWSR staff may review the qualifications of all persons providing technical assistance and review the technical project design, particularly if a recognized standard is not available.

5. Grant Agreement

BWSR staff may review grant applicant's financial records to establish capacity to successfully manage state grant funds, develop grant agreements, including requirements and processes for work plans, project outcomes reporting, closeouts, and fiscal reconciliations.

The grant agreement provides information about expectations and terms. Grant work plans are developed as part of the grant agreement. Regular reporting of grant expenditures, technical assistance and accomplishments are required.

History

This policy may be reviewed annually and updated as needed.

Description	Date
This policy was originally created in 2022.	10/26/2022

Excerpt from the BWSR FY22/23 Clean Water Legacy Partners Program Request for Proposal (DRAFT)

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
<u>Abstract</u> : A brief description of anticipated achievements and outcomes as well as the project area.	5
<u>Water resource(s) identified</u> : Lake, stream/river, or groundwater resource is described and reasons are given for why the resource(s) were chosen.	10
<u>Water Resource Outcome(s) and Longevity</u> : Activities will protect or restore an identified water resource or support future protection or restoration efforts. Activities identified in a natural resource and/or watershed plan are preferred. Activities should provide long-term benefits to the water resource.	30
<u>Readiness and Partnerships</u> : The application has a set of specific activities that can be implemented soon after grant award. Proposed activities being part of a larger effort or partnership working toward clean water, or attempting to build a new partnership, are preferred.	20
<u>Public Benefit</u> : Proposed activities will benefit the public from a local, regional and/or state perspective. Diversity, equity and inclusion is also incorporated.	20
<u>Applicant Performance</u> : Applicant's history with receiving external funding sources and successfully completing planned activities.	15
Total Points Available	100

DRAFT

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

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

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Steve Christopher

Prepared by: Steve Christopher

Reviewed by: Central Region Committee(s)

Presented by: Steve Christopher

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full Plan Link as follows:

https://blackdogwmo.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/BDWMO_RED_Draft_WMP_90day_08182022.pdf

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

Background:

The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) was established in 1985 through a joint powers agreement. The vision of the BDWMO is that water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and aesthetic beauty in order to contribute to the well-being of the citizens within the watershed. The BDWMO encompasses approximately 26 square miles in northwestern Dakota County, covering parts of the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville. The BDWMO is bound by Scott County to the west, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the north, Eagan-Inver Grove Watershed Management Organization to the northeast, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the southeast. The majority of the watershed is fully developed and outlets through the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to the Minnesota River, with a small portion of the watershed that outlets towards the Credit River.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The BDWMO initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in mid-2020 soliciting input from its stakeholders, interviewing the member cities and Dakota County, convening a Technical Advisory Committee, as well as holding a virtual public kickoff meeting. They also provided a resident survey between February 2021 and May 2021. During the initial steps of the plan process, the BDWMO completed an analysis of water quality and lake characteristics.

Through the process identified above, the BDWMO identified the following as their highest priority issues:

- Water quality
 - Stormwater runoff quality
 - In-lake water quality o Impairments (Keller Lake)
- Lake ecology and habitat
 - Habitat quality
 - Invasive species management
- Groundwater management
 - Pollution prevention
 - Conservation and sustainability
- Education and Engagement

Additional priority issues include flooding & water levels, wetland management and upland & natural area management.

The BDWMO largely utilizes city implementation for resource improvement, however this Plan increases the cooperation among the member cities as well as the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County. Some examples include recruiting volunteers water resource management activities such as citizen monitoring and shoreline cleanup), engaging residents at community events to share information, and supporting workshops for design of residential stormwater BMPs and other stewardship activities

The implementation of this plan is broken down into five strategic waterbodies and their watersheds:

- Crystal Lake
- Keller Lake
- Kingsley Lake
- Lac Lavon
- Orchard Lake

The BDWMO has demonstrated success in delisting waters such as Crystal Lake, Lee Lake and Early Lake for excess nutrients and considerable amount of focus in the new Plan is on improving Keller Lake which is currently impaired for excess nutrients. Targeting efforts along with increased funding availability from the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program should position the BDWMO well in addressing the resource needs of the watershed.

Attachments:

1. Draft order for approval of the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) Watershed Management Plan.
2. BDWMO Plan Executive Summary.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated August 2022 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. **Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) was established in 1985 through a joint powers agreement. The vision of the Organization is that water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and aesthetic beauty in order to contribute to the well-being of the citizens within the watershed. The current plan was approved by the Board in September 2012.
- B. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.
- C. **Nature of the Watershed.** The BDWMO encompasses approximately 26 square miles in northwestern Dakota County, covering parts of the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville. The BDWMO is bound by Scott County to the west, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the north, Eagan-Inver Grove Watershed Management Organization to the northeast, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the southeast. The majority of the watershed is fully developed and outlets through the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to the Minnesota River, with a small portion of the watershed that outlets towards the Credit River.
- D. **Plan Development and Review.** The BDWMO initiated the planning process for the 2022-2032 Plan in mid-2020. As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Stakeholders were identified, notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. A public kickoff meeting was hosted on April 21, 2021, along with a resident survey that was completed in Winter-Spring 2021. A Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on March 12, 2021. The Plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on May 12, 2022. The BDWMO received 20 comments on the 60-day draft Plan. All comments on the draft Plan were

addressed in writing. After formal review of the Plan, the BDWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on August 17, 2022. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on August 22, 2022.

- E. **Local Review.** The BDWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Responses were received from the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County. Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District reviewed the draft and provided a letter of no comment. Dakota County comments were largely focused on groundwater issues and pollutant sources such as subsurface sewage treatment systems. Dakota County provided suggested text and a policy addition. The BDWMO accepted the comments and made the suggested changes and additions to the Plan.
- F. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council suggested uniform performance standards among the member cities for permitting. During the Plan update process, the BDWMO reviewed this option and determined that there would be limited benefit from the significant amount of effort to create uniformity among the member cities. The Council requested cost estimates for all projects within the Capital Improvement Program and if estimates are not currently available, a minor amendment should be completed in the future. The BDWMO updated the costs for several projects between the 60-day draft and 90-day draft and committed to updating others through a plan amendment as cities provide more information on projects that they will be leading the implementation on.
- G. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not have any comments.
- H. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** No comments were received by the MDH on the Plan.
- I. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR did not have any comments.
- J. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA provided a letter that they did not have any comments on the Plan.
- K. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** DOT commented that the trigger for rate, volume control and water quality treatment should be consistent with National Pollutant Discharge Elimination standards. The BDWMO recognizes the difference and wants to maintain treatment for smaller projects within its boundary.
- L. **Board Review.** Board staff requested clarification on items related to the impaired waters, water quality trends, local water plans, and erosion and sedimentation goals and policies. BDWMO made the necessary changes to the Plan. Board staff also requested updated cost estimates for projects included in the implementation table. BDWMO made provided responses and updated all information as available at this time.
- M. **Plan Summary.** The BDWMO identified water quality, lake ecology & habitat, groundwater management, and education & engagement as their highest priorities in the Plan. The BDWMO has relied on city-led implementation in the past, but this Plan looks to enhance its partnerships through increased cooperation with the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County as well as the member cities. The Plan has broken its implementation down to five subwatersheds within the BDWMO which will improve targeting of the practices and should create better opportunity for tracking improvement.

- N. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On October 6, 2022, the Board’s Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via teleconference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s committee were Joe Collins (chair), Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Mark Zabel, Heather Johnson, and Steve Robertson. Board staff in attendance were Central Region Manager Marcey Westrick and Board Conservationist Steve Christopher. BDWMO Administrator Daryl Jacobson, BDWMO Plan Consultant Greg Williams and BDWMO Board Members Scott Thureen and Mike Hughes were also in attendance. Greg Williams and Daryl Jacobson provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The BDWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the BDWMO’s boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2032.
4. The BDWMO Watershed Management Plan will be effective October 26, 2022, through October 26, 2032.
5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan dated August 2022.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 26th day of October 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

October 26, 2022

Black Dog Watershed Management Organization
c/o Daryl Jacobson
100 Civic Center Parkway
Burnsville, MN 55337

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on October 26, 2022. For your records, I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the BDWMO must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

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

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

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

Enclosure

CC: Megan Moore, DNR (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)
Jason Swenson, MN DOT (via email)
Marcey Westrick, BWSR (via email)
Steve Christopher, BWSR (via email)
File Copy

Executive Summary

The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) *Watershed Management Plan* (Plan) sets the vision and guidelines for protection, restoring, and managing surface waters within the boundaries of the BDWMO. The WMP provides resource data and background information, identifies and prioritizes watershed-wide and resource-specific issues, establishes measurable goals, sets policies and performance standards for the BDWMO and its cities, and lays out a 10-year implementation schedule including projects and programs. The Plan is organized into five major sections, summarized as follows:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 1.0 of this Plan summarizes the BDWMO’s role as a watershed management organization (WMO), its location and history, and management structure. Like all WMOs, the BDWMO is a special purpose unit of local government that manages water resources on a watershed basis. The BDWMO’s jurisdiction spans approximately 26 square miles in Dakota County and includes portions of the Cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville (see Figure ES-2). Consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.201, the purposes of BDWMO water management programs are as follows:

1. Protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
2. Minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
3. Identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
4. Establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
5. Prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
6. Promote groundwater recharge;
7. Protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
8. Secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and groundwater.

The BDWMO has adopted goals, policies, and an implementation program to support its statutory purposes and pursue the following vision:

Water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and public value to contribute to the well-being of the communities within the watershed.

The BDWMO is governed by a five-member Board of Commissioners including three members representing Burnsville, one member representing Lakeville, and one member representing Eagan and Apple Valley. The powers of the Board are detailed in the most current iteration of the BDWMO joint powers agreement (JPA, see Appendix A) and are summarized in Section 1.0.

Section 2 – Land and Water Resources Inventory

Section 2.0 of this Plan contains information about the water and natural resources located within the BDWMO. Information is provided as text, tables, and maps and organized according to the following topics and resources:

- Climate and precipitation
- Topography and drainage
- Population, demographics, and land use
- Soils
- Geology
- Groundwater
- Surface water resources (lakes, ponds, and wetlands)
- Water monitoring and studies
- Water quality and BDWMO management classifications
- Water quantity and flooding
- Natural communities and rare species
- Fish and wildlife habitat
- Open space and recreational areas
- Pollutant sources

Understanding the condition of water and natural resources present in the BDWMO is key to identifying priority issues, establishing goals, and targeting the actions of the BDWMO, its member cities, and other partners.

Section 3 – Priority Issues and Resources

Section 3.0 of the Plan presents and discusses the priority issues and resources that will be the focus of the BDWMO during the life of this Plan. As part of Plan development, the BDWMO commissioners solicited input on priority issues and concerns from residents, state agencies, member cities, and regional partners through multiple stakeholder engagement activities illustrated in Figure ES-1.

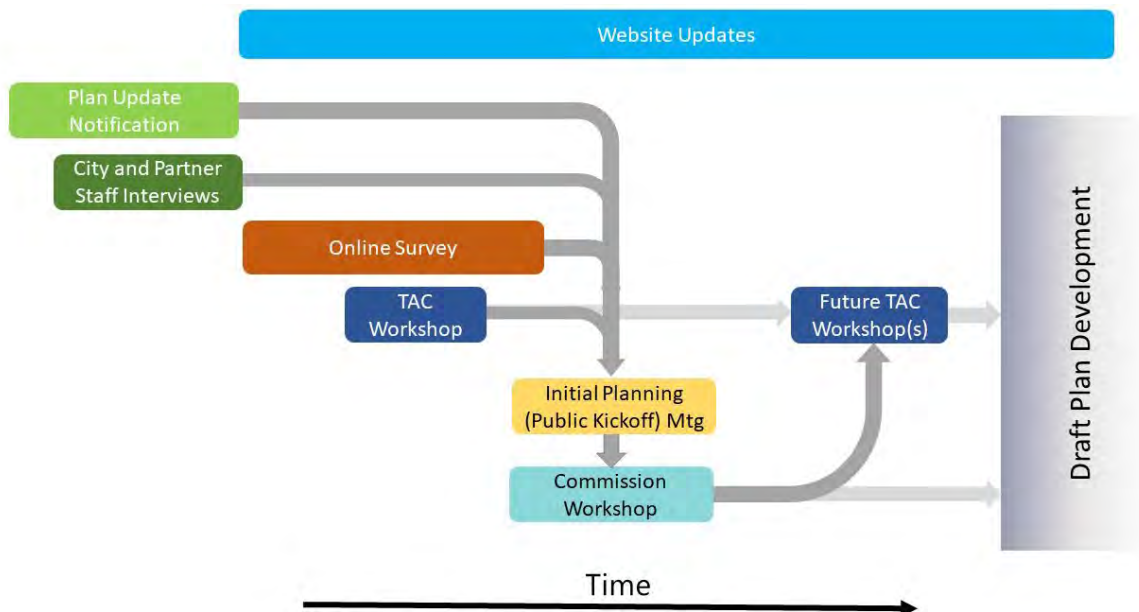


Figure ES-1 Stakeholder engagement workflow

Stakeholder engagement and issue identification activities are summarized in Appendix B. With consideration for the stakeholder engagement and data review activities, the BDWMO established the following Plan priorities:

Higher Priority Issues	Lower Priority Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water quality, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stormwater runoff quality ○ In-lake water quality ○ Impairments (Keller Lake) • Lake ecology and habitat, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Habitat quality ○ Invasive species management • Groundwater management, including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pollution prevention ○ Conservation and sustainability • Education and Engagement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flooding and water levels • Wetland management • Upland and natural area management

The BDWMO also classified the following lakes as **strategic waterbodies** to be the focus of BDWMO activities:

- Crystal Lake
- Keller Lake
- Kingsley Lake
- Lac Lavon
- Orchard Lake

The priority issues and the resource and issue prioritization process are described in greater detail in Section 3.0.

Section 4 – Goals and Policies

Section 4.0 presents the goals and policies of the BDWMO. Goals in Section 4.0 are generally organized according to the resource or operational issue they most closely address along with the policies to support those goals. Where possible, BDWMO goals contain measurable targets to evaluate progress (see Section 5.4.2). Key goals included in Section 4.0 include:

- A. Maintain or improve water quality in BDWMO strategic waterbodies to meet applicable state standards or existing 10-year (2012 – 2021) summer average water quality, if better than state standards, including:
 - Keller Lake – 60 ug/L total phosphorus, 20 ug/l chlorophyll *a*, and 1.0 meter Secchi disc transparency (i.e., applicable state shallow lake water quality standards for eutrophication)

- Crystal Lake – 26 ug/L total phosphorus, 13 ug/l chlorophyll *a*, and 2.1 meter Secchi disc transparency
 - Kingsley Lake – 17 ug/L total phosphorus, 2.3 ug/l chlorophyll *a*, and 3.0 meter Secchi disc transparency
 - Lac Lavon – 13 ug/L total phosphorus, 2.9 ug/l chlorophyll *a*, and 4.2 meter Secchi disc transparency
 - Orchard Lake – 21 ug/L total phosphorus, 6.2 ug/l chlorophyll *a*, and 2.5 meter Secchi disc transparency
- D. Work with member cities to reduce chloride loading relative to current conditions through practices consistent with the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride Management Plan (MPCA, 2016) and Minnesota Statewide Chloride Management Plan (MPCA, 2021).
- N. Maintain or improve the ecological and habitat quality of BDWMO strategic waterbodies to achieve applicable standards for floristic quality index (FQI \geq 17.8) and native species diversity of submerged vegetation (at least 11 species).
- O. Support member city and partner actions to prevent the increase or reduce the occurrence of aquatic invasive species within BDWMO strategic waterbodies.
- S. Increase awareness and knowledge of residents, local officials, and city staff regarding water resources and stormwater management through actions coordinated with member cities, Dakota SWCD, and other partners, including:
- presentations at K-12 schools
 - electronic newsletters/social media posts presenting information on priority issues
 - resource clean-up events or similar volunteer activities.
- T. Increase community capacity to implement water and natural resource stewardship action through:
- increased participation in volunteer activities
 - increased participation in small-scale BMP cost share projects
 - consistently providing data through accessible media

The BDWMO Plan includes policies to support the achievement of BDWMO goals and establishes performance standards that member cities must enforce through ordinance, local water management plans, or other means. Among these, the BDWMO requires that member cities shall maintain or strengthen stormwater management, erosion and sediment control, wetland, floodplain and shoreland official controls.

Section 5 – Implementation Program

Section 5.0 describes the significant components of the BDWMO implementation program; the program reflects the BDWMO's goals and organizational authorities. Activities included in the BDWMO's

implementation schedule (see Table 5-2) are divided among the following categories described in Section 5.0:

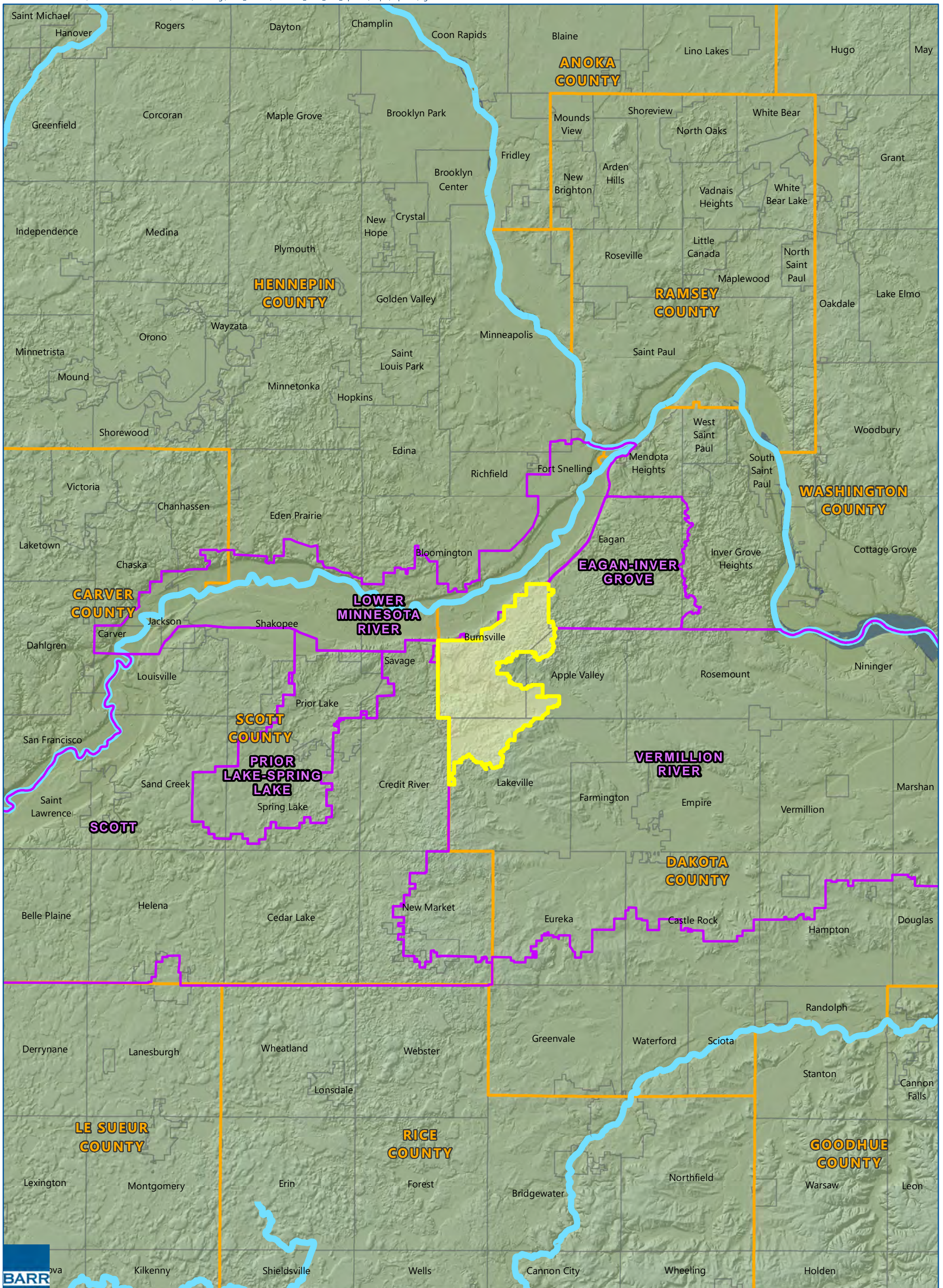
- Administration
- Engineering and Planning
- Education and Outreach
- Monitoring
- Projects, Studies, and Capital Improvements

The BDWMO implementation schedule includes the continuation of ongoing activities as well as new activities to address emerging issues and changing priorities. Notable new or expanded activities include (activity IDs are based on Table 5-2):

- Expanded water chemistry monitoring of Keller Lake and Kingsley Lake (item MN-1)
- Algal community monitoring of strategic waterbodies (item MN-1)
- Chloride monitoring of strategic waterbodies (item MN-3)
- Development of K-12 education outreach/programming (item ED-3)
- Targeted outreach to address chloride loading (item ED-4)
- Opportunities to use watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) to support member city projects for (multiple items in Table 5-2):
 - stormwater treatment
 - shoreline improvement
 - aquatic plant management for strategic waterbodies

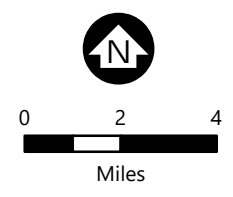
Section 5.0 describes the funding mechanisms used and available to the BDWMO, assessment and reporting practices, and the process for amending this Plan. Requirements for City local water management are also presented in this section. Requirements for BDWMO member cities are consistent with those of the previous BDWMO Plan and include, briefly:

- Developing local water management plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0160
- Continuing to enforce local performance standards addressing water quality, erosion, wetlands, and floodplains (at least as stringent as current standards)
- Operate and maintain city-owned stormwater management infrastructure
- Require and enforce maintenance agreements for privately-owned stormwater management infrastructure



- BDWMO Boundary
- County Boundary
- Municipal Boundary
- Adjacent Watershed Districts and Joint Powers Watershed Management Organizations
- Major River

Data Source: MDNR, BWSR



LOCATION OF THE BDWMO
BDWMO Watershed Management Plan

FIGURE ES-2

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Northern Region Committee

1. Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Neil Peterson, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Todd Holman, Chris Pence, and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

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

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Brett Arne

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Neil Peterson/Brett Arne/Ryan Hughes

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information




Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <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 Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Northern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

-  [ClearwaterCWMP_FINAL.pdf](#)
-  [ClearwaterCWMPAppendices_FINAL.pdf](#)
-  [Clearwater River Watershed 60 Day comments.pdf](#)

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

The Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in Northwest Minnesota encompassing portions of Clearwater, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On September 27, 2022, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

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

On October 5, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

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

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

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Clearwater River Watershed (WRM) submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on September 27, 2022, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. **Partnership Establishment.** The Clearwater River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) was established in August 2020, through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Pennington SWCD, East Polk SWCD, Red Lake SWCD, as well as Clearwater County, Pennington County, Polk County, Red Lake County and the Red Lake Watershed District.
- B. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program.
- C. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Clearwater River Watershed is one of the Red River Basin's most geographically diverse watersheds spanning forest, recreational rivers, lakes, large intact wetlands, wild rice paddies, beach ridges, pasture, and croplands. It encompasses 1,385 square miles (886,400 acres) of land across Glacial Lake Agassiz in Clearwater, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Mahnomon, and Beltrami counties, and includes the Red Lake and White Earth Nations. Major towns in the watershed include: Bagley, Gonvick, Red Lake Falls, Erskine, and Clearbrook.
- D. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies

from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.

E. **Plan Review.** On September 27, 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 Resolution #18-14. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.

- i. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH staff thanked the partnership for including MDH priorities and inputs in the plan and had no additional comments to provide. MDH recommends approval of the plan.
- ii. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR staff thanked the partnership for including DNR priorities and additional inputs during the plan and review process. DNR staff noted it was a pleasure working with the Advisory Committee. DNR recommends approval of the plan.
- iii. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA staff noted that they appreciated the opportunity to participate and provide input and that the plan is well written, concise and thorough. MPCA recommends approval of the plan.
- iv. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not provide comments for the final review.
- v. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA did not provide comments for the final plan review.
- vi. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted for the final review. We commend the partners for their trust level and commitment to the resources of the Plan area. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and look forward to working with the Partnership during implementation.

F. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:

- A thorough narrative description of the land and water resource features that shape the planning area and inform the broad priorities within the plan.
- A collection of 12 priority issues split between two distinct levels as selected by the group to focus efforts and define measurable goals.
- The plan includes focused priorities for seven (7) planning regions to ensure issue prioritization is specific to the needs of each geographical area.
- Each planning region has unique short and long-term goals and implementation schedules.
- The Prioritize, Target and Measure Application (PMAApp) was used to identify, prioritize, and target possible locations of upland structural projects and field management conservation practices in each specific planning region in the plan utilizing direct local input.
- This plan contained resource protection priorities utilizing a ranked quality index.
- A thorough discussion of capital improvement projects within the watershed, including seven projects identified for implementation.
- A thorough discussion of regulatory and enforcement measures to meet the needs of county and watershed district obligations, including shoreland management, public drainage, buffers and land use planning.

- G. **Northern Regional Committee.** On October 5, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Todd Holman, Jeff Berg, Theresa Ebbenga, Theresa Haugen, Ron Staples, LeRoy Ose, Rich Sve and Kurt Beckstrom. The representatives from the Partnership were Chester Powell, Tanya Waldo, Terry Sorenson, Corey Hanson, Lori Buell, Peter Nelson and Myron Jesme. Chester Powell presented the Plan on behalf of the partnership. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
- H. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until October 26, 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 Clearwater River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a 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 Clearwater River Watershed, submitted September 27, 2022.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-sixth day of October 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

October 26, 2022

Clearwater River Watershed Policy Committee
c/o Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD
312 Main Ave N, #3
Bagley, MN 56621

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

Dear Clearwater River Watershed Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on October 26, 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 October 26, 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 103B.801, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

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

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

Sincerely,

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

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Listed on next page

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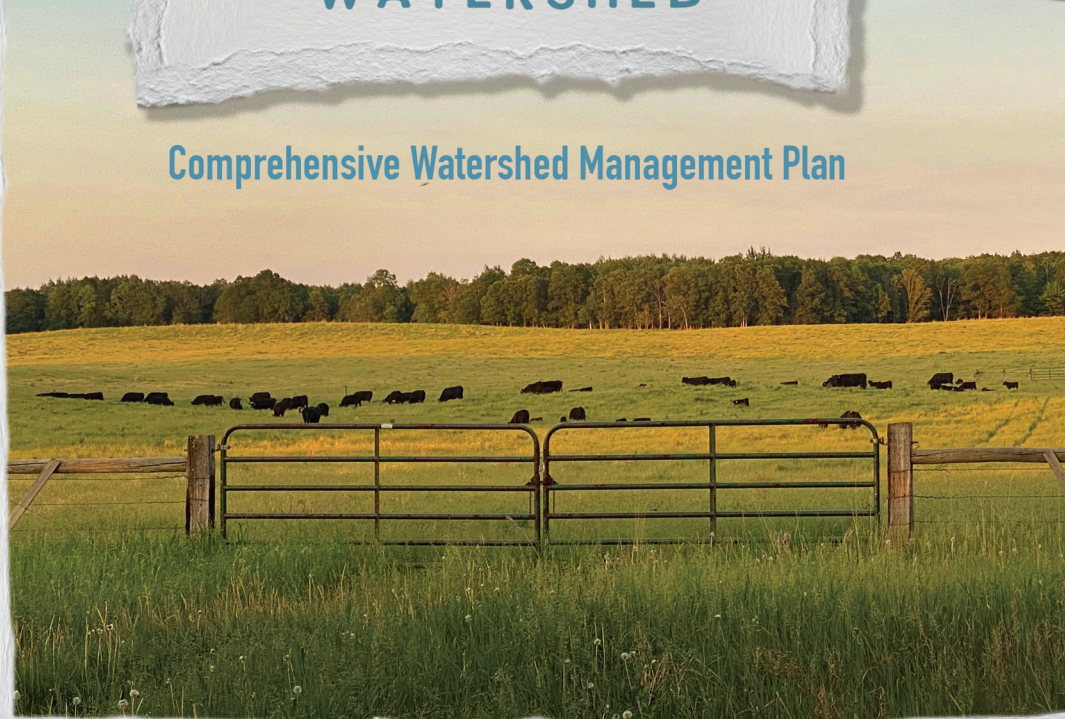
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CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
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Clearwater River WATERSHED

Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Project Partners

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Clearwater County
Pennington SWCD
Pennington County
East Polk SWCD
Polk County
Red Lake SWCD
Red Lake County
Red Lake Watershed District

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Kaleb Buessing, Clearwater SWCD
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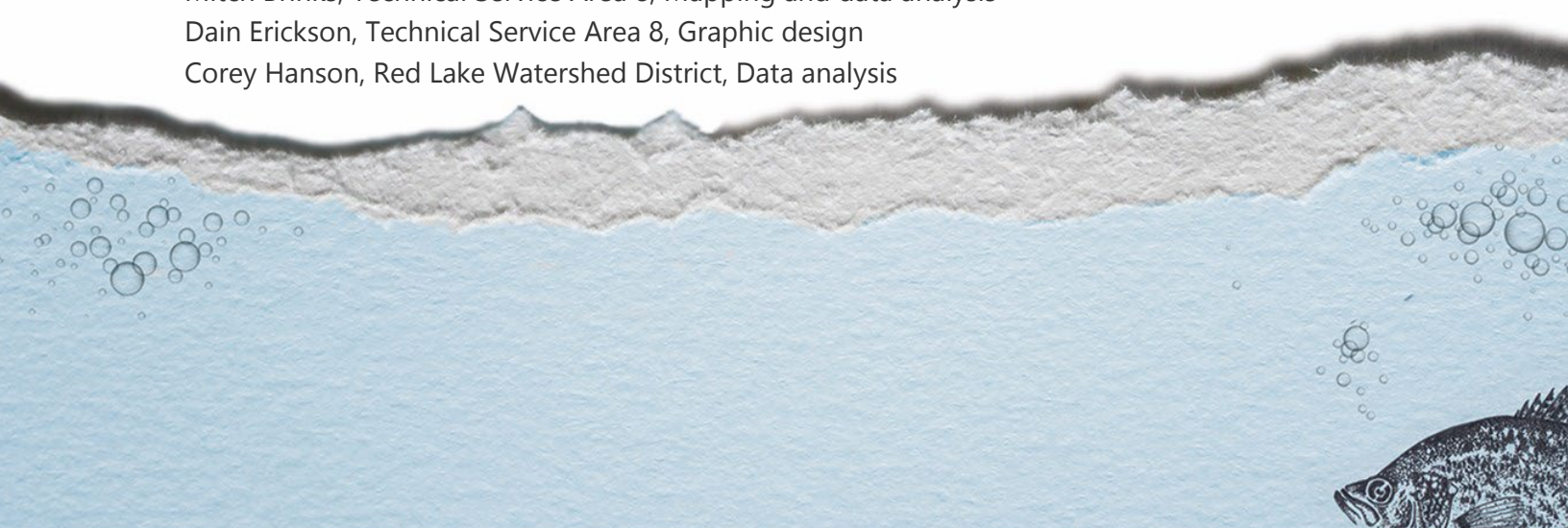
Mitch Brinks, Technical Service Area 8, Mapping and data analysis
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Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District, Data analysis

Funded by



Prepared by

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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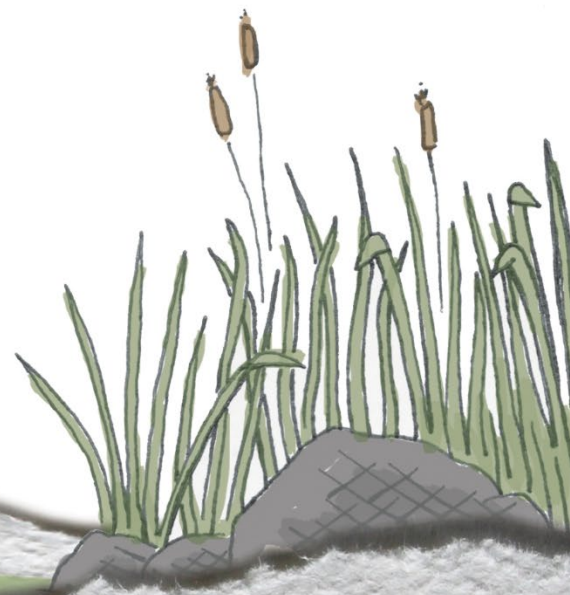
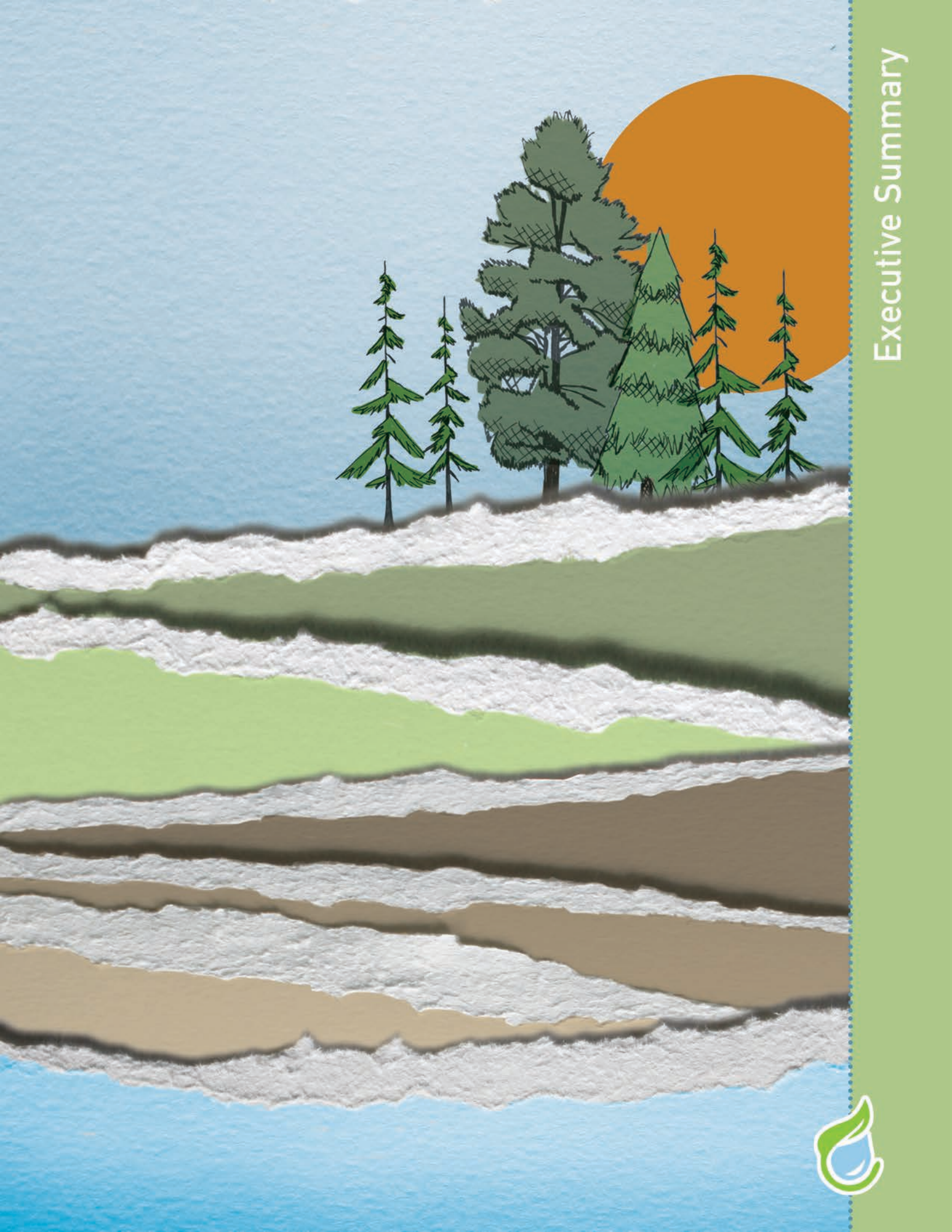


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B. Public Input Summary	
C. Issue Development	
D. Resource Prioritization	
E. PTMApp Implementation Scenario and Decisions	
F. RLWD Rules	
G. Ordinances and Standards	
H. Local Funding Authorities	
I. Memorandum of Agreement	
J. Glossary of Terms	
K. References	





Executive Summary



SECTION 1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The Clearwater River Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CRCWMP) was developed in 2021-2022 through the One Watershed, One Plan program administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Statutes §103B.801. The purpose of the plan is to guide the watershed managers (local counties, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed district) as they work to protect and restore the watershed’s resources.

This plan focuses both on restoration and protection of water quality, hydrology, and habitat. This focus and the diversity of resources is captured in the watershed’s vision statement below.

Vision Statement

From the forests in the east to the farmlands in the west, the Clearwater River Watershed hosts a mosaic of recreational and economic opportunities. We aim to sustainably manage our lakes, rivers, forests, farms, and groundwater for future prosperity and enjoyment.

Plan Area

The Plan Area spans portions of six counties in order of percentage in the watershed: Clearwater, Polk, Red Lake, Pennington, Beltrami, and Mahnomen (Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2). Major towns in the watershed include Bagley, Gonvick, Red Lake Falls, Erskine, and Clearbrook. The White Earth Nation spans a portion of the southern side of the watershed, the Red Lake Nation spans the northeast, and the Red Lake Watershed District covers the entire planning area.

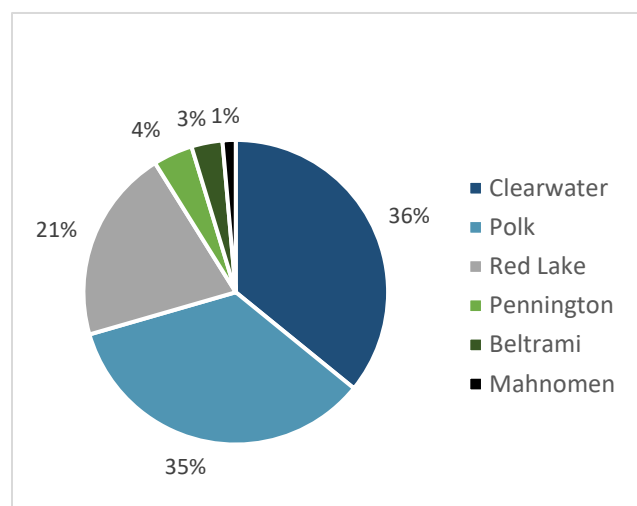


Figure 1.1. Percent of each county in the plan area.

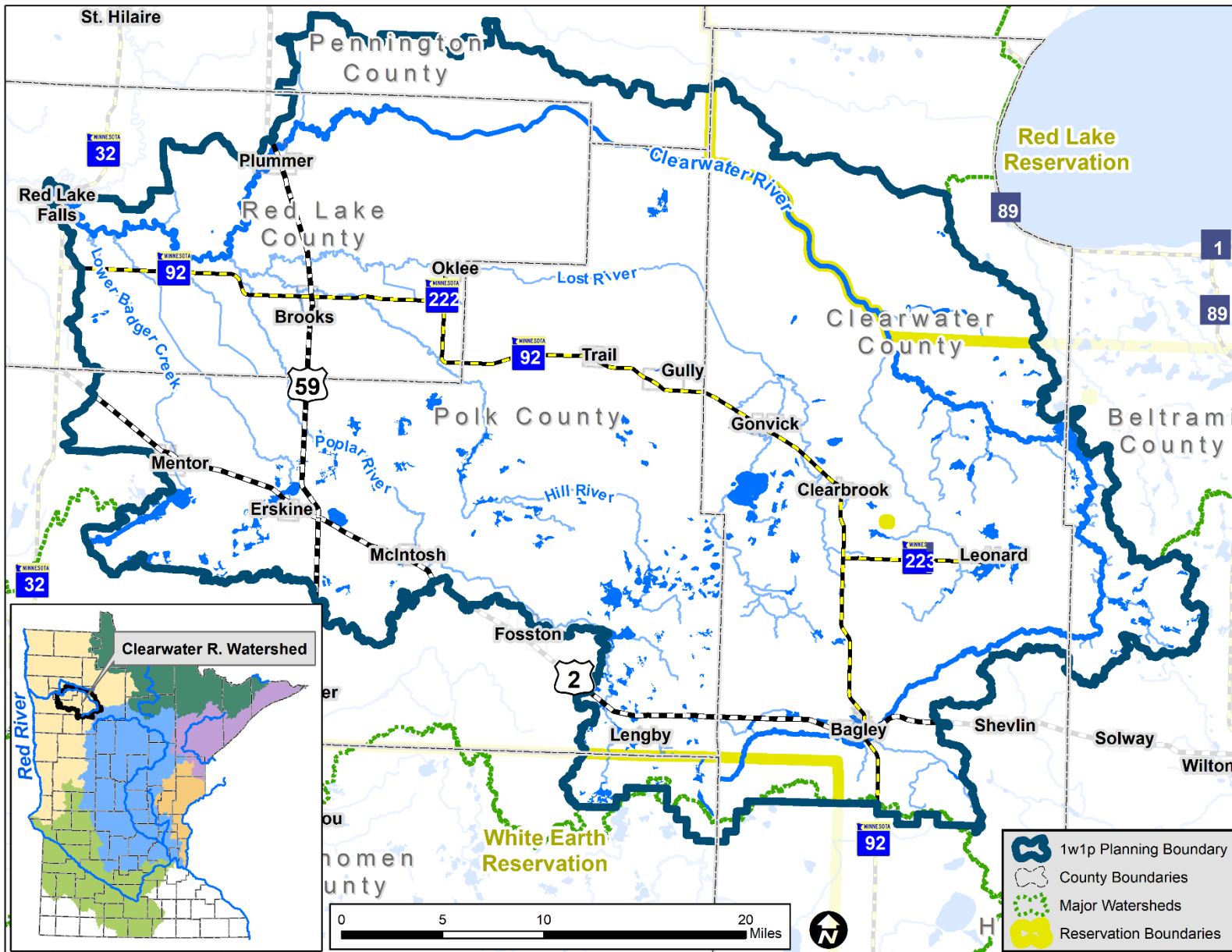


Figure 1.2. Map of plan area.

Purpose, Roles, and Responsibilities

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

The CRCWMP began with a memorandum of agreement (MOA) between all the entities in the watershed including Clearwater County, Clearwater Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Polk County, East Polk SWCD, Red Lake County, Red Lake SWCD, Pennington County, Pennington SWCD, and the Red Lake Watershed District. Beltrami and Mahnomen counties chose not to sign onto the MOA because they were such a small portion of the planning area (Figure 1.1).

The One Watershed, One Plan process uses existing authorities; therefore, a representative from each governmental unit in the MOA was appointed by each board to serve on the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making body for this plan. The Clearwater SWCD was the fiscal agent and Coordinator for this project. The Clearwater River Watershed Planning Work Group consisted of staff from each of the entities in the MOA, and generated the content in this plan. The Advisory Committee consisted of state agencies and local stakeholders, and contributed to plan content in an advisory role (Figure 1.3).

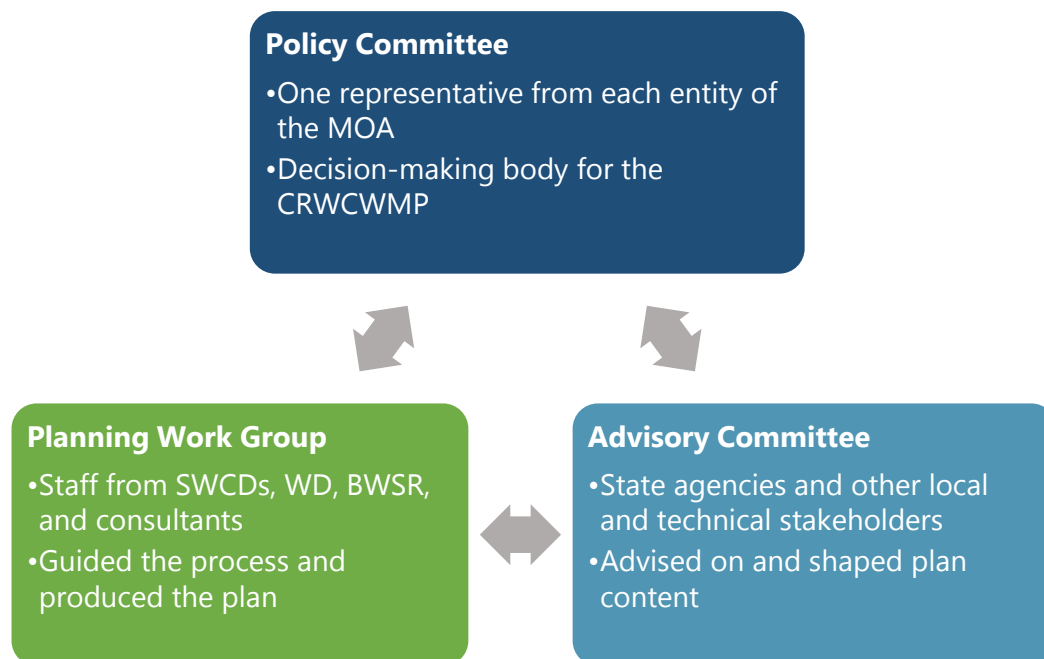


Figure 1.3. Committees formed for the CRCWMP.

Public Involvement

On June 10, 2021, the Clearwater River Watershed Planning Work Group held two public open houses: one at the Brooks Community Center and one at The Trap restaurant in Gonvick (Figure 1.4). An online survey was also designed to obtain feedback from people that weren't able to attend the open house (37 responses). The focus of the public input process was to get feedback on the following items:

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



Figure 1.4 Open houses were held in Brooks and Gonvick.

Wind erosion and low water levels were mentioned many times due to the drought in the summer of 2021. Meeting participants and survey respondents were also asked to reflect on questions about the present and the future of the watershed (**Figure 1.5 and Figure 1.6, Appendix B**). These responses were used by the Advisory Committee to form the watershed vision statement on page 1.



Figure 1.5. Word Cloud of the survey responses about what they **think** the watershed will look like in 50 years.



Figure 1.6. Word Cloud of survey responses about what they **want** the watershed to look like in 50 years.








Priority Issues

The issues for the CRCWMP were generated and prioritized with a variety of input from the general public, the Advisory Committee, the Policy Committee, state agencies, and existing local and regional plans. The Clearwater River Watershed Planning Work Group separated the issues into Priority A and B, as shown below. Resource categories include:

Surface Water  Groundwater  Land Management  Habitat 






Priority A Issues

Priority A issues are the most important issues that will be the focus of implementation efforts and funding in the 10-year plan. The main theme of the issue statement is shown in **bold** text.

Resource Category	Impacted Resource	Issue Statement
	Streams	Unstable stream channels and loss of riparian vegetation increases sediment loading and reduces habitat quality.
	Drainage Systems	Drainage system bank instability and inadequacy affects agricultural productivity and increases erosion and sedimentation.
	Streams, Drainage Systems	Altered hydrology causes variability of flows affecting timing, water quantity, water quality, and erosion.
	Lakes, Streams	Sediment loading from wind and water erosion of croplands, uplands, and lakeshore impacts water quality.
	Lakes, Streams	Phosphorus loading contributes to elevated concentrations in lakes and streams, causing eutrophication.
	Streams	Bacteria loading impacts aquatic recreation and human health.
	Soil	Decreased soil health can reduce agricultural productivity and water holding capacity.

Priority B Issues











Priority B issues are important and will be addressed as time and funding allows. The main theme of the issue statement is shown in **bold** text.

Resource Category	Impacted Resource	Issue Statement
	Drinking Water	Groundwater is vulnerable to contamination from numerous sources.
	Wetlands	Wetlands are in continued need of protection and restoration which helps with precipitation storage and provides habitat.
	Aquifer	Groundwater sustainability is vulnerable to overuse and loss of recharge.
	Lakes, Streams	Stormwater runoff from developed areas and roads causes contamination of lakes and streams.
	Wild Rice, Fens, Trout, Forests, Prairies	Changes in land use and resource protection impact high quality resources, land resilience, habitat, and surface and groundwater quality.

Measurable Goals

The issue statements were used in the development of the plan’s goals. The goals guide what quantifiable changes to resource conditions this plan expects to accomplish in its ten-year lifespan. The goals were developed by the Clearwater River Watershed Planning Work Group with input from the Advisory Committee and approved by the Policy Committee.

The measurable goals in this plan are laid out in **Section 4**, and in most cases include specific goals per planning region and a map of where the goals will be targeted. Different data sets and models were used to determine the goal numbers. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), Total Maximum Daily Load report (TMDL), and Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) were used to define load reduction goals for sediment and phosphorus. Minnesota Department of Health data was used for defining groundwater goals. The Minnesota Prairie Plan was used for protection goals, local information from field surveys was used for stream restoration, stream habitat enhancement, and GIS data were used for bacteria, lakes and forest goals. Measurable goals allow for the planning partners to track their progress during implementation.

Resource Category	Goal Name	Example Actions
	Sediment Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sediment control basins • Grade stabilizations
	Phosphorus Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water and sediment control basins • Grade stabilizations • Cover crops and no till
	Runoff Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional storage projects • Wetland restoration
	Ditch Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade stabilizations • Side water inlets • Bank stabilizations
	Stream and Riparian Stabilization	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grade stabilizations • Bank stabilizations
	Soil Health Enhancement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover crops and no till • Pasture management
	Bacteria Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cattle exclusion and watering facility • Manure management • Septic system maintenance
	Drinking Water Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well sealing • Drinking water screening
	High Value Resource Protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest Management Plans • Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA) • Conservation easements
	Stormwater Reduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stormwater control projects • Rain gardens • Shoreline restoration

Implementation

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

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

Implementation programs are the mechanism to implement actions in the targeted implementation schedule. This plan establishes common implementation programs within the plan area: Projects & Practices, Capital Improvements, Regulatory & Ordinances, Data Collection & Monitoring, and Education & Outreach (Figure 1.7).

Three funding levels are provided in this plan. Funding Level 1 is the estimated total of current funding in the watershed.

With the completion of the CRCWMP, the watershed partners will be able to receive Watershed-Based Implementation Funds from BWSR, which increases their available funding to Level 2. Level 2 is additive with Level 1, and the watershed partners plan to operate at Funding Level 2 throughout implementation (Table 1.1).

Table 1.1. Funding levels for the CRCWMP.

Funding Level	Description	Estimated Annual Average	Estimated Plan Total (10 years)
Level 1	Baseline Funding for Current Programs	\$927,000	\$9,270,000
Level 2	Baseline + Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) + Grants (CWF)	\$1,544,300	\$15,544,300
Level 3	Partner funding (NRCS, USFWS, SFIA, CRP, Lessard-Sams, MPCA, DNR)	\$3,750,046	\$37,500,460
	Total*	\$5,294,346	\$52,943,460

*This total does not include Level 1 because Level 2 is additive with Level 1.

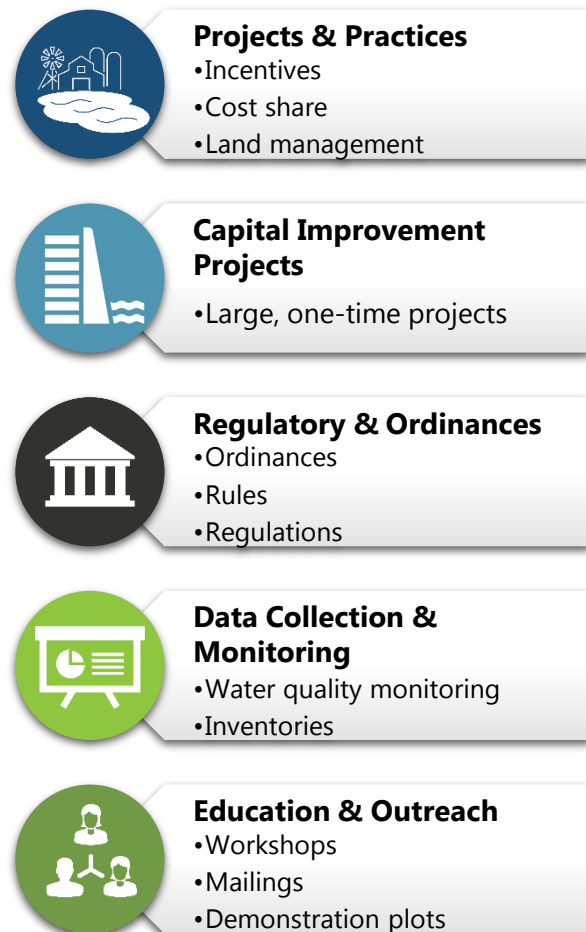






Figure 1.7. Implementation Programs.

The watershed partners have a good track record of accomplishing projects to improve water quality and protect habitat. With the new watershed-based implementation funding available, they will be able to accomplish a lot more. Estimated achievements for each resource category are shown in Table 1.2.

Table 1.2. Estimated achievements per resource category at the Level 2 Funding Scenario.

Surface Water	Groundwater	Land Management	Habitat
			
<p>25,405 tons sediment/yr reduced</p> <p>6,487 lbs phosphorus/yr reduced</p> <p>12.5 miles stream stabilized in 10 yrs</p> <p>13.5 miles ditch stabilized in 10 yrs</p> <p>9,060 acre-feet storage in 10 yrs</p> <p>20 bacteria reduction projects in 10 yrs</p> <p>3 stormwater control projects in 10 yrs</p>	<p>10 wells/year sealed</p>	<p>20,450 acres soil health practices in 10 years</p>	<p>17,227 acres forest and prairie protection in 10 years</p>

Level 3 is a way to recognize the contributions of partner groups in the watershed that are doing work in the watershed that can help make progress towards plan goals. Level 3 funding includes the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and state agency projects such as surface and groundwater monitoring that are not contracted through the local governments (Table 1.1).



Figure 1.8. Clearwater River. Credit: RLWD.

Plan Administration and Coordination

The CRCWMP will be implemented by the Clearwater River Watershed Planning Work Group. The CRCWMP is a coalition of the following partners:

- Clearwater County and SWCD
- Pennington County and SWCD
- Red Lake County and SWCD
- Polk County and East Polk SWCD
- Red Lake Watershed District

The Partnership previously entered into a formal agreement through an MOA for planning the CRCWMP (**Appendix I**). The entities will draft an MOA for purposes of implementing this plan. The Policy Committee of the CRCWMP oversees the plan implementation with the advice and consent of the individual county and SWCD boards under the umbrella of the implementation MOA.

Plan activities will be recorded by watershed partners in a tracking system and summarized annually. In addition, the same committees that convened for planning will continue into implementation in the same roles (Figure 1.3).



Figure 1.9. Farm field in Polk County.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: October 26, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Chris Pence

Prepared by: Ryan Hughes

Reviewed by: Northern Region Committee(s)

Presented by: Todd Holman/Chris Pence/Ryan Hughes

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<https://www.co.todd.mn.us/1w1p/>

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

The Long Prairie River Watershed Partnership (LPRWP) was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning grant by the Board on August 26, 2020. The LPRWP organized their planning process through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The membership of the LPRWP includes Douglas County, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Todd County, Todd SWCD, Morrison County, Morrison SWCD, and the West Ottertail SWCD.

The Long Prairie River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (Plan) effort formally began in March 2021 with a public kickoff event held online followed by a Citizen Advisory Committee meeting in April. At these meetings, participants learned about the watershed and planning process and had a chance to offer input by discussing potential issues and opportunities for the Plan to address. Highlights of the Plan are included in the draft Order for Board consideration.

On September 23, 2022, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments from the 60-day review period. During final state agency review, DNR, MPCA, MDH, and MDA replied that they had no additional comments and supported approval of the plan. The EQB did not provide comments.

At the Northern Regional Committee on October 5, 2022, the Long Prairie River Partnership presented a final plan that addressed all comments from stakeholders and the state review agencies. Board staff recommended Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board.

If approved by the Board, this plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until October 26, 2032.

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 Long Prairie River Watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Long Prairie River Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on September 23, 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

- A. **Partnership Establishment.** The Long Prairie River Watershed Partnership (LPRWP) was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning grant by the Board on August 26, 2020. The LPRWP organized their planning process through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The membership of the LPRWP includes Douglas County, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Todd County, Todd SWCD, Morrison County, Morrison SWCD, and the West Ottertail SWCD.
- B. **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 Content Requirements Version 2.1 policies.
- C. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Long Prairie River, bookended by lake-rich areas, makes up the Long Prairie River Watershed. Originating in the Alexandria Lakes Area in Douglas County, the Long Prairie River flows 92 miles through Todd County to join the Crow Wing River south of Motley in Morrison County. Otter Tail and Wadena counties also contain small portions of the watershed. This watershed encompasses approximately 571,712 acres (893 square miles) in central Minnesota and contains more than 220 lakes and 965 miles of rivers and streams. Primary towns include Alexandria, Long Prairie, Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, and Motley.

- D. **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 goals and actions to manage lake/stream water quality protection and enhancement, groundwater quality and quantity including drinking water protection, and natural habitat protection management in the watershed.
- E. **Plan Review.** On September 23, 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.
- I. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA confirmed receipt of the Plan and recommended approval.
 - II. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan and recognized the comments were all tracked and used for plan modifications. MDH appreciated the inclusion of MDH priorities and additional inputs during the planning and review process and recommended approval of the Plan.
 - III. 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.
 - IV. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA commented that the Plan was very well written, concise and thorough and recommended approval of the Plan.
 - V. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not provide any comments.
 - VI. 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.
- F. **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 Alexandria Lakes, Long Prairie River, Eagle/Moran Creeks, and Fishtrap/Turtle Creeks.
 - The plan development process generated fifteen issues, organized in seven resource categories (Lakes/Streams, Drinking Water, Groundwater, Soil, Forest/Grassland, Wetlands, and Aquifer) using existing reports, plans, studies, data, and stakeholder input. Each issue was assigned as one of three priority levels within each planning region. Seven 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. Six 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 three 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 six measurable goals that collectively address the thirteen 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 related to Regulatory, Outreach, and Data Collection and Monitoring implementation programs.
- 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 \$1.6 million.

G. **Northern Regional Committee.** On October 5, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Rich Sve, 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 Board Conservationist Chris Pence. The representatives from the Partnership were Danielle Anderson, Jerry Haggenmiller, Adam Ossefoort and Shannon Wettstein. 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.

H. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until October 26, 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 Long Prairie River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.

5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a 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 Long Prairie River Watershed submitted September 23, 2022 and dated 2022-2032.

Dated at St Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-sixth of October 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

October 26, 2022

Long Prairie River Watershed Policy Committee
c/o Adam Ossefoort
Todd County
215 1st Ave S Suite 104
Long Prairie, MN 56347

RE: Approval of the Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Long Prairie River Watershed Planning Partnership:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Long Prairie River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on October 26, 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 October 26, 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 Chris Pence of our staff at chris.pence@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

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Long Prairie River, Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan





Acknowledgements

Project Partners

Douglas County
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Todd County
Todd SWCD
Morrison County
Morrison SWCD
West Otter Tail SWCD
Otter Tail County



Todd County



Todd County

MINNESOTA



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Chris Pence, Board of Water and Soil Resources
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Acronyms and Abbreviations

1W1P	One Watershed, One Plan
ACUB	Army Compatible Use Buffer
AIS	Aquatic Invasive Species
ALASD	Alexandria Lake Area Sanitary District
BMP	Best Management Practice
BWSR	Board of Water and Soil Resources
CEC	Contaminants of Emerging Concern
CLC	Central Lakes Center
CMIC	Central Minnesota Irrigators
CRP	Conservation Reserve Program
CSP	Conservation Stewardship Program
DCLA	Douglas County Lakes Association
DNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
DO	Dissolved Oxygen
DWSMA	Drinking Water Supply Management Area
EQIP	Environmental Quality Incentives Program
FSA	Farm Service Agency
HEI	Houston Engineering, Inc.
HSPF	Hydrologic Simulation Program – Fortran
HUC	Hydrologic Unit Code
LGU	Local Government Unit
LPCWMP	Long Prairie Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
LPR	Long Prairie River
LSP	Landscape Stewardship Plan
MAWQCP	Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MGLP	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
MnDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
MPARS	Minnesota DNR Permitting and Regulatory System
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
MRWA	Minnesota Rural Water Association
MSDC	Minnesota State Demographic Center
NLCD	National Land Cover Dataset

NPDES	National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
PC	Policy Committee
PFAS	Perfluoroalkyl Substances
PFC	Perfluorochemicals
PFOA	Perfluorooctanoic Acid
PFOS	Perfluorooctanoic Sulfonic Acid
RAQ	Risk Adjacency Quality
SCORE	Select Committee on Recycling and the Environment
SFIA	Sustainable Forest Incentive Act
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems
SWAG	Surface Water Assessment Grant
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TAC	Technical Advisory Committee
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
TNC	The Nature Conservancy
TP	Total Phosphorus
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USEPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
USFWS	United States Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geological Survey
W:L	Watershed to Lake Ratio
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WCTSA	West Central Technical Service Area
WHAF	Watershed Health Assessment Framework
WMA	Wildlife Management Areas
WPLMN	Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network
WRAPS	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy
WRP	Wetland Reserve Program





Definitions

The following definitions were developed to establish a common language for communicating information:

Best Management Practice (BMP): BMPs describe ways to manage your land and activities to mitigate pollution of surface and groundwater near you.

Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA): A DWSMA is an area most important to the drinking water source for a public water supplier such as a city. DWSMA boundaries establish a protection area through an extensive evaluation that determines the contribution area of a public water supply well, aquifer vulnerability and provide an opportunity to prioritize specific geographic areas for drinking water protection purposes.

Enhance (management approach): The “Enhance” approach applies to lakes and streams that have a significant amount of land conversion and/or disturbance in their drainage area but are not currently impaired.

General Development Lake: Generally large, deep lakes with high levels and mixes of existing development. These lakes often are extensively used for recreation and, except for the very large lakes, are heavily developed around the shore. Second and third tiers of development are fairly common. These lakes also typically have the highest property values.

HSPF (Hydrological Simulation Program – FORTRAN): A model for simulation of watershed hydrology and water quality for pollutants. This model was run for the Long Prairie River Watershed during the 2017 Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS).

Impairment: Waterbodies are listed as impaired if they do not meet the state water quality standard for designated uses including aquatic life, aquatic recreation, and aquatic consumption.

Index of Biological Integrity (IBI): A way of measuring the biological community (fish and aquatic macroinvertebrates) in the water body. The index is a scale of 0 to 100 with 0 being the lowest quality and 100 being the highest quality.

Judicial Ditch: A ditch that crosses county lines.

Lakes Benefit: Cost Ratio: The Lakes Benefit: Cost Assessment was based on the Phosphorus Sensitivity Index, lake area, and catchment disturbance. These lakes represent those that will likely give the greatest return on investment for restoration, enhancement, and protection activities. The simple calculation used is based on and tracked a peer-reviewed cost:benefit analysis (Radomski & Carlson, 2018).

Lakes of Biological Significance: Lakes of biological significance are ranked by the DNR as Outstanding, High, or Moderate, based on the presence of high-quality aquatic plants, fish, birds, or amphibians. Outstanding Lakes of Biological Significance had to have one of the following criteria: 1) high aquatic plant richness, high floristic quality, and a population of an endangered or threatened plant species; 2) important wild rice lakes; 3) exceptional fishery for selected game fish or an outstanding nongame fish community; 4) one or more of the following: endangered or threatened colonial waterbird nesting area, presence of several endangered, threatened, or special concern lake bird species, or six or more lake bird species of Greatest Conservation Need.

Natural Environment Lake: Generally small, often shallow lakes with limited capacities for assimilating the impacts of development and recreational use. They often have adjacent lands with substantial constraints for development such as high water tables, exposed bedrock, and unsuitable soils. These



lakes, particularly in rural areas, usually do not have much existing development or recreational use. These lakes also typically have the lowest property values.

Nitrogen Infiltration Risk Assessment: An analysis conducted by Houston Engineering that identifies where there is most risk of nitrogen infiltration to groundwater based on sandy soils, shallow groundwater, and land uses on the land surface (Appendix C).

Phosphorus Sensitivity: The lake's sensitivity to phosphorus as determined by the DNR. Sensitivity means that added phosphorus would affect the clarity in these lakes the most (Radomski & Carlson, 2018).

Protect (management approach): A minor or subwatershed where the natural resources are generally in good condition, risks to natural resources are low, and the management focus is to maintain and increase protection levels with strategies such as private forest stewardship and conservation easements.

Protected: Protected land uses include public lands, public waters, wetlands on private lands, buffers required through the buffer law, easements, other conservation lands, Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA).

Recreational Development Lake: Generally medium-sized lakes. They often are characterized by moderate levels of recreational use and existing development. Development consists mainly of seasonal and year-round residences and recreationally-oriented commercial uses.

Restore (management approach): For purposes of this plan, the "Restore" management approach for lakes and streams means that the water body is on the Impaired Waters List for nutrients, *E.coli*, or sediment.

Storage: This plan talks about water storage and carbon storage. Water storage describes retaining water on the land's surface in basins or in the soil to reduce runoff. Carbon storage describes the carbon in trees and soil.

TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load): The amount of a particular pollutant that a body of water can handle without violating state water quality standards.

Watershed: A land area that channels rainfall and snowmelt to creeks, streams, and rivers, and eventually to outflow points such as reservoirs, bays, and the ocean.

WRAPS: (Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy): A watershed approach to restoring and protecting Minnesota's rivers, lakes, and wetlands implemented by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on a 10-year cycle (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/watershed-approach-restoring-and-protecting-water-quality>).





Vision Statement

Uniting the people of the Long Prairie Watershed in balancing agriculture, recreation, tourism, and timber with the protection of the environment for the future.

Guiding Principles:

- ◆ Resource professionals, local partners, and concerned citizens will be appointed to form collaborative leadership committees that are informed, punctual, and organized while working effectively across county boundaries within the watershed.
- ◆ Communication, financial accountability, and environmental efforts will be priorities while respecting the individual roles and positions of citizens, local government, and agencies.
- ◆ Projects and practices will be well-researched, science-based, targeted, fiscally and realistically obtainable, measurable, and presented in a meaningful format.
- ◆ Communication efforts will be inclusive and effective. This may require additional outreach efforts to provoke watershedwide interest, spread knowledge of plan objectives, and obtain valuable feedback that will be incorporated into the plan in an understandable way.
- ◆ All feedback on concerns, problems, risks, and opportunities is to be heard and respectfully acknowledged to best represent priorities based on the knowledge of the people and agencies who hold common interest.
- ◆ The role of the collaborative efforts will be elevated to ensure projects and practices are adopted in areas prioritized by the plan and to ease economic limitations that commonly slow or impede these efforts.
- ◆ The plan, through these combined efforts, will produce a conscientious culture of environmental stewardship.
- ◆ The projects completed will have a sustainable benefit to the watershed's environment, economy, and future generations.





Executive Summary

Introduction

The Long Prairie River Watershed, located in central Minnesota, is rich with lakes, streams, forests, and farmland. With very few water quality impairments, the majority of these resources are in good condition, and this plan is geared towards protection. Protection of these resources is evident in the watershed Vision Statement:

Uniting the people of the Long Prairie Watershed in balancing agriculture, recreation, tourism, and timber with the protection of the environment for the future.

The Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LPCWMP) was developed in 2021-2022 through the One Watershed, One Plan program administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Statutes §103B.801. The purpose of the plan is to guide the watershed managers (local counties and soil and water conservation districts) as they work to protect and restore the watershed's resources for the enjoyment of future generations and for maintaining a healthy local economy.

Implementation of the LPCWMP is voluntary, and outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation on private lands. A strong emphasis has been placed on outreach, as teaching others about conservation is an effective way to protect the watershed together.

Throughout the planning process, the Long Prairie Watershed Collaboration partners stressed the importance of this plan being easy to understand. This characteristic was kept in mind throughout plan development with the use of infographics and a simple layout. In addition, to keep the plan concise, the majority of the supporting data for the plan has been placed in the Appendices (Section 9).

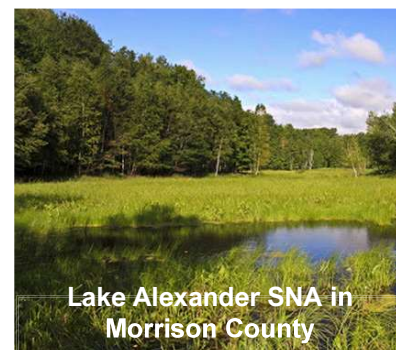
THE LONG PRAIRIE RIVER
SOMETIMES A LIFE MOVES LIKE THIS,
SEEN IN ITS FULL COURSE.
LIKE THIS OUR RIVER,
SEEN FROM ABOVE.
COMES OUT OF OTHER LIFE.
BENDS AS NEEDED.
(NEVER STRAIGHT AND NEAT,
POINT TO POINT, LIKE A ROAD,
AS IF DESTINATION
WAS WHAT IT WAS FOR)
BUT EVERY BEND, EVERY MEANDER A
PART OF THE WHOLE,
TAKING IN THE FLOW, GIVING IT AWAY
GOING WHERE IT NEEDS TO GO.
- EDITH RYLANDER



Lake Carlos in Douglas County



Farmland in Todd County



Lake Alexander SNA in Morrison County

Plan Area

The plan area spans portions of five counties in order of percentage in the watershed: Todd, Douglas, Morrison, Otter Tail, and Wadena (Figures 1.1 and 1.2). Major towns in the watershed (population over 500) include Alexandria, Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend, Long Prairie, and Motley.

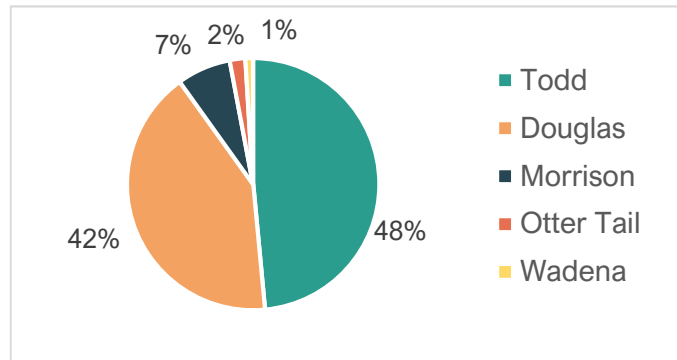


Figure 1.1. Percentages of counties in the plan area.

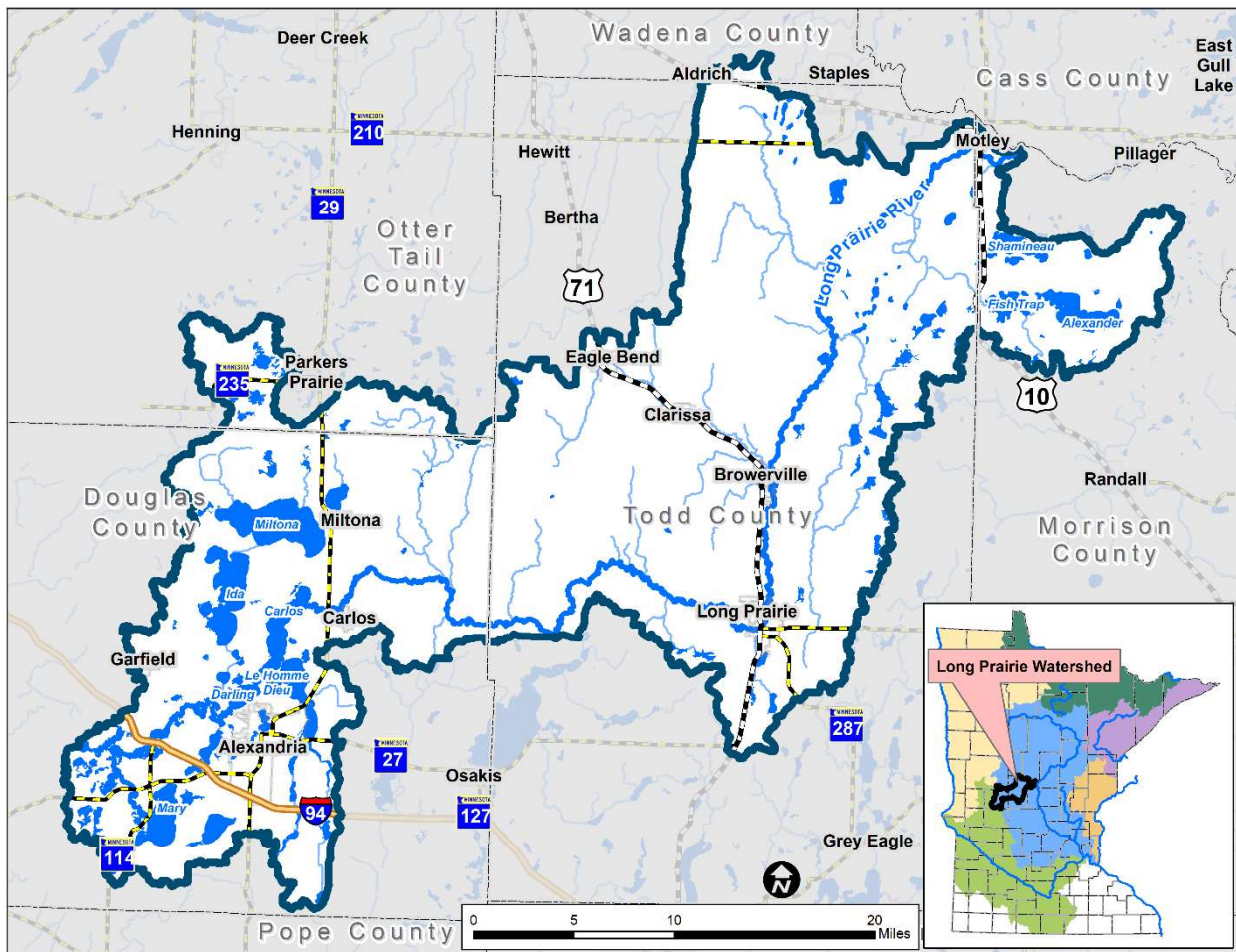


Figure 1.2. Long Prairie River Watershed plan area.

Purpose, Roles, and Responsibilities

The purpose of the One Watershed, One Plan process is to align local water planning along major watershed boundaries, not just local jurisdictions. The LPCWMP planning effort began with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between Douglas County, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Todd County, Todd SWCD, West Otter Tail SWCD, Morrison County, and Morrison SWCD (Appendix H). Wadena SWCD and Otter Tail County participated in the Advisory Committee as well.

A representative from each MOA governmental unit was appointed by each county and SWCD board to serve on the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making body for this plan (Figure 1.3). Morrison SWCD was the fiscal agent for this project, and Douglas SWCD was the plan coordinator.

The plan content was shaped by the Technical Advisory Committee, which consisted of the counties and SWCDs in the watershed, State Agencies, Townships, and other local stakeholders. The Citizen Advisory Committee, made up of local stakeholders, including lake groups and agricultural producers, provided input on the plan priorities and content (Figure 1.3).

The Steering Committee guided the planning process, produced the plan content, and developed the details for implementation such as what will be tracked and by whom. The Steering Committee will be the primary implementors of the plan. The Advisory Committees are partners in plan implementation.



Figure 1.3. Committees and roles in the LPCWMP.

Community Engagement

The LPCWMP began with a public survey and kick-off meeting in March 2021. The meeting and survey were virtual, since it took place during the COVID-19 pandemic. Participants learned about the watershed and gave input on concerns (Figure 1.4). The Citizen Advisory Committee met in April and gave input on what they thought was going well in the watershed (Figure 1.5), and then prioritized issues and concerns (Appendix D). These responses guided the priority issues for the plan.

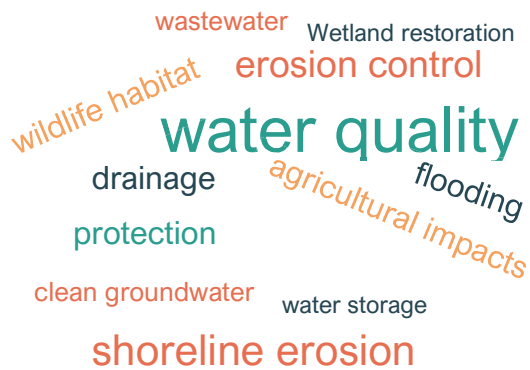


Figure 1.4. Public survey responses to "What should be the number one priority water concern for the watershed as a whole?"



Figure 1.5. Citizen Advisory Committee responses to "What is going well in the watershed?"

The Citizen Advisory Committee also met in October 2021 and February 2022 to give input on goals and actions in the plan (Appendix D). These relationships enhanced the plan understanding and local buy-in.



Priority Issues

The issues for the LPCWMP were generated and prioritized with a variety of input from the general public, the Advisory Committees, the Policy Committee, state agencies, and existing local and regional plans. The Technical Advisory Committee separated the issues into Priority A and B, as shown on the next page (Tables 1.1 and 1.2).

Priority A Issues

Priority A issues are the most important issues that will be the focus of implementation efforts in the 10-year plan. The main theme of the issue statement is shown in **bold** text.

Table 1.1. Priority A Issues and the resources affected by each issue.

Resource Affected	Issue Statement
Lakes, Streams	Stormwater runoff from urban areas, developed shoreland property, and roads causes contamination of lakes and streams.
Drinking water	Shallow groundwater water paired with sandy soils is vulnerable to contamination .
Lakes, Streams, Groundwater	Bacteria and nutrient runoff from animal agriculture impacts water quality.
Lakes, Streams	Field erosion and runoff causes nutrient and sediment loading and low dissolved oxygen in lakes and streams.
Lakes, Streams	Alterations to natural drainage such as tiling, ditching, and culvert placement increases the flow of water, streambank erosion, and impacts aquatic life.
Soil, Lakes, Streams, Groundwater	Degraded soil health can reduce agricultural productivity and water holding capacity.
Forest and Grassland	Fragmentation and conversion of uplands (forest and grassland) by changes in land use (development, agriculture, disturbance) impacts surface water, groundwater, and habitat quality.

Priority B Issues

Priority B issues are important and will be addressed as time and funding allows. The main theme of the issue statement is shown in **bold** text.

Table 1.2. Priority B Issues and the resources affected by each issue.

Resource Affected	Issue Statement
Lakes, Streams	Intensification of development on lakes and streams impacts riparian habitat, fragments upland habitat, and affects water quality.
Lakes, Streams	Changing precipitation and temperature patterns have increased erosion, lake and stream water levels, and overburdened existing public infrastructure.
Lakes, Streams	Biologically significant lakes, shallow lakes, wild rice lakes, and trout streams need sufficient protections to maintain their water and habitat quality.
Wetlands, Lakes, Streams	Wetlands are abundant in the watershed and some land practices could threaten the extent and quality of wetlands, impacting water storage, water quality, and habitat.
Lakes, Streams, Groundwater, Wetlands	Chloride concentrations are increasing in lakes and streams due to many sources (water softeners, industry, road salts, stormwater infiltration to groundwater).
Aquifer	Groundwater use has the potential to reduce groundwater quantity .



Priority Resources

Resources in the watershed were prioritized based on priority issues, water quality, and management approach. Impaired waters are labeled “Restore,” lakes, streams, and groundwater areas that are not impaired but need improvement are labeled “Enhance,” and lakes, streams, and groundwater areas that are in excellent condition and are a focus of protection are labeled “Protect” (Figures 1.6, 1.7).

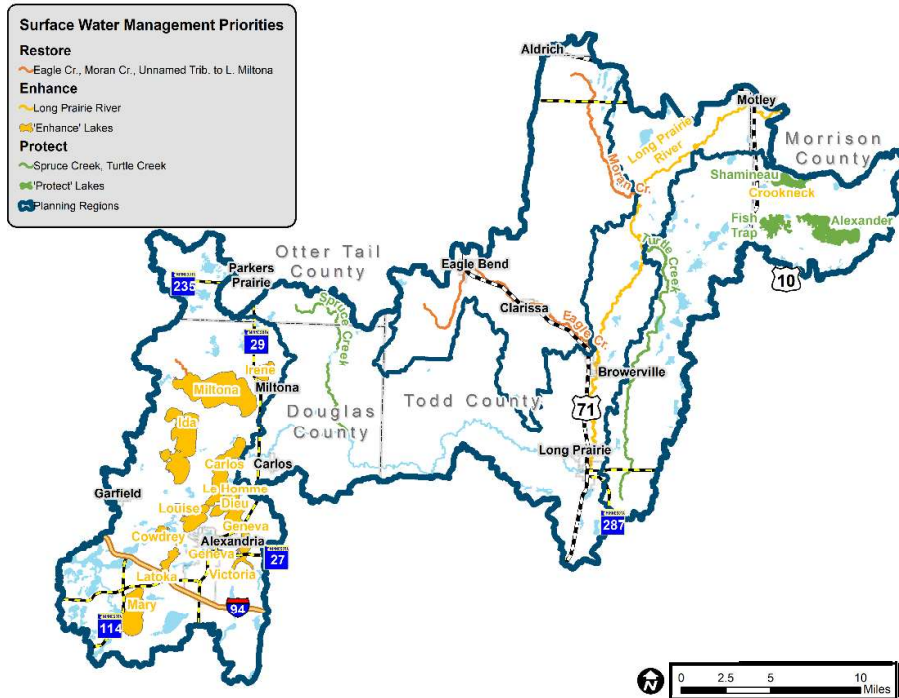


Figure 1.6. Surface water management priorities.

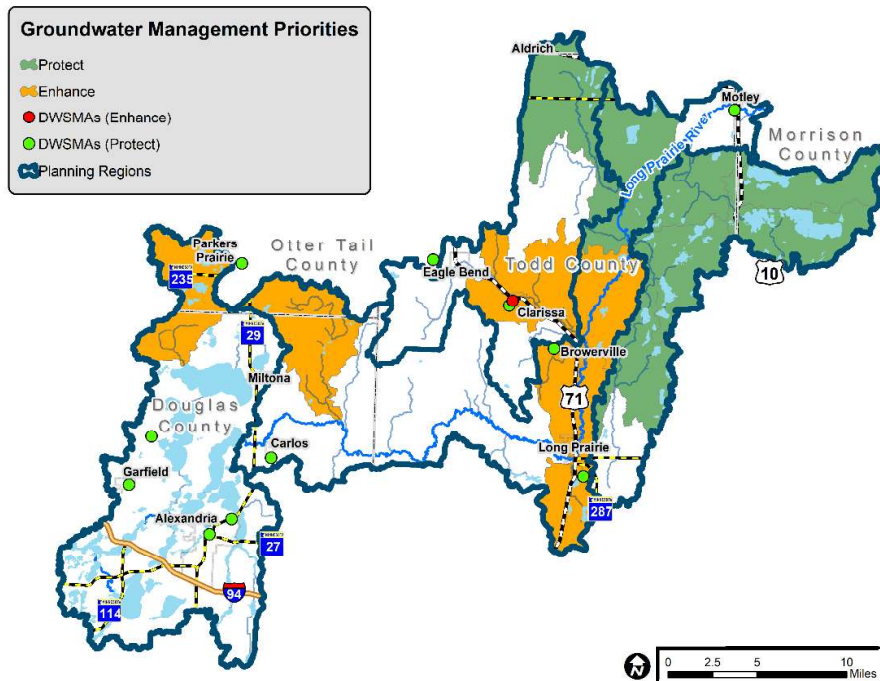








Figure 1.7. Groundwater management priorities.

Measurable Goals

Measurable goals identify the desired change in the resource and indicate how progress will be measured. Goals are developed to address the priority issues. The quantity of how much progress implementation can make toward goals and changes to the resource condition are determined with models and data analysis. The measurable goals were developed over the course of three Technical Advisory Committee meetings and then approved by the Policy Committee. Table 1.3 shows the plan goals along with examples of actions to meet the goals. The goals are explained in detail along with priority focus areas in Section 5 of this plan.

Table 1.3. Plan Goals and examples of actions.

Plan Goals	Examples of Actions to Meet Goal
 Agricultural Land Management. Implement 11,090 acres of agricultural best management practices (BMPs) to benefit surface and groundwater quality and quantity.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Nutrient management ◆ Cover crops and no till ◆ Irrigation water management
 Phosphorus Reduction. Reach the phosphorus reduction goal for priority lakes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Stormwater control ◆ Rain gardens ◆ Agricultural BMPs
 Forest Management. Implement 10,605 acres of forest management and/or forest protection to benefit habitat, groundwater, and surface water quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Forest stewardship plans ◆ Sustainable Forest Incentive Act ◆ Conservation easements ◆ Land acquisition (state, federal)
 Runoff Reduction. Build resiliency and keep up with the increasing precipitation trend by adding 1,053 acre-feet of water storage on the landscape.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Wetland restoration ◆ Flood plain restoration ◆ Cover crops
 Drinking Water Protection. Seal 20 wells per year watershed-wide and protect Drinking Water Supply Management Areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Sealing unused wells ◆ Drinking Water Supply Management Area protection (BMPs, easements)
 Bacteria Reduction. Implement 28 bacteria reduction projects to address bacteria sources along impaired waters.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Waste pit closures ◆ Manure storage ◆ Septic system improvements

Implementation

Implementation activities and costs are laid out in Section 6 of this plan. The Technical Advisory and Policy committees recognize that stewardship practices are already occurring on the landscape. The implementation focus of the LPCWMP is to encourage additional BMPs in priority areas to reach the goals (Table 1.3). Plan practices are voluntary on private lands and will be implemented through a variety of cost-share programs, grants, and state and federal funding programs.

To implement the full extent of this plan, additional state or federal funding and capacity over current levels will be necessary. The implementation table labels implementation actions as funding level 2 or 3 (Table 1.4). Level 2 is the new operating level of the watershed after this plan is completed. Level 3 describes partner-sponsored projects that will help achieve plan goals.

Table 1.4. Funding Levels in the LPCWMP.

Level	Description	Estimated 10-year Total
Level 1	Current Baseline Funding for the watershed for all programs.	\$9,336,000
Level 2	Baseline + Watershed-Based Implementation Funding + Grants	\$13,661,800
Level 3	Partner funding (NRCS, SFIA, CRP, Lessard-Sams, TNC, DNR, MPCA)	\$21,060,300

Existing programs will be utilized for implementing plan actions and are organized into four categories: Planned Landscape Management (“Manage It”), Protected Lands Maintenance (“Protect It”), Constructed Environmental Enhancements (“Fix It”), and Analysis and Information. For the Long Prairie River Watershed, the scale is even between programs (Figure 1.8).

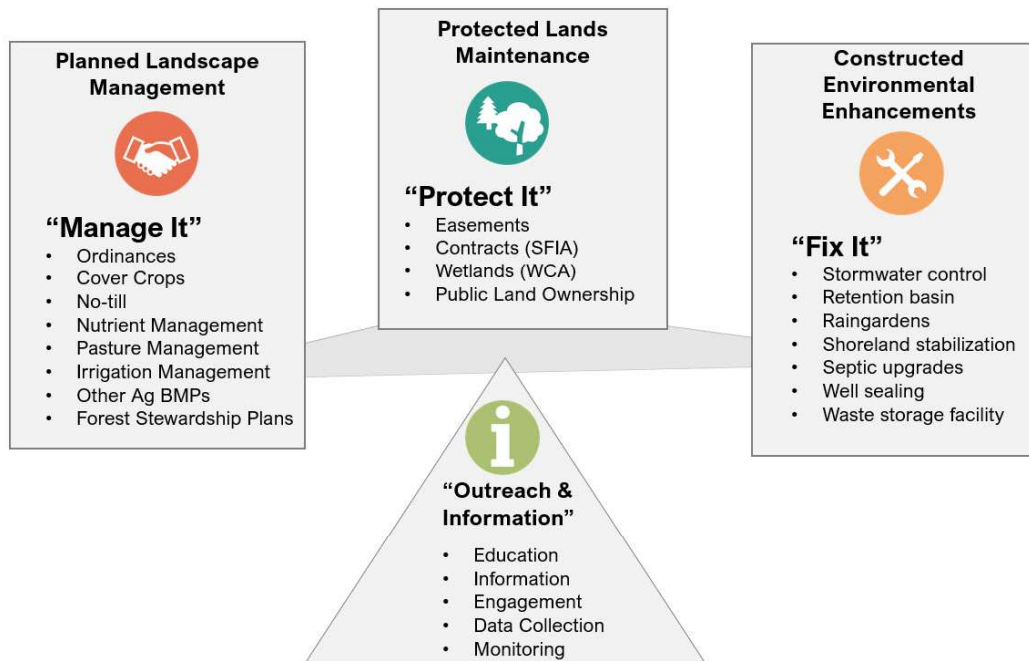








Figure 1.8. Implementation Programs in the LPCWMP.

Overall Plan Benefits

With current funding available plus the new watershed-based funding that will be acquired upon completion of this plan, planning partners aim to achieve the following overall improvements in the watershed (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5. Overall benefits from implementing this 10-year plan.

Surface Water Quality Benefits	Phosphorus: the pounds of phosphorus reduced by implementing all plan goals.	2,333 pounds/year*; equivalent to:  1.2 million pounds of algae
	Sediment: the tons of phosphorus reduced by implementing all plan goals.	418 tons/year*; equivalent to:  42 dump trucks of sediment
	Nitrogen: the pounds of nitrogen reduced by implementing all plan goals.	9,998 lbs/year*; equivalent to:  2,500 bags of nitrogen fertilizer
Habitat Benefits	Habitat: acres of forest protected by implementing all plan goals.	10,605 acres; equivalent to:  7 Lake Shamineaus 4 Lake Carloses
Climate Resiliency Benefits**	Storage: the amount of new water storage on the landscape or in the soil by implementing all plan goals.	1,053 acre-feet; equivalent to:  1,000 football fields covered in 1 foot of water
	Carbon: the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by implementing plan goals.	147,337 tonnes; equivalent to:  Removing 11,640 gas vehicles annually for 10 years

*These are reductions to the annual load of the waterbody.

**Climate resiliency is the capacity of the ecosystem to cope with stress from heavy rain and extreme heat yet still function.

Plan Administration and Coordination

The Long Prairie River Watershed Collaboration is a coalition of Douglas SWCD, Douglas County, Morrison SWCD, Morrison County, West Otter Tail SWCD, Todd County, and Todd SWCD (Figure 1.9). The Policy Committee previously entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for planning the One Watershed One Plan (Appendix H). The entities will enter into a joint powers collaboration (JPC) through a MOA for the purposes of implementing this plan. The Policy Committee is advisor to the individual county, SWCD boards, and fiscal agent under the umbrella of the MOA. Otter Tail County and Wadena SWCD participate in the Technical Advisory Committee but are not signatories on the MOA.

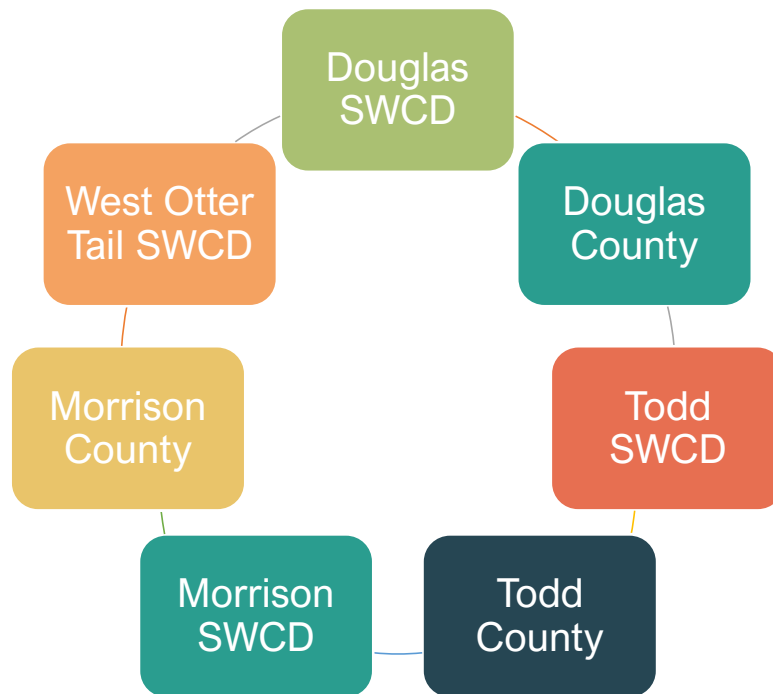


Figure 1.9. The Long Prairie River Watershed Collaboration.

Plan accomplishments will be recorded by watershed partners in a tracking system and summarized annually. In addition, committees that convened for planning will continue into implementation in the same roles although the Technical Advisory Committee and Citizen Advisory Committee will be combined moving forward (Figure 1.3).