

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 26, 2025**

AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JANUARY 22, 2025 BOARD MEETING

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Melissa Sjolund, NGO/Tribal Grants Specialist
- Janna Fitzgerald, eLINK Coordinator
- Julie Hendrickson, Easement Acquisition Specialist

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

REPORTS

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

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Jason Garms
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Melissa Lewis

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Mike Schultz
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Reserve Committee

1. RIM Easement Alteration Request for Benton County Public Road Improvements - Easement #05-01-20-18 – Karli Swenson – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) for Peatland Restoration – Suzanne Rhees, David Weirens, Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Extension and Expansion – Dusty Van Thuyne – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Rainy River-Rainy Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Rich Sve and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Minnesota 2005-2022 Legislative Report – Carl Stenoien, MPCA – ***INFORMATION ITEM***
2. Minnesota Forest Resources Council Report – Erick Schenck and Pete Aube – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee is scheduled for April 7th at 1:00 p.m. in Rogers and by MS Teams.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for April 23rd at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

Board Order # 25-__

Climate Pollution Reduction Grant for Peatlands Restoration

WHEREAS, the Environmental Protection Agency has awarded a Climate Pollution Reduction Grant to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; and

WHEREAS, \$8,000,000 of these funds are directed to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to restore approximately 4,000 acres of peatlands originally drained for agriculture, to transition from carbon sources to carbon sinks through collaboration across Tribal, state-administered, and private lands; and

WHEREAS, restoring the hydrology of peatlands supports their function as carbon sinks, supports culturally significant food sources including wild rice, forage plants, game animals, and fish, improves water quality and can reduce downstream flooding, and

WHEREAS, in 2023 the Minnesota State Legislature appropriated \$9,000,000 in Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to BWSR to acquire conservation easements and to restore and enhance peatlands and adjacent lands, which funds are being deployed as a subprogram of the RIM Wetlands program; and

WHEREAS, this order is supplemental to BWSR Board resolution 21-44 and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrant an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on March 25, 2025, and unanimously recommended the following.

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

1. Utilize funds awarded under the Climate Pollution Reduction Grant.
2. Coordinate the use of State and CPRG funds.
3. Work with partners, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) and Watershed Districts (WDs), to develop and implement the program.
4. Work with partners, including the DNR, non-governmental organizations, Tribal governments and private landowners to maximize opportunities to utilize CPRG and state funds for peatland restoration, through easements or other agreements with these partners to achieve program goals.

Date: _____

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Renville County cooperation brings additional water storage options



OLIVIA — By working together, Renville County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and county drainage system staff can offer more opportunities for landowners to install nutrient reduction and water storage projects in conjunction with ditch repairs or improvements.

The most recent example will wrap up this spring north of Olivia on the Renville County Ditch 59 system. There, contractors worked with seven landowners to install three water and sediment control basins and three ponds.

A \$773,120 Clean Water Fund grant the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to the SWCD in 2024 supported the work.

Together, those water storage projects — completed in conjunction with planned ditch improvements paid for by benefiting landowners — are estimated to prevent nearly 15 tons of sediment from eroding, and keep about 1,845

pounds of nitrogen and 190 pounds of phosphorus out of Beaver Creek annually. The projects created nearly 190 acre-feet of water storage. An acre-foot is the amount of water it takes to cover 1 acre 1 foot deep.

The County Ditch 59 system flows into Beaver Creek. A priority watershed for the Hawk Creek-Middle Minnesota comprehensive watershed management plan, Beaver Creek carries water from 21 county and judicial ditches affecting nearly 97,600 acres to the Minnesota River. The ditch, creek and river are impaired due to excess sediment and nutrients.

“Most of the time, without the grants we’re not going to move forward with the water storage just because it’s too expensive,” said Kyle Richter, Renville County SWCD resource conservationist.

State statute requires that the benefits of ditch projects must outweigh the costs. The people who determine if a project will pay for itself, known as viewers, typically don’t see a monetary

A \$773,120 Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the Renville County SWCD in 2024 leveraged a 10% local match.

A \$956,600 Multipurpose Drainage Management Clean Water Fund grant BWSR awarded to the SWCD in 2025 leverages \$188,000 in local funds and landowners’ match. Additional funding will come from the [Minnesota River Valley Conservation Drainage Turn-Key Project](#), supported by the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service via its 2023 agreement with Ecosystem Services Exchange.

Center: A pond under construction Oct. 7 in Winfield Township just north of Olivia was among the Clean Water Fund-supported water storage projects completed in conjunction with planned Renville County Ditch 59 improvements paid for by benefiting landowners. Together, the three ponds and three water and sediment control basins will create nearly 190 acre-feet of water storage and keep about 1,845 pounds of nitrogen and 190 pounds of phosphorus out of Beaver Creek. **Photo Credit:** Renville County A Feb. 24 aerial view, **left,** depicts one of the ponds north of Olivia, designed to temporarily store water bound for Renville County Ditch 59, Beaver Creek and, eventually, the Minnesota River. **Right:** One of the three water and sediment control basins is seen after a 2-inch rain in June 2024. **Photos Courtesy of Renville County SWCD**



“ The willing landowners, they’re the ones that really make this possible. ... If you have somebody that wants to do something ... the SWCD does a good job of finding where it fits, and our drainage authority does a good job of figuring out a way to incorporate it into that system. ”

— Seth Sparks, Renville County drainage system manager

benefit to the added water storage. So it is the grant funding that makes water storage projects possible.

But it is the tie to drainage work that makes more locations available for storage.

When a pond or water and sediment control basin is built in conjunction with a ditch repair or improvement, it can be located anywhere a willing landowner and suitable site can be found within that watershed. The entire Renville County Ditch 59 system drains 8,681 acres.

“Trying to find a storage location on your small micro-subwatershed, sometimes that can be tougher,” said Seth Sparks, Renville County drainage system manager. Sparks oversees ditch repairs and improvements. He works with landowners and the ditch authority, which in Renville County is the county board of commissioners.

“Without the drainage authority, you don’t have these big projects where you can add storage practices,” Richter said. “We’re able to bring everybody on board because the entire watershed is affected by that drainage system. If we can fix those issues, every other landowner is (going to see positive outcomes).”

The potential to add storage starts with landowners’ petition for a ditch repair or improvement.

“ Working with the drainage authority, you can affect (more) acres in one project, and affect an entire water body or drainage system. ”

— Kyle Richter, Renville County SWCD resource conservationist



The County Ditch 59 system is among those built in the 1910s. Segments are beginning to fail. Additionally, changes in agricultural practices and equipment over the past 100-plus years — along with increasingly frequent and heavy rains — are sending more water through the system.

When landowners petition the ditch authority, Sparks tells them to expect conversations about water storage, and stresses that installing a water-storage project is voluntary.

“Most of the landowners are always willing to at least hear what their options would be and what it would look like for them,” Sparks said. “And then we can start talking (about) how we can incorporate it within that project.”

Sparks then contacts Richter, who looks for potential water-storage sites. Both explain to landowners how the project might benefit their farm. If landowners are interested, Sparks and Richter will visit them onsite to determine where the water is flowing and make recommendations.

Next, an engineer will draw up a preliminary design and the SWCD will pursue grant funds.

“They kind of sell themselves once (farmers) start seeing how it works,” Richter said. “We’re able to concentrate that (flow) and hold it back behind the water and sediment control basin. Instead of erosive flows going over the surface, we can force it to go down the tile.”

After seeing one of the ponds built in connection with the 2024 grant, a landowner from a different branch of the County Ditch 59 system contacted Sparks about installing water storage on his land. He settled on plans for a wetland and water and sediment control basins.

That eventually led to the SWCD’s successful Multipurpose Drainage Management grant application. BWSR awarded that \$956,600 Clean Water Fund grant in 2025.

The project involves four parcels and two landowners. (The County Ditch 59 project will affect 103 landowners.) It will build

five water and sediment control basins, close a quarter-mile of drainage tile, create one wetland and 3 acres of saturated buffer to add temporary and permanent water storage and reduce peak flows. The basins will create nearly 155 acre-feet of storage. The wetland will add 15 acre-feet of storage and treat a 2,390-acre watershed.

“The wetland creation is just upstream of one of those other ponds, so it’s going to make that other pond function quite well,” Sparks said. “It kind of completed that complex (in the) upper reaches of that system.”

The work is planned in conjunction with a ditch repair.

“The assumption about drainage is that it’s a bad thing, but if we do it in the right way and add targeted water storage along with it,” Richter said, the result can produce positive outcomes for farmland, farmers, receiving waters and water-quality issues.

“Our flow rate’s going to decrease by putting these projects in. And that sediment that comes through this water is going to lessen as well, because we’re going to allow that to settle out before it goes into receiving waters,” Richter said.

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.

Group convenes to set priorities for managing, protecting native vegetation



BWSR Senior Ecologist and Vegetation Specialist Dan Shaw shares his perspective on priorities set by the state's Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Advisory Team. He is the team's project coordinator.



Shaw

Native plants play a key role in protecting and restoring Minnesota landscapes by offering a wide range of benefits to ecosystems, wildlife, human health and local economies.

However, native plant diversity is in decline for several reasons including encroaching development, the impacts of a changing climate, changes to land management practices and the presence of invasive species, pollutants and excess nutrients.

Today, about [1% of Minnesota's native prairie remains](#) compared with pre-European settlement levels, while forested land in the state has decreased from [31.5 million acres to 18 million acres](#). According to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota has [lost 40% to 50%](#) of its original natural shorelines. The DNR lists [90 native Minnesota plant species](#) as endangered or threatened; others are

being considered for listing.

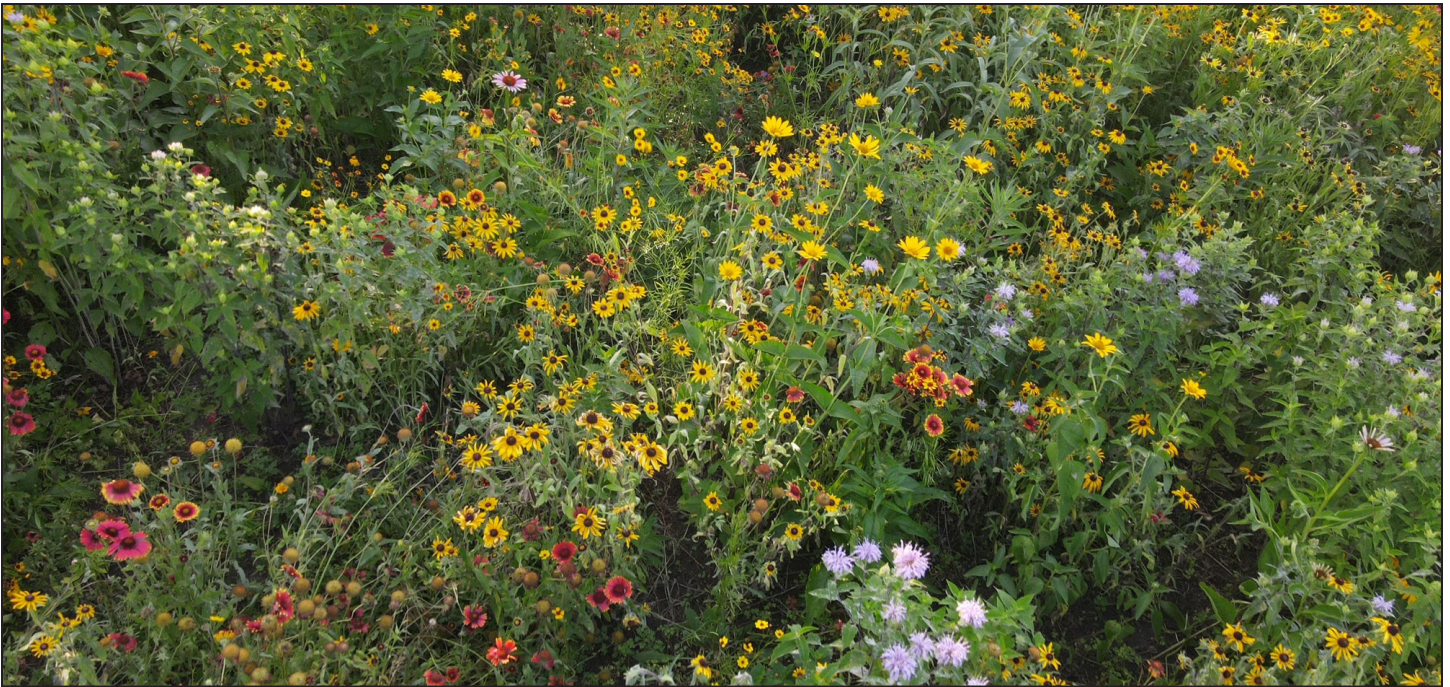
In spring 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill directing the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to “work with state and federal agencies, Tribal Nations, academic institutions, local governments, and stakeholders to foster mutual understanding and provide recommendations for establishing and enhancing native vegetation in order to provide benefits for water quality, soil conservation, energy conservation and climate adaptation, resiliency and mitigation.”

In 2024, BWSR convened an advisory team of about 100 conservation partners from state agencies, Tribal Nations, conservation organizations and seed suppliers to set priorities for establishing and enhancing native vegetation in Minnesota.

Conservation professionals witness changes to our natural landscapes firsthand as they visit project sites. They see fewer plant species, insects and birds, and declines in many other species. Finding common ground among conservation professionals and other stakeholders can be challenging — but the conservation community is united by a common understanding of the mounting challenges facing landscape restoration and is motivated to avoid

From left: *Rough blazing star; prairie sunflower (surrounded by goldenrod), and common milkweed are among the native plant species that contribute to landscape restoration and protection efforts in Minnesota.*

Photo Credits:
BWSR



A gardener planted this pollinator meadow in Hadley with support from the Lawns to Legumes Program. The BWSR-administered program offers workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in residential yards. **Contributed Photo**

losing more species.

Conservation partnerships in Minnesota have made significant gains in restoring and managing landscapes and protecting endangered species — from rare plants to trumpeter swans. We know we can be effective through thoughtful planning, innovation, and partnerships focused on managing landscapes.

The Native Vegetation and Biodiversity Advisory Team met twice in 2024. A policy-focused subcommittee met several times to refine priorities.

The following priorities represent key components of the advisory team’s vision:

Build capacity to address ecological ecosystem

threats: There is an urgent need for habitat protection and management to address climate change and habitat loss. Advisory team members are committed to pursuing funding sources for long-

term management of native plant communities, as well as staffing to aid Tribal Nations, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts and other local partners’ protection and restoration efforts.

Build and maintain biodiversity across

landscapes: Efforts are needed to establish prairies, manage forests, restore wetlands and establish habitat on solar sites, along roadsides and in utility corridors. We need to find innovative ways to incorporate biodiversity across landscapes. Fortunately, residents across Minnesota are motivated to be a part of the solution by supporting large-scale restoration and biodiversity efforts. One example: Minnesota residents have installed over 10,000 pollinator plantings in recent years through BWSR’s Lawns to Legumes Program.

Make landscape connections: Connected

landscapes build resiliency and provide refuge for pollinators and other at-risk species. Managing intact natural habitats is an important piece of landscape preservation since these habitats are essential for wildlife populations. However, we also need to establish new habitat corridors across landscapes, which can help mitigate the effects of climate change.

Restore multiple landscape

benefits: Projects need to rebuild ecological function and restore multiple landscape benefits such as clean water, flood retention, wildlife habitat, climate adaptation and mitigation, in addition to economic benefits.

Many working lands approaches such as haying and grazing support productive land uses that are compatible with restoration and protection goals. Linking ecosystem restoration efforts with watershed-scale planning and protection

will also play an important role in promoting landscape restorations that maximize multiple landscape benefits, support local economies and improve water quality.

Increase seed and plant production and collection:

There is a need for conservation professionals to identify opportunities to collect seed of species unavailable or in short supply at native plant nurseries. Increased seed collection and seedling production from more diverse genetic sources from Minnesota and adjoining states is needed to help ensure the resiliency of plantings as the climate changes.

Continue discussions about appropriate seed and plant

sources: Further guidance is needed about how far away seed should be gathered to ensure that plants will be resilient to Minnesota winters, and to prevent the introduction of invasive species from other geographic areas. Local



Solar installations that incorporate native plants, such as this site in Annandale, can help augment habitat. BWSR's Habitat Friendly Solar Program and Habitat Friendly Utilities Program support integrating biodiversity via native plants in tandem with solar projects and across utility corridors. **Photo Credit:** BWSR

technical teams should assist migration efforts using available state, federal, and Tribal resources as guidance.

Build relationships with Tribal communities: Tribal communities have valuable knowledge about how their ancestors managed their lands for thousands of years. Climate change is affecting plants and ecosystems that the Ojibwe, Dakota and other Indigenous peoples have relied on for centuries. Historically, tribes have used native species — such as wild rice, blueberries, ostrich fern, and hazelnut — for subsistence. Plants such as sweetgrass, prairie sage and white cedar were used in ceremonies and for medicine, while black ash and cattail were used to make baskets and other practical items.

The advisory team acknowledges that it needs to treat this knowledge as a gift and that it must build respectful relationships with Tribal communities before requesting expertise and

knowledge. We believe these relationships can provide a deeper understanding and appreciation for traditional land-based practices that may be incorporated into contemporary land management.

Restore key landscape processes: We need to build capacity to restore and mimic key landscape processes such as prescribed burning and conservation grazing, which are critical to the ecological integrity of many plant communities. This will require increased capacity to conduct prescribed burns and provide infrastructure for grazing. To accomplish this, more training is needed for professionals who conduct prescribed burns.

Invasive species will continue to increase as they are effective at dispersal, giving them an advantage in adapting to climate change. We will need to combine practices such as water level management, prescribed burning, prescribed grazing,

mowing and haying to replicate natural disturbances and promote diversity, function and resiliency.

Pursue innovative restoration and rewilding strategies: We need to be innovative as we continue to improve landscape restoration and management practices. That might include using temporary covers to rebuild soil health, supplemental seeding to increase plant diversity and cover mixes to suppress invasive shrub seedlings. It might involve extended site preparation time, adding more cool-season grasses to suppress weeds, enhancing soil microorganisms, adopting culturally focused burning practices, cooperative prescribed burning, using non-herbicide site preparation methods, and haying and grazing to reduce nitrogen in ecosystems.

New information will be needed about bioengineering practices, urban development on poor soils, rewilding highly

disturbed landscapes, utility corridor enhancement to complement BWSR's Habitat Friendly Utilities Program, peatland restoration methods, diverse woodlands management, and managing volunteers.

Expand outreach and equity efforts: Further education and outreach is needed about how Minnesotans can play a role in establishing and managing resilient native plant communities. For example, Minnesotans could plant native gardens; restore prairies, forests, savannas and wetlands; and support conservation organizations. Educating young people through outreach and habitat projects at schools will be essential, as they are the next generation who will carry on this important work to preserve and enhance native landscapes across Minnesota.

BWSR staff members write and produce *Snapshots*, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.

Bassett Creek watershed project offers multiple benefits, enhanced Golden Valley park



A \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR supported the stormwater treatment and park revitalization project in Golden Valley.

A stormwater treatment and park restoration project in Golden Valley's Medley Park will increase water storage, help protect infrastructure and homes from flooding, add habitat and improve water quality of nutrient-impaired Medicine Lake.

The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) project was completed in close collaboration with the city of Golden Valley and supported by a Clean Water Fund grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The project is in an area of Medley Park once covered by turf grass and a ballfield that was difficult to maintain due to challenging soils and drainage issues.

"We tried to maximize benefits for the community and nature," said Eric Eckman, Golden Valley environmental resources supervisor. "We wanted

to improve ecosystem health and increase community resilience in the face of a changing climate."

Project planning began with a community open house in 2019, where city staff sought residents' ideas about park improvements. Several ideas were discussed, including the addition of an off-leash pet area, but Eckman said residents were most interested in repurposing and naturalizing the underused ballfield.

The BCWMC conducted a project feasibility study in June 2021. Project design plans were approved in spring 2022. Construction work began that November and concluded in May 2023. Native vegetation establishment continued into 2024.

Project costs totaled approximately \$2 million, with most of the funding coming from the BCWMC's capital

Two new stormwater ponds, shown in spring 2024, were constructed as part of the \$2 million park revitalization project. The ponds will temporarily store water and then release it slowly, reducing erosion and protecting against flooding.

Photo Credits:
Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission



Native vegetation was established throughout the project area to provide enhanced habitat and improved water quality. Shorelines that are stabilized with native plants are less susceptible to bank erosion. Native plants' deep root systems also play a key role in water filtration by absorbing pollutants and excess nutrients.

improvement program. Additional funding included the \$300,000 Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR. Golden Valley contributed \$240,000.

“Collaboration between the watershed and the city is critical for most of our capital projects,” said BCWMC Administrator Laura Jester. “The city knows its residents best, so they typically do the heavy lifting on community outreach, but we’re there to provide funding and support.”

The city handled project design and oversaw construction.

An existing pond was dredged to remove contaminated sediment, and expanded to increase its water quality treatment volume by 4.3 acre-feet (an [acre-foot](#) measures how much water it takes to

cover 1 acre 1 foot deep; an acre-foot equals about 326,000 gallons). Jester said the project will reduce the amount of total phosphorus entering nutrient-impaired Medicine Lake by an estimated 16.4 pounds per year.

Two new stormwater ponds were constructed as part of the project, creating 8.8 acre-feet of water storage. An intermittent stream was diverted into the new treatment ponds to capture water during heavy rains. The ponds will temporarily store water and then release it slowly, which reduces the risk of erosion and protects against flood damage.

Jester said the increased flood storage capacity will significantly reduce flood risk for six nearby homes during a [100-year flood event](#), for four more homes

during a 50-year flood event and for five more homes during a 25-year flood event.

“Lots of infrastructure — homes, streets and park infrastructure — was at risk of flooding and damage,” Eckman said. “All the excavation work we did to naturalize the park created places for that water to go, so it’s not sitting on the roadways or entering people’s homes.”

Native vegetation was established following construction. A wetland-friendly seed mix was planted on 0.6 acres along the ponds’ edges, and a pollinator seed mix was incorporated into 0.6 acres of nearby uplands.

Golden Valley extended Americans with Disabilities Act accessible trails, creating a loop trail around

the stormwater ponds, and adding benches and solar lighting. The city is responsible for ongoing project maintenance.

Eckman said the project’s diverse scope was intended to create as many environmental and community benefits as possible. The stormwater project also tied into a new community garden installed at the same time.

“We’re not just trying to do one thing,” Eckman said. “If you can design a project to include multiple benefits, we like that — and our partners and funders like that. We’re thinking holistically and sustainably, and we’re striving for community connectedness.”

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.

Cook County SWCD partnership aids water quality, improves road safety



YOUR Clean Water Fund AT WORK

VIDEO: Cook County SWCD and Highway Department staff discuss the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding backed stormwater project. [BWSR YouTube link](#)

GRAND MARAIS — Highway 61 through Grand Marais is a bit safer and Grand Marais Harbor is a bit cleaner as a result of a stormwater project that slows and treats runoff before it enters Lake Superior at the marina.

Completed at the same time as the Cook County Highway Department’s Fifth Avenue West/ County State Aid Highway 15 reconstruction, the project involved the Cook County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the city of Grand Marais.

“This project is doing something really new in the city; it’s creating attenuation — so it’s holding the water and (the water is) going through a treatment system, a filtration system that’s got a lot of pipes and different methods to treat that water. And then it comes back out and it’s slowing the water down. ... So it’s not just going to flow down the street like a river,” said Ilena Hansel, district manager and Cook County water planner for the Cook County SWCD.

“(That will) help the water quality. It’s going to help also not to erode the road quite as quickly, so help with the



Hansel



“The Clean Water Fund is really what allowed us to do this project. ... I appreciate the opportunity not only for the grant, but to incorporate this type of system up here and really help preserve our waterways.”

— Robert Hass, Cook County engineer

infrastructure — because before it was just running straight on the road, and you could watch pieces of pavement actually going with the water,” Hansel said.

Previously, Cook County Engineer Robert Hass said the road would wash out. Driveways would wash out. Ice would build up at intersections.

Untreated stormwater flowed into the marina.

“(The marina) doesn’t have a lot of water circulation. And water acts like Velcro, so it’s picking up nutrients. It’s picking up sediment,” Hansel said. “Lake Superior is pretty cold, which

From left: Watershed-Based Implementation Funding from BWSR supported the filtration system installed under the Cook County Courthouse lawn, part of a Cook County SWCD stormwater project. Completed in conjunction with a planned highway improvement, it keeps an estimated 1,974 pounds of sediment out of the marina annually. The Cook County Highway Department’s County State Aid Highway 15 reconstruction is seen from the courthouse. The marina on Lake Superior at Grand Marais Harbor, seen in September 2023, benefits from the project that treats previously untreated runoff. Curbing sediment and the pollutants it carries has water-quality benefits.

Photo Credits: Ann Wessel, BWSR



“Lake Superior is pretty cold, which is really great. We want to keep it oligotrophic. This project is treating the water quality,” Ilena Hansel, district manager and Cook County water planner for the Cook County SWCD, said of the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding supported stormwater project.

is really great. We want to keep it oligotrophic. This project is treating the water quality.”

Water quality is part of what drives North Shore tourism, too.

“Maintaining our pristine waters up here is vital. We’re a tourist economy, and that’s what people come to see. The tourism is a small reason. Clean water is crucial to maintain this beautiful part of the state we live in,” Hass said.

Hansel said keeping nutrients out of the water helps to keep the water cold, which discourages algae growth.

“Whatever we can do now and be proactive was kind of the goal of this project,” Hansel said.

Stormwater upgrades were also part of the city’s

stormwater management plan. This project was first discussed in 2017. Work finished in 2023. The SWCD provided technical expertise and funding.

The six-block-long stormwater treatment accounted for about \$295,000 of the \$5.3 million reconstruction project. The filtration system was installed under the Cook County Courthouse lawn, which occupies nearly an entire block partway up a steep hill overlooking Lake Superior.

It drew from Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to the Lake Superior North One Watershed, One Plan planning partnership.

“The partnership with the soil and water conservation district allowed us to secure funding to perform work that was more on the advanced side of filtration. Instead of just the standard stormwater management system, we were able to install a filtration unit to make sure that the stormwater is also clean on its way to the big lake. These Clean Water Funds really open that door and open the conversation to even have these possibilities,” said Jacob Backer, Cook County Highway Department engineering technician.

The lack of available land to site projects and the



Backer

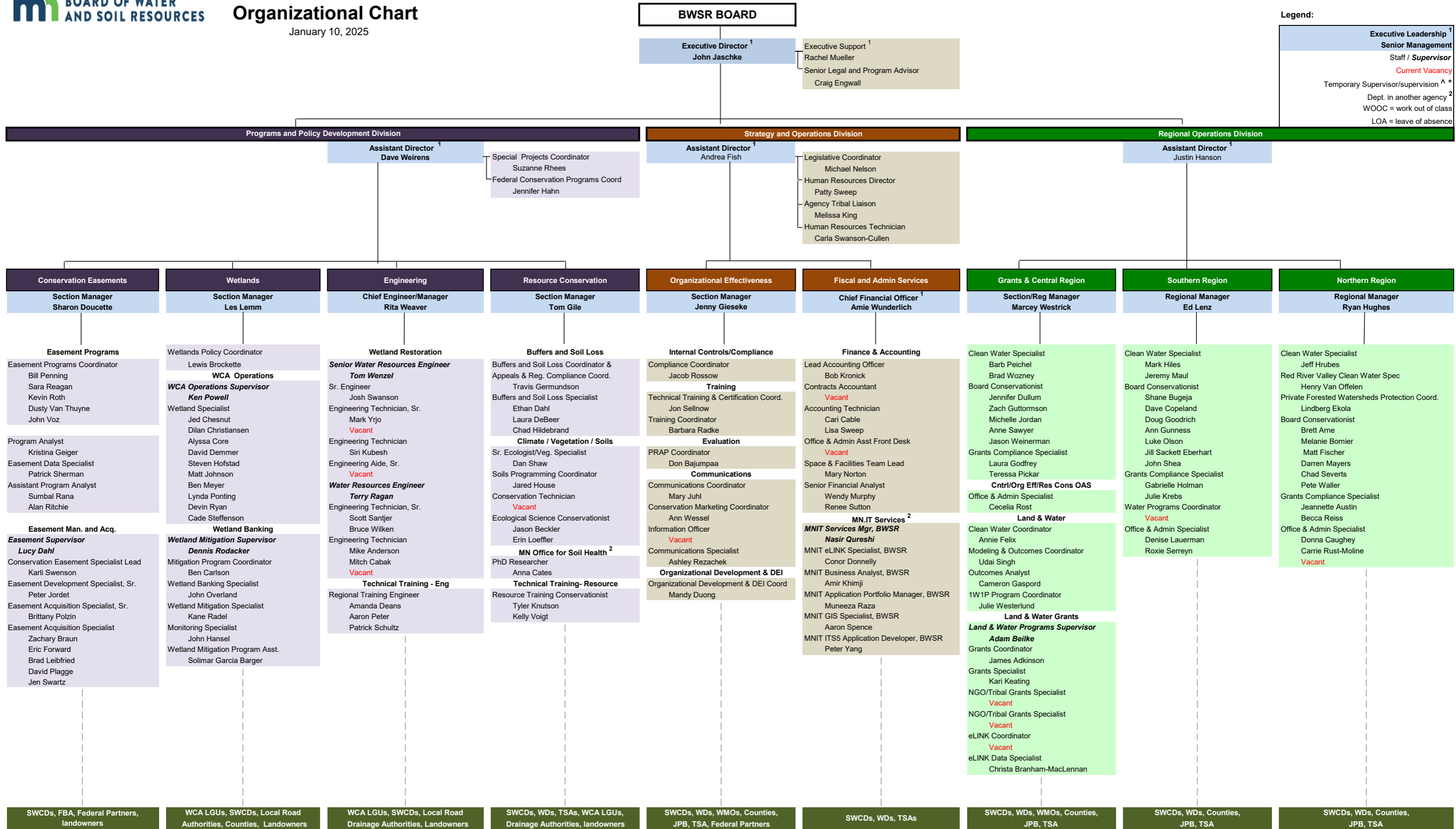
underlying bedrock made other options impractical or impossible.

“Those Clean Water Funds were a huge reason why we could even do it. Fronting all of it was just something that we couldn’t do. Kudos to soil and water for reaching out,” Hass said.

The sediment treatment system and vaults — which allow sediment to filter out, and which are vacuumed out when they fill — will keep an estimated 1,974 pounds of total suspended solids, 3.8 pounds of phosphorus and 12 pounds of nitrogen out of the marina on Lake Superior annually. The project treats 15.5 acre-feet of previously untreated stormwater.

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.

Executive Leadership¹
Senior Management
 Staff / **Supervisor**
 Current Vacancy
 Temporary Supervisor/supervision[^] *
 Dept. in another agency²
 WOOC = work out of class
 LOA = leave of absence



<input type="checkbox"/> IN-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM ADVANCE	SEMA4 EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if advance was issued for these expenses
<input type="checkbox"/> OUT-OF-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECURRING ADVANCE		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL EXPENSE(S) FOR THIS TRIP?

Employee Name	Home Address (Include City and State)	Permanent Work Station (Include City and State)	Agency	1-Way Commute Miles	Job Title
---------------	---------------------------------------	---	--------	---------------------	-----------

Employee ID	Rcd #	Trip Start Date	Trip End Date	Reason for Travel/Advance (30 Char. Max) [example: XYZ Conference, Dallas, TX]				Barg. Unit	Expense Group ID (Agency Use)
-------------	-------	-----------------	---------------	--	--	--	--	------------	-------------------------------

Chart String(s)	A	Accounting Date	Fund	Fin DeptID	AppropID	SW Cost	Sub Acct	Agncy Cost 1	Agncy Cost 2	PC BU	Project	Activity	Srce Type	Category	Sub-Cat	Distrib %
		B														

A. Description: _____ B. Description: _____

Date	Daily Description	Itinerary		Trip Miles	Total Trip & Local Miles	Mileage Rate	Meals ✓			Total Meals (overnight stay)	Total Meals (no overnight stay) taxable	Lodging	Personal Telephone	Parking	Total
		Time	Location				B	L	D						
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00
				VEHICLE CONTROL #		Total Miles 0	Figure mileage reimbursement below			Total MWI/MWO 0.00	Total MEI/MEO 0.00	Total LG/LGO 0.00	Total PHI/PHO 0.00	Total PKI/PKO 0.00	Subtotal (A) 0.00

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CALCULATION	OTHER EXPENSES – See reverse for list of Earn Codes.
--	---

Enter the rates, miles, and total amounts for the mileage listed above. Get the IRS rate from your agency business expense contact.	Rate	Total Miles	Total Mileage Amt.	Date	Earn Code	Comments	Total
1. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at equal to the IRS rate.			0.00				
2. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at less than the IRS rate.			0.00				
3. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at greater than the IRS rate.			0.00				
4. Add the total mileage amounts from lines 1 through 3.			0.00				
5. Enter IRS mileage rate in place at the time of travel.							
6. Subtract line 5 from line 3.	0.000						
7. Enter total miles from line 3.		0				Subtotal Other Expenses: (B)	0.00
8. Multiply line 6 by line 7. This is taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box C)</small>			Total taxable mileage greater than IRS rate to be reimbursed: (C)	0.00 <small>MIT or MOT</small>
9. Subtract line 8 from line 4. If line 8 is zero, enter mileage amount from line 4. This is non-taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box D)</small>			Total nontaxable mileage less than or equal to IRS rate to be reimbursed: (D)	0.00 <small>MLI or MLO</small>
Grand Total (A + B + C + D)							0.00

If using private vehicle for out-of-state travel: What is the lowest airfare to the destination? _____ Total Expenses for this trip must not exceed this amount.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that this claim is just, correct and that no part of it has been paid or reimbursed by the state of Minnesota or by another party except with respect to any advance amount paid for this trip. I AUTHORIZE PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF ANY SUCH ADVANCE. I have not accepted personal travel benefits.

Less Advance issued for this trip:	
Total amount to be reimbursed to the employee:	0.00
Amount of Advance to be returned by the employee by deduction from paycheck:	0.00

Employee Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Approved: Based on knowledge of necessity for travel and expense and on compliance with all provisions of applicable travel regulations. _____

Appointing Authority Designee (Needed for Recurring Advance and Special Expenses) _____

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT (Instructions)

DO NOT PAY RELOCATION EXPENSES ON THIS FORM.

See form FI-00568 Relocation Expense Report. Relocation expenses must be sent to Minnesota Management & Budget, Statewide Payroll Services, for payment.

USE OF FORM: Use the form for the following purposes:

1. To reimburse employees for authorized travel expenses.
2. To request and pay all travel advances.
3. To request reimbursement for small cash purchases paid for by employees.

COMPLETION OF THE FORM: Employee: Complete, in ink, all parts of this form. If claiming reimbursement, enter actual amounts you paid, not to exceed the limits set in your bargaining agreement or compensation plan. If you do not know these limits, contact your agency's business expense contact. Employees must submit an expense report within 60 days of incurring any expense(s) or the reimbursement comes taxable.

All of the data you provide on this form is public information, except for your home address. You are not legally required to provide your home address, but the state of Minnesota cannot process certain mileage payments without it.

Supervisor: Approve the correctness and necessity of this request in compliance with existing bargaining agreements or compensation plans and all other applicable rules and policies. Forward to the agency business expense contact person, who will then process the payments. Note: The expense report form must include original signatures.

Final Expense For This Trip?: Check this box if there will be no further expenses submitted for this trip. By doing this, any outstanding advance balance associated with this trip will be deducted from the next paycheck that is issued.

1-Way Commute Miles: Enter the number of miles from your home to your permanent workstation.

Expense Group ID: Entered by accounting or payroll office at the time of entering expenses. The Expense Group ID is a unique number that is system-assigned. It will be used to reference any advance payment or expense reimbursement associated with this trip.

Earn Code: Select an Earn Code from the list that describes the expenses for which you are requesting reimbursement. Be sure to select the code that correctly reflects whether the trip is in state or out-of-state. **Note:** Some expense reimbursements may be taxable.

Travel Advances, Short-Term and Recurring: An employee can only have one outstanding advance at a time. An advance must be settled before another advance can be issued.

Travel Advance Settlement: When the total expenses submitted are less than the advance amount or if the trip is cancelled, the employee will owe money to the state. Except for rare situations, personal checks will not be accepted for settlement of advances; a deduction will be taken from the employee's paycheck.

FMS ChartStrings: Funding source(s) for advance or expense(s)

Mileage: Use the **Mileage Reimbursement Calculation** table to figure your mileage reimbursement. Mileage may be authorized for reimbursement to the employee at one of three rates (referred to as the equal to, less than, or greater than rate). The rates are specified in the applicable bargaining agreement/compensation plan. Note: If the mileage rate you are using is above the IRS rate at the time of travel (this is not common), part of the mileage reimbursement will be taxed.

Vehicle Control #: If your agency assigns vehicle control numbers follow your agency's internal policy and procedure. Contact your agency's business expense contact for more information on the vehicle control number procedure.

Personal Travel Benefits: State employees and other officials cannot accept personal benefits resulting from travel on state business as their own. These benefits include frequent flyer miles/points and other benefits (i.e. discounts issued by lodging facilities.) Employees must certify that they have not accepted personal travel benefits when they apply for travel reimbursement.

Receipts: Attach itemized receipts for all expenses except meals, taxi services, baggage handling, and parking meters, to this reimbursement claim. The Agency Designee may, at its option, require attachment of meal receipts as well. Credit card receipts, bank drafts, or cancelled checks are not allowable receipts.

Copies and Distribution: Submit the original document for payment and retain a copy for your employee records.

Description	Earn Code		Description	Earn Code	
	In State	Out of State		In State	Out of State
Advance	ADI	ADO	Membership	MEM	
Airfare	ARI	ARO	Mileage > IRS Rate	MIT*	MOT*
Baggage Handling	BGI	BGO	Mileage < or = IRS Rate	MLI	MLO
Car Rental	CRI	CRO	Network Services	NWK	
Clothing Allowance	CLA		Other Expenses	OEI	OEO
Clothing-Non Contract	CLN		Parking	PKI	PKO
Communications - Other	COM		Photocopies	CPI	CPO
Conference/Registration Fee	CFI	CFO	Postal, Mail & Shipping Svcs.(outbound)	PMS	
Department Head Expense	DHE		Storage of State Property	STO	
Fax	FXI	FXO	Supplies/Materials/Parts	SMP	
Freight & Delivery (inbound)	FDS		Telephone, Business Use	BPI	BPO
Hosting	HST		Telephone, Personal Use	PHI	PHO
Laundry	LDI	LDO	Training/Tuition Fee	TRG	
Lodging	LGI	LGO	Taxi/Airport Shuttle	TXI	TXO
Meals With Lodging	MWI	MWO	Vest Reimbursement	VST	
Meals Without Lodging	MEI*	MEO*	Note: * = taxable, taxed at supplemental rates		