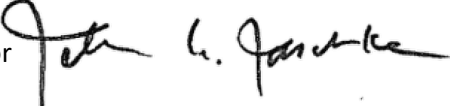




DATE: August 19, 2025

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – August 28, 2025

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will tour Renville and Redwood Counties on Wednesday, August 27, 2025. *See attached tour itinerary.* The accommodations for the Board Tour will be at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel at 39375 County Highway 24, Morton, Minnesota, 56270.

Sleeping rooms for board members who requested accommodations have been reserved at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel in Morton, on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings, August 26 and 27. Rooms have been direct billed (BWSR Board members, with the exception of agency members, do not pay for the room). Please contact Rachel Mueller if you have any questions about accommodations at Rachel.L.Mueller@state.mn.us.

Wednesday, August 27th – BWSR Board Tour

Breakfast, starting at 7:00 a.m., is included for guests staying at the Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel on Tuesday evening in the Grand Eagle 2 conference room. Check in for the tour will begin at 8:00 a.m. at the registration table in the Grand Eagle 2 conference room. At 8:30 a.m. the tour will begin with a brief welcome, a presentation given by the Lower Sioux Community, and an overview of the day.

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

The coach bus will travel through Renville County, with stops at the Kelly RIM Easement and the Renville Beaver Creek Project. We will arrive in Olivia at 12:07 p.m. for lunch at Max's Grill. The coach bus will then depart at 1:27 p.m. and will continue traveling through Redwood County. The bus will stop at Lussenhop/Heiling CREP Complex, the Hogan Grade Stabilization, and the Lower Sioux Hemp Processing on the return ride to Morton. The coach bus will arrive back at the Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel around 5:17 p.m. where dinner will be on your own.

Thursday, August 28th – BWSR Board Meeting

Breakfast options are available at Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Thursday, August 28, 2025, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel in the Grand Eagle 3 conference room at 39375 County Highway 24, Morton, and by Microsoft Teams. Individuals interested in attending the meeting through Teams should do so by either 1) logging into Teams by [clicking 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: 494 929 717#.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program & Policy Committee

1. **FY26-27 Technical Service Area Grants** – The Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Grants are allocated annually to the NPEA (TSA) Joint Powers Boards for the purpose of providing technical assistance to landowners to apply conservation practices.

TSA Enhanced Technical Services grants are used to invest in regional capacity across the state to efficiently accelerate projects and practices that improve or protect water resources. These grant funds are available only to Technical Service Areas. **DECISION ITEM**

2. **Natural Resources Block Grants** – The NRBG is a composite of base grants available to local government units that help them implement programs designed to protect and improve water resources. The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 NRBG programs. Appropriation language allows BWSR to authorize both years of the biennium. **DECISION ITEM**

3. **FY26-27 Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Grants** – Conservation Delivery Grants - Conservation Delivery Grants provide each Soil and Water Conservation District with funds for the general administration and operation of the district. These administrative and operational costs include paying for the costs of employing staff, office space, transportation, postage and utilities, and supervisors' compensation and expenses.

Conservation Contracts Grant Program - The purpose of this program is to provide grants to SWCDs so they can help local landowners or land occupiers offset the costs of installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation. **DECISION ITEM**

4. **Area II Floodplain Management Grants** – Area II, formed in 1978 as a non-profit joint powers entity, works to alleviate the recurrent flood problems in southwestern Minnesota. Member counties include:

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

BWSR oversees the administrative services funding related to the efforts of Area II and requires BWSR approval before funds can be appropriated. The funding provided to the Area II Board in FY26 and FY27 via specific legislation is in the amount of \$140,000 each year. **DECISION ITEM**

5. **FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding** - The legislature appropriated \$88.1M for FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Staff have prepared program requirements and calculated allocation amounts according to the previously established funding formula. The BWSR Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the program requirements and draft board order on August 18, 2025 and made a recommendation that the full board approve the attached board order. **DECISION ITEM**

6. **BWSR Grants Streamlining** – BWSR grant staff have worked to streamline grant programs in efforts to improve efficiency and clarity for grant-ees. This 18-month initiative was completed in June 2025 and aims to reduce discrepancies in program requirements, define requirements more clearly, and improve the overall communication of grant program information. An overview will be provided to the board.

INFORMATION ITEM

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-539-2587. We look forward to seeing you on August 27th and 28th.

Itinerary

Time	Location & Activity
7:00 am	Breakfast for guests of Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel, Grand Eagle 2 conference room, 39375 County Hwy 24, Morton, MN 56270
8:00 am	Check-in at registration table in the Grand Eagle 2 conference room.
8:30 am	Welcome & Introductions: Chair Todd Holman, Board of Water and Soil Resources; Council Member, Lower Sioux Community; Director Deb Dirlam, Lower Sioux Community; and Luke Olson, Board of Water and Soil Resources
9:05 am	Load bus from hotel and depart to the Renville HELP Site – Kelly RIM Easement.

Time	Tour Location & Activity	Bus 1 Host: John Shea	Bus 2 Host: Luke Olson
9:21 AM	DRAP Grade Stabilization Reconstruction	Holly Hatlewick, Renville SWCD	Kyle Richter, Renville SWCD
9:30 AM	Renville HELP Site – Kelly RIM Easement (76721 US-71, Oliva, MN)	Kyle Richter, Renville SWCD Caroline Fazzio, NRP LLC	
10:35 AM	Renville SWCD Test Plot Demonstration DVD	Holly Hatlewick, Renville SWCD	Kyle Richter, Renville SWCD
10:42 AM	Beaver Creek Water Storage Projects (Winfield Township - Intersection of Hwy 71/850th Ave, 2.7 mi N of Hwy 71/Hwy 212)	Kyle Richter, Renville SWCD Seth Sparks, Renville SWCD	
12:07 – 1:27 PM	Lunch at Max's Grill (2425 W. Lincoln Ave, Ste 1, Olivia, MN 56277)		
1:50 PM	MN Veterans Cemetery (33752 Noble Ave, Redwood Falls, MN 56283)	Brian Pfarr, Redwood SWCD	Kurt Mathiowetz, Redwood SWCD
2:03 PM	Lussenhop/Heiling CREP Complex (32324 Ocean Ave, Redwood Falls, MN 56283)	Brian Pfarr, Redwood SWCD	
2:55 PM	Lussenhop CREP (40132 320th St, Morton, MN 56270)	Brian Pfarr, Redwood SWCD	Kurt Mathiowetz, Redwood SWCD
2:59 PM	Hogan Grade Stabilization (320th Street, Morton MN 56270 0.2 mi E on 320th St from 320th St/Porter Ave)	Brian Pfarr, Redwood SWCD	

3:45 PM	Lower Sioux Hemp Processing <u>(Reservation Highway 5, Redwood Falls, MN 56283)</u>	Joseph Goodthunder, Lower Sioux Community
5:17 PM	Return to Jackpot Junction Casino Hotel	

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
39375 COUNTY HIGHWAY 24
MORTON, MN 56270
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2025**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JUNE 25, 2025 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.

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 – Sarah Strommen
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta

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

Grants Program and Policy Region Committee

1. FY26-27 Technical Service Area Grants – Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Natural Resources Block Grants – Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY26-27 Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Grants– Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Area II Floodplain Management Grants– Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. BWSR Grants Streamlining – James Adkinson – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for September 24, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL SOUTH CONFERENCE ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 25, 2025**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eunice Biel, Jayne Hager Dee, Jill Crafton, Joe Collins, LeRoy Ose, Lori Cox, Mark Zabel, Mike Runk, Rich Sve, Ron Staples, Ted Winter, Tom Schulz, Sarah Strommen, DNR; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Melissa Lewis, MPCA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Thom Petersen, MDA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Todd Holman, Neil Peterson

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Travis Germundson, Michelle Jordan, Sharon Doucette, Denise Lauerman, Shane Bugeja, Sara Reagan, Craig Engwall, Mike Nelson; Dave Weirens, John Shea, Jenny Gieseke, Karli Swenson, Dusty Van Thuyne

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Martinson, AMC; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Matt Drewitz, MPCA; Dave Wall, MPCA; Smita Rakshit, Washington County; Stephanie Souter, Washington County; Jessica Collin-Pilarski, Washington County; Adriana Atcheson, Washington County; Julie Blackburn, ISG; Graham Berg-Moberg, MN Townships

Acting Chair Rich Sve called the meeting to order at 9:01 AM.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

25-31 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ron Staples, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

25-32 **MINUTES OF MAY 28, 2025 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Mike Runk, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the minutes of May 28, 2025, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – No report was provided.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke reported the Governor reappointed board members Mark Zabel, Ron Staples, and Todd Holman to serve another four years on the BWSR board. A special legislative session was called, and bills were finalized. John reviewed the Day of Packet that included Snapshot articles. Met with the White Earth Nation yesterday and will be meeting with the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe on Thursday. MN Watersheds is having their tour today in Roseau.

Lori Cox asked about the Lower Minnesota River West partnership and if the watershed based implementation funding is Clean Water Fund dollars. John stated it's a portion of the Clean Water Fund dollars that go through the watershed based implementation grant program that's tied to their plan.

Lori asked about the cover crop program and if it's a temporary type of outreach or if it provides a solution within their watershed plan. John stated it is really both. The goal is to have the individuals try the program with assistance and then find a way to carry it forward either on the same property or on other properties.

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

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Rich Sve reported the committee has not met. Travis Germundson reported there has been one new appeal filed since the last report.

File 25-7 is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order for a property located in Brown County. The Restoration Order regards the unauthorized placement of fill material in wetland associated with the expansion of a Campground/RV Park. No decision has been made on the appeal. They received an appeal on file 25-4 of a replacement plan decision in St. Louis County that was denied last month. It has been appealed to the Court of Appeals and they are currently working with the Attorney General's Office. A buffer update was given, stated the changing of jurisdiction from McLeod County back to BWSR and to the Watershed District occurred on June 16th.

Mark Zabel asked if the McLeod County responsibility would be split with Buffalo Creek Watershed. Travis stated that within their boundary they are the enforcement entity, and the rest of the county defers back to the state.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Mark Zabel reported they have not met.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported they have two items on the agenda for today.

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

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported they have not met.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – LeRoy Ose reported they have not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Ron Staples reported they met in June and provided update on the awarded MDM grants for the last two years. They discussed outcomes from the legislative session and anticipated topics for the upcoming year.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reported Jeff Berg will be retiring in July. They are implementing the work that passed through legislature.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported on the bills that passed during the special session. They are involved in a project with the Minnesota Geological Survey as part of their groundwater restoration projection strategy work. Stated they are continuing their response to the nitrates in southeast Minnesota.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported on the outcomes from the legislative session.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported he toured the Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center and said it was great facility. Stated they are holding a series of field days in partnership with the Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association on the integration of profit and livestock operations together. The Annual Water Resources Conference is October 14 and 15 and the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference is October 22-25 in Milwaukee.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Melissa Lewis reported the feedlot rule update process is holding public meetings, and the comment period ends July 22nd. Stated they are analyzing federal budget impacts. An information session for Climate Action Framework has been scheduled for June 30th.

Commissioner Petersen stated he attended a couple feedlot meetings, and they were informative.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported on their legislative budget. AMC completed its district meetings throughout the state.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck reported they are attending area meetings. A legislative update was provided. Thanked partners they've worked with.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported they continue to hold Township Tuesdays on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month. In August they will hold district meetings throughout the state with local issues and more. Minnesota Paid Leave Law is projected to go into effect in January 2026.

Stated there is a resolution authorizing the county to conduct retail registration and compliance checks for cannabis retailers. MN Townships recommends townships delegate the cannabis retail registration and compliance checks with their county. MN Townships will keep a list of property values up to date for values over \$35,000 and they will be assessed every five years.

Minnesota Watersheds – No report was provided.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

Acting Chair Sve called a recess at 10:04 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 10:11 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

Washington County Groundwater Plan 2025-2035 – Michelle Jordan presented Washington County Groundwater Plan 2025-2035.

Background

In the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area, counties have the option to prepare and adopt a Groundwater Plan. The authorities and requirements of these plans are contained entirely within Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255. At this time, three counties have approved groundwater plans (Carver, Dakota, and Washington). Washington County (County) is located on the eastern edge of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan Area, bordered to the east by the St. Croix River. The County is the 5th most populated county in Minnesota and relies entirely on groundwater for its water supply. That supply is known to be impacted by groundwater contamination from polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs). The County's current Groundwater Plan (Plan) was approved and adopted in 2014. The original expiration date for the Plan was August 28, 2024. The County requested and received a one-year extension to their Plan to accommodate a delay in the Plan update process due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staff transitions and vacancies. The County Board held a workshop in June 2023 to initiate the process to update the Plan.

Plan Process and Highlights

Minnesota statute 103B.255 requires that the County seek the advice of local and state government agencies, and local and regional interests during the development of the Plan. The County formed a groundwater advisory committee, and a technical advisory committee, and these committees met jointly three times over the Plan development process. In addition to these statutory obligations, the County also conducted more general community engagement including administering a survey. An early draft of the Plan was submitted to reviewers and others for unofficial comment prior to the formal review process to gather additional feedback and input. During the formal review process, the County engaged with commenters, including meeting as appropriate to ensure that comments were addressed sufficiently.

The vision statement of this Plan is:

"We envision a future where there is plenty of clean water in Washington County to support human health, community growth, and a thriving natural environment."

The Plan contains an implementation section detailing four broad goals to reach that vision and 21 strategies to address the goals.

- Goal #1. Groundwater Quality: *Groundwater is safe to drink*

- Goal #2. Groundwater Quantity: *Groundwater is plentiful to support human needs and a thriving natural environment*
- Goal #3. Groundwater Education: *People who live and work in Washington County understand the importance of protecting groundwater, how to conserve water and use it efficiently, and prevent contamination*
- Goal #4. Groundwater Governance: *Groundwater management is coordinated, efficient, and effective.*

The strategies are prioritized from high to low, and further defined by specific actions to take, and how the County will participate in those actions (lead, partner, regulate, educate, fund, advocate, monitor, operate). Many of the actions represent continuation of past efforts that have proven successful and/or necessary, however approximately 40 percent are identified as being new. Each action includes how implementation will be measured, and each strategy includes overall measures of success over the 10-year life of the Plan.

Formal Plan Review Process

The draft Plan was submitted for the 60-day review and comment period to the Board and other required reviewers on November 13, 2024, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255 Subd. 8. The County prepared a written response to comments received and held a public hearing on February 18, 2025. A revised draft of the Plan, comments received, a record of the public hearing, and a summary of changes incorporated as part of the review process was submitted to the Metropolitan Council and state agencies for the 45-day review and comment period on March 12, 2025. Most responses received during that time indicated no additional comments. The Metropolitan Council submitted additional comments which will be incorporated into the final Plan, and those changes are included as replacement pages in the Board packet. With the close of the 45-day review period on April 28, 2025, the Board has 90 days to review and act on the Plan pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.255 Subd 10.

Recommendation

On June 2, 2025, the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met with representatives from Washington County in St. Paul and virtually via Teams, to review and discuss the draft Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend to the Board approval of the Washington County Groundwater Plan per the attached draft Board Order.

Jill Crafton was impressed with the amount of community engagement. Thanked them for their work on this plan.

Mark Zabel commended Washington County on their commitment to manage and protect groundwater within the region.

Mike Runk thanked them for their work on the plan.

Stephanie Souter with Washington County thanked the board and staff for their support along the way.

**

25-33

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Washington County Groundwater Plan 2025-2035. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

RIM Reserve Committee

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Practices and Reimbursement Payment Rates –

Sharon Doucette presented Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Practices and Reimbursement Payment Rates.

Statute requires the Board to determine approved restoration practices and practices eligible for reimbursement, and to establish reimbursement rates for restoration on RIM easements. Current RIM Reserve conservation practice reimbursement rates are inadequate for establishment of certain conservation practices. The per acre cost caps were last approved by the Board in 2010. The intent of the reimbursement process is to cover all conservation plan implementation costs for a landowner for a typical restoration of a RIM easement. If a landowner makes individual choices for their land that creates a significantly higher cost for their restoration, they are required to cover the difference. Inflation, unique and diverse native seed mixes, necessary site preparation and prevailing wage laws are driving costs of the typical restoration beyond the current maximum in Board Order #10-26. Additionally, the RIM program now has restoration practices and needs that are different than the restoration of previous cropland to either prairie or wetland that was the exclusive focus of the program in 2010. The ability to adapt to evolving costs, prevailing wage requirements, and new restoration techniques and needs are better achieved by providing staff, with Executive Director approval, the ability to establish and update the list of approved practices and conservation practice reimbursement rates. Board Resolution #22-16 established additional approved practices and reimbursement rates specific to working lands.

Both resolutions #10-26 and #22-16 will be rescinded upon publication of new approved practices and reimbursement rates pursuant to the new board order.

Lori Cox asked about the timeline of review and asked if it was in the order. Sara Reagan stated its listed in number two of the board order as “annually.”

25-34 Moved by Tom Petersen, seconded by Mike Runk, to approve the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Practices and Reimbursement Payment Rates. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Technical Amendment to Board Order 25-21 – Sharon Doucette presented Technical Amendment to Board Order 25-21

BWSR Board Order 25-21 was signed April 23, 2025, approving significant changes to the RIM Drinking Water Program. However, the incorrect term was used within the order, specifically in the second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED.

The second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT was originally approved as:

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the Executive Director is delegated to approve Drinking Water Protection Partner Grants consistent with this order.

A technical adjustment is warranted to replace Grants with the word “agreements.”

Per the appropriation language associated with this funding, the RIM Drinking Water Program can utilize “grants or contracts.” Naming a specific grant program specifically can limit the flexibility of program development as future needs may require additional opportunities for drinking water protection.

****** Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Tom Petersen, to approve the Technical Amendment to Board Order 25-21. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

25-35

NEW BUSINESS

Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update – Matt Drewitz presented Nutrient Reduction Strategy Update.

The Nutrient Reduction Strategy compiles the latest science, research, and data and recommends the most effective strategies to reduce nutrients in our waters from both point and nonpoint sources. The strategy serves as a framework that outlines voluntary and regulatory actions to reduce nutrient pollution to meet long-term goals. Reductions in Minnesota’s nitrogen and phosphorus pollution are needed to reach our in-state water quality goals and the 2040 goals that aim to restore the Gulf of Mexico, Lake Winnipeg, and Lake Superior.

Jill Crafton asked if the size of the hypoxic zone has increased over the last five years. Matt stated it has fluctuations and this year it’s a typical size, there has been a downward trend since 2011. Jill asked for a better understanding of some of the regulations that are in place throughout the state at the different levels of jurisdiction. Matt stated they could have more discussion on this offline.

Lori Cox asked with it being all voluntary how do they implement strategies. Dave Wall with the MPCA stated Minnesota and other states could be models to expand and increase adoption.

Mike Runk thanked them for their work.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board Tour and Meeting, August 27-28, 2025

Acting Chair Sve adjourned the meeting at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Sve
Acting Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:****Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report****Meeting Date:**August 28, 2025**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:**Resource Conservation/Central**Contact:**Travis Germundson**Prepared by:**Travis Germundson**Reviewed by:**Committee(s)**Presented by:**Rich Sve DRC Chair**Time requested:**5 minutes☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation****Attachments:** ☐ Resolution ☐ Order ☐ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report.

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

August 12, 2025

By: Travis Germundson

One new appeal has been filed since the previous report, bring the total number of pending appeals to **three**.

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 25-8 (July 24, 2025) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order for property located in Pine County. The Restoration Order regards the placement of 62,640 sq. ft. of fill in wetland associated with a housing development. Status: No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 25-7 (June 6, 2025) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order for a property located in Brown County. The Restoration Order regards the unauthorized placement of fill material in wetland associated with the expansion of a Campground/RV Park. The petition contends that the applicant still operates a farming operation that qualifies for an agricultural activities exemption. An application for exemption, and no-loss have been submitted to the local unit of government concurrently with the appeal. *Status: Appeal is in abeyance pending LGU's decision on the exemption and no-loss application.*

~~File 25-6 (May 6, 2025) This is an appeal of WCA Restoration Order for a property located in Otter Tail County. The appeal regards the placement of fill in wetland for shoreline access. Status: Appeal was affirmed; the Restoration Order rescinded.~~

~~File 24-9 (12-20-24) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision in Morrison County. The appeal regards the approval of an exemption and no-loss decision for an access road associated with a township cartway. Morrison SWCD Board of Supervisors affirmed a decision made by staff under a local appeal and now that decision is being appealed. Note this involves the same property and wetland area associated with previous appeals (Files 23-8 and 23-15) of a wetland boundary and type decision.~~

~~The appeal was remanded back to the local unit of government to develop an adequate record that considers a written Technical Evaluation Panel report. Status: A new decision was issued under remand approving the no-loss application, thereby finalizing the appeal before BWSR.~~

File 24-8 (9-13-24). This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order for a property located in Beltrami County. The appeal regards the placement of fill material in wetland to create berms. The petition claims that drainage was in place prior to 1991, and the area is considered an artificial wetland. *Status: Appeal is in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed to allow time for completion of a wetland assessment and plan to comply with EPA's requirements of restoration and conditions of the WCA Restoration Order.*

Summary Table for Appeals

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2024	Total for Calendar Year 2025
Order in favor of appellant		1
Order not in favor of appellant	5	4
Order Modified	1	1
Order Remanded	1	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	1	
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed		

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 82 parcels from the 13 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently this is one Corrective Action Notice (CAN), and six Administrative Penalty Orders (APO) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 61 of those have been resolved.

Statewide 43 counties are fully compliant, and 44 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 274 NONs, 285 CANs, and 30 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 3084 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 & Policy Committee

1. FY26-27 Technical Service Area Grants – Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Natural Resources Block Grants – Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY26-27 Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Grants– Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Area II Floodplain Management Grants – Adam Beilke – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. BWSR Grants Streamlining – James Adkinson – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	FY26-27 Technical Service Area Grants		
Meeting Date:	<u>August 28, 2025</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>Grants, Technical Services, FY26-27</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Land and Water</u>		
Contact:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Programs and Policy Committee</u> Committee(s)		
Presented by:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Time requested:	<u>10 minutes</u>		

☒ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the order for the Technical Service Area grants

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Nonpoint Engineering Assistance (NPEA) - (General Fund). The Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Grants are allocated annually to the NPEA (TSA) Joint Powers Boards for the purpose of providing technical assistance to landowners to apply conservation practices.

TSA Enhanced Technical Assistance - (Clean Water Fund). Enhanced Technical Services grants are used to invest in regional capacity across the state to efficiently accelerate projects and practices that improve or protect water resources. These grant funds are available only to Technical Service Areas.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Technical Service Area Grants Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Technical Service Area Program Grants to the eight SWCD Technical Service Areas.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(a) appropriated fiscal year (FY) 2026 and 2027 funding for Nonpoint Engineering Assistance grants.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 36, Article 2, Section 6(c) appropriated funding for Accelerated Implementation and Enhancement Grants.
3. The allocations in this order were developed in combination consistent with these appropriations.
4. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18th, 2025 meeting, reviewed the provisional allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the provisional allocation of TSA Program Grants to eligible TSAs in the amounts listed in the attached table.
2. Authorizes both fiscal year 2026 and fiscal year 2027 Enhanced Technical Assistance grant allocations, recognizing that funds for the fiscal year 2027 grants will not be available until the start of that fiscal year and will be processed only after July 1, 2026.
3. Authorizes staff to develop and establish the Technical Service Area Grants Program Requirements.
4. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for this purpose.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments: *Provisional FY2026 and 2027 Technical Service Area Program Grant Allocation*

FY2026 and 2027 Technical Service Area Program Grant Allocation Table

TSA	Nonpoint Engineering Assistance Program				Clean Water Fund Supplement		FY 2026 Total	FY 2027 Total
	FY26 Equipment	FY27 Equipment	FY 2026 Total NPEA Grant	FY 2027 Total NPEA Grant	FY26 Enhanced Technical Assistance	FY27 Enhanced Technical Assistance		
1	\$0	\$0	\$127,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$370,000
2	\$0	\$0	\$127,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$370,000
3	\$0	\$20,000	\$127,500	\$147,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$390,000
4	\$20,000	\$0	\$147,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$390,000	\$370,000
5	\$0	\$0	\$127,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$370,000
6	\$0	\$0	\$127,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$370,000
7	\$20,000	\$0	\$147,500	\$127,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$390,000	\$370,000
8	\$0	\$20,000	\$127,500	\$147,500	\$242,500	\$242,500	\$370,000	\$390,000
TOTAL			\$1,060,000	\$1,060,000	\$1,940,000	\$1,940,00		

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**Natural Resources Block Grants****Meeting Date:**August 28, 2025**Agenda Category:**☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business**Item Type:**☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information**Keywords for Electronic
Searchability:**Grants, Natural Resources, Block Grants, NRBG**Section/Region:**Land and Water**Contact:**Adam Beilke**Prepared by:**Adam Beilke**Reviewed by:**Grants Programs and Policy Committee Committee(s)**Presented by:**Adam Beilke**Time requested:**10 minutes☒ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation****Attachments:** ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend approval of the order for the Natural Resources Block Program

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

The NRBG is a composite of base grants available to local government units that help them implement programs designed to protect and improve water resources. The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize the Fiscal Years 2026 and 2027 NRBG programs. Appropriation language allows BWSR to authorize both years of the biennium.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2026 and Fiscal Year 2027 Natural Resources Block Grant Grants Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide fiscal years 2026 and 2027 Natural Resources Block Grants to MN Counties.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) program provides assistance to local governments to implement statutory natural resource programs of Comprehensive Local Water Management (LWM), the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shoreland Management.
- B. The Laws of Minnesota 2025 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(h) appropriated fiscal year (FY) 2026 and 2027 LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Natural Resources Block Grant funds to BWSR.
- C. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with this appropriation. Proposed distributions represent a decrease of 36.5% from the previous biennium's one-time increase. The decrease has been applied uniformly across all distributions for FY 2026 and 2027.
- D. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18th, 2025 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to develop Program Requirements for NRBG Block Grants.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with counties meeting the NRBG Program requirements and consistent with the attached table *Proposed FY2026 and 2027 Natural Resources Block Grant allocations*, for grant programs funded by BWSR appropriations, as determined by the BWSR and DNR, and totaling:

<u>Grant</u>	<u>FY 2026</u>	<u>FY 2027</u>
LWM	\$1,139,152	\$1,139,152
WCA	\$1,906,479	\$1,906,479
DNR Shoreland	\$377,369	\$377,369

3. Resolves that for LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland programs, grantees have the flexibility to shift the amount of grant funds between these three programs consistent with local program needs.
4. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes and to coordinate with MPCA to deliver SSTS implementation funding that may be available through other appropriations.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments: Proposed FY2026 and 2027 Natural Resources Block Grant allocation

Proposed FY2026 and 2027 Natural Resources Block Grant allocations

FY26 & FY27 NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANTS <u>PER FISCAL YEAR</u>				
COUNTY	LWM	WCA	SHORELAND	MPCA SSTS
AITKIN	\$13,888	\$33,240	\$10,786	TBD
ANOKA SWCD	\$8,094	\$63,191	\$2,615	TBD
BECKER	\$13,071	\$24,237	\$10,739	TBD
BELTRAMI	\$13,688	\$64,600	\$5,505	TBD
BENTON	\$13,271	\$31,598	\$3,286	TBD
BIG STONE	\$15,711	\$8,777	\$2,690	TBD
BLUE EARTH	\$10,023	\$18,178	\$3,243	TBD
BROWN	\$13,633	\$8,778	\$2,675	TBD
CARLTON	\$13,349	\$22,507	\$3,927	TBD
CARVER	\$8,094	\$31,599	\$2,615	TBD
CASS	\$10,502	\$44,766	\$10,699	TBD
CHIPPEWA	\$14,881	\$8,778	\$2,625	TBD
CHISAGO	\$11,243	\$27,700	\$4,943	TBD
CLAY	\$12,673	\$16,447	\$2,944	TBD
CLEARWATER	\$15,256	\$19,909	\$3,163	TBD
COOK	\$14,832	\$12,985	\$4,196	TBD
COTTONWOOD	\$14,844	\$8,778	\$2,772	TBD
CROW WING	\$8,094	\$38,088	\$19,128	TBD
DAKOTA	\$8,094	\$52,804	\$2,615	TBD
DODGE	\$14,484	\$16,444	\$2,675	TBD
DOUGLAS	\$12,077	\$21,641	\$8,544	TBD
FARIBAULT	\$14,550	\$8,778	\$2,735	TBD
FILLMORE	\$14,278	\$8,778	\$2,692	TBD
FREEBORN	\$13,120	\$8,778	\$3,139	TBD
GOODHUE	\$9,433	\$16,447	\$2,772	TBD
GRANT	\$15,503	\$13,850	\$3,056	TBD
HENNEPIN	\$8,094	\$57,133		TBD
HOUSTON	\$14,699	\$12,985	\$2,725	TBD
HUBBARD	\$13,245	\$25,103	\$8,434	TBD
ISANTI	\$13,251	\$25,103	\$4,004	TBD
ITASCA	\$10,447	\$44,148	\$10,107	TBD
JACKSON	\$14,717	\$8,778	\$3,011	TBD
KANABEC	\$15,071	\$25,103	\$4,090	TBD
KANDIYOHI	\$12,023	\$21,641	\$6,753	TBD
KITTSOON	\$15,279	\$16,447	\$2,647	TBD
KOOCHICHING	\$15,025	\$28,913	\$2,722	TBD
LAC QUI PARLE	\$15,453	\$8,778	\$2,629	TBD
LAKE	\$14,736	\$16,447	\$4,614	TBD
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$15,809	\$33,760	\$3,492	TBD
LE SUEUR	\$13,501	\$16,447	\$4,918	TBD
LINCOLN	\$15,488	\$8,778	\$2,768	TBD
LYON	\$13,689	\$8,778	\$2,738	TBD
MAHNOMEN	\$15,838	\$12,985	\$3,360	TBD

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

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	FY26-27 Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Grants		
Meeting Date:	<u>August 28, 2025</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>Grants, Conservation Contracts, SWCD, Program Delivery</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Land and Water</u>		
Contact:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Programs and Policy Committee</u> Committee(s)		
Presented by:	<u>Adam Beilke</u>		
Time requested:	<u>10 minutes</u>		

☒ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend approval of the order for Soil and Water Conservation District Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts grants

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Conservation Delivery Grants - Conservation Delivery Grants provide each Soil and Water Conservation District with funds for the general administration and operation of the district. These administrative and operational costs include paying for the costs of employing staff, office space, transportation, postage and utilities, and supervisors' compensation and expenses.

Conservation Contracts Grant Program - The purpose of this program is to provide grants to SWCDs so they can help local landowners or land occupiers offset the costs of installing conservation practices that protect and improve water quality by controlling soil erosion and reducing sedimentation.

BOARD ORDER**Fiscal Years 2026 & 2027 Soil and Water Conservation District Programs and
Operations Grants Authorization****PURPOSE**

Provide fiscal years 2026 and 2027 Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) grants.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(a) and (b1) appropriated fiscal year (FY) 2026 and 2027 funds for Conservation Delivery and Conservation Contracts Program grants to BWSR.
2. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statute 103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
3. The provisional allocations in this order were developed consistent with this appropriation.
4. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(l) states, "If an appropriation for grants in either year is insufficient, the appropriation in the other year is available for it."
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18th, 2025 meeting reviewed the allocations and Board Order and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to develop Conservation Contracts and Conservation Delivery Program Requirements.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with SWCDs for fiscal year 2026 and 2027 consistent with legislation and currently totaling:

Grant	FY 2026 & FY 2027 Combined
Conservation Delivery	\$ 3,530,002
Conservation Contracts	\$2,919,908

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments: *FY2026 and 2027 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants*

FY2026 and 2027 SWCD Programs and Operations Grants

SWCD	Total Conservation Delivery 26-27 Combined	Total Conservation Contracts 26-27 Combined
AITKIN	\$40,424	\$20,000
ANOKA	\$41,530	\$27,792
BECKER	\$38,052	\$57,666
BELTRAMI	\$52,752	\$25,822
BENTON	\$38,448	\$27,916
BIG STONE	\$36,074	\$20,000
BLUE EARTH	\$37,736	\$40,196
BROWN	\$37,894	\$35,092
CARLTON	\$37,340	\$21,580
CARVER	\$39,396	\$38,924
CASS	\$36,550	\$22,272
CHIPPEWA	\$37,894	\$28,004
CHISAGO	\$39,474	\$23,266
CLAY	\$38,526	\$38,514
CLEARWATER	\$37,500	\$20,590
COOK	\$36,392	\$25,862
COTTONWOOD	\$37,894	\$33,760
CROW WING	\$36,708	\$24,792
DAKOTA	\$42,480	\$49,686
DODGE	\$38,686	\$25,394
DOUGLAS	\$40,344	\$38,398
FARIBAULT	\$38,686	\$30,880
FILLMORE	\$40,266	\$54,156
FREEBORN	\$38,290	\$38,542
GOODHUE	\$40,108	\$57,288
GRANT	\$38,052	\$28,242
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$51,860	\$32,362
HUBBARD	\$36,314	\$21,100
ISANTI	\$40,344	\$20,000
ITASCA	\$37,656	\$20,000
JACKSON	\$36,628	\$29,116

KANABEC	\$37,420	\$24,792
KANDIYOHI	\$39,002	\$34,166
KITTSOON	\$38,368	\$24,792
KOOCHICHING	\$36,944	\$25,862
LAC QUI PARLE	\$37,500	\$46,620
LAKE	\$36,628	\$25,862
LAKE OF THE WOODS	\$36,074	\$25,862
LE SUEUR	\$39,238	\$44,536
LINCOLN	\$39,792	\$36,632
LYON	\$38,448	\$33,860
MAHNOMEN	\$36,234	\$27,176
MARSHALL	\$59,192	\$24,560
MARTIN	\$37,816	\$41,468
MC LEOD	\$37,578	\$27,552
MEEKER	\$37,104	\$35,532
MILLE LACS	\$37,736	\$20,000
MORRISON	\$40,504	\$51,194
MOWER	\$41,610	\$27,216
MURRAY	\$36,470	\$27,346
NICOLLET	\$38,448	\$31,302
NOBLES	\$37,024	\$40,344
NORMAN	\$37,972	\$24,788
OLMSTED	\$43,508	\$66,862
OTTER TAIL EAST	\$37,972	\$37,486
OTTER TAIL WEST	\$37,972	\$47,442
PENNINGTON	\$37,420	\$27,654
PINE	\$37,972	\$31,668
PIPESTONE	\$37,340	\$37,324
POLK EAST	\$37,656	\$26,164
POLK WEST	\$37,656	\$32,406
POPE	\$37,184	\$45,432
RAMSEY	\$38,686	\$25,904
RED LAKE	\$36,154	\$20,000
REDWOOD	\$38,686	\$32,730

RENVILLE	\$39,002	\$26,498
RICE	\$45,880	\$35,360
ROCK	\$38,686	\$37,424
ROOT RIVER	\$45,010	\$47,380
ROSEAU	\$37,500	\$26,628
SCOTT	\$39,870	\$42,310
SHERBURNE	\$43,270	\$20,564
SIBLEY	\$37,736	\$23,588
ST. LOUIS NORTH	\$37,578	\$22,678
ST. LOUIS SOUTH	\$37,578	\$20,000
STEARNS	\$44,060	\$79,206
STEELE	\$40,028	\$26,796
STEVENS	\$38,368	\$36,196
SWIFT	\$37,184	\$25,688
TODD	\$40,108	\$38,768
TRAVERSE	\$38,290	\$20,000
WABASHA	\$39,238	\$36,380
WADENA	\$37,420	\$25,862
WASECA	\$37,972	\$26,682
WASHINGTON	\$41,136	\$29,050
WATONWAN	\$36,788	\$24,966
WILKIN	\$38,526	\$32,432
WINONA	\$41,926	\$28,836
WRIGHT	\$42,716	\$37,172
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$38,526	\$39,698
ALLOCATED TOTALS	\$3,530,002	\$2,919,908

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:

Area II Floodplain Management Grants

Meeting Date:

August 28, 2025

Agenda Category:

☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business

Item Type:

☒ Decision ☐ Discussion ☐ Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability:

Grants, Area II, Flood Management

Section/Region:

Land and Water

Contact:

Adam Beilke

Prepared by:

Adam Beilke

Reviewed by:

Grants Programs and Policy Committee Committee(s)

Presented by:

Adam Beilke

Time requested:

10 minutes

☒ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments:

☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Recommend approval of the board order for the FY26 and FY 27 Area II grants

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Area II, formed in 1978 as a non-profit joint powers entity, works to alleviate the recurrent flood problems in southwestern Minnesota. Member counties include:

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

BWSR oversees the administrative services funding related to the efforts of Area II and requires BWSR approval before funds can be appropriated. The funding provided to the Area II Board in FY26 and FY27 via specific legislation is in the amount of \$140,000 each year.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects Biennial Plan and Area II Floodplain Management Grants Approval

PURPOSE

Approval of the Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) Biennial Plan and fiscal years (FY) 2026 and 2027 General Fund Floodplain Management Grants to Area II.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2025 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(e), appropriated \$140,000 for each fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for grants to Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Area II) for floodplain management.
- B. Area II has developed a Biennial Plan to cover activities for FY 2026 and FY 2027.
- C. The Area II Floodplain Management Grant has a 25 percent match requirement which has been secured by Area II.
- D. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18th, 2025 meeting, discussed and reviewed the grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.
- E. Pre-award review has been conducted according to Office of Grants Management Policy 08-13 prior to Board approval.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for the FY 2026 and FY 2027 Area II Floodplain Management Grants consistent with the provisions of the appropriation and this Board Order.
- 2. Authorizes staff to review and approve the Biennial Plan prior to payment of the FY 2026 and FY 2027 grant funds.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding		
Meeting Date:	<u>August 28, 2025</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>Watershed Based Implementation Funding, Clean Water Fund, Formula Based Grant</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Land and Water / Central</u>		
Contact:	<u>Julie Westerlund</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Julie Westerlund</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Program and Policy</u>	<u>Committee(s)</u>	
Presented by:	<u>Julie Westerlund</u>		
Time requested:	<u>20 minutes</u>		

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Authorize the FY26-27 Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The legislature appropriated \$88.1M for FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding. Staff have prepared program requirements and calculated allocation amounts according to the previously established funding formula. The BWSR Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the program requirements and draft board order on August 18, 2025 and made a recommendation that the full board approve the attached board order.

**BOARD ORDER DRAFT****FY26-27 Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program****PURPOSE**

Authorize the fiscal years 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, Chapter 36, Article 2, Section 6 appropriated \$39,962,000 for fiscal year 2026 and \$48,138,000 for fiscal year 2027 to implement activities in watershed plans.
- B. The Laws of Minnesota, 2015, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(a) previously appropriated funds with a provision that returned grant funds are available until expended and shall be re-granted consistent with the purposes of Clean Water Fund appropriations to the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- C. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 to award grants, contracts, and payments to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- D. The Board has authority to approve comprehensive watershed management plans, county groundwater plans, soil and water conservation district plans, and watershed management plans.
- E. WBIF is based on a comprehensive and holistic approach to watershed management and includes funding local implementation actions to restore and protect both groundwater and surface water.
- F. The Board previously adopted the following formula for allocating WBIF: a) a \$250,000 base per One Watershed, One Plan area outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, b) a \$100,000 base per watershed allocation area inside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area, and c) a distribution of funds based on a weighting of 90% private land and 10% on public waters to all eligible areas.
- G. Staff have prepared the fiscal year 2026-2027 WBIF Program Requirements, and the Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their July 21, 2025 and August 18, 2025 meetings, reviewed the fiscal year 2026-2027 WBIF Program Requirements.
- H. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18, 2025 meeting, reviewed the board order and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Establishes the following eligibility criteria:
 - a. For areas outside of the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area: Local governments with a current state-approved and locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan authorized under Minnesota Statutes §103B.801; and that have an implementation agreement with other members of the planning partnership.
 - b. In the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area: Watershed districts and watershed management organizations with a current state-approved and locally adopted watershed management plan as required under Minnesota Statutes §103B.231; counties with a county

groundwater plan authorized under Minnesota Statutes §103B.25; soil and water conservation districts with a soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan under Minnesota Statutes §103C.331, Subd. 11 as revised in 2024 and municipalities with a local water management plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minnesota Statutes §103B.235. Participants - including one representative from each watershed district, watershed management organization, soil and water conservation district, county with a county groundwater plan, and up to two municipalities - must coordinate within the designated watershed allocation area before submitting a watershed-based implementation funding budget request.

- c. Statewide: Federally Recognized Minnesota Tribal Nations are eligible if they are implementing projects or programs for the purpose of this funding that are identified in a plan listed in 1a. or 1b.
2. Adopts the map in Figure 1: Watershed Based Implementation Funding Watershed Allocation Areas for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
3. Adopts the following allocations consistent with the amounts appropriated and the previously adopted funding formula:
 - a. Table 1. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations (excludes the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area)
 - b. Table 2. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area
4. Authorizes staff to enter into agreements for amounts up to the allocations set forth in Table 1 and Table 2.
5. Authorizes staff to finalize and publish program requirements for the WBIF program.
6. Authorizes staff to establish a schedule for and adjust the availability of funding identified in Tables 1 and 2 based on timing of plan approval, sufficiency of partner coordination, readiness to proceed, commitment of nonstate match, or expenditure of previously awarded WBIF.
7. Authorizes staff to distribute remaining or otherwise undesignated grant funds from Fiscal Years 2026-2027 and previous appropriations, consistent with the purpose of the WBIF program.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments:

- Table 1. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations (excludes the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area)
- Figure 1. Watershed Based Implementation Funding Watershed Allocation Areas for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
- Table 2. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

Table 1. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations (excludes the seven-county Twin Cities metropolitan area)

1W1P Planning Area #	1W1P Name	FY 26-27 Allocation Amount
3	Big Fork River	\$ 798,518
24	Blue Earth River	\$ 1,481,521
35	Bois de Sioux - Mustinka	\$ 1,605,439
37	Buffalo-Red River	\$ 1,919,949
54	Cannon River (non-metro portion)	\$ 1,547,023
33	Cedar - Wapsipinicon	\$ 980,478
20	Chippewa River	\$ 2,178,984
43	Clearwater River	\$ 1,496,166
23	Cottonwood - Middle Minnesota	\$ 1,971,082
7	Crow Wing River	\$ 1,688,695
34	Des Moines River	\$ 1,748,113
30	Greater Zumbro River	\$ 1,910,367
53	Hawk Creek - Middle Minnesota	\$ 1,514,322
27	Kettle and Upper St. Croix	\$ 1,420,116
18	Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank	\$ 1,235,081
51	Lake of the Woods	\$ 549,194
1	Lake Superior North	\$ 1,044,211
26	Le Sueur River	\$ 1,364,269
4	Leech Lake River	\$ 601,240
60	Little Fork River	\$ 1,226,366
9	Long Prairie River	\$ 1,038,744
56	Lower Minnesota River East (non-metro portion)	\$ 540,543
55	Lower Minnesota River West	\$ 1,010,592
29	Lower St. Croix River (non-metro portion)	\$ 782,706
44	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers	\$ 1,632,654
22	Minnesota River - Mankato	\$ 794,369
65	Mississippi River - Sartell	\$ 1,252,807
61	Mississippi River Brainerd	\$ 1,502,156
3	Mississippi River Headwaters	\$ 1,018,651
11	Mississippi River St. Cloud	\$ 1,279,055
31	Mississippi River Winona/La Crescent	\$ 900,852
52	Missouri River Basin	\$ 2,109,064
64	Nemadji River	\$ 470,118
12	North Fork Crow River	\$ 1,529,005
36	Otter Tail	\$ 1,518,104
6	Pine River	\$ 637,092
17	Pomme de Terre River	\$ 1,012,366
50	Rainy - Rapid River	\$ 521,896

1W1P Planning Area #	1W1P Name	FY 26-27 Allocation Amount
47	Rainy Headwaters - Vermilion	\$ 1,005,232
67	Rainy River - Rainy Lake	\$ 560,014
41	Red Lake River	\$ 1,712,623
8	Redeye River	\$ 1,119,702
21	Redwood River	\$ 1,121,292
32	Root River	\$ 2,316,030
46	Roseau River	\$ 869,374
15	Rum River (non-metro portion)	\$ 1,339,969
39	Sand Hill River	\$ 709,070
10	Sauk River	\$ 1,220,674
63	Shell Rock and Winnebago River	\$ 549,870
28	Snake River	\$ 1,030,147
13	South Fork of the Crow River (non-metro portion)	\$ 1,295,212
2	St. Louis River	\$ 2,239,092
42	Thief River	\$ 706,388
45	Two Rivers Plus	\$ 1,674,664
40	Upper and Lower Red Lake	\$ 785,375
16	Upper Minnesota River	\$ 678,837
5	Upper Mississippi - Grand Rapids	\$ 1,331,275
25	Watonwan River	\$ 1,142,972
38	Wild Rice - Marsh	\$ 2,006,908
19	Yellow Medicine River	\$ 1,330,732

Metro WBIF Watershed Allocation Areas

The map displays the Metro WBIF Watershed Allocation Areas. It includes a legend with the following items:

- Watershed (dashed blue line)
- Watershed Allocation Area - 1W1P (solid blue area)
- Watershed Allocation Area - non-1W1P (light blue area)
- Tribal Government Areas (brown area)
- Municipalities (white area)

The map shows several labeled watersheds and allocation areas, including:

- Rum River
- COON CREEK
- RICE CREEK
- ELM CREEK
- WEST MISSISSIPPI
- VADNAIS LAKE AREA
- SHINGLE CREEK
- RAMSEY
- WASHINGTON METRO
- MISSISSIPPI
- CAPITOL REGION
- Lower St. Croix River
- South Fork of the Crow River
- PIONEER SARAH CREEK
- BASSETT CREEK
- MINNEHAHA CREEK
- RICHLAND
- BLOOMINGTON
- LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
- SOUTH WASHINGTON
- RILEY
- PURGATORY BLUFF CREEK
- NINE MILE CREEK
- LOWER MINNESOTA RIVER
- CARVER COUNTY
- BLACK DOG
- VERMILION RIVER
- Cannon River
- Lower Minnesota River East
- EAGAN INVER GROVE

At the bottom of the map, there are logos for the Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

Table 2. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

1W1P Planning Area #	Watershed Allocation Area (WAA) Name	FY 26-27 Allocation Amount
	Bassett Creek WAA	\$ 183,255
	Black Dog WAA	\$ 151,542
54	Cannon River WAA (1W1P Metro)	\$ 395,359
	Capitol Region WAA	\$ 176,240
	Carver County WAA	\$ 461,933
	Coon Creek WAA	\$ 294,099
	Eagan-Inver Grove WAA	\$ 162,369
	Elm Creek WAA	\$ 373,588
56	Lower Minnesota River East WAA (1W1P Metro)	\$ 898,092
	Lower Minnesota River WAA	\$ 135,377
	Lower Mississippi River WAA	\$ 208,409
29	Lower St. Croix WAA (1W1P Metro)	\$ 1,266,376
	Minnehaha Creek WAA	\$ 424,533
	Mississippi WAA	\$ 176,950
	Nine Mile Creek WAA	\$ 195,026
	Pioneer-Sarah Creek WAA	\$ 240,414
	Ramsey-Washington Metro WAA	\$ 230,181
	Rice Creek WAA	\$ 448,014
	Richfield-Bloomington WAA	\$ 114,644
	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WAA	\$ 197,193
15	Rum River WAA (1W1P Metro)	\$ 569,376
	Shingle Creek WAA	\$ 191,661
13	South Fork of the Crow River WAA (1W1P Metro)	\$ 259,425
	South Washington WAA	\$ 228,538
	Vadnais Lake Area WAA	\$ 147,921
	Vermillion River WAA	\$ 717,186
	West Mississippi WAA	\$ 152,299

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**BWSR Grants Streamlining****Meeting Date:**August 28, 2025**Agenda Category:**☐ Committee Recommendation ☐ New Business ☐ Old Business**Item Type:**☐ Decision ☐ Discussion ☒ Information**Keywords for Electronic
Searchability:**Grants, Streamlining**Section/Region:**Land and Water**Contact:**James Adkinson**Prepared by:**Marcey Westrick**Reviewed by:**Grants Programs and Policy Committee Committee(s)**Presented by:**James Adkinson**Time requested:**20 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

Information only

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATIONBWSR grants streamlining website: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grantsstreamlining>**SUMMARY** (*Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation*)

BWSR grant staff have worked to streamline grant programs in efforts to improve efficiency and clarity for grantees. This 18-month initiative was completed in June 2025 and aims to reduce discrepancies in program requirements, define requirements more clearly, and improve the overall communication of grant program information. An overview will be provided to the board.