

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES AND
THE WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
REGARDING
WETLAND FUNCTIONAL ASSESSMENT INITIATIVE

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is the state agency responsible for overseeing and administering Minnesota's wetland regulatory program, the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA);

WHEREAS, the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) is responsible for issuing wetland permits under state law and statutes in Wisconsin;

WHEREAS, the BWSR and WDNR have outdated wetland functional assessment tools that do not adequately serve current wetland regulatory program needs;

WHEREAS, BWSR and WDNR wish to develop new wetland functional assessment tools to improve implementation of their respective state wetland regulatory programs; and

WHEREAS, efficiencies can be gained by combining the resources and expertise of both states toward a common goal;

NOW, THEREFORE, BWSR and WDNR agree to the following:

- I. BWSR and WDNR will form a steering committee composed of representatives from both states that will pursue the funding and development of new wetland functional assessment tools to improve wetland regulatory implementation in both states.
- II. BWSR and WDNR will collaborate and coordinate on all aspects of tool development where there are common interests.
- III. BWSR and WDNR will coordinate with stakeholders from their respective state either collaboratively or independently as determined by each agency.
- IV. Any funding obtained for this effort will be allocated and managed per a separate agreement between BWSR and WDNR or by amending this agreement.
- V. All products from this effort will be the property of both states to use and modify as they determine.

Termination

This MOU will take effect on the date of the last signature below and will continue in effect until terminated by either agency with a 90-day prior written notice to the other agency.

Conditions

This agreement does not confer any financial obligations for either state unless otherwise amended.

This initiative is strictly voluntary.

THIS MOU IS EFFECTIVE UPON THE DATE OF THE LAST SIGNATURE BELOW:

WISCONSIN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

By:  Date: 10/15/20

Dave Siebert, Division Administrator

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

By:  Date: 10/15/20

Les Lemm, Wetland Section Manager