

DATE: December 7, 2021

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – December 16, 2021

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Thursday, December 16, 2021, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx. Due to COVID-19, access to the MPCA/BWSR office is limited. Individuals interested in attending the meeting should do so by either 1) logging into WebEx by going to the following website: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=e85b2ba2d139957344ca11e249f9f6372>, and entering the password: webex, or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 415-655-0003 and entering the access code: 2481 942 0402.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Committee

1. **Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)** – The Board approved a pilot Wellhead Protection Partner Program in 2019 to utilize all available options given by the legislature for wellhead protection. The board order for the pilot authorized \$1 million for the pilot program. Three successful local acquisition projects have been funded and utilized most of the \$1M, but a long-term easement/contract via a local partner has not been completed to date. Staff is requesting that the pilot grant program continue with additional funding (\$3M) to learn from these additional options provided by the program as well as to allow for development of a wellhead specific RIM rate that will be in conjunction with updated RIM rates. **DECISION ITEM**

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP)** – Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and globally. This cost share grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)** – Cooperative Weed Management Areas are partnerships of federal, state, and local government agencies along with tribes, individual landowners and various other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area. The BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Program was developed in 2008 to establish strong and sustainable CWMA's across Minnesota for the collaborative and efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas. \$200,000 is proposed for FY2022 and FY2023 for newly developing and existing CWMA's/terrestrial weed management partnerships in Minnesota. **DECISION ITEM**

3. **FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award** – The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY22 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 23, 2021, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for eligible local governments to apply for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants in three program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram and Multipurpose Drainage Management (Board order #21-16).

Applications for the FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 30 through August 17, 2021. Local governments submitted 66 applications requesting \$22,066,713.66 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR Clean Water staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards. The BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the recommendations on November 9th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 29th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee. **DECISION ITEM**

4. **General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7** – Since 2016, BWSR has partners with TSA 7 (SE Minnesota) and the NRCS on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to address feedlot management in the Lower Mississippi River Watershed. The RCPP grant has been completed and the project generated more interest than the RCPP grant could fund. During the 2021 Legislative Special Session, BWSR was appropriated general fund dollars for feedlot water quality grants for feedlots under 500 animals units and nutrient and manure management projects. This request is to provide the \$260,000 in FY2022 & \$260,000 in FY2023 General Fund Feedlot grant dollars to TSA 7 to continue the work started with the RCPP project. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on November 29, 2021 and recommended approval to the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**

Water Management and Strategic Planning Region Committee

1. **Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF)** – The Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF) is a criteria-based plan for state agencies to prioritize how Clean Water Funds are used. BWSR is responsible for revising the plan in accordance with the Clean Water Accountability Act. The current NPPF was updated and approved in June 2018. In June 2020, the Board passed Board Order #20-27 extending the date to evaluate and revise the plan to December 31, 2021 and develop the basis of a framework to establish alternative content. Since late in 2020, BWSR staff have evaluated the current NPPF and are proposing to revise the NPPF based on changes in state planning and programming and to have it completed by December 31, 2023. The Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee discussed the proposed process and basis for alternative content and recommended approval of the order to revise the NPPF to the Board. **DECISION ITEM**

Central Committee

1. **Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan** – The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Commission (LRRWMO) has identified impacts from stormwater and degraded surface water quality as its highest priorities to focus their implementation effort on in their updated watershed management plan. The fourth generation Plan will concentrate most of the work to benefit the Rum River, Mississippi River, Trott Brook, Grass Lake, and Round Lake. The LRRWMO will leverage its valuable partnerships to address the resource needs in the 56 square mile metro watershed. **DECISION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-297-4290. We look forward to seeing you on December 16th.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 16, 2021**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF OCTOBER 27, 2021 BOARD MEETING

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

REPORTS

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Gerald Van Amburg
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Joe Collins
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Rich Sve
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman
- RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Andrea Date
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Kathryn Kelly
- 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 – Katrina Kessler

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Nicole Bernd
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck

- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Committee

1. Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) –Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7 – Brad Wozney – ***DECISION ITEM***

Water Management and Strategic Planning Region Committee

1. Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF) – Brad Wozney – ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

1. Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
CONFERENCE ROOM 600
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Andrea Date, Jayne Hager Dee, Kathryn Kelly, Neil Peterson, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Whitney Place, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Adam Beilke, Shaina Keseley, Ed Lenz, Marcey Westrick, Dan Shaw, Dave Copeland, Steve Christopher, Dave Weirens, Barb Peichel, Teresa Pickar, John Voz, Jeff Hrubes

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Emily Javens, MAWD; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Alex Trunnell, Jan Voit, Raymond Bohn, Jackie Anderson, Sherry White, Caitlin Brady, Jamie Beyer, Skip Langer, Sheila Vanney

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:03 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

21-47 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Todd Holman, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

21-48 **MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 22, 2021 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the minutes of September 22, 2021, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

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

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the committee has not met. He attended the EQB meeting October 20 where they gave an update on the next steps for the Climate in Environmental Review Pilot Program. They reviewed a draft organizational work plan for fiscal years 2022 and 2023. Stated they heard an overview of the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on the Climate Change Report and how it relates to Minnesota. They were also given a progress update on the 2020 State Water Plan.

Chair Van Amburg stated there are three board positions up for appointment at the first of the year for County Commissioner, SWCD, and Watershed District positions.

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke reported BWSR Academy is taking place virtually with/for staff of local governments to receive training and share ideas. BWSR and other agencies are in the pre-legislative timeframe and are submitting suggestions to the administration for supplemental policy, budget, and bonding. Governor’s recommendations will be made in January or February. Stated there is a Climate Advisory Council meeting today that also involves Subcabinet members.

John reviewed the day-of-packet that included a BWSR staff listing, an updated organizational chart, November SnapShots, Metro WBIF proposed amendment, and the Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementational funding board order.

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

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are currently four appeals pending. There have been no new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting.

A correction in File 21-3, it indicated the appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland restoration and replacement plan application. This notation should have been attached to file 21-1. 21-3 is an appeal of a restoration order for Mille Lacs County where they appeal has been denied and the restoration order affirmed.

File 21-1 (8-16-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision involving a no-loss determination in Kittson County. The appeal regards the denial of a no-loss determination for wetland impacts associated with the construction of road, ditch, and additional fill material. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 19-7 and 18-3 stated they working with the parties on coming together on a settlement agreement.

Buffer Compliance status update, Travis stated there are about 100 parcels a month being resolved.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported they met October 8 with two actions on the agenda for today. Next meeting is November 9th and need to establish a quorum at the beginning of the meeting. Stated the committee is trying to get a recurring meeting date set.

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

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Andrea Date reported the committee has not met but has been working with the Grants Program and Policy Committee on Watershed Based Implementation Funding. The next meeting will be November 29th.

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

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Tom Gile reported the committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Neil Peterson and Tom Gile reported the committee met on October 14th. They discussed the local road authority's responsibilities under Minn. Stat. § 103E.525, subd. 2, towards drainage improvement projects in light of the matter of Red Lake Watershed Project #19, 1997 WL 881169. This topic had a very robust discussion and expects they will have further conversation and/or clarification to come through the DWG in the coming months.

Stated BWSR staff led a question and answer session with the DWG membership on the development of new Water Storage and Soil Health Initiatives, which are under development. Conversation around the Soil Health was a briefer for this group given the drainage focus of the DWG but was still helpful. Stated the storage discussion was very productive.

At the meeting DNR staff provided an overview and description of how early coordination of drainage projects with the DNR can help get comments and feedback to a Drainage Authority in a more systematic way, which can ideally result in a more streamline review process and less findings/requests at a later point in the process.

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Whitney Place reported Commissioner Petersen is in Washington DC at the Annual Tri-National Agricultural Accord. Stated harvest is wrapping up for many of the crops in Minnesota. Topsoil moisture and subsoil moisture is down and they are hoping for more water over the winter to help build soil moisture back up. The Ag Water Quality Soil Certification

program continues to move forward and is on track to meet Governor Walz's goal of 1 million certified acres by the end of 2022. Conversations are happening at Federal level around the farm bill with potential for an increase in conservation funding. Stated the implementation of the Groundwater Protection Rule has been ramping up, they are getting local advisory teams together and the work is beginning.

Whitney stated this is the second year growing season for fall restrictions of nitrogen fertilizer application on sensitive soils. Farmers should be checking MDA's website to see the map that will show if they are subject to the fall fertilizer restrictions.

Stated they are working on their supplemental budget and bonding proposals for the next legislative session. Governor Walz announced a drought package they would like to see go through where part of it would be for disaster loans and the other part for rapid response grants.

Jill Crafton noted a report about the natural resources deficit and translating that into economic terms and why we need to be investing in it.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported COVID continues to be their first priority and they continue to have some of their working units compromised due to reassignments. Stated the Health Risk Assessment Program will start reviewing compounds found in Minnesota waters. The statewide PFAS monitoring phase 1 sampling is complete. They sampled approximately 100 public water systems statewide. Phase 2 is underway and will be completing it later this year or early next year then starting phase 3. Information on statewide PFAS monitoring will be coming out incrementally through a portal that will be online in about a month.

MDA staff and partners have been working in conjunction with BWSR staff to provide information and training on groundwater and drinking water assessments and protection activities through BWSR Academy and stated they are happy to be part of it.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported that we are coming into fall hunting season, and that it's a busy time at DNR. One of the messages they are focusing on is the work behind hunting opportunities in Minnesota. Focusing on the habitat, population, and wildlife health management work that makes Minnesota's hunting experiences what they are. Stated they have monthly Commissioner's office hours with DNR leadership. Each month they have a different theme and it's open to the public.

Commissioner Strommen stated they announced a package of drought relief proposals out of DNR that will be spread across four programs. The first is to address seedling mortality and the loss of seedlings suffering from the drought this last year. The second is a supplement to the Community Tree Grant Program. Third is the Water Conservation Grant Program for domestic water suppliers and the final is a Wild Interference Resolution Fund. More information is available on their website.

Chair VanAmburg asked if there is any update on Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD). Sarah stated it has been an issue for some time. There are new areas subject to testing and are encouraging hunters to make a plan and know what the CWD regulations are.

Mark Zabel asked about the 3:00 p.m. session today at the monthly Commissioner office hours. Commissioner Strommen stated it's an opportunity for the public to meet with all five of the DNR

Commissioners to ask questions about the selected topic. Today's topic is habitat management and the work that goes into making successful hunting seasons in Minnesota. Every Wednesday at noon DNR does an outdoor skills webinar, this week is on deer hunting and CWD. Information can be accessed on their website.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported the Water Resources conference last week was successful and had a record number of registrations. Announced last month the University is the host for the new US Geological Survey Midwest Climate Adaptation Science Center. It will provide resources to help develop research and applicable information and tools for natural resource management and climate including agriculture and urban landscapes.

The University received support from Minnesota Corn Growers and some state funding that was allocated at the last legislative session to support a new extension educator position. They will focus on agriculture and natural resource landscapes and helping others working in those landscapes understand and better adapt to the changes in climate that are already happening.

Similar to the work that they've done on nitrogen and nitrogen management called Nitrogen Smart, Joel stated they are doing another one on carbon, carbon management, and soils. They are coordinating with Minnesota office for Soil Health, BWSR, and the Ag Water Quality Certification Program.

The Soil Management Summit is being held on December 14 and 15 in Mankato and will be an in person event.

Neil Peterson thanked Joel for the carbon sequestration project and would like more information.

Whitney Place stated they have been taking a look at the different carbon markets coming up in the private sector and some of the public options. They are working with a farmer's legal action group to develop a guidance document for growers to take a look at the different markets. As work progresses they will share information with the board.

Jill Crafton stated it was the best Water Resources Conference she attended and thanked them for the event.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta reported they completed their third annual survey on the connection and consistency between Watershed Restoration Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and One Watershed One Plan (1W1P). Surveyed local partners who participated in the development of WRAPS for 1W1P local plans that were completed in the previous calendar year. Glenn stated they are finding high levels of satisfaction from local and state partners.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – No report was provided.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck reported their 84th annual convention is meeting December 13 and 14 in Bloomington. They will be focusing on the SWCD roll with climate and resiliency. There will also be a forum for their members on grass root policy deliberations and will be voting on the board packet December 14. LeAnn stated the district received and approved

the Federal NRCS Grant. LeAnne thanked Sharon Doucette for attending the last MASWCD Board of Directors meeting. Stated are getting ready to look at the 2022 legislative session.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported they had their annual education conference virtually in September. They discussed the challenges of the community septic systems, legal issues for townships, and the town road law. All webinar sessions are recorded and available on their website. Eunice stated there are local operational research grants for townships, 2021 assistance for fire fighters' grants, and also community facilities direct loan and grant programs for townships. Townships can use their expertise on what they need it for and can submit a proposal.

Eunice stated there is an organization called Rural Investment to Protect our Environment (RIPE). They are proposing a climate policy to include a fair return for agricultural producers for their voluntary investments in stewardship practices. They have a webpage called www.riperoadmap.org and are in process of submitting comments to USDA.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens reported their convention has been moved to be online December 1-3. Emily stated she submitted a request to defer action on the Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) item listed on today's agenda for a portion of the board order. The request is it be deferred until rulemaking can be considered.

Joe Collins stated he will be requesting to read an amendment for the board to consider when discussing the WBIF agenda item.

Jill Crafton stated she supports deferring the item.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

NEW BUSINESS

2022 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule – John Jaschke presented 2022 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule.

Meeting dates are being proposed for board meetings in 2022. Most meetings are the fourth Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise noted. The proposed calendar has meetings held in the same months as the 2021 calendar.

**
21-49 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the 2022 Proposed BWSR Board Meeting Schedule. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Chair Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:48 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southern Region Committee

Greater Zumbro Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Adam Beilke, Shaina Keseley, and Ed Lenz presented Greater Zumbro Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Watershed Alliance for the Greater Zumbro (Partnership) was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant in August of 2018. The Partnership established a Memorandum of Agreement on June 25, 2018 for the purposes of watershed planning. Planning was initiated on March 1,

2019 via notification to designated plan review authorities. The Partnership has followed One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and the Policy Committee, Technical Advisory Group, and Planning Work Group members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and kept open communication throughout Plan development. The Partnership submitted the Greater Zumbro Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to BWSR on August 30, 2021 for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on October 7, 2021 to review the planning process, the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.

Joe Collins stated he thinks its admirable that the measurable goals recognizes WRAPS, TMDL reports, and the Surface Water Management Plan. Stated it looks like their using scientific approaches to develop the measurable goals.

Jill Crafton asked what concerns were in the six comment letters. Adam stated most of the letters received were considering updates on some of the parts in the appendices of the plan. MPCA had some comments regarding the values being used out of the HSPF tool, other comments were wide ranging and nothing significant in terms of needing wholesale changes to the plan content.

Glenn Skuta stated MPCA had some concerns about the modeling information that was used but when they worked with partners everything was resolved and are happy with how it worked out. Glenn thanked the local group for the work on this plan.

Chair Van Amburg stated on page 1-3 of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, the Issue and Resource Prioritization, when looking at Level 2, the Landscape Resiliency and Altered Hydrology may be something that directly affects Surface Water Quality Degradation and Accelerated Erosion and Sedimentation. Asked for feedback on why the placement of that is in Level 2 as opposed to Level 1. Adam stated that after identifying issues and prioritizing them a recurring theme was looking forward into implementation with the ability to address multiple concerns through some of the other actions. This is one they felt could be partially addressed by actions taken to address Level 1 concerns.

Kelly Kirkpatrick stated we need to look at construction practices with the quantity of rain we've received in short periods of time in the last 40 years. Kelly asked if this policy goes far enough to protect our surface water as we continue to alter and redefine out built environment and create more impermeable surfaces. Adam stated one of their top Level 1 issues is Water Quantity and Excessive Flooding, which is a top concern and has implementation actions toward that.

**
21-50 Moved by Kathryn Kelly, seconded by Kelly Kirkpatrick, to approve the Greater Zumbro Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program – Kevin Bigalke and Marcey Westrick presented Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program.

BWSR staff have met over the past 6 months with an internal staff team (Clean Water Team), BWSR Executive Team, and BWSR Board Committees (Grants Program and Policy and Water Management and Strategic Planning) to discuss the policy, and allocations for the Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program.

The BWSR Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the policy and allocation authorizations on October 8, 2021 and made a recommendation to the full Board. The Draft 2022-2023 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program policy and board order are attached based on the recommendations of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

Jill Crafton stated that there is enough concern that we need to separate the metro section and would like to vote on it separately.

Joe Collins proposed to amend the motion requesting the Board adopt the 2022-2023 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Policy and its funding allocations for areas outside the seven-county Metropolitan Area. Joe also requests the Board consider whether the development and implementation of the enhanced SWCD plans require rulemaking for the areas in the seven-county Metropolitan Area.

Jayne Hager Dee stated she would like to adopt the initial order so we don't stall projects and can adjust things as we go. Jill Crafton stated she doesn't think it's stopping any projects in the metro area. Jayne stated watershed districts have levy authority and have additional funding sources that SWCD's don't and stated this funding will be held up in the metro if it's not approved.

Mark Zabel stated SWCD plans outside of the metro planning under the 1W1P has a voluntary process and has included SWCD planning efforts. It has been different within the metro because of concerns that only plans formed under the 103B authority of the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act would be eligible to receive funding. The enhanced planning makes the planning effort of an SWCD eligible as the basis for funding priority projects. He stated programs in an SWCD plan are now eligible to be considered in the same way as plans from cities and watersheds under 103B. The enhanced planning with an SWCD make those plans eligible to provide funding for projects being considered under WBIF. The SWCD plans will follow a similar process to the 103B planning where there is more accountability and scrutiny from the public.

Joe Collins commented many of the watershed districts in the metro area have contractual agreements already with SWCDs. The Attorney from MAWD is questioning whether or not rulemaking is required to develop the enhanced plan. If we adopt the plan as proposed and if MAWD chooses to petition for rule making, Joe stated he doesn't know what the impact would be.

Sarah Strommen asked if we know how long it might take to get an answer on whether rule making is required and asked if we would have this by the next board meeting. Stated she has concerns about tabling the item with uncertainty on when we might get back to it. Joe Collins stated he would like a response before the next meeting regarding the metro component.

Todd Holman stated he is in opposition of the amendment for not knowing a timeframe and not knowing the need. Todd is interested in the framework or process itself and stated they did not discuss rulemaking at the committee level. He would like to keep the conversation going but not hold up the board order and would also like to see the amendment go through committee before coming to the board.

Mark Zabel stated if we were to go ahead with the board order as presented and MAWD were to request the Attorney General's opinion or petition for rule making, the impact, if it was determined that rule making is required, would hold up the enhanced SWCD plans until rulemaking is completed. Then

they would go through the process to become eligible. Mark stated he believes it would be a narrow impact to a specific area.

John Jaschke stated that an external party can ask the attorney general for an opinion where they may or may not respond and the timing is indeterminant. Under the existing statutes of Chapter 103C rulemaking authority is specific to the cost share contracts that the state provides funding for to SWCDs, which is the only authority stated in Chapter 103C and does not apply to the plan more broadly than the state cost share program connection. Rulemaking is also in statute that applies to chapter 103B Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act and is a different matter altogether. John stated the referenced Chapter 14 authority for an agency to do general rulemaking seems secondary to the Chapter 103C statutory rulemaking authority. John stated that moving forward is prudent and if a decision comes forward that rule making is required then we would follow that requirement.

Chair Van Amburg agrees we should move forward.

Ted Winter asked why the SWCD plan proposals are a problem for the Water Management Organizations (WMO). John Jaschke stated that they get along well and work together. The optional SWCD enhanced plan is a structural measure potentially important to make the program work everywhere and have the basis for the priority project selection be clear and common. SWCDs would be doing it on a watershed basis, which is different than what was done in the last two pilots with the 33 metro planning areas as the allocation areas with the 1W1P as a component of it. Another addition is the process for BWSR Board approval of an SWCD plan if it's going to be used for the WBIF purpose.

Ted Winter asked if the WMOs have been the only ones able to submit a plan to the Board and if we're now going to use SWCD in coordination with them or separately from them. John Jaschke stated there were two prior iterations and for each of them all eligible organizations were eligible to do projects. The only thing changing is adding conditions and process to the SWCD plan that didn't exist before to make it more public and more focused on the watershed and on the prioritization projects within the watershed by using the guidance document that was drafted.

John Jaschke stated the proposed amendment is to defer the metro region funding.

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the amended Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program. ***Motion did not pass on a roll call vote.***

Joe Collins proposed an amendment in item number two of the Board Order the addition of "and in consideration of MN Rule Chapter Part 8410.0060" to be added after Minnesota Statute 103C.331.

Kevin Bigalke stated they are comfortable with the addition.

Ted Winter asked if SWCD plans will have to comply with same rules that are being used on WMO plans and if they will follow the same procedure for selection and implementation. Kevin Bigalke stated section 8410.0060 of MN Rule is specific to the contents of which should be considered in a comprehensive plan. There is a level of consistency and it is an acceptable addition to provide clarity.

Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the amended Board Order for the Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**
21-51 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the amended Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program – Dan Shaw presented Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program.

The Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grants Program was recently awarded a little over \$2 million dollars by the Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund.

A few items that are recommended to be new in Phase 2:

- Demonstration Neighborhood grants can also focus on educational and community spaces.
- Definition of “at-risk” pollinators are also included.
- The ranking criteria and point system has changed. In the ranking, we are looking for more geographic distribution by focusing on a wider range of at-risk species (rather than only focusing on currently known Rusty Patch Bumble Bee locations).
- There are two funding appropriations with different end dates. As a result, applicants will be asked if they could use three years instead of two.
- A limit has been established for the cost of equipment.
- A limit on project costs has been established for residential or community space and educational landscapes.

In addition to approving the policy, the board order also authorizes the fiscal year 2022 Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grants Program and authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these recommendations on October 8, 2021 and recommends the attached policy and order to the board.

Jill Crafton asked if a report could be provided to the board to give them a sense on how it’s working, the response, and where some of the neighborhoods are. Dan stated they could report back to the board on some of the specific outcomes related to these demonstration neighborhoods, which would include the number of projects being done and information on insect benefits specifically for these projects and equity benefits.

Chair Van Amburg asked if they were considering college campuses as a possibility. Dan stated they could be part of the demonstration neighborhoods this round since they are including education landscape and community spaces.

Kelly Kirkpatrick asked if there was a reason why this program isn’t partnering with U of M Extension. Dan stated they are involved through the Master Gardner’s program and have been involved and connected with some extension staff. Kelly stated she would like to see the Lawns and Legumes program promoted more.

Joel Larson stated they would be happy to talk to get ideas on how to better promote the program.

Mark Zabel asked if there was any mapping of what would be considered high priority areas or corridors where additional promotion by SWCDs or other partners might produce some high benefits results. Dan stated they have a map on their website they have been using for the program . It’s what their using for

ranking the individual support grants but it's also being used partially for the ranking of demonstration neighborhood grants. Stated there is a diverse group of experts on the advisory team program that are involved in the ranking of these demonstration neighborhood grants. They have been talking about trying to refine some of their mapping and have also done a pollinator mapping pilot effort in Washington County to map high priority planting areas in that county. Stated that right now they have a combination of different corridor mapping.

**
21-52

Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for November 3, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Wild Rice Watershed District in Ada.
- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for November 22, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. at the Community Center Meeting Room in Graceville.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. through WebEx.
- Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for November 29, 2021 at 3:30 p.m. through WebEx.
- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021 at 9:00 a.m. location TBD.
- Central Region Committee meeting is scheduled for December 2, 2021 at 2:30 p.m. through WebEx.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 16, 2021, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

Joe Collins wanted to acknowledge the work for the WBIF plan and thanked everyone for their work.

Chair Van Amburg also wanted to thank all of BWSR staff for their work.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Office

Contact: Travis Germundson

Prepared by: Travis Germundson

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Travis Germundson/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/map.

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 BWSR and statewide buffer compliance status.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

November 30, 2021

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **five** appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been **two** new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting.

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

File 21-5 (11/2/2021) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Waseca County. The appeal regards the alleged excavation/improvement of a private ditch located on private and public land. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 21-4 (10-26-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Morrison County. The appeal regards alterations to a private ditch and excavation of wildlife ponds. The project allegedly exceeded the project scope and authorization granted by the local unit of government for ditch maintenance under a no-loss determination. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 21-1 (8-16-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision involving a no-loss determination in Kittson County. The appeal regards the denial of a no-loss determination for wetland impacts associated with the construction of road, ditch, and additional fill material. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland restoration and replacement plan application. The appellant's legal counsel has since notified BWSR that there they are no longer interested in pursuing a new application. As a result, a decision was made on November 3, 2021 to grant and hear the appeal.*

~~File 20-10 (11-12-2020) This is an appeal of duplicated WCA restoration orders in St. Louis County. The appeal regards the placement of approximately 5,000 sq. ft. of fill in a wetland associated an ATV Club trail crossing project that allegedly was approved by the LGU. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application and/or to give additional time to coordinate with the LGU in attempt to resolve the matter. The timeframe on the abeyance was extended by mutual agreement. Actions have been taken to comply with the Restoration Orders. As a result, the appeal has been dismissed.*~~

File 19-7 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA replacement plan decision in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the denial of a replacement plan application associated with wetland impacts described in a restoration order. The restoration order was appealed and placed in abeyance until there is a final decision on the wetland application (File 18-3). The appeal has been placed in abeyance until there is no longer mutual agreement on the viability of proposed actions for restoration. *The LGU has since notified BWSR that there is no longer mutual agreement on continuing to hold the appeal in abeyance. As a result, a decision was made to grant and hear the appeal. The hearing proceedings have been extended by mutual agreement. The parties are currently reviewing/discussing a settlement agreement.*

File 18-3 (10-31-18) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the alleged filling and draining of over 11 acres of wetland. Applications for exemption and no-loss determinations were submitted to the LGU concurrently with the appeal. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications. That decision has been amended several times to extend the time frame on the stay of the restoration order. The LGU decision was appealed (File19-7).*

Summary Table for Appeals

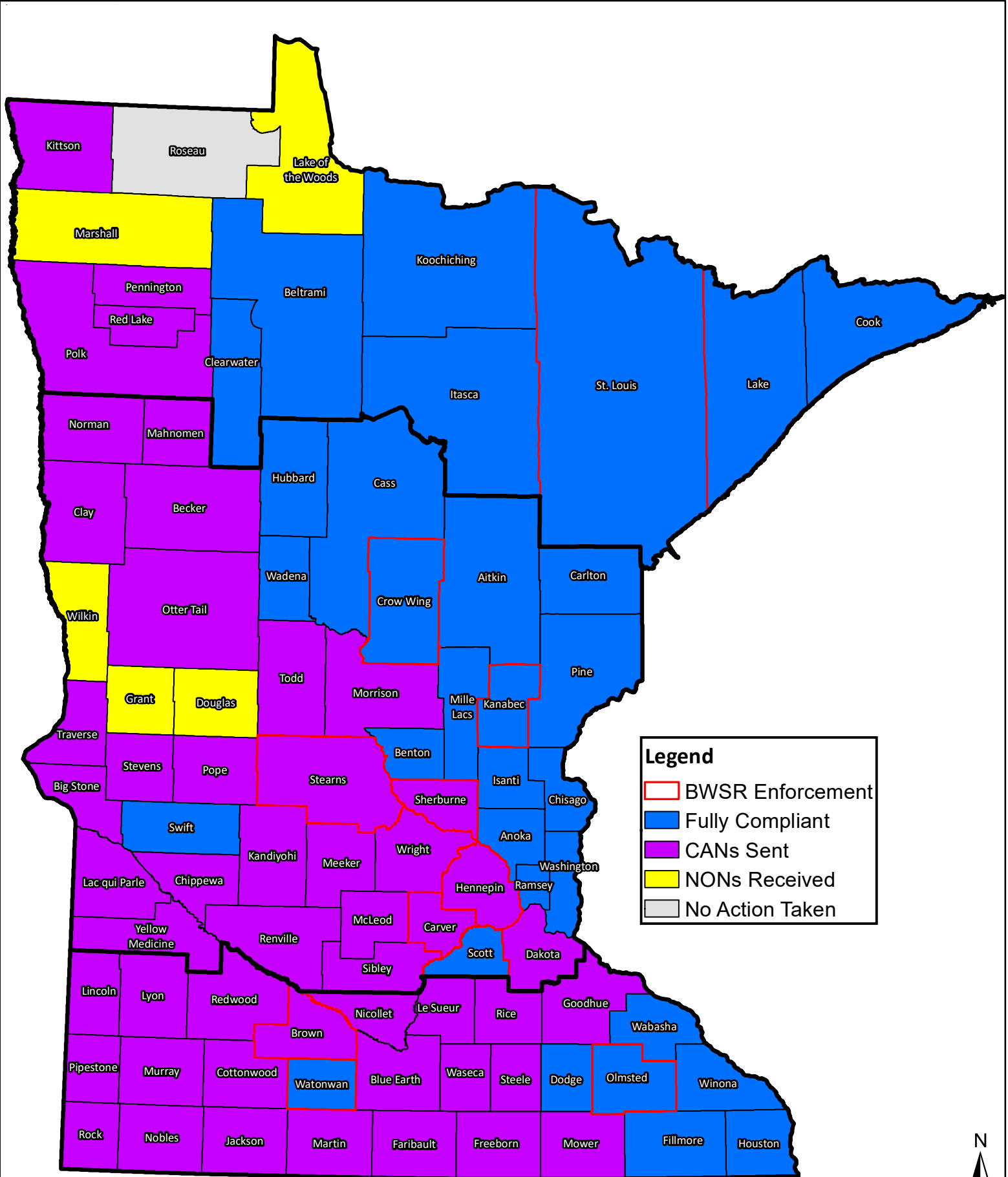
Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2020	Total for Calendar Year 2021
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	7	1
Order Modified		
Order Remanded	3	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	4	1
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	5	1

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 93 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 6 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 86 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 31 counties are fully compliant, and 50 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 701 CANs and 67 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 1,915 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.*

STATEWIDE COUNTY BUFFER ENFORCEMENT



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Committee

1. Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) – Sharon Doucette – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Amendment to Board Order #19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Easements, Wellhead, Grant, Pilot

Section/Region: Easements Section

Contact: Sharon Doucette

Prepared by: Sharon Doucette

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve/Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Sharon Doucette

Time requested: 10 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee and the Grants Program and Policy Committee to amend Board Order 19-34 Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) to add funding to the pilot program.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

ML21 1st Special Session, Ch.1, Art. 2, Sec. 6(g) designated the following:
\$2,500,000 the first year and \$2,500,000 the second year are for permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), or for grants to local units of government for fee title acquisition to permanently protect groundwater supply sources on wellhead protection areas or for otherwise ensuring long-term protection of groundwater supply sources as described under alternative management tools in the Department of Agriculture Minnesota Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, including using low-nitrogen cropping systems or implementing nitrogen fertilizer best management practices. Priority must be placed on land that is located where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and on lands with expiring conservation reserve program contracts.

ML17 Ch. 91, Art. 2 Sec. 7(g) and ML19 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g) both contained similar language allowing for grants to local units of government for wellhead protection.

In 2019, the Board approved a pilot Wellhead Protection Partner Program to utilize all available options given by the legislature for wellhead protection. The board order for the pilot authorized \$1 million for the pilot program. Since that time, we have funded 3 successful local acquisition projects which have utilized most of the \$1M, but we have not piloted a long-term easement/contract via a local partner. Staff is requesting that the pilot grant program continue with added funding to learn from these additional options provided in the program as well as to allow for development of a wellhead specific RIM rate that will be in conjunction with updated RIM rates presented to the board within the next 6 months.



BOARD ORDER

Amendment to Board Order #19-34: Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)

PURPOSE

Authorize additional funds for the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants Program.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Board adopted Order #19-34 on June 26, 2019 in which the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants pilot program was established.
2. Board Order #19-34 approved \$1,000,000 in Clean Water Funds to be used for the pilot program.
3. The funds authorized in Board Order #19-34 have been fully obligated or expended.
4. The RIM Reserve Committee, at their November 17, 2021 meeting and the Grants Program and Policy Committee at their November 29, 2021 meeting are recommending adding funds to the pilot program to fund additional high priority applications.

ORDER

The Board hereby amends Order #19-34 to add additional Clean Water Funds from Laws of Minnesota 2015, 2017, 2019 and/or 2021 to the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot), not to exceed \$3,000,000.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____



BOARD ORDER

Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot)

PURPOSE

Authorize Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) and delegate approval of payment to the Executive Director.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Clean Water Fund was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2015, 1st Special Session, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec 7(g), and Laws of Minnesota 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g) appropriated Clean Water funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) for permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas or grants to local units of government for long-term wellhead protection.
3. The Board receives requests for wellhead protection assistance that do not meet the program requirements for Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) or Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve easements.
4. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 and 103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
5. The RIM Reserve Committee, at their March 27, 2019 meeting, reviewed the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) Policy and found it to be consistent with CREP and RIM programs.
6. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their June 5, 2019 meeting, also reviewed the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) Policy and recommended the Board approve this order.

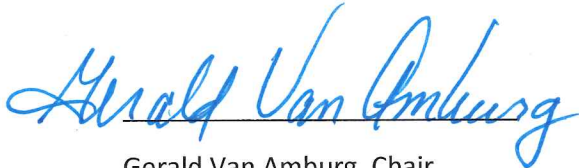
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the Wellhead Partner Protection Grants (Pilot) Policy and establishes that grants awarded pursuant to this order will conform to the Policy.
2. Authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals for Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot).
3. Approves the allocation of Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) up to \$1,000,000 to eligible local government partners.
4. Delegates the authority to the Executive Director to approve Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) and requires that program awards are reported to the Board after each grant award.
5. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this June 26, 2019.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 6-26-19

Attachment: Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) Policy

Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) Policy

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

Version: 1.00
Effective Date: 06/26/2019
Approval: Board Order #19-34

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide expectations for Wellhead Protection Partner Grants to facilitate permanent or long-term protection of wellhead protection areas as authorized by Minnesota Session Laws 2015 and 2017 Clean Water Fund Appropriations (ML 2015, 1st Special, Ch. 2, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g) and ML 2017, Ch. 91, Art. 2, Sec. 7(g)) and future similar appropriations.

Reason for this Policy

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

Minnesota Session Laws 2015 and 2017 appropriated Clean Water funds to BWSR for the following purposes:

...permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), or for grants to local units of government for fee title acquisition to permanently protect groundwater supply sources on wellhead protection areas or for otherwise assuring long-term protection of groundwater supply sources as described under alternative management tools in the Department of Agriculture's Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, including low nitrogen cropping systems or implementing nitrogen fertilizer best management practices. Priority must be placed on land that is located where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and on lands with expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

This policy establishes the mechanisms for use of those funds as Wellhead Protection Partner Grants, consistent with legislative appropriations.

Wellhead Protection

Three mechanisms have been identified for wellhead protection as funded in ML 2015 and 2017. Two of the three mechanisms, MN Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve are established BWSR easement programs that can be implemented for wellhead protection and have previously been authorized through separate BWSR Board action. MN CREP will be utilized first and to the fullest extent possible in the 54 county CREP area for Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA) where the drinking

water supply is designated as very high or high vulnerability through wellhead protection planning documents. For projects that do not meet CREP requirements, the second option for protection will be to utilize RIM-only easements. The third mechanism, Wellhead Protection Partner Grants, is described by this policy.

Wellhead Protection Partner Grants

The grants will establish perpetual or long-term protection of wellhead protection areas with very high or high vulnerability drinking water supplies where the first two protection methods (state-held easements) are not viable or desirable. The grants will achieve wellhead protection through a grant to a local government partner to protect the wellhead area by easement, fee acquisition, or other long-term (20 year minimum) protection mechanism. This protection mechanism may allow for alternative land uses to protect groundwater while allowing the partner more flexibility than a state-held easement through the CREP or RIM easement programs.

1. Applicant Eligibility

Local governments including cities, townships, counties, rural water districts, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, joint powers authorities or other governmental units with authority sufficient to meet the program's protection requirements and approved by BWSR will be eligible to apply for Wellhead Protection Partner Grants. Priority will be given to entities that have experience with long-term land protection efforts.

2. Match Requirements

A minimum 10% match is required from non-state funds. State funded loans repaid with non-state funds may be used for the match. The anticipated source(s) for the match shall be identified in the grant proposal.

3. Funding Priorities

Priority for funding will be given to projects that meet the following criteria:

- Be within a delineated WHPA mapped in a Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) approved Wellhead Protection Plan.
- Vulnerability of the drinking water supply has been designated as very high or high by the MN Department of Health.
- Well(s) monitoring has shown a nitrate concentration of >5.4 mg/l.
- Lands with expiring Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts.
- A drinking water protection plan has been completed and contains implementation activities that will achieve long-term protection.
- Permanent protection mechanisms are proposed.

4. Eligible Activities

The protection mechanism must be identified in the proposal and address the wellhead concern, achieve protection under local authority and be perpetual or long-term. Potential protection mechanisms include, but are not limited to, alternative uses and land use contracts that protect groundwater; fee acquisition or easements held by the local partner; or other perpetual or long-term groundwater protection mechanism proposed by the local government and approved by BWSR. The protection mechanism proposed by the local government must be identified in the grant proposal.

Eligible activities under the grant are payments for land protection including easement payment, pre-title acquisition payments, property acquisition costs, survey, title, recording fees, and vegetation establishment.

The local government (grantee) must provide assurances that the landowner or land occupier will keep the protection in place for the term of protection including a notice of restrictions recorded on the land title by the grantee to protect the State's interest in the property. Additional assurances may include management plans, enforceable contracts, performance bonds, letters of credit, and termination or performance penalties. See also the Projects Assurances section of the Grants Administration Manual.

5. Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include staff time spent to acquire protection mechanism and improvement costs associated with alternative use proposals that are not directly necessary to meet drinking water protection goals. Staff time can be used to meet the 10% match requirement.

6. Grantee Administration of Clean Water Fund Grants

Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grantee. All grantees must follow the Grants Administration Manual policy and guidance. All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants.

7. BWSR Grant Administration Requirements

BWSR staff is authorized to develop grant agreements, requirements, and processes for work plans, project outcomes reporting, closeouts, and fiscal reconciliations.

In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement. Additional programmatic requirements apply, including the BWSR Board Policy on Easement Alterations, if an easement is acquired.

History

Version	Description	Date
0.00	Wellhead Protection Partner Grants (Pilot) Policy- new	June 26, 2019

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award – Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7 – Brad Wozney – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP)

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Habitat, Pilot,

Section/Region: Resource Conservation Section

Contact: Dan Shaw

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick, Dan Shaw

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Dan Shaw

Time requested: 15 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

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

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

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

BOARD ORDER

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program

PURPOSE

Authorize a Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program and adopt the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 8(b) appropriated \$750,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board for building a new initiative to strategically restore and enhance approximately 1,000 acres of diverse native habitat to benefit multiple insects through grants, cost-share, and outreach.
2. This policy and the associated request for proposal were created to provide expectations for application to the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program and subsequent activities conducted with these funds.
3. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 29, 2021 Meeting, reviewed the proposed Restoration Enhancement Pilot Program Policy and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy.
2. Authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals for the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program grants.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attached: Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program Policy

Supporting Pollinators and Other At-risk Wildlife Enhancement Pilot Program

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



Version: 1.00
Effective Date: December 16, 2021
Approval: Board Order #21-XX



Policy Statement

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

Reason for the policy

This cost-share grant program is made possible through an appropriation (Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 8b) from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) and is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota on conservation lands and natural areas to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects. \$674,500 is available through this Request for Proposal. Applicants can apply for grants of \$20,000 to \$40,000 which can include projects on multiple properties.

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

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

Beneficial Insect Grant Program Requirements

1. Applicant Eligibility

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

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

2. Match Requirements

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

3. Eligible Activities

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

3.1 Technical Assistance. Eligible activities include but are not limited to: development of project plans and specifications.

3.2 Grant Management and Reporting. Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the program.

3.3 Conservation Practice Cost Share and Incentives. Eligible expenses include:

- Project and plan development
- Site preparation, planting and management costs (tilling, burning, weed barriers, seeds, erosion fabric, hydromulch, weed free straw, containerized plants, seeding, containerized plant installation, inter-seeding, weed removal, mowing, conservation grazing, conservation haying, etc.). Note that non-herbicide methods of site preparation and management are preferred, see the Xerces Society guide to "[Organic Site Preparation Methods.](#)"
- Invasive species management as part of efforts to enhance or re-establish native vegetation. Note, the removal of woody invasive species and invasive grasses can be part of projects but should not be a major component of the budget.
- Tool purchases (weed wrenches, backpack sprayers, hand shovels, hand rakes or similar equipment) must not exceed \$600.00. All tools purchased shall be used as a shared landowner resource and remain with grantee.
- Native flowering trees and shrubs that are beneficial to pollinators and beneficial insects are eligible for funding, as they often provide early season floral resources and nesting resources

- It is encouraged to use this program in combination with other non-state funding sources and practices.

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

4. Ineligible Expenses

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

4.2 Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funding cannot be used to pay for space and other associated overhead costs. Billing rates charged to these grants may include the employee's base hourly rate plus benefits. Required match can be provided through other facilities and administration costs such as space, vehicle, computers, and other associated overhead costs. Grants through this program can only be used for the grant program and not for other Federal or State programs.

5. Technical Quality Assurance

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

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

6. BWSR Grant Work Plan, Reporting and Reconciliation Requirements

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

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

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

6.3 **Grant Reporting.** Descriptions of actual results and financial expenditures for each work plan activity must be reported in eLINK by February 1 of each year.

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

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

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

7. BWSR Grant Administration Requirements

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

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

History

Version	Description	Date
1.00	Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program Policy	December 16, 2021

Contact

Dan Shaw, Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program



Request for Proposals

December 2021

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1. General Information

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

Funding available: \$674,500. Applicants can apply for grants of \$20,000 to \$40,000. Project can be located on multiple parcels.

2. Who May Apply?

Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, Watershed Management Organizations

3. Project Eligibility Criteria

Eligible projects can be located on lands with a long-term commitment to conservation management through conservation easements, long-term conservation contracts and public ownership. Eligible lands include those with existing RIM easements, CRP (with a long-term commitment), lands with other types of conservation easements, non-profit conservation preserves, newly enrolled CRP, city parks, county parks, and protected natural areas. Projects can be located on multiple parcels.

To the extent possible landscapes need to be specifically identified at the time of the application as information about proposed projects and their potential for benefitting beneficial insects will be part of ranking.

The goal of this program is to restore approximately 1,000 acres by installing 90 projects. Projects can focus on:
1) Establishing new floral-rich plots or riparian plantings 0.25 to 5 acres in size; and/or
2) Enhancing prairie, savanna, wetland, and shoreline communities that are not currently dominated with invasive species and can be enhanced to provide high value habitat that is planned to benefit a variety of beneficial insects and at-risk species.

- A plant or animal is considered “at-risk” when:
 - It is proposed for listing as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act
 - It is a candidate species for listing; or
 - It has been petitioned by a third party for listing; or
 - Its populations are rare, declining, or may be vulnerable to decline.
 - Find a list of [At-Risk Pollinator Species](#) on the Lawns to Legumes Partners webpage.

4. Match

A minimum non-state match equal to at least 25% of the amount requested and/or received is required.

5. To Apply

Applications must be submitted via eLINK. Eligible applicants without a current eLINK user account must submit a request at <https://apps.bwsr.state.mn.us/elink/Account/Register> to establish an eLINK account **no later than 7**

days prior to the application deadline in order to ensure sufficient time to create an account. As part of the application, eLINK will require applicants to map the location of the proposed project area(s).

The following application questions will be filled out in eLINK:

- Describe if and how your project’s location/s will benefit at-risk and/or beneficial insects
- Discuss your project/s connection to statewide and local habitat corridors/pathways or areas mapped as important for pollinators and beneficial insects.
- How will partnerships be established or strengthened and how is equity considered for the project?
- Discuss the technical expertise of the applicants and partners that will be involved with assisting landowners.
- Describe the long-term management commitment for project/s and management activities that are planned, including protection from pesticide exposure?
- Describe how cost-effectiveness will be considered for projects.
- Explain the anticipated outcomes upon completion of the project and how these outcomes will be obtained.

Applicants will be required to complete a project budget summarizing proposed activities and expenditures including technical and administrative costs.

Proposals must include one image file of the project area in relation to the priority zones (.jpg, .tiff, .png) as an Application Image in eLINK. General attachments will not show up as part of the application report in eLINK.

6. Evaluation and Selection

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points
<u>Value to at-risk and/or beneficial insects</u>	20
<u>Connection to habitat corridors/pathways or areas mapped as important for pollinator and beneficial insect plantings</u>	10
<u>Partnerships established or strengthened and equity considerations</u>	10
<u>Sufficient technical capacity of applicant and partners</u>	15
<u>Long-term protection and maintenance/sustainability of projects, including protection from pesticide exposure</u>	10
<u>Cost effectiveness of projects</u>	10
<u>Anticipated Outcomes and Project Value</u> outcomes will be obtained.	25
Total Points Available	100

7. Eligible Activities

- Project and plan development
- Site preparation, planting and management costs (tilling, burning, weed barriers, seeds, erosion fabric, hydromulch, weed free straw, containerized plants, seeding, containerized plant installation, inter-seeding, weed removal, mowing, conservation grazing, conservation haying, etc.). Note that non-herbicide methods of site preparation and management are preferred, see the Xerces Society guide to [“Organic Site Preparation Methods.”](#)

- Invasive species management as part of efforts to enhance or re-establish native vegetation. Note, the removal of woody invasive species and invasive grasses can be part of project costs but should not be a major component of the budget.
- Native flowering trees and shrubs that are beneficial to pollinators and beneficial insects are eligible for funding, as they often provide early season floral resources and nesting resources
- It is encouraged to use this program in combination with other non-state funding sources and practices.

8. Additional Information

Projects must be sustained for a minimum of 10 years and have a focus on long-term care of ecological functions and aesthetics. All grantees must follow the **Grants Administration Manual policy and guidance** (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/gam>).

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

Seed and plant source, diversity levels and other topics related to vegetation are summarized in BWSR's [Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines](#). There will be an emphasis on protecting the genetic integrity of any remnant plant communities associated with projects.

Project assessments/evaluations will be completed by local staff working with landowners after completion and every three years (or on existing inspection cycles for easement lands or CRP) as a follow-up to ensure that project goals are being met and to document project success. These evaluations will also play a key role in determining if any specific maintenance activities are needed for projects.

Projects are strongly encouraged to be located in areas protected from pesticides (at least 200 feet away from pesticide application). See the BWSR/Xerces Society fact sheet on [Protecting Conservation Lands from Pesticides](#) for additional protection strategies.

When practical, pollinator focused projects must have at least three blooming species during, spring, summer and fall, with high diversity is strongly encouraged. Use of milkweeds is encouraged to provide monarch habitat.

- Additional details about species for pollinator plantings are included in BWSR's Pollinator Toolbox. The Minnesota DNR has a [list of native plant vendors](#) (it is important to check with any vendor to ensure that their plants are neonicotinoid free).

Consideration should be given to contracting with the Conservation Corps of Minnesota for projects. For additional public outreach tools see BWSR's brochure on "[Protecting Minnesota's Pollinators](#)," Fact Sheet on "[How You Can Help Pollinators](#)," and [Featured Plant Articles](#) that include over seventy species for benefitting pollinators and the USFWS information on [plants for Rusty Patch Bumblebee](#).

9. Timeline

January 3, 2022	Application period begins
February 23, 2022	Application deadline at 4:30 PM
April 27, 2022	BWSR Board authorizes grant awards
May 9, 2022	BWSR grant agreements sent to recipients (proposed)
June 6th	Work plan submittal deadline
June 15, 2022	Grant Execution deadline

10. Incomplete Applications

Applications that do not comply with all requirements, including incomplete or missing application components, will not be considered for funding.

11. BWSR Grant Administration

BWSR reserves the right to partially fund any and all proposals based on the amount of funding available. Proposals that are deemed complete may be considered for future available funds.

12. Grant Execution

Successful applicants will be required to develop and submit a work plan in eLINK prior to execution of the grant agreement.

13. Payment Schedule

Grant payments will be made on a quarterly reimbursement schedule after submission of documentation of eligible expenditures and approval by the program manager, provided the grant applicant is in compliance with all BWSR reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants. Upon award, see contract for dates of quarterly submittal.

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) funding cannot be used to pay for space and other associated overhead costs. Billing rates charged to these grants may include the employee's base hourly rate plus benefits. Required match can be provided through other facilities and administration costs such as space, vehicle, computers, and other associated overhead costs. Beneficial insect program grants can only be used for the grant program and not for other Federal or State programs.

14. Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is fully executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds. All grants must be completed by December 31, 2024.

15. Project Reporting Requirements

- All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of grants. All BWSR funded projects are required to develop a work plan, including detail of each eligible activity, a description of the anticipated activity accomplishments, and grant and match funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. For more information about eLINK, go to: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/elink>.
- BWSR funds will be administered via a standard grant agreement. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient.
- Grant recipients must display program goals and major program activities on a fact sheet (or a separate webpage) that is linked to their website.
- Reporting deadlines will be 30 days after quarter end to submit reimbursement receipts.

16. Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to a Request for Proposals are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the applicant, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

17. Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01 (see http://www.admin.state.mn.us/ogm_policies_and_statute.html) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making, also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

1. A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice due to competing duties or loyalties,
2. A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties, or
3. A grantee or potential grantee has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.

18. Prevailing Wage

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with state funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Additional information on prevailing wage requirements is available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/prevailing-wage-information>. Questions

about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091.

19. Questions

For more information concerning the request for proposal, contact BWSR's Beneficial Insect program coordinators:

For technical program questions contact Dan Shaw at dan.shaw@state.mn.us or at 612-236-6291

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA)

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Weed, Management

Section/Region: Resource Conservation Section

Contact: Dan Shaw

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick, Dan Shaw

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Dan Shaw

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

To approve the board order to authorize staff to develop and distribute the FY22-23 CWMA Request for Proposals.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Cooperative Weed Management Areas are partnerships of federal, state and local government agencies along with tribes, individual landowners and various other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area. The BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) Program was developed in 2008 to establish strong and sustainable CWMA's across Minnesota for the collaborative and efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas. \$200,000 is proposed for FY2022 and FY2023 for newly developing and existing CWMA's/terrestrial weed management partnerships in Minnesota.

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Authorization

PURPOSE

Authorize the Request for Proposal (RFP) for fiscal year 2022 and 2023 General Fund Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) grants to selected Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs).

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4d(1), appropriated fiscal year 2022 and 2023 funds for county cooperative weed management cost-share programs.
2. The CWMA program provides financial assistance to SWCDs to develop and sustain Cooperative Weed Management Areas that control emerging weed threats and manage natural areas and conservation lands through an integrated pest management and ecosystem approach.
3. The Board has previously endorsed an inter-agency granting strategy that includes an interagency Project Advisory Team to assist in the development and evaluation of this grant program.
4. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 29, 2021 meeting, reviewed the RFP and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to proceed with the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the FY 2022 and 2023 CWMA Grants Program consistent with the provisions of the appropriation and this Board Order.
2. Establishes that the CWMA program will conform to the BWSR FY2020 Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments: *FY 2022 & 2023 Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Request for Proposal (RFP)*

Cooperative Weed Management Area Program

Request for Proposals

November 2021

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1. General Information

Cooperative Weed Management Areas are partnerships of federal, state and local government agencies along with tribes, individual landowners and various other interested groups that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants in a defined area. The [BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area \(CWMA\) Program](#) was developed in 2008 to promote the collaborative and efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas across geographic boundaries. \$200,000 is available for FY2022 and FY2023 (combined) for newly developing and existing CWMAs/CISMA partnerships in Minnesota through this Request for Proposal.

This cost-share grant program funding is made possible through an appropriation (Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4d(1)) and is focused on establishing strong and sustainable Cooperative Weed Management Areas and Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas across Minnesota for the collaborative and efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas.

This program follows the state [Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy](#).

2. Who May Apply?

As the CWMA Program is a State Cost-share Program, SWCDs are the only eligible applicants. Other organizations may consider applying in partnership with SWCDs to help develop and run the Cooperative Weed Management Area project.

3. Eligibility Criteria

Newly developing and existing CWMAs and CISMAs (Cooperative Invasive Species Management Areas) are eligible for this RFP.

- Newly developing CWMAs/CISMAs or groups where more than one county are combined as part of existing CWMAs/CISMAs may request up to \$20,000
- Grants for existing groups will be \$15,000

SWCDs are eligible to receive grant funds if they are working under a current water management plan that has been **state approved and locally adopted** when the BWSR Board authorizes the grant awards.

Proposals from applicants that were previously awarded CWMA Funds will be considered during the review process for applications submitted in response to this RFP. However, applicants that have expended less than 50% of previous award(s) at the time of this application will need to demonstrate organizational capacity to finalize current projects and complete new projects concurrently.

A minimum non-state match equal to at least 25% of the amount requested and/or received is required. The match must be cash or in-kind cash value of goods, materials, and services directly attributed to project accomplishments.

Applicants are required to fill out a project budget summarizing proposed activities and expenditures including proposed actual technical and administrative costs. Applicants may propose using more than

20% of the grant funds for technical and administrative costs as provided in Section 2.2. of the [Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy](#).

Proposals must include one image file (.jpg, .tiff, .png) as an Application Image in eLINK. General attachments will not show up as a part of the application report in eLINK.

4. Evaluation and Selection

- Proposals should demonstrate significant, measurable project outputs and outcomes¹. As appropriate, outputs should include scientifically credible estimates of both short-term and long-term benefits as well as other measures such as: acres of invasive species treated, increases in diversity levels, etc.
- Proposals must have plans for long-term maintenance and inspection monitoring for the duration of the project’s effective life.
- Proposals should demonstrate that a sufficient partnership exists to implement the project.

Application Questions:

- Describe if the funding will be used to assist the development of a newly establishing Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) or Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA) or if the funding will be used for an existing group
- Describe the anticipated outcomes of the project including how they related to goals and how they will be attained.
- Describe how the proposal and target species of focus are based on priority actions listed in or derived from CWMA/CISMA plans, and other local, state and federal conservation and invasive species plans and the [MN Tactical Invasive Species Management Plan](#).
- List target species of focus and why they have been identified as priorities
- Describe partners involved in the project and how the partnership will lead to effective management and operation.
- Describe plans to plan and manage invasive species through partnership coordination and using integrated pest management, and a focus on restoring native vegetation and/or native plant communities where practicable.
- Describe plans for the management of information about weed locations (using [EDDMapS](#)), as well as other management approaches used.

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points
<u>Newly Establishing Organizations</u> : The funding will be used to assist the development of a newly establishing Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) or Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area (CISMA).	10
<u>Anticipated Outcomes</u> : The outcomes expected upon completion of the project initiatives are identified, consistent with project goals, and it is clear how these outcomes will be obtained.	25

<u>Relationship to CWMA and Conservation Plans:</u> The proposal and species of focus are based on priority actions listed in or derived from CWMA/CISMA plans, and other local, state and federal conservation and invasive species plans.	10
<u>Weed Prioritization:</u> Weed threats are prioritized and are consistent with Minnesota’s Noxious Weed Law, as well as local needs.	15
<u>Strength of Partnerships:</u> Partnerships are clearly defined and will lead to effective management and operation.	15
<u>Management Approach:</u> An approach is defined to plan and manage invasive species through partnership coordination and using integrated pest management, and a focus on restoring native vegetation and/or native plant communities where practicable.	15
<u>Information Management:</u> An approach is defined for the management of information about weed locations (using EDDMapS), as well as other management approaches used.	10
Total Points Available	100

¹ The term “outcome” means the result, effect or consequence that will occur from carrying out the environmental program or activity associated with the application. Outcomes may be environmental, behavioral, health related or programmatic in nature but must be quantitative. They may not necessarily be achievable within the grant agreement timeline.

The term “output” or “intermediate outcome” means an environmental activity, effort and/or associated work product related to an environmental goal and objective that will be produced or provided over a period of time or by a specified date. Outputs may be quantitative or qualitative but must be measurable during the grant agreement timeline.

5. Eligible & Key Activities

Grant funding can be used for a wide variety of activities related to setting up and sustaining existing CWMAs, including:

- Technical Assistance
- Conducting outreach and education
- Weed mapping
- Managing invasive species and monitoring
- Reporting project areas in EDDMapS
- Equipment purchases (spray equipment, weed wrenches, tablet etc.) must not exceed \$1,000. All equipment purchased shall be used as a shared landowner resource and remain with grantee.

The following are a list of key activities of CWMAs/CISMAs can include:

<p><u>Building Strong Partnerships</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Public landowners, and agencies -Private landowners -Local units of government -Tribal nations -Non-governmental organizations -Universities -For-profit partners 	<p><u>Sharing Resources between Partners</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Staff/labor -Equipment -Leveraged funds -Access to lands, roads, gravel pits and/or key decision makers 	<p><u>Effective Outreach/Communication</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Communication back and forth between agencies, landowners, local units of government, and private organizations -Educate – ID, prevention, management – also grant writing and plan writing -Technical transfer – news, tips
<p><u>Identifying and prioritizing emerging weed threats</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -New and/or recently introduced species -Those changing status -High priority landscapes 	<p><u>Facilitating management/control of priority species</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Promote sound weed management that promotes multiple landscape benefits (pollinators, re-establishing native vegetation) etc. 	<p><u>Effective data management/sharing</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Weed Mapping -Project Mapping -Project Outcomes

6. Other Information

Native Vegetation

The planting of native vegetation following removal efforts is required whenever feasible for a project to provide competition for invasive species and provide other landscape benefits. Vegetative practices must follow the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines at:

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2019-07/Updated%20guidelines%20Final%2007-01-19.pdf>

Match Requirements

A non-state local share equal to at least 25% of the amount of CWMA funds received is required. Local share can be provided by a landowner, land occupier, local government or other non-state source and can be in the form of cash or the cash value of services or materials contributed to the accomplishment of grant objectives.”

Eligible Expenses

See the unallowable costs as defined in the Grant Administration Manual – [Allowable and Unallowable Cost](#) section.

Equipment purchases (spray equipment, weed wrenches, tablet etc.) must not exceed \$1,000. All equipment purchased shall be used as a shared landowner resource and remain with grantee.

Timeline

January 3, 2022	Application period begins
February 23, 2022	Application deadline at 4:30 PM
April 27, 2022	BWSR Board authorizes grant awards
May 9, 2022	BWSR grant agreements sent to recipients (proposed)
June 6th	Work plan submittal deadline
June 15, 2022	Grant Execution deadline

7. Payment Schedule

Applications Grant payments will be made as one advance payment after the work plan approval and execution of the grant agreement, provided the grant applicant is in compliance with all BWSR website and eLINK reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants.

8. Submittal

Applications will be submitted via eLINK. Eligible applicants without a current eLINK user account must submit a request to establish an eLINK account no later than 7 days prior to the application deadline. As part of the application, eLINK will require applicants to map the location of the proposed project.

9. BWSR Grant Administration

BWSR reserves the right to partially fund any and all proposals based on the amount of funding available. Proposals that are deemed complete may be considered for future available funds.

10. Grant Execution

Successful respondents will be required to develop and submit a work plan in eLINK prior to execution of the grant agreement.

11. Incomplete Proposals

Proposals that do not comply with all requirements, including incomplete or missing proposal components, will not be considered for funding.

12. Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures (from BWSR and Grantee) have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds. All grants must be completed by the expiration date of December 31, 2025 as referenced in the grant agreement.

13. Project Reporting Requirements

- All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Cooperative Weed Management Area grants. All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan, including detail of each eligible activity, a description of the anticipated activity accomplishments, and grant and match funding amounts to accomplish each of the activities. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. For more information about eLINK, go to: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/elink>.
- BWSR Cooperative Weed Management Area funds will be administered via a standard grant agreement. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient.
- Grant recipients must display their program goals and major program activities on a fact sheet (or a separate webpage) that is linked to their website.

14. Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to a Request for Proposals are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the applicant, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

15. Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01 (see http://www.admin.state.mn.us/ogm_policies_and_statute.html) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making, also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

1. A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice due to competing duties or loyalties,
2. A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties, or
3. A grantee or potential grantee has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.

16. Questions

For more information concerning the request for proposal, contact BWSR's Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Coordinators: Tara Perriello, tara.perriello@state.mn.us or Dan Shaw, dan.shaw@state.mn.us.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Award

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: FY2022, Clean Water Fund, CWF, Competitive Grant Award

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Shaina Keseley

Prepared by: Shaina Keseley

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Shaina Keseley and Mark Hiles

Time requested: 20 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program Awards (Projects and Practices, Multipurpose Drainage Management allocations).

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY22 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 23, 2021, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for eligible local governments to apply for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants in three program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram and Multipurpose Drainage Management (Board order #21-16).

Applications for the FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 30 through August 17, 2021. Local governments submitted 66 applications requesting \$22,066,713.66 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR Clean Water staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards. The BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the recommendations on November 9th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the Grants Program and Policy Committee. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendation on November 29th, 2021 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant awards for Projects and Practices and Multipurpose Drainage Management grants.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 6(b) appropriated \$10,762,000 for the fiscal year 2022 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Competitive Grants Program with up to 20 percent available for land-treatment projects and practices that benefit drinking water, and the Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 6(j) appropriated \$850,000 for the fiscal year 2022 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Competitive Grants Program.
2. \$1,238,000 of the 2021 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Competitive Grant funding that was held back as a budgetary precaution due to the COVID 19 Pandemic is now available for the FY22 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Competitive Grant Program.
3. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with these appropriations.
4. On June 23, 2021, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants (Board order #21-16).
5. The request for proposals was noticed on June 30, 2021 with a submittal deadline of August 17, 2021.
6. Applications were scored and ranked by an interagency committee on October 25, 2021.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 29, 2021 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocation of funds to each eligible applicant in the amounts listed in the attached allocation tables.
2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.

3. Authorizes staff to fully or partially fund additional applications in rank order until April 8, 2022 unless superseded by a future Board action. For this purpose, staff may separately or in combination: a. reallocate funds returned from previous years' Clean Water Fund Competitive grant programs, b. reallocate funds that become available if funded projects are withdrawn or do not receive work plan approval by March 18, 2022 unless extended for cause, or c. reallocate funds that are modified due to a reduction in the state funding needed to accomplish the project.
4. Establishes that the grants awarded pursuant to this order will conform to FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments:

- FY2022 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table
- FY2022 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table
- FY2022 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table
- Maps of recommended award locations

FY2022 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C22-6316	WJD-6 Wetland Restoration	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	\$ 386,000.00
C22-0175	Blue Lake Priority Action Plan Phase II	Isanti SWCD	\$ 384,630.00
C22-8116	Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project	Bois de Sioux WD	\$ 800,000.00
C22-9764	South Branch Buffalo River Watershed Restoration	Buffalo-Red River WD	\$ 350,000.00
C22-2120	Epiphany Creek BIESF	Coon Creek WD	\$ 345,000.00
C22-2534	Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Project	Bassett Creek WMC	\$ 300,000.00
C22-7102	Big Marine Lake Stormwater Quality Improvements Phase I	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD	\$ 272,400.00
C22-1651	2022 Hill River Subwatershed Water Quality Agricultural Practices	Red Lake SWCD	\$ 231,200.00
C22-2325	Big Carnelian Lake Stormwater Quality Improvements Phase I	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD	\$ 203,850.00
C22-3434	FY22 CWF North Creek Foxborough Park TSS Reduction Project	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	\$ 346,500.00
C22-0499	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project Phase 3	Bois de Sioux WD	\$ 800,000.00
C22-4881	Lake Ida HUC 12 AIG Projects Phase II	Douglas SWCD	\$ 287,850.00
C22-0878	2022 Big Elk & Mayhew Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Program	Benton SWCD	\$ 491,000.00
C22-3526	Roseau River Water Quality project	Roseau River WD	\$ 160,010.00
C22-5311	Chaska Creek Remeander Phase 2	Carver County WMO	\$ 283,000.00
C22-9698	Moody Lake Capstone Projects	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	\$ 239,500.00
C22-7038	Fairmont Chain of Lakes-Nutrient Treatment Train	Martin County	\$ 882,000.00
C22-7229	Clear Lake - 2022 Soluble Phosphorus Management	Clearwater River WD	\$ 361,000.00
C22-0089	Island Lake Water Quality Protection	Pine SWCD	\$ 128,000.00
C22-0255	Palmer Creek Stream Stabilization	Shingle Creek WMC	\$ 384,000.00
C22-7057	Pell Creek Turbidity Reduction Project	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area	\$ 648,075.00
C22-2187	Perro Creek Stormwater Retrofits	Washington Conservation District	\$ 80,000.00

C22-4214	Pike Creek Stabilization	Plymouth, City of	\$ 150,000.00
C22-1275	Priority E.coli Reduction in Mississippi River-Sartell	Stearns SWCD	\$ 477,350.00
C22-7034	Rum River Woodbury House Riverbank Stabilization Project	Anoka, City of	\$ 1,008,820.00
C22-2087	FY22 CWF Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	\$ 495,000.00
C22-9063	Project 17 Outlet Stabilization	Sand Hill River WD	\$ 214,400.00
C22-1028	Dobbins Creek Headwaters Capital Improvement Projects Implementation	Cedar River WD	\$ 610,000.00
C22-7855	The Future of Farming in Becker County	Becker SWCD	\$ 354,915.00
		TOTAL	\$ 11,674,500.00

FY2022 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table

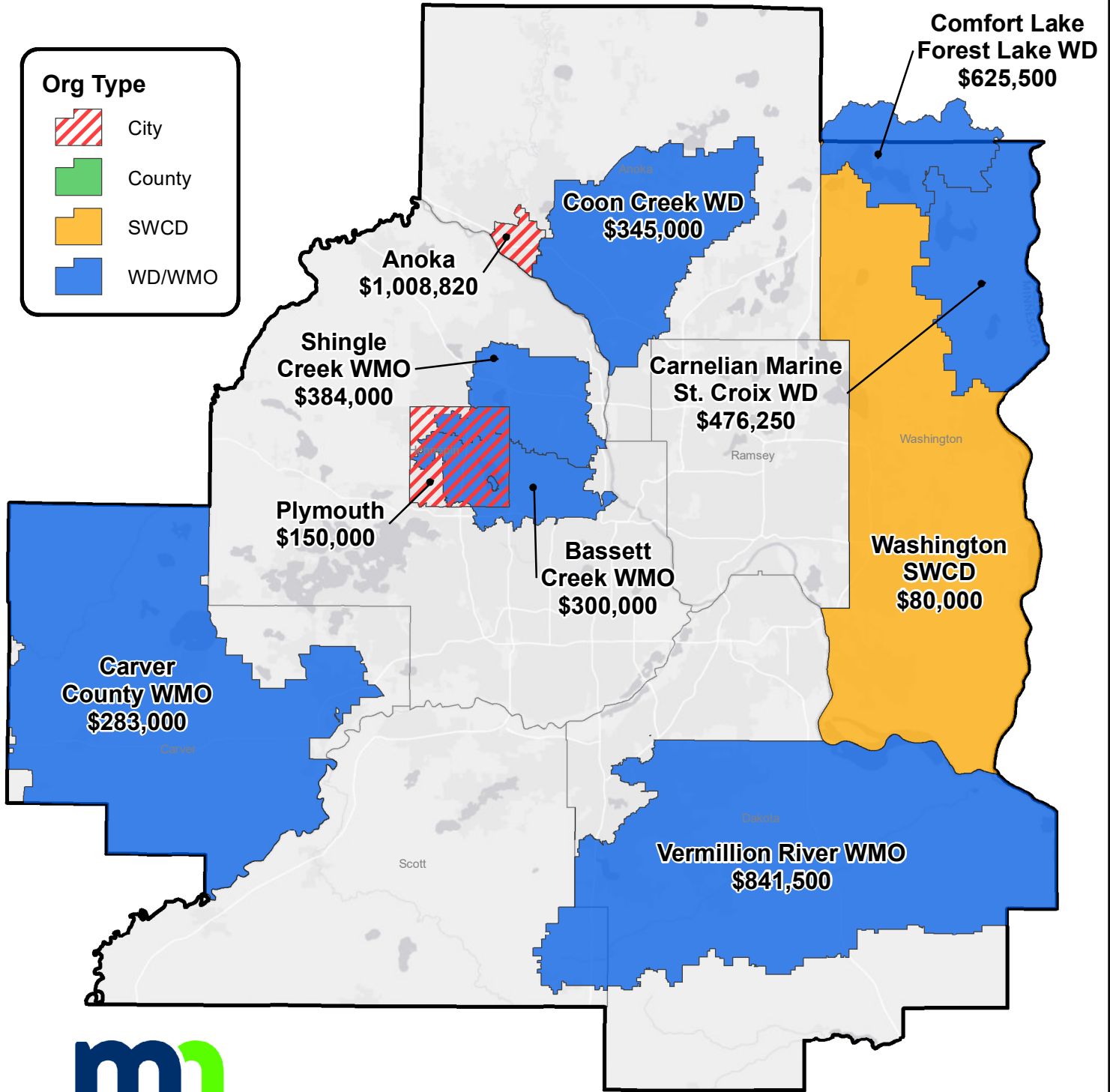
C22-7163	2022 - Dakota County Drinking Water Protection Project Phase 2	Dakota SWCD	\$ 150,000.00
C22-5079	Targeted Blue Earth County Well Sealing	Blue Earth County	\$ 30,000.00
C22-4292	Crow Wing County and Pine River watershed well sealing 2022	Crow Wing County	\$ 30,000.00
C22-8905	2022 Ramsey County Well Sealing Program	Ramsey County	\$ 115,500.00
		TOTAL	\$ 325,500.00

FY2022 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C22-6082	Redpath Phase 1 - TCD 35 Water Quality Improvements	Bois de Sioux WD	\$ 320,000.00
C22-0827	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation Phase 2	McLeod SWCD	\$ 123,546.00
C22-2270	2022 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD	\$ 95,000.00
C22-1803	2022 Wright County WASCObS on Joint Ditch #15	Wright County	\$ 210,000.00
		TOTAL	\$ 748,546.00

FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices Recommended Funding
Total Outstate Recommended Funding: \$7,180,430
Total Metro Recommended Funding: \$4,494,070

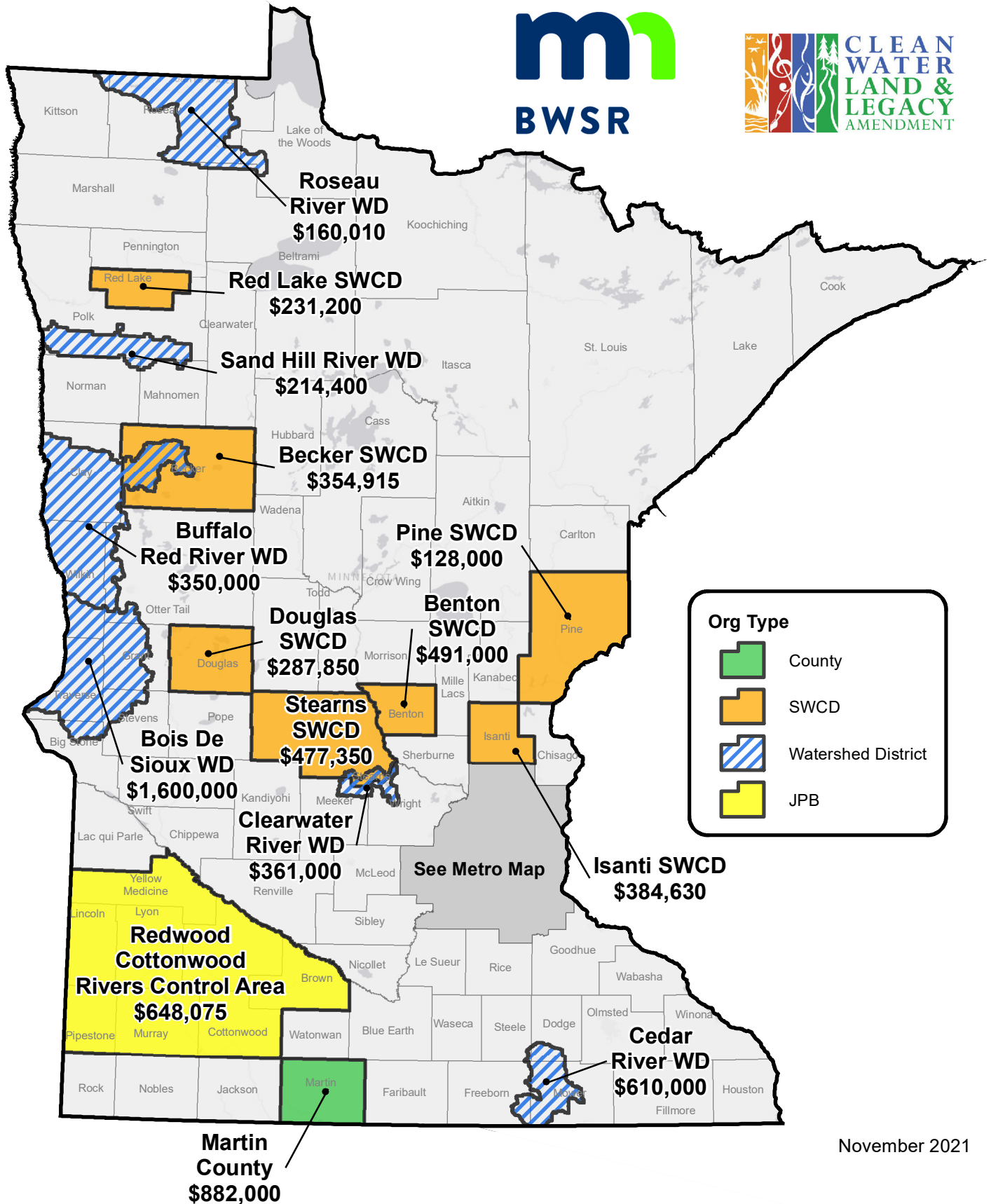


BWSR



FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

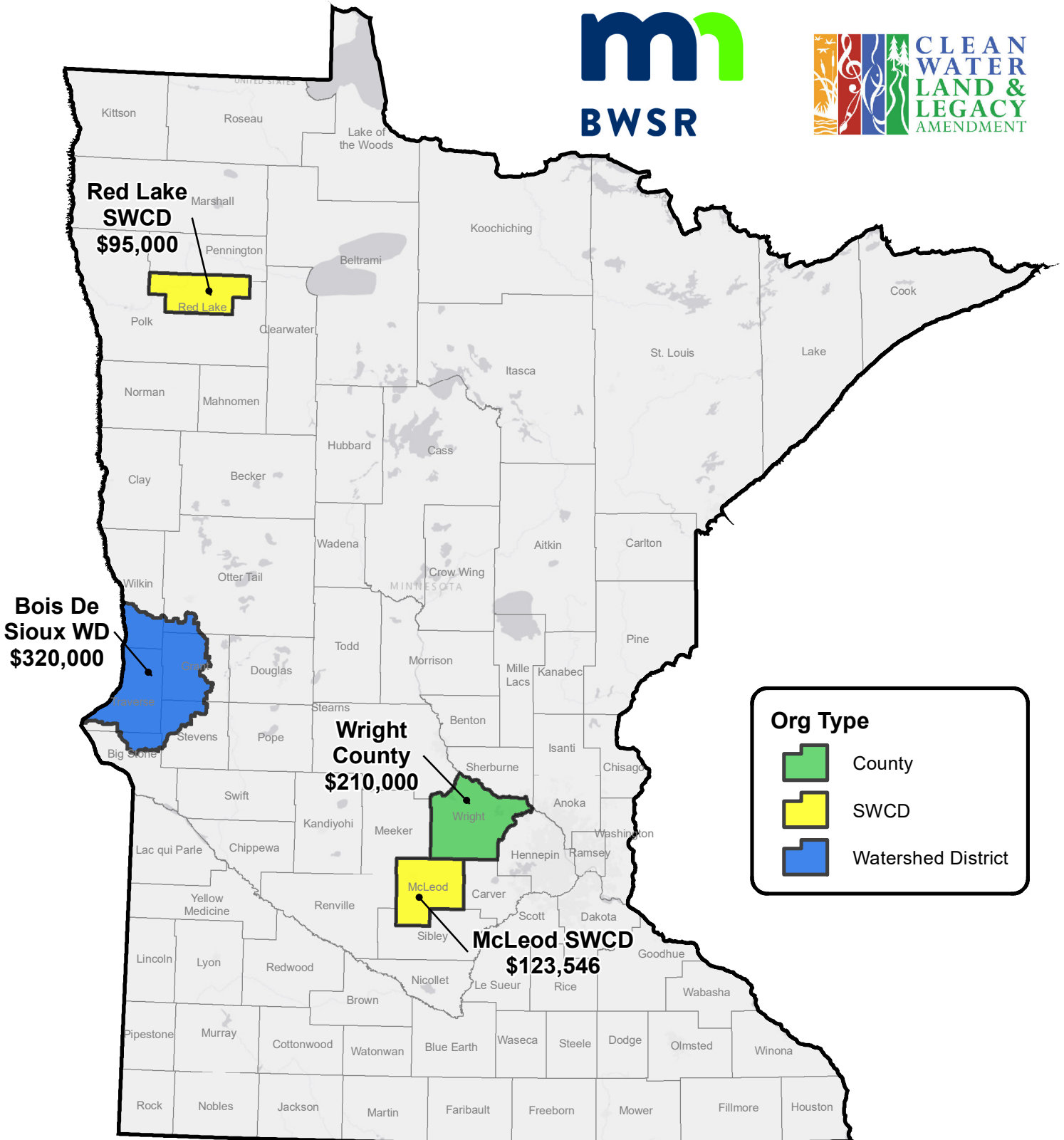
Projects and Practices Recommended Funding
Total Outstate Recommended Funding: \$7,180,430
Total Metro Recommended Funding: \$4,494,070



FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

Total Recommended Funding: \$748,546



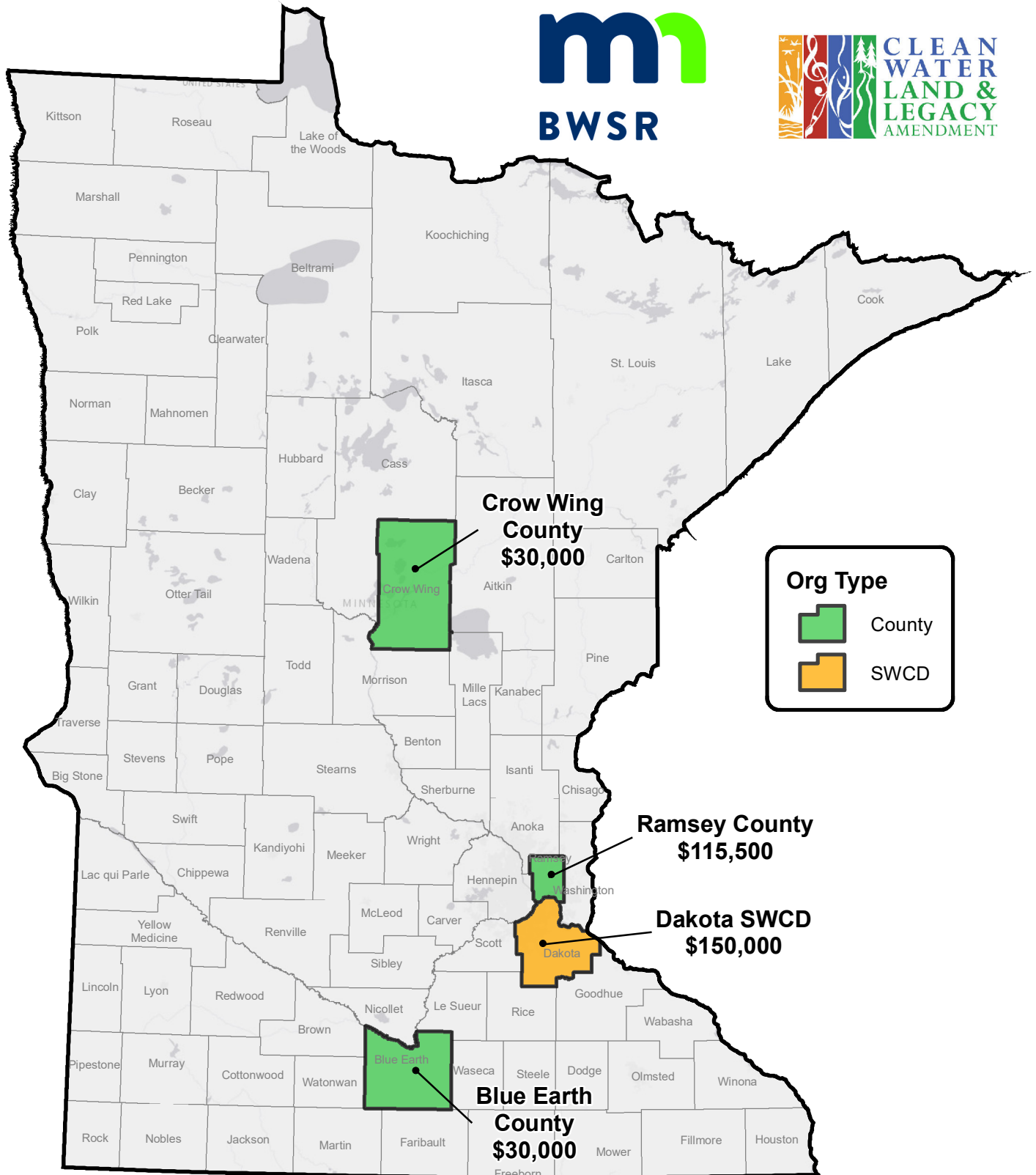
Org Type

- County
- SWCD
- Watershed District

FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices - Drinking Water

Total Recommended Funding: \$325,500



#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C22-6316	WJD-6 Wetland Restoration	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Washington	\$ 386,000.00	\$ 386,000.00	Forest Lake is one of the top recreational lakes in the metro area and the largest lake in Washington County, and has a diverse and healthy fishery and three public accesses. Water quality of Forest Lake impacts downstream waters, particularly Comfort Lake, Sunrise River, and ultimately Lake St. Croix. While not currently on the impaired waters list, Forest Lake is very near the water quality standard and protecting it is a high priority for the region. The proposed project will restore approximately 1.5-acres of wetland and will include sediment excavation and vegetation rehabilitation. The excavation and scraping will provide for deeper pools along with large shallow wetland benches to promote nutrient uptake and vegetation growth. This project is estimated to reduce total phosphorus loading by approximately 38 pounds per year.	88.9
2	C22-0175	Blue Lake Priority Action Plan Phase II	Isanti SWCD	Isanti	\$ 384,630.00	\$ 384,630.00	This project's goal is to continue our mission to improve the quality of Blue Lake and ensure the lake does not get listed as impaired. Recent data indicates the lakes' 10-year average total phosphorus (TP) and chlorophyll-a concentration hover just above state standards. The lakes protection goal, as set in the Rum River Watershed Restoration and Protection Study (WRAPS), requires a 360-pound reduction of TP. Internal loading was identified as the root cause of degraded water quality. The project we are proposing will result in a 590 pound per year reduction of TP by applying a buffered alum treatment, as recommended in the Alum Feasibility Study. The treatment will be split into two ½ doses; the first applied in 2022 and the second in 2024. The Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District is also currently working to reduce 102 pounds per year from upland sources and has already reduced upland TP loading by over 40%. The SWCD and its partners have identified a path to improved recreation in Blue Lake, and an alum treatment is the next logical and cost-effective step.	87.9
3	C22-8116	Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project	Bois de Sioux WD	Grant;Traverse	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	The Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project will focus on constructing Phase 2 of the Redpath Project, a significant capital improvement project identified in the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CWMP) which will result in meeting the plan goals to address altered hydrology effects. The proposed project will construct a 300-foot wide, 260 acre floodplain corridor with an 8-mile meandering channel focused on natural channel design. In addition to the stream rehabilitation, the project will provide approximately 34 acres of constructed wetland habitat and 226 acres of native upland buffer areas within the stream channel and associated floodplain areas, permanently protected by the District. Approximately 30 water quality side inlets will be installed at targeted areas along the corridor to provide additional water quality benefits to the rehabilitated reach. This project is estimated to reduce sediment loading to the impaired reach of the Mustinka River by 253 tons/yr and total phosphorus by 72 lbs/year.	87.7
4	C22-9764	South Branch Buffalo River Watershed Restoration	Buffalo-Red River WD	Otter Tail;Wilkin	\$ 350,000.00	\$ 350,000.00	The Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) will partner to install 50 sediment best management practices including water and sediment control basins, grade stabilization structures, and grassed waterways to address sediment loading to the South Branch Buffalo River (SBRR). The focus will be on upland areas, away from the SBRR channel corridor, to improve water quality within the SBRR watershed. Analysis was done that identified the locations of sediment best management practices that should be implemented to repair gullies and ensure a reduction of future erosion. Each gully was also ranked from most sediment contributing to the least and grouped into High and Medium categories. This project will be targeting the gullies identified as the highest priority within the SBRR watershed. When these 50 gullies are stabilized, sediment loading within the watershed will be reduced by 2,800 tons per year and total phosphorus will be reduced by 310 pounds per year.	87.1
5	C22-2120	Epiphany Creek BIESF	Coon Creek WD	Anoka	\$ 345,000.00	\$ 345,000.00	In partnership with the City of Coon Rapids, Coon Creek's aquatic life and recreation impairments will be addressed by reducing nutrient and bacteria loading attributable to urban stormwater runoff. A 10,000 sq ft biochar- and iron-enhanced sand filter will be constructed to treat runoff from Epiphany Creek, a 655-acre urban subwatershed. This regional filtration practice will reduce total phosphorus loading to Coon Creek by 23 pounds per year and bacteria loading by 404 billion organisms per year.	86.9
6	C22-2534	Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Project	Bassett Creek WMC	Hennepin	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	The Medley Park Stormwater Treatment Project will transform an underutilized, soggy turf area in a neighborhood park into a stormwater treatment area with water quality benefits, restored wetland and prairie habitat, and educational opportunities. The Bassett Creek Watershed Management Commission (BCWMC) completed a feasibility study for this project in June 2021 that estimates the project will reduce the amount of total phosphorus entering Medicine Lake by 17 pounds per year. Medicine Lake is impaired for nutrients and has an approved Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study. This project is one of the few opportunities to reduce pollutants to the lake from the city of Golden Valley. All together the project increases the water quality treatment volume in the park by 4.3 acre-feet, adds 0.6 acres of native prairie and pollinator habitat, and adds 0.6 acres of wetland habitat surrounding the new ponds. The project also provides significant flood reduction and climate resiliency benefits, creating 8.3 acre-feet of flood storage to remove three homes from the 100-year flooding event and six homes from the 25-year storm event.	86.8
7	C22-7102	Big Marine Lake Stormwater Quality Improvements Phase I	Carnelian-Marine St. Croix WD	Washington	\$ 272,400.00	\$ 272,400.00	This project proposes to treat 7.3 acres of stormwater flowing directly into Big Marine Lake with water quality best management practices that increase small storm retention by 6,111 cubic feet and reduce annual total phosphorus discharges by 9.9 pounds per year and sediment by 1,531 pounds per year. Big Marine Lake is a high quality recreational lake with three public accesses and is nearly impaired for aquatic life. This proposal is the first phase of projects identified in the Big Marine Subwatershed Analysis and treats the largest source of urban stormwater discharging to the lake.	86.4

8	C22-1651	2022 Hill River Subwatershed Water Quality Agricultural Practices	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 231,200.00	\$ 231,200.00	Red Lake County SWCD has targeted seven sites for implementation of structural agricultural practices based on data analysis obtained from multiple sources, including the Clearwater River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies and Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) reports, and the Water Quality Decision Support System tool. The data identified the Hill River subwatershed as a high contributor to the impairments on the Clearwater River, highlighted fields in the subwatershed with the highest sediment loading, and showed specific locations in the field which were most vulnerable to erosion. Red Lake County SWCD conducted an Erosion Site Inventory in 2021, which verified the information and found landowners in these priority areas that were eager to fix the erosion problems on their fields. The structural agricultural practices will include, but are not limited to, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and water and sediment control basins. The implementation of these practices is estimated to reduce sediment loading to the Clearwater River by 1,781 tons per year, or 25% of the TMDL annual load reduction. This will improve water quality, recreation, fish habitat, and aesthetics. Further downstream, the City of East Grand Forks pulls its drinking water from the Red Lake River, making these projects a regional concern as well.	85.9
9	C22-2325	Big Carnelian Lake Stormwater Quality Improvements Phase I	Carnelian-Marine St. Croix WD	Washington	\$ 203,850.00	\$ 203,850.00	This project proposes to collect and treat 32 acres of stormwater flowing directly into Big Carnelian Lake with no water quality treatment. A 15,000 ft ³ bioinfiltration basin will treat 87% of the annual discharge and reduce 7 pounds of total phosphorus and 3 tons of sediment discharging into Big Carnelian Lake each year. Big Carnelian Lake is a high quality recreational lake with a public access and declining water quality trends. This is the largest source of untreated urban stormwater discharging into the lake identified in the Big Carnelian Lake Subwatershed Analysis.	84.5
10	C22-3434	FY22 CWF North Creek Foxborough Park TSS Reduction Project	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	Dakota	\$ 346,500.00	\$ 346,500.00	The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization (VRWJPO), in partnership with the City of Lakeville and Dakota County, will construct a dry pond with a wet sedimentation forebay in Foxborough Park adjacent to the North Creek tributary to the Vermillion River. This pond will capture and reduce sediment and total phosphorus (TP) from an existing stormwater outfall that discharges directly to North Creek. The basin would be constructed within an existing park greenspace and would intercept stormwater from the existing outfall for treatment. The 220-acre subwatershed draining to this stormwater outfall was developed several decades ago with very minimal stormwater treatment, and new opportunities for stormwater treatment are limited. North Creek is anticipated to be placed on the impaired waters list in 2022 for sediment and fish bioassessment. The project will reduce an estimated 18 tons per year of sediment and 32 pounds per year of TP.	83.9
11	C22-0499	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project Phase 3	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	Traverse County Ditch 52 (TCD 52) is a well-known, significant source of sediment and nutrients to Lake Traverse and the outlet of the watershed. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD), Traverse County SWCD and other local partners have a goal to completely stabilize TCD 52 in a series of three phases in a comprehensive effort to address water quality impairments. The Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project Phase 3 will stabilize approximately one mile of TCD 52 resulting in a reduction of approximately 2,250 tons per year of sediment transport to Lake Traverse. Construction of Phase 1 has been completed and construction of Phase 2 will begin in the fall of 2021. This proposed Phase 3 is the final phase and will completely address this major pollutant source to Lake Traverse. The existing condition of the site is severely degraded, with actively eroding banks in excess of 30 feet in some areas, severely incised channel and reduced connectivity to a functional floodplain. The Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process and the recently approved Bois de Sioux-Mustinka Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) have identified the TCD 52 system as a priority to be addressed. Completion of Phase 3 will exceed the Plan short-term goal for sediment reduction in the Lake Traverse Planning region, and achieve 8% of the long-term goal.	83.3
12	C22-4881	Lake Ida HUC 12 AIG Projects Phase II	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	\$ 287,850.00	\$ 287,850.00	This project continues the success of our Phase I grant which generated more interest in project implementation than grant funding available. Phase I was used to complete a subwatershed assessment for the Lake Ida subwatershed to identify and target areas of concentrated flow, potential erosion and areas of nonpoint pollution. We have received more erosion project requests than dollars available. All projects have received a site inspection and evaluation by SWCD staff. These projects have been reviewed and prioritized according to potential reductions, feasibility and project & landowner readiness. This grant will reduce sediment to Lake Ida by 361 tons per year and total phosphorus by 343 pounds per year. This grant will make progress towards the Long Prairie goals for Lake Ida set in the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy report to reduce TP by 300 lbs and sediment by 10%. BMPs will include seven shoreline restorations, two gully fixes, three water and sediment control basins, one terrace, one manure storage practice and 10 alternative tile intakes.	83.0
13	C22-0878	2022 Big Elk & Mayhew Lakes Phosphorus Reduction Program	Benton SWCD	Benton	\$ 491,000.00	\$ 491,000.00	The Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report for the Elk River Watershed identified numerous first & second priority source zones. These zones are located within the Elk River sub-watersheds of Mayhew Lake & Big Elk Lake. The TMDL report identified spring phosphorus loading as the main concern for Mayhew Lake, whereas summer loads dominate the Big Elk Lake nutrient impairment and Elk River turbidity impairment. This report has pinpointed the locations within the watershed where the phosphorus originates from, as well as strategies that may be undertaken to reduce nutrient loading. Best Management Practices for this application were strategically chosen from those locations in the report in order to achieve maximum pollution reduction benefits. Some example BMPs include: feedlot runoff control, manure storage, riparian pasture management, and cropland erosion control projects. Projects are scored with TMDL criteria and funding decisions are subsequently made by the SWCD board. The funding of this grant would reduce phosphorus by 953 pounds per year and sediment by 399 tons per year.	82.0

16	C22-3526	Roseau River Water Quality project	Roseau River WD	Roseau	\$ 160,010.40	\$ 160,010.00	Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) is initiating a water quality improvement project to reduce sediment contribution from the Watershed Ditch 4 (WD 4) subwatershed. WD 4 outlets into the Roseau River which is the resource of concern that will be protected with this project. River habitat protection is a priority for the RRWD and projects like this are an excellent step in that direction. The RRWD, in cooperation with landowners, road authorities, and the Roseau SWCD, will implement conservation practices on 30 priority sites targeted due to the large volume of sediment they contribute to the river. Twenty-nine surface water inlets (SWI) and one rock grade control structure were identified through the Prioritize Target Measure Application tool (PTMApp) as priority concerns in need of protection from chronic erosion. The PTMApp toolbar estimates the 29 SWI sites identified contribute 62 tons of sediment annually into the Roseau River. The rock grade control structure is located at the confluence of WD 4 and the Roseau River.	81.6
15	C22-5311	Chaska Creek Remeander Phase 2	Carver County WMO	Carver	\$ 283,000.00	\$ 283,000.00	The project will re-meander approximately 1,100 linear feet of a ditched segment of West Chaska Creek. This is Phase 2 of the project that will connect the existing ditch to the constructed meanders from Phase 1 that was completed in 2019. Lengthening the channel will reduce water speeds, lower shear stress on the banks, reconnect the stream to its floodplain, and reduce the amount of sediment transported downstream. This re-meander project will reduce total suspended solids by an estimated 4,400 pounds per year. Secondary benefits include reduction of discharge rates, flood retention, volume reduction, increased habitat for invertebrates, fish, and animals, and a wildlife corridor through a highly industrialized area.	80.9
16	C22-9698	Moody Lake Capstone Projects	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Chisago	\$ 239,500.00	\$ 239,500.00	Moody Lake is a major lake within the headwaters of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) northern flow network. A multi-year diagnostic and implementation feasibility study was conducted in the Moody Lake watershed to prioritize nutrient sources, target cost-effective BMPs, and estimate the measurable phosphorus reductions that will be achieved through implementation of projects. Past efforts in this watershed have achieved a phosphorus reduction of 779 pounds per year, or 90% of the total phosphorus load reduction goal. The CLFLWD proposes to target projects to the remaining phosphorus loading hotspots in Moody Lake's direct drainage area. Potential projects include: wetland phosphorus-laden sediment excavation, raingarden and/or shoreline restoration, implementation of wetland treatment cells, and agricultural best management practices. Cumulative phosphorus reduction under the proposed projects is estimated at 45 pounds per year.	80.7
17	C22-7038	Fairmont Chain of Lakes Nutrient Treatment Train	Martin County	Martin	\$ 882,000.00	\$ 882,000.00	The project goal is to reduce pollutant loading to Amber Lake, which is designated as a Class 1, Domestic Consumption use within the Drinking Water Source Management Area – Surface Water for the City of Fairmont. In recent years, there have been concerns with high nitrate concentrations entering this drinking water source. The project includes design and construction of a sediment and nutrient treatment train, which includes an 11-acre nutrient treatment wetland and an 8,000 linear feet two-stage ditch upstream of Amber Lake. The project will reduce 12,827 pounds per year of nitrate, 463 pounds per year of total phosphorus, and 29 tons per year of sediment to Amber Lake. These reductions support goals detailed in the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) 2019 Source Water Assessment (SWA) for the City of Fairmont Public Water System. The project also aligns with the Martin County Local Water Plan (Water Plan) priority concern of surface water and objective of protecting surface water quality/quantity. This project will support those goals by reducing nitrate, phosphorus, and sediment loading to Amber, Hall, and Budd Lakes, which are listed by the state as impaired for excess nutrients.	79.9
18	C22-7229	Clear Lake - 2022 Soluable Phosphorus Management	Clearwater River WD	Meeker	\$ 361,000.00	\$ 361,000.00	The purpose of this project is to achieve the in-lake water quality goals set in the 2009 Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study for Clear Lake, located in Meeker County. Other projects installed to date have improved the average summer surface total phosphorus (TP) concentration from 214 ug/L, the 10-year average at the time of TMDL completion, down to a 10 year average of 110 ug/L in 2020. The installation of an Iron-Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF) at the northern wetland complex will target a known high phosphorus pollutant source to Clear Lake and is proposed with this grant application. Through additional monitoring and modeling updates the District has developed a reasonable assurance that the load reduction goal can be achieved through implementation of the IESF, estimated to reduce TP loading by 1,800 lbs/year to Clear Lake. This is the majority of to the 1,978 lb load reduction indicated by the updated lake response model.	79.9
19	C22-0089	Island Lake Water Quality Protection	Pine SWCD	Pine	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	Island Lake of the Kettle River Watershed provides landowners and countless visitors the opportunity to experience high quality recreation within a day's trip from the Twin Cities. Island Lake has the third highest phosphorous sensitivity significance in the Kettle River Watershed. The goal of this project is to protect Island Lake from impairment through the targeted use of shoreland stabilizations, shoreland buffers, rain barrel installation, and other site-appropriate structural vegetative Best Management Practices (BMPs). Island Lake, while not currently listed as impaired, does exceed the threshold for total phosphorous and chlorophyll. It is expected that BMPs will be installed on 15 parcels and approximately 1,600 feet of shoreline will be addressed. These proposed amounts will decrease the annual phosphorus loading by 18 pounds per year and decrease sediment entering the lake by 53 tons per year.	79.4
20	C22-0255	Palmer Creek Stream Stabilization	Shingle Creek WMC	Hennepin	\$ 384,000.00	\$ 384,000.00	The purpose of the Palmer Creek Stream Restoration Project is to improve water quality in Bass Lake which is impaired for excess nutrients. This project is comprised of two parts: a stream restoration on Palmer Creek, a tributary to Bass Lake; and two sediment control devices on storm sewers upstream of the channel to treat residential development that is currently untreated. Palmer Creek conveys flow from Schmidt Lake and from the local drainage area that is currently experiencing significant erosion and mass wasting. This soil loss results in an estimated 52 tons of sediment conveyed directly to the lake. About 1,250 linear feet will be stabilized and improved by regrading banks, installing boulder toe and vegetated riprap, enhancing buffer with native vegetation, and replacing old failing retaining walls. These proposed improvements will reduce annual soil loss by an estimated 45 tons, and result in a total phosphorus load reduction of 18 pounds per year. In addition, two sediment capture devices will be placed upstream in storm sewer, providing water quality treatment for about 30 acres of currently untreated residential area. The outcome will be stabilized streambanks protecting public and private structures, improved water quality, and enhanced habitat for aquatic and upland wildlife.	79.1

23	C22-7057	Pell Creek Turbidity Reduction Project	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area	Cottonwood; Murray; Redwood	\$ 648,075.00	\$ 648,075.00	Pell Creek drains 33,171 acres of highly productive agricultural land in Redwood, Murray and Cottonwood Counties in southwestern Minnesota. Extensive subsurface drainage and open ditches are found throughout these counties in order to improve crop productivity. The Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area authored a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and implementation plan to address turbidity in 2008. A TMDL is also drafted (2021) using water quality data from 2010-2018 and that estimates a 44% TSS reduction needed (or 172 tons per year) for the Pell Creek subwatershed. This proposal will annually reduce 300 tons of sediment through implementation of three water and sediment control basins, two grade stabilization projects, and six grassed waterways. This proposal's sediment reduction goal would make 100% progress toward the Pell Creek reduction goal and 0.43% toward the interim 25% reduction goal set in the Sediment Reduction Strategy for the Minnesota River Basin.	78.5
24	C22-2187	Perro Creek Stormwater Retrofits	Washington Conservation District	Washington	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 80,000.00	This project proposes up to four structural stormwater best management practices (BMPs) to reduce at least eight pounds of phosphorous and 4,000 pounds of sediment from annual stormwater runoff within the Perro Creek subwatershed. This runoff discharges from 13 acres of urban land directly into Perro Creek before outletting into Lake St. Croix with little to no water quality treatment. This project will achieve the above results through practices identified in prioritized catchments of the Perro Creek Stormwater Retrofit Analysis. The installation of these practices will reduce the nutrient loading that are the root cause of the nutrient impairment in Lake St. Croix.	78.3
25	C22-4214	Pike Creek Stabilization	Plymouth, City of	Hennepin	\$ 150,000.00	\$ 150,000.00	The Pike Creek Stabilization Project addresses the significant erosion and channelization along two stretches of Pike Creek totaling approximately 1,000 linear feet along the public waterway. Improvements along the streambank will include regrading and stabilization of the banks utilizing hard armoring and bioengineering, and using rock cross vanes and plunge pools. Habitat improvements, such as buckthorn removal and native vegetation restoration, will coincide with the improvements within the creek to provide additional benefits to the area. Pike Creek discharges directly into Pike Lake and Pike Lake outlets into Eagle Lake; both are impaired for nutrients. A Total Maximum Daily Load study was completed in 2010 which set a nutrient waste load allocation (WLA) for both lakes. The improvements along Pike Creek are anticipated to remove 20 pounds of total phosphorus and 47,200 pounds of sediment a year from the current nutrient load to Pike and Eagle Lakes, helping to address the required WLA reductions identified in the TMDL.	77.8
27	C22-1275	Priority E.coli Reduction in Mississippi River-Sartell	Stearns SWCD	Morrison; Stearns	\$ 477,350.00	\$ 477,350.00	This project will reduce bacteria loading into priority streams within the Mississippi-Sartell watershed, immediately upstream of the City of St. Cloud surface water intake, that are impaired for bacteria. Grant funds will be used to implement source controls to limit bacteria entering waterways, including manure storage facilities (5), livestock exclusion from waterways (5), feedlot runoff controls (5), edge-of-field buffers (10), and implementation of nutrient management plans for land application of manure (5 plans; 800 acres) and prescribed grazing (5 plans, 400 acres). These practices were included as high priority in the Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) implementation plan. The grant will leverage federal funds to ensure that qualified projects have sufficient funding to reduce barriers to voluntary implementation of conservation practices. The project area is a priority portion of Stearns and Morrison Counties that was selected due to its direct connection to the local water plan, level of impairments, contiguous land area, and lack of other available financial resources. Additionally, runoff from the area directly affects the drinking water supply for St. Cloud and contributes to the supply for Minneapolis and St. Paul. It is anticipated that activities will reduce total phosphorus by 210 pounds per year.	77.5
26	C22-7034	Rum River Woodbury House Riverbank Stabilization Project	Anoka, City of	Anoka	\$ 1,008,820.00	\$ 1,008,820.00	This project will stabilize 300 linear feet of eroding bank along the Rum River adjacent to the historic Woodbury House site, less than 1/2 mile upstream of the confluence with the Mississippi River. Eroding riverbanks contribute to the Mississippi River's TSS impairment, Rum River's near-listing for nutrients, and degrades aquatic habitat. This project was identified in a 2012 riverbank inventory along 16.2 miles of the Mississippi River. Riverbank stabilization will combine an armored toe and vegetated reinforced soil slope. As a secondary benefit, this project helps protect a highly visible historic site. Woodbury House, on the National Register of Historic Places, was built in 1857 and overlooks the rivers' confluence. The project will reduce pollutants by 128 tons of sediment and 128 pounds of phosphorus annually.	77.5
28	C22-2087	FY22 CWF Ravenna Trail Ravine Stabilization	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	Dakota	\$ 495,000.00	\$ 495,000.00	Portions of the lower Vermillion River are abutted by steep, erodible hillsides that deposit sediment directly in the river during rain events and contribute to this reach of the Vermillion River being impaired for turbidity. The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization, in partnership with Dakota County and the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District, seeks to complete stabilization along 3,600 linear feet of two heavily eroded ravines that have repeatedly deposited sediment in the Vermillion River adjacent to Ravenna Trail (County Road 54) through the installation of armoring/rock-lined channel, ravine bank and channel stabilization, low-flow drop structures, riprap check dams and plunge pools, and other practices. Addressing this erosion will have an estimated pollutant reduction of 130 tons per year of total suspended solids and 78 pounds per year total phosphorus.	77.0
29	C22-9063	Project 17 Outlet Stabilization	Sand Hill River WD	Polk	\$ 214,400.00	\$ 214,400.00	The Sand Hill River Watershed District will partner with landowners to stabilize the outlet of SHRWD Project 17 which has become one of the most critically eroding channels contributing sediment to the Sand Hill River. When the outlet is stabilized, sediment loading to the Sand Hill River will be reduced by 2,462 tons per year and total phosphorus reduced by 2,176 pounds per year. The total sediment reduction associated with this project is 3% of the 74,709 tons per year goal set by the Sand Hill River Total Maximum Daily Load study for the entire Sand Hill River Watershed. The Sand Hill River downstream of the outlet is listed as an impaired water for exceeding the turbidity standard for aquatic life. This project will install six grade stabilization structures (rock riffles) and two side inlets to stabilize the Project 17 outlet and significantly reduce sediment to the Sand Hill River.	77.0

30	C22-1028	Dobbins Creek Headwaters Capital Improvement Projects Implementation	Cedar River WD	Mower	\$ 610,000.00	\$ 610,000.00	Hydrology has been the primary culprit for our degraded water quality conditions in Dobbins Creek, which is a 25,000 acre watershed where more than 90% of the land has been tiled. The Cedar River Watershed District (WD) is charged with addressing the hydrology and associated water quality challenges and demonstrating progress. The WD is partnering with local landowners to implement strategically designed structures that will simulate approximately 30% of the infiltration, flow control and stream dynamics that existed when the land was in historical prairie. This application intends to bring upland treatment through the construction of two embankment structures and the upland waterway stabilization that will treat nearly 600 acres of surface runoff. The proposed practices will stabilize sheet, rill and gully erosion at the site as well as downstream. These projects will compliment previous work and constructive relationships. Measurable outcomes of 63 pounds per year of phosphorus and 63 tons per year of sediment are expected.	76.7
31	C22-7855	The Future of Farming in Becker County	Becker SWCD	Becker	\$ 480,014.00	\$ 354,915.00	This project builds resilient agricultural systems and achieves non-point source pollution reductions identified by local and regional water quality monitoring and models. Producers in 3 distinct yet connected watersheds of the Red River Basin, within Becker County, have the opportunity to shift towards sustainable practices that reduce overall inputs in their ag production operation. Participants will: A) Eliminate fall tillage and minimize soil disturbance; B) Increase cover and residue to armor soil; C) Establish living roots through 90% of growing season; D) Add crop diversity, and E) Incorporate livestock where feasible. With a five year commitment, producers can select from tiered incentives to incorporate multiple best management practices. Our goal is to implement 4,000 acres (25 producers) through these cost effective conservation practices. It is estimated that these practices will reduce sediment loading by 8,257 tons per year, total phosphorus by 1,338 pounds per year, and nitrogen contributions by 12,855 pounds per year.	76.6
32	C22-3480	Granite Lake External Load Reduction as Modelled by PTMApp 3.0	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 175,000.00	\$ -	The purpose of this grant application is to implement effective practices identified in the Granite Lake watershed that were identified using Prioritize Target Measure Application tool (PTMApp). The goal of this application is to improve the quality of water entering Granite Lake by reducing total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorous (TP) through construction of best management practices. Based on PTMApp output data and staff assessments, 10 water and sediment control basins were chosen to further investigate and prioritize for possible installation. Additionally, staff set a goal of 100 acres of source reduction practices in the watershed (cover crops, no till, prescribed grazing, etc.). This grant will be used to continue working with landowners to implement practices generated by PTMApp. It is estimated that if the 10 water and sediment control basins are built and 100 acres of source reduction are implemented it would reduce the amount of TSS entering Granite lake by 300 tons per year and the amount of TP entering the lake by 51 pounds per year.	76.5
33	C22-8679	Dawn Way Neighborhood Stormwater Volume Reduction Project	Inver Grove Heights, City of	Dakota	\$ 484,000.00	\$ -	The City of Inver Grove Heights will construct underground infiltration chambers and curbside rainwater gardens within City right of way in conjunction with a street pavement rehabilitation project. The project will reduce stormwater volume flowing to an undersized storm sewer system that discharges to the Mississippi River. Project benefits will include reductions in localized flooding, decreased surcharging in the storm sewer system, and a reduction of 4,850 pounds per year of suspended solids sediment flowing to the Mississippi River. These activities will address goals established in the South Metro Mississippi River Turbidity Total Maximum Daily Load study.	76.4
34	C22-0624	FY2022 Failing SSTS Abatement Program	St. Louis County	St. Louis	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	The St. Louis County (SLC) Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program protects surface water, groundwater, and decreases human exposure to harmful pathogens. This project will identify and address failing SSTS using a two-tiered approach. Tier 1 targets upgrading failing systems located within the septic priority areas identified due to water impairments such as excess bacteria levels in the water. Tier 2 targets upgrading failing systems located in shoreland areas. SSTS systems will be inventoried with the following objectives: 1. Protect surface and ground water by replacing failing septic systems. 2. Provide the financial assistance to low-income year-round homeowners with failing SSTS who need to achieve compliance by replacing or upgrading their septic systems. Funds will be used to replace 10 failing systems within the septic priority areas of Midway, Thomson, Cloquet River, and Simian Creek (Tier 1). As a secondary objective, to replace failing systems within shoreland areas, to prevent harmful pathogens and excess nutrients from entering lakes and rivers and preventing additions to the impaired waters list (Tier 2). SLC will aggressively notify property owners of the program and eligibility criteria already identified to have failing systems within the septic priority areas. The activities in this application would reduce 2,200 pounds of sediment per year and 100 pounds of total phosphorus.	75.4
35	C22-2852	FY22 West Indian Creek Partnership Project	Wabasha SWCD	Wabasha	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	The Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) has targeted West Indian Creek for implementation of structural and non-structural agricultural practices based on data analyses, Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies and Total Maximum Daily Load reports, and GIS analysis to assess critical forested areas. Preliminary design and cost estimates for seven grade stabilization structures and two grassed waterways are complete. The anticipated conservation practices will include, but are not limited to, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, water and sediment control basins, cover crops, contour farming, conservation cover, forest buffer edge, prescribed grazing, and tree and shrub planting. An outreach and plan coordinator will manage multiple partner commitments to plan implementation. Projects will reduce nitrogen by 38,034 pounds per year, phosphorus by 12,433 pounds per year, and sediment by 4,570 tons per year. These anticipated reductions will address the rising trend in nitrates, improve and protect trout stream conditions and protect public and private drinking water.	75.3
36	C22-7238	Net Lake Septic System Upgrades	Pine County	Pine	\$ 92,850.00	\$ -	This project seeks to financially assist low-income homeowners on Net Lake with septic system upgrades, identified as Imminent Threats to Public Health and Safety (ITPHS) or Failing to Protect Groundwater. This funding request is part of a broader project to conduct a septic system assessment around Net Lake. The assessment work of identifying polluting septic systems has been funded under Nemadji Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Implementation Funds, however, to complete the work in a politically acceptable manner, local partners must secure funding for low income households. This grant request will fund up to five septic system upgrades of noncompliant low-income households identified in Pine and Carlton Counties and will reduce pollutant loading by approximately 30 pounds of phosphorus per year, 138 pounds of nitrogen per year and 330 pounds of TSS per year.	74.5

37	C22-4298	North Fork Whitewater Sediment Reduction Project	Whitewater River Watershed Project	Olmsted;Wabasha	\$ 118,000.00	\$ -	This project will reduce in-field sources of sediment to the Whitewater River's North Fork subwatershed by 65 tons of sediment annually through implementation of erosion control structures (one basin and six grassed waterways) in the headwaters. Stream conditions in this part of the Whitewater River watershed are significantly more turbid than other subwatersheds. This project will use an Agricultural Conservation Planning Framework and knowledge of landowner interest to identify the most suitable locations of erosion reduction practices. This project will complement a streambank restoration project on the Upper North Fork subwatershed spearheaded by Olmsted SWCD and Minnesota Department of Natural Resources with Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council funding. These conservation measures will have a direct improvement to downstream reaches that are popular trout fishing areas.	74.4
38	C22-3740	Fish Lake Public Shoreland Protection Project	Kanabec SWCD	Kanabec	\$ 120,000.00	\$ -	The goal of this project is to reduce shoreland erosion along 250 feet of actively eroding Fish Lake shoreline. This erosion is contributing to increased sediment and nutrient levels entering Fish Lake, the Ann River, and downstream into the Snake River. This location is unique in that it is a public fishing area that is heavily used and very visible to traffic on MN State Highway (HWY) 65. Reduction in sediments and nutrients entering the lake will be achieved through the installation of a shoreland erosion control project along 250 feet of shoreline. This project will involve the use of tree trunks/root wads and shrub material strategically placed within the shoreland area below the water level. Using this soft armor is favored by the DNR due to the added benefit of providing wildlife and fish habitat. This completed project will provide resilient bank armor that resists the erosive forces of the Fish Lake wave action at the toe of the slope. To further limit erosion from foot traffic, pavers would be placed along shoreland to create walking paths for citizens and fisherfolk to use. This project is anticipated to have an annual reduction of 39 tons of sediment and 33 pounds of phosphorus.	74.2
39	C22-4634	Clean Water Benefits Through Reforestation on Impaired Riparian Corridors	Lake SWCD	Lake;St. Louis	\$ 207,500.00	\$ -	Eastern Spruce Budworm (ESB) damage has had a significant detrimental impact on forest health in the Lake Superior Basin. Our focus areas for this project are private forestland along riparian corridors on ESB impacted properties within the Stewart and Silver Creek subwatersheds of the Knife River Watershed which is impaired for turbidity. The Clean Water Benefits from this reforestation project is reduced erosion and sedimentation through planting trees along riparian corridors which will stabilize riverbanks, absorb water, and provide canopies for shrubs and ground cover. We are partnering with the Forest Assisted Migration Project to purchase climate adaptive tree seedlings to result in a more climate resilient NE MN forested ecosystem. Through this project, more than 12,000 climate resilient trees will be planted on more than 60 acres within riparian corridors. These activities are estimate dot have a sediment reduction of 11 tons per year.	74.1
40	C22-5415	Targeted Implementation of an AIG Study on a Channelized River	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Meeker	\$ 785,840.00	\$ -	The Middle Fork Crow River in Meeker County is also classified as County Ditch 47, it was channelized in 1919 and has largely remained untouched since, with sections currently eroding beyond natural meandering. This application seeks funding to implement the practices that were confirmed as priority in a 2020 assessment to help with reducing sediment in this impaired section of stream. In partnership with the Meeker County SWCD, and securing easement access with the Meeker County Drainage Authority, the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District will help implement eight prioritized project locations including one toe protection, twenty-six stream barbs, three vegetated riprap projects, canopy thinning, four tree removals, three resploping of stream banks with vegetative riprap, and one animal exclusion. It's projected that the implementation of these projects will reduce 797 tons of sediment and 160 pounds of phosphorous annually, and would also reduce the current bacteria levels for which there is an impairment.	73.6
41	C22-0497	2022-Lake Beauty- Pilot E.A.R.T.H.	Todd SWCD	Todd	\$ 136,021.00	\$ -	The goal of this protection application is to pilot a plan to maintain Lake Beauty's quality status as an unimpaired lake. Todd SWCD will assist landowners in assessing the environmental health of their properties and installing 12 best management practices such as, but not limited to, native buffers, ecologic shoreline stabilizations, tree plantings, forest improvement practices, riparian erosion controls, rain gardens, and other stormwater controls to achieve improved water quality. All best management practices are to be installed within the 1,000 foot riparian boundary of the lake. A secondary goal of this application comes as the pilot for the Todd SWCD's Environmental Assessment for Riparian Terrestrial Health program (E.A.R.T.H.); a stewardship program for riparian and residential landowners. While not listed as impaired, Lake Beauty's phosphorous metrics have crept above target levels. The proposal is estimated to reduce phosphorous loading 7 pounds per year.	72.6
42	C22-7755	Carlton SWCD- Kettle River Watershed: Producers for BMP's	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	\$ 268,198.66	\$ -	The Carlton Soil and Water Conservation District and partners will target the Kettle River watershed to improve feedlot practices on local farms that contribute to bacteria runoff and aquatic life impairment in the watershed, which eventually outlets into the St. Croix River. This work will focus on Carlton County with 4 components: implementation of a Waste Storage Facility; education and outreach to a previously targeted list of 100 farms that are likely contributors to runoff in the watershed; an on-the-farm workshop; and technical support throughout the duration of the project. The waste storage facility has already been designed along with cost estimates for each practice. Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plans will be completed on the 10 farms that have high interest in moving forward with implementing best management practices. The waste storage facility will reduce total phosphorus by 17 pounds per year and bacteria by 8.2 E+14 colony forming units per year.	72.0

43	C22-0571	Chippewa Lake HUC 12 Targeted Projects	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	\$ 408,313.00	\$ -	This grant will reduce sediment, phosphorus and bacteria loading to Little Chippewa Lake. Through landowner requested site visits, aerial review, and ground proofing, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) staff have compiled a list of potential projects within the subwatershed. The activities of this grant will reduce runoff to Little Chippewa Lake by 314 tons of sediment, phosphorus by 339 pounds of phosphorus, and 135 pounds of nitrogen, annually. This will make progress towards the Chippewa River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report reduction goals (sediment loading 42%, Phosphorus 13%, bacteria 44%), the management goals to improve habitat, protect the Chippewa and Little Chippewa lakes from exceeding total phosphorus standards, and decrease peak flows. Implementation projects include: three shoreline restorations, five water and sediment control basins, one terrace, two manure storage practices and 10 alternative tile intakes. This grant will help strengthen partnerships between the SWCD, Douglas County, and Douglas County Lakes Association.	71.1
44	C22-3967	Bush-Desoto Stormwater Pond Retrofit	St. Paul, City of	Ramsey	\$ 860,000.00	\$ -	The purpose of the project is to convert an existing dry basin into a bioinfiltration basin that provides water quality treatment and volume control. The proposed bioinfiltration basin would increase the size of the existing dry basin from 0.31 acres to approximately 0.70 acres at the bottom of the basin, and from 0.76 acres to 1.30 acres at the top of the basin. The basin would be expanded through soil excavation and converted to infiltration by raising the outlet and amending the soils. The City plans to install a hydrodynamic separator upstream of the bioinfiltration basin to provide pretreatment and remove total suspended solids from stormwater runoff which will extend the life of the bioinfiltration basin. The City also plans to plant the basin and surrounding area with pollinator-friendly vegetation to create habitat along the industrial railroad corridor. The proposed bioinfiltration basin will annually remove 1,842 acre-feet of runoff (87% removal), 19,748 pounds of total suspended solids (97% removal), and 60 pounds of total phosphorus (90% removal).	69.7
45	C22-0483	Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization	Brooklyn Park, City of	Hennepin	\$ 663,000.00	\$ -	This Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project will enhance water quality, restore natural habitats, and sustain and protect property along the west banks of the Mississippi River, within the City of Brooklyn Park. A 5.8-mile shoreline assessment completed in the summer of 2020 comprehensively surveyed erosion issues along the City's river shoreline and identified numerous critical riverfronts contributing significant sediment and nutrient loads. This grant request is to support Phase I of a multi-year project to restore approximately 715 linear feet of river shoreline, targeting stabilization of both the toe of the slope as well as mid-bank destabilization via groundwater seepages. Design strategies may include hard armoring such as riprap at or below the toe of the slope and/or drain tile to manage groundwater seepages but will emphasize bioengineering practices that enhance aquatic and terrestrial habitats while maintaining long-term environmental sustainability of the practices. This project has an estimated sediment reduction of 548 tons per year, and total phosphorus reduction of 506 pounds per year.	66.9
46	C22-3724	Mid MN Renville Co Restoration Project	Hawk Creek Watershed Project	Renville	\$ 198,000.00	\$ -	The purpose of this project is to implement prioritized Best Management Practices (BMPs) in critical areas that reduce nonpoint sources of phosphorus and sediment and lead to restoration of the Birch Coulee Creek, Purgatory Creek, Threemile Creek, Fort Ridgely Creek, and Little Rock Creek subwatersheds of the Middle Minnesota River Watershed. A project goal is an estimated reduction of 900 pounds of phosphorus and 650 tons of sediment annually through BMPs in critical areas identified through inventories and source targeting. BMPs will be effective in abating pollution on targeted waterbodies because they will be prioritized based on their ability to reduce phosphorus and sediment. Two grade stabilizations, five water and sediment control basins, two grass waterways, and 100 acres of cover crops/reduced tillage are proposed to achieve these pollutant reductions. An additional outcome of this project (but no funds are being requested) is increased stakeholder involvement and building better relationships with landowners/occupiers.	66.8
47	C22-5377	CWF '22 Clearwater River Watershed Erosion BMP's	Polk, East SWCD	Polk	\$ 500,000.00	\$ -	The East Polk Soil and Water Conservation District and the Red Lake Watershed District will work together to improve water quality through decreasing the total suspended solids, chlorophyll-a, and sediment/nutrient yields to six impaired or nearly impaired lakes of the Clearwater River Watershed. This project will install 30 water and sediment control basins and restore 6,000 feet of shoreline within prioritized areas in the Clearwater River Watershed. These projects are estimated to make reductions of 548 pounds per year of total phosphorus and 494 tons per year of sediment.	66.7
48	C22-0541	Continued Stormwater Implementation Importance for Progressive "City on the Pond"	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Kandiyohi	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	This application seeks to build one infiltration area in a priority area identified in the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District's (MFCRWD) study completed to target, assess, and prioritize best management practices (BMPs) within the subwatersheds of New London and neighboring Spicer, MN. The assessment and targeting were based on pollutant yield, installation potential, and pollutant reduction benefit while the prioritization was based on cost-benefit analysis and project feasibility. The City of New London has an established basic water management account allowing the use of a local tax levy to create an account balance for in-kind dollars towards project implementation. This strong partnership has already allowed for stormwater implementation using grant funds in the past. Completing projects in sync with the city at the design level rather than retrofitting projects is truly a game changer when it comes to efficiency, feasibility, and acceptability of BMP establishment.	65.3

49	C22-8840	Lake Winona Improvement Project	Winona County	Winona	\$ 414,684.00	\$ -	Our application seeks to improve the water quality of Lake Winona through a combination of two actions: treating stormwater runoff from urban areas in infiltration bays prior to its discharge to the Northwest basin, and connection of Gilmore Creek ditch with an adjacent wetland area. Presently stormwater in the urban areas to the north of the Northwest Basin drain into stormwater pipes that discharge directly into the lake. Diverting some of the stormwater flow to a set of two infiltration treatment bays would catch phosphorus and reduce the overall load entering the lake. The greatest phosphorus source to the lake is upstream runoff from the Gilmore Creek ditch, which would be partially addressed by connecting an 11 acre wetland complex next to the Gilmore Creek Ditch by installing a large culvert (36-48 inches in diameter). The project is estimated to reduce annual total phosphorus loading by 210 pounds.	65.3
50	C22-4910	Getchell Stream Stabilization	Sauk River WD	Stearns	\$ 1,690,000.00	\$ -	The Sauk River Watershed District (SRWD) has established a Project Team of diverse stakeholders for the Getchell Creek area to help address water quality and water quantity/storage concerns on the system. This grant will assist the SRWD with the implementation of stream stabilization practices developed through the feasibility study, focusing on creating stable conditions within a two mile contiguous stream reach. The stream stabilization work will include, but may not be limited to, grade stabilization, streambank and shoreline protection, and stream channel stabilization measures. This grant will support the second phase of a multi-phase effort. Phase one is already successfully underway where initial stream stabilization practices are being implemented on Getchell Creek. This application proposes to complete stream stabilization work that should provide up to 385 tons per year of sediment reduction, and 15 pounds per year of total phosphorus reduction at the outlet of Getchell Creek. Also, it will increase the functional lift feet of the stream by 105% across a contiguous two mile stream reach.	61.7
51	C22-4543	Loon Lake Phosphorous and Sediment Reduction Project	Jackson SWCD	Jackson	\$ 420,420.00	\$ -	A delta is forming within Loon Lake in at the outlet of Jackson County Judicial Ditch 8. Currently, Loon Lake does not meet state water quality standards for total phosphorus (TP), which proves a detriment to lake recreation. The practices outlined in this proposal will target a reduction in nutrients and sediment making their way to Loon Lake, providing water storage, trapping sediment and phosphorus, and reducing future bank erosion within the open ditch. Practices include the construction of 27 alternative side inlets, 31 riprap check dams, and a 7-acre constructed oxbow, with a 1-acre native pollinator buffer. This project is estimated to reduce sediment loads into Loon Lake by 723 tons per year and TP loads by 426 pounds per year.	61.1
52	C22-9658	FY22 Dodge - Cedar Nitrogen Reduction Implementation	Dodge SWCD	Dodge	\$ 62,425.00	\$ -	We are focusing on Drainage Water Management in areas of <1% slope in the Dodge County portion of the Cedar River Watershed, which will achieve nitrogen and dissolved phosphorus reductions. A total of five Drainage Water Management or nitrogen reducing practices will be implemented and installed in the upper portion of the Cedar River Watershed. Projects will reduce an estimated nitrogen reduction of 2,750 pounds per year.	59.7
53	C22-4395	Upper/Lower Red Lake Winter Human Waste Prevention and Disposal	Beltrami SWCD	Beltrami	\$ 137,000.00	\$ -	The Upper/Lower Red Lake Winter Human Waste Prevention and Disposal Project aims to reduce the amount of human waste pollution on Red Lake. Waste reduction practices include establishing ten human waste collection sites at winter access sites on the shores of Red Lake, as well as distributing 200,000 biodegradable waste bags to winter anglers. This project will have a public education component as well, with development and distribution of a multifaceted outreach campaign to inform anglers about proper waste disposal practices. Anticipated outcomes include a six-ton human waste reduction resulting in preventing 1,106 pounds of nitrogen and 140 pounds of phosphorus entering the lake over the grant period, as well as long-term improvements in angler waste disposal practices on Upper/Lower Red Lake.	59.4
Total Funding Recommendation					\$	11,674,500.00		

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C22-7163	2022 - Dakota County Drinking Water Protection Project Phase 2	Dakota SWCD	Dakota	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	The Dakota County Drinking Water Protection Project's goal is to reduce nitrates that are becoming increasingly common in groundwater sourced drinking water throughout Dakota County. This will be accomplished by implementing groundwater protection practices in areas that are vulnerable to contamination. This project includes both private wells and public water supplies and will focus on townships that have testing data indicating elevated nitrates in drinking water. Cover crops will be the primary practice along with harvestable covers and restoring perennial vegetation in critical locations. An estimated 1,000 acres of cover crops, 200 acres of harvestable covers, and 10 acres of restored perennial vegetation will be established through this project and an estimated 7,500 pounds of nitrogen will be prevented from reaching groundwater that is used for drinking water.	87.6
2	C22-5079	Targeted Blue Earth County Well Sealing	Blue Earth County	Blue Earth	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	Blue Earth County has identified unused wells as a significant threat to our groundwater quality in our comprehensive local water plan. We maintain an inventory of known unused wells and building sites which have the potential to have unused wells. Unused wells on this inventory, especially those located in the Mankato Surface Water Drinking Water Supply Management Area, will be targeted for proper sealing. Blue Earth County will send out regulatory letters outlining State regulations which require all wells not in use to be properly sealed by a licensed well contractor. Approximately 60 wells would be sealed with this funding request.	83.9
3	C22-3579	Fairmont Chain of Lakes-Nitrate Reduction	Martin County	Martin	\$ 475,000	\$ -	The project goal is to reduce nitrate loading to Amber Lake which is designated as a Class 1, Domestic Consumption use as it is within the Drinking Water Source Management Area – Surface Water (DWSMA-SW) for the City of Fairmont. The project includes design and construction of an 11-acre nutrient treatment wetland upstream of Amber Lake. The project will reduce nitrate loading to Amber Lake by 10,454 pounds per year, corresponding to a 11% reduction. This nitrate reduction supports goals detailed in the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) 2019 Source Water Assessment (SWA) for the City of Fairmont Public Water System. The SWA noted the need for better nitrogen and drainage management to reduce overall loading within the DWSMA-SW to protect water quality in Budd Lake. This nitrate reduction also directly aligns with the Martin County Water Plan's goal of improving surface water quality and specifically nitrate in Fairmont's drinking water supply.	83.3
4	C22-4292	Crow Wing County and Pine River watershed well sealing 2022	Crow Wing County	Cass;Crow Wing	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	A large portion of Crow Wing County and the Pine River Watershed include areas of surficial sand aquifers. Because of rapid infiltration of water through sandy soils in the aquifer, it is more sensitive to contamination than deeper, buried aquifers. Unused and abandoned wells can provide a direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or other improperly disposed of waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Crow Wing County, in cooperation with the municipalities within the County and the Pine River watershed, plans to continue its successful well sealing program that will use a ranking criteria to seal 80-100 unused/abandoned wells. Cost-share well sealing will be ranked by the following criteria: 90% for wells in the Pine River watershed (Cass and Crow Wing County) in surficial sand aquifer; 75% for those not in the Pine River watershed, but within a surficial sand aquifer in Crow Wing County; 50% for any other wells sealed in Crow Wing County.	81.3
5	C22-8905	2022 Ramsey County Well Sealing Program	Ramsey County	Ramsey	\$ 115,500	\$ 115,500	In an effort to protect source drinking water and groundwater, the Ramsey County Soil & Water Conservation Division is proposing to continue the implementation of its successful well sealing cost-share program. The goal is to permanently seal between 120-140 unused/abandoned wells in Ramsey County. When contaminants drain into abandoned and unused well shafts, it threatens the health of residents who depend on groundwater as a potable water source. Due to the reliance of many cities on groundwater for drinking water, numerous Ramsey County cities and water management organizations have prioritized well sealing activities in their plans. To further reduce the risk of drinking water supply contamination, this project will target wells located in the highest vulnerability areas of the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) and prioritize applicants throughout the DWSMA.	78.6
Total Funding Recommendation					\$	325,500		

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C22-9808	SD 51 & WD 4 Water Quality Improvement Project	Roseau River WD	Roseau	\$ 101,733.60	\$ -	Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD) is initiating a water quality improvement project to reduce sediment contribution from the Watershed Ditch 4 (WD 4) subwatershed. The RRWD in cooperation with landowners, road authorities, and the Roseau SWCD will implement conservation practices on 29 priority sites targeted due to the large volume of sediment they contribute to State Ditch 51 (SD 51). The sites are located along WD 4 which drains directly into SD 51 and were identified through the Prioritize Target Measure Application (PTMApp) as priority concerns needing protection from chronic erosion. The 29 sites identified contribute 62.46 tons of sediment annually into SD 51 in accordance with the PTMApp toolbar. Each of the identified sites constructed would consist of 410 grade stabilization structures preventing head cutting and sediment deposition into the river. Project costs consist of engineering, construction, and administrative costs associated with all 29 sites.	83.2
2	C22-6082	Redpath Phase 1 - TCD 35 Water Quality Improvements	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse	\$ 320,000.00	\$ 320,000.00	The Bois De Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) is partnering with the Traverse County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and petitioning landowners to complete a 103E drainage system improvement proceeding as part of the multiphase Redpath Project. This project proposes installation of 41 grade stabilization structures (i.e., side inlet structures) and 5 miles of continuous berms to be constructed as a permanent part of Traverse County Ditch (TCD) 35. This project will reduce sediment loading to both the Mustinka River and Twelvemile Creek by 230 tons per year and phosphorus by 65 lbs per year. This project will meet 20% of the annual sediment reduction and 17% of the short-term goals set in the Comprehensive Water Management Plan (CWMP). The improvement proceeding will acquire and establish all legally required grass buffers throughout the drainage system.	83.2
3	C22-0827	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation Phase 2	McLeod SWCD	McLeod	\$ 123,546.00	\$ 123,546.00	Through this project, McLeod County Drainage Authority and McLeod SWCD plan to continue to work jointly to implement the second phase of work within the County Ditch 11 (CD #11) watershed. Efforts will implement 15 grade stabilization structures, 2 water and sediment control basins, and 1 constructed wetland throughout the watershed. By completing the proposed project; a Total Suspended Solids (TSS) reduction of 120 tons per year, soil savings of 127 tons per year, total phosphorus reduction of 131 pounds per year, and nitrate reduction of 91 pounds per year will occur annually, further improving CD #11 and the receiving Winsted Lake which is listed on the federal 303d impaired waters list.	82.8
4	C22-2270	2022 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 95,000.00	\$ 95,000.00	Red Lake County SWCD will continue to work cooperatively with the Red Lake County Ditch Authority, and the landowners involved to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, improve water quality, and protect drainage system efficiency for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems by installing an estimated twenty-three multipurpose drainage management practices. The priority Chapter 103E drainage system is County Ditch 57, including the contributing ditch branches. These proposed Ag Practices are the strategies that will assist in achieving the sediment reduction goals. The estimated twenty-three priority County Ditch 57 locations were targeted from the information gathered from the 2014 & 2015 Drainage Ditch Inventory and Inspection grant. The estimated annual reduction in sediment being delivered to Clearwater River is 397 tons per year for the entire project.	81.4
5	C22-1803	2022 Wright County WASCObS on Joint Ditch #15	Wright County	Wright	\$ 210,000.00	\$ 210,000.00	The Wright County Drainage Authority in partnership with the Wright Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is looking to utilize funding to prevent significant erosion and provide peak flow reductions in the area surrounding Judicial Ditch #15 (JD15). JD15 drains into numerous impaired waters such as Sucker Creek, Cokato Lake, and eventually the North Fork Crow River which is our top priority for water quality improvement practices. This proposed project would include the installation of 24 water and sediment control basins and one grade stabilization structure.	80.0
6	C22-2826	High Priority Drainage Ditch BMP's	Redwood SWCD	Redwood	\$ 185,082.00	\$ -	Redwood County's 103E Public Drainage System contains over 520 miles of open ditch and over 2,000 miles of drain tile. This publicly maintained drainage network is the backbone of this highly productive agricultural landscape in southwest Minnesota. In the summer of 2018 and the spring of 2019, Redwood County experienced 2 FEMA declared disasters. In 2018 it was 11" of rain across the whole County, and in 2019 it was excessive spring runoff from an already soaked landscape. Damages from these 2 events total over \$10,000,000, which the County is receiving FEMA funding to repair. This proposal aims to help reduce sedimentation into our drainage ditches, the Redwood River, and ultimately the Minnesota River. Each of the practices in this proposal are immediately adjacent to a 103E Public Drainage Ditch that is on Redwood County's "Priority 103E Drainage System" list. This list is comprised of Ditches that have been identified by the County as priority systems for conservation projects. This proposal aims to install 12 Water and Sediment Control Basins and 2 Grade Stabilization projects. This will prevent 490 tons of sediment per year from entering the included waterways.	58.4
Total Recommendation					\$	748,546.00		

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: General Fund Feedlot Grant to TSA 7

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Feedlot, Grant, General Fund, TSA 7

Section/Region: Regional Operations

Contact: Kevin Bigalke, Dave Copeland
Kevin Bigalke, Dave Copeland, Marcey

Prepared by: Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Brad Wozney

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 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

To approve the Board Order authorizing FY2022 and FY2023 General Fund Feedlot grant to TSA 7.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Since 2016, BWSR has partners with TSA 7 (SE Minnesota) and the NRCS on a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant to address feedlot management in the Lower Mississippi River Watershed. The RCPP grant has been completed and the project generated more interest than the RCPP grant could fund. During the 2021 Legislative Special Session, BWSR was appropriated general fund dollars for feedlot water quality grants for feedlots under 500 animals units and nutrient and manure management projects. This request is to provide the \$260,000 in FY2022 & \$260,000 in FY2023 General Fund Feedlot grant dollars to TSA 7 to continue the work started with the RCPP project. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on November 29, 2021 and recommended approval to the full Board.



BOARD ORDER

General Funds to TSA 7 (SE Minnesota) to Address Priority Feedlot Projects

PURPOSE

Authorize the allocation of General Fund Feedlot funds to Technical Service Area 7

FINDINGS OF FACT/RECITALS

1. The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical and financial assistance to landowners nationally through the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP).
2. In 2015 the Board's Senior Management Team (SMT) authorized staff to submit an application to the USDA-NRCS RCPP program entitled "**Lower Mississippi River Feedlot Management in MN**", herein referred to as "RCPP Project".
3. This RCPP Project was reviewed by USDA-NRCS through a competitive process and was selected for an award of \$1,600,000 from the USDA-NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP). The Board, through Board Resolution 16-51, contributed State General Funds in FY2016-FY2020 as match to the NRCS RCPP funds. The Board did not receive any funding directly from USDA-NRCS for this RCPP Project because EQIP funds are required to go directly to landowners from the USDA-NRCS.
4. BWSR and NRCS recently concluded a very successful RCPP Project, having completed nine projects with several more interested landowners still seeking assistance.
5. The Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 1, Section 4 (1) the Board was appropriated General Funds for FY 2022 and FY 2023: "\$260,000 each year is for feedlot water quality grants for feedlots under 500 animal units and nutrient and manure management projects in watersheds where there are impaired waters."
6. Authorizing these funds to address the interest generated from the prior RCPP effort and by SWCD and Technical Service Area staff in Technical Service Area 7 is an efficient and effective method of utilizing the funds.
7. The Board has the authority to grant General Funds to the Southeast Technical Support Joint Powers Board (JPB) for this purpose.
8. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 29, 2021 meeting, recommended allocating the General Fund Feedlot funds to Technical Service Area 7.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves allocations \$260,000 in FY 2022 and \$260,000 in FY 2023 General Fund Feedlot Water Quality Management grants for a total of \$520,000 to be provided to TSA 7 to address identified priority feedlot projects, and
2. Approves the use of these funds for providing technical and financial assistance to producers implementing feedlot projects that address water quality issues near impaired water bodies.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee

1. Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF) – Brad Wozney – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPFP)

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan, NPFP

Section/Region: Land and Water Section

Contact: Brad Wozney, Marcey Westrick

Prepared by: Brad Wozney, Marcey Westrick, Kevin Bigalke

Reviewed by: Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee(s)

Presented by: Brad Wozney

Time requested: 30 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

To approve the Board Order authorizing staff to revise the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan with alternative content and extending the completion date to December 31, 2023.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Since late 2020, BWSR staff have evaluated the current NPFP to determine its value and relevance. From this evaluation staff believe in taking the necessary time to revise it to better reflect and align with the changes in state planning and programming since the last revision in 2018. Staff are proposing another extension to December 2023. Senior Management Team approved moving the board order deferring development of the NPFP to the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee (WMSP). The WMSP discussed the proposed process and basis for alternative content and recommended approval of the order for the NPFP to the Board.



BOARD ORDER

Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF)

PURPOSE

Adjust timeline and authorize process for revising the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan and establish alternative content.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. In 2013, the Clean Water Accountability Act was passed in the Minnesota Legislature and resulted in the addition of the nonpoint priority funding plan as defined in Minnesota Statute §114D.50 Subd. 3a.
2. Minnesota Statute 114D.50 Subd 3a states that *“Beginning July 1, 2014, and every other year thereafter, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) shall prepare and post on its website a priority funding plan to prioritize potential nonpoint restoration and protection actions based on available WRAPs, TMDLs, and local water plans. The plan must take into account the following factors: water quality outcomes, cost-effectiveness, landowner financial need, and leverage of nonstate funding sources. The plan shall include an estimated range of costs for the prioritized actions.”*
3. Minnesota Statute 114D.20 states, *“...state agencies allocating money from the clean water fund for nonpoint restoration and protection strategies shall target the money according to the priorities identified in the nonpoint priority funding plan.”* (Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137, Article 2, Section 14)
4. The latest update of the NPPF occurred in 2018.
5. For the 2014, 2016, and 2018 NPPF reports, BWSR relied on the Biennial Budget Request (BBR) submitted by local governments to estimate costs for needed statewide nonpoint implementation work.
6. In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature passed a package of statutory policy changes in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D. These changes took effect on August 1, 2019 and are referred to as *“coordinated watershed management.”*
7. Effective August 1, 2019 was the addition of Minnesota Statute 114D.47 Nonpoint Funding Alternative. This new language states, *“Notwithstanding section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, the Board of Water and Soil Resources may, by board order, establish alternative timelines or content for the priority funding plan for nonpoint sources under section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, and may use information from comprehensive watershed management plans or comprehensive local water management plans to estimate or summarize costs.”*
8. The Board passed Board Order 20-27 in June 2020, which extended the date for revising the NPPF to December 31, 2021 and authorized staff to develop a framework to evaluate the need to establish alternative content.

9. Staff developed a framework to evaluate the NPPF and recommend a framework based on: a) the “coordinated watershed management” approach and other changes to MN Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D, b) linking to local comprehensive watershed management plans via the One Watershed, One Plan program which are locally driven and state supported, c) the ongoing transition from the traditional Clean Water Fund competitive grants to noncompetitive watershed-based implementation funding approach, and d) the connection to the Clean Water Council’s 2020 Strategic Plan.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Rescinds Item #1 of Board Order #20-27 (Board Order #20-27 attached).
2. Authorizes staff to revise the NPPF with alternative content based on a) the “coordinated watershed management” approach and other changes to MN Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D, b) linking to local comprehensive watershed management plans via the One Watershed, One Plan program which are locally driven and state supported, c) the ongoing transition from the traditional Clean Water Fund competitive grants to noncompetitive watershed-based implementation funding approach, and d) the connection to the Clean Water Council’s 2020 Strategic Plan and input from agencies and stakeholders.
3. Sets the completion date for revising the NPPF to December 31, 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Overview: Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan 2022-2023 Revision



What is the NPFP?

December 2021

In 2013, the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPFP) was established with the passage of the Clean Water Accountability Act. The NPFP's intent is to provide a criteria-based process to prioritize Clean Water Fund nonpoint implementation investments. It provides state agencies with a coordinated, transparent, and adaptive method to ensure that Clean Water Fund implementation allocations are targeted to cost-effective actions with measurable water quality results.

The law requires the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to *“prepare and post on its website a priority funding plan to prioritize potential nonpoint restoration and protection actions based on available WRAPS, TMDLs, and local water plans. The plan must take into account the following factors: water quality outcomes, cost-effectiveness, landowner financial need, and leverage of nonstate funding sources. The plan shall include an estimated range of costs for the prioritized actions.”*

Consistent with priorities listed in section 114D.20, *“state agencies allocating money from the clean water fund for nonpoint restoration and protection strategies shall target the money according to the priorities identified in the nonpoint priority funding plan. The allocation of money from the clean water fund to projects eligible for financial assistance under section 116.182 is not governed by the nonpoint priority funding plan.”* (Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137, Article 2, Section 14).

Background

The original law required BWSR to update the NPFP every two years. In June 2014, BWSR's Board approved the first NPFP. This version established the following four tenets: 1) High-level state priorities for investing CWF nonpoint implementation funding. 2) High-level keys to implementation. 3) Criteria for evaluating proposed activities for purposes of prioritizing nonpoint funding. 4) Estimated costs for implementing nonpoint activities.

The second version of the NPFP was approved in 2016. This revision provided specific examples of progress made to date on the NPFP's role in prioritizing nonpoint implementation actions at the state level. It also provided updated financial information for prioritized nonpoint actions from the FY18-19 Biennial Budget Request. The third version (2018) of the NPFP involved minor updates to the 2016 version.

In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature passed a package of statutory policy changes in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D. These changes took effect on August 1, 2019 and are referred to as “coordinated watershed management.” One change was the addition of Minnesota Statute 114D.47 Nonpoint Funding Alternative. This new language states, *“Notwithstanding section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, the Board of Water and Soil Resources may, by board order, establish alternative timelines or content for the priority funding plan for nonpoint sources under section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, and may use information from comprehensive watershed management plans or comprehensive local water management plans to estimate or summarize costs.”*

The Board passed Board Order 20-27 in June 2020, which extended the date for updating the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPFP) to December 31, 2021. This order also authorized staff to develop a framework to evaluate the need to establish alternative content for estimating a range of costs for prioritized nonpoint implementation actions.

What has changed since the 2018 NPFP?

- New statutory policy changes in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D referred to as the “coordinated watershed management approach” (2017)
- Increased local government participation in the One Watershed, One Plan program and adoption of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans (CWMPs).
- BWSR adopts approach changing the trajectory of non-point source implementation funding from primarily competitive CWF grants to noncompetitive watershed-based CWF grants (2019)
- Elimination of the Biennial Budget Request (2019)
- BWSR was granted statutory authority to develop scope, alternative content, and timeline of NPFP revisions (2019)
- Clean Water Council (CWC) develops their Strategic Plan (2020)

Why is BWSR doing this now?

Since November 2020, BWSR staff have evaluated the current NPFP to determine its value and relevance. From this evaluation, staff believe there is value in the NPFP and in taking the necessary time to revise the NPFP to better reflect the above-mentioned changes in state planning and programming and align the timing of the NPFP with the Clean Water Fund budget development process. With the advent of the 2020 CWC Strategic Plan and the ongoing development of WRAPS, GRAPS and CWMPs, the state now has a better idea of how CWFs should be utilized.

BWSR’s key considerations for taking this approach are:

- Shows non-point source implementation actions as locally driven and state supported
- Provides the ability to compile implementation costs/needs on a watershed basis statewide
- Enhances support of using CWFs toward priorities in local CWMPs
- Supports the ongoing transition from the CWF competitive to noncompetitive funding approach
- Allows for updating the NPFP as necessary to reflect crucial new data and information

Project Goal, Process, and Timeline

NPFP version 4.0 will be completed by December 2023 resulting in a more practical, useful report with revisions applied as appropriate or needed.

This project will include the following three phases:

- 1) Commission the NPFP revision (**December 2021**)
- 2) Gather information/feedback and review drafts (**Revision process begins in 2022; Initial draft due August 2023**)
 - i) Staff review CWMP/WMPs implementation tables and CWF grant awards to determine statewide nonpoint implementation funding need
 - ii) Engage stakeholders, including state agencies, NGOs, local government partners and BWSR staff to allow feedback regarding proposed NPFP revisions.
- 3) Tentative Board decision (**Final draft and comments due October 2023; BWSR Board approval December 2023**)

BOARD ORDER

Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan

PURPOSE

Request to change timeline for updating the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan and develop framework for evaluating the need to establish alternative content.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. In 2013, the Clean Water Accountability Act was passed in the Minnesota Legislature and resulted in the addition of the Nonpoint priority funding plan (NPPF) as defined in Minnesota Statue 114D.50 Subd. 3a.
2. Minnesota Statue 114D.50 Subd 3a states that *"Beginning July 1, 2014, and every other year thereafter, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) shall prepare and post on its website a priority funding plan to prioritize potential nonpoint restoration and protection actions based on available WRAPs, TMDLs, and local water plans. The plan must take into account the following factors: water quality outcomes, cost-effectiveness, landowner financial need, and leverage of nonstate funding sources. The plan shall include an estimated range of costs for the prioritized actions."*
3. The latest update of the NPPF occurred in 2018 and goes through June 30,2020.
4. For the 2014,2016, and 2018 NPPF reports, BWSR relied on the Biennial Budget Request (BBR) submitted by local governments to estimate costs for needed statewide non-point implementation work.
5. In 2019, the Minnesota Legislature passed a package of statutory policy changes in Minnesota Statutes Chapters 103B and 114D. These changes took effect on August 1, 2019 and are referred to as "coordinated watershed management.
6. Effective August 1, 2019 was the addition of Minnesota Statue 114D.47 Nonpoint Funding Alternative. This new language states, *"Notwithstanding section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, the Board of Water and Soil Resources may, by board order, establish alternative timelines or content for the priority funding plan for nonpoint sources under section 114D.50, subdivision 3a, and may use information from comprehensive watershed management plans or comprehensive local water management plans to estimate or summarize costs."*

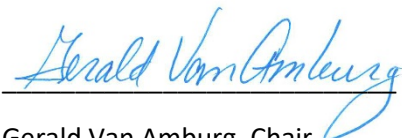
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Changes the date for updating the NPPF to December 31, 2021.
2. Authorizes staff to develop a framework for evaluating the need to establish alternative content for estimating a range of costs for prioritized nonpoint implementation actions.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 24th day of June 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: June 24, 2020

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

1. Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization
Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: December 16, 2021

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Steve Christopher

Prepared by: Steve Christopher

Reviewed by: Central Region Committee(s)

Presented by: Steve Christopher

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Full Plan Link as follows:

http://www.lrrwmo.org/images/LRRWMO/Plans_Reports/LRRWMO_WMP_2022_2031_90_day_TC_09212021.pdf

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

Background:

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) is approximately 56 square miles in the southwestern portion of Anoka County, bisected by the Rum River. It is bound by the Mississippi River to the south, Sherburne County to the west, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization to the north and the Coon Creek Watershed District to the east. The WMO includes all or part of the Cities of Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. The LRRWMO is moderately developed with suburban land use.

The LRRWMO was formed in 1985 through a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) signed by the Cities of Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Ramsey. Since establishment, the JPA has been revised and amended to incorporate statutory and rule changes, the Wetland Conservation Act, and cost sharing on LRRWMO projects. The JPA was also revised in 2014 to revise its legal boundary as the City of Coon Rapids was transferred to the Coon Creek Watershed District.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The LRRWMO initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in 2019 soliciting input from its stakeholders, holding kickoff meetings and convening Citizen Advisory and Technical Advisory Committee meetings. The LRRWMO also completed an analysis of potential 2011 Plan gaps.

Through the process identified above, the LRRWMO Board identified the following as the most relevant issues:

- Adverse impacts from stormwater runoff
- Degraded water quality of lakes, streams, and rivers
- Flood risk and water quantity issues
- Excessive erosion and sedimentation
- Integrity of wetlands, shoreland, and natural areas
- Groundwater contamination
- Efficacy and efficiency of the LRRWMO permit program
- Limited funding and capacity
- Opportunities for increased education and engagement

The Plan states measurable goals associated with each of the issues identified including those related to the LRRWMO's organizational effectiveness/capacity such as funding and engagement.

The Plan's Implementation Program is structured around Administration, Programs and Projects which is consistent with the current Plan, however it adds specificity to the actions the LRRWMO will undertake. The identified projects will largely rely on grant funds for implementation. The LRRWMO partners and the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program should provide strong opportunities for advancement recognizing that need.

Attachments:

1. Draft order for approval of the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) Watershed Management Plan.
2. LRRWMO Plan Executive Summary.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

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

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) dated September 2021 to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

- 1. Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The LRRWMO was formed by a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) signed by the Cities of Andover, Anoka, Coon Rapids, and Ramsey in the summer of 1985. The LRRWMO was formed for the purpose of preparing a water management plan to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 473.875 to 473.883, the Metropolitan Water Management Act (MWMA). The JPA was revised in 1995 to include recent changes in state statutes, Minnesota Rules 8410 Rules, and the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). The JPA was again revised and approved in 2007 to address cost-sharing for WMO projects. The JPA was also revised in 2014 to revise its legal boundary as the City of Coon Rapids was transferred to the Coon Creek Watershed District. The current plan was approved by the Board in December 2011.
- 2. Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The LRRWMO is approximately 56 square miles in the southwestern portion of Anoka County, bisected by the Rum River. It is bound by the Mississippi River to the south, Sherburne County to the west, the Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization to the north, and the Coon Creek Watershed District to the east. The WMO includes all or part of the Cities of Andover, Anoka and Ramsey. The LRRWMO is moderately developed with suburban land use.
- 4. Plan Development and Review.** The LRRWMO initiated the planning process for the 2022-2031 Plan in mid-2019. As required by Minnesota Rules (MR) 8410, a specific process was followed to identify and assess priority issues. Stakeholders were identified, notices were sent to municipal, regional, and state agencies to solicit input for the upcoming Plan. A public kickoff meeting was hosted on June 26, 2019 along with a resident survey that was completed that summer. A Citizen Advisory Committee meeting was held on August 28, 2019 and a

Technical Advisory Committee meeting was held on October 29, 2019. The Plan was submitted for formal 60-day review on May 28, 2021. The LRRWMO received 112 comments on the 60-day draft Plan. All comments on the draft Plan were addressed in writing. After formal review of the Plan, the LRRWMO held a public hearing on the draft Plan on September 16, 2021. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on September 24, 2021.

5. **Local Review.** The LRRWMO distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B132, Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from the Anoka Conservation District, Anoka County Public Health and Environmental Services, and the City of Ramsey. The LRRWMO adequately responded to all comments and made necessary revisions.
6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council requested additional specificity on projects and plans. It also requested additions and clarifications to figures and tables. The LRRWMO made edits and additions as necessary to address these items. During the 90-day comment period, the Council submitted the comment reiterating that the Plan would benefit from greater specificity for its projects and plans, but that it had adequately addressed their previous comments.
7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** The MDA did not have any comments.
8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** The MDH did not have any comments.
9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** The DNR did not have any comments.
10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** PCA recommended including more specifics on implementation projects and estimated reductions pursued over the life of the Plan. They also noted opportunities for partnership through the Citizen Assisted Lake Monitoring Program and asked for clarification within the monitoring description. The LRRWMO noted these and made edits as necessary.
11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** No comments were submitted by DOT on the Plan.
12. **Board Review.** Board staff requested clarification on the prioritization within the Plan and raised the issue of funding limitations noted in the Plan. Board staff also identified areas where clarity could be added within tables and figures. The LRRWMO noted the comments and made changes where necessary.
13. **Plan Summary.** The LRRWMO identified adverse impacts from stormwater runoff and degraded water quality of lakes, streams, and rivers as its highest priority within the Plan. Additional areas of importance include: flood risk and water quantity; excessive erosion and sedimentation; integrity of wetlands, shoreland, and natural areas; and groundwater contamination.
14. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On November 29, 2021 the Board's Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via teleconference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's committee were Joe Collins (chair), Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Mark Zabel, Andrea Date, Joel Larson, Melissa Lewis, and Steve Robertson. Board staff in attendance were Central Region Manager Marcey Westrick, Board Conservationist Steve Christopher and Office and Administrative Specialist Cecelia Rost. LRRWMO Plan Consultant Greg Williams and Becky Wozney (Anoka Conservation District) were also in attendance. Greg Williams and Becky Wozney provided highlights of the Plan and process. Board staff recommended approval of the Plan. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously voted to recommend the approval of the Plan to the full board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the LRRWMO’s boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2030.
4. The LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan will be effective December 16, 2021 through December 16, 2031.
5. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan dated September 2021.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 16, 2021.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

December 16, 2021

Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization
c/o Anoka City Hall
2015 First Avenue
Anoka, MN 55303

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on December 16, 2021. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the LRRWMO must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

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

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

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

Enclosure

CC: Dan Lais, DNR (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)
Beth Neuendorf, MN DOT (via email)
Marcey Westrick, BWSR (via email)
Steve Christopher, BWSR (via email)
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Executive Summary

The Lower Rum River Watershed Management Organization (LRRWMO) Watershed Management Plan (Plan) provides a framework for the protection, restoration, and management activities of the LRRWMO over a 10-year period. The Plan provides resource data and background information, prioritizes natural resource management issues, establishes measurable goals, and details policies, regulations, and implementation activities intended to achieve those goals. The Plan implementation program describes the administrative and cooperative roles, programs, and projects carried out by the LRRWMO.

The Plan is organized into five major sections, summarized as follows:

Section 1 – Introduction

Section 1 of this Plan summarizes the LRRWMO's location and history, purpose, and management structure. Like all watershed management organizations (WMOs), the LRRWMO is a special purpose unit of local government that manages water resources on a watershed basis. The LRRWMO's jurisdiction covers approximately 57 square miles in Anoka County and includes the City of Anoka, the City of Ramsey, and a portion of the City of Andover. The LRRWMO was formed in 1985. This watershed water management plan replaces the *2011 LRRWMO Water Management Plan* (2011 Plan).

The purposes of the LRRWMO, consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.201, include:

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

The Board of Commissioners of the LRRWMO consists of three commissioners and three alternates appointed by the member cities. The powers of the Board are detailed in the most current iteration of the LRRWMO Joint Powers [Association Agreement](#) (JPA, see Appendix A).

Section 2 – Land and Water Resources Inventory

Section 2 of this Plan contains information [about the water and natural resources located within the LRRWMO, on the presence and condition of natural resources within the watershed, as well as the impact of human development](#). Information is provided as text, tables, and maps [and organized according to the following](#); topics [and resources presented include](#):

- Climate and precipitation
- Topography and drainage

- Land use
- Soils
- Geology
- Groundwater
- Surface water resources
- Natural areas, habitat and rare features
- Open space and recreational areas
- Potential pollutant sources

~~The Rum River is the defining hydrologic feature of the LRRWMO. Other water resources, including the Mississippi River, Round Lake, and many other lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands are presented within the watershed.~~

~~Understanding the condition of water and natural resources present in the LRRWMO is key to identifying priority issues, establishing goals, and targeting the actions. The Rum River is the defining hydrologic feature of the LRRWMO, although many other lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands are presented within the watershed. Information about the waters and other resources in the watershed is important as it affects and resource management priorities and decisions~~ of the LRRWMO, its member cities, and other partners.

~~The Rum River is the defining hydrologic feature of the LRRWMO, although many other lakes, ponds, streams, and wetlands are presented within the watershed.~~

Section 3 – Issues Assessment

This section of the Plan presents and discusses the priority issues to be addressed by the LRRWMO over the life of this Plan. As part of Plan development, the Board solicited input on issues relevant to the Lower Rum River watershed through a variety of stakeholder engagement and data review activities, including:

- Public kickoff meeting hosted on June 26, 2019
- Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) issue identification meeting on August 28, 2019
- Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) issue identification meeting on October 29, 2019
- Resident survey (online and in person) completed summer 2019
- Analysis of potential 2011 Plan gaps (Gaps Analysis)
- Review of responses to the Plan notification letter
- Review of engagement and issue identification from Rum River One Watershed, One Plan Project

~~Several of the above stakeholder engagement and issue identification activities are summarized in Appendix D.~~ With consideration for the stakeholder engagement and data review activities, the Board identified the following as the most relevant issues including:

- Adverse impacts from **stormwater runoff**
- Degraded **water quality** of lakes, streams, and rivers

Additional water and natural resource issues that were identified as important:

- **Flood risk and water quantity** issues
- Excessive **erosion and sedimentation**
- Integrity of **wetlands, shoreland, and natural areas**
- **Groundwater contamination**

In addition to natural resource issues, organizational and/or administrative issues were also identified during Plan development; these include:

- Efficacy and efficiency of the **LRRWMO permit program**
- Limited **funding and capacity**
- Opportunities for increased **education and engagement**

The priority issues areas and associated specific issues identified by the Board are described in greater detail in Section 3 and are summarized in Table 3_1. Many of the priority resource issues are interrelated. Thus, many of the goals, policies, and activities included in this Plan address multiple resource issues.

Section 4 – Goals and Policies

Section 4 describes the goals and policies for water and natural resource management within the LRRWMO. LRRWMO goals are aligned with the broad statutory purposes listed in Minnesota Statutes 103B.201 but are more specific in their application to LRRWMO resources. LRRWMO goals are presented in Table 4_1. Goals are grouped according to issue area (see Section 3) although many of the goals address multiple issues. Where appropriate, goals contain measurable quantities to evaluate progress (see Section 5.5.2). The Plan establishes the following key water quality goals:

- Maintain or improve existing water quality in ~~non-impaired~~ priority LRRWMO [Lakes/waterbodies](#):
 - Grass (Sunfish) Lake (TP= 14 µg/L, Chl a = 5.8 µg/L, SD = 1.3 m)
 - ~~Rogers Lake (TP = 59 µg/L, Chl a = 19.7 µg/L, SD = 1.1 m)~~
 - Round Lake (TP = 31 µg/L, Chl a = 7.9 µg/L, SD = 2.9 m)
 - Rum River (TP = 100 µg/L, TSS = 30 mg/L)
- Minimize increases in loading of nutrients, sediment, and other pollutants to downstream water resources through the continued implementation of the LRRWMO rules and permit program, preventing phosphorus loading of 800 lbs/year and sediment loading of 80 tons/year from development and redevelopment
- Maintain TP in the Rum River below 100 µg/L by reducing phosphorus loading to the Rum River by 100 lbs/year through non-structural and structural improvements (e.g., streambank stabilization)
- Reduce sediment loading from streambank erosion along the Rum River by approximately 75 tons/year through streambank stabilization and restoration actions over an estimated 500 feet

- Manage stormwater runoff with practices that mimic natural hydrology by retaining a volume equivalent to 1.0 inches over new and redeveloped or existing impervious surfaces.
- Achieve 100% of member communities implementing MPCA recommended best practices for chloride management

The LRRWMO has also adopted policies to support the achievement of LRRWMO and partner goals. These policies include requirements for member cities, as well as performance standards for projects implemented within the LRRWMO. Policies are subdivided into the following strategies:

- Regulation
- Education
- Cooperation
- Operations

Generally, these strategies include all of the LRRWMO's activities, and are described in greater detail in Section 4.2.

Section 5 – Implementation Program

Individual LRRWMO implementation activities are described in Section 5. Estimated costs, year(s) of implementation, partners, and priority level of each activity are presented in Table 5-2. For assessment and reporting purposes, the LRRWMO cross-references all activities in the implementation plan to applicable LRRWMO goals (see Table 4-1).

The LRRWMO implementation plan includes the continuation of ongoing activities as well as new activities to address emerging issues and changing priorities. Activities included in Table 5-2 are categorized as:

- Administration
- Engineering, Permitting, and Planning
- Education Programs
- Monitoring Programs
- Projects and Capital Improvements

New or expanded activities in the LRRWMO implementation schedule include continuing support for the new Education and Outreach Coordinator as a shared service with Anoka Conservation District and development/execution of an education plan, targeted subwatershed analyses to identify opportunities for increased stormwater treatment, and leveraging watershed-based implementation funding to support streambank stabilization and water quality improvement actions along the Rum River.

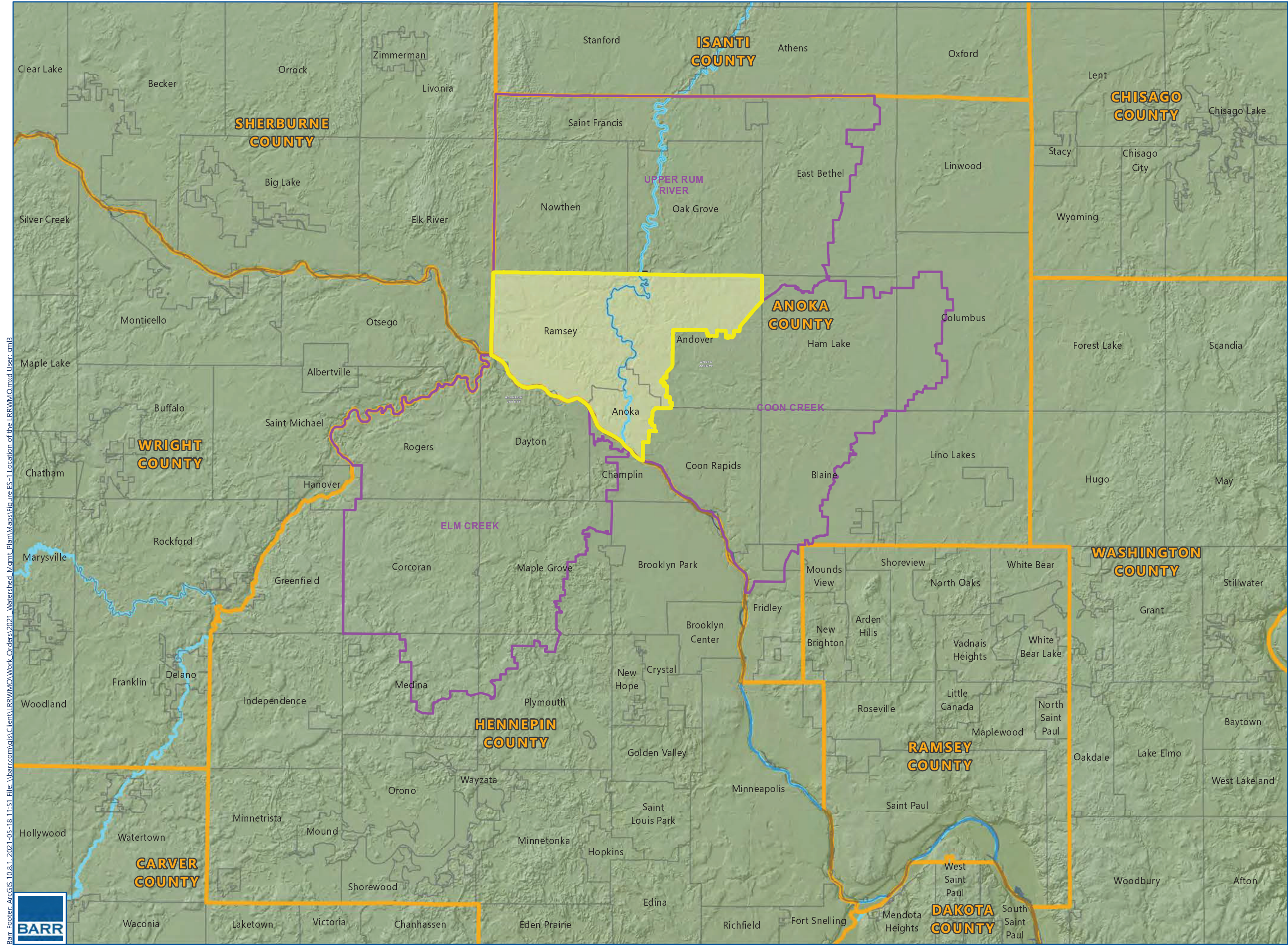
A significant portion of the LRRWMO resources is invested in the continued implementation of the LRRWMO project review permitting programs (see Section 5.3.2.1). The LRRWMO stormwater performance standards (see Appendix E) have contributed preventing 175 lbs/year of total phosphorus and 18 tons per year of sediment loading from development and redevelopment (through over 40 LRRWMO-reviewed projects reviewed in 2019 and 2020).






The 10-year implementation schedule (Table 5-2) includes planned capital improvements planned in cooperation with Anoka Conservation District (ACD) and funded by anticipated watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF), competitive grants, and local WMO funds.

Section 5 describes the funding mechanisms used and available to the LRRWMO, self-assessment and reporting practices, and procedures for amending this Plan. Section 5 also details requirements for City local water management plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes 103B.235 and Minnesota Rules 8410.0160.

Section 5 also describes the regulatory roles and responsibilities of the LRRWMO member cities. Generally, the member cities maintain and implement their own local controls (i.e., ordinances) regarding stormwater management, land use, and natural resource protection. Member cities must also develop local water management plans that conform to [Minnesota Statutes 103B.235](#), [Minnesota Rules 8410.0160](#). City plans and local controls must be consistent with this Plan and performance standards adopted by the LRRWMO. With respect to this LRRWMO Plan update, local plans or official controls must include:

- Development and redevelopment volume control standards consistent with LRRWMO performance standards
- A requirement and process for documenting maintenance requirements for private stormwater BMPs
- Floodplain development and redevelopment standards consistent with LRRWMO minimum building elevations and enforcing “no net loss” of floodplain volume
- Commitment to collaborate with the LRRWMO to implement, evaluate, and update, as needed, the LRRWMO permit program



-  LRRWMO Boundary
-  Adjacent Watershed Management Districts and Organizations
-  County Boundary
-  Municipal Boundary
-  Major River

Data Source: MDNR, BWSR

Barr Footer: ArcGIS 10.8.1, 2021-05-18 11:51 File: \\barr.com\gis\client\LRRWMO\Work Orders\2021_Watershed_Mgmt_Plans\Map\Figure ES-1_Location of the LRRWMO.mxd User: cml3



LOCATION OF THE LRRWMO
 2021 LRRWMO Watershed Management Plan
 FIGURE ES-1