

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
514 GATEWAY DRIVE NORTHEAST
EAST GRAND FORKS, MN
THURSDAY, AUGUST 25, 2022**

AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JUNE 22, 2022 BOARD MEETING

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

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by 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 – Joe Collins
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Jeff Berg
- Minnesota Department of Health – Mark Wettlaufer
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Theresa Ebbenga
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta

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

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Soil Health Cost Share Grant – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. FY23 Buffer Implementation Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Matt Fischer and Ryan Hughes – ***DECISION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, September 28, 2022 in St. Paul and by WebEx.

ADJOURN

Drainage Work Group Report
August 25, 2022 BWSR Board Meeting
Tom Gile, BWSR, DWG Coordinator

The following is a synopsis of discussion topics at the recent Drainage Work Group meetings and anticipated dates for future meetings. This year's meetings are being done primarily through a hybrid format.

Recent virtual DWG meetings:

July 14, 2022

- Brief update of Multipurpose Drainage Management grant program RFP being open and reminder to members of where it can be found.
- Shared some background on two meetings held with groups of DWG stakeholders during the spring. Those discussions started as an opening dialog into the ideas of “how do we demonstrate water quality benefit on larger scale drainage system projects. While it can be done it is also challenging and requires a separate modeling assessment which often creates additional cost to the system. The conversations evolved to the effect of “is there a way we can install some BMPs that have known/estimated reduction efficiencies that are sized based on contributing area instead of being dependent on modeling”. Both groups that met discussed the idea of the sizing concept and felt it was worth exploring online facilities (wetlands, water quality pond like features etc.) to see if some form of criteria can be created.
- Several Drainage Related Bills have come to the Legislature the past couple of years. During those times there are varying perspectives on what “BWSR’s Position Should be”. In particular when things are introduced that have not been brought before the DWG. Conversation was broad ranging and emphasized BWSR’s support for the role of the DWG while also recognizing the obvious freedoms of the legislative process in developing and passing legislation.
- Conversation was lead discussing the general level of “need” of a bill around the notification requirements in 103E. There was good conversation considering the existing notice requirements and those do indeed provide some framework for public input for drainage related activities. At the same time, there is opportunity to create some efficiencies and to potentially reduce the amount of “11th hour” comments and feedback on proposed drainage projects. The concepts of early coordination came up regularly while also being clear there isn’t appetite for significant additional “bureaucracy”. Discussion around ability to provide input before preliminary engineering designs are completed seems to have some merit. The question at hand is how best to let folks know a petitioned for a drainage proceeding/project has been received before the notice of preliminary hearing. There is room for improvement.

August 11, 2022

- Rob Sip gave a presentation on The Red Board with specific attention given to the mediation agreement and multiple technical papers used to support a framework for drainage related projects and activities in the Red River Valley. A good group discussion was had sharing the successes of those efforts as well as some encouragement for a similar model to be used in other parts of the state.

- A brief discussion on the early coordination framework and possible legislation. The key conversation points were that there is no need to re-use language previously introduced unless folks feel that it addresses concerns raised by the proponents of the bill/effort. DWG members have asked the proponents of last year's "Registry bill" to lay out, in writing, what their concerns are and what the goals are with the proposed activities. We anticipate something in writing prior to the end of August and will use this to navigate future discussions.
- Chuck Brandel from ISG gave a presentation on an early coordination framework that ISG has used with their clients in SW/SC MN when the opportunity presents itself. One of the key components is meeting with landowners BEFORE a petition is submitted to have some conversations on goals and feasibility of any potential projects prior to the investment of a petition. Again, good discussion and some good examples of the benefits of coordinating earlier in the process.

Next DWG meeting:

- September 8th. Hopefully a hybrid meeting within person and virtual options.

Internal Memo

Date: August 25, 2022

To: BWSR Board

From: Julie Westerlund, One Watershed, One Plan Program Coordinator

RE: One Watershed, One Plan Program Update

This memo gives an update on One Watershed, One Plan Planning efforts, including developments since the last program update for the BWSR board in March 2022.

The table below provides a summary of progress to date on the goals in BWSR’s *One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan*.

Year	Planning Grants Awarded (cumulative)		1W1P Completed (cumulative)
	Transition Target	Grants Awarded	
2014-15	5	5	0
2016	6 (11)	7 (12)	2
2017	6 (17)	6 (18)	2 (4)
2018	7 (24)	9 (27)	1 (5)
2019	7 (31)	3 (30)	5 (10)
2020	7 (38)	8 (38)	9 (19)
2021	7 (45)	11 (49)	5 (24)
2022	7 (52)	5 (54) *	4 (28)

*includes planning grants and plans recommended for Board approval at the August 25, 2022 board meeting.

I have also attached a map of participating planning boundaries and a list of the local governments that are participating in each planning effort for your information.

Please see planning websites (linked in the interactive map on the BWSR *One Watershed, One Plan – Participating Watersheds* web page) for more information about individual planning efforts.

In this memo, “plan” = comprehensive watershed management plan. “Collaborative” refers to an implementation structure in which the policy committee is advisory to the boards, who make final decisions. “Entity” refers to a new joint powers board that has been delegated authority to make decisions by the member entities. All dates are 2022 unless otherwise specified.

Approved Plans

The following planning partnerships have completed their plans and are now implementing them: Root River; Yellow Medicine River; Lake Superior North; Red Lake River; North Fork Crow River; Leech Lake River; Lake of the Woods; Pine River; Missouri River; Cedar Wapsipinicon; Thief River; Cannon River; Pomme de Terre River; Leaf, Wing, Redeye; Buffalo-Red River; Lower St. Croix; Nemadji; Wild Rice – Marsh River; Watonwan River; Bois de Sioux and Mustinka; Two Rivers Plus; Sauk River; Mississippi Headwaters; Greater Zumbro; Hawk Creek-Middle Minnesota; Shell Rock – Winnebago; Rum River; Middle Snake-Tamarac Rivers.

2019 Starts

Lower Minnesota River West: The group submitted a draft plan for 60-day review (July 27 – September 28). They anticipate presenting the plan for board consideration in December 2022 or January 2023.

Snake River: The plan is currently under formal 60-day review (July 5 - September 5). Each of the eight partners will need to approve the final plan for submission to BWSR for 90-day review.

St. Louis River: The group conducted an extensive internal review of the draft plan, which was written by partner staff (without the help of a consultant). They have addressed all of the (over 300) comments and will present the final plan to the policy committee on August 25th. They anticipate opening the formal 60-day review period on August 25, holding a public hearing in late October, and submitting the plan for BWSR consideration in late fall.

2020 Starts

Clearwater River: The group completed a draft plan in May and the formal 60-day review period closed on July 25. BWSR's Northern Region Committee is scheduled to review the plan on September 7; staff anticipate the BWSR board to consider the plan at the September 28 meeting.

Des Moines River: The group completed a draft plan, conducted an internal review, and revised the draft based on feedback from all committees. The formal 60-day review period will close on September 21 and the group plans to hold public hearings in mid/late October and anticipate consideration by the BWSR board in December 2022 or January 2023. The policy committee had a robust discussion about organizational structure and decided on a joint powers entity. The thirteen partners are currently reviewing a draft joint powers agreement and bylaws and will decide on roles for supporting the JPE. The policy committee members have been very engaged and have shown tremendous leadership in developing the plan.

Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank: The group has completed drafting all sections of the plan and is conducting an internal review. They anticipate opening the formal 60-day review period in September and presenting the plan for BWSR consideration in Spring 2023.

Le Sueur: The group held a mid-point meeting on April 4, 2022 to update the citizens of the watershed on plan development and to offer an additional opportunity to provide feedback. Approximately 75 people attended; the partnership also offered an online survey for those unable to attend (78 respondents). The group has recently been focused on developing the targeted implementation schedule and they continue to discuss organizational structures for implementation. Anticipated BWSR board consideration: Summer 2023.

Long Prairie: The group received letters from state agencies and local citizens during the formal 60-day review period which ended on July 19. The technical advisory committee met in August to review the comments and recommend a final draft plan to the policy committee. The policy committee held a public hearing on August 18 submitted the final plan to BWSR for review. The BWSR Northern Region Committee is scheduled to review the plan on October 5; staff anticipate consideration by the full BWSR board at the October 26 meeting. Local staff have been preparing for implementation during the 60-day comment period and anticipate a smooth transition from planning to plan implementation in early 2023.

Middle-Snake Tamarac: The 60-day review period ended on June 27. The policy committee held a public hearing on July 13th and submitted the plan to BWSR on July 19. The BWSR Northern Region Committee reviewed the plan on August 3 and recommended the plan for BWSR approval at their August 25 meeting.

Otter Tail: Based on technical advisory committee recommendations, the policy committee reviewed and preliminarily approved the following draft plan sections: Land & Water Resource Narrative, Focus Issues, Focus Resources, and Measurable Goals. The technical advisory committee has reviewed the remaining draft plan sections and recommended introducing them to the policy committee on August 25. The group anticipates an informal review in September with the 60-day review period in October and November; staff anticipate BWSR consideration in January. The policy committee is also discussing a joint powers collaboration for implementation and is circulating a draft memorandum of agreement among the individual boards, with intentions of being ready to request WBIF grant funds in Spring 2023.

Winona-La Crescent: The advisory committee is currently conducting an internal review of a draft plan. The policy committee is finishing discussions on an organizational structure for implementation. They anticipate releasing the plan for 60-day review after the policy committee's September meeting.

2021 Starts

Chippewa River: The group continues to meet monthly, and most recently worked through a process to develop priority issue statements and rank areas where the priorities are a concern. The discussions are an iterative process; the group revises the concepts behind the issue statements as they see how they exist within the watershed. The group hosted a bus tour of the watershed, attended by over 30 participants, where they visited conservation practices and identified areas of concern.

Kettle and Upper St. Croix: The group held two kick-off meetings and solicited information through a survey which yielded great information to start the process. Over the next four months, the partnership will be having joint monthly advisory and stakeholder meetings regarding specific resources topic, (lakes, forest etc.) identifying and prioritizing issues, then discussing actions and measurability.

Lower MN River East: The group finalized their planning agreement and policy committee bylaws and hired the consulting firm ISG to help with technical writing and facilitation. They held kickoff meetings (both in-person and virtual) in July, with a strong presence and engagement from policy committee members. The group will hold the first advisory committee meeting in late summer/early fall to start discussing priority issues.

Mississippi River Brainerd: The initial comment period ended on June 3, 2022, with the group receiving comment letters from state agencies and The Nature Conservancy. The group held a kickoff meeting on June 6, 2022, at Camp Ripley near Little Falls. About 50 citizens attended, providing great feedback and asking great

questions. The kickoff meeting included presentations about the Camp Ripley environmental program and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies report. The technical advisory committee, with input and feedback from the citizens advisory committee, has drafted issue statements. The group estimates having a completed plan by the end of 2023.

Mississippi River St. Cloud: This group is working through the process of determining the level of formal involvement (signing the planning agreement) by all required participants. One required participant has indicated they will likely not join the effort, which, per the 1W1P Operating Procedures, requires the partnership to request a determination from BWSR that the planning effort can proceed.

Rainy River Headwaters-Vermillion: The group is making an above-and-beyond effort to gather early input, including a 30-day stakeholder comment period in addition to the required 60-day comment period for plan review agencies. This summer they are also hosting three public kick-off meetings and an on-line survey to get input about priority issues.

Rainy-Rapid River: The group held an open house on April 5 in Baudette, attended by about 30 people. They drafted a Land and Water Resources Narrative and hosted a series of four meetings, each focused on a single priority issue for the plan. They are now in the process of working on measurable goals based on the issue meetings. The group has set a goal of drafting the plan by November of 2022.

Roseau River: The group has drafted the priority issues section, are nearly done with the measurable goals section, and have started the targeted implementation schedule. They anticipate having a full draft plan ready for internal review in fall of 2022 and consideration by the BWSR board in spring 2023.

Sand Hill River: The group held the first policy committee meeting on April 26th. They plan to host a series of kickoff meetings to get public input on Monday, August 22nd in three locations at various times. They issued their initial planning notification with the 60-day comment period ending on September 5th. The group hired Houston Engineering Inc. as their planning consultant. They anticipate completing a draft plan in the first half of 2023, and consideration by the BWSR board later in 2023.

South Fork of the Crow River: The group hosted a public kick-off meeting on June 22nd. The steering team identified members for the technical advisory committee, which the policy committee will be asked to approve in late August. Draft issue statements and the Land and Resource Narrative are pending approval by the policy committee. They divided the planning area into three planning regions and have begun developing priorities for each planning region.

Upper Minnesota River: The group hired Houston Engineering Inc. to assist the partnership with developing the plan. All state agencies provided priority concerns letters during the initial comment period and the group hosted a public kick-off event on July 28th where 40 people attended and provided input on priority resource concerns.

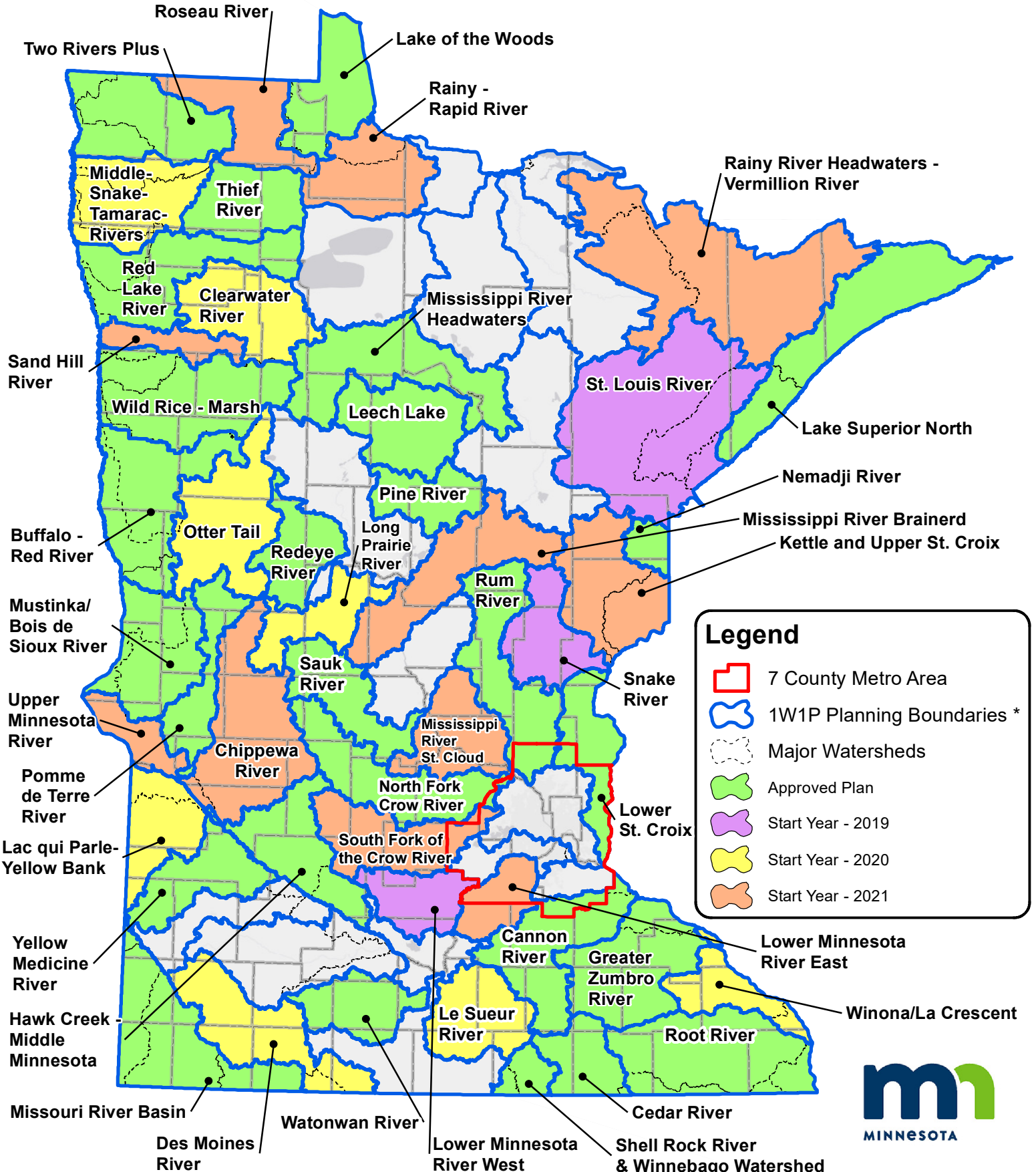
ATTACHMENTS:

Map of participating watersheds

List of participating local governments

One Watershed, One Plan

Participating Watersheds



*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.





Local and Tribal Governments Participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program.
 (Names have been truncated to conserve space.) **Bold for 2021 = MOA complete.**

2021					
Chippewa (16)	Kettle and Upper St. Croix (5)	Lower MN East (7)	Mississippi River Brained (10)	Mississippi River St. Cloud (11)	Rainy R Hdwtrs/Vermilion R (6)
Chippewa County	Carlton County	Le Sueur County	Aitkin County	Benton County	Cook County
Chippewa SWCD	Carlton SWCD	Le Sueur SWCD	Aitkin SWCD	Benton SWCD	Cook SWCD
Douglas County	Kanabec SWCD	Lower MN River Watershed District	City of Baxter	Meeker County	Lake County
Douglas SWCD	Pine County	Rice County	City of Brainerd	Meeker SWCD	Lake SWCD
Grant County	Pine SWCD	Rice SWCD	Crow Wing County	Mille Lacs SWCD	North St. Louis SCWD
Grant SWCD		Scott County WMO	Crow Wing SWCD	Sherburne County	St. Louis County
Kandiyohi County	South Fork of the Crow River (13)	Scott SWCD	Morrison County	Sherburne SWCD	
Kandiyohi SWCD	Buffalo Creek Watershed District		Morrison SWCD	Stearns County	
Otter Tail County	Carver SWCD	Sand Hill River (8)	Todd County	Stearns SWCD	Upper Minnesota River (7)
Pope County	City of Winsted	East Polk SWCD	Todd SWCD	Wright County	Big Stone County
Pope SWCD	Kandiyohi County	Mahnomen County		Wright SWCD	Big Stone SWCD
Stevens County	Kandiyohi SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rainy-Rapid (2)		Swift County
Stevens SWCD	McLeod County	Norman County	Lake of the Woods County		Swift SWCD
Swift County	McLeod SWCD	Norman SWCD	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Roseau River (3)	Traverse County
Swift SWCD	Meeker County	Polk County		Roseau County	Traverse SWCD
West Otter Tail SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Sand Hill River Watershed District		Roseau River Watershed District	Upper MN River Watershed Dist
	Renville County	West Polk SWCD		Roseau SWCD	
	Renville SWCD				
	Wright County				
	Wright SWCD				
2020					
Clearwater (9)	Des Moines (13)	Lac qui Parle- Yellow Bank (8)	Le Sueur (8)	Long Prairie (7)	Winona-La Crescent (10)
Clearwater County	Cottonwood County	Area II Minnesota River Valley Projec	Blue Earth County	Douglas County	City of Winona
Clearwater SWCD	Cottonwood SWCD	Lac qui Parle SWCD	Blue Earth County SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Houston County
East Polk SWCD	Heron Lake Watershed District	Lac qui Parle County	Faribault County	Morrison County	Olmsted County
Pennington County	Jackson County	Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank WD	Faribault County SWCD	Morrison SWCD	Olmsted SWCD
Pennington SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Lincoln SWCD	Freeborn County	Todd County	Root River SWCD
Polk County	Lyon County	Lincoln County	Freeborn SWCD	Todd SWCD	Stockton-Rollingstone-MN City WD
Red Lake County	Lyon SWCD	Yellow Medicine SWCD	Waseca County	West Ottertail SWCD	Wabasha County
Red Lake SWCD	Martin County	Yellow Medicine County	Waseca SWCD		Wabasha SWCD
Red Lake Watershed District	Martin SWCD			Otter Tail (6)	Winona County
	Murray County			Becker SWCD	Winona SWCD
Middle-Snake Tamarac (5)	Murray SWCD			Becker County	
Marshall County	Nobles County			Cormorant Lakes Watershed District	
Marshall SWCD	Nobles SWCD			East Otter Tail SWCD	
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD				Otter Tail County	
Polk County				Pelican River Watershed District	
West Polk SWCD				West Otter Tail SWCD	

2019

Lower Minnesota River West (7)	Snake (8)	St. Louis (6)
High Island Creek WD	Aitkin County	Carlton County
McLeod County	Aitkin SWCD	Carlton SWCD
McLeod SWCD	Kanabec County	Fond du Lac Band of Lk Superior Chippewa
Nicollet County	Kanabec SWCD	North St. Louis SWCD
Nicollet SWCD	Mille Lacs County	St. Louis County
Sibley County	Mille Lacs SWCD	South St. Louis SWCD
Sibley SWCD	Pine County	
	Pine SWCD	

2018

Hawk Creek Middle MN (6)	Nemadji (4)	Rum (17)	Mississippi Headwaters (10)	Wild Rice and Marsh (14)	Greater Zumbro (12)
Chippewa County	Carlton County	Aitkin County	Beltrami County	Becker County	Dodge County
Chippewa SWCD	Carlton SWCD	Aitkin SWCD	Beltrami SWCD	Becker SWCD	Dodge SWCD
Kandiyohi County	Pine County	Anoka SWCD	Cass County	Clay County	City of Rochester
Kandiyohi SWCD	Pine SWCD	Benton County	Cass SWCD	Clay SWCD	Goodhue County
Renville County		Benton SWCD	Clearwater County	Clearwater County	Goodhue SWCD
Renville SWCD		Crow Wing County	Clearwater SWCD	Clearwater SWCD	Olmsted County
	Redeye (5)	Crow Wing SWCD	Hubbard County	Mahnomen County	Olmsted SWCD
	Becker SWCD	Isanti County	Hubbard SWCD	Mahnomen SWCD	Rice County
Shell Rock - Winnebago (4)	East Otter Tail SWCD	Isanti SWCD	Itasca County	Norman County	Rice SWCD
Freeborn County	Otter Tail County	Kanabec County	Itasca SWCD	Norman SWCD	Wabasha County
Freeborn SWCD	Wadena County	Kanabec SWCD		Polk County	Wabasha SWCD
City of Albert Lea	Wadena SWCD	Mille Lacs County	Two Rivers Plus (4)	East Polk SWCD	Bear Valley WD
Shell Rock River WD		Mille Lacs SWCD	Kittson County	West Polk SWCD	
		Morrison County	Kittson SWCD	Wild Rice WD	
		Morrison SWCD	Roseau County		
		Sherburne County	Roseau SWCD		
		Sherburne SWCD			

2017

Buffalo-Red River (9)	Lower St. Croix River (15)	Mustinka/Bois de Sioux Rivers (13)	Pine River (4)	Sauk River (11)	Watonwan River (12)
Becker County	Anoka SWCD	Big Stone County	Cass County	Douglas County	Blue Earth County
Becker SWCD	Brown's Creek WD	Big Stone SWCD	Cass SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Blue Earth SWCD
Buffalo-Red River WD	Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD	Bois de Sioux WD	Crow Wing County	Meeker County	Brown County
Clay County	Chisago County	Grant County	Crow Wing SWCD	Meeker SWCD	Brown SWCD
Clay SWCD	Chisago SWCD	Grant SCWD		Pope County	Cottonwood County
Otter Tail County	Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD	Otter Tail County		Pope SWCD	Cottonwood SWCD
West Otter Tail SWCD	Isanti County	West Otter Tail SWCD		Sauk River Watershed District	Jackson County
Wilkin County	Isanti SWCD	Stevens County		Stearns County	Jackson SWCD
Wilkin SWCD	Middle St. Croix WMO	Stevens SWCD		Stearns SWCD	Martin County
	Pine County	Traverse County		Todd County	Martin SWCD
	Pine SWCD	Traverse SWCD		Todd SWCD	Watonwan County
	South Washington WD	Wilkin County			Watonwan SWCD
	Sunrise River WMO	Wilkin SWCD			
	Washington County				
	Washington SWCD				

2016

Cannon River (14)	Cedar River (11)	Pomme de Terre River (13)	Leech Lake River (4)	Missouri River Basin (14)	Thief River (7)
Belle Creek WD	Cedar River WD	Big Stone County	Cass County	Jackson County	Beltrami County
Dakota County	City of Austin	Big Stone SWCD	Cass SWCD	Jackson SWCD	Beltrami SWCD
Dakota SWCD	Dodge County	Douglas County	Hubbard County	Kanaranzi - Little Rock WD	Marshall County
Goodhue County	Dodge SWCD	Douglas SWCD	Hubbard SWCD	Lincoln County	Marshall SWCD
Goodhue SWCD	Freeborn County	Grant County		Lincoln SWCD	Pennington County
Le Sueur County	Freeborn SWCD	Grant SWCD		Murray County	Pennington SWCD
Le Sueur SWCD	Mower County	Otter Tail County	Lake of the Woods (5)	Murray SWCD	Red Lake WD
North Cannon WMO	Mower SWCD	West Otter Tail SWCD	Lake of the Woods County	Nobles County	
Rice County	Steele County	Stevens County	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Nobles SWCD	
Rice SWCD	Steele SWCD	Stevens SWCD	Roseau County	Okabena-Ocheda WD	
Steele County	Turtle Creek WD	Swift County	Roseau SWCD	Pipestone County	
Steele SWCD		Swift SWCD	Warroad River WD	Pipestone SWCD	
Waseca County		Pomme de Terre River Association		Rock County	
Waseca SWCD				Rock SWCD	

Pilots

Lake Superior North (4)	North Fork Crow River (14)	Red Lake River (7)	Root River (13)	Yellow Medicine River (10)
Cook County	McLeod County	Pennington County	Crooked Creek WD	Area II MN River Basin Projects, Inc.
Cook SWCD	McLeod SWCD	Pennington SWCD	Dodge County	Lac Qui Parle County
Lake County	Kandiyohi County	Polk County	Dodge SWCD	Lac Qui Parle SWCD
Lake SWCD	Kandiyohi SWCD	West Polk SWCD	Filmore County	Lincoln County
	Meeker County	Red Lake County	Filmore SWCD	Lincoln SWCD
	Meeker SWCD	Red Lake SWCD	Houston County	Lyon County
	Pope County	Red Lake WD	Root River SWCD	Lyon SWCD
	Pope SWCD		Mower County	Yellow Medicine County
	Stearns County		Mower SWCD	Yellow Medicine SWCD
	Stearns SWCD		Olmsted County	Yellow Medicine River WD
	Wright County		Olmsted SWCD	
	Wright SWCD		Winona County	
	Middle Fork Crow River WD		Winona SWCD	
	North Fork Crow River WD			

BWSR Board Member Conflict of Interest in Grant Review – Disclosure Form

Meeting: BWSR Board Meeting

Date: August 25, 2022

I certify that I have read and understand the descriptions of conflict of interest provided, reviewed my participation for conflict of interest, and disclosed any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts. As a BWSR Board member, appointed according to Minnesota Statute Section 103B.101, I am responsible for evaluating my participation or abstention from the review process as indicated below. If I have indicated an actual conflict, I will abstain from the discussion and decision for that agenda item.

Please complete the form below for all agenda items. If you indicate that you do not have a conflict for an agenda item, you do not need to fill out additional information regarding that agenda item.

Agenda Item	No conflict (mark here and stop for this row)	Grant applicant(s) associated with conflict (required if conflict identified)	Conflict Type (required if conflict identified)	Will you participate? (required if conflict identified)	Description of conflict (optional)
One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization				Yes / No	
Soil Health Cost Share Grant				Yes / No	
FY22 and FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants				Yes / No	
FY2023 Buffer Implementation Grants				Yes / No	

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Camp Ripley forest partnerships



Details and Definitions

CAMP RIPLEY SENTINEL LANDSCAPE: One of 10 throughout the U.S., the [Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape](#) is an award-winning model of myriad partnerships working together to sustain compatible land use for military operations while providing conservation and working-lands benefits. It launched in 2015. ACUB now operates within the Sentinel Landscape.

SENTINEL LANDSCAPE PARTNERS: Federal — U.S. Army National Guard; the USDA's Farm Service Agency, Forest Service, NRCS; the U.S. Department of Defense's Readiness and Environmental Protection Integration; U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, National Park Service. State — BWSR, Department of Agriculture, Department of Military Affairs, Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Local — Mississippi Headwaters Board, Morrison SWCD, Crow Wing SWCD, the city of Baxter, Cass County's Sylvan Township. Private — Great River Greening, The Conservation Fund, The Nature Conservancy, The Forest Stewards Guild.



Natural Resources Conservation Service website: www.nrcs.usda.gov

One-Source Resource

A new [interactive map](#), searchable by address, shows a database of all currently funded state and federal program opportunities available to landowners in the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape.

NRCS' contribution agreement with Morrison SWCD and its renewed financial assistance focus on private land in the Sentinel Landscape where forest management can improve resiliency and habitat, protect the National Guard's mission

LITTLE FALLS — With an infusion of funds and a focus on forestry, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is making it easier and less costly for private landowners to manage their property within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, a 10-mile buffer that simultaneously protects natural resources and the National Guard's training mission.

The Mississippi River runs through the 52,830-acre regional center, where about 30,000 military personnel and civilians

train every year. Forests lie to the north, farm fields to the south. Those lands buffer Camp Ripley from Brainerd area sprawl; harbor an array of wildlife; and put distance between residents and the sometimes-loud operations that run 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

To date, the Morrison Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) has worked with landowners to enroll 329 permanent easements totaling 33,126 acres within the tighter, 5-mile Army Compatible Use Buffer. Those working-lands easements

From left: Camp Ripley Environmental Supervisor Josh Pennington; NRCS District Conservationist Team Lead Josh Hanson; Lt. Col. Steve Hall; Brig. Gen Lowell Kruse, senior commander at Camp Ripley; Morrison SWCD forester Lew Noska and Manager Shannon Wettstein; and Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape Coordinator Todd Holman discussed the forestry work within Camp Ripley's Sentinel Landscape made possible by a cooperative agreement between NRCS and the Morrison SWCD. **Photo Credits:** Ann Wessel, BWSR



Bob Perleberg walked down one of the trails that provides access to 480 acres of managed forestland punctuated by wildlife food plots and ponds. The Perlebergs have planted and harvested trees in an effort to maintain a thinned stand of multi-aged mixed hardwoods. Because their land lies within the Sentinel Landscape, which extends 10 miles from Camp Ripley, NRCS assistance was available to offset the cost of some management practices. [VIDEO](#)

restrict development and help wildlife — giving animals such as gray wolves and white-tailed deer enough room to roam, retaining niche habitats for species such as the federally threatened Northern long-eared bat.

“Landowners that have enrolled into these protection mechanisms are now looking at ways to improve management of the resources they have,” said Josh Pennington, environmental supervisor at Camp Ripley.

A new NRCS agreement and a renewed NRCS funding source offer technical and financial support.

A \$400,000, three-year contribution agreement between NRCS and the Morrison SWCD, which took effect in August 2021, is bringing forestry related training and technical assistance to the 805,000-

“ The biggest obstacle is a pretty easy one: our own egos as landowners. We don’t want change. We don’t look forward. We don’t look at the health of the forest. We look at what we want, and we want big, fat over-mature trees. ”

— Bob Perleberg, landowner, private forestry consultant



acre Sentinel Landscape. The agreement gave the SWCD the means to hire a forester, and to subcontract with the Forest Stewards Guild to train regional staff and landowners in prescribed burning.

“This agreement is really focused on long-term resiliency in the forested northern half of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape. This part of the state has large, intact habitat corridors that are almost entirely privately

managed,” said Morrison SWCD Manager Shannon Wettstein.

Forestland makes up 35% of the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, primarily in Cass, Crow Wing, northern Morrison and part of Todd counties. All but 0.5% of those forests are privately owned.

“We’ve got a lot of invasive species on the landscape, like buckthorn, that’s really changing the dynamics of forestry in the area. There’s

Army Compatible Use Buffer Update

Working with willing private landowners, the Army Compatible Use Buffer has permanently protected habitat corridors by buffering public lands to prevent habitat conversion on adjacent lands. It’s preserved open spaces within the Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape, and allowed for practices that improve habitat heterogeneity, and soil and water quality via forest and agricultural enhancements, restoration and mitigation.

PROTECTION PROGRESS:

With 126,351 acres protected, Camp Ripley and the Morrison SWCD are halfway to meeting the goal of protecting 252,637 acres within the 5-mile ACUB radius. Nearly 34% was already protected — as existing public land or easements through the DNR’s Sustainable Forest Incentive Act.

EASEMENTS: As of July 2022, SWCD staff has worked with landowners to record 329 permanent Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements totaling 33,216 acres within the ACUB radius. ACUB aims to enroll 78,000 acres into permanent, voluntary conservation easements that purchase development rights. The SWCD is working from a database of 716 tracts. As funds become available, the SWCD will work through the remaining 387 tracts that landowners had expressed interest in enrolling. As of July 2022, available funding included \$3.7 million from the U.S. Department of Defense’s REPI program and \$4,026,000 in state Outdoor Heritage Funds.



Bob and Donna Perleberg have planted trees, encouraged an understory of native plants and left downed timber as habitat on their 480-acre property. Today, it's an example of a well-managed private forest within the Sentinel Landscape. The Perlebergs tapped NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program and Conservation Stewardship Program assistance through a previous Regional Conservation Partnership Program award centered on the Sentinel Landscape.

other management practices, like forest thinnings and prescribed fire, that have been absent," Pennington said.

Invasive species out-compete native plants and trees, resulting in degraded habitat. Unmanaged forests become less resilient.

"There's a lot of work that could be done," Wettstein said.

The \$2,760,280 in NRCS assistance tied to a five-year Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) renewal that took effect in July will make that work more affordable for landowners within the Sentinel Landscape. Landowners can receive a forestry management plan that considers their goals and resource concerns, and then pursue NRCS assistance to implement practices.

Todd Holman, Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape coordinator, Mississippi Headwaters program director for The Nature Conservancy, and a BWSR Board member, explained how the agreement and RCPP work together.

"Couple (the agreement) with the Regional Conservation Partnership Program and NRCS dollars to fund practices, and now all of a sudden we've got capacity to deliver, the money to do the work, and now it's engaging with

“ Morrison County is a diverse county, and a big chunk of it is forested lands that are privately managed. I do feel that it is part of our calling to help those landowners. If we were only doing ag, if we were only doing wetland protection or shoreline outreach, I think we'd be missing a big chunk of our land use and resources. ”

— Shannon Wettstein, Morrison SWCD manager



landowners," Holman said.

Outreach is part of Morrison SWCD forester Lew Noska's job.

Since he joined the Morrison SWCD in November, Noska has facilitated Forest Stewards Guild prescribed burn trainings for landowners hosted by Camp Ripley. He meets with landowners to see their property, hear their goals, and then write a management plan that serves as the basis for RCPP assistance.

"A lot of my job is to guide people in the right direction," Noska said. "I want to have the tools to offer landowners the best possible (management) tools for their property, whether it be for wildlife, water or just species diversity and resiliency."

Little Falls-based NRCS District

Conservationist Josh Hanson said NRCS and the SWCD had worked with forestry before. The Sentinel Landscape program expanded and accelerated that work, giving landowners access to an array of state and federal programs.

"All of a sudden we have 30 different partners from different government units, NGOs (non-government organizations), just all kinds of different people," Hanson said. "A lot of people have an idea what they want to do, but they don't know how to get there. The big thing right now is the education of the customers — what they want to do out there, and how they want to meet that objective."

Noska, who spends part of his time at Camp Ripley, can help landowners navigate the many options.

"Having this cooperation with NRCS and having a (Morrison SWCD) forester here gives us another opportunity to partnership, which is the heart of what we do with our environmental programs. We partnership with a lot of different agencies," said Brig. Gen. Lowell Kruse, "all in an effort to keep the installation from having any kind of problems — problems with an inability for our soldiers to train and do what they want to because of an environmental concern, or actually creating environmental concerns with our training."

Seven miles east of Camp Ripley, C-130 cargo planes graze the treetops on 480 acres Bob Perleberg and his wife, Donna, bought about 25 years ago. Today, the land is an example of a well-managed private forest within the Sentinel Landscape.

Perleberg tapped NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) assistance through the previous Sentinel Landscape RCPP to offset the expenses of combatting blister rust and invasive buckthorn, retaining snags and managing woody debris.

His definition of a well-managed central Minnesota forest: an ungrazed,



Camp Ripley is 18 miles long and 8 miles wide, with 18 miles of undeveloped, undisturbed Mississippi River flowing through it. About 30,000 military personnel and civilians train at Camp Ripley every year.

thinned stand of multi-aged mixed hardwoods with a well-established, naturally regenerating understory.

“The biggest obstacle is a pretty easy one: our own egos as landowners,” said Perleberg, who has written stewardship plans for others within the Sentinel Landscape in his role as a private forestry consultant. “We don’t want change. We don’t look forward. We don’t look at the health of the forest. We look at what we want, and we want big, fat over-mature trees. It’s human nature. It is wrong, but that’s what we want.”

A mature stand of oaks extends a graceful canopy over one of Perleberg’s trails. But he’s more enthusiastic about the stand of birch, and about the far less parklike regeneration that followed a successful timber sale.

“You have to look past what you want and say, ‘What does the forest want?’ The decisions you make and the decisions you don’t make are going to impact that piece of woods for hundreds of years,” Perleberg said. “When you walk through the woods you should say, ‘What do I want here in 200 years?’ Because these

“ **We’re trying to create more opportunities for landowners to learn alongside of us, and bring in more dollars so they can do the management if they’re so inspired after they learn more about what they can do on their land.** ”

— Josh Hanson, NRCS district conservationist



decisions we’re making now with oak in central Minnesota are going to be impacting us in 200 years.”

Over two decades, the Perlebergs have harvested timber, planted trees, added wildlife food plots and ponds, and maintained 9 miles of trails that extend to a small lake on the edge of the property. Timber wolves, bears and, more recently, fishers, show up on their trail cameras. Deer favor the diverse habitat.

What benefits wildlife within the Sentinel Landscape benefits Camp Ripley, too.

“Camp Ripley cannot provide the habitat needs for a lot of these species in a vacuum. It really takes a lot of management and protection

on private lands surrounding Camp Ripley to really benefit the needs of these species and protect their habitat,” Pennington said. “As habitat fragmentation occurs outside of Camp Ripley, those animals move on to Camp Ripley.”

That can pit environmental stewardship and natural resources management against the need for military training.

“Camp Ripley cannot manage resources in a silo. It takes a larger landscape, and private lands surrounding Camp Ripley are critical,” Pennington said.



Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Related Work

RESILIENCY RESEARCH:

Researcher Will Bartsch of the University of Minnesota Duluth’s Natural Resources Research Institute will analyze GIS and other data to produce a report that will help Morrison SWCD determine where and on what type of forestry practices it should focus to build resiliency on the landscape. The SWCD funded the \$150,000 study with part of the \$240,000 award it received from the National Association of Conservation Districts for winning a Department of Defense REPI challenge. It earmarked \$50,000 for the DNR to update LiDAR databases, and \$40,000 for SWCD staff time. The 15-month award runs through June 2023.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

INVENTORY: Cass County’s Sylvan Township received a \$129,980 Minnesota Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund grant from the Minnesota Historical Society in 2020 for a Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape archaeological and comprehensive literature assessment. Work finished April 15, 2022. It’s a first step in protecting cultural resources.

Designed for trout and traffic



Carlton SWCD worked with county transportation department, federal and state funds to replace a culvert with a free span bridge, restore a length of Stateline Creek to improve habitat, water quality



Part of a Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR, awarded to Carlton SWCD for its [red clay dam projects](#), supplemented funding from the Federal Highway Administration and Minnesota Department of Public Safety.

H OLYOKE — Flooding changed the course of the Carlton Soil & Water Conservation District’s (SWCD) planned culvert replacement on Stateline Creek for the better, resulting in federal funding and a redesigned stream crossing that improved highway safety, fish habitat and water quality.

The \$2 million project on the Minnesota-Wisconsin border 30 miles south of Duluth complements years of restoration focused on the St. Louis River estuary and Lake Superior. Stateline Creek flows to the Nemadji River, which enters Lake Superior at Superior Bay.

A 140-foot-long free span bridge replaced an undersized culvert crossing on Carlton County Road 8. A route for logging trucks heading to the mill, the road was used by about 100 vehicles per day.

A 500-foot-long stream restoration employed natural channel design methods to narrow and stabilize the channel, and to re-establish the stream’s connection to its floodplain. A series of constructed riffle pools act as stair steps, allowing fish passage. Root and log structures anchored to downstream banks are designed to



“It’s a great example of a lot of what we’ve been focused on in the Nemadji watershed:

reconnecting these streams — not just for fish, although the fish are a big part of it, but also for climate resiliency, road safety, and then the erosion portion of it.”

— Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD water resources assistant manager

mend streambank erosion.

Funding included \$1.5 million from the Federal Highway Administration Emergency Relief Program and \$388,000 from the Minnesota Department of Public Safety’s Homeland Security and Emergency Management division. A total of \$76,120 in Clean Water Funds from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) — part of a 2017 grant the SWCD received for red

An upstream view of Stateline Creek features the free span bridge, **left**, which replaced an undersized culvert crossing on Carlton County Road 8, **right**. The bridge was part of a \$2 million project that redesigned the stream crossing to improve highway safety, fish habitat and water quality.

Photo Credits: Carlton SWCD

An aerial view of the Stateline Creek site, **center**, depicts water flowing through the culvert. The new free span bridge will allow fallen trees and other debris to more easily pass under the road.

Photo Credit: Carlton County Transportation Department

clay dam replacements — covered part of the stream restoration cost.

Construction took 11 weeks, beginning in August 2020.

“It’s a great example of a lot of what we’ve been focused on in the Nemadji watershed: reconnecting these streams — not just for fish, although the fish are a big part of it, but also for climate resiliency, road safety, and then the erosion portion of it. For us, as a soil and water conservation district, that’s a really big, important part,” said Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD water resources assistant manager.

The project reduces soil loss by an estimated 156 tons and phosphorus by an estimated 179 pounds annually. It reconnects 8 miles of stream, allowing aquatic organisms to migrate.

The original 11.6-foot-wide culvert was installed in the 1970s when design was based on preventing water from topping the road in a 100-year flood event (meaning it has a 1% chance of occurring in any given year). While safe and cost-effective, it forced the stream through a narrow opening and caused a fire-hose effect — destabilizing the downstream channel, eroding the banks, and restricting fish passage. Eventually, a 2-foot drop developed from the culvert to the stream.



Top: A stream restoration on a 500-foot length of Stateline Creek used natural channel design methods to narrow and stabilize the channel, and to re-establish connection to the natural floodplain. A series of constructed riffle pools allow fish passage. The project also addressed streambank erosion. **Bottom:** This post-construction view of Stateline Creek was captured in 2021. **Photo Credits:** Carlton SWCD



“It was just this waterfall coming out of the end of the culvert, and there was a big hole at the end of it,” Bomier said. Over time, the stream had become wide and shallow, making it difficult for fish to navigate when water levels were low.

A culvert inventory, funded in part by a 2017 Enbridge Ecofootprint grant, identified the Stateline Creek site as a priority. A June 2018 flood that damaged the culvert prompted a discussion between Carlton SWCD and Carlton County Transportation Department staff. With input from University of Minnesota Duluth students in a graduate-level civil engineering stream crossing design class, a free span bridge was deemed the best option. The other choice was a larger culvert.

The bridge allows downed trees to pass underneath. A culvert might last longer, but Bomier said its pieces would be more likely to shift in the red clay soil. The floodplain will handle the overflow that previously caused erosion.

Historically, Stateline Creek supported native brook trout, introduced brown trout and — only as far upstream as the culvert — the steelhead that swim upstream from Lake Superior to spawn. The SWCD received anecdotal reports of trout being caught in spring 2021.

Smart salting trainings, in Spanish



Lower Mississippi River WMO's efforts to reach Latino communities, reduce chloride pollution enlist MPCA, BWSR and Dakota County SWCD staff plus Bolton & Menck engineers and All in One Translation



The Clean Water Fund supports Watershed-Based Implementation Funding for watersheds participating in One Watershed, One Plan or the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act.

The Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization (LMRWMO) plans to host Spanish-language Smart Salting for Property Management Certification and training courses to better serve Latino communities and reduce chloride pollution in lakes, rivers and streams within the watershed.

Two free trainings are scheduled. An in-person training will run 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Aug. 30 at Villa del Sol, a community meeting space in the West Side of St. Paul. A virtual training will run 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sept. 19.

Dakota County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) Senior Resource Conservationist Joe Barten said the trainings' target audience is people who own or manage private and public buildings within the watershed and throughout the greater Minneapolis-St. Paul metro area. This includes building maintenance and janitorial staff, private business owners, and anyone who regularly shovels snow and applies de-icing salt at public and commercial properties. Attendees will complete the Minnesota Pollution

Control Agency's (MPCA) Smart Salting and Property Management Certification during the six-hour training.

MPCA data indicate chloride from de-icing salt frequently enters lakes and streams, plus groundwater sources that supply drinking water. One teaspoon of salt can permanently pollute 5 gallons of water. Chloride is extremely difficult to remove from water, so prevention is a key strategy in reducing chloride pollution.

The LMRWMO is organizing the trainings along with the MPCA, which is providing course content. Engineering firm Bolton & Menk will run the trainings with All in One Translation offering live Spanish translation. Printed course materials and the certification test will be offered in Spanish.

"We hope to gain a better understanding of how we can best serve all members of our watershed communities and bring them information where they are, in a meaningful way that positively impacts our water resources," Barten said.

From left: A 12-ounce smart salting-themed cup indicates an appropriate amount of salt to use on 10 sidewalk squares. Snow plows apply de-icing salt on University Avenue in St. Paul. A broom can be used to evenly distribute de-icing salt on walkways. **Photo Credits:** Clean Water MN

“ We hope to gain a better understanding of how we can best serve all members of our watershed communities and bring them information where they are, in a meaningful way that positively impacts our water resources. ”

—Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD senior resource conservationist



The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act, passed by the Minnesota Legislature in 1982, requires WMOs to create and implement 10-year watershed management plans. The LMRWMO identified multilingual education and outreach as a priority in its 10-year watershed management plan.

A \$144,670 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) supports the trainings, which leverage about \$40,000 of the total grant funds, plus matching funds from the LMRWMO. The LMRWMO and MPCA plan to share information created during this process to help other metro-area WMOs to develop their own Spanish-language education and outreach materials, such as social media templates or future trainings.



A Spanish-language poster for the LMRWMO's smart salting trainings describes the ways de-icing salt can contaminate water resources, including drinking water.

Graphic Credit: Bolton & Menck

“This information doesn’t belong to the WMO, we want it to be shared back to communities and other watershed management organizations throughout the metro,” Barten said.

The LMRWMO plans to use the remaining WBIF grant funds to complete two feasibility studies. A study of Lake Augusta in Mendota Heights will evaluate resource concerns to help identify projects to improve water quality in the lake and watershed. A second study will evaluate erosion issues in the three major stream reaches of Interstate Valley Creek, which runs through Mendota Heights, with the goal of identifying areas in the watershed to implement water quality improvement and volume reduction stormwater management practices. Matching funds provided by the city of Mendota Heights will contribute to both studies.

MN CREP protects more than 35,000 acres



Landowners work with local, state and federal partners to create permanent conservation easements benefiting habitat and water quality



Data compiled by BWSR staff in mid-August shows that the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (MN CREP) has protected more than 35,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land since enrollment began five years ago.

MN CREP is a state-federal collaborative partnership that relies on local government staff and landowners to protect land via conservation easements in 54 southern and western Minnesota counties.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) oversee and administer the program. Landowners simultaneously enroll land in a 14- to 15-year federal Conservation

Reserve Program (CRP) contract and a permanent state Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve program conservation easement.

Landowners receive payments from both programs to restore native vegetation and wetlands on enrolled acres, which maximizes water quality and habitat benefits. Land remains privately owned and controlled.

“The MN CREP is designed to help farmers and landowners establish long-term, resource-conserving plant species to control soil erosion, improve water quality and enhance wildlife habitat,” said Minnesota FSA Executive



A rock-armed spillway — one of two constructed on a MN CREP easement in Cottonwood County — provides temporary water storage if Judicial Ditch 1 overflows, creating a safe backflow area into a restored wetland and drainage back into the ditch as waters recede. Cottonwood County has the seventh-highest number of enrolled MN CREP acres among the 54 eligible counties.
Photo Credit:
Cottonwood SWCD

Director Whitney Place.

Local soil and water conservation district (SWCD) staff play an essential role in the program. These professionals help guide landowners through the application process and explore the best restoration options for each unique application. So far, SWCDs have submitted more than 650 applications and provided outreach and resources to thousands of landowners.

“Local staff act as a bridge between landowners and the state and federal programs that provide funding for these essential conservation easement projects,” BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said.

Previous CREP programs were active in Minnesota in 1998 and 2005. Those programs focused primarily on creating wildlife habitat. The current MN CREP program takes a broader approach, supporting projects such as wetland restorations, filter strips, wellhead protection and other conservation practices that improve water quality and enhance habitat.

Cottonwood County farmer Daniel Nelson enrolled 235 acres in the program last year. The



Above: An outlet structure installed on a Freeborn County MN CREP easement provides water storage. **Photo Credit:** Freeborn SWCD

Below: Daniel Nelson's 235-acre Cottonwood County MN CREP easement is depicted via drone footage. **Photo Credit:** Daniel Nelson



portion of land he enrolled consistently flooded. This made productive farming a challenge, but also made the site ideal for a wetland

restoration.

“This is a quality program,” Nelson said. “We wanted this as a backup project if

farming wasn't going to work. After talking with the SWCD to see what it would take, we decided to put (the land) into an easement program.”

MN CREP is a \$525 million program that aims to leverage approximately \$350 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and \$175 million in state dollars. The Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund plus capital investment dollars all contribute to state funding for MN CREP. An additional \$9.9 million is needed in state funding to meet the state's commitment of \$175 million for the program.

Landowners were eligible to apply for MN CREP starting in May 2017. If additional state funding is made available, applications will continue to be accepted through September 2026. MN CREP's current goal is 40,000 acres. Landowners can work with SWCD staff to enroll during batching periods, which are held periodically to align with federal CRP timelines. The most recent batching period concluded on July 9. BWSR staff anticipates the next batching period will begin this fall.

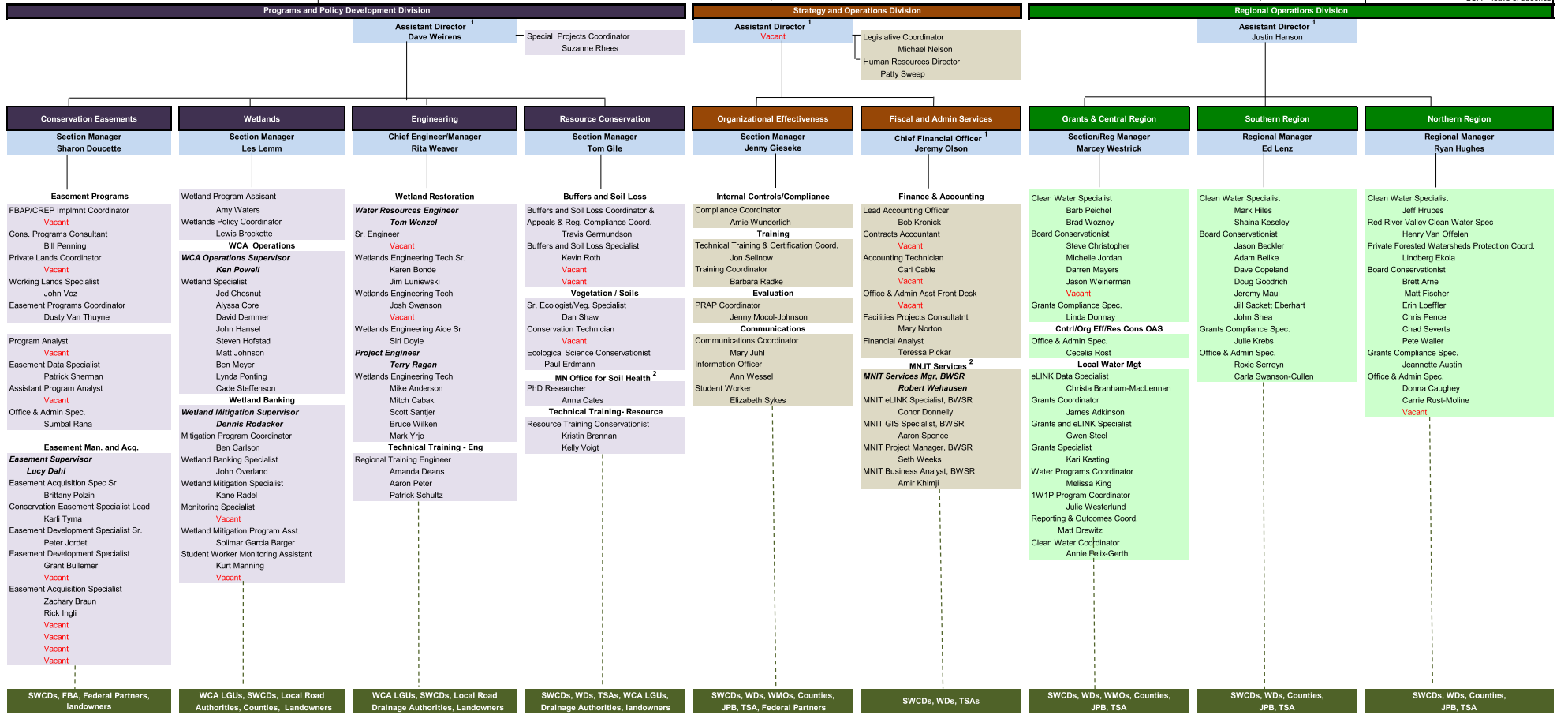
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John Jaschke¹

Executive Support¹
Rachel Mueller

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- Executive Leadership¹
- Senior Management
- Staff / Supervisor
- Current Vacancy
- Temporary Supervisor/supervision^{A, +}
- Dept. in another agency²
- WOOC = work out of class
- LOA = leave of absence



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

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

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

A. Description: _____ B. Description: _____

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

Figure mileage reimbursement below

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

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

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

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

Employee Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____
 Less Advance issued for this trip: _____
 Total amount to be reimbursed to the employee: 0.00
 Amount of Advance to be returned by the employee by deduction from paycheck: 0.00

Approved: Based on knowledge of necessity for travel and expense and on compliance with all provisions of applicable travel regulations. _____ Appointing Authority Designee (Needed for Recurring Advance and Special Expenses)

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____
 Signature _____ Date _____

EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT (Instructions)

DO NOT PAY RELOCATION EXPENSES ON THIS FORM.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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