

DATE: August 18, 2020

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – August 26, 2020

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, August 26, 2020, 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 via WebEx. Join the WebEx by going to the following website: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=e1acf7f271c7443b683ac2c4e1873ad93>, using the password: webex.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

- 1. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization** – The purpose of this agenda item is to authorize One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants for calendar year 2020. Nine proposals were received and eight are recommended for funding. **DECISION ITEM**
- 2. FY 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization** – On August 23, 2020, the Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed two options for calculating the allocation formula for the FY21 SWCD Local Capacity grants. The committee recommends that the SWCD Local Capacity grants be calculated using the same formula that was used for FY20 and as reflected in the attached draft board order. **DECISION ITEM**
- 3. Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Authorization** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, budget reductions to the Clean Water Fund occurred. The governor and Minnesota Management and Budget instructed BWSR to reduce the Buffer Law Implementation Grants by 7% for FY20-21. Buffer Law Implementation Grants are paid to soil and water conservation districts as an upfront 100% payment and FY20 Buffer Law Implementation Grants have already been sent out. Therefore, budget reductions of 14% need to be applied to FY21 Buffer Law Implementation Grants in order to meet the necessary 7% reduction.

The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on August 23, 2020 and recommends a distribution of available funds according to the attached draft board order. **DECISION ITEM**
- 4. FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment** – Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, budget reductions to the Clean Water Fund occurred. The governor and Minnesota Management and Budget instructed BWSR to reduce the Watershed-based Implementation Funding by 10.5% for the FY20-21 biennium. Watershed-based Implementation Funding is distributed through a 50:40:10 payment schedule.

Staff developed two scenarios for how to apply the needed budget reduction.

- a. Distribute the reduction equally amongst all watershed areas. This would directly impact those grant agreements that have already been executed and would result in grant amendments to reduce the dollar amount awarded and grantees not receiving their final 10% payment.
- b. Take the reduction out of the ready reserve allocation for 2018 planning starts. This would not impact allocations established for any watershed area, but it would likely limit the number of planning areas that would be able to receive funding in this biennium.

The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these options on August 23, 2020 and recommends option b and as reflected in the attached draft board order. **DECISION ITEM**

Northern Region Committee

1. **Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Pomme de Terre River watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the seven planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2016. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Technical Advisory Committee members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to BWSR on June 18, 2020, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on August 5, 2020, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – The Redeye River watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the seven planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2018. The watershed partnership Policy Committee and Advisory Committee members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on July 14, 2020, for review and approval. The Northern Regional Committee met on August 5, 2020, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan by the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**

Southern Regional Committee

1. **Buffalo Creek Watershed District Boundary Change** – The purpose of the boundary change between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District is to achieve more accurate alignment between the hydrologic and legal boundaries of the two districts. **DECISION ITEM**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Red River Watershed Management Board Strategic Plan** – Update on Red River Watershed Management Board's strategic plan, progress indicators, WQ funding, budget, etc. **INFORMATION ITEM**
2. **Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers Program** – The Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) program provides a unique college-to-careers pathway for underrepresented STEM college students, specifically, women, racial and ethnic minorities, or individuals with disabilities, who want to pursue a career in environmental and natural resources fields. BWSR is partnering with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to implement the program, which has just completed its first year of operations. **INFORMATION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-297-4290. We look forward to meeting with you on August 26.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 26, 2020**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2020 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
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Paige Winebarger
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Gerald Van Amburg
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Tom Schulz
- RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Todd Holman
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Kathryn Kelly
- Drainage Work Group – Tom Loveall/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 – Chessa Frahm
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen
- 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. FY 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Authorization – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Pete Waller – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Pete Waller – ***DECISION ITEM***

Southern Region Committee

1. Buffalo Creek Watershed District Boundary Change – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. Red River Watershed Management Board Strategic Plan – Rob Sip – ***INFORMATION ITEM***
2. Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers Program – Angie Becker Kudelka, Mimi Daniel, and May Yang – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- BWSR Board Meeting is scheduled for September 23, 2020, 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
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2020**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kathryn Kelly, Rich Sve, Sarah Strommen, DNR; Tom Loveall, Nathan Redalen, Tom Schulz, Thom Peterson, MDA; Gerald Van Amburg, Joe Collins, Harvey Kruger, Paige Winebarger, Steve Robertson, MDH; Neil Peterson, Katrina Kessler, MPCA, Andrea Date, Todd Holman

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Ted Winter

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Dave Weirens, Ed Lenz, Jon Sellnow, Rachel Mueller, Kevin Bigalke, Travis Germundson, Jeff Hrubes, Jenny Gieseke, Jennifer Mocol-Johnson, Ken Powell, Les Lemm, Matt Fischer, Marcey Westrick, Ryan Hughes, Shaina Keseley, Sharon Doucette, Steve Christopher

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ashley Gallagher
Alex Trunnell
Beau Kennedy
Brian Martinson, Association of Minnesota Counties
Camilla Correll
Emmie Peters
Emily Javens, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Josie Lonetti
Meghan Funke

Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

**
20-24 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Adoption of the agenda

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18		18	2

**
20-25 **MINUTES OF MARCH 25, 2020 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the minutes of March 25, 2020, as amended. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Minutes of March 25, 2020 Board Meeting

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee			X	
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			

Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	17		1	2

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 EQB met on June 17 and reviewed the draft of the State 2020 Water Plan going over goals and strategies. Report is due to be complete this fall.

Chair Van Amburg welcomed new board members Jayne Hager Dee, SWCD member from the Central Region and Ted Winter, Citizen member from the Southern region. Chair Van Amburg also thanked Steve Sunderland and Jack Ditmore for their years of service while on the board.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported they met on June 4 to discuss BWSR’s Control System Assessment Tool (CESAT) and the Risk Assessment projects that are required to be submitted to MMB by July 31, 2020 as an annual certification which now requires the Board Chair to sign off that they are aware of the annual certification and the projects that BWSR is working on.

Chair Van Amburg announced Paige Winebarger will now chair the Audit and Oversight Committee and noted there has also been restructuring of other committees.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke gave an update of the status of COVID-19 Emergency. Staff are continuing to work from home. A few staff have been given exemptions, which has shifted from MMB to more of the agency taking control of exemptions and coming up with a Preparedness Plan.

In March a special board order giving the Executive Director emergency delegation was passed. Approval for two items were: FY 2020-2021 Red River Basin Commission Grant and the Cass Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor Redistricting.

Executive Director Jaschke spoke with each new board member and provided an orientation session.

Earlier this year the Governor issued an Executive Order establishing a climate subcabinet. A lot of inter-agency work is going on.

Legislative session ended in May without getting everything accomplished, including failure to pass a bonding bill. Extensions to LCCMR funding projects to allow them more time to finish because of COVID were passed.

We are in a hiring freeze for all staff necessitating some adjustments to staff assignments.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson reported there are presently seven appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been two new appeal filed since the last Board Meeting (March 25, 2020).

File 20-05 (6-23-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption determination in Otter County. The appeal regards the denial of the exemption request for the installation of new tile. No decision has been made on the appeal as of yet.

File 20-04 This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Carver County. The appeal regards the excavation and filing a wetland associated with construction of a drainage ditch. Appeal was filed after 30-day deadline to submit an appeal. Therefore, the restoration order became final and the appeal became denied and the restoration order affirmed.

Buffer Compliance Status: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 77 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). So far 58 CANs have been issued by BWSR and two Administrative Penalty Order (APO). Of the actions being tracked over 15 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 22 counties are fully compliant, and 40 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those counties have issued a total of 1,061 CANs and 10 Administrative Penalty Orders. Of the actions being tracked over 768 of those have been resolved.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Tom Schulz reported they met June 1 via WebEx and have recommended action items that will come before the board today. Committee will be meeting again but does not have a date set.

RIM Reserve Committee – Tom Loveall reported the committee has not met.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Todd Holman reported the committee has not met.

Wetland Conservation Committee - Tom Schulz reported that the committee met on June 15 via WebEx. A committee member was not in attendance at the designated conference room so all work product was informational.

Staff reported that the Local Government Roads Replacement Program has the lowest balance of Wetland Credits since 2000. Typically, 170 credits are needed per year and at this point of the 10 BSAs 4 of them are at zero credits and an additional 2 have less than 1 credit available. Tom noted BSA 5 which covers his county has no credits and no reported new credits in the coming months. These credits are needed by local government to cover the wetland impacts of road construction. Most of these deficiencies can be traced to a lack of funding either from general or bonding funds.

Tom is handing the committee chairmanship of the committee to Jill Crafton.

The committee also reviewed progress on Federal Clean Water Act 404 Assumption. Staff are working with other agencies to get to the point of being able to submit a successful application for the assumption.

The committee also received an update on the Wetland Professional Certification Program. This program was transferred to BWSR from the University of Minnesota last August by a Board action at the August 2019 board meeting. There were 361 successful transfers into the program. Fees for training in the program will remain consistent with previous years. The in-person training to date has all been cancelled due to COVID-19 concerns. Some of the online modules have been completed and rescheduling of training still remains a possibility.

The committee reviewed WCA rule making timelines but was unable to act upon a recommendation for the resolution that will be before the board later in the meeting.

Rich Sve asked what the timeline is for completing a 404 application and submitting it? Executive Director John Jaschke stated Les Lemm could provide further information later in the meeting when he gives an update on the Wetland Conservation Act Rule.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Kathryn Kelly welcomed new members to board and reported that the committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Tom Loveall reported the committee has not met and that they have a meeting scheduled via Skype on July 9.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reminded everyone the Groundwater Protection Rule's first step goes into effect September 1.

Minnesota Ag Water Certification Program continues to grow rapidly. Added 60,000 cover crop acres to this program.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson will be filling in for Chris Elvrum. Steve reported the agency is still involved in COVID-19 response work. Many of their staff have been reassigned into direct response roles.

Groundwater and drinking water data are available through the DNR Watershed Health Assessment Framework online tool.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported they continue their response to COVID-19. Have restarted field work activities and working on a phased reopening of state parks.

Completed EAW on Nolte family farm irrigation project in Wadena county. Determined it did not require preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

Neil Peterson asked when Commissioner Strommen will be traveling in his area to look at wildlife management issues and also asked how they are doing with the permits for Enbridge Line 3 replacement? Commissioner Strommen stated travel is limited depending on the circumstances and can follow-up with Neil. Line 3 does not have a specific timeline but they are continuing to work on permits.

Jill Crafton asked about the Asian Carp Action Plan being developed and if there is any information to share. Commissioner Strommen stated she could get more information to bring back to the board at a later time.

Minnesota Extension – No report provided.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler reported they are slowly getting back to field activities in consideration of social distancing and COVID-19. Will not be doing the biological monitoring, fish monitoring, and some of the other monitoring that makes it difficult to social distance. Inspections and other monitoring have resumed.

NPDES general permit for feedlots is a 5-year permit that went on public notice June 8 until July 23.

Working with other agencies and partners on the EQB Water Plan focused on climate. Working on draft hoping to have ready by the end of summer.

Working with others on the implementation of the Governor's climate executive order. It calls for recommendations and strategies to be considered by the climate subcabinet that the Governor appointed. Working across teams to put together recommendations for mitigation of carbon as well as strategies to promote resiliency and adaptation to climate change.

Lake Pepin TMDL came off public notice last week. Received 2 requests for contested case hearings related to stormwater requirements in the TMDL.

MPCA has several permits they need to issue in regard to Line 3. Agency made decision to grant contested case hearing to petitioners on the draft 404 water certification.

Neil Peterson stated Line 3 has been going on for 5 plus years and would like to see it move along. Appreciates the work that's been going on and would like to keep getting updates.

Neil Peterson asked Commissioner Petersen how things are going in Southern Minnesota with the hogs, turkeys, and the composting that's been going on down there. Commissioner Petersen stated its going better. Minnesota was in a tough position in April with Smith Field and JBS for being down for almost a month. Where able to put hogs back on farms and on a diet, sent hogs to other states. Tried to avoid landfill, set up 2 composting sites. Also composted a lot of turkeys and chickens. Composting site had some issues with smell but was able to rectify it quickly. Still have a backup of hogs and turkeys.

Neil Peterson thanked Commissioner Petersen for his work.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported counties are facing different levels of closure due to COVID-19. The work of counties has continued with limited interruptions. Includes being able to maintain services for land use and WCA applications. Did have some concerns and worked with BWSR during the legislative and special session regarding the chapter 15.99-60-day rule. Unable to convince the legislature to take action to allow for flexibility on rule.

AMC just completed their district meetings via WebEx. WebEx meetings worked well. AMC Executive Committee is looking at how the fall policy and district meetings will take place.

Legislative session, disappointment with what was achieved regarding environmental issues this year. LCCMR bill not approved. Concerned about the impacts to the Legacy Funding and getting work done on the ground with a reduction in sales tax collections.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Nathan Redalen reported they have been having board meetings via Zoom and that has been working for them. Minnesota counties contain 1,741 townships. When there is county unity, those counties get together and this has not been happening because of COVID-19. Once a month they have a teleconference and they're a little upset the bonding bill didn't go through because 95% of roads are paid for by the residents of that township and look forward to getting some of that money. Hope something can happen with the bonding bill.

Has not heard anything for their annual conference in November. Have not had any training sessions because of Zoom.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens reported watershed districts are continuing to work from home. Field staff are returning to the office and getting out in the field. Attended a watershed district meeting in her area where they were updating a watershed management plan and held a virtual public meeting that worked well.

Looking at education and training to see how they can improve their education program. Board meets tomorrow and will decide when it will be too late to cancel December conference. Looking at opportunities on how to share information online.

Hoping legislative bonding bill is passed. Concerned about CWF cuts to existing projects and getting projects on the ground. Upcoming biennium funds need to go to funding projects.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy and the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program authorization – Marcey Westrick presented FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy and the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program authorization.

The Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy is reviewed and approved annually. For FY2021, the policy will apply to Projects and Practices and Multi-purpose Drainage Management funding.

The changes in this policy from the previous year include:

- Language was added under Section 3. Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems stating that local governments should first exhaust primary source of SSTS funding from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
- 3.9 Incentives taken out of non-structural land management and added as separate section for clarification
- 4.14. Components of projects needed to meet the statutory requirements of 103E Drainage Law added to ineligible activities.

In addition to approving the policy, the board order also authorizes the fiscal year 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program and authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these recommendations on June 11, 2020 and recommends the attached policy and order to the board.

Marcey noted a typo in the policy section 3.10 states incentive instead of duration.

John Jaschke gave the definition of the acronym GAM meaning Grants Administration Manual.

Tom Loveall asked for clarification on *4.14 Components of projects needed to meet the statutory requirements of 103E Drainage Law added to ineligible activities*. Would like to know where that line is? Marcey stated the intent was to have adequate outlets or cost benefit. Ensure anything done would be over and above the statutory requirements.

Kevin Bigalke explained that project aspects which are required to meet statutory requirements would not be eligible, but if above and beyond those minimum statutory requirements, then eligible.

John Jaschke stated there will be some site by site judgement. Conditions exists because the constitution requires Legacy Funds to be supplemental.

Kevin noticed typo in Findings of Fact number one references \$16,000,000 for fiscal year 2020, should be fiscal year 2021.

**
20-26 Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy and the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program authorization. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: FY 2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy and the FY2021 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program authorization

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			

Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	18			2

Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan– Marcey Westrick presented Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan

In 2013, the Clean Water Accountability Act was passed in the Minnesota Legislature. This resulted in the addition of the Nonpoint priority funding plan (NPFP) as defined in Minnesota Statute 114D.50 Subd. 3a. 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. 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 Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these recommendations on June 11, 2020 and recommends the attached order to the board.

Rich Sve asked if 1W1P could be used as a model in determining expenses or funding and how does that line up with areas or counties that choose not to go into the 1W1P. Does it have any effect or bearing? Marcey stated that is the purpose of developing or evaluating what framework is to be used it would be part of that evaluation. Rich Sve asked to clarify that it isn’t a deterrent against counties that wish not to move in that direction of 1W1P? Marcy agreed that is correct and asked if Kevin Bigalke had anything to add? Kevin Bigalke agreed that the intent of Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan is to assist in identifying the types of practices needed implemented in order to meet water quality goals and standards. The Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan provides an estimate of costs and funding levels needed to achieve that level of implementation. One approach to obtain the cost estimates could be using the implementation plan and budgets developed through 1W1P process and comprehensive local watershed management

plans. The overall framework and approach of identifying additional costs may be necessary if a county is not to participate in a 1W1P. This will be evaluated and part of the board order number two.

John Jaschke had a couple comments on the order. Things will likely follow from this, we are changing the date giving a timeline, which will be more aligned with clean water fund recommendations. The process will engage agency experts and stakeholders to figure out what makes the most sense. Will come back to the board before the new due date. The goal is to make it something that's practical and useful.

**
20-27 Moved by Harvey Kruger, seconded by Paige Winebarger, to approve the **Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan. Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson	X			
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger	X			
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	17			3

Area Technical Training Teams – Training Grants– Jon Sellnow presented Area Technical Training Teams – Training Grants.

The Technical Training Grants are intended to increase the delivery of technical trainings for topics identified as local priorities by the eight Area Technical Training Teams (ATTTs). Trainings topics will be identified and prioritized based on the results from Individual Development Plans completed within the Area, and as emerging training needs throughout the year.

This grant will make \$40,000 available to coordinate and deliver technical training to address the locally identified training priorities, with a maximum grant amount of \$5,000 per ATTT. The funding for this grant will come from clean water funds and NRCS contribution agreement funds.

Applications for funding will be accepted through July 17, 2020. Submissions will be reviewed and approved as they are submitted.

Examples of eligible activities include curriculum development, classroom training delivery, facility rental, training materials, on-the-job training, and travel reimbursements for trainers. Contracting with an outside vendor to provide training is allowable.

Jill Crafton stated she did not vote for this in committee and that she opposes the use of limited Clean Water Funds for this. Asked if NRCS would be able to fund the whole cost? Jenny Gieseke stated the contribution agreements we have with NRCS for Technical Training and Certification Program is a 50-50 match. We are transitioning contribution agreements right now and training has been built into the new agreement, which will be starting in a couple weeks. Training conservation staff around the state accelerates getting projects on the ground. There is a bottle neck right now with funds available but not enough people trained to implement projects. At this time, we cannot ask NRCS to fund it themselves. It's a shared federal and state agreement. Chair VanAmburg clarified that each area is limited to \$5,000 per area team. Todd Holman stated he will oppose the motion under the same findings Jill shared.

**
20-28 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Area Technical Training Teams – Training Grants. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Area Technical Training Teams – Training Grants

Name of Board member	Perceived conflict of interest	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins		X			
Jill Crafton			X		
Andrea Date					X
Jayne Hager Dee		X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)		X			
Todd Holman			X		
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)		X			
Kathryn Kelly		X			
Harvey Kruger		X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)					X
Joel Larson					X
Tom Loveall		X			
Neil Peterson		X			
Nathan Redalen		X			
Tom Schulz		X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)		X			
Rich Sve		X			
Paige Winebarger					X

Ted Winter					X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair		X			
TOTALS		13	2		5

SWCD Annual Grant Request for State Cost-Share – Jeff Hrubes and Matt Fischer presented SWCD Annual Grant Request for State Cost-Share.

Prior to FY 2014, SWCDs completed an annual plan to request cost-share funding to satisfy M.S. 103C. In 2012, the Board authorized transition to the Biennial Budget Request (BBR) which captured statewide information and assisted BWSR with legislative appropriation requests. The BBR is scheduled to sunset on June 30, 2021. The Water Planning Team and Cost Share Work Group considered several alternatives including returning to the original annual plan, updating the annual plan requirements and, considering the advancements of 1W1P, creating a request in eLINK that requests information about the SWCD annual Cost-Share budget and planned activities. Because the eLINK process requires Board Conservationist approval, the teams rolled two current stand-alone forms into the request. SWCDs will no longer have a separate form to: 1) request greater than 20% of the Cost-Share funds be budgeted for technical and administrative costs and: 2) request use of the Cost-Share funds to install Non-structural Land Management practices.

**
20-29 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Tom Schulz, to approve the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Annual Work Plan Requirements. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Soil and Water Conservation District Annual Work Plan Requirements

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	15			5

**
20-30

Moved by Harvey Kruger, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Erosion Control and Water Management Program Policy Update. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Erosion Control and Water Management Program and Policy Update

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
	X			
TOTALS	15			5

Central Region Committee

Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher presented Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan.

Background:

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) was established on March 4, 1970 by order of the Minnesota Water Resources Board under the authority of the Minnesota Watershed Act, Minnesota Statutes Chapter 112. The order was in response to a petition filed by residents within the watershed on June 24, 1969 for the general purposes of conserving the waters and natural resources of the watershed. The first water resources management plan for the PLSLWD was prepared and adopted in 1971, shortly after the PLSLWD’s inception. The most recent watershed management plan was approved by the Board on January 27, 2010.

The PLSLWD is approximately 42 square miles in size and located in north central Scott County, within the Minnesota River basin. The lower one-half of the PLSLWD particularly around the lakes is largely developed with a predominantly residential land use. The upper one-half of the watershed is rural land use comprising small to medium farms. Development pressure and changes in land uses within the watershed will likely increase through the life of this Plan. The major water resource features of the

PLSLWD are Spring Lake, Upper Prior Lake, and Lower Prior Lake. There are a total of 12 lakes and one county ditch system in the PLSLWD. There was no outflow from the watershed until 1983. An outlet channel was constructed commencing at the southwest shore of Lower Prior Lake draining north through three lakes before outletting into the Minnesota River. The following communities lie partially or entirely within the PLSLWD: the cities of Prior Lake, Savage, and Shakopee, and Sand Creek and Spring Lake Townships. A portion of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community Tribal Lands is also located within the PLSLWD. The PLSLWD is bound by the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the north, and the Scott WMO, containing the subwatersheds of Credit River, Sand Creek, and Shakopee Basin, to the east, south, and west respectively.

Plan Process and Highlights:

The PLSLWD initiated the planning process for the 2020-2029 Plan in 2018. As required by 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. From May 2018, a series of meetings were convened of the PLSLWD Board, Citizens Advisory Committee, Farmer-Led Council, Public, and Technical Advisory Committee. The PLSLWD utilized surveys, initial input and these meetings to further refine their issues, guiding principles, goals and strategies.

In the public planning process, the PLSLWD used its three priority concerns to develop three Guiding Principles with nine underlying Policies, and a total of 23 Goals. During discussions and meeting for the WRMP, three recurring priority concerns were decided upon by the PLSLWD, and four specific goals floated to the surface as having the highest degree of urgency. These goals are: 1. Meet the State water quality standards for aquatic recreation on Spring Lake. 2. Meet the State water quality standards for aquatic recreation on Upper Prior Lake. 3. Develop and implement an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Response and Prevention Plan in coordination with Scott County to help prevent new AIS from entering Tier 1 lakes. 4. Achieve the first-tier priority flood reduction goal to reduce the flood level on Prior Lake for the 25-year return period.

Major actions for the Plan include:

Water quality

- In-Lake Alum Treatments
- Public Infrastructure Projects
- Wetland Restorations
- Cost-Share Projects
- Farmer-Led Council Initiatives
- Ferric Chloride Treatment System

Aquatic Invasive Species

- AIS Prevention & Management
- Carp Management
- AIS Rapid Response Plan

Reduce Flooding:

- Storage & Infiltration Projects
- Sutton Lake Outlet Structure
- Wetland Banking Program
- PLOC Management
- Upper Watershed Blueprint

PLSLWD staff have agreed to extend the programming in the Plan through June 2030 and to update the date to allow for approval through June 2030. The draft Plan is an excellent example of a resource that provides focused priorities that are measurable and clearly defines the role of the PLSLWD.

Kathryn Kelly thought it was very well laid out and excellently done. Jill Crafton agreed it was very well done.

**
20-31 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)				X
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	15			5

Southern Region Committee

Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan– Jennifer Mocol-Johnson presented Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Cannon River Watershed was selected by BWSR as one of the seven planning areas for the One Watershed, One Plan program in 2016. The watershed partnership Policy Committee, Advisory Committee, and Planning Work Group members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Cannon River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan to BWSR on October 19, 2019 for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on November 13, 2019 to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make

a recommendation. The Committee provided a conditional approval of the plan. The conditional approval recommendation states the following:

- a. Prior to full board approval
 - i. Measurable goals of less than 5% must be further evaluated and targeted to seek a minimum of 5% improvement or be removed from plan.
 - ii. Clarification of descriptions of the science-based approach and other processes used (Where numbers for goals and costs came from, how priorities were selected and how targeting was completed).
 - iii. Visually provide reference to the priority cover crop locations (as requested by MDA)
 - iv. Identification of funding sources for implementation activities tied to additional planning and modeling processes such as lake management plans and flood evaluation studies.
- b. Watershed Based Implementation funds are to be made available following the completion of the following items and approvable by the Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - i. Improved Targeting using combination of locally obtained methods combined with best scientific models such as HSPF-SAM, PTMApp, or available WRAPS related HSPF results.
 - ii. Creation of an inventory or model driven map indicating practice opportunities in targeted areas.
 - iii. Updated calculation of pollution reductions that satisfactorily indicates a pace of progress that adequately meets WRAPS reduction Goals

After the group completed the conditions, the plan was resubmitted to BWSR on May 22, 2020.

Nathan Redalen commented that this item got to be a little contentious and thought the team did very well.

Jill Crafton found parts of this plan to be problematic. People were expressing their concerns about areas but didn't seem like there was enough scientific data for their decisions. Low goals of 5% improvement, hoped it could have been higher. PCA recommends approval of plan with the understanding improvements and updates can be made moving forward.

**
20-32 Moved by Nathan Redalen, seconded by Harvey Kruger, to approve the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a voice vote.**

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Cannon River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			
Jayne Hager Dee			X	

Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	15		1	4

Wetland Conservation Committee

Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking Notice– Less Lemm and Ken Powell presented Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking Notice.

On October 19, 2015, BWSR published a “Request for Comments on Possible Amendment to Rules Governing Wetland Conservation, Minnesota Rules, Chapter 8420” in the State Register. These rules implement the Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), for which BWSR has administrative responsibility. Since that time, significant progress has been made on multiple issues interconnected with this rulemaking and staff are planning to conduct further coordination with stakeholders. However, given the time that has passed, staff also believe that it is appropriate to re-initiate this rulemaking effort through Board approval of a new request for comments in the state register.

Jill Crafton commented it’s significant that they’re doing this comment period so well and inclusively for transparency this is an important issue for the people in the state.

John Jaschke noted that in the Board Order the last WHEREAS be updated to show the committee discussed the item instead of recommending since they did not have an official meeting.

Less Lemm gave a 404 Assumption project update.

**
20-33 Moved by Tom Schulz, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking Notice. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

Roll Call Vote: Approval of the Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking Notice

Name of Board member	Affirmative	Opposed	Abstained	Absent
Joe Collins	X			
Jill Crafton	X			
Andrea Date	X			

Jayne Hager Dee	X			
Chris Elvrum/Steven Robertson (MDH)	X			
Todd Holman	X			
Katrina Kessler (MPCA)	X			
Kathryn Kelly	X			
Harvey Kruger	X			
Sarah Strommen (DNR)	X			
Joel Larson				X
Tom Loveall	X			
Neil Peterson				X
Nathan Redalen	X			
Tom Schulz	X			
Thom Petersen (MDA)	X			
Rich Sve	X			
Paige Winebarger				X
Ted Winter				X
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair	X			
TOTALS	16			4

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, August 26, 2020 in St. Paul and via WebEx.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution Compliance Report

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

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/Chair Gerald VanAmburg

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report.

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

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with BWSR and ongoing buffer compliance.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

August 10, 2020

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently nine appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been three new appeals filed since the last Board Meeting (June 24, 2020).

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 20-07 (8-8-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in St. Louis County. The appeal regards the alleged impact of 17,000 sq. ft. of wetland for the construction of a private driveway. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 20-06 (8-4-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption decision in Benton County. The appeal regards the denial of an exemption request for installation of agricultural drain tile within a 3.5-acre wetland. At issue is the wetland size. No decision has been made on the appeal.

~~File 20-05 (6-23-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA exemption decision in Otter Tail County. The appeal regards the denial of an exemption request for the installation of new drainage tile in multiple locations. At issue is the cropping history and wetland type associated with two of the eleven sites. The appeal was denied and the local government unit's decision affirmed.~~

File 20-03 (2-26-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Kandiyohi County. The appeal regards the alleged impacts to a wetland associated with the installation agricultural drain tile and lift pump. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the appellant to submit additional documentation in support of the appeal and/or an after-the-fact application and for the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact adequately addressing the wetland boundary and drainage impacts. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the LGU decision.*

File 20-02 (1-27-2020) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Chisago County. The appeal regards the alleged excavation of new drainage ditches and placement of fill in a wetland. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the appellant to submit additional documentation in support of the appeal. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order.*

File 19-8 (12-20-19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Olmsted County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of fill in a floodplain wetland associated with the operation of a sand and gravel mine. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and restoration order stayed for the Technical Evaluation Panel to convene on site and develop a written report on the wetland impacts.*

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.*

File 19-5 (11/15/19) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Pine County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of fill within a shore impact zone of Passenger Lake a DNR Public Water. 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 order stayed for the DNR to make a jurisdictional determination for Passenger Lake through the establishment of an OHWL and for the LGU to make a final decision on the application for exemption and no-loss.*

File 19-3 (9/20/19) This is an appeal of duplicate WCA restoration orders in Wright County. The appeal regards the alleged draining and filling of approximately 4.79 acres of wetland associated with construction of a drainage ditch. Applications for exemption and no-loss have been submitted to the LGU. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the applications or finalization of a restoration plan. That decision has been amended to extend the time period on the stay of the restoration order.*

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 period 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 2019	Total for Calendar Year 2020
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant		2
Order Modified	1	
Order Remanded		
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	3	3
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	1	1

Buffer Compliance Status: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 99 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Staff continue to actively reach out to landowners to resolve any noncompliance on a voluntary basis prior initiating enforcement action through the issuance of Correction Action Notices (CANs). So far 61 CANs have been issued by BWSR and five Administrative Penalty Orders (APO). Of the actions being tracked over 31 of those have been resolved.

*Statewide 24 counties are fully compliant, and 43 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Those counties have issued a total of 1,143 CANs and 15 Administrative Penalty Orders. Of the actions being tracked over 866 of those have been resolved.

**Disclaimer: These numbers are generated on a monthly basis 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.*

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

Meeting: BWSR Board Meeting

Date: August 26, 2020

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			Perceived Potential Actual	Yes / No	
FY 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization			Perceived Potential Actual	Yes / No	
Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Authorization			Perceived Potential Actual	Yes / No	
FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment			Perceived Potential Actual	Yes / No	
			Perceived Potential Actual	Yes / No	

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. FY 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Authorization – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants Authorization

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Julie Westerlund

Prepared by: Julie Westerlund

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Julie Westerlund

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

Approve eight planning boundaries for One Watershed, One Plan planning grants.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The calendar year 2020 (FY21 grants) One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants request for proposal (RFP) period opened on March 27, 2020 and closed on June 12, 2020. BWSR received nine proposals. Staff reviewed the nine proposals against the RFP selection criteria and received feedback from the Interagency WRAPS and Implementation Team. BWSR’s Senior Management Team reviewed staff recommendations on July 14, 2020 and recommended funding eight of nine of the proposals. Grants Program and Policy Committee will review this recommendation on August 13, 2020. A draft board order is attached. Funds are from the 2020-2021 biennium, Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(i) for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach. A small portion of funds will come from unspent dollars from the 2018-2019 biennium, Laws of Minnesota 2017, Chapter 91, Article 2, Section 7(i).



BOARD ORDER

One Watershed, One Plan FY21 Planning Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2021 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

RECITALS / FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(i) appropriated funds for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D and 114D.
2. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project, practice or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan.
3. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
4. The Board on June 22, 2016 adopted a One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan (Board Resolution #16-53) for development, approval, adoption, and coordination of plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103A.212.
5. The Board on March 25, 2020 authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for planning grants for the One Watershed, One Plan Program and a formal request for proposal was noticed on March 27, 2020 with a submittal deadline of June 12, 2020.
6. The BWSR Senior Management Team met on July 14, 2020 and reviewed the applications with consideration of staff and Interagency WRAPS and Implementation Team feedback, consistency with the Transition Plan, and the selection criteria within the RFP and recommended providing planning grant funds to the following eight planning areas: Clearwater River Watershed, Des Moines River Watershed, Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank, Le Sueur River Watershed, Long Prairie River Watershed, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed, Mississippi River-Winona/La Crescent Watershed, and Otter Tail River Watershed.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on August 13, 2020 and reviewed the Senior Management Team's recommendations for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants and recommended board approval of planning grants for the Clearwater River Watershed, Des Moines River Watershed, Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank, Le Sueur River Watershed, Long Prairie River Watershed, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed, Mississippi River-Winona/La Crescent Watershed, and Otter Tail River Watershed planning boundaries.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves and authorizes eight One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants: Clearwater River Watershed, Des Moines River Watershed, Lac qui Parle Yellow Bank, Le Sueur River Watershed, Long Prairie River Watershed, Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed, Mississippi River-Winona/La Crescent Watershed, and Otter Tail River Watershed planning boundaries.
2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements with these watershed areas for development of One Watershed, One Plans.
3. Approves the allocation of grants funds up to \$1,900,000

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26th, 2020.

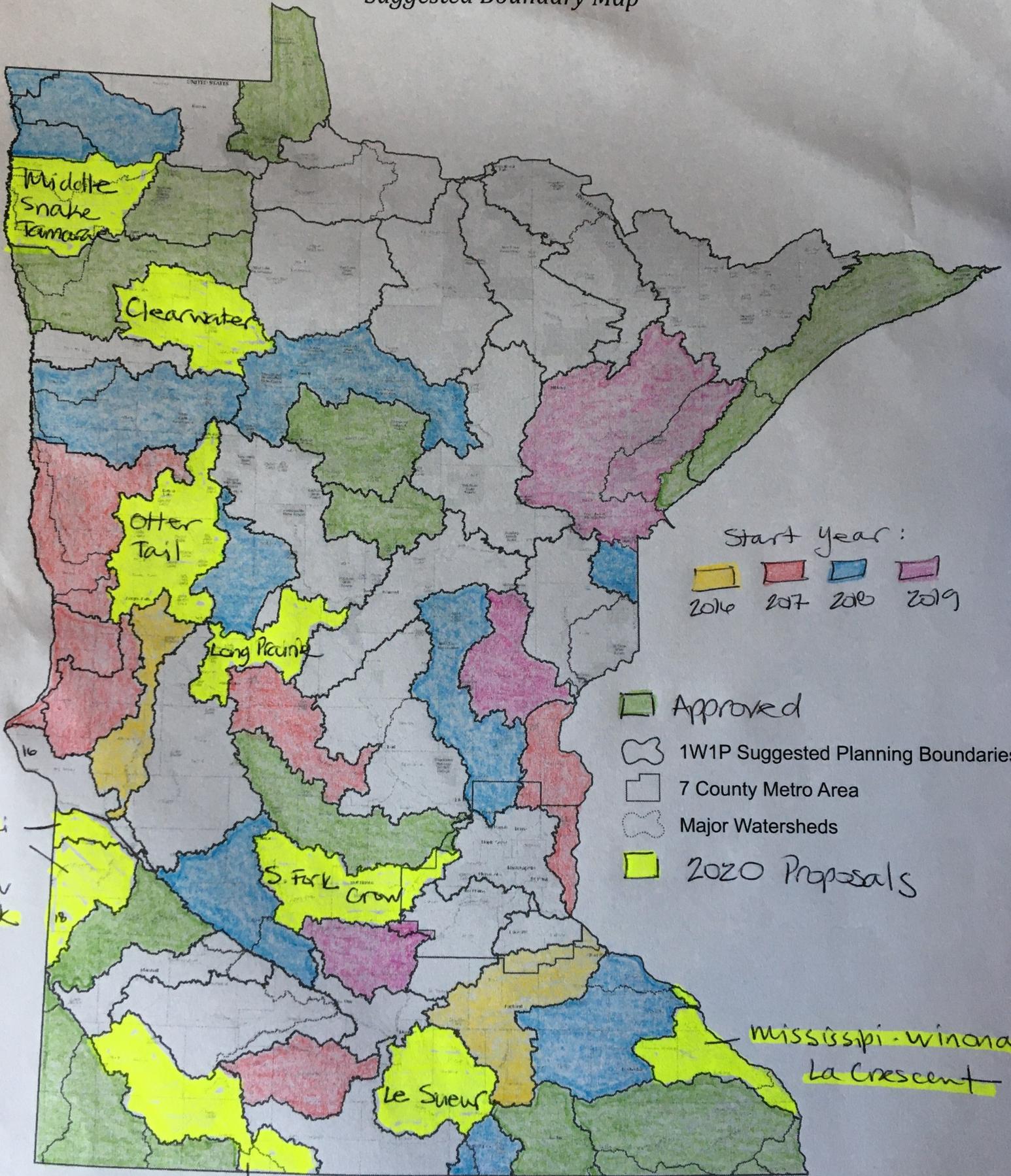
MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

One Watershed, One Plan

Suggested Boundary Map



Start year:
 2016
 2017
 2018
 2019

- Approved
- 1W1P Suggested Planning Boundaries
- 7 County Metro Area
- Major Watersheds
- 2020 Proposals

* Not legal boundaries. For planning purposes only.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grant Authorization

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Marcey Westrick

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 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 2021 SWCD Local Capacity allocation formula and grants.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

On August 23, 2020, the Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed two options for calculating the allocation formula for the FY21 SWCD Local Capacity grants. The committee recommends that the SWCD Local Capacity grants be calculated using the same formula that was used for FY20 and the attached order to the board.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2021 Local Capacity Grants Program

PURPOSE

Provide fiscal year 2021 Clean Water Fund Local Capacity Grant Funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Local Capacity Program supports implementation of Minnesota Statutes 103C.321 Officers and Employees, and 103C.331 Powers of District Boards.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sec. 7(n), appropriated fiscal year 2021 SWCD Local Capacity Program funds.
3. This appropriation limits funds for the Board's administration of the program to one percent.
4. The appropriation includes language that requires providing a base amount of \$100,000 per year, and for remaining funds to be distributed based on county allocations to SWCDs and amount of private land and public waters, to each SWCD.
5. Counties have provided increased capacity to SWCDs since the fiscal year 2017 Local Capacity Matching Grant Program was initiated.
6. The attached allocation table includes: 1) a \$107,500 per SWCD base amount, 2) an amount per SWCD based on the three-year average of county allocation to the SWCD, and 3) a distribution of 75% based on private land and a distribution of 25% based on public waters.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 13, 2020 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocations in the attached table which includes: 1) a \$107,500 base amount per eligible SWCD, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties, 2) an amount per SWCD based on the three year average of county allocation to the SWCD, and 3) a distribution of 75% based on private land and 25% based on public waters per eligible SWCD, Hennepin and Ramsey Counties consistent with the attached table.
2. Establishes that the 2021 Local Capacity Grants awarded pursuant to this resolution will conform to SWCD Conservation Delivery and Capacity Grants Policy; and

3. Directs staff to minimize administration of the Local Capacity Grants Program to one percent of the total appropriation.
4. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments: FY2021 SWCD Local Capacity Matching Grants Allocation Table

FY2021 SWCD Local Capacity Grants Allocation Table

SWCD Name	FY21 Base Grant	3 Year Average County Match 2017-2019	Land & Water Allocation	Total FY21 Allocation
Aitkin	107,500	24,917	7,455	139,872
Anoka	107,500	16,800	3,880	128,180
Becker	107,500	14,500	9,762	131,762
Beltrami	107,500	9,600	8,364	125,464
Benton	107,500	21,467	2,940	131,907
Big Stone	107,500	13,333	3,972	124,805
Blue Earth	107,500	25,301	5,626	138,427
Brown	107,500	12,667	4,392	124,559
Carlton	107,500	18,000	5,015	130,515
Carver	107,500	11,990	3,058	122,548
Cass	107,500	15,600	9,486	132,586
Chippewa	107,500	6,667	4,156	118,323
Chisago	107,500	33,500	3,286	144,286
Clay	107,500	18,000	7,457	132,957
Clearwater	107,500	13,650	5,191	126,341
Cook	107,500	13,650	6,010	127,160
Cottonwood	107,500	22,750	4,708	134,958
Crow Wing	107,500	29,398	7,738	144,636
Dakota	107,500	12,567	4,320	124,387
Dodge	107,500	19,717	3,115	130,332
Douglas	107,500	18,000	5,713	131,213
Faribault	107,500	22,733	5,159	135,392
Fillmore	107,500	2,000	6,169	115,669
Freeborn	107,500	16,800	4,863	129,163
Goodhue	107,500	23,333	5,645	136,478
Grant	107,500	25,397	4,387	137,284
Hennepin	107,500	-	5,477	112,977
Hubbard	107,500	17,833	5,410	130,743
Isanti	107,500	51,833	3,394	162,727
Itasca	107,500	8,700	12,911	129,111
Jackson	107,500	-	5,014	112,514
Kanabec	107,500	23,333	3,659	134,492
Kandiyohi	107,500	16,000	6,302	129,802
Kittson	107,500	14,369	6,996	128,865
Koochiching	107,500	16,542	7,282	131,324
Lac qui Parle	107,500	9,600	5,511	122,611
Lake of the Woods	107,500	21,233	3,168	131,901
Lake	107,500	10,499	8,800	126,799
Le Sueur	107,500	20,045	3,586	131,131
Lincoln	107,500	15,600	4,150	127,250
Lyon	107,500	15,600	5,084	128,184
Mahnomen	107,500	22,500	4,061	134,061
Marshall	107,500	12,133	11,324	130,957
Martin	107,500	6,000	5,257	118,757

McLeod	107,500	19,717	3,710	130,927
Meeker	107,500	25,256	4,905	137,661
Mille Lacs	107,500	22,750	3,601	133,851
Morrison	107,500	19,742	7,568	134,810
Mower	107,500	16,800	5,031	129,331
Murray	107,500	10,800	5,352	123,652
Nicollet	107,500	15,600	3,191	126,291
Nobles	107,500	23,500	5,373	136,373
Norman	107,500	15,250	6,712	129,462
Olmsted	107,500	12,567	4,730	124,797
Otter Tail East	107,500	21,383	8,091	136,974
Otter Tail West	107,500	19,717	8,641	135,858
Pennington	107,500	15,167	4,127	126,794
Pine	107,500	10,000	8,103	125,603
Pipestone	107,500	15,600	3,462	126,562
Polk East	107,500	1,307	5,793	114,600
Polk West	107,500	1,307	8,495	117,302
Pope	107,500	22,750	5,681	135,931
Ramsey	107,500	-	1,431	108,931
Red Lake	107,500	22,083	3,183	132,766
Redwood	107,500	15,600	6,196	129,296
Renville	107,500	15,600	6,673	129,773
Rice	107,500	15,600	3,827	126,927
Rock	107,500	16,875	3,530	127,905
Root River	107,500	4,800	4,134	116,434
Roseau	107,500	19,717	8,699	135,916
Scott	107,500	46,035	3,026	156,561
Sherburne	107,500	12,567	3,197	123,264
Sibley	107,500	15,600	4,232	127,332
St. Louis North	107,500	20,317	20,107	147,924
St. Louis South	107,500	21,667	7,538	136,705
Stearns	107,500	15,367	10,498	133,365
Steele	107,500	6,341	2,873	116,714
Stevens	107,500	9,600	4,241	121,341
Swift	107,500	14,250	5,308	127,058
Todd	107,500	19,333	7,144	133,977
Traverse	107,500	22,750	4,121	134,371
Wabasha	107,500	-	3,848	111,348
Wadena	107,500	23,167	3,589	134,256
Waseca	107,500	2,580*	3,126	113,206
Washington	107,500	12,155	3,465	123,120
Watonwan	107,500	40,084	3,281	150,865
Wilkin	107,500	22,750	4,984	135,234
Winona	107,500	18,000	4,553	130,053
Wright	107,500	13,500	5,610	126,610
Yellow Medicine	107,500	15,600	5,766	128,866
Totals	9,675,000	1,495,308	499,999	11,670,307

* 1,290 from FY20

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Authorization

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Tom Gile/Kevin Bigalke

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

Board approval of the Fiscal Year 2021 Buffer Implementation grants eligible to SWCDs, Hennepin and Ramsey counties

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, budget reductions to the Clean Water Fund occurred. The governor and Minnesota Management and Budget instructed BWSR to reduce the Buffer Law Implementation Grants by 7% for FY20-21. Buffer Law Implementation Grants are paid to soil and water conservation districts as an upfront 100% payment and FY20 Buffer Law Implementation Grants have already been sent out. Therefore, budget reductions of 14% need to be applied to FY21 Buffer Law Implementation Grants in order to meet the necessary 7% reduction.

The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on August 23, 2020 and recommends the attached order to the board.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Years 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Program Authorization

PURPOSE

Provide reduction to fiscal year 2021 Clean Water Fund Buffer Implementation funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. Board Order #19 – 33 authorized staff to enter into grant agreements for FY21 utilizing the same allocation as FY 2020, plus any available funds returned from previous fiscal years' Buffer Implementation or Buffer Cost Share funds.
2. On May 12, 2020, Minnesota Management and Budget directed all agencies receiving Clean Water Fund to implement budget reductions in response to updated revenue projections impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. The FY21 Buffer Implementation Program funds were subject to a 14% budget reduction by the Governor and Minnesota Management and Budget.
4. The proposed allocations in this order were developed consistent with this budget reduction.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 13, 2020 Meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the 14% budget reduction to the FY21 Buffer Implementation Program grant funds.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements with each eligible SWCD, Hennepin and Ramsey counties; meeting statute, policy, or grant program requirements for fiscal year 2021 consistent with the attached allocation table and totaling:

Grant	FY 2021
Buffer Program Implementation	\$1,719,140

3. Authorizes fiscal year 2021 Buffer Implementation grants up to \$1,719,140.

4. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for these purposes.
5. Maintains that the Buffer Implementation grants awarded pursuant to this resolution will conform to the BWSR FY2021 Clean Water Fund Policy except that no match will be required.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: *Proposed FY2020 and 2021 Buffer Implementation Grants Allocations*

SWCD	FY21 Buffer Law Implementation
AITKIN	\$8,600
ANOKA	\$8,600
BECKER	\$21,500
BELTRAMI	\$17,200
BENTON	\$17,200
BIG STONE	\$21,500
BLUE EARTH	\$25,800
BROWN	\$25,800
CARLTON	\$4,300
CARVER	\$17,200
CASS	\$8,600
CHIPPEWA	\$25,800
CHISAGO	\$8,600
CLAY	\$30,100
CLEARWATER	\$17,200
COOK	\$2,580
COTTONWOOD	\$25,800
CROW WING	\$8,600
DAKOTA	\$17,200
DODGE	\$21,500
DOUGLAS	\$17,200
FARIBAULT	\$25,800
FILLMORE	\$25,800
FREEBORN	\$25,800
GOODHUE	\$21,500
GRANT	\$21,500
HENNEPIN COUNTY	\$8,600
HUBBARD	\$8,600
ISANTI	\$8,600
ITASCA	\$4,300
JACKSON	\$25,800
KANABEC	\$8,600
KANDIYOHI	\$25,800
KITTSOON	\$30,100
KOOCHICHING	\$4,300
LAC QUI PARLE	\$25,800
LAKE	\$2,580
LAKE OF THE	\$8,600
LE SUEUR	\$21,500
LINCOLN	\$21,500
LYON	\$25,800
MAHNOMEN	\$17,200
MARSHALL	\$38,700
MARTIN	\$30,100
MC LEOD	\$17,200
MEEKER	\$21,500
MILLE LACS	\$8,600
MORRISON	\$21,500
MOWER	\$25,800

MURRAY	\$25,800
NICOLLET	\$17,200
NOBLES	\$30,100
NORMAN	\$30,100
OLMSTED	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL EAST	\$21,500
OTTER TAIL WEST	\$21,500
PENNINGTON	\$21,500
PINE	\$8,600
PIPESTONE	\$21,500
POLK EAST	\$21,500
POLK WEST	\$38,700
POPE	\$21,500
RAMSEY	\$2,580
RED LAKE	\$17,200
REDWOOD	\$30,100
RENVILLE	\$38,700
RICE	\$17,200
ROCK	\$21,500
ROOT RIVER	\$17,200
ROSEAU	\$30,100
SCOTT	\$8,600
SHERBURNE	\$8,600
SIBLEY	\$21,500
ST. LOUIS NORTH	\$4,300
ST. LOUIS SOUTH	\$4,300
STEARNS	\$30,100
STEELE	\$21,500
STEVENS	\$25,800
SWIFT	\$25,800
TODD	\$17,200
TRAVERSE	\$25,800
WABASHA	\$17,200
WADENA	\$8,600
WASECA	\$17,200
WASHINGTON	\$8,600
WATONWAN	\$21,500
WILKIN	\$30,100
WINONA	\$17,200
WRIGHT	\$17,200
YELLOW MEDICINE	\$30,100
ALLOCATED TOTALS	\$1,719,140

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment

Meeting Date: August 26 ,2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: _____

Contact: Kevin Bigalke/Marcey Westrick

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Marcey Westrick

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

Board approval of FY 20-21 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, budget reductions to the Clean Water Fund occurred. The governor and Minnesota Management and Budget instructed BWSR to reduce the Watershed-based Implementation Funding by 10.5% for the FY20-21 biennium. Watershed-based Implementation Funding is distributed through a 50:40:10 payment schedule.

Staff developed two scenarios for how to apply the needed budget reduction.

- a. Distribute the reduction equally amongst all watershed areas. This would directly impact those grant agreements that have already been executed and would result in grant amendments to reduce the dollar amount awarded and grantees not receiving their final 10% payment.

- b. Take the reduction out of the ready reserve allocation for 2018 planning starts. This would not impact allocations established for any watershed area, but it would likely limit the number of planning areas that would be able to receive funding in this biennium.

The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed these options on August 23, 2020 and recommends option b and the attached order to the board.

BOARD ORDER

Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Amendment

PURPOSE

Authorize an amendment to the fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program (Program) Budget Reductions.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sec. 7(a) appropriated \$13,591,000 for fiscal year 2020 and \$13,375,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program (Program).
2. Board Order #19-54 authorized staff to enter into grant agreements consistent with statutory appropriations and the attached *Table 1: FY2020 and FY2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations* and made available unallocated fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation funds to be distributed to the FY18 One Watershed, One Plan planning grant recipients upon plan approval in the amounts identified in *Table 2: 2018 One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Planning Grant Recipients and Proposed Watershed Based Implementation Fund Allocations* as long as funds are available.
3. On May 12, 2020, Minnesota Management and Budget directed all agencies receiving Clean Water Fund to implement budget reductions in response to updated revenue projections as impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
4. The FY20-21 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Program funds were subject to a 10.5% budget reduction by the Minnesota Management and Budget directive.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 13, 2020 meeting, reviewed the fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding proposed funding allocation reductions, and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

Amends Board Order #19-54 as follows:

- Enacts a 10.5% budget reduction to the overall program funding available.
Note – this reduction will result in a reduced amount of funding available for planning grant recipients identified in Table 2 of Board Order #19-54.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

BOARD ORDER

Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program (Program) and adopt the Program Policy.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Sec. 7(a) appropriated \$13,591,000 for fiscal year 2020 and \$13,375,000 for fiscal year 2021 for the Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program (Program).
2. 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.
3. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 to approve comprehensive watershed management plans, Minnesota Statutes §103B.255 to approve county groundwater plans, Minnesota Statutes §103C.401 to approve soil and water conservation district plans, and Minnesota Statutes §103B.231 to approved watershed management plans.
4. The fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program policy was created to provide expectations for application to the Program and subsequent implementation activities conducted with these funds.
5. The Board staff held nine facilitated meetings with local government partners in the Seven-county Metropolitan Area (Metro) between September 2018 and January 2019 to gather recommendations for the Program in the Metro.
6. The Board staff held three facilitated meetings with statewide local government partners in March through May 2019 and met twice with the Local Government Water Roundtable to gather recommendations for the Program statewide.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee and the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committees met jointly on June 25, August 5, and August 19, 2019 to discuss the recommendations of the Metro and statewide facilitated meetings for the Program.
8. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 17, 2019 meeting discussed and recommended a formula for distribution of fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Fund that includes: a) a \$250,000 minimum per watershed planning area outside of the Metro, and b) a distribution of funds based on a weighting of 90% private land and 10% on public waters to all eligible areas.
9. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 17, 2019 meeting, reviewed the fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program policy, and proposed funding allocations, and recommended approval to the Board.

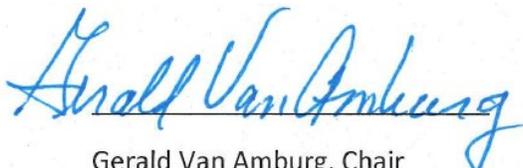
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached fiscal year *2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Policy*.
2. Authorizes staff to approve a Metro soil and water conservation district plan of work developed consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103C.331.
3. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements consistent with statutory appropriations and the attached *Table 1: FY2020 and FY2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations*. Note: fiscal 2021 funds will not be available until July 1, 2020 and some recipients may not receive funds until after this date.
4. Authorizes staff to reallocate funds identified in Table 1 that become available if a work plan cannot be approved by March 30, 2021 - unless extended for cause - in the amounts identified in *Table 2: 2018 One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Planning Grant Recipients and Proposed Watershed Based Implementation Fund Allocations* unless superseded by a future Board action. Watershed planning areas identified in Table 1 that do not meet this deadline – unless extended for cause – are not eligible for fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding.
5. Makes available unallocated fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation funds to be distributed to the FY18 One Watershed, One Plan planning grant recipients upon plan approval in the amounts identified in *Table 2: 2018 One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Planning Grant Recipients and Proposed Watershed Based Implementation Fund Allocations* as long as funds are available, and authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements for this purpose. Watershed planning areas identified in Table 2 that are not able to develop a workplan by June 30, 2021 – unless extended for cause – are not eligible for fiscal year 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding.
6. Adopts the boundaries in the attached *Figure 1: One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds Map, September 2019* as the basis for calculation of the allocations in Tables 1 and 2.
7. Adopts the attached *Figure 2: Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Allocation* for describing the Metro allocations in Table 1.
8. Directs staff to convene local governments within the Metro area (as delineated in Figure 2) for the purpose of collaboratively selecting projects consistent with this order.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this September 25, 2019.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date:

9-25-2019

Attachments:

- FY 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Funding Program Policy

Table 1: FY2020 and FY2021 Watershed-based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations

1W1P #	1W1P Planning Grant Year*	1W1P Name	FY20/21 Allocation
1	Pilot (approved)	Lake Superior North	\$599,767
12	Pilot (approved)	North Fork Crow River	\$1,120,477
32	Pilot (approved)	Root River	\$1,469,595
41	Pilot (approved)	Red Lake River	\$1,071,149
19	Pilot (approved)	Yellow Medicine River	\$814,603
4	2016 (approved)	Leech Lake River	\$598,115
51	2016 (approved)	Lake of the Woods	\$621,173
42	2016	Thief River	\$529,892
17	2016	Pomme de Terre River	\$717,428
54	2016	Cannon River (non-metro)	\$1,028,658
33	2016	Cedar River	\$593,987
52	2016	Missouri River Basin	\$1,320,445
35	2017	Mustinka/Bois de Sioux	\$1,064,522
6	2017 (approved)	Pine River	\$482,142
10	2017	Sauk River	\$832,550
37	2017	Buffalo-Red River	\$1,296,838
29	2017	Lower St. Croix River (non-metro)	\$471,070
25	2017	Watonwan River	\$700,477
		Subtotal	\$15,332,889
Metro	NA	Mississippi East	\$1,085,485
Metro	NA	Mississippi West	\$874,153
Metro	NA	Rum River	\$366,982
Metro	NA	Lower St. Croix River	\$793,461
Metro	NA	Cannon River	\$305,293
Metro	NA	Lower Minnesota North	\$673,699
Metro	NA	Lower Minnesota South	\$829,075
Metro	NA	Vermillion	\$650,684
Metro	NA	North Fork Crow River	\$91,105
Metro	NA	South Fork Crow River	\$330,063
		Subtotal	\$6,000,000
		Total Allocation	\$21,332,889

**As per the 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Policy, a comprehensive watershed management plan must be approved to be eligible for these funds.*

Table 2: 2018 One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) Planning Grant Recipients and Proposed Watershed Based Implementation Fund Allocations

1W1P #*	1W1P Name	Potential Allocation
3	Mississippi River Headwaters	\$861,581
8	Redeye River	\$706,488
15	Rum River (non-metro)	\$1,011,327
30	Zumbro River	\$1,216,243
38	Marsh and Wild Rice	\$1,371,259
45	Two Rivers Plus	\$1,062,253
53	Hawk Creek	\$942,433
63	Shell Rock River/Winnebago Watershed	\$322,128
64	Nemadji River	\$250,000

**As per the 2020-2021 Clean Water Fund Watershed-based Implementation Funding Program Policy, a comprehensive watershed management plan must be approved to be eligible for these funds.*

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Northern Regional Committee

1. Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Pete Waller – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Pete Waller – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Pete Waller

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Todd Holman/Pete Waller

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 Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Northern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plan is on the Pomme de Terre River Association’s website:

<https://www.pdtriver.org/comprehensive-watershed-management-plan-update-bwsr-review/>

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

The Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in west central Minnesota encompassing portions of Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Otter Tail, Stevens and Swift counties and the

Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Board. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On June 18, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearings, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On August 5, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Pomme de Terre River, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Pomme de Terre (PDT) River Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on June 18, 2020, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17, 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. **Partnership Establishment.** The Pomme de Terre River Association (PDTRA) is a Joint Powers Board (JPB), established in 1981, a partnership between Otter Tail, Grant, Douglas, Stevens, Big Stone, and Swift Counties and Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD). Their joint powers agreement was amended in January 2017 to incorporate the development of planning into their purpose and establish the PDTRA JPB as the Policy Committee for the Plan.
2. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program. And, on March 23, 2016, Board Resolution #16-17 adopted Version 1.0 of the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The PDT Watershed is a mosaic of lakes, streams, forests, pastures, and farms. At its headwaters, the watershed is dominated by lakes and hardwood forests in the North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion. As the PDT flows south the landscape transitions to mostly cropland in the Northern Glaciated Plains ecoregion. This relatively long and narrow watershed located in west-central Minnesota, discharges approximately 874 square miles, into the Minnesota River. The two largest municipalities are Appleton and Morris, but also includes all or a portion of: Alberta, Ashby, Barrett, Chokio, Dalton, Donnelly, and Underwood.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies, plans, and reports, including the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies. Input was incorporated from multiple planning partners representing the two diverse landscapes, in the northern and southern portions of the watershed, by two citizen advisory committees to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On June 18, 2020, the Board received the Plan, a recording of the public hearings, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #16-17. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): All initial and formal review comments submitted by MDA have been considered and addressed. MDA has no further comments. MDA made no formal recommendations regarding approval of the Plan.
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH has no further comments or suggestions to offer the Plan. MDH recommends approval of the Plan.
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR appreciated the opportunity to review the Plan. DNR supports lake protection and reduction of phosphorus in the lakes region, and promotion of agricultural practices that reduce erosion and reduce runoff in the southern region. DNR recommends approval of the Plan. DNR will continue to bring resources and technical expertise while assisting with the implementation of the Plan.
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA stated the Plan incorporates most of their earlier comments and revisions. MPCA is satisfied with the Plan. Moving forward, the MPCA encourages the PDTRA to continue to adapt and improve the Plan regarding the changing hydrology, best management practices installed and model effectiveness and evaluation of priority areas. The MPCA recommends approval of the Plan.
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not reply to requests for confirmation of receipt and did not provide comments for the final review.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and nearly all BWSR comments during the 60-day review period were incorporated. We had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted on June 18th for final approval. We commend the PDTRA for their long history and commitment to engaging local people to become informed and active in cleaning up the Pomme de Terre River, and working with the many individuals, organizations and agencies involved with the PDTRA. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and looks forward to our continued participation in future implementation efforts.
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
 - The Plan development process generated eleven resource issues impacting the watershed using a combination of existing reports, data, and stakeholder input.

- The Plan identified five priority areas that have a concentration of resource issues and multiple benefits, while also identifying several resource issues that require action on a watershed-wide scale. The five priority areas are where most future work will be completed.
 - The Plan includes twenty measurable goal categories, which address the priority issues.
 - Separate implementation tables were created for each resource issue and include: actions, corresponding priority issue(s) and goal(s); targeting location; estimated cost; estimated implementation schedule; project lead; and a means to measure pace of progress.
7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On August 5, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Chair Rich Sve, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Todd Holman, Tom Schulz, Jeff Berg, Theresa Ebbenga and Nicole Blasing. Board staff in attendance were Northern Region Manager Ryan Hughes, Board Conservationist Pete Waller and Clean Water Specialist Brad Wozney. The representatives from the Partnership were Micayla Lakey, Pomme de Terre; John Lindquist, Otter Tail County; Keith Swanson, Grant County; Rod Wenstrom, West Otter Tail SWCD; Joe Otto, Big Stone SWCD; Danny Tuckett, Big Stone County; Andy Rice, Douglas SWCD; Jared House, Grant SWCD; Greg Lillemon, Grant County; Brad Mergens, West Otter Tail SWCD; Ben Underhill, West Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD; Bill Kleindl, Stevens County; Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD; Andy Albertsen, Swift SWCD; who presented the Plan. Board regional staff provided their recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 26, 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Pomme de Terre River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
3. The Pomme de Terre River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #16-17.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a substitute for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed, dated June 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair



August 26, 2020

Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Power Board
c/o Micayla Lakey, Pomme de Terre River Association
12 Hwy 28 E, Ste 2
Morris, MN 56267

RE: Approval of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Power Board:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on August 26, 2020. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until August 26, 2030. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the Partnership, and for participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Pete Waller of our staff at 218-770-3802 or pete.waller@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

Bemidji	Brainerd	Detroit Lakes	Duluth	Mankato	Marshall	Rochester	St Cloud
403 Fourth Street NW Suite 200 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 755-2600	1601 Minnesota Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 203-4470	26624 N. Tower Road Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 (218) 846-8400	394 S. Lake Avenue Suite 403 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 723-4752	11 Civic Center Plaza Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 344-2826	1400 East Lyon Street Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-6060	3555 9 th Street NW Suite 350 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 206-2889	110 Second St. South Suite 307 Waite Park, MN 56387

Central Office / Metro Office 520 Lafayette Road North Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-3767 Fax: (651) 297-5615

www.bwsr.state.mn.us TTY: (800) 627-3529 An equal opportunity employer

CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
Ryan Lemickson, MDA (via email)
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)
Amanda Strommer, MDH (via email)
Annette Drewes, DNR (via email)
Nathan Kestner, DNR (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Paul Wymar, MPCA (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Pete Waller, BWSR (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)
Donna Caughey, BWSR (via email)

Equal Opportunity Employer

Bemidji 403 Fourth Street NW Suite 200 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 755-2600	Brainerd 1601 Minnesota Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 203-4470	Detroit Lakes 26624 N. Tower Road Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 (218) 846-8400	Duluth 394 S. Lake Avenue Suite 403 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 723-4752	Mankato 11 Civic Center Plaza Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 344-2826	Marshall 1400 East Lyon Street Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-6060	Rochester 3555 9 th Street NW Suite 350 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 206-2889	St Cloud 110 Second St. South Suite 307 Waite Park, MN 56387
--	---	--	--	---	--	--	--

Central Office / Metro Office 520 Lafayette Road North Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-3767 Fax: (651) 297-5615

www.bwsr.state.mn.us TTY: (800) 627-3529 An equal opportunity employer

POMME DE TERRE RIVER

Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



June 2020

Big Stone, Douglas, Grant, Stevens, Swift, and West Otter Tail Counties and
Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the Pomme de Terre River Association



TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF FIGURES	III
LIST OF TABLES	III
LIST OF APPENDICES	IV
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	V
ACRONYMS	VI
GLOSSARY	VII
1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	1
2 PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES AND RESOURCES	11
2.1 PRIORITIZING ISSUES	13
2.2 PRIORITIZING AREAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION	14
2.3 DRAFT ISSUES STATEMENT & MEASURABLE GOALS	16
2.4 TARGETING AREAS FOR IMPLEMENTATION WITHIN PRIORITY AREAS	18
2.4.1 Groundwater conservation practices	18
2.4.2 Wetland restoration areas	19
2.4.3 Structural and Nonstructural BMPs	19
2.5 SUMMARY	20
3 ISSUES, GOALS AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES	23
3.1 GROUNDWATER	24
3.1.1 Drinking Water Protection	24
3.1.2 Groundwater Conservation	26
3.2 HYDROLOGY	27
3.2.1 Altered Hydrology	27
3.3 LAKES, WETLANDS, AND SHALLOW BASINS	30
3.3.1 Poor Quality Lakes	31
3.3.2 High Quality Lakes	34
3.3.3 Protect and Restore Perennial Cover and Shallow Basins	38
3.4 RIVER & STREAMS	39
3.4.1 Excess pollutants	39
3.4.2 Loss of In-Stream Habitat	44
3.5 ECOSYSTEM HEALTH	45
3.5.1 Aquatic Invasive Species Management	46
3.6 SOCIOECONOMIC FACTORS	47
3.6.1 Watershed Outreach	47
3.6.2 Lakeshore Owner Education	49
4 TARGETED IMPLEMENTATION SCHEDULE	51
4.1 TARGETED IMPLEMENTATION PLAN STRUCTURE	51
4.1.1 Groundwater Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	53
4.1.2 Altered Hydrology Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	54
4.1.3 Lakes, Wetlands, and Shallow Basins Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	56
4.1.4 River and Streams Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	57

4.1.5	Ecosystem Health Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	59
4.1.6	Socioeconomic Factors Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	59
4.2	PRIORITIZATION OF PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS	61
4.2.1	Identification of Roles and Responsibilities towards Implementation	62
4.3	ACCOUNTING FOR LOCAL FUNDS	63
5	EXISTING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRAMS	65
5.1	INCENTIVE PROGRAMS	65
5.1.1	Cost-Share Programs	65
5.1.2	Low-Interest Loans	65
5.1.3	Regulatory Assistance Programs	66
5.1.4	Conservation Easements	66
5.1.5	Land Acquisition	66
5.2	CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS	69
5.2.1	Drainage	69
5.2.2	Permanent Protection	71
5.3	OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE	73
5.4	REGULATION AND ENFORCEMENT	73
5.4.1	County Regulation	74
5.4.2	Regulatory & Enforcement Programs	76
5.4.3	Comprehensive Land Use Plans	77
5.5	INFORMATION, OUTREACH, AND EDUCATION PROGRAMS	77
5.6	DATA COLLECTION AND MONITORING	78
5.6.1	County and Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Monitoring Data	79
5.6.2	Federal, State, and Private Organizations	81
5.6.3	Monitoring Sites	87
5.6.4	Assessment of Plan Progress	89
5.6.5	Data Collection, Analysis and Sharing Locally Collected Data	90
5.7	PROGRAMMATIC GAPS	91
6	PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION	92
6.1	ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE OR FORMAL AGREEMENTS	92
6.2	DECISION-MAKING AND STAFFING	92
6.2.1	Joint Powers Board	93
6.2.2	Technical Advisory Committee	93
6.2.3	Share Services / Fiscal / Administrative Agent	93
6.3	COLLABORATION WITH OTHER UNITS OF GOVERNMENT	94
6.3.1	Collaboration with Non-Governmental Organizations	94
6.4	FUNDING	95
6.4.1	Local Funding	95
6.4.2	State Funding	95
6.4.3	Federal Funding	95
6.4.4	Collaborative Grants	96
6.4.5	Other Funding Sources	96
6.5	WORK PLANNING	97

6.5.1	Project Selection within Targeted Implementation Areas	97
6.5.2	Funding Request	98
6.6	ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING	99
6.6.1	Annual Evaluation	99
6.6.2	Partnership Assessment	99
6.6.3	Five Year Evaluation	100
6.6.4	Reporting	100
6.7	PLAN AMENDMENT PROCESS	100
6.7.1	Plan Amendment Process	100

LIST OF FIGURES

Figure 1-1.	Pomme de Terre River Planning Area and Priority Areas.....	2
Figure 2-1.	Schematic of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Process	11
Figure 2-2.	Best management practice targeting illustration to achieve measurable reductions in water quality ...	12
Figure 2-3.	Priority Area Identification Process in the Comprehensive Watershed Priority Scheme	14
Figure 2-4.	Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Priority Areas (Northern Region)	21
Figure 2-5.	Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Priority Areas (Southern Region)	22
Figure 5-1.	All streams in the Pomme de Terre Watershed with Monitoring Data.....	87
Figure 5-2.	All lakes in the Pomme de Terre Watershed with monitoring data.....	88

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1-1.	Anticipated roles for plan implementation to be incorporated into governance structure.....	10
Table 2-1.	Comprehensive Watershed Priority Model feature description and resources	16
Table 2-2.	Models, tools, and studies used to develop measurable goals for each issue	17
Table 3-1.	Pace-of-Progress Measures for Drinking Water Protection	25
Table 3-2.	Pace-of-Progress Measures for Groundwater Conservation.....	27
Table 3-3.	Altered Hydrology implementation by Priority Issue.....	29
Table 3-4.	Pace-of-Progress Measures for Altered Hydrology.....	30
Table 3-5.	Observed Water Quality Conditions for Poor Quality Lakes (2017 MPCA Assessment)	31
Table 3-6.	Poor Quality Lakes Long-term Goals: What we ultimately need to achieve.....	32
Table 3-7.	Poor Quality Lakes 10-year Goals: What we can get done in the next 10 years.....	32
Table 3-8.	Observed Water Quality Conditions for High Quality Lakes (2017 MPCA Assessment).....	35
Table 3-9.	High Quality Lakes Long-term Goals: What we ultimately need to achieve.....	35
Table 3-10.	High Quality Lakes 10-year Goals: What we can get done in the next 10 years	36
Table 3-11.	Drywood Creek and the Pomme de Terre River Corridor Long-term Goals: What we ultimately need to achieve	41
Table 3-12.	Drywood Creek and the Pomme de Terre River Corridor 10-year Goals: What we can get done in the next 10 years.....	42
Table 4-1.	Unit cost assumptions	52
Table 4-2.	Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Budget Summary Table (2021- 2030)	53
Table 4-3.	Groundwater Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	53
Table 4-4.	Altered Hydrology Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	54
Table 4-5.	Lakes, Wetlands, and Shallow Basins Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030) ..	56
Table 4-6.	River and Streams Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)	57

Table 4-7. Ecosystem Health Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)..... 59

Table 4-8. Socioeconomic Factors Issues & Goals Targeted Implementation Schedule (2021-2030)..... 59

Table 4-9. Estimated Water Management Activity Funds Allocated in the Pomme de Terre watershed in 2017 64

Table 5-1. Existing Incentive Programs..... 67

Table 5-2. Summary of Public Drainage System..... 70

Table 5-3. Summary of Permanent Protections..... 72

Table 5-4. Existing Operations & Maintenance Programs 73

Table 5-5. Existing Regulatory and Enforcement Programs 76

Table 5-6. Existing Public Participation and Engagement Programs 77

Table 5-7. Existing Data Collection & Monitoring Programs..... 78

Table 5-8. Lakes historically (prior to 2007) monitored by Stevens County 79

Table 5-9. Stream sites historically monitored by Stevens County 79

Table 5-10. Stream sites historically monitored by Stevens County 79

Table 5-11. Lakes historically monitored by the Grant County SWCD 79

Table 5-12. Stream sites historically monitored by the Grant County SWCD 79

Table 5-13. Stream sites historically monitored by the Grant County SWCD 79

Table 5-14. Stream sites historically monitored by Swift County 80

Table 5-15. Stream sites historically monitored by Swift County 80

Table 5-16. Lakes monitored for Pomme de Terre SWAG..... 81

Table 5-17. Stream sites monitored for the Pomme de Terre SWAG 81

Table 5-18. Lakes monitored for the Lake Monitoring Program 82

Table 5-19. Lakes monitored for the MPCA Citizen Lake Monitoring Program 83

Table 5-20. Stream sites monitored for the MPCA Citizen Stream Monitoring Program 83

Table 5-21. Stream sites monitored for the MPCA Major Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network..... 83

Table 5-22. Lakes monitored for the MN DNR Shallow Lakes Program 84

Table 5-23. Lakes monitored for the MN DNR Shallow Lakes Program 84

Table 5-24. Stream site monitored for the MDA Surface Water Pesticide Water Quality Monitoring Program 85

Table 5-25. Lakes monitored for the U.S. EPA National Lakes Assessment..... 86

Table 5-26. Existing monitoring data available to evaluate progress toward the Plan goals..... 90

Table 6-1. Targeting Tools by Project Type..... 97

Table 6-2. Measuring Tools by Project Type 98

Table 6-3. MPCA WRAPS Cycle II Schedule for the Pomme de Terre River Watershed 99

LIST OF APPENDICES

- Appendix A** – Land and Water Resource Inventory
- Appendix B** – Documents Reviewed and Public Engagement
- Appendix C** – Zonation Tool Supporting Information
- Appendix D** – Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Agreement
- Appendix E** – Executive Summary of Houston Engineering Inc. 2018 Report

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan was developed with the participation of numerous people. Partnering Counties, Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD), and the Pomme de Terre River Association wish to acknowledge the following groups and individuals for their involvement in the planning process. Without their hard work and dedication, this Plan would not have been possible.

County Board of Commissioners

Big Stone County Board of Commissioners
Grant County Board of Commissioners
Otter Tail County Board of Commissioners
Stevens County Board of Commissioners
Swift County Board of Commissioners
Douglas County Board of Commissioners

Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors

Big Stone SWCD Board of Supervisors
Grant SWCD Board of Supervisors
West Otter Tail SWCD Board of Supervisors
Stevens SWCD Board of Supervisors
Swift SWCD Board of Supervisors
Douglas SWCD Board of Supervisors

Pomme de Terre River Association Policy Committee

<i>Paul Barsness</i>	<i>Clint Schuerman</i>
<i>Keith Englund</i>	<i>Keith Swanson</i>
<i>Jeanne Ennen</i>	<i>Rod Wenstrom</i>
<i>Joe Fox</i>	<i>Dale Schlieman</i>
<i>Paul Groneberg</i>	<i>Dan Morrill</i>
<i>John Lindquist</i>	<i>Jay Backer</i>
<i>Dave Lonergan</i>	<i>Tim Kalina</i>

Pomme de Terre River Association Staff

<i>Stephanie Adams</i>	<i>Micayla Lakey</i>
------------------------	----------------------

Citizen Advisory Committee

<i>Dennis Mosher</i>	<i>Dan Gahlon</i>
<i>Tom Amundson</i>	<i>Ed Brands</i>
<i>Rob Westby</i>	<i>Blaine Hill</i>
<i>Loreli Westby</i>	<i>Doug Wulf</i>
<i>Pat Prunty</i>	<i>Jason Kirwin</i>
<i>Mark Starner</i>	<i>Dale Ennen</i>
<i>Ruth Hubbard</i>	<i>Byron Giese</i>
<i>Richard Mickelson</i>	<i>Brian Wojtalewicz</i>
<i>Gary Nelson</i>	<i>Tim Koosman</i>
<i>John Etnier</i>	<i>Randy Hanson</i>
<i>Helen Etnier</i>	

Planning Committee

Adam Maleski, Big Stone SWCD
Beau Peterson, Big Stone SWCD
Joe Otto, Big Stone SWCD
Darren Wilke, Big Stone County
Environmental Services
Danny Tuckett, Big Stone County
Environmental Services
Danica Mazurek, Douglas SWCD
Danielle Anderson, Douglas SWCD
Andy Rice, Douglas SWCD
Joe Montonye, Grant SWCD
Jared House, Grant SWCD
Greg Lillemon, Grant County Land
Management
Brad Mergens, West Otter Tail SWCD
Ben Underhill, West Otter Tail SWCD
Bill Kalar, Otter Tail County Land &
Resource Management
Kyle Westergard, Otter Tail County Land
& Resource Management
Matt Solemsaas, Stevens SWCD
Bill Kleindl, Stevens County
Environmental Services
Andy Albertsen, Swift SWCD
Pete Waller, BWSR
Brad Wozney, BWSR
Emily Siira, MN DNR
Ryan Bjerke, MN DNR
Annette Drewes, MN DNR
Paul Wymar, MPCA
Amanda Strommer, MDH

ACRONYMS

BMP	Best Management Practice
BWSR	Board of Water and Soil Resources
CWMP	Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan
DWSMA	Drinking Water Supply Management Area
<i>E. coli</i>	<i>Escherichia coli</i>
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FY	Fiscal year
GIS	Geographic Information Systems
HSPF	Hydrological Simulation Program - Fortran
HUC	Hydrological Unit Code
JPA	Joint Powers Agreement
LGU	Local Unit of Government
LWRI	Land and Water Resource Inventory
MDA	Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH	Minnesota Department of Health
MGS	Minnesota Geologic Survey
MNDNR	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
MNDOT	Minnesota Department of Transportation
MPCA	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NRBG	Natural Resources Block Grant
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NWI	National Wetland Inventory
NWIS	National Water Information System
PTMApp	Prioritize, Target and Measure Application
SWCD	Soil and Water Conservation District
TMDLs	Total Maximum Daily Loads
TP	Total Phosphorus
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
U of M	University of Minnesota
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
USGS	United States Geologic Survey
WCA	Wetland Conservation Act
WRAPS	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy
1W1P	One Watershed, One Plan

GLOSSARY

Aquifer – A body of permeable rock that can contain or transmit groundwater.

Baseflow – Sustained flow of a stream in the absence of direct runoff. It includes natural and human-induced streamflow. Natural base flow is sustained largely by groundwater discharges.

Benefitted Properties – The impact a drainage system has on land in terms of improving the market value of the land or the impact (and costs associated with that impact) that the land has on the drainage system because of land use that accelerates drainage, transports sediment or increases volume demand in a drainage system.

Best Management Practice (BMP) – One of many different structural and nonstructural practices and methods that can be used in both agricultural and urban settings that decrease runoff, erosion, and pollutants and improve water quality, soil health, and land use activities.

Calcareous Fen – A rare and distinctive wetland characterized by a substrate of non-acidic peat and dependent on a constant supply of cold, oxygen-poor groundwater rich in calcium and magnesium bicarbonates.

Chlorophyll-a – A green pigment, present in all green plants and in cyanobacteria, responsible for the absorption of light to provide energy for photosynthesis. Typically used to measure the amount of algae present in water.

Climate Change – A long-term change in climate measures such as temperature and rainfall. Changes in climate have a large impact on water quality as well as lake and wetland water levels and stream and river flows.

Community Public Water Supply Wells – A well that serves more than 25 people or has more than 15 piped connections providing water to the public in their primary living space (where people live and sleep; homes, apartments, nursing homes, prisons, etc.)

Contaminants – Substances that, when accidentally or deliberately introduced into the environment, may have the potential to harm living organisms, including people, wildlife and plants.

Dissolved Oxygen – The level of free, non-compound oxygen present in water or other liquids. It is an important parameter in assessing water quality because of its influence on the organisms living within a body of water.

Drainage Authority – A board or joint county drainage authority having jurisdiction over a drainage system or project. (Minn. Stat. § 103E.005, Subd. 9). Pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.625, the managers of a watershed district established pursuant to Minn. Stat. 103D shall take over a joint county or county drainage system within the watershed district and the right to maintain and repair the drainage system if directed by a joint county drainage authority or a county board.

Drainage System – A system of ditch or tile, or both, to drain property, including laterals, improvements, and improvements of outlets, established and constructed by a drainage authority. "Drainage system" includes the improvement of a natural waterway used in the construction of a drainage system and any part of a flood control plan proposed by the United States or its agencies in the drainage system. (Minn. Stat. § 103E.005, Subd. 12.).

Drinking Water Supply Management Area – The surface and subsurface area surrounding a public water supply well, including the wellhead protection area, that must be managed by the entity identified in a wellhead protection plan. This area is delineated using identifiable landmarks that reflect the scientifically calculated wellhead protection area boundaries as closely as possible.

Drinking Water Supply Management Area Vulnerability – An assessment of the likelihood that the aquifer within the DWSMA is subject to impact from overlying land and water uses. It is based upon criteria that are specified under Minnesota Rules, part 4720.5210, subpart 3.

***Escherichia coli* (abbreviated as *E. coli*)** – A fecal coliform bacteria that comes from human and animal waste. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) uses *E. coli* measurements to determine whether fresh water is safe for recreation.

eLINK – Web-based grant tracking system hosted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Flooding – A general and temporary condition where two or more acres of normally dry land or two or more properties are inundated by water or mudflow (Federal Emergency Management Agency, 2016).

Groundwater – Water located below ground in the spaces present in soil and bedrock.

Groundwater Dependent Natural Resources – Natural resources, especially fens, wetlands, lakes, and streams, whose characteristics would change significantly if they were deprived of groundwater.

Groundwater Recharge – The process of water infiltrating through the ground surface to become groundwater.

Hydrology – The movement of water. Often used in reference to water movement as runoff over the soil after a rainfall event as it contributes to surface water bodies.

Hydrologic & Hydraulic Model – A continuous simulation computer model that predicts natural (hydrologic) and artificial (hydraulic) flow paths, volumes, and rates in a defined area of land.

Impervious Surfaces – Surfaces that severely restrict the movement of water through the surface of the earth and into the soil below. Impervious surface typically refers to man-made surfaces such as non-porous asphalt or concrete roadways, buildings, and heavily compacted soils.

Infiltration – Penetration of water through the ground surface.

Invasive Species – Organisms not endemic to a geographic location. They often displace native species and have the potential to cause environmental change.

Lakeshed – The area of land for which surface runoff drains to the same downstream lake.

Macroinvertebrate – Organisms without backbones, which are visible to the naked eye without the aid of a microscope. Aquatic macroinvertebrates live on, under, and around rocks and sediment on the bottom of lakes, rivers and streams.

Natural Environment Lake – The strictest of three lake classifications found in Minnesota’s Shoreland Management Program. Natural Environment Lakes usually have less than 150 total acres, less than 60 acres per mile of shoreline, and less than three dwellings per mile of shoreline. They may have some winter kill of fish; may have shallow, swampy shoreline; and are less than 15 feet deep. Classification used to determine lot size, setbacks and, to a certain degree, land uses on the adjacent land.

Nitrate – A negatively charged compound (NO₃⁻) that is water soluble, available for plant uptake, and a product of both organic matter and synthetic fertilizer.

Nonstructural Practices – Annual management practices that directly reduce the amount of pollutants and runoff generated from agricultural fields including cover crops, conservation tillage, and soil health practices.

Nutrients – A group of chemicals that are needed for the growth of an organism. Within surface water systems, nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen can lead to the excessive growth of algae.

Nutrient Reduction Strategy – A statewide assessment of nutrient sources and the magnitude of nutrient reductions needed to meet in-state and downstream water quality goals.

Other Waters – Perennial, seasonal streams or drainage ditches excluding watercourses depicted on the DNR Protection map.

Peak flows – Term typically used to define the characteristic high flow period of a stream or river.

Perennial Crops – Crops which are alive year-round and are harvested multiple times before dying (e.g. alfalfa). Conversion of annual fields into perennial fields (perennial cropland) offers many benefits including reduced soil erosion, reduced pollutant loads and reduced irrigation demand.

Pollutant – A substance that makes land, water, air, etc., dirty and not safe or suitable to use.

Pollution Sensitivity – The level of risk of groundwater degradation through the migration of waterborne contaminants.

Prioritization – Determining the relative importance and precedence of the resources and issues identified in the plan. This includes determining what items should be tackled in the first 10-years of the Plan.

Priority Areas – Areas that have been identified by planning partners to focus implementation efforts for restoration or protection. These areas are where planning partners will measure progress towards goals.

Protection – Strategies that protect high quality and threatened resources that are essential to preventing further degradation and future impairment of Minnesota’s waters.

Protection Area – Higher quality areas where preventive measures will be implemented to maintain quality

Public Drainage Systems – A system of ditch or tile, or both, to drain property, including laterals, improvements, and improvements of outlets, established and constructed by a drainage authority. "Drainage system" includes the improvement of a natural waterway used in the construction of a drainage system and any part of a flood control plan proposed by the United States or its agencies in the drainage system. (Minn. Stat. § 103E.005, Subd. 12.).

Public Water Suppliers – Entities that provide water for human consumption through pipes or other constructed conveyances to at least 15 service connections or serves an average of at least 25 people for at least 60 days a year.

Radionuclides – Radioactive atoms.

Restoration – Strategies that seek to restore or improve the quality of a resource which is currently impaired, threatened, and/or degraded.

Restoration Area – Low quality areas where improvement activities will be implemented to improve quality.

Riparian – A vegetated ecosystem alongside a waterbody; characteristically have a high water table and are subject to periodic flooding.

Runoff – Water from rain, snow melt, or irrigation that flows over the land surface.

Secchi Depth – Used as a lake monitoring tool. The depth at which an opaque disk, called a Secchi Disk is used to gauge the transparency, and ceases to be visible from the water's surface.

Source Reduction Practices – Best management practices that provide treatment by reducing the amount of water quality constituents, for example, land conversion to perennial vegetation, no-till, cover crops, and nutrient management.

Stakeholder – an individual or group with an interest or concern in watershed management

Stormwater Best Management Practices (BMPs)/Infrastructure – Methods used to control the speed and total amount of stormwater that flows off a site after a rainstorm and used to improve the quality of the runoff water.

Stream Channel – A natural waterway, formed by fluvial processes, that conveys running water.

Structural Practices – Long duration constructed practices to treat pollutants and runoff. Common structural practices include water and sediment control basins, alternative tile intakes, rain gardens, cattle exclusions, waste pit closures, grade stabilization, terraces, grassed waterways, wetland restorations, buffer strips, and perennial vegetation.

Subwatershed – A smaller geographic section of a larger watershed unit with a typical drainage area between 2 and 15 square miles and whose boundaries include all the land area draining to a specified point.

Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) – The total amount of a pollutant or nutrient that a water body can receive and still meet state water quality standards. TMDL also refers to the process of allocating pollutant loadings among point and nonpoint sources.

Total Phosphorus – A measure of the amount of all phosphorus found in a water column, including particulate, dissolved, organic and inorganic forms.

Total Suspended Solids (TSS) – A measure of the amount of particulate material in suspension in a water column.

Turbidity – The cloudiness of the water that is caused by large numbers of individual particles that are generally invisible to the naked eye.

Watershed – An area of land that flows to the same water resource of concern

Watershed Issue - A factor or stressor that results in an adverse impact to a watershed resource of concern.

Water Quality – Water quality is a term used to describe the chemical, physical, and biological characteristics of water, usually in respect to its suitability for a particular use. In the case of surface waters, uses are typically swimming and fishing. In the case of groundwater, uses are typically drinking and irrigation.

Wellhead Protection Plan – A plan developed to prevent contaminants from entering an aquifer where a public water supplier draws drinking water.

Zonation – A model that uses geographic information and user input weighting to identify locations on the landscape that have varying degrees of environmental sensitivity or management priority.

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

“The mission of the Pomme de Terre River Association is to protect and improve the surface and ground water resources of the Pomme de Terre River Watershed by addressing water quality and quantity issues while also promoting healthy and sustainable agriculture, industrial, and recreational based economy for the region.”

The Pomme de Terre River Association (PDTRA) is a functioning watershed-based entity that provides the ability for both Joint Powers Board members and landowners to address issues on a watershed scale. Founded in 1981, the PDTRA created a partnership between:

- Big Stone County
- Douglas County
- Grant County
- Otter Tail County
- Stevens County
- Swift County
- Big Stone Soil & Water Conservation District
- Douglas Soil & Water Conservation District
- Grant Soil & Water Conservation District
- West Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District
- Stevens Soil & Water Conservation District
- Swift Soil & Water Conservation District

The Pomme de Terre River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan has been developed to meet the requirements of the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program which is described under Minnesota Statute §103B.801. This program supports partnerships of local governments in developing prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans at the major watershed scale. Moving forward with the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and implementation, the PDTRA will be the primary entity for plan execution and fiscal responsibilities.

The Pomme de Terre River watershed is located in west central Minnesota. The two largest cities in the watershed are Morris and Appleton. The watershed covers approximately 874 square miles (559,968 acres) of which 74% of the land is used for cropland and pasture. The watershed drains through the Pomme de Terre River, before discharging into the Minnesota River below Marsh Lake. At its headwaters in Ottertail County, the watershed is dominated by lakes and hardwood forests. As the Pomme de Terre River flows south, the landscape transitions to mostly cropland. Within the Minnesota River basin, the Pomme de Terre watershed has some of the best water quality. However, there is still need for improvement as many stream segments and lakes are impaired for aquatic life, recreation and consumption. The Land and Water Resources Inventory (Appendix A) describes important watershed characteristics that set the context for the other plan elements. The Pomme de Terre River Watershed is illustrated in Figure 1-1.

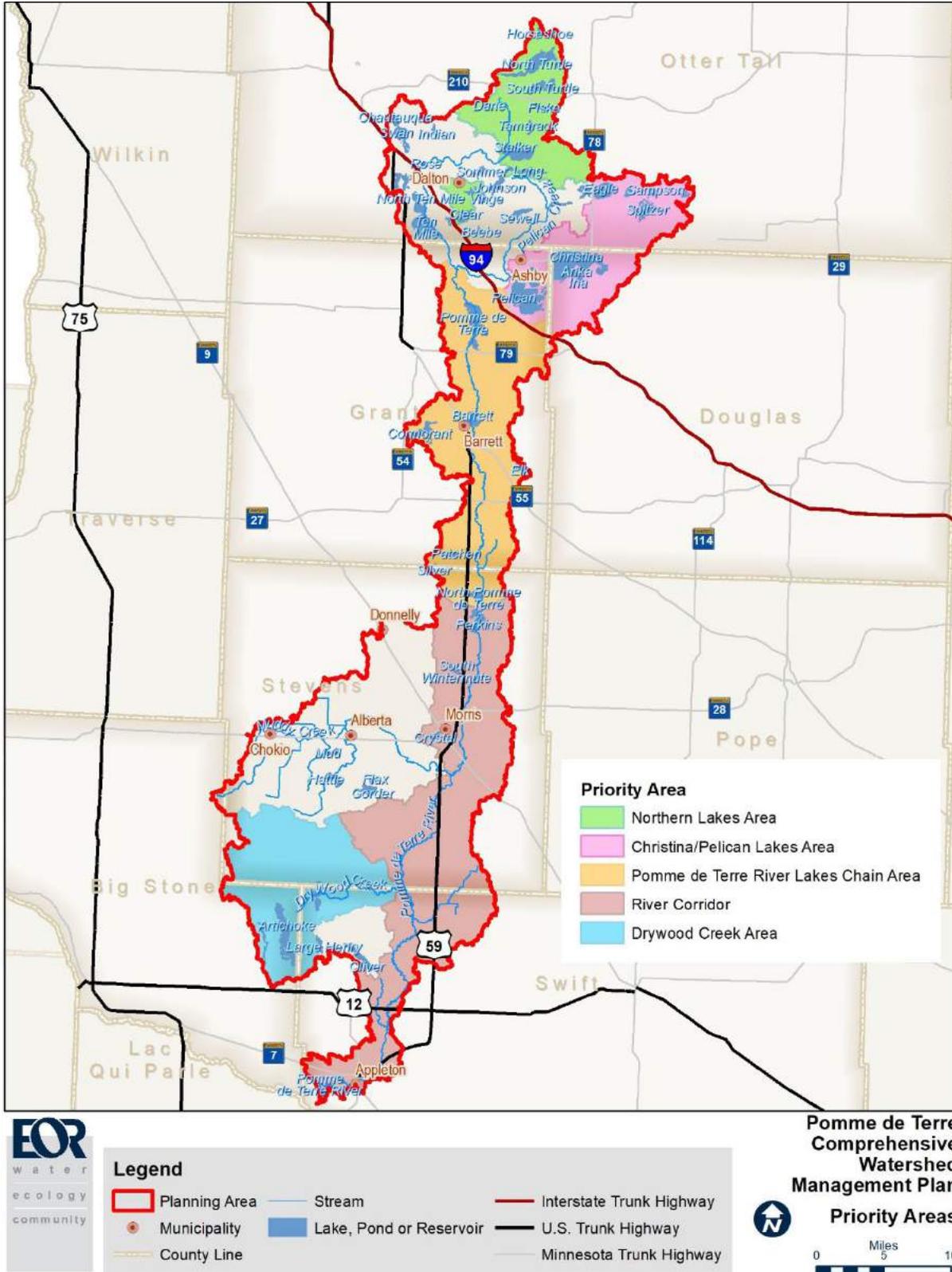


Figure 1-1. Pomme de Terre River Planning Area and Priority Areas

The Plan identifies five priority areas where the majority of the work will be completed in the next 10 years (see Section 2.4 *Prioritizing Issues and Resources*). These priority areas were identified using local values; high-level priorities identified in the state’s Nonpoint Priority Funding plan; various modeling tools (e.g. Zonation conservation model and watershed pollutant loading model results) and current impairment results. The five priority areas include (from north to south):

- *Northern Lakes Area*
- *Christina/Pelican Lakes Area*
- *Pomme de Terre River Lakes Chain Area*
- *Pomme de Terre River Corridor*
- *Drywood Creek Area*

In addition, the Plan identifies 11 priority issues that address:

- *Drinking Water Protection*
- *Groundwater Conservation*
- *Altered Hydrology*
- *Poor Quality Lakes*
- *High Quality Lakes*
- *Protect and Restore Perennial Cover and Shallow Basins*
- *Excess Pollutants*
- *Loss of In-Stream Habitat*
- *Aquatic Invasive Species*
- *Watershed Outreach*
- *Lakeshore Owner Education*

Some priority issues are unique to a priority area and others are an issue for the entire watershed.

The Plan identified 20 measurable goals, which were developed to address the priority issues in the 10-year timeframe of the plan. Specific and targeted implementation activities were identified that are needed to achieve plan goals. Summaries of priority issues, goals and implementation activities by priority area are provided on the following pages.



Pomme de Terre Reservoir - Morris

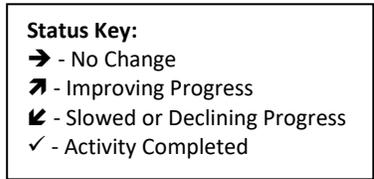
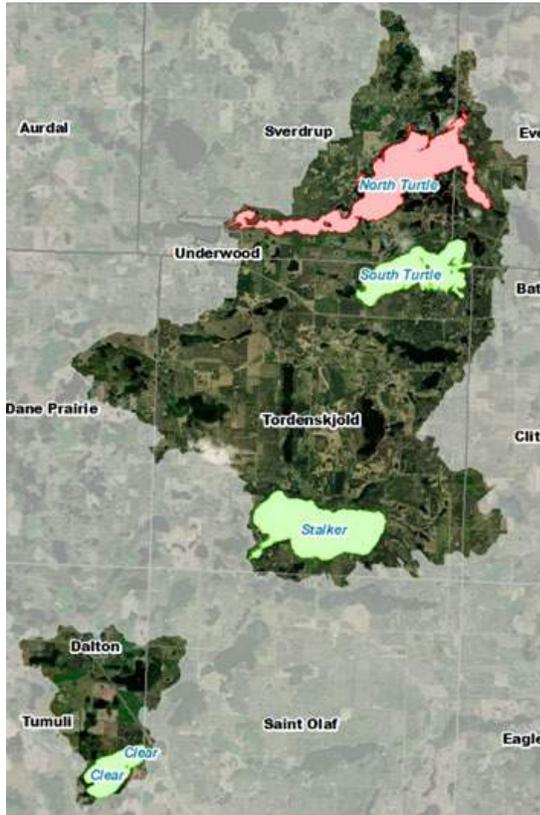
Watershed Wide (All Counties)

Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Drinking Water Protection Section 3.1.1	Provide educational resources to private well owners about water testing programs and available treatment options for nitrate and arsenic	Host annual well water nitrate/arsenic testing clinic and coordinate to make testing kits available to the public	
Drinking Water Protection Section 3.1.1	Reduce the number of conduits to the groundwater system (e.g. abandoned wells) to protect groundwater quality by sealing abandoned wells	Provide cost-share assistance to well owners for sealing of unused wells.	
Groundwater Conservation Section 3.1.2	Assist agricultural producers with groundwater conservation by promoting water conservation measures to improve water use; request County Geologic Atlas to fill data gaps; continue well monitoring.	Promote and encourage the adoption of irrigation management BMPs	
		Request County Geologic Atlas	
		Identify recharge areas from Atlas	
Altered Hydrology Section 3.2.1	Reduce annual runoff by 0.08 inch of runoff (or 3,527 acre-feet) at the outlet of the Pomme de Terre River watershed	Continue ongoing observation well monitoring	
		Increase perennial vegetation	
		Restore wetlands	
		Create and develop spatial database for tracking projects	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
Altered Hydrology Section 3.2.1	No increase in runoff from public water basins during peak run-off periods	Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Identify non-contributing areas	
Aquatic Invasive Species Section 3.5.1	Work towards preventing spread of AIS by improving coordination of County programs across the planning area	Pursue management plans for existing and future controlled outlets on public water basins	
		Annual workshops to coordinate County AIS plans and implementation	
		Attend DNR District-led meetings	
		Continue implementing education programs	
Watershed Outreach Section 3.6.1	Facilitate strategic networking, learning, and participation of targeted groups to assess, build, and leverage community capacity	Work with local law enforcement agencies on inspections	
		Establish and facilitate Networking/Advisory Groups for targeted groups	
		Establish soil health teams for Northern and Southern Regions with 2 meetings per year	
Watershed Outreach Section 3.6.1	Increase adoption of BMPs by increasing engagement and communication with residents, local landowners and agricultural producers	Regional tours on prioritized portions of the watershed to facilitate partnerships, highlight improvements, and discuss areas	
		BMP-focused demonstrations/workshops	
Watershed Outreach Section 3.6.1	Provide information about how land-use decisions impact the watershed and its resources to locally elected and appointed decision-makers	Soil health field days	
		Continue work initiated by the WRAPS Cycle II; identify target audience for BMP adoption through follow-up interview	
		Conduct a 5-year watershed tour to re-evaluate progress, reconnect with partners, and create new partnerships	
Watershed Outreach Section 3.6.1	Encourage soil and water stewardship and awareness across all generations	Host conversation/meeting on the state of local water quality and watershed management to all types of local and state/federal officials	
		Create and host consistent orientation to all types of newly elected local officials	
		Work with UMN Extension to host watershed education event	
		Conduct annual Kayak Tour on the Pomme de Terre River and provide education about streamside ecology	
		Continue K-12 curriculum about watershed management	
Watershed Outreach Section 3.6.1	Encourage soil and water stewardship and awareness across all generations	Create a StoryMap to highlight 1W1P plan priority areas and existing conservation practices/programs	
		Create a list serve to share information about the watershed on a routine basis	

Status Key:

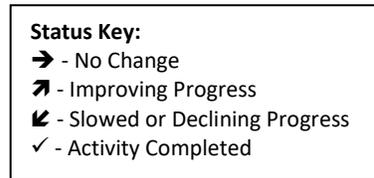
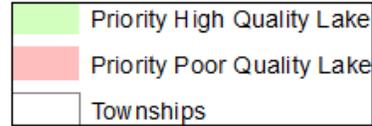
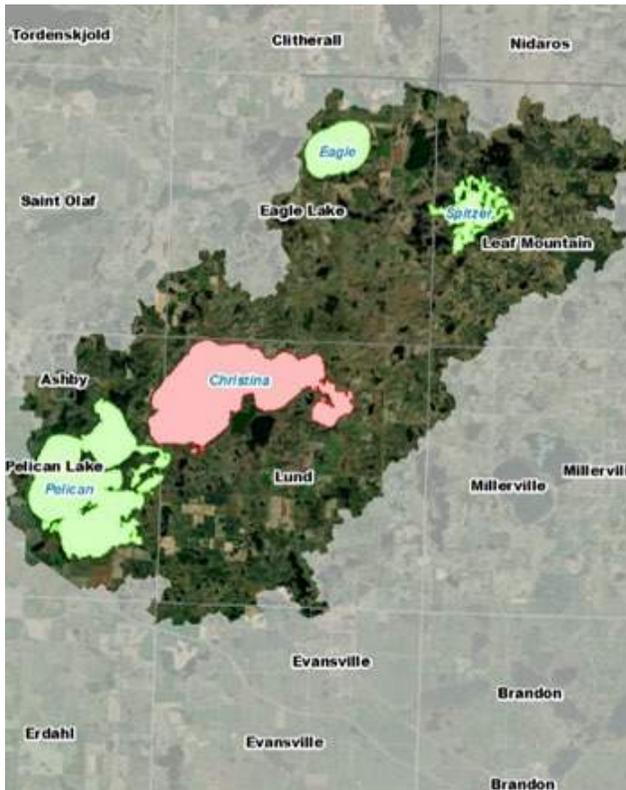
- - No Change
- ↗ - Improving Progress
- ↘ - Slowed or Declining Progress
- ✓ - Activity Completed

Northern Lakes Area (Otter Tail County)



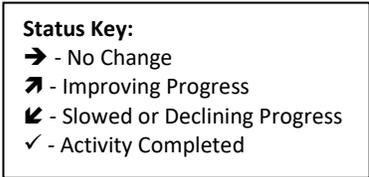
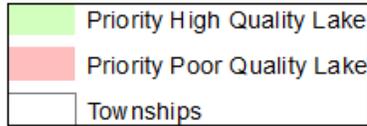
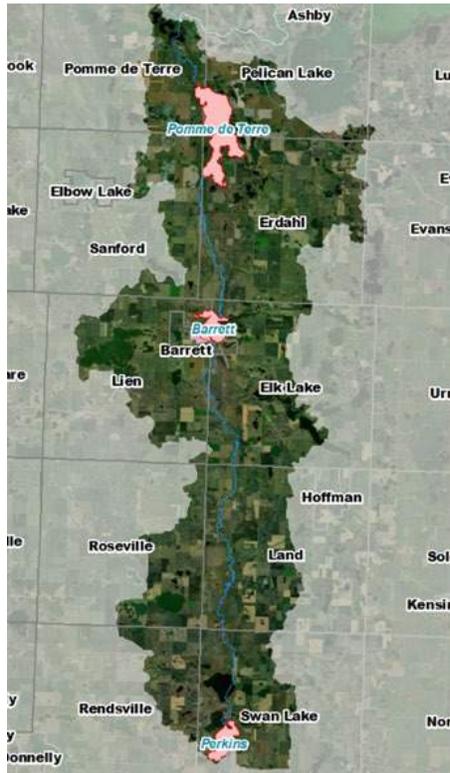
Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Poor Quality Lakes Section 3.3.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 57 lb/yr to North Turtle Lake (based on project feasibility)	Series of meetings to identify in-lake management and engage affected landowners	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
High Quality Lakes Section 3.3.2	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 25 lb/yr to South Turtle Lake, 135 lb/yr to Stalker Lake, and 126 lb/yr to Clear Lake (based on project feasibility)	Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
Lakeshore Owner Education Section 3.6.2	Increase shoreland owner understanding of why there are shoreland regulations and how to be better stewards of the watershed's lakes shoreline	Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Provide annual lakeshore management education and outreach to lakeshore owners	
		Distribute education materials to existing lakeshore owners in tax mailing	
		Distribute educational materials to new lakeshore owners at property transfer	

Christina-Pelican Lakes Area (Otter Tail, Grant, & Douglas County)



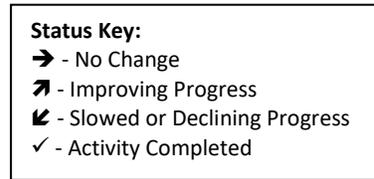
Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Poor Quality Lakes Section 3.3.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 59 lb/yr to Lake Christina (based on project feasibility)	Series of meetings to identify in-lake management and engage affected landowners	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
High Quality Lakes Section 3.3.2	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 14 lb/yr to Eagle Lake, 95 lb/yr to Spitzer Lake, and 29 lb/yr to Pelican Lake (based on project feasibility)	Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
Lakeshore Owner Education Section 3.6.2	Increase shoreland owner understanding of why there are shoreland regulations and how to be better stewards of the watershed's lakes shoreline	Provide annual lakeshore management education and outreach to lakeshore owners	
		Distribute education materials to existing lakeshore owners in tax mailing	
		Distribute educational materials to new lakeshore owners at property transfer	
Protect and Restore Perennial Cover and Shallow Basins Section 3.3.3	Protect existing water quality of shallow basins by maintaining wetland and grassland currently enrolled in conservation programs and increasing the amount of perennial vegetation and wetland storage in the watershed	Implement perennial vegetation and protect wetlands	

Pomme de Terre River Lakes Chain (Grant & Stevens County)



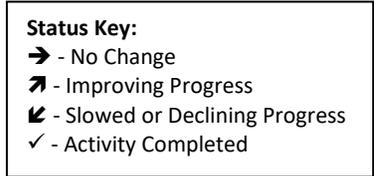
Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Drinking Water Protection Section 3.1.1	Protect public drinking water supplies with moderate and high vulnerability (Barrett)	Convert cropland to perennial vegetation	
		Review wellhead protection plans and serve on wellhead protection planning teams	
		Contact landowners about completing BMP projects	
Poor Quality Lakes Section 3.3.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 275 lb/yr to Perkins Lake, 98 lb/yr to Barrett Lake, and 142 lb/yr to Pomme de Terre Lake (based on project feasibility)	Series of meetings to identify in-lake management and engage affected landowners	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
High Quality Lakes Section 3.3.2	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 4 lb/yr to Elk Lake (based on project feasibility)	Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
Lakeshore Owner Education Section 3.6.2	Increase shoreland owner understanding of why there are shoreland regulations and how to be better stewards of the watershed's lakes shoreline	Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Provide annual lakeshore management education and outreach to lakeshore owners	
		Distribute education materials to existing lakeshore owners in tax mailing	
		Distribute educational materials to new lakeshore owners at property transfer	

Pomme de Terre River Corridor (Stevens & Swift County)



Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Drinking Water Protection Section 3.1.1	Protect public drinking water supplies with moderate and high vulnerability (Morris and Appleton)	Convert cropland to perennial vegetation	
		Review wellhead protection plans and serve on wellhead protection planning teams	
		Contact landowners about completing BMP projects	
Excess Pollutants Section 3.4.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction of 382 lb/yr and a sediment reduction of 2,501 tons/yr in direct runoff to the Pomme de Terre River	One-on-one conversations with landowners to enroll in cost-share programs for top-ranked structural and non-structural practices	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Restore drained shallow basins	
		Implement nutrient management plans	
Excess Pollutants Section 3.4.1	Reduce stormwater runoff impacts	Implement BMPs associated with urban stormwater runoff (e.g., rain gardens)	
		Work with cities to develop stormwater management plans in urban areas	
Loss of In-Stream Habitat Section 3.4.2	Improve in-stream habitat by reducing sedimentation due to stream bank erosion	Implement BMPs to reduce erosion due to livestock	
		Implement pasture management and rotational grazing plans	
		Complete streambank stabilization projects	
		Implement side water inlets where appropriate	
Loss of In-Stream Habitat Section 3.4.2	Improve riparian habitat by establishing and maintaining perennial buffers and floodplain connections	Implement buffer on "other waters" coming into the main stem of the Pomme de Terre River	

Drywood Creek Area (Stevens, Swift, & Big Stone County)



Priority	Goal	Implementation Activities	Status
Poor Quality Lakes Section 3.3.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction in direct drainage runoff of 99 lb/yr to Artichoke Lake (based on project feasibility)	Series of meetings to identify in-lake management and engage affected landowners	
		Inspect subsurface sewage treatment systems	
		Update noncompliant septic systems	
		Conduct shoreline condition inventories	
		Implement shoreline restoration projects for erosion control	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
Excess Pollutants Section 3.4.1	Achieve a phosphorus reduction of 209 lb/yr and a sediment reduction of 1,029 tons/yr in direct runoff to Drywood Creek	One-on-one conversations with landowners to enroll in cost-share programs for top-ranked structural and non-structural practices	
		Implement structural agricultural BMPs	
		Implement nonstructural BMPs	
		Restore drained shallow basins	
		Implement nutrient management plans	
Loss of In-Stream Habitat Section 3.4.2	Improve in-stream habitat by reducing sedimentation due to stream bank erosion	Implement ag. pit closures	
		Implement BMPs to reduce erosion due to livestock	
		Implement pasture management and rotational grazing plans	
		Complete streambank stabilization projects	
Loss of In-Stream Habitat Section 3.4.2	Improve riparian habitat by establishing and maintaining perennial buffers and floodplain connections	Implement side water inlets where appropriate	
		Implement buffer on "other waters" coming into the main stem of the Pomme de Terre River	

All of the plan elements will be implemented by the Counties and SWCDs under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) that describes the structure of the Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Board (PdTRA JPB). The PdTRA JPB is a watershed based entity within the Pomme de Terre River Watershed that provides the ability for both JPB members and land occupiers to address issues on a watershed scale rather than by individual geographical areas of each local unit of government. Table 1-1 identifies the roles of the Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Board and Staff as well as the Technical Advisory Committee in plan implementation.

Staff representatives from each of the JPB members will coordinate the implementation of plan activities and collaborate to obtain the grants and funding necessary to implement the plan. The Joint Powers Board and Staff will meet regularly to ensure progress is being made toward achieving the goals of the plan. The Technical Advisory Committee will be called to provide expertise, assist in work plan development and implementation and to assist with performance-tracking.

Table 1-1. Anticipated roles for plan implementation to be incorporated into governance structure.

Entity	Primary Implementation Role/Function
<p>Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Board</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopting the Plan - Implementation of the Plan - Amending the Plan - Allocating funding sources - Approving work plans - Approving contractual agreements - Approving fiscal reports and budgets - Approving reports required by grantors - Approve grant applications and accept grant funds - Approve assessment on plan progress and measurable results - Establish committees
<p>Pomme de Terre River Association Staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare work plan - Prepare fiscal reports and budgets - Prepare reports required by grantors - Prepare and submit grant applications - Complete assessment on plan progress and measure results - Provide general administrative and fiscal functions
<p>Technical Advisory Committee</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide expertise and scientific data - Develop recommendations for Plan Implementation - Assist with work plan development and implementation - Identify and coordinate grant opportunities - Assist with assessment on plan progress and measure results - Provide recommendations to the PdTRA JPB
<p>Individual County Boards and Soil and Water Conservation Districts</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Approving the Plan prior for submittal to the Board of Water and Soil Resources - Local Adoption of the Plan - Implementation of the Plan

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Northern

Contact: Ryan Hughes

Prepared by: Pete Waller

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Tom Schulz/Pete Waller

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 Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Northern Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Plan is on the East otter Tail SWCD’s website:

<http://www.eotswcd.org/one/LWR1W1P/>

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

The Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in central Minnesota encompassing portions of Becker, Otter Tail, Todd, and Wadena counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On July 14, 2020, BWSR received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

BWSR staff completed its review and subsequently found the Plan meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes and BWSR Policy.

On August 5, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Redeye River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Redeye River, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Redeye River submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on July 14, 2020, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, 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. Partnership Establishment.** The Redeye River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) was established in January of 2019, through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Becker Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), East Otter Tail SWCD, Otter Tail County, Wadena SWCD, and Wadena County.
- 2. Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program. And, on March 28, 2018, Board Resolution #18-14 adopted Version 2.0 of the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The Redeye River watershed is a mosaic of streams, wetlands, forests, pastures, farms and drumlins. This relatively flat land in the middle of Minnesota has a variety of landscape features and land uses. The Redeye River watershed planning area drains approximately 899 square miles and lies mainly within Otter Tail and Wadena counties, with a small portion in Becker, Todd and Douglas counties. There are three primary rivers that join at the pour point of the watershed: the Redeye River, Leaf River, and Wing River. Primary municipalities include Henning, Hewitt, Parkers Prairie, Sebeka, Verndale and Wadena. There are no documented sediment or nutrient impairments - within the Redeye River watershed, with only a few minor bacteria impairments.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.

5. **Plan Review.** On July 14, 2020, the Board received the Plan, a recording of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #18-14. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA appreciated the opportunity to work on the development of this Plan, believes it sufficiently addresses the resource concerns present in the watershed. MDA recommends approval of the Plan.
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH appreciated the opportunity to work on the development of this Plan, commended the planning team for their work and including drinking water as a priority concern. MDH has no further comments to offer the Plan and finds it meets MDH rule requirements and offers a high level of protection to drinking water supplies. MDH recommends approval of the Plan.
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR appreciated the opportunity to work closely with local governments, commends the focus on stewardship of both land and water. DNR recommends approval of the Plan. DNR will continue to bring resources and technical expertise assisting with the implementation of the Plan.
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA appreciated the opportunity to participate and provide input throughout the Plan development process. The Plan is well written, concise and thorough. MPCA has no further comments and recommends approval of the Plan.
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not reply to requests for confirmation of receipt and did not provide comments for the final review.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted for the 60-day review. We commend the partners for their trust level and commitment to the resources of the Plan area. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and look forward to working with the Partnership during implementation.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
 - Using a combination of existing reports, data, and stakeholder input identified sixteen resource issues impacting the watershed.
 - To frame the concerns those resource issues were grouped into four resource categories: Groundwater, Surface Water, Habitat, and Land Stewardship.
 - The Plan identified four planning regions used to prioritize where to work on a smaller scale.
 - Each planning region has unique goals and separate implementation tables.
 - The Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PMAApp) will be used to measure water quality benefits for the management of the grassland, pasture and cultivated land.

- The Landscape Stewardship Plan will be used for prioritizing forest management and land protection.
 - There are no phosphorus or turbidity impairments in the watershed. The prevention of future impairments is the primary focus of the Plan. This is addressed by increasing management practices on the landscape in a targeted means as per the Land Management goal. The land management prioritization gives credit for current Best Management Practices on the landscape and prioritizes areas for additional management practices.
 - The priority issues were separated into three tiers. Tier 1 will be the primary focus of the Plan. Tier 2 issues are important and will be addressed as time and funding allows. Tier 3 issues will not be a priority for the duration of the Plan.
7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On August 5, 2020, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Chair Rich Sve, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Todd Holman, Tom Schulz, Jeff Berg, Theresa Ebbenga and Nicole Blasing. Board staff in attendance were Northern Region Manager Ryan Hughes, Board Conservationist Pete Waller and Clean Water Specialist Jeff Hrubes. The representatives from the Partnership were Ben Underhill, West Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD; Lyle Dittman, East Otter Tail SWCD; Chuck Horsager, Wadena County; Darren Newville, East Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD; Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County; Anne Oldakowski, East Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD; Deanna Malone, Wadena County; Deja Anton, Todd SWCD; and Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering, Inc. presented the Plan. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 26, 2030.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Redeye River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a substitute for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Redeye River Watershed, submitted July 14, 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair



August 26, 2020

Redeye River Watershed Policy Committee
c/o Ben Underhill, East Otter Tail/Wadena SWCD
801 Jenny Ave SW, Suite #2
Perham, MN 56573

RE: Approval of the Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Dear Redeye River Watershed Policy Committee:

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you the Redeye River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved at its regular meeting held on August 26, 2020. Attached is the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan and indicates the Plan meets all relevant requirements of law, rule, and policy.

This Plan is effective for a ten-year period until August 26, 2030. Please be advised, the partners must adopt and begin implementing the plan within 120 days of the date of the Order in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801, and the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures.

The members of the partnership and participants in the plan development process are to be commended for writing a plan that clearly presents water management goals, actions, and priorities of the partnership, and for participating in the One Watershed, One Plan program. The BWSR looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Pete Waller of our staff at 218-770-3802 or pete.waller@state.mn.us for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enclosure: BWSR Board Order

CC: Margaret Wagner, MDA (via email)
Luke Stuewe, MDA (via email)
Carrie Raber, MDH (via email)
George Minerich, MDH (via email)
Annette Drewes, DNR (via email)
Nathan Kestner, DNR (via email)
Barbara Weisman, DNR (via email)
Anna Bosch, MPCA (via email)
Juline Holleran, MPCA (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Erik Dahl, EQB (via email)
Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Pete Waller, BWSR (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)
Julie Westerlund, BWSR (via email)
Donna Caughey, BWSR (via email)

Equal Opportunity Employer





Leaf·Wing·Redeye Watershed

One Watershed One Plan

Project Partners

East Otter Tail SWCD
Otter Tail County
Wadena SWCD
Wadena County
Becker SWCD

Planning Team

Darren Newville, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Ben Underhill, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Anne Oldakowski, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Pete Waller, BWSR
Jeff Hrubes, BWSR
Tad Erickson, Region 5
Moriya Rufer, Houston Engineering, Inc

Contributors

Mitch Brinks, Technical Service Area 8
Dain Erickson, Red Canoe Cre8tive
Tad Erickson, Region 5

Prepared by

Moriya Rufer
Houston Engineering, Inc
7550 Meridian Circle North, Suite 120
Maple Grove, MN 55369

Prepared for

East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District
801 Jenny Ave SW, Suite #2
Perham, MN 56573



Acknowledgements

Participating Local Governments

East Otter Tail SWCD
Otter Tail County
Wadena SWCD
Wadena County
Becker SWCD
Todd SWCD
Todd County

Advisory Committee

Darren Newville, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Ben Underhill, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Anne Oldakowski, East Otter Tail SWCD & Wadena SWCD
Chris LeClair, Otter Tail County
Deanna Malone, Wadena County
Deja Anton, Todd SWCD
Adam Ossefoort, Todd County
Peter Mead, Becker SWCD
Phil Doll, Becker SWCD
Ed Clem, Becker SWCD
Pete Waller, BWSR
George Minerich, MDH
Annette Drewes, DNR
Julie Aadland, DNR
Anna Bosch, MPCA
Luke Steuwe, MDA

State Agencies

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)
Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)
Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Policy Committee

Lyle Dittmann, East Otter Tail SWCD
Doug Huebch, Otter Tail County
Brett Dailey, Wadena SWCD
Tom Schulz, Wadena SWCD Alternate
Chuck Horsager, Wadena County
Tony Beck, Becker SWCD

Citizen Advisory Committee

Tim Nolte
Russell Johnson
Andy Dombeck
Darwin Huwe
Terry Marthaler
Craig Folkestad
Garth Albers
David Anderson
Jeff Stabnow
Mack Olson
Austin Johnson
Wayne Leaderbrand
Kent Solberg
Kevin Hoeper
Allan Lynk





Table of Contents

Section 1. Executive Summary	1
Section 2. Land and Water Resource Narrative	14
Section 3. Issue Prioritization	25
Section 4. Resource Prioritization	36
Section 5. Goals and Implementation Schedule	59
Section 6. Implementation Programs	101
Section 7. Plan Administration and Coordination	115
Section 8. Appendices	128
A. Plan Summary (a stand-alone document)	129
B. First Biennium Priorities.....	135
C. Landscape Stewardship Plan Summary	138
D. Agriculture and Groundwater Workshop Summary	140
E. NRCS Work Group Rankings	142
F. Public Survey Results.....	150
G. Protection Potential Table	157
H. PTMApp Benefits Summary	161
I. Local Ordinances and Standards	165
J. Memorandum of Agreement	167
K. Glossary of Terms.....	177
L. References.....	179

Section 1: Executive Summary



“I believe it (Soil Conservation District) would help the citizens of the area to maintain their moral responsibility. We all recognize that it is a criminal act to shorten the life of a person to hinder his usefulness in life, and I think we are beginning to see that it is a criminal act to shorten the life of our soil and natural resources for future generations. I heartily endorse the organization of such a group.”

- Rev. Truthawny of Parkers Prairie at a public hearing on the December 19, 1957, in New York Mills

Section 1. Executive Summary

The Redeye River Watershed consists of three main rivers: the Redeye, Leaf, and Wing (Figure 1-1), and is a mosaic of pastures, cultivated lands, and forests. To better frame the watershed for local residents, this plan refers to the area as the Leaf, Wing, Redeye Watershed (LWR Watershed). The Leaf, Wing, Redeye Watershed Local Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is locally referred to as the One Watershed One Plan (LWR1W1P)

The focus of the LWR1W1P is **Stewardship**. This focus is captured in the plan’s Vision Statement. Implementation of the LWR1W1P is voluntary, and outreach and incentives will be used to assist with voluntary implementation on private lands.

Vision Statement

With an appreciation of the rural character and a strong connection to the land and water, we show a united effort to be good stewards of our water and land for agricultural, economic, and environmental sustainability.

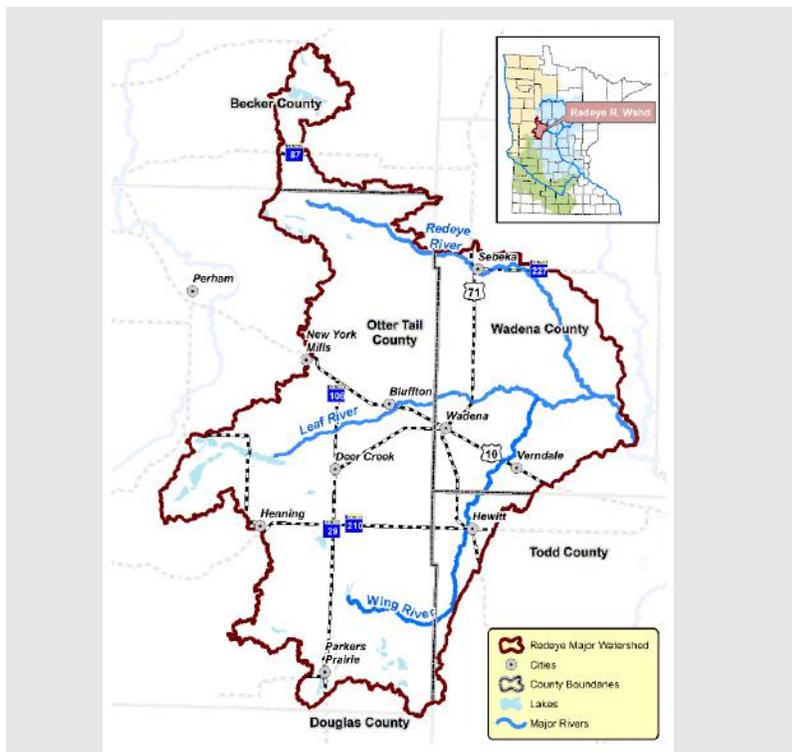


Figure 1-1. The Leaf, Wing, Redeye Watershed.

stew·ard·ship
/'st(y)ōōərd,SHIp/

The understanding that it is our collective responsibility to care for the land, air, water and biodiversity, and to manage it in a way that conserves all of its values, be they environmental, economic, social, or cultural.

Cultural Heritage

Redeye River

The Redeye River’s name originates from the Native Americans in the area, who saw many red-eye fish in the River (Minnesota Historical Society).

Leaf River

Leaf River was the principal river route serving west-central Minnesota. The Dakota and Ojibwe used its course and the Otter Tail Portage — connecting West Leaf Lake with Otter Tail Lake — to access the waterways associated with the Red River of the North.

To frame where to work on a smaller scale, the watershed was divided into four planning regions (Figure 1-2). The planning regions are based on the HUC-10 subwatershed scale, with a couple of the HUC-10s combined due to similar land uses and resources.

Planning Regions



Redeye

The Redeye Planning region includes the Redeye River and tributaries and City of Sebeka.



Wing

The Wing Planning Region includes the Wing River, the Lower Leaf River, and the watershed pour point. Cities include Parkers Prairie, Hewitt, and Verndale.



Middle Leaf

The Middle Leaf Planning Region includes Bluff Creek and the middle portion of the Leaf River. Cities include New York Mills, Bluffton, and Wadena.



Upper Leaf

The Upper Leaf Planning Region includes the Leaf Lake Chain and the headwaters of the Leaf River. Cities include Henning and Deer Creek.

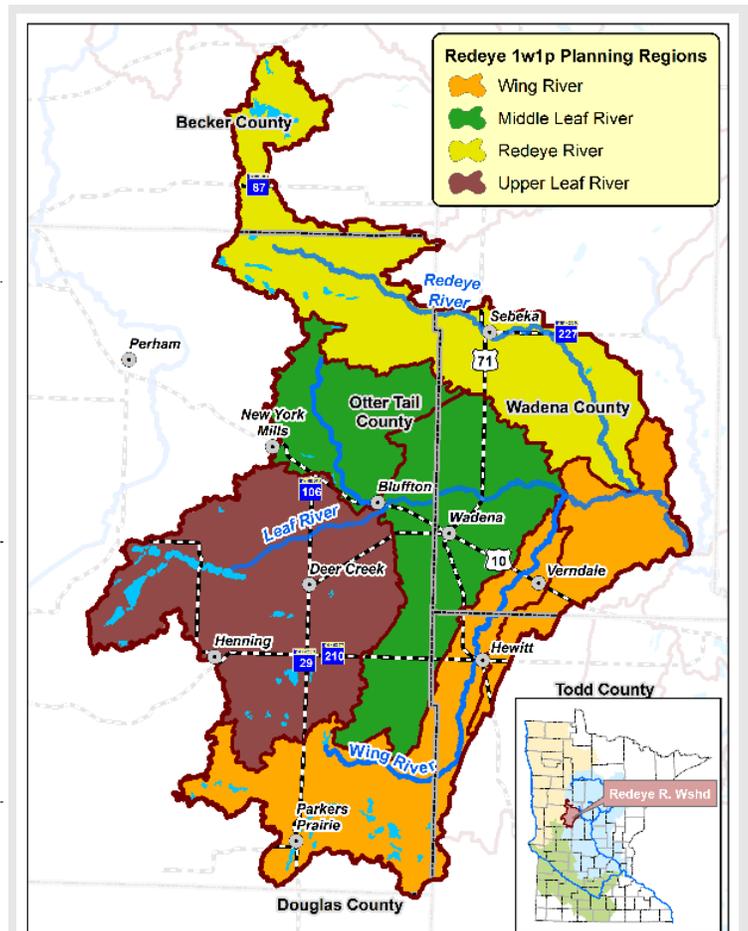


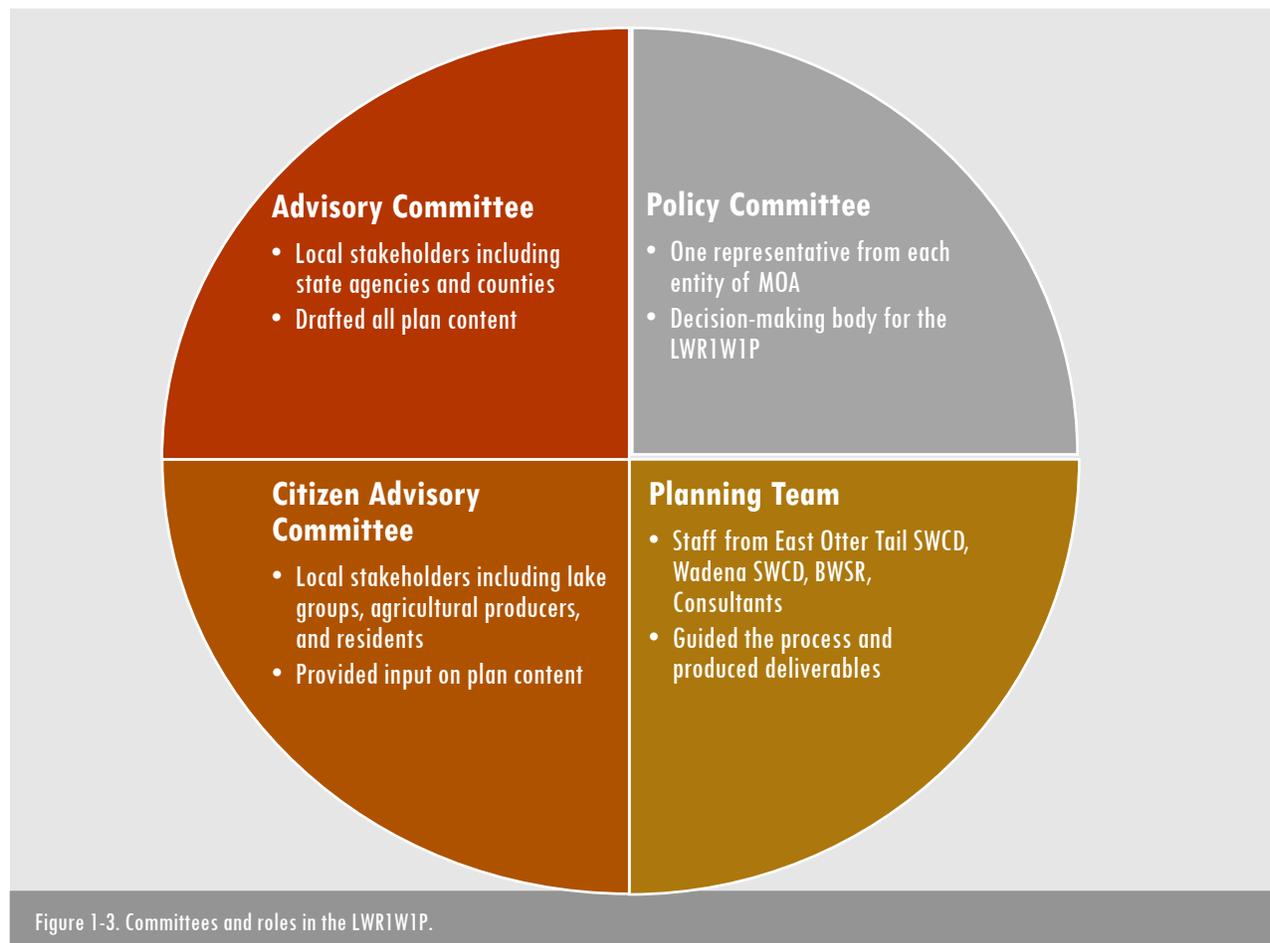
Figure 1-2. Planning Regions in the LWR1W1P.

Purpose, Roles and Responsibilities

The purpose of the One Watershed One Plan process is to align local water planning along major watershed boundaries, not just local jurisdictions. The LWR1W1P planning effort began with a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Otter Tail County, Wadena SWCD, Wadena County, and Becker SWCD (**Appendix J**). Todd SWCD participated in the Advisory Committee as well. Douglas County and Douglas SWCD were offered the opportunity to participate in both the planning and implementation MOAs but declined due to such a small percentage of land area of the watershed (<1%).

A representative from each MOA governmental unit was appointed by each county and SWCD board to serve on the Policy Committee, which is the decision-making body for this plan (Figure 1-3). The East Otter Tail SWCD was the fiscal agent for this project.

The plan content was generated by the Advisory Committee, which consisted of the counties and SWCDs in the MOA, Todd SWCD, State Agencies, and other local stakeholders. The Citizen Advisory Committee, made up of local stakeholders including lake groups and agricultural producers, provided input on the plan priorities and content (Figure 1-3).



Community Engagement

The LWR1W1P began with a Community Picnic at Burlington Northern park in Wadena. At the event, tables were set up for each of the planning regions with large maps. Participants were encouraged to find the planning region that they lived in and talk about issues and opportunities for that area. They also completed a survey indicating their priorities for the watershed (**Appendix F**).



Figure 1-4. Community Picnic on June 6, 2019 in Wadena.

The Citizen Advisory Committee met in late June and prioritized issues in the LWR Watershed (**Appendix F**). They also contributed brainstorming for the Vision Statement by answering the question, “What do you value about the watershed?” and “What do you want the watershed to look like in 50 years?”. Responses are summarized in the word clouds below (Figures 1-5 & 1-6).

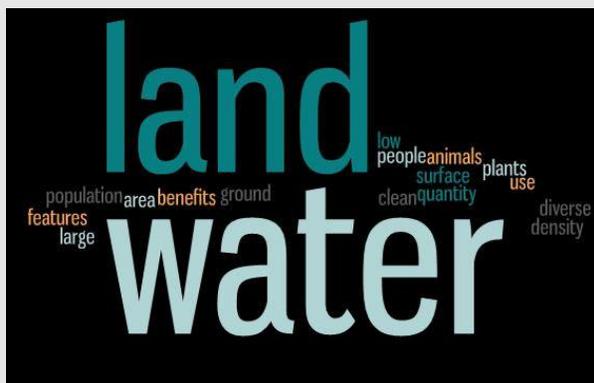


Figure 1-5. Word cloud generated from responses to the question, “What do you value about the watershed?” at the Citizen Advisory Committee meeting, June 24, 2019.

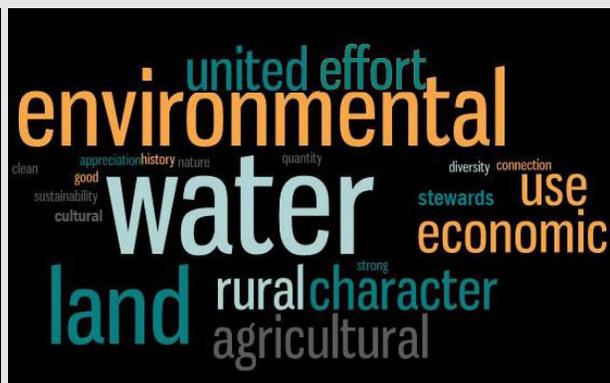


Figure 1-6. Word cloud generated from responses to the question, “What do you want the watershed to look like in 50 years?” at the Citizen Advisory Meeting, June 24, 2019.

Issue Prioritization

The issues for the LWR Watershed were generated and prioritized with a variety of input from the general public, the Advisory Committee, the Policy Committee, State agencies, and existing local and regional plans (Figure 1-7).

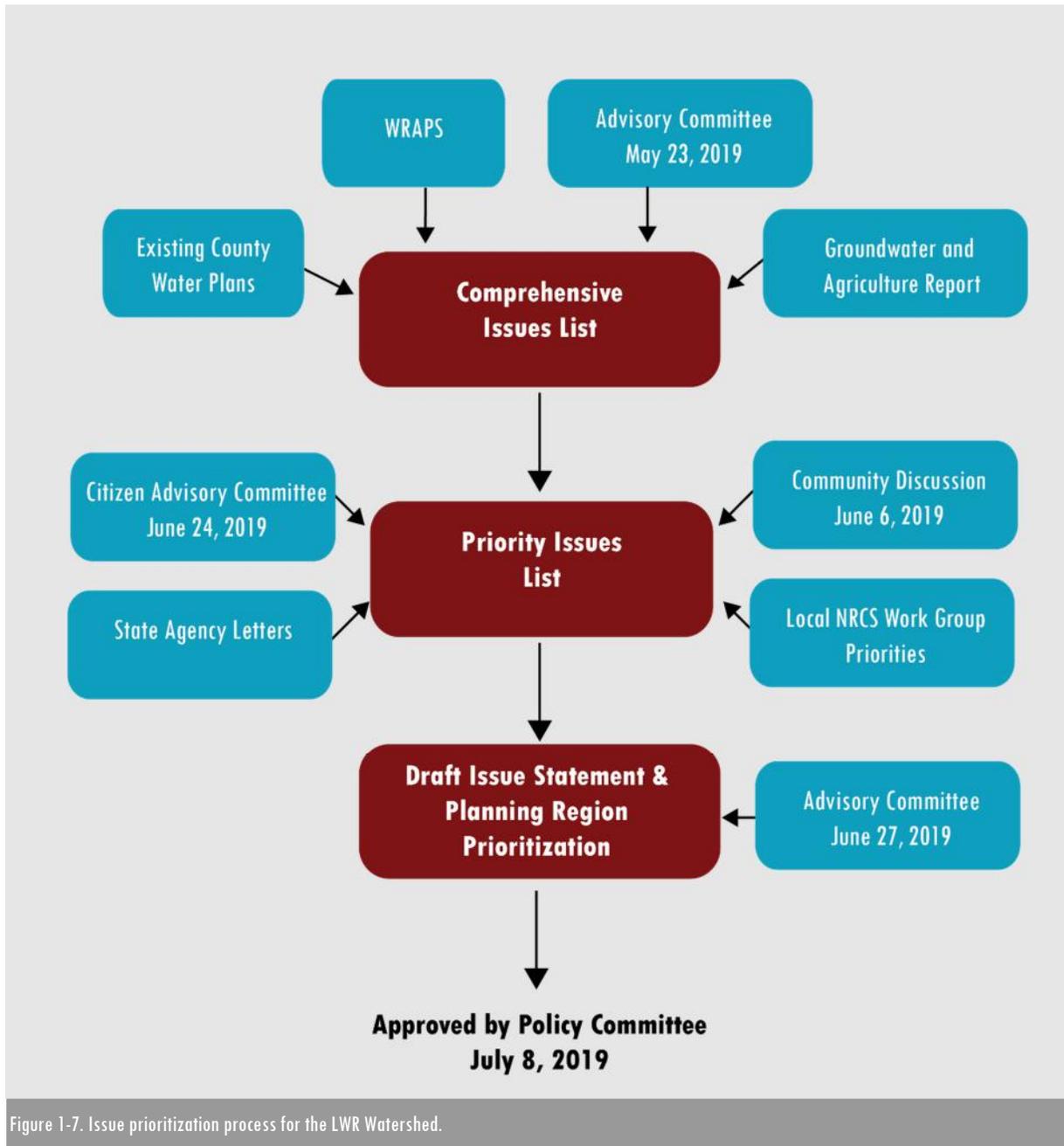


Figure 1-7. Issue prioritization process for the LWR Watershed.

The comprehensive list of issues was grouped into four resource categories to help frame the concerns: Groundwater, Surface Water, Land Stewardship, and Habitat. These categories are described below and are used throughout the plan.

Resource Categories



Groundwater

Includes all groundwater resources such as the aquifer and drinking water.



Habitat

Includes habitat for wildlife, game, birds, and fish.



Surface Water

Includes all water on the surface such as lakes, streams, and wetlands.



Land Stewardship

Includes multiple benefits of managing the land for healthy soils, groundwater, surface water, and habitat quality.

The comprehensive list of issues in the watershed was then prioritized by the Citizen Advisory Committee (Figure 1-8) and the Advisory Committee and divided into three tiers. The Advisory Committee recommended to the Policy Committee that Tier 1 and Tier 2 issues should be addressed in plan goals. Tier 3 issues are included in the plan, but not a priority for implementation during the 10-year plan. The Tier 1 issues also matched well with the priority concerns from the local NRCS Working Groups from East Otter Tail SWCD, Wadena SWCD, Becker SWCD and Todd SWCD (Appendix E). The Policy Committee approved this approach.



Figure 1-8. Citizen Advisory Committee prioritizing issues on June 24, 2019.

Tier 1 issues are the focus of implementation efforts in the LWR1W1P. Tier 2 issues are important and will be implemented as time and funding allows.

Table 1-1. Priority issues in the LWR1W1P.

Category	Resource	Issue Statement
Tier 1 Issue Statements		
	Drinking water	Shallow groundwater is highly vulnerable to contamination from numerous sources.
	Streams, Lakes	Soil erosion and runoff can cause sediment and nutrient enrichment and low dissolved oxygen in lakes and streams.
	Streams	<i>E.coli</i> impairments in streams can make them unsafe for recreation.
	Lakes	Projected development pressure and conversion of seasonal properties to fulltime homes has the potential to negatively affect lake water quality and riparian habitat.
	Agricultural land	Soil health has the potential to impact agricultural productivity and water-holding capacity.
	Forests, Grasslands	Fragmentation and degradation of upland habitat by changes in land use can cause a loss of perennial vegetative cover and impact land resilience, habitat, surface, and ground water quality.
Tier 2 Issue Statements		
	Wetlands	Wetlands are in continued need of protection, which helps with precipitation storage, maintaining lake water levels, and habitat.
	Shallow lakes	Lakes with identified high phosphorus sensitivity, outstanding biological significance, wild rice, and shallow depths may not be sufficiently protected, which affects fish and wildlife habitat quality.
	Streams	Connectivity barriers in streams (culverts & dams) are impacting fish habitat and stream geomorphology.
	Streams	Altered hydrology associated with a change in the water quantity, timing, and variability of flow in water courses can impact stream geomorphology, channel stability, and cause streambank erosion.
	Aquifer	Groundwater sustainability is vulnerable in the face of increased irrigation withdrawal.

Resource Prioritization

Resources in the LWR Watershed were prioritized to determine where to work first. Because there are no phosphorus or turbidity impairments in the watershed, most of the management focus is to protect or enhance existing resources. Water quality begins on the land. The Advisory Committee developed a land prioritization, that prioritizes where to add more practices based on risk of soil erosion and forest loss (1st Priority Unknown Management) and acknowledges current land management practices occurring on the landscape (Known Management). The term “Unknown Management” was used because there could be land management practices occurring on those acres that are not known to the local agencies. The Policy Committee provided input as well and approved the final prioritization (Figure 1-9).

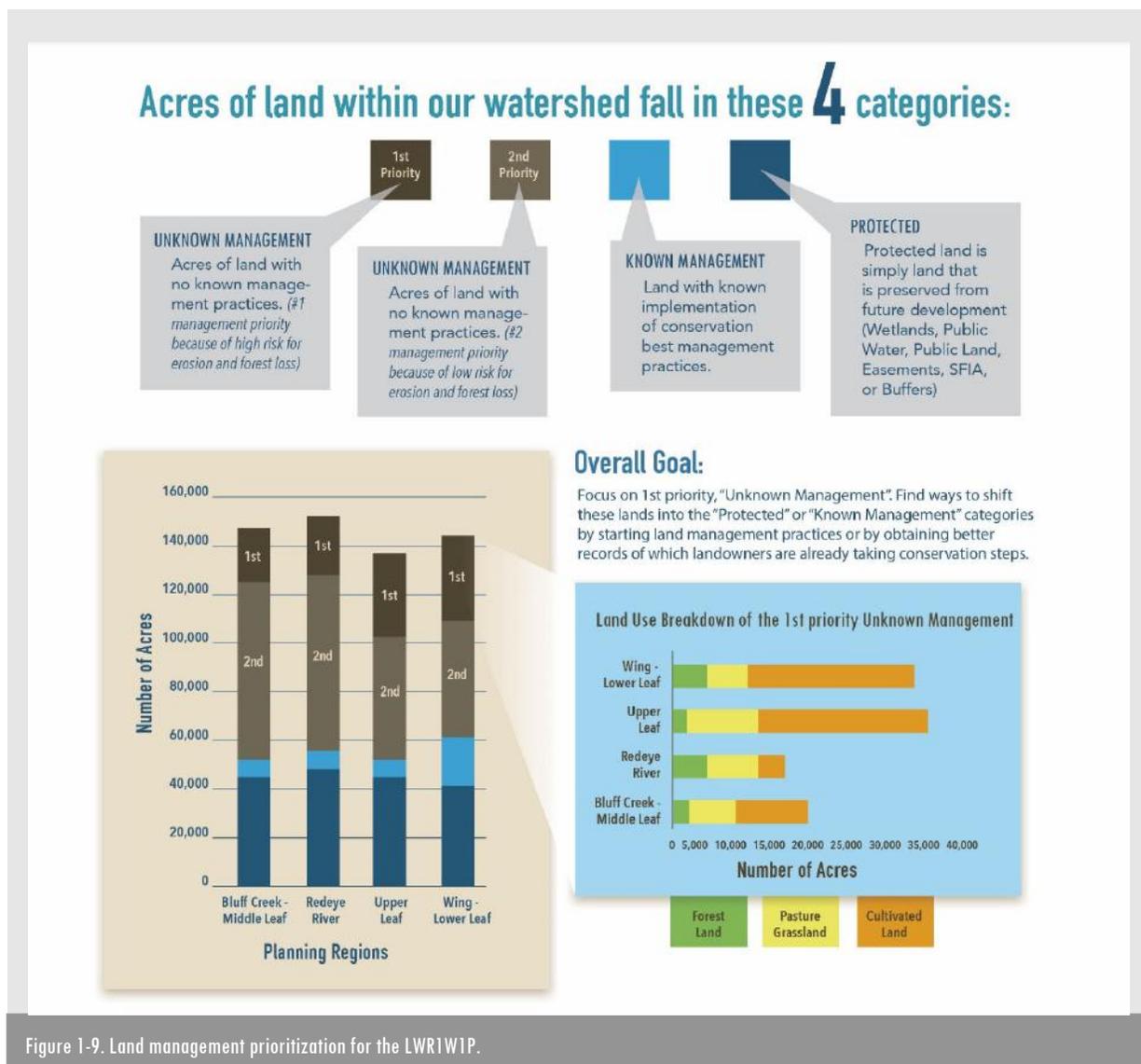
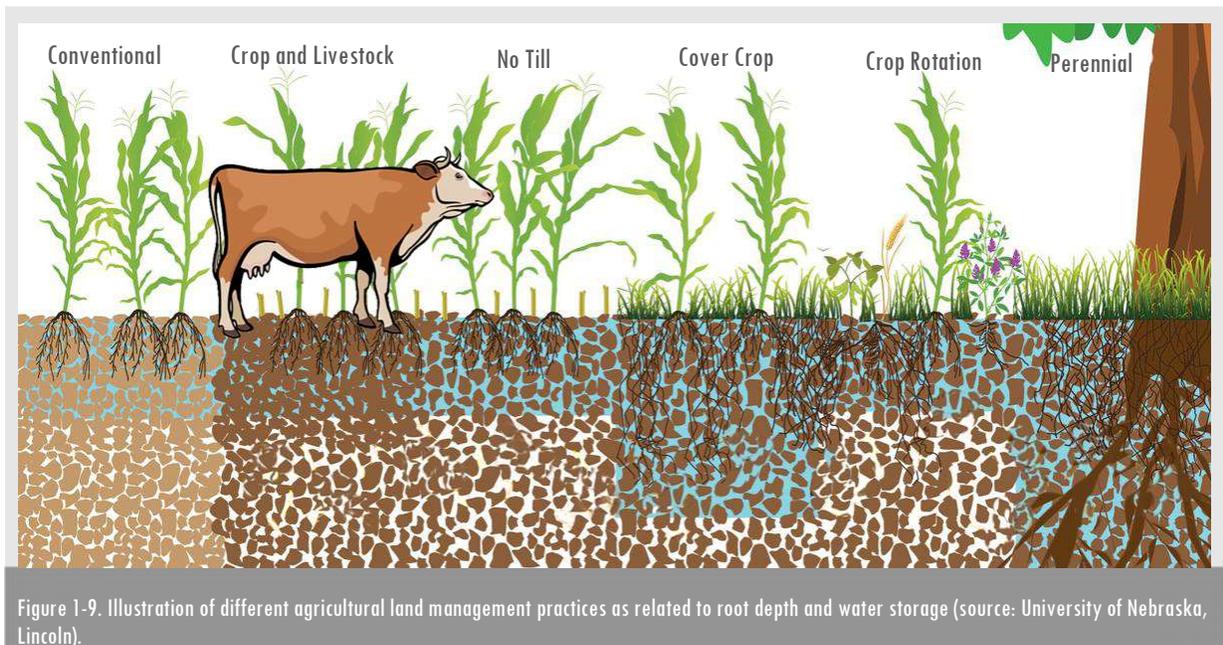


Figure 1-9. Land management prioritization for the LWRIWIP.

Goals

improve soil aggregation,



Tier 1 Goals

Land Management



Promote and increase known land management, including soil health practices, sustainable grazing practices and forest management by 20% in first priority acres identified per planning region.

Nitrogen Management



Implement nutrient management practices on 12% of first priority acres with high nitrogen infiltration risk to maintain nitrates in public and private wells below the state standard of 10 mg/L.

Drinking Water Protection



Protect drinking water by sealing 30 unused wells, protecting DWSMAs, and addressing emerging contaminants.

Bacteria Reduction



Develop and implement 20 bacteria management projects (i.e. manure management, fencing, SSTS compliance) to address sources of bacteria and make progress towards delisting impairments.

Phosphorus Reduction



Reduce phosphorus loading to lakes with declining water quality trends by 5% through implementing best management practices within the lakeshed.

Tier 2 Goals

Land Protection



Increase protection and enhancement of forest cover, water quality, habitat, and surficial sand aquifers by 10% in priority minor watersheds based on the protection goals from the Redeye Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan.

Wetland Protection



Maintain current coverage of wetlands within watershed and increase awareness of wetland protections.

Groundwater Sustainability



Increase understanding of irrigation patterns and management to be able to maintain an aquifer which is sustainable for natural, economic, and human consumption uses.

Riparian Habitat Enhancement



Enhance 1.2 miles of riparian vegetation on streams and lakes with over 40% disturbed area, biological impairments and/or a declining water quality trend through outreach to private citizens.

Aquatic Habitat Enhancement



Improve aquatic habitat connectivity by fixing 3 culverts that are affecting resource condition and modifying Hewitt Dam to allow for fish passage.

Water Retention



Maintain the current average discharge relative to climate norms of 368,196 acre-feet at the pour point of the watershed.

Implementation

The implementation activities and costs are laid out in Section 5. The Advisory and Policy Committees recognize that stewardship practices are already occurring on the landscape. The implementation focus of the LWR1W1P is to encourage additional best management practices in priority areas for soil and forest loss and give credit for current known best management practices in the watershed. Some examples of plan actions are provided below (Table 1-2).

Table 1-2. Summary of plan actions and how they relate to goals in the LWR Watershed.

Resource Categories:	Examples of Implementation:
 <p>Groundwater: protecting drinking water, minimizing nitrates, and increasing understanding of sustainable groundwater use.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Well sealing • Nutrient management • Irrigation management
 <p>Land Stewardship: increasing land best management practices on cultivated land, pasture, and forests.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cover crops, reduced tillage • Sustainable grazing practices • Forest enhancement and protection
 <p>Surface water: addressing <i>E.coli</i> impairments, maintaining wetlands and working to improve the water quality in the Leaf Lake Chain.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Septic system compliance • Urban stormwater management • Agricultural Best Management Practices
 <p>Habitat: enhancing riparian vegetation and improving aquatic habitat connectivity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Riparian habitat enhancement • Shoreline restoration • Fixing culverts and dams

To implement the full extent of this plan, additional state or federal funding and capacity over current levels will be necessary. The implementation table labels implementation actions as funding level 1, 2, or 3 (Table 1-3).

Table 1-3. Funding levels in the LWR Watershed.

Funding Level	Description
1	Current baseline funding for all watershed programs.
2	Watershed-based funding and competitive grants.
3	Partner funding (MPCA, DNR, TNC, COLA, Lake Associations, etc)

Existing programs will be utilized for implementing plan actions and are organized into four categories: Planned Landscape Management (“Manage It”), Protected Lands Maintenance (“Keep It”), Constructed Environmental Enhancements (“Fix It”) and Analysis and Information. For the LWR Watershed, the scale is tipped toward “Manage It” programs (Figure 1-11).

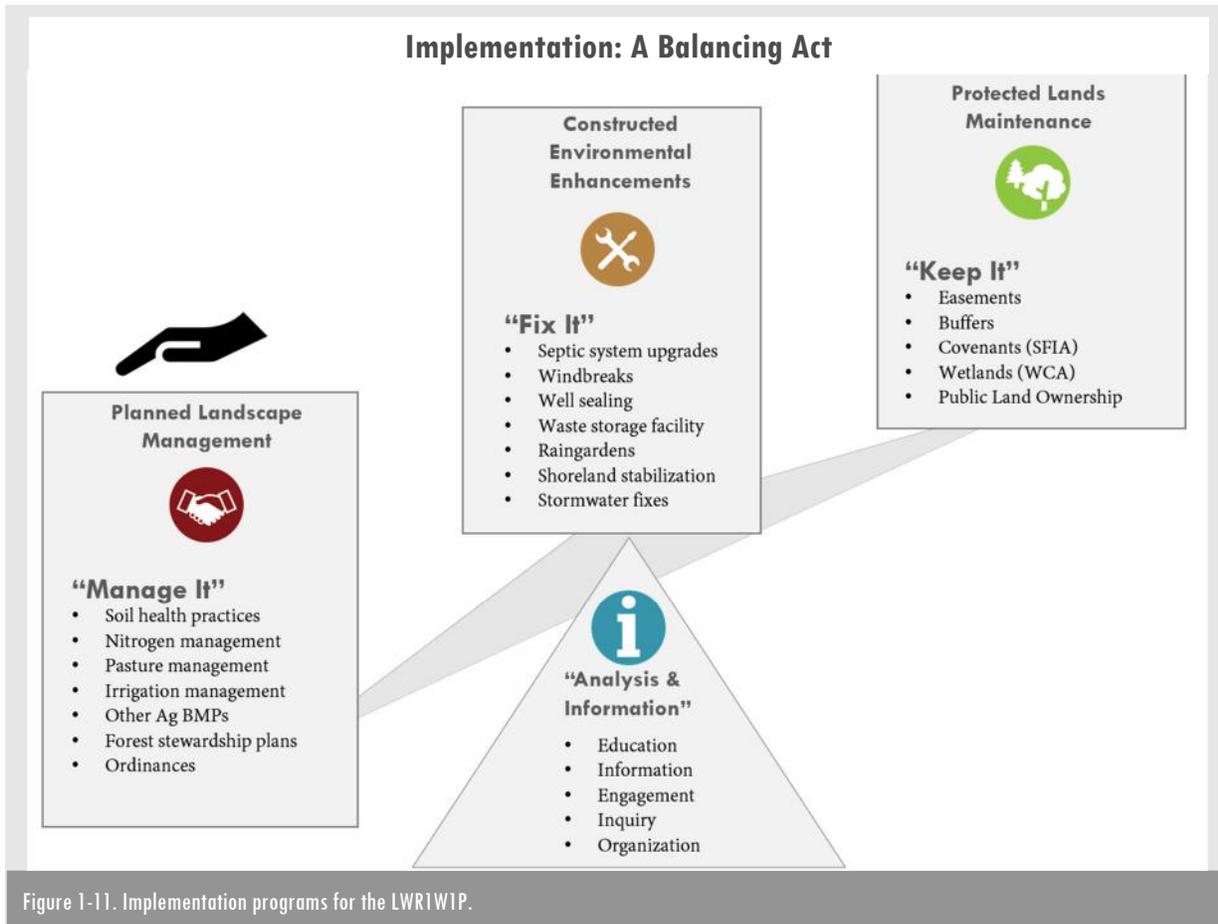


Figure 1-11. Implementation programs for the LWRIWIP.



Figure 1-1 . The Leaf River.

Progress towards goals will be tracked in a variety of ways (Table 1-4). Plan activities will be recorded by watershed partners in a tracking system and summarized annually.

Table 1-4. Description of how different activities will be measured during plan implementation.

Level	Description	Redeye 1W1P Application
Tracking	Practices, Acres, Percentages of watersheds, Miles of River, Number of Lakes.	Outcomes in Implementation Table (Section 5).
Estimating	Using lower resolution calculators and tools to give a sense of the collective impacts of projects.	Benefits calculator (Appendix H).
Modeling	Incorporating landscape factors and project information to predict future conditions.	PTMApp, HSPF in WRAPS Cycle 2 in 2021
Measuring	Using field-collected information to assess the condition of the water.	Lake Monitoring, Pollutant Load Monitoring Network stream monitoring at watershed pour point (S005-729), WRAPS Cycle 2 in 2021
Proving	Having enough measurements to compare with standards and make a determination if it's improved.	WRAPS Cycle 2 in 2021, Cycle 3 in 2031

Plan Administration and Coordination

The LWR1W1P will be implemented by the Redeye Implementation Team (Section 7). The Redeye Implementation Team is a coalition of East Otter Tail SWCD, Otter Tail County, Wadena SWCD, Wadena County, Becker SWCD, Becker County and Todd SWCD. The Redeye Implementation Team previously entered into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for planning the One Watershed One Plan for the LWR Watershed (Appendix J). The entities will draft a MOA for purposes of implementing this plan. The Policy Committee of the Redeye Implementation Team oversees the overall plan implementation with the advice and consent of the individual County and SWCD boards under the umbrella of the implementation MOA. Douglas County and Douglas SWCD were offered the opportunity to participate in both the planning and implementation MOAs but declined due to such a small percentage of land area of the watershed (<1%).

The Redeye Implementation Team will complete the annual work plan, identify and apply for additional funding opportunities, update the Policy Committee on what projects are completed and where funding is spent, and implement the targeted implementation schedule. The Advisory Committee will continue to meet, review and identify collaborative funding and project opportunities.

The Citizen Advisory Committee will continue to communicate the needs of local landowners, be a local supporter for the plan, and provide input for the annual work plans.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southern Regional Committee

1. Buffalo Creek Watershed District Boundary Change – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Buffalo Creek Watershed District Boundary Change

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Buffalo Creek Watershed District, boundary change, 2020

Section/Region: Southern Region

Contact: Annie Felix-Gerth

Prepared by: Annie Felix-Gerth

Reviewed by: Administrative Advisory Committee(s)

Presented by: Annie Felix-Gerth

Time requested: 10 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 boundary change between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The purpose of the boundary change between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District is to achieve more accurate alignment between the hydrologic and legal boundaries of the two districts.



BOARD ORDER

Boundary change for the Buffalo Creek Watershed District

PURPOSE

Approve a boundary change between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) and the High Island Watershed District (HIWD).

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Buffalo Creek Watershed District (BCWD) filed a petition with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on January 29, 2020, for a boundary change between the BCWD and the High Island Watershed District (HIWD).
2. The petition was accompanied by supporting resolutions from the HIWD and McLeod County.
3. The purpose of the boundary change is to correct the assessment designation of four parcels at various locations along the common boundaries of the districts. The boundary change would achieve a more accurate alignment between the hydrologic and legal boundaries of the BCWD and HIWD.
4. The petition is valid in accordance with Minn. Stat. §§ 103D.251.
5. Legal notice of filing on the petition, pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 103D.251, was published in the McLeod County Chronicle on February 19 and 26, 2020. Further, a copy of the notice of filing was mailed to several addressees including the affected county and watershed districts.
6. The legal Notice of Filing was published pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103D.105, Subd.2, which requires within 30 days of the last date of publication of the Notice of Filing of the petition that at least one request for hearing be received by the Board before a hearing will be held. BWSR did not receive any requests for a hearing nor any comments, therefore no hearing was held.
7. Staff participated with the BCWD and their legal counsel through the process, providing guidance, comments, and recommendations. All relevant, substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a boundary change. The requested boundary change is consistent with the purpose and the requirements of Minn. Stat. §§ 103D.251. The boundary change as proposed in the petition would be for the public welfare and public interest and would advance the purpose of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D. The boundaries of the BCWD and the HIWD as proposed in the petition are more accurately based on the hydrology of the subject area than the present boundaries. The proposed boundary change should be approved per the petition. Therefore, staff recommends approval of the boundary change as petitioned.
8. On August 10, the BWSR Southern Region Committee members were informed and consulted via a phone conference call for input prior to the board order being drafted.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

The Board hereby orders that the boundaries of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District are changed per the Petition as depicted on the map and parcel information attached to this Order.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this August 26, 2020.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources



RINKE NOONAN

attorneys at law

January 29, 2020

Direct Dial: 320-656-3503
Jkolb@RinkeNoonan.com

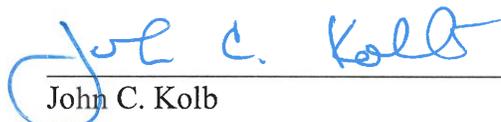
Mr. John Jaschke
Executive Director
Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

**Re: Petition to BWSR for Boundary Change – Buffalo Creek Watershed District/High Island Watershed District
Our File No. 18010-0011**

Dear Mr. Jaschke:

Enclosed for filing is an original Petition and copies of exhibits requesting a boundary change involving the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and High Island Watershed District. I represent the Buffalo Creek Watershed District in this matter. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



John C. Kolb
JCK/cmt

Enclosure

cc: Travis Germundson, BWSR (via email w/encl.)
Jeremy Maul, BWSR (via email w/encl.)
Buffalo Creek Watershed District Board of Managers (via email w/encl.)
Chris Otterness, Houston Engineering (via email w/encl.)
Dean Zimmerli, Counsel for HIWD (via email w/encl.)

BEFORE THE MINNESOTA BOARD OF SOIL AND WATER RESOURCES

**Petition to Minnesota Board of Water & Soil
Resources for Boundary Change, Pursuant to
Minnesota Statutes 103D.251**

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is a Watershed District established pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D.251, Subd. 3, this proceeding is to change the boundary between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District and is being petitioned to the Board of Water & Soil Resources, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D.251; and

WHEREAS, adjustment of the common boundary between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District is necessary to correct errors and to have the legal boundary match the hydrologic boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District became aware that certain property outside of its legal boundary and within the High Island Watershed District Boundary, is actively draining to and using infrastructure within the hydrologic boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D.251, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District provides the following information:

1. The affected watershed districts are the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District.
2. The description in general terms of the property affected by the proposed boundary change and enlargement of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is as follows:

See **Exhibit A** (Parcel List) and **Exhibit B** (Map).

3. The reason the proposed boundary change would benefit the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is that it would match the hydrologic boundaries with the High Island Watershed District and would include properties draining to and using infrastructure within the Buffalo Creek Watershed District.
4. Attached is a map, labeled **Exhibit B**, of the proposed boundary changes that affect the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and High Island Watershed District.

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District has passed a resolution, attached as **Exhibit C**, authorizing the proceeding for the boundary change and enlargement; and

WHEREAS, the High Island Watershed District and McLeod County have also passed resolutions supporting the boundary change, attached as **Exhibits D & E**; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District requests that the Board of Water & Soil Resources proceed with all necessary notices and hearings as required by statute.

Dated this 28th day of January, 2020.

BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS

By 
Don Belter, Its President

By Section

SW 1/4 of NE 1/4 of Section 4
NE 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 4
Portion of NW 1/4 of SE 1/4 of Section 4

Impacted Parcels

Parcel ID	Parcel Acres	APN	Owner	Legal	Legal	Legal
All	6.99	10.004.0400	ANTHONY A & LAURA LUNDEMAN	Sect-04 Twp-114 Range-029	Legal02	Legal03
All	50.71	10.004.0450	KEVIN J & PENNY L LUNDEMAN	Sect-04 Twp-114 Range-029	50.71 AC	N 1/2 SE 1/4 EX S 444' OF E 686' OF
All Remaining	24	10.004.0300	ROGER A & JOY DRAEGER	Sect-04 Twp-114 Range-029	24.00 AC	E 740' OF S 1432' OF W 1/2 NE
All	17.57	10.004.0100	TMR LLP	Sect-04 Twp-114 Range-029	17.57 AC	SW 1/4 NE 1/4 EX E 740'

BEFORE THE BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

**Resolution Authorizing Petition to Board of
Water & Soil Resources for Boundary
Change, Pursuant to Minnesota Statutes
103D.251**

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District is a Watershed District established pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D; and

WHEREAS, due to the generation of more precise topographic data, the hydrologic boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District can be more precisely ascertained; and

WHEREAS, such improved data allows for a more accurate delineation of the common boundary between the Buffalo Creek and High Island Watershed Districts in order to ensure that the legal boundary accurately followings to hydrologic boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District became aware that certain property outside of its legal boundary and within the High Island Watershed District Boundary, is actively draining to and using infrastructure within the hydrologic boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, these parcels are shown on Exhibit A and are proposed to be included within the revised common boundary between the Buffalo Creek and High Island Watershed Districts; and

WHEREAS, adjustment of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District's legal boundary will benefit the public welfare and public interest and advance the purpose of Minnesota Statutes 103D and 103E; and

WHEREAS, requests to adjust the established boundaries of watershed districts must proceed by petition, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103D.251, Subd. 3, to the Board of Water & Soil Resources.

Exhibit C

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Managers of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District authorizes its president to execute a petition for boundary change, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103B.251 upon receipt of resolutions of support from the High Island Watershed District and McLeod County.

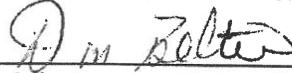
The question on the adoption of the Resolution and the votes are as follows:

Belter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Kramer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Melberg	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Phillips	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent
Stuewe	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Yea	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Absent

Upon vote, the Resolution passed.

Dated this 17th day of December, 2019

BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

By 
Don Belter, Its President

I, Matt Melberg, the Secretary, of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with Buffalo Creek Watershed District and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 17th day of December, 2019.


Matt Melberg, Secretary

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**High Island Watershed District Board of Managers
Resolution Supporting Change of Boundary Between Buffalo Creek Watershed District and
High Island Watershed District**

WHEREAS, due to the generation of more precise topographic data, the hydrologic boundary between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District can be more precisely ascertained; and

WHEREAS, such improved data allows for a more accurate delineation of the common boundary between the Buffalo Creek and High Island Watershed Districts in order to ensure that the legal boundary accurately followings to hydrologic boundary; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of Minnesota Statutes 103D is to facilitate water resource management on a watershed basis and that legal boundaries of Watershed Districts should conform as closely as practicable to hydraulic boundaries; and

WHEREAS, certain lands require a boundary change between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, the parcels are shown on **Exhibit A** and are proposed to be included within a revised legal boundary between the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, the parcels affected by this boundary change are contiguous to both Watershed Districts; and

WHEREAS, adjustment of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and the High Island Watershed District legal boundary will benefit the public welfare and public interest and advance the purpose of Minnesota Statutes 103D.

THEREFORE, be it resolved the Board of Managers of the High Island Watershed District supports the Boundary Change Petition submitted by the Buffalo Creek Watershed District and supports the Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources legally adjusting the boundaries in accordance with **Exhibit A**.

Motion - Verne Schweder 2nd Jim Mueller
The question on the adoption of the Resolution and the votes are as follows:

<u>Jim Mueller</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<u>Verne Schweder</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<u>Bryan Peris</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<u>Oniille Polzin</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent
<u>Kevin Miller</u>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yea	<input type="checkbox"/> Nay	<input type="checkbox"/> Absent

Exhibit D

Upon vote, the Resolution passed.

Dated this 28th day of December, 2019

HIGH ISLAND WATERSHED DISTRICT

By 
Its President

I, Verne Schluter, the Secretary, of the High Island Watershed District, do hereby certify that I have compared the above Resolution with the original thereof as the same appears of record and on file with High Island Watershed District and find the same to be a true and correct transcript thereof.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this 23 day of December, 2019.


Secretary



McLeod County Board of Commissioners

830 11th Street East, Suite 110, Glencoe, Minnesota 55336 – (320) 864-5551 – Fax (320) 864-1809

COMMISSIONER RON SHIMANSKI
1st District
Phone (320) 223-2355
23808 Jet Avenue
Silver Lake, MN 55381
Ron.Shimanski@co.mcleod.mn.us

COMMISSIONER DOUG KRUEGER
2nd District
Phone (612) 756-2855
9525 County Road 2
Glencoe, MN 55336
Doug.Krueger@co.mcleod.mn.us

COMMISSIONER PAUL WRIGHT
3rd District
Phone (320) 583-8584
15215 County Road 7
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Paul.Wright@co.mcleod.mn.us

COMMISSIONER RICH POHLMEIER
4th District
Phone (320) 583-9738
207 1st Ave S
Brownston, MN 55312
Rich.Pohlmeier@co.mcleod.mn.us

COMMISSIONER JOE NAGEL
5th District
Phone (320) 587-8693
20849 196th Road
Hutchinson, MN 55350
Joseph.Nagel@co.mcleod.mn.us

**COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR
SHEILA MURPHY**
Phone (320) 864-1320
830 11th Street East, Suite 110
Glencoe, MN 55336
Sheila.Murphy@co.mcleod.mn.us

RESOLUTION 20-CB-12 SUPPORT CHANGE OF BOUNDARY PETITION SUBMITTED BY BUFFALO CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT

WHEREAS, due to the generation of more precise topographic data, the hydrologic boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District can be more precisely ascertained; and

WHEREAS, such improved data allows for a more accurate delineation of the common boundary between the Buffalo Creek and High Island Watershed Districts in order to ensure that the legal boundary accurately followings to hydrologic boundary; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Creek Watershed District became aware that certain property outside of its legal boundary and within the High Island Watershed District Boundary, is actively draining to and using infrastructure within the hydrologic boundary of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District; and

WHEREAS, these parcels are shown on Exhibit A and are proposed to be included within the revised common boundary between the Buffalo Creek and High Island Watershed Districts; and

WHEREAS, adjustment of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District’s legal boundary will benefit the public welfare and public interest and advance the purpose of Minnesota Statutes 103D and 103E.

THEREFORE, be it resolved the McLeod County Board of Commissioners supports the Petition of the Buffalo Creek Watershed District for boundary change, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 103E.251.

Working together, providing quality service, being fiscally responsible and
maintaining integrity through common sense decision making

MCLEOD COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Exhibit E

	Nagel	Krueger	Shimanski	Wright	Pohlmeier
Yes	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
No					
Abstain					
Absent					

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
OFFICE OF COUNTY ADMINISTRATION
COUNTY OF MCLEOD**

I, Sheila Murphy, Administrator of the County of McLeod do hereby certify that the foregoing resolution is a true and correct copy of a resolution presented to and adopted by the County of McLeod at a duly authorized meeting thereof held on the 21st day of January 2020.

ATTEST:



Sheila Murphy, County Administrator

Working together, providing quality service, being fiscally responsible and
maintaining integrity through common sense decision making

MCLEOD COUNTY IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

Exhibit E

NEW BUSINESS

1. Red River Watershed Management Board Strategic Plan – Rob Sip – **INFORMATION ITEM**
2. Increasing Diversity in Environmental Careers (IDEC) Program – Angie Becker Kudelka, Mimi Daniel, and May Yang – **INFORMATION ITEM**

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Red River Watershed Management Board Strategic Plan

Meeting Date: August 26, 2020

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: RRWMB, Red River Watershed Management, Strategic Plan

Section/Region: N/A

Contact: Rachel Mueller

Prepared by: _____

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Rob Sip

Time requested: 20 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Update on Red River Watershed Management Board’s strategic plan, progress indicators, WQ funding, budget, etc.

The IDEC program consists of three components:

1. **Fellowship:** The fellowship provides students with a supportive community, yearly academic fiscal scholarship, and professional development. Fellows attend in-person cohort sessions every other month during the academic school year to stay connected to their peers and participate in professional development opportunities.
2. **Mentorship:** Fellows are connected with professionals in the field who can share their experiences and support them. The mentorship aims to enhance college success, encourage personal and professional development, and promote career advancement by pairing fellows with employees at one of the participating state agencies.
3. **Internship:** The paid internship, which runs from May to August, allows fellows to learn more about environmental and natural resources career paths through paid, on-the-job experience. The internship includes first-year summer rotations and second and third-year summer agency internships.

With direction from an interagency team, the program is managed by the MNDNR and led by the Conservation Corps of MN and IA. The presentation will provide a brief overview of the program and first year results.