



BOARD ORDER

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

PURPOSE

Authorize additional funds for the Wellhead Protection Partner Grants Program.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

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

ORDER

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021

BOARD ORDER

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program

PURPOSE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

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

ORDER

The Board hereby:

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021

Attached: Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot Program Policy

Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP) Program Policy

Supporting Pollinators and Other At-risk Wildlife Enhancement Pilot Program

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



Version: 1.00
Effective Date: December 16, 2021
Approval: Board Order #21-56



Policy Statement

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

Reason for the policy

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

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

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

Beneficial Insect Grant Program Requirements

1. Applicant Eligibility

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

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

2. Match Requirements

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

3. Eligible Activities

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Ineligible Expenses

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

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

5. Technical Quality Assurance

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

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

6. BWSR Grant Work Plan, Reporting and Reconciliation Requirements

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

7. BWSR Grant Administration Requirements

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

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

History

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

Contact

Dan Shaw, Senior Ecologist/Vegetation Specialist



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 and 2023 Cooperative Weed Management Area Program Authorization

PURPOSE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

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

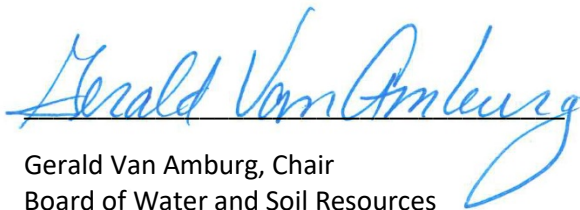
ORDER

The Board hereby:

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


 Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
 Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021

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

Cooperative Weed Management Area Program

Request for Proposals

November 2021

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1. General Information

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

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

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

2. Who May Apply?

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

3. Eligibility Criteria

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

4. Evaluation and Selection

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

Application Questions:

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

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

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

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

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

5. Eligible & Key Activities

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

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

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

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

6. Other Information

Native Vegetation

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

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

Match Requirements

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

Eligible Expenses

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

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

Timeline

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

7. Payment Schedule

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

8. Submittal

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

9. BWSR Grant Administration

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

10. Grant Execution

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

11. Incomplete Proposals

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

12. Project Period

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

13. Project Reporting Requirements

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

14. Grants and Public Information

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

15. Conflict of Interest

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

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

16. Questions

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



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants

PURPOSE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

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

ORDER

The Board hereby:

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

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021

Attachments:

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

FY2022 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table

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

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

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

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

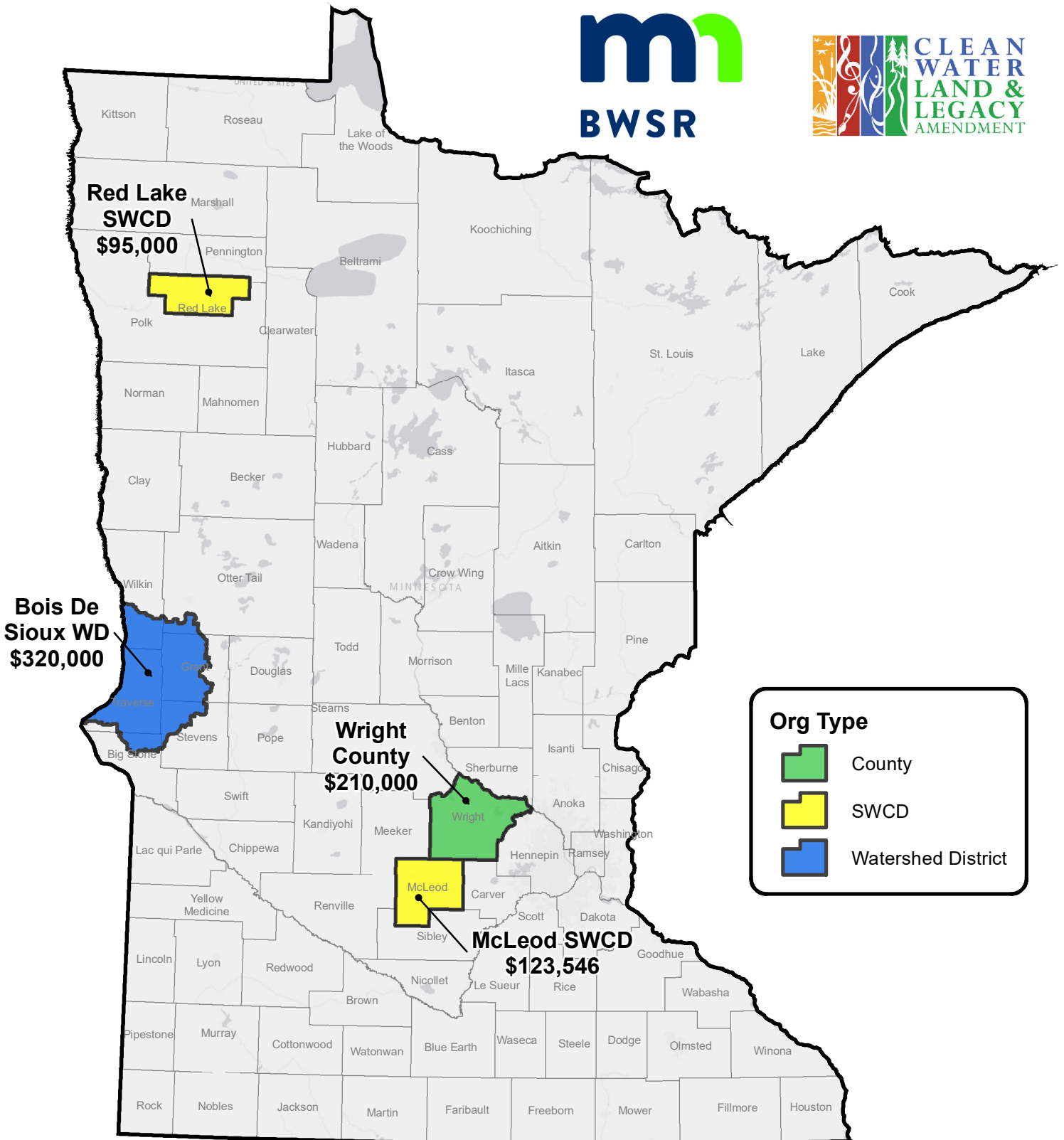
FY2022 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table

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

FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

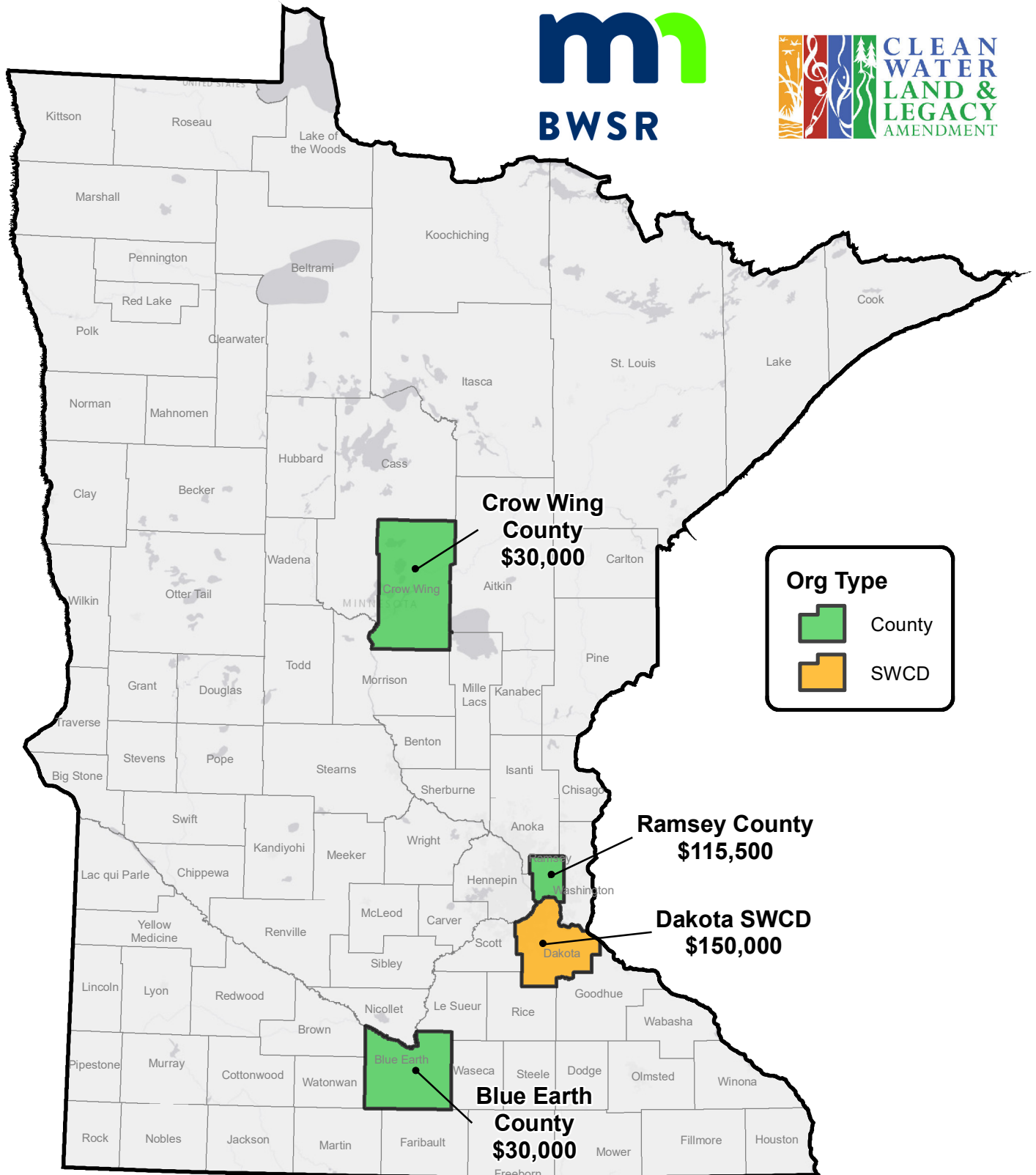
Total Recommended Funding: \$748,546



FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

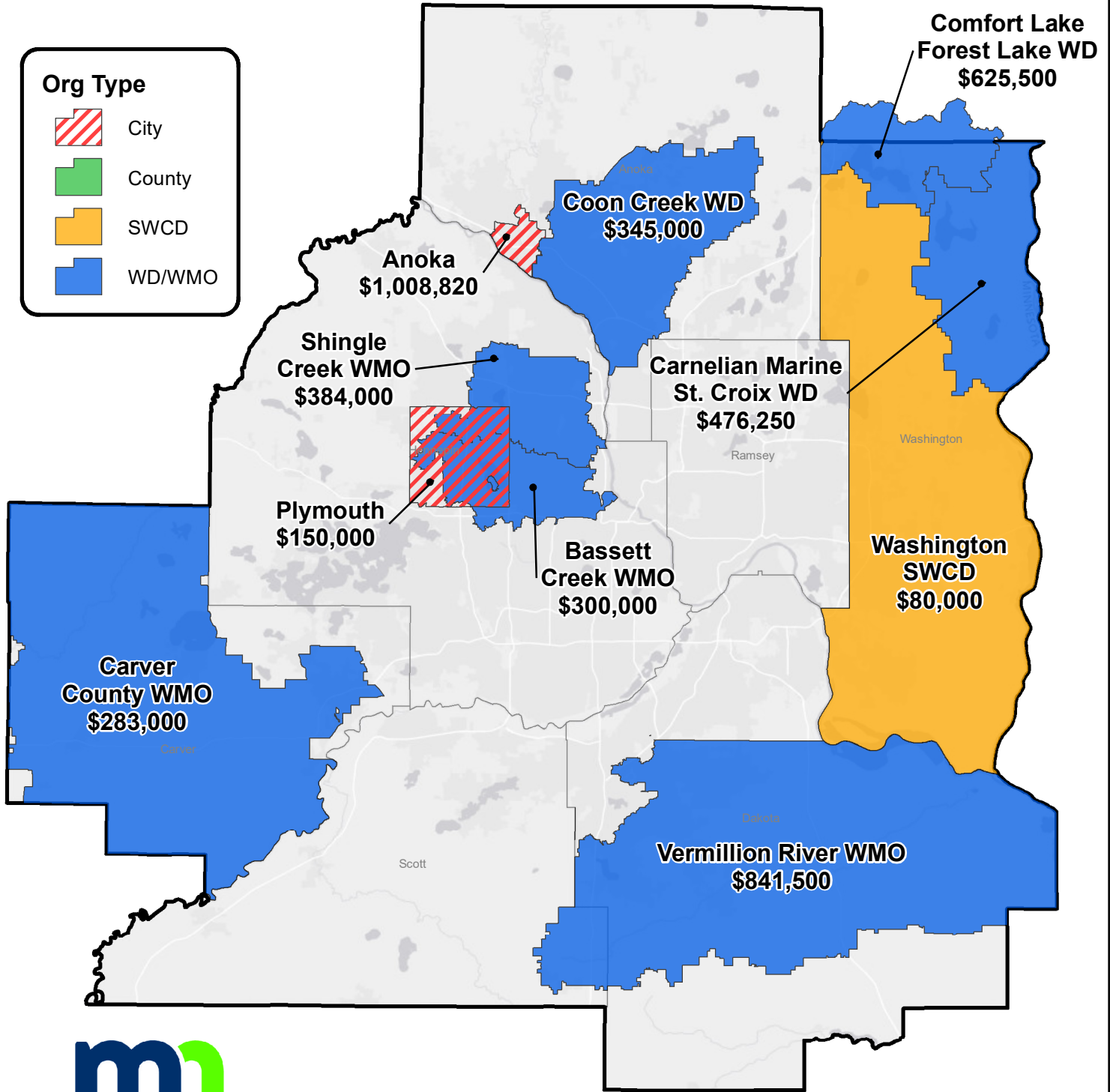
Projects and Practices - Drinking Water

Total Recommended Funding: \$325,500



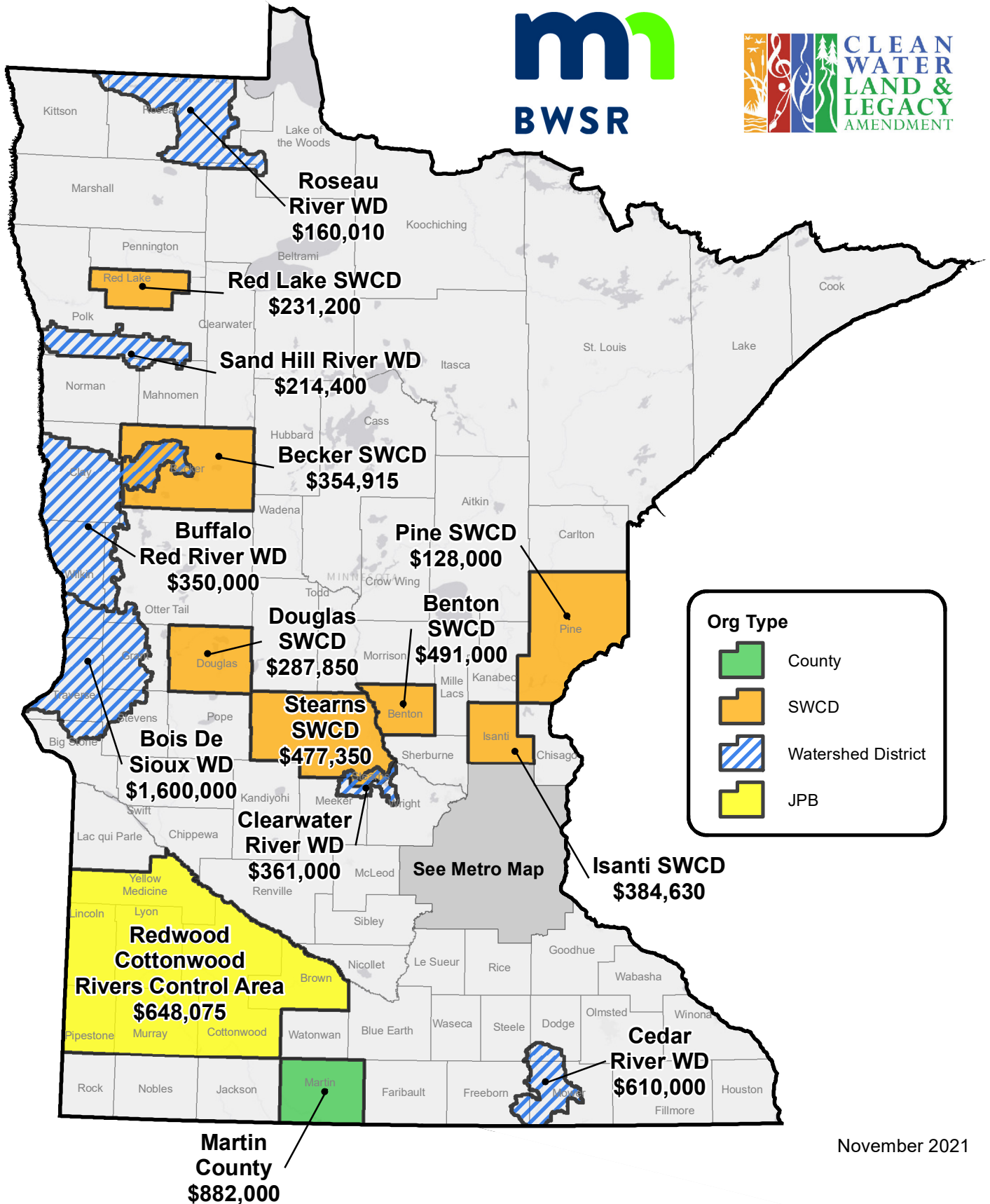
FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

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



FY 2022 Clean Water Fund

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





BOARD ORDER

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

PURPOSE

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

FINDINGS OF FACT/RECITALS

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

ORDER

The Board hereby:

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021



BOARD ORDER

Revision of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPFP)

PURPOSE

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

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

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

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

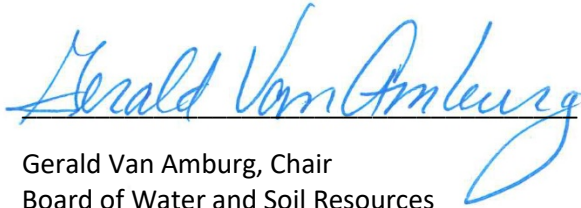
ORDER

The Board hereby:

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

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

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

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

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

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

FINDINGS OF FACT

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

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

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

CONCLUSIONS


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

ORDER

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

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

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 16, 2021