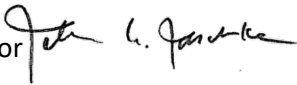




DATE: March 15, 2022

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – March 23, 2022

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, March 23, 2022, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx. Due to COVID-19, access to the MPCA/BWSR office is limited. Individuals interested in attending the meeting should do so by either 1) logging into WebEx by going to the following website: <https://minnesota.webex.com/minnesota/onstage/g.php?MTID=ef0cc922c0ca3d52b0a742a09adf8b036>, and entering the password: webex, or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 415-655-0003 and entering the access code: 2489 149 1696.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **FY 22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants** – The Minnesota legislature passed a law in 2021 appropriating funding to BWSR from the Clean Water Fund for farmers who own or rent land to enhance adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to Public Water Supplies. Staff has spent the last 9 months developing and implementing an outreach effort to gain information and feedback from various stakeholders regarding overall Soil Health program development. Over that time an internal staff team also was in development of two Soil Health grant delivery processes (one for these Clean Water Funds and a parallel track for other General Fund dollars appropriated in 2021). What is before the Board now is a culmination of those efforts to deliver the Clean Water Fund portion of these dollars. Staff will provide an overview of the outreach efforts conducted in preparing the recommended program and current Request for Proposal (RFP). Due to the time commitment of the outreach efforts and program development to date both FY 22 and FY 23 funds are proposed for distribution in a single RFP.

Note that the board is asked to approve the RFP criteria only, not the full RFP document included in the packet. **DECISION ITEM**

2. **2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants** – The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to approve the 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants. This is the sixth year BWSR is offering planning grants. The RFP has evolved over time to encourage more discussion among prospective planning groups during proposal development and to refine BWSR selection criteria. Only small changes have been made relative to the 2021 RFP. This grant program continues to operate under the policy adopted by the Board in 2018. **DECISION ITEM**

3. **Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program Funding Recommendation** – The Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods involve the establishment of residential pollinator habitat within neighborhoods in important pollinator corridors/pathways and building overall interest in ecological landscaping. These projects can involve educational and community spaces in addition to residential landscapes. A total of \$1,066,000 was made available for this RFP from two Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) appropriations that have different grant end dates. Through the application process applicants were asked if they can complete their projects by May 1, 2023 or if they would benefit from an extra year and final decisions about grant periods will be made by the program’s advisory team.

A total of 21 applications were submitted requesting a total of \$715,345. A program advisory team made of BWSR staff along with staff from other organizations working on pollinators met on March 2, 2022 and finalized funding recommendations. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations on March 7, 2022 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee. **DECISION ITEM**

Central Committee

1. **Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan**– The Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) identified nine programs to focus their implementation effort to address issues related to water quality, water quantity, flood risk and climate resiliency, groundwater, aquatic invasive species, upland resources, wetlands, education and outreach, and watershed management and operations in the 81.4 square mile watershed in the northeastern part of the Washington County, in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The CMSCWD will use its 43 Plan goals to target and measure their success over the next 10 years. **DECISION ITEM**

Northern Region Committee

1. **Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Nomination Districts Resolution** – The Clay SWCD approved a Nomination Districts Resolution on December 9, 2022, which proposed to change nomination districts for the Clay SWCD supervisor seats. The proposed boundaries serve the purpose of consistency in representing natural resource concerns and urban areas of the district and affects only two townships, one in each district. The Northern Regional Committee met on March 2, 2022, discussed the Resolution, and unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Clay SWCD Nomination Districts Resolution to the full Board. **DECISION ITEM**

RIM Reserve Committee

1. **Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement #08-09-93-02 Alteration for Public Road Project** – The Brown County Highway Department is seeking approval from BWSR to release 0.6 acres from Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Easement #08-09-93-03 in order to complete a bridge replacement and public road improvement project on CSAH 8. The project will involve replacement and relocation of Bridge 2110, a structurally deficient, one lane bridge crossing the Minnesota River. The project will require realignment of the roadway and expansion of the existing highway right-of-way. The bridge replacement, realignment of CSAH 8 and expanded road right-of-way will improve public safety by allowing better traffic flow and allowing trucks, equipment, and emergency vehicles to more safely cross the river. The overall impact to the RIM easement area will be minimal and immediately adjacent to the existing road right-of-ways.

Due to the shift in the roadway and right-of-way, 0.6 acres of RIM Easement #08-09-93-03 will be impacted by this project and are recommended for release from the RIM easement. In accordance with BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy, both the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District and the DNR Area

Wildlife Manager have submitted letters in favor of the proposed release. Brown County Highway Department has submitted the required \$500 application fee for BWSR to consider the alteration request. The Highway Department has acquired the necessary highway easement from the current landowner to be able to move forward with the project. The Brown County Highway Department has agreed to pay BWSR the amount equal to two times the current RIM payment rate for the acres released, as well as pay back any state funds spent on conservation practices on the impacted areas, in accordance with the Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects.

The total amount to be paid to BWSR and agreed upon by Brown County for release of the 0.6 acres has been calculated as follows:

Current RIM payment rate for Eden Township: \$7183.80 /acre
2 x current RIM rate = 2 x \$7183.80/acre = \$14, 367.60/acre
0.6 acres x \$14, 367.60/acre = \$8620.56
State funds previously spent on conservation practices: \$100/acre x 0.6 acres = \$60.00
\$8620.56 + \$60.00 = **\$8680.56**

The Brown County Highway Department has met all requirements of BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects and all supporting documents are attached.

Recommendation

The RIM Reserve Committee voted to approve the easement alteration request and to formally amend RIM Easement #08-09-93-02 to release 0.6 acres for the public benefit of the Brown County Highway Department Bridge 2110 replacement project. **DECISION ITEM**

2. **Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates** – This resolution authorizes new RIM practices necessary to implement the RIM Working Land easement program that was authorized by the Board under Resolution 21-04. These new practices include infrastructure necessary to implement managed grazing such as exterior fence and alternate water sources. The resolution also authorizes paying for writing grazing plans that meet USDA standards. **DECISION ITEM**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Value of BWSR Storytelling presentation** – BWSR Communications staff gave a presentation at the Feb. 10 regional operations BWSR staff meeting and again at the March 8 Senior Management Team meeting about the value of BWSR storytelling. The purpose of this presentation is to share results and successes related to BWSR Snapshots and Conservation Stories, and to highlight the key role our staff play in communicating conservation outcomes. The presentation also outlines the ways agency communications staff use social media and work with news outlets to spread the word about BWSR grants, programs and initiatives. At the request of SMT, we'd like to share this presentation with the full BWSR board to make them aware of the positive trends we've seen in recent years related to BWSR's storytelling efforts. **INFORMATION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-539-2587. We look forward to seeing you on March 23.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF JANUARY 26, 2022 BOARD MEETING

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Singer Macrae, Contracts Accountant
- Sumbal Rana, Office and Administrative Specialist

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

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

REPORTS

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Gerald Van Amburg
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Joe Collins
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Rich Sve
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman
- RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Nicole Bernd
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Emily Javens
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. FY 22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program Funding Recommendation – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***

Central Region Committee

1. Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan – Michelle Jordan – ***DECISION ITEM***

Northern Region Committee

1. Clay SWCD Nomination Districts – Neil Peterson – ***DECISION ITEM***

RIM Reserve Committee

1. Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement #08-09-93-02 Alteration for Public Road Project – Karli Tyma – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates – Bill Penning – ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. Value of BWSR Storytelling presentation – Mary Juhl and Ann Wessel – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, March 28, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.
- Northern Regional Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 6, 2022, at 9:00 a.m., location TBD.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, April 11, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 27, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 2022**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kathryn Kelly, Rich Sve, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Katrina Kessler, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Jeff Berg, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Kelly Kirkpatrick, Neil Peterson

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Angie Becker Kudelka, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Lucy Dahl, Marcey Westrick, Michelle Jordan, Annie Felix-Gerth, Tom Gile, Kristin Brennan, Jeremy Maul, Mark Hiles, Ed Lenz, Henry Van Offelen, Pete Waller, Rita Weaver, Jenny Gieseke, Brett Arne, Les Lemm , Jenny Mocol-Johnson, Sharon Doucette, Dave Weirens, Ryan Hughes, Julie Westerlund, Suzanne Rhees, Ken Powell, John Voz, Dave Copeland

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jason Garms, DNR; Brian Martinson, AMC; Emily Javens, MAWD; LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Troy Danielle, NRCS; Kaytlin Bemis, Farm Bureau; Eric Van Dyken, Ryan Malterud, Jan Voit, Zach Bothun, JoAnn Blomme

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

22-01 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by LeRoy Ose, seconded by Ted Winter, to adopt the agenda as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

22-02 **MINUTES OF DECEMBER 16, 2021 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Mark Zabel, to approve the minutes of December 16, 2021, as amended. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Board Members welcomed new staff. Sharon Doucette introduced Lucy Dahl, Easement Supervisor; Marcey Westrick introduced Michelle Jordan, Board Conservationist and Annie Felix-Gerth, Clean Water Coordinator; and Tom Gile introduced Kristin Brennan, Southern Region Training Conservationist.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Van Amburg read the statement:

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

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Gerald Van Amburg reported the committee has not met. He attended the Red River Basin Conference virtually and stated Executive Director John Jaschke updated the group on program and priorities at BWSR and the priorities, challenges, and accomplishments of the Minnesota Climate Change Subcabinet. Another presentation was given by Steven Rosenzweig with General Mills, he reported on the workings of the ecosystem services market consortium. Chair Van Amburg also attended the EQB meeting on January 19 where they were given an update on the needs and expense to assume the Section 404 Permitting Program of the Federal Clean Water Act. Stated the Environmental Review Implementation Subcommittee also met and they continue to gather information on the pilot program for integrating climate change into environmental review. The Department of Transportation Committee Commissioner Margaret Anderson Kelliher who has chaired EQB has resigned from the commissioner position to take a position as Director of Public Works with Minneapolis.

Chair Van Amburg stated the BWSR Board will conduct an annual performance review of the Executive Director. Jenny Gieseke, Organizational Effectiveness Manager, will be sending an evaluation to each Board Member. Chair Van Amburg will then consult with the Vice Chair and report back at the March meeting with the results. Jenny Gieseke stated she will send an email to Board Members to complete the survey through Survey Monkey. Jill Crafton asked if there is a deadline to get it in by. Jenny stated there will be a deadline and the information will be in the email that’s sent out.

Chair Van Amburg congratulated LeRoy Ose for being reappointed to the board as a Watershed District representative.

Chair Van Amburg recognized Darby Nelson who was an environmental advocate. He served three terms in the Minnesota House of Representatives, where one of his most significant accomplishments was legislation creating the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Executive Director's Report - John Jaschke reported the Governor's supplemental and bonding proposals are being released. Legislative session begins the last week of January. Stated hearings in the House will be held virtual and the Senate will have a hybrid version. Stated the Statewide River Watch Program was put into bill last year and was due in January. It has been accomplished and report will be sent to Board Members.

John stated there was a note sent to Board Members by Jenny Gieseke about work we'll be doing on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion with the Board. We will be using the Administrative Advisory Committee for this work.

John reviewed the day of packet that included agenda, minutes, Snapshots, org chart, and the expense form.

Chair VanAmburg stated the Snapshots were done very well.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported they met on January 20 to review the 2021 PRAP Report that is an action item on the agenda.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Rich Sve reported they have not met. Travis Germundson reported there are presently six appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There have been three new appeals filed since the last board meeting and four decisions that have been issued.

File 22-1(1-7-2022) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Steele County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of agricultural drain tile through multiple wetlands. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 21-9 (12-17-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a no-loss determination in Pope County. This appeal has been combined with File 21-7 because they involve the same notice of decision and placed in abeyance to allow the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact following the submission of additional technical analyses.

File 21-8 This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Rock County. The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for further investigation and submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application.

File 21-1 (8-16-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision involving a no-loss determination in Kittson County. A decision was made on November 3, 2021, to grant and hear the appeal. Several delays and extensions have been issued since then. Received official record from the local unit government they are in the process of scheduling a pre-conference hearing.

Jill Crafton asked about Roseau County on the map being a color of no action taken. Travis stated its due to a pending hearing on a ditch proceeding.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Todd Holman reported the committee met January 10 and have an item on the agenda today. Next meeting scheduled for February 14.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported the committee has not met. They are scheduled to meet next week.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins reported the committee has not met.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported the committee has not met. Did have a workshop and will have an information item later in the agenda.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – Mark Zabel reported the committee has not met.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Tom Gile reported they met in January and received update from MCEA staff on Waters of the U.S. and discussed future activities going into the next year. Tom stated the Drainage Manual is now up on the BWSR website. Next meeting is scheduled for June or July.

Chair VanAmburg thanked board members that helped fill positions in committees.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Jeff Berg reported former Assistant Commissioner Whitney Place is now Minnesota's USDA Farm Service Agency Executive Director and Peder Kjeseth has been appointed as MDA's new Assistant Commissioner.

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification program has a goal of 1 million acres to reach by end of this year. As of this week the program has 810,000 acres towards that goal.

The Groundwater Protection Rule updated their map for areas in the state that are vulnerable to nitrate in groundwater, this map can be found on their website. Jeff stated there are 13 local advisory teams throughout the state that have been meeting with farmers to talk about nitrate in groundwater.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported they developed a white paper on stormwater reuse with public health perspectives and stated it's posted on their website.

Steve stated there are going to be a variety of changes to help address lead issues, in particular drinking water supplies. Stated the EPA released a national revision to the Lead and Copper Rule that will dictate how those changes take place over the next few years. Jill Crafton stated she would like to see watershed districts involved. Joe Collins suggested when they go forward in the next stage to look at golf courses and ice skating rinks as both use a lot of water and includes the public. Jeff stated he will forward those recommendations to the group.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen thanked Chair Van Amburg for recognizing Darby Nelson. Stated the bonding package was released last week, DNR has a role in managing part of the state's outdoor assets for natural resources.

Jill Crafton asked if they are looking at more diversity within forest species. Sarah stated the focus is on climate appropriate species for now and in the future.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported the Minnesota Climate Adaptation Award ceremony will be held virtually on January 31. There will be a presentation and conversation with Dr. Kathryn Hayhoe, a climate scientist involved with climate work across the country.

Joel stated they will be hiring a new extension educator to work on building climate resilience in agriculture and natural resource communities.

Stated they have been talking with the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership and as part of their Comprehensive Plan, they identified a need for an education and agronomy assistant in the watershed to help implement some their goals. They hired Jennifer Hahn from the Redwood Soil and Water Conservation District to start in November.

Nutrient Management Conference is on February 8 in Mankato and February 15 in St. Cloud, both have virtual options.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler thanked BWSR for highlighting the investment of the Clean Water Fund. Stated they have added numbers to the impaired water list but have taken more off the list than any other year. They have added more water for PFAS and the addition of water outside of metro area highlights that this is not a metro challenge but is a statewide challenge.

Katrina thanked Commissioner Strommen and others who participated in the Climate Change Awareness event in December talking about lake ice impacts from climate change. Stated we are averaging 14 fewer days of lake ice than we did 50 years ago across the state.

Katrina stated they joined BWSR and other partners in the third annual Ag Urban Forum where attendees continued their progress in addressing challenges related to protecting water quality in Minnesota.

Katrina stated state agencies are preparing to release a draft climate action framework in the next couple weeks. Stated the federal infrastructure money the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law passed included an additional \$1 million to Minnesota for each of the next five years to work on the nutrient reduction strategy effort. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law also included \$1 billion for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative where a portion will come to Minnesota. Stated an influx of money is coming through the Public Facility Authority into the State Revolving Fund to address aging infrastructure.

Dana Vanderbosch has been named MPCA's Assistant Commissioner for Water Policy and Agriculture. MPCA also hired new CFO and Government Relations Director.

Jill Crafton stated she talked to Glenn Skuta about the electro fishing they've been doing and asked if it's feasible for the fish that are being caught be tested for mercury and if there was anything they could be doing to test for PFAS. Katrina stated they are looking to advance their PFAS work across the state. As a Watershed District, Katrina stated she could connect Jill with someone from the MPCA or DNR to find out what it entails and what labs are available. Commissioner Strommen stated she also could connect Jill with DNR staff who are doing fish tissue sampling.

Chair Van Amburg mentioned the problem of lead and trying to do something about it. Stated there are a lot of the lead pipes on private property and that it can be costly. He asked if there is anything being looked at to help homeowners. Katrina stated money coming through the State Revolving Funds to the state from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is not just thinking about where there are city owned or

municipal owned lead pipes, but how to make sure they're comprehensively mapping where lead pipe connections may be. They are also thinking about opportunities to support homeowners in that work. Steve Robertson stated the other concern is for renters that don't own, the landlord might not have incentive to make the investment.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson reported AMC has been engaged with public and private sector partners, including meetings with leaders from state agencies and associations discussing plans for 2020 session and beyond. AMC has been active on several workgroups that were created by the legislature, one is an advisory group to identify sources of PFAS entering solid waste in wastewater systems.

Brian stated one of their session priorities is the natural resources block grants. Funding for these services include WACA and shoreland protection. Stated AMC supports the administration bonding and general fund recommendations for the local road wetlands replacement program.

Brian thanked BWSR, EQB, MPCA, DNR and others for their work on the 404 Permitting Assumption. The state investment in obtaining this report was a priority for AMC two years ago and look forward to hearing the conversation on the topic later in the agenda. Stated AMC is likely to continue support for additional state funding to continue assembling 404 application materials.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck thanked those that participated in their annual meeting. At the meeting a grassroots policy deliberations took place, LeAnn stated it enhances SWCD foundational areas of financial and technical assistance that they provide to private landowners and private lands. One of the biggest trends they had several resolutions on was forestry support. Thanked Commissioner Strommen and stated their members received a lot of seedling resources from the DNR State Nursery. LeAnn thanked BWSR for providing forest support. Stated they are looking at a request for enhancing or establishing a BWSR Forest Conservation Program that would complement DNR's Cooperative Forestry Management.

LeAnn stated another request is for BWSR to work with MDA and MnDOT on accelerating work associated with right of way and BMPs. Members are seeing a lot of private landowners that have land adjacent to the right of ways and continue to think about the removal and the control of invasives. They are also seeing a need to increase the pollinator species.

LeAnn stated for Wright SWCD they're trying to see if there is cost share availability for the removal of tile intakes and providing technical standards for alternative practices that would still be eligible for the state cost share program. Stated they will be looking into and will work with NRCS and other agencies.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported they are planning in person trainings in outstate Minnesota for clerks and treasurers. They will be holding Township Tuesday calls on the first and third Tuesday of the month from 10:00 – 11:00 a.m. Stated Supervisors will be attending a board of equalization training to provide fair and objective forums for property owners to appeal their valuation or classification, which is the first formal step in the appeals process.

Township elections are being held on March 8 for a clerk and supervisor position.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts –Emily Javens reported they received a response to their petition on whether rulemaking was required in a previous decision and that they are working on a rebuttal. Stated the Governor included \$20 million of flood hazard mitigation funds to work on projects. Emily stated they have an author committed to increase the general fund levy to allow districts to keep up with the rate of inflation. Emily also stated they presented to the House and Senate Members on the Minnesota Subcommittee on the Water Policy.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

Chair Van Amburg recessed the meeting at 10:57 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:05 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Southern Region Committee

Hawk Creek – Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Jeremy Maul, Mark Hiles, and Ed Lenz presented Hawk Creek – Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The BWSR Area 53 was selected by BWSR for a One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant in August of 2018. A Memorandum of Agreement was established on April 1, 2019, between the planning partners for the purposes of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, which was initiated on May 17, 2019. The watershed partnership members have attended regularly scheduled meetings and submitted the Hawk Creek - Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to BWSR on November 11, 2021, for review and approval. The Southern Regional Committee (Committee) met on December 20, 2021, to review the content of the Plan, State agency comments on the Plan, and to make a recommendation for approval. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.

Joe Collins stated he read the plan and thought it was very pragmatic.

Chair Van Amburg stated he thought it was a good plan.

**
22-03 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Rich Sve, to approve the Hawk Creek – Middle Minnesota Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Northern Region Committee

Red River Basin Commission Grant – Henry Van Offelen presented Red River Basin Commission Grant

In 2021 the Legislature appropriated funds to the Board for grants to the Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) for water quality and floodplain management, including administration of programs. The RRBC has submitted an updated report of 2021 activities related to their Natural Resources Framework plan and has developed a work plan and budget for 2022 and 2023. The RRBC has secured the required matching funds from the State of North Dakota and Province of Manitoba. BWSR staff have reviewed these materials and found that they are consistent with previous materials submitted to secure these funds.

The Northern Regional Committee (Committee) met January 5, 2021, to review and discuss the RRBC 2021 Annual Report, the RRBC 2022/23 Workplan, the current status of the RRBC, and to make a recommendation of the Order authorizing the FY2022/223 grant to the Red River Basin Commission to the full Board. The Committee recommends approval by the full Board.

Jill Crafton stated she thought this is really valuable.

**
22-04 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ted Winter approve the Red River Basin Commission Grant. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Boundary Change Petition for Bois de Sioux Watershed District and Upper Minnesota River Watershed District – Pete Waller presented Boundary Change Petition for Bois de Sioux Watershed District and Upper Minnesota River Watershed District.

The public hearing for the petition was held November 22, 2021, in Graceville and no written or verbal comments were received during the public comment period of the meeting. The record remained open two weeks after the hearing until 4:30pm on December 6, 2021. No written comments were received while the record was open.

The petition, record of comments and the draft Board Order were reviewed by the Northern Region Committee (Committee) at their January 5, 2022, meeting. After discussion the Committee recommended approval of the petition as submitted by the full Board.

Jayne Hager Dee stated it's because of hydrology and the advances that were made and asked if there were any local politics, conflicts, etc. Pete stated it's based on hydrology and the way the water flows. Stated it will be better customer service for the landowners and watershed districts perspective because they will know who can grant them a permit and based on which way the water flows.

**
22-05 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by LeRoy Ose approve the Boundary Change Petition for Bois de Sioux Watershed District and Upper Minnesota River Watershed District. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program – Rita Weaver presented Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program.

In 2021 the MN Legislature passed a law requiring BWSR to develop a Water Quality and Storage Program. BWSR staff have completed outreach to interested parties and will be recommending program details to the board. Additional background is included in the attached board memo. The program policy and RFP have been reviewed by the SMT and internal Grants Team, and also have a recommended approval by the GP&P committee.

Jill Crafton stated this aligns with legislation and suggested to remove the statement “if applicable” from the Prioritization section of page 9 in the FY2022 Water Quality and Storage Pilot Program Questions document. Rita stated the “if applicable” does not cause a lot of rework in plans. If they were getting inundated with applications and needed to narrow it down it could be a place to start, that this has to be tied directly to your plan. At this point Rita is recommending we keep it a little broader. Mark Zabel stated he agrees with Jill and in order to hit this target we should be addressing volume and need to separate volume from rate. Stated he would like to look at the project selection and try to focus on these issues.

Ron Staples stated he was disappointed they aren't allowing the 103E proceedings as part of the pilot project. John Jaschke stated there is a Drainage Water Management Grant Program that comes from the Clean Water Fund and will have Rita follow-up with Ron.

Van Amburg asked Rita if scoring could help drive projects towards those that are more mitigation rather than adaptation. Rita reviewed the criteria and stated they wanted to see what other measures or actions are being taken in the watershed to reduce peak flooding or improve water quality, such as soil health practices or other structural practices and the variety of funding sources being used to implement these practices.

**
22-06 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Audit and Oversight Committee

2021 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report – Jenny Gieseke and Brett Arne presented 2021 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report.

BWSR is required to provide a report annually to the legislature on Performance Review and Assistance Program activities as prescribed by Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, Subdivision 3, effective February 1, 2008. BWSR staff have prepared a report that describes the program activities for 2021, including summaries of the activities of BWSR's local government partners, and goals and objectives for future PRAP activities. The report was presented to and has recommendation from the BWSR Audit and Oversight Committee for BWSR Board approval.

Joe Collins thanked Brett and other BWSR staff for their work and stated it's a valuable report.

**
22-07 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the 2021 Performance Review and Assistance Program Legislative Report. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

NEW BUSINESS

Clean Water Act Section 404 Assumption – Report on Funding Estimates – Les Lemm presented Clean Water Act Section 404 Assumption – Report on Funding Estimates

Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 2, Section 108, Subd. 9(a) required the Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB) to begin to develop and assemble the material required to assume the section 404 permitting program of the Federal Clean Water Act (404 assumption), and to submit a report on the additional funding required to apply for and secure 404 assumption and to fully implement the state-assumed program. EQB entered into an agreement with the Board of Water and Soil Resources, who then entered into subsequent agreements with the Department of Natural Resources and the Pollution Control Agency, to coordinate the work and complete the report. Staff will summarize the results of that work and the cost estimates contained in the report.

Mark Zabel asked if the state went ahead with Assumption of 404 would we receive any grant funding under Clean Water Act permitting activities since we would be relieving the federal government of permitting. Les stated there are no specific funds the federal government would provide for 404 Assumption. Mark asked if 404 Assumption would take the Army Corp out of the wetland banking process or if are they going to still be in it? Les stated they'll retain their permitting authority on the larger water bodies.

Jill Crafton thanked Les for all his work putting this together and asked if an appeal process needs to be part of this. Les stated that the existing appeal mechanisms would not go away and reviewed the appeal process.

Ron Staples stated in the Permitting Authority and Implementation Structure section it states only state agencies can be permitting authorities for 404 and asked if that means the WACA Technical Evaluation Panel will no longer exist? Les stated the Technical Evaluation Panel would continue to exist as it does now and continue to review the projects.

LeRoy Ose commented if the goal is to get more wetlands, there is more potential to get more outside of metro than in a valuable real estate area. Ron Staples stated removing a wetland in one watershed and replacing it in another defeats some of the purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act.

Vice Chair Nomination – John Jaschke presented Vice Chair Nomination.

According to bylaws, the Vice Chair will be elected to a two-year term by the members of the Board. Nominations will be made at the meeting. After the vote to close nominations, voting ballots will be mailed to board members along with a prepaid envelope to return their ballot by March 1, 2022. The Vice Chair will then be announced by the March board meeting.

Kathryn Kelly nominated Joe Collins to continue as vice chair.

**

22-08 Van Amburg closed the Vice Chair nominations. ***Vice Chair Collins elected on a voice vote.***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- RIM Committee meeting is scheduled for Friday, February 4, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the BWSR Conference Room at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul by Teams.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for Monday, February 14 at 9:00 a.m. in the BWSR Conference Room at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul by WebEx.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 23, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. in the Lower Level Conference Rooms at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by WebEx.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 1:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Central Office

Contact: Travis Germundson

Prepared by: Travis Germundson

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Travis Germundson/Rich Sve DRC Chair

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

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

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report/map.

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

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

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

March 8, 2022

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently seven appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been one new appeal filed since the last Board Meeting.

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

File-22-2 (2-16-22) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Kanabec County. The appeal regards the excavation of a ditch and placement of spoil material in a wetland. The project and alleged wetland impacts affects multiple property owners No decision has been made on the appeal

File 22-1(1-7-2022) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Steele County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of agricultural drain tile through multiple wetlands. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application.*

File 21-9 (12-17-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a no-loss determination in Pope County. The appeal regards the approval of a 36' inlet structure/tile to reduce inundation and saturated soil on agricultural fields. At issue is the elevation that was approved (to high). The petition request that the appeal be placed in abeyance until technical data can be gathered. Note, this involves the same notice of decision being appealed under File 21-07. *The appeal has been combined with file 21-7 and placed in abeyance to allow the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact following the submission of additional technical analyses.*

File 21-8 (12-17-21) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Rock County. The appeal regards the alleged placement of tile lines through wetlands. The petition request that the appeal be placed in abeyance for the submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for further investigation and submittal of an after-the-fact wetland application.*

File 21-7 (12-14-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a no-loss determination in Pope County. The appeal regards approval of a 36" inlet structure/tile that allegedly rout water around U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service property and impact wetlands. At issue is the elevation that was approved (to low). *The appeal has been combined with file 21-9 and placed in abeyance to allow the Technical Evaluation Panel to develop written finding of fact following the submission of additional technical analyses.*

File 21-4 (10-26-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA restoration order in Morrison County. The appeal regards alterations to a private ditch and excavation of wildlife ponds. The project allegedly exceeded the project scope and authorization granted by the local unit of government for ditch maintenance under a no-loss determination. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed to determine viability of proposed actions for restoration.*

File 21-1 (8-16-2021) This is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision involving a no-loss_determination in Kittson County. The appeal regards the denial of a no-loss determination for wetland impacts associated with the construction of road, ditch, and additional fill material. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed for submittal of an after-the-fact wetland restoration and replacement plan application. The appellant's legal counsel notified BWSR that there they are no longer interested in pursuing a new application. As a result, a decision was made on November 3, 2021 to grant and hear the appeal. A pre-hearing conference took place on February 23, 2022 and a schedule of filing of written briefs has been determined.*

Summary Table for Appeals

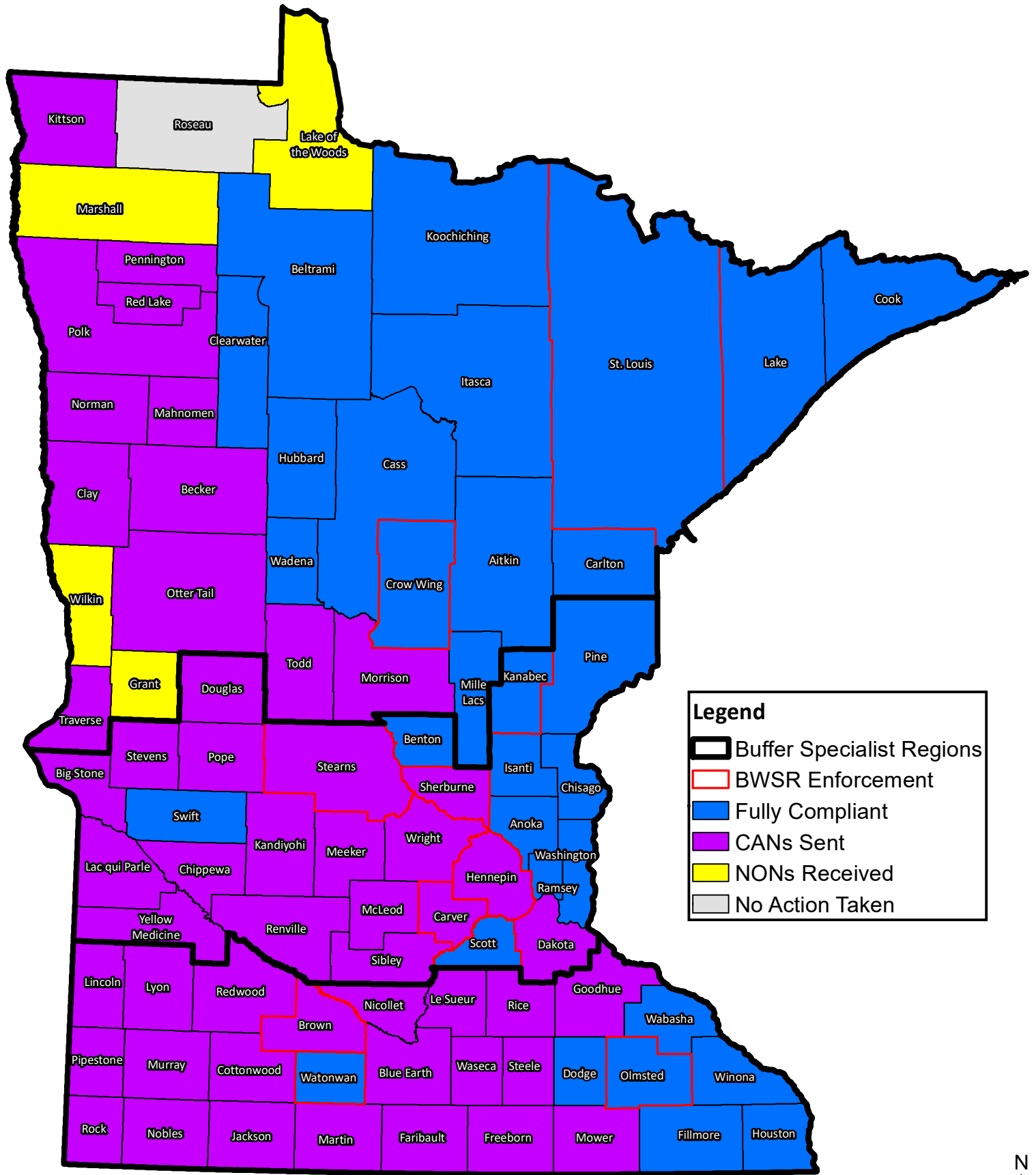
Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2020	Total for Calendar Year 2021
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	7	2
Order Modified		
Order Remanded	3	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	4	2
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	5	2

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

*Statewide 31 counties are fully compliant, and 51 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 672 CANs and 57 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 2,076 of those have been resolved.

**Disclaimer: These numbers are generated monthly from BWSR's Access database. The information is obtained through notifications from LGUs on actions taken to bring about compliance and may not reflect the current status of compliance numbers.*

STATEWIDE COUNTY BUFFER ENFORCEMENT



Legend

- Buffer Specialist Regions
- BWSR Enforcement
- Fully Compliant
- CANs Sent
- NONs Received
- No Action Taken



COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. FY 22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants – Tom Gile – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program Funding Recommendation – Dan Shaw – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	FY 22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants
Meeting Date:	<u>March 23, 2022</u>
Agenda Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> New Business <input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Information <input type="checkbox"/> Non-Public Data
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>Clean Water Fund Soil Health</u>
Section/Region:	<u>Resource Conservation/Regional Opps</u>
Contact:	<u>Tom Gile/Jill Sackett-Eberhart</u>
Prepared by:	<u>Tom Gile</u>
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Programs and Policy</u> Committee(s)
Presented by:	<u>Tom Gile</u>
Time requested:	<u>20-30 Minutes</u>

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

Authorize FY 22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants and associated Policy Recommendation. Authorize release of Grant RFP.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The Minnesota legislature passed a law in 2021 appropriating funding to BWSR from the Clean Water Fund for farmers who own or rent land to enhance adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to Public Water Supplies. Staff has spent the last 9 months developing and implementing an outreach effort to gain information and feedback from various stakeholders regarding overall Soil Health program development. Over that time an internal staff team also was in development of two Soil Health grant delivery processes (one for these Clean Water Funds and a parallel track for other General Fund dollars appropriated in 2021). What is before the Board now is a culmination of those efforts to deliver the Clean Water Fund portion of these dollars. Staff will provide an overview of the outreach efforts conducted in preparing the recommended program and current Request for Proposal (RFP). Due to the time commitment of the outreach efforts and program development to date both FY 22 and FY 23 funds are proposed for distribution in a single RFP.

Note that the board is asked to approve the RFP criteria only, not the full RFP document included in the packet.

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grants.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Sec. 6(p) appropriated \$2,000,000 the first year and \$2,000,000 the second year are for grants to farmers who own or rent land to enhance adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to public water supplies. Up to \$400,000 is for an agreement with the University of Minnesota Office for Soil Health for applied research and education on Minnesota's agroecosystems and soil health management systems.
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 request for proposal criteria provides expectations for applications by eligible local governments and subsequent implementation activities conducted with these funds.
4. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their February 14, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed fiscal year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grant Request for Proposal criteria and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes the fiscal year 2022/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants according to the attached ranking criteria for the *FY2022/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants Request for Proposal*.
2. Authorizes use of the 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy for these grants.
3. Authorizes staff to finalize and issue a Request for Proposals.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this March 23, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments: FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grant Request for Proposal Criteria

FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Soil Health Grant Request for Proposal Criteria

Soil Health Program	
Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
<u>Prioritization and connection to public water supply:</u> Has the applicant clearly and concisely identified the specific resource and resource concern(s)? Are these items connected via state approved locally adopted plan reference(s).	25
<u>Targeting:</u> Are the proposed activities ones which would efficiently and effectively address Primary pollutant(s) or resource concerns.	25
<u>Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact:</u> Goals/Trends and progress made.	15
<u>New Adoption:</u> How do the applicants define this and what efforts are made to emphasize new adopters?	10
<u>Long Term Adoption:</u> What steps is the applicant taking to support successful adoption and encourage long term adoption of practices by the implementers?	10
<u>Education and Outreach:</u> What specific efforts are proposed to enhance local understanding and knowledge around the practices proposed? What efforts are being made to enhance or expand non-traditional partnerships for these purposes?	10
<u>Local Cost Share Policy:</u> Does the applicant have, or have they described the need for a local cost share policy for implementation of the practices which details the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these practices in an efficient and effective manner.	5
Total Points Available	100

FY22/23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grants

Request for Proposals

March 28, 2022

Request for Proposals (RFP) General Information

In 2021, the Minnesota Legislature, in the first Special Session, passed Chapter 1, article 2, Sec. 6(p) (Clean Water Fund Appropriations) which provided funding for grants to farmers [via local government units] who own or rent land to enhance the adoption of cover crops and other soil health practices in areas where there are direct benefits to public water supplies.

Priority for this program will be given to new adoption and understanding of soil health practices through the following efforts:

- Building local knowledge;
- Facilitating partnerships;
- Demonstrating clean water benefits;
- Identifying methods to increase long term adoption of soil health practices; and
- Scope and scale of implementation efforts in locally prioritized areas that show a direct benefit to public water supplies.

Up to \$3,500,000 is available.

Applicant Eligibility

As defined in the FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy, eligible applicants include:

- Local government units (counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts) or local government joint power boards working under a current State approved and locally adopted local water management plan or soil and water conservation district (SWCD) comprehensive plan.
- Municipalities that 1) have a water plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minn. Stat. 103B.235; or 2) adopted an approved comprehensive watershed management plan developed under Minn. Stat. 103B.801
- Counties in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have adopted a county groundwater plan or county comprehensive plan that has been approved by the Metropolitan Council under Minn. Stat. Chapter 473.
- Entities that have not adopted a plan as described above, and therefore not eligible to apply, are encouraged to work with an eligible entity if interested in receiving grant funds.

- LGUs 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.

Eligible Best Management Practices

The following core soil health practices are eligible statewide:

- Cover Crops
- Strip-till / No-till
- Perennial Crops
- Stand Diversification
- Perennial Strips
- Agroforestry
- Rotational Grazing
- Nutrient Management

Eligible practices are **NOT** limited to those above. In addition, local priority or supporting soil health practices may be eligible but applicants need to provide justification and obtain Board Conservationist and program manager concurrence prior to application submittal.

For Example: The Stormy public water supply has a high incidence of confined animal facilities and is struggling with Nitrogen rate increases in the public water supply. Stormy SWCD is proposing Nutrient Management as a BMP specifically to establish and implement a Manure Management plan in addition to cover crops for operators who apply manure within the Stormy public water supply.

Application Requirements

1. Applications must be submitted electronically in eLINK and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. on May 9, 2022. Late responses will not be considered. The burden of proving timely receipt is on the respondent.
2. Applications submitted must request state funds that equal or exceed \$30,000. Applications submitted that do not meet this minimum dollar amount will not be accepted.
3. Applications will be submitted in eLINK. Budgets must include the grant funds requested specifically for each activity that is applicable to the proposal. Activity categories may include:
 - a. Agricultural Practice
 - b. Forestry Practices
 - c. Non-Structural Land Management
 - d. Technical and Engineering Assistance
 - e. Administration and Coordination
 - f. Supplies and Equipment
 - g. Project Development
4. Application may include only one image to be submitted within their eLINK application. **Only .jpg, .tiff, or .png file types are allowed.** All other file types of images are not accessible to reviewers.

5. Proposals should clearly articulate which public water supply(ies) is being prioritized in the application. Proposals should demonstrate significant, measurable project outputs and outcomes targeted to critical pollution source areas that will help achieve water quality objectives for the water resource of concern; be consistent with a comprehensive water management plan that has been state approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy (GRAPS), surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan.
6. As appropriate, outputs should include scientifically credible estimates of pollutant reductions expected as a result of the project, as well as other measures such as acres of wetlands/forest, acres of perennials established, or acres of specific agricultural conservation practices implemented including acres treated by the installation of the practice. ***Applications with unsupported pollution reduction estimates will not be considered.***
7. Applicants should evaluate the impacts that climate change (such as fluctuating precipitation patterns and drought) may have on the ability of the proposed project to meet objectives and whether the proposed project increases landscape resiliency.
8. Applicants who were previously awarded Clean Water Funds and have expended less than 50% of previous Clean Water Fund award(s) at the time of this proposal may need to demonstrate organizational capacity to finalize current projects and complete new project concurrently.
9. A ten percent (10%) non-state match will be required of grant recipients.
10. Applications may receive partial funding for the following reasons: 1) an absence of or limited identification of specific project locations, 2) budgeted items that were not discussed in the application or have no connection to the central purpose of the application were included by an applicant; 3) to address budget categories out of balance with the project scope; 4) application contains ineligible components; and 5) insufficient funds remaining in a grant category to fully fund a project. Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request.
11. This proposal is subject to the FY 2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy unless otherwise noted in this RFP.

Proposal Questions

1. A) What resource concerns(s) will this proposal specifically restore or protect? Include how your program will prioritize and benefit public water supplies.
B) Reference the water management plan(s) or other studies and assessments. Provide weblinks to all referenced plans.
2. A) What is/are the primary pollutant(s) this application specifically addresses?
B) Identify your proposed practices and explain why they are the most efficient and effective means to address the identified pollutant(s).
3. A) Has either a pollutant reduction or protection goal been set (via TMDL or other study) in relation to the pollutant(s) or the water resource that is the subject of this application? If yes, please state that goal

(as both an annual pollution reduction AND overall percentage reduction, not as an in-stream or in-lake concentration number). If no pollutant reduction goal has been set, describe the water quality trends or risks associated with the water resource or other management goals that have been established. For protection projects, indicate measurable outputs such as acres of protected land, number of potential contaminant sources removed or managed, etc.

B) Describe the measurable progress achieved through this application? Where applicable, identify the annual reduction in pollutant(s) that will be achieved or avoided for the water resource if this project is completed.

4. Describe how your proposal will enhance new adoption of soil health practices.
5. Describe how you intend to encourage or address long term adoption of soil health practices, including how long term adoption may be encouraged after contracts expire and how it will be tracked;
6. Describe how your proposal will increase local knowledge of soil health through:
 - a) Incorporation and development of partnerships within your program; (For example, partnerships with local co-ops, agronomists, farmer led groups to expand the reach of the programing and to bring additional expertise into the process)
 - b) Education and outreach efforts.
7. Describe the local cost share policy needed to implement your proposal, such as:
 - a) Definition of “new adoption”
 - b) Practices/BMPs
 - c) Payment rate(s)
 - d) Contract length
 - e) Units (Acres, linear feet, etc)
 - f) BMP lifespan
 - g) Other local policies or requirements

Evaluation Criteria

All proposals submitted will be reviewed and selected by Agency staff according to the evaluation criteria below. The maximum score per nomination is 100 points.

Evaluation Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
<u>Prioritization and connection to public water supply:</u> Has the applicant clearly and concisely identified the specific resource and resource concern(s)? Are these items connected via local plan reference(s).	25
<u>Targeting:</u> Are the proposed activities ones which would efficiently and effectively address Primary pollutant(s) or resource concerns.	25
<u>Measurable Outcomes and Project Impact:</u> Goals/Trends and progress made.	15

<u>New Adoption</u> : How do the applicants define this and what efforts are made to emphasize new adopters?	10
<u>Long Term Adoption</u> : What steps is the applicant taking to support successful adoption and encourage long term adoption of practices by the implementers?	10
<u>Education and Outreach</u> : What specific efforts are proposed to enhance local understanding and knowledge around the practices proposed? What efforts are being made to enhance or expand non-traditional partnerships for these purposes?	10
<u>Local Cost Share Policy</u> : Does the applicant have, or have they described the need for a local cost share policy for implementation of the practices which details the appropriate policies and procedures to implement these practices in an efficient and effective manner.	5
Total Points Available	100

Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request.

BWSR also reserves the right to select nominations that provide geographic diversity.

Incomplete Proposals

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

GRANT TERMS

Grant Execution

BWSR Clean Water 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. Successful respondents will be required to complete a detailed budget and work plan in eLINK prior to execution of the grant agreement.

Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds. Grants must be completed by December 31, 2025.

Payment Schedule

Grant payments will be distributed in three installments: the first payment of 50% of the grant amount will be paid after work plan approval and execution of the grant agreement, provided the grant respondents are in compliance with all BWSR website and eLINK reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants. The second payment of 40% of the grant amount will be paid once the grantee has provided BWSR with notification and BWSR has reconciled expenditures of the initial payment. The last 10% will be paid after all final reporting requirements are met, the grantee has provided BWSR with a final financial report, and BWSR has reconciled these expenditures.

Clean Water Fund Project Reporting Requirements

1. All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan, including detail relating to the outcome(s) of the proposed project. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing this activity. For more information go to www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html.
2. When practicable, grantees shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (<http://legacy.leg.mn>) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes (www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/)
3. When practicable, grantees must display the legacy logo on printed and other materials funded with money from the Clean Water Fund. The logo and specifications can be found at <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/legacy-logo>

Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to an RFP are nonpublic until the proposal deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, 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 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.

Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/>) 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 with any of the following scenarios:

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.

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.

Timeline

- March 28, 2022 – Proposal period begins
- May 9, 2022 – Proposal deadline at 4:30 PM
- May/June 2022 - Review of requests
- August 25, 2022 - BWSR approval
- November 1, 2022 - Work plan submittal deadline
- November 29, 2022 - Grant execution deadline

*Grant agreements will be developed and executed based on available funding.

Questions

Question concerning submittal of an application may be directed to Tom Gile, Tom.Gile@state.mn.us or 507-696-1974.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: One Watershed, One Plan; Planning Grant; Request for Proposals; RPF

Section/Region: Central Region – Local Water Management Section

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 the 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan planning grants and authorize staff to distribute the RFP and manage the proposal review process.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The purpose of this agenda item is for the Board to approve the 2022 Request for Proposals for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants. This is the sixth year BWSR is offering planning grants. The RFP has evolved over time to encourage more discussion among prospective planning groups during proposal development and to refine BWSR selection criteria. Only small changes have been made relative to the 2021 RFP. This grant program continues to operate under the policy adopted by the Board in 2018.

BOARD ORDER**One Watershed, One Plan Program 2022 Planning Grants: Request for Proposals****PURPOSE**

Authorize the 2022 Request for Proposals (RFP).

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 establishes the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program, also known as the One Watershed, One Plan Program.
2. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 to award grants to local units of government with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management.
3. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(i) and the Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i) appropriated funds to the Board for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach.
4. The One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant 2022 RFP was reviewed and approved by the Board's Senior Management Team on February 8, 2022 to forward to the Board's Grants Program and Policy Committee for consideration.
5. The Board's Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the 2022 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant RFP on March 7, 2022 and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to finalize, distribute, and promote a 2022 Request for Proposals.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this March 23, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Attachments:

- 2018 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy
- 2022 Planning Grant Request for Proposals

2018 Grants Policy

One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

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

Version: 1.00

Effective Date: 03/28/2018

Approval: Board Decision #18-15

Policy Statement

The purpose of this policy is to provide expectations for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants conducted via the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Clean Water Fund grants to facilitate development and writing of comprehensive watershed management plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.

Reason for this Policy

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

BWSR will use grant agreements 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 or future sanctions on the grant recipient.

Requirements

1. Applicant Eligibility Requirements

Eligible applicants include counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts working in partnership within a single One Watershed, One Plan planning boundary, meeting the participation requirements outlined in the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures*. Application for these funds is considered a joint application between participating local governments and may be submitted by a joint powers organization on behalf of local government members (partners). Formal agreement between the partners, consistent with the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures*, is required prior to execution of a grant agreement.

2. Match Requirements

No match will be required of the grantees. Grantees will be required to document local involvement in the plan development process.

3. Eligible Activities

Eligible activities must be directly for the purposes of providing services to the plan development effort and may include activities such as: contracts and/or staff reimbursement for plan writing; technical services; preparation of policy committee, advisory committee, or public meeting agendas and notices; taking meeting minutes; facilitating and preparing/planning for facilitation of policy or advisory committee meetings, or public meetings; grant reporting and administration, including fiscal administration; facility rental for public or committee meetings; materials and supplies for facilitating meetings; reasonable food costs (e.g. coffee and cookies) for public meetings; publishing meeting notices; and other activities which directly support or supplement the goals and outcomes expected with development of a comprehensive watershed management plan.

4. Ineligible Expenses

Ineligible expenses include staff time to participate in committee meetings specifically representing an individual's local government unit; staff time for an individual, regularly scheduled, county water plan task force meeting where One Watershed, One Plan will be discussed as part of the meeting; and stipends for attendance at meetings.

5. Grantee Administration of Clean Water Fund Grants

The grantee for these funds includes the partners identified in the formal agreement establishing the partnership, consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grantee. All grantees must follow the Grants Administration Manual policy and guidance.

- a. Formal agreement between partners is required prior to execution of a grant agreement and must identify the single local government unit which will act as the fiscal agent for the grant and which will act as a grantee authorized representative. Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grantee.
- b. All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants.
- c. Grantees have the responsibility to approve the expenditure of funds within their partnership. The local government unit fiscal agent administering the grant must approve or deny expenditure of funds and the action taken must be documented in the governing body's meeting minutes prior to beginning the funded activity. This responsibility may be designated to a policy committee if specifically identified in the formal agreement establishing the partnership.
- d. BWSR recommends all contracts be reviewed by the grantee's legal counsel. All contracts must be consistent with Minnesota statute and rule.
- e. Grantees are required to document local involvement in the plan development process in order to demonstrate that the grant is supplementing/enhancing water resource restoration and protection activities.

6. BWSR Grant Administration Requirements

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

In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 150% of the grant agreement.

History

Version	Description	Date
1.00	Reformatted to new template and logo.	2018
0.00	New policy for One Watershed, One Plan Program	March 23, 2016

One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

Request for Proposals

March 25, 2022

Request for Proposals (RFP) General Information

The Clean Water Fund was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15 of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting ground water and drinking water sources from degradation. The appropriation language governing the use of these funds is in Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7 (i) and Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i). These funds must supplement traditional sources of funding and may not be used as a substitute to fund activities or programs. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available. BWSR is currently making approximately \$1,100,000 available; additional funding may be made available for this purpose at a later date.

Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be in PDF format and will be submitted electronically via: BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us.

1. Proposals are subject to a five-page limit, minimum font size 11 pt.
2. Proposals must include a one-page map of the watershed (maps are not included in the page limit) in PDF format. The map may be letter, legal, or ledger size and should identify the planning boundary, the boundaries of the planning partners, and any requested changes to the boundary. The One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Planning Boundaries, including a geodatabase, can be found at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html.
3. Proposals may be submitted by one or more of the eligible local governments on behalf of others in the watershed area. Respondents should demonstrate that a sufficient commitment exists to implement the project through a supporting motion or resolution from the board of each identified participant. A formal agreement between participants establishing a partnership to develop a plan will be required prior to execution of the grant agreement. If participants are unable to establish a formal agreement and work plan within six months of successful grant notification, the grant may be rescinded, and funds redistributed.
4. Respondents who were previously awarded Clean Water Funds and have expended less than 50% of previous award(s) at the time of this proposal may need to demonstrate organizational capacity to finalize current projects and complete a new project concurrently.
5. A cost estimate is a requirement for the project proposal. The final grant amount for successful respondents will be determined upon completion of a grant work plan and detailed budget. No cash match will be required of grant recipients.

Grant Execution

Successful respondents will be required to complete a planning agreement and submit a detailed budget and work plan prior to execution of the grant agreement. For template agreements, work plans, and budgets, contact julie.westerlund@state.mn.us.

Policies for participating in the program as well as additional resources for planning, can be found at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/planning/1W1P/index.html. Successful respondents will be subject to the versions the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* and the *One Watershed, One Plan - Plan Content Requirements* that are in place when planning grants are approved.

Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds. All grants must be completed by June 30, 2025.

Payment Schedule

Grant payments will be distributed in three installments to the designated grantee for the planning region. The first payment of 50% of the grant amount will be paid after work plan approval and execution of the grant agreement, provided the grantee is in compliance with all BWSR website and eLINK reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants. The second payment of 40% of the grant amount will be paid once the grantee has provided BWSR with notification and BWSR has reconciled expenditures of the initial payment. The last 10% will be paid after all final reporting requirements are met, the grantee has provided BWSR with a final financial report, and BWSR has reconciled these expenditures.

Incomplete Proposals

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

Clean Water Fund Project Reporting Requirements

1. All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan, including detail relating to the outcome(s) of the proposed project. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing this activity. For more information go to www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html.
2. BWSR Clean Water 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.
3. When practicable, grantees shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (<http://legacy.leg.mn>) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes (www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/)

4. When practicable, grantees must display the legacy logo on printed and other materials funded with money from the Clean Water Fund. The logo and specifications can be found at <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/legacy-logo>
5. Grantees will be required to document local involvement in the plan development process in order to demonstrate that the grant is supplementing/enhancing water resource restoration and protection activities and not supplanting traditional sources of funding.

Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to an RFP are nonpublic until the proposal deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, 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 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.

Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/>) 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 with any of the following scenarios:

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.
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.

Submittal

All responses must be electronically delivered to: BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. June 10, 2022. Late responses will not be considered. The burden of proving timely receipt is on the respondent.

Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Development Proposals

To propose a watershed area, describe the qualifications of interested respondents. Responses should address the items in selection criteria #1 (see below).

1. Provide a general watershed map of the proposed planning boundary (map may be separate from the written information). If the proposed planning boundary deviates from the *1W1P Suggested Planning Boundaries*, provide a brief narrative of the reasons for the deviation, and whether all partners and affected or potentially affected partners in adjacent planning boundaries concur with the revised planning boundary.
2. Provide the name for your watershed planning boundary. Each planning partnership determines the name for the planning boundary (prior to participation in the program, boundaries are only numbered).

3. In consideration of the local government units (LGUs) within the boundary, provide a table with a list of all counties, soils and water conservation districts, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations, and the percentage of the jurisdictional land area of each local government within the boundary. The table must include:
 - a. Whether each LGU is a required participant (see section II of the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures*)
 - b. Indication of interest of each LGU (e.g. verbal, letter, resolution, etc.) or why a given LGU is not interested
 - c. Name and contact information for the primary contact(s) for each LGU

Proposals may also list potential or confirmed optional participants as described in the *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures*. For a list of required participants and land percentages for planning boundaries shown on the *1W1P Suggested Planning Boundaries*, contact julie.westerlund@state.mn.us.

4. Describe technical information data sources for surface water, groundwater, and land management (plans, TMDLs, models, targeting tools, WRAPS, landscape stewardship plans, etc.) that will help inform the development of the comprehensive watershed management plan.
5. Describe the capability (experience with plan development, project and consultant management, facilitation, etc.) and availability (ability to commit time to the effort) of staff and local officials to participate in plan development.
6. Describe how the planning partnership will leverage each LGU's watershed management capacities and strengths (e.g. current water programs, areas of expertise), and how completing the plan will result in better resource outcomes and collaborative implementation approaches, shared services, and acquiring non-local funds for implementation.
7. Describe discussions among the LGUs within the boundary regarding the plan development process (the minimum requirement is that initial discussions have taken place, not that decisions have been made).
 - a. Potential governance structure for the planning effort (e.g., memorandum of agreement/joint powers collaboration or joint powers entity)
 - b. Roles and responsibilities for the planning effort (e.g. administrative lead, fiscal agent, plan writing and facilitation consultants, etc.)
 - c. Cost estimate (the cost estimate must include a 10% contingency amount)

Selection Criteria

All complete proposals submitted by the deadline will be reviewed by BWSR staff, with assistance from an inter-agency review committee. The successful respondents will be selected by the Board of Water and Soil Resources based on:

1. Responses to questions in this RFP, considered as follows (failure to include information that addresses each of the elements below will be considered an incomplete proposal):
 - a. Inclusion of general watershed map and description of any boundary changes consistent with question 1.
 - Minimum: map (including proposed boundary changes if applicable) included with proposal

- b. Inclusion of a name for the watershed planning boundary consistent with question 2.
 - c. Inclusion of a table of local government information consistent with question 3.
 - Minimum: indication of support from required participants
 - Minimum: potential optional participants have been identified and invited
 - Preferred: resolution of support, specific to the proposed planning boundary, signed by required participants
 - Preferred: optional participants have responded to invitation to participate
 - d. Pertinence of existing studies, plans, and information consistent with question 4 to the development of the comprehensive watershed management plan.
 - Minimum: monitoring and assessment report (and stressor identification report, if applicable) approved
 - Preferred: TMDL calculations and WRAPS document sufficiently developed to inform planning; WRAPS report on public notice or approved when proposal is submitted
 - Highly Preferred: the group has discussed and identified models and tools that will be used to develop a prioritized, targeted, and measurable plan
 - e. Demonstration of the partnership's readiness and commitment to planning together, based on early discussions of: capability, availability, and commitment to plan together, a shared understanding of one another's current work and strengths, and a vision for future watershed management that includes better resource outcomes and improved use of existing and future funding, consistent with questions 5 and 6.
 - Minimum: the group (staff) has met to discuss staff capability and availability for planning, information about capacity and strengths present in each LGU
 - Preferred: the group (staff and governing bodies) demonstrates that a majority of participants are committed to ongoing collaboration and contributing resources to developing the plan.
 - Highly Preferred: the group (staff and governing bodies) has shared information about one another's current plan priorities and local programs and has discussed a common vision for the future management of the watershed.
 - f. Demonstration of understanding of the scope of work required for development of a comprehensive watershed management plan, consistent with questions 6 and 7.
 - Minimum: group has discussed administrative roles.
 - Preferred: potential policy members have been identified and have met; MOA is drafted.
 - Preferred: group has a clear vision for developing the plan (e.g., relative contributions of partners and/or consultants)
 - Highly preferred: MOA is signed by all participants
2. Geographic distribution
- Preference will be given to the proposals with partners that have fewer completed comprehensive watershed management plans

- Preference will be given to the proposals with partners that are participating in fewer active planning efforts
- 3. Amount of available funding
- 4. Recommendation of BWSR staff and recommendation of the inter-agency review committee.

BWSR Grant Administration

BWSR reserves the right to provide funding to any and all proposals based on the number of eligible proposals submitted, anticipated staff time requirements, and the amount of funding available.

Timeline

- March 25, 2022– Proposal period begins
- June 10, 2022 – Proposal deadline at 4:30 PM
- June – August – Proposal review
- August 26, 2022 - BWSR Board approval of planning grant recipients
- March 17, 2023 Work plan submittal deadline
- April 7, 2023 Work plans due, grants executed
- Plans submitted to BWSR by June 30, 2025

Questions

For more information concerning the request for proposal, contact BWSR's One Watershed, One Plan Coordinator: Julie Westerlund, julie.westerlund@state.mn.us or 651-600-0694.

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Program Funding Recommendation

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Lawns to Legumes, Habitat, Pollinators

Section/Region: Resource Conservation

Contact: Dan Shaw, Tara Perriello

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee Committee(s)

Presented by: Dan Shaw

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 type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Environment and Natural Resource Trust Fund Budget	

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Program Funding Recommendation

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods involve the establishment of residential pollinator habitat within neighborhoods in important pollinator corridors/pathways and building overall interest in ecological landscaping. These projects can involve educational and community spaces in addition to residential landscapes. A total of \$1,066,000 was made available for this RFP from two Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) appropriations that have different grant end dates. Through the application process applicants were asked if they can complete their projects by May 1, 2023 or if they would benefit from an extra year and final decisions about grant periods will be made by the program’s advisory team.

A total of 21 applications were submitted requesting a total of \$715,345. A program advisory team made of BWSR staff along with staff from other organizations working on pollinators met on March 2, 2022 and finalized funding recommendations. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the recommendations on March 7, 2022 and made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.

BOARD ORDER

Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Awards

PURPOSE

Authorize the grant awards for Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Awards.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 4, Article 2, Section 2 Subd. (f) appropriated \$900,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board for demonstration projects that provide grants or payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 6, Section 2, Subd. 8(p) appropriated \$993,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board for demonstration projects that provide grants or payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 8(m) appropriated \$118,000 from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to the Board for demonstration projects that provide grants or payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators.
3. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 5, Section 2, Subd. 20(b) transferred \$922,000 to the Board for demonstration projects that provide grants or payments to plant residential lawns with native vegetation and pollinator-friendly forbs and legumes to protect a diversity of pollinators.
4. The workplan approved by the Legislative-Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources for this appropriation includes separate Individual Support and Demonstration Neighborhood Grant Components. The workplan includes \$1,066,000 for Demonstration Neighborhood Grants.
5. In October 2021 by Board Order #21-52, the Board authorized staff to complete and open the Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods RFP to provide grants through a competitive process.
6. The Demonstration Neighborhood RFP opened on November 2, 2021 and applications were accepted through February 3, 2022.
7. A total of 21 applications requesting \$715,345 were received.
8. Board staff reviewed applications for eligibility for this Program. Based on this review 20 applications were determined to be eligible.
9. An inter-agency review team ranked the eligible applications on March 2, 2022 and recommended applications for funding.
10. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their March 7, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed grant awards 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 table *Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Program Funding Recommendation*.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into individual grant agreements for these funds.
3. Authorizes staff to award a grant to the next highest scoring applicant should a funded application not proceed for any reason.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this March 23, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Date: _____

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Program Funding Recommendation

Lawns to Legumes Phase 2 Demonstration Neighborhoods Grant Program Funding Recommendations			
Grant ID	Grantee	Funding Amount	Grant End Date
C22-8750	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-0280	Kanabec SWCD	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-0889	St Louis, South SWCD	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-4330	Como Community Council	\$ 27,475.00	5/1/2024
C22-2646	Anoka CD	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-7120	Carlton SWCD	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-3428	Kenwood Neighborhood Organization	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-2780	Lyndale Neighborhood Association	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-1831	Armatage Neighborhood Association	\$ 24,840.00	5/1/2024
C22-0848	Hamline Midway Coalition	\$ 39,972.00	5/1/2024
C22-1559	Mendota Heights, City of	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-1300	Washington Conservation District	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-9884	Chisago SWCD	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-4025	Crystal Waters Project	\$ 26,300.00	5/1/2024
C22-8613	Olmsted SWCD	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-0522	Bassett Creek WMC	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-4256	Brooklyn Park, City of	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-1374	Boyd, City of	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
C22-9948	Scott SWCD	\$ 20,000.00	5/1/2023
C22-2456	Trust for Public Land	\$ 40,000.00	5/1/2024
	Total	\$ 638,587.00	

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

1. Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan – Michelle Jordan – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan

Section/Region: Regional Operations/Central

Contact: Michelle Jordan

Prepared by: Michelle Jordan

Reviewed by: Central Region Committee(s)

Presented by: Michelle Jordan

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 Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Central Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[Complete CMSCWD WM Plan with Appendices Low Rez1.pdf](#)

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

Background

In 1981, the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District was formed to address property damage being caused by fluctuating water levels on area lakes. In 2001, the Marine on St. Croix Water Management Organization proposed a merger with the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District due to the large number and diversity of water-related natural resources, significant high value resources, heavy use of the resources for recreational and aesthetic purposes, recharge of drinking water supplies, increased development pressures, and fiscal capacity. In 2007, the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District was expanded to encompass the Marine on St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and renamed the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD). The CMSCWD covers 81.4 square miles in northeastern Washington County, in the Twin Cities

Metropolitan Area. Included in the CMSCWD are the City of Scandia, the City of Marine on St. Croix, May Township, Stillwater Township, and small parts of the Cities of Hugo, Grant, and Stillwater. The CMSCWD is bound by the St. Croix River to the east, into which the entire watershed drains. To the west are the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake and Rice Creek Watershed Districts, and the Brown's Creek Watershed District to the south. The major land uses in the CMSCWD are hay/pasture and deciduous forest. Among the CMSCWD's water resources are 31 lakes, 21 streams (including 10 with brook trout populations), hundreds of acres of wetlands and over 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline. The vision of the CMSCWD is to protect and improve these water resources through coordination with local units of government, citizens, and other government agencies.

Plan Process and Highlights

On March 11, 2020 CMSCWD sent notification of initiation of the planning process for the 2022-2031 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410, and solicited each agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The CMSCWD engaged a variety of stakeholder groups to gather input on watershed issues and reviewed existing plans and programs. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) kick-off meeting was held on July 29, 2020; a district-wide survey and a shoreland landowner survey were conducted; two public listening sessions were held, and the Citizen Advisory Committee provided their priority issues and recommendations (available in Appendix G). This stakeholder input was used to develop draft issue statements which were considered by the CMSCWD Board of Managers at an initial planning meeting (as required by MN 8410.0045) held on November 14, 2020.

Examples of high-priority program activities and outcomes for addressing issues and achieving goals include:

Administration

- Improved communications, streamlined and transparent budgeting, and strengthened partnerships throughout the watershed

Regulatory

- Consistent enforcement of CMSCWD Rules
- Enforcement of shoreline alteration rules and annual Shoreland Compliance and Enforcement Team meetings

Technical Assistance & Cost Share

- 30 rural/agricultural water quality BMPs reducing 300 pounds/year of phosphorus installed
- 27 urban water quality and rate control BMPs installed reducing phosphorus by 40 pounds/year
- 19 shorelines or streambanks (2,000 linear feet) restored; Increased parcels that have 50% or greater natural shoreline on 6 water resources

Inspections & Maintenance

- Annual inspections and maintenance on Carnelian Channel
- Inspection and maintenance recorded for all CMSCWD BMPs

Monitoring

- Evaluation of shoreline vegetative cover on 10 lakes in 2022, 2024, and 2030; measurement of progress toward the majority of lakeshores having 50% natural vegetative cover
- Water quality and water level monitoring in 30 lakes
- Water quality, quantity and macroinvertebrate monitoring in 22 streams

Analysis & Prioritization

- Subwatershed analysis completed for direct drainage to the St. Croix River (including spring streams)
- Floodplain Vulnerability Assessment
- Data collected on 14 degraded wetlands discharging focused waters

Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS)

- Coordinated AIS prevention and management plan and rapid response plan
- 2,000 hours of watercraft inspections on public boat launches

Communications & Outreach

- Implementation of robust communications and outreach plan including continued partnership with East Metro Water Resources Education Program, Citizen Advisory Committee coordination, targeted engagement activities, events, meetings, and publications

Capital Improvement Program

- Design, construction and maintenance of 18 Capital Improvement Projects

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 **Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

**ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (District) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on December 30, 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 District Establishment.** In 1981, the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District was formed to address property damage being caused by fluctuating water levels on area lakes. In 2001, the Marine on St. Croix Water Management Organization proposed a merger with the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District due to the large number and diversity of water-related natural resources, significant high value resources, heavy use of the resources for recreational and aesthetic purposes, recharge of drinking water supplies, increased development pressures, and fiscal capacity. In 2007, the Carnelian-Marine Watershed District was expanded to encompass the Marine on St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and renamed the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District. The vision of the District is to protect and improve water resources of the District through coordination with local units of government, citizens, and other government agencies.
- 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. The current District watershed management plan was approved by Board Order on August 26, 2010. An extension to the plan through March 31, 2022 was approved by Board Order.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The District covers 81.4 square miles in northeastern Washington County, in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Included in the District are the City of Scandia, the City of Marine on St. Croix, May Township, Stillwater Township, and small parts of the Cities of Hugo, Grant, and Stillwater. The District is bound by the St. Croix River to the east, into which the entire watershed drains. To the west are the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake and Rice Creek Watershed Districts, and the Brown's Creek Watershed District to the south. The major land uses in the District are hay/pasture and deciduous forest. Among the District's water resources are 31 lakes, 21 streams (including 10 with brook trout populations), hundreds of acres of wetlands and over 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline.
- 4. Plan Development and Review.** On March 11, 2020 the District sent notification of initiation of the planning process for the 2022-2031 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410, and solicited each agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management

goals, and water resource information. The District engaged a variety of stakeholder groups to gather input on watershed issues, and reviewed existing plans and programs. A Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) kick-off meeting was held on July 29, 2020; a district-wide survey and a shoreland landowner survey were conducted; two public listening sessions were held, and the Citizen Advisory Committee provided their priority issues and recommendations (available in Appendix G). This stakeholder input was used to develop draft issue statements which were considered by the District Board of Managers at an initial planning meeting (as required by MN 8410.0045) held on November 14, 2020.

The draft Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on August 13, 2021 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. The CMSCWD prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and then held a public hearing on November 18, 2021. Once the Plan revisions to address comments received were completed, the District Board of Managers approved the final draft Plan for final review by State Review Agencies and BWSR approval on December 8, 2021. This was received by the Board on December 30, 2021. Comments received during the 90-day review period indicated that the reviewers had no further comments.

5. **Local Review.** The District distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from Washington County and the City of Marine on St. Croix. The draft Plan was also made available for comment by the general public. Additional written comments were received by the Square Lake Association, one individual, and the CMSCWD Citizen Advisory Committee. The District responded in writing to all stakeholders who commented during the 60-day review period, addressing each concern.
6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council commended the District for preparation of a plan that includes a clear inventory of land and water resources, included local and regional partners in the discussion of priority issues and opportunities, contains clear statements of goals and policies, and provides a robust history of accomplishments achieved, among other elements. The Council encouraged the District to consider Council staff as a resource in its climate resiliency work and stream monitoring, and to strengthen its focus on chloride pollution. The District responded to all comments, and during the 90-day review the Council communicated they had no further comments.
7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** During the 60-day review, MDA indicated they did not have comments. During the 90-day review, they did not provide additional comments.
8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** The MDH did not provide formal comment.
9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** During the 60-day review, the DNR highlighted multiple positive updates to the plan consistent with DNR priority issues for the watershed including: evaluating shoreline vegetative cover, enforcing unpermitted shoreline violations, supporting member community adoption of Minimal Impact Design Standards, monitoring chloride levels in lakes, and collaborating to facilitate native tree transition. Additionally, DNR provided recommendations for implementation of any alum treatments within the District. The District responded to all comments, and during the 90-day review no further comments were received.
10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** The PCA did not provide formal comment.
11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** The DOT did not provide formal comment.
12. **Board Review.** During the 60-day review, Board staff noted that the draft Plan was well written and comprehensive, and then provided a thorough review of the plan by section. Board staff comments were related

to identifying required missing content, correction and incorporation of hyperlinks, improved consistency of information presented throughout the Plan, and also clarifying language so that Plan goals were more clearly measurable and implementation progress could be more clearly evaluated. The Plan was revised as necessary to provide required Plan content and sufficiently address all comments.

13. **Plan Summary.** The District used the input received to identify 31 issues within eight issue categories: Water Quality; Water Quantity, Flood Risk, and Climate Resiliency; Groundwater; Aquatic Invasive Species; Upland Resources; Wetlands; Education & Outreach; Watershed Management & Operations. The Plan further details 43 related goals and prioritized and measurable implementation activities to address those goals. Activity prioritization included a categorization of A, B, or C, with A being the highest priority and C the lowest. Activities are organized within nine programs, with cross-reference to issues and goals.

Additionally, the Plan categorizes lakes and streams as either “focused” or “routine” for the purpose of targeting implementation where the most benefit could be received. The focused implementation strategy is employed for those water bodies that need protection from becoming impaired, or that are minimally impaired and might be returned to an unimpaired state. The routine implementation strategy is employed to ensure a basic level of protection for waterbodies not in the focused category. Within that framework, the Plan identifies specific and measurable water quality goals for each waterbody. Successful implementation of the Plan would result in removal of seven lakes from the impaired waters list, progress or improved conditions on nine lakes, restoration of four streams, and improved conditions on seven streams.

Some Plan highlights include:

- Expanding stream water quality monitoring and supporting volunteer monitoring
- Modeling, reporting, and engagement on climate resiliency
- A coordinated Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) prevention and management plan and rapid response plan and expanded partnership to support enforcement of AIS laws
- Monitoring degraded wetlands with historic intensive land use to identify contributing nutrient loads to high priority water resources
- A Wetland Management Plan which supplements existing state and federal regulations and adds additional protection and flexibility to manage District wetlands
- A communications and outreach plan with focus on partnership, coordination, and targeted engagement
- Focused and prioritized water quality goals for all District lakes and creeks
- Reduction of annual total phosphorus loading to the St. Croix River by 100 pounds
- Improved communications, streamlined and transparent budgeting, and strengthened partnerships throughout the watershed

14. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On March 3, 2022, the Board’s Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and via web conference to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s committee were Committee Chair Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Mark Zabel, Joel Larson, Wayne Cords (sub for Melissa Lewis), and Grant Wilson. Board staff in attendance were Marcey Westrick (Central Region Manager), Michelle Jordan (Board Conservationist), and Barbra Radke (Training Coordinator). Mike Isensee (District Administrator) and Victoria Dupre (District Manager) were in attendance. District Administrator Mike Isensee provided highlights of the Plan and process. After presentation and discussion, the committee recommended 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 Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The CMSCWD Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the District's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2031.
4. The CMSCWD Watershed Management Plan will be effective March 23, 2022 through March 23, 2032.
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 Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District Watershed Management Plan submitted on December, 30 2021.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 23rd day of March 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: _____
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

March 23, 2022

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
C/o Mike Isensee, Administrator
11660 Myeron Rd North
Stillwater, MN 55082

Dear Chair and Managers:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District (CMSCWD) revised Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on March 23, 2022. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the CMSCWD must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

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

Please contact Michelle Jordan of our staff at 651-308-6724, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Gerald Van Amburg
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Dan Lais, DNR (via email)
Megan Moore, DNR (via email)
John Freitag, MDH (via email)
Jeff Berg, MDA (via email)
Judy Sventek, Met Council (via email)
Jeff Risberg, MPCA (via email)
Beth Neuendorf, MN DOT (via email)
Marcey Westrick, BWSR (via email)
Michelle Jordan, BWSR (via email)
File Copy



CARNELIAN-MARINE-ST. CROIX **WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District
11660 Myeron Road North, Stillwater, MN 55082

www.cmsc wd.org



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- B. Lake and Stream Monitoring Plans**
- C. Lake and Stream Diagnostic Studies**
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- F. Annual Progress Report Template**
- G. Public Input Summary**
- H. District Managers Roster History**

i. Approvals and Acknowledgements

2022 CMSCWD Watershed Management Plan

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Jeff Roach

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Prepared for the CMSCWD with assistance from:

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Greg Glenn, May Township

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Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District

Angie Hong, East Metro Water Resource Education Program

CMSCWD SHORELAND COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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Rebecca Nestingen, Washington Conservation District

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Dawn Pape, Graphic Design, We All Need Food and Water (nonprofit)

ii. Acronyms

AIS – Aquatic invasive species
BWSR – (Minnesota) Board of Water and Soil Resources
CAC – Citizen Advisory Committee
CIP – Capital Improvement Program
CMSCWD – Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
CRP – Conservation Reserve Program
EMWREP – East Metro Water Resources Education Program
EQIP – Environmental Quality Incentive Program
GW – Groundwater
IBI – Index of biotic integrity
IESF – Iron Enhanced Sand Filter
LSC – Lower St. Croix
LGUs – Local Government Units
LWMP – Local Water Management Plan
MCD – Metro Conservation Districts
MDA – Minnesota Department of Agriculture
MDH – Minnesota Department of Health
MIDS – Minimal Impact Design Standards
MLCCS – Minnesota Land Cover Classification System
MnDNR – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources



MS4 – Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System
MOU – Memorandum of Understanding
MPCA – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
NPS – National Park Service
NRCS – Natural Resource Conservation Service
PCB – Polychlorinated biphenyls
PC-SWMM – Personal Computing Storm Water Management Model
PRAP – Performance Review and Assistance Program
PTM – Prioritize, Target, and Measure
SSTS – Subsurface Sewage Treatment System
SWA – Subwatershed Analysis
SWCD – Soil and Water Conservation District
TEP – Technical Advisory Panel (for WCA applications)
TMDL – Total Maximum Daily Load
TP – Total phosphorus
TSS – Total suspended solids
USACE – United States Army Corp of Engineers
WBIFs – Watershed Based Implementation Funds
WCA – Wetland Conservation Act
WCD – Washington Conservation District
WD – Watershed District
WRAPS – Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies



I. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- This Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed Management Plan (Plan) sets the guidelines for managing the water resources within the boundaries of the CMSCWD (District) to achieve the organization’s vision and goals. This Plan provides data and background information, assesses watershed issues, outlines implementation programs, sets goals and policies for the District and its members, and lists implementation activities to achieve the goals. The following subsections provide a summary of the content found in this Plan.

“ CMSCWD VISION

Protect and improve water resources of the Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District through coordination with local units of government, citizens, and other government agencies.”



A. INTRODUCTION, PURPOSE, RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

The Carnelian–Marine–St. Croix Watershed District covers 81.4 square miles in northeastern Washington County, Minnesota and operates under the authority of MN Statutes Chapters 103B and 103D. The District uses a variety of tools to address water resource issues including regulation, structural practices, incentive programs, and education. As a fully functioning, permitting body, the District works to protect and improve the water resources, natural habitat, and personal property to fulfill the statutory purposes of watershed management organizations.

The purposes of the water management programs required by sections 103B.205 to 103B.255 are to:

- 1** protect, preserve, and use natural surface water and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- 2** minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- 3** identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface water and groundwater quality;
- 4** establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface water and groundwater management;
- 5** prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- 6** promote groundwater recharge;
- 7** protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- 8** secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface water and groundwater.

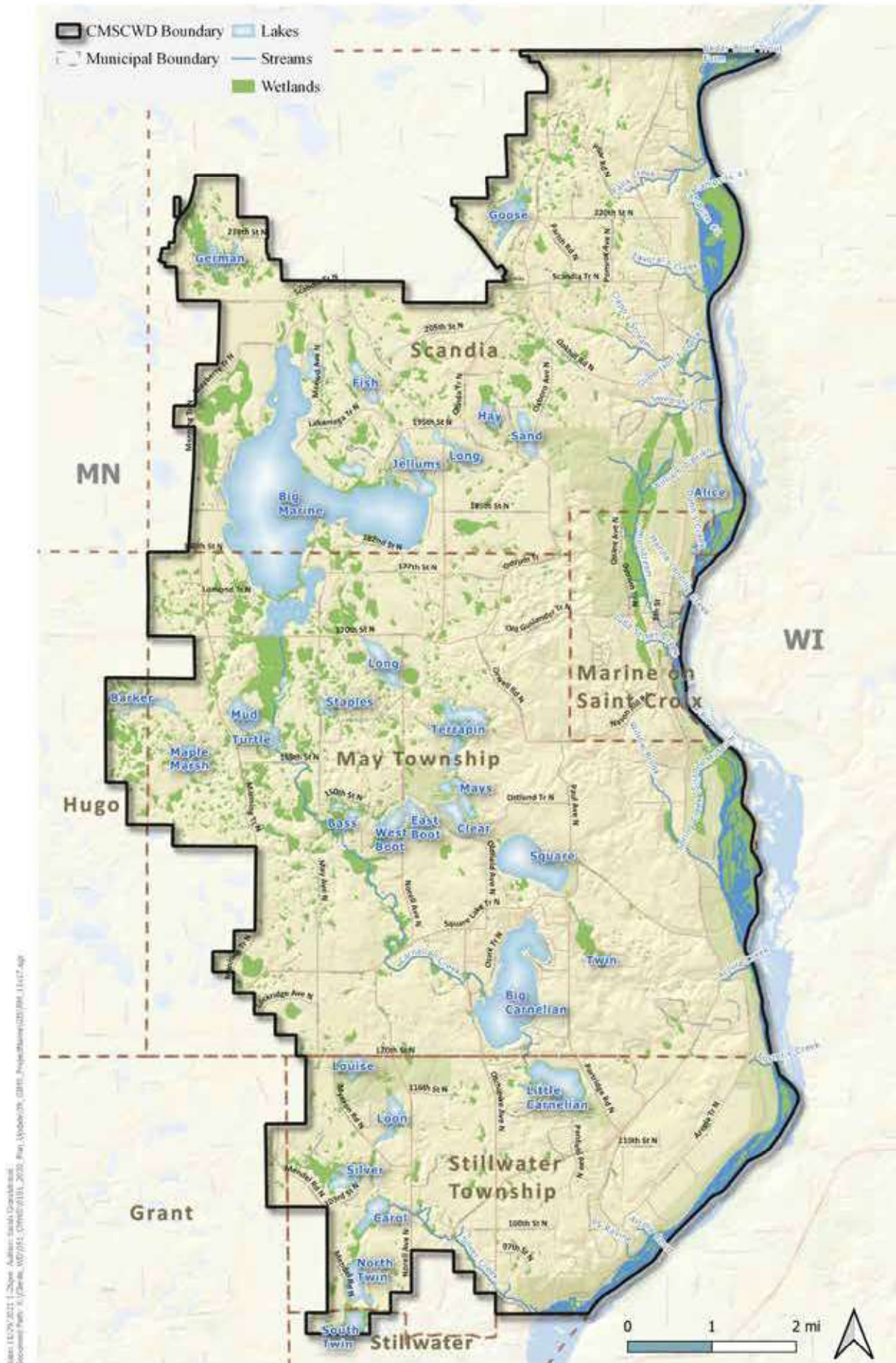
RESOURCE DESCRIPTION

The original Carnelian–Marine Watershed District was formed in 1981 to address specific flooding problems in the Big Marine Lake drainage area. The current CMSCWD was established in 2007 when smaller watershed organizations were combined and enlarged to cover today’s District political boundary. The District is governed by a seven–person Board of Managers and guided by its citizen and technical advisory committees (CAC and TAC). A roster of District managers since its inception is found in Appendix H. The District accomplishes much of its work through partnerships and collaboration with local governments, lake associations, agencies, Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership, Washington Conservation District, Washington County, St. Croix River Association, and others.

One of the primary roles of the District is to regularly inspect and maintain the series of channels and outlets built by the District to facilitate unimpeded flow from Big Marine Lake through Little Carnelian Lake and the outlet pipe to the St. Croix River.

The District is rich in water and natural resources with 31 lakes, 21 streams (including 10 with brook trout populations), hundreds of acres of wetlands, and more than 17 miles of St. Croix River shoreline (Figure 1-1). Section II includes a summary of the CMSCWD land and water resource inventory. The complete inventory is found in Appendix A.

Figure 1-1.



DATE: 11/09/2021 1:30pm Author: Sarah Grondahl
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B. WATERSHED ISSUES & GOALS

The District engaged a variety of stakeholder groups to gather input on watershed issues including agencies and organizations, their CAC and TAC, and watershed residents including shoreline property owners and others. Issues were also gathered from existing plans and programs. Issues were identified across eight major categories including water quality; climate change, water quantity, and flood risk; groundwater; aquatic invasive species; upland resources; wetlands; education and outreach; and watershed management and operations. A complete list of issues and related goals is found in Section IV.

Water quality in lakes, streams, and the St. Croix River is a primary issue identified in the Plan with acknowledgement that high quality resources deserve protection, while others need restoration. Runoff from agricultural and developed areas; eroding bluffs, streambanks, and shorelines; and the need for monitoring, assessments, and cost

share programs were key issues. Goals developed to address the issues include specific water quality goals for lakes; specific goals for stream health scores; and implementation of shoreline restoration projects and other best management practices in critical locations. The District’s Water Monitoring Program for lakes and streams is found in Appendix B.

Issues identified as relating to water quantity revolve around potential flooding, the challenges of changing precipitation due to climate change, and the need for regular inspection and maintenance of the Carnelian channel and outlet. Increasing floodplain capacity and evaluating strategies to address a changing climate are among the related goals.

Groundwater-related issues identified by stakeholders included decreased groundwater quality and quantity, and the impacts of failing and non-conforming septic systems. Goals developed to address these issues include



protection of groundwater-dependent resources, proper use and disposal of contaminants, and education of residents with septic systems.

Issues regarding the spread and impacts of aquatic invasive species (AIS) included threats to ecosystems, recreation, and property values. Decreasing the size and density of AIS populations and deterring further spread of AIS by watercraft are related goals.

The impacts of expanding terrestrial invasive species and loss of native species were identified as primary issues for uplands and shorelands. The goals to address these issues include increased upland management and land restoration where water quality benefits are also realized.

Issues regarding wetlands include degradation and loss from land use practices and the need for periodic assessments. Improving wetland quality, ensuring no net loss of wetlands, and evaluating functional changes to wetlands are among the related goals. The District's Wetland Protection

and Management Plan is found in Appendix D.

Stakeholders identified issues related to a lack of knowledge and understanding among residents and public officials on water quality issues and connections to activities on land along with a lack of knowledge about the District itself. A 10-year communications and outreach plan was developed with goals and activities to improve education among a variety of stakeholders on critical topics (Appendix G.)

Finally, five different issues were identified with watershed management and operations including the need for strong partnerships with various communities and entities, streamlined and consistently enforced rules, and regular inspections and maintenance of past projects. Related goals include good communication with partners and local governments, establishment of a Shoreland Compliance and Enforcement Team, advocacy for adoption of Minimal Impact Design Standards, and continued inspection and maintenance program.



C. IMPLEMENTATION & PRIORITIZATION STRATEGIES

The District categorized its lakes and streams as “focused” or “routine” for purposes of concentrating implementation where the most benefit could be achieved. The designation is partially based on whether a waterbody is considered impaired. Eleven lakes, three streams, and the St. Croix River are currently listed as impaired on the MPCA’s 2020 303(d) list.

The **Focused Implementation Strategy** is assigned to lakes and streams meeting one of two thresholds:

1. Impaired waters which are closest to meeting state water quality standards
2. High quality unimpaired waters that have a declining trend in water quality

The purpose of Focused Implementation is to provide an additional level of protection for non-impaired resources so they do not become impaired, and to boost effort for barely impaired resources that might easily return to an unimpaired state. In addition to the District’s Routine program activities that will be implemented throughout the entire District, program activities are enhanced in “Focused Implementation” areas.

The **Routine Implementation Strategy** is assigned to lakes and streams meeting one of two thresholds:

1. Unimpaired waters that do not show any water quality trend
2. Waters that are not otherwise assigned for “Focused Implementation”

The purpose of Routine Implementation is to provide a basic level of protection of these non-impaired resources so they do not become impaired. Activities and assessments are robust enough in routine implementation to identify when water resources need to be assigned focused management strategies to prevent further decline in quality.

Improvements to District water resources and stabilization of bluffs along the St. Croix River will help the District make progress toward meeting the allocated pollutant reduction goal assigned in the Lake St. Croix TMDL.

The District will work to further prioritize and target its projects and programs through a variety of assessment tools including pollutant hot spot evaluation, subwatershed analyses, targeted monitoring, diagnostic assessments, internal load analyses, stressor identification, and stream condition assessments. Due to the dynamic nature of the drivers of water resources conditions, adaptive management will be used to evaluate the impact of District implementation and take further action, if needed.

The District will evaluate progress towards achieving its goals on an annual basis. The District's Annual Report will be approved by the Board of Managers, transmitted to BWSR, and posted on the District website. The District will also annually assess District operations and management through internal processes.

Section VI.A. includes a full review of prioritization tools and adaptive management techniques that will be employed by the District. Section VI.D. includes information on evaluation and annual reporting.





D. PLAN IMPLEMENTATION & RESULTS

Overall, the implementation of this Plan should result in significant benefits to water resources including (see Figure 5-1):

REMOVAL OF SEVEN LAKES FROM IMPAIRED WATERS LIST:

East Boot (2023)	Goose (by 2030)
South Twin (2023)	Long (by 2030) (Scandia)
Hay (2023)	Fish (by 2030)
Jellum's (by 2023)	

PROGRESS MADE TOWARD GOALS ON THREE LAKES:

Loon
Louise
Mud

IMPROVED CONDITIONS ON SIX LAKES:

Square (clarity)	Big Carnelian (algae & clarity)
Clear (clarity)	Hay (clarity)
Big Marine (algae & clarity)	Long (clarity) (May Township)

RESTORATION OF FOUR STREAMS:

Mill Stream
Willow Brook
Gilbertson's
Swedish Flag

IMPROVED CONDITIONS ON SEVEN STREAMS:

Arcola	Carnelian Creek
Falls	Cedar Bend Trout
Marine Landing	Zavoral's
Spring	

The District will continue implementation through a variety of programs, often using collaborative partnerships. District programs are described in Section VI.B. and include:

- Administration & Operations
- Regulation
- Inspection & Maintenance
- Monitoring
- Analysis & Prioritization
- Aquatic Invasive Species
- Cost Share
- Communications & Education
- Capital Improvements



Through these programs, the District will continue implementing many of the same activities as prior years. The more significant additions or changes to District activities are listed below with high priority outcomes and program budgets shown in Table 1-1. See Table 6-3 in Section VI.F. for the complete Implementation Plan including estimated costs, scheduling, and priority of activities.

- Annual tracking of progress toward improvement and restoration goals
- Enforcing unpermitted shoreland violations
- Updating District Rules
- Working with local officials and staff to update local ordinances
- Provide technical assistance to landowners and local units of government
- Evaluating shoreline conditions
- Creating and distributing newsletters and informational publications annually
- Updating (maintaining) the hydrologic & hydraulic model
- Expanding stream water quality monitoring
- Supporting volunteer monitoring
- Completing St. Croix River and spring streams subwatershed analysis
- Monitoring degraded wetlands with historic intensive land use to identify contributing nutrient loads to high priority water resources
- Modeling, reporting, and engagement on climate resiliency
- Expanding partnership with Washington County to support enforcement of AIS laws
- Scheduling and coordinating volunteer events

Table 1-1.

High Priority Activities, Outcomes, and Anticipated Budget for Plan Implementation

Anticipated 10-Year Budget	Activities & Outcomes
Administration \$1,189,958	Improved communications, streamlined and transparent budgeting, and strengthened partnerships throughout the watershed
Regulatory Program \$517,236	Consistent enforcement of District Rules
	Enforcement of shoreline alteration rules and annual Shoreland Compliance and Enforcement Team meetings
Technical Assistance & Cost Share \$2,055,805	30 rural/agricultural water quality BMPs reducing 300 lbs./year of phosphorus installed
	20 In-lake AIS management activities completed for water quality benefit
	60 projects or 200 acres of shoreline with invasive species controlled
	180 projects used District technical assistance
	27 urban water quality and rate control BMPs installed reducing phosphorus by 40 lbs./yr
	19 shorelines or streambanks (2,000 linear feet) restored; Increase parcels that have 50% or greater natural shoreline on 6 water resources
Inspections & Maintenance \$1,093,975	Annual inspections and maintenance on Carnelian Channel
	Repairs to underperforming or non-performing BMPs and \$500,000 contributed to Carnelian Outlet Pipe inspection and maintenance fund
	Inspection and maintenance recorded for all District BMPs
	Inspections of Carnelian Outlet Pipe in 2022 and 2027
	Inspections, reports, and follow up communications with 40+ construction sites; 600 inspections
Monitoring \$1,246,958	Evaluation of shoreline vegetative cover on 10 lakes in 2022, 2024, and 2030; measurement of progress toward the majority of lakeshores having 50% natural vegetative cover
	Annual monitoring of Goose Lake and Sand Lake IESFs
	Annual macroinvertebrate monitoring on 3 streams by volunteers
	Water quality and water level monitoring in 30 lakes
	Water quality, quantity and macroinvertebrate monitoring in 22 streams

Table 1-1. (continued)

High Priority Activities, Outcomes, and Anticipated Budget for Plan Implementation

Anticipated 10-Year Budget	Activities & Outcomes
Analysis & Prioritization \$332,000	Subwatershed analysis completed for: direct drainage to the St. Croix River (including spring streams)
	Floodplain Vulnerability Assessment
	5 rapid assessments to evaluate stream stability
	Stressor identification on Big Carnelian Lake
	Data collected on 14 degraded wetlands discharging focused waters
Aquatic Invasive Species \$ 426,236	Coordinated AIS prevention and management plan and rapid response plan
	2,000 hours of watercraft inspections on public boat launches located on Big Carnelian, Big Marine, Goose, and Square Lakes and the St. Croix River
	Partnership with Washington County to support enforcement of AIS laws
	Continued management of AIS infestations that impact water quality
Communications & Outreach \$490,411	Implementation of robust communications and outreach plan including continued partnership with EMWREP, CAC coordination, targeted engagement activities, events, meetings, and publications (Appendix E)
Capital Improvement Program \$2,644,000	Design, construction and maintenance of 18 CIP projects

Most implementation activities will be funded through leveraged collaboration, ad valorem taxes levied across the District, and grant funding. Additional funding sources include special assessments, water management districts, District reserve fund, bonds, and loans. See Section VI.C. for a description of these funding sources.

As noted, partnerships, collaboration, and coordination with other entities is critically important to the operation and impact of the District. The District works regularly with local governments, including municipalities, Washington County, and the Washington Conservation District; with the Lower St. Croix Partnership and the St. Croix River Association; with many different lake associations and organizations; and with multiple federal, state, and regional agencies. Section VI.E. provides detailed information on how the District partners with others.



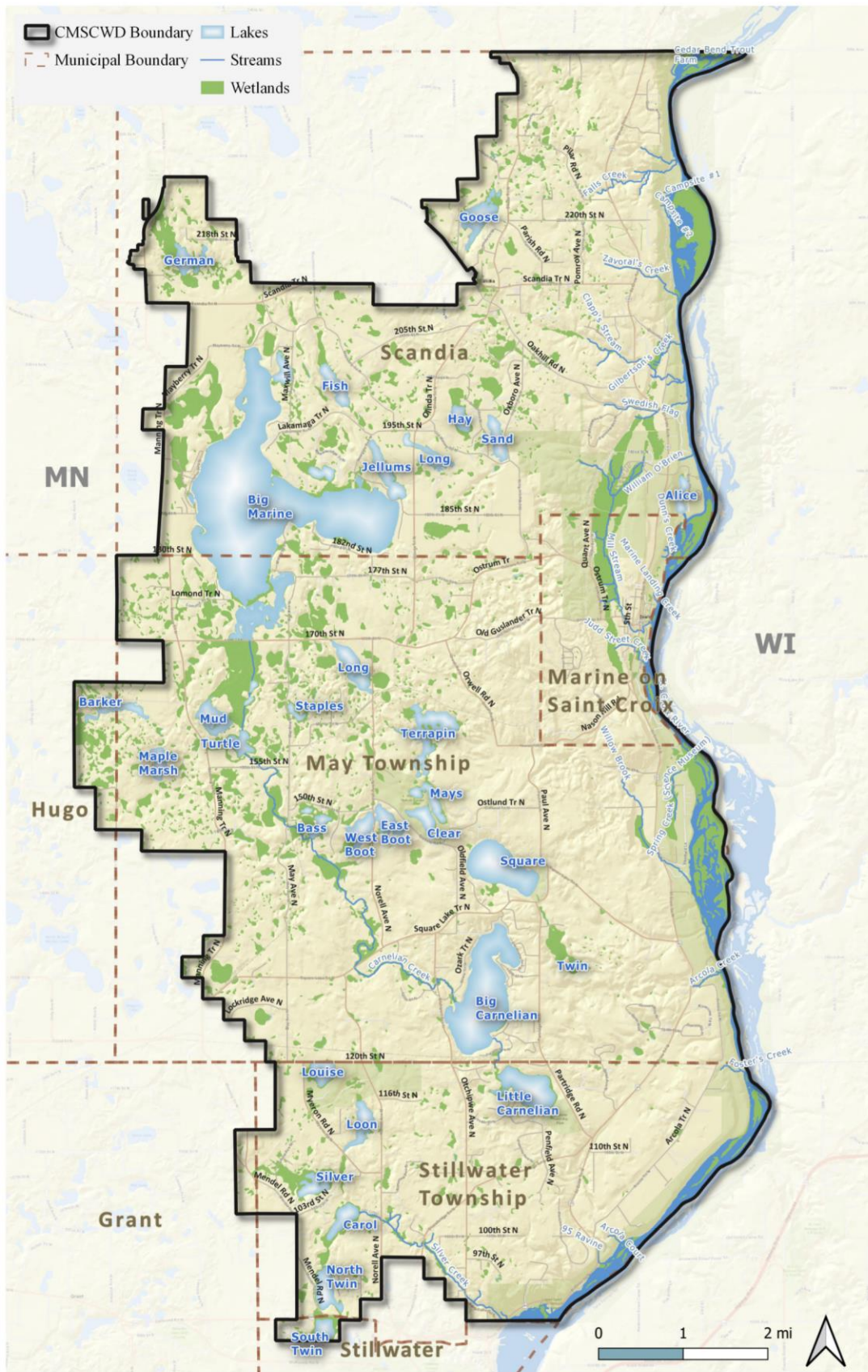
E. IMPACTS ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

There are no changes to expectations and requirements of local governments resulting from this Plan's adoption. The Local Water Management Plans (LWMPs) of District cities and township must conform to the policies and provisions of this Plan. A recent change to Minnesota Rules Chapter 8410 revised the schedule for LWMPs updates: local water management plans must be revised once every 10 years in alignment with the local comprehensive plan schedule. Updated local comprehensive plans are due December 31, 2028. As a result, all cities and townships in the District must complete and adopt their local water plan between January 1, 2027 and December 31, 2028. Given that this Plan will be adopted (and implemented) well before the statutory requirement for the LWMP update, the District will encourage its member communities to revise their LWMPs sooner than required. A city or township may, at its discretion, choose to adopt this Watershed Management Plan in whole or part to satisfy its statutory local water management plan requirement.

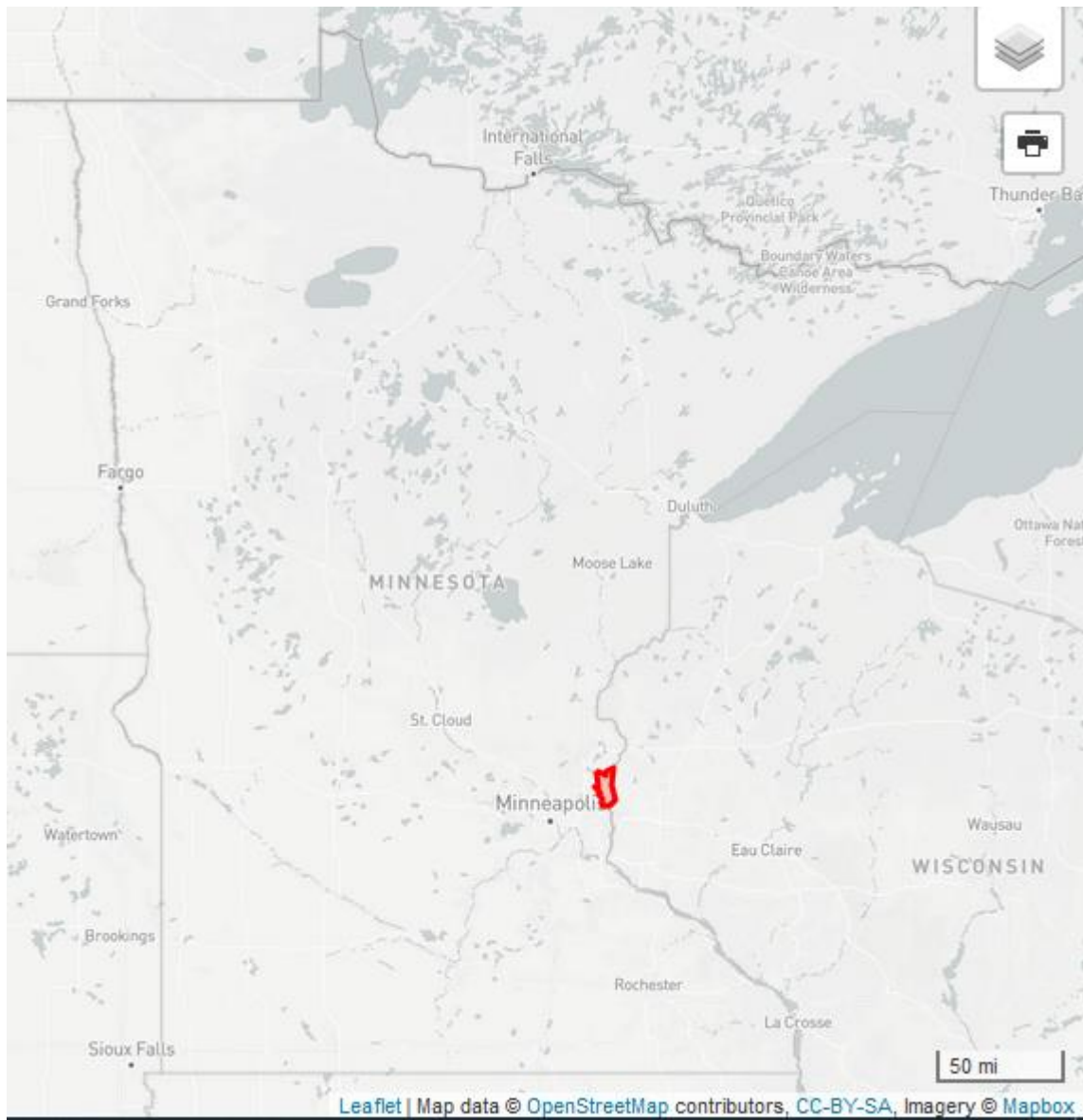
The District's guidance for LWMP documents includes a request for language on local issues and implementation actions that affect the concerns stated in this Plan or which require District collaboration. The District notes it will work with cities and townships regarding financial considerations, implementation priorities, and programs for plan elements of mutual concern. Finally, each local government can assume as much management and regulatory control as it wishes through its approved LWMP.



Figure A-1. CMSCWD and Municipality Boundaries



Date: 11/29/2021 1:28pm Author: Sarah Goodbrand
 Document Path: X:\Clients_WD\051_CMV\0191_2020_Plan_Update\09_GIS\ProjectName\GIS\RM_11x17.apr



Leaflet | Map data © OpenStreetMap contributors, CC-BY-SA, Imagery © Mapbox

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Northern Region Committee

1. Clay SWCD Nomination Districts – Neil Peterson – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Clay SWCD Nomination Districts

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Section/Region: Northern Region

Contact: Brett Arne

Prepared by: Brett Arne

Reviewed by: Northern Regional Committee(s)

Presented by: Neil Peterson

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 Clay SWCD Supervisor nomination district modification.

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

The Clay SWCD submitted to BWSR a resolution request to modify Supervisor nomination districts in Clay County on January 12th, 2022. The changes to the nomination districts are minimal, consist of two total affected townships in two nomination districts. The affected nomination districts remain consistent with policy set forth in Minnesota statute 103C.311.

The request to modify the Clay SWCD Supervisor nomination districts was brought before the Northern Regional Committee on March 2, 2022. The committee recommended the Board approve the request at their next regular meeting on March 23, 2022.

BOARD ORDER

Revision of the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District Nominating Supervisor Districts

PURPOSE

Approve the attached Clay Soil and Water Conservation District request to revise the district boundaries for nominating candidates per Minnesota Statutes 103C.311, Subd. 1.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

- A. The Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (District) passed a resolution related to revising the division of the District into five nominating areas per Minnesota Statutes 103C.311, Subd. 1 at a regular meeting held on December 9, 2021.
- B. The Northern Regional Committee of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) reviewed the request at their regular meeting held on March 2, 2022, and recommended approval by the full Board.
- C. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled
- D. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving Supervisors district for Supervisors elected at large pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103C. 311, Subd. 1.
- E. The District resolution was processed in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103C.311, Subd. 1.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Approves the attached Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (District) Nomination Districts Resolution – REVISED adopted by the District at their regular meeting held December 9, 2021.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this March 23, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources


Date: _____

Nomination Districts Resolution - REVISED

Be it resolved by the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors that pursuant to M.S. 103C.311, the district be divided into five areas for nominating candidates for the positions of Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors to be elected at large as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Description of Boundaries</u>
I	Felton, Flowing, Georgetown, Kragnes, Morken, Oakport, & Viding Townships
II	Cromwell, Goose Prairie, Hagen, Highland Grove, Keene, & Ulen Townships
III	Elkton, Elmwood, Glyndon, Moland, Riverton, & Spring Prairie Townships
IV	Alliance, Barnesville, Holy Cross, Kurtz, & Moorhead Townships
V	Eglon, Hawley, Humboldt, Parke, Skree, & Tansem Townships

I, Randy Schellack, Secretary of the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District, do hereby certify that the above resolution relating to the division of the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District into five nominating areas was adopted by the said District Supervisors at a regular meeting held on December 9, 2021, that I have compared the above copy with the original resolution as set forth in the minutes of said meeting, and it is a true and correct copy of and transcript from said original and the whole thereof. I further certify that said meeting of the Board was duly called and held, that a quorum of members of said Board was present thereat, and that said resolution was duly adopted thereat by a vote of 5 to 0 of the members present.

Signed: 
Clay Soil and Water Conservation District

Be it resolved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources that the division of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District into five nominating areas as set forth in the above resolution adopted by the supervisors of said district on _____, 20_____, is hereby approved.

I, _____, Executive Director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, do hereby certify that I have compared the above copy of resolution relating to the division of the _____ Soil and Water Conservation District into five nominating areas adopted by said Board at a regular meeting held on _____, 20_____, with the original as set forth in the minutes of said meeting, and that said copy is a true and correct copy of and transcript from said original and the whole thereof. I further certify that said meeting of said Board was duly called and held, that a quorum of members of said Board was present thereat, and that said resolution was duly adopted thereat by a vote of _____ to _____ of the members present.

Signed: _____
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Filed _____ day of _____, 20_____.

Signed: _____

To: Board of Water and Soil Resources

The Clay SWCD Supervisors request a change to the Nominating District Boundaries for an elected Supervisor in Clay County MN. All Nominated Supervisors will still be elected at large.

The Nominating District Boundary change will affect Nominating District 3 and Nominating District 4.

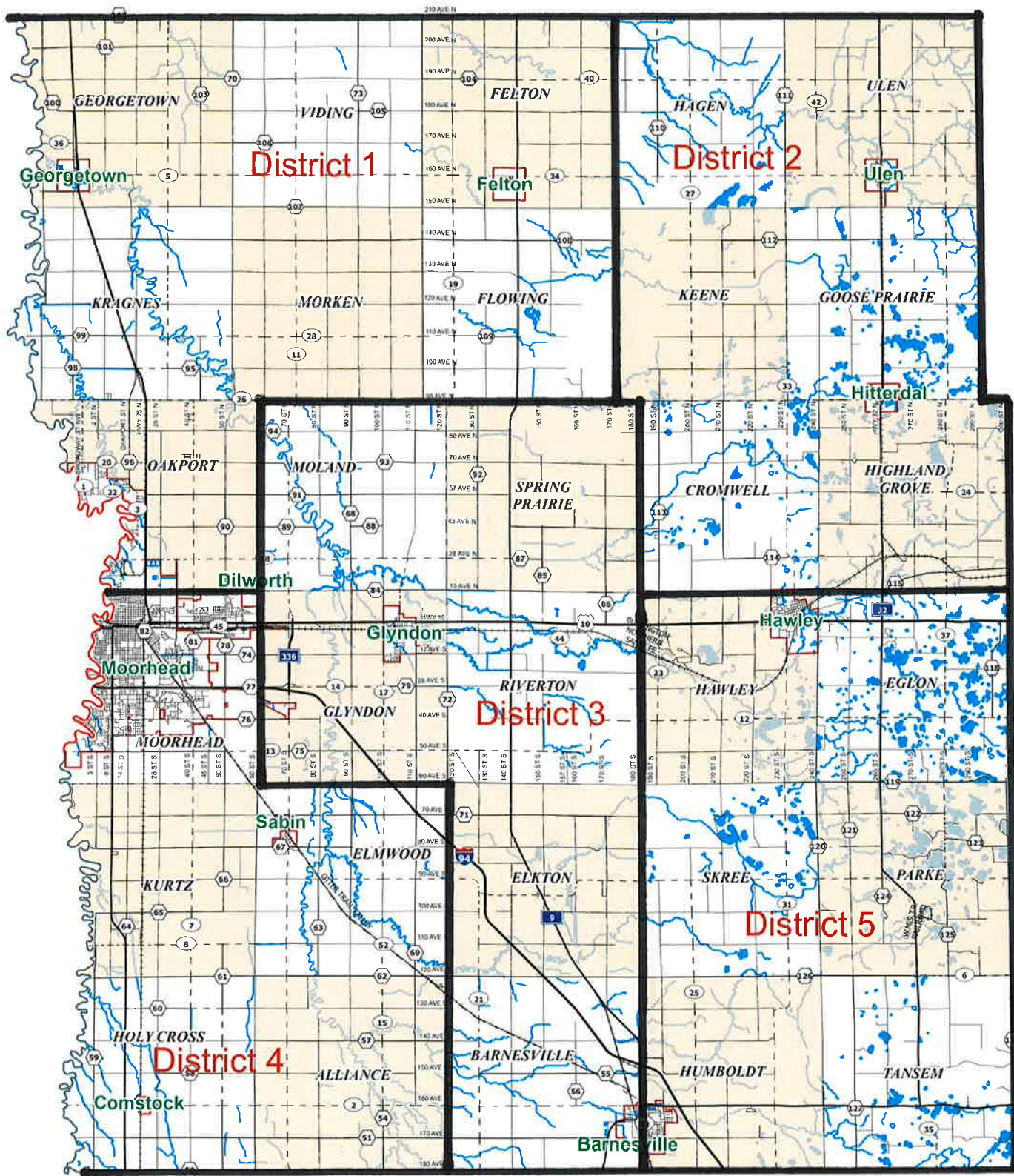
The change shall be made as follows:

- 1) Elmwood Township shall become part of Nominating District 3
- 2) Barnesville Township shall become part of Nominating District 4

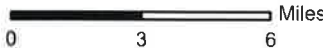
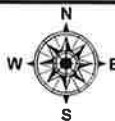
Reason for the change:

- 1) To make Nominating District 3 one concise block of Townships in the center of the County. It reflects similar natural resource concerns as well as an urban community at its center.
- 2) Nominating District 4 will have an urban community at each end of the Nominating District, providing influences from urban communities while maintaining similar natural resource concerns throughout the Nominating District.

CLAY COUNTY, MN



- US Highways
- State Highways
- County-State Highways
- County Highways
- Townships Roads
- Rail Roads
- Jurisdictions
- Lakes & Rivers
- Lakes

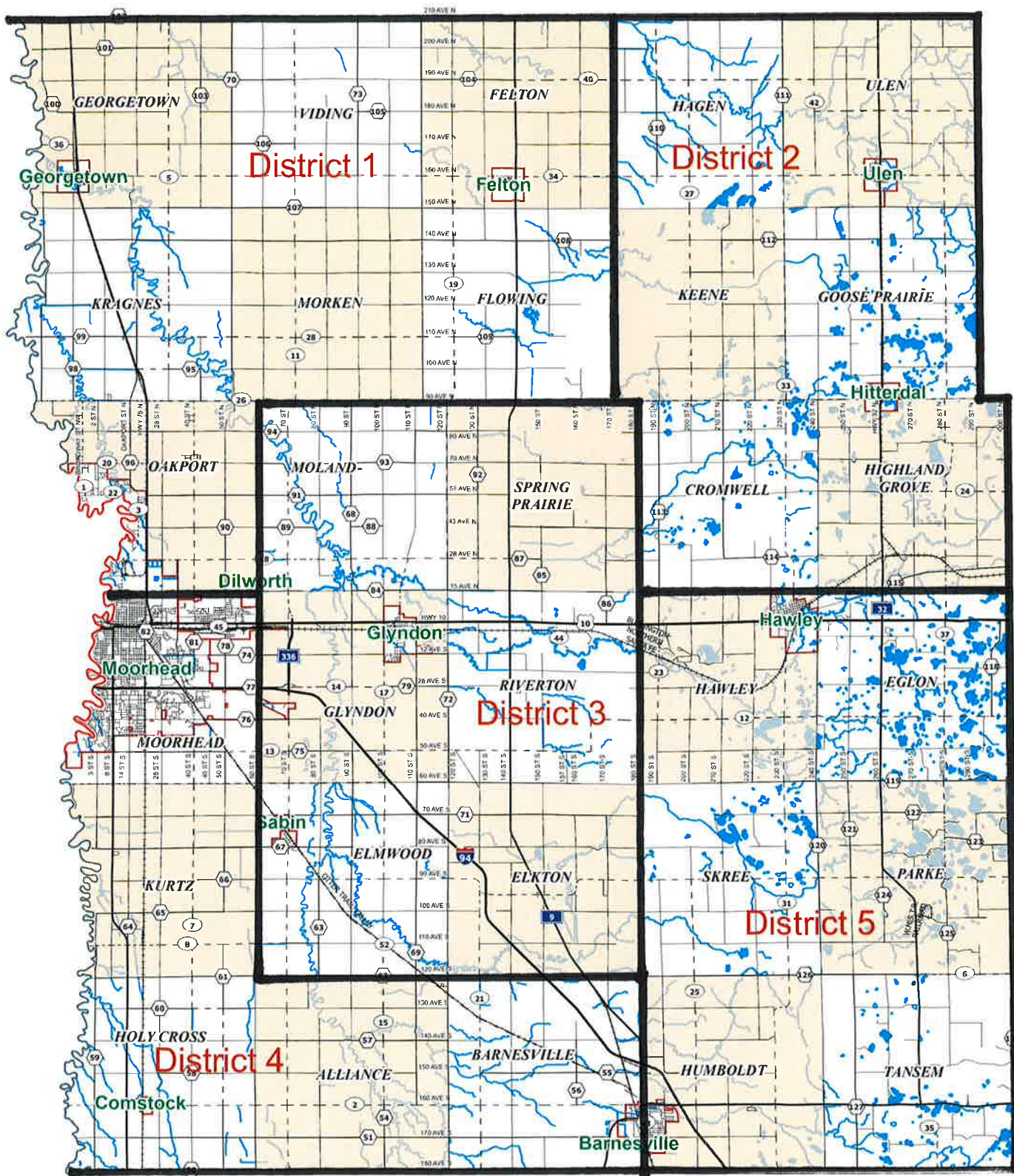


Date: 06/10/20

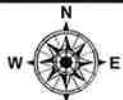
THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. CLAY COUNTY, MN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INACCURACIES HEREIN. CONTACT US AT THIS ADDRESS IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND MAY BE COPIED WITHOUT PERMISSION. CLARIFICATION OF THE SOURCE IS APPRECIATED.

Clay County GIS
 GIS @ccclay.mn.us
 218-299-5003

CLAY COUNTY, MN



- US Highways
- State Highways
- County-State Highways
- County Highways
- Townships Roads
- Rail Roads
- Jurisdictions
- Lakes & Rivers
- Lakes



THIS MAP IS FOR REFERENCE PURPOSES ONLY. CLAY COUNTY MN IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY INACCURACIES HEREIN. CONTACT THE SOURCE FOR THE PUBLIC DOMAIN AND MAY BE COMED WITHOUT PERMISSION OR CITATION OF THE SOURCE IS APPROPRIATE.

Date: 06/10/20

Clay County GIS
GIS@clay.mn.us
218-299-5003



March 23, 2022

Clay County Soil and Water Conservation District
Randy Schellack, Secretary
1615 30th Ave S
Moorhead, MN 56560

RE: Approval of the Clay SWCD New Nomination Districts

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is pleased to inform you that it approved the Clay Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) request to revise its Nomination District boundaries for Board of Supervisors at its regular meeting held on March 23, 2022.

Enclosed are three BWSR approved copies of the Nomination Districts Resolution, which was approved by the Clay SWCD Board on December 9, 2021. Please have the Clay County Auditor sign and date all three copies of this Resolution. The Clay County Auditor will retain one copy of the signed Resolution, one copy will be retained in Clay SWCD files, and the other copy will need to be returned to the BWSR St. Paul office.

BWSR would like to acknowledge the clarity and concise nature of the request from Clay SWCD. We look forward to our continued partnership in conservation.

Sincerely,

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

cc: Ryan Hughes, BWSR (via email)
Brett Arne, BWSR (via email)
BWSR Water Program Coordinator (via email)
Rachel Mueller, BWSR (file copy)

Equal Opportunity Employer

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

RIM Reserve Committee

1. Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement #08-09-93-02 Alteration for Public Road Project – Karli Tyma – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates – Bill Penning – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement #08-09-93-02
Alteration for Public Road Project

Meeting Date: March 23, 2022

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Brown RIM Easement Alteration Bridge

Section/Region: Easements
Sharon Doucette, Easements Section

Contact: Manager

Prepared by: Karli Tyma

Reviewed by: RIM Reserve Committee(s)

Presented by: Karli Tyma

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

Board approval is requested to amend RIM Easement #08-09-93-02 in Section 29, T 112N, R 29W, Brown County, to release 0.6 acres from the 21.2-acre easement for a road/bridge improvement project that will benefit public safety. The County has met all requirements of BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects and has agreed to pay \$8680.56 for the acres to be released.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/easement-alteration-policy>

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

The Brown County Highway Department is seeking approval from BWSR to release 0.6 acres from Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Conservation Easement #08-09-93-03 in order to complete a bridge replacement and public road improvement project on CSAH 8. The project will involve replacement and relocation of Bridge 2110, a structurally deficient, one lane bridge crossing the Minnesota River. The project will require realignment of the roadway and expansion of the existing highway right-of-way. The bridge replacement,

realignment of CSAH 8 and expanded road right-of-way will improve public safety by allowing better traffic flow and allowing trucks, equipment, and emergency vehicles to more safely cross the river. The overall impact to the RIM easement area will be minimal and immediately adjacent to the existing road right-of-ways.

Due to the shift in the roadway and right-of-way, 0.6 acres of RIM Easement #08-09-93-03 will be impacted by this project and are recommended for release from the RIM easement. In accordance with BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy, both the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District and the DNR Area Wildlife Manager have submitted letters in favor of the proposed release. Brown County Highway Department has submitted the required \$500 application fee for BWSR to consider the alteration request. The Highway Department has acquired the necessary highway easement from the current landowner to be able to move forward with the project. The Brown County Highway Department has agreed to pay BWSR the amount equal to two times the current RIM payment rate for the acres released, as well as pay back any state funds spent on conservation practices on the impacted areas, in accordance with the Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects.

The total amount to be paid to BWSR and agreed upon by Brown County for release of the 0.6 acres has been calculated as follows:

Current RIM payment rate for Eden Township: \$7183.80 /acre

2 x current RIM rate = 2 x \$7183.80/acre = \$14, 367.60/acre

0.6 acres x \$14, 367.60/acre = \$8620.56

State funds previously spent on conservation practices: \$100/acre x 0.6 acres = \$60.00

\$8620.56 + \$60.00 = **\$8680.56**

The Brown County Highway Department has met all requirements of BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy for public benefitted projects and all supporting documents are attached.

Recommendation

The RIM Reserve Committee voted to approve the easement alteration request and to formally amend RIM Easement #08-09-93-02 to release 0.6 acres for the public benefit of the Brown County Highway Department Bridge 2110 replacement project.

Board Resolution # 22- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Easement #08-09-93-02 Alteration for Public Road Project

WHEREAS, BWSR acquired RIM easement #08-09-93-02, a 21.1-acre riparian easement lying adjacent to the Minnesota River in Brown County in 1994; and

WHEREAS, the Brown County Highway Department will be replacing “Bridge 2110”, a structurally deficient, one lane bridge crossing the Minnesota River along CSAH 8, which lies adjacent to said RIM easement; and

WHEREAS, the project will include construction of a new, structurally sound bridge just to the east of the current bridge location and realignment of CSAH 8, resulting in an expansion of the existing highway right-of-way that will impact 0.6 acres of RIM easement #08-09-93-02; and

WHEREAS, the project will benefit public safety by improving traffic flow, and allowing the movement of emergency vehicles, trucks, and farm equipment across the bridge where previously not possible; and

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8400.3610 states that the Board may alter or release an easement if the Board determines the public interest and general welfare will be better served by the alteration or release; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR Easement Alteration Policy allows public entities to request that BWSR release acres from an easement if the entity agrees to pay for the released acres at two times the current RIM payment rate, as well as pay back any state funds previously spent on conservation practices on the impacted area; and

WHEREAS, the Brown County Highway Department will pay BWSR \$8680.56 to release 0.6 acres from the easement; and

WHEREAS, the Brown County Soil and Water Conservation District and the DNR Area Wildlife Manager have both submitted letters in favor of the alteration, the Highway Department has submitted the \$500 application fee required for BWSR to consider the alteration request, and has met all other requirements of the Easement Alteration Policy;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approves the release of 0.6 acres from RIM Easement #08-09-93-02, as proposed, and authorizes staff to work with the Brown County SWCD to officially amend the RIM Easement documents.

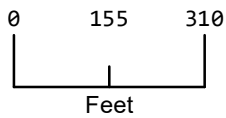
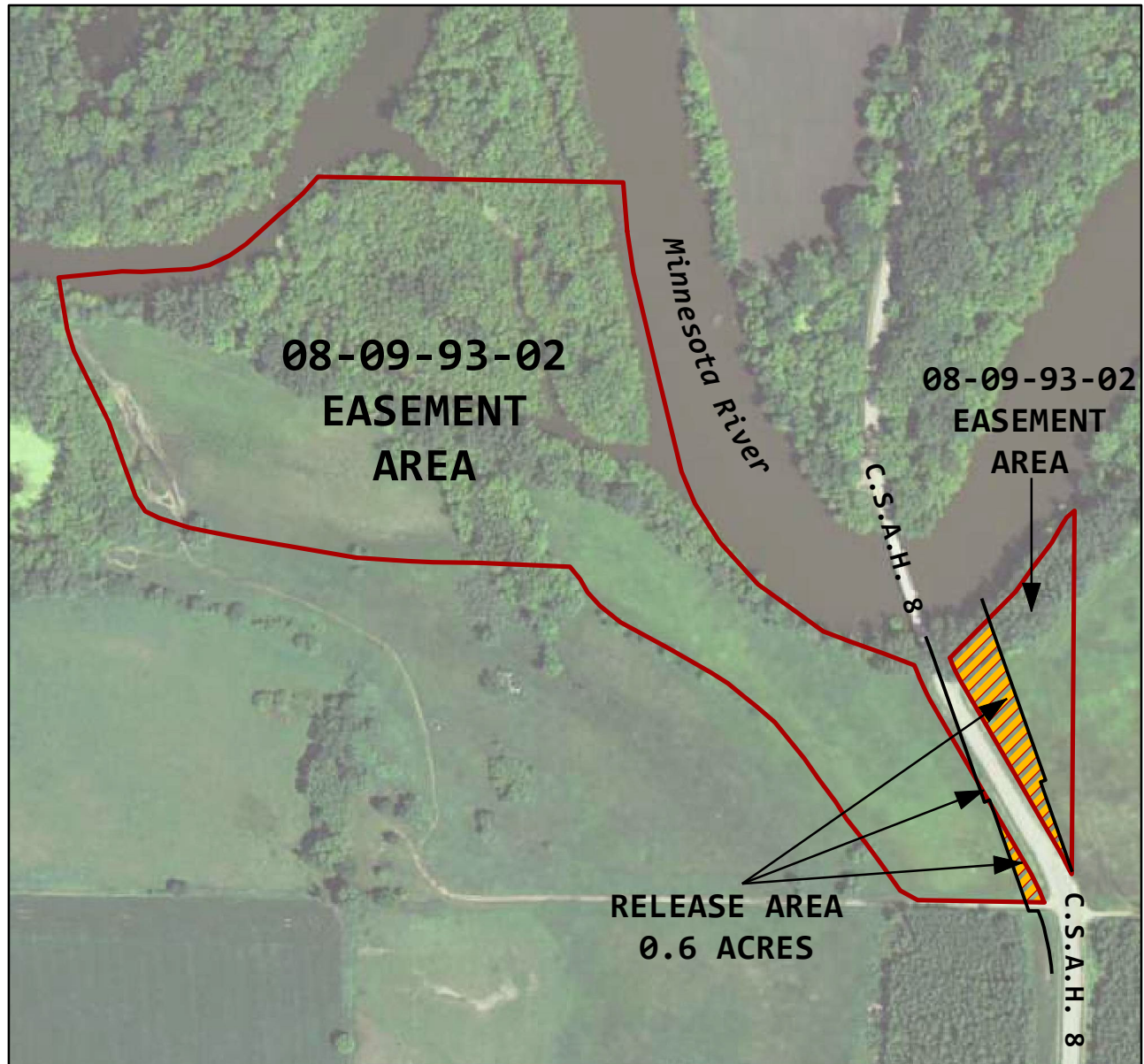
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____



BROWN COUNTY - CSAH 8 ALTERATION
FRANKLIN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
EASEMENT NO. 08-09-93-02




Section: 29 T. 112 N., R. 29 W.



Prepared by:
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dated:
Feb 03 2022

Legend

-  Easement Boundary
-  Release Area
-  Proposed R.O.W.

Brown County Highway Department
1901 North Jefferson Street
New Ulm, MN 56073
Phone (507) 233-5700 Fax (507) 354-6857

September 7, 2021

Alan Gleisner
District Technician
Brown Soil and Water Conservation District
300 2nd Ave SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

RE: Proposed Right of Way on RIM CREP Easement

Dear Mr. Gleisner:

Brown County is planning to replace Bridge 2110 on CSAH 8 over the Minnesota River in 2022. Bridge 2110 is a structurally deficient one lane bridge. The condition of the bridge does not allow emergency vehicles, trucks or modern farm equipment to use the bridge.

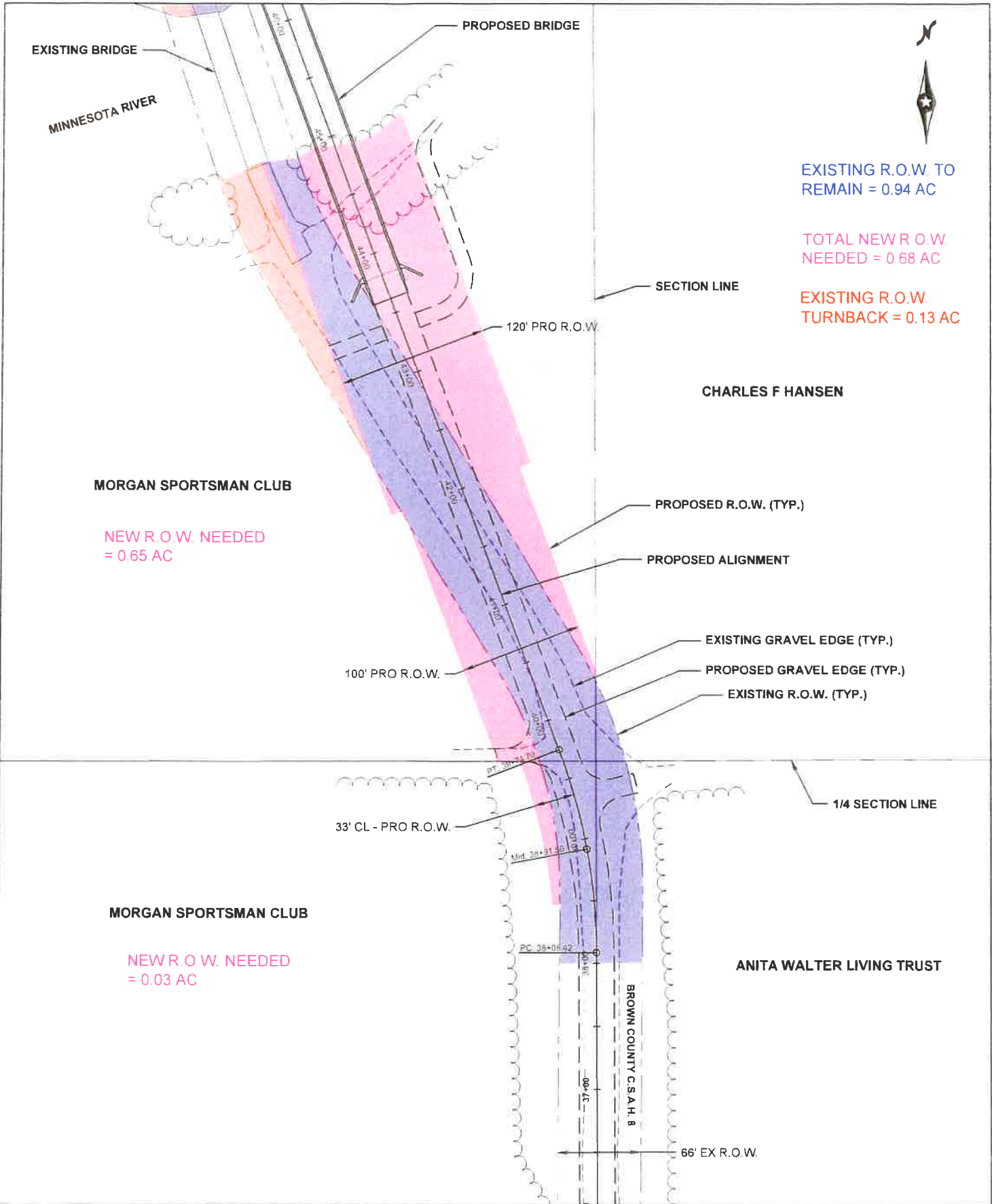
The bridge replacement is to improve the safety of the traveling public and to allow the movement of freight and equipment across the river. It also will allow emergency vehicles to cross the river to service the area. The nearest river crossing is 3 miles upstream or 6 miles downstream.

The proposed new right of way is located in Section 29 of North Eden Township, Brown County. Enclosed is a drawing showing the existing right of way and the proposed right of way.

Please contact me with any comments or questions.

Sincerely,


Wayne Stevens
Brown County Engineer



EXISTING R.O.W. TO REMAIN = 0.94 AC

TOTAL NEW R.O.W. NEEDED = 0.68 AC

EXISTING R.O.W. TURNBACK = 0.13 AC

MORGAN SPORTSMAN CLUB

NEW R.O.W. NEEDED = 0.65 AC

MORGAN SPORTSMAN CLUB

NEW R.O.W. NEEDED = 0.03 AC

CHARLES F HANSEN

ANITA WALTER LIVING TRUST

BROWN COUNTY C.S.A.H. 8



FRANKLIN BRIDGE REPLACEMENT
BROWN COUNTY C.S.A.H. 8
RIGHT OF WAY EXHIBIT



Brown Soil and Water Conservation District



300 2nd Ave. SW | Sleepy Eye, MN 56085 | Phone: 507-794-2553 | www.brownsxcdmn.org

October 25, 2021

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55155

RE: 08-09-93-02 RIM Alteration Request

Dear BWSR Board Members,

The Brown Soil and Water Conservation District received a request from Brown County for an alteration to RIM Easement #08-09-93-02 located in North Eden Township, Section 29. The request is due to a Brown County Highway Department project to replace Bridge 2110 over the Minnesota River on County State Aid Highway 8. Replacement of the structurally deficient one-lane bridge will improve the safety of the public and will allow modern trucks, equipment, and emergency vehicles to cross the river.

In order to complete this project, the roadway will be shifted slightly to the east causing a need to release 0.6 acres from existing RIM Easement 08-09-93-02. Brown County has obtained a Highway Easement with current easement owner, Morgan Sportsman Club, for these acres and will be responsible for all monetary costs associated with the release of these acres as per BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy.

After review of this request during its meeting on October 25, 2021, the Brown SWCD Board of Supervisors supports this public benefitted project and recommends approval for the release of these RIM easement acres.

Sincerely,

Craig Fischer
Chairman
Brown SWCD



December 16, 2021

Alan Gleisner
District Technician
Brown County SWCD
300 2nd Ave. SW
Sleepy Eye, MN 56085

Dear Mr. Gleisner,

After reviewing the proposed county bridge #2110 replacement project and its effect upon an existing Reinvest In Minnesota easement, I approve the modifications to the easement area due to the public benefits associated with the project and its small footprint upon the easement. Please contact me if you need further comment or information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Jeffrey Zajac'.

Jeffrey Zajac
Area Wildlife Manager
1241 E. Bridge Street
Redwood Falls, MN 56283

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates		
Meeting Date:	<u>March 23, 2022</u>		
Agenda Category:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input type="checkbox"/> Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>practice code, cost share rate, RIM, easement</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Easements Section</u>		
Contact:	<u>Sharon Doucette</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Bill Penning</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>RIM Reserve</u>	<u>Committee(s)</u>	
Presented by:	<u>Bill Penning</u>		
Time requested:	<u>10 minutes</u>		

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 type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is requested to approve the recommendation of the RIM Committee to authorize the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

The Laws of Minnesota 2019, Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 4(a) allows BWSR to spend up to \$1,000,000 create a working lands easement program. The Working Lands RIM Easement Pilot Program was authorized by Board Resolution 21-04. This program is designed to work with cattle producers to keep cattle on the landscape and protect and improve water quality and wildlife habitat. To do so requires certain infrastructure such as fencing and alternate water sources to allow for rotational grazing and keeping cattle from vulnerable water sources. These activities must be done in accordance with a grazing plan that meets USDA or other widely accepted grazing standards.

The RIM program has not had a program like this in the past. Although NRCS may be able to write grazing plans and provide cost share for implementation, in the long run there is no certainty of this, and a new Practice Code for grazing infrastructure and authorization to pay for grazing plans is needed.



Board Resolution # 22- _____

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – Working Lands Conservation Code and Cost Share Rates

WHEREAS, the Minnesota State Legislature has appropriated Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to acquire and restore permanent RIM conservation easements under Minnesota Statutes, Section 103F.515 to 103F.531; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes 103F.515, Subdivision 6(a) states that the Board shall establish rates for payment of conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rule 8400.3630, Subpart 1 establishes criteria for approved conservation practices; and

WHEREAS, Laws of Minnesota 2019, Chapter 2, Article 1, Section 4(a) appropriated \$10,000,000 to BWSR to “acquire conservation easements from landowners to preserve, restore, create, and enhance wetlands and associated uplands of prairie and grasslands, and restore and enhance rivers and streams, riparian lands, and associated uplands of prairie and grasslands in order to protect soil and water quality, support fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flood damage, and provide other public benefits” and “that no more than \$1,000,000 may be used to acquire working lands easements”; and,

WHEREAS, on January 27, 2021, the Board passed Resolution # 21-04 authorizing staff to implement the Working Lands RIM Easement Pilot Program; and

WHEREAS, the Working Lands RIM Easement Pilot Program is designed to work with agricultural producers to keep cattle on the landscape while improving water quality and wildlife habitat; and

WHEREAS, grazing plans that meet USDA or other widely accepted practice standards for grazing management will be required; and

WHEREAS, the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service has certified grazing plan writers who can write many but not all the grazing plans; and

WHEREAS, grazing plans will require certain infrastructure such as fencing, and stock watering facilities be implemented to keep cattle away from sensitive areas and facilitate rotational grazing; and

WHEREAS, the RIM program currently lacks a conservation practice code and payment rates for grazing plan writing and related infrastructure needs; and

WHEREAS, RIM Conservation Codes and Practices and associated payment rates were previously established by Board Resolution # 10-26; and

WHEREAS, this resolution is supplemental to previously approved BWSR Board resolutions and will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on February 4, 2022, and recommends the following.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources authorizes staff to:

1. Implement a new practice code, RR-15, that authorizes RIM cost share for grazing infrastructure practices.
2. Implement cost share rates for RR-15 and grazing plan development and publish said rates and practices in the RIM Handbook as follows:
 - a. up to 50% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$300 per acre for grazing infrastructure on permanent conservation easements.
 - b. up to 100% of total eligible costs not to exceed \$3800 per grazing plan on permanent conservation easements.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 23rd day of March, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

NEW BUSINESS

1. Value of BWSR Storytelling presentation – Mary Juhl and Ann Wessel – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	Value of BWSR Storytelling presentation		
Meeting Date:	March 23, 2022		
Agenda Category:	<input type="checkbox"/> Committee Recommendation	<input type="checkbox"/> New Business	<input type="checkbox"/> Old Business
Item Type:	<input type="checkbox"/> Decision	<input type="checkbox"/> Discussion	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	Storytelling, Snapshots, Conservation Stories, Social Media, Videos		
Section/Region:	Organizational Effectiveness		
Contact:	Mary Juhl, Communications Coordinator		
Prepared by:	Mary Juhl (Communications Coordinator) and Ann Wessel (Information Officer)		
Reviewed by:	_____ Committee(s)		
Presented by:	Mary Juhl and Ann Wessel		
Time requested:	45 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

No board action needed – information item only

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

BWSR Communications staff gave a presentation at the Feb. 10 regional operations BWSR staff meeting and again at the March 8 Senior Management Team meeting about the value of BWSR storytelling. The purpose of this presentation is to share results and successes related to BWSR Snapshots and Conservation Stories, and to highlight the key role our staff play in communicating conservation outcomes. The presentation also outlines the ways agency communications staff use social media and work with news outlets to spread the word about BWSR grants, programs and initiatives. At the request of SMT, we’d like to share this presentation with the full BWSR board to make them aware of the positive trends we’ve seen in recent years related to BWSR’s storytelling efforts.