

BOARD ORDER

FY 2023 One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants

PURPOSE

Approve the *One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy* and the *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements Version 2.2* and authorize the FY 2023 One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. 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 for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D and 114D.
2. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
3. An evaluation of the administration of the One Watershed, One Plan Program was completed by the Management Analysis and Development (MAD) in May 2022 with a specific recommendation regarding supporting successful plan maintenance.
4. The BWSR Senior Management Team (SMT) met on October 11, 2022 and discussed recommendations from BWSR staff on the *One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy* *One Watershed, One Plan - Plan Content Requirements* and providing Mid-Point Grants to support local governments' efforts to evaluate progress on implementation of comprehensive watershed management plans and/or amend comprehensive watershed management plans.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee and the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committees met jointly on October 24, 2022 and November 28, 2022 to discuss the recommendations from the BWSR Senior Management Team and recommended approval to the Board.

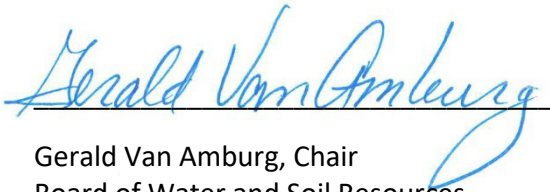
ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Adopts the attached *One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy*.
2. Adopts the attached *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements (Version 2.2)*.
3. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements of up to \$50,000 each with partnerships wishing to evaluate and/or amend comprehensive watershed management plans approved prior to September 1, 2019.

Dated St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 15, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 15, 2022

Grants Policy

One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

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

Version: 2.0

Effective Date: 12/15/2022

Approval: Board Decision #22-54

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 and to facilitate mid-point evaluations and/or amendments of approved plans.

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* or the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Policy 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, evaluation, or amendment process.

3. Eligible Activities

Eligible activities must be directly for the purposes of providing services to the plan development, evaluation, or amendment effort and may include activities such as: contracts and/or staff reimbursement for plan development, evaluation, or amendment; 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, evaluation, or amendment 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 or Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Policy. 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, evaluation, or amendment 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
2.00	Incorporated plan evaluation and amendment	2022
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

Plan Content Requirements

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

Version: 2.2
Effective Date: 12/15/2022
Approval: Board Decision 22-54

Policy Statement

These are the minimum requirements for contents of a comprehensive watershed management plan developed through the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources' (BWSR) One Watershed, One Plan program. The One Watershed, One Plan vision is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. These procedures are based on the *One Watershed, One Plan Guiding Principles* adopted by BWSR on December 18, 2013.

[Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 Subd. 14](#) permits BWSR to adopt methods to allow comprehensive plans, local water management plans, or watershed management plans to serve as substitutes for one another, or to be replaced with one comprehensive watershed management plan and requires BWSR to establish a suggested watershed boundary framework for these plans. [Minnesota Statutes §103B.801](#) outlines the purpose of and requirements for comprehensive watershed management plans and directs BWSR to establish content requirements for plans.

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I. Introduction

This document contains specific content requirements for drafting a comprehensive watershed management plan through the Board of Water and Soil Resources' One Watershed, One Plan program. The *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* provides more information on selected requirements for developing a quality plan that serves the needs of watershed resources and planning partners. Overall organization and format of the plan is a local decision.

The most effective and useful comprehensive watershed management plans are based on the best available data, models, and other science, especially making use of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) where they are available. They are action-oriented, focusing on the *what* and the *how* of watershed management. Finally, they are succinct and readable, providing watershed managers with a tool to explain to the public and funders what needs to happen and the anticipated results of actions that appear in the plan. Where possible, partnerships are encouraged to make use of existing documents and incorporate them into the final plan document by reference. The *One Watershed, One Plan Guiding Principles* provide sideboards and direction in the plan content requirements outlined in this document.

Note: *One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures* are in a separate document.

II. Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans

The requirements in this document are supported by the vision of the Minnesota Local Government Roundtable that future watershed-based plans will have **sufficient detail that local government units can, with certainty, identify pollutant(s) of concern in - or risks to - a water body, identify the source(s) of the pollutant, and provide detailed projects that address identified sources or risks.** This vision also includes a future of limited wholesale updates to watershed-based plans, with a streamlined process to incorporate collected data, trend analysis, changes in land use, and prioritization of resource concerns into the watershed-based plan, and an emphasis on watershed management and implementation through shorter-term work plans and budgeting. This vision includes acknowledging and building off of existing plans and data (including local and state plans and data), as well as existing local government services and capacity.

A. Issues that must be addressed

According to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.801, subdivision 4, the following issues must be addressed in the plan.

- Surface water and ground water quality protection, restoration, and improvement, including prevention of erosion and soil transport into surface water systems
- Restoration, protection, and preservation of drinking water sources and natural surface water and groundwater storage and retention systems
- Promotion of groundwater recharge
- Minimization of public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems
- Wetland enhancement, restoration, and establishment
- Identification of priority areas for riparian zone management and buffers

- Protection and enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities

B. Other topics

The following topics, and others identified by planning partnerships, may also be addressed in the plan.

- Soil health
- Altered hydrology
- Maintenance of core services; understanding of local capacity
- Water supply (protect, provide, and conserve)
- Drinking water supply
- Drainage system management
- Wastewater management
- Storm water management
- Drought mitigation
- Education, outreach, and civic engagement
- Contaminants of emerging concern
- Emerging issues (e.g. land cover, climate change, etc.)
- Invasive species prevention and/or management
- Chlorides
- Administrative priorities (e.g. establishment of uniform local policies and controls in the watershed)
- Fiscal challenges (e.g. minimizing public capital expenditures in resolving problems in areas such as flood control or water quality protection)

C. Special consideration: extreme weather

Planning partnerships are strongly encouraged to consider the potential for more extreme weather events and their implications for the water and land resources of the watershed in the analysis and prioritization of issues. While these events cannot be predicted with certainty as to time and occurrence, the meteorological record shows increased frequency and severity of extreme weather events, which directly affects issues in local water planning.

D. Mission or vision statement

Although not required, planning partnerships are encouraged to develop an overarching mission and/or vision statement for the watershed, as well as higher-level guiding principles for planning and implementation, which provides direction for the plan and serves as a touchstone for participants in the process.

III. Plan Content Requirements

Each comprehensive watershed management plan will contain the elements outlined in the following sections.

A. Executive Summary

Each plan will have a section entitled Executive Summary. The purpose of the executive summary is to provide a condensed and concise plain language summary of the contents of the overall plan. A well-written executive summary is beneficial for current and future elected officials, staff, citizens, and stakeholders to achieve an understanding of the plan and its intent. The executive summary must contain:

1. Purpose, mission, or vision statement if developed
2. A general map or description of the planning boundary and smaller planning or management units if used
3. A summary of the priority issues and goals that are addressed in the plan
4. A summary of the implementation actions and programs
5. A brief description of the process used to identify the measurable goals and targeted implementation actions
6. An outline of the responsibilities of participating local governments

In addition to the Executive Summary, the plan may need a table of acronyms and a definitions section; however, these are not required and may be included in the appendices.

B. Land and Water Resources Narrative

The plan must contain a brief (e.g. 2-3 page) narrative summary of land and water resources information to inform the planning process and support actions in the plan. The narrative must make use of typical and available land and water resource information, and synthesize that information in a way that allows for a shared understanding of watershed characteristics and issues. The narrative must acknowledge the watershed's context regarding the influence it has on downstream waters, and it may discuss impacts from upstream watersheds if applicable. This information should include, but is not limited to:

1. Topography, soils, general geology
2. Precipitation
3. Water resources
 - a. Surface water resources, including streams, lakes, wetlands, public waters, and public ditches
 - b. Groundwater resources, including groundwater and surface water connections if known
 - c. Water quality and quantity, including trends of key locations and 100-year flood levels and discharges, regulated pollutant sources and permitted wastewater discharges
4. Stormwater systems, drainage systems, and control structures
5. Water-based recreation areas
6. Fish and wildlife habitat, rare and endangered species
7. Existing land uses and anticipated land use changes
8. Relevant socio-economic information

Land and water resources information critical to supporting the priorities and actions of the plan may need to be more thoroughly described in the sections of the plan where those priorities are discussed. For example, a trend analysis may need more in-depth description to support a priority issue in the plan; however, the data behind the analysis can be contained elsewhere and referenced.

If gaps in information are identified through the plan development process, consider implementation action(s) to fill the gap rather than delaying the planning process to generate new data.

Sources of information used to develop the Land and Water Resources Narrative should be referenced in the plan appendix. Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on this requirement.

C. Priority Resources and Issues

The plan must contain:

1. A summary of the issues and resource concerns identified from all sources for consideration in this section
2. The steps used to consider and prioritize the identified resources and issues
3. A list of the agreed upon priority resources and issues for the watershed and a brief issue statement that describes the relevance of the issue for the planning area

Priority issues can be articulated in the plan through both a list/description(s) and map(s). The format and exact planning terminology used in the plan for presenting priority issues may vary as long as the plan covers the three requirements above and the terminology used is defined in the plan (the summary and steps are suggested to be included as appendices). The plan is not expected to address all identified issues; however, it should include a brief explanation as to why certain issues were rejected as priorities for this planning cycle.

In the event that conflicts exist in the interpretation of issues and/or selection of priority issues, consider whether the conflict can be addressed by defining both watershed-wide priorities as well as individual priorities of the participating local governments.

Plans that do not demonstrate a thorough analysis of issues, and that do not use available science and data, will not be approved. Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on this requirement.

D. Measurable Goals

Each priority issue must have associated measurable goals for addressing the issue. Some goals will be watershed-wide; however, the majority should be focused on a specific subwatershed, natural resource, or local government where specific outcomes will be achieved. Goals for prevention of future water management problems should also be considered.

Plans that do not contain sufficient measurable goals to indicate an intended pace of progress for addressing the priority issues will not be approved.

BWSR will consider Minnesota Statutes §103B.801, Subd. 4 (2), the balance of broad versus focused goals and shorter-term versus longer-term goals, and detail in the targeted implementation schedule to assess whether goals are sufficient. Additionally, the pace of progress towards achieving goals will be used in determinations of the extent or depth of future ten year plan revisions. BWSR may consider issuing findings when a plan and associated implementation is sufficient that a complete revision will not be required.

Specific Goal Requirement: Consistent with the Clean Water Council policy, plans must establish water storage goals, expressed in acre-feet, and standards for water storage, retention, and infiltration.

Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on this requirement.

E. Targeted Implementation Schedule

Each plan must have a targeted implementation schedule with:

1. A brief description of each action
2. Location targeting where the action will occur
3. Identification of roles and the responsible government unit for the action
4. An estimate of cost for implementing the action
5. An estimate of when the implementation will occur within the ten-year timeframe of the plan in increments of two years or less
6. A description of how the outcomes of the action will be measured

These requirements can be articulated in a table and/or narrative form. The schedule must clearly identify the actions the planning partners will undertake with available local funds versus the actions that will be implemented only if other sources of funds become available, and should be supported by maps indicating the location(s) of the targeted activities.

Specific actions, such as capital improvement projects that are local priorities (but not priorities for the watershed plan) or initiatives that are unique to a particular LGU (but that have not been identified as priorities for the partnership) may be included in the plan but must be clearly indicated as local priorities.

Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on this requirement.

F. Plan Implementation Programs

The implementation programs described below support the targeted implementation schedule by describing the overarching program(s) that will be used to implement actions identified in the schedule and how these programs will be coordinated between the local water management responsibilities. All programs described in this section must be included in the plan, including feasibility studies. Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on selected requirements in this section.

1. **Incentive Programs.** Describe local voluntary cost share or grant programs necessary to achieve the goals, including the general purpose and scope, criteria that will be used to select projects/disperse funds, actions to work with landowners in these critical areas to tailor conservation practices, and how the program(s) will be implemented across the watershed to provide consistency and achieve goals. Incentive programs may be targeted to specific issues, e.g. grants for sealing abandoned wells, or specific areas, e.g. a watershed of priority lakes.
2. **Capital Improvements.** Describe opportunities for watershed-wide collaboration (e.g. sharing of specialized services and/or lessons learned on these large-scale projects) on capital improvements (physical/structural improvement with an extended life) identified in the targeted implementation schedule. Consider including opportunities for improved water management associated with county and township roads and within drainage systems managed through Drainage Law.
 - a. **Drainage:** Describe opportunities for enabling large-scale, multi-purpose projects on a watershed basis and for engaging drainage authorities and drainage inspectors in implementation of the

they are designed to evaluate. State agencies are available to help summarize state monitoring activities.

- b. **Use of Data:** Describe if these established monitoring programs are capable of producing an evaluation of the progress being made toward the goals (e.g. monitoring stations properly located relative to priority subwatersheds) and how the data will be used in the evaluation, including improved model calibration.
 - c. **Additional Data Collection:** Identify any new data collection needed to improve understanding of the watershed condition, assess particular resources, or address any gaps in the land and water resources inventory that support actions in the targeted implementation schedule. Identify the purpose and lead organization for new data collection initiatives.
6. **Public Participation and Engagement.** The plan must describe approaches to public participation and engagement for implementing the plan, including information, outreach, and education program(s). Specifically, opportunities where there are benefits from watershed-wide collaborations and areas where focused or targeted actions will support the priority issues and goals of the plan. At a minimum, include: an analysis of the need for public participation and engagement in meeting plan goals, identification of strategies addressing the needs, and an estimate of the financial and technical support needed by the partnership for carrying out the strategies.

G. Plan Administration and Coordination

Partners must decide what organizational structures are best suited to administer the various programs and how the partnership will carry out the plan. In some cases, new arrangements may be needed or desired. All items described in this section must be addressed in the plan. Please consult the *One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook* for more information on selected requirements in this section.

1. **Decision-making and Staffing.** Describe the roles of planning participants in implementation.
 - a. **Policy Committee** (decision-making): Describe if the policy committee created to develop the plan will continue through plan implementation. If the policy committee will not continue, clearly outline an alternative method to provide oversight and maintain accountability throughout plan implementation. Describe the anticipated role of the policy committee or alternative in plan implementation and its relationship to plan participants.
 - b. **Advisory Committee** (advising): Describe if the advisory committee(s) created for plan development will continue through plan implementation and/or describe alternative methods to ensure a dependable forum to exchange information and knowledge about the watershed and implementation of the plan, and to meet the statutory requirements for ongoing advisory committees of counties (Minnesota Statutes §103B.301-103B.3355) and watershed districts (Minnesota Statutes §103D.331-103D.337). Also, identify opportunities to coordinate with federal partners to convene Local Working Groups to fulfill federal Farm Bill requirements.

The plan should establish procedures for engaging state agencies and describe the ongoing roles and commitments of the state agencies for plan implementation.

- c. **Identification and Coordination of Shared Services** (staffing): Describe specialized and shared service areas that may be used in the watershed to implement the actions identified in the schedule

and achieve greater efficiencies in service delivery. This may include shared services for program management or for project management.

The watershed plan and associated formal agreements should describe how the service will be shared and/or the need met. Shared services may also include partnership with non-governmental organizations.

2. **Collaboration with other Units of Government.** Describe relationships with other units of government not part of the formal agreement for plan development, including the drainage authorities within the planning boundary. For example, cities and townships are not required participants, but they may contribute to improved watershed management in the areas of waste water treatment plants, source water and wellhead protection for population centers, MS4s, and culvert and road maintenance. Additionally, federal government partners are not required participants. However, federal programs and partnerships are very important resources in watershed management.
3. **Funding.** Describe how actions in the implementation schedule will be funded. Both the state and local governments have responsibility for funding water management. All funding methods currently available to participants remain available to the participants and/or to the organization as a whole through the participants.
 - a. **Local:** Describe the funding sources used to generate local funds for plan implementation and clearly outline the participants' local commitments to implementing the plan.
 - b. **State:** Describe state funding needed for implementation of the plan. This can be achieved through separation in the targeted implementation schedule of locally funded projects versus projects that will proceed only with state funds.
 - c. **Collaborative Grants:** Describe the intended approach to coordinated submittal of collaborative grant applications.
 - d. **Federal:** The plan should describe what type of federal funding resources may be pursued to implement the plan.
 - e. **Other Sources:** The plan should describe what other types of funding may be pursued to implement the plan.
4. **Work Planning.** Describe a frequency and method for developing and approving work plans based on: plan priorities, the targeted implementation schedule, and the implementation programs. The work plan can consist of a collaborative work plan for the watershed, elements of individual work plans for each local government participant, or some combination. Describe how the work plan will be finalized and approved.
 - a. **Local Work Plan:** Describe an annual commitment to implementing the plan via local budgeting and staffing decisions. Describe an approach to additional collaborative work planning based on the extent of collaboration intended in the implementation schedule, programs, and subsequent agreements, as well as the extent of collaborative grant-making intended.
 - b. **Funding Request:** Describe a biennial commitment to collaboratively review and submit a funding request to BWSR.

5. **Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting.** Describe approaches and decision-making for periodic assessment, evaluation, and reporting of plan implementation. Evaluation should measure progress and performance, drive the work plan, and provide accountability.
 - a. **Accomplishment Assessment:** Describe a method for tracking implementation consistently across the watershed. Describe the frequency and methods for compiling and reviewing implementation accomplishments under the targeted implementation schedule and implementation programs described in the plan. This assessment should support future work plan development, progress evaluation, and reporting. Suggested frequency is annual.
 - b. **Partnership Assessment:** Describe the frequency and methods for assessing the partnership with regards to the items listed in 1 – 3 above (fulfillment of committee purposes and roles, efficiencies in service delivery, collaboration with other units of government, and success in securing funding).
 - c. **Mid-Point Evaluation:** Include a schedule for a thorough mid-point evaluation and potential revision to the implementation schedule. The purpose of this evaluation is to determine progress and consider whether staying the course or resetting direction is necessary. It may also include revisions to models and considerations of new monitoring data. If a WRAPS has been completed or revised since the plan was originally adopted, this evaluation must include an assessment of any changes to the plan necessary due to new information.
 - d. **Reporting:** Describe collaborative approaches to provide accountability to stakeholders and to meet annual reporting requirements of local governments, grant reporting requirements, and specific program and financial reporting requirements. Information on required annual reporting can be found on the BWSR website. Consider a periodic ‘state of the watershed report,’ individualized ‘waterbody report cards,’ or other methods to provide accountability and demonstrate outcomes locally.
6. **Plan Amendments.** Describe procedures for considering plan amendments, who can propose amendments, what criteria will be used in considering amendments, and who makes the decision to proceed with amendments.
7. **Organizational Structures or Formal Agreements.** List and briefly describe the organizational structures or entities that will be used to implement the plan’s projects and programs. Indicate whether these are existing entities or new ones. In either case, indicate any formal agreements between local governments that are needed and whether these will be modifications of existing agreements or new agreements. For example, prior to completion of the plan, the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between partners for planning purposes could be revised for on-going coordination among entities responsible for plan implementation. Consultation with Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust (MCIT) and legal counsel is recommended. MCIT may recommend revising the planning agreement, establishing separate agreements or contracts for specific services or actions, and/or developing a broader, watershed-wide agreement for ongoing partnership.

History

Version	Description	Date
2.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Changed “Five Year” to “Mid-point” (III.G.5.c)	December 15, 2022
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Added “drinking water sources” to the list of issues that must be addressed (II.A)	August 29, 2019
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Formatted with new policy template and logo; edited to improve clarity and readability■ Removed background information not directly relevant to the policy; Introduction and Overview sections reorganized and some content removed (I and II), background and contextual information for requirements removed (III A-E)■ Updated list of issues that must be in the plan to reflect statute (II)■ Land and Water Resources Inventory changed to <i>Narrative</i> and moved from appendix to plan; added requirement for discussion of watershed context (III.A).■ Removed “potential sources of funding” from, and added requirement for two year time increments to, Targeted Implementation Schedule requirement (III.E.4)■ Modified Targeted Implementation Schedule requirement to clarify inclusion of local priorities (III.E)■ Added “legal drainage systems” to Operations and Maintenance requirement (III.F.3)■ Removed reference to the buffer law from Regulation and Enforcement requirement (III.F.4). Added inclusion of comprehensive plan dates (III.F.4.b)■ Modified Data Collection and Monitoring requirement to clarify program intent (III.F.5)■ Added needs assessment and strategy development; changed heading to Public Participation and Engagement (formerly <i>Information, Education, and Outreach</i>) (III.F.6)■ Added policy committee role and federal coordination to Decision-making and Staffing (III.G.1.a,b)■ Modified Work Planning requirement to clarify program intent (III.G.2)	March 28, 2018

■ Modified Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting to clarify program intent (III.G.3)

1.00 ■ Pilot Plan Content Requirements modified to reflect transition to program March 23, 2016

0.00 ■ Pilot Plan Content Requirements June 25, 2014

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program Awards

PURPOSE

Authorize the Fiscal Year 2023 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program Awards.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2:
 - a. Sec. 6(b) appropriated \$11,504,000 for the fiscal year 2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Competitive Grants Program with up to 20 percent available for land-treatment projects and practices that benefit drinking water, and
 - b. Sec. 6(j) appropriated \$850,000 for the fiscal year 2023 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Competitive Grants Program, and
 - c. Sec. 6(p) appropriated \$4,000,000 for the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Program.
 - d. Section 6(t) allows the Board to shift grant funds.
2. On June 22, 2022, the Board authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants (Board order #22-31).
3. The request for proposals was noticed on June 27, 2022 with a submittal deadline of August 22, 2022.
4. Applications were scored and ranked by the interagency committees on October 24, 25, and 31, 2022.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their November 28, 2022 meeting, reviewed the proposed allocations and recommended approval to the Board.


ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to transfer \$570,500 in funds from the fiscal year 2022 and 2023 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Program to the fiscal year 2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Competitive Grant Program (#1a above).
2. Approves the allocation of funds to each applicant in the amounts listed in the attached allocation tables.
3. Authorize staff to place applications C23-1872 and C23-9488 in a pending status until March 1, 2023 contingent on the approval of a related amendment to the North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
4. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.
5. Authorizes staff to fully or partially fund additional applications in rank order until April 17, 2023 unless superseded by a future Board action. For this purpose, staff may separately or in combination: a. reallocate funds returned from previous years' Clean Water Fund Competitive grant programs, b. reallocate funds that become available if funded projects are withdrawn or do not receive work plan approval by March 20, 2023 unless extended for cause, or c. reallocate funds that are modified due to a reduction in the state funding needed to accomplish the project.
6. Establishes that the grants awarded pursuant to this order will conform to FY 2023 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this December 15, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 15, 2022

Attachments:

- FY2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table
- FY2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table
- FY2023 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table
- FY2023 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Allocation Table
- Maps of recommended award locations

FY2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C23-0127	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Project Construction- Phase 2	Pelican River WD	\$640,000
C23-9407	McMurray Fields Stormwater Treatment and Reuse	Capitol Region WD	\$950,000
C23-4975	Whaletail Lake-South Basin Alum Treatment	Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMC	\$405,000
C23-4726	Sunrise Chain of Lakes Shoreland Stabilizations	Anoka CD	\$78,500
C23-9634	City of Brainerd Mississippi River Gully Erosion 250 Tons TSS	Crow Wing SWCD	\$975,000
C23-5916	Bemidji State University Subsurface Stormwater Water Quality Treatment	Beltrami SWCD	\$228,300
C23-0928	2023 Lower Clearwater Planning Region Water Quality Improvement Projects	Red Lake SWCD	\$318,600
C23-3022	Forest Lake Alum Treatment	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	\$533,600
C23-9488	2023 - Twelve Mile Creek Conservation Practice Implementation	Wright SWCD	\$420,000
C23-4274	2023 Continued Implementation of BMPs in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed	Chisago SWCD	\$250,000
C23-9902	Top-Down: Buffalo Watershed Accelerated Improvement-Phase II	Becker SWCD	\$800,000
C23-7479	Red River Tributaries Outlet Gully Stabilization Project	Clay SWCD	\$400,000
C23-4644	2023 Priority BMP Implementation Targeting Lawrence Creek, Dry Creek, and Direct Drainage to the St. Croix River Phase II	Chisago SWCD	\$250,000
C23-8618	Restoring the Fort Ridgely Creek Subwatershed	Hawk Creek Watershed Project	\$165,500
C23-5405	FY23 CWF East Lake Rough Fish Barrier Project	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	\$300,000
C23-9787	Crailsheim Water Quality Improvement Pond	Okabena-Ocheda WD	\$970,312
C23-7838	2023 Lake Emily Watershed BMP Targeted Implementation Phase IV	Pope SWCD	\$362,500
C23-1872	Restoration of Middle Fork Crow River / CD47	Middle Fork Crow River WD	\$840,000
C23-3363	2023 West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection	Wabasha SWCD	\$178,725
		TOTAL	\$ 9,066,037

FY2023 Clean Water Fund Project and Practices Drinking Water Subprogram Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C23-5011	Altura Well Sealing	Winona County	\$68,000
C23-1718	City of Le Center Municipal Well Sealing	Le Sueur County	\$45,275
C23-2424	2023 Drinking Water Protection Initiative	Benton SWCD	\$42,200
C23-7142	2023 Dakota County Well Seal Program	Dakota County	\$110,000
C23-2095	Chief's Coulee Stormwater Project	Pennington SWCD	\$428,750
C23-0454	Whitewater Well Sealing Grant	Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona Counties	\$30,000
C23-6045	Central Mille Lacs County targeted well sealing	Mille Lacs SWCD	\$30,000
C23-0157	Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region	Dakota; Dodge; Fillmore; Goodhue; Houston; Mower; Olmsted; Wabasha; Winona SWCDs	\$238,864
		TOTAL	\$ 993,089

FY2023 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C23-9708	Loon Lake Improvement - Jackson County Judicial Ditch 8	Jackson County	\$390,000
C23-6275	Improving Water Quality for Beaver Creek	Renville SWCD	\$116,897
C23-8237	Judicial Ditch 15 BMPs	Lyon County	\$48,953
C23-3377	WCD Sub-1 Water Quality Retrofit	Bois De Sioux Watershed District	\$244,150
		TOTAL	\$ 800,000

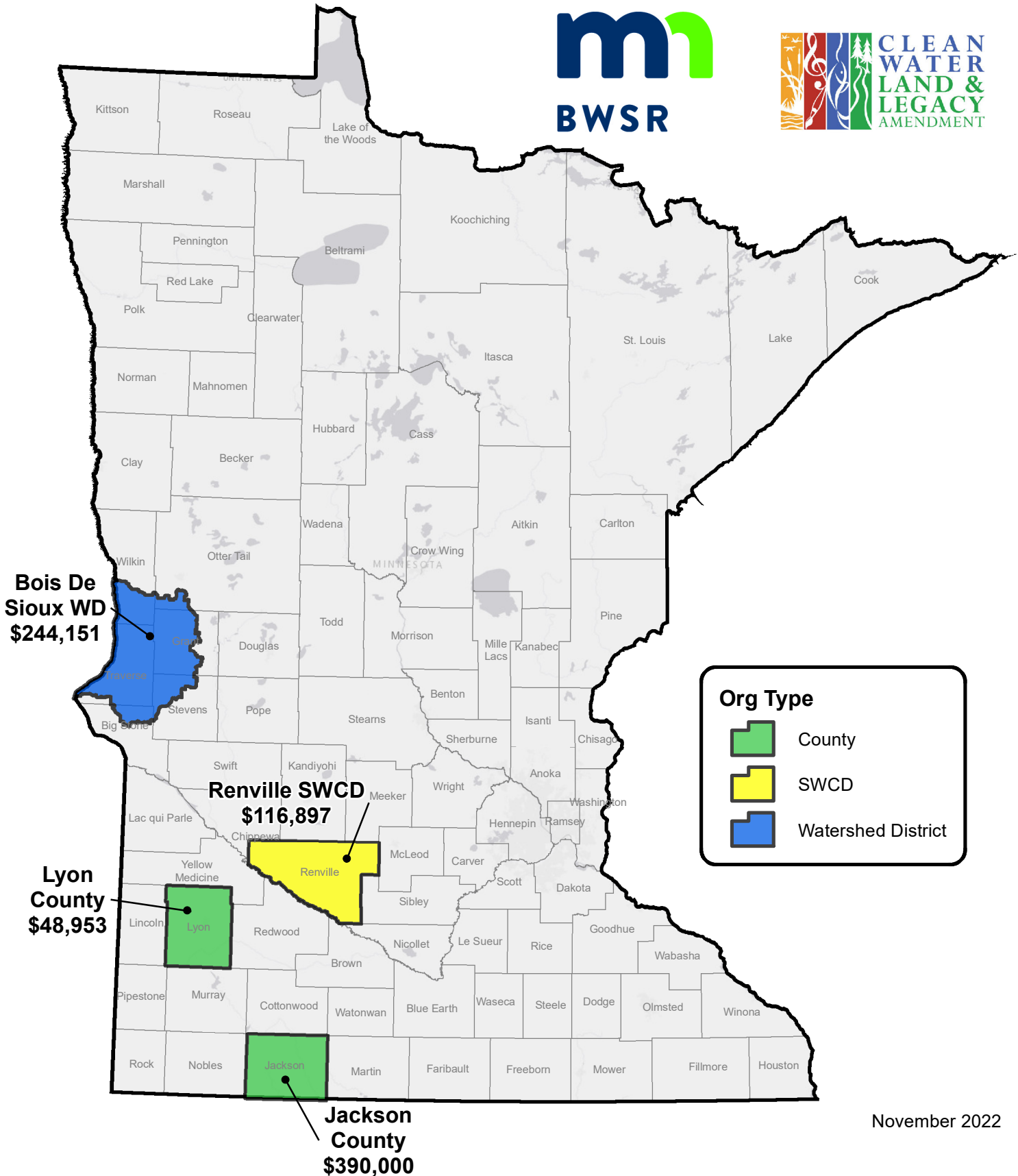
FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Allocation Table

Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Grantee	Total (\$)
C23-1732	Goodhue DWSMA-Nitrate Protection Initiative	Goodhue SWCD	\$389,500.00
C23-1911	Using Soil Health to Protect Drinking Water in Two Rural Minnesota Communities	Swift SWCD	\$285,000.00
C23-1613	Vulnerable Non-Community Public Water Supply Protection In Mississippi Outwash Plains Using Cover Crops	Morrison SWCD	\$155,000.00
		TOTAL	\$ 829,500




FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

Total Recommended Funding: \$800,000

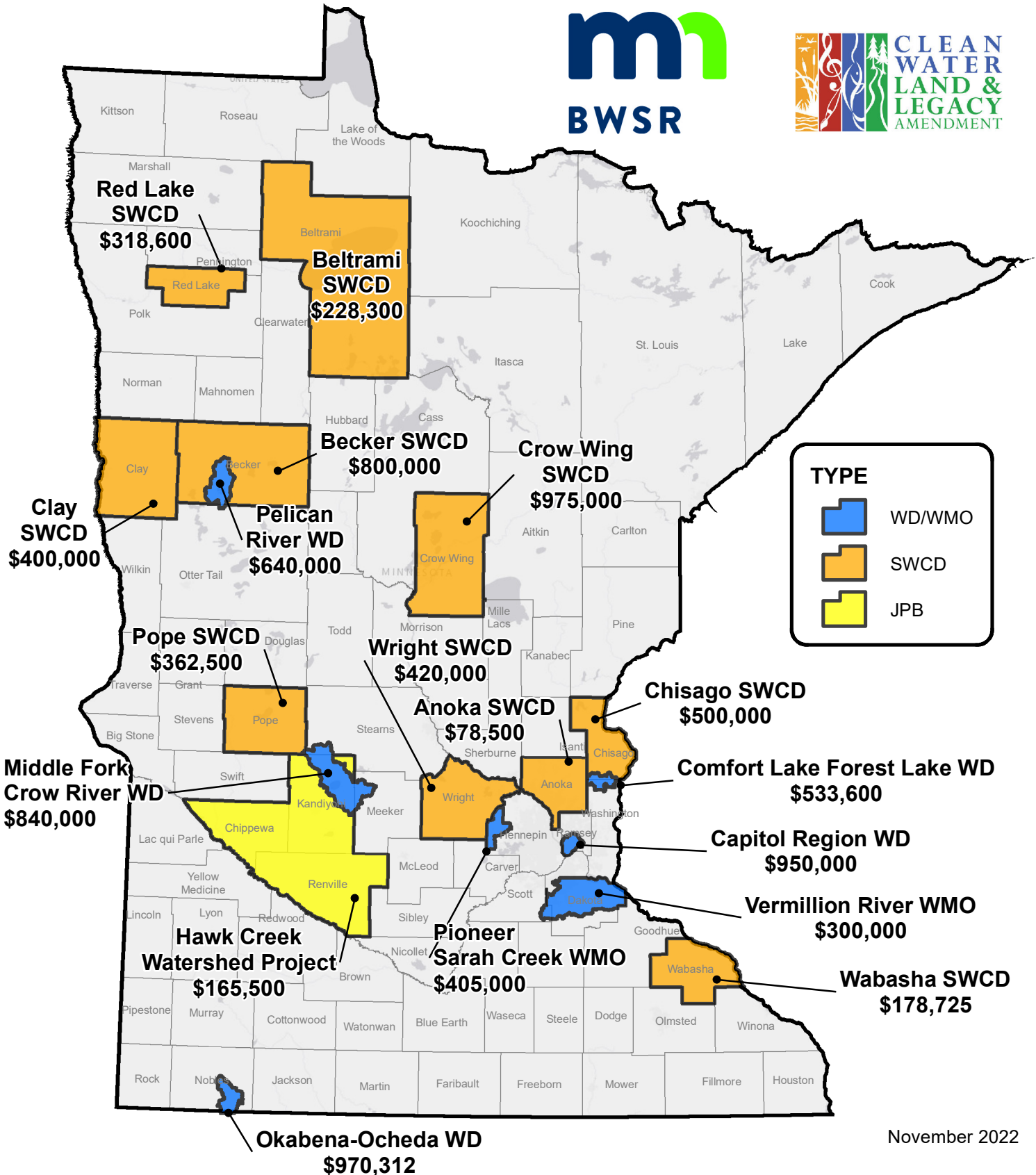


Org Type

-  County
-  SWCD
-  Watershed District

FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

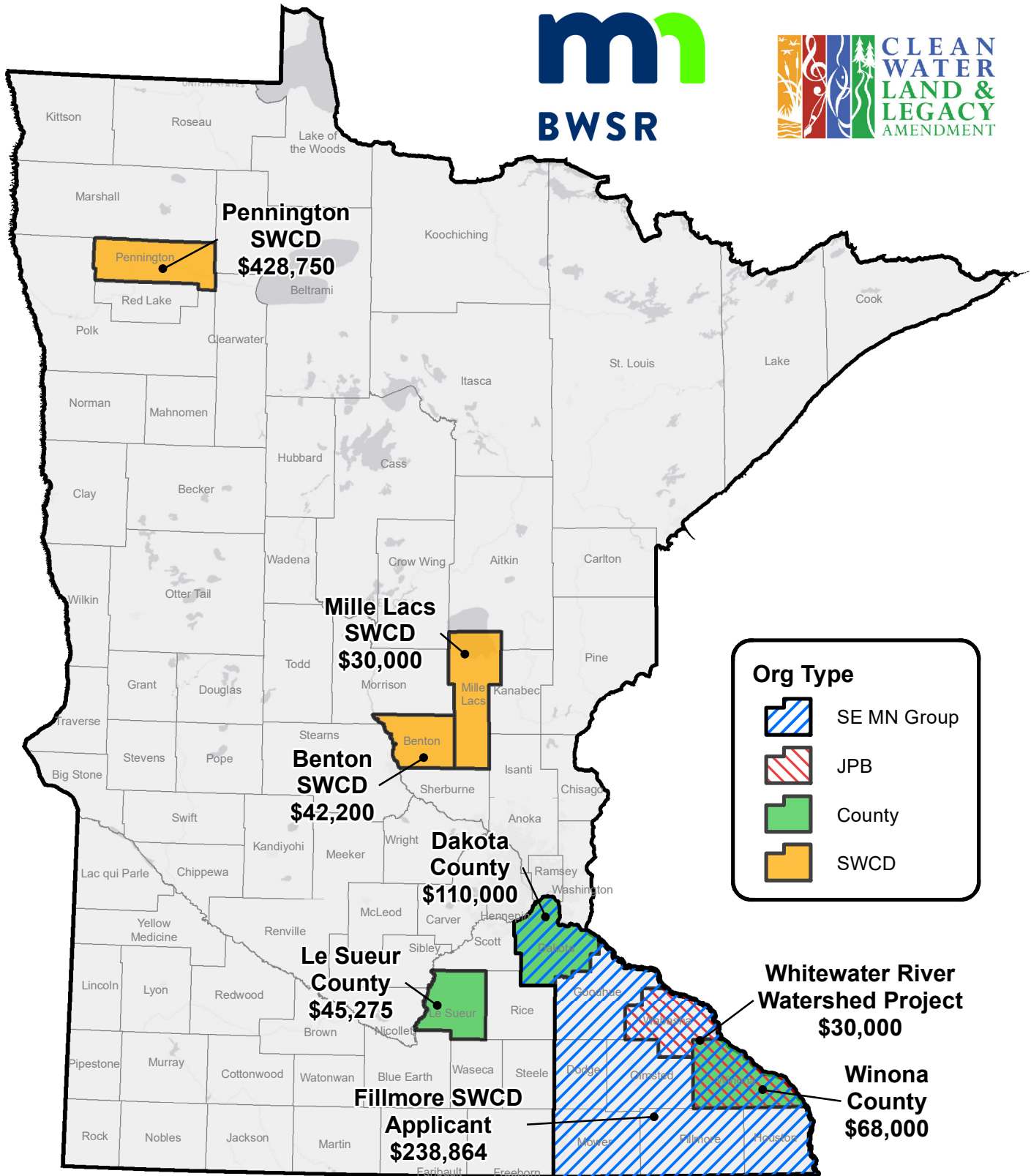
Projects and Practices Recommended Funding
Total Outstate Recommended Funding: \$6,798,937
Total Metro Recommended Funding: \$2,267,100



FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

Projects and Practices - Drinking Water

Total Recommended Funding: \$993,089

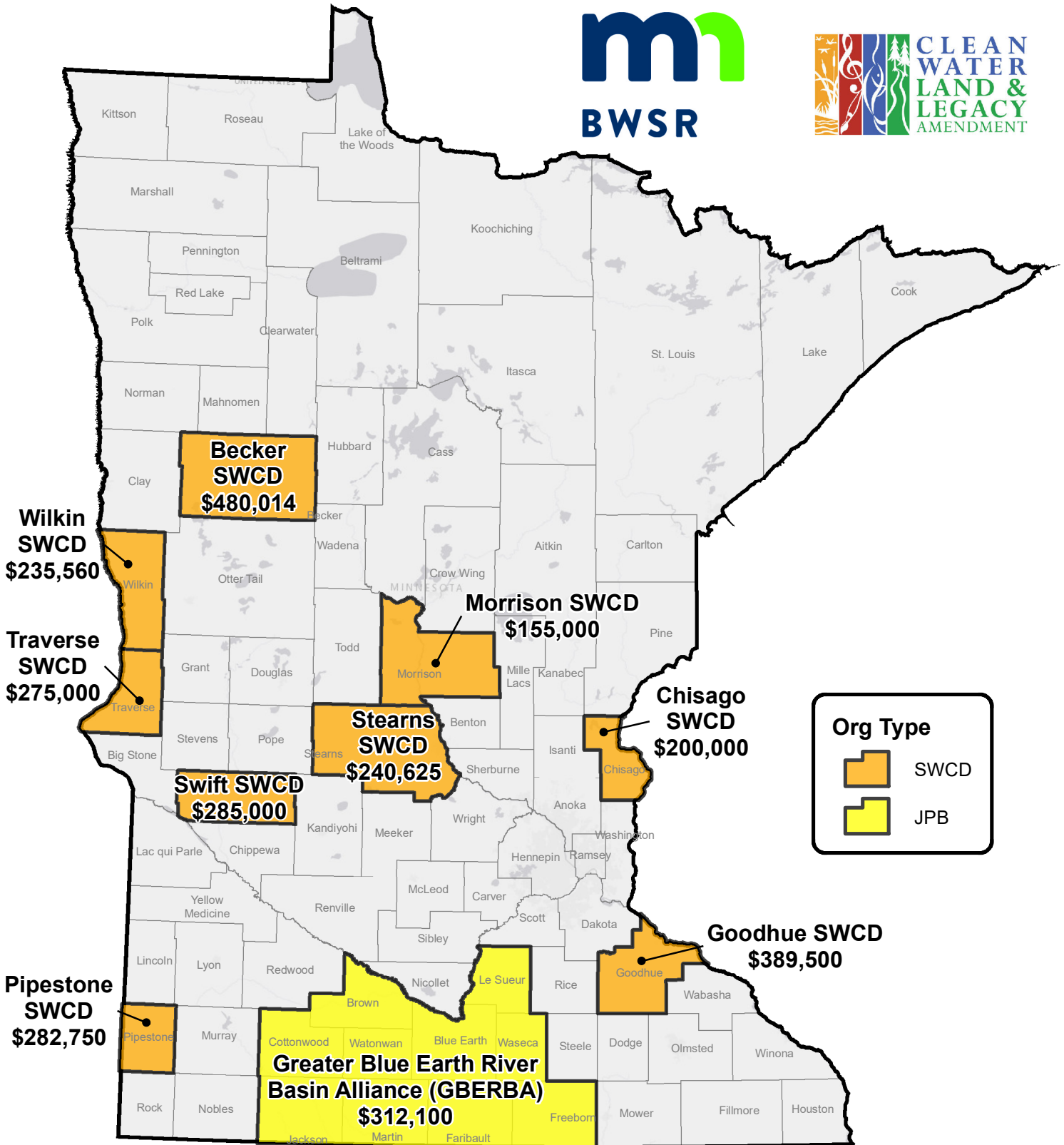


Org Type

- SE MN Group
- JPB
- County
- SWCD

FY 2023 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grant

Total Recommended Funding: \$2,855,549



Org Type

- SWCD
- JPB

Board Resolution # 22-56

Easement Alteration Request for Conservation Easement #81-04-92-01 (Hanson)

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquired the 47.5-acre Permanent Wetland Preserve Easement, #81-04-92-01, in Section 9, T106 N, R22W, in Waseca County, on November 14, 1994, and the adjacent RIM Reserve Easement, #81-05-95-01 on 28.2 acres on the same parcel on May 5, 1997; and

WHEREAS, the current Landowners, Scott and Ashley Hanson, became fee owners of the property containing the two RIM easements November 2019; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Hanson are also fee owners of an additional 5-acre parcel that is adjacent to and excluded from the aforementioned RIM easements; and

WHEREAS, Mr. & Mrs. Hanson are requesting the release of 0.45 upland acres from RIM Easement #81-04-93-02 for a building site for their future home; and

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8400.3610 states that the board may alter, release, or terminate an easement only if the state board determines that the public interests and general welfare are better served by the alteration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. & Mrs. Hanson believe this area is more suitable for a building site than the currently excluded 5-acre parcel, considering the existing vegetation, soils, habitat and topography present in each area; and

WHEREAS, Mr. & Mrs. Hanson have proposed to add an additional 1.85 acres of adjacent land to the RIM easement, to compensate for the land released and to add additional value and habitat to the easement; and

WHEREAS, the proposal would result in a 4:1 ratio of replacement land to released land, which meets the specifications in the Easement Alteration Policy; and

WHEREAS, the land proposed for release from the easement has sparse vegetative cover of introduced grasses and does not provide high quality habitat; and

WHEREAS, the land proposed to be added to the easement currently supports a diversity of habitat and vegetation including mature trees, existing wetland vegetation and native grasses and forbs, which buffer the wetland previously restored via the RIM program; and

WHEREAS, the construction within the 5-acre exclusion would result in loss of this existing habitat and diverse vegetative cover; and

WHEREAS, the Waseca SWCD board and the DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have submitted letters of support and recommend approval of the proposal; and

WHEREAS, the proposal has met or exceeded all conditions of BWSR's board-approved Easement Alteration Policy and would result in a net gain of permanently protected land with quality wildlife habitat and natural resource benefits.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approves the alteration of RIM Easement #81-04-92-01, as proposed, releasing 0.45 acres and adding 1.85 acres, and authorizes staff to work with Waseca SWCD staff to officially amend the necessary RIM easement documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, the landowners shall be responsible for removing or correcting any objectionable title defects, liens, or encumbrances, as specified by BWSR, prior to amending this easement; and agree to pay any necessary title and recording fees, and shall be responsible for the cost of restoration, if any, on lands added to the easement.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 15th day of December, 2022

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 15, 2022

Board Resolution # 22-57

Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #81-09-95-01

WHEREAS, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) acquired a 111.4-acre RIM Reserve Easement, #81-09- 95-01, in Section 25, T107N, R24W in Waseca County on October 30, 1996; and

WHEREAS, the current landowners, Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Melissa Bauman, purchased the parcel containing the RIM easement in 2015; and

WHEREAS, the landowners are requesting to release 2.6-acres from the easement, for the purposes of storing firewood, cooking maple syrup, storing equipment, and occasionally parking vehicles; and

WHEREAS, MN Rule 8400.3610 states that the board may alter, release, or terminate an easement only if the state board determines that the public interests and general welfare are better served by the alteration; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Bauman have offered to add an additional 5.2 acres of riparian land to the easement as replacement, fulfilling the minimum 2:1 replacement ratio required under BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy; and

WHEREAS, the additional 5.2 acres are adjacent to the Le Sueur River and to other existing RIM easements, and would result in more contiguous protection of wildlife habitat and water quality in the riparian area; and

WHEREAS, the area proposed for release is upland adjacent to a public road, and was not cropland prior to being enrolled in the RIM easement; and

WHEREAS, the State's natural resource interest would be benefitted by the easement alteration, as the wildlife habitat value and water quality protection benefits of the 5.2-acre replacement area exceed that of the release area; and

WHEREAS, the Waseca SWCD Board and DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have both submitted letters in support of the easement alteration, and the request meets all other requirements and conditions of the Easement Alteration Policy.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approves the alteration of RIM Easement #81-09-95-01, as proposed, releasing 2.6 acres of upland and replacing it with 5.2 acres of riparian land adjacent to the Le Sueur River; and authorizes staff to work with Waseca SWCD staff to officially amend the necessary RIM easement documents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, Mr. and Mrs. Bauman shall be responsible for removing or correcting any objectionable title defects, liens, or encumbrances, as specified by BWSR, prior to amending this easement; and agree to pay any necessary title insurance, recording fees and restoration costs, if any, within the replacement area.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 15th day of December, 2022

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Gerald Van Amburg, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: December 15, 2022

Board Resolution # 22-58

Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – One Watershed One Plan

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

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 103B.801 establishes the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program, also known as One Watershed, One Plan; and

WHEREAS, BWSR staff, working with local partners, identified the need to incorporate land protection and restoration measures as part of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans; and

WHEREAS, having RIM Reserve funds available through Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans will facilitate “stacking of benefits” through matching Clean Water dollars and other funds; and

WHEREAS, the RIM Reserve Conservation Easement Program is administered by BWSR in cooperation with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs); and

WHEREAS, the Board, by separate resolutions, establishes the processes for determining RIM easement payment rates; and

WHEREAS, this resolution will remain in effect until material changes in the program warrants an amendment; and

WHEREAS, the BWSR RIM Reserve Committee met on November 16, 2022, and unanimously recommended the following provisions.

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

1. Utilize appropriated funds for the RIM Reserve – One Watershed One Plan program.
2. Work with partners to develop program guidelines, training and outreach efforts.
3. Utilize RIM easement payment rates as established by separate resolution.
4. Reimburse SWCDs for their services using the most current RIM Reserve service rates.
5. Conduct landowner sign-ups and select applications using available funding.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 15th day of December, 2022.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

Date: December 15, 2022