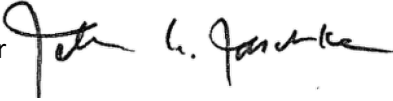


DATE: December 6, 2022

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – December 15, 2022

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Thursday, December 15, 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 Microsoft Teams. Individuals interested in attending the meeting through Teams should do so by either 1) logging into Teams by [clicking here to join the meeting](#) or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 651-395-7448 and entering the conference ID: 734 265 139#.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

### *Grants Program and Policy Committee*

1. **One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants** – This item is to approve planning grants to be used for mid-point evaluations of comprehensive watershed management plans and possible plan amendments. This program implements a key recommendation in the May 2022 One Watershed, One Plan program evaluation. The item also involves minor changes to the One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant policy and the One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements. **DECISION ITEM**
2. **CWF FY 23 competitive grant application recommendations** – The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY23 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 22, 2022 the Board adopted Board Order #22-31 which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposals from eligible local governments for Clean Water Fund projects in the following program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water, Soil Health and Multipurpose Drainage Management. Applications for the FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 27 through August 22, 2022. Local governments submitted 68 applications requesting \$27,018,389 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards per the attached spreadsheets. On November 28, the Grants Program and Policy Committee 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**

### *RIM Reserve Committee*

1. **Easement Alteration Request for Conservation Easement #81-04-92-01 (Hanson)** – Alteration request from landowner on RIM easement 81-04-92-01 in Waseca County. Total easement area of 75.7 acres. Landowner is requesting a release of 0.45 acres and an addition of 1.85 acres for replacement. The alteration request meets all policy requirements and staff is supportive of the request. The RIM Committee recommended approval at their November 16 meeting. **DECISION ITEM**

2. **Easement Alteration Request for RIM Easement #81-09-95-01 (Bauman)** – Alteration request from landowner on RIM easement 81-09-95-01 in Waseca County. Total easement area of 111.4 acres. Landowner is requesting release of 2.6 acres and an addition of 5.2 acres for replacement. The alteration request meets all policy requirements and staff is supportive of the request. The RIM Committee recommended approval at their November 16 meeting. **DECISION ITEM**
  
3. **RIM Reserve - One Watershed One Plan Program** – Outdoor Heritage Funds were appropriated to BWSR in ML 2022 to “acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance wildlife habitat identified in One Watershed, One Plan for stacked benefit to wildlife and clean water.” The program will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels identified in watershed plans developed through BWSR's One Watershed, One Plan program, in which local governments strategically set priorities for clean water and habitat, target implementation, and set measurable goals. The resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds, as well as future funds, to develop and implement the RIM Reserve - One Water One Plan Program. The RIM Committee recommended approval at their November 16 meeting. **DECISION 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 December 15th.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH  
ST. PAUL, MN 55155  
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 15, 2022**

**PRELIMINARY AGENDA**

**9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ADOPTION OF AGENDA**

**MINUTES OF OCTOBER 26, 2022 BOARD MEETING**

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

**INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF**

- Andrea Fish, Assistant Director of Strategy and Operations
- Anne Sawyer, Metro Board Conservationist

**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 members or 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 – Katie Smith
- Minnesota Extension – John Bilotta
- 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 – Jan Voit
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. CWF FY 23 competitive grant application recommendations – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***RIM Reserve Committee***

1. Easement Alteration Request for Conservation Easement #81-04-92-01 (Hanson) – Karli Swenson – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #81-09-95-01 – Karli Swenson – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – One Watershed, One Plan Implementation – Bill Penning – ***DECISION ITEM***

## **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Northern Region Committee is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., January 4, 2023, location TBD.
- Central Region Committee is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. on January 5, 2023, in St. Paul and virtually.
- BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., January 25, 2023, in St. Paul and virtually.

## **ADJOURN**

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

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Kurt Beckstrom, Carly Johnson, Neil Peterson, Gerald Van Amburg, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ronald Staples, Mark Zabel, Melissa Lewis, MPCA; Marcelle Lewandowski, University of Minnesota Extension; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Sarah Strommen, DNR

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:** Rich Sve

**STAFF PRESENT:**

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Brett Arne, David Copeland, Craig Engwall, Ryan Hughes, Chris Pence, Marcey Westrick, Steve Christopher, Annie Felix-Gerth, Shaina Keseley

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Jan Voit, MAWD; Amanda Bilek

**Chair Gerald VanAmburg called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Chair Van Amburg noted a change in the agenda. The Central Region Committee item has been moved to be the first item under the Committee Recommendations. Stated there is a RIM Committee meeting scheduled for November 16, at 10:00 a.m.

**\*\* 22-45 ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Eunice Biel, seconded by Jill Crafton, to adopt the agenda as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Jill Crafton noted a correction in the minutes on page four to change the word “invasive” to “interested.”

**\*\* 22-46 MINUTES OF SEPTEMBER 28, 2022 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the minutes of September 28, 2022, as amended. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM**

No members of the public provided comments to the board.

Chair Van Amburg stated the agenda is shortened to accommodate BWSR Academy taking place today.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Central Region Committee**

**Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan** – Steve Christopher presented the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan.

*Background:*

The Black Dog Watershed Management Organization (BDWMO) was established in 1985 through a joint powers agreement. The vision of the BDWMO is that water resources and related ecosystems are managed to sustain their long-term health and aesthetic beauty in order to contribute to the well-being of the citizens within the watershed. The BDWMO encompasses approximately 26 square miles in northwestern Dakota County, covering parts of the cities of Apple Valley, Burnsville, Eagan, and Lakeville. The BDWMO is bound by Scott County to the west, the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to the north, Eagan-Inver Grove Watershed Management Organization to the northeast, and the Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization to the southeast. The majority of the watershed is fully developed and outlets through the Lower Minnesota Watershed District to the Minnesota River, with a small portion of the watershed that outlets towards the Credit River.

*Plan Process and Highlights:*

The BDWMO initiated the process on updating its Watershed Management Plan (Plan) in mid-2020 soliciting input from its stakeholders, interviewing the member cities and Dakota County, convening a Technical Advisory Committee, as well as holding a virtual public kickoff meeting. They also provided a resident survey between February 2021 and May 2021. During the initial steps of the plan process, the BDWMO completed an analysis of water quality and lake characteristics.

Through the process identified above, the BDWMO identified the following as their highest priority issues:

- Water quality
  - Stormwater runoff quality
  - In-lake water quality o Impairments (Keller Lake)
- Lake ecology and habitat
  - Habitat quality
  - Invasive species management
- Groundwater management
  - Pollution prevention
  - Conservation and sustainability
- Education and Engagement

Additional priority issues include flooding & water levels, wetland management and upland and natural area management.

The BDWMO largely utilizes city implementation for resource improvement, however this Plan increases the cooperation among the member cities as well as the Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District and Dakota County. Some examples include recruiting volunteers for water resource management activities (such as citizen monitoring and shoreline cleanup), engaging residents at community events to share information, and supporting workshops for design of residential stormwater BMPs and other stewardship activities.

The implementation of this plan is broken down into five strategic waterbodies and their watersheds:

- Crystal Lake
- Keller Lake
- Kingsley Lake
- Lac Lavon
- Orchard Lake

The BDWMO has demonstrated success in delisting waters such as Crystal Lake, Lee Lake, and Early Lake for excess nutrients. A considerable amount of focus in the new Plan is on improving Keller Lake which is currently impaired for excess nutrients. Targeting efforts along with increased funding availability from the Watershed-based Implementation Funding program should position the BDWMO well in addressing the resource needs of the watershed.

Jayne Hager Dee stated she's a member of the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District Board where they work with this WMO and stated they do a really good job.

Jill Crafton stated she likes the emphasis on education and engagement and thought this was well done.

\*\*  
22-47 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Black Dog Watershed Management Organization Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

#### **Grants Program and Policy Committee**

**Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP)** – Marcey Westrick presented the Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP).

Declines of bees, butterflies, dragonflies, and other at-risk species that support ecosystems and food systems have raised significant alarm among scientists and conservation professionals both locally and

globally. This cost-share grant program is made possible through an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF). The program is focused on restoring and enhancing strategically located, diverse native habitat across Minnesota to benefit populations of pollinators and beneficial insects as well as overall plant and animal diversity.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if this like the Lawns to Legumes Program except on bigger plots of land. Marcey stated they are similar, these clientele are local governments where the Lawns to Legumes program is for both individual landowners and then local governments, and bigger plots. Jayne asked if its only public landowners included and not private landowners. Marcey stated the grants will go to local governments who would then do cost share contracts with public and private landowners.

Jill stated there are technical people from Soil and Water Conservation Districts and other watershed management groups that can provide more technical assurance and thought that was a strength.

Kelly Kirkpatrick stated this is a good plan.

John Jaschke stated Carlton SWCD has a growing program with lots of interest from citizens.

\*\*  
22-48 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve Habitat Enhancement Landscape Pilot (HELP). ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

**Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria** – Annie Felix-Gerth and Shaina Keseley presented the Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria.

The Legislature appropriated \$400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and \$600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund “for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.” The two fiscal year appropriations are combined for this RFP. The Grants Program and Policy Committee recommended the policy and RFP criteria at their meeting on October 24.

Jill Crafton stated she is not opposed to money going to the groups but has some concerns about the technical quality assurance and the criteria. Annie stated this particular pilot and appropriation is a chance to reach out to gain new partners in the work they do around conservation. John stated they have grant agreements and mechanisms in place and will review credentials.

Chair Van Amburg asked about the statement where it mentions BWSR staff may review the qualifications of all persons, if that means they may or may not review it depending on circumstances or asked how it should be taken. Annie stated that it’s a case-by-case decision where it depends on what the project proposal is, what they are proposing to do, and if there is a standard. Stated it’s specific to technical applications. John Jaschke stated they need to see what kind of projects they are and how they’re working; if there are problems they can adapt and address them.

Jill Crafton asked if we could see an example of an agreement. John Jaschke stated they could share an existing grant agreement and work plan that they use now. Stated these new projects will have a custom fit grant agreement and they’ll need to work on it to be both properly legal and practical.

Chair Van Amburg stated it will bring a new level of accountability and applaud their effort. Stated it’s a good pilot to find new partners for clean water efforts.



Thom Petersen asked who will do the grant selection process. Annie stated it would be done similarly to the competitive grants process. Eligible applications go before an interagency and external group that will go through the ranking and reviewing process. They will provide their recommended scores to the Grants Program and Policy Committee and then to the Board.

\*\*  
22-49 Moved by Todd Holman, seconded by Carly Johnson, to approve the Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant: Policy and Request for Proposals Ranking Criteria. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

Chair Van Amburg asked for a count of the votes. Rachel Mueller stated there were 16 yes and 3 no votes.

Jill Crafton stated she is not opposed to the program but could not support it with how it was written.

### **Northern Region Committee**

**Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Neil Peterson, Brett Arne, and Ryan Hughes presented Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) planning area is in Northwest Minnesota encompassing portions of Clearwater, Pennington, Polk, and Red Lake counties. The Plan was developed as part of the One Watershed, One Plan program.

On September 27, 2022, BWSR received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review. The planning partnership has responded to all comments received during the 60-day review period and incorporated appropriate revisions to the final Plan.

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

On October 5, 2022, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Clearwater River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan as submitted to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

Jill Crafton stated she thought this was excellent.

\*\*  
22-50 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Clearwater River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. **Motion passed on a roll call vote.**

**Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan** – Todd Holman, Chris Pence, and Ryan Hughes presented Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Long Prairie River Watershed Partnership (LPRWP) was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) planning grant by the Board on August 26, 2020. The LPRWP organized their planning process through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The membership of the LPRWP includes Douglas County, Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Todd County, Todd SWCD, Morrison County, Morrison SWCD, and the West Ottertail SWCD.

The Long Prairie River Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (Plan) effort formally began in March 2021 with a public kickoff event held online followed by a Citizen Advisory Committee meeting in April. At

these meetings, participants learned about the watershed and planning process and had a chance to offer input by discussing potential issues and opportunities for the Plan to address. Highlights of the Plan are included in the draft Order for Board consideration.

On September 23, 2022, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments from the 60-day review period. During final state agency review, DNR, MPCA, MDH, and MDA replied that they had no additional comments and supported approval of the plan. The EQB did not provide comments.

At the Northern Regional Committee on October 5, 2022, the Long Prairie River Partnership presented a final plan that addressed all comments from stakeholders and the state review agencies. Board staff recommended Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board.

If approved by the Board, this plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until October 26, 2032.

Chair Van Amburg stated its good to hear that these plans are going smoothly, and the different groups are working together well.

Jayne Hager Dee stated we are seeing better plans as we go on.

Todd Holman stated they worked hard to not only to illustrate what they're going to do but to quantify what they're going to do in a one-year or a five-year scope.

Jill Crafton stated she is impressed with the willingness to include things relevant to the climate action plan and was impressed how it was tied together.

Joe Collins stated he appreciates that the plan identifies four different planning regions.

\*\*  
22-51 Moved by Kurt Beckstrom, seconded by Todd Holman, to approve the Long Prairie River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

John Jaschke stated Snapshots are available in the day-of packet. He also stated board appointment applications can be made through the Secretary of State's office for positions that are becoming open.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Wetland Committee meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM on November 15, 2022.
- RIM Committee meeting is scheduled for 10:00 AM on November 16, 2022.
- Next BWSR meeting is scheduled for 9:00 AM, December 15, 2022 in St. Paul and virtually.

Chair VanAmburg adjourned the meeting at 12:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Gerald Van Amburg  
Chair

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

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**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**     Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**             Decision                                     Discussion             Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** Wetland Conservation Act Appeals/Buffer Compliance

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**Section/Region:** Central

**Contact:** Travis Germundson

**Prepared by:** Travis Germundson

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Rich Sve DRC Chair/Travis Germundson

**Time requested:** 5 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

None

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

See attached report.

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

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and summary on buffer compliance/enforcement actions statewide.

# Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

November 28, 2022

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **four** appeals pending. All the appeals involve the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). There has been **one** new appeal filed since last report.

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 22-6 (11-16-2022) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order in Wright County. The appeal regards the alleged drainage impacts to wetlands associated with the installation of new drain tile. The petition request that that the appeal be placed in abeyance to allow further investigation and submittal of an after-the-fact application. 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. 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. The appeal has been remanded back to the local unit of government for expanded technical review and a new decision because of the submission of additional technical analyses. The 60-day deadline for remand proceedings has been extended.*

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 and DNR Public Waters. 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. An after-the-fact application for a no-loss was approved, which allows for the installation of non-perforated tile. The restoration/placement of this tile has yet to occur do to do DNR Public Waters permitting/approval.*

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. The appeal has been remanded back to the local unit of government for expanded technical review and a new decision because of the submission of additional technical analyses. The 60-day deadline for remand proceedings has been extended.*

Summary Table for Appeals

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2021	Total for Calendar Year 2022
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	3	3
Order Modified		1
Order Remanded	2	1
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	5	2
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	3	1

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 96 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 3 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 93 of those have been resolved.

\*Statewide 35 counties are fully compliant, and 48 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 516 CANs and 68 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 2,340 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.*

## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants – Julie Westerlund – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. CWF FY 23 Competitive Grant Application Recommendations – Annie Felix-Gerth – ***DEICSION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point Grants

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**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** 1W1P; One Watershed, One Plan; grant; mid-point

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**Section/Region:** Central Region/Grants

**Contact:** Julie Westerlund

**Prepared by:** Julie Westerlund

**Reviewed by:** Water Management and Strategic Planning; 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 changes to One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy and One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements; authorize staff to enter into grants for evaluation and/or amendment of comprehensive watershed management plans.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

- Mid-point grants fact sheet
- One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy (tracked changes version)
- One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements (tracked changes version)

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

The earliest comprehensive watershed management plans have reached the mid-point of their 10-year plan life. The One Watershed-One Plan policy requires plans to include a “five-year” evaluation and to consider plan amendments at this time. BWSR learned from the [One Watershed, One Plan program evaluation](#) that partnerships were looking guidance and financial support for this process. BWSR staff developed [guidance for plan evaluations](#); mid-point grants are to carry out the recommendations in the “evaluation” section of that guidance and for potentially amending plans if warranted.





## **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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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: \_\_\_\_\_

## ~~2018~~ Grants Policy

# One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

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

Version: 21.0

Effective Date: 12/15/2022~~03/28/2018~~

Approval: Board Decision #XX-X18-15

## Policy Statement

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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

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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

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### 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-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, [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

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Version	Description	Date
<a href="#">2.00</a>	<a href="#">Incorporated plan evaluation and amendment</a>	<a href="#">2022</a>
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~~1~~  
**Effective Date:** ~~08/29/2019~~[12/15/2022](#)  
**Approval:** Board Decision ~~19-41~~[xx-xx](#)

### Policy Statement

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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

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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

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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

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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

- watershed plan. Describe local procedures for ensuring future drainage projects are not inconsistent with the goals of the plan.
- b. **Capital Improvement Programs (CIPs) for Watershed Districts:** CIPs are required in the plan when a watershed district is included, consistent with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes §103B and 103D. A CIP is an itemized program for at least a five-year prospective period. A CIP sets forth the schedule, timing, and details of specific contemplated capital improvements by year. CIPs also describe estimated costs, the need for each improvement, financial sources, and the financial effect that the improvements will have on the local government unit or watershed management organization. This requirement can be incorporated into the targeted implementation schedule if the specific requirements of Minnesota statutes §103B and 103D are clearly met. Amendments are subject to at least biennial review.
  - c. **Permanent Protection:** Describe opportunities for permanent land protection necessary to meet the resource needs and achieve the goals for the watershed.
3. **Operation and Maintenance.** Include a description of who is responsible for inspection, operation, and maintenance of capital projects, stormwater infrastructure, public works, facilities, and natural and artificial watercourses, and legal drainage systems. Specify any new programs or revisions to existing programs needed to accomplish the goals or that may benefit from watershed-wide collaboration.
  4. **Regulation and Enforcement.** Describe existing regulations, controls, and authorities relevant to water management for the purposes of highlighting areas of duplication, information gaps, and opportunities. Use this analysis to identify areas to maximize effectiveness and build efficiencies through improved coordination and consistent application of regulations, and/or to develop new regulation or enforcement in support of meeting plan goals. Regulatory areas to consider include, but are not limited to: shoreland, floodplain, septic, Wetland Conservation Act, Protected Waters Inventory, erosion control, municipal wastewater, Minimum Impact Design Standards (MIDS), land use, aggregate mining, feedlots, hazard mitigation, buffers, and prescription drug drop off locations.
    - a. **Regulation and Enforcement for Watershed Districts:** Describe the rules and associated permit programs of watershed districts in the watershed, consistent with and as necessary to meet the requirements of Minnesota statutes §103B.337-103D.345.
    - b. **Comprehensive or land use plans:** List the date of the last Comprehensive Plan adoption for each LGU. Describe the land use authorities within the watershed as well as potential opportunities to achieve goals through, or potential conflicts with, comprehensive land use plans.
  5. **Data Collection and Monitoring.** Describe how data collection and monitoring activities will be used to reasonably evaluate progress toward plan goals, and describe additional data collection activities needed to fill gaps that have been identified during the planning process. Include commitments to periodically analyze data, collect data consistent with state compatibility guidelines, and submit locally collected data to the appropriate state agency for entry into public databases.
    - a. **Monitoring Summary:** Summarize the locations, frequency, and parameters of existing water quality, quantity, and other monitoring in the watershed. The summary should include local, state, and other ongoing monitoring programs and the scale (e.g. field, subwatershed, major watershed)

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 Five-Year Evaluation:** Include a schedule for a thorough [mid-point five-year evaluation assessment](#) 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

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Version	Description	Date
<a href="#">2.2</a>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ <a href="#">Changed “Five Year” to “Mid-point” (III.G.5.c)</a></li></ul>	<a href="#">December 15, 2022</a>
2.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Added “drinking water sources” to the list of issues that must be addressed (II.A)</li></ul>	August 29, 2019
2.0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>■ Formatted with new policy template and logo; edited to improve clarity and readability</li><li>■ 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)</li><li>■ Updated list of issues that must be in the plan to reflect statute (II)</li><li>■ 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).</li><li>■ Removed “potential sources of funding” from, and added requirement for two year time increments to, Targeted Implementation Schedule requirement (III.E.4)</li><li>■ Modified Targeted Implementation Schedule requirement to clarify inclusion of local priorities (III.E)</li><li>■ Added “legal drainage systems” to Operations and Maintenance requirement (III.F.3)</li><li>■ Removed reference to the buffer law from Regulation and Enforcement requirement (III.F.4). Added inclusion of comprehensive plan dates (III.F.4.b)</li><li>■ Modified Data Collection and Monitoring requirement to clarify program intent (III.F.5)</li><li>■ Added needs assessment and strategy development; changed heading to Public Participation and Engagement (formerly <i>Information, Education, and Outreach</i>) (III.F.6)</li><li>■ Added policy committee role and federal coordination to Decision-making and Staffing (III.G.1.a,b)</li><li>■ Modified Work Planning requirement to clarify program intent (III.G.2)</li></ul>	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

## Fact Sheet: Mid-Point Planning Grants



### Purpose

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These noncompetitive grants support groups in conducting evaluations and/or amending comprehensive watershed management plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. Funding is from Clean Water Funds appropriated to BWSR for developing comprehensive watershed management plans.

The *One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements* requires a schedule for a **five year evaluation\*** of progress, along with an examination of new data, to determine whether a plan amendment is warranted (section III.G.5.c).

- c. **Five Year Evaluation:** Include a schedule for a thorough five year assessment 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

### Eligibility Requirements

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These grants are available to partnerships of local governments that are implementing a BWSR approved, locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan developed via the One Watershed, One Plan program. Partnerships must have entered into a formal agreement to collaboratively implement the plan.

### Eligible Activities

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Two main activities are allowable under these grants: evaluation and plan amendments.

**Evaluation.** Activities described in the “Evaluating” section of [Guidance for Assessing the Implementation of Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans](#) (pages 6-9) are eligible under this grant. Each item in the list below should be examined to determine if a plan amendment is needed.

- New information
- Progress toward plan goals
- Administrative or other changes

**Plan Amendments.** This funding can be used for amending a comprehensive watershed management plan. See the “**Plan Amendments**” chapter of the [One Watershed, One Plan Guidebook](#) (page 53).

## Amount, Availability and Timing

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**Amount:** Up to \$50,000.

**Availability:** One grant is available to each eligible partnership on a non-competitive basis.

**Timing:** Eligible partnerships may access these funds at the mid-point of the plan implementation period. Timing may vary depending on factors including timing of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grants, MPCA’s monitoring cycle, and BWSR’s PRAP schedule. Groups must work with their BWSR Board Conservationist and the One Watershed, One Plan program coordinator to determine the appropriate time to access funding.

## Administration

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Funds will be administered as an independent item in a Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant agreement. Unused funds must be returned to BWSR; they cannot be used to implement other items in the WBIF work plan.

**Request:** Following discussion with the Board Conservationist and program coordinator, eligible partnerships may request up to \$50,000 in an eLINK WBIF budget request. This request will most likely occur on the third WBIF grant. The plan maintenance item must include a description of proposed outcomes.

**Work Plan:** Once approved, the budget request becomes the grant work plan.

**Reporting:** Reporting in eLINK will include a brief description of the actual outcomes along with a reference to documentation of the evaluation and/or the amended plan. For plan amendments requiring BWSR approval, the amendment must be submitted to BWSR by the grant end date (BWSR does not need to approve the amendment to fulfill the terms of the grant).

\*In December 2022, the One Watershed, One Plan – Plan Content Requirements were amended, changing “Five year evaluation” to “mid-point evaluation” to provide increased flexibility for the timing of this activity.



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** CWF FY 23 competitive grant application recommendations

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**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** Clean water fund, competitive, grant, award

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**Section/Region:** Regional Operations/Central

**Contact:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Prepared by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

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

**Presented by:** Annie Felix-Gerth

**Time requested:** 20 minutes

**Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approval of the FY 2023 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program Awards (Projects and Practices, Multipurpose Drainage Management, and Soil Health allocations).

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

The purpose of this agenda item is to allocate FY23 Clean Water Competitive Grants. On June 22, 2022 the Board adopted Board Order #22-31 which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposals from eligible local governments for Clean Water Fund projects in the following program categories: Projects and Practices, Projects and Practices Drinking Water, Soil Health and Multipurpose Drainage Management. Applications for the FY2022 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from June 27 through August 22, 2022. Local governments submitted 68 applications requesting \$27,018,389 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications and involved staff from other agencies to develop the proposed recommendations for grant awards per the attached spreadsheets. On November 28, the Grants Program and Policy Committee made a recommendation to the full Board. A draft Order is attached based on that recommendation of the Grants Program and Policy Committee.



## **DRAFT 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, 1<sup>st</sup> 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 eligible applicant in the amounts listed in the attached allocation tables.
3. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds.
4. 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.
5. 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**

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

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

DRAFT

**FY2023 Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Allocation Table**

<b>Grant ID</b>	<b>Title of Proposal</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
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
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 9,066,037</b>



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

<b>Grant ID</b>	<b>Title of Proposal</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
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
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 993,089</b>

**FY2023 Clean Water Fund Multipurpose Drainage Management Allocation Table**

<b>Grant ID</b>	<b>Title of Proposal</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
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
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 800,000</b>

**FY23 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Allocation Table**

<b>Grant ID</b>	<b>Title of Proposal</b>	<b>Grantee</b>	<b>Total (\$)</b>
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
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 829,500</b>

DRAFT

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C23-9708	Loon Lake Improvement - Jackson County Judicial Ditch 8	County	Jackson	\$390,000	\$ 390,000	Loon Lake, the receiving waterbody for Jackson Judicial Ditch 8 (JD8), is impaired for nutrients – with phosphorus being a primary concern, along with a delta of sediment forming where JD8 flows into Loon Lake. JD8 is impaired for benthic macroinvertebrates and fish bioassessments, which indicates that the long-term health of the system is poor. The project proposed in this application will construct a 4.6-acre constructed wetland along the JD8 open ditch, providing water storage and allowing sediment and nutrients to settle out before entering the lake. The constructed wetland is estimated to capture 461 tons of sediment and 248 pounds of phosphorus annually. Seventeen alternative side inlets (ASIs) are also proposed in this application. ASIs improve bank stability of the open ditch, reduce bank erosion, temporarily store water in the ditch buffer, and allow sediment and nutrients to settle out before reaching the open ditch. The ASIs will capture 52 tons of sediment and 72 pounds of phosphorus each year.	89.2
2	C23-6275	Improving Water Quality for Beaver Creek	SWCD	Renville	\$ 116,896.60	\$ 116,896.60	The proposed project will be in conjunction with an improvement project to the 103E Renville County Ditch 63 Lateral N (CD 63) system. The project will accomplish the construction of five water and sediment control basins (WASCOB) and five alternate intakes to replace open intakes within the CD63 system, which is the headwaters of Beaver Creek East Fork. The implementation of these conservation practices will achieve an estimated reduction of peak flows by 21% for a 2-year storm, a reduction of 48% for a 10-year storm, and a reduction of 32% for a 25-year storm. These water quality practices will achieve an estimated reduction of 103.02 tons per year (T/yr) of TSS, and 118.47 pounds per year (lbs/yr) of Phosphorus (P).	85.0
3	C23-8237	Judicial Ditch 15 BMPs	County	Lyon	\$ 48,952.50	\$ 48,952.50	In October 2018, a petition for improvement of Lyon-Redwood Joint Judicial Ditch No. 15 (JD15) was accepted by the Lyon-Redwood Joint Drainage Authority. To control gully erosion and improve water quality, four water and sediment control basins are being proposed. The basins will temporarily store overland runoff from within the watershed, allowing sediment and nutrients to settle out during dewatering. Clear Creek headwaters reach 07020006-567 is listed on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 2022 impaired waters list for impairments due to total suspended solids. The proposed best management practices aim to reduce total suspended solids by 64.0 tons per year, soil by 294.8 tons per year, and phosphorus by 73.6 pound per year. Flow reduction of 0.7 cubic feet per second (CFS) (-1%) during 2-year events, 130.9 CFS (-53%) for the 10-year events and 28.7 CFS (-8%) for the 100-year event at the improved subsurface drain outlet of JD15 into the main open ditch.	84.6
4	C23-3377	WCD Sub-1 Water Quality Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD	Traverse	525,000.00	244,150.90	The Bois de Sioux watershed district (BDSWD) is partnering with the Wilkin County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Wilkin County, and landowners to reduce sediment load by 450 tons per year and phosphorus load by 90 pounds per year to the Bois de Sioux River. This project is estimated to meet 10% of the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka short term reduction goals for sediment and 28% of the short-term goal for phosphorus reduction in the planning region. Wilkin County Ditch #1 (WCD #1) outlets to the Bois de Sioux River, which is impaired for turbidity, dissolved oxygen, total phosphorus, and e. coli. The Bois de Sioux River flows into the Red River of the North. The project will improve drainage system efficiency and reduce future maintenance-related expenses, while reducing sediment and phosphorus loading, and improving turbidity and DO in WCD #1 and downstream waters. 56 grade stabilization structures (410) (i.e., side inlet structures) and 8 miles of continuous berms will be constructed as a permanent part of the main stem of WCD Sub 1 adjacent to Wilkin County Highway 430th Street.	84.2
<b>Funding Line</b>								
5	C23-6703	Le Sueur County CD23 Side Inlet Project	SWCD	Le Sueur	\$ 89,190.75	\$ -	Le Sueur County Ditch 23 (CD23) completed a Re-establishment of Records document in 2018 that identified 47 Side Inlets sites throughout the ditch system. CD23 encompasses a 7,453-acre watershed with approximately 14 miles of open ditch. The project would be to install 47 side inlet projects throughout the open ditch system. Project sizes would range from 8 inch to 24 inch pipe in size depending on the immediate watershed. The project would provide 117 of acre-feet of storage for 24-48 hours and will provide an overall 23.5 tons per year of sediment reduction, 70.5 tons per year of estimated soil savings, and 141 pound per year of estimated phosphorus reduction.	70.8
					<b>\$1,170,040</b>	<b>\$ 800,000.00</b>		

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C23-0127	Rice Lake Wetland Restoration Project Construction- Phase 2	Pelican River WD	Becker	\$ 640,000.00	\$ 640,000.00	Project funding is requested to complete the second phase of an on-the-ground implementation project to restore function to the partially drained Rice Lake wetland, which will reduce the largest phosphorous tributary loading source to downstream Detroit Lake, a high value recreational lake. The project funding request is for construction of the Phase 2-Lower Pool Restoration Area consisting of a water control structure/rock fishway with draw-down capabilities; a 15 foot wide low-water crossing; and an embankment/access road. The Phase 2-Lower Pool Restoration Area is estimated to reduce phosphorus loads between 600 – 1,500 pound per year depending upon summertime weather conditions.	93.50
2	C23-9407	McMurray Fields Stormwater Treatment and Reuse	Capitol Region WD	Ramsey	\$ 950,000.00	\$ 950,000.00	Capitol Region Watershed District and the City of St. Paul seek to improve the water quality of stormwater runoff to Como Lake in St. Paul and reuse stormwater to displace potable water use at the McMurray Fields complex within Como Regional Park. The project partners propose the construction of a stormwater reuse and infiltration system that will treat the stormwater volume equivalent of 1.1 inches over the impervious surface of the subwatershed, or 4.9 acre-feet. The drainage area to the proposed system is 130 acres, with 54 acres of impervious surfaces. Como Lake is currently impaired for aquatic recreation due to excessive nutrients, namely phosphorus. This project will achieve an estimated 56% reduction in phosphorus load from the subwatershed and will achieve an estimated 7.6% (55 pounds) reduction in overall phosphorus loading to the lake from this single practice.	91.78
3	C23-4975	Whaletail Lake-South Basin Alum Treatment	Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMC	Hennepin	\$ 405,000.00	\$ 405,000.00	Whaletail Lake (MDNR 27-018400) is located within the jurisdictional boundaries of Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWMC). The lake was listed on the MPCA's 303(d) impaired list for aquatic recreation due to excessive nutrients (South basin-2006 & North Basin-2008). The goal of treating Whaletail Lake-South basin with alum is to reduce the phosphorus by at least 180 pounds per year to meet the load reductions identified in the WRAPS/TMDL report. The alum treatment will reduce internal P-load (381 pounds) to achieve in-lake water quality standards for at least a 20-year period.	89.11
4	C23-4726	Sunrise Chain of Lakes Shoreland Stabilizations	Anoka CD	Anoka	\$ 78,500.00	\$ 78,500.00	This project will achieve pollutant reductions within a chain of lakes with a trend of improving water quality. We will install shoreline stabilization projects with near-shore native plant buffers and in-lake aquatic plantings. We will stabilize at least 300 linear feet of shoreline resulting in at least 4 pounds per year of phosphorus and 2.4 tons per year of sediment reduction.	88.67
5	C23-9634	City of Brainerd Mississippi River Gully Erosion 250 Tons TSS	Crow Wing SWCD	Crow Wing	\$ 975,000.00	\$ 975,000.00	The City of Brainerd will stabilize the 1.4-acre gully that has eroded over 8,706 tons of sediment since 1985. The Crow Wing Soil Water Conservation District (SWCD) will install 1,300 linear feet of reinforced concrete pipes within the gully channel. This project will address 26 percent of the City of Brainerd's waste load allocations for the Mississippi River Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL).	88.61
6	C23-5916	Bemidji State University Subsurface Stormwater Water Quality Treatment 2023 Lower Clearwater	Beltrami SWCD	Beltrami	\$ 228,300.00	\$ 228,300.00	Beltrami SWCD will install a subsurface stormwater treatment system to reduce Total Suspended Solids (TSS) and Total Phosphorus (TP) loading to Lake Bemidji and subsequently the Mississippi River. The analysis modeled the stormwater watershed and determined the current loading for TSS is 30,868 pounds per year, and the load for TP is 100.5 pounds per year. Our goal for this watershed is to remove 80% of the TSS and 60% of the TP. The stormwater treatment system will be installed on a City trunk stormwater line that outlets to Lake Bemidji. We anticipate removing 77% of the TSS or 22,841 pounds per year and 60% of the TP or 58.0 pounds per year, resulting in achieving our TP goal and very close to our TSS goal. In addition, this project will help us towards achieving 25% of the 224 pounds of TP per year reduction goal for Lake Bemidji set in the Mississippi River Headwaters Watershed Comprehensive Plan.	88.50
7	C23-0928	Lower Clearwater Planning Region Water Quality Improvement Projects	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 318,600.00	\$ 318,600.00	Red Lake County SWCD has targeted twelve sites for installation of structural agricultural practices in the Lower Clearwater Planning Region. Practices include, but are not limited to, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and water & sediment basins. The implementation of these practices is estimated to reduce sediment loading in the Lower Clearwater River by 318 tons per year (catchment outlet), which would achieve 25% progress towards the 10-year Plan goal.	86.72
8	C23-3022	Forest Lake Alum Treatment	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Washington	\$ 533,600.00	\$ 533,600.00	Forest Lake is one of the top recreational lakes in the metro area and the largest lake in Washington County, with a diverse and healthy fishery and three public accesses. The proposed alum treatment will reduce internal phosphorus loading by 527 pounds per year and ensure Forest Lake remains below the state standard of 40 micrograms per liter (µg/L) summer average phosphorus concentration. Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District sets its own goal for Forest Lake to achieve and maintain a summertime average phosphorus concentration of 30 µg/L (i.e., even lower than the state standard).	86.28
9	C23-9488	2023 - Twelve Mile Creek Conservation Practice Implementation	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 420,000.00	Wright Soil and Water Conservation District will install targeted practices identified within the Twelve Mile Creek Subwatershed, a contributing area to the North Fork Crow River within the Upper Mississippi River Basin. The goal for proposed practices is to improve the quality of water entering the North Fork Crow River from Twelve Mile Creek by reducing sediment and total phosphorus, which in turn will help elevate dissolved oxygen levels through construction of targeted best management practices (BMPs). Priority practices include water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), grassed waterways and filtration practices. Additional practices include, but are not limited to, cover crops, conservation tillage, nutrient management, shoreland restorations, sediment basins and critical area plantings. This funding request seeks to implement approximately 13 targeted projects consisting of multiple BMPs. Proposed practices are estimated to reduce 2,898.4 tons of sediment and 584.1 pounds of phosphorus.	86.28
10	C23-4274	Implementation of BMPs in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Watershed	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	The Chisago SWCD will install at least 15 conservation BMPs near sensitive lakes or in direct lake catchments in the Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes watershed. Goals include a total phosphorus reduction of 125 pounds per year, allotted as 80 pounds per year towards first priority lakes, 30 pounds per year to second priority lakes, and 15 pounds per year to the remaining areas of the Chain of Lakes Watershed.	84.94

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
11	C23-9902	Top-Down: Buffalo Watershed Accelerated Improvement-Phase II	Becker SWCD	Becker	\$ 800,000.00	\$ 800,000.00	Becker SWCD will install agricultural best management practices in the Buffalo Red River Watershed to reduce both sediment and phosphorus contributions to the Buffalo River. Specific targeted or planned practices and quantities include Water and Sediment Control Basins (110), Grade Stabilizations (7), Grassed Waterways (10), Critical Area Plantings (12), Filter Strips (45 ac.), Cover Crops (2,500 ac/year), Rotational Grazing/Use Exclusion (320 ac), Wetland Restoration (86 ac). This project will also address bacterial impairments through livestock exclusion, nutrient management and rotational grazing. In total the project is anticipated to reduce sediment loading to the Buffalo River by an estimated 32,712 tons per year, phosphorus loading by 21,083 pounds per year, and nitrogen loading by 24,322 pound per year, as well as offer unmeasured reductions in fecal coliform bacteria.	84.89
12	C23-7479	Red River Tributaries Outlet Gully Stabilization Project	Clay SWCD	Clay	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	The Clay SWCD will partner with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) and landowners to stabilize gullies to the Red River. The first priority will be to address ongoing erosion in Snakey Creek. Snakey Creek is the outlet of County Ditch No. 41 which has become the most critically eroding gully contributing sediment to the Red River in our targeted reach. When stabilized, sediment load to the river will be reduced by 1404 tons per year, and Total Phosphorus will be reduced by 1615 pounds per year.	83.72
13	C23-4644	2023 Priority BMP Implementation Targeting Lawrence	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 250,000.00	The Chisago SWCD will install water quality best management practices in the Dry Creek, Lawrence Creek, and direct drainage watersheds of the St. Croix River. A minimum of 20 practices will reduce the phosphorus loading by at least 140 pounds per year and sediment loading by at least 140 tons per year.	83.61
14	C23-8618	Restoring the Fort Ridgely Creek Subwatershed	Hawk Creek Watershed Project	Renville	\$ 165,500.00	\$ 165,500.00	The Hawk Creek Watershed Project (HCWP) is trying to achieve a reduction in total suspended solids (TSS) and phosphorus, improve the altered hydrology, and increase water storage capacity in the Fort Ridgely Creek subwatershed by implementing suites of projects that include two grade stabilizations with retention ponds, four water and sediment control structures (WASCOBs), and two grass waterways for an estimated pollutant reduction of 280 tons of sediment per year and 380 pounds of phosphorus per year.	82.83
15	C23-5405	FY23 CWF East Lake Rough Fish Barrier Project	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	Dakota	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	The VRWJPO, and its partner, the City of Lakeville, propose the installation of a fish barrier to prevent migration of rough fish between East Lake in Lakeville, MN and the North Creek tributary of the Vermillion River (North Creek). The project includes rough fish removals from East Lake. East Lake is a nutrient-impaired water body. A low-voltage electric fish barrier would be installed between East Lake and its connection with North Creek. The barrier and subsequent removals of these species would reduce the total phosphorus load in East Lake by 23 pounds per year. This grant request is only for the installation of the low-voltage fish barrier, and the fish removals and other match would be provided by the local partners.	82.28
16	C23-9787	Crailsheim Water Quality Improvement Pond	Okabena-Ocheda WD	Nobles	\$ 970,312.00	\$ 970,312.00	Okabena Lake, in Worthington, Minnesota, is plagued by excess phosphorus and sediment loading that causes harmful algae blooms and poor water clarity. This project will treat water flowing from this largely agricultural sub-watershed by constructing a 15-acre sedimentation reduction and water quality treatment pond on Independent School District (ISD) 518's property. When completed, the project will remove 327 pounds of phosphorus annually achieving 11% of the TMDL reduction goal for non-point source phosphorus. Secondary goals include water retention in 2 year and 10 year frequency storm events leading to downstream floodplain reduction and sediment retention. This project will also enhance educational opportunities, protect the floodplain from development, and provide new and enhanced aquatic and terrestrial habitat.	81.11
17	C23-7838	Lake Emily Watershed BMP Targeted Implementation Phase IV	Pope SWCD	Pope	\$ 362,500.00	\$ 362,500.00	Pope SWCD will install 44 erosion and sediment control practices targeting sediment and total suspended solids (TSS) reduction in the Lake Emily subwatershed. The practices will address non-point source pollution from agricultural lands, specifically those on steep, erodible slopes and ravines (root cause) that are delivering sediment and phosphorus to the Chippewa River and Lake Emily. These projects have the potential to reduce TSS by 1,027 tons per year, and 880 pounds per year of total phosphorus. This will directly address 44% of Lake Emily's phosphorus annual reduction goal (2,000 pounds) for direct drainage from stormwater runoff.	80.61
18	C23-1872	Restoration of Middle Fork Crow River / CD47	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Meeker	\$ 840,000.00	\$ 840,000.00	The Middle Fork Crow Watershed District is partnering with Meeker County and Meeker County SWCD to address bank erosion, channel sedimentation and E. coli sources on a 12.2-mile reach of the Middle Fork Crow River (AUID 07010204-511), also known as Meeker County Ditch 47 (CD47). The MFCR discharges to the North Fork Crow River (NFCR), both of which are impaired for E. coli. This CWF grant would fund final design and construction of seven (7) stream restoration projects. The project will reduce sediment by 797 tons per year of sediment (76% of project goal, 14% Plan goal), 160 pounds of total phosphorus per year (8% of plan goal), and reduce E. coli / fecal coliform counts by removing 30-60 head of cattle, making extensive progress towards the 60% TMDL reduction goal for E. coli.	80.39
19	C23-3363	2023 West Indian Creek Watershed Restoration and Protection	Wabasha SWCD	Wabasha	\$ 420,000.00	\$ 178,725.00	The Wabasha SWCD engaged in implementation of the West Indian Creek Nine Key Element Plan (319 Plan). A Mississippi River Basin Initiative (MRBI) request was approved by the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) that makes special Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funds available to fund eligible projects in the West Indian Creek Watershed (WIC). This application for Clean Water Funding (CWF) will provide project funding to leverage federal contributions and to cover projects entirely that may not have other funding sources. Project practices will include, but not limited to, grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, contour farming, cover crop, reduced tillage practices, forest edge buffers, grazing and pasture management practices, and nutrient management practices supported through MRBI funding, as well as other 319 work plan items not eligible for MRBI. It is anticipated that measurable outcomes towards WIC portion of the Lower Zumbro are 262.07 tons per acre of total suspended solids reduction and 11,200 pounds per acre of total nitrate reduction.	80.17

**Funding Line**

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
20	C23-2679	2023 East Branch Chippewa River Targeted Subwatershed Implementation Project Phase II	Pope SWCD	Pope; Swift	\$ 345,000.00	\$ -	This project targets sediment and total suspended solids (TSS) reduction in the East Branch Chippewa River, a major tributary to the Chippewa River, one of the largest basins of the Minnesota River Basin. Funded Best Management Practices will address non-point source pollution from agricultural lands, specifically those on steep, erodible slopes and ravines (root cause) that are delivering sediment and phosphorus to the East Branch Chippewa River. Pope and Swift SWCDs will implement 44 erosion and sediment control practices. This project would meet 11% of the Chippewa turbidity total maximum daily load TSS annual reduction goal. These projects have the potential to reduce TSS by 968 tons per year, and 836 pounds per year of total phosphorus.	79.72
21	C23-5587	Dawn Way Neighborhood 2023 Stormwater Volume Reduction	Inver Grove Heights, City of	Dakota	\$ 597,000.00	\$ -	The City of Inver Grove Heights proposes to reduce stormwater volume discharge and suspended solids and nutrient loading to the Mississippi River through construction of four underground infiltration chambers, one surface infiltration basin, and an estimated 22 curbside rainwater gardens within City right of way in conjunction with a street pavement rehabilitation project (City Project 2023-09D). The project will address goals established in the South Metro Mississippi River Turbidity TMDL by reducing suspended solids loading to the Mississippi River by an estimated 4,850 pounds per year. The project will reduce total phosphorus loading by an estimated 13.8 pounds per year and runoff volume by 12.2 acre-feet per year. In addition to the benefits to the Mississippi River, the project will also reduce stormwater flow rates in the local storm sewer system, which is currently subject to frequent surcharging.	79.00
22	C23-3596	Fountain and Albert Lea Lake Phosphorus Reduction Through Upgraded Street Technology	Albert Lea, City of	Freeborn	\$ 496,162.00	\$ -	This proposal requests purchasing three key pieces of street sweeping equipment including a regenerative sweeper, a mechanical sweeper, and a leaf vacuum truck for the City of Albert Lea. The City sweeps 132 curb to curb, miles four times per year, with 264 miles of gutter lines being swept significantly more. This equipment is expected to remove over 8,750 cubic yards of debris and leaves which will prevent 2,320 pounds of phosphorus and 2,860 tons of sediment from entering Fountain and Albert Lea lakes annually.	78.33
23	C23-5312	Becker County Targeted Phosphorus Reduction and Lake Protection - Phase III	Becker SWCD	Becker	\$ 390,000.00	\$ -	Becker SWCD will install lake protection-related best management practices (BMPs) in the identified critical areas in the Otter Tail Watershed. BMPs include shoreland stabilizations, native buffers, raingardens and a combination of site appropriate structural and vegetative practices. The project will cumulatively stop 68 tons of soil loss annually, cut yearly total suspended solids loading by 29 tons per year and prevent 113 pounds of phosphorus loading per year.	77.94
24	C23-3529	Otter Tail County Ditch No. 64 Wetland Restoration	Buffalo-Red River WD	Otter Tail	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	Buffalo Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) will work with partners to impound, reroute, and divert a tile portion of Otter Tail County Ditch 64 (CD64) to restore and protect four wetlands currently in the drainage system corridor of the Otter Tail River Watershed. 131 acres of wetlands will be restored and/or perpetually protected. This project will reduce total suspended solids loading in judicial ditch #2 (JD2) by 15 tons per year; there will be no net gain in E. coli loading to JD2, and a reduction of peak flows in both targeted watersheds, and increase in water storage of 275 acre-feet.	77.11
25	C23-4830	Stowe Lake HUC 12 TSS and TP Reduction Grant	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	\$ 359,250.00	\$ -	Douglas SWCD will install 15 field erosion control structures, 2 manure storage best management practices, and 25 alternative tile intakes in the Chippewa River Watershed. This project will reduce sediment runoff to the surface waters in the watershed by 577.9 tons per year and reduce phosphorus by 613.3 pounds per year.	76.89
26	C23-3746	Regatta Park Stormwater Enhancements	Apple Valley, City of	Dakota	\$ 1,000,000.00	\$ -	The City of Apple Valley will construct an underground stormwater storage system in Regatta park that will capture and reduce total suspended solids (TSS) and total phosphorus (TP) from within the East Lake subwatershed. The proposed measurable outcomes for the project are an estimated 63 pounds of TP and 7,700 pounds of TSS.	76.72
27	C23-4459	Sauk Lake Watershed Carp IPM - Phase 3	Sauk River WD	Stearns; Todd	\$ 136,671.00	\$ -	The Sauk River Watershed District will reduce carp biomass in Big Sauk Lake and the Sauk Lake Watershed by 240,000 pounds by December 31, 2024, subsequently reducing the total phosphorous load in Big Sauk Lake by 1,336 pounds. They will install two physical barriers protecting 78,720 acres from migrating carp in the Middle and Upper Ashley Creek Subwatersheds.	75.94
28	C23-9607	Lower Dutch Charley and Lower Highwater Creeks Turbidity Reduction Project	Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area	Cottonwood; Redwood	\$ 450,275.00	\$ -	The Redwood-Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) will install five water and sediment control basins, two grade stabilization projects, two terraces and three streambank restorations in the Cottonwood River Watershed. This proposal will prevent 213 tons per year of sediment from entering Lower Dutch Charley Creek, and 115 tons per year of sediment for Lower Highwater Creek. Both subwatersheds are major tributaries to the Cottonwood River classified as impaired in 2020.	75.78
29	C23-2711	Whetstone River Restoration	Upper Minnesota River WD	Big Stone	\$ 600,000.00	\$ -	The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District (UMWRD) is leading an effort to restore a historic segment of the Whetstone River channel, including its' original confluence with the historic Minnesota River. The UMWRD will construct of two weir structures create the connection between the current Whetstone River and the historic channel. This project will achieve the 10-year total maximum daily load goal for Big Stone Lake and the DNR Lake Phosphorus sensitivity targets for both Big Stone and Marsh Lake with 65,320 pounds per year and 2,576 pounds per year of phosphorus reduction to Big Stone and Marsh Lakes, respectively.	75.44
30	C23-5654	S Fork Rush Cr Stabilization	Elm Creek WMC	Hennepin	\$ 750,000.00	\$ -	Elm Creek Watershed Management Commission will stabilize and restore 7,600 linear feet of the South Fork of Rush Creek, in the City of Maple Grove in the Elm Creek watershed in Hennepin County. The proposed restoration project would reduce annual sediment load transported downstream by an estimated 410 tons per year and total phosphorus load by 424 pounds per year as well as improve stream function, habitat, and bank stability.	75.28
31	C23-7181	Mississippi - Brainerd, Southern Prairie Mgt. Zone: Lake Protection	Todd SWCD	Todd	\$ 125,000.00	\$ -	Todd SWCD will install 12 best management practices in the Mississippi River- Brainerd Watershed. This includes a minimum of five upland erosion controls, three stormwater management practices, one nutrient application/buffer, and three shoreline protection projects. This will result in 219 pounds of phosphorus removal per year.	73.06
32	C23-4393	Shakopee Creek Targeted Restoration for Water Quality Improvement	Kandiyohi SWCD	Kandiyohi	\$ 912,678.00	\$ -	Kandiyohi SWCD will stabilize over 1,400 linear feet of Shakopee Creek's degraded slopes, establish a native plant buffer along 5,200 linear feet along the creek, create in-stream habitat, revegetate wetlands adjacent to the stream with native species, restore natural hydrology to an adjacent wetland complex by filling an old unused channelized ditch system, and remove two culverts in the stream channel to restore natural flow. The project will reduce contributions of sediment and phosphorus to downstream systems including the impaired Chippewa River by 378 tons per year and 151 pounds per year, respectively.	73.00
33	C23-3137	Waconia Downtown Reuse	Waconia, City of	Carver	\$ 250,000.00	\$ -	The City of Waconia will reduce the volume of stormwater runoff allowed to discharge untreated to Lake Waconia while also reducing the volume of potable water currently being utilized for irrigation. This will be done by capturing runoff from a 13.5-acre drainage area, that consists of 12.8 acres of impervious surface, and storing it in an underground chamber system to be utilized for irrigation in green spaces along Main Street and 1st Street. The stored water will receive Sodium Hypochlorite treatment prior to being utilized for irrigation. The project is expected to provide a volume reduction of 14.3 acre feet and total phosphorus and total suspended solids reduction of 11.75 and 2,135 pounds per year, respectively.	72.50
34	C23-6264	2023 Battle Creek Middle School Restoration Project	Ramsey County SWCD	Ramsey	\$ 78,000.00	\$ -	Ramsey County SWCD will convert nearly three acres of turf grass into a pollinator-friendly native plant prairie, vegetated swale and infiltration basin with water quality benefits for the impaired Battle Creek. This project will reduce 4.07 tons of total suspended solids and 38.40 pounds of total phosphorus annually. Stormwater runoff into Battle Creek will be reduced by 72% from the 13.20 acres of runoff from the contributing watershed.	72.17

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
35	C23-9342	2023 - St. Louis County Failing SSTS Abatement Program	St. Louis County	St. Louis	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	The St. Louis County will identify failing subsurface sewage treatment systems and replace up to five failing systems within the priority areas of Midway, Thomson, Cloquet River, and Simian Creek (Tier 1). As a secondary objective, to replace failing systems within shoreland areas, to prevent harmful pathogens and excess nutrients from entering lakes and rivers and preventing additions to the impaired waters list (Tier 2). A reduction of direct sewage discharge to impaired or threatened waters of up to approximately 0.75 million gallons per year, including the estimated yearly reduction of 2,000 pounds of BODs, 1,200 pounds of total suspended solids, 3.95+14 colony forming units of bacteria, 50 pounds of phosphorus and 150 pounds of nitrogen.	72.00
36	C23-3044	Otter Tail River Watershed Erosion Control	Otter Tail, West SWCD	Otter Tail	\$ 209,750.00	\$ -	The West Otter Tail SWCD (WOT SWCD) will install 27 Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBs) at nine of the highest priority locations in the Otter Tail River Watershed. Through the installation of these nine high priority projects, we can anticipate a reduction of 109.2 tons per acre of sediment and 29.0 pounds per acre of phosphorous delivered to the outlet at Orwell Dam. In addition, reductions at the field edge are estimated at 508.1 tons per acre for sediment and 66.5 pounds per acre for phosphorous.	71.67
37	C23-3111	Oak Crest Coulee Clean Water Project	Roseau River WD	Roseau	\$ 224,000.00	\$ -	Roseau River WD will install three sets of iron-enhanced sand filters totaling 3,255 linear feet in the Roseau River Watershed. The goal of the project is to reduce sediment and nutrient loading from an urban (residential and golf course) setting to the Oak Crest Coulee and it's outlet, the Roseau River. Implementation of the three reaches would reduce downstream sediment by 6.1 tons per year and phosphorus by 51.9 pounds per year.	71.56
38	C23-1211	CSAH 12 Ravine Stabilization	Elm Creek WMC	Hennepin	\$ 300,000.00	\$ -	This project will reduce excessive sediment and nutrients discharged directly to the Mississippi River by stabilizing two eroding deep ravines conveying stormwater runoff into the river in the city of Dayton. This project, which is in the Elm Creek watershed, is part of a package of drainage and stabilization improvements along Hennepin County CSAH 12 between Vicksburg Lane and Diamond Lake Road. The project will reduce the excess sediment contributed to the river by about 1,100 tons per year, and nutrients by about 938 pounds per year.	71.17
39	C23-9757	Rice-Steele JD 6 Two-stage Ditch	Rice SWCD	Rice	\$ 363,305.00	\$ -	Rice SWCD will install 1,900 linear feet of two-stage ditch within Steele-Rice Judicial Ditch 6 (JD 6), a public drainage system also known as Mud Creek, which will provide stability to this portion of the open channel that has experience substantial bank failures. The two-stage benches constructed will provide an additional 3 acres of floodplain habitat and storage. Annual reductions from the two-stage ditch are estimated to be 337 tons of sediment, 253 pounds of phosphorus, and 16,709 pounds of nitrate-nitrite.	71.17
40	C23-7991	Restoring Wetland Hydrology and Function in Faribault County Ditch 52	Faribault County	Faribault	\$ 75,850.00	\$ -	The Faribault SWCD and partners, in association with a 103E drainage improvement proceeding, will fully restore hydrology to a 1987 partial Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) wetland restoration by daylighting a branch of County Ditch 52 (CD52) public tile and abandoning the portion of tile running through the basin. This proposed restoration will reduce sediment loading to the Blue Earth River by addressing altered hydrology through 13.2 acre-feet of water storage, reducing per year at the subwatershed outlet 18 tons of TSS, 8761 pounds of nitrogen, and 72.5 pounds of phosphorus, and enhancing wetland and wildlife habitat.	70.17
41	C23-2091	Upper Riley Creek Ecological Enhancement Plan	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	Carver	\$ 850,000.00	\$ -	The Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District (RPBCWD) and the City of Chanhassen will restore 9,000 feet of creek bed of Upper Riley Creek between Highway 5 and Lake Susan in Chanhassen. Upper Riley Creek is impaired for total phosphorus and total suspended solids which impacts waterbodies downstream including the impaired Lakes Susan, Rice Marsh, and Riley. This project will enhance the creek's ecological values and functions, and prevent additional erosion of streambanks. It is estimated that the project will reduce the annual total suspended solids and phosphorus loading to the creek and impaired Lake Susan by 470,000 pounds per year and 250 pounds per year respectively.	67.83
42	C23-4549	West Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization	West Mississippi WMC	Hennepin	\$ 603,000.00	\$ -	The West Mississippi River Shoreline Stabilization Project will enhance water quality, restore natural habitats, and sustain and protect property along the west banks of the Mississippi River, in the West Mississippi Watershed within the City of Brooklyn Park. This grant request is to support Phase I of a multi-year project and will restore approximately 715 linear feet of river shoreline with the most severe erosion, reducing excess sediment to the river by 548 tons and total phosphorus by 506 pounds per year.	66.56
43	C23-4562	Rice-Steele JD 6 Stream Restoration	Rice SWCD	Rice	\$ 724,176.00	\$ -	Rice SWCD will restore approximately 2,700 feet of Mud Creek, also known as Steele-Rice Judicial Ditch 6 (JD 6), and restore five acres of floodplain. The creek is a public drainage system that outlets into the Straight River south of the City of Faribault in Rice County. The proposed stream restoration will provide annual reductions of 287 tons of sediment and 264 pounds of phosphorus, representing approximate reductions of 24 and 5 percent, respectively.	65.89
44	C23-9517	2023 - Gravel pit restoration for water quality and watershed health	Cook SWCD	Cook	\$ 39,590.00	\$ -	Cook SWCD will restore 3.5 acres of a gravel pit to reduce sediment and nutrient transfer in the watershed and to Devil Track Lake. The City of Grand Marais uses the lakes for drinking water, recreation and enjoyment. Anticipated project outcomes include: 1) reducing runoff from the property, reducing unnatural sediment and nutrient loading transfer to the shoreline; and 2) restoring pollinator and forested habitat, which reduces stormwater runoff through plants absorption and holding soils in place.	61.56
45	C23-5801	Prioritizing Water Quality Upstream of the Minnesota River	Renville SWCD	Renville	\$ 2,170,357.12	\$ -	Renville SWCD will construct two water and sediment control basins (WASCOB), a grade stabilization structure, and a critical area planting along the ravine channel to protect from sedimentation and phosphorus loading facing the Minnesota River. The proposed project will achieve a reduction of 5.4% on 25-year storm, a reduction of 9.7% on a 50-year storm, and a reduction of 20.2% on 100-year storm event. Not only will a reduction in peak flows be seen, but BWSR Water Erosion Pollution Reduction Estimator estimates a savings of 75.97 tons per year of sediment and 75.97 pounds per year of phosphorus.	60.44
46	C23-9395	Enhancements to City of Savage Ponds 21-5 and 21-6	Savage, City of	Scott	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -	The City of Savage will enhance a stormwater treatment pond which discharges to the Credit River. The pond will be expanded to meet the National Urban Runoff Program (NURP) standards, which would require increasing the pond five times from its existing volume. Pond enhancements would result in phosphorus removal efficiencies of 11 pounds per year.	53.06
47	C23-8959	Building Resilience at the Intersection of Water and Natural Resources and Civil Infrastructure for Small Municipalities	Clearwater River WD	Meeker; Stearns; Wright	\$ 228,683.00	\$ -	This project includes conducting subwatershed studies for 17 townships/municipalities within the District. The District will 1) develop a suite of forward-looking solutions comprised of projects and or programs; 2) support the communities in implementation of 2-3 implementation projects to achieve stormwater management that works for water and natural resources in the face of climate change. Outcomes include: 17 municipal/township water/natural resource climate resilience plans, 2 projects implemented (target 30-year phosphorus/sediment removal: 1,300/340,000 pounds); 8 concept designs (for future funding); and add local government capacity for resilient stormwater management.	44.28
							<b>Total Funding Recommendation</b>	
						\$ 7,590,901.00		

#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C23-5011	Altura Well Sealing	County	Winona	\$ 68,000.00	\$ 68,000.00	This proposal includes sealing a abandoned well located within the Altura Drinking Water Supply Management Area to reduce the potential contamination risk to other municipal wells and nearby private wells. This well intersects with multiple aquifers, including the Prairie Du Chien, Jordan, Tunnel City/Lone Rock, and Wonewoc. These are primary aquifers used by the majority of drinking water wells in the region.	88.6
2	C23-1718	City of Le Center Municipal Well Sealing	County	Le Sueur	\$ 45,275.00	\$ 45,275.00	This project would educate residents and provide assistance to the City of Le Center in sealing an unused/abandoned municipal well. The well has been identified as a high risk due to impacting the groundwater and drinking water supply to the City of Le Center. The main goal for Le Sueur County and the City of Le Center is to protect groundwater and drinking water.	83.7
3	C23-2424	2023 Drinking Water Protection Initiative	SWCD	Benton	\$ 42,200.00	\$ 42,200.00	The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination in critical drinking water areas in Benton County through the process of sealing unused wells. A field inventory completed by Benton SWCD staff resulted in the identification of 136 possible well sealing opportunities, with additional wells being identified every year. The outcome of this project is the reduced risk of groundwater contamination in the highly vulnerable areas of Benton County and within public water supply recharge areas. We anticipate sealing at least 20 wells.	82.4
4	C23-7142	2023 Dakota County Well Seal Program	County	Dakota	\$ 110,000.00	\$ 110,000.00	In Dakota County, groundwater supplies more than 90 percent of the drinking water. In order to protect Dakota County's primary drinking water source, this project proposes to support the County well seal grant cost-share program. The project will provide 50 percent cost-share funding to reimburse landowners for the sealing of unused wells. To reduce risk to municipal drinking water supplies, the project will target suspected unused, unsealed wells within Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) first and prioritize applicants within DWSMAs. The goal is to permanently seal between 80-100 unused/abandoned wells throughout the county.	81.0
5	C23-2095	Chief's Coulee Stormwater Project	SWCD	Pennington	\$ 428,750.00	\$ 428,750.00	This proposal for the Chief's Coulee project aims to achieve improved water quality for waters entering the source area of the city's drinking water intake. The Chief's Coulee drainage area, in northern Thief River Falls, has been identified as a source of flooding and water quality concerns through inspection and water quality sampling. The proposed project will reduce 16.5 tons of sediment/year and 126.08 pounds of phosphorus/year.	78.3
6	C23-0454	Whitewater Well Sealing Grant	Whitewater River Watershed Project	Olmsted; Wabasha; Winona	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	Within Whitewater River Watershed, groundwater is the primary drinking water source for both private and community wells. These drinking water aquifers often lack adequate protective layers making them vulnerable to contamination. Unused wells can deteriorate and pose a serious risk to groundwater quality by providing a pathway for contaminants from the surface to easily travel into groundwater. This project will use cost-share funds to incentivize sealing twelve abandoned wells that are contamination risks to vulnerable aquifers.	77.4
7	C23-6045	Central Mille Lacs county targeted well sealing	SWCD	Mille Lacs	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 30,000.00	This project proposes to provide resources that will enable landowners in the Rum River watershed to take action on their land to protect groundwater quality by sealing unused and abandoned wells. Most if not all people in the watershed get their drinking water from groundwater. The purpose of this project is to complement citizen and decision maker awareness of the relationship between unsealed wells, groundwater and drinking water. This project should fund sealing four to six wells.	76.4
8	C23-0157	Drinking Water Protection in the Karst Region	SWCD	Dakota; Dodge; Fillmore; Goodhue; Houston; Mower; Olmsted; Wabasha; Winona	\$ 238,864.00	\$ 238,864.00	This drinking water protection project in the Karst Region will have three components, 1) This project will fund incentive payments for the use of nitrogen Best Management Practices (BMPs). Incentive payments will be given to promote the adoption of the University of Minnesota nitrogen rates to meet crop needs and for the use of split nitrogen applications at University of Minnesota rates. 2) This project will fund replicated on-farm nitrogen plots. These plots could be a nitrogen rate, timing, source or placement plot. 3) This project will use cost share funding for local well sealing. Proposed outcomes include 1) 2,500 acres minimum with BMPs implemented, 2) plots with full in-season data collection, including the Haney soil health test and other soil health nitrogen and carbon tests, and 3) a minimum of 10 wells sealed.	74.4
					\$ 993,089.00	\$ 993,089.00		

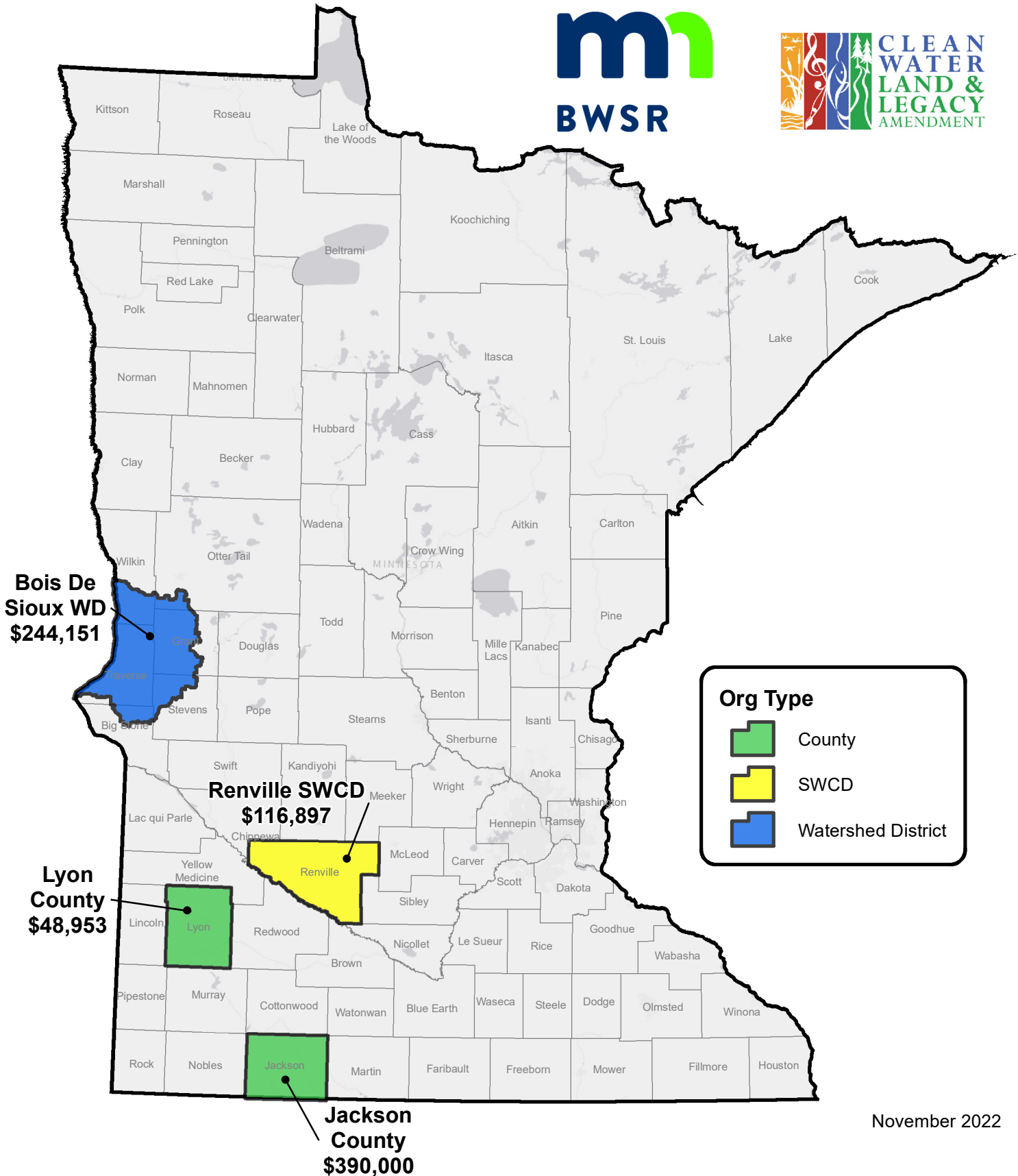


#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request (\$)	Recommended (\$)	Abstract	Score
1	C23-1732	Goodhue DWSMA-Nitrate Protection	SWCD	Goodhue	\$ 389,500.00	\$ 389,500.00	This soil health funding opportunity will focus on reducing nitrate contamination in the City of Goodhue's 2,500 acre municipal water supply. A suite of soil health practices will be promoted and installed on agricultural lands in the drinking water supply management area to help reduce nitrogen leaching through the groundwater system. The goal is to have improved residential drinking water for the City of Goodhue, while having producers realize the environmental and economic advantages of soil health practices beyond the grant period.	82.7
2	C23-1911	Using Soil Health to Protect Drinking Water in Two Rural Minnesota Communities	SWCD	Swift	\$ 285,000.00	\$ 285,000.00	This project aims to work with the landowners surrounding the Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA's) for Benson and Appleton in Swift County to reduce or eliminate the amount of nitrate entering these water supplies. Potential project impact 1) up to 350 acres of USDA NRCS Conservation Reserve Program enrolled or reenrolled, resulting in a sediment loss reduction of 157.5 tons per year; and 2) up to 1,200 acres of cover crop seeded (400 acres per year), with a potential sediment loss reduction of 188 tons per year, and up to 600 acres of no-till/strip till (200 acres per year).	73.2
3	C23-1613	Vulnerable Non-Community Public Water Supply Protection in Mississippi Outwash Plains Using Cover Crops	SWCD	Morrison	\$ 155,000.00	\$ 155,000.00	This proposal seeks to prevent nitrate contamination in and around vulnerable Non-Community (Transient and Non-Transient) Public Water Supplies within the sandy outwash plains of the Mississippi River in Central Minnesota. Within the work area we have identified 221 public (non-municipal) water supplies in the Morrison and Benton County work area. The goal is to maintain and possibly reduce the nitrate contamination risk in some of the 221 vulnerable public water supplies in this area from nitrate contamination by implementing 1250 acres of cover crop each year for three years.	72.7
					\$ 829,500.00	\$ 829,500.00		




# FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

## Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant

### Total Recommended Funding: \$800,000

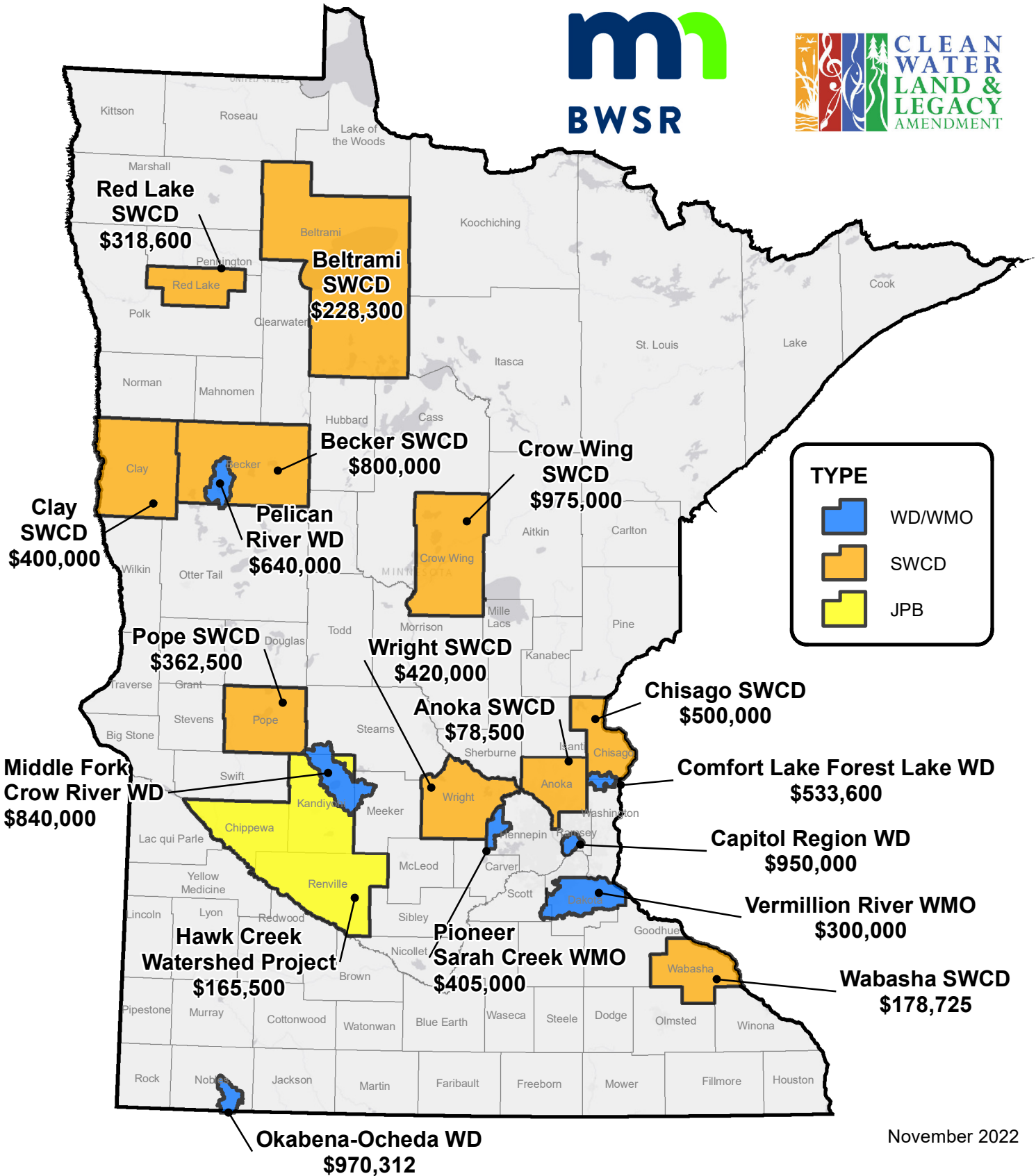


**Org Type**

-  County
-  SWCD
-  Watershed District

# FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

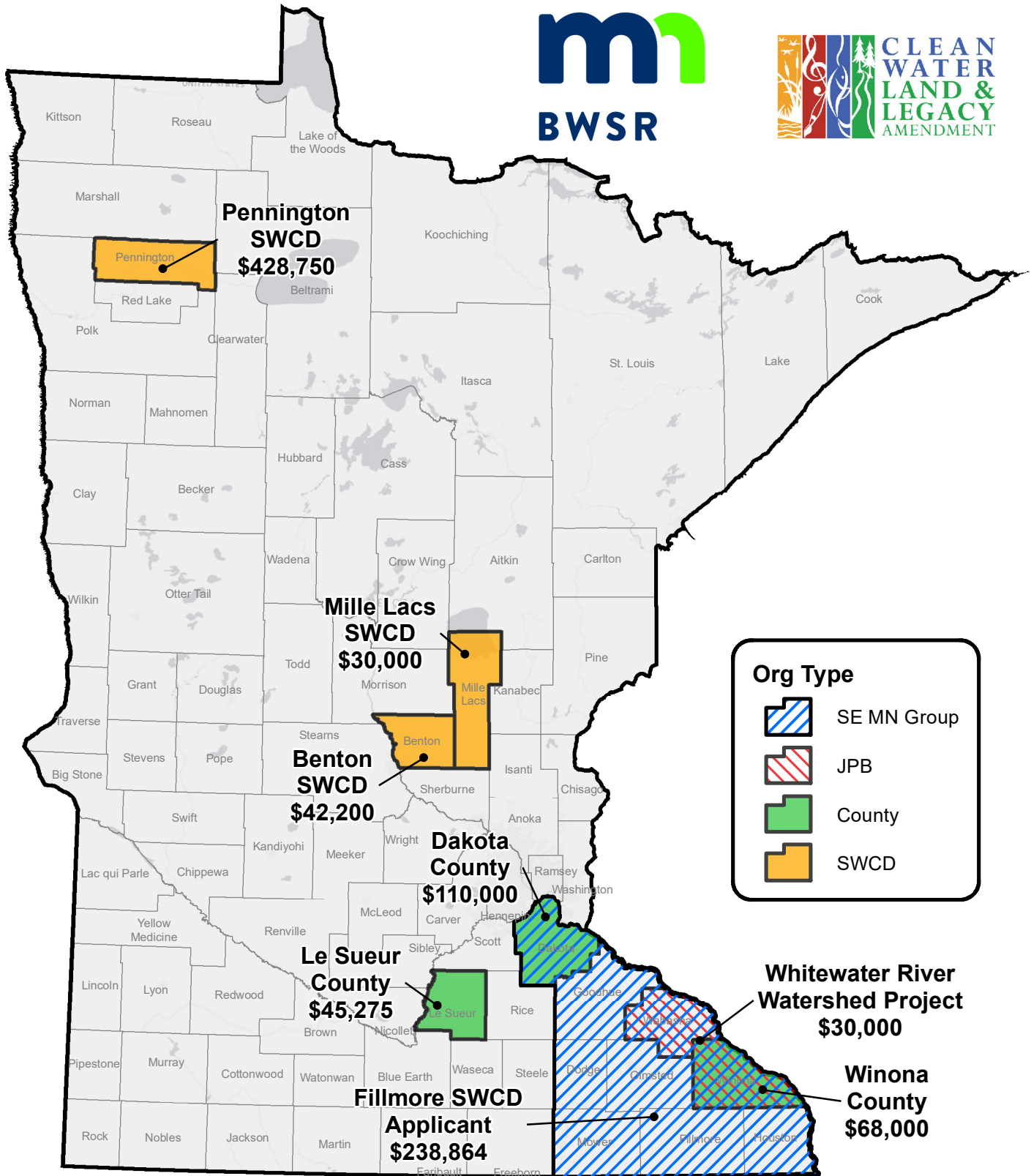
*Projects and Practices Recommended Funding*  
**Total Outstate Recommended Funding: \$6,798,937**  
**Total Metro Recommended Funding: \$2,267,100**



# FY 2023 Clean Water Fund

## *Projects and Practices - Drinking Water*

### *Total Recommended Funding: \$993,089*

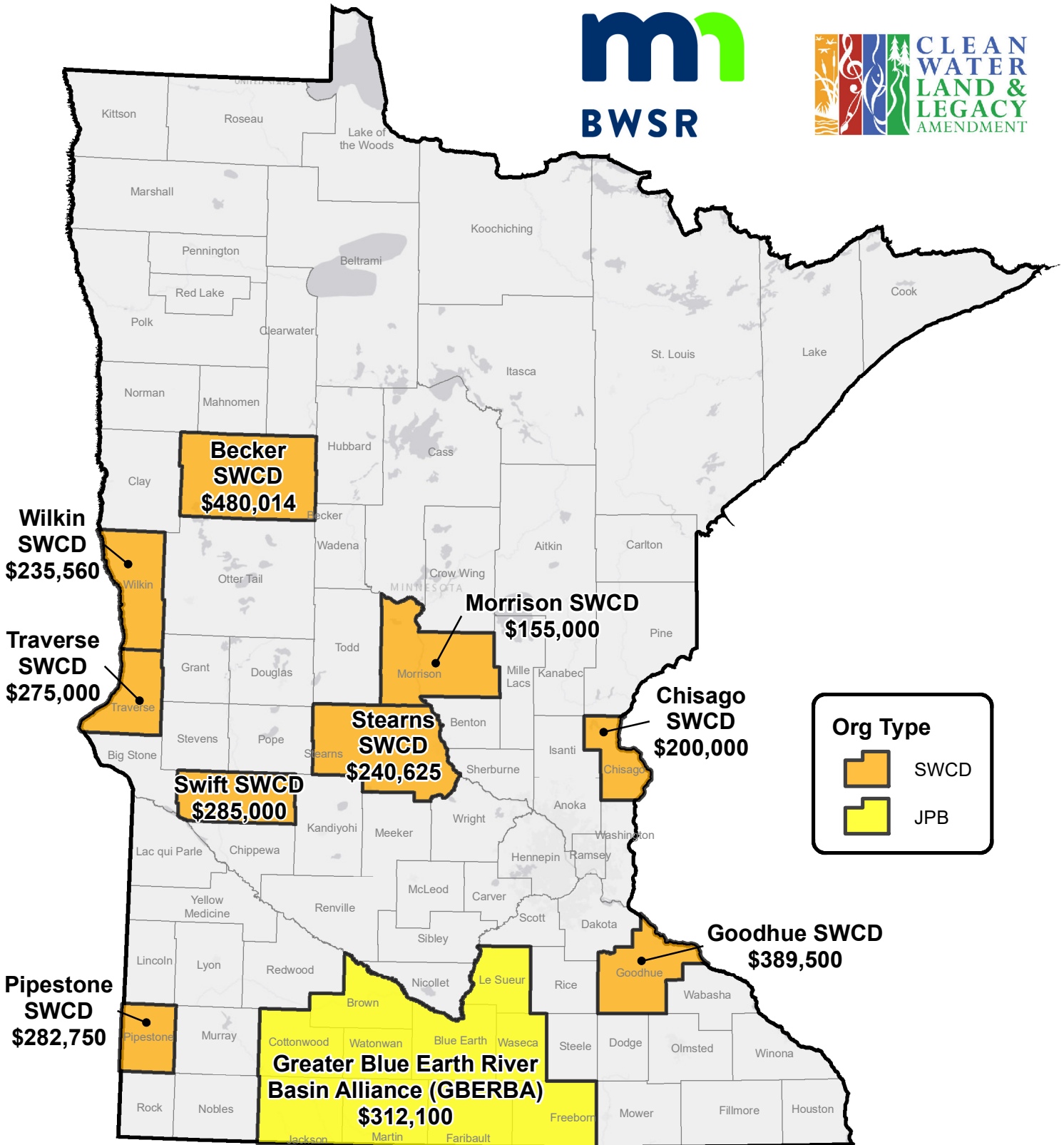


**Org Type**

- SE MN Group
- JPB
- County
- SWCD

# FY 2023 Clean Water Fund Soil Health Grant

**Total Recommended Funding: \$2,855,549**



## **COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

### ***RIM Reserve Committee***

1. Easement Alteration Request for Conservation Easement #81-04-92-01 (Hanson) – Karli Swenson – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #81-09-95-01 – Karli Swenson – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – One Watershed, One Plan Implementation – Bill Penning – ***DEICSION ITEM***

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Easement Alteration Request for Conservation Easement #81-04-92-01 (Hanson)

**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** Conservation Easement Section

**Contact:** Sharon Doucette, Section Mgr.

**Prepared by:** Karli Swenson, Easement Specialist

**Reviewed by:** RIM Reserve Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Karli Swenson

**Time requested:** 15 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 to amend conservation easement #81-04-92-01 in Section 9, T106N, R22W, Waseca County, in accordance with MN Rule 8400.3610 and BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy. This request would release 0.45 acres of upland from the 47.5-acre easement for the purpose of a future building site. The request would add 1.85 acres of additional land to the easement, fulfilling the required 4:1 replacement ratio, and meets all other conditions of the Easement Alteration Policy.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Easement Alteration Policy <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/easement-alteration-policy>  
 #81-04-92-01 Easement Alteration Map and Supporting Documents, attached.

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

BWSR acquired the 47.5-acre Permanent Wetland Preserve Easement in Waseca County on November 4, 1994, and an adjacent 28.2-acre RIM Reserve Easement on the same parcel on May 5, 1997. In November of 2019, ownership of the parcel was transferred to Scott and Ashley Hanson, who are the current fee owners of the property. The Hanson’s also own an additional 5-acre parcel that abuts both conservation easements.

The Hanson's are requesting to release 0.45-acres from Easement #81-04-92-01 for a building site for their future home. The 0.45-acre site sits on the edge of easement, adjacent to an existing field road for access. The proposed building site, though within the existing easement boundary, does not currently provide high quality habitat or native vegetation. The current cover is introduced grasses and legumes with poor establishment.

The landowners propose to add 1.85-acres of adjacent land to the easement, to compensate for the area released and add additional value and quality habitat to the easement. The land proposed to be added to the easement currently supports a diversity of vegetation including mature trees, existing wetland vegetation and native grasses and forbs, which buffer a wetland previously restored via the RIM program and lies adjacent to the perpetual RIM easement. The proposed added land includes hydric soils and currently supports hydrophytic vegetation. This land was cropped up to the mid-1990s.

The only alternative building site on this property would be on the same lands proposed to be added to the RIM easement. Construction of a home and septic on the presently excluded area would result in the loss of existing habitat, removal of existing trees and native vegetation, reduction of the wetland buffer zone, and make the area more vulnerable to human impacts. For this reason, the 0.45-acres proposed for release seem like a more suitable building site from a natural resource protection perspective.

The proposal would result in a 4:1 replacement ratio of added lands to released lands. The proposal meets or exceeds all requirements and conditions of BWSR's board approved Easement Alteration Policy. Both the Waseca County SWCD and the DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have submitted letters of support and recommend approval of the easement alteration.

The landowners have submitted the required \$500 application fee and understand that they will be responsible for additional title insurance costs and amendment recording fees, will be responsible for providing clear title, and will be responsible for restoration costs on the additional lands, if any.

### **Recommendation**

BWSR Easement Staff recommend approval of this request. The proposal demonstrates how the State's natural resource interest will be better served as a result of the alteration. The proposal would result in a net gain of permanently protected land with existing habitat value and water quality benefits, that would alternatively be reduced or degraded.



Board Resolution # 22- \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

Board of Water and Soil Resources

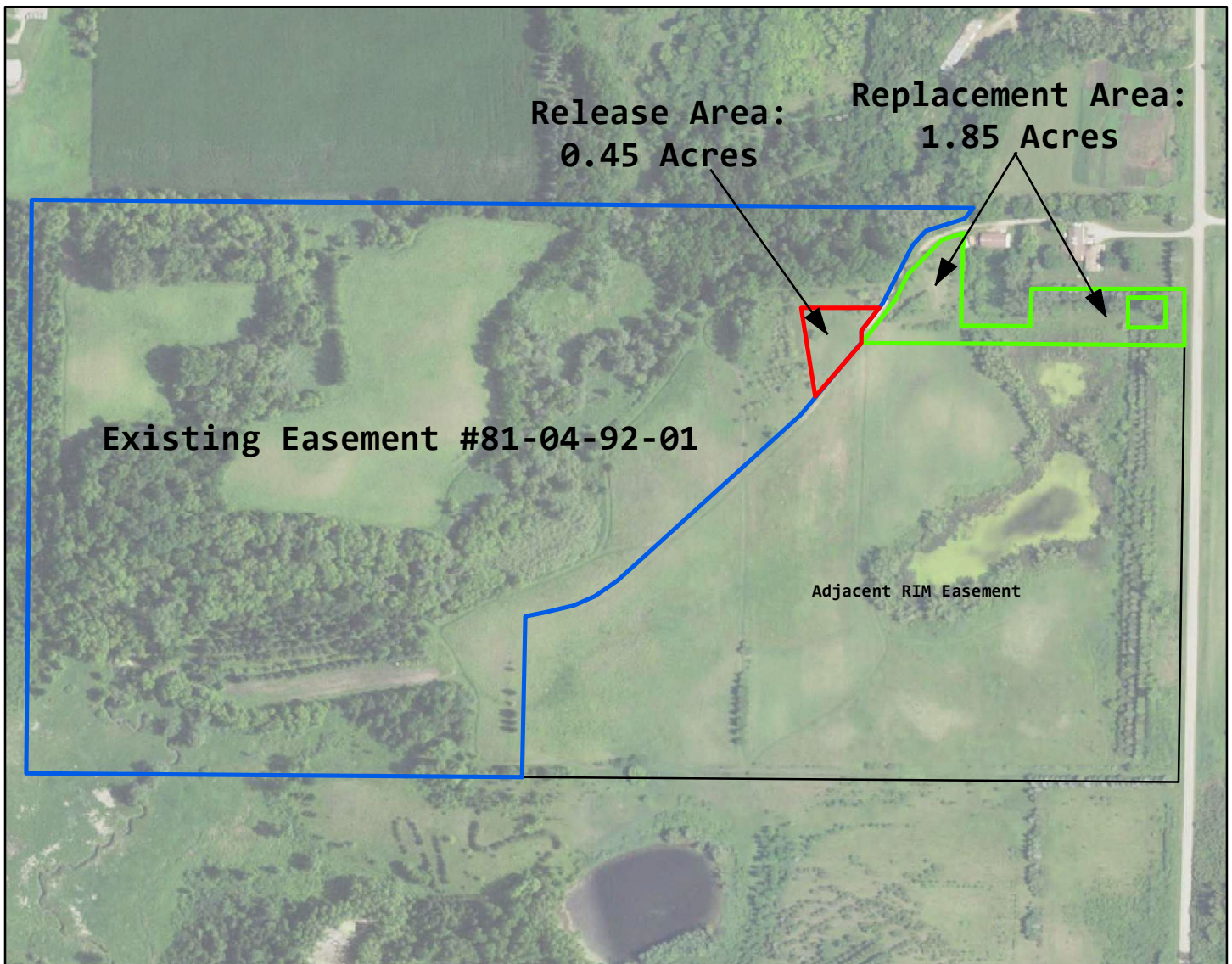
Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Easement Alteration Request - Hanson







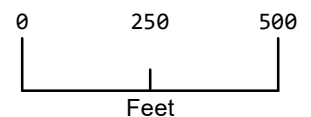
## RIM Easement #81-04-92-01

Waseca County, T106N, R22W, Section 9



### Legend

-  Release Area (0.45 Acres)
-  Replacement Area (1.2 Acres = 4.1:1 Replacement Ratio)
-  Easement 81-04-92-01 Boundary
-  Adjacent RIM Easement Boundary - For Reference Only



Prepared by:  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date:  
November 8, 2022

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello, we are the Hanson's – Scott and Ashley. We bought this property in November 2019 which includes 75 acres of land within the RIM program and a 5 acre building lot. Scott's knowledge and work in conservation and habitat management and our love for the outdoors was the driver for purchasing the 80 acres. In our 3 years, we have worked endless hours and used our finances to lead a controlled burn, seeding with a focus on pollinators, invasive tree removal, weed control via spraying and much more. We have a strong desire to continue restoring the wetland and native grasslands on our property.

We are asking for 0.45 acres that is currently in the RIM program with our intentions to build a home. In return the RIM program would receive 1.85 acres of our current 5 acre building lot. This 4:1 ratio allows us to use 0.45 acres that does not have vegetative benefit or native establishment on it.

The reason we are asking for this trade is because a portion of our 5 acre lot is not suitable for building. A large section of this area is well within the wetlands and borders the pond, it is rich in trees and cattails. Another driving factor for not wanting to dig up this portion of our current building site is that area would have to include a septic tank; this places it right within the riparian land. Furthermore, there is established native flowers and grassland in our 5 acres that would have to be removed for us to build. Both the wetland and grassland areas are richly inhabited by animals and wildlife. With help and support from the SWCD and DNR, we have determined a ratio that allows us to build but also to protect the habitat within our 5 acres from human disruption.

We have admittedly learned a great deal through this process and our goal is to continue to respect and abide by the RIM program laws. Unfortunately, because of the way the land was parceled, the only way to achieve the build without disrupting current habitat is to ask for a portion of non-habitat land from the RIM program. We are hopeful our 4:1 ask shows our intention of continuing to do the right thing of preserving the native land. It is counterintuitive for us to disrupt the habitat on our building site by placing a new build – that in return – displaces wildlife.

We welcome any questions or clarifications and will happily provide any other needed information to further help explain our situation.

Thank you for your time,

Scott and Ashley Hanson

**SUPOORTING PHOTOS:**

- 1. Aerial photographs of our land taken October 2020. Red indicates the area requested from RIM, black indicates the area added, in return, to the RIM program (a & b)**



a.

3. The following photos are the area indicated in black; the 1.85 acres added, in return, to the RIM program.  
(a – f)



a.



d.

# Hanson Soils Map

Assisted by: Mark Schaezke  
Waseca SWCD



— dot\_roads\_l\_mn161

2019 imagery

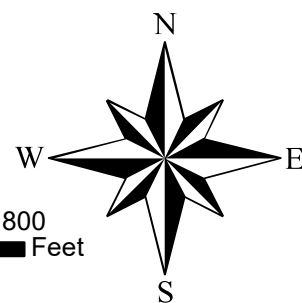
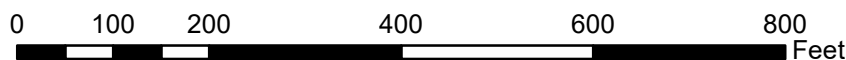
▭ Civil Townships

▭ Sections

▭ Soils

Reference Scale: 1:2400

1 inch = 200 feet







Area Wildlife Office  
8485 Rose Street  
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060  
[jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us)  
(507) 475-2900

September 28, 2022

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

RE: Hanson ReInvest in Minnesota Easement #81-04-92-01 Alteration Request, Section 9, Otisco Township, Waseca County

I have reviewed materials provided by Scott and Ashley Hanson in support of their request to alter a ReInvest in Minnesota conservation easement in Otisco Township, Waseca County. I recommend approval of the proposed alteration request.

I believe the proposal to add protected area north of adjacent easement #81-05-95-01 will provide resource protection, conservation, and habitat benefits similar to the existing configuration. Importantly, the alteration will not result in drain or fill any restored wetlands. The restored wetland on easement #81-05-95-01 will be better buffered by inclusion of unprotected acres on the northern edge of the basin. In the long run this may reduce the potential for disputes over water or saturation in this location. Although unprotected, the habitat on the proposed replacement acres is already developed consisting of native grassland, habitat plantings and wetland and is consistent with the habitats provided by the existing easement.

The proposed alteration does remove an irregularly shaped tract that will create edge effect and may result in additional development over time. The proposed replacement is also along the building site. These factors can negatively impact wildlife utility of the habitats. I believe the replacement ratio should be adequate to offset the impacts from the removal of the proposed area.

This habitat complex is important and considerable investment has been made to protect and reconstruct the habitat in the broader landscape setting. Effort to maintain the integrity of these efforts are important. If you have questions or comments regarding this evaluation please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Vorland  
Owatonna Area Wildlife Supervisor

//electronically

c: Scott and Ashley Hanson  
Mark Schaetzke



## ***Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District***

300 North State Street  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-835-0603  
[www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

Scott and Ashley Hanson  
31087 145<sup>th</sup> St  
Waseca, MN 56093

RE: Easement Alteration Request for RIM easement #81-04-92-01

Dear Scott and Ashley,

On August 11, 2022 you presented a proposal for an alteration to your ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement #81-04-92-01 located in Sect 9 of Otisco Twp at the Waseca County SWCD board meeting. The purpose for the alteration is to build a new home on the portion you propose to remove from the RIM easement. The proposed area to be removed is 0.6 acres and consists of upland areas. The replacement area is 1.2 acres. The replacement area is near the existing easement and immediately adjacent to RIM easement #81-05-95-01 which you also own. Both areas were considered to be cropland prior to the closing of the two easements and the establishment of the existing building site.

The SWCD board found that the request met the guidance issued by BWSR in: Conservation Easement Alteration Requests and Board Policy (12/20/2017) and recommended approval. Please refer to the policy for additional information and next steps that you must make. It is located at:

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

On September 8<sup>th</sup> the SWCD Board reviewed proposed changes to the alteration request. The area to be removed from RIM was reduced to 0.45 acres and the replacement area was increased to 1.85 acres. This was in response to BWSR alteration policy guidelines and that the proposed replacement area did not have recent cropping history. Since the changes included less area removed and more area to be protected, the SWCD board recommended approval.

Sincerely,

Wayne Cords – Waseca SWCD Chairman

**BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM**

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #81-09-95-01

**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** Conservation Easement Section

**Contact:** Sharon Doucette, Section Mgr.

**Prepared by:** Karli Swenson, Easement Specialist

**Reviewed by:** RIM Reserve    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Karli Swenson

**Time requested:** 15 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 to amend RIM easement #81-09-95-01 in Section 25, T107N, R24W, Waseca County, in accordance with MN Rule 8400.3610 and BWSR’s Easement Alteration Policy. This request would release 2.6 acres from the easement for the purposes of storing firewood, cooking maple sap, and storing other equipment. The request would add 5.2 acres of land to the easement, adjacent to the Le Sueur River. This request fulfills the required acre replacement ratio of 2:1 and meets all other conditions of the Easement Alteration Policy.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Easement Alteration Policy <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/easement-alteration-policy>  
#81-09-95-01 Easement Alteration Map and Supporting Documents (attached)

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

BWSR acquired the 111.4-acre RIM Reserve Easement, adjacent to the Le Sueur River in Waseca County on October 30, 1996. The current landowners, Tom and Melissa Bauman, purchased the property in 2015.

The landowners are requesting to release 2.6 acres from the 111.4-acre easement, for the purposes of storing firewood, cooking maple sap, storing other equipment and occasionally parking vehicles. The landowner does not intent to build any structures or remove existing trees within the release area. The area requested for removal did not have crop history prior to enrollment in the RIM Easement.

The landowner has offered to add 5.2 acres to the RIM easement as replacement, which fulfills the required 2:1 replacement ratio of the Easement Alteration Policy. The replacement areas are immediately adjacent to the Le Sueur River and would add all remaining land within the parcel into the easement. The replacement areas also abut neighboring RIM easements and would fill in existing gaps between the neighboring easements and the riverbank, resulting in more contiguous protection of the wildlife habitat and water quality in the riparian area.

The landowner has demonstrated that the State's natural resource interest would be benefitted by this easement alteration. Both the Waseca SWCD and the MN DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have submitted letters in support of this easement alteration request.

**Recommendation**

Staff recommend approval of this request. The request meets all conditions of BWSR's Easement Alteration Policy, and the intended use of the release area would have minimal impacts to the environment. The lands proposed for replacement have habitat and water quality benefits that exceed those of the release area and would be valuable additions to the easement.

Board Resolution # 22- \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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 15<sup>th</sup> day of December, 2022

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

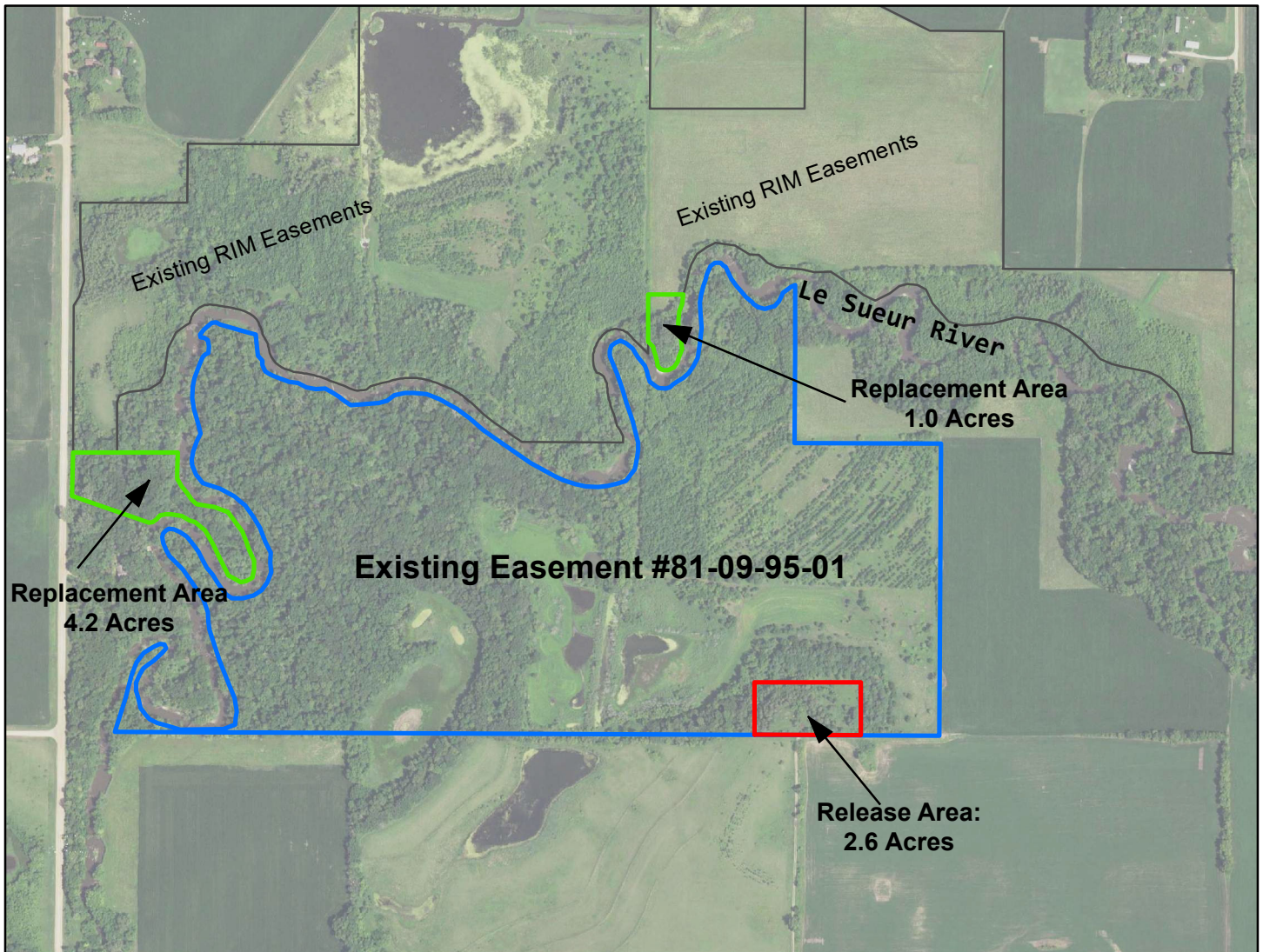
Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

# Easement Alteration Request - Bauman





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

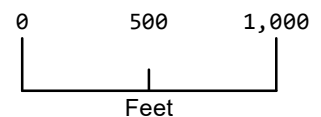


Waseca County, T107N, R24W, Section 25



### Legend

-  Release Area (2.6 Acres)
-  Replacement Area (5.2 Acres = 2:1 Replacement Ratio)
-  Easement 81-09-95-01 Boundary
-  Adjacent RIM Easement Boundaries - For Reference Only



Prepared by:  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Dated:  
November 10, 2022

June 2, 2022

Tom & Melissa Bauman  
32575 70<sup>th</sup> St  
Waseca MN 56093-4900  
Phone: 507-521-2577

Waseca County SWCD Board

Proposed Alteration for RIM Property

Dear Sirs,

We would like your consideration to take approximately 2.63 acres out of RIM and replace it with approximately 5.25 acres in the same parcel.

The acres that we are trading border the river and we feel they would be of greater benefit to the wildlife on our land. We have worked hard to maintain the land as habitat for many species of wildlife.

Our intention for the acres we are taking out would be to utilize this area to pile firewood, set up a cooker to cook sap for maple syrup, store our food plot equipment, and park vehicles while recreating on the land.

For location of the acres please see the attached map. If you have any questions please let us know.

Thank you,



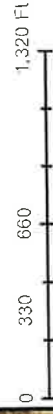
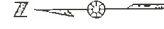
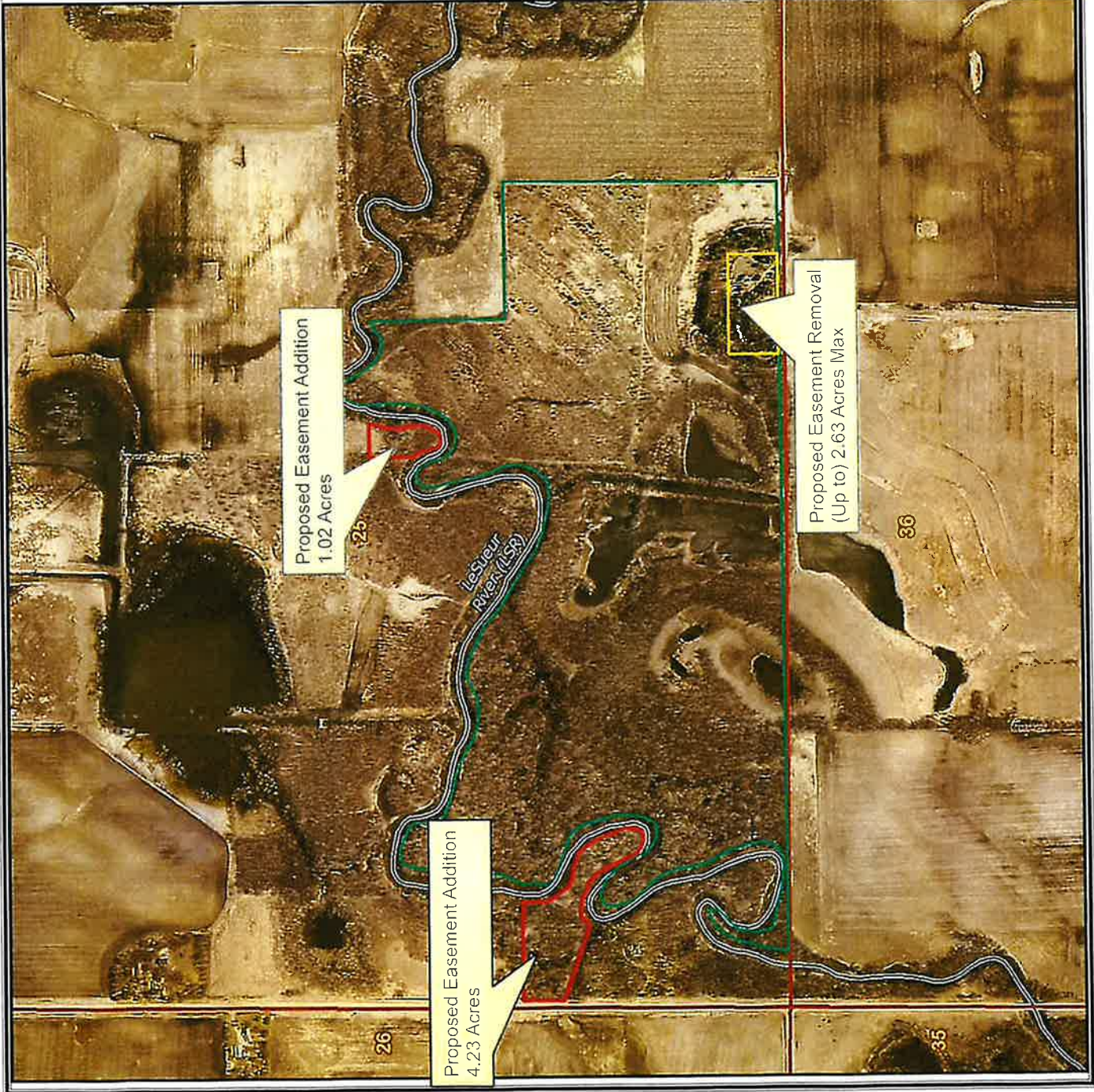
Tom & Melissa Bauman





WASECA SWCD

Tom Bauman  
81-09-95-01  
Easement Alteration Request



1 inch = 660 feet  
1:7,920

By: Tyler Polster, District Technician



**WASECA SWCD**

Tom Bauman  
81-09-95-01  
Easement Alteration Request

1991 Imagery



1 inch = 660 feet  
1:7,920

By: Tyler Polster, District Technician



# Soils Map

Assisted by: Mark Schaezke  
Waseca SWCD

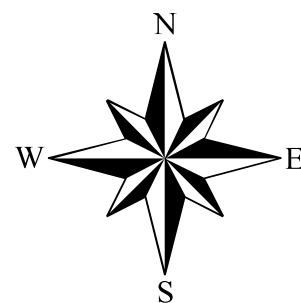
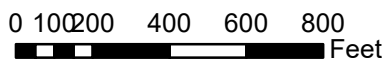


- Civil Townships
- Sections
- RIM Easements
- Parcels
- Soils

2021 imagery

Reference Scale: 1:6000

1 inch = 500 feet





Area Wildlife Office  
8485 Rose Street  
Owatonna, Minnesota 55060  
[jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us](mailto:jeanine.vorland@state.mn.us)  
(507) 475-2900

September 28, 2022

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

RE: Bauman ReInvest in Minnesota Easement #81-09-95-01 Alteration Request, Section 25, Alton Township, Waseca County

I have reviewed materials provided by Tom and Melissa Bauman in support of their request to alter a ReInvest in Minnesota conservation easement in Alton Township, Waseca County. I recommend approval of the proposed alteration request.

I believe the proposal will provide resource protection, conservation, and habitat benefits similar to or greater than the existing configuration. The proposed area to be removed is 2.63 acres with woody cover plantings. The replacement area is 5.25 acres of forested habitats riparian to the LeSueur River. The habitats on the replacement acres is consistent with the forested wildlife corridor along the river. Easement protections will contribute to the long-term integrity of this riparian buffer.

The proposed alteration removes a regularly shaped tract that may result in additional development over time and create additional "edge effect." These factors can negatively impact wildlife utility; however, I believe the replacement ratio should be adequate to offset the impacts from the removal of the proposed area.

This habitat complex is important and considerable investment has been made to protect and reconstruct wildlife habitats in the broader landscape setting. Maintaining the value of these efforts is important. If you have questions or comments regarding this evaluation, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jeanine Vorland  
Owatonna Area Wildlife Supervisor

//electronically

c: Tom and Melissa Bauman  
Mark Schaetzke



## ***Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District***

300 North State Street  
Waseca, MN 56093  
507-835-0603  
[www.wasecaswcd.org](http://www.wasecaswcd.org)

Tom and Missy Bauman  
32575 70<sup>th</sup> St.  
Waseca, MN 56093

RE: Easement Alteration Request for RIM easement #81-09-95-01

Dear Tom and Missy,

On August 11, 2022 you presented a proposal for an alteration to your ReInvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement #81-09-95-01 located in Sect 25 of Alton Twp at the Waseca County SWCD board meeting. The purpose for the alteration is to park equipment and boil maple sap on the portion you propose to remove from the RIM easement. The proposed area to be removed is 2.63 acres and consists of upland areas. The replacement area is 5.25 acres. The replacement area is adjacent to the existing easement and has established vegetation. Both areas were considered to be non-cropland prior to the closing of the easement.

The SWCD board found that the request met the guidance issued by BWSR in: Conservation Easement Alteration Requests and Board Policy (12/20/2017) and recommended approval. Please refer to the policy for additional information and next steps that you must make. It is located at:

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

Sincerely,

Scott Hildebrandt – Waseca SWCD vice-chairman

## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Resolution Authorizing the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve – One Watershed, One Plan Implementation

**Meeting Date:** December 15, 2022

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Keywords for Electronic Searchability:** One Watershed One Plan, 1W1P, RIM, Easement, Outdoor Heritage Fund

**Section/Region:** Easements

**Contact:** Sharon Doucette

**Prepared by:** Bill Penning

**Reviewed by:** RIM Reserve Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Bill Penning

**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 checked="" 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 - One Watershed, One Plan Implementation program. This is phase one of a new program.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2023/Accomp\\_Plans/5b.pdf](https://www.lsohc.mn.gov/FY2023/Accomp_Plans/5b.pdf)

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

ML 2022, Ch. 77, Art. 1, Sec. 2, subd. 5(b) designated funds “to acquire permanent conservation easements and restore and enhance wildlife habitat identified in One Watershed, One Plan for stacked benefit to wildlife and clean water.” This program will utilize RIM easements to protect priority parcels identified in watershed plans developed through BWSR’s One Watershed, One Plan program, in which local governments strategically set priorities for clean water and habitat, target implementation, and set measurable goals. BWSR currently distributes CWF dollars to partnerships with approved plans for water quality projects. This program will provide additionality by using Outdoor Heritage Funds to implement habitat protection as identified in Comprehensive Local Watershed Management Plans. This resolution authorizes staff to utilize these funds and future funds provided to the agency for similar purposes to develop and implement this program.



Board Resolution # 22- \_\_\_\_\_

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

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**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: \_\_\_\_\_