



## BOARD ORDER

### One Watershed, One Plan Program 2023 Planning Grants: Request for Proposals

#### PURPOSE

Authorize the 2023 Request for Proposals (RFP).

#### FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

1. Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 establishes the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program, also known as the One Watershed, One Plan Program.
2. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.3369 to award grants to local units of government with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management.
3. The Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i) appropriated funds to the Board for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach.
4. The One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant 2023 RFP was reviewed and approved by the Board's Senior Management Team on February 7, 2023 to forward to the Board's Grants Program and Policy Committee for consideration.
5. The Board's Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the 2023 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant RFP on February 27, 2023 and recommended approval to the Board.

#### ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to finalize, distribute, and promote a 2023 Request for Proposals for the One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this March 22, 2023

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Gerald Van Amburg, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 3-22-2023

Attachments:

- One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grant Policy
- 2023 Planning Grant Request for Proposals

## Grants Policy

# One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

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

**Version:** 2.0

**Effective Date:** 12/15/2022

**Approval:** Board Decision #22-54

## Policy Statement

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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; 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           |
|---------|--|----------------|
| 2.00    | Incorporated plan evaluation and amendment     | 2022           |
| 1.00    | Reformatted to new template and logo           | 2018           |
| 0.00    | New policy for One Watershed, One Plan Program | March 23, 2016 |

## One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants

Request for Proposals

March 24, 2023

### Request for Proposals (RFP) General Information

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

### Proposal Guidelines

Proposals must be in PDF format and will be submitted electronically via: [BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us](mailto:BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us).

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

## Grant Execution

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

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

## Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds. All grants must be completed by June 30, 2026.

## Payment Schedule

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

## Incomplete Proposals

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

## Clean Water Fund Project Reporting Requirements

1. All grantees are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan, including detail relating to the outcome(s) of the proposed project. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing this activity. For more information go to [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html).
2. BWSR Clean Water Funds will be administered via a standard grant agreement. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient.
3. When practicable, grantees shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (<http://legacy.leg.mn>) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes ([www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/))

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

## Grants and Public Information

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

## Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/>) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur with any of the following scenarios:

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

## Submittal

All responses must be electronically delivered to: [BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us](mailto:BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us) and must be received no later than 4:30 p.m. June 19, 2023. Late responses will not be considered. The burden of proving timely receipt is on the respondent.

## Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Development Proposals

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

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

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

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

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

## Selection Criteria

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

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



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

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

### **BWSR Grant Administration**

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

### **Timeline**

- March 24, 2023– Proposal period begins
- June 19, 2023 – Proposal deadline at 4:30 PM
- June – August – Proposal review
- August 24, 2023 - BWSR Board approval of planning grant recipients
- March 15, 2024 Work plan submittal deadline
- April 5, 2024 Work plans due, grants executed
- Plans submitted to BWSR by June 30, 2026

### **Questions**

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

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

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

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the St. Louis River Watershed submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on January 12, 2023, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- Partnership Establishment.** The St. Louis River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) was established March 9, 2020, through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes North and South St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Carlton SWCD, as well as St. Louis County, Carlton County, and the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.
- Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program.
- Nature of the Watershed.** The St. Louis River is a large, geographically diverse, and culturally rich watershed in northeastern Minnesota. The watershed covers area within Lake, St. Louis, Itasca, and Aitkin counties as well as the Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa. The watershed is entirely on ceded tribal land, including the 1854 and 1855 treaty areas. The St. Louis River Watershed planning boundary includes the Cloquet River watershed, along with a portion of the Lake Superior South Watershed. The planning region covers 3,000 square miles and includes 500 lakes and 2,000 miles of streams all flowing to Lake Superior. The watershed provides habitat for many vulnerable resources, including wild rice, trout and sturgeon. While most of the watershed is forest or wetlands, many communities make their home here, including the Mesabi Range communities, Cloquet and the City

of Duluth. Mining, logging, farming and industry are historically and currently part of this watershed and have drastically altered the watershed from its original form.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses and drinking water sources in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On January 12, 2023, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #18-14. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
  - A. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH staff thanked the partnership for including MDH priorities and inputs in the plan and had no additional comments to provide. MDH recommends approval of the plan.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR staff thanked the partnership for including DNR priorities and additional inputs during the plan and review process. DNR staff noted it was a pleasure working with the Advisory Committee. DNR recommends approval of the plan.
  - C. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA staff noted that they appreciated the opportunity to participate and provide input and that the plan is well written, concise, and thorough. MPCA recommends approval of the plan.
  - D. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): EQB did not provide comments for the final review.
  - E. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA did not provide comments for the final plan review though congratulated the partnership on plan completion.
  - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided comments throughout the planning process and had no suggested or required changes to the Plan submitted for the final review. We commend the partners for their trust level and commitment to the resources of the Plan area. BWSR staff recommend approval of the Plan and look forward to working with the Partnership during implementation.
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
  - The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa was a full participant in the process and providing valuable contributions to the Steering Team, Advisory Committee, and the Policy Committee.
  - The Plan was led and written by local staff after transitioning from the originally selected consultant team.
  - The Plan recognizes resource management actions and data provided by existing efforts, including the Lake Superior Lakewide Action and Management Plan (LAMP), the St. Louis River Estuary, and the Federally recognized Area of Concern (AOC) where the St. Louis River enters Lake Superior.

- The Planning area includes both the St. Louis River and Cloquet River major watersheds (HUC-8 scale) as well as a series of cold-water stream watersheds that flow directly into Lake Superior in and around the city of Duluth.
  - The planning area contains large, highly urbanized areas on the Iron Range and in Cloquet-Duluth area, as well as many acres of intact forests, wetlands and cold-water and warmwater water resources resulting in generally good water quality with a few exceptions.
  - A Landscape Stewardship Plan was developed to complement the watershed plan and provided information on forest resources and their relationship to priority water resources.
  - High quality resource protection was an issue addressed in this plan with thorough measurable goals established using a RAQ (Riparian, Adjacency, Quality) index identifying high scores for the most valued protection areas.
  - The Department of Natural Resources provided an Evaluation of Hydrologic Change for the planning area showing that, in general, hydrology has been very stable since the 1940's.
  - The Plan includes focused priorities for five (5) planning regions (St. Louis River North, St. Louis River South, Cloquet-Upper Whiteface, Duluth Urban Area and Lake Superior Streams, Fond du Lac Reservation) and targeted sub-watersheds within those regions that targets implementation to the needs of each geographical area.
  - Twelve priority issues were selected for the Plan, although the importance of those issues varies among the planning regions, resulting in short and long-term measurable goals specific to each region. The priority issues were divided into categories: Surface Water Quality, Drinking Water Protection, Land Use, Altered Hydrology, and Habitat.
  - Specific "lenses" such as Climate Change and Resilience, Equity, Social Capacity and Culturally significant species were used to uncover potential overlooked opportunities throughout the Plan area rather than being identified as a specific issue.
  - A thorough discussion of regulatory and enforcement measures that meet the needs of county and watershed obligations, including shoreland management, public drainage, buffers, and land use planning was conducted.
7. **Northern Regional Committee.** On March 1, 2023 the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Rich Sve, LeRoy Ose, Jeff Berg, Neil Peterson, Todd Holman, Gerald Van Amburg, Tom Estabrooks and Ron Staples. Board staff in attendance included Ryan Hughes, Erin Loeffler and Jeff Hrubes. The representatives from the Partnership were Melanie Bomier, Carlton SWCD; R.C. Boheim, South St. Louis SWCD; Anita Provinzino, North St. Louis SWCD; Becca Reis, North St. Louis SWCD; and Chuck Bainter, North St. Louis SWCD. Melanie Bomier presented the Plan on behalf of the partnership. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until March 22, 2033.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.

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

#### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the St. Louis River Watershed, submitted January 12, 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-second day of March 2023.

#### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

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

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

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the Des Moines River Watershed Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on January 6, 2023 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in the spring of 2020 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes: The Counties of Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, and Martin by and through their respective County Board of Commissioners; the Cottonwood, Jackson, Lyon, Murray, Nobles, and Martin Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors; and the Heron Lake Watershed District, by and through their Board of Managers.
- Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Resolution #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Resolution #19-41 the Plan Content Requirements policies.
- Nature of the Watershed.** The Des Moines River Watershed Planning Area is a 1,537 square mile area consisting of the tributaries of the Greater Des Moines River Basin within the state of Minnesota; the only portion of the major tributary of the Mississippi River outside of the state of Iowa where the

confluence is in Keokuk. The planning area resides in southwest Minnesota on the Couteau du Prairies from just east of Pipestone and 30-50 miles south of Marshall and forms the far border of Buffalo Ridge as it transitions into Iowa. The planning area encompasses a majority of Murray County and Jackson County, and lesser portions of Cottonwood, Nobles, Martin, Lyon, and Pipestone Counties. The area is largely rural and most of the populous residing in the cities of Windom, Jackson, Fulda, and Slayton. The area land use is predominantly row cropped as is like the rest of southern and western Minnesota. Livestock operations, feedlots, and pasturelands are also a main component of the economy of the area. Groundwater is hard to come by in parts of the area and cooperative water supplies are used to supplement groundwater that is produced. Many of the groundwater sources are susceptible to contamination due to surface water/groundwater connectivity. Lakes are prevalent in the planning area especially in the headwaters of the Des Moines River in Murray County and the Heron Lake Watershed District areas of Murray County and Jackson County. Plan priorities for this planning region reflect the importance of those area resources.

4. **Plan Development.** The Partnership initiated the plan development process for the One Watershed, One Plan on May 2021 by notifying the designated state plan review agencies, local government units, and other identified stakeholders that it was starting the planning process and soliciting each plan review agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The Des Moines Watershed Planning Partnership held two events for stakeholder and public involvement. The effort was officially kicked off on July 21, 2021 in Windom and July 22, 2021 in Slayton during a pair of open houses where citizens, stakeholders, elected and appointed officials, and staff were given the opportunity to share information, identify priority concerns, and provide comments for the planning process. This input was used in the development and prioritization of resource concerns, as well as strategies and actions to address these concerns and achieve measurability. The numerical measurable goals of the project were based on a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for the Des Moines River Watershed planning area, groundwater test results as well as TMDLs, local water plans, and local stakeholder input. Rationale for goals were underpinned in total or in part by results from modelling through the Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) and spatial analysis as well. The PTMApp was used to identify the magnitude and distribution of potential pollution sources across the planning area, along with targeting locations for implementing practices to address issues impacting the resources of concern. Planning partners were then able to select specific practices based on pollutant reduction estimates and cost effectiveness. The reduction estimates from the targeted implementation schedule, along with the measurable goals established for the watershed, provided an estimated pace of progress that can be expected through the ten-year planning period. Implementation categories and initiatives were then detailed to identify where funds will be utilized to accomplish the strategies and actions from the targeted implementation schedule. The draft Plan was approved by the Policy Committee and then distributed to individuals, communities, Plan Review Authorities, and other stakeholders a 60-day review process that ended on September 21, 2022. Written comments were received, considered, and responded to by the Partnership and approved by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee held public hearings in Windom on October 7, 2022. No additional comments were brought forth by the public. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on January 9, 2023.
5. **Plan Review.** On January 9, 2023, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during



development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.

- A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): MDA provided initial response to the planning process. During the 60 day comment period the MDA provided comments requesting revisions to the Plan including inclusion of MDA as partners in selected items of the implementation schedule and notes on goals and methods outlined in the appendices. MDA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and responded that they did not have additional comments; recommends approval.
- B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. During the 60-day review and comment period, MDH provided comments requesting revisions to the Plan the addition of the Red Rock Rural Water Drinking Water Supply Management Areas in relative figures of the plan as well as clarification of activities related to MDH in the activity tables. MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated they had no additional comments; recommends approval.
- C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. While the 60-day review period was underway, DNR provided many comments and most comments resulted in a change to the Plan. DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review. They were satisfied with the responses to issues raised during review stating that actions in the plan shall help 1) improve groundwater quantity and quality, 2) allow more water storage goals to be more focused and feature fully funded efforts, 3) promote stream and river stability through storage efforts, 4) act on better drainage cause and effect awareness among LGU staff and landowners when considering public and private projects, and 5) underpin dam-reconstruction projects in the watershed. No additional comments will be necessary; recommend that MN BWSR approve the plan. No additional comments will be necessary. DNR recommends MN BWSRs approval the plan.
- D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. Responses to the 60-day review and comment period by MPCA included comments correcting action item duties as local as opposed to MPCA for septic review. MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review. No additional comments will be necessary. MPCA recommends MN BWSRs approval the plan.
- E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board: No comments were received.
- F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided early input to the planning process, participated in the Advisory Committee meetings, and provided assistance to the Planning Work Group during the plan development process. BWSR staff also took advantage of the opportunity to attend the public involvement activities held by the Partnership during the planning process. During the 60-day review, BWSR staff commended the Partnership for collaborating together in such an inclusive planning process and coordination of such a large number of participants. BWSR staff recommends approval of the plan.
- G. Local Review: The partnership sought input from local units of government and local associations dealing with soil and water resources and habitat. No comments were officially received from these entities during the 60 or 90 day period.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:

- The Plan includes an informative Executive Summary summarizing resource concerns and issues, the method of establishing measurable goals, summarizing pace of progress toward goals attained by the planned activities, and short term cost of the 10 year implementation schedule.
  - The Plan includes a thorough identification of the targeted areas through the use of PTMApp. PTMApp has estimated feasible locations for management practices and structural BMPs, as well as the associated annual costs and anticipated benefits arising from implementation. The result is a list of the best (most cost-effective and most effective toward load reduction goals) structural practices in each of the five planning regions.
  - A priority level include: Drinking Water (public and private), Streams and Rivers, Rural Land Stewardship (soil health), and storage goals. B level priorities include: Functioning Wetlands, Terrestrial and Shoreland Habitat Fragmentation and Loss, Land Stewardship Related to Riparian/Bank Stability, Drainage Systems, and Aquatic Invasive Species.
  - Implementation schedules for structural and management practices are tailored to each of the five planning regions of the plan
  - An estimated \$21,169,000 is needed to fund the prioritized activities of the Plan over its ten-year lifespan, a figure which does not factor Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) but is assumed in the plan in the state funding source description.
  - Included in the appendices of the plan include some background on spatial analysis methodology in Appendix E (Subwatershed Prioritization) and Appendix H (An altered hydrology analysis). Appendix F displays the different funding scenarios for the plan areas and the progress toward goals estimated using priority activities. Appendix “E” contains a series of maps and prioritization scenarios for HUC-12 watersheds to be used as a tool for prioritization of implementation efforts.
7. **South Regional Committee.** On March 13, 2023, the South Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s Committee were Ted Winter, Eunice Biel, Jeff Berg (MDA), Kelly Kirkpatrick, Scott Roemhildt (DNR), and Mark Wettlauffer (MDH). Board staff in attendance were Southern Regional Manager Ed Lenz; Board Conservationists Adam Bielke and Jeremy Maul; Clean Water Specialists Mark Hiles and Shaina Keseley; Administrative Specialist Carla Swanson-Cullen; and 1W1P Coordinator Julie Westerlund. The representatives from the Partnership and presenting were Sarah Soderholm (Murray County) and Ashley Brenke (Martin SWCD) and others present for discussion were Jean Christoffels (Murray County), Consultant Rachel Olm (Houston Engineering Inc.) and Rick Anderson (Commissioner, Lyon County). Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee’s decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until March 23, 2033.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Des Moines River Watershed Partnership pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.

3. The Des Moines River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #19-41.
5. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Des Moines River Watershed Partnership, received January 9, 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd of March, 2023.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

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

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank (LqP -YB) Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on January 6, 2023 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in 2021 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes: Lac qui Parle County, Lincoln County, Yellow Medicine County, Lac qui Parle Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Lincoln SWCD, Yellow Medicine SWCD, Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District and Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects.
2. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Resolution #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The LqP-YB Watershed planning area encompasses the Minnesota portions of one major (HUC 08) watershed, the Lac qui Parle, and four HUC 10 subwatersheds, the North and South Fork Yellow Bank subwatersheds, the Marsh Lake subwatershed, and the Lac qui Parle Reservoir subwatershed. Minnesota contains roughly 760 square miles (486,400 acres) of the total area for the Lac qui Parle River Watershed (approximately 1,100 square miles or 704,000 acres), while South Dakota’s portion is approximately 340 square miles (217,600 acres). The planning region contains steep slopes with 1,070 foot drop in elevation in the first 60 miles of drainage while the rest of the planning region is relatively flat. The plan makes note that prior to European settlement the LqP – YB watershed was populated by the Yankton and Yanktonia Dakota (Sioux, Očhéthi Šakówinj) tribes with a landscape consisting of tallgrass prairie, wetlands, floodplain forests and pothole lakes that were left behind after the ice sheets receded. Current land use is predominantly agriculture lands, with 78% of the planning area being used as cropland which influenced how the planning partners developed measurable goals and associated action items. The watershed contains 203 watercourses, 157 public water basins and 5 Drinking Water Management Supply Areas.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management for the purpose of guiding watershed managers as they work with landowners and communities to protect and restore the watershed's resources. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies, and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific goals and actions to improve surface water quality and quantity, groundwater quality and quantity including public and private water supplies, improve soil health, and mitigate negative impacts that may result from current land use in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On January 6, 2023, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
  - A. Environmental Quality Board indicated Policy indicates that EQB only be notified of the final draft document. EQB did not respond to the submission.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): During the 60-day comment period MDA requested revisions to the plan that included being added as partner for monitoring of groundwater and requested additional information for irrigation groundwater education events. MDA commended the partners for their targeted actions focused on drinking water protection for public water suppliers and private wells. MDA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated all MDA comments were considered and addressed in the final draft plan and recommends approval.
  - C. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): During the 60-day comment period MDH requested revision to the Plans goal scale and additional information for the decreased groundwater recharge and supply priority issue. MDH also requested that the priority issue statements be reviewed to ensure consistent language throughout the plan. MDH commended the partners for including drinking water as a priority concern. MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated all MDH comments were considered and addressed in the final draft plan and recommends approval.
  - D. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): During the 60-day comment period, DNR provided comments to the LqP – YB partners that will be beneficial during implementation. DNR commented that partners should work with drainage authorities to help mitigate impacts that may result from projects that could alter hydrology. DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and recommends approval.
  - E. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): During the 60-day comment period MPCA acknowledged that throughout the planning process the partners were responsive to the MPCA's concerns, comments and priorities. MPCA asked that the partners focus their education and outreach activities to the high priority planning regions. MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated all MPCA comments were considered and the final draft plan is very well written, concise, and thorough. MPCA recommends approval.
  - F. Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): During the 60-day review period, BWSR provided comments requesting numerous revisions to the Plan to ensure consistency throughout the Plan and that plan content requirements were met. All comments were adequately addressed in the final Plan.
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:
  - The Plan includes an informative Executive Summary summarizing resource concerns and issues, the method of establishing measurable goals, summarizing pace of progress toward goals attained by the planned activities, and short-term cost of the 10 year implementation schedule.

- The Plan includes a thorough identification of the targeted areas using PTMApp. PTMApp has estimated feasible locations for management practices and structural BMPs, as well as the associated annual costs and anticipated benefits arising from implementation. The result is a list of the best (most cost-effective and most effective toward load reduction goals) practices.
- The Plan identifies ten different planning regions which were defined based on land use, hydrology, and geology. The ten planning regions are Yellow Bank River, Minnesota River, Lac qui Parle River, Tenmile Creek, West Branch Lac qui Parle River, Lac qui Parle River South, Cobb Creek, Lazarus Creek, Canby Creek, and Headwaters Lac qui Parle River.
- West Branch Lac qui Parle River, Cobb Creek, and Headwaters Lac qui Parle River planning regions were designated High Priority planning regions. The High Priority planning regions will be the areas the partners will focus first with the Medium Priority planning regions being “on-deck” and the Low Priority planning regions are not going to be the focus during the ten-year lifespan of the Plan.
- The plan development process generated twenty-five issues, organized in six resource categories (Drinking Water, Agricultural Lands, Rural/Urban Areas, Streams/Drainage Systems, Aquifer, Aquatic Habitat) using existing reports, plans, studies, data, and stakeholder input. Each issue was assigned as one of four priority levels within each planning region. Eight issues were identified as a “high” priority ranking in at least one planning region and will be the focus of initial implementation efforts. Five issues were identified as a “medium-high” priority ranking in at least one planning region and will be the focus of initial implementation efforts, likely with additional funding. Six issues were identified as a “medium” priority ranking in any planning region and will not be assigned prioritization during the Plan but may receive attention if time and funding allows. The remaining six issues were identified as a “low” priority ranking watershed-wide and are not the focus of the Plan.
- The Plan details six measurable goals that collectively address the thirteen high and medium-high priority issues and their associated goal scale. A quick reference guide was developed for each of these priority issues. Each reference guide summarizes the priority issues, multiple benefits for the watershed-wide goals, the planning region and goal scale for each issue, background information about the issue and goal, and the long-term and short-term goals.
- Included in the Appendix are a series of maps showing possible locations to implement priority Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each planning region. These maps are to be used as a tool for prioritization of outreach and target implementation efforts in the planning regions.
- The Plan recognizes three funding levels for implementation. Level 1 - Current Funding, Level 2 - Current Funding + BWSR’s Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) grant program, and Level 3 - Partner and Other Funding. Actions pursued under Funding Level 2 are the focus of the Plan and have an estimated annual cost of \$945,801. When all funding levels are combined, an estimated \$17,148,012 is needed to fully fund the Plan over its ten-year lifespan.
- Separate targeted implementation tables were created for each planning region that include actions within the Projects and Practices implementation program. Only priority issues that rank high in the planning region were given planning region specific measurable goals and associated targeted action items. Watershed-wide implementation tables were created for actions related to Capital Improvement Projects, Regulatory, Education and Outreach, and Research and Monitoring.

7. **Planning Boundary Adjustment.** The Board adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map on April 23, 2014. The map established suggested planning boundaries for plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Partnership requested a boundary adjustment to portions of Lac qui Parle watershed and Upper Minnesota River Watershed, which includes the planning boundary #18 (Lac qui Parle Watershed) and planning boundary #16 (part of the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District) as indicated on the Board adopted Suggested Boundary Map. The Partnership provided documentation for local concurrence, rationale, and justification of the adjusted boundary. The adjusted boundary was approved by Board staff per the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. The adjusted boundary is included as part of the board packet.

8. **Southern Regional Committee.** On March 13, 2023, the **Southern** Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Eunice Biel, Jeffrey Berg, Heather Johnson, Kelly Rae Kirkpatrick, Scott Roemhildt, Mark Wettlaufer and Ted Winter. Board staff in attendance were Southern Regional Manager Ed Lenz, Board Conservationist Adam Beilke and Jeremy Maul, and Clean Water Specialists Mark Hiles. The representatives from the Partnership were Amy Bacigalupo, Dave Craigmile, David Johnson, Dale Sterzinger, Rhyan Schicker, Drew Kessler Mitch Enderson, Kerry Netzke, and Trudy Hastad. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
9. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until March 22, 2033.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #19-41.
5. The One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map is adjusted to include portions of Lac qui Parle watershed and Upper Minnesota River Watershed, which includes the planning boundary #18 (Lac qui Parle Watershed) and planning boundary #16 (part of the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District) as indicated on the Board adopted Suggested Boundary Map approved by the Board March 24, 2021.
6. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

### ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank, dated March 22, 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22 of March, 2023.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

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

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In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Minnesota River West (LMRW) Planning Partnership, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the Lower Minnesota River West (LMRW) Planning Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on December 28, 2022 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in the spring of 2020 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes the counties of Sibley, Nicollet, and McLeod by and through their respective County Board of Commissioners; the Sibley, Nicollet and McLeod Soil and Water Conservation Districts, by and through their respective Soil and Water Conservation District Board of Supervisors; and the High Island Watershed District, by and through its Board of Managers.
- Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P). And, Board Resolution #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Resolution #19-41 the Plan Content Requirements policies.
- Nature of the Watershed.** The Lower Minnesota River West planning area includes the portion of the Lower Minnesota River 8-digit HUC watershed (07020012) west of the Minnesota River. Initial One Watershed, One Plan conversations included the entire Lower Minnesota River 8-digit HUC watershed



as a single planning area. Ultimately, the planning area was split into an east and west portion divided by the Minnesota River and along the Sibley County-Carver County line in the northeast portion of the planning area. The Lower Minnesota River West planning area covers 498,000 acres (778 square miles) and includes portions of four counties. A small portion of Renville County is included in the planning area although Renville County and SWCD are not members of the Partnership. The planning area includes primarily agricultural land use as well as areas of pastureland, and forested areas near the Minnesota River. While development of the planning area has altered the natural landscape, it has also made possible the significant agricultural productivity that supports the local and regional economy. Urban development within the watershed is very limited, with smaller towns located throughout the planning area (see Table ES-1). The terrain of the Lower Minnesota River West watershed includes gently rolling terrain in the western and central portions of the watershed transitioning to hills, bluffs, and ravines in the far eastern portion of the watershed adjacent to the Minnesota River. The Minnesota River flows from south to north along the eastern boundary of the planning area. Major hydrologic features include High Island Creek and Rush River (including its North Branch, Middle Branch, and South Branch), which generally flow from west to east across the planning area before discharging to the Minnesota River. In the northeast, Silver Creek and Bevens Creek flow north out of the planning area into Carver County.

- 4. Plan Development.** The Partnership initiated the Plan development process for the One Watershed, One Plan on July 6, 2020, by notifying the designated state Plan review agencies, local government units, and other identified stakeholders that it was starting the planning process and soliciting each Plan review agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The Lower Minnesota River West (LMRW) Planning Partnership was unable to conduct a public kick off meeting due to the Covid-19 pandemic. Instead, they developed a detailed survey to gather input from residents in the planning area. Approximately 2,500 surveys were sent out to residents with a total of 273 being returned. This input was The Steering Team grouped specific issues identified through data aggregation and stakeholder input into eight broad issue categories and drafted brief issue statements to characterize each category. The draft issue statements were later revised by the Steering Team based on input from the Advisory Group and Policy Committee. The planning group used a combination of subwatershed scale and field scale targeting to identify priority areas in which to address the identified issues. In developing measurable goals, the Partners considered a range of available information, including existing management plans, studies, reports, data and information, Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) report and associated scenario modeling, Lower Minnesota River Total Maximum Daily Load (Part I), Lower Minnesota River Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy (GRAPS) report, and input received from stakeholder engagement. Generally, goals were first developed at a qualitative level and refined to include quantifiable elements where supported by available data and tools. In situations where existing data is not sufficient to develop a quantitative goal, the goals focus on collecting and interpreting information to support developing more quantitative future goals. Measurable outputs for each goal were selected appropriate to the level of quantification. Emphasis was given to goals that address Level 1 priority issues, although goals were developed to address all eight priority issue areas. Pollutant reduction goals associated with the "degraded surface water quality" issue are subdivided by pollutant of concern and according to major planning watershed. The reduction estimates from the targeted implementation schedule, along with the measurable goals established for the watershed, provided an estimated pace of progress that can be expected through the ten-year planning period. Implementation categories and initiatives were then detailed to identify where funds will be utilized to accomplish the strategies and actions from the targeted implementation schedule. The draft Plan was approved by the Policy Committee and then distributed

to individuals, communities, Plan Review Authorities, and other stakeholders a 60-day review process that ended on September 28, 2022. Written comments were received, considered, and responded to by the Partnership and approved by the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee held public hearings in Gaylord on November 10, 2022. No additional comments were brought forth by the public. The final draft Plan and all required materials were submitted and officially received by the Board on December 28, 2022.

5. **Plan Review.** On December 28, 2022, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.

A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): No comments were received.

B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): MDH provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. During the 60-day review period, MDH provided comment requesting the GRAPS report be added in the list of available documents. MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated they had no additional comments; recommends approval.

C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): DNR provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. While the 60-day review period was underway, DNR provided many comments and most comments resulted in a change to the Plan. DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review. They were satisfied with the responses to issues raised during review and recommended that MN BWSR approve the plan. DNR recommends MN BWSR's approval of the Plan.

D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): MPCA provided input throughout the planning process and participated in Advisory Committee meetings. MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review. MPCA stated they have no comments as part of the official 90-day Review and Comment Period and recommend it for approval. MPCA recommends MN BWSR's approval of the Plan.

E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board: No comments were received.

F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources regional staff: BWSR staff provided early input to the planning process, participated in the Advisory Committee meetings, and provided assistance to the Planning Work Group during the Plan development process. During the 60-day review, BWSR staff provided comments on the implementation schedule and measurable goals. Specifically, that there was language in many of the goals that was ambiguous as it established the goals to be "up to" a given. These comments were adopted in the final draft of the plan. BWSR staff recommends approval of the plan.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:

- The Plan includes an informative Executive Summary summarizing resource concerns and issues, the method of establishing measurable goals, summarizing pace of progress toward goals attained by the planned activities, and short-term cost of the 10-year implementation schedule.
- The Plan includes a thorough identification of the targeted areas through the use of HSPF, has estimated feasible areas and reductions for management practices and structural BMPs, as well as the associated annual costs and anticipated benefits arising from implementation. The result is a

list of the best (most cost-effective and most effective toward load reduction goals) structural practices in the priority areas of the plan.

- Level 1 priorities include Degraded Surface Water Quality, Excessive Erosion and Sedimentation, Altered Hydrology and Excessive Flooding. Level 2 Priorities include Protecting Groundwater and Drinking Water and Degraded Soil Health. Level 3 Priorities include Threatened Groundwater Supply and Treats to Fish and Wildlife Habitat.
- Due to the pandemic, this planning group could not hold a traditional kick off meeting to gather local input, so they were forced to try to send out surveys to approximately 2,500 residents in the watershed. They had an excellent response rate as 273 surveys were returned. They should be commended for out-of-the-box thinking and the outreach conducted to get this amount of local input. The most frequent concerns identified in the survey were water quality degradation, too much agricultural tiling, excessive erosion, and flooding.
- Implementation schedules for structural and management practices are developed for each of the priority issues, targeting priority planning areas in the Plan.
- An estimated \$17,422,000 is needed to fully fund the Plan over its ten-year lifespan, a figure which does not factor Watershed-Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) but is assumed in the Plan in the state funding source description.

7. **South Regional Committee.** On March 13, 2023, the Southern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Eunice Biel, Jeffrey Berg, Heather Johnson, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Mark Wettlaufer on behalf of Steve Robertson, Scott Roemhildt, and Ted Winter. Board staff in attendance were Southern Regional Manager Ed Lenz, and Board Conservationist Jeremy Maul. The representatives from the Partnership were Greg Williams, Barr Engineering; Jack Bushman and Joel Wurscher, Sibley SWCD; Coleton Draeger, McLeod SWCD; Marie Dranttel, Nicollet County Board of Commissioners. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until March 24, 2033.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Minnesota River West Watershed Partnership pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The Lower Minnesota River West Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #19-41.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B,

103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

**ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Lower Minnesota River West (LMRW) Planning Partnership, dated ver 2. February 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22nd of March, 2023.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair

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

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In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for Mississippi River – Winona/La Crescent, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Policy Committee of the Mississippi River – Winona/La Crescent (WinLaC) Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on March 3, 2023 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in 2021 through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes: Houston County, Root River Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Olmsted County, Olmsted SWCD, Wabasha County, Wabasha SWCD, Winona County, Winona SWCD, Stockton-Rollingstone-Minnesota City Watershed District and the city of Winona.
- 2. Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Resolution #18-14 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and Plan Content Requirements policies.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The WinLaC watershed planning area includes the Minnesota portions of two major (HUC-08) watersheds, the Mississippi River – Winona and the Mississippi River – La Crescent. The majority of these HUC-08s are in Wisconsin, with Minnesota containing the roughly 750 square miles that make up the WinLaC watershed planning area. Four counties are located within the planning area: Houston, Olmsted, Wabasha, and Winona. Located in the southeastern corner of the

state and bordered on the east by the Mississippi River, the WinLaC watershed planning area is a unique landscape characterized by wooded hills, rich agriculture, karst topography, sheer river bluffs, and craggy limestone. The WinLaC watershed is in the driftless ecoregion and the Lower Mississippi River Basin. The watershed is home to an abundance of rare natural resources, including many of the state's best coldwater streams for trout fishing. Current land use is predominantly agriculture lands, with 33% of the planning area being used for row crop production and another 15% in pasture. Remaining land uses include forests (32%), wetlands/open water (9%), urban areas (7%), and shrublands (3%). The WinLaC watershed is transected by multiple rivers, each generally flowing west to east until they empty into the Mississippi River. The Whitewater River is the largest river, draining a sizable portion of the northern part of the watershed.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management for the purpose of guiding watershed managers as they work with landowners and communities to protect and restore the watershed's resources. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies, and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific goals and actions to improve surface water quality and quantity, groundwater quality and quantity including public and private water supplies, improve soil health, and mitigate negative impacts that may result from current land use in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On March 3, 2023, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board #18-14. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings during development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the comment period.
  - A. Environmental Quality Board indicated Policy indicates that EQB only be notified of the final draft document. EQB did not respond to the submission.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): During the 60-day comment period, MDA stated that the plan sufficiently addressed the priority concerns for groundwater that were indicated in their initial comment letter for the plan. MDA commended the partners for their targeted actions focused on drinking water protection for public water suppliers and private wells. MDA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated all MDA comments were effectively addressed in the final draft plan and priority concerns for groundwater were addressed.
  - C. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): During the 60-day comment period, MDH requested additional language regarding drinking water standards and human health impacts from nitrate and groundwater contamination. MDH also commented on the limitations in the application of PTMAApp to layered aquifer systems as well as framing expectations for reaching desired future conditions due to the residence times of shallow and deep aquifers in the watershed along with historic land use. MDH commended the partners for including drinking water as a priority concern. MDH confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated they were pleased to see the changes made based on their recommendations. They provided no further comments or suggestions and recommended approval.
  - D. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): During the 60-day comment period, DNR provided comments to the WinLaC partners on opportunities to work with DNR staff on sediment sourcing studies and stream channel projects within the implementation

table. Additional comments included the adoption of minimal impact design standards for water storage, the establishment of a nitrate leaching loss goal, and the promotion of the MDA Runoff Risk Advisory Forecast tool. DNR commended the planning committees and consultants for their vision and dedication to developing the plan. DNR confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and recommends approval.

- E. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): During the 60-day comment period, MPCA requested language be added to acknowledge the use of PTMApp as a surrogate in the development of a vertical leaching N reduction goal. MPCA also recommended the plan acknowledge the historic fish kills in the watershed and how the plan will work to reduce future risk if goals are achieved. Additional comments included revision to the Stream priority map, defining the water storage goal for capital improvement projects, and verifying the groundwater and surface water reduction goal values. MPCA commended the partners for addressing their priority concerns submitted at the beginning of the planning process. MPCA confirmed receipt of the Plan at the final formal review and stated that nearly all MPCA comments were adequately addressed. MPCA asked for further verification on one comment and provided new suggestions on another comment.
- F. Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): During the 60-day review period, BWSR provided comments requesting several revisions to the Plan to ensure consistency throughout the Plan and that plan content requirements were met. All comments were adequately addressed in the final Plan.

**6. Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:

- The Plan includes an informative Executive Summary summarizing resource categories and issues, the establishment of measurable goals, and the development of the 10-year targeted implementation schedule.
- The Plan includes a thorough identification of the targeted areas using available data and tools such as PTMApp. PTMApp was utilized to estimate feasible locations for management practices and structural BMPs, as well as the associated annual costs and anticipated benefits arising from implementation.
- The Plan identifies four different planning regions which are based on subwatershed (HUC-10) boundaries to better deal with the varying land use and topography present across the watershed. The ten planning regions are Whitewater, Garvin Brook, Mississippi River-La Crescent (HUC-8), and Small Tributaries.
- Public involvement in the development of this plan started with a Public Open House Kickoff in the city of Winona in September of 2021. A survey was also created to engage with residents who were not able to attend the kickoff. The partnership also hosted five facilitated “Waterside Chats” in Stockton, La Crescent, Winona, Saint Charles, and Wabasha during March and April of 2022. Finally, public engagement was also provided during a We Are Water exhibit held in the city of Winona from March through April of 2022.
- The plan development process generated 34 issues, organized in 4 resource categories (Groundwater, Surface Water, Land Use, and Habitat and Recreation) using existing reports, plans, studies, data, and stakeholder input. Each issue was assigned as one of three priority categories. Ten issues were identified as a “Priority A” issue and will be the focus of initial implementation efforts. Thirteen issues were identified as a “Priority B” issue and will be partially addressed through the lifespan of the plan. Eleven issues were identified as a “Priority C” issue and will be addressed by partner groups or as a secondary benefit from the higher priority issues.
- The Plan details 16 measurable goals that collectively address the 23 Priority A and Priority B issues. A factsheet was developed for each of these priority issues. Each fact sheet summarizes the priority issues addressed with the goal, background on the priority issue(s) the goal seeks to address, the

short-term goal and desired future conditions (long-term goal), secondary outcomes from meeting the goal, what work will be done, and heat maps showing priority resources and subwatersheds where work will be focused.

- Included in the Appendix are a series of maps showing possible locations to implement priority Best Management Practices (BMPs) for each planning region. These maps are to be used as a tool for prioritization of outreach and target implementation efforts in the planning regions.
- The Plan recognizes three funding levels for implementation. Level 1 - Current Funding, Level 2 - Current Funding + BWSR's Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) grant program, and Level 3 - Partner and Other Funding. Actions pursued under Funding Level 2 are the focus of the Plan and have an estimated annual cost of \$1,345,200 or \$13,452,000 over its ten-year lifespan.
- Separate targeted implementation tables were created for each planning region that include actions within the Projects and Support implementation program. Watershed-wide implementation tables were created for actions related to the Capital Improvement Projects, Regulation and Local Controls, Education and Public Input, and Monitoring and Studies implementation programs.

7. **Southern Regional Committee.** On March 13, 2023, the Southern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Eunice Biel, Jeff Berg, Heather Johnson, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Scott Roemhildt, Ted Winter, and Mark Wettlaufer. Board staff in attendance were Southern Regional Manager Ed Lenz and Board Conservationist Adam Beilke. The representatives from the Partnership were Sheila Harmes, Terri Peters, Rachel Olm, Sadie Neuman, Caitlin Meyer, Skip Langer, and Lynn Zabel. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
8. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until March 22, 2033.

## CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Mississippi River – Winona/La Crescent pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #18-14.
3. The WinLaC Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #19-41.
5. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

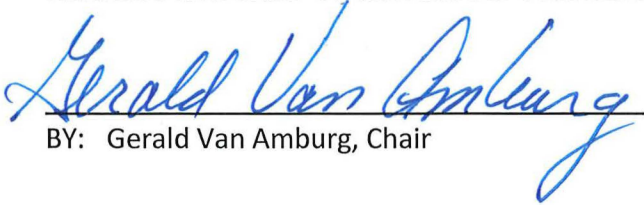


**ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the WinLaC, dated March 22, 2023.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 22<sup>nd</sup> of March 2023.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

  
BY: Gerald Van Amburg, Chair