



March 2, 2015

NEW! Introducing: "The RIM Rundown"

BWSR's Conservation Easements Section will begin to distribute "The RIM Rundown" in order to provide important updates and information as needed. If you would like to be added to the distribution list please contact Heather Staff, heather.staff@state.mn.us

Tips for Submitting Title Work Documents

BWSR has had the following issues with e-mails received regarding title work:

- 1) Easement number has not been identified.
- 2) The title commitment is the only attachment (which is fine if there are no exceptions listed).
- 3) If a title commitment has exceptions listed, copies of exceptions come in a separate e-mail at a later date and we cannot identify what easement they apply to.

When emailing title work to BWSR:

- Along with the Title Commitment, also attach copies of all exceptions listed on Schedule B
- Be sure to identify the easement number in the 'Subject Line'

Note: BWSR cannot review a title commitment without having all copies of exceptions, mortgage consents, etc. Please hang on to the title commitment until you have gathered all information and can send it to us as a package.

If you have questions regarding this information you may contact Kristie Mack, kristie.mack@state.mn.us

RIM Wetlands Signup Update

BWSR had received 177 RIM Wetlands applications, requesting a total of over \$73 million. We expect that we will be able to fund approximately 45 of these applications using the \$24 million available for this signup. We plan to notify SWCDs of funding status by March 6th.

RIM Email Address

BWSR's Conservation Easements Section has a new email address for receiving general inquiries and electronic documents (title work, applications, etc.). Please send these to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us

RIM Funding Once Again Available for Vegetative Enhancement

We are pleased to announce that limited funding will once again be available for older RIM easements that do not meet current standards for habitat or overall vegetative quality. Enhancement projects that create diversity, establish pollinator plots, and utilize local ecotype seed are priorities for this funding. If you are aware of RIM easements needing attention through your spot check visits or if landowners have approached you with a desire to make improvements to their easement vegetation, please consult with BWSR RIM staff Tabor Hoek, 507-537-7260, or John Voz, 218-846-8426, on applicability of these funds for the site in question. They will assist you in development of a plan and submission of the necessary funding request.

As a reminder, BWSR has a policy on [Vegetative Management and Enhancement of Conservation Easement Lands](#). This outlines activities that may occur to manage or enhance a current easement. RIM enhancement funding always requires seeding to be a component of the overall plan. Cost share is not available for prescribed burning or tree removal as a standalone activity.

Title Insurance

It has come to our attention that some title agents that are carrying out easement title work are only completing a 40-year title search to draft title insurance commitments. This is not acceptable for State of MN RIM Easements. BWSR requires that all title agents, regardless of county, complete a title search that searches all the way back to land patent.

The "Title Insurance Request" form found on BWSR's website, under Handbook and Forms-General Forms-Title Insurance Request, indicates that agents should complete their title searches by going back to land patent. You can find the form here: <http://bwsr.state.mn.us/easements/handbook/index.html>.

We ask districts to bookmark this location and download/print forms as needed rather than saving to your own files to ensure that you are using the most up-to-date information and directions.

If you are questioning whether or not your title agent is following the directions on the Title Insurance Request form, searching back to patent, please contact them to discuss so that they are complying with BWSR's requirements.

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