

Biennial Budget Request: A summary of information received

October 2012

In May-June 2012, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) conducted a Biennial Budget Review (BBR) process to coordinate all grants that BWSR manages that protect, restore and enhance Minnesota's water and related land resources.

The goal of the BBR initiative is to result in increased efficiency in BWSR grant programs, provide information to support state budget processes, and encourage improved local government water quality project planning.

The information below summarizes the eligible* BBR response from local governments for fiscal years 2014-15 (July 1, 2013-June 30, 2015).

	Natural Resources	Soil and Water	Competitive Conservation
	Block Grant	Conservation Districts	Projects
State contribution request	\$13.6M	\$9.0M	\$243M
Match/leverage proposed	\$19.6M	\$21.1M	\$110M
FY14-15: Total proposed	\$33.2M	\$30.1M	\$353M

^{*}BWSR Board Conservationists and other staff screened the BBRs to ensure the information provided was complete, submitted by eligible local governments and included eligible and effective projects and activities. If any information was determined to be ineligible, it was not included in the summary below.

Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG)*

The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) is a composite of base grants available to counties to assist in implementation of programs designed to protect and improve water resources. These programs include: Comprehensive Local Water Planning, Wetland Conservation Act or WCA, Feedlot, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems or SSTS and Shoreland.

FY14-15 NRBG request:

FY14-15: Total proposed NRBG	\$33.2M
Total match proposed:	\$19.6M
Total NRBG state contribution requested:	\$13.6M

Counties were also instructed to enter information about additional activities that could be accomplished with additional state funding, as well as an amount of additional state funding needed. The total additional funding requested for all NRBG programs was approximately \$18.7M, although several counties indicated additional activities without specifying an amount of state funds needed.

*Additional summary materials of specific NRBG programs can be found at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/bbr/

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Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)*

The Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) BBR was intended to obtain information on the activities associated with three SWCD programs: Conservation Delivery, Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA), and State Cost Share; and to serve as the Annual Plan required by Minnesota Statute §103C.501 for State Cost Share portion of these grants.

FY14-15 SWCD request:

Total SWCD state contribution requested: \$9.0M

Total match proposed: \$21.1M

FY14-15: Total proposed SWCD \$30.1M

SWCDs were also instructed to enter information about additional activities that could be accomplished within these programs if additional state funding were available in FY 2014-2015 as well as an amount of state funding needed. The total additional funding requested for all SWCD programs was approximately \$14.1M, which does not include requests for Clean Water, Land and Legacy Funds from SWCDs.

Competitive Conservation Projects*

The competitive BBR was developed to obtain information on water management projects and activities already found in existing state approved, locally adopted water management plans or an approved total maximum daily load study, surface water intake plan or wellhead protection plan. Local government partners were asked to only identify the projects and activities that could realistically be implemented within a three-year grant agreement period from 2014-2017.

FY14-15 competitive request:

Total competitive contribution requested: \$243M

Total leveraged funds proposed: \$110M

FY14-15: Total proposed competitive \$353M

Of these requests, approximately 60 percent were for erosion control and stormwater management activities. Other identified activities included livestock management, groundwater protection, septic system abatement and shoreland management. The cost estimates included essential components of project development and installation such as community engagement, technical/engineering design and installation oversight.

How will this information be used?

- This information was used as BWSR prepared its FY14-15 budget request to the Governor's Office and to the Clean Water Council.
- When the 2013 Legislative session begins in January, this information will also be used to respond to legislative requests.
- This information will be used in the development and implementation of the FY2014-15 grant processes.

^{*}Additional summary materials of specific SWCD programs can be found at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/bbr/

^{*}Additional summary materials of specific CWF programs can be found at: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/bbr/