



2016-2017 Natural Resources Block Grant

Local Government Biennial Budget Request Data Summary

March 2015

To create efficiency, BWSR coordinates and packages financial support for several state resource management programs through the Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG), including:

- Comprehensive Local Water Management (Water Plan)
- Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)
- Shoreland Management
- County Feedlot Permit
- Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)

Counties were instructed to enter the amount of local and federal funds required to implement these five programs as leveraged funds. Counties also had the option to identify additional activities and funding necessary to fully implement these programs that exceeded BWSR's available state funding.

NRBG Program	FY2014-15 Appropriation	FY2016-17 Total Leveraged Funds	FY2016-17 Additional State Funds Needed	Estimated Total Program Need FY2016-17
County Feedlot Permit*	\$ 3,343,000	\$ 2,651,000	\$ 703,000	\$ 6,697,000
Shoreland Management	\$ 732,000	\$ 1,921,000	\$ 1,299,000	\$ 3,952,000
SSTS	\$ 258,000	\$ 1,882,000	\$ 5,291,000	\$ 7,431,000
Water Plan	\$ 2,327,000	\$ 4,170,000	\$ 4,396,000	\$ 10,893,000
WCA	\$ 3,725,000	\$ 4,095,000	\$ 1,532,000	\$ 9,352,000
Totals	\$10,385,000	\$14,719,000	\$13,221,000	\$ 38,325,000

*Delegated Feedlot Counties

**Figures rounded to nearest thousand

Discrepancies in the Table above amount to 0.5% of estimated FY2016-17 NRBG appropriations and include rounding.

100% of counties completed the BBR. 67% supplied optional estimates for additional state funds needed for one or more of the NRBG-related programs. The additional estimates broke out in the following way:

- County Feedlot Permits: 53 counties
- Comprehensive Local Water Management: 40 counties
- Wetland Conservation Act: 30 counties
- Shoreland Management: 29 counties
- Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems: 25 counties

Summary by Program

Feedlot

Feedlot grant amounts to specific counties are calculated by an MPCA formula and annually receive approximately \$3.4 million in state appropriations. Feedlot funds require \$0.70 of local match for each dollar of state grant. Additional funds were requested by 53 of the counties totaling \$703,000 or 21% above the anticipated baseline appropriation.

Of the requests for additional funding, the majority were to increase staffing to fully meet program needs, and to provide additional technical assistance, manure management plans and landowner contact.

Examples of activities that would be enhanced by additional funding include:

- Big Stone County: Increase ability to administer and enforce MN Rules 7020 and the local Feedlot Ordinance through a .25 FTE staff increase.
- Dodge County: Assist landowners with feedlot registration, permits, and technical issues to achieve compliance with feedlot rules and requirements.

FY2016-17 NRBG Feedlot Program Funding	
FY2014-15 State Appropriation	\$3,343,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$2,651,000
Additional State Funds Needed	\$ 703,000
Estimated Total Program Need	\$6,697,000

Shoreland

Funds provided to counties for the administration of Minnesota Rule 6120 which includes local shoreland ordinances annually receive approximately \$0.75M with \$1 of local match for each dollar of state grant. Shoreland grant funds are appropriated to BWSR but individual county grant amounts are calculated by the DNR. 85 of 87 counties in Minnesota receive these funds (Ramsey and Hennepin are excluded).

Of the requests for additional funding, the majority were to increase staff resources to adequately ensure compliance with buffer requirements, develop or update shoreland ordinances, and timely service and assistance to citizens.

Examples of activities that would be enhanced by additional funding include:

- Crow Wing County: Conduct regulatory and educational activities required by Minnesota Rules 6120 and the Crow Wing County (CWC) Land Use Ordinance for Shoreland Management including onsite based permitting systems, establishment of a Development Review Team, and landowner outreach.
- Douglas County: Conduct site reviews, issue permits, and work with other government agencies and landowners to ensure compliance with ordinances, state statutes and rules.
- Cass County: Administer and enforce shoreland rules and standards, and work with other government agencies and landowners to ensure compliance with ordinances, state statutes and rules.

FY2016-17 NRBG Shoreland Program Funding	
FY2014-15 State Appropriation	\$ 732,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$1,921,000
Additional State Funds Needed	\$1,299,000
Estimated Total Program Need	\$3,952,000

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)

Counties receive approximately \$3.2 million to administer Minnesota Rule 7080 and county septic system ordinances developed to implement this Rule. Each eligible county receives the same amount of funding, which includes Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment funds to supplement local SSTS administration. No match is required, but counties expend considerable local resources including general funds and permit fees to administer this program.

FY2016-17 NRBG SSTS Program Funding	
FY2014-15 State Appropriation	\$258,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$1,882,000
Additional State Funds Needed	\$5,291,000
Estimated Total Program Need	\$7,431,000

Of the requests for additional funding, the majority of requests were to increase staffing to fully meet program needs, provide a broader range of information, inspection, and customer assistance activities. Requests were also included in the Clean Water Fund BBR to provide financial assistance to citizens (especially low or fixed-income) residents to achieve compliance with the SSTS requirements.

Examples of activities that would be enhanced by additional funding include:

- Pine County: Inspect an additional 250 septic systems annually. The funds are used for staff salaries, mileage, repair and maintenance, training, and licensure expenses to respond to citizen complaints regarding SSTS, permit issuances, compliance inspections of new and existing systems, maintain countywide system records, and education of the public.
- Washington County: Provide general SSTS administration/coordination, compliance/enforcement, education/outreach, and inventory mapping.
- Dakota County: Process SSTS permits; administer and enforce county SSTS ordinances; maintain countywide "as-built" inventory; administer 3-year pump maintenance inventory and notification; develop and implement "Cesspool Abatement Program" special projects in targeted areas; and respond to citizen inquiries/complaints.

Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (Water Planning)

Since 2003, Comprehensive Local Water Management Planning (CLWMP) funding has remained relatively static. Estimated match for the FY2016-17 CLWMP program was approximately \$4.1 million or 25% above the required match, a number which is determined by a formula based on county tax capacity. Those counties that provided estimates for additional funds needed to fully implement activities described in water plans totaled approximately \$4.4 million. The total leveraged and NRBG funds needed to implement planned activities was \$10.9 million or approximately 40% more than the combined baseline appropriation plus match.

FY2016-17 NRBG Water Planning Program Funding	
FY2014-15 State Appropriation	\$ 2,327,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$ 4,170,000
Additional State Funds Needed	\$ 4,396,000
Estimated Total Program Need	\$10,893,000

Local water planning funds are used for a variety of purposes including staff to manage the local water plan and seek grants for implementation, implementation of best management practices (BMP), monitoring, and information/education activities. Of the requests for additional funding, the majority were to increase resources to fully meet program needs, including funds for technical assistance, groundwater protection, and assessment, education and outreach, monitoring, and BMP installation.

Examples of activities that would be enhanced by additional funding include:

- Isanti County: Work with cities and townships to promote and create new ordinances regulating stormwater management and implementation projects; provide outreach to schools; work with lake and river associations; and attend workshops and trainings for water planning.
- Ramsey Conservation District: Planning, education, and outreach with local water planners.
- Mille Lacs County: Coordinate the SWCD's approach to resource management, implementing a process to address natural resource issues that overlap the scope of planning & zoning entities, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) technical evaluation panel (TEP), soil & water conservation district (SWCD), and others.
- Anoka Conservation District: Monitor water quality and hydrology in surface and groundwater; monitor stream biota as a joint education and monitoring program with high school students; complete subwatershed retrofit analyses to target projects; and provide public outreach and education.
- Crow Wing County: Conduct water planning functions as mandated by state statute and the County Comprehensive Water management Plan.

Wetland Conservation Act (WCA)

Baseline funding for WCA in the FY2016-17 biennium requires \$1 of local match for each dollar of state grant. Grant amounts to specific counties are calculated by formula determined by BWSR. 35 of the 87 counties that receive WCA funding provided optional information with estimated additional amounts needed ranging from \$3,000 to \$380,000.

Of the requests for additional funding, most were to increase staffing to fully meet the administrative needs of the WCA program including notifications, follow-up and resolution of violations when they occur. Other activities included technical assistance, public outreach, and training.

FY2016-17 NRBG WCA Program Funding	
FY2014-15 State Appropriation	\$3,725,000
Total Leveraged Funds	\$4,095,000
Additional State Funds Needed	\$1,532,000
Estimated Total Program Need	\$9,354,000

Examples of activities that would be enhanced by additional funding include:

- Dakota County: Provide technical assistance to city LGUs and implement WCA within the county.
- Mahnommen County: Administer WCA rules to avoid/minimize impacts to wetlands, process applications and replacement plans, review project sites, make local government determinations, hold technical evaluation panel meeting, issue restoration orders, attend training, and update the SWCD Board on WCA activities.
- Morrison SWCD: Provide technical assistance to the county and administer WCA regulations.
- Becker County: Help citizens interpret and meet the requirements of the state rules for projects, report on project activity and fund accountability, apply soil/vegetation/hydrology criteria for wetland determinations, and review wetland delineations.
- Red Lake County: Provide educational materials to landowners regarding WCA rules and regulations, attend WCA training opportunities, and provide wetland site investigations, including but not limited to, wetland mitigation and wetland restoration requests.