



February 10, 2017

Announcements

CREP Agreement Signed

Last month, Governor Mark Dayton signed a \$500 million Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Agreement with the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). Refer to the [Minnesota CREP webpage](#) for more information, as it is released.

Two webinars are planned to provide information to local staff. A February 14th webinar will give a broad overview of CREP, and an additional webinar with a tentative date of March 22nd will detail signup specifics.

We've Moved: How to Reach BWSR Easement Staff

Easement Staff have moved a few blocks away from the Central Office in St. Paul. Note that only Easement Staff have moved.

Our telephone numbers have changed and can be found under [the Staff Directory on the BWSR Website](#). We ask that you start sending mail intended for Easement Staff to the following address:

BWSR Easement Staff
444 Pine Street, Suite 130
St. Paul, MN 55155

When mailing documents to BWSR, please put the easement number on the documents or on a post it note for reference. To save a postage stamp, any general inquiries and electronic documents can be sent to: bwsr.rim@state.mn.us. Placing the easement number in the Subject Line of the email enables us to process these emails more quickly.

RIM Reimbursement Process Change

BWSR will be executing a Master Joint Powers Agreement (MJPA) with each SWCD to enable SWCD payments for easement acquisition (\$2000/easement) and easement delivery (\$50/easement). We held two webinars in January, and a link to a recording of the January 23rd webinar is available on the [Master Joint Powers Agreement \(MJPA\) webpage](#). A Question & Answer document will be posted to this webpage in the coming weeks.

BWSR Easement Maps & GIS Data

The link to our State Funded Conservation Easements (RIM Reserve) boundary layer is <https://gisdata.mn.gov/dataset/bdry-bwsr-rim-cons-easements>. The link contains a printable pdf map of

easement boundaries, GIS shapefile, and full metadata record. It was updated in early September and will continue to be updated on a quarterly basis.

Q&A from BWSR Academy

After presenting at BWSR Academy this past fall, RIM Title Staff thought it would be helpful to develop a list of commonly asked questions with answers to help aide any outstate staff that process RIM Easements. [Click this link](#) for the list of Questions & Answers. If there are items you think would be helpful to add, email suggestions to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us so that we can add these to the list for a future RIM Rundown. Also remember that the RIM Handbook has been revised and is an extremely helpful guide to aide you in the processing of easements.

RIM Easement Ownership Changes

When an SWCD learns that easement land has changed ownership it is important to keep District and State records up to date and to inform the new landowner about the terms and conditions of the easement. Whenever possible, the SWCD should meet with each new landowner in person to review the easement and conservation plan practices in place on their property. For all ownership changes, the SWCD should provide the following to BWSR:

- The easement ownership change form, filled out completely with the new landowner's contact information;
- A copy of the recorded deed(s) conveying the land from the original grantor to the current owner. If ownership has changed multiple times, BWSR needs a copy of ALL recorded deeds to track the complete chain of ownership;
- A letter from the original grantor authorizing BWSR to make any remaining practice payments to the new landowner (if applicable).

The SWCD should also provide a copy of the recorded easement and the conservation plan and map to the new landowner for their records.

At this time, it is also important for the SWCD to verify that the easement boundary is properly posted to ensure the new landowner is aware of the location of the easement boundary.

If emailing ownership changes to BWSR, please use the general RIM e-mail address (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us) instead of emailing staff directly.

Addressing Palmar Amaranth

Chances are you've heard that there were several conservation plantings seeded this year with seed contaminated with Palmar Amaranth. [Click this link](#) for a press release from the MN Department of Agriculture. Several MN State Agencies and other organizations are interested in doing more to reduce any future instances of this invasive plant showing up in Minnesota, including an increase in seed testing, Plant ID training, and outreach to seed vendors and contractors. *To assist with our Palmar Amaranth communication efforts, please send your lists of local native seed suppliers and installers to dan.shaw@state.mn.us. Please feel free to contact Dan with any questions.*