

# Climate Resiliency: BWSR Update Provisions

## 2023 Proposed Funding

BWSR is requesting funding this session for a variety of policy and fiscal adjustments that will support the agency's mission to improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

## Proposed Policy Changes

- **Easement Stewardship Accounts:** Proposed policy changes would allow BWSR to utilize existing stewardship accounts to undertake critical maintenance on water management structures on BWSR managed easements.
- **Grant making to Tribes and NGOs:** This policy provision would extend more opportunities for collaboration to partners outside of BWSR's traditional clientele of local governments.
- **Wetland banking policy updates:** Proposed policy changes would refine and improve the state's valuable wetland banking program, which generates mitigation credits to offset negative impacts to wetlands.

## Proposed Fiscal Changes

- **Funding for FTE Tribal Liaison (\$265,000 from the general fund):** This action aligns with recent laws enacted that codify government-to-government relations and consultation between Minnesota state agencies and Tribal Nations.
- **Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) funding increase (\$2.5 million from the general fund):** These grants are available to Minnesota Counties to implement programs designed to protect and improve water resources via conservation practices such as shoreland restoration and wetland mitigation and enhancement. To be eligible for the NRBG, a county must have a locally adopted and Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) approved comprehensive local water management plan.

## Contact

John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director  
John.jaschke@state.mn.us  
(612) 202-3815

Andrea Fish, BWSR Assistant Director  
andrea.fish@state.mn.us  
(612) 616-5112



**Top:** BWSR staff visited with Prairie Island and Fond du Lac tribal nations representatives this September in collaboration with the MPCA. **Photo credit:** BWSR

**Bottom:** Wetland restorations such as this one in Freeborn County offer environmental benefits such as improved pollinator and wildlife habitat, increased infiltration, water storage and enhanced water quality. **Photo credit:** BWSR

