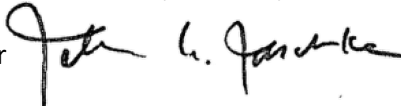




DATE: May 14, 2024

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources' Members, Advisors, and Staff

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – May 22, 2024

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, May 22, 2024, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower-level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by Microsoft Teams. Individuals interested in attending the meeting through Teams should do so by either 1) logging into Teams by [clicking here to join the meeting](#) or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 651-395-7448 and entering the conference ID: 575 117 842#. The following information pertains to agenda items:

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **Approval of the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations** – The Water Quality and Storage Grant Program received applications February 2024 – April 11, 2024. Staff have had the opportunity to rank and score the applications, and are recommending that 10 projects be funded, for a total of \$2,989,644. Per Board Order #24-03, we are returning to the Board to seek approval for funding these projects and to enter into grant agreements with the entities listed in the current Board Order.

DECISION ITEM

2. **Lower MN River Dredge Grant** – The Board was appropriated \$240,000 the first year and \$240,000 the second year for a grant to the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to defray the annual cost of operating and maintaining sites for dredge spoil to sustain the state, national, and international commercial and recreational navigation on the lower Minnesota River. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on May 13, 2024 and recommends the attached order to the board. **DECISION ITEM**

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Technical Training and Certification Program Update** – The Technical Training and Certification Program was created in 2017 in partnership with NRCS, MASWCD and MACDE and is designed to efficiently provide training to develop and maintain a highly trained, technically skilled workforce of natural resource professionals capable of meeting the conservation delivery needs of Minnesota. The partnership established a renewed commitment and partnership for technical training in Minnesota and is committed to providing resources and leadership to achieve program goals, including: a streamlined and coordinated approach to assessing needs and delivering training and increasing opportunities for obtaining job approval authority for conservation practices. Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans will provide an update to the Board on the achievements of the program to date as well as upcoming activities. **INFORMATION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-539-2587. We look forward to seeing you on May 22nd.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, MAY 22, 2024**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF APRIL 24, 2024 BOARD MEETING

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM (10-minute agenda time, two-minute limit/person)

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

- Jacob Rossow, Compliance Coordinator

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today's business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by members or staff before any vote.

REPORTS

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Todd Holman
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Joe Collins
- Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Travis Germundson/Rich Sve
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Mark Zabel
- RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins
- Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton
- Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – LeRoy Ose
- Drainage Work Group – Neil Peterson/Tom Gile

AGENCY REPORTS

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen
- Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen
- Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Katrina Kessler

ADVISORY COMMENTS

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Mike Schultz
- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel
- Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Troy Daniell

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Approval of the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations – Rita Weaver – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Lower Minnesota River Dredge Grant – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

NEW BUSINESS

1. Technical Training and Certification Program Update– Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans – ***INFORMATION ITEM***

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Westland Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 9:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for June 17th at 8:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for June 26th at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
LOWER-LEVEL BOARD ROOM
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2024**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jayne Hager Dee, Mike Runk, Rich Sve, Lori Cox, Ted Winter, LeRoy Ose, Kelly Kirkpatrick, Eunice Biel, Todd Holman, Ron Staples, Mark Zabel, Glenn Skuta, MPCA; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Thom Petersen, MDA; Steve Robertson, MDH; Jason Garms, DNR

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Kurt Beckstrom, Neil Peterson

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Ryan Hughes, Chad Severts, Dan Shaw, Jason Beckler, Karlie Swenson, Sara Reagan, Julie Westerlund, Annie Felix-Gerth, Chad Severts, Dave Weirens, Suzanne Rhees, Melanie Bomier

OTHERS PRESENT:

Jeff Berg, MDA; Brian Martinson, AMC; Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds; Sheila Vanney, MASWCD; Rob Sip, RRWMB Anita Provinzino, Becca Reiss, Jamie Beyer, Tara Solem, Phil Norvitch, Ilena Hansel

Chair Todd Holman called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Holman stated we will be moving the Northern Region Committee item up in the agenda after the Dispute Resolution Committee to accommodate schedules.

24-18 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** - Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Jill Crafton, to adopt the agenda as amended.
Motion passed on a roll call vote.

24-19 **MINUTES OF MARCH 27, 2024 BOARD MEETING** – Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Mike Runk, to approve the minutes of March 27, 2024, as circulated. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Tom Gile introduced Chad Hildebrand, Buffer Specialist and Jared House, Soils Programming Coordinator.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DECLARATION

Chair Holman read the statement:

“A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests, and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today’s business. Any member who declares an actual conflict of interest must not vote on that agenda item. All actual, potential, and perceived conflicts of interest will be announced to the board by members or staff before any vote.”

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Todd Holman reported they met this morning and had no action items. John Jaschke stated he provided a legislative update. They discussed committee processes with members receiving meeting materials four days in advance. They also talked about board decisions and how they come from the committee to the board and how external parties could be provided notice.

Chair Holman reviewed and summarized John Jaschke’s annual performance review conducted with the Vice-Chair with input from Board Members and section managers. Stated he attended the North and Central Region and Grants Program and Policy committee meetings. Attend the EQB meeting where they approved the Tribal Coordination and Consultation Policy and are continuing to work on their Strategic Plan.

Executive Director’s Report - John Jaschke reported a copy of his annual performance review will be sent to Board Members via U.S. Postal Service. Stated there have been several meetings with the Tribal Governments.

Lori Cox asked if there would be a Tribal membership added to this board. John stated a statute would need to be changed to accomplish it. Jill Crafton thought this could be valuable.

John provided a legislative update.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported the committee has not met.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Rich Sve reported they have not met. Travis Germundson reported there are presently three appeals pending and there have been no new appeals filed since the last report.

File 24-2 is an appeal of a WCA Notice of Decision for a property located in Meeker County. The appeal has been denied.

File 23-15 is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision in Morrison County. They are waiting on the summary judgement, there's a hearing scheduled for June 5th.

File 23-6 is an appeal of two separate after-the-fact replacement plan applications in Brown County. They were able to reach a settlement agreement and the case is dismissed.

File 23-4 is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision involving a banking plan in Aitkin County. A DRC convened on March 7, 2024, and the committee recommendation will be presented to the board this morning.

File 24-1 is a restoration order in Wright County that was denied and has been appealed.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Mark Zabel reported they met and have three items on the agenda for today.

John reviewed the Day of Packet that included Snapshot articles.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported they met and have two items on the agenda for today.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins reported they have not met. They will be scheduling a meeting May 13th at 3:30 p.m.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported they have not met. They will be meeting on the 29th.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – LeRoy Ose reported they met last night. Tom Gile reported they went through a detailed update on a couple of grant programs. One was the Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Program and the other was the Soil Health Programs. Tom provided an update on both programs.

Chair Holman stated he could see where cover crops made a difference in parts of Central Minnesota .

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Tom Gile reported the House and Senate both approved a sunset extension as an alternative for repair projects, which was part of the package the Board authorized from the workgroup last year. The Drainage Work Group will be meeting in June.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Thom Petersen reported they are working through the legislative session. They are focused on the EPA petition in southeast Minnesota. Stated they'll be spending some time on the avian influenza; the virus has been found in milk.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if there would be restrictions on raw milk sales. Stated they will be looking into it but haven't put any restrictions on raw milk yet.

Ted Winter asked how they can tell if a cow is sick. Thom stated they need to be tested.

Minnesota Department of Health – Steve Robertson reported EPA released new primary drinking water standards for several PFAS compounds. Stated they would like to get more resources for testing technical systems; it's still being acted on by legislature. The Minnesota Ground Water Association Conference is tomorrow and is virtual.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Jason Garms reported the Get Out More Initiative webpage is continually being updated with information. Jason provided a legislative update. An important item for them this year was the electronic licensing system. Stated they completed a Native Rough Fish Report. Their Native Query Bank Easement Program will have some changes on how they structure the payment rate. Stated they will be combining their Wildlife and Fisheries Oversight Committees.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported the Soil Health Action framework will be presented at the end of our meeting today. Climate Adaptation Partnership is continuing to build capacity to help the State respond to climate change. Stated they are finishing a project with the Department of Health to provide input to the State's ten-year drinking water plan.

Ted Winter asked when they'll have recommendations on the ten-year plan. Steve Robertson stated if there were a recommendation for state standards it would take a statutory change.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Glenn Skuta reported last legislative session it was required to compile a response protocol for when there is a fish kill in the state and that response protocol is on public notice now. Earth day was on Monday where Commissioner Kessler announced a new initiative to monitor the Mississippi River from the Headwaters to the Iowa boarder this season. Stated they completed Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) for all eighty of the watersheds in the state and will now work on updating those WRAPS as needed.

Mark Zabel asked what the frequency, repeatability, and sound of monitoring the Mississippi headwaters to the boarder will be. Glen Skuta stated he will connect Mark with Kim Lang who can provide him more information.

Jill Crafton stated she is interested in the monitoring and where they are going with it. Glenn stated he will also connect Jill with Kim Lang.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – Brian Martinson provided a legislative update. One of their top priorities is addressing tax profit of property updates to the law. Another priority is solid waste proposal around product stewardship for packaging waste. Policy bill passed with a number of provisions, including updates to WCA. Brian provided an update on the drainage tile disclosure.

Ted Winter asked if the drainage tile is recorded anywhere now. Brian stated the current requirement would be to hold onto that information for a six-year period and as a landowner or purchaser of land you should understand what's out there.

Jill Crafton stated that during the buffer rule, DNR was asking where the waters were and asked if they could verify the waters. Brian stated DNR was responsible for updating maps and that the buffer law is tied to public waters. Jason Garms stated the DNR's roll became map maker, and it was the first time in doing this.

Kelly Kirkpatrick asked if Tribal Nations weighed in the data for public and private areas of the mapping. Brian stated the public parts inventory was established in the late 70s early 80s and doesn't know what extent Tribal Governments engaged in the public process.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – No report was provided.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported there was a State and Local Fiscal Recover Funds(SLFRF) program for members. State auditor Julie Blaha presented in March the State of Main Street Findings and that presentation is available on the Association of Townships website. Eunice provided a legislative update stating one of their issues for 2024 is transportation funding. Stated they will be introducing the Annexation Reform bill.

Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit thanked John and the BWSR staff that helped with the 103D language modernization. A survey went out Monday to members to see what human resource issues couple be provided at future trainings or events. Their summer tour will be June 25th and 26th at the Essence Event Center in St. Paul, hosted by Ramsey Washington Metro and Capitol Region Watershed District.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – John Jaschke reported they had their Technical Advisory Committee meeting last week where a couple BWSR staff attended.

Red River Water Management Board – Rob Sip presented a Red River Water Management Board update.

Chair Holman called a recess at 10:54 a.m. and called the meeting back to order at 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Dispute Resolution Committee

WCA Appeal (File 23-4) of a Wetland Bank Plan Decision Aitkin County – Rich Sve and Travis Germundson presented WCA Appeal (File 23-4) of a Wetland Bank Plan Decision Aitkin County.

The appeal was brought before BWSR on June 16, 2023 by Bryan Huntington with Larkin Hoffman on behalf of Eric Trelstad (member of the public) to appeal a WCA Notice of Decision involving property located in Aitkin County. The May 22, 2023 decision by Aitkin County determined that the site is eligible for banking and approved a wetland bank plan for Ecosystem Investment Partners (landowner) based on Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) findings and recommendations. The wetland bank plan is referred to as the North Mille Lacs Meadows Wetland Mitigation Bank and incorporates approximately 622 acres of land that is projected to result in 433.45 credits. The county relied in part on a 2015 Plan (agreement)

regarding best management practices for previous ditch maintenance activities that occurred on site. The county determined the site to be compliant with WCA and therefore eligible for wetland banking pursuant to Minn. Rules 8420.0526. Credits will be generated by restoring hydrology and native vegetation through an alternative method guidance (hydrologic restoration on cultivated fields (CFC)). The appellant claims that unauthorized drainage took place after the enactment of the WCA making the site not eligible for banking credits. The appellant maintains that the 2015 plan is not a decision and that the county's reliance on it is improper. The appeal requests that additional evidence be included into the record and that BWSR reverse the county's decision.

The Dispute Resolution Committee heard oral arguments from the parties to the appeal on March 7, 2024 during a public hearing. After review of the record, written briefs, and oral arguments, unanimously voted to recommend that the Aitkin County's decision be affirmed (denying the appeal) and declined the appellant's request to supplement the record with additional evidence. Determining that Aitkin County's existing record contains substantial evidence to support the decision and those additional documents were not material enough to be omitted into the record.

**
24-20 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the WCA Appeal (File 23-4) of a Wetland Bank Plan Decision Aitkin County. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Northern Regional Committee

Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Ryan Hughes and Rich Sve presented Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed planning area was approved for a One Watershed, One Plan planning grant at the regularly scheduled meeting of the BWSR on August 26, 2021. The planning partners established a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for the purposes of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The organizations signing the MOA included Cook County, Cook Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Lake County, Lake SWCD, St. Louis County, and North St. Louis SWCD. Koochiching County and SWCD did not sign the Planning MOA due to the small area of their jurisdiction within the planning area.

The partnership held a 60-day plan review process that ended on January 6, 2024, and held the required public hearing on January 26, 2024. The final draft of the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments were submitted to the state review agencies on February 5, 2024. The partnership has addressed and documented agency and public comments received throughout the Plan review process.

On April 3, 2024, the Northern Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.

Ted Winter asked about the Boundary Waters and what kind of review was done with the long-term view of the watershed. Becca Reiss stated the boundary waters are federal protected and they targeted outside of the boundary waters and outside of public ownership. They are focused on what they can do with local governments.

Joe Collins thought the report was reflective of the area.

Jill Crafton asked about the Tribal Government involvement. Ryan stated they have been reaching out and making them aware of the program and opportunities that we have.

**
24-24 Moved by Rich Sve, seconded by Thom Petersen, to approve the Rainy Headwaters-Vermilion Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants – Dan Shaw presented Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants.

Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMAs) are partnerships of federal, state and local government agencies, tribal governments and a wide range of other partners that manage noxious weeds or invasive plants across geographic areas. The FY 2024-25 CWMA Program has a total of \$200,000 to distribute to eligible applicants including SWCDs, Counties and Tribal Governments for newly developing and existing CWMAs/CISMAs in Minnesota. There were 17 applications for the FY 2024-25 CWMA grant applications requesting a total of \$255,000. The CWMA Interagency Advisory Team met on March 12th 2024 to rank grants and made the decision to award 13 applications. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their April 15, 2024 meeting, reviewed the proposed grant awards and recommended approval to the Board.

Lori Cox asked if some of the eligibility gets ranked based on the methods being used. Dan stated they have a ranking criteria that is focused on using an integrated pest management approach and an ecosystem approach for management.

Commissioner Thom Petersen left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and Jeff Berg joined.

**
24-21 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Mike Runk, to approve the Cooperative Weed Management Area Grants. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Habitat-Friendly Utilities Program – Dan Shaw presented Habitat-Friendly Utilities Program.

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources has had a Habitat Friendly Solar program since 2016 and was appropriated funding in 2023 to expand the effort to include conservation efforts on additional types of utilities in partnership with utility companies and the larger conservation community. The purpose of the program is to provide financial and technical assistance to promote the successful establishment of native vegetation as part of utility projects, including solar and wind projects, pipelines, and electrical transmission corridors, and requires that the Board establish criteria for grants or payments, and allows the Board to collaborate with and enter into agreements with Federal, State, and local agencies; Tribal Nations; utility companies; nonprofit organizations; and contractors to implement and promote the program. This Board Order directs and authorizes staff to develop program criteria, issue solicitations for participation in the program, approve awards, and enter into agreements with program partners.

Mark Zabel asked if they could outline the intent for the award criteria. Dan stated they are working with a larger advisors group, they are helping to identify the pilot sites in addition to working with a wide range of partners. They have several criteria for decision making.

Lori Cox asked if there would be a maintenance plan implemented for long term success. Dan stated they want these pilots to result in management plans that can act as templates for the program.

Kelly Kirkpatrick asked about grazing management with panels up high. Dan stated they are encouraging sheep grazing as part of this.

**
24-22 Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by Mike Runk, to approve the Habitat-Friendly Utilities Program.
Motion passed on a roll call vote.

FY25 Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Grant Program – Jason Beckler presented FY25 Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Grant Program.

The BWSR FY25 Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Grant Program is made possible through an appropriation from general funds (Laws of Minnesota 2023, Chapter 60, Article 1, Section 4 paragraph (s)). The FY25 Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Grant Program is a continuation of a Pilot that started in 2023 with funding from the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources' Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. Updates from the Pilot Program include the expansion of eligible Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan partnerships and increases to eligible watershed allocations. Staff have completed an internal program development and review process with BWSR Teams including the Conservation Contracts Team, Grants Team, and Senior Management Team. The Grants Program and Policy Committee (GPPC) was briefed on the program at the January 10, 2024, and February 28, 2024 meetings. The GPPC recommended approval of the Board Order and Watershed Allocation List to the full board at their April 15, 2024 meeting.

Additional details and basis for the recommendation is included in the Order and attachments. To be provided prior to the Board Meeting.

Kelly Kirkpatrick asked where the 2,000 acres went. John Jaschke stated if it expires it can go back to cropland or could also go into development.

Lori Cox asked if there was a map available. Jason stated there is not a map, but watersheds are listed in Attachment B.

Jason Garms asked about the signing bonuses, if there were any sideboards on how far the applicant goes with it. Jason Beckler stated its to be developed through a local policy process, the partnerships will get together and decide what the incentive rate is.

Lori Cox asked if there are variations in incentives. Jason stated it has been consistent.

**
24-23 Moved by Ted Winter, seconded by LeRoy Ose, to approve the FY25 Conservation Reserve Program State Incentives Grant Program. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

RIM Reserve Committee

Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #46-17-99-01 – Karli Swenson presented Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #46-17-99-01.

BWSR acquired RIM easement #46-17-99-01 in Martin County on March 26, 2001. The original easement is a 27-acre CREP easement, consisting of a 9-acre wetland restoration and 18 acres of upland seeded to a native grass and forb mix with some pre-existing trees and shrubs. The original easement grantors, Lawrence and Diane Sukalski, are still the current owners of the parcel. The 15-year CRP contract has since expired.

The landowner is requesting to release 1.75 acres of upland from the existing easement, for the purposes of constructing a machine shed and additional grain storage adjacent to the landowner's current bin site. The area proposed for release is currently prone to disturbance, as it is located between existing buildings that are part of the current farming operation, making the area ideal for traversing between sites and storing equipment. The landowner has stated there is no alternative site to construct the additional storage without creating erosion concerns. Release of this area would straighten the northern boundary of the easement, which is presently irregularly shaped, resulting in a more manageable easement boundary.

The landowner has offered to add 3.5 acres of additional cropland to the RIM easement, which would fulfill the required 2:1 replacement ratio of the Easement Alteration Policy. The replacement area is immediately adjacent to the existing easement boundary, resulting in more contiguous upland habitat, an enlarged wetland buffer, and would remove the 3.5 acres from row crop production. The replacement acres meet RIM crop history requirements, having been historically planted to corn, and will be seeded to a native prairie mix at the landowner's expense.

Both the Martin County SWCD Board and the MN DNR Area Wildlife Supervisor have submitted letters in support of this easement alteration request. The landowner has submitted the \$500 application fee for staff and board to consider the request.

MN Rule 8400.3610 says the Board may alter an existing conservation easement if the public interest and general welfare are better served by the alteration. As proposed, this request would provide clear benefits to the State by further enhancing the habitat and water quality functions of the RIM easement and result in a net gain of restored and permanently protected land.

Recommendation

Easement staff and the RIM Reserve Committee recommend approval of this easement alteration request and to amend RIM easement #46-17-99-01 as proposed.

**

24-25 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Ted Winter, to approve the Easement Alteration Request - RIM Easement #46-17-99-01. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Easement Alteration Request – RIM Easement #67-01-07-04 – Karli Swenson presented Easement Alteration Request – RIM Easement #67-01-07-04.

BWSR acquired a perpetual RIM Conservation easement #67-01-07-04 in Clinton Township, Rock County on April 24, 2007. The original easement is a 103.7-acre sensitive groundwater protection easement that has been seeded to native grasses.

In 2012, the original easement grantors sold 2.87 acres of the easement lands to Rock County for the purpose of installing drinking water wells. Though the wells themselves have minimal impact on the RIM easement, the County requires permanent, gravel access roads for year-round access and maintenance to the wells. Due to the permanent impact of the access roads, that land use is not compatible with the terms and conditions of the RIM easement as permanent vegetative cover cannot be maintained. Thus, BWSR easement staff have determined an easement alteration is warranted in this case.

MN Rule 8400.3610 states that the board may alter a conservation easement if the board determines the public interest and general welfare are better served by the alteration. The newly installed wells provide vital, clean and safe drinking water to citizens of Rock County.

Though this request does not meet all conditions of the current easement alteration policy which states that entities must pay 2x the current RIM rate, easement staff and the RIM Reserve Committee are in favor of the request as the activity of well installation aligns with the overall purpose of this easement which is wellhead and drinking water protection. This request does follow the MN Rule that governs the internal policy.

Rule 8400.3610 states that the board reserves the right to require special provisions to ensure at least equal resource value as a condition of approving the request. Because this RIM easement was acquired for the specific purpose of wellhead protection, and because the land was acquired and the wells installed over 10 years ago, the BWSR Easement Section Manager and RIM Reserve Committee have considered a special provision to allow Rock County Rural Water to compensate BWSR at 1x the 2023 RIM rate for Clinton Township for release of these acres. This will ensure at least equal resource value in accordance with the above rule. (The amount the State originally paid to acquire an easement on these 2.87 acres was \$3371).

Calculations for Release

2023 RIM Rate for Clinton Township = \$11,991.43/acre

2.87 acres released x \$11,991.43 = **\$ 34,415.40**

Rock County Rural Water has agreed to pay the amount of \$34,415.40 upon approval of the easement alteration request and has submitted the \$500 processing fee for BWSR staff and the board to consider the request.

Recommendation

Easement staff and the RIM Reserve Committee recommend approval of the easement alteration request to release 2.87 acres from RIM Easement #67-01-07-04 as proposed, upon receipt of the agreed-upon compensation from Rock County.

**

24-26 Moved by Jayne Hager Dee, seconded by Joe Collins, to approve the Easement Alteration Request – RIM Easement #67-01-07-04. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

NEW BUSINESS

Soil Health Action Framework – Tom Gile and Suzanne Rhees presented Soil Health Action Framework.

In 2022, BWSR received a grant from the McKnight Foundation to develop a “coordinated approach to climate change mitigation and landscape resiliency, by collaboratively identifying goals, strategies, and actions related to soil management.” BWSR worked with the MN Office for Soil Health to convene an advisory committee representing a mix of practitioners in agriculture and conservation, and public and private sectors. During five meetings over 13 months, the group discussed goals, strategies, and potential actions for advancing soil health. The group was not asked to reach consensus or commit to actions, but to represent the diversity of voices in soil health work in Minnesota. The resulting Soil Health Action Framework was released in January, 2024, and is intended to serve as a framework of priority issues and potential strategies that individual interest groups can use to create their action plans.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Wetland Conservation Committee is scheduled for April 29th at 9:30 a.m. by MS Teams.
- Grants Program and Policy Committee is scheduled for May 13th at 8:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for May 22nd at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting at 12:40 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Holman
Chair

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Dispute Resolution/Compliance Report

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Wetland Conservation Act Appeals/Buffer Compliance

Section/Region: Central

Contact: Travis Germundson

Prepared by: Travis Germundson

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Rich Sve DRC Chair and Travis Germundson

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

None

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

See attached report.

SUMMARY *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with the Board of Water and Soil Resources and summary on buffer compliance/enforcement actions statewide.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

May 7, 2024

By: Travis Germundson

There are presently **two** appeals pending. There have been **no** new appeals filed since last the report.

Format note: New appeals that have been filed since last report to the Board.
~~Appeals that have been decided since last report to the Board.~~

File 23-15 (12-18-23) This is an appeal of a WCA notice of decision in Morrison County. The appeal regards a decision made under remand (Appeal file 23-8) of a wetland boundary/type. The initial decision was remanded back to the local unit of government to develop an adequate record and now that new decision is being appealed. *The appeal was placed in abeyance and the decision stayed to allow time for the submittal of additional documentation on legal access of the easement area. A lawsuit has been filed in district court to determine the terms and conditions of the easement. Summary judgement hearing is scheduled for June 5, 2015.*

File 23-9 (10/23/23) This is an appeal of a WCA Restoration Order for property located in Crow Wing and Aitkin County. The appeal regards the placement of fill material for multiple wetland crossings including a portion of an airstrip. *The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the Restoration Order stayed for the submittal of after-the-fact exemption application. The time period on the stay was extended. The county issued a decision on May 1, 2024 denying the forestry exemption application based on TEP findings.*

Summary Table for Appeals

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2023	Total for Calendar Year 2024
Order in favor of appellant		
Order not in favor of appellant	8	2
Order Modified	1	
Order Remanded	2	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	1	
Negotiated Settlement	1	
Withdrawn/Dismissed	3	

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 45 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and one Administrative Penalty Order (APO) issued by BWSR that is still active. Of the actions being tracked over 39 of those have been resolved.

Statewide 39 counties are fully compliant, and 48 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 264 CANs and 66 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 2,781 of those have been resolved.

**Disclaimer: These numbers are generated monthly from BWSR's Access database. The information is obtained through notifications from LGUs on actions taken to bring about compliance and may not reflect the current status of compliance numbers.*

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Approval of the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations – Rita Weaver – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Lower Minnesota River Dredge Grant – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Approval of the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Storage, grant approvals

Section/Region: Engineering

Contact: Rita Weaver

Prepared by: Rita Weaver

Reviewed by: SMT, Grants Program and Policy Committee(s)

Presented by: Rita Weaver

Time requested: 20 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the proposed FY24 awards for the Water Quality and Storage Grant Program, as outlined in the attached board order.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The Water Quality and Storage Pilot Grant program was passed into law by the MN Legislature in 2021. The intent of the program is to fund projects that will reduce runoff volume or peak flow rates by implementing storage practices.

On January 24, 2024, the Board adopted Board Order #24-03, which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposals for the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Program grants. An application period was open from

February 12, 2024 to April 11, 2024. Three million (\$3M) was available for design and construction, and up to \$500k of that amount was available for modeling and conceptual design work. Twenty-seven (27) applications were received requesting a total of approximately \$9.37M. Of these, 19 were for design and construction funds with a total request of \$3.89M, and nine were for modeling and conceptual design funds with a total request of \$389k.

Grants were scored and ranked by a team of BWSR staff and the scoring team recommends that 10 projects be funded - 5 for design and construction (2.776M) and 5 projects be funded for modeling and conceptual design (\$213k).

The staff recommendations were provided to the BWSR SMT via email on May 6th and discussed at the May 14th SMT meeting. The Grants Program and Policy Committee discussed the recommendations at their May 13th meeting and recommended approval of the grant awards as proposed. The funding recommendations included in the board order are a result of those meetings.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2024 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Awards

PURPOSE

Authorize the FY24 grant awards for the Water Quality and Storage Grant Program.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. Laws of Minnesota 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 6, Article 2, Sec. 80 provides the statutory authority for the Water Quality and Storage Program (Minn. Stat. 103F.05), and includes the purposes of the Program that are “to control water volume and rates to protect infrastructure, improve water quality and related public benefits, and mitigate climate change impacts”, identifies eligible practices, and establishes that the priority areas for the program are the Minnesota River basin and the lower Mississippi River basin.
2. Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 60, Article 1, Sec. 4(p), appropriated \$17 million in Fiscal Years 24-25 to a water quality and storage program.
3. Based on board order #24-03, staff issued a request for proposals in the amount of \$3 Million for the Water Quality and Storage Grant Program. The application period opened on February 12, 2024 and closed April 11, 2024.
4. Twenty-seven (27) applications were received requesting \$9,372,320. Board Staff reviewed the applications for eligibility and determined that four (4) of the applications were ineligible. After ranking and scoring the remaining twenty-three (23) applications, staff recommend that ten (10) projects be fully funded.
5. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their May 13, 2024 meeting, reviewed the proposed grant awards and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Approves the allocation of funds as listed in the FY2024 Water Quality and Grant Program Funding Recommendations table (Attachment A).
2. Rescinds board order #24-03 as all elements (policy and RFP) of the board order have been completed.

3. Authorizes staff to enter into grant agreements with these funds, consistent with MN Statute 103F.05 and the legislative appropriation.
4. Authorizes staff to adjust the awards based on final cost estimates.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, May 22, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

_____ Date: _____
 Todd Holman, Chair
 Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachment A: FY2024 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations

<i>FY2024 Water Quality and Storage Grant Program Funding Recommendations</i>	
Organization	Request
Blue Earth County SWCD	\$596,075
Faribault County SWCD	\$332,500
Le Sueur County SWCD	\$424,499
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (Holly 22 Retention)	\$555,770
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects (North Hero 34 Retention)	\$867,549
Lyon SWCD	\$12,000
Nobles County	\$24,000
Renville SWCD	\$82,250
City of Apple Valley	\$60,000
Jackson County	\$35,000
Total	\$2,989,644

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Lower Minnesota River Dredge Grant

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: Minnesota, River, Dredge

Section/Region: Central Region

Contact: _____

Prepared by: Marcey Westrick

Reviewed by: Grants Program and Policy Committee Committee(s)

Presented by: Marcey Westrick

Time requested: 5 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve board order to allocate funding to the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The Board was appropriated \$240,000 the first year and \$240,000 the second year for a grant to the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District to defray the annual cost of operating and maintaining sites for dredge spoil to sustain the state, national, and international commercial and recreational navigation on the lower Minnesota River. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on May 13, 2024 and recommends the attached order to the board.



DRAFT BOARD ORDER

**Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
Dredge Management Grants Approval**

PURPOSE

Approval of the fiscal year 2024 and 2025 Dredge Management grants to Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2023, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(h), appropriated \$240,000 for each fiscal year 2024 and 2025 for Minnesota River channel management.
- B. This grant is available for the cost of operating and maintaining sites for dredge spoil to sustain the state, national, and international commercial and recreational navigation on the lower Minnesota River.
- C. The Lower Minnesota Watershed District will develop and submit a work plan to BWSR to cover activities for fiscal year 2024 and 2025.
- D. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their May 13, 2024 meeting, reviewed the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Dredge Management grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2024 and 2025 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District Dredge Management Grants consistent with the provisions of the appropriation.
- 2. Authorizes staff to review and approve the work plan for 2024 and 2025 prior to payment of grant funds.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this May 22, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

NEW BUSINESS

1. Technical Training and Certification Program Update – Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans –
INFORMATION ITEM

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE: Technical Training and Certification Program Update

Meeting Date: May 22, 2024

Agenda Category: Committee Recommendation New Business Old Business

Item Type: Decision Discussion Information Non-Public Data

Keywords for Electronic Searchability: JAA, Technical Training, NRCS

Section/Region: Organizational Effectiveness,
Engineering & Resource Conservation

Contact: Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans

Prepared by: Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans

Reviewed by: _____ Committee(s)

Presented by: Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans

Time requested: 35 minutes

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

Attachments: Resolution Order Map Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> None | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other: | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

SUMMARY *(Consider: history, reason for consideration now, alternatives evaluated, basis for recommendation)*

The Technical Training and Certification Program was created in 2017 in partnership with NRCS, MASWCD and MACDE and is designed to efficiently provide training to develop and maintain a highly trained, technically skilled workforce of natural resource professionals capable of meeting the conservation delivery needs of Minnesota. The partnership established a renewed commitment and partnership for technical training in Minnesota and is committed to providing resources and leadership to achieve program goals, including:

- a streamlined and coordinated approach to assessing needs and delivering training.
- increasing opportunities for obtaining job approval authority for conservation practices

Jon Sellnow and Amanda Deans will provide an update to the Board on the achievements of the program to date as well as upcoming activities.



Technical Training and Certification Program

Onboarding for BWSR Employees

Jon Sellnow, TTCP Coordinator

Aaron Peter, Training Engineer – Southern Region

Kelly Voigt, Training Conservationist, Northern Region

Amanda Deans, Regional Training Engineer

Patrick Schultz, Northern Regional Training Engineer

May 6th, 2024

TTCP Team



Jon Sellnow

Technical Training and Certification
Program Coordinator

218-340-3521

jon.sellnow@state.mn.us



Aaron Peter

Training Engineer - Southern Region

507-686-0003

aaron.peter@state.mn.us



Kelly Voigt

Northern Regional Training
Conservationist

218-850-0208

kelly.voigt@state.mn.us



Amanda Deans

Regional Training Engineer

651-297-7360

amanda.deans@state.mn.us

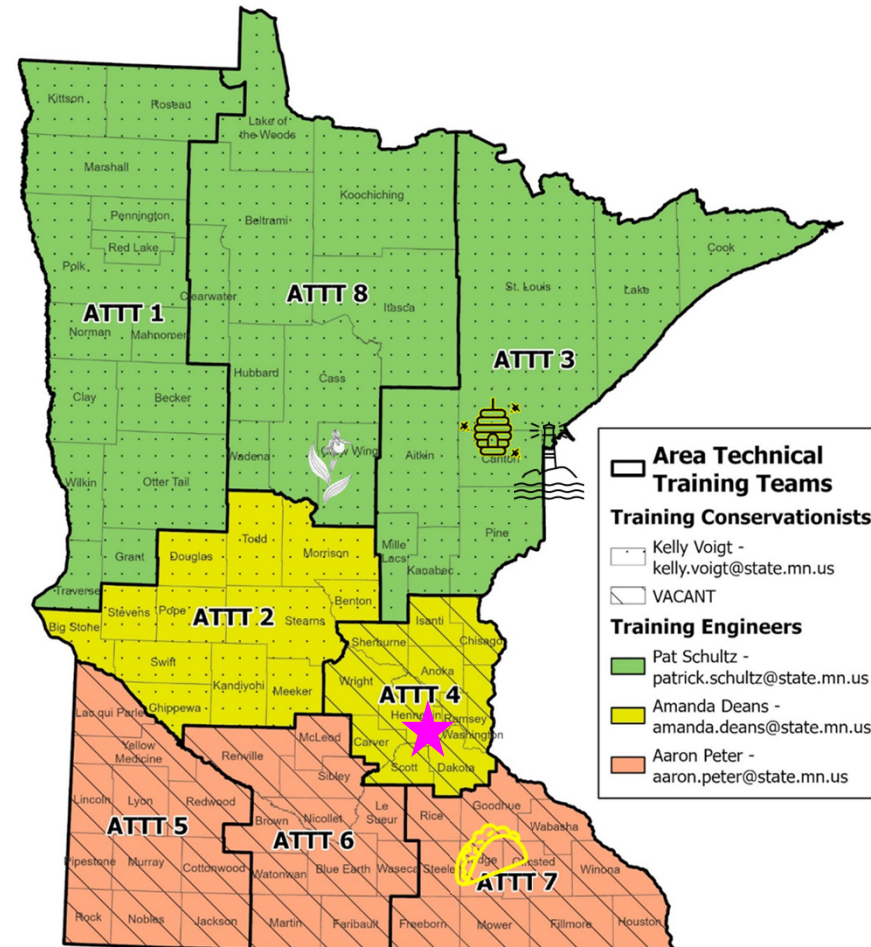


Patrick Schultz

Northern Regional Training Engineer

218-340-1632

patrick.schultz@state.mn.us



Technical Training and Certification Program

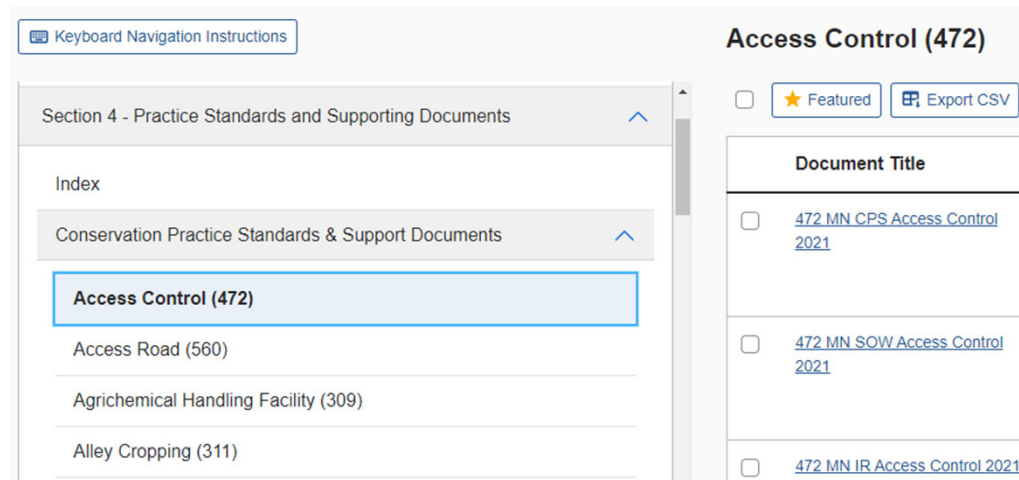


Goal: To develop and maintain a highly trained, technically skilled workforce of natural resource professionals to meet Minnesota's conservation delivery needs.

Target Audience: NRCS and SWCD Field Staff

What training does TTCP provide?

- Technical training
- Field Office Technical Guide
 - NRCS: technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources (SWAPA)
 - Section IV: Conservation Practice Standards and Implementation Requirements

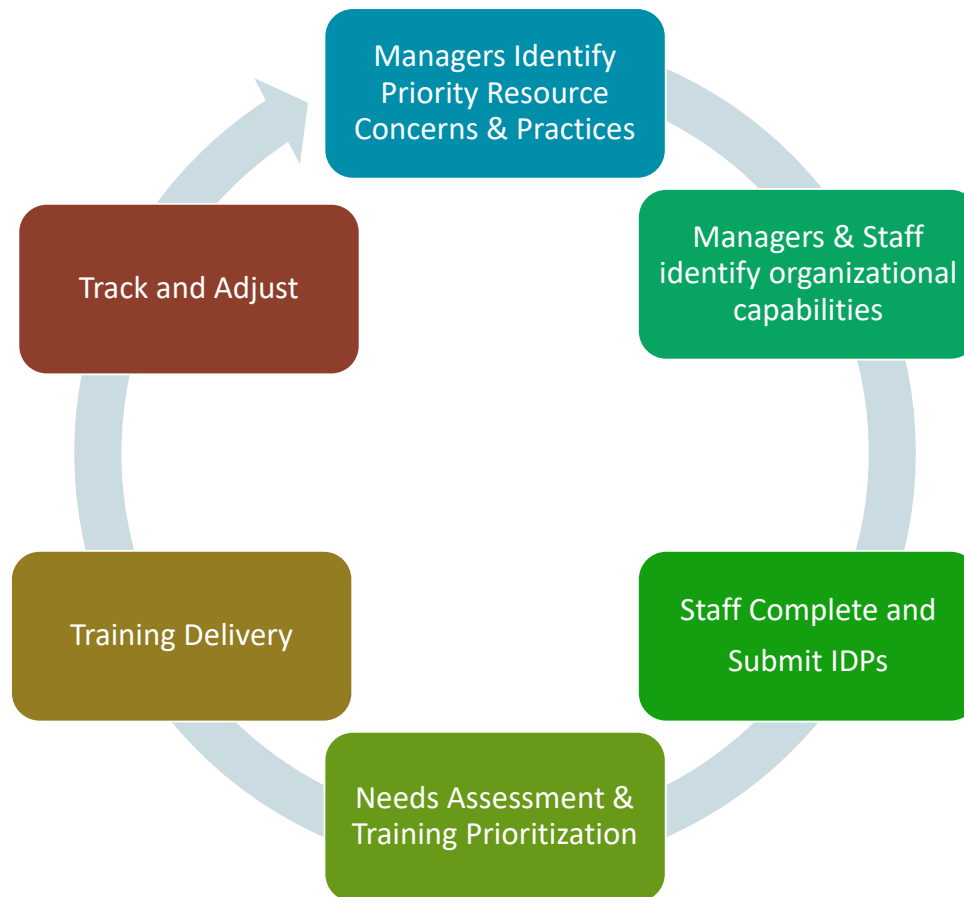


The screenshot displays the TTCP website interface. On the left, a navigation menu is visible under the heading "Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents". The menu items are: "Index", "Conservation Practice Standards & Support Documents", "Access Control (472)", "Access Road (560)", "Agrichemical Handling Facility (309)", and "Alley Cropping (311)". The "Access Control (472)" item is highlighted with a blue border. On the right, the "Access Control (472)" page is shown, featuring a "Keyboard Navigation Instructions" button at the top left, a "Featured" button with a star icon, and an "Export CSV" button. Below these are three document entries, each with a checkbox and a title: "472 MN CPS Access Control 2021", "472 MN SOW Access Control 2021", and "472 MN IR Access Control 2021".

What training does TTCP provide?

- Conservation Planning
- Planning and Design Tools
 - Engineering: Waterway Design Tool, Engineering Field Tools
 - Ecological: RUSLE2, WEPS, Seed Calculator
- Goal: Technically Skilled Workforce
 - Job Approval Authority (JAA)
 - Certified Conservation Planner
 - Able to work independently to identify and treat the common resource concerns found locally

TTCP Training Model



How does TTCP capture training needs?

Individual Development Plan (in eLINK)

The screenshot displays the eLINK web application interface. The top navigation bar features the eLINK logo. A left sidebar contains a menu with items: Dashboard, Technical Training (expanded), My Credentials, My Training Needs (highlighted), My Training History, Organizational Priorities, BWSR Technical Training, Search Technical Training, Contacts, Support, Resources, and Admin. The main content area includes a header with 'Organization Name' and 'Contact Name' dropdown menus. Below this is a section titled 'My Training Needs' (highlighted with a yellow box) containing two buttons: 'Add New Training Request' and 'Generate IDP Report'. A 'Display 25 records' control is visible. A table below shows a single record with columns for 'USER NAME', 'DESIRED SKILL PRACTICE, OR OTHER CERTIFICATION', and 'CATEGORY'. The record shows 'Basic Hydrology' under the second column and 'Basic Technical Skill' under the third column.

USER NAME	DESIRED SKILL PRACTICE, OR OTHER CERTIFICATION	CATEGORY
	Basic Hydrology	Basic Technical Skill

How does TTCP capture training needs?

Individual Development Plan (IDP)

- I. Managers identify local conservation priorities
 - Resource Concerns
 - Practices
- II. Employees identify priority technical training needs
- III. Update or add requests 24/7



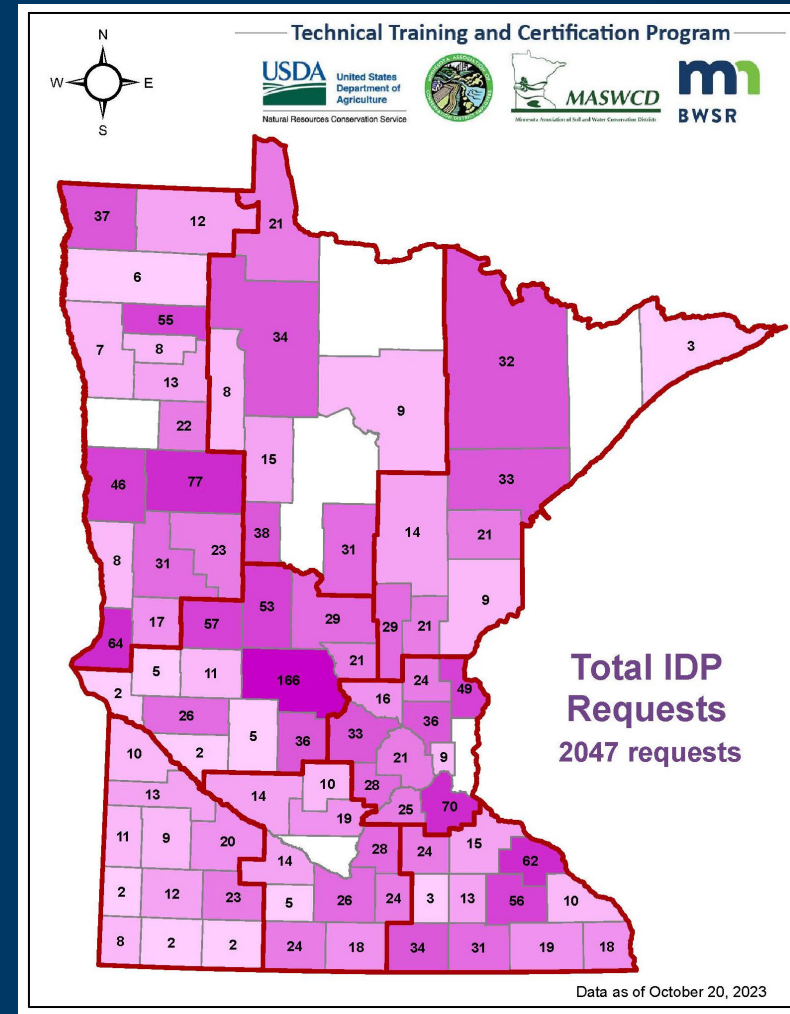
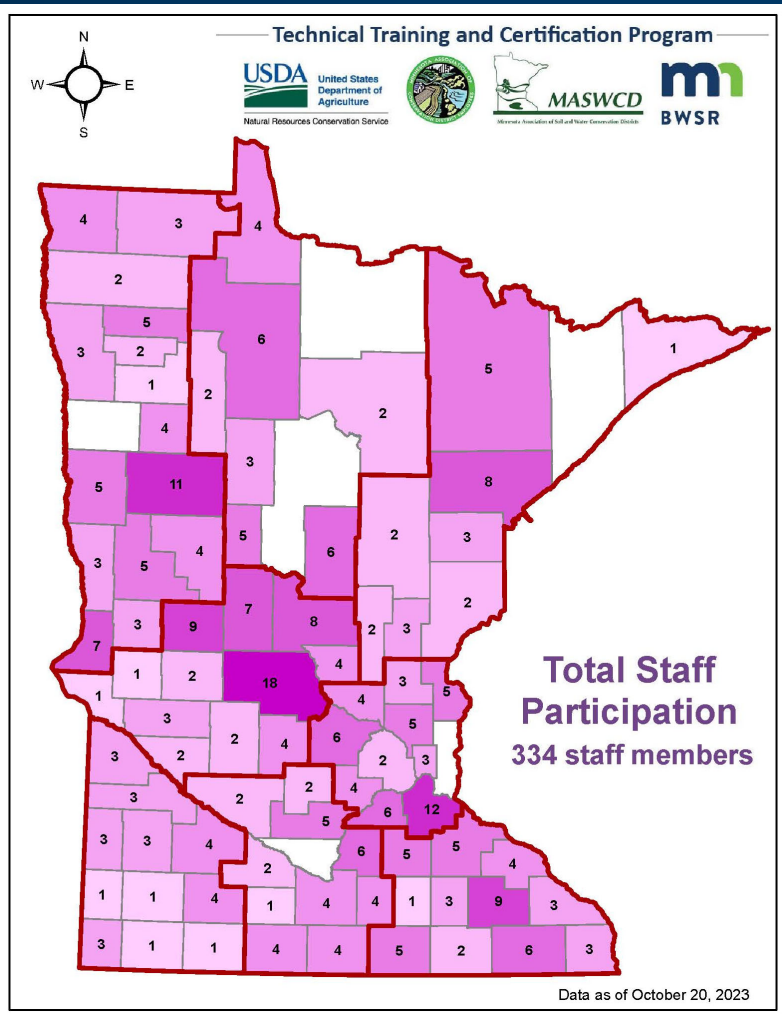
*Snapshot of data
taken each October*

[Add New Priority Practice](#)

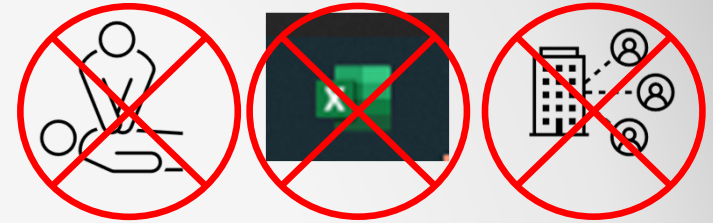
Display records

PRACTICE	RESOURCE CONCERN(S)
102 - Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan - Written	Water Quality Degradation
104 - Nutrient Management Plan - Written	Water Quality Degradation
329 - Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till	Soil Erosion
340 - Cover Crop	Soil Erosion
345 - Residue and Tillage Management, Reduced Till	Soil Erosion
412 - Grassed Waterway	Soil Erosion

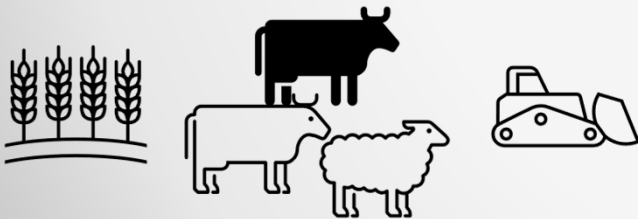
2023 IDP Participation



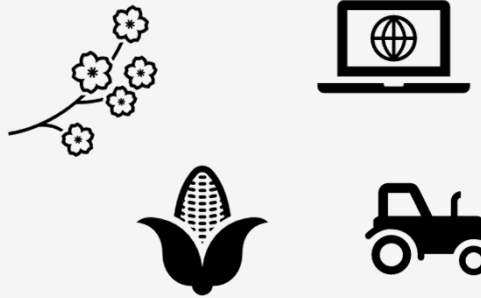
IDP Data



PRACTICES (FOTG)

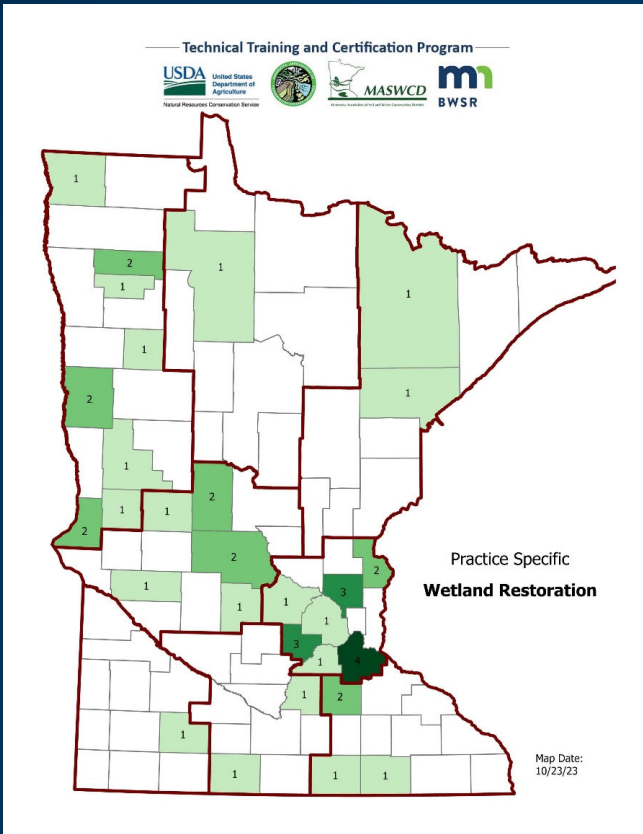


BASIC SKILLS



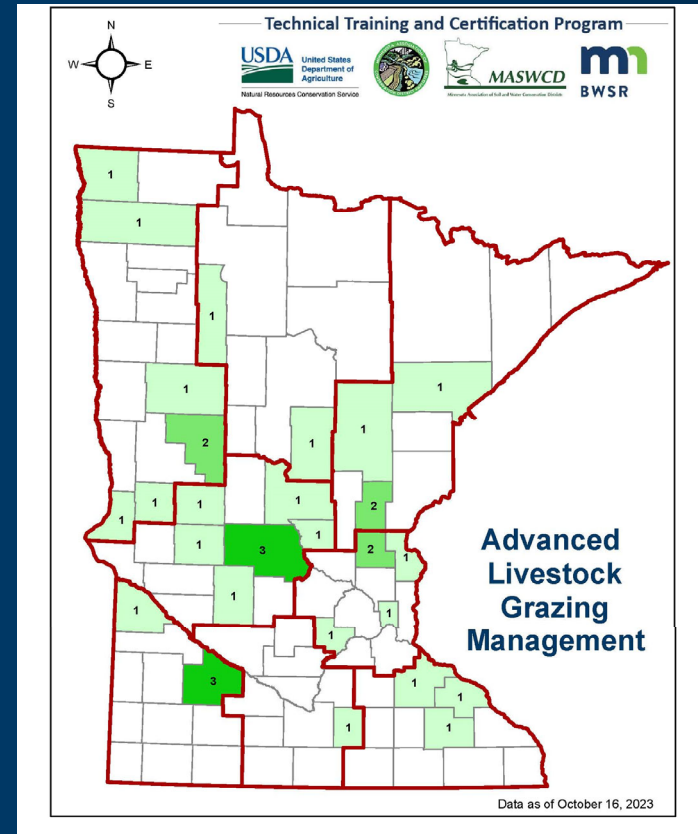
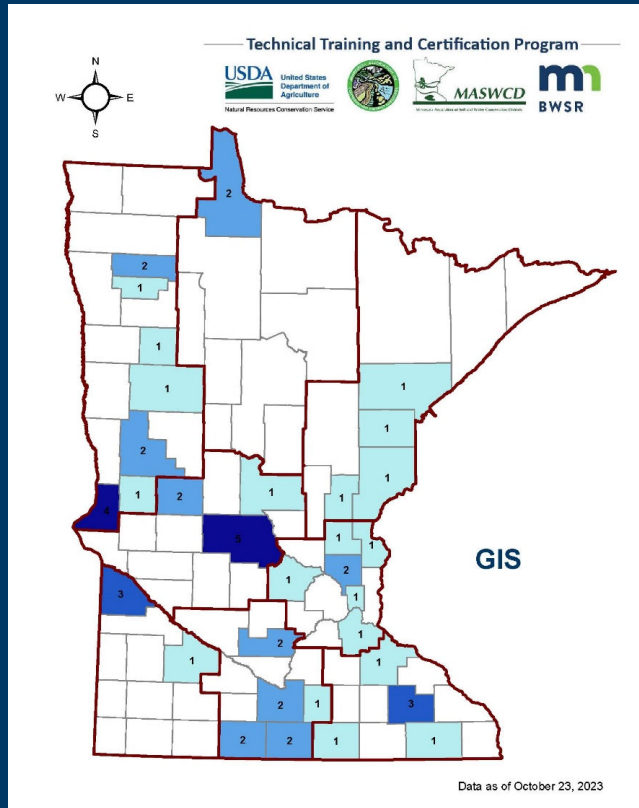
ADVANCED SKILLS





MAPS!

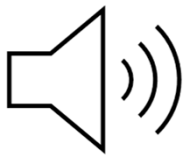
(& pivot tables,
spreadsheets, etc.)



How is this information used?

Eight Area Technical Training Teams

- Review IDP data
- Local knowledge of training needs
- Identify local training priorities

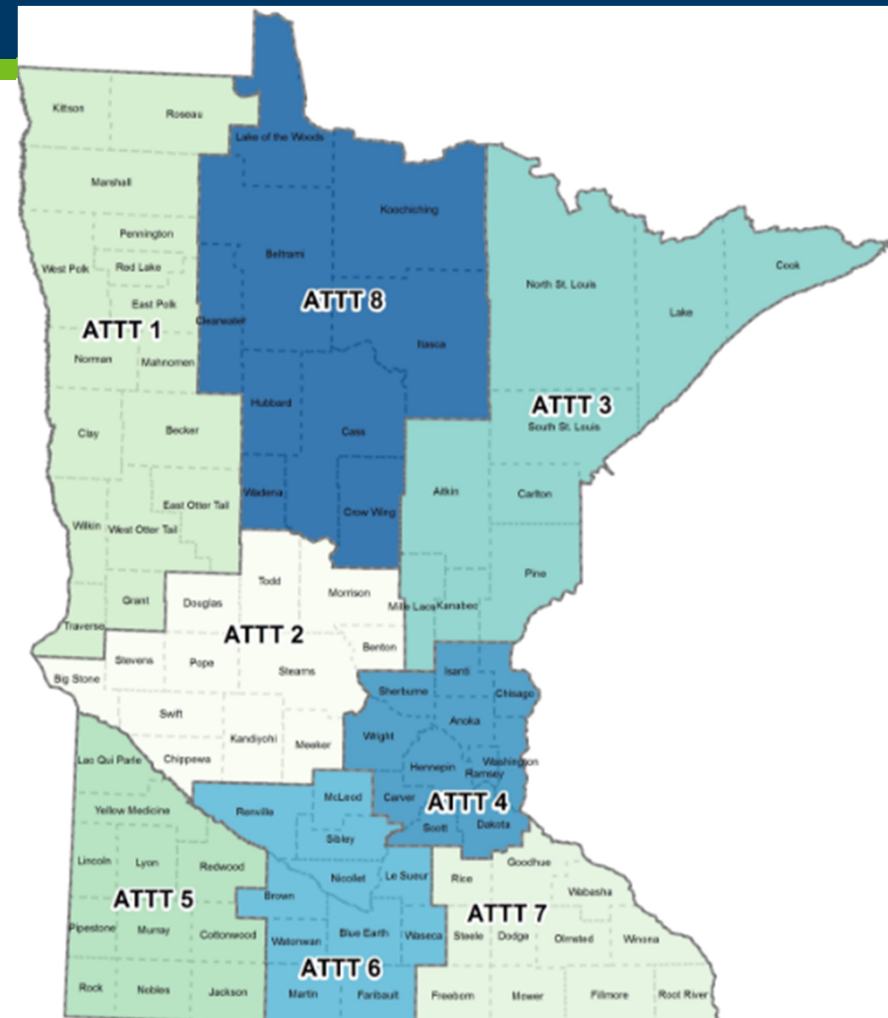


SWCD

TSA

BWSR

NRCS




How is this information used?

State Partnership w/ NRCS

- Review local training priorities
- Review IDP data
- Establish 2024 Training Plan

Calendar is continuously adjusting, shifting, growing

JULY						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
						1
2	3	4 	5	6	7	8
9	10 Pasture Monitoring - Barnes	11 DNR NPC - Leach Lake Soaring Prairie Production - Winward DNR NPC - Schaefer Prairie, McLeod Co	12 Pasture Condition Scoring - Spring Valley	13 Continuing Prairie Production - Spring Valley DNR NPC - Buehler Prairie, Clay Co	14	15
16	17 IWM - RCPP Technical Field Training - CLC Staples	18 Wetland Plant ID - Dakoto SWCD	19 Basic Hydrology - Weite Park	20 Wetland Plant ID - Northland Arboretum, Boxter	21	22
23	24 DNR NPC - MN Grasses - Itasca SP	25 Prairie Design - Dakota Lakes Characteristics of Prairies During the First Three Years	26 Grazing for Wildlife - SM-1 (Montevideo)	27 Prairie Design - Sandstone	28	29
30	31					

AUGUST						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
		1 CRP in the Field Aquatic Plant ID - 2 sessions - Itasca Biological Station	2 Farm Fest	3	4 Staff Meeting	5
6	7	8	9 WI/MN Cooperative Soil Survey Workshop	10 Conservation Planning Course	11	12
13	14	15 PMC Training - Bismarck, ND	16	17 CRP Native Plant ID	18	19
20	21	22 Soil Health Bus Tour (Ken Farm, ND)	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 Goal driven Prescribed Fire - DL	31 Goal driven Prescribed Fire - Action		

How TTCP Provides Training

Does TTCP do "X" style of Training? (In-Person, virtual, etc.)

Often	Often	Often
Often	Often	Often
Often		Not

How TTCP Provides Training

Does TTCP do "X" style of Training? (In-Person, virtual, etc.)

More Often
Than Not

Often	Often	Often
Often	Often	Often
Often		Not

How TTCP Provides Training

Classroom



Virtual



Hybrid



Field



Partner Trainings



Conferences



On-the-Job



This is Just the Live Stuff...

Recorded Content



mn BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES

Buffers ▾

Wetlands ▾

Easements ▾

Online Learning

TTCP Website Overview

Technical Training and Certification Program

☰ MENU

BWSR Academy

Technical Training and Certification Program ▾

Area Technical Training Teams

Core Competency

Employee Development

Job Approval Authority

Technical Training Individual Development Plan (IDP) Tool

Training Calendar

Online Learning

Training Updates



Technical Training and Certification Program

MENU

BWSR Academy

- Technical Training and Certification Program ▾
- Area Technical Training Teams
- Core Competency
- Employee Development
- Job Approval Authority
- Technical Training Individual Development Plan (IDP) Tool

Training Calendar

Online Learning

Training Updates



Example – Cover Crops

Online Learning

Not all training takes place in a classroom. We've put together a searchable library of recorded modules, webinars, videos and other resources to help our staff and partners find professional development information on a variety of topics.

Keyword search Subject Skill Format

Training calendar

Title	Subject	Skill	Format	Description	Source
2023 Tech Talks			Webinar	Tech Talks is a online training series organized by the Technical Training and Certification Program. Rotating speakers cover a wide variety of...	TTCP
Basic Cover Crop Training - Webinar #4		Practice Specific	Webinar	2023 Webinar replay - Session 4 covers the topics of cover crop seeding and termination methods as well as economics of cover crops.	TTCP
Basic Cover Crop Training - Webinar #3		Practice Specific	Webinar	2023 Webinar Replay - Session 3 covers seed mix design, the seed calculator, calculating PLS and bulk seed as well as MN seed tag law.	TTCP
Basic Cover Crop Training - Webinar #2		Practice Specific	Webinar	2023 Webinar Replay - Session 2 covers the practice standard, Implementation Requirements worksheet, Agronomy Technical Note 33 and Cover Crop...	TTCP
Basic Cover Crop Training - Webinar #1		Practice Specific	Webinar	2023 Webinar Replay - Session 1 discusses cover crop strategies, resource concerns that can be treated with cover crops, benefits of cover crops...	TTCP
Managing Weeds in Organic Corn and Soybeans		Pest Management	Video	Charlie Johnson explains how he controls weeds in corn and soybean crops without the use of pesticides on his organic farm in Madison, S.D....	USDA SARE

Employee Development

Technical Training and Certification Program



Technical Training Series

Technical Training Series

These Training Series are a collection of resources pertaining to specific practices. They are currently available for the most commonly requested training needs identified through the Individual Development Plan process, but additional offerings will be available in the future.

We need your help to keep these trainings up to date. Each Training Series contains links to other training offerings and resources, both internal and external. If a link is broken, outdated, or just isn't working right please [let us know](#) !



Conservation Cover - CPS 327



Cover Crop - CPS 340



Critical Area Planting - CPS 342



Forest Stand Improvement - CPS 666



Grassed Waterway - CPS 412



Hydrology and Hydraulics

Training Series Example – Ecological – Live Demo

Cover Crop Training Series

This training series provides an introduction to the knowledge, skills, and abilities to plan, design, and install Cover Crops (CPS340). Additional training may be needed.

Skill

Practice Specific

Source

TTCP

Training Type

Online Learning

Location

United States

Notes

1. Knowledge of State's Crops and Cropping Systems

Title	Description
Soybean Variety Selection ^{cf}	What criteria should you use when selecting a soybean variety? How do the economics pencil out for different soybean maturities in your area? What disease traits should you be on the lookout for? Learn more through a discussion of these questions and trial results with Dr. Seth Naeve, Extension soybean agronomist and Dr. Dean Malvick, Extension plant pathologist.
Corn Hybrid Selection ^{cf}	What criteria should you use when selecting a corn hybrid? How do hybrid maturities affect your bottom line? What about hybrid selection and disease resistance? Watch the recording for answers to these questions and hybrid trial results with Dr. Jeff Coulter, Extension corn agronomist, Tom Hoverstad, Researcher from Southern Research and Outreach Center and Dr. Dean Malvick, Extension plant pathologist.
Soybean crop management in Wisconsin (soybeans ,part 1/3) ^{cf}	(Time: 12:35) This video discusses components contributing to yield in soybeans including varietal selection, regional climate and fertilization.
Vegetative Growth Stages of Soybeans (soybeans 2/3) ^{cf}	(Time: 16:39) This video focuses on the early season growth and development of soybeans
R Stages, Soybean Management in Wisconsin (soybeans 3/3) ^{cf}	(Time: 17:42) This video focuses on the reproductive stages of growth and development of soybeans.
Corn yield in Wisconsin and the US (Corn ,part 1/3) ^{cf}	(Time:13:41) Dr. Joe Lauer's presentation about "Corn Growth, Development, and Physiology". This part (1 of 3) focuses on an overview of corn yield in Wisconsin and the US.
Corn growth and development staging systems (Corn ,part 2/3) ^{cf}	(Time 41:01) Dr. Joe Lauer's presentation about "Corn Growth, Development, and Physiology". This part (2 of 3) focuses on systems used to label stages of corn plant development in Wisconsin and the US.
Yield components of corn (corn, part 3/3) ^{cf}	(Time 24:02) Dr. Joe Lauer's presentation about "Corn Growth, Development, and Physiology". This part (3 of 3) focuses on the components that contribute to yield in corn.
Forages ^{cf}	This website provides information on variety selection, growing, harvest and storage, planting and pest management for forages in Minnesota.
Sugarbeets ^{cf}	This website provides information on growing sugarbeets and pest management for sugarbeets Minnesota.
Small Grains ^{cf}	This website provides information on crop and variety selection, growing, harvest and storage, planting and pest management for small grains in Minnesota.

New Employee Training Guide

Technical Training Resources



Technical Training and Certification Program

New Employee Training Guide

This document is intended to guide new staff through introductory training during their first 90 days on the job.

- [TTCP Training Guide](#)

New Employee Training Guide

The screenshot displays the Microsoft Excel interface for a spreadsheet titled "TTCP Training Guide (2).xlsx". The ribbon is set to "Home", and the active cell is B1, containing the date "1/12/2023".

A green-shaded form is located in the center of the spreadsheet, containing the following fields:

- Employee Name: _____
- Job Title: _____
- Supervisor Name: _____

Below the form, the spreadsheet lists "Recommended New Employee Training Items" with corresponding completion dates:

Item	Completed date:
Start the process to get an AgLearn account.	<input type="text"/>
NRCS Employees: This happens automatically with EOD paperwork. SWCD Employees: Instructions and Forms	
Sign up for Train Tracks	<input type="text"/>
Train Tracks is the training newsletter and provides info on upcoming training opportunities. Train Tracks sign up page	
Bookmark the Technical Training and Certification Homepage	<input type="text"/>
This webpage is a comprehensive resource for all things related to technical training. https://bwsr.state.ma.us/technical-training-and-certification-program	

The bottom of the spreadsheet shows a navigation bar with the following links: Training, Training Links, References, Common practices by land use, Training Record, and Acr ... The status bar at the bottom indicates "Ready" and "Accessibility: Investigate".

What is it?

JAA



What is it?

Job Approval Authority

- NRCS Credentialing System
- Each Practice has various Job Class Levels
- Each Practice has parts – I&E, Design, Implementation

JAA

Why do SWCD employees want JAA?

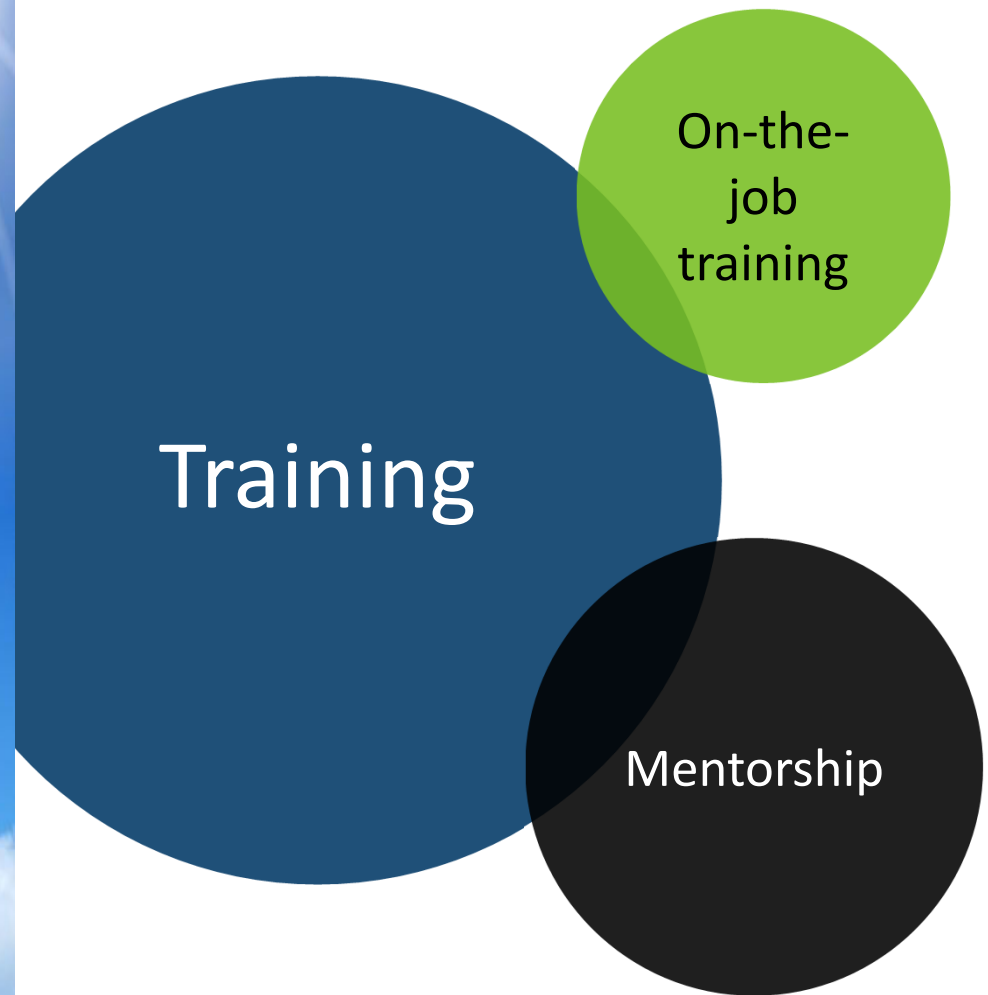
- Certification



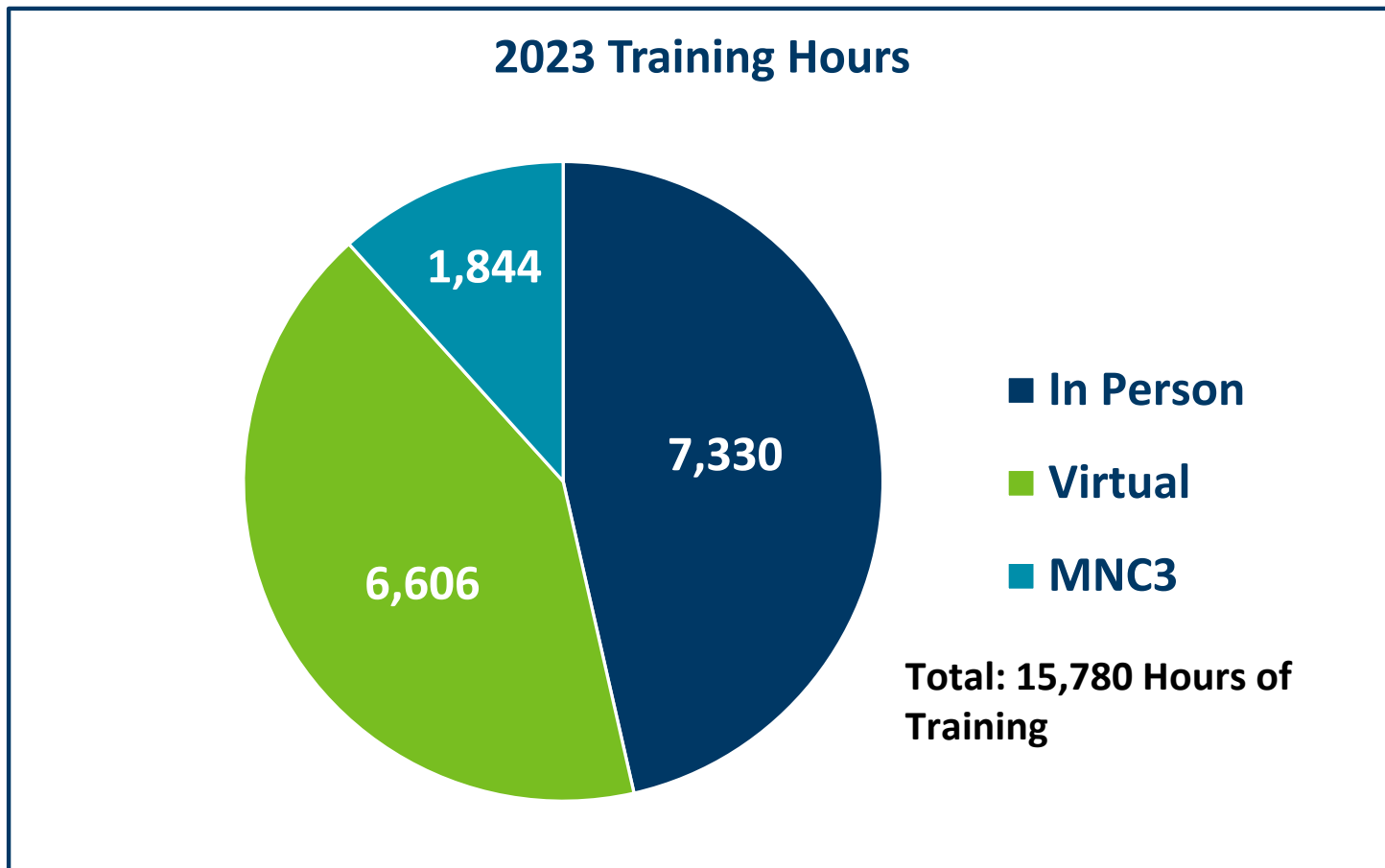
How do you get JAA?



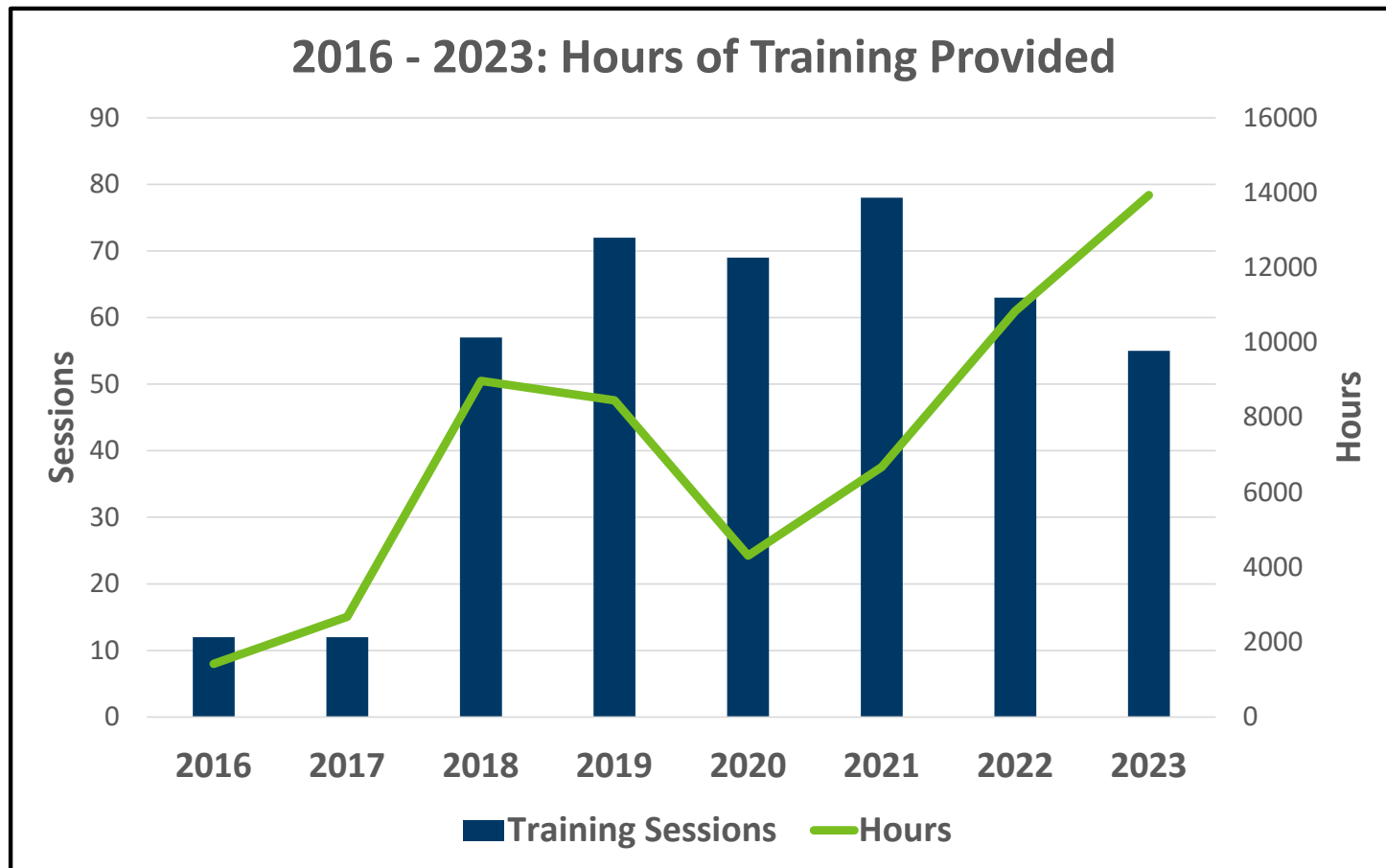
- Demonstrate Competence



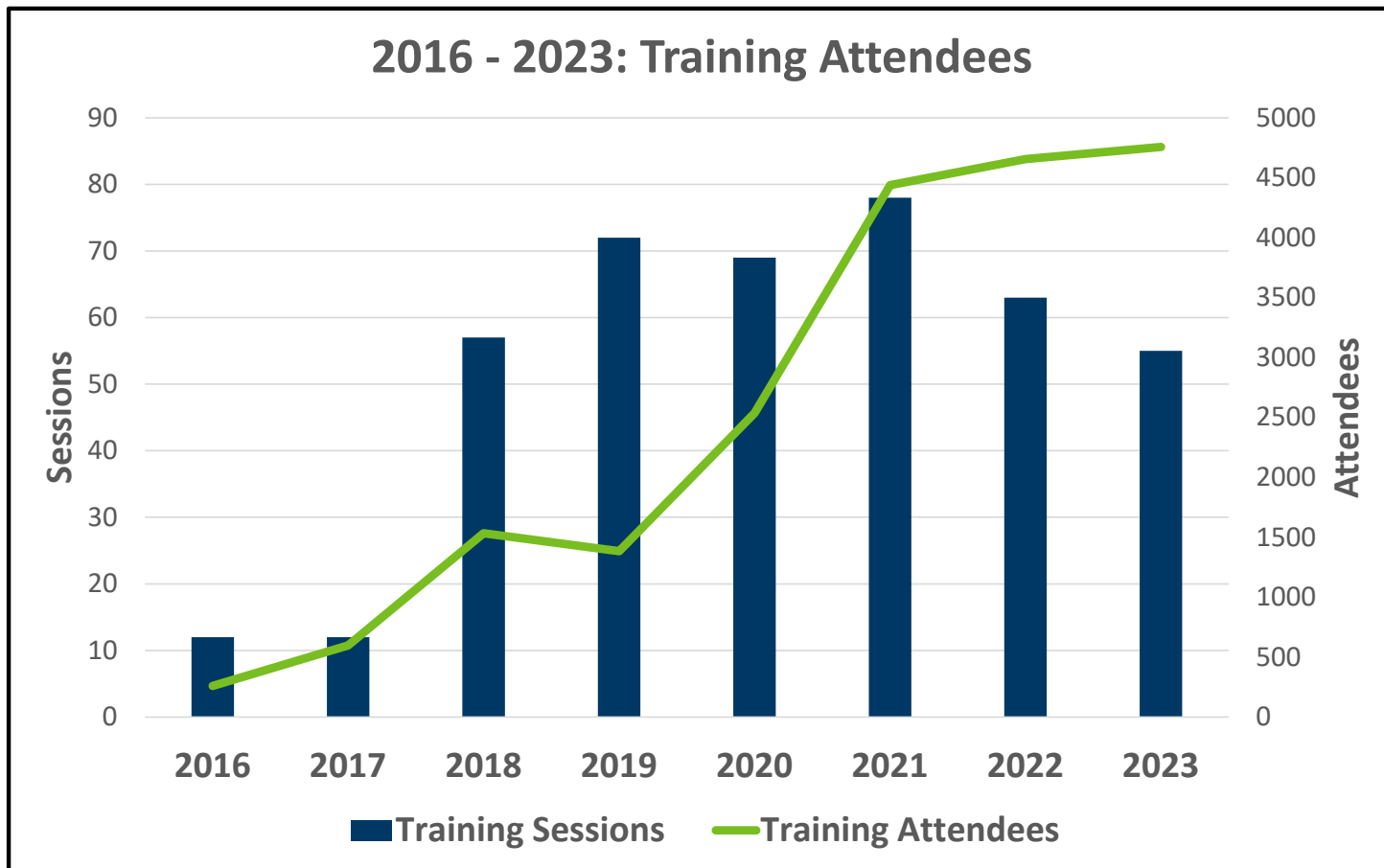
TTCP Training Delivery



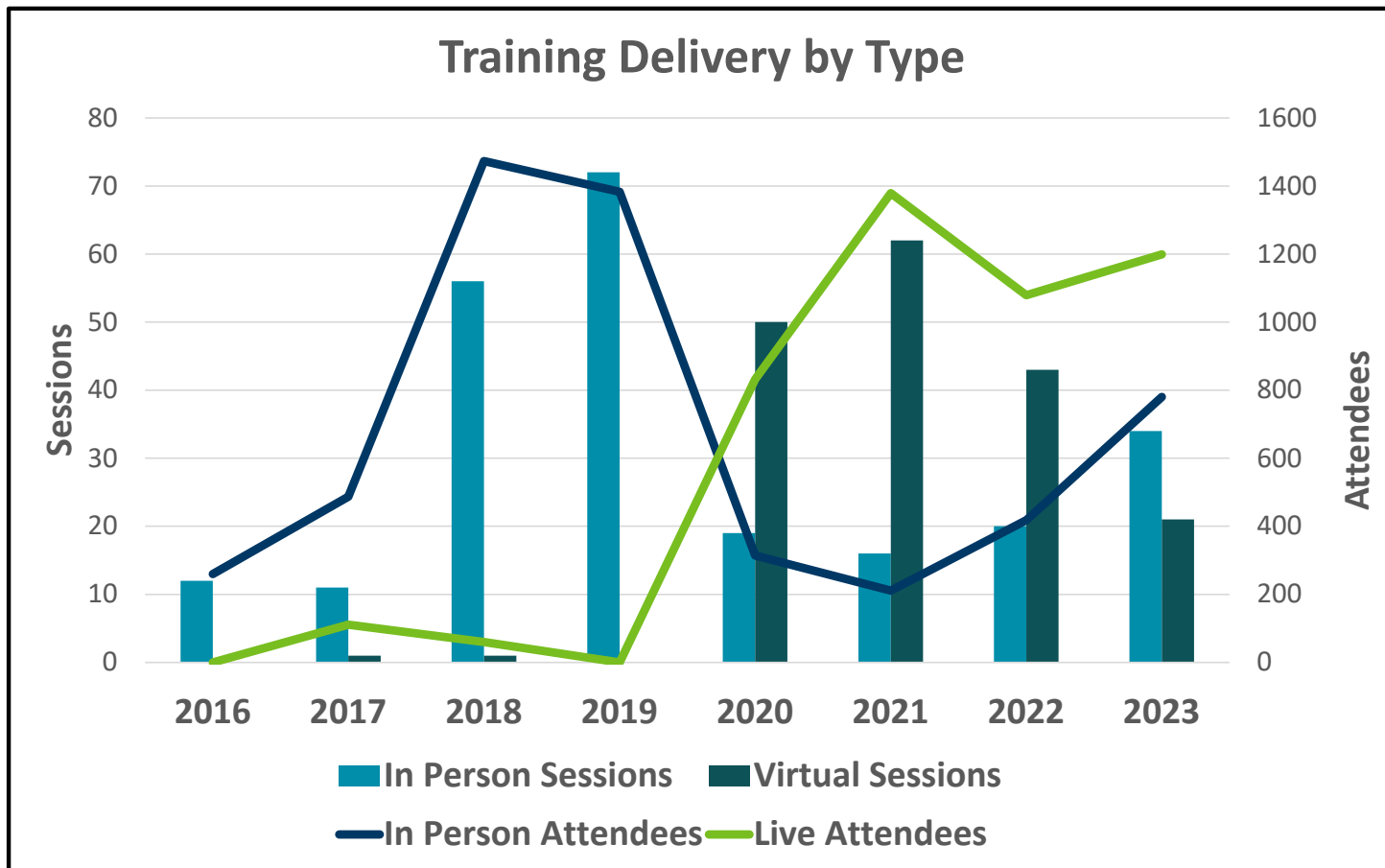
TTCP Training Delivery



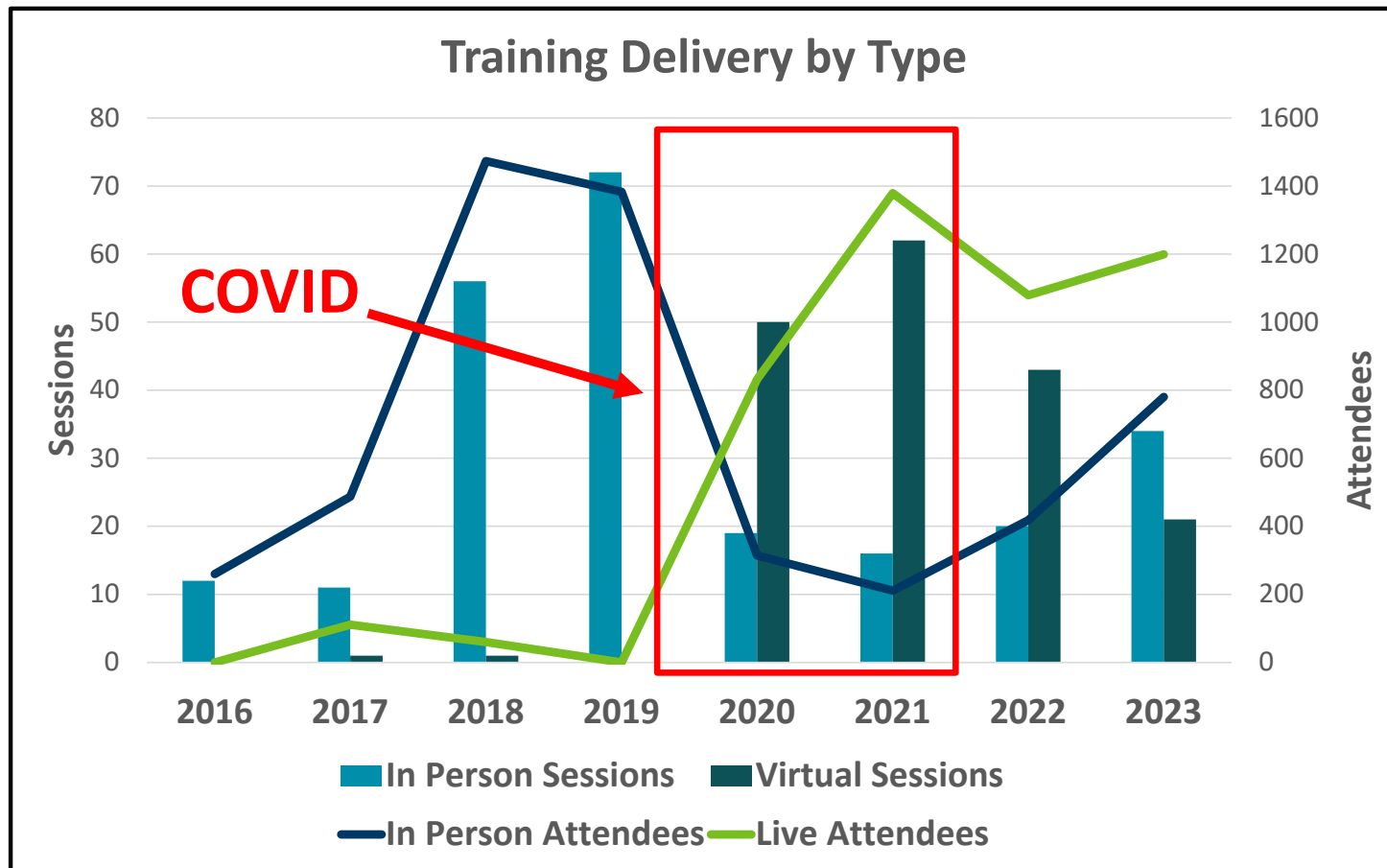
TTCP Training Delivery



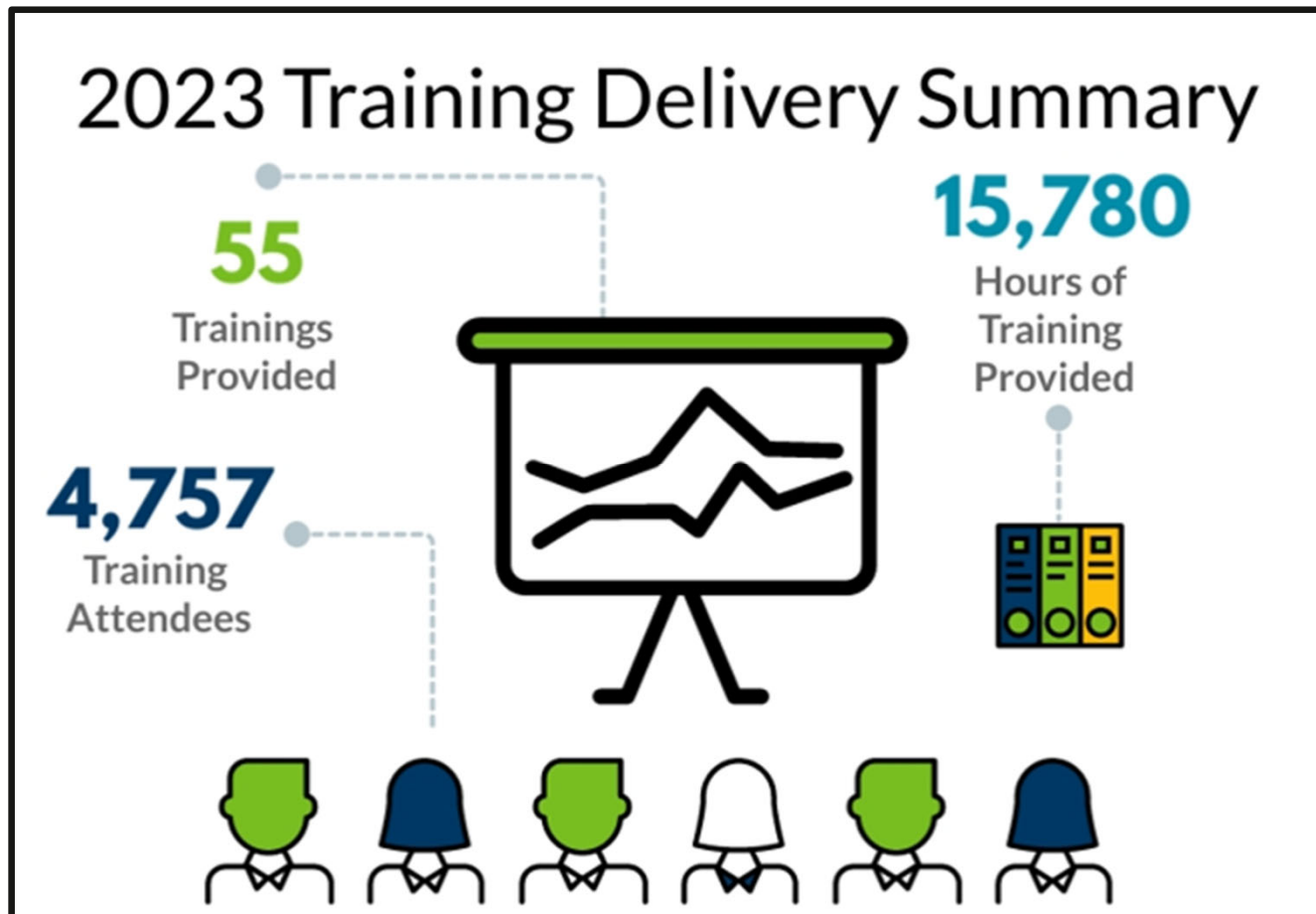
TTCP Training Delivery



TTCP Training Delivery



TTCP Training Delivery



Questions

