

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

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

- Wetland Conservation Committee meeting is scheduled for June 4th at 9:30 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.
- Northern Region Committee meeting is scheduled for June 5th at 10:30 a.m. in Duluth 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

BWSR Board Member Conflict of Interest in Grant Review – Disclosure Form

Meeting: _____

Date: _____

I certify that I have read and understand the descriptions of conflict of interest provided, reviewed my participation for conflict of interest, and disclosed any perceived, potential, or actual conflicts. As a BWSR Board member, appointed according to Minnesota Statute Section 103B.101, I am responsible for evaluating my participation or abstention from the review process as indicated below. If I have indicated an actual conflict, I will abstain from the discussion and decision for that agenda item.

Please complete the form below for all agenda items. If you indicate that you do not have a conflict for an agenda item, you do not need to fill out additional information regarding that agenda item.

Agenda Item	No conflict (mark here and stop for this row)	Grant applicant(s) associated with conflict (required if conflict identified)	Conflict Type (required if conflict identified)	Will you participate? (required if conflict identified)	Description of conflict (optional)
				Yes / No	
				Yes / No	
				Yes / No	
				Yes / No	

Printed name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

**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.

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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.

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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.

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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

Memo

Date: May 5, 2024

To: BWSR Grants Program and Policy Committee

From: Rita Weaver, BWSR Engineering Section Manager

RE: FY 2024 Proposed Grant Awards – Water Quality and Storage Grant Program

The Water Quality and Storage 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. In January 2024, the board authorized BWSR staff to open an RFP for \$3 Million of the \$17 Million of available funding for the program. An application period was open from February 12, 2024 to April 11, 2024. Twenty-seven (27) applications were received requesting approximately \$9.3 Million.

BWSR staff propose to fund ten applications with a total grant award of \$2,989,644. Five of those projects are for modeling and conceptual design work, with a total of \$213,250 and five of those projects are for final design and construction work, with a total of \$2,776,394. A summary of the proposed funding recommendations will be presented to the Board at their May 22, 2024 meeting.

This memorandum summarizes the applications received and the proposed awards for the two components of the program: 1) modeling and conceptual design, and 2) final design and construction.

Modeling and Conceptual Design Grants

The RFP stated that up to \$500,000 would be available for modeling and conceptual design of storage projects. There were nine applications for modeling and conceptual design, with a total request of \$351,250. BWSR staff scored and ranked the proposals and scores ranged from 84.2 to 46.6. There was a large break in scores between 70.4 and 63.8, so staff propose to use 70 as the scoring threshold for the modeling and conceptual design applications, and to fund the five projects that scored higher than 70.

Staff propose that the following five projects receive funding:

Organization	Grant Name	Funding Request
Lyon SWCD	CD 12 - Water Storage Grant	\$12,000.00

Organization	Grant Name	Funding Request
Nobles County	Nobles County JD 4 - Water Quality and Storage Modeling	\$24,000.00
Renville SWCD	Targeted Storage for Beaver Creek Watershed	\$82,250.00
City of Apple Valley	Apple Valley Additions Stormwater Feasibility Study	\$60,000.00
Jackson County	Water Storage Feasibility Modeling & Concept Design - Jackson JD13	\$35,000.00
Total proposed award		\$213,250

Final Design and Construction Grants

As stated in the RFP, the remaining funds, \$2,786,750, will be available for final design and construction projects. There were eighteen (18) application for these funds, with a total request of \$8,983,070. Four of the applications were deemed ineligible. Eligible applications were scored and ranked, and scores ranged from 86 to 44.2.

The top five projects are recommended for funding, and all five of these projects scored above 80.0. Funding these projects will nearly exhaust the \$3M available for this application period, leaving a balance of \$10,365. Since this was such a small amount, the scoring team recommends that these remaining funds be left as part of the Water Quality and Storage Program balance.

Staff propose that the following five projects receive funding:

Organization	Grant Name	Funding Request
Blue Earth County SWCD	County Ditch 56 Storage Basin	\$596,075
Faribault County SWCD	Blue Earth River Water Storage and Sediment Reduction	\$332,500
Le Sueur County SWCD	Upper Cannon Water Storage Project - Gibbs Wetland	\$424,499
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	Holly 22 Road Retention Project	\$555,770
Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	North Hero 34 Road Retention	\$867,550

Organization	Grant Name	Funding Request
Total proposed award		\$2,776,394

Applications and Scores for the FY24 Water Quality and Storage Program

Total Request: \$9,334,319

Final design and construction funds

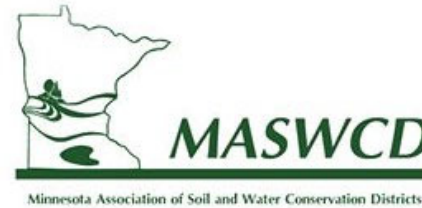
C25-0027	Blue Earth County SWCD	County Ditch 56 Storage Basin	\$596,075	86
C25-0019	Faribault County SWCD	Blue Earth River Water Storage and Sediment Reduction	\$332,500	85.4
C25-0020	Le Sueur County SWCD	upper Cannon Water Storage Project - Gibbs Wetland	\$424,499	84.2
C25-0031	Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	Holly 22 Road Retention Project	\$555,770	81.8
C25-0030	Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	North Hero 34 Road Retention	\$867,550	80.6
C25-006	Area II MN River Basin Projects	Redwood Falls 5/8/9 Stabilizations - Redwood County	\$466,957	80
C25-0033	Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	Ann 17 Grade Stabilization	\$206,664	78.4
C25-0039	Grant SWCD	Grant 2024 Water Quality and Storage grant	\$348,000	76.75
C25-0034	Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects	Lynd 31 Road Retention	\$559,444	74.4
C25-005	Coon Creek WD	Pleasure Creek Regional Pond Outlet Modification	\$460,125	70
C25-003	Sauk River WD	Gethcell Creek/Stearns County Ditch 26 Water Storage and Treatment	\$501,000	65.8
C25-0022	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD	Anderson Water Stroage - 80 acre-ft Ungate Storage - Section 3 McCrea - Part of Swift Coulee	\$987,190	60.8
C25-011	Deephave, City of	Montgomerie Avenue Area Drainage Project	\$450,000	45.8
C25-0026	Lyon County	CD 14 - Water Quality and Storage	\$812,585	44.2
			Total Request:	\$7,568,359

Modeling and Conceptual Design Funds

C25-0023	Lyon SWCD	CD 12 - Water Storage Grant	\$12,000	84.2
C25-0028	Nobles County	Nobles County JD 4 - Water Quality and Storage Modeling	\$24,000	80
C25-0029	Renville SWCD	Targeted Storage for Beaver Creek Watershed	\$82,250	72.8
C25-0013	Apple Valley, City of	Apple Valley Additions Stormwater Feasibility Study	\$60,000	71
C25-0040	Jackson County	Water Storage Feasibility Modeling & Concept Design - Jackson JD13	\$35,000	70.4
C25-0036	Scott County	County Ditch 4 Modernization Study	\$50,000	63.8
C25-0021	Rice Creek WD	Hardwood Creek/Judicial Ditch No. 2 Storage Feasibility Study	\$12,000	62
C25-0002	Sauk River WD	Feasibility of Capital Improvement Projects: Osakis/JD2 Watershed	\$36,000	59.8
C25-0004	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	Climate Change & Flood Mitigation Modeling and Action Planning	\$40,000	46.6
			Total Request:	\$351,250

Ineligible

C25-0016		Hydrographs not provided	\$ 25,466
C25-0035		Hydrographs not provided	\$ 110,000
C25-0037		Did not provide information on outlet adequacy	\$ 393,520
C25-0038		Hydrographs not provided	\$ 885,724



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



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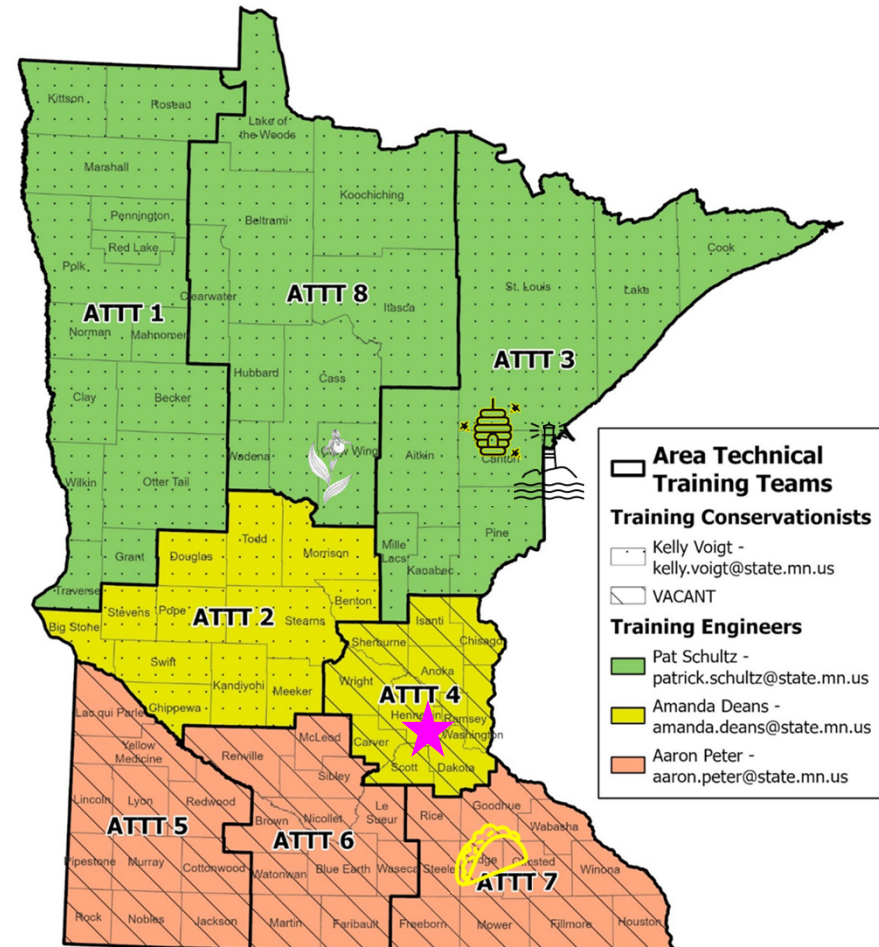


Patrick Schultz

Northern Regional Training Engineer

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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?

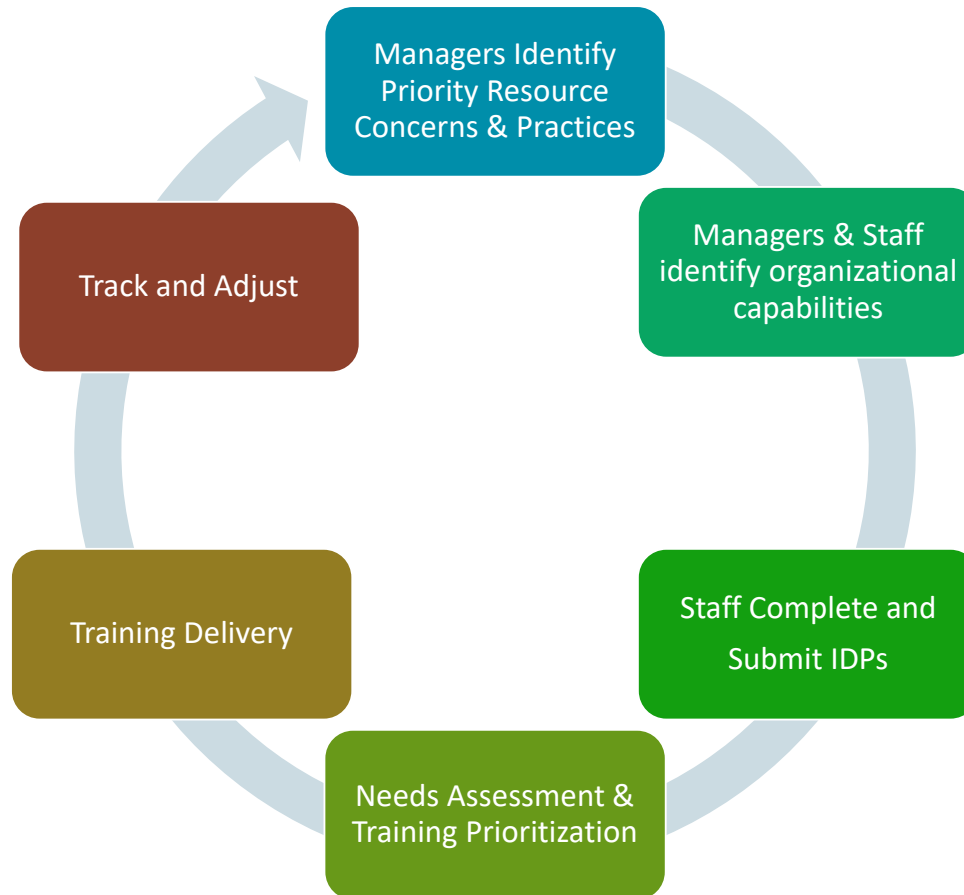
- Technical training
- Field Office Technical Guide
 - NRCS: technical information about the conservation of soil, water, air, plant, and animal resources (SWAPA)
 - Section IV: Conservation Practice Standards and Implementation Requirements

The screenshot displays a web interface for the TTCP (Technical Training and Conservation Practice) website. On the left, a navigation menu is visible under the heading 'Section 4 - Practice Standards and Supporting Documents'. The menu items include '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 main content area is titled 'Access Control (472)'. It features a 'Keyboard Navigation Instructions' button at the top left. Below this, there are two buttons: 'Featured' (with a star icon) and 'Export CSV' (with a table icon). A section titled 'Document Title' contains a list of three documents, each with a checkbox and a link: '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 is dark blue with the eLINK logo on the left. A sidebar on the left contains a menu with the following items: Dashboard, Technical Training (with a dropdown arrow), My Credentials, My Training Needs (highlighted in blue), My Training History, Organizational Priorities, BWSR Technical Training, Search Technical Training, Contacts (with a right arrow), Support, Resources, and Admin (with a right arrow). The main content area has a white background. At the top, there are two input fields: 'Organization Name' and 'Contact Name'. Below these is a section titled 'My Training Needs' enclosed in a yellow rounded rectangle. This section contains two buttons: 'Add New Training Request' (dark blue) and 'Generate IDP Report' (dark green). Below the buttons is a 'Display' dropdown menu set to '25 records'. At the bottom, there is a table with the following structure:

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



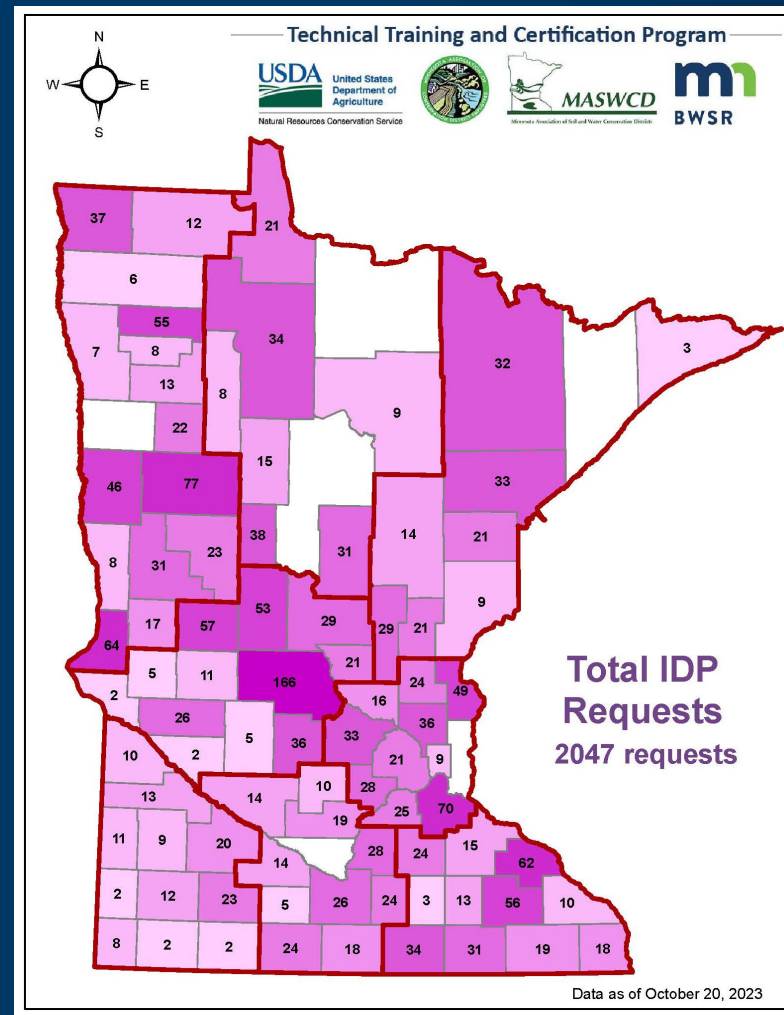
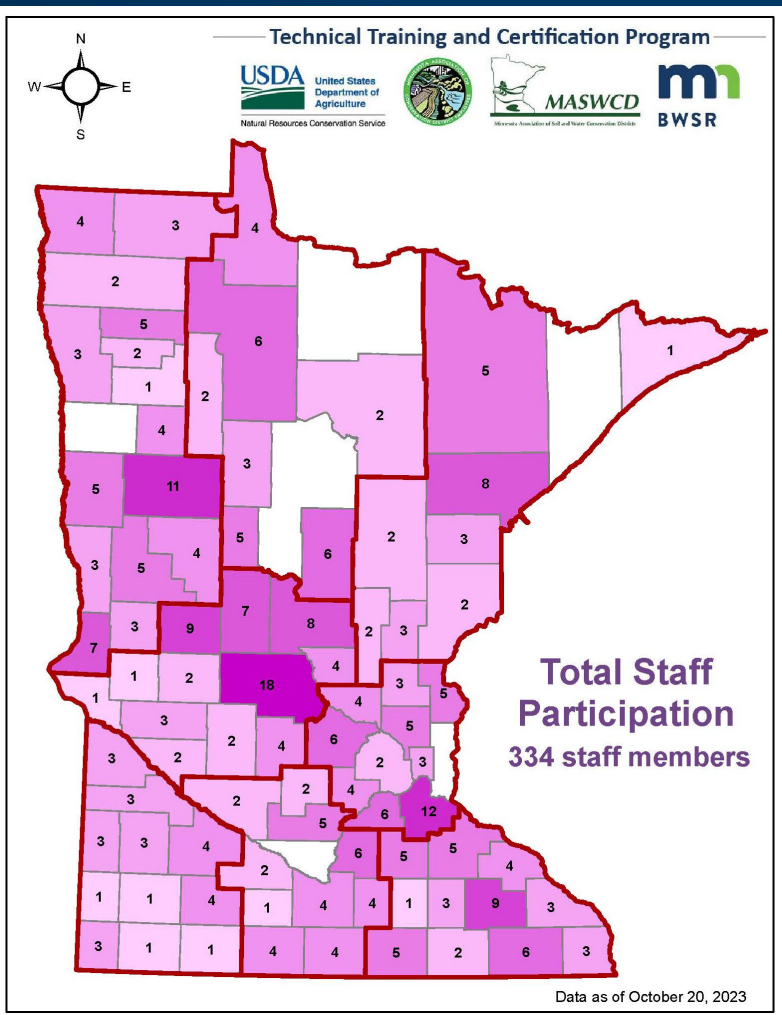
*Snapshot of data
taken each October*

Add New Priority Practice

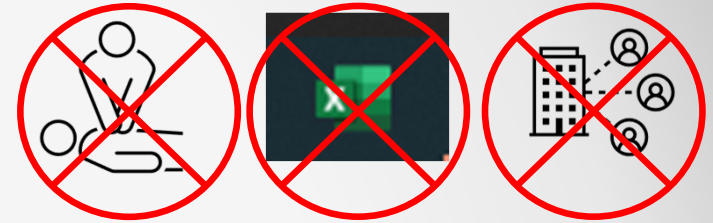
Display 25 records

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

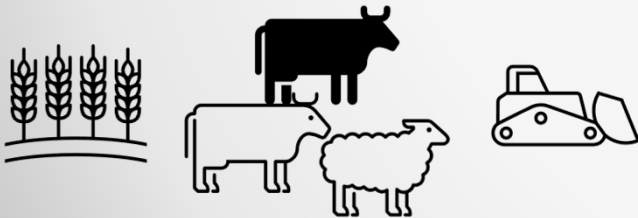
2023 IDP Participation



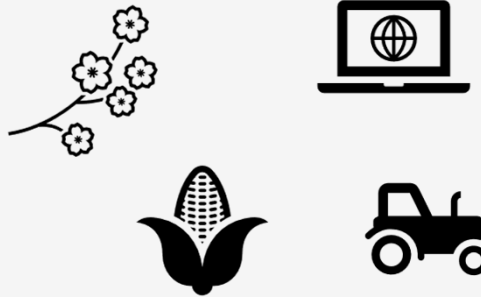
IDP Data



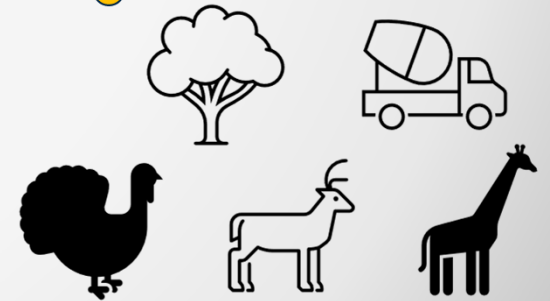
PRACTICES
(FOTG)

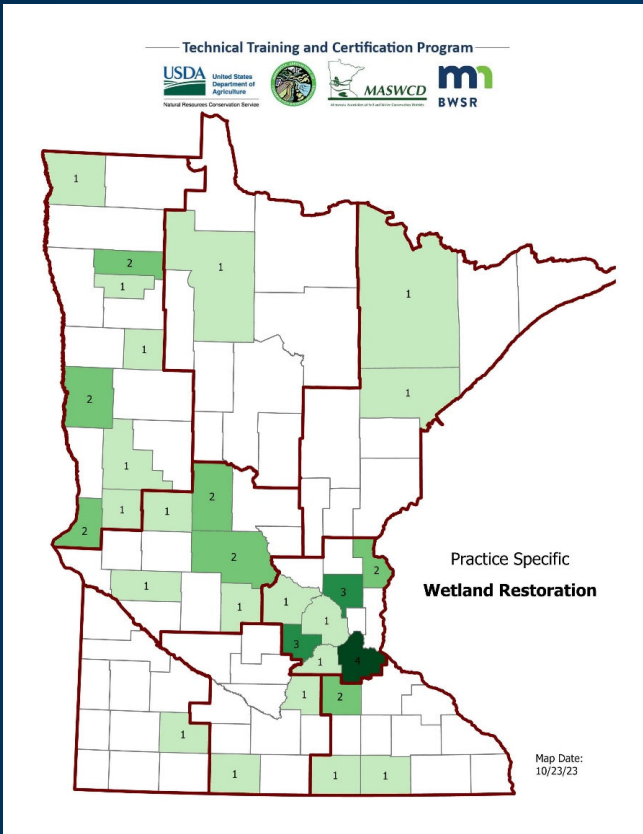


BASIC SKILLS



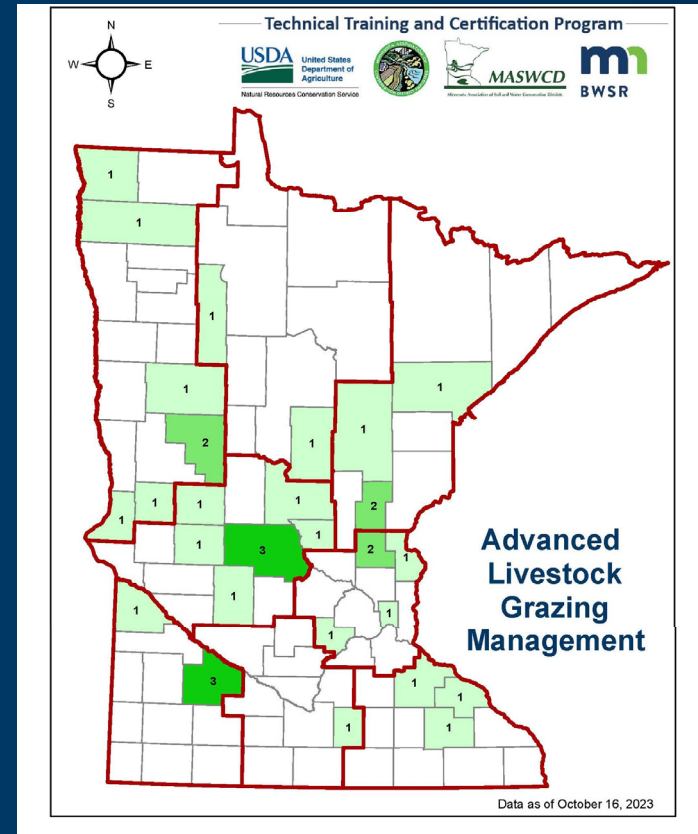
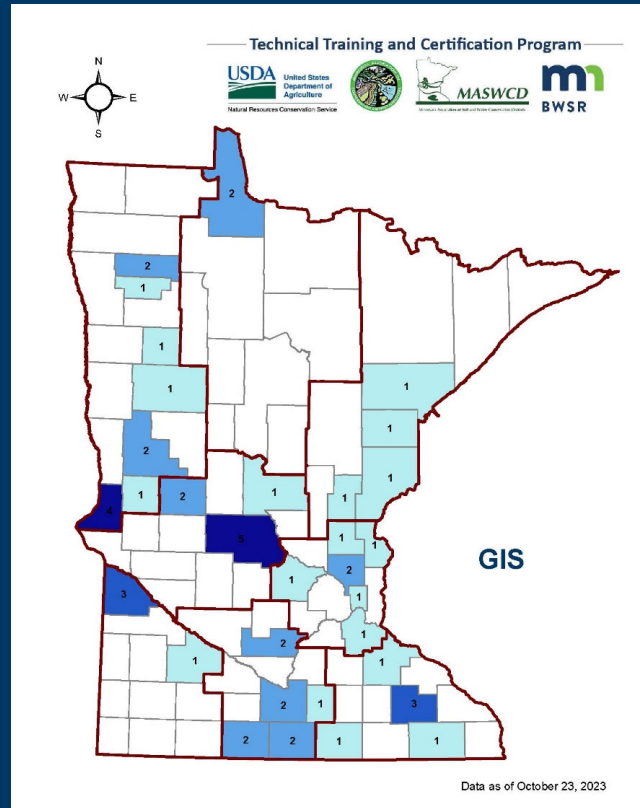
ADVANCED SKILLS





MAPS!

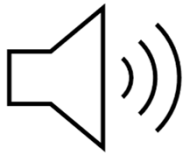
(& pivot tables,
spreadsheets, etc.)



How is this information used?

Eight Area Technical Training Teams

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

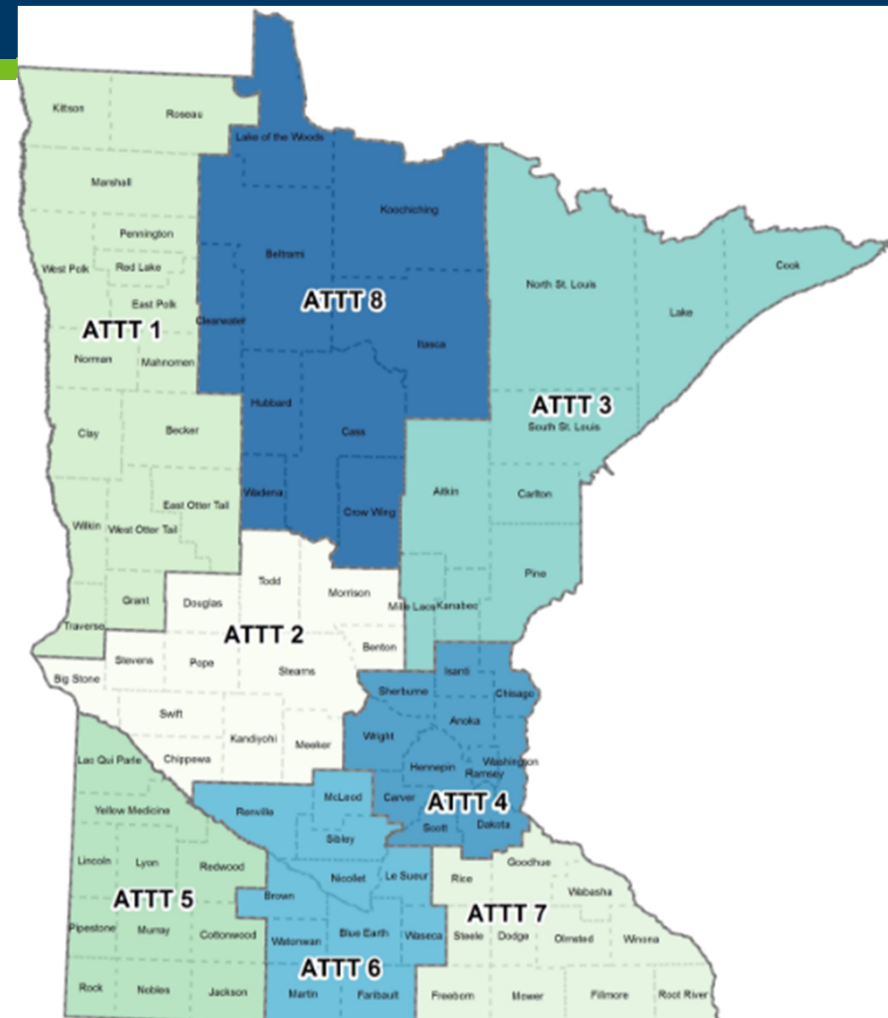


SWCD

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



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 [†]	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 [†]	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) [†]	(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) [†]	(Time: 16:39) This video focuses on the early season growth and development of soybeans
R Stages Soybean Management in Wisconsin (soybeans 3/3) [†]	(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) [†]	(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) [†]	(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) [†]	(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 [†]	This website provides information on variety selection, growing, harvest and storage, planting and pest management for forages in Minnesota.
Sugarbeets [†]	This website provides information on growing sugarbeets and pest management for sugarbeets Minnesota.
Small Grains [†]	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 tabs: 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?

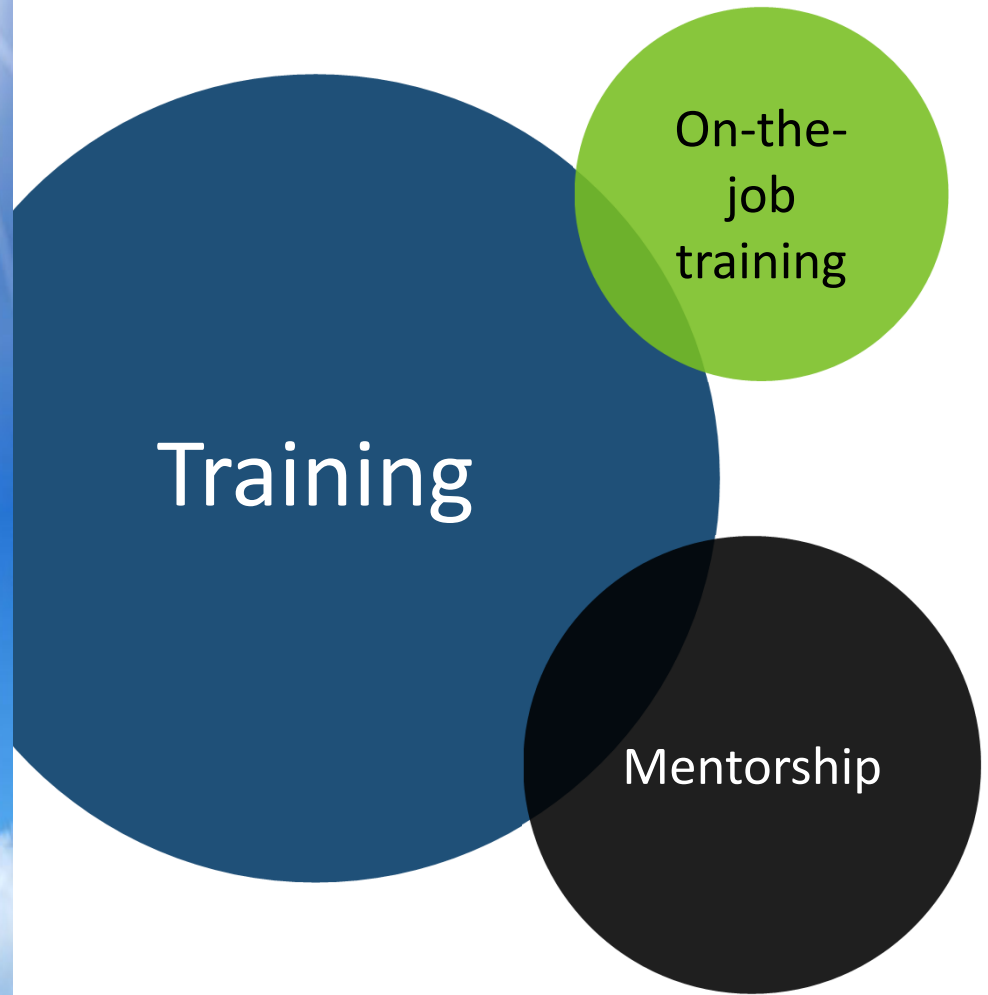
- Certification



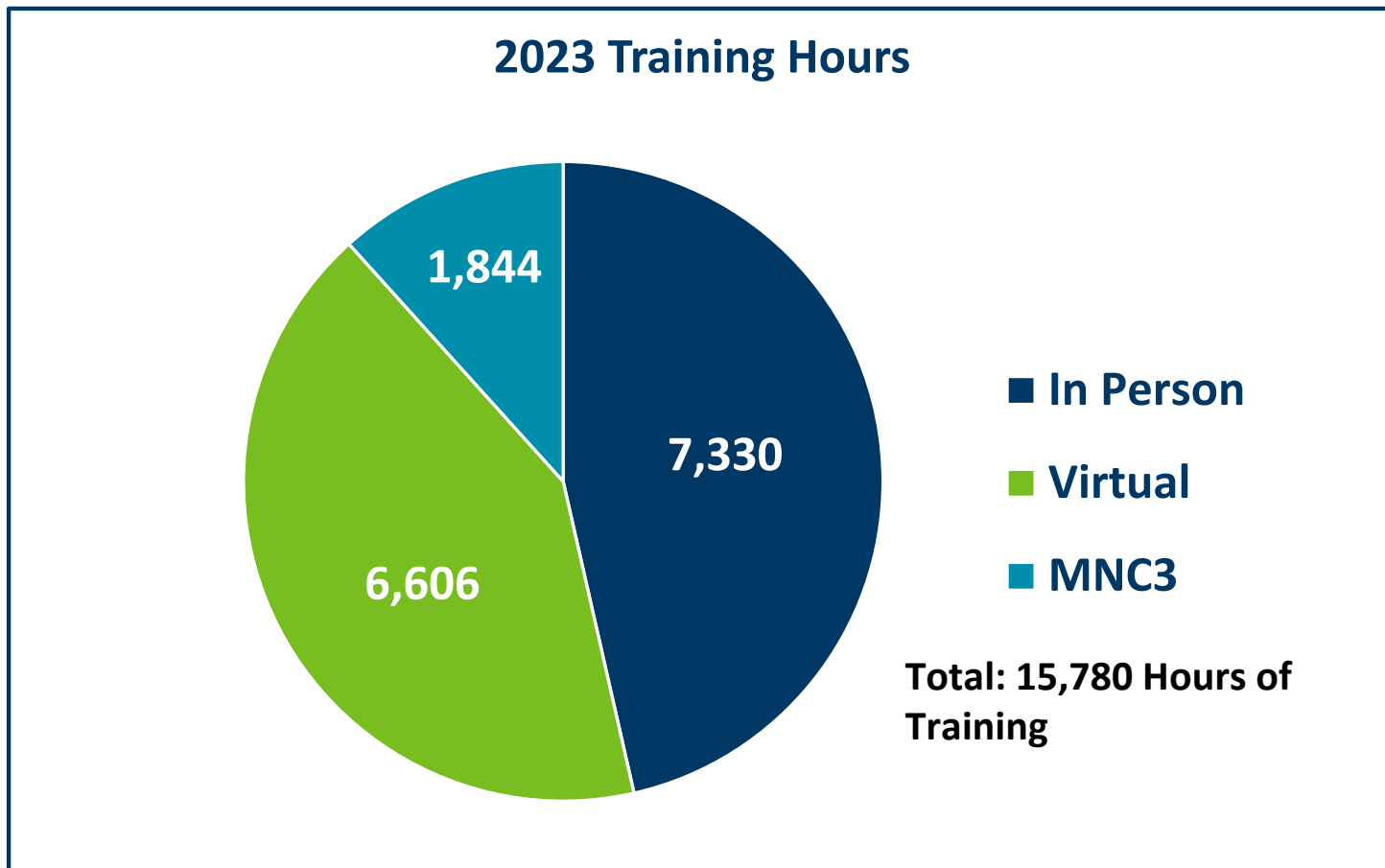
How do you get JAA?



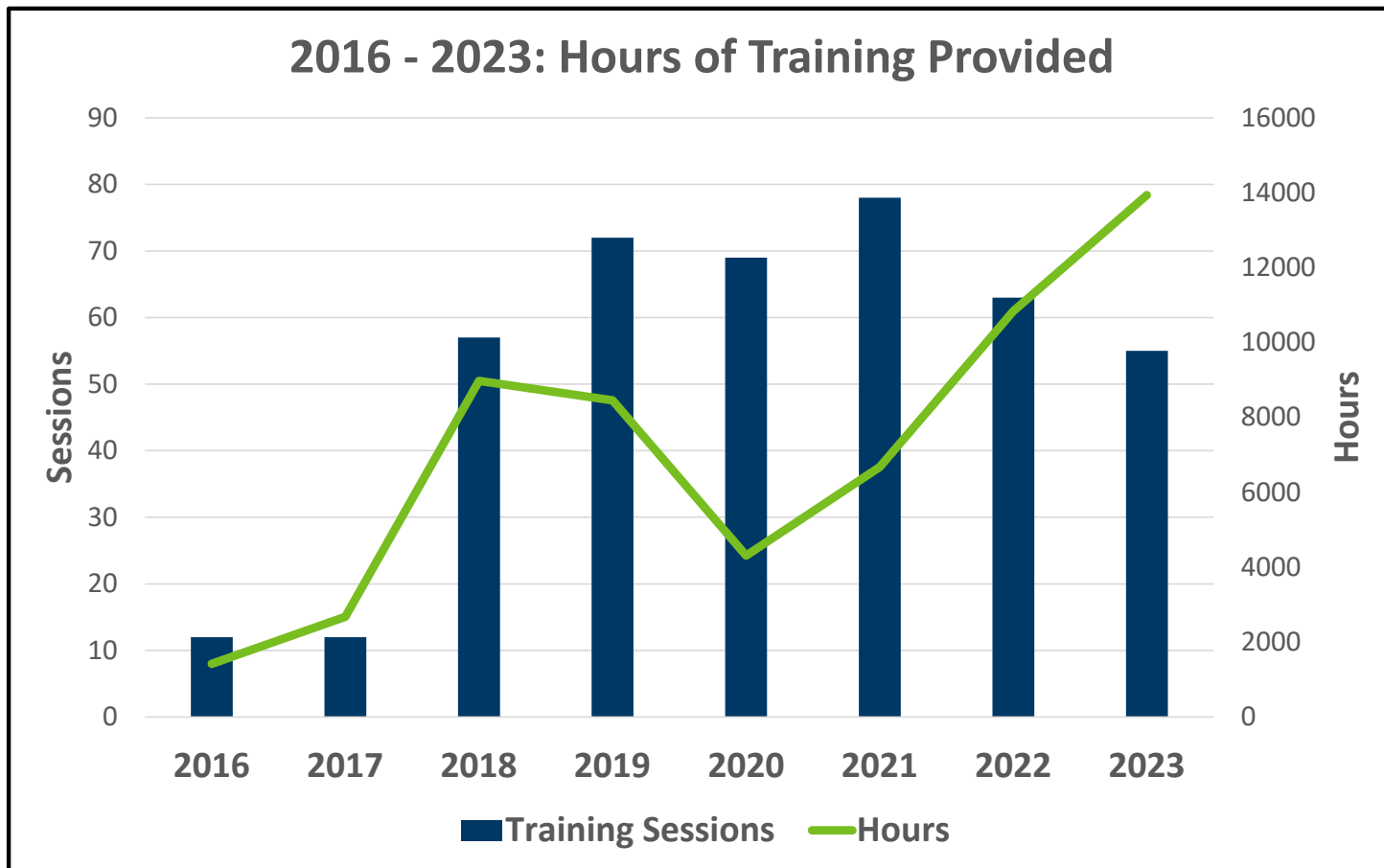
- Demonstrate Competence



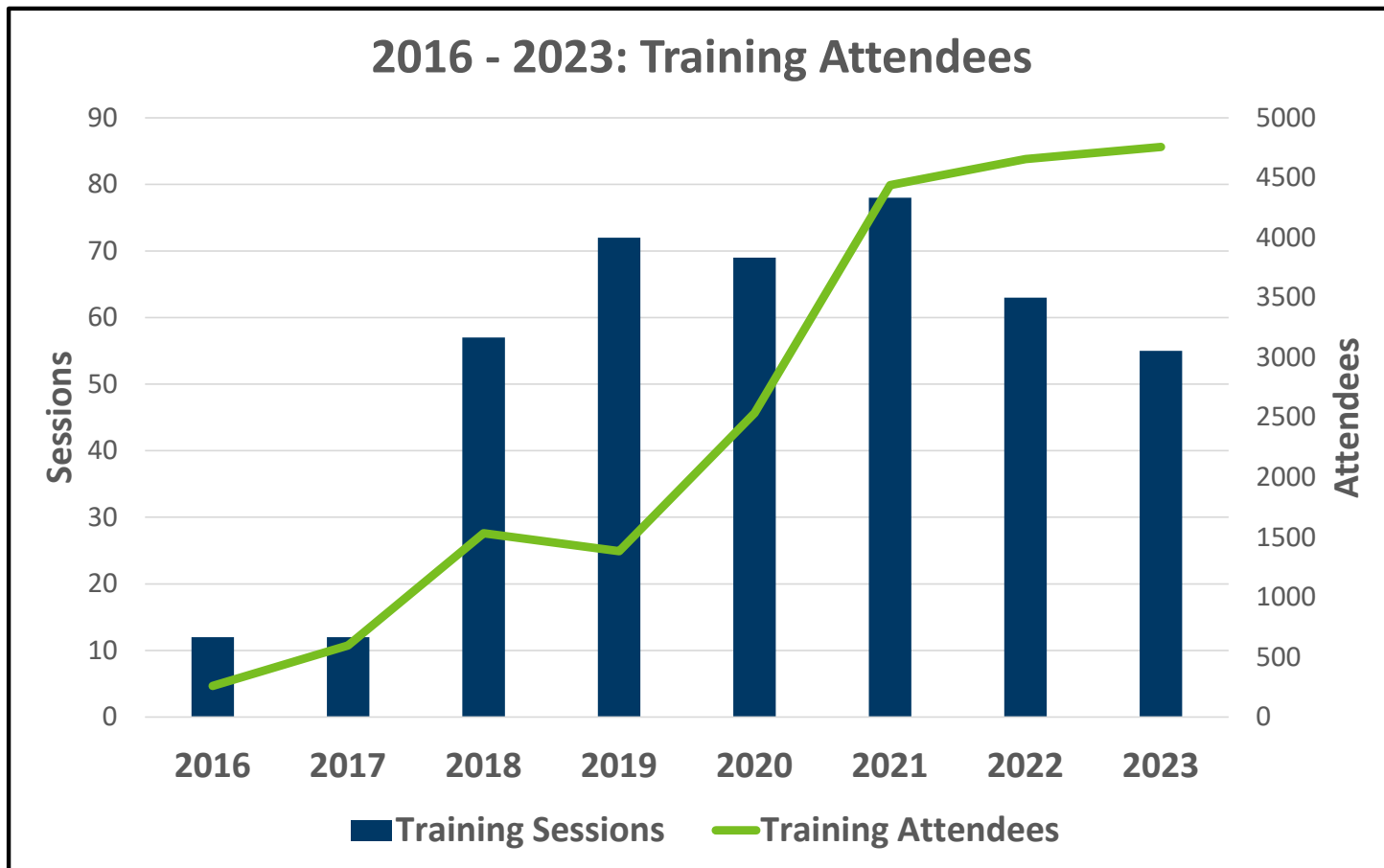
TTCP Training Delivery



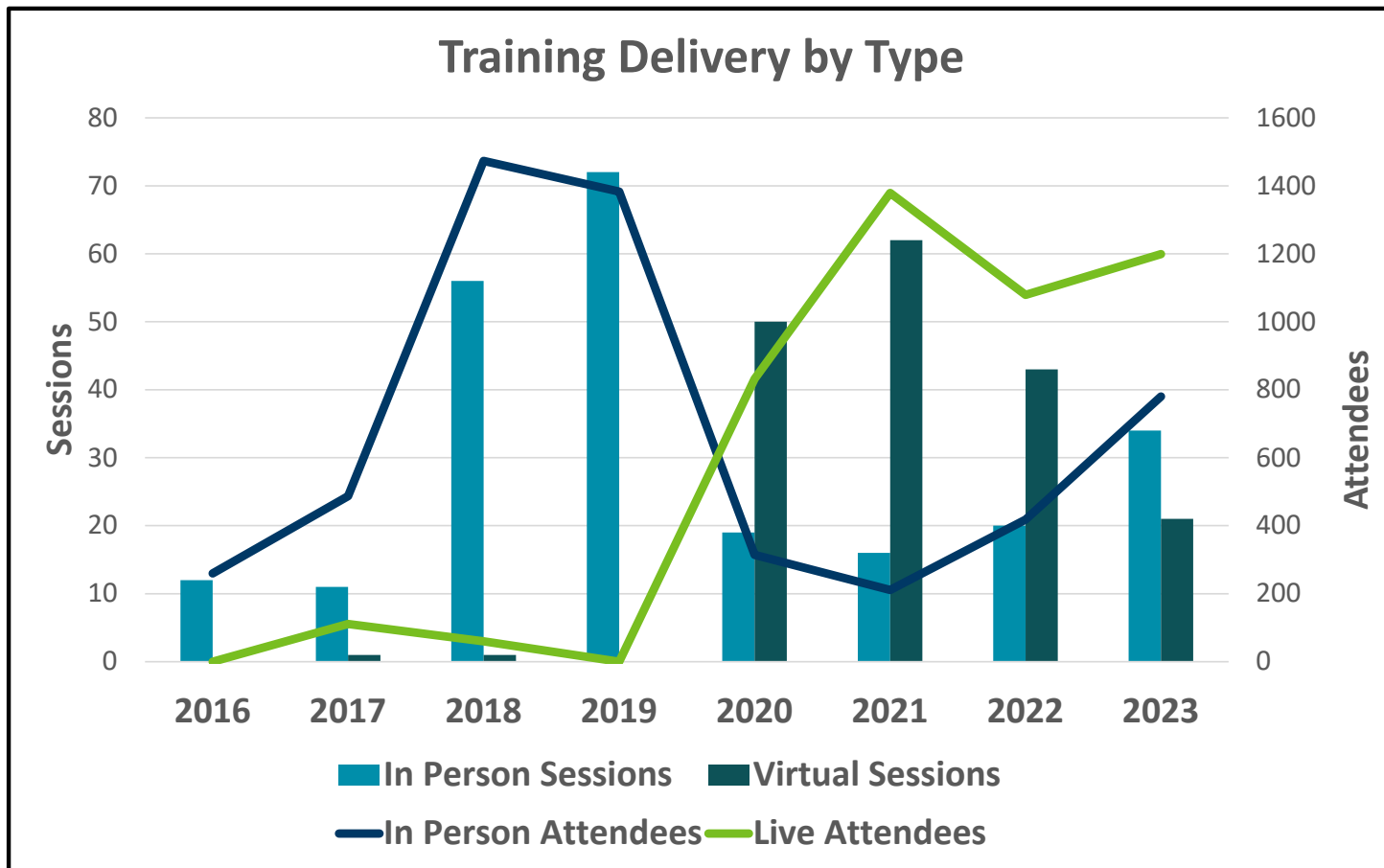
TTCP Training Delivery



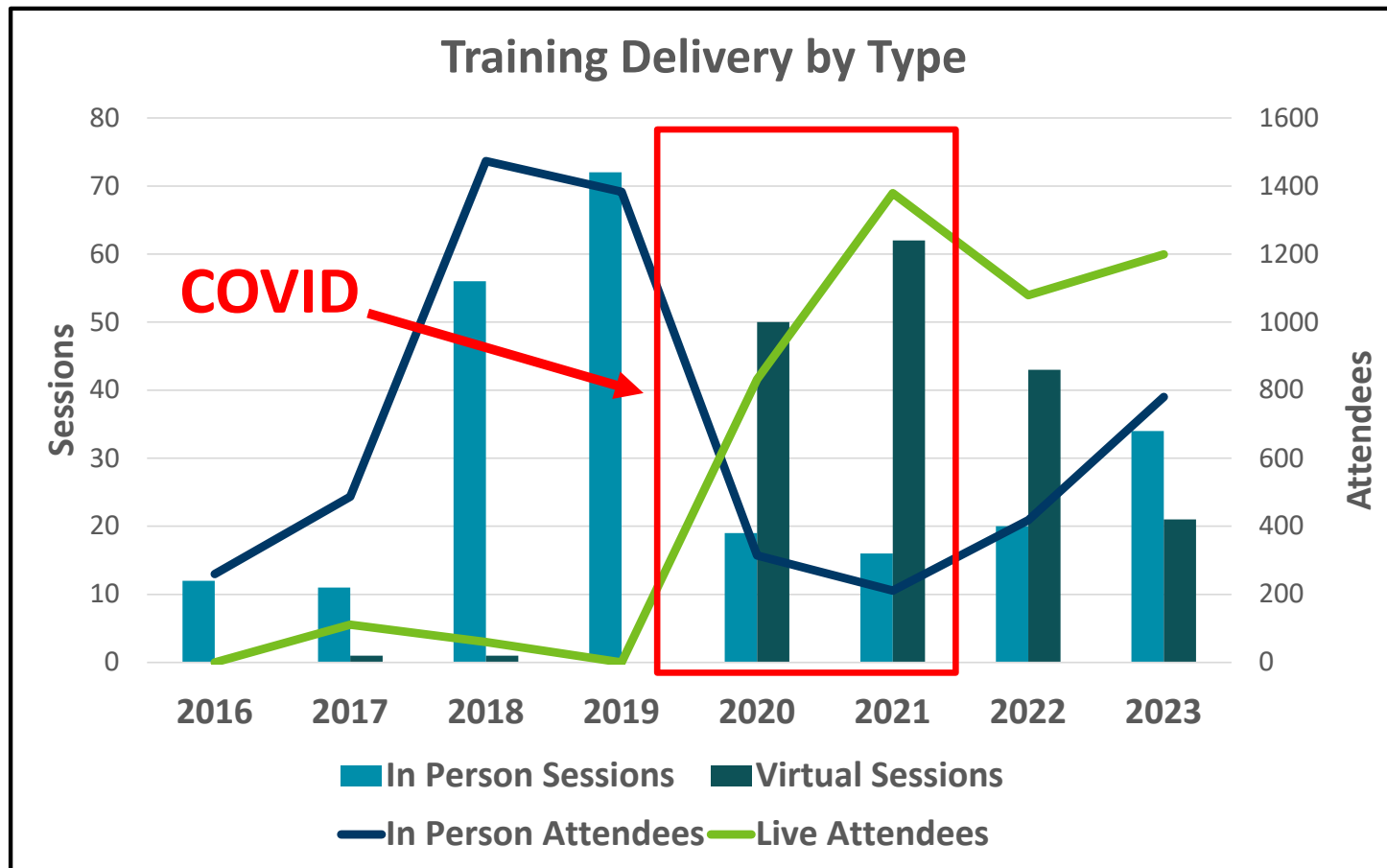
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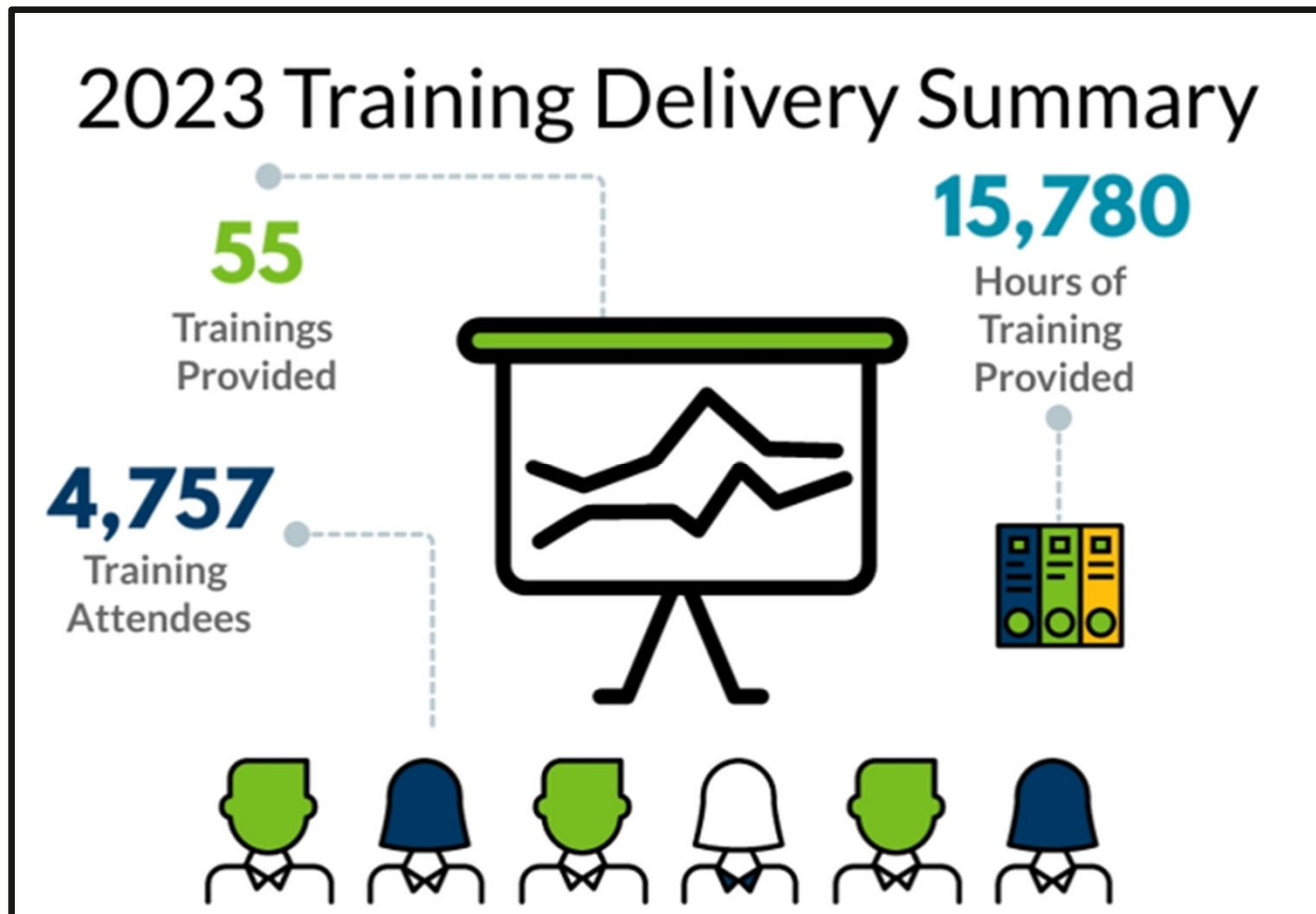
TTCP Training Delivery



TTCP Training Delivery



TTCP Training Delivery



Questions





In Otter Tail County, easement protects wild rice, fish, wildlife



DENT — A wild rice Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement in Otter Tail County will permanently protect 1.5 miles of shoreline from future development on a shallow bay of Star Lake where wild rice flourishes, migrating diver ducks fuel up, and anglers pursue panfish. The 61-acre easement was recorded in 2023.

Since 2012, the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council has allocated nearly

\$11.8 million in Outdoor Heritage Funds to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for its Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program.

The program protects wild rice lakes and shorelines through permanent conservation easements on privately owned lands within Minnesota's Northern Forest Region and is available in 14 counties: Aitkin, Becker, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Clearwater, Crow Wing, Hubbard,

Top: A wild rice RIM easement on Star Lake in Otter Tail County includes 1.5 miles of shoreline. The property supports eagles, deer and wild turkeys. The shallow bay provides quality waterfowl habitat. Steve Slatten, **right,** is among the owners of Eagle Point Properties LLC. **Photos Courtesy of Steve Slatten**

Bottom: SWCD staff will monitor the easement on Star Lake, seen here in May, once a year for the first three years, and then once every five years. BWSR has received nine rounds of Outdoor Heritage Funds, generated by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, to support its Wild Rice Shoreland Protection Program. **Photo Credit:** John Voz, BWSR

Itasca, Otter Tail, St. Louis, Stearns, Todd and Wadena.

Through RIM wild rice easements, the program has permanently protected 10,834 acres — including recorded easements and those in the process of being recorded.

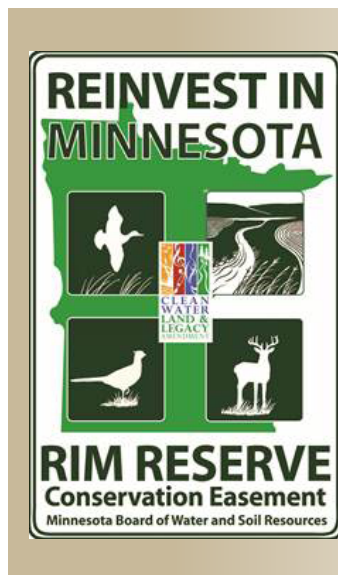
“It’s a multi-layered program that rings all the bells: Water quality. Habitat. Wild rice. Wild rice in itself grows in a very fragile ecosystem,” said John Voz, BWSR RIM easement and working lands specialist. “If wild rice is present, it’s a sign that there’s good water quality, and therefore it’s important to maintain.”

The most recent Outdoor Heritage Fund appropriation — \$2 million — will become available July 1, 2024. The Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment generates Outdoor Heritage Fund revenue.

BWSR holds RIM easements, which remain privately owned, on the tax rolls and closed to public hunting.

The Star Lake easement is owned by Eagle Point Properties LLC — named for the point that extends into the southwest bay — and overseen by Steve Slatten, who spoke on owners’ behalf.

“To maintain the excellent water quality and angling that this lake has to offer, it is imperative to preserve the quality of the aquatic habitat. We all recognize that we have



ELIGIBILITY: RIM wild rice easements are available within the 14-county Northern Forest Region, on Minnesota Department of Natural Resources [wild rice lakes](#). Sites are chosen through a ranking that includes development risk, surrounding land use and habitat value. The easements are protection easements, so wild rice is not planted.

PAYMENTS: Onetime payments are made when easements are recorded. The amount is based on township land values. The rate is 90% of cropland value and 60% of non-cropland value. Additional conservation practice payments reimburse for things such as establishing native plants.

a special piece of property here, and our goal is to protect it as best we can,” Slatten said.

Lakeshore development — with its potential to cause runoff that negatively affects wild rice production — is among the biggest threats to Star Lake and other wild-rice-producing lakes in the state.

The plants grow in shallow water along lakeshores and along the banks of slow-flowing streams. Often, only the flowering head of wild rice rises above the water. Wild rice can only travel about 30 inches away from a parent plant. If pollen does not land on a receptive female flower within that distance, no seeds are produced.

Emergent plants such as wild rice provide spawning areas for Northern pike, largemouth bass and panfish. They are important nursery

areas for all species of fish.

Star Lake, in north-central Otter Tail County, is named for its shape — circular, with three arms resembling the points of a star. Unlike most Minnesota lakes, which were created by glaciers, Star Lake is believed to be the result of an impact from a meteor or other space debris. The 4,721-acre lake reaches a maximum depth of 94 feet just off of its eastern shore. The bay on which the easement is located is about 5 feet deep.

“In 1998, lake levels were very high and there was no rice growing anywhere near our shoreline. As water levels dropped over several years, the bay literally exploded in a lush crop of wild rice. Instead of seeing sky-blue water off our shoreline, we were seeing a sea of green,” Slatten said.

Some landowners prefer a

“tidy” shoreline. But Slatten recognized the value of the wild rice.

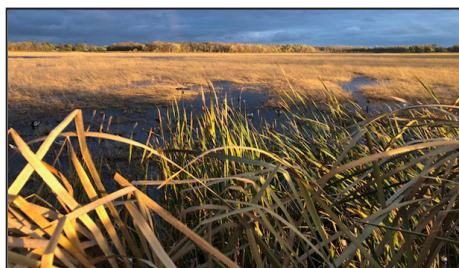
“We started seeing more wildlife, including numerous species of waterfowl as well as other birds and mammals. The main reason for permanently protecting wild rice lands is that it benefits the whole wetland environment: birds, animals and plants.”

East Otter Tail Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) conservation technician Tanner Schmitz worked with the landowners to survey and assess the site, and then apply for the RIM easement.

One of the larger wild-rice-producing lakes in the region, Star Lake — and the southeast bay in particular — had seen increasing development pressure in the past five to 10 years. The sheer length of shoreline being protected made this easement unique.

Landowners had planted native grasses and wildflowers, and had worked with foresters on forest-stand improvement — including harvesting mature trees and planting bur oaks. Schmitz said the property includes pockets of aspen, 32 acres of mixed hardwoods, 14 acres of wetlands and 11 acres of upland grasses.

“It benefits pretty much everything. That’s the management strategy they’ve taken on this property, was to benefit all wildlife,” Schmitz said.



The 61-acre easement on Star Lake includes a natural shoreline. Wild rice flourishes in the shallow bay. The easement includes pockets of aspen, 32 acres of mixed hardwoods, 14 acres of wetlands and 11 acres of upland grasses. Photos Courtesy of Steve Slatten

Redwood River project saves soil, strengthens flood control



Natural Resources Conservation Service website: www.mn.nrcs.usda.gov



Details

EARTHEN DAM: Area II covered 25% of engineering and flowage easement costs. In a 6.6-inch rain (100-year storm), designed to reduce peak flow by 8.5%, to 162 cubic feet per second. More effective in a 5.7-inch rain (50-year storm), reducing peak flow by nearly 60%, velocity to 58 cfs, and temporarily holding 9.6 acre-feet of water.

TERRACES: Finished in December by Ryan West Excavating, engineered by Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area staff, inspected by Redwood SWCD. Clean Water Funds and NRCS EQIP assistance covered 75% of the cost.



Clean Water Funds supported construction of an earthen dam 3 miles upstream from Lake Redwood, part of a network of flood- and erosion-control measures. Ryan West Excavating of Tracy finished the work in October.

Photo Credit: Redwood SWCD

REDWOOD FALLS — Situated on either side of the Redwood River just 3 miles upstream from Lake Redwood, an earthen dam and a series of seven terraces will strengthen a network of flood- and erosion-control measures that combat altered hydrology within the Minnesota River basin.

A \$140,210 water quality and storage pilot program grant the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects in 2023 supported the work. Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) assistance from the USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) backed the terrace project. The city of Redwood’s \$32,850 contribution covered 15% of both projects, reducing landowners’ cost to 10%.

By controlling water volume and velocity, the pilot program aims to protect infrastructure, improve water quality, and



Netzke

mitigate the effects of a changing climate.

The second of two projects finished in December.

Together, the projects in Redwood Falls Township will keep an estimated 2,060 tons of sediment out of Lake Redwood every year — achieving 11% of the reduction goal for the subwatershed.

“In the big scheme of things, I think it’s impressive,” said Area II Executive Director Kerry Netzke. “This combination of a smaller dam plus these terraces for a \$140,000 investment — or, if you include the local match, a \$180,000 investment — to have that big of an impact, that 11%, that’s big.”

One of the grant-funded projects, a \$64,000 grade stabilization, lies a quarter-mile south of the Redwood

River. It consists of a 16-foot-tall, 270-foot-long earthen dam designed to temporarily hold water from heavy snowmelt or rains. Water released through a 24-inch concrete pipe flows to a rock-armored basin. The 130-acre drainage area will capture an estimated 125 tons of sediment and 125 pounds of phosphorus a year.

“The soil was getting washed into the river. Every time we’d have a significant rainfall event, it would carry more soil off of the farmland upstream from us and it would just continue to carry it into the river,” said Tim Woelfel. He and five siblings own the 100-acre parcel, which is enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

Flooding had carved trenches and destroyed the access road.

“We were just losing soil, and the soil was going to Lake Redwood,” Woelfel said.

The second grant-funded project, a \$156,790 series of seven terraces designed to curb sheet-and-rill erosion, lies on the north side of the Redwood River. Water now moves through tiles ranging from 6 to 15 inches in diameter. The project will capture an estimated 1,935 tons of sediment a year. In the event of a 6.6-inch rain — a 100-year storm event — it’s designed to reduce peak flow by nearly 80%, to 71 cubic feet per second.

To make the project fit the field, the renter and owner changed the direction they farmed the land.

“For us, it’s already been successful because the downstream neighbors have seen what we can do and accomplish for water quality

and storing water. They’re jumping on board without me sitting at the coffee table with them to see if they want to do something. They’re coming to me out in the field,” said Brian Pfarr, Redwood Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) resource specialist.



Pfarr

Over the past few years, Pfarr had worked with landowners to install nine water and sediment control basins within a 5-mile radius of the dam and terrace projects. Early this year, he was working with landowners to install 29 more.

“My hope is always that the neighbors can see the quality work that we can provide and what we can provide for erosion control, and then they come in and ask for other projects,” Pfarr said. That’s how the Woelfel project transpired.

Pfarr has a list of about 80 Redwood County producers willing to pursue conservation projects. He meets landowners on their property to see their resource concerns firsthand and discuss potential solutions onsite. He surveys the sites, and then Area II engineers design projects — about a half-dozen a year — so they’re prepared to apply when funds become available.

Eventually, Pfarr said he would like to see the entire 3-mile river corridor upstream from Lake Redwood protected from flood damage and erosion. Structures and practices such as permanent cover currently protect about 50% of that area.

“Our goal here is to capture the raindrop where it lands,” Pfarr said. “If we can get that

infiltrated, slowed down, it’s just going to be a benefit to the river and the impact that it has downstream.”

The Redwood River begins atop the Buffalo Ridge in northeastern Pipestone County. The elevation change makes it prone to flash-flooding, because the water picks up speed — and sediment — as it flows 127 miles north and east to the Minnesota River just north of Redwood Falls. Over the past 100 years, increased agricultural drainage has increased the volume of water that enters the river. Additionally, heavy rains have become increasingly frequent.

From the pilot grant-funded sites to the river’s mouth, the riverbanks are tall, steep and prone to sloughing.

“The flood events that we had in 2018 and 2019 did a tremendous amount of damage to those streambanks,” Netzke said. “It’s very important to try to hold those floodwaters upstream, to reduce the amount of water coming down the river, and then to keep those banks stabilized. These two projects (worked) in conjunction with one another. One holds water back, the other one is holding sediment back. The combination of the two, at their location upstream of the lake, just made total sense.”

Both projects will help to extend the life of the \$8.5 million Lake Redwood hydraulic dredging project that removed 682,880 cubic yards of sediment, increasing the lake’s depth from 2.5 feet to 20 feet.

“These projects are a direct point-source (of sediment-loading) to the lake, and we’re fixing them. So the investment that taxpayers put into Lake

Redwood getting it dredged, we can have an insurance policy that we’re fixing the erosion upstream,” said Pfarr, who brought the sites to the attention of Area II.

Area II typically focuses on larger projects, many of which have permanent ponds. Area II strongly encourages dry dams to maximize storage capacity.

“From a big-picture perspective of getting water retention on the ground, there’s a lot of different ways to do it — everything from bigger reservoirs to road retentions, small dams,” Netzke said. “I think a lot of people are seeing that there’s cost-share made available for cover crops and for these other programs. But I don’t think they fully realize what their purpose is or (what) the combination of small-scale to large-scale projects collectively (is) trying to do (on) the landscape, which is to store water, offset the timing of those flood flows so that we don’t see those huge surges reaching our rivers at the same time.”

Smaller-scale retention projects are more affordable for landowners, and financial incentives have made implementing soil health practices a more attractive option. Pfarr said farmers also save money by retaining topsoil and keeping fertilizer in the field and out of the river.

Another factor in play: Permits for permanent retention structures are becoming more difficult to obtain.

“It’s kind of exciting to see these other new innovative ways for water storage,” Netzke said. “Whether you’re doing something small or doing something big, in the end, this is the result that we’re trying to get.”

Buffer law approaching 100% compliance, BWSR staff focuses on maintenance and relationships

Nearly a decade after Minnesota’s buffer law was enacted, 99.8% of parcels adjacent to Minnesota waters are in compliance with the law. Passed in June 2015, the law aims to protect Minnesota’s waters by requiring landowners to install perennial vegetative buffers of 50 feet in width along lakes, rivers and streams, and of 16.5 feet bordering ditches.

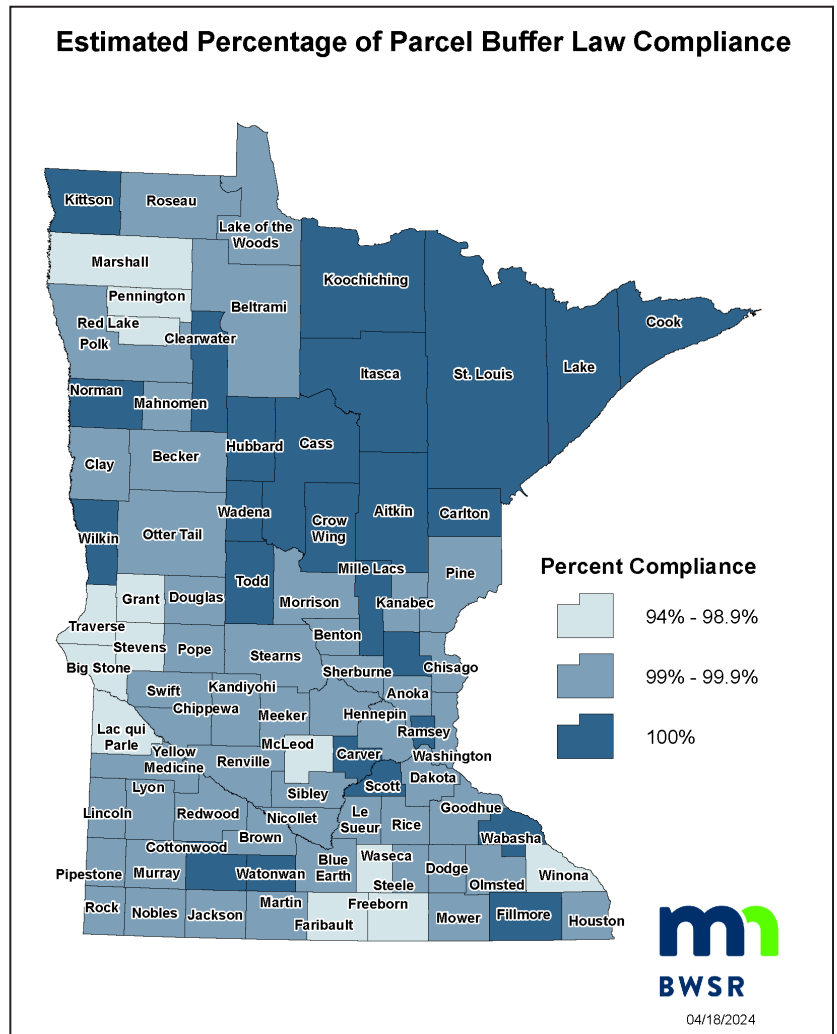
Buffers stabilize banks, curb erosion, and help to keep sediment and the pollutants it carries — such as phosphorus and nitrogen — out of the water. Buffers also provide wildlife habitat.

Now, three Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) buffer and soil loss specialists have turned their attention to working with local government units (LGUs) and landowners to help maintain buffers. Ethan Dahl works in the northern region of the state, Laura DeBeer covers the southern region and Chad Hildebrand covers the eastern region. Buffer and soil loss specialists help implement the law by educating landowners and guiding LGU staff through buffer-related projects. They also provide resources and training to LGUs, and track compliance in the Buffer Compliance and Tracking Tool (BuffCAT) — a GIS database and mapping system. Soil and water conservation districts also use BuffCAT in their counties to track compliance status and progress with landowners on individual parcels.

“We bring together a variety of backgrounds, strengths and experiences,” Dahl said of the buffer and soil loss specialists. “We will continue to work with local government units and landowners to bring compliance of the buffer law even closer to 100 percent.”

Prior to BWSR, Hildebrand worked at the Watonwan SWCD and the Goodhue SWCD focusing on buffers, watershed planning and implementation.

“Me being new to the buffers specialist position, my goal right now is to introduce



myself, hopefully in person to my counties and just build that relationship with them,” said Hildebrand, who joined BWSR in April.

Hildebrand’s experience complements the work of Dahl, who began his career as a hydrogeologist in the private sector. Dahl later transitioned to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources before joining the Renville County SWCD as a buffer technician, later taking on more roles and responsibilities. DeBeer worked as a water resources specialist focusing on wellhead protection and soil health programs at the Pipestone SWCD. Prior

This map reflects buffer law compliance rates across Minnesota’s 87 counties. Map Credit: BWSR

to that, she was a district technician for the Lyon SWCD and temporarily worked for BWSR doing wetlands work.

Working individually with each LGU is important because each county may have its own buffer ordinance, and each soil and water conservation district and watershed district may have a unique buffer law implementation plan.

“One-on-one and face-to-face is our most effective method of training,” DeBeer said, adding that having a fully staffed BWSR buffer law team makes offering individual assistance to LGUs more efficient. “Having those LGUs within a reasonable distance allows us to be effective and efficient so that we can have that personal connection and build relationships with each of our LGUs.”

The training BWSR buffer and soil loss specialists offer helps LGUs maintain existing buffers. These trainings include orientation meetings with LGU staff new to the buffer law.

“Anytime there’s a new technician that comes in, I always try to get out there and meet them within two or three weeks, so they have a little time to settle into the position and just go over the history of the buffer law, and the main duties and everything,” Dahl said.

With transitions in land



Dahl



Hildebrand



DeBeer

ownership and changes in LGU staffing, continued buffer law training will be needed to maintain existing buffers and bring other parcels into compliance.

“I think there’s always the need (for training), even though the compliance is getting there. A well-running buffer program would maybe have one or two parcels that they find out of compliance. You go through the process, they come into compliance and you’re probably always going to have those couple each year,” DeBeer said, adding that BWSR buffer law staff encourages LGUs to keep that process going.

As of May, 1,004 parcels were out of compliance statewide. Some of these parcels are now going through the enforcement process, meaning enforcement procedures are being implemented and pursued. Many landowners with noncompliant parcels have plans in place to seed the sites, or to implement an alternative conservation practice this spring. The buffer law provides flexibility for [alternative practices](#) that provide comparable water-quality

benefits and may be better suited for some sites.

Statewide buffer law compliance rates have improved steadily over the years. In February 2017, compliance was at about 87%, with 67,477 noncompliant parcels bordering public watercourses and public ditches. BWSR records show that in May 2024, 74 of Minnesota’s 87 counties were 99% to 100% compliant with the buffer law. The deadline for implementation for buffers on public waters was Nov. 1, 2017. The deadline for public ditches was Nov. 1, 2018.

Buffer law implementation typically starts with SWCDs working to help landowners voluntarily comply with the law. If an SWCD determines that a landowner is not in compliance, SWCD staff must notify the enforcement entity with jurisdiction over the noncompliant parcel — which can be a county, watershed district or BWSR. Before they issue a notification of noncompliance to the enforcement entity, SWCD staff offer landowners options and technical assistance to help bring

parcels into compliance voluntarily.

“I would say (the) majority of the compliance has been for the most part done voluntarily,” said Travis Germundson, BWSR’s appeals and regulatory compliance coordinator. “(There have) been difficult situations on the landscape, like high-water issues where the water keeps encroaching farther and farther into the farm field, and then where do you put the buffer at that point in time?”

While the goal is to gain 100% voluntary compliance, enforcement action may be needed in some situations.

Most of the counties or watershed districts act as the enforcement entity. Twelve counties chose BWSR as their enforcement entity. Germundson explained that noncompliance issues are handled locally and BWSR acts as the administrative agency.

As of May, counties, watershed districts and BWSR had provided guidance and assistance on over 3,000 parcels that have become compliant after previously being non-compliant since the buffer law was enacted. In some cases, enforcement was carried out to ensure compliance. Over 2,000 of the 3,000 parcels requiring corrective action are now in compliance.

Wetland banking program offers benefits to infrastructure, landowners, habitat



More than 300 acres of wetlands will be restored to generate wetland mitigation for the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) as a result of a request for proposals that closed April 17.

Landowners will have another opportunity to apply later this summer.

Under Minnesota's Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), wetlands that are filled or drained must be replaced through a process called wetland mitigation. Overseen by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the LGRWRP develops wetland mitigation

by restoring previously drained or filled wetlands and adjacent uplands. It provides this wetland mitigation to local road authorities — such as counties, cities and townships — to offset impacts to wetlands that occur while repairing, restoring or replacing public roads.

The program relies on landowners throughout Minnesota who are interested in restoring wetlands to their original condition.

Three options are available to landowners.

Landowners can enroll land in a conservation easement and receive a per-acre payment. Under this option, BWSR funds and oversees all wetland

restoration work and receives all credits generated by the project.

The second option: Landowners can pay for restoration costs themselves, and then sell any credits generated by the project to BWSR or on the private market. The third option is a partnership where a contract determines how restoration tasks and the associated credits generated are split between the landowner and BWSR.

More than 8,000 acres have been restored since the



A Scott County restoration completed in 2019 provided mitigation via the Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program. The work restored 45 acres of wetlands and 35 acres of upland habitat.

Photo Credits:
BWSR

“ There’s an opportunity for landowners to get a great return on investment for these projects. Oftentimes, the payment rate is higher than the land value itself. ”

— Dennis Rodacker, BWSR wetland mitigation supervisor

program began in 1996. Before the LGRWRP was established, local road authorities were responsible for their own wetland mitigation.

“The LGRWRP takes that burden off local road authorities, providing high-quality wetland replacement much more efficiently,” said Dennis Rodacker, BWSR wetland mitigation supervisor.

The LGRWRP offers the highest payment rate for conservation easements in the state, with rates ranging from 20% to 50% more than Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement rates.

“There’s an opportunity for landowners to get a great return on investment for these projects,” Rodacker



A Scott County wetland restoration was seeded with native vegetation in 2020 after construction wrapped up in 2019. The restoration provides wetland mitigation through the state's Local Government Road Wetland Replacement Program.

said. “Oftentimes, the payment rate is higher than the land value itself.”

The program received \$12 million in capital

investment funds in 2023.

Despite the attractive payment rate and robust funding from the state Legislature, Rodacker said

the program has faced challenges with low sign-up rates in recent years.

“We want to make sure landowners know that this is an option, and that BWSR is here to help guide them through the process,” Rodacker said.

“Raising awareness about the program is important because there are multiple benefits. Landowners benefit by taking marginal land out of production and receiving a premium payment rate in return. Local road authorities benefit from a streamlined process for completing projects without causing negative impacts to wetlands. And our natural resources benefit when we maintain this no-net-loss policy for our wetlands,” he said.

KURT BECKSTROM

10.09.1953



04.28.2024

CLOSE THE GATE

FOR THIS ONE FARMER THE WORRIES ARE OVER, LIE DOWN AND REST YOUR HEAD,
YOUR TIME HAS BEEN AND STRUGGLES ENOUGH, PUT THE TRACTOR IN THE SHED.
YEARS WERE NOT EASY, MANY DOWNRIGHT HARD, BUT YOUR FAITH IN GOD TRANSCENDED,
PUT AWAY YOUR TOOLS AND SLEEP IN PEACE. THE FENCES HAVE ALL BEEN MENDED.
YOU RAISED A FINE FAMILY, WORKED THE LAND WELL AND ALWAYS FOLLOWED THE SON,
HANG UP YOUR SHOVEL INSIDE OF THE BARN; YOUR WORK HERE ON EARTH IS DONE.
A FAITH FEW POSSESS LED YOUR JOURNEY THROUGH LIFE. OFTEN A JAGGED AND STONY WAY,
THE SUN IS SETTING, THE CATTLE ARE ALL BEDDED, AND HERE NOW IS THE END OF YOUR DAY.
YOUR LOVE OF GOD'S SOIL HAS PASSED ON TO YOUR KIN; THE STORIES FLOW LIKE FINE WINE,
WASH OFF YOUR WORK BOOTS IN THE PUDDLE LEFT BY BLESSED RAIN ONE FINAL TIME.
YOU ALWAYS BELIEVED THAT THE GOOD LORD WOULD PROVIDE AND HE ALWAYS HAD SOMEHOW,
TAKE OFF YOUR GLOVES AND PUT THEM DOWN, NO MORE SWEAT AND WORRY FOR YOU NOW.
YOUR LABOR IS DONE, YOUR HOME NOW IS HEAVEN; NO MORE MUST YOU WAIT,
YOUR LEGACY LIVES ON, YOUR LOVE OF THE LAND, AND WE WILL CLOSE THE GATE.

NANCY KRAAYENHOF



OBITUARY



Kurt Morris Beckstrom, age 70, of Bock passed quietly at home after a battle with cancer. Kurt was born October 9th, 1953 in Milaca, Minnesota to Morris and Florence Beckstrom. He grew up just outside of Bock on the family farm. He married Rhonda Flatland in 1977. They had two sons, Andrew and Peter. They raised beef cattle and milked cows until selling the dairy side of the farm in 1996. Kurt started as an appraiser with Kanabec County in 1995. In 1996, he started with the Mille Lacs County Assessor's Office. He continued to raise beef cattle and work at the county until his retirement in 2017.

In 2007, he married Traci (Lamke) Holm. Together on the same farm they raised 3 children; Joshua, Curtiss, and Tonia. Shortly after Tonia graduated high school, Kurt and Traci began as a foster family. Over the course of the next 10 plus years, they welcomed more than 30 children into their home. The extended family adopted 6 of them, including Breanna, Braydon, and Brittney, that Kurt and Traci raised as their own.

Kurt was also very active in the community, serving time on many boards and committees. Some of those include 20 years on the creamery board, 10 years on the fertilizer board, 35 years on the Soil and Water Conservation District board, 3 terms (12 years) as the area 3 SWCD chair, 2 years as Minnesota SWCD chair, 6 years as National SWCD rep, 30 years on the township mutual insurance board, 3 plus years on the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, a 6 year term in the Resource Service Department, 30 years on the Borgholm Township board, and 35 years as a volunteer leader with 4-H. Kurt was preceded in death by his parents Morris Beckstrom and Florence (Beckman) Beckstrom. He is survived by his wife, Traci (Lamke) Beckstrom; sister Ruthann (John) Gossen of Deer River; Mary Jo (Jerry) Stark of Kensington; his children, Andrew (Amanda) Beckstrom of Grasston; Peter (Ashley) Beckstrom of Mora; Joshua (Amanda) Holm of Bock; Curtiss (Katie) Holm of St Cloud; Tonia Holm (Brendan Greico) of La Grange, Kentucky; Breanna, Braydon, and Brittney Beckstrom all of Bock; grandchildren Aleah and Riley Beckstrom; Coe, Calla, Waylon, Ila, Jackson, Jacob, Holm; , Rowan, Archie, and Ophelia Greico; many, many more family and friends.

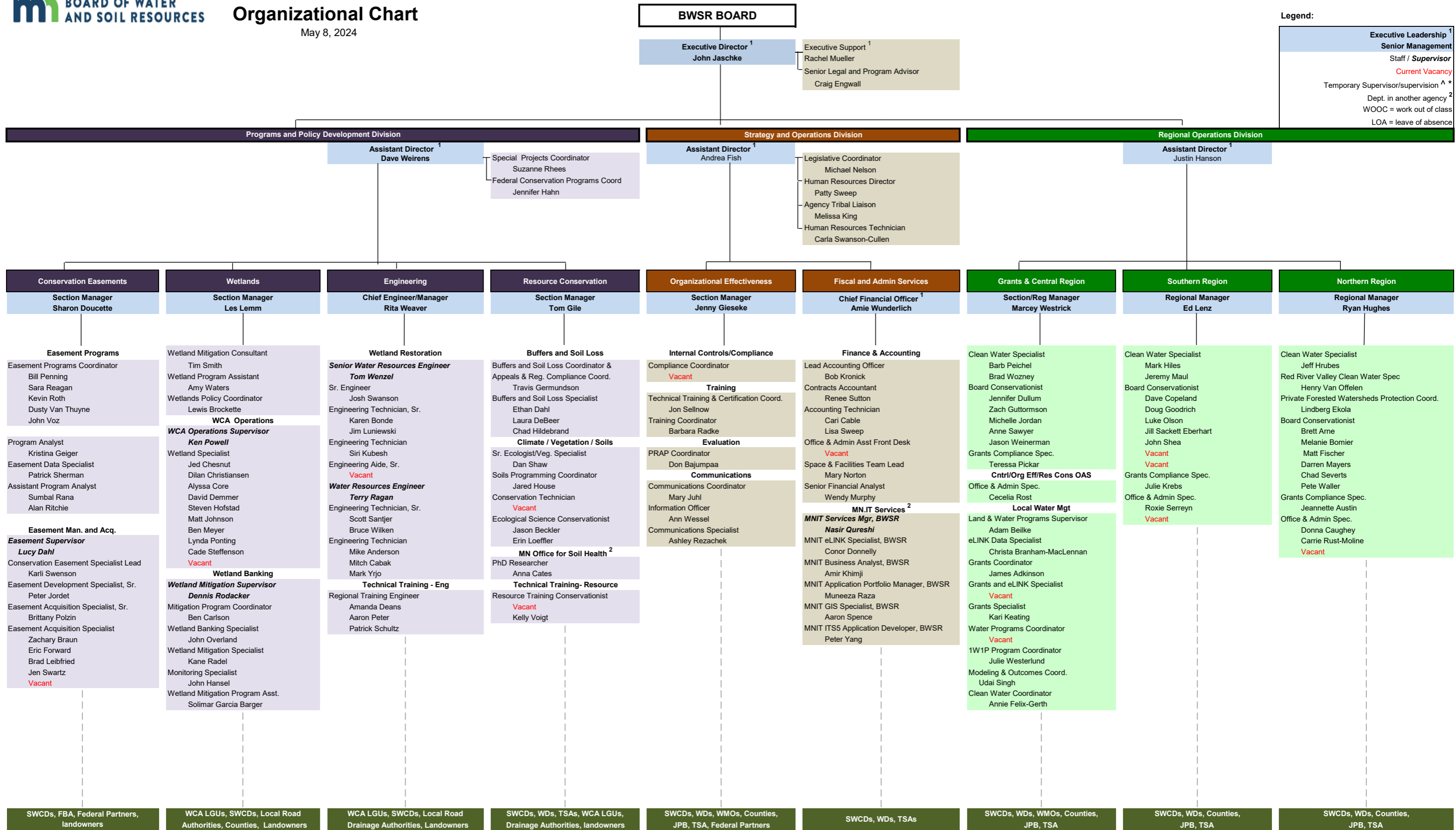
PALLBEARERS

Lyle Bostrom
Tom Longfield
Jeff Nosbusch
Jim Zeman



The family would like to say thank you to everyone for their continued support and condolences.
With love, The Kurt Beckstrom Family

Executive Leadership¹
Senior Management
 Staff / **Supervisor**
 Current Vacancy
 Temporary Supervisor/supervision[^] *
 Dept. in another agency²
 WOOC = work out of class
 LOA = leave of absence



<input type="checkbox"/> IN-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> SHORT TERM ADVANCE	SEMA4 EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT	<input type="checkbox"/> Check if advance was issued for these expenses
<input type="checkbox"/> OUT-OF-STATE	<input type="checkbox"/> RECURRING ADVANCE		<input type="checkbox"/> FINAL EXPENSE(S) FOR THIS TRIP?

Employee Name	Home Address (Include City and State)	Permanent Work Station (Include City and State)	Agency	1-Way Commute Miles	Job Title
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Employee ID	Rcd #	Trip Start Date	Trip End Date	Reason for Travel/Advance (30 Char. Max) [example: XYZ Conference, Dallas, TX]				Barg. Unit	Expense Group ID (Agency Use)
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Chart String(s)	A	Accounting Date	Fund	Fin DeptID	AppropID	SW Cost	Sub Acct	Agncy Cost 1	Agncy Cost 2	PC BU	Project	Activity	Srce Type	Category	Sub-Cat	Distrib %
		B														

A. Description: _____ B. Description: _____

Date	Daily Description	Itinerary		Trip Miles	Total Trip & Local Miles	Mileage Rate	Meals ✓			Total Meals (overnight stay)	Total Meals (no overnight stay) taxable	Lodging	Personal Telephone	Parking	Total		
		Time	Location				B	L	D								
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
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			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
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			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Depart				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
			Arrive				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>						0.00		
				VEHICLE CONTROL #		Total Miles				0						Subtotal (A)	0.00

Figure mileage reimbursement below

MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENT CALCULATION	OTHER EXPENSES – See reverse for list of Earn Codes.
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Enter the rates, miles, and total amounts for the mileage listed above. Get the IRS rate from your agency business expense contact.	Rate	Total Miles	Total Mileage Amt.	Date	Earn Code	Comments	Total
1. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at equal to the IRS rate.			0.00				
2. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at less than the IRS rate.			0.00				
3. Enter rate, miles, and amount being claimed at greater than the IRS rate.			0.00				
4. Add the total mileage amounts from lines 1 through 3.			0.00				
5. Enter IRS mileage rate in place at the time of travel.							
6. Subtract line 5 from line 3.	0.000						
7. Enter total miles from line 3.		0				Subtotal Other Expenses: (B)	0.00
8. Multiply line 6 by line 7. This is taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box C)</small>			Total taxable mileage greater than IRS rate to be reimbursed: (C)	0.00 <small>MIT or MOT</small>
9. Subtract line 8 from line 4. If line 8 is zero, enter mileage amount from line 4. This is non-taxable mileage.			0.00 <small>(Copy to Box D)</small>			Total nontaxable mileage less than or equal to IRS rate to be reimbursed: (D)	0.00 <small>MLI or MLO</small>
Grand Total (A + B + C + D)							0.00

If using private vehicle for out-of-state travel: What is the lowest airfare to the destination? _____ Total Expenses for this trip must not exceed this amount.

I declare, under penalty of perjury, that this claim is just, correct and that no part of it has been paid or reimbursed by the state of Minnesota or by another party except with respect to any advance amount paid for this trip. I AUTHORIZE PAYROLL DEDUCTION OF ANY SUCH ADVANCE. I have not accepted personal travel benefits.

Less Advance issued for this trip:	
Total amount to be reimbursed to the employee:	0.00
Amount of Advance to be returned by the employee by deduction from paycheck:	0.00

Employee Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Approved: Based on knowledge of necessity for travel and expense and on compliance with all provisions of applicable travel regulations. _____

Appointing Authority Designee (Needed for Recurring Advance and Special Expenses) _____

Supervisor Signature _____ Date _____ Work Phone: _____

Signature _____ Date _____

EMPLOYEE EXPENSE REPORT (Instructions)

DO NOT PAY RELOCATION EXPENSES ON THIS FORM.

See form FI-00568 Relocation Expense Report. Relocation expenses must be sent to Minnesota Management & Budget, Statewide Payroll Services, for payment.

USE OF FORM: Use the form for the following purposes:

1. To reimburse employees for authorized travel expenses.
2. To request and pay all travel advances.
3. To request reimbursement for small cash purchases paid for by employees.

COMPLETION OF THE FORM: Employee: Complete, in ink, all parts of this form. If claiming reimbursement, enter actual amounts you paid, not to exceed the limits set in your bargaining agreement or compensation plan. If you do not know these limits, contact your agency's business expense contact. Employees must submit an expense report within 60 days of incurring any expense(s) or the reimbursement comes taxable.

All of the data you provide on this form is public information, except for your home address. You are not legally required to provide your home address, but the state of Minnesota cannot process certain mileage payments without it.

Supervisor: Approve the correctness and necessity of this request in compliance with existing bargaining agreements or compensation plans and all other applicable rules and policies. Forward to the agency business expense contact person, who will then process the payments. Note: The expense report form must include original signatures.

Final Expense For This Trip?: Check this box if there will be no further expenses submitted for this trip. By doing this, any outstanding advance balance associated with this trip will be deducted from the next paycheck that is issued.

1-Way Commute Miles: Enter the number of miles from your home to your permanent workstation.

Expense Group ID: Entered by accounting or payroll office at the time of entering expenses. The Expense Group ID is a unique number that is system-assigned. It will be used to reference any advance payment or expense reimbursement associated with this trip.

Earn Code: Select an Earn Code from the list that describes the expenses for which you are requesting reimbursement. Be sure to select the code that correctly reflects whether the trip is in state or out-of-state. **Note:** Some expense reimbursements may be taxable.

Travel Advances, Short-Term and Recurring: An employee can only have one outstanding advance at a time. An advance must be settled before another advance can be issued.

Travel Advance Settlement: When the total expenses submitted are less than the advance amount or if the trip is cancelled, the employee will owe money to the state. Except for rare situations, personal checks will not be accepted for settlement of advances; a deduction will be taken from the employee's paycheck.

FMS ChartStrings: Funding source(s) for advance or expense(s)

Mileage: Use the **Mileage Reimbursement Calculation** table to figure your mileage reimbursement. Mileage may be authorized for reimbursement to the employee at one of three rates (referred to as the equal to, less than, or greater than rate). The rates are specified in the applicable bargaining agreement/compensation plan. Note: If the mileage rate you are using is above the IRS rate at the time of travel (this is not common), part of the mileage reimbursement will be taxed.

Vehicle Control #: If your agency assigns vehicle control numbers follow your agency's internal policy and procedure. Contact your agency's business expense contact for more information on the vehicle control number procedure.

Personal Travel Benefits: State employees and other officials cannot accept personal benefits resulting from travel on state business as their own. These benefits include frequent flyer miles/points and other benefits (i.e. discounts issued by lodging facilities.) Employees must certify that they have not accepted personal travel benefits when they apply for travel reimbursement.

Receipts: Attach itemized receipts for all expenses except meals, taxi services, baggage handling, and parking meters, to this reimbursement claim. The Agency Designee may, at its option, require attachment of meal receipts as well. Credit card receipts, bank drafts, or cancelled checks are not allowable receipts.

Copies and Distribution: Submit the original document for payment and retain a copy for your employee records.

Description	Earn Code		Description	Earn Code	
	In State	Out of State		In State	Out of State
Advance	ADI	ADO	Membership	MEM	
Airfare	ARI	ARO	Mileage > IRS Rate	MIT*	MOT*
Baggage Handling	BGI	BGO	Mileage < or = IRS Rate	MLI	MLO
Car Rental	CRI	CRO	Network Services	NWK	
Clothing Allowance	CLA		Other Expenses	OEI	OEO
Clothing-Non Contract	CLN		Parking	PKI	PKO
Communications - Other	COM		Photocopies	CPI	CPO
Conference/Registration Fee	CFI	CFO	Postal, Mail & Shipping Svcs.(outbound)	PMS	
Department Head Expense	DHE		Storage of State Property	STO	
Fax	FXI	FXO	Supplies/Materials/Parts	SMP	
Freight & Delivery (inbound)	FDS		Telephone, Business Use	BPI	BPO
Hosting	HST		Telephone, Personal Use	PHI	PHO
Laundry	LDI	LDO	Training/Tuition Fee	TRG	
Lodging	LGI	LGO	Taxi/Airport Shuttle	TXI	TXO
Meals With Lodging	MWI	MWO	Vest Reimbursement	VST	
Meals Without Lodging	MEI*	MEO*	Note: * = taxable, taxed at supplemental rates		