

BOARD ORDER**FY 26-27 Multipurpose Drainage Management Program****PURPOSE**

Authorize the FY 26-27 Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Program and delegate award decisions to staff.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Clean Water Fund was established to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.
- B. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 36, Article 2, Section 6(J) appropriated Clean Water funds to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) for technical and financial assistance for the conservation drainage program, in consultation with the Drainage Work Group, coordinated under Minnesota Statutes, section 103B.101, subdivision 13, and including projects to improve multipurpose water management under Minnesota Statutes, section 103E.015.
- C. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 to award grants, contracts, and payments to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- D. The Grants Programs and Policy Committee, at their August 18, 2025 meeting, reviewed the MDM scoring and eligibility criteria, the board order and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Authorizes staff to use the scoring and eligibility criteria identified in Table 1 to develop and issue the FY26-27 request for proposals (RFP) and other program support documents for the FY26-27 MDM Program with up to \$900,000 available in each of FY 26 & Fy 27.
- 2. Delegates the authority to the staff to approve MDM awards based on responses to the RFP and fund availability.
- 3. Authorizes staff to complete all pre-agreement processes and enter into agreements for these purposes.
- 4. Directs staff to regularly report to the Board or Committee on the status of MDM awards.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, September 24, 2025.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 9/24/2025

Table 1. Scoring and Eligibility Criteria

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Program		
Scoring Criteria	Minimum Eligibility Criteria (if any one of these criteria is not met, the application will be considered ineligible)	Maximum Points Possible
<u>Activity Eligibility</u> : The proposed grant-funded activities are eligible under this RFP.	All requested activities are eligible	YES
<u>Project Map</u> : Map provided by the applicant clearly identifies the drainage system.	Map included that shows the drainage system where activities are proposed	5
<u>Operations and Maintenance (O&M)</u> : Applicants have identified who will be responsible for holding the easement or responsible for operations and maintenance of the proposed grant funded activities.	The appropriate party(ies) is identified as the party responsible for O&M	10
<u>Priority System</u> : Applicants have identified the priority 103E system for the proposed activities and the rationale for its selection including the water resource of concern.	A single system is identified in a repair report or engineers preliminary survey report	25
<u>Partnering Efforts</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with partnering organizations including reference to applicable agreements or resolutions supporting the proposal.	Documentation of coordination from the respective organizations of intent to partner	5
<u>Landowner Coordination</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with participating landowners.	Documentation of coordination with participating landowners	5
<u>Water Quality Outcomes</u> : Clear demonstration of water quality outcomes proposed by the activity.	Outcomes provided	30
<u>Multipurpose Benefits</u> : Clear demonstration of the multipurpose benefits proposed by the activity.	Description of different benefits provided	20
<u>Cost Benefits</u> : If the activity is associated with a MS 103E.005 defined Drainage Project, a clear description of how the proposed activities are supplemental and not needed to ensure the Cost Benefits considerations.	The proposed activities are NOT associated with a 103E Drainage Project OR The applicant has documented that the 103E Drainage Project stands on its own merits and the proposed grant activities are supplemental.	YES
<u>Outlet Adequacy</u> : If the activity is associated with a MS 103E.005 defined Drainage Project, a clear description of how the proposed activities are not needed to ensure the proposed project outlet is adequate.	The proposed activities are NOT associated with a 103E Drainage Project OR The applicant has documented that the 103E Drainage Project stands on its own merits and the proposed grant activities are supplemental.	YES
<u>Environmental or regulatory impacts</u> : The proposed grant funded activities are not being used to offset other environmental or regulatory impacts for this or another project.	Written confirmation provided by the applicant.	N/A
	TOTAL	100

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 SWCD Buffer Implementation Program

PURPOSE

Provide Buffer Implementation Program funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts to implement buffer program activities for FY 2026.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has the responsibility to oversee the provisions of Minnesota Statute 103F.48 (the Buffer Law).
- B. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 36, Article 2, Section 6(e) appropriated FY 2026 and 2027 Buffer Implementation Program funds for soil and water conservation district (SWCD) responsibilities.
- C. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 to award grants, contracts, and payments to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- D. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their August 18, 2025 meeting reviewed the relevant program requirements and recommended approval of the board order.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to develop a Request for Interest (RFI) and issue the FY26 Buffer Implementation Program awards based on eligible SWCD responses up to the amounts listed in the attached allocation table and totaling up to \$1,805,000.
2. Authorizes staff to enter into agreements with eligible SWCDs, and Hennepin and Ramsey Counties that are meeting statute, procedure and program requirements based on responses to the RFI.
3. Establishes that the Buffer Implementation Program awards pursuant to this order are to be used to fulfill the obligations of SWCDs under Minnesota Statute 103F.48 including but not limited to providing landowner technical, planning and implementation assistance and tracking progress towards compliance and riparian water quality improvements.
4. Authorizes staff to issue the Buffer Implementation Program awards pursuant to this order.
5. Provide supplemental payments consistent with the RFI using remaining available funds from this appropriation.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 9/24/2025

<<See attached FY2026 Buffer Implementation Program Grant Allocations>>

FY26 Buffer Implementation Program Grant Allocations

SWCD	Proposed FY 26 Allocation
COOK	2500
LAKE	2500
RAMSEY	2500
ST. LOUIS N	2500
ST. LOUIS S	2500
CARLTON	2500
ITASCA	2500
KOOCHICHING	2500
AITKIN	10000
CASS	10000
CROW WING	10000
ISANTI	10000
MILLE LACS	10000
WADENA	10000
HUBBARD	10000
KANABEC	10000
PINE	10000
ANOKA	10000
SCOTT	10000
SHERBURNE	10000
HENNEPIN COUNTY	10000
WASHINGTON	10000
CHISAGO	10000
LAKE OF THE WOODS	10000
CLEARWATER	20000
ROOT RIVER	20000
WABASHA	20000
WINONA	20000
DAKOTA	20000
BENTON	20000

SWCD	Proposed FY 26 Allocation
TODD	20000
MAHNOMEN	20000
RICE	20000
CARVER	20000
NICOLLET	20000
BELTRAMI	20000
RED LAKE	20000
WRIGHT	20000
WASECA	20000
MC LEOD	20000
DOUGLAS	20000
DODGE	20000
OLMSTED	20000
MORRISON	20000
GOODHUE	20000
STEELE	20000
POPE	20000
LINCOLN	20000
MEEKER	20000
PIPESTONE	20000
ROCK	20000
SIBLEY	20000
OTTER TAIL E	20000
OTTER TAIL W	20000
BECKER	20000
LE SUEUR	20000
BIG STONE	20000
WATONWAN	20000
GRANT	20000
PENNINGTON	20000
POLK E	20000

SWCD	Proposed FY 26 Allocation
FILLMORE	25000
SWIFT	25000
FARIBAULT	25000
JACKSON	25000
MOWER	25000
MURRAY	25000
BROWN	25000
LAC QUI PARLE	25000
FREEBORN	25000
CHIPPEWA	25000
COTTONWOOD	25000
BLUE EARTH	25000
STEVENS	25000
TRAVERSE	25000
LYON	25000
KANDIYOHI	25000
MARTIN	35000
STEARNS	35000
NOBLES	35000
ROSEAU	35000
KITTSOON	35000
WILKIN	35000
YELLOW MEDICINE	35000
CLAY	35000
NORMAN	35000
REDWOOD	35000
RENVILLE	45000
POLK W	45000
MARSHALL	45000
Total	1,805000

BOARD ORDER**Fiscal Year 2026 and 2027 Lower Minnesota River Management Grants Approval****PURPOSE**

Approval of the fiscal year 2026 and 2027 lower Minnesota River Management grants to Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(f), appropriated \$240,000 for each fiscal year 2026 and 2027 for Minnesota River channel management.
- B. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(l) states, "If an appropriation for grants in either year is insufficient, the appropriation in the other year is available for it."
- C. This grant is available for defraying the annual cost of sustaining the state, national, and international commercial and recreational navigation on the lower Minnesota River.
- D. The Lower Minnesota Watershed District will develop and submit a work plan to BWSR to cover activities for fiscal year 2026 and 2027.
- E. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 15, 2025 meeting, reviewed the lower Minnesota River Management grant allocation and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement for the FY 2026 and 2027 lower Minnesota River Management Grants consistent with the provisions of the appropriation.
- 2. Authorizes staff to review and approve the work plan for 2026 and 2027 prior to payment of grant funds.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

9/24/2025

BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2026 Keep it Clean Pilot Program

PURPOSE

Authorize the FY26 Keep it Clean Pilot Program.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Minnesota Laws 2025, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(i) appropriated \$200,000 in onetime funding to the Board to "to implement local programs to prevent water pollution due to garbage and human waste left on the ice of state waters during winter-use activities"
- B. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- C. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 15, 2025, meeting, reviewed the proposed Keep it Clean Program ranking criteria and draft board order and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby authorizes staff to:

- 1. Issue a Request for Proposals for the Keep it Clean Program:
 - a. totaling \$185,000, and
 - b. limiting grant requests to a maximum of \$40,000, and
 - c. consistent with the attached scoring criteria and appropriation.
- 2. Approve Keep it Clean grant awards based on responses to the RFP and funds available.
- 3. Enter into grant agreements to implement the program consistent with Minn. Stat. 103B.101.
- 4. Regularly report to the Board on the status of Keep it Clean Program awards.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: 9/27/2025

<i>Keep it Clean Pilot Program Scoring Criteria</i>	<i>Maximum Points Possible</i>
A brief description of anticipated achievements and outcomes as well as the project area.	5
Activities will focus on water resource(s) that were specifically chosen. Organization has worked with or is affiliated with Keep it Clean Minnesota.	15
Activities will prevent water pollution from garbage and human waste during winter months. Evidence of pollution and winter activity usage is provided.	40
Activities can be implemented soon after grant award and supports efforts to combat water pollution.	30
Organization is addressing diversity, equity, and inclusion by performing activities in an MPCA defined environmental justice area.	10
<i>Total Points Available</i>	100