

THE RIM RUNDOWN

April 2026

STAFF UPDATE

Please join in welcoming Darren Mayers to the Easement Section as a Easement Programs and Forestry Coordinator! Darren previously worked as a Board Conservationist for BWSR and with Crow Wing SWCD, bringing forestry and RIM easement experience from a local perspective to the position.

Darren will also be developing forestry-related policy and guidance for BWSR, as well as serving as BWSR's forestry representative on working groups and interagency teams.

Please take a minute to welcome Darren (darren.mayers@state.mn.us)!

2026 TOWNSHIP AVERAGE VALUE PAYMENT RATES FOR RIM AND MN CREP EASEMENTS

On March 31, 2026, BWSR released the updated 2026 township average value RIM and MN CREP easement payment rates, taking effect April 1, 2026. The updated rates are based on data from the Minnesota Department of Revenue on estimated market values from assessment year 2025 for property taxes payable in 2026.

All easement applications received April 1, 2026, and after will be paid using these 2026 rates. Easement applications received prior to this date will be paid using the 2025 rates, per the [RIM Easement Payment Rate Determination Procedure \(5/15/2025\)](#).

Please mark your calendar for a RIM Rates Info Session at 11:00 AM on April 20, 2026, for more in-depth information. A calendar invitation will be sent in the coming weeks. The session will be recorded.

2026 Changes:

- Adjusted method to determine non-crop rates for [RIM Wetlands & Peatlands](#), [RIM Riparian & Floodplain](#), and [MN CREP](#) programs.
 - o Generally, reduced non-crop rates in southern and western MN, increased non-crop rates in northern MN, and produced minimal change in central MN.
 - o Non-crop rates are NOT changing for the [RIM Grasslands](#) program.
- Eliminates the special rate for MN CREP RIM-only crop acres; those acres will receive the regular RIM crop rate.

There are no changes for programs using the tax assessed value of the property to calculate the payment rate.

Contact Kristina Geiger (kristina.geiger@state.mn.us), Program Analyst, with questions.



NEW SITE INSPECTION FORM AND GUIDANCE FOR 2026

The RIM Easement Site Inspection Form and associated guidance have been revised and updated and are now posted to the BWSR website at the links below.

[RIM Easement Site Inspection Form](#)

[RIM Easement Site Inspection Guidance](#)

The updated form includes revised content and inspection methods, updated data entry, and new questions to improve information gathering.

New Guidance provides information on preparing for on-site inspections. Completing the on-site inspection and filling out the site inspection form and processing inspections after they are complete. A new section also gives details on assessing practice conditions and each easement compliance requirement.

SWCD staff should use the new form and guidance for the required RIM site inspections in 2026. Lists of required site inspections were e-mailed to SWCD staff on March 31, 2026.

Contact Peter Jordet (peter.jordet@state.mn.us), Senior Easement Development Specialist, or Karli Swenson (karli.swenson@state.mn.us), Conservation Easement Specialist Lead, with questions.

UPDATE ON SHAREPOINT

The LGU File Share site for SWCDs to submit RIM easement applications electronically is up and running! This site allows SWCDs to electronically submit new RIM and ACUB applications while protecting personally identifiable information (PII). The majority of SWCDs that submit applications now have staff with access and should now submit applications electronically.

MN CREP applications should still be submitted via the MN CREP Easement Application Module.

Contact Sumbal Rana (sumbal.rana@state.mn.us), Assistant Program Analyst, with questions.

TREE/SHRUB PLANTINGS IN THE PRAIRIE REGION GUIDELINES

RIM Tree/Shrub Plantings in the Prairie Region Guidelines have been developed to provide clarity for requests to install tree/shrub plantings on RIM easement in the Prairie Region of the state. Location, species selection, and size limitations are detailed. Tree/shrub plantings that were previously approved by BWSR will not be impacted by this updated guidance. Any requests for new tree/shrub plantings or changes to previously approved tree/shrub plantings can be submitted via a Conservation Plan Amendment and sent to the RIM Inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us). This guidance can be found on the [RIM Handbook and Guidance page](#) of the BWSR website.

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

RIM TURNS 40!

2026 marks 40 years of the RIM program, which began in 1986. Over the past 40 years, RIM has permanently protected over 350,000 acres across all 87 counties in Minnesota. Local partnerships have been an integral part to the success of the RIM program and will continue to play a key role in years to come. Here's to 40 more years of RIM!

**REINVEST IN
MINNESOTA**

**40
Years**

**RIM RESERVE
Conservation Easement**
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources



BWSR EASEMENT STAFF CONTACTS FOR SWCDs

If you have a general question and aren't sure who to ask, send it to the RIM inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us).

Topic	BWSR Contact	
General Easement Processing	Lucy Dahl	651-358-8676 lucy.dahl@state.mn.us
Easement Application Submittal and Landowner Eligibility (Non-CREP Programs)	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
	Brittany Polzin	651-539-2565 brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
General Payment Questions	Kristina Geiger	651-539-2531 kristina.geiger@state.mn.us
Electronic Payments	Sumbal Rana	651-539-2592 sumbal.rana@state.mn.us
General CREP Questions	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us
CREP Module Questions	Pat Sherman	651-539-2570 pat.sherman@state.mn.us
Site Inspections and Boundary Issues	Peter Jordet	651-539-2580 peter.jordet@state.mn.us
Easement Compliance and Violations	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Easement Alteration Questions	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Conservation Plan Amendments & Practice Implementation Request for Funding (PIRF)	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	<i>Continue to submit PIRFs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us</i>	
Practice Implementation Reimbursement Request (PIRR)	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
	<i>Continue to submit PIRRs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us</i>	
Work Orders	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
Wetland Bank Easements	Brittany Polzin	651-539-2564 brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
Questions on Specific Easement Programs	Contact appropriate BWSR Program Manager (see Program pages)	
	Darren Mayers	218-290-8384 darren.mayers@state.mn.us
	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	Kevin Roth	651-539-2521 kevin.roth@state.mn.us
	John Voz	218-850-4283 john.voz@state.mn.us
	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us