

# THE RIM RUNDOWN

July 2026

## RIM VEGETATION ENHANCEMENT FUNDING

Funding is still available for Vegetation Enhancement on RIM acres! Up to \$1200/acre is available for increasing vegetative diversity. Seeding must be a component of the project, and any site prep activities leading up to a seeding event can be covered, including prescribed fire, woody vegetation removal, tillage, herbicide, and mowing. Work Plans must be detailed and use best management practices. More information and applications can be found [here](#). This funding will be available until June 30, 2029, or until spent.

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

## UPDATE: RIM REFRESH PILOT PROCESS

The first seven months of the RIM Refresh Pilot have been a huge success with one easement completed and fifteen applications in process across the state! The pilot process will be refined and polished over the next months, then rolled out for **all** new RIM applications in January 2027. However, new CREP easements may not be *surveyed* due to conflicts with the current CREP agreement with FSA.

Details on the updated process will be presented in October at BWSR Academy, but if you can't attend, look for a recorded online learning opportunity toward the end of the year.

Contact Lucy Dahl ([lucy.dahl@state.mn.us](mailto:lucy.dahl@state.mn.us)), Easement Management and Acquisition Supervisor, with questions.

## NEW: CONSERVATION EASEMENT CROP HISTORY WORKSHEET

All applications using the RIM cropland rate or requiring crop history for program eligibility must attach the Conservation Easement Crop History Worksheet as a part of the application package. The past five years of crop or land use should be noted as well as the current year's crop or land use for applications submitted during the growing season. If the crop or land use is CRP, include the practice and contract number. The Worksheet can be found on the [Easement Forms page](#). Download and complete the form using Adobe Acrobat Reader – do not complete via web browser.

A reminder that "Land with crop history" means land that has produced horticultural, row, or close-grown crops or that has been enrolled at a cropland rate in a federal or state conservation program for at least two of the five years preceding an application.

Contact the appropriate Program Manager with questions.



## RIM PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABILITY

With the closing of the 2026 legislative session, BWSR received additional funding for select RIM conservation easement programs. See the table below for landowner payment amount for programs with funding currently available.

| Program                        | Program Manager                                           | Funding Available                                           | Next Batching Period                                   |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| Drinking Water                 | <a href="#">Sara Reagan</a>                               | \$5,930,000                                                 | Continuous                                             |
| Riparian and Floodplain        | <a href="#">Dusty Van Thuyne</a>                          | \$4,120,000                                                 | July 01                                                |
| Wetlands and Peatlands         | <a href="#">John Voz</a> ,<br><a href="#">Kevin Roth</a>  | \$2,930,000 (non-peatlands)<br>\$6,030,000 (peatlands-only) | July 01 (non-peatlands)<br>Continuous (peatlands-only) |
| 1W1P                           | <a href="#">Kevin Roth</a>                                | \$2,220,000                                                 | July 01                                                |
| Critical Shorelands            | <a href="#">Darren Mayers</a>                             | \$2,460,000                                                 | Continuous                                             |
| Grasslands                     | <a href="#">John Voz</a> ,<br><a href="#">Sara Reagan</a> | \$4,140,000                                                 | Continuous                                             |
| Grazing                        | <a href="#">Kevin Roth</a>                                | \$860,000                                                   | Continuous                                             |
| Wild Rice Shoreland Protection | <a href="#">Kevin Roth</a>                                | \$410,000                                                   | Continuous                                             |

For more information on each program, see the [Conservation Easement Programs page](#). Partner program funding availability is not included in the list above. For more information on partner programs, please contact the Program Manager or relevant partner listed on the Conservation Easement Programs page. The [RIM Interactive Map](#) can be used to identify which RIM programs a landowner may be eligible for.

Contact the appropriate Program Manager listed above with questions.

## PEATLANDS FUNDING STILL AVAILABLE!

As noted above, there is still \$6,030,000 available for peatlands under the RIM Wetlands-Peatlands option that meets peatlands criteria. For more information, see the [RIM Wetlands program page](#). [BWSR's restorable peatlands mapping tool](#) is also available to determine areas of eligibility.

Contact Kevin Roth ([kevin.roth@state.mn.us](mailto:kevin.roth@state.mn.us)), Easement Programs Manager, with questions.



## TITLE REIMBURSEMENT REQUESTS

For title reimbursement requests, if you believe that all expenses related to the easements you are working on have been incurred and you have received all supporting documentation, please feel free to submit your title reimbursement request using the [RIM Cost Reimbursement Request Form](#). Attach all supporting documents with your submission and send to the RIM inbox ([bwsr.rim@state.mn.us](mailto:bwsr.rim@state.mn.us)).

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

## SEE YOU AT BWSR ACADEMY!

The Easement Section will host another Workshop session at BWSR Academy this year highlighting program and processing updates, and significant changes to the program overall.

Additional information on the 2026 BWSR Academy will become available via the BWSR website and communications from BWSR staff.

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

## SHARE YOUR 2026 SITE INSPECTION PHOTOS

SWCD staff completing site inspections for 2026 are encouraged to share photos of high-quality habitat on RIM sites to be used in future editions of the RIM Rundown. These can be landscape photos, close-ups of vegetation and wildlife, and pictures of management in action. Pictures of sites featuring the RIM Conservation Easement signs are also welcome! Please provide context for pictures. Any photos used will be credited with the photographer and county.

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



*Spiderwort on RIM easement in Lac qui Parle County*



## 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](mailto:bwsr.rim@state.mn.us)).

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