



DATE: September 15, 2026

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

FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director 

SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – September 23, 2026

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower-level Board Room, at 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul and by Microsoft Teams. Individuals interested in attending the meeting through Teams should do so by either 1) logging into Teams through the provided [meeting link](#) or 2) join by audio only conference call by calling telephone number: 651-395-7448 and entering the conference ID: 204 685 425#.

The following information pertains to agenda items:

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. **Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY27 program authorization** – On February 20, 2026, the Grants Program and Policy Committee was sent materials regarding proposed changes to the Cooperative Weed Management Program. With changes in appropriation language (The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Chapter 60, Article 1, Section 4(b)(2) removing specific reference to the “county cooperative weed management program,” staff see an opportunity to better align the program with the goals of the Living Landscape Initiative

At the March 16, 2026 Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting, staff presented the recommended program changes. The committee had robust discussion and suggested a few changes to the program. In April, the committee recommended to the full board, order #26-19 which approved the fiscal year 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape (MIRL) Grants Program ranking criteria and authorized staff to finalize program requirements and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP).

On April 23, 2026, the RFP for the MIRL Grant Program was released, with applications due June 30, 2026. The program received 29 applications requesting a total of \$834,637. The ranking team met on August 13 to review and rank the applications, selecting the top six projects for funding totaling \$179,000. Staff will seek authorization of the FY27 awards. **DECISION ITEM**

Central Region Committee

1. South Washington Watershed District 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan – South Washington Watershed District Watershed Management Plan. In their updated watershed management plan (Plan), the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) included 8 broad issue categories. Watershed Alterations, Community Resiliency in a Changing Climate, Flooding Impacts, Stormwater Operations & Maintenance, Erosion & Sedimentation, Water Resource Management, Informed Community, and

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Efficiency & Accountability. Each issue category has sub-issues, along with issue statements and goals to address them. Later on in the Plan, a suite of prioritized implementation actions and their associated programs are tied back to goals (often several) along with metrics for how each will be measured.

In their own review of their 2016 plan, SWWD found key gaps related to:

- Chloride pollution
- Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Increasing restrictions on infiltration
- Lack of integration of resiliency planning
- Increasing operations and maintenance work
- Equity and environmental justice

All gaps identified during the planning process are addressed in this Plan, which was written in-house by SWWD staff. Specifically, resiliency planning and incorporating adaptive management principles are strong features throughout. SWWD has also committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles and continues to integrate DEI into watershed management. After decades of declining water quality in the watershed, SWWD's lakes are stabilizing and, in some cases, improving. Excess nutrients in stormwater runoff remain the largest cause of water quality degradation within the watershed, but the work SWWD has put into increasing the quality of water is apparent through the results achieved thus far (example- La Lake was officially delisted from the Impaired Waters List in 2024). The few streams in SWWD's jurisdiction are remaining stable. Most of the streams' subwatersheds are in rural areas, with agricultural runoff remaining the largest contributor to degraded water quality. **DECISION ITEM**

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to contact me at 651-539-2587. We look forward to seeing you on September 23rd.

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD NORTH
ST. PAUL, MN 55155
WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23, 2026**

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF AUGUST 27, 2026 BOARD MEETING

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

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.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY27 program authorization – Erin Loeffler –
DECISION ITEM

Central Region Committee

1. South Washington Watershed District 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan – Josh Norman –
DECISION ITEM

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Southern Region Committee is scheduled for October 5th at 10:00 a.m. in Worthington and by MS Teams.
- BWSR Board meeting is scheduled for October 28th at 9:00 a.m. in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

ADJOURN

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
1155 HIGHWAY 10 EAST
DETROIT LAKES, MN 56501
THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2026**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Eunice Biel, Jayne Hager Dee, Jill Crafton, Joe Collins, Kevin Paap, Kevin Wilson, LeRoy Ose, Mark Zabel, Mike Runk, Neil Peterson, Paul Fish, Ron Staples, Steven Nyhus, Ted Winter, Todd Holman, Sarah Strommen, DNR; Joel Larson, University of Minnesota Extension; Melissa Lewis, MPCA; Myra Kunas, MDH; Peder Kjeseth, MDA

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT:

John Jaschke, Rachel Mueller, Tom Gile, Travis Germundson, Jared House, Tom Gile, Matt Fischer, Josh Norman, Les Lemm, Ken Powell, Ryan Hughes, Henry Van Offelen, Moriya Rufer, Shanae Fortson, John Voz, Mike Nelson, Julie Westerlund, Gretchen Asuncion, Shane Bugeja, Denise Lauerma, Lauren Peterman, John Shea, Marcey Westrick

OTHERS PRESENT:

Brian Martinson, AMC; Jan Voit, Minnesota Watersheds; Mike Schultz, MACD, LeAnn Buck, MASWCD; Troy Daniell, NRCS; Peter Nelson, Pennington SWCD; Cory Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District; Rob Sip, Red River Watershed Management Board; Jackie Anderson, Comfort Lake/Forest Lake WD; Tom Higgins, MDH; Amanda Bilek, Minnesota Corn Growers Association; Bob Meier, DNR; Michael Miller

Chair Todd Holman called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

26-35 **ADOPTION OF AGENDA - Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Neil Peterson, to adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

26-36 **MINUTES OF JUNE 24, 2026 BOARD MEETING – Moved by Kevin Paap, seconded by Ron Staples, to approve the minutes of June 24, 2026, as circulated. *Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

PUBLIC ACCESS FORUM

Jackie Anderson with the Comfort Lake Forst Lake Watershed District spoke about sequential diagnostic assessments, including on-the-ground water monitoring being eligible for Clean Water Fund grants and asked how to bring it forward. Chair Todd Holman stated he thinks the next step would be for a request to BWSR's Senior Management Team or leadership to discuss how to route the conversation to the appropriate committee.

Chair Todd Holman introduced new board members Myra Kunas, Assistant Commissioner from the Department of Health and Steven Nyhus, Citizen Member.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW STAFF

Ryan Hughes introduced Moriya Rufer, Board Conservationist ,Shanae Fortson, North Region Grants Compliance Specialist and Nicole Bernd, PRAP 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 thanked the team for putting together the events over the last couple of days.

Executive Director's Report – John Jaschke appreciated the work that went into the tour. Reminded board members to submit expense forms within 60 days of incurring expenses. Reviewed the Day of Packet that included Snapshots articles. Stated the Clean Water Council, Outdoor Heritage Council, and LCCMR are working on their recommendation processes for the Legislature.

Audit and Oversight Committee – Joe Collins reported they have not met.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report – Kevin Wilson reported there are three new appeals, and information is in the packet. Travis Germundson reported File 26-12 is an appeal that has recently been remanded for expanded technical review. File 26-16 the parties have entered into a settlement agreement and as a result the appeal has been withdrawn and dismissed. Travis stated five of the recent

board decisions have been appealed to the Court of Appeals. The majority of those are currently in the briefing schedule and will be several months before we have oral arguments and a final decision by the court.

Grants Program & Policy Committee – Mark Zabel reported they met in August and have two items on the agenda for today. They will be meeting again in September.

RIM Reserve Committee – Jayne Hager Dee reported they have not met.

Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Joe Collins reported a meeting is being scheduled for mid-September.

Wetland Conservation Committee – Jill Crafton reported they have an item on the agenda for today.

Buffers, Soils & Drainage Committee – LeRoy Ose reported they have an item on the agenda for today.

Drainage Work Group (DWG) – Neil Peterson reported they met and had a presentation on the drainage abandonment topic based on some real situations. Tom reported that one of the primary topics the work group will be talking about is to consider expanding authority for the abandonment of drainage systems.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Peder Kjeseth reported the soil health financial assistant program is currently open. Their legislative portal to submit policy and budget proposals is open until September 18th and is available on their website.

Jill Crafton asked about neonicotinoid treated seeds. Peder stated they are currently reviewing those practices.

Neil Peterson stated we need to look at the current drought as a disaster. Need some sort of disaster declaration for part of the state. Peder appreciates the comments.

Kevin Paap stated it was good to have Kurt Blomgren with the USDA-FSA participate on the tour.

Minnesota Department of Health – No report was provided.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Sarah Strommen reported the DNR is following the drought conditions. They are preparing for the State Fair and will issue the annual DNR Conservation awards on September 4th at the DNR stage. Stated the tour included two wildlife management areas (WMAs) yesterday and it was heartening to hear about all the collaboration as DNR was involved in several projects. Stated the work on the public water inventory is ongoing.

Paul Fish thanked DNR for their work in northeast Minnesota with the drought and the fires affecting tourism. Myra Kunas stated MDH is working with the public on the health impact and guidance on safety with the poor air quality from the fires.

Minnesota Extension – Joel Larson reported it was a good tour and thanked those that worked on it. Minnesota Management and Budget is embarking on a 30 year plan for Minnesota waters and have been in discussions with creating research agreements that will provide some foundation for that

planning. The Minnesota Water Resources conference is October 13th and 14th this fall in St Paul. The 4-H building at the fair will be going through interior restoration.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Melissa Lewis reported MPCA will be taking part in the State Fair at the Eco Experience building. Stated the MPCA is convening a team for the water reuse chapter of the stormwater manual.

Paul Fish asked if water reuse could be expanded and if Data Centers is part of that study. Melissa stated she would have to check. Board members discussed examples of water reuse.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties – No report was provided.

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

Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck thanked those that organized the tour and forum to learn about conservation and to learn from each other. MASWCD initiated completion of an economic study with NRCS and BWSR that showed every dollar spent on conservation brings money back to the community. Their 90th annual meeting will be November 30th through December 3rd.

Neil Peterson thanked LeAnn and her organization for their work.

Jill Crafton asked if there would be overlap with Minnesota Watershed's annual meeting. LeAnn stated there will be some overlap.

Minnesota Association of Townships – Eunice Biel reported she was struck by the extreme dry conditions while on the tour yesterday, stated it's the opposite in the southern part of the state. In August they held 13 district meetings across the state. They rolled out a newly designed website. In September there will be a legislative and research committee meeting at the headquarters in St. Michael. The annual conference will be at Grand View lodge in Nisswa on December 10th through 12th. They continue to hold Township Tuesdays on the first and third Tuesday of each month.

Minnesota Watersheds – Jan Voit thanked everyone for being at the tour and the partnership. December 1st through 4th will be their annual conference in Nisswa. Minnesota Plumbing Board and stormwater reuse has been huge for their members. Their partners are putting together a request for action to request MPCA take the lead for stormwater guidance across the state, they will be meeting on September 1st.

Joe Collins commended what Jan has done with the plumbing coalition.

Natural Resources Conservation Service – No report was provided.

Chair Holman called a recess at 10:13 a.m. and reconvened at 10:25 a.m.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

FY 27 Soil Health Delivery Authorization – Jared House and Tom Gile presented FY 27 Soil Health Delivery Authorization.

This board authorization represents the continuation of the work initiated on October 5, 2023, when the Board authorized staff to develop a Request for Interest (RFI) for the FY 24-25 Soil Health Delivery Program. That initial program model, – which delivers Soil Health funds to Soil and Water Conservation Districts across Minnesota via a formula-based, non-competitive grant structure – can be sustained through the \$5.93 million Clean Water Fund appropriation secured in the 2025 legislative session for FY 2027. The intent is to maintain continuity in program delivery.

Jill Crafton thanked them for flexibility within this and said it's a great improvement.

Kevin Wilson stated he appreciated the discussion at the committee meeting.

26-37 Moved by Steve Nyhus, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the presented FY 27 Soil Health Delivery Authorization. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

FY 27 Buffer implementation Grants – Tom Gile presented FY 27 Buffer implementation Grants.

Primary program structure is similar as prior years. Additional clarity on eligible activities will be provided as well as use of a RFI to ask recipients if they want the full amount of funding allocated to them.

Jayne Hager Dee asked if these are grants that local governments must apply for. Tom stated that is correct. Jayne stated there isn't a lot of time for staff resources. Tom stated its noted, and it's what SWCDs receive based on the Clean Water Council recommendations.

26-38 Moved by Ron Staples, seconded by Neil Peterson, to approve the FY 27 Buffer implementation Grants. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Buffers Soils and Drainage Committee

Buffer Procedures addition of Procedure #12 – Tom Gile presented Buffer Procedures addition of Procedure #12.

Procedures #1-11 are unchanged. The MN DNR is undergoing a systematic update to the Public Waters Inventory, which is likely to result in changes (additions or subtractions) to the buffer protection map. The proposed Procedure #12 lays out a basic framework for notifications of the new map to local SWCDs and allows 12 months to voluntarily come into compliance if a new water course is added to the Buffer Protection Map as a result of the process. This revision will provide a consistent expectation for timing when new features are added as a part of the current PWI Update the MN DNR is undertaking or any future revisions which add features to the Buffer Protection Map.

Steve Nyhus asked about step five where the landowner must complete installation within 12 months and if that's realistic and what does installation mean. Tom stated installation means seed in the ground, that it's been planted. If they're working on it and have some issues with the installation, it'll be recognized and they'll work with you before enforcement is formally started in that instance.

Mark Zabel asked if the SWCD used that 12 month period to work with the landlord to establish the buffer and if no buffer was established, would the enforcement revert to the county Watershed District, BWSR, or whoever has the authority would initiate the enforcement. Tom stated the SWCDs would initiate enforcement by notifying noncompliance of the enforcement entity.

Paul Fish asked about the definition of added water features if that pertains to agricultural land. Tom stated this pertains to lands adjacent to waters on the buffer protection map. It affects primarily agricultural land, but all lands in the state are subject to it.

Sarah Strommen appreciates the work that went into developing this procedure.

26-39 Moved by Mark Zabel, seconded by Kevin Paap, to approve the Buffer Procedures addition of Procedure #12. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Northern Region Committee

Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Renewal Amendment – Ryan Hughes and Matt Fischer presented Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Renewal Amendment.

The Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) was approved by the Board on April 26, 2017 and an amendment to the Plan was approved by the Board on January 23, 2019. The partners include Pennington County, Pennington SWCD, Polk County, East Polk SWCD, West Polk SWCD, Red Lake County, Red Lake County SWCD, and Red Lake Watershed District.

The partnership initiated a plan renewal amendment on April 1, 2024 by sending notice of plan amendment and invitation to submit priority issues. A kick-off meeting for the amendment process was held on June 12, 2024.

The partnership held a 60-day review process that ended on April 15, 2026, and the required public hearing on April 30, 2026. The draft Plan Renewal Amendment, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments were submitted to the state review agencies on June 17, 2026. Final state review agency responses were submitted by July 30, 2026, and all agencies that submitted responses had no additional comments on the Plan Renewal Amendment.

The Northern Regional Committee met on August 5, 2026, to review the content of the Plan Renewal Amendment, state agency comments on the Plan Renewal Amendment, and to make a recommendation. The Committee recommends approval of the submitted Plan Renewal Amendment by the full Board.

Neil Peterson appreciates the work that went into the plan.

Steve Nyhus stated that the list of local governments participating in this is impressive and asked if there are any local governments not participating. Matt stated they think everyone was included.

Melissa Lewis stated it is very exciting to hear this is continuing and that the original pilots were successful.

Jill Crafton stated she likes the map.

26-40 Moved by Neil Peterson, seconded by Jayne Hager Dee, to approve the Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Renewal Amendment. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Central Region Committee

Brown's Creek Watershed District 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan – Josh Norman presented Brown's Creek Watershed District 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan.

Background

The Brown's Creek Watershed District (BCWD) is located entirely within central Washington County in the eastern Twin Cities metropolitan area (metro). Its 28 square mile jurisdiction includes portions of seven cities and townships, including parts of Stillwater, Hugo, and Lake Elmo. BCWD is the smallest watershed district by area in the state, though it still contains a bounty of small lakes and wetlands. BCWD is bounded by Valley Branch Watershed District to the south, Rice Creek Watershed District to the west and north, Carnelian-Marine St. Croix Watershed District to the north and east, and the Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization and the St. Croix River to the east, the latter of which the entire BCWD drains to. Historically, BCWD's focus has been on alleviating flooding and protecting Brown's Creek (one of the few metro trout streams) from the impacts of development, necessary commitments considering nearly 37% of the land cover in the watershed is impervious surfaces.

Plan Process and Highlights

On December 14, 2023, the BCWD sent notification of initiation of the planning process for the development of the 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410, and solicited each agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. An initial planning meeting/public kickoff event with the convened Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of plan review authorities and other governmental units within the watershed, was held on July 9, 2024. BCWD solicited input from their Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) on June 10, 2024, August 12, 2024, October 14, 2024, and December 9, 2024. The TAC met again on August 20, 2024, October 22, 2024, and February 25, 2025. BCWD met with the TAC and CAC in April of 2025 to prioritize issues facing the BCWD, prioritize capital improvement projects, and prioritize programs and projects. A memo detailing the results of these prioritization meetings was shared on May 28, 2025. Finally, the TAC and CAC met in October of 2025 to provide input on budget and implementation activities. BCWD continued to solicit input from the Board of Water and Soil Resources up to the release of the 60-day draft Plan in February of 2026.

The Plan has 15 issue categories. Many of the categories and sub-issue areas are the same as those identified in previous Plans, with Pollutants of Emerging Concern being a new addition. The rest of the categories are: Stormwater Runoff Management; Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control; Stream Management; Lake Management; Wetland Management; Floodplain and Flood Management; Groundwater Management; Ecological Health; Monitoring and Data Collection; Regulations; Recreation; Education, Outreach, and Stewardship; Land Conservation; and Funding. A primary goal is associated with each of the issue categories. Each issue category is further divided with sub-issues that have an overarching policy, goals to meet the policies, and implementation activities associated with each goal.

In preparing this Plan, BCWD evaluated its programs, policies, and projects through both climate change and equity lenses to ensure that future actions not only strengthen resilience in natural systems, people, and infrastructure, but also address historical gaps in equity. The overall health of the resources in the BCWD are improving since the last generation plan, evidenced by the fact that Plaisted Lake was delisted from the impaired waters inventory. BCWD will continue to improve water quality, maintain and improve ecological health in the watershed, and target pollutants of emerging concern like PFAS and microplastics. BCWD is committed to continuing the successes achieved in their previous plan with this next generation plan meeting goals if funding becomes available. Continuation of monitoring, inter-

agency coordination, small scale BMP cost-share, and regulation will continue the success the VBWD has consistently achieved over the years.

Steve Nyhus congratulated the district on the work they're doing, especially on making sure this plan is accessible to the people who live within that district.

Myra Kunas appreciated interaction between the surface and groundwater, the expansions of homes put pressure on groundwater and is important to protect it.

26-41 Moved by Joe Collins, seconded by Jill Crafton, to approve the Brown's Creek Watershed District 2027-2036 Watershed Management Plan. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Wetland Conservation Committee

Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking – Les Lemm and Ken Powell presented Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking.

BWSR is responsible for the promulgation of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) rules (MN Rules Chapter 8420), and staff are in the process of amending the rules to conform them to statute changes that have occurred since the current rule was adopted. In addition, rule amendments are being considered that will help clarify implementation, improve mitigation outcomes, and remove outdated, confusing, and redundant language.

Over the past several years, BWSR staff have held multiple wetlands rulemaking advisory committee meetings, met with local governments and stakeholder groups, consulted with Tribal governments, and developed three preliminary drafts of the rules for public review and comment. Those preliminary drafts formed the basis for the Minnesota Revisor's Office certified copy of the draft rule that will be used for the next steps in the rulemaking process under the Minnesota Administrative Procedure Act (APA), which must occur before the board can consider adoption of a final rule.

Staff are seeking approval to proceed with those next steps under the APA, which will include posting the draft rule in the State Register for a 60-day comment period and holding a public hearing.

Sarah Strommen left the meeting at 11:30 a.m. and Bob Meier stepped in for DNR.

Paul Fish asked if rules had been established. Les stated these are making amendments to the rules.

Jill Crafton thanked Les, Ken, and others for their work on this.

Ted Winter asked about the changes they are making right now and if most of them are statute changes. Les said he estimates 80-90% are statute changes.

LeRoy asked if there would be more wetlands. Les stated it won't affect the number of wetlands.

26-42 Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by LeRoy Ose, to approve the Wetland Conservation Act Rulemaking. ***Motion passed on a roll call vote.***

Ron Staples, Peder Kjeseth, and Bob Meier left the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Red Lake River Watershed Partnership – Peter Nelson and Cory Hanson presented Red Lake River Watershed Partnership.

In 2014, the Red Lake River watershed was selected as one of the five original One Watershed, One Plan pilot watersheds. An agreement was established between the partners for the purpose of writing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan). The Plan was approved by the Board on April 26, 2017, and was adopted by resolutions of the partners.

In 2017, the partners entered into a new agreement for the purpose of jointly implementing the Plan, which has been ongoing since that time. The Board approved a plan amendment on January 23, 2019, that added to Water Management Districts for the Red Lake Watershed District and incorporated new PTMApp information.

In 2023, the partnership was awarded a One Watershed, One Plan Mid-Point grant to conduct a plan assessment. The assessment was completed in 2024 and based on the outcomes, the partnership decided to initiate a plan renewal amendment.

The Red Lake River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Renewal Amendment is the first plan renewal amendment coming to the Board for approval. Representatives from the partnership will present an overview of Plan implementation, Plan assessment, and the Plan renewal amendment process.

Ted Winter asked about raising money. Peter stated they don't have a specific plan, as opportunities come up, they're open to trying to secure more funding.

Joe Collins stated their funding chart was easy to read.

Jill Crafton stated these projects take so long because money is a variable.

Red River Watershed Management Board Update – Rob Sip presented the Red River Watershed Management Board Update.

The Red River Watershed Management Board coordinates basin-wide water management and flood control in the Red River of the North watershed. It was created in 1976 by an act of the Minnesota legislature to provide a basin-wide perspective on managing the Red River Basin, which includes seven watershed districts such as the Joe River, Two Rivers, Roseau River, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, Red Lake, Wild Rice, and Bois de Sioux. Its mission is to institute, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and ensure the beneficial use of water in the watershed. Historically, flood control was the focus, but the board now also addresses water quality, habitat restoration, and sustainable land use.

Ted Winter asked what the goal is on the Roseau project. Rob stated its flood reduction of the downstream areas, hold the water longer and slowly release it.

Jill Crafton stated it's all about slowing it down and spreading it out.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- Next BWSR Meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m., September 23, 2026, in St. Paul and by MS Teams.

Chair Holman adjourned the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Todd Holman
Chair

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Grants Program and Policy Committee

1. Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY27 program authorization – Erin Loeffler – ***DECISION ITEM***

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	<u>Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY27 program authorization</u>		
Meeting Date:	<u>September 23, 2026</u>		
Agenda Category:	☒ Committee Recommendation	☐ New Business	☐ Old Business
Item Type:	☒ Decision	☐ Discussion	☐ Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>Managing Invasives, Resilient, Landscape, RFP</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Resource Conservation</u>		
Contact:	<u>Erin Loeffler</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Erin Loeffler</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Grants Program & Policy</u>	<u>Committee(s)</u>	
Presented by:	<u>Erin Loeffler</u>		
Time requested:	<u>15 minutes</u>		

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☐ Map ☐ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ None | ☒ General Fund Budget |
| ☐ Amended Policy Requested | ☐ Capital Budget |
| ☐ New Policy Requested | ☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| ☐ Other: | ☐ Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of FY27 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape FY 27, including Ranking Criteria and Board Order.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

On February 20, 2026, the Grants Program and Policy Committee was sent materials regarding proposed changes to the Cooperative Weed Management Program. With changes in appropriation language (The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Chapter 60, Article 1, Section 4(b)(2) removing specific reference to the “county cooperative weed management program,” staff see an opportunity to better align the program with the goals of the Living Landscape Initiative.

At the March 16, 2026 Grants Program and Policy Committee meeting, staff presented the recommended program changes. The committee had robust discussion and suggested a few changes to the program. In April, the committee recommended to the full board, order #26-19 which approved the fiscal year 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape (MIRL) Grants Program ranking criteria and authorized staff to finalize program requirements and issue a Request for Proposals (RFP).

On April 23, 2026, the RFP for the MIRL Grant Program was released, with applications due June 30, 2026. The program received 29 applications requesting a total of \$834,637. The ranking team met on August 13 to review and rank the applications, selecting the top six projects for funding totaling \$179,000. Staff will seek authorization of the FY27 awards.



BOARD ORDER

Fiscal Year 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape Grant Program Awards

PURPOSE

Authorize the Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape Grants Program Awards.

FINDINGS OF FACT / RECITALS

- A. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, 1st Spec. Session Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(b)(2) appropriated \$200,000 for invasive species and weed management programs and to restore native plants at selected invasive species management sites.
- B. The Board has authorities under Minnesota Statute §103B.101 to award grants and contracts to accomplish water and related land resources management.
- C. The Managing Invasives for Resilient Landscapes grants program supports activities for the removal of invasive plants and establishing native plant communities.
- D. On April 22, 2026, the Board authorized staff to distribute a request for proposals (RFP) based on the amount available (\$180,000) and awards that amount from \$15,000 to \$30,000 for the Managing Invasives for Resilient Landscapes grants program (Board order #26-19).
- E. The request for proposals was noticed on April 23rd, 2026, with a submittal deadline of June 30, 2026.
- F. Applications were scored and ranked by an interagency review team on August 13, 2026.
- G. On September 8, 2026, BWSR's senior management team reviewed staff's recommendations for award allocations and recommended approval to the Grants Program and Policy Committee.
- H. The Grants Program and Policy Committee, at their September 14, 2026 meeting, reviewed the recommendations for award allocations and recommended approval to the Board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- 1. Approves the allocation of funds to each applicant in the amounts listed in Table 1.
- 2. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements for these funds consistent with the appropriation and the RFP.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: _____

Table 1. FY 2027 Managing Invasives for a Resilient Landscape Funding Recommendations

Grant ID	Applicant Name	Application Title	Recommended Award
C27-0088	Pine SWCD	Robinson Park Invasive Species Management	\$30,000
C27-0079	Pennington SWCD	Managing Invasive Species in Pennington County	\$30,000
C27-0105	Swift SWCD	Reclaiming Prairie Remnants: Managing Invasives and Enhancing Habitat in Swift County	\$30,000
C27-0125	Carlton SWCD	Carlton County CWMA: Building Capacity and Restoring Native Plant Communities	\$30,000
C27-0116	Anoka CD	Anoka County Habitat Stewardship	\$29,000
C27-1020	Plymouth, City of	Lake Camelot Park Prairie Restoration Project Funding Request	\$30,000

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

1. South Washington Watershed District 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan – Josh Norman –
DECISION ITEM

BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

AGENDA ITEM TITLE:	<u>South Washington Watershed District 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan</u>		
Meeting Date:	<u>September 23, 2026</u>		
Agenda Category:	☒ Committee Recommendation	☐ New Business	☐ Old Business
Item Type:	☒ Decision	☐ Discussion	☐ Information
Keywords for Electronic Searchability:	<u>South Washington Watershed District Watershed Management Plan</u>		
Section/Region:	<u>Regional Operations/Central</u>		
Contact:	<u>Josh Norman</u>		
Prepared by:	<u>Josh Norman</u>		
Reviewed by:	<u>Central Region</u>	<u>Committee(s)</u>	
Presented by:	<u>Josh Norman</u>		
Time requested:	<u>10 minutes</u>		

☐ **Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation**

Attachments: ☐ Resolution ☒ Order ☒ Map ☒ Other Supporting Information

Fiscal/Policy Impact

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☒ None | ☐ General Fund Budget |
| ☐ Amended Policy Requested | ☐ Capital Budget |
| ☐ New Policy Requested | ☐ Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| ☐ Other: | ☐ Clean Water Fund Budget |

ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of the South Washington Watershed District Watershed Management Plan as recommended by the Central Regional Committee.

LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

<https://swwdmn.gov/swwd-wmp-2026-update/>

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

Background

The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) is located entirely within southern Washington County in the eastern Twin Cities metropolitan area (metro). Its 111.5 square mile jurisdiction includes portions of 10 cities and townships, including parts of Cottage Grove, Woodbury, and Afton. SWWD is bounded by the Mississippi River to the south and west, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to the west, the Valley Branch Watershed District to the north, and the St. Croix River to the east. Draining to two major rivers offers SWWD unique management challenges and opportunities. SWWD began as an organization focused on addressing inter-community flooding concerns, acute in this area thanks to the multiple landlocked basins. SWWD's first plan was adopted in late 1997, and it focused on inventory and assessment of water resources, and actions to address inter-community flows and flooding. After over three decades of work protecting and improving water resources, SWWD continues its history of success while also pursuing actions toward climate resiliency, protection of groundwater quality and quantity, and stormwater treatment and regulation.

Plan Process and Highlights

On February 13, 2024, the SWWD Board passed a resolution to formally initiate the planning process and to authorize the establishment of an advisory committee. The next day, SWWD sent notification of initiation of the planning process for the development of the 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410, and solicited each agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The SWWD's Board held a public meeting on May 14, 2024, to discuss initial input received and to kick off a period of community and partner engagement. SWWD held two community engagement workshops, one on July 30, 2024, and the other on August 29, 2024.

SWWD's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) met and provided input on the planning process and draft plan several times throughout the process: on March 26, 2024; June 25, 2024; September 24, 2024; June 24, 2025; September 23, 2025; December 16, 2025; and June 23, 2026. SWWD also convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of plan review authorities and other governmental units within the watershed. The TAC met three times: September 26, 2024; February 13, 2025; and June 11, 2025. On June 9, 2026, the SWWD Board met between the 60-day and 90-day drafts of the Plan and held another public hearing to solicit community feedback prior to the 90-day draft being released. SWWD continued to solicit input from the Board of Water and Soil Resources up to the release of the 60-day draft Plan in February of 2026.

The Plan, written in-house by SWWD staff, has 8 broad issue categories. Watershed Alterations, Community Resiliency in a Changing Climate, Flooding Impacts, Stormwater Operations & Maintenance, Erosion & Sedimentation, Water Resource Management, Informed Community, and Efficiency & Accountability. Each issue category has sub-issues, along with issue statements and goals to address them. Later on in the Plan, a suite of prioritized implementation actions and their associated programs are tied back to goals (often several) along with metrics for how each will be measured.

In their own review of their 2016 plan, SWWD found key gaps related to:

- Chloride pollution
- Polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Increasing restrictions on infiltration
- Lack of integration of resiliency planning
- Increasing operations and maintenance work
- Equity and environmental justice

All gaps identified during the planning process are addressed in this Plan. Specifically, resiliency planning and incorporating adaptive management principles are strong features throughout. SWWD has also committed to diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) principles and continues to integrate DEI into watershed management. After decades of declining water quality in the watershed, SWWD's lakes are stabilizing and, in some cases, improving. Excess nutrients in stormwater runoff remain the largest cause of water quality degradation within the watershed, but the work SWWD has put into increasing the quality of water is apparent through the results achieved thus far (example- La Lake was officially delisted from the Impaired Waters List in 2024). The few streams in SWWD's jurisdiction are remaining stable. Most of the streams' subwatersheds are in rural areas, with agricultural runoff remaining the largest contributor to degraded water quality.

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Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the **South Washington Watershed District**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

ORDER
APPROVING
A WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the South Washington Watershed District submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) on September 2, 2026, to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Watershed District Establishment.** The South Washington Watershed District began in 1984 as the Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed Management Organization (WMO) to help address inter-community flooding concerns. A draft watershed management plan was completed in April of 1988, though this plan was never adopted. The WMO later disbanded, and, in 1993, the Cottage Grove Ravine Watershed District was formed as Minnesota's 42nd watershed district. In 1995, the district changed its name to the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD). By September of 1997, the first watershed management plan (Plan) was completed and adopted. Since that time, SWWD has enlarged their boundary twice, making them one of the state's few watershed districts to manage land and water resources within two major watershed basins (St. Croix and Mississippi Rivers).
2. **Authority of Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed area which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251. The current SWWD watershed management plan was approved by Board Order on October 27, 2016. Subsequently, the SWWD completed two minor amendments in 2019 and 2022.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** SWWD is located entirely within southern Washington County in the eastern Twin Cities metropolitan area (metro). Its 111.5 square mile jurisdiction includes portions of 10 cities and townships, including parts of Cottage Grove, Woodbury, and Afton. SWWD is bounded by the Mississippi River to the south and west, the Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District to the west, the Valley Branch Watershed District to the north, and the St. Croix River to the east. Draining to two major rivers offers SWWD unique management challenges and opportunities. SWWD began as an organization focused on addressing inter-community flooding concerns, acute in this area thanks to the multiple landlocked basins. SWWD's first plan was adopted in late 1997, focused on inventory and assessment of water resources, and actions to address inter-community flows and flooding.
4. **Plan Development and Review.** On February 13, 2024, the SWWD Board passed resolution to formally initiate the planning process and to authorize the establishment of an advisory committee. The next day,

SWWD sent notification of initiation of the planning process for the development of the 2026-2036 Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the plan review agencies and other parties as required by MR 8410, and solicited each agency's priority issues, summaries of relevant water management goals, and water resource information. The SWWD's Board held a public meeting on May 14, 2024, to discuss initial input received and to kick off a period of community and partner engagement. SWWD held two community engagement workshops, one on July 30, 2024, and the other on August 29, 2024.

SWWD's Citizen's Advisory Committee (CAC) met and provided input on the planning process and draft plan several times throughout the process: on March 26, 2024; June 25, 2024; September 24, 2024; June 24, 2025; September 23, 2025; December 16, 2025; and June 23, 2026. SWWD also convened a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), made up of plan review authorities and other governmental units within the watershed. The TAC met three times: September 26, 2024; February 13, 2025; and June 11, 2025. On June 9, 2026, the SWWD Board met between the 60-day and 90-day drafts of the Plan and held another public hearing to solicit community feedback prior to the 90-day draft being released. SWWD continued to solicit input from the Board of Water and Soil Resources up to the release of the 60-day draft Plan in February of 2026.

The draft Plan was submitted to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), other state and regional review agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review period on February 2, 2026, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. The SWWD prepared a written response to the 60-day comments and sent responses to reviewers on May 19, 2026. A public hearing was held on June 9, 2026. The SWWD sent a final draft Plan to State and Regional Review Agencies on July 2, 2026. None of the state or regional review agencies had additional comments on the 90-day draft, stating that all of their previous responses were satisfactorily addressed in the latest draft. The City of Oakdale did submit some comments, largely around SWWD rule requirements.

BWSR staff's final review of the Plan identified the needed elements of the plan content requirements have been met.

5. **Local Review.** The SWWD distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231 Subd. 7. Local written comments and edits were received from the City of Saint Paul Park, the City of Oakdale, and Washington County. SWWD responded in writing to all comments.
6. **Metropolitan Council (Council) Review.** During the 60-day review, the Council commended the SWWD for developing a watershed management plan that includes a thoughtful overview of the composition of the watershed, as well as a discussion of what makes this watershed unique with a thorough and thoughtful listing of issues, associated goals, and actions. The Council also applauded the incorporation of equity considerations throughout the Plan, and thought the Plan did an excellent job of embodying integrated water planning. Several comments were regarding inconsistencies, typos, graphic design and structuring suggestions, or requesting additional clarity. The Council advised SWWD to update the Plan reference of the Council's 2040 MUSA to "2050 MUSA" and to add an executive summary. The Council also stated that the linkage between action items and programs in the implementation table were unclear, and gave suggestions for increased clarity. During the 90-day review, the Council again congratulated the SWWD for their work on this Plan, and stated that all of their comments on the 60-day draft were incorporated.
7. **Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review.** During the 60-day review, MDA gave SWWD a list of statewide resources available to producers that will support the continued adoption of agricultural conservation practices. During the 90-day review, MDA stated they had no additional comments.
8. **Department of Health (MDH) Review.** During the 60-day review, MDH stated that they enjoyed participating in the TAC meetings during Plan development and were thankful for being able to provide

insight into the intersection between stormwater and wellhead protection. MDH recommended that the Plan reference the Lower St. Croix River Watershed Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies Report. MDH thought that the organization of the Plan was hard to follow and requested the creation of a table for implementation actions to be tied back to goals. MDH recommended the inclusion of an executive summary, more discussion about groundwater quality in the watershed, and more specific information on fish consumption guidance in some impaired lakes. MDH provided specific guidance and resources to SWWD for use in the Plan. MDH recommended that there be more information on DWSMAs, as 1/3 of the watershed overlaps one or more groundwater DWSMAs. MDH also recommended clarity surrounding the discussion of PFAS in several sections, and for the inclusion of a link to the Washington County Groundwater Plan. Lastly, MDH had many grammatical and organizational suggestions to SWWD to make the Plan easier to read and interpret. During the 90-day review, MDH stated that all of their comments on the 60-day draft were sufficiently addressed and had no other comments.

9. **Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review.** During the 60-day review, the DNR thanked SWWD for the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan. The DNR requested that SWWD include a discussion on how threatened and endangered species are regulated, a discussion on rare and natural communities, and a discussion on the benefits of using native plants. The DNR recommended the inclusion of online resources surrounding the use of native plants to protect shorelines from erosion, and for increased clarity in the difference between lakes with native aquatic vegetation vs. invasive aquatic vegetation. The DNR also noted several grammatical irregularities and typos to be addressed. During the 90-day review, the DNR stated that their comments on the 60-day draft were satisfactorily addressed in the 90-day draft and had no further comments.
10. **Pollution Control Agency (PCA) Review.** During the 60-day review period, the PCA thanked SWWD for the opportunity to comment on the draft Plan. The MPCA recommended additional detail on the impairments to Lake St. Croix and other lakes in the watershed and the associated water quality trends. The MPCA also requested the listed waterbodies provide updated data from the impaired waters list. The MPCA recommended taking an accounting of the number of action items to estimate the cost and number of projects for budgeting purposes over the next 10 years. The MPCA requested that some goals associated with water quality be more measurable. Lastly, the MPCA also recommended grammatical and organizational clarifications throughout the Plan. During the 90-day review, the MPCA stated they had no further comments.
11. **Department of Transportation (DOT) Review.** The DOT did not provide formal comment.
12. **Board Review.** During the 60-day review, Board staff thanked the SWWD for giving Board staff an opportunity to provide input throughout all stages of the Plan drafting process. Board staff commended the SWWD for their focus on climate resiliency and adaptive resource management. Many of the Board staff's comments centered on making goals more measurable and making the associated implementation actions tied back to said goals in a clearer and prioritized way. Board staff requested the inclusion of an executive summary and an inventory of threatened and endangered species to be compliant with MR 8410. Further, Board staff requested many goals and action items be more specific to increase clarity, and recommended reducing the number of goals to eradicate redundancies. Board staff also requested additional information to be provided in the Plan regarding the monitoring process and the education and outreach program.

During the 90-day review, Board staff noted the large re-structuring that was made in between drafts. In part two of the Plan, issues are identified along with district strategies (formerly the "goals" in the 60-day draft) to address said issues. Part three, the implementation section, contained the goals (formerly the "implementation actions" in the 60-day draft) associated with the district programs that would address the issues listed in section two. Board staff expressed concerns that the "district strategies" should be re-named "goals", and that the "goals" be re-named "implementation actions" in order to fit better with the statutory language in MR 8410.0080 subp. 1 and MR 8410.0105 subp. 1, respectively. Additionally, Board

staff noted that many of their comments on the 60-day draft regarding the measurability of the goals were not enacted, as the terminology in part two was changed from “goals” to “district strategies.” Board staff again requested that some language be changed in “district strategies” and “goals” to make them clearer, more measurable, actionable (less passive language), and prioritized. Board staff also commented on the large number of “goals”, over 120, and asked if SWWD would be able to track and measure progress on them all during the life of the Plan.

Board staff met with SWWD staff on August 19, 2026, to discuss the requested changes Board staff submitted on the 90-day draft Plan. SWWD agreed to re-name the “district strategies” back to “goals”, and “goals” re-named back to “implementation actions” to more clearly follow MR 8410. SWWD staff also agreed to implement the rest of the requested changes listed in BWSR staff’s 90-day comments.

On September 2, 2026, SWWD sent a new draft to BWSR staff with all of the requested changes which meet all plan content requirements.

13. **Plan Summary.** The Plan, written in-house by SWWD staff, has 8 broad issue categories. Watershed Alterations, Community Resiliency in a Changing Climate, Flooding Impacts, Stormwater Operations & Maintenance, Erosion & Sedimentation, Water Resource Management, Informed Community, and Efficiency & Accountability. Each issue category has sub-issues, along with issue statements and goals to address them. Later on in the Plan, a suite of prioritized implementation actions and their associated programs are tied back to goals (often several) along with metrics for how each will be measured.

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14. **Central Region Committee Meeting.** On September 14, 2026, the Board’s Central Region Committee and staff met in St. Paul and online to review and discuss the final Plan. Those in attendance from the Board’s committee were Joe Collins, Jayne Hager-Dee, Jill Crafton, Mike Runk, Annie Felix, Mark Zabel, Heather Johnson, and Steven Nyhus. Others in attendance included Board staff Josh Norman, Marcey Westrick, and Gretchen Asuncion, and John Loomis, Kyle Axtell, and Abby Tekiela from SWWD. After presentation and discussion, the committee unanimously recommended approval of the Plan to the full Board.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving the Watershed Management Plan for the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The SWWD Watershed Management Plan, attached to this Order, defines the water and water-related problems within the SWWD's boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program through 2036.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached South Washington Watershed District's Watershed Management Plan submitted on September 2, 2026.

Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 23rd day of September 2026.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Todd Holman, Chair

September 23, 2026

South Washington Watershed District Board of Managers
c/o John Loomis, District Administrator
2302 Tower Drive
Woodbury, MN 55125

Dear Chair and Board Members:

I am pleased to inform you that the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) has approved the South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) Watershed Management Plan (Plan) at its regular meeting held on September 23, 2026. For your records I have enclosed a copy of the signed Board Order that documents approval of the Plan. Please be advised that the SWWD must adopt and implement the Plan within 120 days of the date of the Order, in accordance with MN Statutes 103B.231, Subd. 10.

The board, technical advisory committee members, consultants, and all others involved in the planning process are to be commended for their work on developing the Plan. With continued implementation of your Plan, the protection and management of the water resources within the watershed will be greatly enhanced to the benefit of the residents. The Board looks forward to working with you as you implement this Plan and document its outcomes.

Please contact Board Conservationist Josh Norman at 651-757-2302, josh.norman@state.mn.us, or at the central office address for further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Todd Holman
Chair

Enclosure

cc: Kyle Axtell, SWWD (via email)
Abby Tekiela, SWWD (via email)
Reid Christianson, MDA (via email)
Scott Hanson, MDH (via email)
Megan Moore, DNR (via email)
Katie Kowalczyk, DOT (via email)
Maureen Hoffman, Met Council (via email)
Melinda Neville, MPCA (via email)
Marcey Westrick, BWSR (via email)
Josh Norman, BWSR (via email)
File Copy