Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 18, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

IN PERSON with Webex Available (Hybrid Meeting)

9:00 Regular Clean Water Council Business

- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Introductions
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Agenda - comments/additions and approve agenda
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Meeting Minutes - comments/additions and approve meeting minutes
- **(INFORMATION ITEM**) Chair and Council Staff update
    - Policy & Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates
    - Staff update

9:15 (ACTION ITEM) Supplemental FY24-25 Clean Water Fund Recommendations Update

- Council staff

9:45 Agency Presentations for FY26-27 Clean Water Fund Requests (#1 of 4 meetings)

- Watershed Based Implementation Funding (BWSR)

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Agency Presentations Continued

- Surface & Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants (BWSR)
- Accelerated Implementation (BWSR)
- Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance (BWSR)
- Watershed Legacy Partners Grants (BWSR)
- Measures, Results, and Accountability (BWSR)

12:00 LUNCH

12:30 Agency Presentations Continued

- Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for DW & GW Protection (BWSR)
- Water Demand Reduction Grant Program (Metropolitan Council)
- Culvert Replacement Incentive Program (DNR)
- Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)(MDA)

EASEMENTS (combined presentation)

- Critical Shoreland Protection - Permanent Conservation Easements (BWSR)
- Wetland Restoration Easements (BWSR)
- Working Land and Floodplain Easements (BWSR)
- Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection (BWSR)

1:45 Public Comments

2:00 Adjourn

Immediately after: Steering Committee

Clean Water Council
February 26, 2024, Meeting Summary

Members present: John Barten (Chair), Steve Besser, Rich Biske (Vice Chair), Dick Brainerd, Gary Burdorf, Gail Cederberg, Steve Christenson, Tannie Eshenaur, Warren Formo, Brad Gausman, Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Justin Hanson, Peter Kjeseth, Annie Knight, Jason Moeckel, Ole Olmanson, Jeff Peterson, Victoria Reinhardt, Peter Schwagerl, Glenn Skuta, Marcie Weinandt, and Sen. Nathan Wesenberg.
Members absent: Holly Hatlewick, Peter Kjeseth, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Sen. Nicole Mitchell, Rep. Kristi Pursell, Dan Sparks, and Jessica Wilson.
Others present: Margaret Wagner (MDA), Allissa Stark (DNR), Kevin Krause (DNR), Beth Knudsen (DNR), Steve Kloiber (DNR), David Miller (MPCA), Bill Dunn (MPCA), Jen Schaust (MDA), Julie Westerlund (BWSR), Chris O'Brien (Freshwater), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD), Chengtao Wang, Amy Zipko (MN House GOP staff), LeeAnn Buck (MASWCD), Jamie Beyer (Bois de Sioux Watershed District, Udai Singh (BWSR), Kim Laing (MPCA), Anne Nelson (MDH), Jeff Peterson (UofM), Marcey Westrick, Jen Kader (Met Council), Sharon Doucette (BWSR), Annie Felix-Gerth (BWSR), Jim Stark (Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy), Frieda VonQualen (MDH).

To watch the Webex video recording of this meeting, please go to https://www.pca.state.mn.us/clean-water-council/meetings, or contact Brianna Frisch.

Regular Clean Water Council Business

- Introductions
- Approval of the February 26th and January 22nd meeting summary by Dick Brainerd, seconded by Steve Christenson. Motion carries.
- Chair and Council Staff update
  - Policy & Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates
  - Staff update
    - John Barten (Chair) and Paul Gardner (Clean Water Council Administrator) presented to the House Legacy Finance Committee last week. It was well received. They also met with Representative Rick Hansen for strategic plan comments on outcomes for the Clean Water Fund and on using the Fund for enhanced compliance and enforcement as laid out in statute.

Finalize Strategic Plan, Council staff *(Webex 00:25:30)*

- This is to review the items that were updated from the last meeting. Equity and climate considerations are mentioned in this document this way: "*The Clean Water Council also requests that all agencies incorporate their stated principles for diversity, equity, inclusion, and/or environmental justice into Clean Water Fund-supported programs. In addition, the Council also requests that these programs indicate any interaction between Clean Water Fund-supported programs and the state's Climate Action Framework.*"
- Language on circularity on water was added to the section on a sustainable groundwater standard.
  - Jen Kader, Met Council: The Metropolitan Council suggested for this version a new strategy under goal 2 to "*Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use."*
- Steve Christenson: Motion to move this document forward, with amendments recognized, seconded by Victoria Reinhardt.

Discussion of Motion:

- Brad Gausman: There is a history of the definition and understanding of the language from the state agencies regarding "fishable" and "swimmable". I think an important part of "fishable" is being able to consume those fish. We are looking for a healthy fish, and a healthy aquatic environment. A line about consumption (a "consumable, fishable water") would be a better understanding of that definition. As we see more waters become impaired, it is important to note this definition, and I would like to express that opinion, even if it cannot become a part of the plan. *Response from Paul Gardner:* Would you be okay with a footnote that indicates where that standard comes from? There is an aquatic recreation standard and aquatic consumption standard, which is sort of our fishable proxy. Mercury is a part of that as well. Would a friendly motion to include that amendment be acceptable?
- Steve Christenson: I would accept that amendment as a footnote for page six.

- Dick Brainerd: There are sections that deal with newly identified items. Does this document allow the Council to address new items presented to us (i.e., new invasive species) as we move forward? *Response from Paul Gardner:* Yes, the Council can make changes as needed.
- *Motion carries.* The Council's Strategic Plan for 2024-2028 is approved. It will be placed on the Council's website.

Interagency Communications Plan, by Council staff *(Webex 00:42:30)*

- This is the Council's Interagency Communication Plan. In state statute (Minnesota § 114D.35 Subd. 3) it says the Clean Water Council must develop strategies for communicating outcomes of the CWFs and the state agencies must implement them. The agencies developed their own communications strategies over the years, but this plan would help coordinate key messages so the public can see the outcomes of the CWF. Thank you to the Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) Communications sub-team for their work.
- Next step would be to have it go to the ICT and request the commissioners adopt it as well.

Discussion:

- Steve Christenson: I am pleased to see the plan. Could you talk more about staffing?
  - *Answer from Paul Gardner:* The statute says the state agencies will implement the plan. All the agencies have communications staff of some kind, so are borrowing them. For example, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has their monthly snapshots. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has done a very good job releasing the Impaired Waters List, connecting with Paul, and it went well. The MDH has excellent communications as well. There is some funding left over from a previous contract, which we could use to contract for one-time items.
  - *Comment from Jason Moeckel, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)*: Part of the challenge is the staff capacity and managing it. Agencies can brainstorm to figure out this workload.
  - *Comment from Dick Brainerd:* There are points included in this document that are great. However, it includes delegating staff to work on items, so it may need more focus moving forward.
- Jen Kader, Met Council: I am excited to see this plan. However, there is not an accountability metric, like checking back in over time to see how items are working. For example, the funding and staffing concern, may need some follow up and further action.
- Annie Knight: I am wondering about the trickle-down effect. We would love to have excellent marketing, but don't have staff capacity within the Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) to do it. So, what type of support would be given to the local government units? Additionally, with the Watershed Partner Legacy Grants, to the non-profits and tribal governments, they may struggle with communicating the work done as well. Is there anything for these areas? *Answer from Paul Gardner:* We have some attribution guidelines.
- Rich Biske: Metrics are also important. Perhaps the state agencies are already doing it.
  - *Response from Paul Gardner:* I can ask about it. We have our own Clean Water Council newsletter, which is now at about four thousand people. It is still a small "in-the-know" group.
  - *Response from Rich Biske:* I am thinking more digital. Looking at the platforms and seeing what those visitors' numbers are at. Adapt annually based on those impressions.
  - *Response from Frieda Von Qualen, MDH:* At the MDH we do have access to those kinds of metrics. I suspect other agencies would be able to provide these as well.
- Brad Gausman: Is there a logo just for the Clean Water Fund that is not the Legacy Amendment logo?
  - *Answer from Paul Gardner:* There is not a Clean Water Fund logo. We did talk about it. We can do it.
  - *Response from Bard Gausman:* It might be something to consider. To have two logos displayed (Land and Legacy Amendment as well as a Clean Water Council specific logo). The assumption I make are not of Clean Water Council.
  - *Comment from Steve Christenson:* I agree with Brad. Additionally, I think it is extra important for the BWSR programs to include the logo, so people know where the funding came for those projects.
  - *Kelly Gribauval-Hite:* I also think a Clean Water Council logo is a good idea. There are many items that you don't see a logo for, like the well-sealing program and the septic system program. People think it comes from the SWCDs, and it is important that it is shown from the CWFs. A logo from the fund would be good.
- Steve Christenson: Can you share why there are so many taglines? *Answer:* We would like to be able to use the right tagline for the right situation. This provides flexibility.

- Motion by Dick Brainerd to adopt the Clean Water Council Communication Plan as amended, seconded by Marcie Weinandt. Paul will amend items discussed administratively.

Discussion of motion:

- Annie Knight: The MPCA abbreviation in the executive summary needs to be corrected as well.
  - Amendment accepted by Dick Brainerd and Marcie Weinandt.
- Steve Christenson: With all these changes, should we approve it today? Or wait until the next meeting?
  - *Answer:* It would be nice to approve today if the Council would like that done.
  - *Kelly Gribauval-Hite*: We could approve it and have it be available for growth and change as needed.
  - *Victoria Reinhardt:* I think it is fine to approve today. Any communications plan needs to be flexible. The basics are down, and there should be a way to adjust it in the future. I am comfortable voting today.
- Jason Moeckel: I think the Council is approving the plan, and requesting the state agencies will adopt it. This is a collaboration, but the work will fall among the state agencies. I am thinking about how the motion was crafted. What are we asking the ICT to do? *Answer:* The Council would like to adopt the plan, as amended, and request the ICT adopt it also as their official policy.
- *Motion carries.* This document will be brought to the ICT for their review.

2024 Clean Water Fund Performance Report, by Kim Laing, MPCA *(Webex 01:26:00)*

- This is the seventh edition of the Clean Water Fund Performance Report. The state agencies participating are the MPCA, DNR, MDA, MDH, BWSR, and the Public Facilities Authority.
- The Clean Water Fund Performance Report has a goal to clarify the connections between the CWF investments, actions taken, and outcomes achieved.
- Each measure is given an action or outcome status score, and a trend indicator, shown with symbols in the report card. It gives a status overview and shows a trend for 29 measures. Narratives provide more details, including trends, graphics, and a qualitative score.
- From FY10-11 to FY24-25, 84 percent of appropriations were for protection/restoration implementation activities, seven percent for watershed restoration/protection strategies, five percent for drinking water protection, and four percent for monitoring and assessment.
- The CWF has supported more than 4,271 grants to protect and restore water resources. It has supported more than 2,253 loans to prevent nonpoint source water pollution or solve existing water quality problems.
- More than 941 easements that will permanently protect approximately 31,164 acres along riparian corridors and within wellhead protection areas, of which 23,830 acres were protected using the CWF. Drinking water source protection plans now exist for 800 of the approximately 970 community water systems.
- Unused, unsealed wells can be a source of groundwater contamination and can also pose physical hazards. There were 95 unused public water supply wells and 1,370 private wells sealed with CWFs since 2010. An estimated 250,000 to 500,000 unused unsealed wells remain.
- The MDH sampled about 100 community water systems for CECs. Very few samples exceeded health guidance and only a fraction of CECs were detected.
- In 2023, Minnesota completed a major milestone with the completion of the final Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). The WRAPS resembles a “to-do list” or blueprint for activities that must happen for waters in a major watershed to meet water quality standards.
- Looking at lake and steam water quality:
  - Lake trends show increasing water clarity. Of the 533 lakes with an improving trend, 147 have known invasive zebra mussels (28 percent of those with improving clarity). Lake water clarity must change more than half a foot per decade to be considered detectable change.
  - Regarding chloride, nearly all locations measured are seeing a long-term increasing concentration trend in chloride. Chloride reduction grant and Clean Water Partnership loans to fund chloride reduction are working the change this trend direction.
  - Water quality varies greatly by region. Over fifty percent of streams have no trend detected. Total phosphorous and Total Suspended Solids are generally decreasing or have no trend detected. Nitrate trends are generally showing no trend or increasing throughout the state.
  - They have delisted 81 lakes and streams from Minnesota’s impaired waters list. They have upgraded 52 municipal wastewater treatment facilities, which reduced phosphorous discharges by over 316,000

pounds per year via municipal wastewater treatment upgrades. Additionally, they have repaired 881 imminent health threat subsurface sewage treatment systems.

- The CWFs supported pilot projects to two groups of rural counties to offer free private well testing, one for nitrate and one for arsenic, and options for alternative water for income-qualified households. These pilots form the basis for the state's upcoming response to recent federal requirements to support drinking water needs for private well users with high nitrate levels in southeastern Minnesota.
- The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) has certified over 1,000,000 acres of Minnesota farmland across more than 1,400 farms through the state's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. An independent analysis from Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence shows MAWQCP- certified farms also average 20 percent higher net profit than non-certified farms.

Questions/Comments:

- John Barten: Is there a way to provide an abstract to highlight important outcomes included in the report? *Answer:* The executive summary is the space that we are attempting to reach, but it is such a large block of information. It is hard to convey the depth and stories to condense into information. We want people to look further for information. In addition, the audience looks at different metrics that they find are important.
- Annie Knight: Regarding the appropriations by category slide graph, what is the difference between the protection/restoration implementation activities and the drinking water protection? There is likely overlap, correct? *Answer:* There are multiple benefits of some projects and programs. It is hard to tease those out. Mainly, we are spending more than five percent on drinking water protection. Not all agencies agree on the interpretation either. *Response from Annie Knight:* When I think about why Minnesotans voted for the Legacy Amendment, I think about drinking water. So, looking at the drinking water protection spending amount overall, I would wonder why we are not spending more on this area, just not knowing about it. Perhaps, there is a better visual to use to help address this idea.
- Dick Brainerd: How is this communicated to the public? *Answer:* There is a press release, which Paul Gardner was invited to work on as well. It is not something that is being pushed out to the public, rather provided to the public for reading.
- Brad Gausman: Can a one-pager be provided? *Answer:* Yes, that will be the press release.

Background on Watershed-Based Funding Approach, by the Minnesota Watersheds (Jan Voit), Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (Sheila Vanney), and Association of Minnesota Counties (Brian Martinson) *(Webex 02:16:30)*

- Collaboratively, BWSR, DNR, MDA, MDH, MPCA, Public Facilities Authority, and the Met Council developed the Minnesota Water Management Framework. This process aims to streamline water management by systematically and predictably delivering data, research, and analysis.
- Agencies rely on the local conservation delivery system using this framework.
- The local conservation delivery system is unique, effective, and began before the Legacy Amendment. After the ratification of the amendment, the state began systematic data collection on a watershed scale and accelerated implementation via competitive grants to local governments for projects identified as priorities in local water plans. These shifts in the state's approach led to local government units getting together to rethink local water planning, which was being done on a county basis. The local government water roundtable produced a series of recommendations that resulted in the transformation of our work, especially how water planning and the distribution of implementation funding is done. That transformation took the form of the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) and watershed-based implementation funding (WBIF) programs. 1W1Ps are based on the essential idea of using the data to prioritize what issues are most pressing and where to first focus efforts.
- Targeting is putting the right action in the right location to address the right issue. It is about making the best use of each dollar. Measure is about having a clear sense about what benefits we are getting and to make good choices about which activities to do – and to be able to demonstrate results. Focusing effort in priority areas gives us a better chance of achieving a goal in less time.
- The 1W1P and watershed-based implementation creates a vessel for locally led collaboration. Counties, SWCDs, and watershed districts come with their own statutory authorities, responsibilities, expertise, partners, audiences, and funding sources. Melding these together in the beginning seemed like an insurmountable task, but it is working!

- There are currently 42 approved plans (about 70 percent) that receive a share of the implementation funds. There are 60 total planning boundaries (excluding the metro, which is covered by the metro surface water management act). BWSR is on target to get all 60 in the planning stage by 2025. Once completed with planning (which takes about two years) the jurisdictions are excited about the promise of reliable funding to that plan, which allows them to be strategic and flexible. The funding needs to continue to grow, as more plans come on board in the years to come.
- WBIF will be used to implement many actions in the CWC strategic plan. However, it does not explain the impact of the dollars, or how closely it is tied to the CWFs effort. There are over twenty of the specific actions the Council laid out in the new Strategic Plan, which are implemented through WBIF investments. Among the remaining action items, there are many closely tied to help inform or supplement the work of WBIF. Investments in WBIF are investments in the Council's Strategic Plan.
- The Watershed Transition Vision is to renew the commitment this investment represents: State agencies have been working since 2012 to implement a watershed transition framework that they've committed to the work. In one decade, we almost fully transitioned to watershed management statewide. Regarding investment, over $1.8 billion has been appropriated since the inception of the CWFs. These CWF implementation dollars have more than doubled from $79M in FY10-11 to $198M in FY24-25. Implementation totals $1B from FY10-25. Additionally, local implementors have established relationships across political lines to cooperatively management water resources in their collective watershed. Local partners have the capacity to increase implementation, to keep the momentum going.
- Examples of WBIF in action include stories shared from Wilkin County, the Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), Leech Lake and Pine River, Red Lake River, and Greater Zumbro River.
- They are turning plans into actions. There is a long-established commitment of partnerships and collaborations. They are seeing leverages of technical expertise and funding. They are seeing the locally led and locally implemented work. The One Watershed One Plan approach is still at the in the early stages of implementation. There has been significant investment of resources to build these plans and that work is still ongoing. Local governments remain committed to the watershed-based planning and implementation.

Questions/Comments:

- John Barten: Are you anticipating a staffing crunch? *Answer:* There are a few items in play. SWCD capacity funding from the general fund helps. When we look at the workload associated with any watershed plan, most of it is going on the ground to implementation projects. We are short in northcentral, southeast, and northwest, compared to the workload.
- Rich Biske: Sometimes the WBIF gets confusing because there are other specialized program appropriations. All the information is in elink, but could we get a summary of items? Also, it would be good to know what is covered by WBIF, and what is not, could we investigate that as well? *Answer from Annie (BWSR):* I want to follow up with you Rich over lunch to make sure we provide that in an upcoming meeting.

Lake De-Listing: Factors for Success, by Steve Weiss, MPCA *(Webex 02:54:00)*

- The MPCA Lakes Lateral Team recently completed a retrospective of the 64 nutrient impaired lakes that have been removed ("delisted") from Minnesota's 303(d) list of impaired waters. The retrospective includes analyses of common lake and watershed features and management activities that contributed to de-listings. The team is currently drafting an article that summarizes the key findings and lessons learned. This presentation is an overview of the delisted lakes research and the article the team is putting together.
- There are 64 lakes delisted for nutrients (2004-2024). Some through restoration activities (70 percent), unknown reasons like not being able to receive information from a local partner (24 percent), and new data or standard (6 percent).
- Of the 60 lakes delisted due to restoration activities and unknown reasons:
  - 57 (95 percent) are in the North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion.
  - 50 (83 percent) are within the jurisdictional boundary of a Watershed Management Organization (WMO).
  - 44 (73 percent) are in the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven county metro area.
  - 3 (5 percent) are in the Western Corn Belt Plains and Northern Glaciated Plains Ecoregions.
  - None are in the Northern Lakes and Forest Ecoregion.

- Looking at lake delistings by year, most occurred (92 percent) in the last ten years. It shows momentum with the programs. It also takes time to collect the data, strategize, implement, and reevaluate.
- Delisting due to restoration activities tended to be in more shallow lakes than deep lakes.
- Lake size is another important factor. Overwhelmingly, the lakes that were delisted tended to be small. Watershed size is also important (lakes with smaller watershed size were more likely to be delisted).
- Regarding management strategies mentioned by local partners that contributed to delisting. The external/watershed strategies included watershed BMPs (most frequent), stormwater development rules, significant land use change, and in some cases wastewater treatment facility (WWTF) reduction. The internal strategies included alum treatment, open water aeration, carp management, fish reclamation (e.g., rotenone), drawdown, and dredging.
- Summary and conclusions:
  - There have been 64 lakes delisted since 202, most (45) due to restoration activities.
  - Location is important. Nearly all (95 percent) are in the North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion. Most (83 percent) are within the jurisdictional boundary of a WMO. Most (73 percent) are in the seven-county metro area.
  - Physical features of the delisted lakes are important. About 58 percent are considered shallow. Most (92 percent) are less than 500 acres. A majority (77 percent) have watershed areas less than 5,000 acres.
  - Water quality is also important. In general, listing period for total phosphorus for delisted lakes were not far from meeting standards.
  - There is no "silver bullet" management strategy to delist lakes.
  - Success is usually achieved through a combination of factors. It takes time (over a decade or two).
- Next steps are to continue to research delisted lakes. They would like to look at more lakes (for a larger sample size), go beyond delisted lakes, go beyond the NCHF ecoregion/twin cities metro area, compile more detailed information (place it in a database), and establish a process.

Questions/Comments:

- Steve Christenson: How many are projects that used CWFs? *Answer:* It is a fair number, but we should get you an accurate one. We can follow up on it.
- Victoria Reinhardt: Regarding funding, if CWFs are not being used, it would be good to include the other funding resources used to achieve these internal and external strategies. In this way, other groups can reach out for that funding as well to continue the work. If you can. *Answer:* It was likely local funding from tax base for part of this work.

Watershed Health Assessment Framework (for Lakes)—WHAF-L or "Waffle", Beth Knudsen, DNR *(Webex 03:15:30)*

- The Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF) is a structured, science-based approach to help resource professionals and citizens work together and grow our common understanding of Minnesota's complex natural resource systems.
- The WHAF brings together current data and scientific analysis to generate information about Minnesota's watersheds. These products are delivered in a transparent and repeatable framework to foster robust conversations and innovative approaches for improving the health of Minnesota's watersheds and communities.
- We are more than a map and a website. We also support special projects, do custom analyses, and actively look for opportunities to connect emerging system science with watershed work.
- We started more than a decade ago as the Watershed Assessment Tool – first defining watershed health, gathering data, and summarizing these data by the 5 components for major watershed. In the second phase we moved into measuring health; working closely with University of Minnesota (UMN) to develop health scores that represent key ecological processes within each of the 5 components. Those scores were eventually delivered at the DNR catchment scale whenever possible. This is also when we started designing an online map to explore watershed health. With a focus on: how can we compare conditions statewide for different watershed scales?

- We support planning efforts with our series of major watershed reports, recently adding a climate summary for major watersheds. As well as repeatable evaluations for restoration and protection strategy planning. We support data delivery to the public for our sister agencies. We support emerging science; cross agency analytical needs: driving toward more holistic understandings of conditions, risks, and opportunities.
- We also like to say we do science storytelling: visualize watershed health for better planning and implementation.
- WHAF for lakes:
  - Lake Ecology Unit: Tons of data about Minnesota lakes, but the data are dispersed, not well interpreted, and are not easily viewable in one place.
  - WHAF Team: Lake data is under-represented in the WHAF, reducing our understanding of watershed systems.
  - The project goals:
    - Connect a lake to its watershed context in an interactive application for a range of users. Make information approachable for public audiences such as lake associations. As well as support prioritization efforts and encourage better lake stewardship.
- Therefore, we went back to key concepts: Health, complexity, and scale. These are foundational.
  - Health: "Health is the capacity of the land for self-renewal" – Aldo Leopold. Health includes resilience to disturbance. Health is a functional state, not a static condition.
  - Complexity: To answer questions about the health status and trends in Minnesota, we have to deal with how complex these systems really are, to think about finding meaningful health indicators. That lead us to use our framework to view that complexity summarized into an organized series of lenses. We refer to these as the 5 components: water quality, biology, hydrology, connectivity, and geomorphology. Scoring things can help turn complex data into information.
  - Scale: Our WHAF watershed map is custom built specifically around the spatial scale of nested watersheds. Seeing the connections; what is upstream and downstream of a particular place – or a particular lake – is key to managing for system health. In the Watershed Map, this is an example of using the Set Scale tool; it's designed to make scale easy; to let you see what is hydrologically related to the location you select.
- WHAF Framework for Lakes
  - We applied those key concepts from our framework to evaluate and score lake health. We decided how to define and how to measure lake health; We used existing complex data to create comparable health scores organized into components to reveal things in the data and help tell the story. We connected lakes and to their lakesheds to help us look differently at what stressors might be driving lake health. Then, we wanted to support planning and implementation. So, that we are asking the right questions at the right scale.
  - Example is West Twin Lake, looking at it from the WHAF tool. There is a lot of data to view, depending on what you are interested in looking at (i.e., summary, water quality, biology, hydrology, stewardship). They are aiming for the science storytelling, to help visualize lake health for better planning and implementation.
- They have also been working on other areas. They have partnered with their DNR climatology staff to add a climate summary (think includes moving maps). They have worked with restoration and protection priorities (partnering with DNR, MPCA, and BWSR). They have partnered with the MDH for Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS). They also have been working with BWSR on implementation data.
- The WHAF use is growing. Metrics of WHAF for Lakes have really spiked in January of 2023. They also have a newsletter started back in 2014, which is now at about 5,900 people subscribed in 2024.

Questions/Comments:

- Dick Brainerd: This was great to see. There is a lot of fantastic data. I hope there are ways to take this data and expand the story. People can do a lot of research within and from outside the state before they even arrive here.

Adjournment *(Webex 04:09:08)*

Clean Water Council Draft Revised Clean Water Fund Supplemental Request for FY24-25			**Council**			
Supplemental Recommendations for FY24-25		**Council**	**"pre-approved"**	**Reductions**	**Staff**	
3/18/2024		**Recommendations**	**Recommendations**	**in**	**Suggestions**	
		(Nov forecast)	**(if more $)**	**Requests**		**TOTAL**
		1/26/2024	1/26/2024	3/18/2024	3/18/2024	
Nitrate in Groundwater	MDA	1,000,000				1,000,000
AgBMP Loan Program--restoring cut in FY24-25	MDA	402,000				402,000
AgBMP Loan program w/ SE MN focus	MDA	1,000,000	2,000,000			3,000,000
Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern	MDH	384,000				384,000
River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment	MPCA	326,000				326,000
Fish Contamination Assessment	DNR	90,000				90,000
Enhanced County Inspection/SSTS Corrective Actions	MPCA	1,000,000			1,000,000	2,000,000
Chloride Reduction Grants	MPCA	-	1,000,000			1,000,000
Continous Nitrate Sensor Network	MPCA	-			2,000,000	2,000,000
Great Lakes Restoration Initiative LAMP match	BWSR	1,000,000				1,000,000
Critical Shoreland Protection Easements	BWSR	2,000,000	2,000,000			4,000,000
Working Land and Floodplain Easements	BWSR	2,000,000			2,434,000	4,434,000
Clean Water Partners Legacy small grants	BWSR	2,000,000				2,000,000
Stormwater BMP Performance Evaluation & Technology Transfer	UMN	500,000			500,000	1,000,000
Southeast Minnesota Nitrate Response	MDH	6,354,000	302,000	(3,866,000)		2,790,000
		$ 18,056,000	**$ 5,302,000**	**$ (3,866,000)**	**$ 5,934,000**	**$ 25,426,000**
November 2023 Forecast for CWF		$ 18,056,000				
February 2024 Forecast for CWF		$ 25,426,000				

Supplemental Clean Water Funds for the Minnesota Stormwater Research Program
March 2024

A Clean Water Council member has asked if any extra dollars could be used in the metro. Are there additional one-time funds that the stormwater research program could handle?

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Program would invest supplemental funds in research to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of urban stormwater practices and management approaches Minnesota communities, while expanding Extension education to transfer stormwater science and tools to the practitioners, professionals, and policymakers working in those communities. The UMN Water Resources Center and the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) recently established several research priorities and education needs that would be implemented with supplemental funds. Activities will include:

1. Enhance research on stormwater reuse systems that have increased in use in many communities in both public and private spaces.
2. Extend and expand research on underground stormwater storage and infiltration systems frequently used in highly urbanized areas where space is limited.
3. Create new practices and tools for pollution prevention and examine the impact of strategies for the expansive acres of turf grass and impervious surfaces. For example, conduct an impact assessment of the 2002 phosphorus-free turf fertilizer restriction.
4. Study the impacts of increased stormwater runoff on urban streambanks and shorelines and develop new guidance on methods to stabilize them.
5. Expand and innovate Extension Education and support the expansion of stormwater professional training.

Potential supplemental amount: $300K-$1.2M
The WRC and the MSRC can scale up or scale down efforts with varying amounts of supplemental funding. We are well positioned with recently established research and extension priorities and a work plan that will allow for strategic and scalable investments. We expect to publish a competitive request for research proposals (RFP) in the late fall. Supplemental funds would increase the number of projects that could ultimately be selected and implemented.

Note about previous CWF supplemental fund recommendation
The recent Clean Water Council recommendation of $500K in supplemental funds for the stormwater program will be specifically dedicated to urban stormwater pond research and development of management guidance including operation and maintenance such as strategies for sediment extraction and disposal and pond rehabilitation.

Additional specific details on the five activities

1. [Conduct research] Enhance research on stormwater reuse systems that have increased in use in many cities in both public and private spaces. Cities and public and private professionals have expressed concerns about the fate of pollutants in these systems as stormwater is stored and reused for irrigation. With increasing demands on groundwater resources, stormwater reuse is an essential practice but there are several knowledge gaps. The WRC and the Council have several previous research proposals to address these issues that they were unable to fund in previous years.

2**. [Conduct research] Extend and expand research on underground stormwater systems.** Fully developed cities have been using and expanding their use of large underground systems because space for other practices is limited. This includes large infiltration and storage under streets and parking lots. More design, inspection, operation, and maintenance guidance is needed for these 'out of sight' systems in use on both public properties (city halls, recreation centers, and libraries) and private sites (big box stores and shopping malls.)

3. [Conduct research] Create new practices and tools for pollution prevention. Additional tools, testing, and resources are needed to inform effective street sweeping programs in cities and expand its use as a pollution prevention technique. Valuable insights would be gained by studying the effectiveness of the 2002 phosphorus-free lawn and turf fertilizer restriction in reducing phosphorus in urban streams, rivers, and lakes.

4. [Conduct research] Study the impacts of increased runoff on urban streambanks and shorelines and develop new guidance on methods to stabilize them. The fully developed landscape and expansion of impervious pavement across the TC metro region have resulted in increased volume and rate (speed) of urban storm runoff. That coupled with the recent increased frequency of severe storms has resulted in changes to the stability of local streams, rivers, and lakeshores. We need to study these changes in hydrology and bring new recommendations and guidance on how to prevent erosion to metro area streambanks and shorelines.

5 [Expand and innovate Extension Education] Support expansion of stormwater professional training including the new street sweeping for water quality training program to help cities adopt enhanced street sweeping programs. Expand access to existing professional stormwater management, inspection, and maintenance certification training. New efforts are needed to develop innovative ways to reach and teach residents, city leaders, professionals, and K12 instructors and provide them with science based solutions in ways that can be easily and readily understood and used in everyone's increasingly busy lives.

($ in thousands)

Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network

AT A GLANCE

2024 Request Amount:	$2,000
Priority Ranking:	3
Project Summary:	$2 million to develop a continuous nitrate monitoring network to allow local water managers to effectively target best management practices where nitrate reduction is most needed. The sensors will monitor approximately 60-80 locations across the state with historical elevated loads or increasing nitrate.

Project Description

This project will install 60-80 nitrate sensors to develop a continuous monitoring network. Sites will be prioritized based on where elevated loads of nitrate have been measured historically. The project will include installation of electricity and hardware necessary to install the equipment on bridge decks. Data collected from these sensors will replace monthly samples previously collected at the locations. Continuous data collection is important because it more closely tracks pollutant transport and allows water managers to understand where high levels of nitrate are originating. The data resulting from this network will inform local water management plans.

Project Rationale

Minnesota is seeing increasing nitrate in our surface and groundwater from land management activities. High levels of nitrate are increasingly common in the southern half of the state. In some areas of the state, both private and community drinking waters systems are being impacted. High levels of nitrate are also toxic to aquatic life. More information on nitrate levels is needed to understand where high nitrate is originating and to locate restoration actions to address the problem. Installing in-stream nitrate sensors will allow the collection of continuous real-time water quality data that are not currently available. These data are far more complete than data from intermittent in-field sampling events. The data resulting from this network will allow for more robust modeling, data sharing, and more precisely locating investments to effectively reduce nitrate loading to surface water. Over time, these data would also allow us to track progress in reducing nutrient pollution to Minnesota's rivers.

Project Timeline

Sites will be selected fall 2024, and the network will be installed the end of 2025. Sampling of the network will be ongoing. Installation will be weather and flow dependent; equipment cannot be installed during flooding conditions.

Other Considerations

Impact on Agency Operating Budgets

Existing operating budgets will be minimally impacted as installation will be accomplished by a third party.

Description of Previous Appropriations

None

Project Contact Person

Dana Vanderbosch
Assistant Commissioner for Water Policy and Agriculture
651-757-2601
dana.vanderbosch@state.mn.us

Governor's Recommendation

The Governor recommends $2 million in general fund cash for this request.

($ in thousands)

Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network

PROJECT FUNDING SOURCES

Funding Source	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
State Funds Appropriated and Requested				
General Fund Cash	$ 0	$ 2,000	$ 0	$ 0
State Funds Pending				
Non-State Funds Already Committed				
Non-State Funds Pending				
TOTAL	**$ 0**	**$ 2,000**	**$ 0**	**$ 0**

TOTAL PROJECT COSTS

Cost Category	Prior Years	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
Property Acquisition	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Predesign Fees	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Design Fees	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Project Management	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Construction	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Relocation Expenses	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
One Percent for Art	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Occupancy Costs	$ 0	$ 2,000	$ 0	$ 0
Inflationary Adjustment	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
TOTAL	**$ 0**	**$ 2,000**	**$ 0**	**$ 0**

IMPACT ON STATE OPERATING COSTS

Cost Category	FY 2024	FY 2026	FY 2028
IT Costs	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Operating Budget Impact ($)	$ 0	$ 0	$ 0
Operating Budget Impact (FTE)	0.0	0.0	0.0

SOURCE OF FUNDS FOR DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS

	Amount	Percent of Total
General Fund	$ 0	
User Financing	$ 0	

STATUTORY REQUIREMENTS	
The following requirements will apply to projects after adoption of the bonding bill.	
Is this project exempt from legislative review under M.S. 16B.335 subd. 1a?	Yes
Predesign Review (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 3):	
Does this request include funding for predesign?	N/A
Has the predesign been submitted to the Department of Administration?	N/A
Has the predesign been approved by the Department of Administration?	N/A
Will the project design meet the Sustainable Building Guidelines under M.S. 16B.325?	N/A
Will the project designs meet applicable requirements and guidelines for energy conservation and alternative energy sources (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 4 and 16B.32)?	N/A
Have Information Technology Review Preconditions been met (M.S. 16B.335 subd. 5 & 6)?	N/A
Will the project comply with the targeted group purchasing requirement (M.S. 16C.16 subd. 13)?	Yes
Will the project meet public ownership requirements (M.S. 16A.695)?	Yes
Will a use agreement be required (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 2)?	No
Will program funding be reviewed and ensured (M.S. 16A.695 subd. 5)?	Yes
Will the matching funds requirements be met (M.S. 16A.86 subd. 4)?	N/A
Will the project be fully encumbered prior to the Cancellation Deadline (M.S. 16A.642): December 31, 2028?	Yes
M.S. 16A.502 and M.S. 16B.31 (2): Full Funding Required	Yes
M.S. 473.4485: Guideway Project	
Is this a Guideway Project?	N/A
Is the required information included in this request?	N/A

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Grants to Watersheds with Approved Comprehensive Watershed Plans (Watershed-based Implementation Funding)

BWSR	Program Number: 17
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: Annie Felix-Gerth	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Purpose

Provides non-competitive funding to local government partnerships to implement prioritized and targeted activities identified in plans that will yield the highest return on investment for cleaner water.

Webpage

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Program | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is a non-competitive, performance-based grants program for local government units to implement projects on a watershed scale that protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, protect groundwater from degradation, and protect drinking water sources. Projects must be identified in a water or comprehensive watershed plan developed by local governments and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. This may include those under the One Watershed, One Plan or under the Metropolitan Surface Water Management frameworks and county groundwater plans.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	$0
FY14-15	$0
FY16-17	$0
FY18-19	$9,750,000
FY20-21	$26,966,000
FY22-23	$43,564,000
FY24-25	$79,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$159,280,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Protect groundwater from degradation and support effective measures to restore degraded groundwater

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

Goal 2: Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoid adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use.

- Strategy: Develop a cumulative impact assessment and support planning efforts to achieve a sustainability standard for groundwater.
- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

Vision: All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Implementation of high priority action items identified in Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans.

See attached WBIF Outcomes Summary (2018-2024)

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

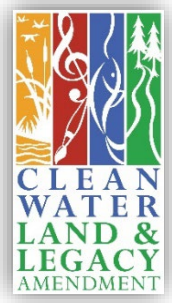
Please see attached "WBIF Funding Summary (2018-2024)."

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	4.4
FY20-21	5.4
FY22-23	8
FY24-25	4.2 (To date, not final)

FY26-27	NA



BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants
Funds Granted, March 2024

Non-Metro

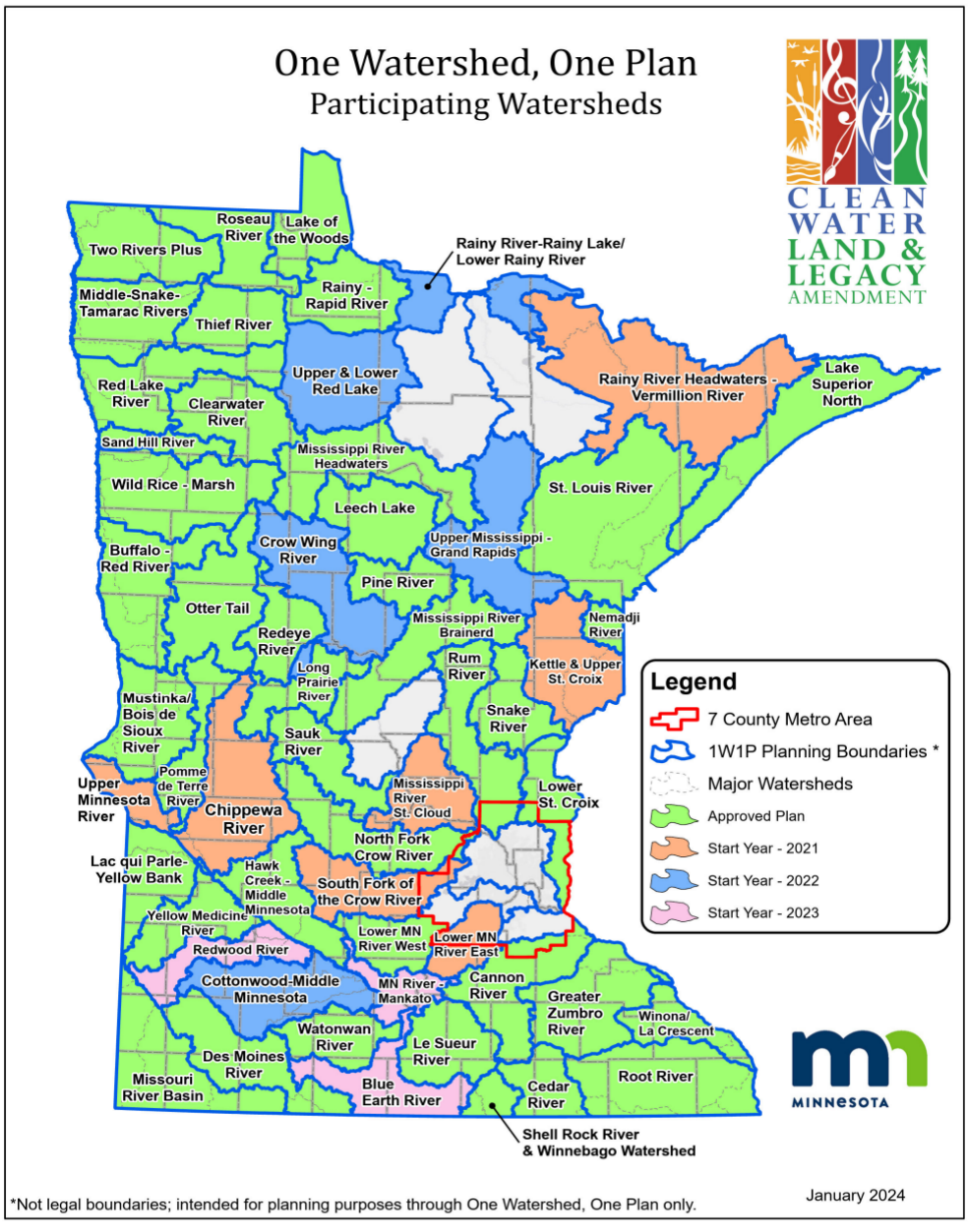
For more informaiton:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

**Grants are to partnerships with approved comprehensive watershed management plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program. See reverse side for a map of watershed areas.*

Watershed/Partnership	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Red River of the North					
Bois de Sioux / Mustinka		$ 1,064,522	$ 1,064,522		$ 2,129,044
Buffalo-Red River		$ 1,296,838	$ 1,296,838	$1,906,278	$ 4,499,954
Clearwater River			$ 974,726		$ 974,726
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers			$ 1,530,682		$ 1,530,682
Otter Tail			$ 1,660,617		$ 1,660,617
Red Lake River	$ 677,551	$ 1,071,149	$ 1,528,658	$1,700,439	$ 4,977,797
Roseau River			$ 752,928		$ 752,928
Thief River		$ 529,892	$ 529,892		$ 1,059,784
Two Rivers Plus			$ 1,117,273	$1,662,685	$ 2,779,958
Wild Rice - Marsh River		$ 1,371,259	$ 1,371,259		$ 2,742,518
Rainy River					
Lake of the Woods		$ 621,173	$ 621,173	$621,173	$ 1,863,519
Rainy - Rapid River				$520,667	$ 520,667
Lake Superior					
Lake Superior North	$ 387,059	$ 599,767	$ 599,767		$ 1,586,593
Nemadji		$ 250,000	$ 250,000		$ 500,000
St. Louis River				$2,228,654	$ 2,228,654
St. Croix River					
Lower St. Croix River (non-metro)		$ 471,070	$ 471,070		$ 942,140
Snake River				$1,024,471	$ 1,024,471
Upper Mississippi River					
Leech Lake River		$ 598,115	$ 675,115		$ 1,273,230
Long Prairie River			$ 714,854		$ 714,854
Mississippi River Headwaters			$ 861,581		$ 861,581
North Fork Crow River	$ 642,377	$ 1,120,477	$ 1,120,477	$1,518,486	$ 4,401,817
Pine River		$ 482,000	$ 604,421	$634,381	$ 1,720,802
Redeye River		$ 706,488	$ 706,488		$ 1,412,976
Rum River (non-metro)			$ 1,280,048		$ 1,280,048
Sauk River			$ 832,550		$ 832,550
Minnesota River					
Central MN River Watershed Paternship (Hawk Creek MM)			$ 942,433	$1,504,444	$ 2,446,877
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank			$ 623,429		$ 623,429
Le Sueur River				$1,355,872	$ 1,355,872
Lower Minnesota River West			$ 596,617		$ 596,617
Pomme de Terre River		$ 717,428	$ 955,939		$ 1,673,367
Watonwan River		$ 700,477		$1,136,479	$ 1,836,956
Yellow Medicine River	$ 551,712	$ 814,603	$ 814,603		$ 2,180,918

Watershed/Partnership	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Missouri River Basin/Des Moines River					
Des Moines River			$ 1,414,031		$ 1,414,031
Missouri River Basin		$ 1,320,445	$ 1,908,031	$2,096,184	$ 5,324,660
Lower Mississippi River and Cedar River					
Cannon River (non-metro)		$ 1,028,658	$ 1,328,658		$ 2,357,316
Cedar - Wapsipinicon River		$ 593,987	$ 593,987		$ 1,187,974
Greater Zumbro River			$ 1,216,243	$1,897,768	$ 3,114,011
Root River	$ 851,301	$ 1,469,595	$ 1,469,595		$ 3,790,491
Shell Rock River/Winnebago Watershed			$ 322,128		$ 322,128
Winona La Crescent			$ 577,696		$ 577,696
Totals	**$ 3,110,000**	**$ 16,827,943**	**$ 33,328,329**	**$ 19,807,981**	**$ 73,074,253**

Shading indicates that the amount includes increases relative to board order 21-49 associated with re-allocation of funds remaining after the FY22-23 deadline to claim funds (some groups for whom funding was allocated did not have an approved plan or work plan before the biennial funding period ended). BWSR is in the procces of re-distributing $7.77M from FY22-23 to 23 partnerships that requested additonal funds.



BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Metro

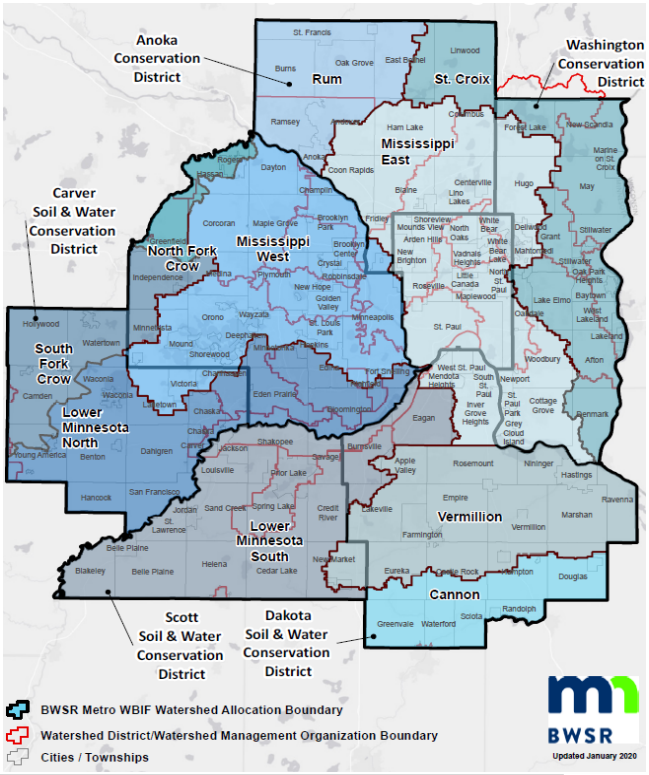
Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants

For more informaiton:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

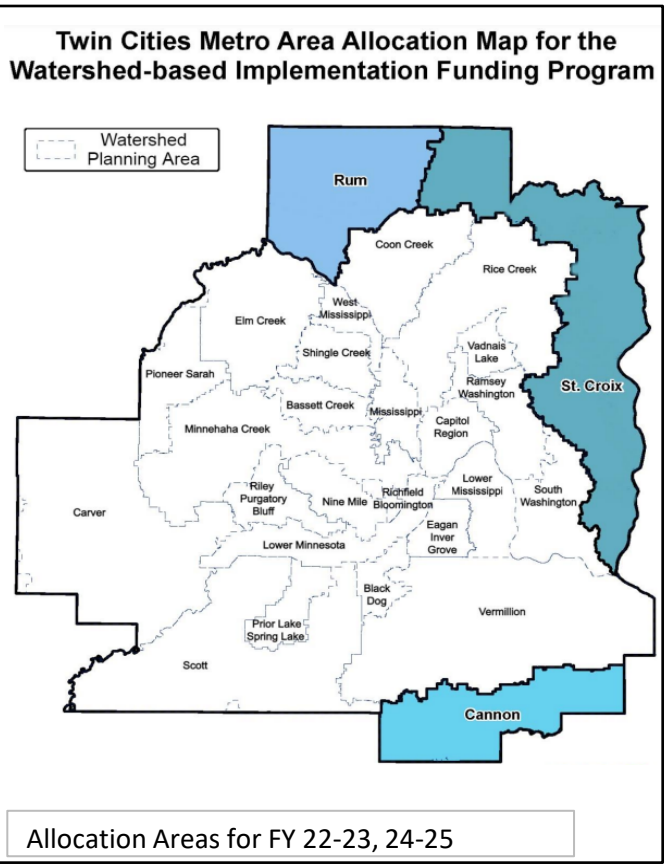
Funds Allocated by Board Orders 17-96, 19-54, 21-49, and 23-55.
Allocation geography varied by biennia. See reverse side for maps of allocation areas.

Allocation Area	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Anoka County	$ 826,000				$ 826,000
Carver County	$ 749,200				$ 749,200
Dakota County	$ 1,018,000				$ 1,018,000
Hennepin County	$ 1,018,000				$ 1,018,000
Ramsey County	$ 442,000				$ 442,000
Scott County	$ 749,200				$ 749,200
Washington County	$ 787,600				$ 787,600
Mississippi East		$1,085,485			$ 1,085,485
Mississippi West		$874,153			$ 874,153
Rum River		$366,982			$ 366,982
Lower St. Croix River		$793,461			$ 793,461
Cannon River		$305,293			$ 305,293
Lower Minnesota North		$673,699			$ 673,699
Lower Minnesota South		$829,075			$ 829,075
Vermillion		$650,684			$ 650,684
North Fork Crow River		$91,105			$ 91,105
South Fork Crow River		$330,063			$ 330,063
Bassett Creek WPA			$87,887	$ 183,256	$ 271,143
Black Dog WPA			$75,000	$ 151,542	$ 226,542
Cannon River (Metro)			$304,886	$ 395,361	$ 700,247
Capitol Region WPA			$77,618	$ 176,241	$ 253,859
Carver County WPA			$691,991	$ 721,325	$ 1,413,316
Coon Creek WPA			$216,377	$ 294,100	$ 510,477
Eagan-Inver Grove WPA			$75,000	$ 162,370	$ 237,370
Elm Creek WPA			$297,774	$ 373,590	$ 671,364
Lower Minnesota River WPA			$127,068	$ 217,485	$ 344,553
Lower Mississippi River WPA			$118,385	$ 208,410	$ 326,795
Lower St. Croix River (Metro)			$807,509	$ 1,266,380	$ 2,073,889
Minnehaha Creek WPA			$418,140	$ 424,534	$ 842,674
Mississippi WPA			$75,504	$ 176,951	$ 252,455
Nine Mile Creek WPA			$101,582	$ 195,026	$ 296,608
Pioneer-Sarah Creek WPA			$159,223	$ 240,415	$ 399,638
Prior Lake-Spring WPA			$82,806	$ 169,935	$ 252,741
Ramsey-Washington Metro WPA			$140,295	$ 230,182	$ 370,477
Rice Creek WPA			$407,796	$ 448,016	$ 855,812
Richfield-Bloomington WPA			$75,000	$ 114,644	$ 189,644
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WPA			$104,576	$ 197,194	$ 301,770

Allocation Area	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Rum River (Metro)			$371,157	$ 569,378	$ 940,535
Scott County WPA			$601,647	$ 646,054	$ 1,247,701
Shingle Creek WPA			$95,501	$ 191,662	$ 287,163
South Washington WPA			$163,947	$ 228,539	$ 392,486
Vadnais Lake Area WPA			$75,000	$ 147,921	$ 222,921
Vermillion River WPA			$673,331	$ 717,191	$ 1,390,522
West Mississippi WPA			$75,000	$ 152,299	$ 227,299
Totals	**$ 5,590,000**	**$ 6,000,000**	**$ 6,500,000**	**$ 9,000,000**	**$ 27,090,000**



Allocation Areas for FY 20-21



Allocation Areas for FY 22-23, 24-25

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants

Outcomes reported to eLINK, BWSR's grants management system.
Closed and open grants, 2018 - March, 2024
See footnote for more information about column headings.

For more information:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

Watershed/Partnership	Nitrogen (lbs/y)	Phosphorus (lbs/year)	Sediment (tons/year)	Wells sealed (#)	Forestry (ac.)	Cover crops (ac.)	Structural BMPs (#)
Red River of the North							
Bois de Sioux / Mustinka	1,530	881	1,623	2	450	2,009	81
Buffalo-Red River		1,186	1,760		472	609	31
Clearwater River	594	162	376			205	45
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers			145	8			83
Otter Tail		57	136	4		83	7
Red Lake River		808	2,325				139
Roseau River		14	9				1
Thief River		4	1,219				15
Two Rivers Plus	1,884	234	348		566	2,921	1
Wild Rice - Marsh River		5,676	2,382			412	103
Basin Total	**4,008**	**9,023**	**10,323**	**14**	**1,488**	**6,239**	**506**
Rainy River							
Lake of the Woods	1,443	603	458			370	14
Rainy - Rapid River							
Lake Superior							
Lake Superior North	77	38	5,816				5
Nemadji	26	26				170	2
St. Louis River							
Basin Total	**103**	**64**	**5,816**	**-**	**-**	**170**	**7**
St. Croix River							
Lower St. Croix R (non-metro & metro)		2,090	859	37		1,449	63
Snake River							
Upper Mississippi River							
Leech Lake River	20	533	4,296		5,484	518	9
Long Prairie River	586	27	219	1			1
Mississippi River Headwaters		14	14		1,862	60	2
North Fork Crow River	7,862	3,984	5,548	11		2,049	160
Pine River		26	25		945		1
Redeye River	577	44	39	1	2,051		1
Rum River (non-metro)	256	98	63			171	18
Sauk River	40	95	103				3
Basin Total	**9,340**	**4,820**	**10,307**	**13**	**10,342**	**2,798**	**195**

Watershed/Partnership	Nitrogen (lbs/y)	Phosphorus (lbs/year)	Sediment (tons/year)	Wells sealed (#)	Forestry (ac.)	Cover crops (ac.)	Structural BMPs (#)
Minnesota River							
Central MN R W'shed (Hawk Creek)	205	50	26				5
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank	1,658	84	439				2
Le Sueur River							
Lower Minnesota River West	267	193	58			2,172	7
Pomme de Terre River		343	489			104	31
Watonwan River	8,055	444	670	16		563	19
Yellow Medicine River	5,823	1,132	745			2,615	215
Basin Total	**16,008**	**2,248**	**2,426**	**16**	**-**	**5,453**	**279**
Missouri River Basin/Des Moines River							
Des Moines River	11,334	565	2,980			1,091	6
Missouri River Basin	20,159	966	2,102			2,243	210
Basin Total	**31,493**	**1,531**	**5,082**	**-**	**-**	**3,334**	**216**
Lower Mississippi River and Cedar River							
Cannon River (non-metro)	422	1,130	2,515			1,352	70
Cedar - Wapsipinicon River	58	2,180	1,272	16		1,590	23
Greater Zumbro River	4,699	1,286	1,029	10		652	57
Root River	3,788	7,444	7,321	4		1,220	296
Shell Rock River/Winnebago W'shed	6,322	3,119	1,633	4		485	
Winona La Crescent							
Basin Total	**15,288**	**15,159**	**13,770**	**34**	**-**	**5,298**	**446**
Metro*							
Metro* Total	2,065	4,510	7,465	77		1,905	211
Totals	**79,749**	**40,048**	**56,506**	**191**	**11,830**	**27,016**	**1,937**

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment (total suspended solids) *reductions are from all reported practices, including cover crops, structural BMPs, and other practices (e.g., street sweeping).*

Cover crops *includes nonstructural practices such as critical area plantings, filter strips, residue and tillage management, nutrient management, and pasture management.*

Structural Best Management Practices *includes agricultural and urban stormwater management practices including sediment basins, grade control structures, raingardens, grassed waterways, wetland restoration, stream and shoreline stabilization, septic system improvement, and more.*

Forestry *is forest management on private lands, mainly forest stewardship planning and some tree and shrub planting. Most acres with forest stewardship plans are enrolled in long-term land protection programs.*

****Metro values*** *exclude the Lower St. Croix watershed; they inclue the metro portions of the Cannon and Rum rivers (see map on funding handout).*

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Surface & Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants

(Projects & Practices Competitive Grants)

BWSR	Program Number: 26
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: Annie Felix-Gerth	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Purpose

Increase implementation of voluntary conservation across MN

Webpage

Grant Profile: Projects and Practices | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Clean Water Fund Grant Recipients | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is a competitive grant program and incentive funding to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water by implementing priority actions in local water management plans. Up to 20% of funds dedicated to drinking water protection activities.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$6,000,000
FY12-13	$29,100,000
FY14-15	$21,400,000
FY16-17	$20,380,000
FY18-19	$19,500,000
FY20-21	$32,000,000
FY22-23	$22,266,000
FY24-25	$17,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$167,646,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Same

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Protect groundwater from degradation and support effective measures to restore degraded groundwater.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

Goal 2: Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoid adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

Vision: All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Implementation of high priority conservation and urban best management practices

BWSR has summarized the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions for projects completed between 2014-2023 on slides in presentation.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Click the link for a list of awards made in FY24-25

Clean Water Fund Grant Recipients | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	3.9
FY12-13	6.5
FY14-15	8.0

FY16-17	7.9
FY18-19	3.7
FY20-21	11.2
FY22-23	9
FY24-25	15
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Accelerated Implementation	
BWSR	Program Number: 18
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone: **651-238-0677**
Person filling out form e-mail address **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

Enhance the capacity of local governments to accelerate implementation of projects and activities that supplement or exceed current state standards for protection, enhancement, and restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Webpage

Grant Profile: Technical Training Acceleration | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Technical Service Areas (TSAs) | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Water Quality Tools and Models | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

1) Increases technical assistance through regional technical service areas (TSAs)

2) provides technical training and certification to local conservation partners

3) develop inventories of potential restoration or protection sites

4) developing and using analytical targeting tools like PTMApp that fill an identified gap.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	6,600,000
FY14-15	8,000,000
FY16-17	12,000,000
FY18-19	7,600,000
FY20-21	8,000,000
FY22-23	9,682,000
FY24-25	$11,000,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$62,882,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Protect groundwater from degradation and support effective measures to restore degraded groundwater.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

Goal 2: Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoid adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

Vision: All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increased capacity of local governments

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

The Accelerated Implementation Grants were offered from 2012-2017. See awards links below.

Web Version FY2012 Accelerated Implementation Grant Recommendations.pdf (state.mn.us)

FY CWF 2013 AIG Awardees.pdf (state.mn.us)

FY2014_AIG.pdf (state.mn.us)

AIG_FY2015.pdf (state.mn.us)

AIG_BOARD(1).pdf (state.mn.us)

2017 Accelerated Implementation Recommendations.pdf (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0

FY12-13	0.90
FY14-15	2.50
FY16-17	4.60
FY18-19	7.40
FY20-21	3.00
FY22-23	7.4
FY24-25	3.9 (to date, not final)
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance

(Accelerated Implementation)

BWSR	Program Number: 19
Program Contact Name **Tom Gile**	Phone **507-206-2894**
Contact E-mail Address: **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to facilitate multipurpose drainage management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems.

1) These grants can be used as an "external source of funding" for water quality improvements in accordance with: Section 103E.011, Subd. 5. Use of external sources of funding.

2) The multipurpose water management provisions in MN Statute Section 103E.015 Considerations before drainage work is done; and/or

3) Other applicable provisions of Chapter 103E (See BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Fact Sheet)

Webpage

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Profile | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Multipurpose Drainage Management | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Implementation of a conservation drainage/multipurpose drainage water management program in consultation with the Drainage Work Group to improve surface water management by providing funding under the provisions of 103E.015.

From a Single Primary Purpose…
Much of Minnesota's farmland was originally too wet to farm. Surface ditches and subsurface tile have been installed since the time of statehood to drain agricultural lands; remove stagnant

water, insects and disease; and to facilitate transportation and commerce. Minnesota has approximately 19,150 miles of drainage ditches and extensive untallied miles of subsurface tile installed and maintained under what currently is Minn. Stat. Chapter 103E Drainage law. Much of this drainage occurred during the late 1800's, early and middle 1900's. These systems are owned by the benefited property owners and administered by a county, joint county or watershed district drainage authority. Private drainage ditches and patterned tile are also extensive in the primary agricultural lands of Minnesota.

…To Multiple Purposes

Drainage remains very important for agricultural production on much of Minnesota's cropland. However, drainage impacts hydrology, stream stability, water quality and aquatic habitat. Because so much of Minnesota's agricultural land includes drainage systems, multipurpose drainage management is critical for addressing altered hydrology, erosion and sedimentation, water quality, and habitat. Multipurpose Drainage Management of fields and drainage infrastructure can provide adequate drainage capacity, while reducing downstream peak flows and flooding, reducing erosion and sedimentation, improving water quality and improving aquatic habitat. These are important considerations for drainage projects in Section of 103E.015 of Minnesota drainage law. A number of resources are available to help identify, design and implement best management practices for Multipurpose Drainage Management.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	$1,500,000
FY18-19	$1,500,000
FY20-21	$1,700,000
FY22-23	$1,700,000
FY24-25	$2,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$8,400,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) iii updated every ten years.

Strategy: Support competitive grants for protection and restoration activities.

Strategy: Identify policy options that will accelerate the protection and restoration of surface waters.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increase in implementation of conservation practices such as side water inlets, grassed waterways and storage and treatment wetlands in high priority drainage systems

Nitrogen - Lbs/Yr	7,810.73
Nutrients (Nitrate) - Lbs/Yr	443.75
Phosphorus Total (Est. Reduction) - Lbs/Yr	5,981.25
Sediment (Tss) - Tons/Yr	9,393.74
Soil (Est. Savings) - Tons/Yr	3,024.11
Volume Reduced (Acre-Feet/Year) - Acre-Feet/Yr	16.90

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Program funding doesn't often have external funding, but many projects are able to bring significant local match due to the types of projects being completed and the association with other larger scale landscape work.

Supplement vs. supplant

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Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

C16-0788	Stearns County Ditch 26 Drainage Managment	Sauk River WD
C16-1476	JD 15 BMP Inventory - Implementation (MDM Grant)	Wright SWCD
C16-5522	Traverse County Ditch 17	Bois de Sioux WD
C16-6387	2016 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C16-6758	2016 CD8 Erosion and Pollution reduction	Freeborn SWCD
C16-9453	Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation	Dodge SWCD
C17-2876	County Ditch #6 BMPs	Carver SWCD
C17-3197	2017 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C17-3714	Multipurpose Drainage Management - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
C17-5923	Pope County Ditch 6 Drainage Management	Sauk River WD
C17-7810	103E Legal Ditch BMPs	Bois de Sioux WD
C17-9776	Polk County Ditch No 80	Sand Hill River WD
C18-0167	CD #175 Improvement	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
C18-0653	Wilkin County Ditch 8 Multipurpose Drainage Management	Wilkin SWCD
C18-4782	CD 10 BMP Inventory - Implementation	Wright SWCD
C18-5308	2018 Marshall County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Marshall SWCD
C18-8114	Roseau River Sediment Control project	Roseau River WD
C19-1880	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation	McLeod SWCD
C19-1900	2019 - CWF MDM County Ditch 68	Freeborn SWCD
C19-2122	South Heron Lake TMDL Implementation: Phase 2	Heron Lake WD
C19-2515	Wilkin County Ditch 9 & 10 Multipurpose Drainage Management	Wilkin SWCD
C20-4073	Le Sueur County CD61 Storage & Treatment Wetland	Le Sueur County SWCD
C20-5533	CD64 (Brush Creek) Sediment Reduction Strategy	Faribault County SWCD
C20-6058	South Heron Lake TMDL Implementation: Phase 3	Heron Lake WD

C20-6174	SD 51 & CD 16 Water Quality Improvement project	Roseau River WD
C20-7182	Judicial Ditch 11 Restoration and Drainage Management	Bois de Sioux WD
C21-0361	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 63 Conservation Implementation	McLeod SWCD
C21-2566	CD 10 BMP Inventory - Implementation #2	Wright SWCD
C21-4946	Judicial Ditch 6 Water Quality Ditch Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD
C22-0827	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation Phase 2	McLeod SWCD
C22-1803	2022 Wright County WASCOBs on Joint Ditch #15	Wright County
C22-2270	2022 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C22-6082	Redpath Phase 1 - TCD 35 Water Quality Improvements	Bois de Sioux WD
C23-3377	WCD Sub-1 Water Quality Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD
C23-6275	Improving Water Quality for Beaver Creek	Renville SWCD
C23-6703	Le Sueur County CD23 Side Inlet Project	Le Sueur County SWCD
C23-8237	Judicial Ditch 15 BMPs	Lyon County
C23-9708	Loon Lake Improvement - Jackson County Judicial Ditch 8	Jackson County
C24-0110	2024 Wright County Ditch 19 Grade Stabilization Structures	Wright SWCD

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.10
FY12-13	0.70
FY14-15	0.70
FY16-17	0.70
FY18-19	1.20
FY20-21	0.30
FY22-23	0.30
FY24-25	0.50*
FY26-27	

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Watershed Legacy Partners Grants

BWSR	Program Number: 27
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Webpage

Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program (Pilot) | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Purpose

Increase implementation of voluntary conservation across MN through new partners.

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is based on CWC interest and request. Included in CWC Strategic Plan. This program is intended to expand partnerships to protect and restore Minnesota's water resources. The Legislature appropriated $400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and $600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund "for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water."

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	$3,000,000
FY14-15	$3,000,000
FY16-17	$1,500,000
FY18-19	$0
FY20-21	$0
FY22-23	$1,000,000
FY24-25	$1,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$9,500,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Protect groundwater from degradation and support effective measures to restore degraded groundwater.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

Goal 2: Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoid adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use.

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

Vision: All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increases in water quality improvement projects.

BWSR didn't require any modeling results for the proposals. We can share the proposed outcomes if there is interest.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Click on the link for a ranking of applications in FY22-23.

FY22_23 CleanWaterLegacy Application Ranking.xlsx (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.7
FY14-15	0.7
FY16-17	0.7
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0

FY22-23	0.3
FY24-25	0
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Measures, Results and Accountability

BWSR	Program Number: 28
Program Contact Name **Marcey Westrick**	Phone **651-284-4153**
Contact E-mail Address: **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

To provide state oversight and accountability, evaluate and communicate results, support program and outcomes development, provide reporting tools, and measure conservation program implementation of local governments support programs and measure the value of conservation program implementation by local governments, including submission to the legislature a report from the board.

Webpage https://bwsr.state.mn.us/cwf_programs

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Provide state oversight and accountability for grants to local government, support program and outcomes reporting, evaluate results and measure the value of conservation program and project implementation by local governments.

On average, BWSR processes approximately 245 Clean Water Fund grants annually across the state. As part of this grant oversight, BWSR must report all proposed and final outcomes along with other reporting requirements to the Legacy Website (https://www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund). Grant reporting is conducted through BWSR's grant management system, eLINK https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$590,000
FY12-13	$2,100,000
FY14-15	$1,900,000
FY16-17	$1,900,000
FY18-19	$1,900,000
FY20-21	2,000,000
FY22-23	$2,500,000
FY24-25	$2,500,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$15,390,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Same

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Legislative reports and public communications. Oversight and accountability of grant and easement programs.

BWSR staff produce a Biennial Clean Water Fund Report to the Legislature, assist in the development of the Clean Water Fund Performance Report and create stories and videos highlighting projects to restore and protect lakes, rivers, wetlands and drinking water sources. In addition, BWSR staff provide oversight for Clean Water Fund grants administered by the agency. Grants Administration Manual | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Stay the same.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.1
FY12-13	4.1
FY14-15	4.1
FY16-17	5.1
FY18-19	9.8
FY20-21	9.8
FY22-23	8.2
FY24-25	5.7
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for Drinking Water and Groundwater

aka Soil Health Grants

BWSR	Program Number: 28
Program Contact Name **Tom Gile**	Phone **507-206-2894**
Contact E-mail Address: **Tom.Gile@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The program provides both applied research by the Minnesota Office for Soil Health and implementation of conservation cover practices and reduced tillage to reduce nutrient loss.

Webpage

Grant Profile: CWF Soil Health | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

MOSH - Minnesota Office for Soil Health (umn.edu)

Modifications to the Soil Health Pages and programing will be going on in the next year with the influx of funding and programing.

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

The CWF dollars are being bundled with a General Fund appropriation to kick start a comprehensive package of soil health programing in Minnesota which has also successfully leveraged an additional $25M in Federal dollars.

While near-channel erosion is the largest source of sediment to the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, upland erosion on tilled fields is the second largest source of sediment and is a source which has increased substantially since major changes to vegetation and land cover were made many decades ago.

The Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Sediment Reduction Strategy and Climate Action Framework identify a suite of soil health related activities that need to see significantly increased adoption rates in order to make tangible progress towards our water quality and climate goals.

This proposal integrates sediment retention and climate related objectives with a goal of restoring and maintaining soil health.

Practices to improve water quality, climate and soil health are interrelated to farm sustainability; and while water quality and climate impacts generally show up off of the farm, soil health is more directly related to the sustained productivity of the soil on the farm itself. Integrating soil health systems adds increased on-farm value to many of the practices used to mitigate nutrient loading. National initiatives are increasingly emphasizing the importance of soil health. Decisions that are made at the individual farm scale will be most successful when programs support and provide locally led assistance that helps motivate the needed changes.

Phase 1 is to create additional local points of contact to work with landowners on increasing utilization of soil health practices and systems that advance the principles of soil health.

1. **Trusted Local Expertise.** Among the common themes that emerged in stakeholder discussions for the state soil health action framework are the challenges of building expertise in soil health practices and meeting demands for that expertise, across both the public and private sectors. This grant program is designed to direct state resources toward staffing that can help meet these needs at the local level.
2. **Expand public-private partnerships across multiple sectors and activities.** Public agencies, NGOs, and private companies share many goals for improving soil health across the agricultural sector. In addition to supporting new staff positions, partnerships can expand and enhance collaboration in the areas of research and market and supply chain development.
3. Support and increase **mentorship and peer-to-peer learning support** through positions and people who can facilitate connections and farmer-driven learning opportunities.

Phase 2 consists of development and administration of a Soil Health Practices Program established via Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) §103F.06 to provide a financial and technical support program to produce soil health practices that achieve water quality, soil productivity, climate change resiliency, or carbon sequestration benefits or reduce pesticide and fertilizer use.[1] Soil Health Practices Program funds are to be implemented in a manner consistent with M.S. §103F.06 and the cost-sharing provisions of M.S. §103C.501.

Lastly Phase 3 which is the leveraging of an additional $25 Million in federal NRCS funding awarded via a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant awarded to BWSR which will go exclusively for Soil health practice implementation within the Counties in MN which have greater than 30% ag lands.

Principles for building soil health

- Keep the soil covered.
- Minimize disturbance.
- Keep living roots in the ground.
- Diversify rotations.
- Integrate livestock.

Adopting these five principles will build soil by protecting it from erosion and providing a constant food source to the underground food web. The constant food source is important because microbes feed on residues and living root exudates, and in turn feed larger soil organisms. Microbes and roots also excrete organic matter which binds soil particles into stable soil aggregates. That's why feeding the food web

leads to porous soil which allows water to infiltrate and remain in the soil for longer. (Soil organic matter and soil water fact sheet)

Producers apply these principles in many different ways. For Minnesota row crop farmers, it commonly means reducing tillage and incorporating a winter cover crop.

Through the FY 22-23 appropriation we learned that being hyper specific to DWSMA work can be an impediment at this stage of programing. With many goals for Soil Health related adoption indicating needs for "millions of acres" we need to see landowners succeed in incorporating the principles of soil health at a broad scale. Within that broader effort we are communicating to SWCDs and local implementors to be very aware of the importance of prioritization of producers who are working on ground within sensitive groundwater areas which include high/very-highly susceptible ground water areas, public water supplies and Drinking Water Supply Management areas. Ensuring programing includes strong incentives and increased communications is an important factor in making progress in these critical areas as well as seeing success across the landscape.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	$4,200,000
FY24-25	$12,077,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$16,277,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) iii updated every ten years.

Strategy: Support competitive grants for protection and restoration activities.

Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increase in the statewide total of Soil Health practices and systems across the state including practices such as Cover Crops, No-Till, Strip-Till and other BMPs which advance the principles of soil health.

To date an estimated 22,000 acres have been implemented with funding at least in part from the dollars identified in these appropriations.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

As noted previously this program is being delivered locally through a bundled approach with recent new, one-time General Fund appropriations of approximately $21 Million. That bundling of programing and the framework proposed helped us successfully leverage an additional $25 Million in federal RCPP funds specifically for in the ground practices.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Soil Health for Water Quality Protection	Traverse SWCD
Chisago SWCDFY22 LCS Coil Health Grant	Chisago SWCD
GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant	Greater Blue Earth River Basin (GBERBA)
2022 Clean Water Soil Health Grant	Wilkin SWCD

Southwest Minnesota Wellhead Soil Health	Pipestone SWCD
The Future of Farming in Becker County - Phase II	Becker SWCD
Soil Health Practices to Protect Drinking Water in Mississippi River Sartell	Stearns SWCD
Goodhue DWSMA-Nitrate Protection Initiative	Goodhue SWCD
Using Soil Health to Protect Drinking Water in Two Rural Minnesota Communities	Swift
Vulnerable Non-Community Public Water Supply Protection in Mississippi Outwash Plains Using Cover Crops	Morrison SWCD

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.0
FY14-15	0.0
FY16-17	0.0
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0
FY22-23	0.0
FY24-25	0.0
FY26-27	0.0

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program

Met Council	Program Number: 35
Program Contact Name: Henry McCarthy	Phone: 651-602-1946
Contact E-mail Address: Henry.McCarthy@metc.state.mn.us	
Person filling out form: Judy Sventek	Phone: 651-602-1156
Person filling out form e-mail address: Judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us	

Purpose

The program provides grants to assist municipalities in the metro area as they implement water demand reduction and water efficiency measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies and support resiliency of water suppliers.

Webpage

Water Efficiency Grant Program - Metropolitan Council (metrocouncil.org)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

State regulators require water suppliers to reduce water use and increase water conservation and efficiency. This requirement preserves limited groundwater, allows adjacent users to better share aquifer resources, and maximizes the value of existing infrastructure investments.

Funding for this requirement has not been provided through other means. By providing financial assistance to incentivize communities to implement water demand reduction measures in municipalities, the program reduces reliance on groundwater which will help in preventing groundwater degradation in locations around the region, will ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies, and will support resiliency of water suppliers.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	$500,000
FY18-19	$0
FY20-21	$750,000
FY22-23	$1,250,000
FY24-25	$1,500,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$4,000,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
TBD	TBD	TBD

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

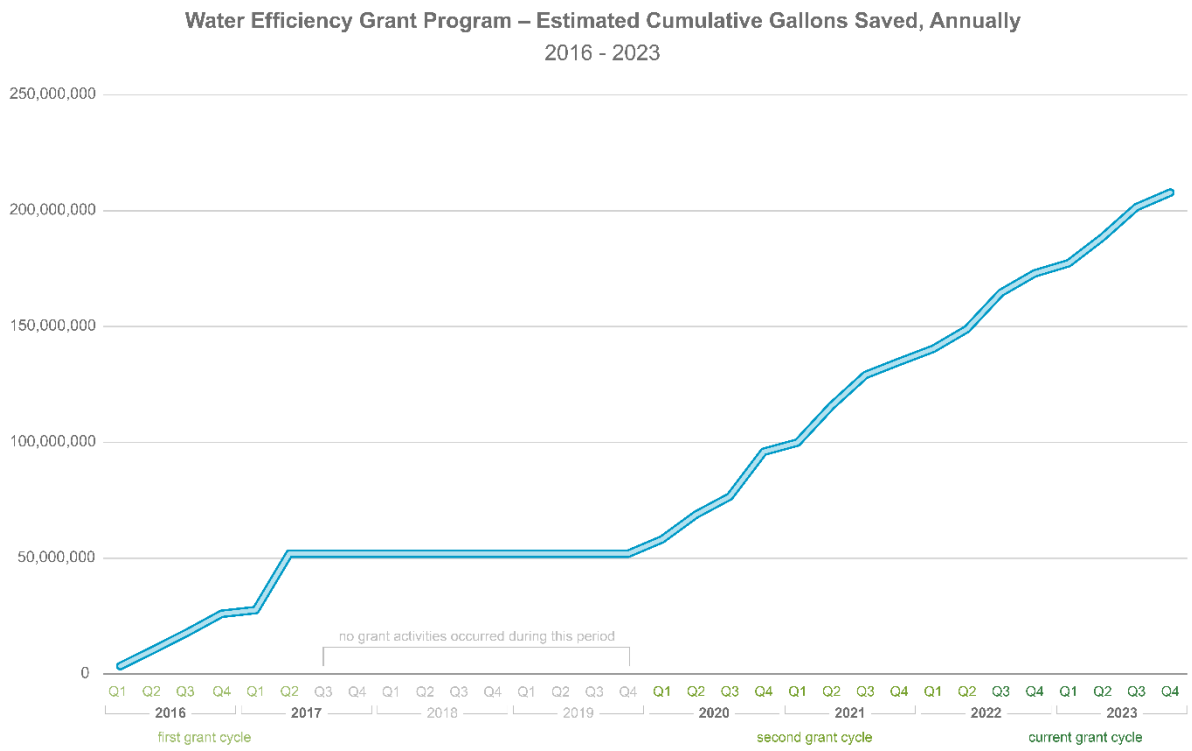
This program is most applicable to helping to implement the Clean Water Council Groundwater Vision that groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota. It also supports the Clean Water Council's Groundwater Goal #2 to ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoids adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use. Finally, it supports Strategy 3 under Goal #2, to develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use and the action associated with this strategy to implement water efficiency BMPs, was use reduction, and irrigation water management in areas of high water use.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

In FY16-17, Metropolitan Council awarded grants to nineteen communities in the metro area to implement water demand reduction measures that increase water efficiency, both indoors and outdoors. Estimated water saved from the first cycle of the program is 52 million gallons annually, water enough to supply around 1,700 persons for a year. In FY20-21, the number of communities participating in the grant program doubled, and award requests exceeded the available fund. Water savings for the second cycle of the grant program were expected to be more than 55 million gallons annually. Water savings for the second cycle of the grant program exceeded expectations, with an estimated 96 million gallons being saved annually. The third cycle of the grant program is ongoing. As of 12/31/2023, the estimated water savings from the third cycle is 59 million gallons annually. We expect this number to increase once we have all the final numbers for this cycle.

The program continues to increase awareness about water efficiency and support water efficiency goals set by communities.



Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

> Steady for FY 26/27. We will reevaluate the need after that. We may want to increase the request in FY28/29 based on the evaluation of need at that time.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

> This grant program uses matching funds from local water suppliers to incentivize wise use of our precious water resources.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

> **Supplement**

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Community	**Funds Expended for 2016-2017**	**Funds Expended for 2020-2022**	**Funds Expended for 2022-2024** ***THRU Q4 2023***
Apple Valley	-	$25,625.29	$27,164.74
Bayport	-	-	$8,000.00
Bloomington	-	$21,000.00	$14,160.00
Brooklyn Center	-	$1,108.94	-
Brooklyn Park	$5,681.25	$10,272.07	$10,303.56
Chanhassen	$13,965.10	$19,300.00	$7,640.00
Chaska	-	$14,000.00	-
Circle Pines	$4,605.75	-	$8,100.12
Coon Rapids	-	-	$25,910.34
Cottage Grove	$5,677.46	$27,300.00	$42,754.53
Dayton	-	$ 289.50	-
Eagan	$40,174.84	$13,927.50	$32,696.00
Eden Prairie	$37,499.99	$39,065.37	$22,002.09
Farmington	-	$10,393.40	$11,000.00
Forest Lake	$7,762.50	$2,550.00	$8,200.00
Fridley	$6,912.70	$23,898.06	$7,540.42
Hopkins	-	$19,000.00	-
Hugo	$71,509.86	$29,565.00	$36,000.00
Lake Elmo	-	$15,394.77	$11,726.84
Lakeville	-	$29,456.15	$23,886.80
Lino Lakes	-	-	$7,079.43
Mahtomedi	$3,225.00	$2,437.50	-
Maple Grove	-	-	$14,543.37
Minnetonka	-	$13,052.05	$9,418.16
New Brighton	$49,999.97	$14,625.00	$24,160.00
Newport	$525.00	-	-
North St Paul	-	$20,229.22	$21,728.96
Oakdale	-	$1,315.63	-
Plymouth	$25,250.00	$33,300.00	$33,641.63
Prior Lake	-	$4,037.17	$9,600.00
Ramsey	-	$26,124.19	$15,195.85
Robbinsdale	-	$5,900.80	$3,600.00
Rosemount	$12,541.25	$11,300.00	$22,876.78
Roseville	-	$2,819.88	$13,215.21

Savage	-	$11,000.00	$16,761.62
Shakopee Public Utilities Commission	$12,903.86	$19,915.35	$27,262.33
Shoreview	-	$9,360.33	$3,779.57
Shorewood	-	$9,372.07	$3,783.20
St Louis Park	-	$23,000.00	$24,970.77
Stillwater	-	-	$23,756.78
Victoria	$9,000.00	$11,578.85	$3,106.60
White Bear Lake	$63,731.03	$33,791.43	$3,561.67
White Bear Township	$41,500.00	$43,785.66	$29,411.63
Woodbury	$49,777.92	$50,300.00	$42,946.67

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.0
FY14-15	0.0
FY16-17	0.0
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0
FY22-23	0.0
FY24-25	0.0
FY26-27	0.0

No Water Efficiency/Water Demand Grant funds are used to support staff to administer this grant program.

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Culvert Replacement Incentive Program

DNR	Program Number: __
Program Contact Name: **Jason Moeckel**	Phone: **651-259-5240**
Contact E-mail Address: **jason.moeckel@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Jason Moeckel**	Phone: **651-259-5240**
Person filling out form e-mail address **jason.moeckel@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The DNR is proposing to continue using Clean Water Funds to accelerate the adoption of improved culvert designs by local governments. This cost-share grant program provides up to 25% cost share and technical assistance on projects that apply natural channel and floodplain design principles, which improve biological connectivity, channel stability, reduce flooding and lower long-term maintenance costs.

Webpage

The Geomorphic Approach | Minnesota DNR (state.mn.us) https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8926

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Replacing culverts that are not functioning properly with the preferred geomorphic design will restore biological communities by allowing greater fish and wildlife passage, improve water quality by stabilizing streambanks, and by allowing water to access the floodplain, which facilitates nutrient removal.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	
FY24-25	$2,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$2,000,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
tbd	tbd	tbd

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

This program supports the following strategies under the Clean Water Council's Strategic Plan.

- **Goal:** Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034 via through statewide, regional, or issue-specific programs that help meet water quality goals but are not necessarily prioritized and targeted according to geography.
    - **Strategy:** Support competitive grants for protection and restoration activities
        - **Action:** Invest in activities that accelerate improvements in water quality through new approaches.
- **Goal:** Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.
    - **Strategy:** Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.
        - **Action:** Engage water managers statewide.
            - Measure: SWCDs, WDs, WMOs, drainage authorities, highway departments, municipalities, and counties have the skills necessary to carry out programs to meet water quality goals.
        - **Action:** Support innovative efforts that accelerate progress toward clean water goals.

The Culvert Replacement Incentive Program aims to encourage local governments to adopt improved culvert designs by providing financial incentives in the form of a 25% cost-share. This design approach provides an opportunity to provide additional benefits of climate resiliency in the design of a replacement culvert system. The ultimate objective is to encourage local governments to make this design approach a standard practice wherever appropriate. The program aims to achieve this by building capacity through technical support and financial incentives.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

The grant program was formally announced on November 9th, 2023. Since then, the DNR has reviewed 16 potential projects. Four projects have been approved, three did not meet the criteria, and 9 are under consideration. Based on the available funds and cost of projects we anticipate between 8 to 12 projects will be supported each year.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

The number of applications we've received suggests very strong interest from local governments. At this time, we anticipate future requests will either stay the same or increase.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

- This grant program requires at least a 75% match of funds from the local partner.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

The following local partners will receive estimated grant amount based on Opinion of Probably Cost (OPC). Actual reimbursements are based on the construction bid cost.

Community	Project	Total Cost (OPC)	Grant Reimbursement
Lincoln County	Yellow Medicine River and CR 8	$565,388.00	$141,347
Olmsted County	Cascade River and CSAH3	$742,000	$185,500
Wright County	Tributary to Crow River and Hoyt Ave	$302,284	$75,571
Dakota County	Dry Run and 205th	$236,000	$59,000
TOTAL			$461,418

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	
FY24-25	2
FY26-27	~2.5

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)	
MDA	Program Number: 33
Program Contact Name: **Brad Jordahl Redlin**	Phone: **651-201-6489**
Contact E-mail Address: **brad.jordahlredlin@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Margaret Wagner**	Phone: **651-201-6488**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Margaret.wagner@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a first of its kind partnership between federal and state government and private industry. This innovative and nationally recognized voluntary program targets water quality protection on a field by field, whole farm basis. The MAWQCP gives farmers and agricultural landowners the opportunity to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

Webpage

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program | Minnesota Department of Agriculture (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

The MAWQCP comprehensively identifies and mitigates agricultural risks to water quality and protects and restores water resources, improves and expands soil health, and builds and quantifies climate resiliency in Minnesota agriculture. Producers work one-on-one with local agronomic and conservation professionals to identify risks and implement practices that protect water quality across their operation.

The MAWQCP was developed for the purpose of aligning federal agencies (USDA and EPA) with relevant cohort state agencies (MDA, MPCA, DNR, BWSR) and local service providers (SWCDs) to provide a coordinated and unified effort for addressing agricultural operations' risks to water quality. Housed at MDA, the MAWQCP operates as a risk assessment process, assessing every parcel and every cropping scenario (or pasture management, etc.) in the entire farming operation—whether owned or rented—to identify and mitigate risks posed to water quality. Any identified risk on any parcel at any point in the crop rotation that is not mitigated prevents the entire from receiving MAWQCP-certification. The comprehensive, direct intervention, on an acre by acre whole-farm scale is unique in the nation for addressing all issues on an agricultural operation.

This structure ensures that any and all conservation practice interventions can and are deployed on a site-specific manner to address whatever form of risk exists. As a result, practices implemented through MAWQCP include all established conservation interventions in agriculture (for a list, see USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practice standards). Further, the comprehensive and personalized process is cited by growers as primary reason for participating in MAWQCP. They approach operating their farm as a comprehensive and extremely complex yet cohesive enterprise, and integrating conservation in that same context is what has been consistently cited in MAWQCP grower surveys as key for program appeal and usefulness.

Additionally, MAWQCP's whole-farm risk assessment process requires Certifying Agents to access details and records (i.e. all fertilizer applications, all pesticide uses, all implements used, presence of drainage or irrigation or existing conservation practices, the physical characteristics of each parcel, etc.) to obtain a complete record of operation management. In turn, this provides a further opportunity for specialized actions that have been captured in the MAWQCP endorsement process. Program staff recognized the opportunity to introduce enhanced efforts into the certification process for maximizing conservation performance in support of or even beyond water quality. MAWQCP now has voluntary endorsements for farms to add further specialized practice implementation for Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife, Climate Smart, and Irrigation Water management. To date, 479 total endorsements have been earned by MAWQCP-certified farms.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	$3,000,000
FY16-17	$5,000,000
FY18-19	$5,000,000
FY20-21	$6,000,000
FY22-23	$6,000,000
FY24-25	$7,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$32,000,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
STEADY	STEADY	STEADY

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

MAWQCP addresses 2024 CWC Strategic Plan in:

Groundwater Vision

- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Actions 2, 3, 4
- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Drinking Water Source Protection

- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 5; Action 1
- Goal 2; Strategy 3; Action 1

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision

- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Actions 1, 3, 4
- Goal 3; Strategy 1; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Vision: All Minnesotans…

- Goal 1; Strategy 1; Actions 1, 6, 7

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

As of March 8, 2024, the MAWQCP has certified 1,460 producers and 1,040,260 acres with 2,844 new practices implemented, resulting in:

- 47,835 tons of sediment prevented per year
- 142,806 tons of soil saved per year
- 59,691 lbs. of phosphorous loss prevented per year
- 51,746 C02-equivalent metric tons of GHG emissions reductions per year
- Up to 49% reduction in nitrogen losses

Additionally, the Farm Business Management Program of Minnesota State Colleges and AgCentric have collected financial outcomes of all program participants for crop years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (with 2023 due next month), comparing MAWQCP-certified farms to non-certified farms, and have found that the MAWQCP-certified farms out-performed the non-certified every year. Looking at four years of data, the average income for MAWQCP farms was $16,000 - $40,000 higher. Other key financial metrics are also better for those enrolled in the MAWQCP, such as debt-to-asset ratios and operating expense ratios.

Since the introduction of earned-performance MAWQCP endorsements in late 2019, 479 have been awarded for additional practice implementation in support of select topic areas:

- 135 Soil Health Endorsements
- 101 Integrated Pest Management Endorsements
- 80 Wildlife Endorsements
- 159 Climate Smart Endorsements

- 4 Irrigation Water Management endorsements (achieved with UofM Extension Irrigation Management course completion and practice adoption)

Status quo performance (zero growth rate in annual participation) through FY30 would anticipate approximately 2,000,000 certified acres on 2,250 farms, or a doubling of totals through FY23. While a 100% increase in the time period is significant, it would lag our previous target totals. To increase the growth rate over status quo, we believe key components will be coordinated multiple agency inclusion and prioritization of MAWQCP in all watershed programs (as ordered of MPCA, DNR and BWSR in Executive Order 19-12), continued expansion of private sector promotion to and recruitment of clientele, and potential for policy incentives such as dedicated points awarded for MAWQCP-certified or MAWQCP-applicant farms within all agricultural grant-making by all public entities in MInnesota (to leverage comprehensive conservation performance across whole farms, rather than limited to select practices/initiatives), or other potential public incentives as sought by agricultural sector, among other strategies.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same, with potential increase longer term.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Yes, the MAWQCP has leveraged over $22 million of additional investment in conservation in Minnesota. The public and private funds leveraged are detailed below.

Other Funds Leveraged:

McKnight Foundation

2013: $50,000 grant to MDA-MAWQCP to support development of farm risk assessment process

2022: $100,000 grant to MDA-MAWQCP to fund $1,000 incentive payments to MAWQCP-certified farms that further earned the MAWQCP Climate Smart Farm endorsement thru implementing Climate Change mitigating practices and management

USDA-NRCS

2014 & 2015: $1,501,256 annually from dedicated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to implement conservation practices to earn MAWQCP certification

2016 thru 2024: $1,800,000 annually from Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreements to implement conservation practices to earn MAWQCP certification (2 consecutive 5-year, $9 million awards)

NOTE 1: Federal Program conservation practice implementation is contracted directly between the producer and USDA-NRCS, no funds entered MAWQCP budget, and MAWQCP unfortunately cannot

know/capture the producer-paid portion to include in leveraged total. Typical federal funding formulas range from 50% to 10% (for historically underserved producers) producer-paid portion of practice implementation.)

NOTE 2: The federal funding sources (EQIP and RCPP) are provided thru USDA-NRCS and will be spent nationally every year. Due to MAWQCP seeking and earning those funds, they are being brought to implement practices in Minnesota that otherwise would never receive the funds which would instead then be used in other states.

MAWQCP

2017 ongoing: In 2017 program staff developed an internal MAWQCP Financial Assistance Grant program from existing annual appropriation as a maximum $5,000 reimbursement grant and minimum 25% producer-paid portion of practice implementation.

NOTE: MAWQCP does know/capture the producer-paid portion being that the grants agreements are made between the producer and MAWQCP, with growers always required to pay a minimum of 25% of implementation costs, ranging up to tens of thousands of dollars for project costs that far exceed the $5,000 maximum reimbursement amount.

	CWF	leveraged	total	**LEVERAGED breakdown**: McKnight	MAWQCP FA-grant producer provided portion	USDA-NRCS practice implementation funding
2012	$173,380		$173,380			
2013	$132,830	$50,000	$182,830	$50K McKnight		
2014	$1,500,000	$1,501,256	$3,001,256			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS
2015	$1,500,000	$1,501,256	$3,001,256			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS
2016	$2,500,000	$1,800,000	$4,300,000			$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2017	$2,500,000	$1,982,129	$4,482,129		$182,129.53	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2018	$2,000,000	$2,075,639	$4,075,639		$275,639.78	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2019	$3,000,000	$2,235,825	$5,235,825		$435,825.88	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2020	$3,000,000	$2,173,216	$5,173,216		$373,216.92	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2021	$3,000,000	$2,322,916	$5,322,916		$522,916.51	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2022	$3,000,000	$2,804,342	$5,804,342	$100K McKnight	$904,342.18	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2023	$3,000,000	$3,652,457	$6,652,457		$1,852,457.72	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
TOTAL	$25,306,210	$22,099,040	$47,405,250			

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of

representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

In FY14-FY23, 55% was passed through in grants and contracts. Recipients include SWCDs, project partners, and participating farms.

SWCDs have received $9,292,091 through FY23 for serving as fiscal agents, staffing MAWQCP Area Certification Specialists, and in payment of certification services provided by SWCD employees.

Professional service contracts for software development and maintenance, technology, and other services totaled $425,633 through FY23.

The MAWQCP Financial Assistance grant is available to applicant and current MAWQCP-certified farms. Maximum grant amount is $5000 and maximum 75% of project cost. (Note: following data is through calendar year 2023)

Total grants funded:

FY	Total $$ Grant	# of Grants
2017	106,502.83	30
2018	214,763.23	52
2019	318,126.75	79
2020	276,166.66	74
2021	439,057.60	110
2022	433,207.64	109
2023	453,362.32	104
2024*	278,205.37	73
	2,519,392.40	631

Practices implemented with MAWQCP FA-grants:

Conservation Practice	Total $$ Grant
Access Control	29,237.37
Alternative Drain Tile Intakes	104,227.04
Conservation Cover	4,310.86
Cover Crop	846,369.98
Critical Area Planting	5,793.52

Diversion	14,463.00
Drainage Water Management	8,026.38
Feedlot/Wastewater Filter Strip	18,564.88
Fence	212,075.16
Field Border	7,552.00
Field Windbreak	6,491.15
Filter Strip	15,000.00
Forage & Biomass Planting	48,712.47
Grade Stabilization Structure	71,976.50
Grassed Waterway	154,807.29
Heavy Use Area Protection	45,000.00
Integrated Pest Management	1,327.00
Integrated Pest Management Plan Development	1,500.00
Irrigation System	5,000.00
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	60,059.52
Irrigation Water Management	61,382.75
Irrigation Water Management - Soil Moisture Sensors	48,425.75
Livestock Shelter Structures	5,000.00
Mulching	15,000.00
Nutrient Management Plan Development	5,000.00
Nutrient Management	7,611.00
Open Channel	2,417.63
Pasture & Hay Planting	10,699.06
Pipeline	59,683.35
Prescribed Grazing	138,881.36
Pumping Plant	8,000.00
Residue & Tillage Management - No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	47,495.65
Residue & Tillage Mgmt - No Till/Strip Till	16,762.50
Roof Runoff Control (feedlot)	19,380.51
Sediment Basin	27,437.00
Septic System upgrade (Imminent Threat to Public Heath designated only)	10,000.00
Spring Development	5,000.00
Stream Crossing	31,558.75
Structure for Water Control	2,191.06
Waste Storage Facility	45,000.00
Water & Sediment Control Basin	154,275.62
Water Well	32,482.50
Water Well Decommissioning	11,312.50
Watering facility	74,484.61
Wetland Restoration	19,416.68

2,519,392.40

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	0.85
FY14-15	3.75
FY16-17	5.8
FY18-19	5.4
FY20-21	5.7
FY22-23	5.8
FY24-25	6.4*
FY26-27	6.4*

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Critical Shoreland Protection – Permanent Conservation Easements

BWSR	Program Number: 21
Program Contact Name: **Sharon Doucette**	Phone: **651-539-2567**
Contact E-mail Address: **Sharon.doucette@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

To purchase permanent conservation easements to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but threatened with degradation. Easement focus has been in the headwaters of the Mississippi River for protection of tributaries and the Mississippi River, to provide source water protection for the Twin Cities and other communities along the Mississippi River.

Webpage

Critical Shorelands: Rum River Conservation Easements | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8926

(Website will be updated to the more general "Critical Shorelands" title with largely the same materials and text)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Historically, protects high quality public waters in the Upper Mississippi Basin including the Mississippi and its tributaries using the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easement process.

Historically, each biennium of funding was designated to a specific high priority subwatershed within the larger upper Mississippi River area. The FY 16/17 funds were used exclusively in the Pine River Watershed, FY 18/19 funds were used in the Crow Wing River Watershed, FY 20/21 and 22/23 were used in the Rum River Watershed. Based on feedback from partners in the area, FY 24/25 funds are not focused on a specific watershed but is accepting easement applications from all previous focus areas, the Pine, Crow Wing and Rum, as well as adding the connecting watershed – Mississippi River, Brainerd.

Parcels are selected by local technical committees composed of SWCD, BWSR and other agency/partner staff. The technical committees use a scoring system that includes specific criteria – for example, the number of feet of shoreline, parcel size, percent forested, and RAQ score (RAQ stands for Riparian, Adjacency, Quality - a model run for the major watershed),

among other criteria. Scoring is not directly linked to 1W1P because it has not been completed in all watersheds in this part of the state. However, most technical committee members have also been involved in WRAPs, Landscape Stewardship Plans and 1W1Ps and bring that knowledge to team meetings. That information is also used in targeting outreach efforts to specific landowners. Watersheds are prioritized based on the US Forest Service publication "Forests, Water and People: Drinking water supply and forested lands in the Northeast and Midwest United States." The publication identified the most important watersheds for protecting source water for communities in the Twin Cities.

Typical landowner easement payment for this program is $2,000/acre currently. If counties closer to the metro secure more easements, that will almost double the per acre rate (Anoka and Isanti both have significantly higher assessed land values than other counties that are part of the program).

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	$2,000,000
FY18-19	$2,000,000
FY20-21	$2,550,000
FY22-23	$2,468,000
FY24-25	$3,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$12,018,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034 via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) updated every ten years.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Permanent protection around high quality public waters in the Mississippi Headwaters.

4,000 acres under easement or in process in the program. Currently on track with demand. There are several remaining Mississippi watersheds above the Twin Cities that could be made eligible for the program, both upstream and downstream of the current eligible areas. Appropriation language states: *"to protect lands adjacent to public waters that have good water quality but that are threatened with degradation".* There are other areas of the state, outside of the Mississippi Headwaters, where the funds could be used for protection easements.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Stay the same

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Much of this same area is within the Mississippi Headwater Board's (MHB) jurisdiction. MHB and BWSR have a partner project, funded by Outdoor Heritage Fund, for protection easements with a focus on protection of existing high-quality habitat corridors in the area.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

NA

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

Annual FTE numbers

FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	

FY16-17	0.6
FY18-19	0.6
FY20-21	0.6
FY22-23	0.6
FY24-25	0.6
FY26-27	

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Wetland Restoration Easements

BWSR	Program Number: __
Program Contact Name: **Sharon Doucette**	Phone: **651-539-2567**
Contact E-mail Address: **Sharon.doucette@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The purpose of the RIM Wetlands Program is to restore and protect previously drained and altered wetlands and adjacent grasslands and other important vegetated buffers using permanent RIM conservation easements across the state. Restoring and protecting wetlands provides many water quality, habitat and climate mitigation benefits.

Webpage

RIM Wetlands | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)https://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8926

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Funds will acquire permanent conservation easements and restore wetlands in priority areas statewide.

Easement applications are accepted statewide on a quarterly basis. Applications are reviewed together based on scoring criteria to determine funding. Scoring criteria includes, but is not limited to, acres of restorable wetland, upland acres, total easement size, proximity to other protected land or public water and wetland restoration/protection being identified as a priority in a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

To date, the average landowner payment for submitted applications is $6,200/acre. Statewide average of the new RIM 2024 RIM rates is $5,500/acre. Reviewing the 2024 rate update in counties where wetland restoration applications frequently are submitted, the average is almost $8,000/acre for landowner easement payment as many counties in the prairie pothole region of the state had between 20 to 30% increase in the tax assessed value of land as reported to the Minnesota Department of Revenue over the last year. This does not include restoration costs.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	$5,660,000
FY24-25	$10,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$15,660,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034 via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) updated every ten years.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increase in restored and protected wetland acres and associated water quality and habitat benefits.

Program totals with RIM Wetlands funding from both OHF and CWF since 2022 (the most recent version of the RIM Wetlands program): 2,400 acres (approximately half from CWF, half from OHF) with some Clean Water funding available from FY24-25 still for landowner payments. Most easements are in southern or western Minnesota. Le Sueur County has submitted the most applications to date.

Clean Water funds have contributed to many more wetland restorations via past CREP appropriations.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

The RIM Wetlands restoration program is also funded through the Outdoor Heritage Fund. General fund dollars were also appropriated to RIM last year specifically for peatland restoration to support the Governor's Climate Initiative.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	0.8
FY24-25	0.9
FY26-27	

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Riparian and Floodplain Restoration Easements [formerly Riparian Buffer-Permanent Conservation Easements]	
BWSR	Program Number: 25
Program Contact Name: **Sharon Doucette**	Phone: **651-539-2567**
Contact E-mail Address: **Sharon.doucette@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

Easements to restore sensitive land in riparian corridors and floodplains to address water quality issues. Landowners have the option to select a perpetual easement or a limited-term easement. In addition, landowners have options to restore the easement to native vegetation or continue to generate income through uses that do not include row crop agriculture, for example: haying/grazing, silviculture, silvopasture, and/or agroforestry. Easement payment structure is based on the proposed easement length and use.

Webpage

RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration

https://bwsr.state.mn.us/rim-riparian-and-floodplain-restoration

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

The program focus is to restore and protect sensitive marginal land within the floodplain or riparian area of public waters to improve water quality by establishing permanent vegetative cover on these areas. This work will reduce the direct water quality impacts of these areas when flooded and provide a buffer for surface water flows from adjacent areas to the public waters.

Easement applications are accepted statewide three times a year. Applications are reviewed together based on scoring criteria to determine funding. Scoring criteria includes several categories including: total easement size, land in an existing CRP contract, proximity to other protected land or public water, frequency of flooding and the area being identified as a priority in a locally adopted Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Currently, the average landowner payment for applications submitted for this program is $7,500/acre.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$6,900,000
FY12-13	$12,000,000
FY14-15	$13,000,000
FY16-17	$9,750,000
FY18-19	$9,750,000
FY20-21	$9,500,000
FY22-23	$3,872,000
FY24-25	$5,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$69,772,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034 via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) updated every ten years.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Since FY10-11, Clean Water "buffer" funding has protected over 26,000 acres. Many of the easements are in the SW portion of the state with Redwood and Renville counties having the most individual easements funded.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

The Riparian and Floodplain Restoration program also receives funding from Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	1.5
FY12-13	2.6
FY14-15	2.8
FY16-17	2.0
FY18-19	2.0
FY20-21	2.0
FY22-23	1.0
FY24-25	1.0
FY26-27	

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection

BWSR	Program Number: 37
Program Contact Name: **Sharon Doucette**	Phone: **651-539-2567**
Contact E-mail Address: **Sharon.doucette@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

For conservation easements on wellhead protection areas under Minnesota Statutes, section 103F.515, subdivision 2, paragraph (d), or for grants to local units of government for ensuring long-term protection of groundwater supply sources in wellhead protection areas. Priority to be placed on land that is located where the vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health, where the drinking water supply is identified as Mitigation Level 1 or 2 by the Minnesota Groundwater Rule, where monitoring has shown elevated nitrate levels, where drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and/or on lands with expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts. Slight changes to appropriation language will increase flexibility of funding. These changes would include replacing “grants” with “contracts”, removing “permanent” in the type of easement the state can hold, expanding to the whole RIM statute rather than specifically listing 103F.515, and allowing tribal government partnership rather than just LGUs to be eligible under the existing grant program.

Webpage

RIM Groundwater (Wellhead) Protection Easements | MN Board of Water, Soil Resourceshttps://bwsr.state.mn.us/node/8926

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Implements long-term land management protection in wellhead protection areas.

Easements and grants are determined by the current appropriation language that states projects must be selected using the following criteria: vulnerability of the drinking water supply is designated as high or very high by the commissioner of health through an approved Wellhead Protection Plan, the drinking water supply is identified as Mitigation Level 1 or 2 by the Minnesota Groundwater Rule, monitoring has shown elevated nitrate levels, drinking water protection plans have identified specific activities that will achieve long-term protection, and/or on lands with expiring Conservation Reserve Program contracts.

2,400 acres via 40 RIM easements and 360 acres via Wellhead Protection Partner Grant. As a voluntary program, specific DSWMAs are not targeted outside of meeting the above criteria. Example counties of easement location include Cottonwood, Rock, Watonwan, and Winona.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$2,300,000
FY12-13	$3,600,000
FY14-15	$2,600,000
FY16-17	$3,500,000
FY18-19	$3,500,000
FY20-21	$4,000,000
FY22-23	$5,000,000
FY24-25	$5,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$29,500,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems - Ensure that users of public water systems have safe, sufficient, and equitable drinking water.

Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Permanent or long-term protection in highly or very highly vulnerable wellhead protection areas.

The current appropriation language requires the easements to be secured on MDH approved wellhead protection areas (public water supplies). Appropriation language could be modified to strategically place RIM easements targeted in the southeast to provide land protection for other groundwater uses.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Past grant recipients include City of Adrian, Okabena-Ocheda WD, City of Edgerton, and Rock SWCD.

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.5
FY12-13	0.8
FY14-15	0.6
FY16-17	0.6
FY18-19	0.7
FY20-21	0.7
FY22-23	0.8
FY24-25	0.8
FY26-27	

Nonpoint Source Implementation

BWSR Implementation Programs

Annie Felix-Gerth | Clean Water Coordinator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Technical Assistance Grants

- Buffer law compliance
- Technical Training & Certification Program
- Technical Service Areas

Project Grants

- Watershed Based Implementation Funding
- Projects & Practices
- Soil Health
- Water Legacy Partners
- Conservation Drainage

Easements

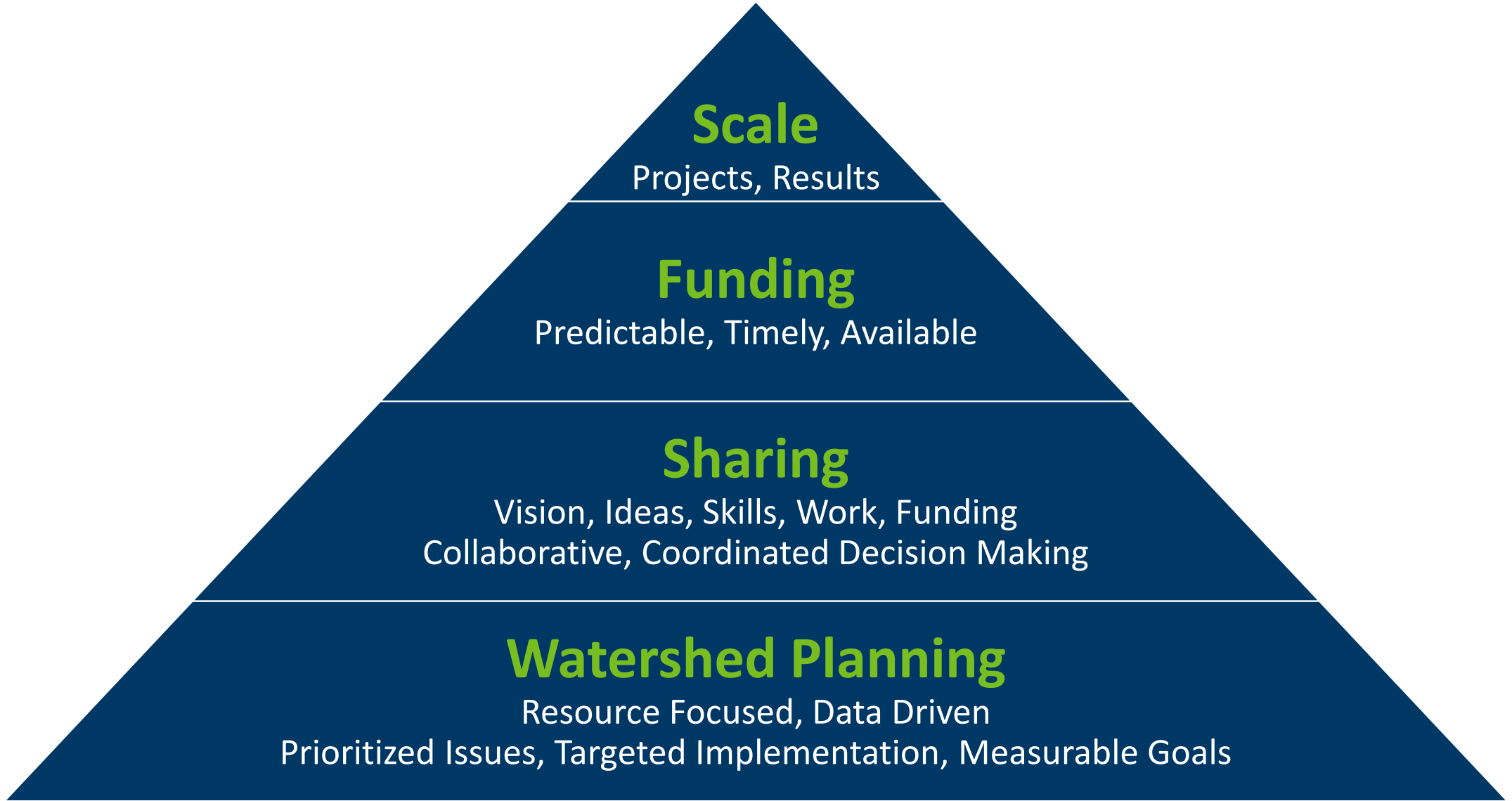
- Critical Shorelands
- Wetlands
- Working lands to riparian & floodplain
- Wellhead

BWSR programs support local implementation

Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)

The Watershed Management Transformation

Water Management Transformation



WBIF Directly Supports Actions in the CWC Strategic Plan

"Use WBIF to fund protection and restoration in watersheds that have an approved plan."

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
5 of 15 actions	2 of 10 actions	6 of 14 actions	6 of 7 actions

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding: Wright SWCD

WATERSHED-BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

WRIGHT SWCD

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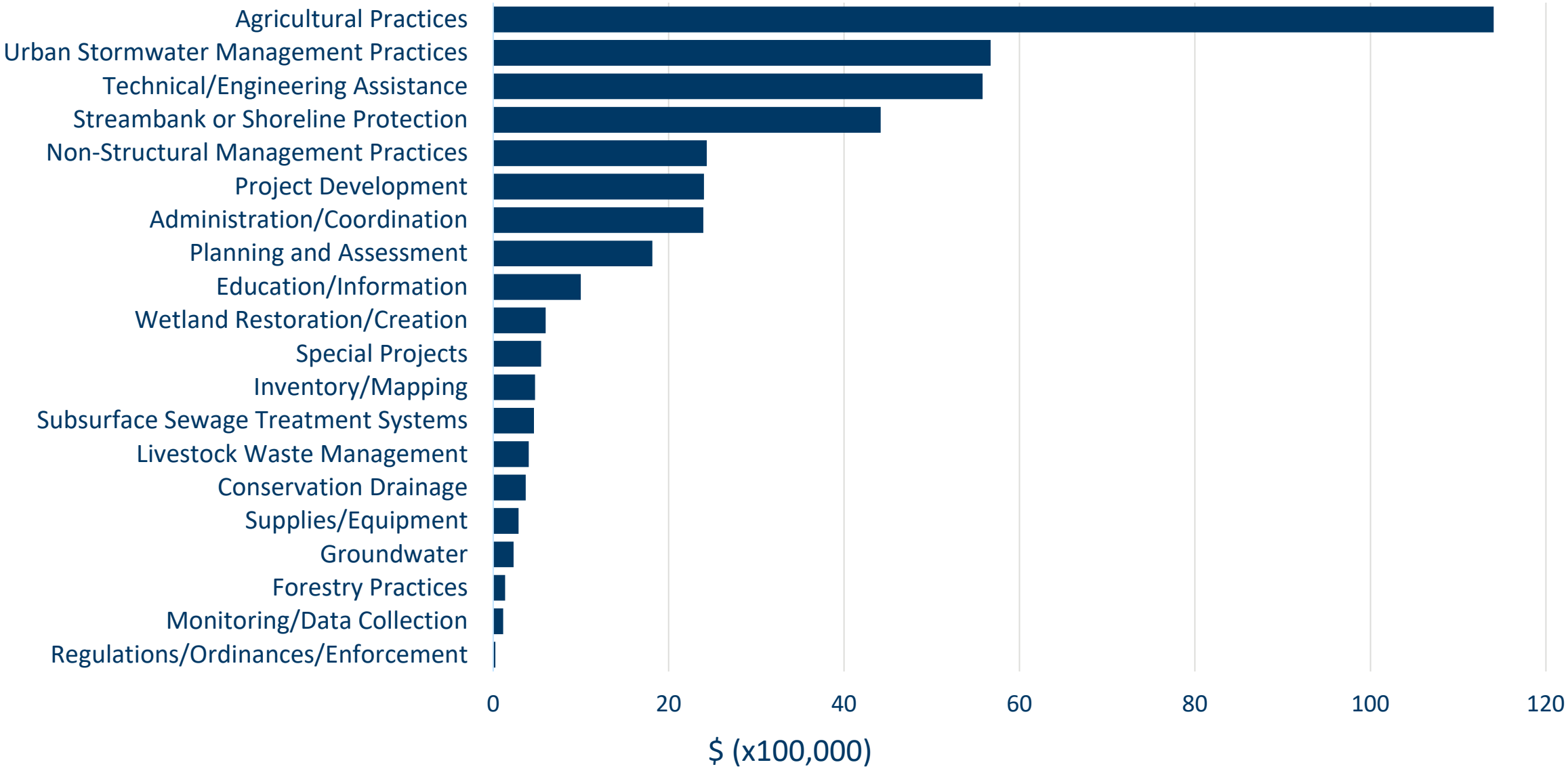
Scroll for details

WBIF Expenditures by Activity Category, 2018-2024



WBIF Implements Activities in Plans

Location		Targeted Area or Resource/s	Measurable output for this activity	Timeframe					Estimated Cost	Lead LGU
				Years 1 & 2 ($$)	Years 3 & 4 ($$)	Years 5 & 6 ($$)	Years 7 & 8 ($$)	Years 9 & 10 ($$)		
Cover Crops (Continued)										
BMP 1.8	Middle Maple River Management Zone (139,792 acres)	Priority HSPF Subwatersheds	Implement 2,100 acres of newly enrolled land that results in a reduction of: • 80 tons of TSS/yr • 12,500 lbs TN/yr • 350 lbs TP/yr	$88,800 (210 acres)	$177,600 (420 acres)	$177,600 (420 acres)	$177,600 (420 acres)	$266,400 (630 acres)	$888,000	Faribault SWCD, Blue Earth SWCD
BMP 1.9	Lower Maple River Management Zone (11,325 acres)	Priority HSPF Subwatersheds	Implement 300 acres of newly enrolled land that results in a reduction of: • 10 tons of TSS/yr • 1,800 lbs TN/yr • 50 lbs TP/yr	$11,700 (30 acres)	$23,400 (60 acres)	$23,400 (60 acres)	$23,400 (60 acres)	$35,100 (90 acres)	$117,000	Blue Earth SWCD
Conservation Tillage (No till or strip till w/ high residue)										
BMP 2.1	Upper Le Sueur River Management Zone (114,606 acres)	Priority HSPF Subwatersheds	Implement 3,400 acres that result in a reduction of: • 360 tons of TSS/yr • 16,500 lbs TN/yr • 2,050 lbs TP/yr	$76,100 (340 acres)	$152,200 (680 acres)	$152,200 (680 acres)	$152,200 (680 acres)	$228,300 (1020 acres)	$761,000	Waseca SWCD, Freeborn SWCD
BMP 2.2	Middle Le Sueur River Management Zone	Priority HSPF Subwatersheds	Implement 1,900 acres that result in a reduction of: • 200 tons of TSS/yr • 8,700 lbs TN/yr	$43,200 (190 acres)	$86,400 (380 acres)	$86,400 (380 acres)	$86,400 (380 acres)	$129,600 (570 acres)	$432,000	Waseca SWCD, Blue Earth SWCD

Stream Connectivity Targeted Implementation Schedule

What			Where	Who	When					Cost	
Action	Program	10-year measurable Outcome	Targeted Sub-watersheds	Lead/ Supporting entities	2021-2022	2023-2024	2025-2026	2027-2028	2029-2030	Level of Effort	Total 10-year cost
Reconnect streams by removing barriers created by culverts (undersized, perched, misaligned).	Conservation	46 miles of streams reconnected, 600 Tons of sediment/ ~200-year rain event/per culvert*	North Fork Nemadji River, Skunk Creek, Clear Creek, Upper South Fork Nemadji River	**CCTD, MN DOT** & Townships** SWCD, TU, Land Department (Soo Line Trail)	✦	✦	✦	✦	✦	**Baseline** **Other:**	**$10,185,000** **$10,316,726**
Reconnect streams by removing Red Clay Dams.	Conservation	1 mile of stream reconnected	Skunk Creek & Deer Creek	**SWCD** EPA, MPCA			✦	✦	✦	**Other:**	**$2,000,000**
Engineering Study for large Red Clay Dams (Elim & Hanson Dams).	Conservation	2 Feasibility Studies Completed	Skunk Creek	**SWCD** EPA, MPCA	✦	✦			✦	**WBIF:** **Other:**	**$32,000** **$96,000**
Stabilize gravel roads and improve stormwater practices in priority areas (steep slopes near streams) to reduce road material erosion into streams.	Conservation	17,000 tons of sediment per spring melt and 2-year rainfall event per site	Skunk Creek Nemadji Creek, Upper South Fork Nemadji River, Net River	**CCTD** SWCD	✦	✦	✦	✦		**Baseline** **WBIF:** **Other:**	**$50,000** **$345,000** **$800,000**
Restore unstable stream reaches, focusing on protecting infrastructure and where benefits can be stacked.	Conservation	2 Projects; 200,000 tons of sediment, 200,000 lb of TP	Net River, Blackhoof River, Skunk Creek	**SWCD, CCTD** TU, DNR	✦	✦	✦			**Other:**	**$800,000**

Local Partners Decide Together

Project Scoring and Ranking

					Ranking Information													
Approved	Total Points	Project ID	Landowner Name	Conservation Practice	Conservation Practice Score	Identified Project Priority & Area (Figure 4-1)		Critical Source Areas (Red Dot)		Groundwater Protection (Figure 3-7 & 3-8)		Other Funding Opportunities		Watershed / Area of Impact Size (Acres)		Feedlot Project	
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
Yes	46.5			382-Fence	16.5	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	21-100	10	1 - 3	10
Yes	51.5			590-Nutrient Management	26.5	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	0-20	5	1 - 3	10
Yes	56.5			578-Stream Crossing	16.5	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	21-100	10	4+	20
Yes	51			561-Heavy Use Area Protection	26	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	0-20	5	1 - 3	10
Yes	53			393-Grass Filter Strip	23	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	21-100	10	1 - 3	10
Yes	61	WCD Exar		561-Heavy Use Area Protection	26	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Higher	10	No	0	21-100	10	1 - 3	10
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
Yes	66			561-Heavy Use Area Protection	26	Yes-Area 1	20	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	No	0	0-20	5	1 - 3	10
Yes	67.5			558-Roof Runoff Structure	17.5	Yes-Area 2	10	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Higher	10	No	0	21-100	10	4+	20
Yes	68			393-Grass Filter Strip	23	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Near Surface Groundwater Priority - Lower	5	Yes	15	21-100	10	1 - 3	10
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
Yes	71			340-Cover Crop	46	Yes-Area 3	5	No	0	Deep Groundwater/Well Priority	10	No	0	21-100	10	No	0
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE
No	0						FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE		FALSE

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding: Root River SWCD

Press Esc to exit full screen

WATERSHED-BASED
IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

ROOT RIVER SWCD

CROOKED CREEK PROJECT, HOUSTON COUNTY

0:02 / 3:31

Scroll for details

WBIF Selected Outcomes (2018-2023)

Basin	Nitrogen (lbs/y)	Phosphorus (lbs/year)	Sediment (tons/year)	Wells sealed (#)	Forestry (ac.)	Cover crops (ac.)	Structural BMPs (#)
Red R	4,008	9,023	10,323	14	1,488	6,239	506
Rainy R	1,443	603	458			370	14
Lk Superior	103	64	5,816			170	7
St. Croix R		2,090	859	37		1,449	63
U Miss R	9,340	4,820	10,307	13	10,342	2,798	195
MN R	16,008	2,248	2,426	16		5,453	279
Missouri /DM Rs	31,493	1,531	5,082			3,334	216
L Miss R / Cedar R	15,288	15,159	13,770	34		5,298	446
Metro	2,065	4,510	7,465	77		1,905	211
Total	**79,749**	**40,048**	**56,506**	**191**	**11,830**	**27,016**	**1,937**

WBIF Supports Measurable Progress Toward Goals

Buffalo-Red River Watershed
Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

Lakes Planning Region

Action	Output (Number of Practices)	Total 10-Year Cost	Responsibility: Lead (in bold) and Partner	Timeline: 2020-21	2022-23	2024-25	2026-27	2028-29	Short-Term Measurable G: Sediment	Phosphorus	Hydrology/ Flood	Soil Health	Streambank/ Channel	Wetlands/ Grassland	Ditch Banks/ Outlets
Storage Practices* (e.g. Drainage Water Management / Controlled Drainage; WASCOBS; Nutrient Reduction Wetlands; Farm Ponds; Side Water Inlets)	**52 practices**	**$652,000**	**SWCD**, WD, NRCS, BWSR	x	x	x	x	x	**15.3%**	**28.4%**	**3.3%**		x	x	x
Soil Health and Nutrient Management Practices*	**1,437 acres**	**$891,000**	**SWCD**, WD, NRCS, BWSR, CC	x	x	x	x	x	**84.7%**	**71.5%**	**7.9%**	**99.6%**	x		x

Overall Plan Benefits

With current funding available plus the new watershed-based funding that will be acquired upon completion of this plan, planning partners aim to achieve the following overall improvements in the watershed (Table 1.5).

Table 1.5. Overall benefits from implementing this 10-year plan.

Surface Water Quality Benefits	**Phosphorus:** the pounds of phosphorus reduced by implementing all plan goals.	**2,333 pounds/year*; equivalent to:** **1.2 million pounds of algae**
	Sediment: the tons of phosphorus reduced by implementing all plan goals.	**418 tons/year*; equivalent to:** **42 dump trucks of sediment**
	Nitrogen: the pounds of nitrogen reduced by implementing all plan goals.	**9,998 lbs/year*; equivalent to:** **2,500 bags of nitrogen fertilizer**
Habitat Benefits	**Habitat:** acres of forest protected by implementing all plan goals.	**10,605 acres; equivalent to:** **7 Lake Shamineaus** **4 Lake Carloses**
Climate Resiliency Benefits**	**Storage:** the amount of new water storage on the landscape or in the soil by implementing all plan goals.	**1,053 acre-feet; equivalent to:** **1,000 football fields covered in 1 foot of water**
	Carbon: the amount of carbon stored and sequestered by implementing plan goals.	**147,337 tonnes; equivalent to:** **Removing 11,640 gas vehicles annually for 10 years**

*These are reductions to the annual load of the waterbody.

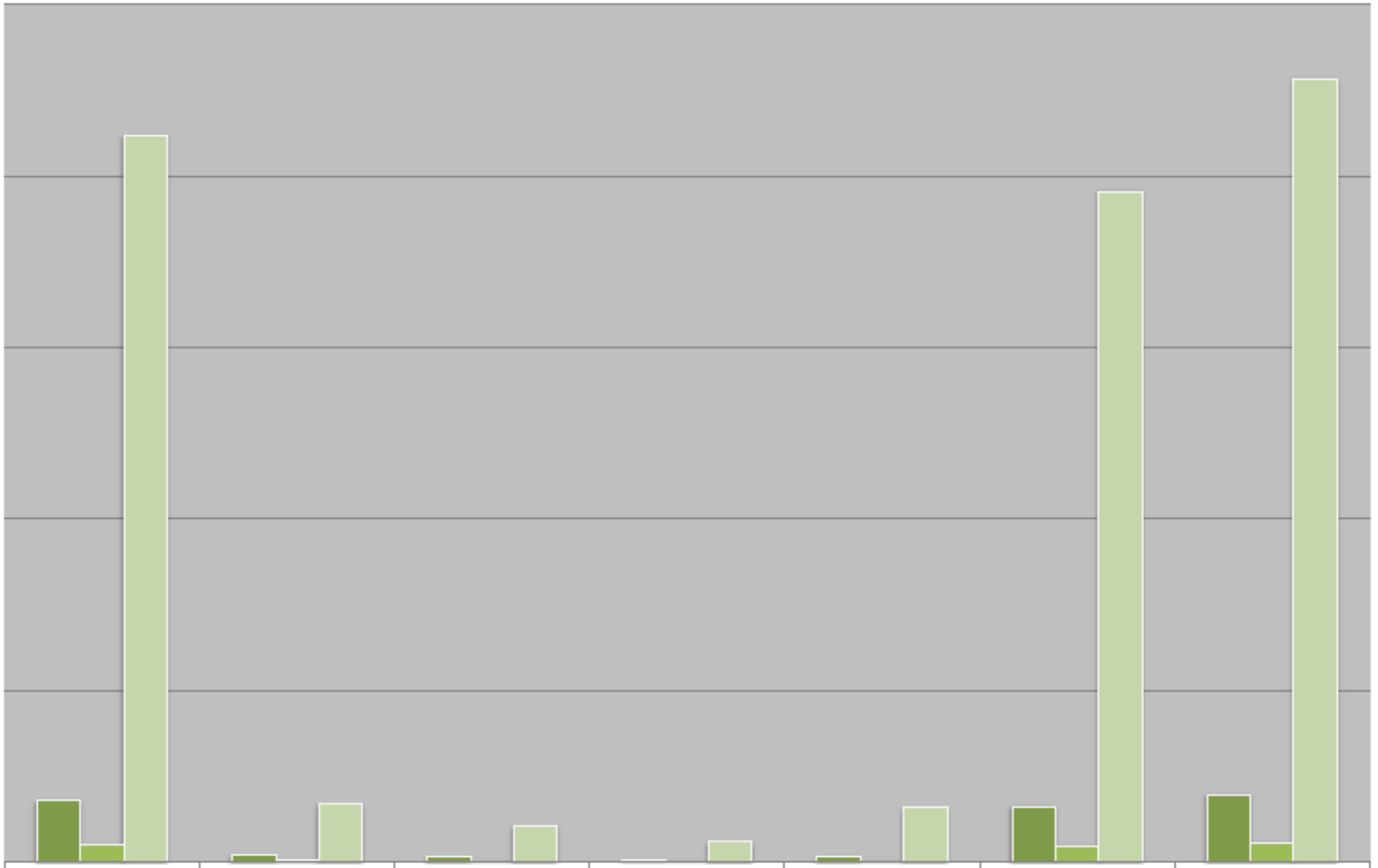
**Climate resiliency is the capacity of the ecosystem to cope with stress from heavy rain and extreme heat yet still function.

Action	10-Year Estimated Cost	Estimated Sediment Reduction (tons/yr)	Estimated Phosphorus Reduction (lbs/yr)
Filtration practices *(e.g. filter strips, grass waterways)*	$8,717,800	1,031**	501**
Storage practices *(e.g. WASCOBS and drainage water management)*	$1,957,300	388**	197**
Protection practices *(e.g. grade stabilization, streambank protection, and side water inlets)*	$808,900	159**	46**
Soil health practices *(e.g. residue management and cover crops)*	$1,438,000	156**	116**
	Total	3,774 *Meets Short-Term Sediment Goal*	1,250 *Meets Short-Term Phosphorus Goal*

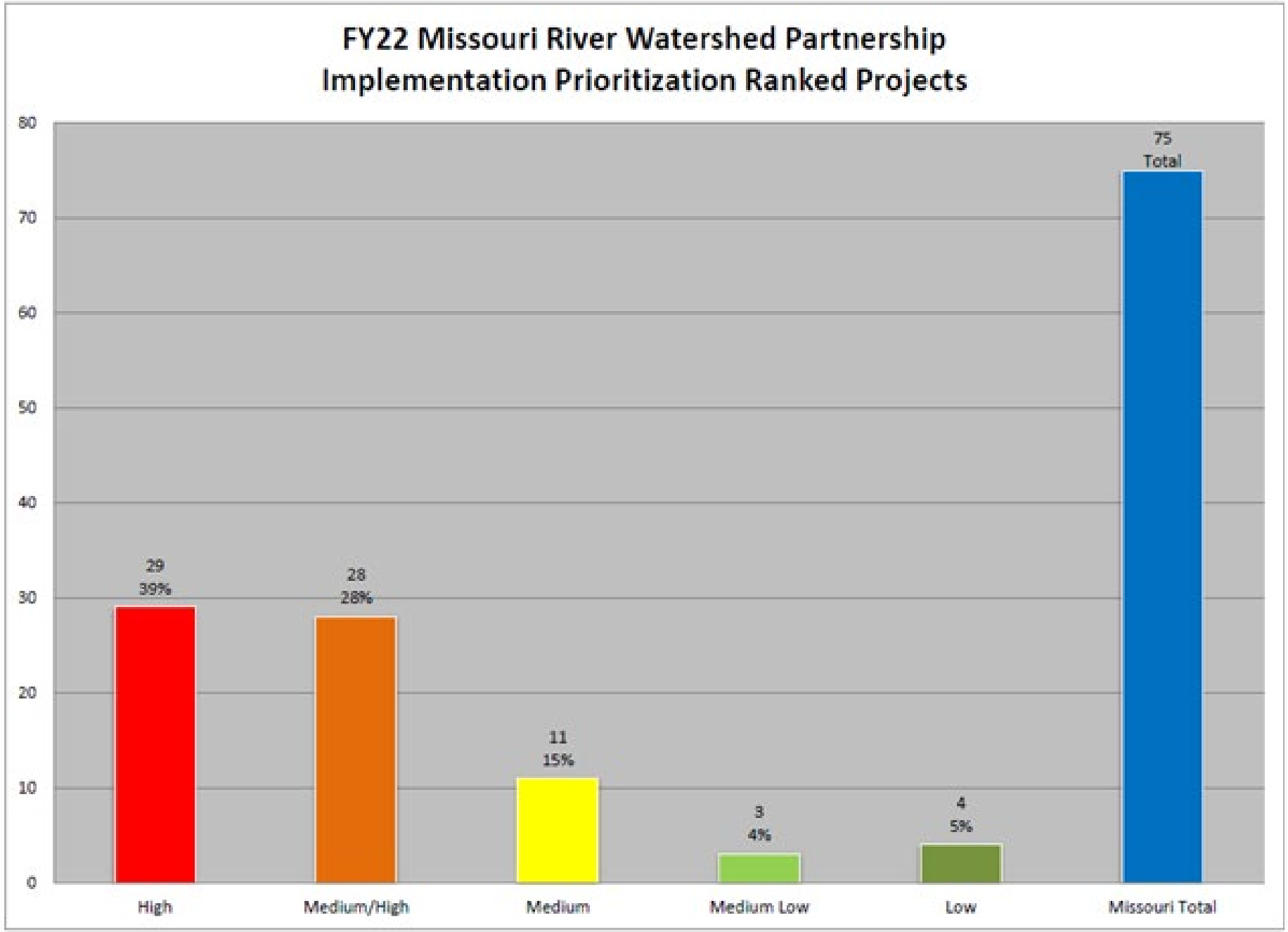
* Engineering estimate

** As estimated at the outlet of each planning region in PTMApp

FY22 Missouri River Watershed Partnership - Pollution Reductions



	Non-Structural	Structral	Grassed Waterway	WASCOB	Res./Tillage Mgt.	Cover Crop	Missouri Total
Sed./T	1780.48	192.11	134.44	57.67	153.44	1627.04	1972.59
P/lbs.	514.96	56.22	31.69	24.53	39.19	475.77	571.18
N/lbs.	21156.93	1695.17	1067.56	591.61	1604.31	19552.62	22816.1


FY22 Missouri River Watershed Partnership
Implementation Prioritization Ranked Projects
80
70
60
50
40
30
20
10
0
29
39%
28
28%
11
15%
3
4%
4
5%
75
Total
High
Medium/High
Medium
Medium Low
Low
Missouri Total

"Since the advent of watershed-based implementation funding, it's been a great change...

We have a consistent, dependable source of funding for our programs here"

-Doug Bos, Rock SWCD

MASWCD

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts

- Home
- Annual Convention
- Award Programs
- Leadership Development
- Legislative Efforts
- MASWCD Board & Staff
- What is MASWCD?
- MASWCD Bylaws
- Meetings and Events
- Resolutions/Policy
- SWCDs on the Web
- What is an SWCD?
- Youth Education -- Envirothon
- Partner Links
- Webinars

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)
255 Kellogg Boulevard East, Ste 101
St. Paul, MN 55101
651-690-9028

1W1P funding provides reliability for Missouri River efforts

Collaboration for the Missouri River Basin One Watershed, One Plan brought together six counties, six soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), and two watersheds to develop strategies for improving water quality in southwest Minnesota. Since the plan's approval in 2019, two rounds of implementation funding from the Clean Water Fund have helped grow interest in conservation practices throughout the watershed, according to Rock SWCD Assistant Director Doug Bos.

"Since the advent of watershed-based implementation funding, it's been a great change," Bos said. "We have a consistent, dependable source of funding for our programs here."

That reliability is needed because of local demand among landowners who want to implement conservation practices. During the first round of funding, $1.1 million was committed to projects within 11 months. Demand has continued during the second round of funding, awarded in 2022, with nearly two-thirds of it dedicated to projects to date. Many landowners want to implement structural practices, like water and sediment control basins, terraces, and grassed waterways. There's growing demand for soil health practices, too.

While the process of bringing 14 entities together was at times "arduous," Bos said it was worth it to collaborate and gain public input on watershed priorities.

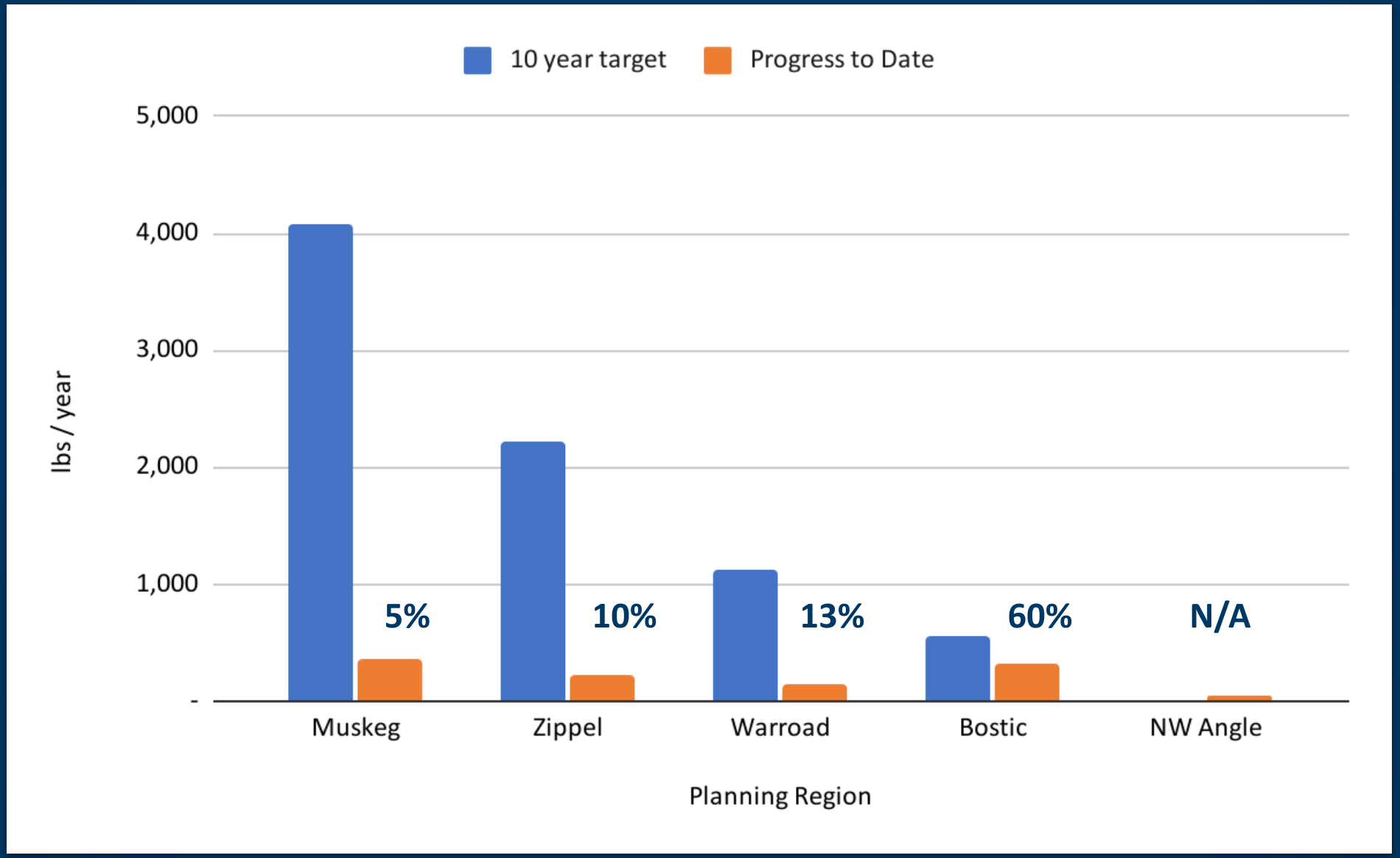
Throughout the process, one clear priority emerged: clean drinking water. The plan emphasizes practices in wellhead areas and improvements to surface and groundwater impairments.

Lake of the Woods Phosphorus Reduction Activities

Activities accomplished in 2022:

- Cover crop - 75.1 lbs/y
- Ditch One project - 230 lbs/y
- Shoreline protection projects (stream and lakeshore) - 32 lbs/y
- Attend water level regulation meetings - (4)
- Septic system - 9 upgrades

Lake of the Woods Phosphorus Reductions



load reductions from 2022-2023.

2023 Conservation Practices

Cover Crops	**600 acres** Planted by 9 Producers in Dodge, Goodhue & Wabasha Counties
Grassed Waterways	**31,652 linear ft** 12 projects funded
Water & Sediment Control	**3,721 linear feet basins & 3,979 linear feet of terrace repair** 6 projects funded
Grade Stabilization Structure	**2 structures**
Waste Storage Facilities	**2.7 million gallons of storage**
Well Sealing	**7 Wells Sealed**

Projects funded with Watershed Based Implementation Funding in the Greater Zumbro River Watershed

In 2022-2023, our partners have provided

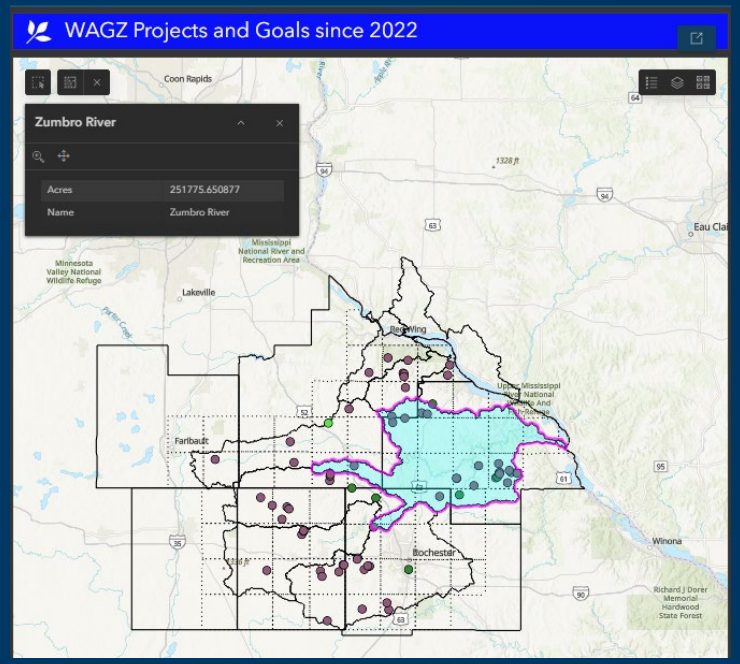
REDUCING POLLUTION

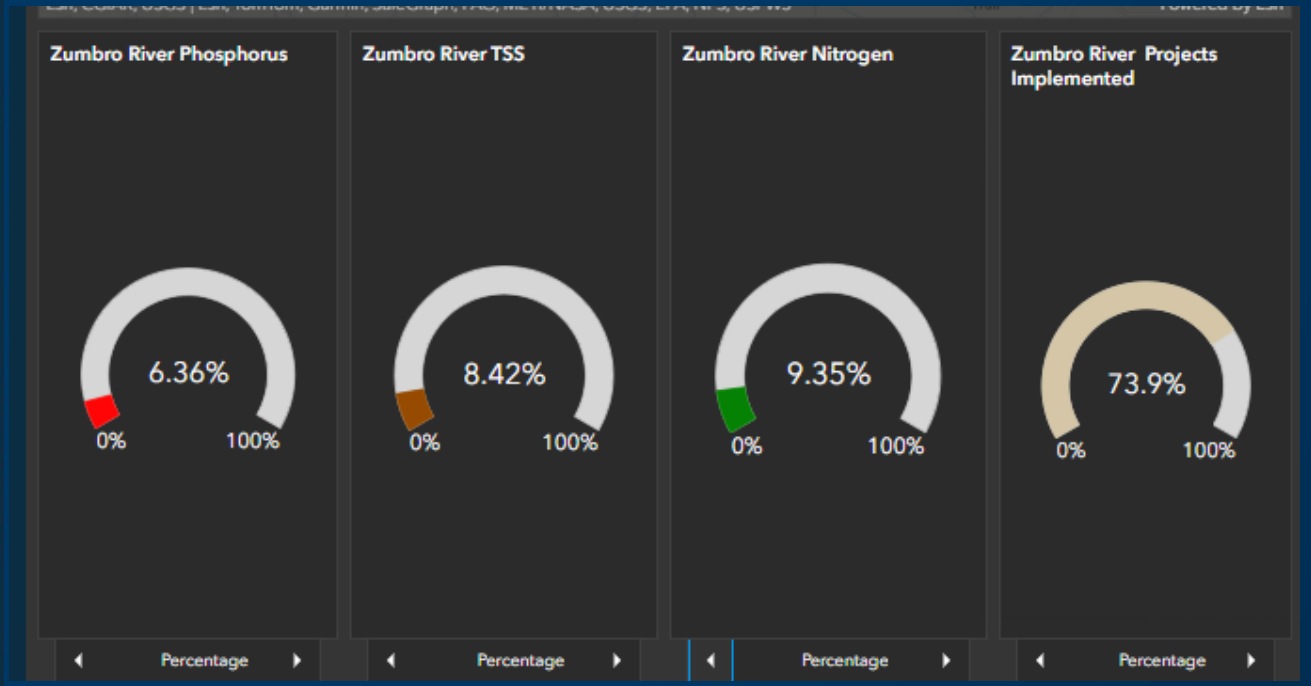
2023 By the Numbers

4,182 — **Nitrogen (pounds)**
total pounds of nitrogen reduced per year through planting cover crops and installing other best management practices.

Sediment (tons)
total tons of suspended sediment per year prevented from entering our waterways. — **114**

227 — **Phosphorous (pounds)**
total pounds of phosphorus per year prevented from entering our surface waters.





staples world

Date: Wednesday, February 15, 2023
Location: STAPLES, MN
Circulation (DMA): 844 (14)
Type (Frequency): Newspaper (W)
Page: 1B,9B
Section: Section B
Keyword: Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources

– Strengthen Partnerships in Water Quality Protection for Surface/Groundwater

New, Stronger Relationships formed between SWCDs in the Red Eye Watershed

Two rye seedlings pulled after two weeks growth in October are laid on an old aspen limb to demonstrate root growth .

Once quarterly, Todd SWCD, District Manager Deja Anton, makes the drive to Perham to meet with partnering SWCDs and agencies to discuss watershed priorities in the Red Eye Watershed. The Red Eye Watershed dips down into Todd County in parts of Stowe Prairie, Bertha, and the eastern section of Wykeham Townships. Needless to say, a lot of good has come from the SWCD being an active participant in the watershed. Through this partnership and what are called watershed-based implementation funds from the Clean Water Legacy, Todd SWCD is able to fund cover crops (see pics below), pit closures, and a manure storage structure with plans in the development along the Wing River impaired for E. coli. Todd SWCD technicians, Dylan Pratt and Tim Ebnet have also taken over the Irrigation Scheduling Program that Nathan Wiese of Otter Tail SWCD had been doing for years. Farmers interested in the SWCD helping to analyze when and where to turn your irrigators on backed by local weather and soil data can contact Todd SWCD at 320-732-2644. This is a weekly service provided by Todd SWCD throughout the growing season.

Todd SWCD had five farmers sign up through the RCPP Irrigation Grant in 2022 for irrigation upgrades and soil water sensors. This grant helps irrigators upgrade their existing irrigation systems with the latest technologies. These technologies can test when the soil needs water, which sections of the field require the most water, and can also aid in reducing potential soil nutrient losses with surface runoff. Variable rate irrigation is also a component of this grant .

Most recently, Todd SWCD and neighbors have worked together with the DNR and BWSR to receive a forestry grant beginning in 2023. This grant will provide tree planters to all partnering SWCDs, encourages landowners to work with professional foresters to develop forest management plans, but also is conducive to the small landowner who wants to pursue practices that increase the amounts of trees and prairie grasses on the landscape, help soils store water, stabilize hillside and Creekside soils, control land-based invasives, and management for wildlife habitat and succession of healthy forests and grasslands. Landowners with interest in long term easements can also get assistance through this grant.

These are just a few of the positive results that working with our neighboring SWCDs through watershed planning and implementation have brought to our County in 2023. Todd SWCD

Many farm fields were converted to Aspen Plantations in past decades. Due to current low market values, these trees are commonly cleared exposing soils. Cover crop cost-share projects, like the 2023 crop shown here in Stowe Prairie , can be planted by farmers to prevent erosion, nutrient loss and to restore soil health and economic prospect to new fields.

Soil probes and precipitation monitoring on site help technicians Tim Ebnet and Dylan Pratt gather necessary data to assist farmers with their irrigation scheduling, below.

Through the partnership and what are called watershed-based implementation funds from the Clean Water Legacy, Todd SWCD is able to fund cover crops, pit closures, and a manure storage structure with plans in the development along the Wing River impaired for E. coli.

“We’re a small office in a large county, so shared services can help us tremendously. Being able to defer some of the agricultural stewardship work to Clearwater (SWCD), who specializes in those practices, is a big benefit. The same applies in reverse — if they have lakeshore work needs, they can send that our way because that’s our expertise.” – Zach G., Beltrami SWCD

"This is a great example of being able to utilize Legacy Funding in a very expedient manner, to do something that might not have happened as quickly without this additional assistance, that benefits everyone in the county and helps protect our resources"

- Neal Gaalswyk, Cass County Commissioner

New developments to reduce chloride pollution in Cass, Hubbard counties

by Pat Miller
for Cass and Hubbard SWCDs

Snow and ice can form a deadly combination for motorists and a minimum local, way de

The depart sand, has its fight both logical come condit

"Eve and had to said Darrel age is so it is year to to mak is, if percen essenc for salt

In actuall clearin combi

"If you imagine a cube of salt and sand that you just throw onto the road, if that road surface is dry, the salt and sand can blow to the side as the traffic goes by," Anderson said. "It is estimated that as much as 20 to 30 percent of that salt can bounce right off

plant species, according to the MPCA. Pets and wildlife that drink the water or eat nearby plants can also be at risk.

Eliminating salt from the winter road maintenance tool box is not a viable option because, currently, there are no cost-effective alternatives that

additional $45,000 from the Cass SWCD Local Capacity fund to purchase salt brining equipment for the County Highway Department to allow it to reduce the winter chloride use by up to 30 percent throughout the entire county.

"This is a great example of being able to utilize Legacy Funding in a very expedient manner, to do something that might not have happened as quickly without this additional assistance, that benefits everyone in the county and helps protect our resources," said Cass County Commissioner Neal Gaalswyk.

"The SWCD has helped us out a lot with the 'One Water-

through the capital budget program. The SWCD essentially purchased the tanks for the brine and the capital plan paid for the building plus all the plumbing and electric that goes in it. This definitely is a good partnership."

Other entities have also benefitted from the partnership.

"The County also is providing brine to Shingobee Township, the City of Walker and, eventually, even to Turtle Lake Township," Anderson said. "Those three partners have purchased salt from us in the past (at cost) and they have indicated that they are interested in using our brine as well."

A brine hauling tank truck.

From the minnows swimming in Leech Lake to the motorist traveling the Cass County roads, everyone is benefitting from the brine project. And, hopefully, more projects are on the way.

"With the help of the recent development of a Leech Lake River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan, and funding earmarked by the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment through a grant from the Minnesota Board of Water Soil Resources, when the opportunity to improve Leech Lake Watershed water quality surfaced, the Cass SWCD was eager to do its part," Ringle said. "Additional funding from the LLR-CWMP is available on a biennial basis to assist landowners and cooperating agencies in the wise use, conservation and management of the watershed's natural resources."

For more information, contact the Cass SWCD at the County Environmental Services office at (218) 547-7241 or the Hubbard SWCD at (218) 732-0121.

Spring burning restrictions begin March 24

Annual restrictions on open burning are in effect beginning Wednesday in southern Beltrami, northern Cass, Clearwater, Mahnomen and eastern Polk counties, according to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

The restrictions are weather dependent, but normally last from four to six weeks until sufficient green vegetative growth occurs to significantly lower fire danger.

During the burning restriction period, regular burning permits will not be issued. The DNR can issue a limited number of permits through a variance process. These permits are confined to situations such as prescribed fires that are conducted by trained personnel, burning for approved agricultural practices and construction, or economic hardship burning. Fire wardens do not issue variance permits.

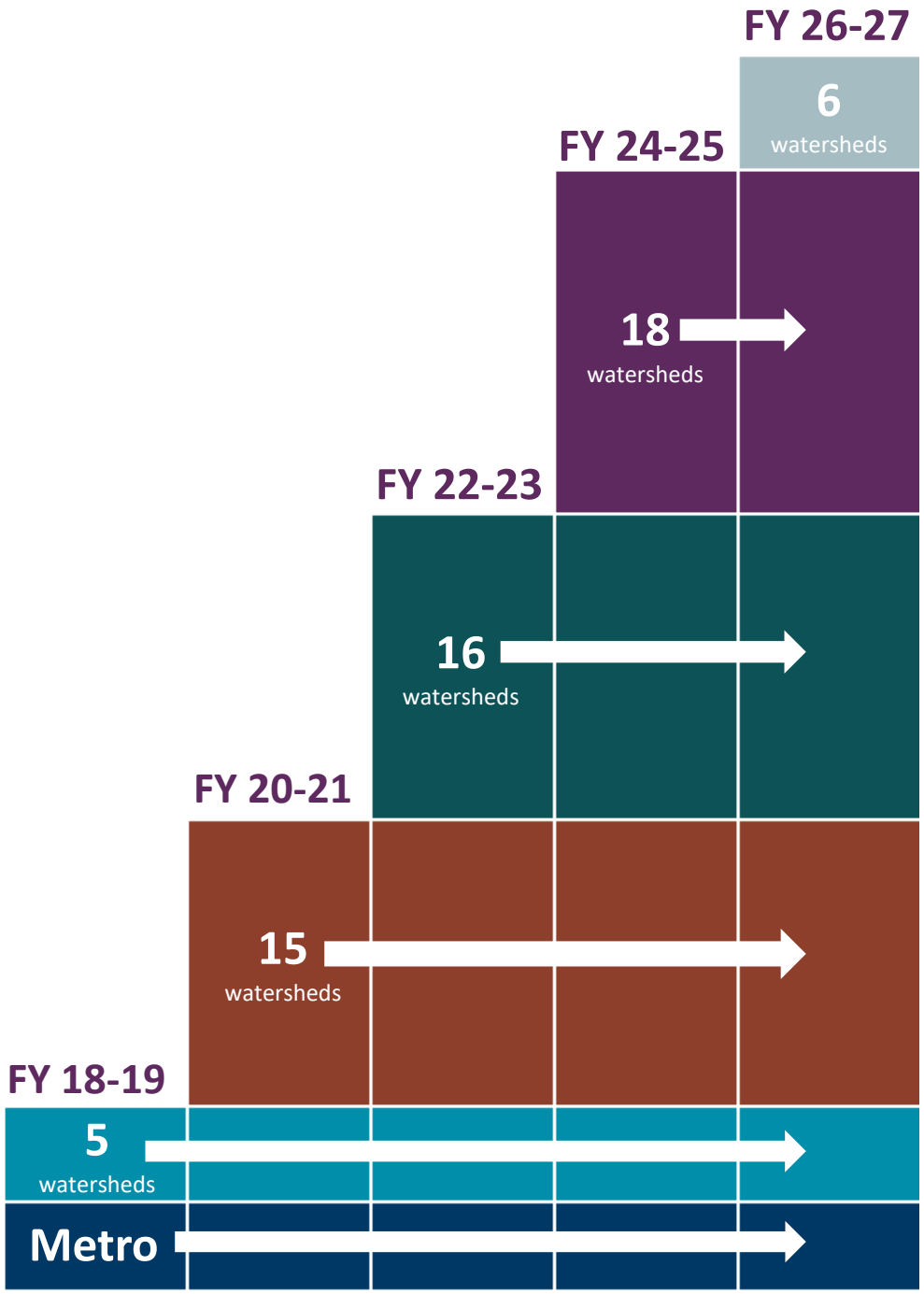
WBIF Assurance Measures

Assurance measures are an articulation of **values** related to WBIF.

1) Goal Progress	• Prioritized, targeted, and measurable work is making progress toward achieving clean water goals
2) Priority Locations	• Programs, projects, and practices are being implemented in priority areas.
3) On Time/Budget	• Grant work is on-schedule and on-budget
4) Leverage	• Leverage of non-state funds

58 Closed WBIF Grants ($28.5M)

Measure	Excellent	Good	Needs Improvement	Fail	N/A
Progress to Goals	88%	13%			0
Project Development in Priority Areas	51%	2%	4%		44%
Outcomes in Priority Areas	91%	7%	2%		
On Time	62%	38%			
On Budget	86%	14%			
Leveraged Funds (10% match is required)	MINIMUM estimate: $22M leveraged				



$ increase	60 + Metro
$79 M	54 + Metro
$41 M	36 + Metro
$24 M	20 + Metro
$9 M	5 + Metro

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Program

	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$9.75M	$26.97M	$43.56M	$79.00M	Increase	$159.28M
FTEs (state agency staff funded)	4.4	5.4	8	4.2*	NA	NA
Dollars passed through to LGUs	$8.7M (89%)	$25.97M (96%)	$42.39M (97%)	$27.03M*	NA	$96.31M*

**To-date, not final*

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding: Cook SWCD

0:01 / 3:26

Scroll for details

Questions?

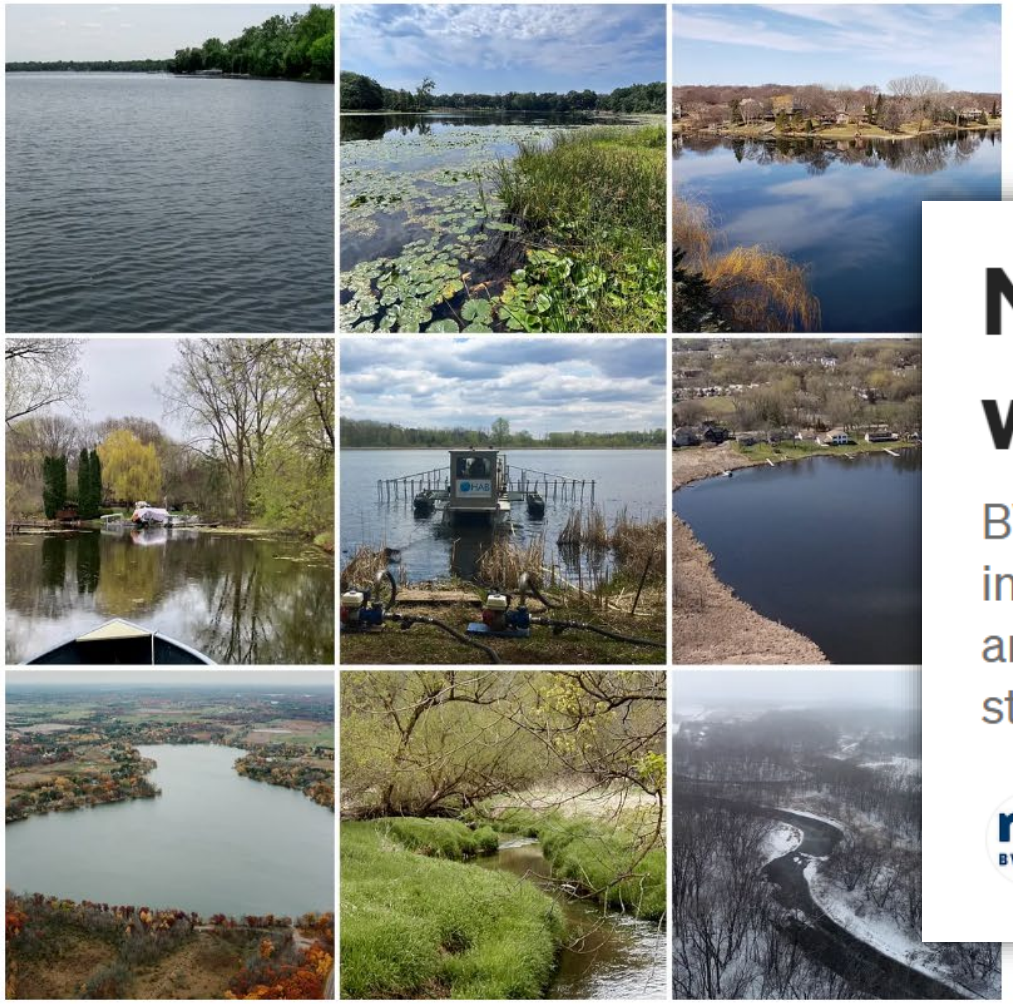
Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants

Annie Felix-Gerth| Clean Water Coordinator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Surface & Drinking Water Grants: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
2 strategies	3 strategies	1 strategy	1 strategy



Minnesota water bodies slated for removal from the impaired waters list in 2024 include seven lakes, one river reach and one stream stretch where water-quality improvements are linked to Clean Water Fund-backed projects. They are, top-bottom, left-right: Bald Eagle Lake, Golden Lake, Fish Lake, Bass Lake, Pomerleau Lake, Kohlman Lake, Bone Lake, Beaver Creek and the North Fork Crow River. **Contributed photos**

Nine delistings tied to conservation work backed by Clean Water Funds

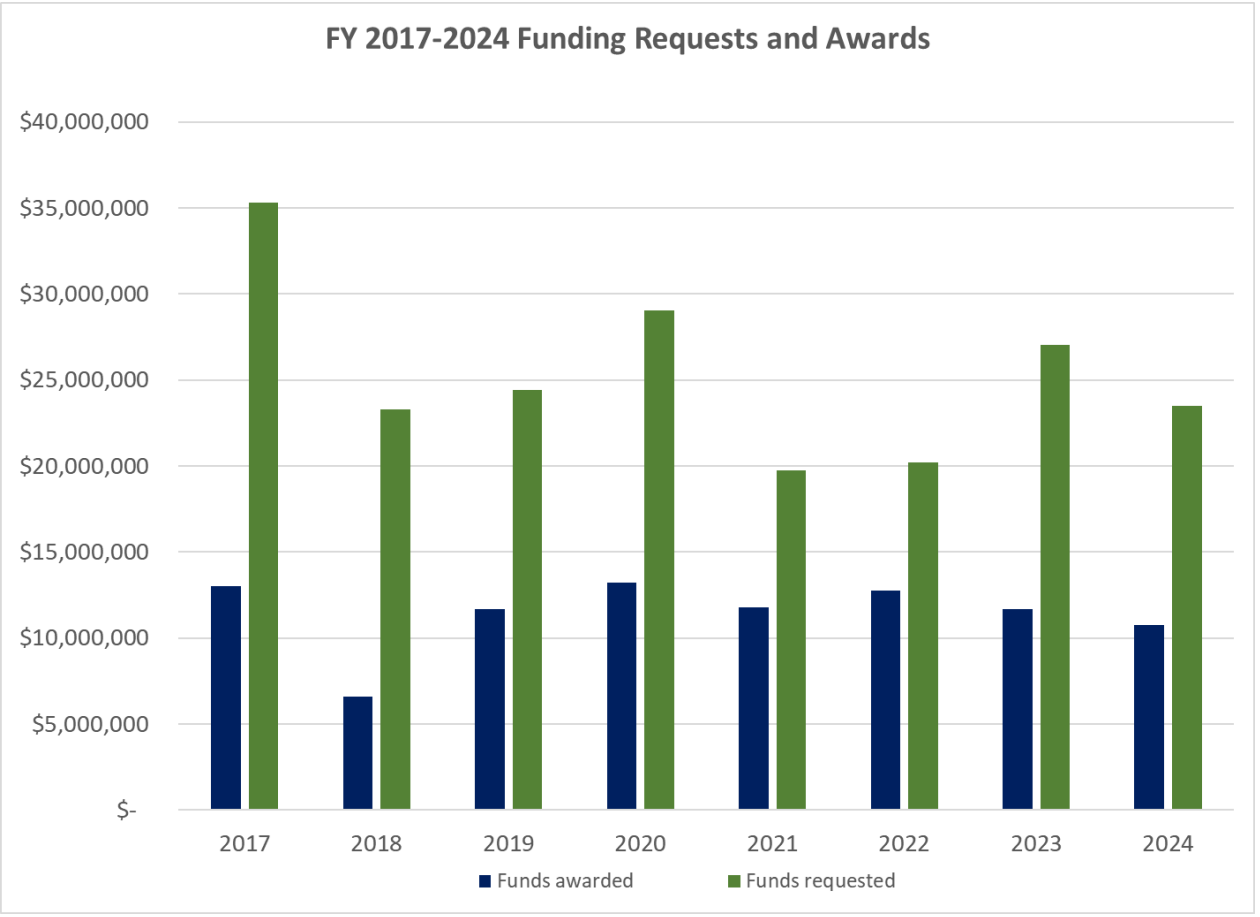
BWSR grants support partners' projects contributing to water-quality improvements in 7 Twin Cities area lakes, 1 Wright County river reach and 1 Winona County stream segment slated for removal from the state's impaired waters list in 2024

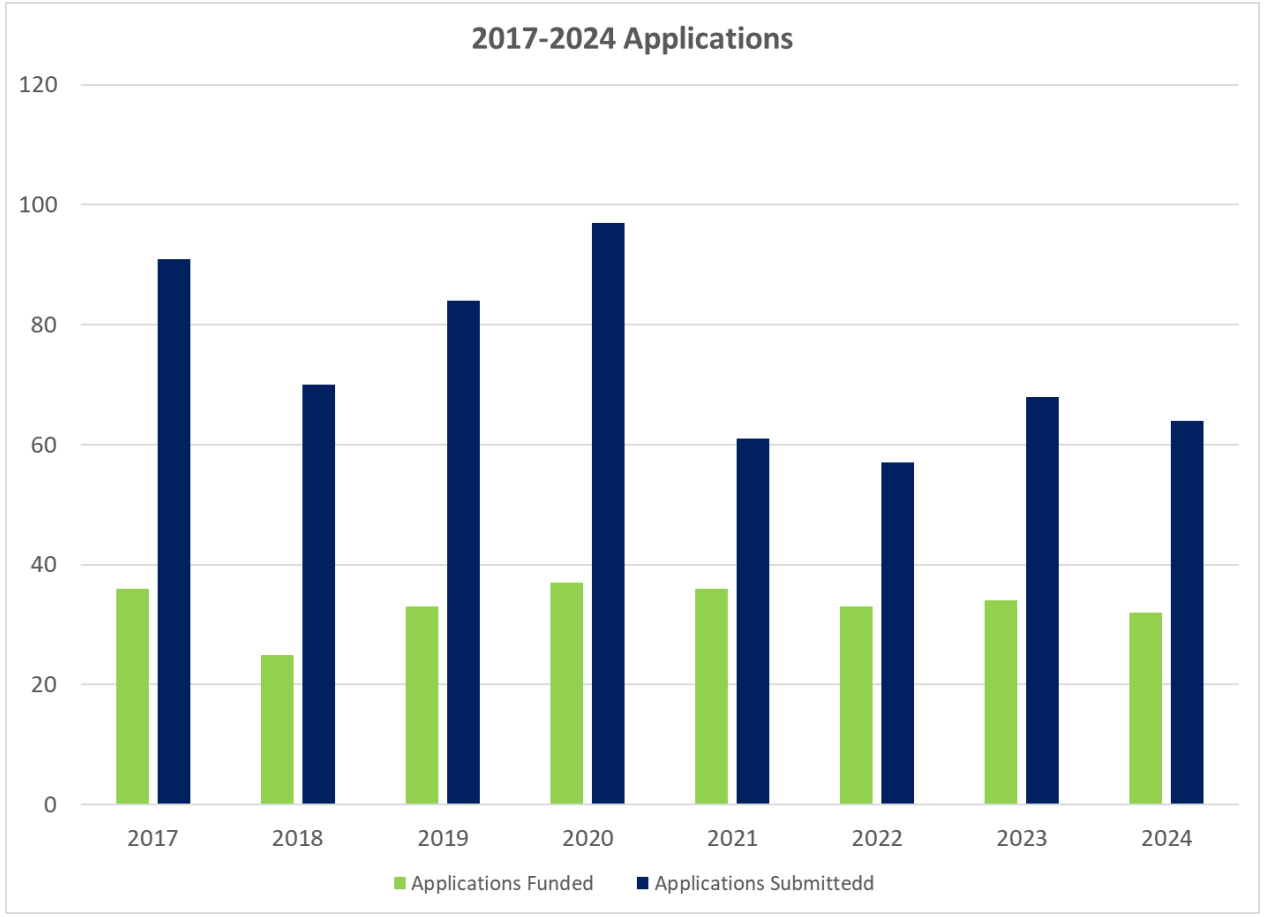
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources · Following
21 min read · 3 days ago

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

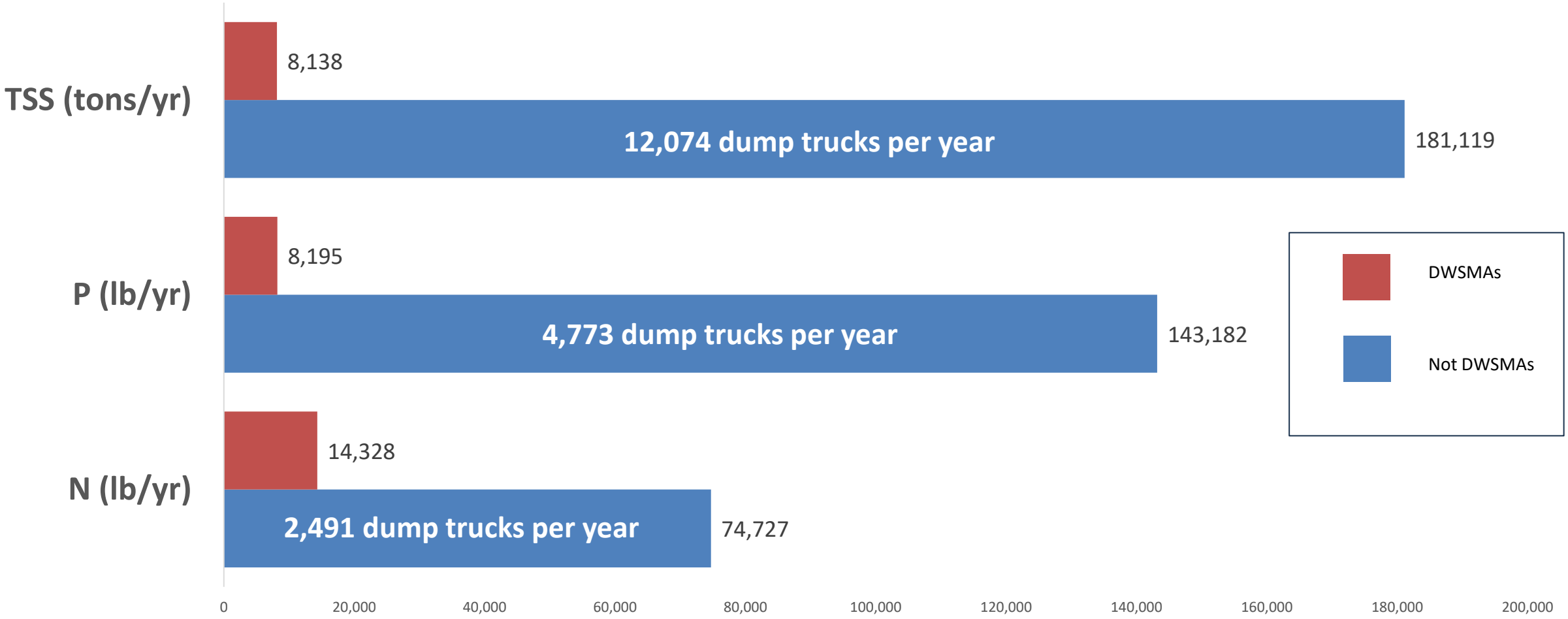
Surface and Drinking Water Protection and Restoration Grants

Projects and Practices

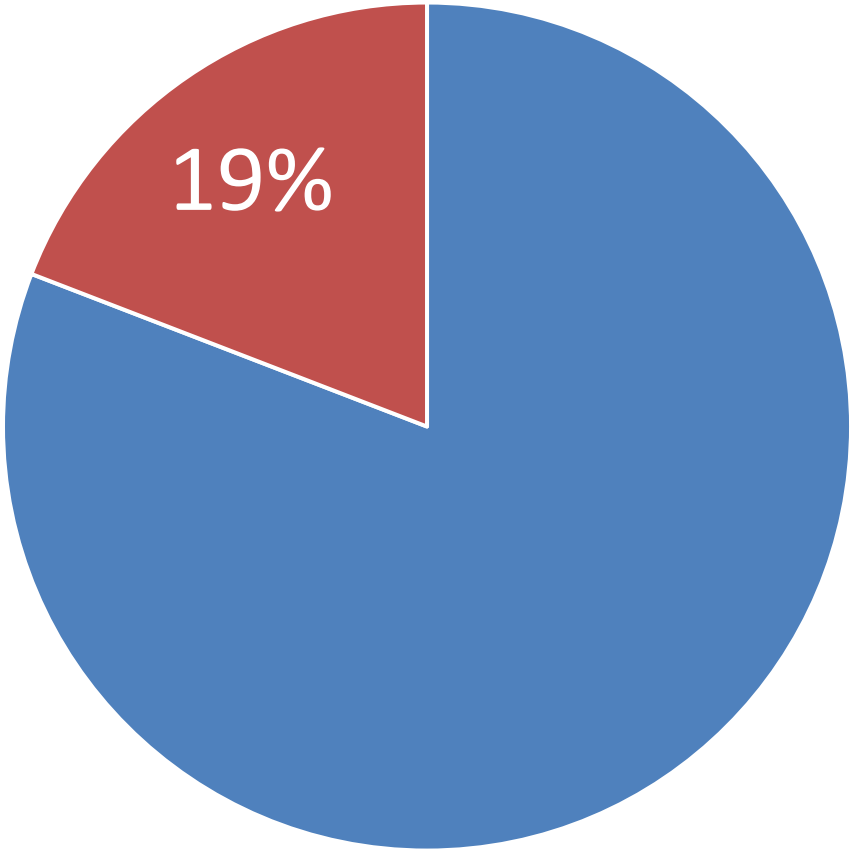




P&P Outcomes: Reductions (2014-2023)



P&P Outcomes: N Reductions in DWSMAs



19% of nitrogen reduction occurred in drinking water supply management areas

Drinking Water sub-grant: Practices 2020-2024

	Award	Count	Unit	Count	Unit
Ag practices	$2,453,475	14,870	acres	56	BMPs
Stormwater practices	$883,100	10	BMPs		
Ag & urban	$483,650	NA			
Well sealing (municipal)	$483,000	5	wells		
Well sealing (private)	$1,201,775	791	wells		
Septic system fixes	$100,000	4	systems		
TOTAL	**$5,605,000**				

Feature: Fish Lake

“Those dollars we got from BWSR were instrumental. Without that money, it would’ve been difficult to do a project of this size.”

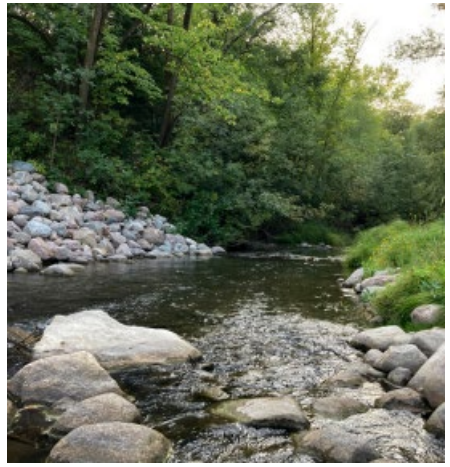
- Brian Vlach, senior water resources manager,

Three Rivers Park District

Feature: Sand Hill River

“That project opened the door for our legislators, our partners, the state. There is some really outstanding work going on up in northwest Minnesota. … The SWCDs up here are fairly small, but the partnerships are huge.”

— Nicole Bernd,
West Polk SWCD manager



Surface and Drinking Water Protection and Restoration Grants

	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$19.5M	$32M	$22.3M	$17M	Same	$90.8M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by CWF)	3.7	11.2	9	15	NA	NA
Dollars Passed Through to LGUs	$17.6M (90%)	$26.0M (81%)	$21.45M (96%)	$6.5*	NA	$71.55M

**To-date, not final*

Questions?

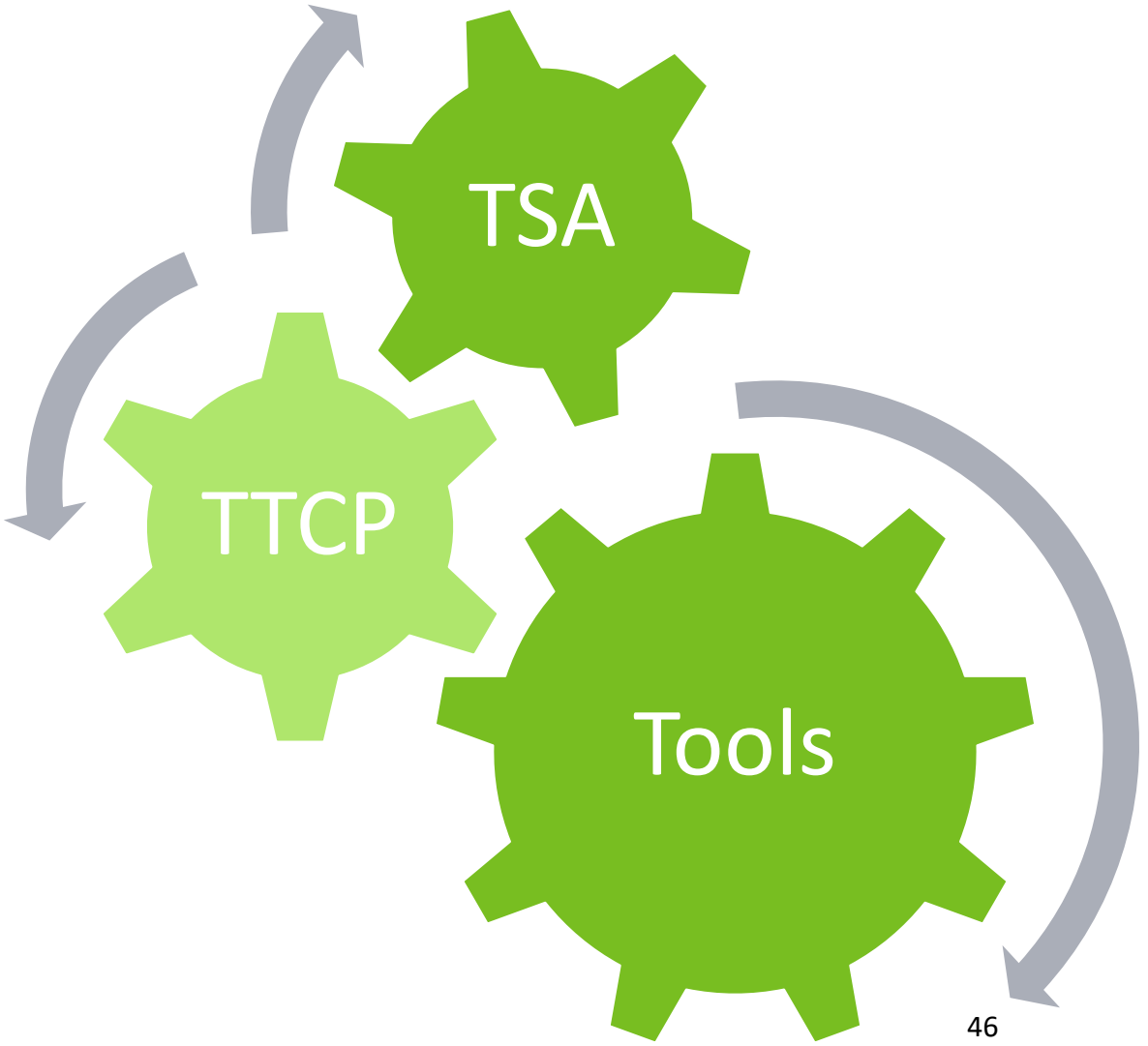
Accelerated Implementation

Annie Felix-Gerth | Clean Water Coordinator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Accelerated Implementation

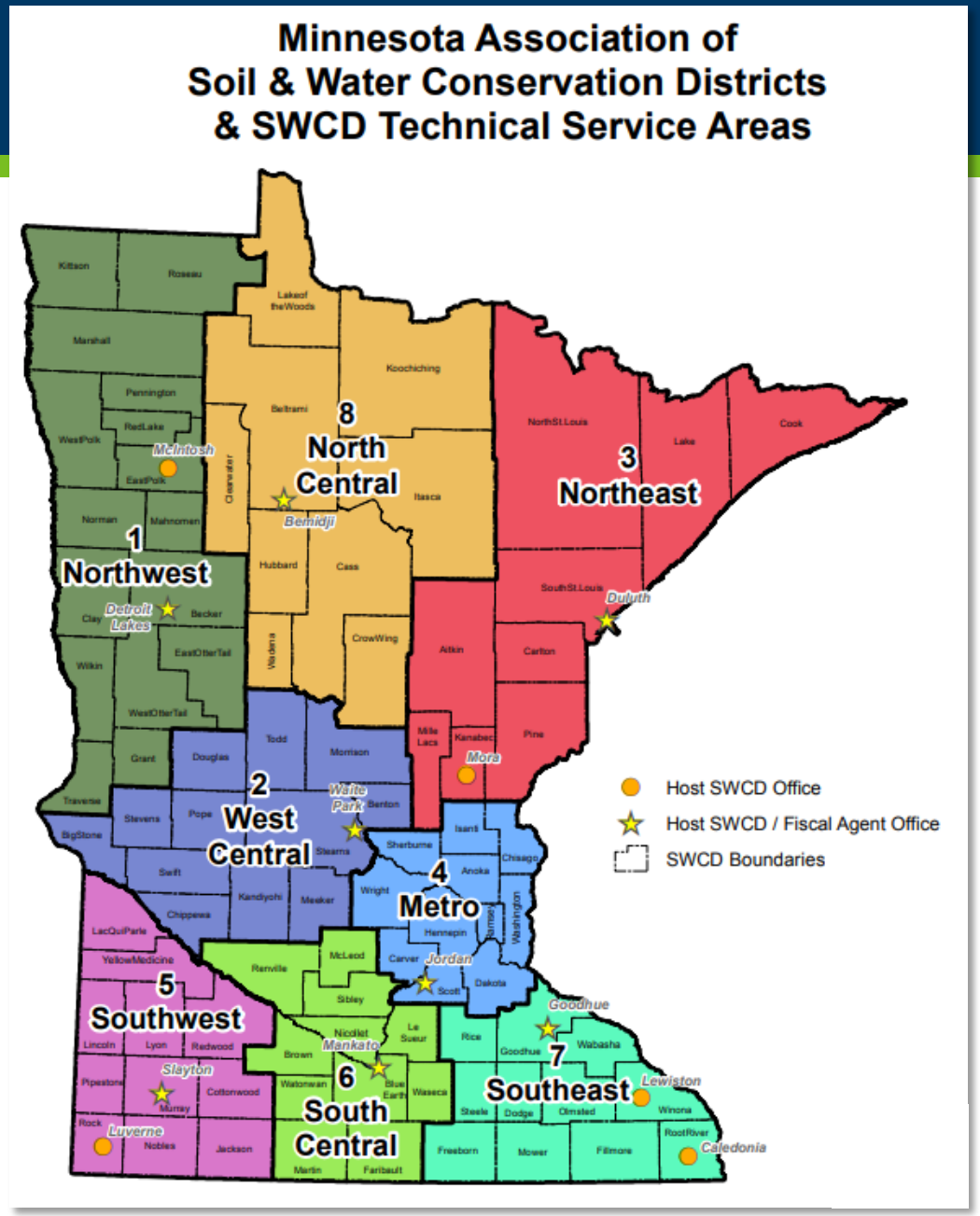
- Engineering and technical assistant through regional technical service areas (TSAs)
- Technical training and certification (TTCP)
- Targeting tools



Accelerated Implementation: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
2 strategies	3 strategies	1 strategy	1 strategy

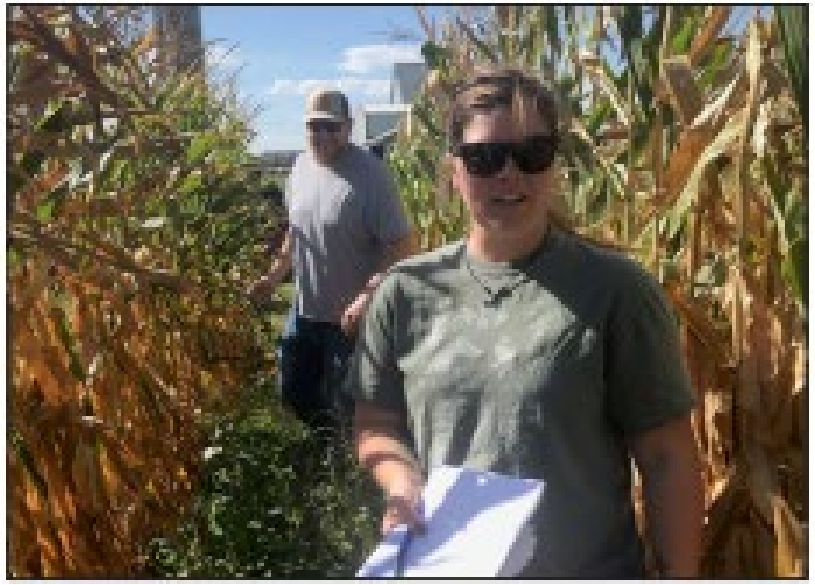
Technical Service Areas (TSAs)



Locally based technical staff:

- Engineering, survey and design
- Regional Specialists (ex. nutrient management planner, GIS, marketing, etc)

SW Prairie TSA (5) – Training Coordinator

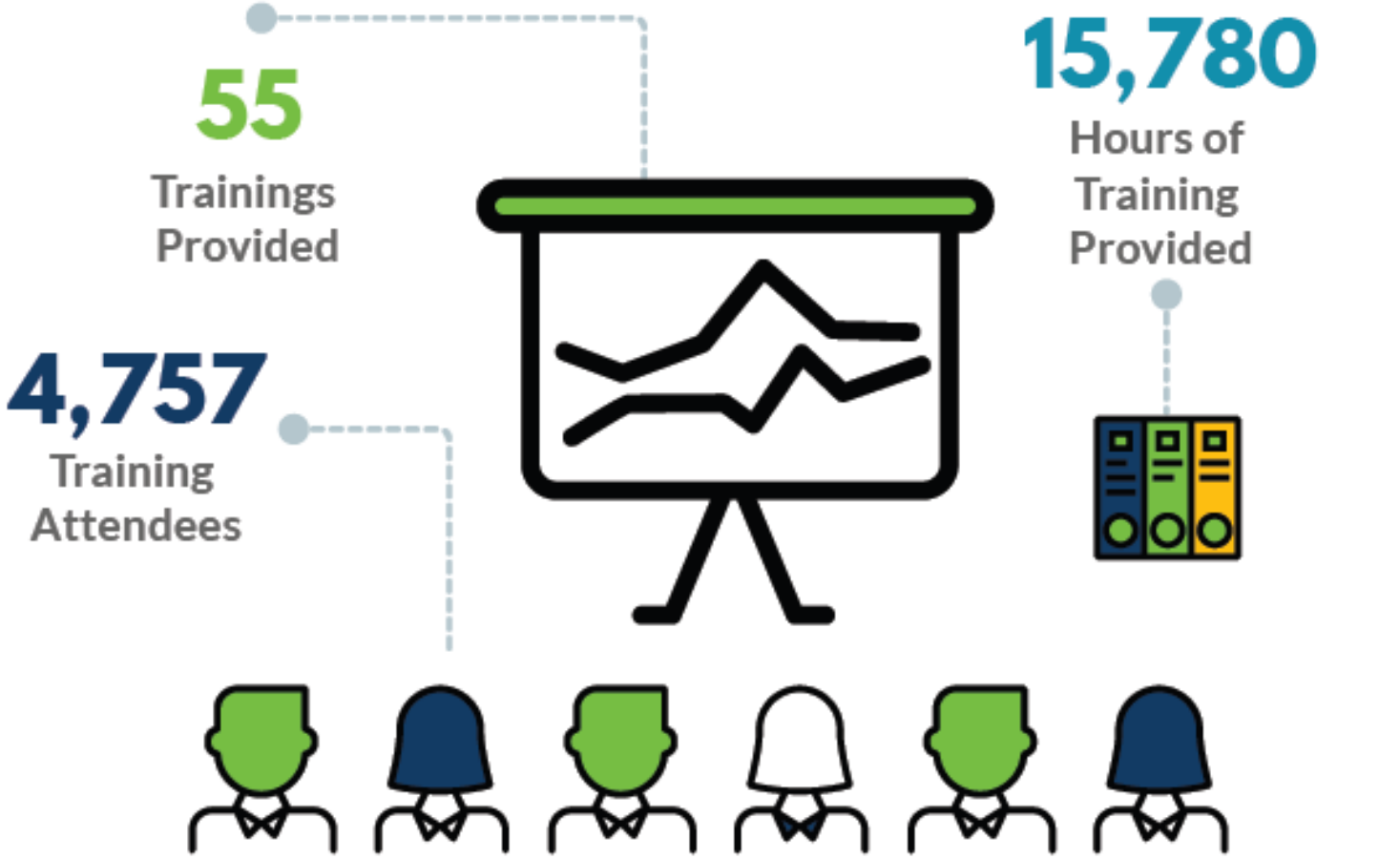


“These jobs are uniquely different. There’s no manual. Every county is different. Everything is new, and (for) a lot of these young people, it’s their first or second job.”

—Dawn Madison, TSA 5 training coordinator

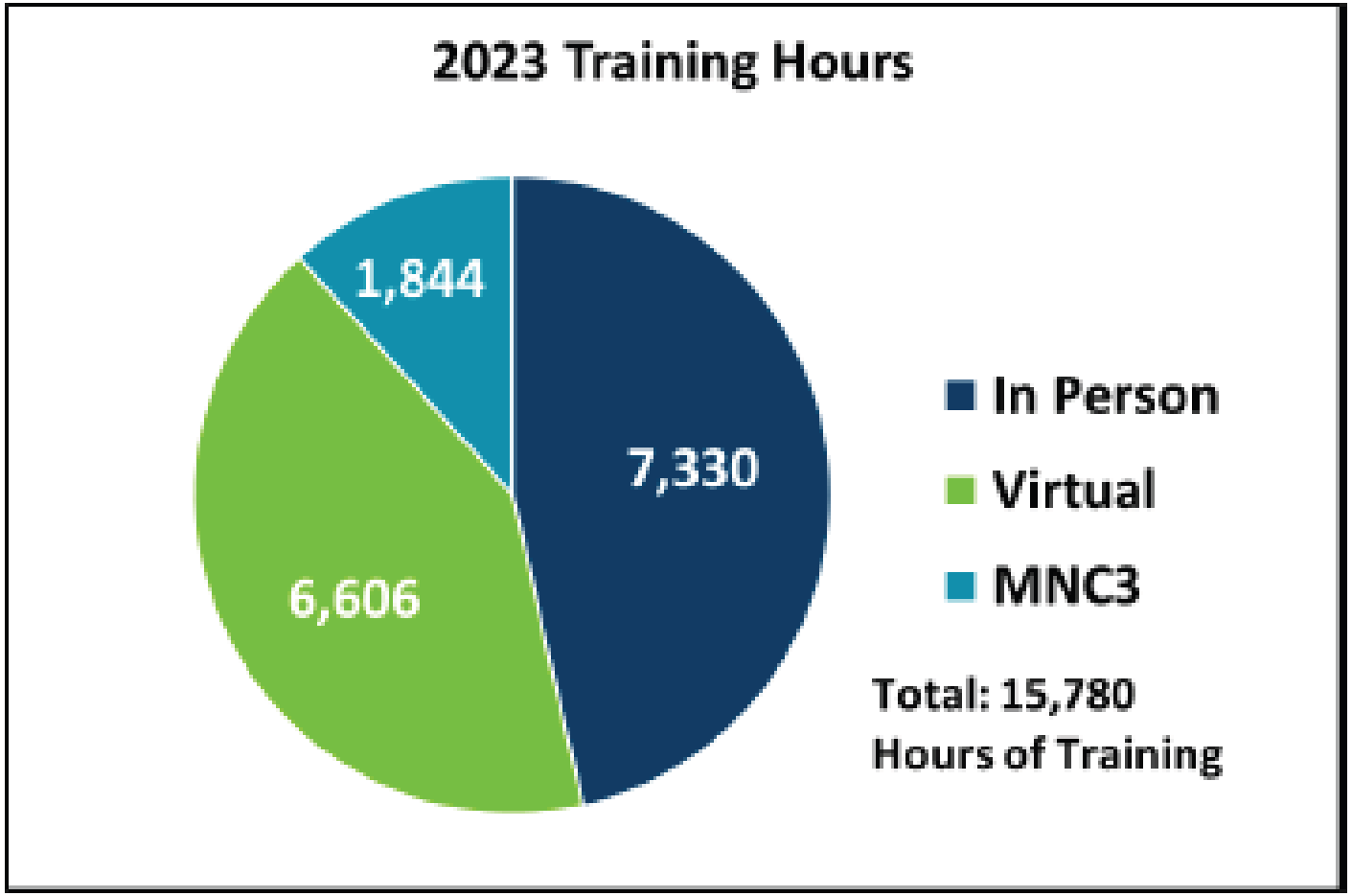
Technical Training and Certification

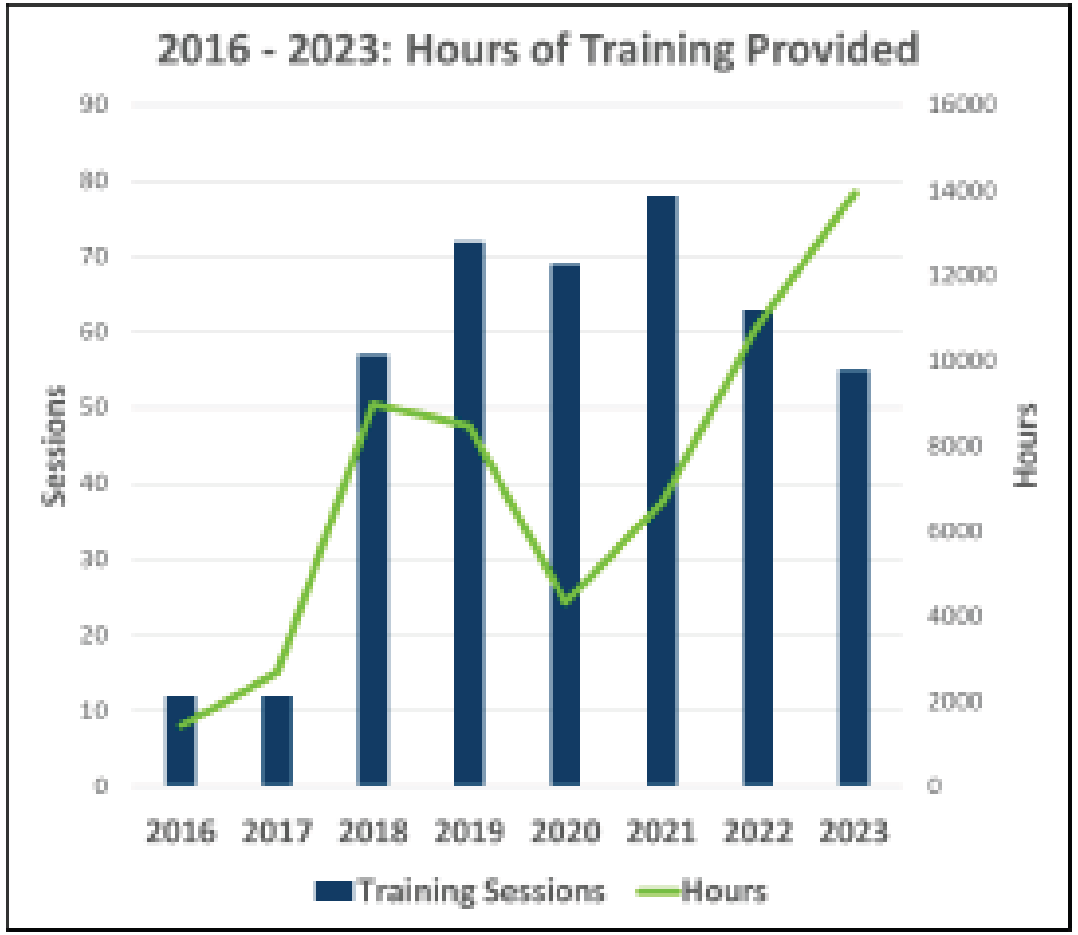
2023 Training Delivery Summary



- 5 full time trainers
- Accelerated Training Grants

Technical Training and Certification





Prioritize, Target, Measure Application (PTMApp) Update

BWSR

MINNESOTA IT SERVICES

HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC.

International Water Institute

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Prioritize, Target, and Measure – PTMApp Tool

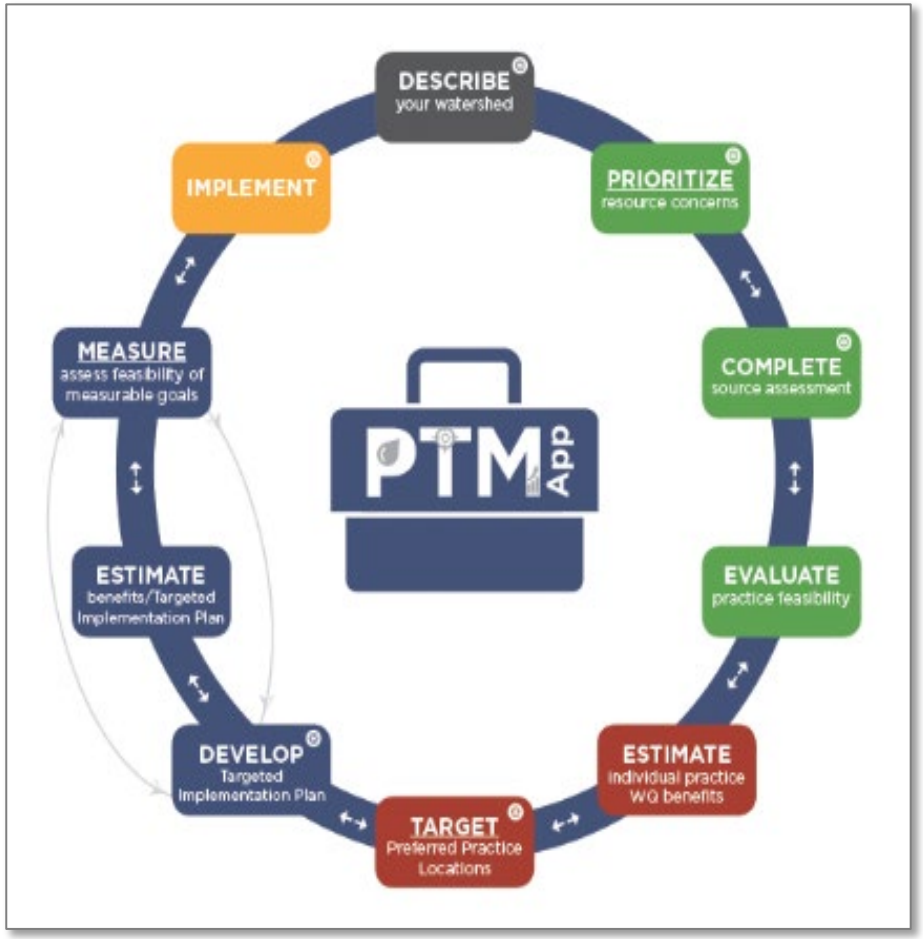
What is it?

- Web application (PTMApp-Web)
- Spatially scalable

What does it do?

- Assesses current phosphorus, sediment & nitrogen loading from the landscape
- Determines locations for potential BMPs
- Provides the water quality benefits & expected cost of potential (or existing) BMPs

Currently providing training & technical support to users & local staff to utilize the capabilities of the Tool



Accelerated Implementation

	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$7.6M	$8M	$9.7M	$11M	Increase	$36.3M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by CWF)	7.4	3	7.4	3.9*	NA	NA
Dollars passed through	$5.2M (68%)	$5.4 M (68%)	$8.9M (92%)	$1.2M*	NA	$20.7M

**To-date, not final*

Questions?

Conservation Drainage Management Grants and Assistance

Tom Gile| Resource Conservation Section Manager

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

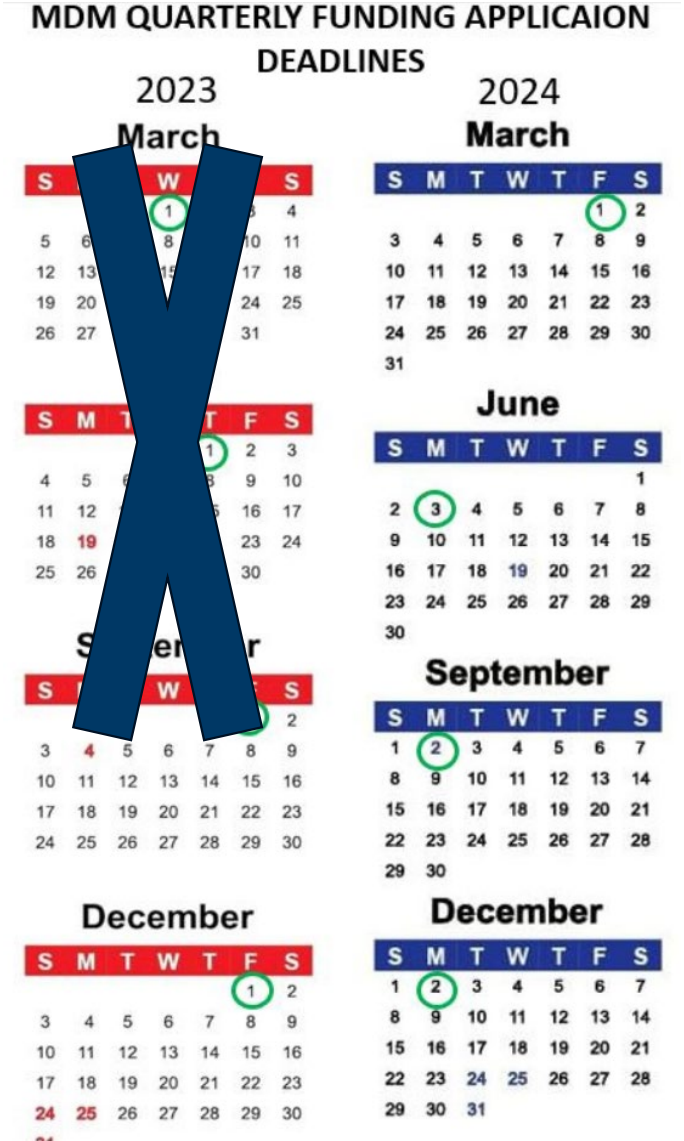
[EDIT] Conservation Drainage Management Grants and Assistance

- Targets priority drainage systems that are impacting water quality
- Grant program directed at Drainage Authorities
- Encourages partnerships between the Drainage Authorities and Soil and Water Conservations Districts
- Can be an “external source” of funding for water quality improvements
- FY 2024 Grants Adjusted to quarterly batching to better align with 103E administrative processes and timelines.

New MDM Batching Process

- RFP Opened on November 1, 2024 for $950K
- Dec 23 Batching Period Funded 1 application for $215K
- March 24 Batching Period is being Ranked
  - 6 applications for approximately $1.65M
- FY 2025 Funds available under the Quarterly Batching starting July 1, 2024

Multi-Purpose Drainage Management (Feedback)



Available Funding for MDM Projects:

$950,000

(As of 11/01/2023)

Received Application Funding (Pending From Recent Batching Period):

$0

If the total cost of your project exceeds the available funding listed above, fill out the survey below:

SURVEY FOR POTENTIAL PROJECTS COMING SOON

Conservation Drainage Management Grants & Assistance

Water-quality goals drive city, McLeod SWCD collaboration

"Projects like this just don't happen without collaboration, and we have a really strong group working on all the projects as part of this process," said Coleton Draeger, McLeod SWCD resource conservationist.

Draeger

Together, the multipurpose drainage management grant backed projects are estimated to reduce sediment-loading by 228 tons, phosphorus-loading by 255 pounds and nitrates by 91 pounds annually.

- grade stabilization structures
- side inlets
- water and sediment control basins
- constructed wetland

Conservation Drainage: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
0 strategies	0 strategies	3 strategies	0 strategies

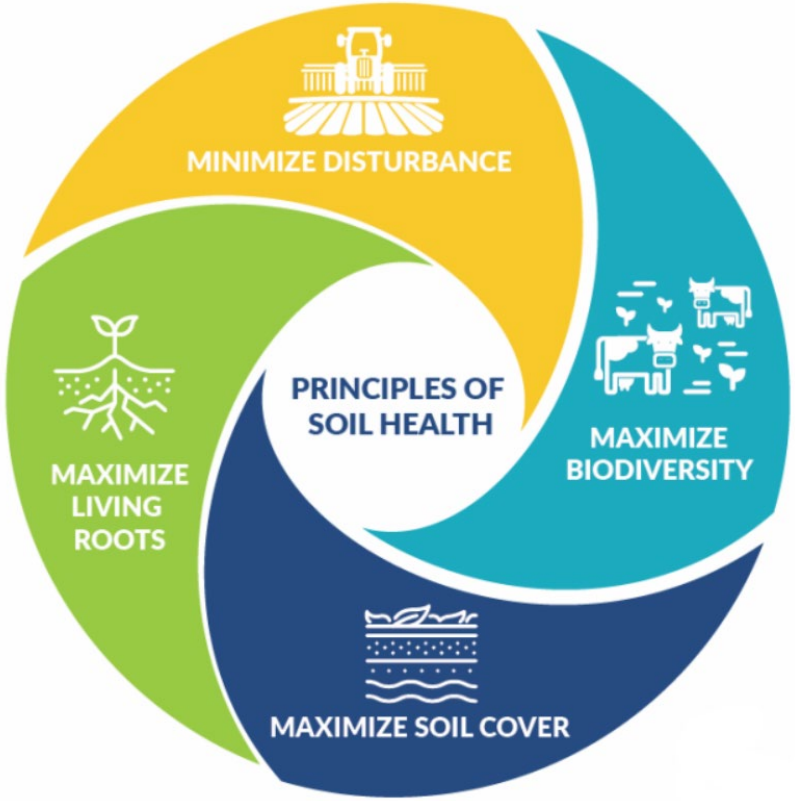
**To-date, not final*

Conservation Drainage Management Grants and Assistance

	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$1.5M	$1.7M	$1.7M	$2M	Increase	$6.9M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by Clean Water Funds)	1.2	0.3	0.2	0*	NA	NA
Dollars Passed Through to LGUs	$.61M (82%)	$1.28M (75%)	$1.55M (91%)	$215,000* (1%)	NA	$3.65M

**To-date, not final*

Questions?



Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices

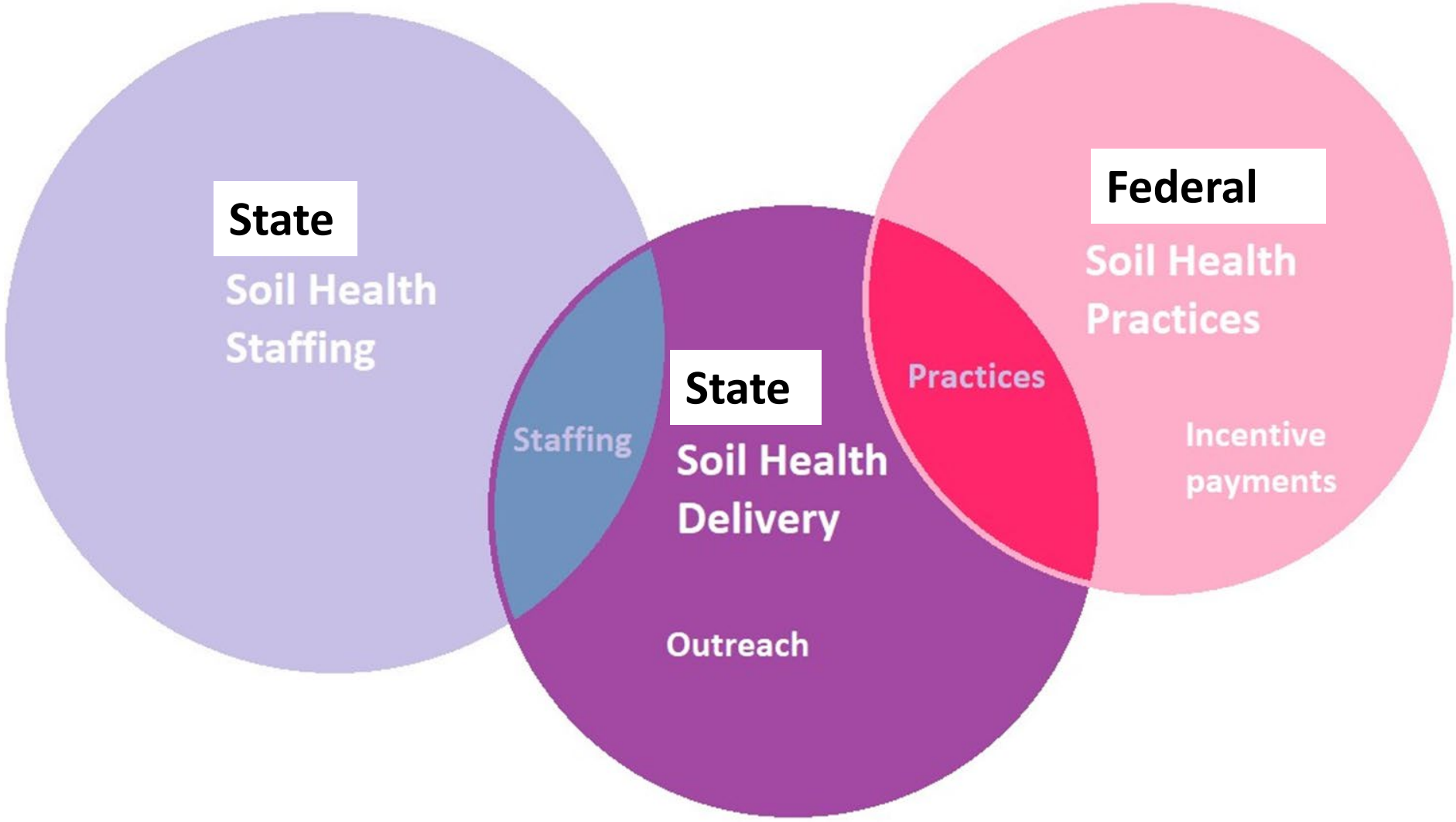
Tom Gile| Resource Conservation Section Manager

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices

- Targets activities to support inclusion of soil health practices and systems to advance the principles of soil health.
- Programing directed primarily through SWCDs with emphasis on growing or expanding partnerships
- Support adoption of Soil Health practices and systems beyond just those under contract.
- FY 24/25 State General Fund $21.1M
- FY 24/25 $25M Federal funding leveraged (Regional Conservation Partnership Program)

How Funding Fits Together



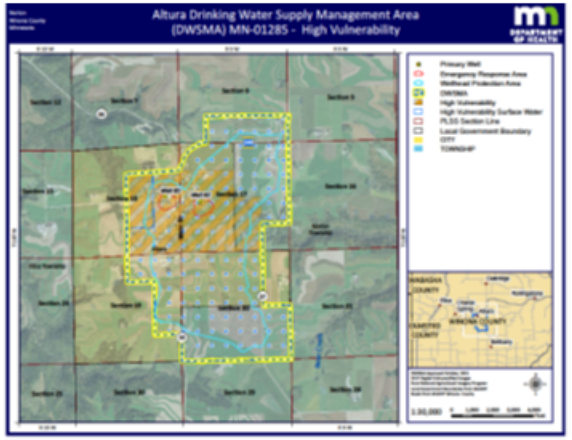
Priorities & Opportunities

CEDAR RIVER
1 Watershed, 1 Plan Initiative

Soil Health - Drinking Water Priorities

Public Water Supplies - Groundwater

- High Vulnerable (HV) DWSMA's *(Drinking Water Supply Management Areas)*
- HV DWSMAs that are in MDA Level 1 or 2 Mitigation DWSMAs. www.mda.state.mn.us/nfr



MDH Map Viewer of all SWP Areas both groundwater and surface water:

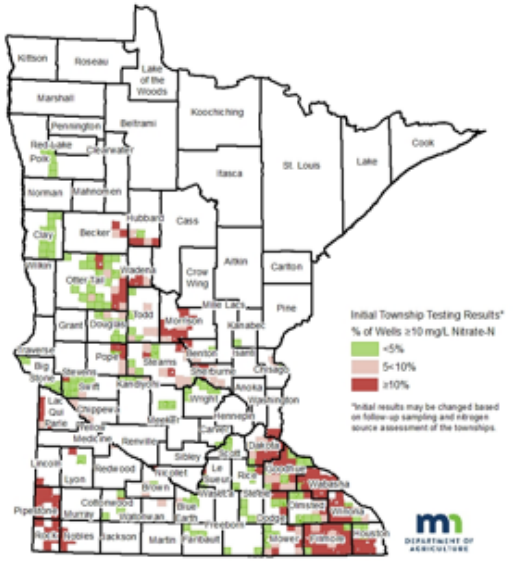
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/swp/mapviewer.html

Soil Health - Drinking Water Priorities

Groundwater – Private Wells

- Where? Vulnerable Aquifers / drinking water sources:
  - Central Sands -
  - Karst –
  - Outwash –
- MDA Township Testing Areas:

MDA Township Testing : https://www.mda.state.mn.us/township-testing-program



12/12/2023 health.state.mn.us 3

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
Driven to Discover®

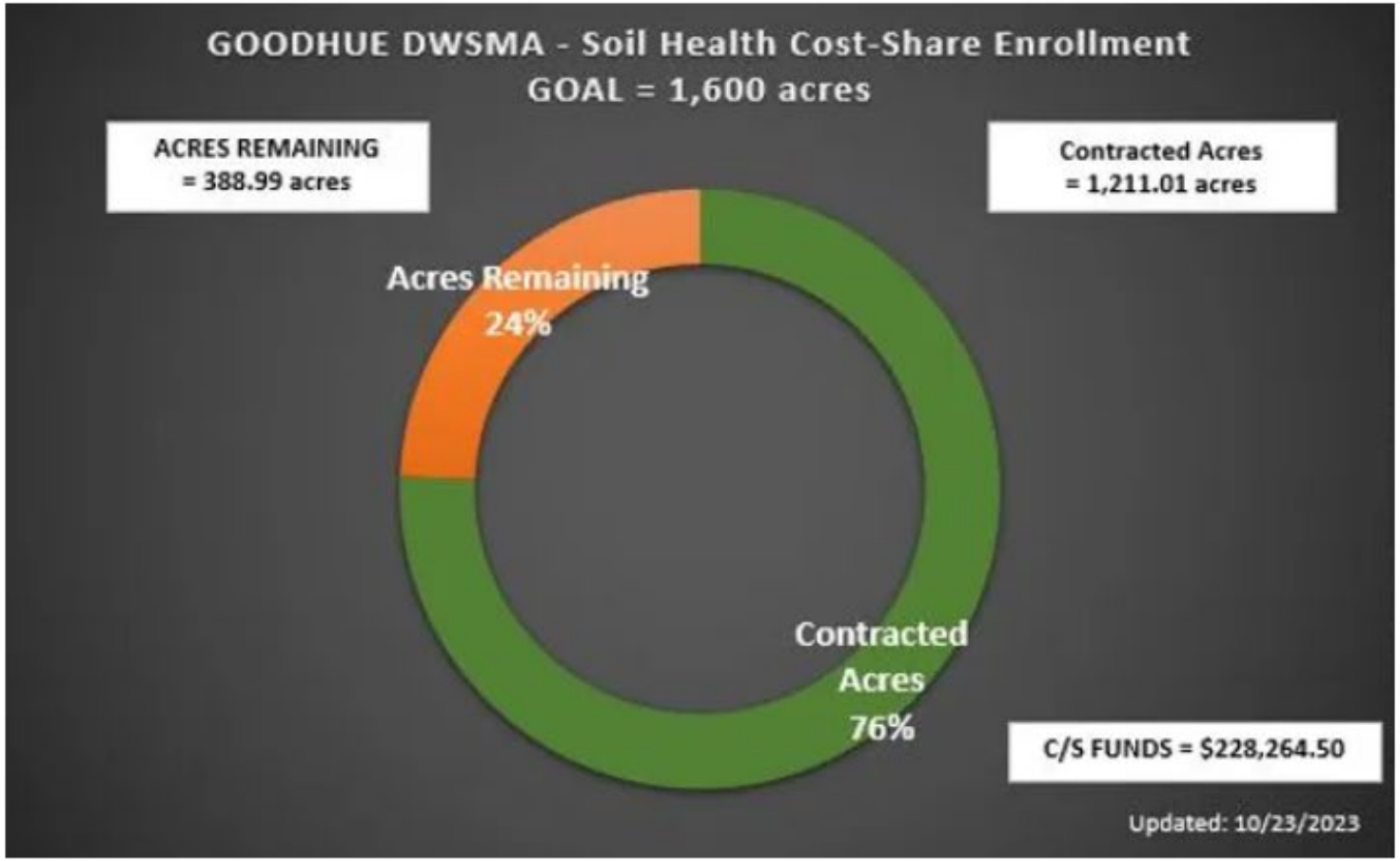
Minnesota Office for Soil Health - MOSH

Highlighting Goodhue SWCD

How's the Project Coming along?????

Since March of 2023, landowners in the DWSMA of Goodhue have taken massive efforts to improve the soil health and reduce nitrogen leaching to the groundwater. They have enrolled over 1000 acre into soil health programs as seen below.

Use the map to simply zoom into fields in the DWSMA to see what landowners are implementing to do their part in reducing the Nitrate levels in the City's drinking water supply



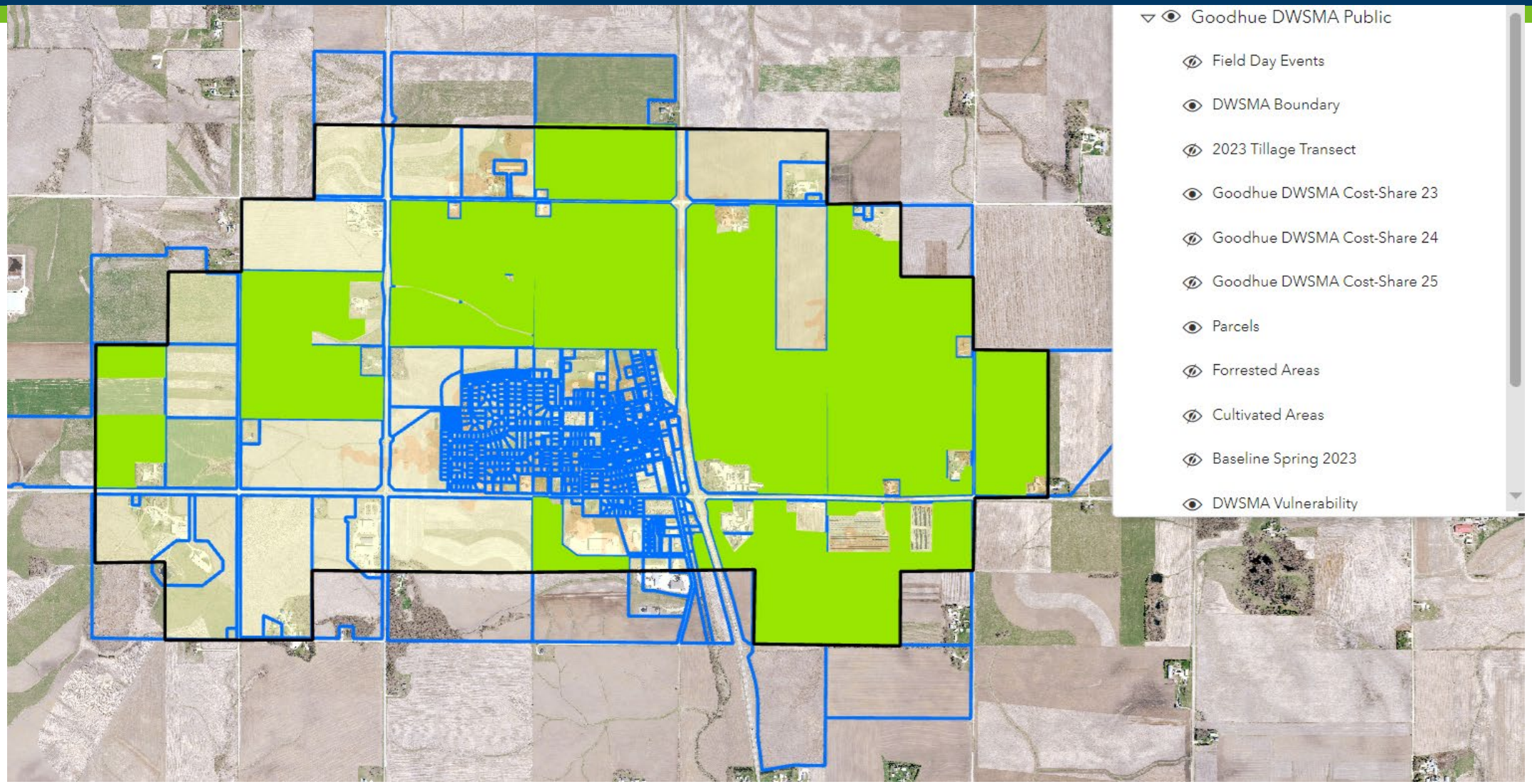
[Goodhue Drinking Water Becoming a Concern (goodhueswcd.org)]

Zumbro River Cover Crop Promotions

[V2_MN_Faribault Owatonna_Goodhue SWCD_30Sec_1920x1080_68333 (vimeo.com)]

[V2_MN_Faribault Owatonna_Goodhue SWCD_30Sec_1920x1080_53868 (vimeo.com)]

Highlighting Goodhue SWCD



[Goodhue Drinking Water Becoming a Concern (goodhueswcd.org)]

Soil Health: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
1 strategy	1 strategy	3 strategies	0 strategies

Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices

	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$0	$0	$4M	$12.1M	Increase	$16.1M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by Clean Water Funds)			0.8	0*	NA	NA
Dollars Passed Through to LGUs	N/A	N/A	$2.86M* (72%)	$450,000*	NA	$3.31M (60%)

**To-date, not final*

Questions?

Clean Water Legacy Partners Program

Annie Felix-Gerth| Clean Water Coordinator

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Clean Water Legacy Partners

	FY22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$1M	$1M	Increase	$2M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by CWF)	0.3	0	NA	NA
Dollars Passed Through	$1M	$0	NA	$1M

Note: appropriation began in FY22-23

**To-date, not final*

Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant

- 1 RFP issued to date (Nov 2022 – Feb 2023) for $1M
- Received 22 applications (19 NGOs & 3 Tribal Gov’ts)
- Total requested $3,296,767
- Awarded 7 grants = $1,056,374
  (Grazing & access, shoreline restoration, streambank restoration, cover crops, winter lake clean up, connecting youth to water through art, lake feasibility study)

Feature: Upper Red Lake Association

Keep It Clean Partnership

Grant: $92,600

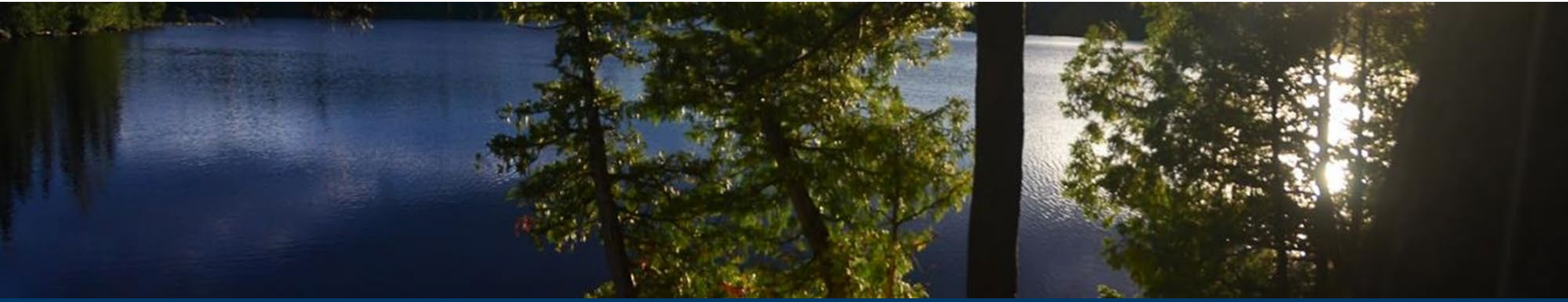
Proposed outcomes:

- 4 human waste collection sites
- 2 resort workshops
- Keep It Clean targeted outreach
- signage and social media campaign resulting in 300,000 impressions (views)
- complete a shoreline cleanup

Clean Water Legacy Partners Grants: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
2 strategies	3 strategies	1 strategy	1 strategy

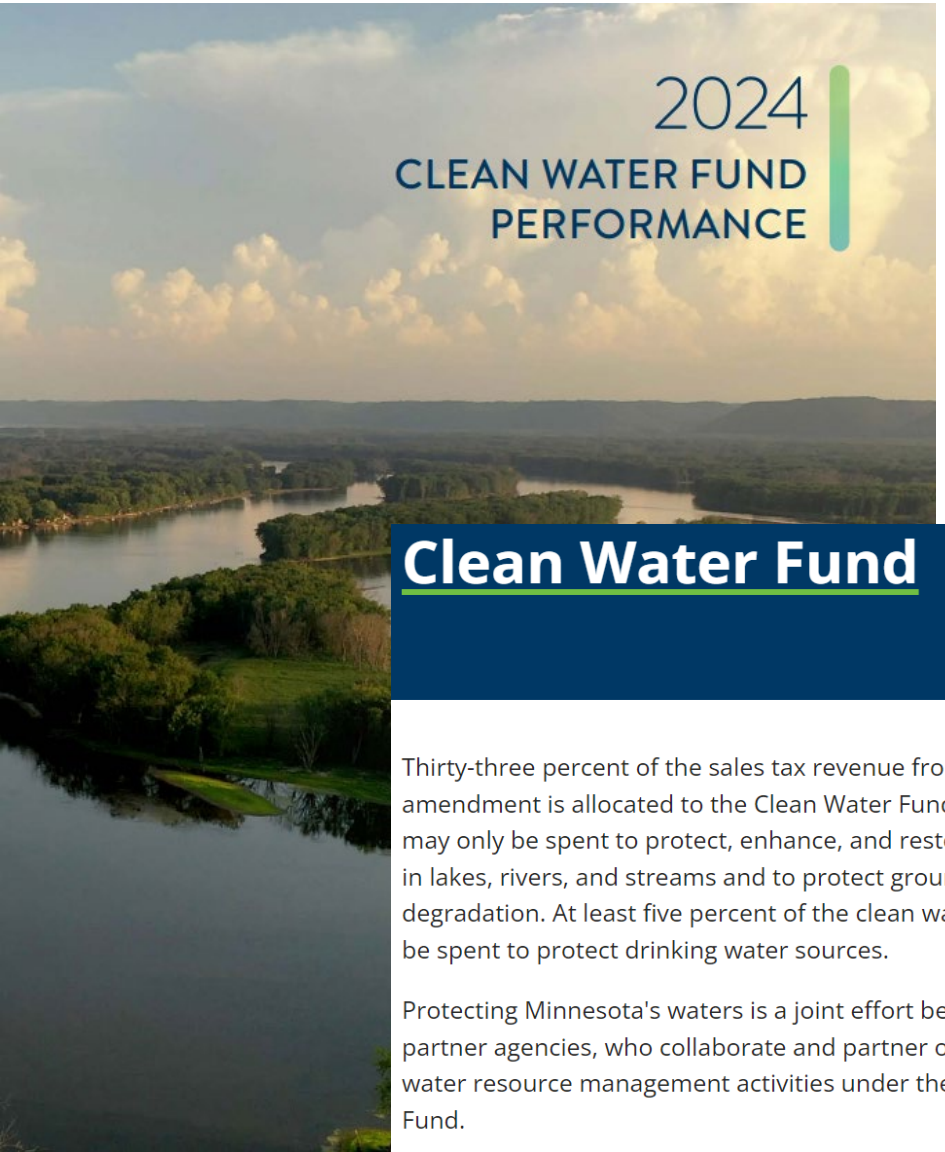
Questions?



Measures, Results, and Accountability

Annie Felix-Gerth| BWSR Clean Water Fund Coordinator

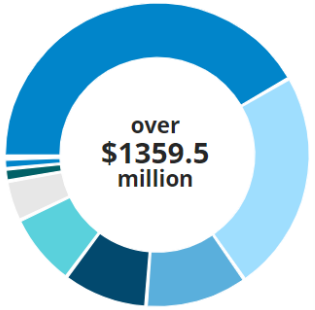
Measures, Results and Accountability: Reports



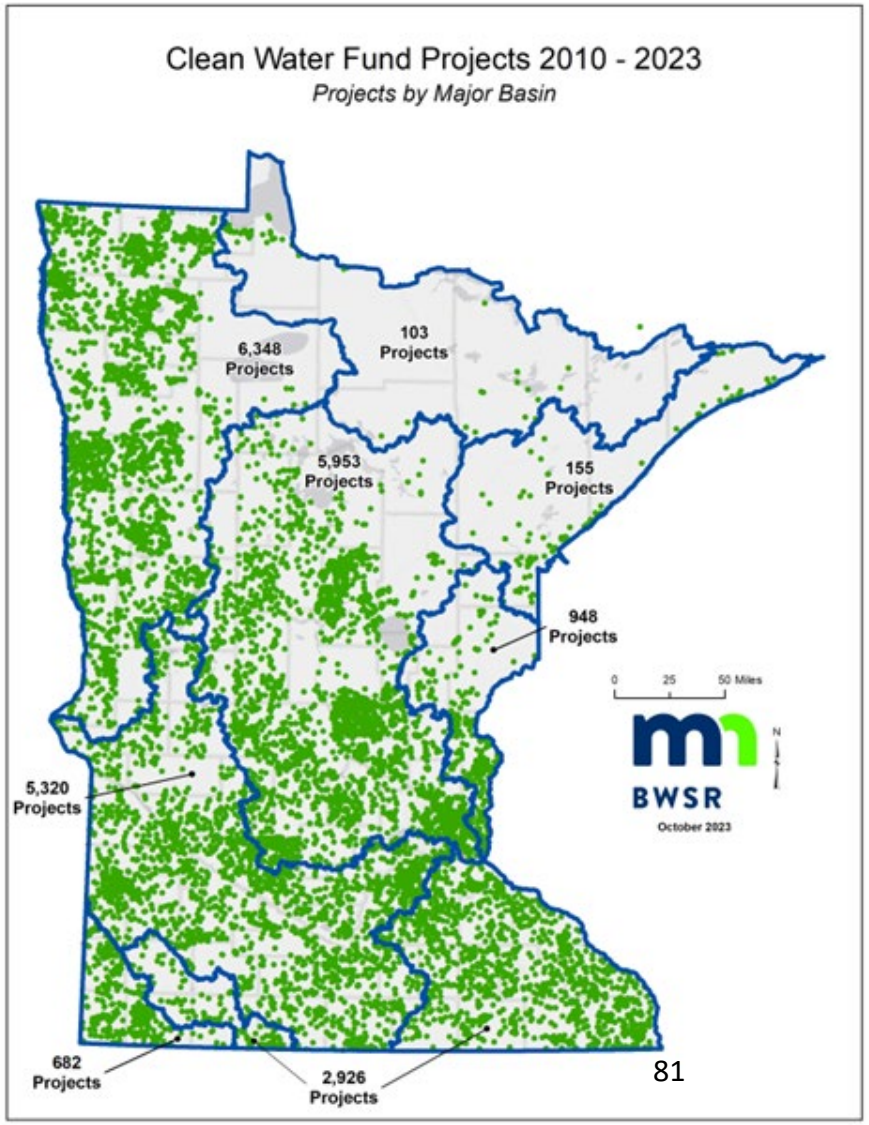
Clean Water Fund

Thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Legacy amendment is allocated to the Clean Water Fund. Those funds may only be spent to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation. At least five percent of the clean water fund must be spent to protect drinking water sources.

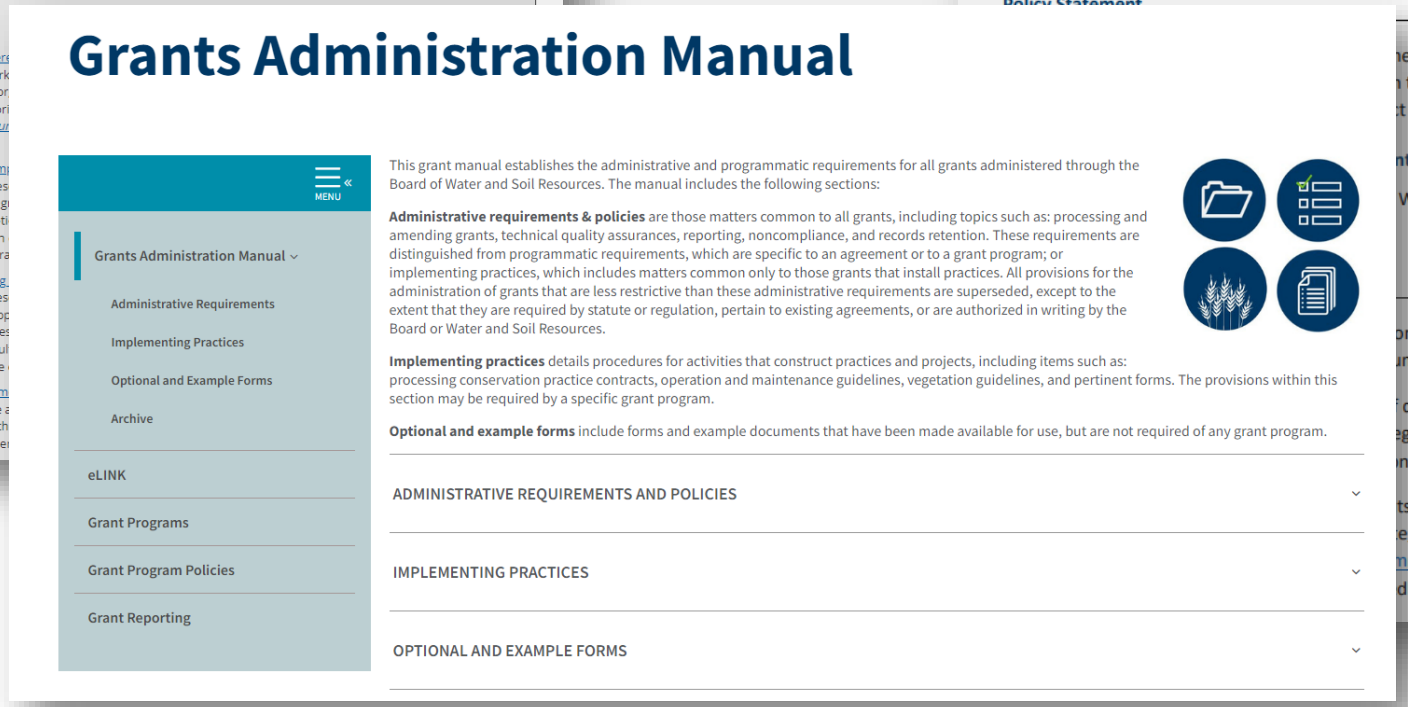
Protecting Minnesota's waters is a joint effort between seven partner agencies, who collaborate and partner on Minnesota's water resource management activities under the Clean Water Fund.



Clean Water Legacy Appropriations from All (2010-Present)



Measures, Results and Accountability: Grants Oversight



Measures, Results & Accountability: CWC Strategic Plan

Groundwater	Drinking Water	Surface Water	Value Water
0 strategies	0 strategies	0 strategies	1 strategy

Measures, Results and Accountability

	FY18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY24-25	FY26-27	Total
Clean Water Funds	$1.9M	$2.0M	$2.7M	$2.5M	Same	$13.09M
FTEs (state agency staff funded by CWF)	9.8	9.8	8.2	5.7	NA	NA
Dollars Passed Through	0	0	0	0	NA	0

**To-date, not final*

Questions?

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program

Judy Sventek | Water Resources Manager

Metropolitan Council

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program

Clean Water Council Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota

Clean Water Council Groundwater Goal #2:

- Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoids adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use.

Clean Water Council Groundwater Strategy 3 under Goal#2:

- Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use and the action associated with this strategy to implement water efficiency BMPs, was use reduction, and irrigation water management in areas of high water use…

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program (1 of 2)

Grants to assist metro municipalities to implement water demand reduction and water efficiency measures:

- Ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies mainly groundwater
- Support resiliency of water suppliers

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program (2 of 2)

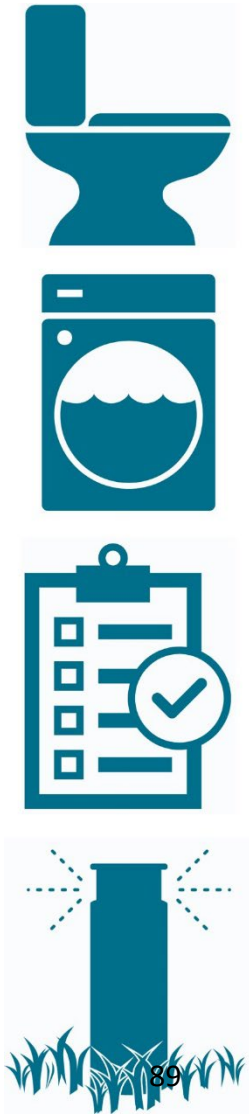
Grants range from $5,000 to $50,000

Cost share grants

- Met Council 80%; municipality 20%
- Grant does not pay full cost of the water efficient product

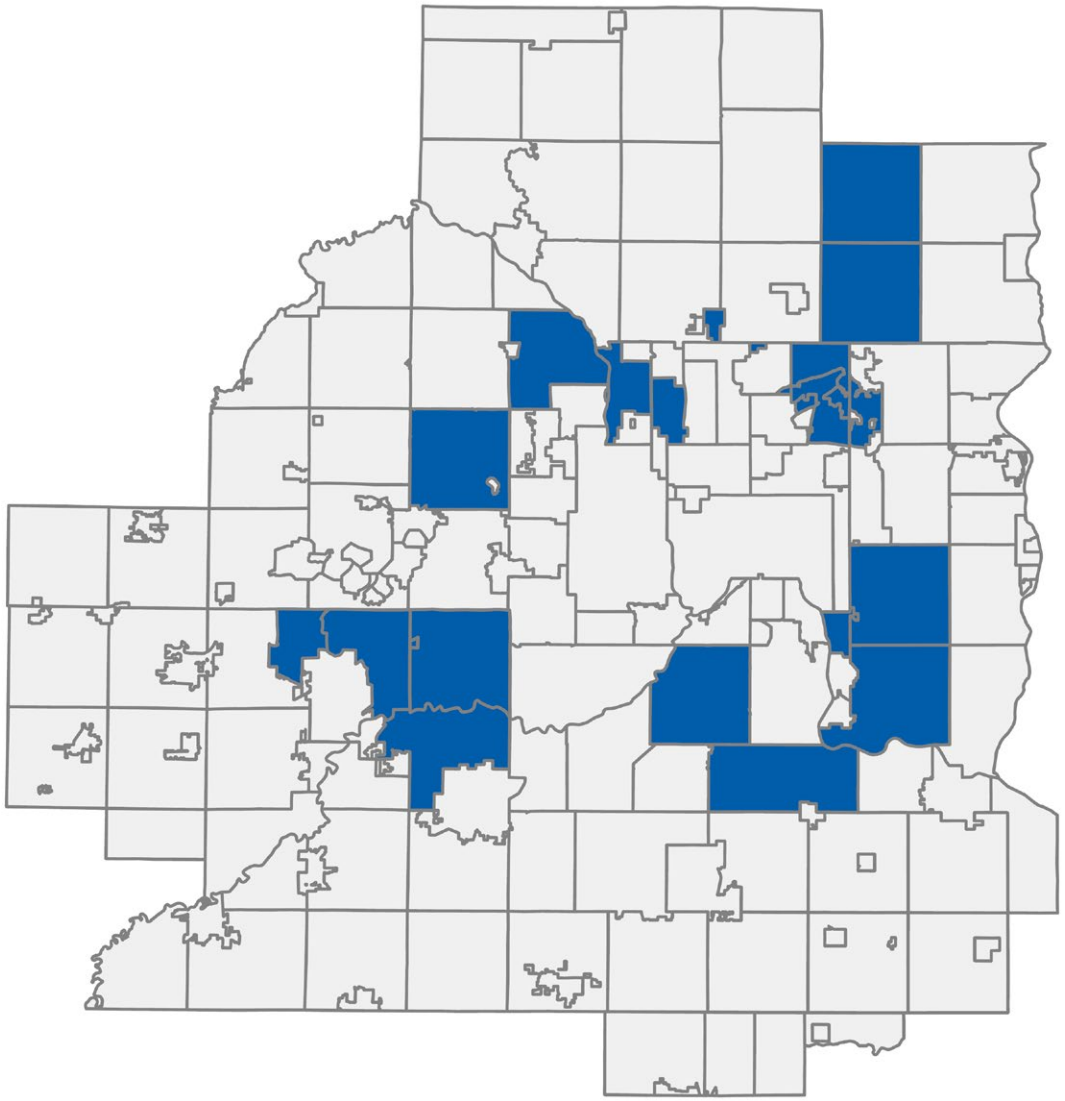
Eligible water efficient items

- US EPA WaterSense-labeled **toilets**
- US EPA WaterSense-labeled **smart irrigation controllers**
- US EPA WaterSense-labeled **spray sprinkler bodies**
- US EPA WaterSense-labeled **showerheads**
- **Irrigation system audit** by an Irrigation Professional certified by a US EPA WaterSense program
- US DOE Energy Star-labeled **washing machines**
- US DOE Energy Star-labeled **dishwashers**



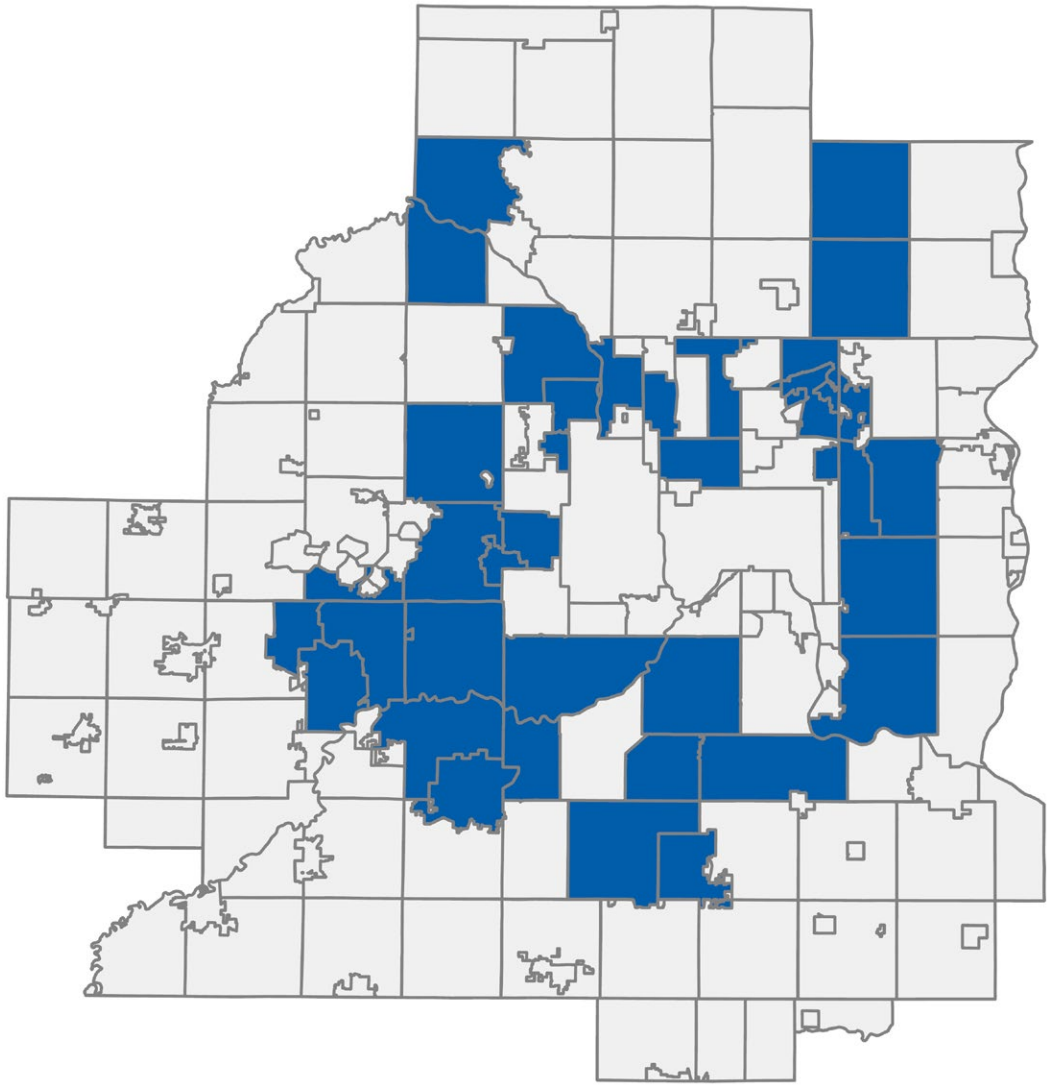
Grant Program History: 2015 - 2017

- **$500,000 appropriation**
- **19 participating communities**



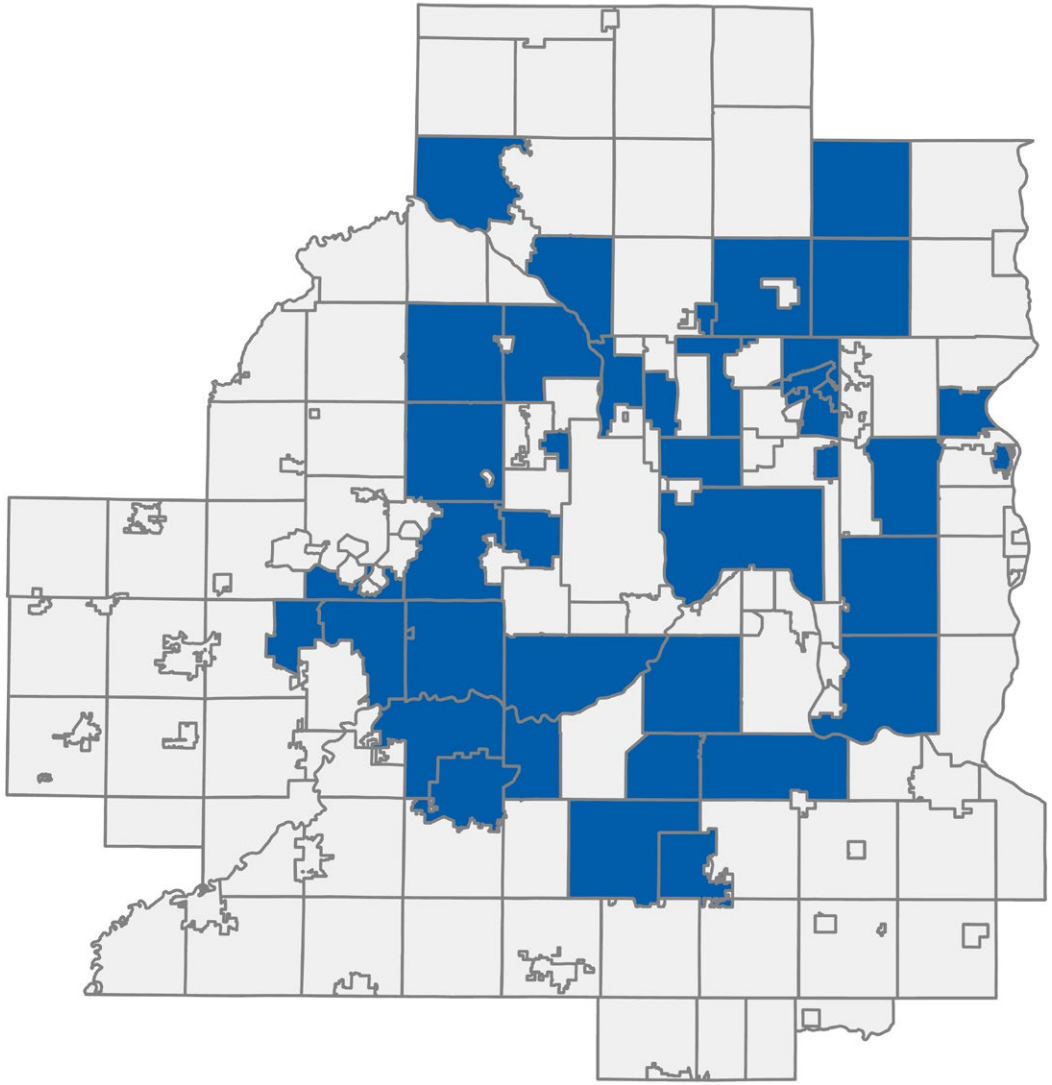
Grant Program History: 2019- 2022

- **$750,000 appropriation**
- **37 participating communities (17 returning)**



Grant Program History: 2022- 2024

- **$1,250,000 appropriation**
  - ✓ $250,000 went towards an equity pilot project with Saint Paul Regional Water Services
- **37 participating communities (32 returning)**



Current Grant Program Metrics

Program activity: July 1, 2022 - December 31, 2023

WaterSense				Energy Star	
Toilets Replaced	Irrigation Controllers Replaced	Irrigation Spray Sprinkler Bodies Replaced	Irrigation System Audit Conducted	Clothes Washers Replaced	Residential Dishwashers Replaced
1,652	**1,440**	**215**	**134**	**992**	**750**

Estimated annual gallons saved – *nearly 59 million!*

Two-Part Pilot Project with SPRWS

Toilet Efficiency Program

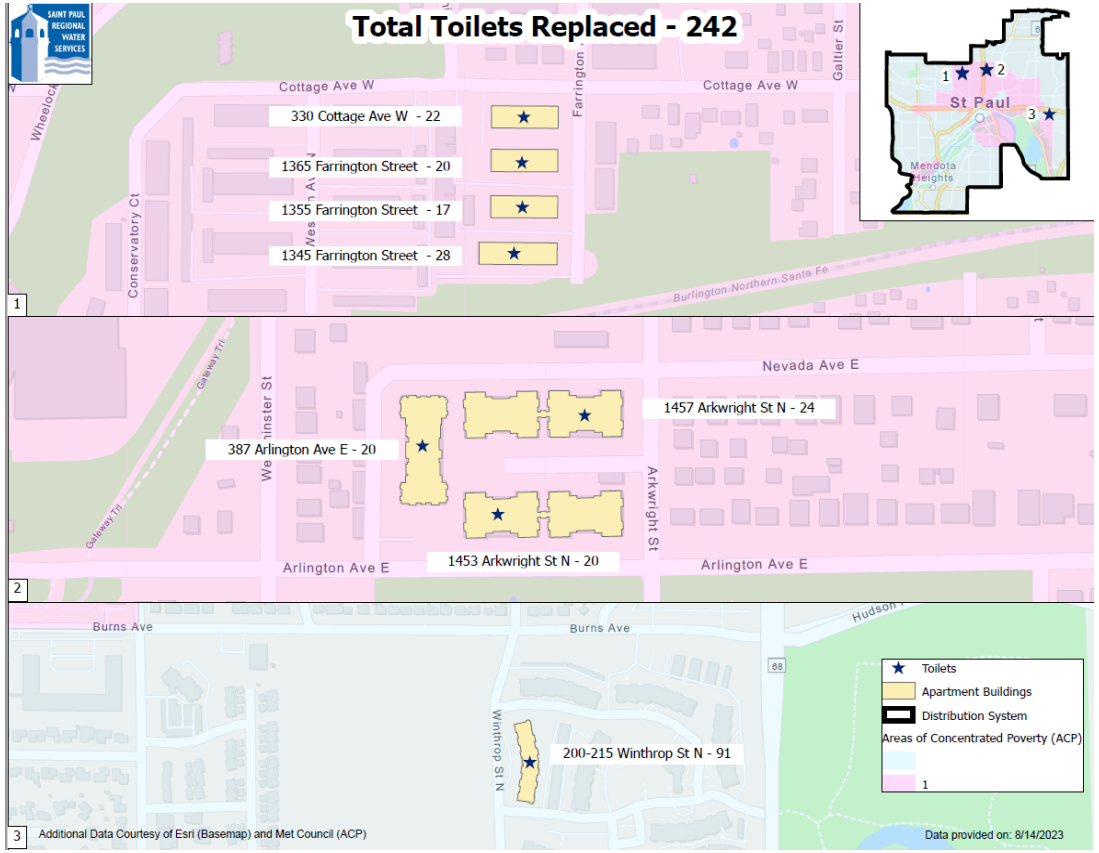
- $100,000 in funding
- No-cost toilet replacement
- Equity Focus

Leak Audit Program

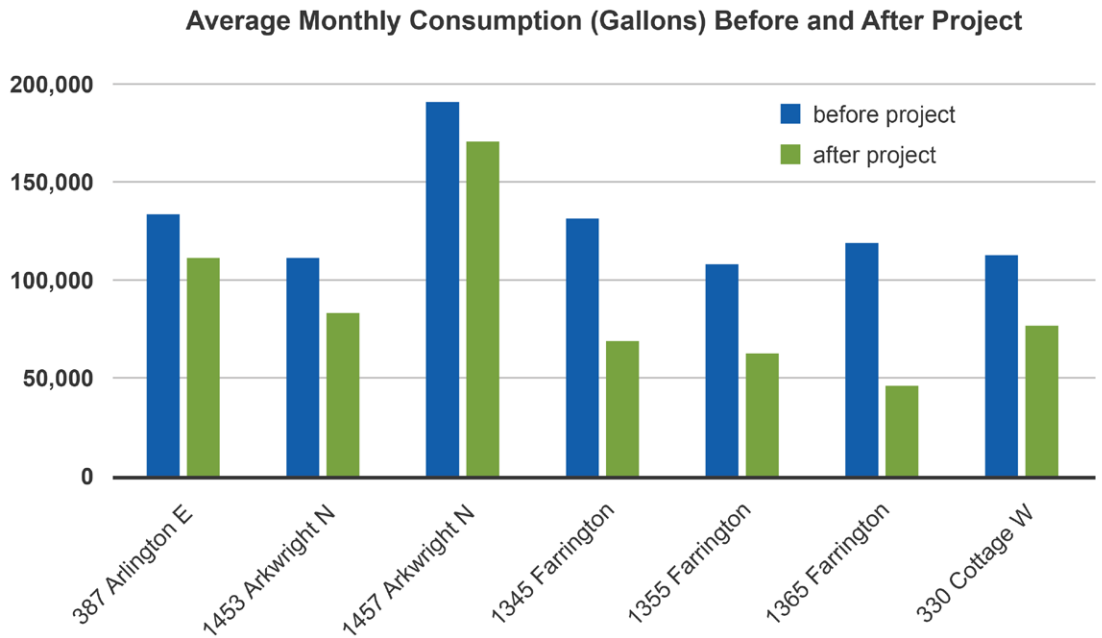
- $150,000 in funding
- Purchase and installation of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) collectors
- Equity Focus

New “Pilot Project: Toilet Replacements”

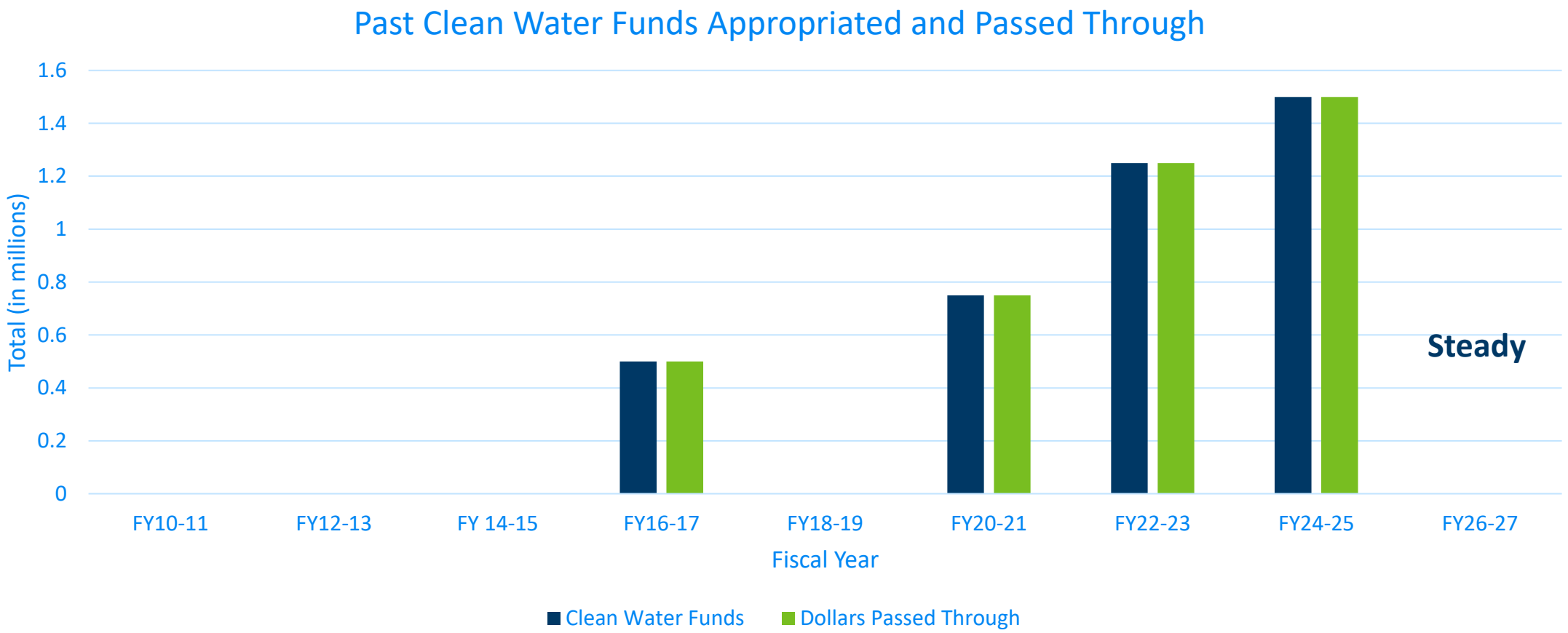
- **242 toilets replaced ($413/toilet = parts + labor)**
- **Estimated savings of 3.4 million gallons/year**



- **40 gallons/day/toilet replaced**
- **Estimated savings: $7/unit/month = $84/year**



Clean Water Fund Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program Initiative



Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Brad Jordahl Redlin
Manager

Clean Water Council
March 18, 2024

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

MAWQCP Overview

- Whole farm, voluntary risk assessment with a local conservation and agronomy professional
- Available to renters and landlords, any size/type operation
- MAWQCP addresses 2024 CWC Strategic Plan:

Groundwater Vision
- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Actions 2, 3, 4
- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Drinking Water Source Protection
- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 5; Action 1
- Goal 2; Strategy 3; Action 1

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision
- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Actions 1, 3, 4
- Goal 3; Strategy 1; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Vision: All Minnesotans…
- Goal 1; Strategy 1; Action 1, 6, 7

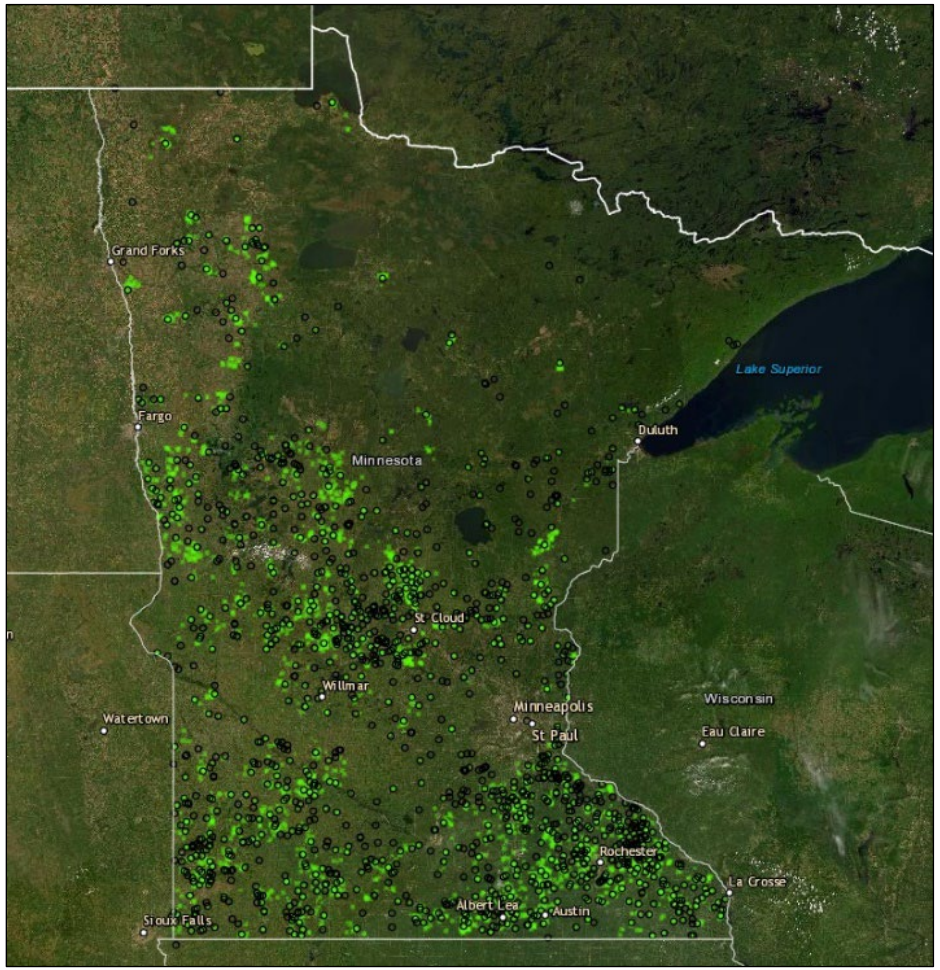
MAWQCP = on-the-ground Implementation

MAWQCP Implementation

Access Control
Alternative Drain Tile Intakes (rock, pattern, Agri Drain H20 Quality Intakes/no perforated risers)
Channel Bed Stabilization
Conservation Cover
Constructed Wetland
Contour Buffer Strips
Cover Crop
Critical Area Planting
Denitrifying Bioreactor
Diversion
Drainage Water Management
Feedlot/Wastewater Filter Strip
Fence
Field Border
Filter Strip
Forage and Biomass Planting
Grade Stabilization Structure
Grassed Waterway
Heavy Use Area Protection
Integrated Pest Management
Irrigation System, Sprinkler
Irrigation Water Management
Karst Sinkhole Treatment
Lined Waterway or Outlet
Mulching
Nutrient Management (plan development)
Obstruction Removal
Open Channel
Pipeline
Pond
Prescribed Grazing
Pumping Plant
Residue and Tillage Management - No-Till/ Strip Till/ Direct Seed
Residue and Tillage Management - Ridge Till
Riparian Forest Buffer
Roof Runoff Control (feedlot)
Sediment Basin
Spring Development
Stream Crossing
Streambank and Shoreline Protection
Strip cropping
Structure for Water Control
Subsurface Drain
Terrace
Trails and Walkways
Tree & Shrub Site Preparation
Underground Outlet
Vegetated Subsurface Drain Outlet (Saturated Buffer)
Vegetative Barriers
Waste Storage Facility
Water & Sediment Control Basin
Water Well
Water Well Decommissioning
Watering Facility
Wetland Restoration

MAWQCP Outcomes

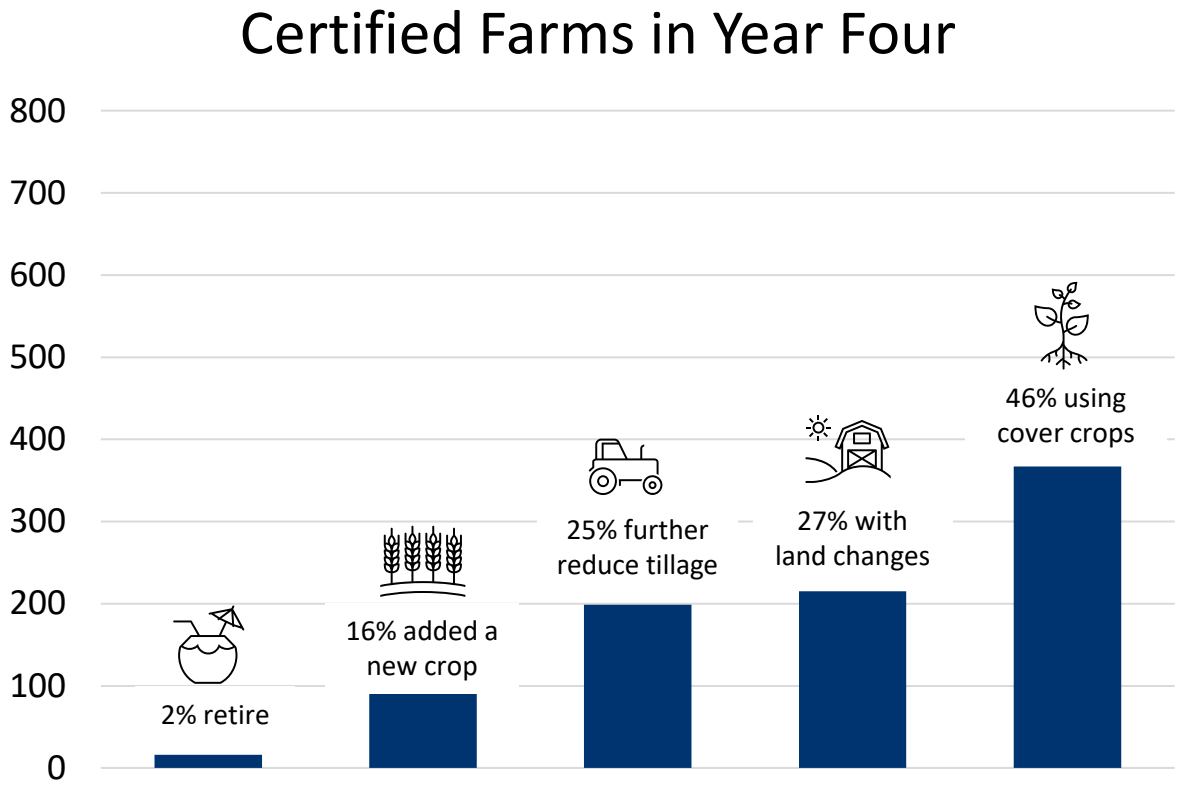
- **1,459** certified producers **1,039,787** acres (3-1-24)
  - 2,842 new practices
  - 142,806 tons of soil saved per year
  - 47,835 tons of sediment reduced per year
  - 59,691 pounds of phosphorous loss prevented per year
  - As much as 49% reduction in nitrogen loss
  - 51,746 C02-equivalent tons GHG reduced per year
  - MAWQCP farms **averaged $25,000/yr. higher profit than non MAWQCP certified farms** over the last 4 years
- **479** Endorsements:
  - 135 Soil Health
  - 101 Integrated Pest Management
  - 80 Wildlife
  - 159 Climate Smart
  - 4 Irrigation (new Mar'22)



IRRIGATION WATER MANAGEMENT | CLIMATE SMART | SOIL HEALTH | WILDLIFE | INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

MAWQCP Reviews

- All certified farms are reviewed during the certification period
- 797 audits completed 2018-2023
- 98% remain in active certification status (excluding sales and deaths)



*Based on 2020-2022 Certification Reviews

Executive Order 19-12

- MDA, MPCA, DNR and BWSR will incorporate MAWQCP in **all watershed approaches and programs**
- MDA, MPCA, DNR and BWSR must honor MAWQCP contracts and include certified growers when implementing new laws or rules

STATE OF MINNESOTA
Executive Department

Governor Tim Walz

Executive Order 19-12; Rescinding Executive Order 14-09

Directing Agency Cooperation on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program

I, Tim Walz, Governor of the State of Minnesota, by the power vested in me by the Constitution and applicable statutes, issue the following Executive Order:

MAWQCP Partnerships

Minnesota Farmers Union

Field to Market®
The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture

WOMEN CARING FOR THE LAND

The Nature Conservancy
Protecting nature. Preserving life.

Environmental INITIATIVE
Powerful Partnerships, Effective Solutions

MASWCD

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Department of Natural Resources

Pollution Control Agency

HOUSTON ENGINEERING INC.

AgCentric
CONNECTING EDUCATION & AGRICULTURE

USDA NRCS

CLEAN RIVER PARTNERS

HASP

CFS
CENTRAL FARM SERVICE

RCPP
Regional Conservation Partnership Program

CERTIFIED CROP ADVISER

Hormel Foods

Minnesota Milk
Producers Association

MIDWEST Dairy®

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA EXTENSION

Minnesota Agricultural Services

TRUTERRA

syngenta®

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES MARKET CONSORTIUM

Centra Sota

CANNON RIVER AGRICULTURAL COLLABORATIVE

COMPEER FINANCIAL

LEGAL ACTION GROUP FARMERS'

Farmers' Legal Action Group

MINNESOTA SOIL HEALTH coalition

PHEASANTS forever

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

MAWQCP Budget

Appropriation/Budget	FY14-15	FY16-17	FY18-19	FY20-21	FY22-23	Total
Clean Water Funds	$3.0M	$5.0M	$5.0M	$6.0M	$6.0M	$25.0M
Dollars Passed Through	$1.6M	$2.7M	$3.1M	$4.2M	$4.02M	$15.6M
Total$/acre	**FY14** **$1.5M** $541.52 **FY15** **$3M** $113.63	**FY16** **$5.5M** $50.15 **FY17** **$8M** $31.95	**FY18** **$10.5M** $28.04 **FY19** **$13M** $25.37	**FY20** **$16M** $25.33 **FY21** **$19M** $24.25	**FY22** **$22M** $24.65 **FY23** **$25M** $25.37	**FY24/25** **$7.0M** **FY26/27** **Steady**

MAWQCP Financial Assistance

- $5,000 max with 75% cost share
- **631 grants** totaling **$2,519,392** have been awarded directly to producers through FY23
- 4th year of second 5-yr **$9 million** RCPP award
- MAWQCP's awards alone account for $18 million MN would otherwise never receive

FY	Total Grant $	# of Grants
2017	106,502.83	30
2018	214,763.23	52
2019	318,126.75	79
2020	276,166.66	74
2021	439,057.60	110
2022	433,207.64	109
2023	453,362.32	104
2024*	278,205.37	73
TOTAL	**2,519,392.40**	**631**

BMP	Total $$ Grant
Access Control	29,237.37
Alternative Drain Tile Intakes	104,227.04
Conservation Cover	4,310.86
Cover Crop	**846,369.98**
Critical Area Planting	5,793.52
Diversion	14,463.00
Drainage Water Management	8,026.38
Feedlot/Wastewater Filter Strip	18,564.88
Fence	**212,075.16**
Field Border	7,552.00
Field Windbreak	6,491.15
Filter Strip	15,000.00
Forage & Biomass Planting	48,712.47
Grade Stabilization Structure	71,976.50
Grassed Waterway	**154,807.29**
Heavy Use Area Protection	45,000.00
Integrated Pest Management	1,327.00
Integrated Pest Management Plan Development	1,500.00
Irrigation System	5,000.00
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	60,059.52
Irrigation Water Management	61,382.75
Irrigation Water Management - Soil Moisture Sensors	48,425.75
Livestock Shelter Structures	5,000.00
Mulching	15,000.00
Nutrient Management Plan Development	5,000.00
Nutrient Management	7,611.00
Open Channel	2,417.63
Pasture & Hay Planting	10,699.06
Pipeline	59,683.35
Prescribed Grazing	**138,881.36**
Pumping Plant	8,000.00
Residue & Tillage Management - No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	47,495.65
Residue & Tillage Mgmt - No Till/Strip Till	16,762.50
Roof Runoff Control (feedlot)	19,380.51
Sediment Basin	27,437.00
Septic System upgrade (Imminent Threat to Public Heath designated only)	10,000.00
Spring Development	5,000.00
Stream Crossing	31,558.75
Structure for Water Control	2,191.06
Waste Storage Facility	45,000.00
Water & Sediment Control Basin	**154,275.62**
Water Well	32,482.50
Water Well Decommissioning	11,312.50
Watering facility	74,484.61
Wetland Restoration	19,416.68
	2,519,392.40

MAWQCP Budget

	CWF	leveraged	total	LEVERAGED breakdown		
2012	$173,380.00		$173,380.00			
2013	$132,830.00	$50,000.00	$182,830.00	$50K McKnight Foundation – assessment development		
2014	$1,500,000.00	$1,501,256.00	$3,001,256.00			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2015	$1,500,000.00	$1,501,256.00	$3,001,256.00			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2016	$2,500,000.00	$1,800,000.00	$4,300,000.00			$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2017	$2,500,000.00	$1,982,129.53	$4,482,129.53		$182,129.53 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2018	$2,000,000.00	$2,075,639.78	$4,075,639.78		$275,639.78 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2019	$3,000,000.00	$2,235,825.88	$5,235,825.88		$435,825.88 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2020	$3,000,000.00	$2,173,216.92	$5,173,216.92		$373,216.92 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2021	$3,000,000.00	$2,322,916.51	$5,322,916.51		$522,916.51 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2022	$3,000,000.00	$2,804,342.18	$5,804,342.18	$100K McKnight Foundation – Climate Smart Farm endorsement	$904,342.18 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
2023	$3,000,000.00	$3,652,457.72	$6,652,457.72		$1,852,457.72 Producer paid portion MAWQCP FA-grant	$1.8M USDA-NRCS conservation practice implementation funding
TOTAL	$25,306,210.00	$22,099,040.52	$47,405,250.52			

Thank You

Brad Jordahl Redlin, Manager

Brad.JordahlRedlin@state.mn.us

651-200-5307

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

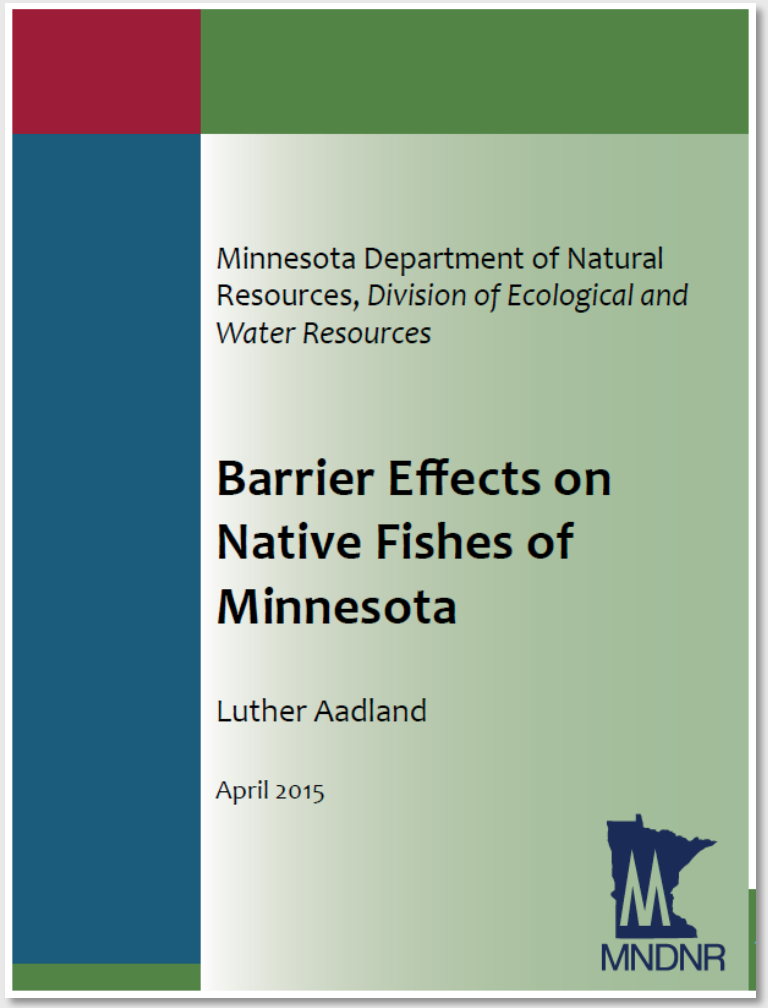
www.mylandmylegacy.com

Culvert Replacement Incentive Program

Jason Moeckel | Ecological and Water Resources MN DNR

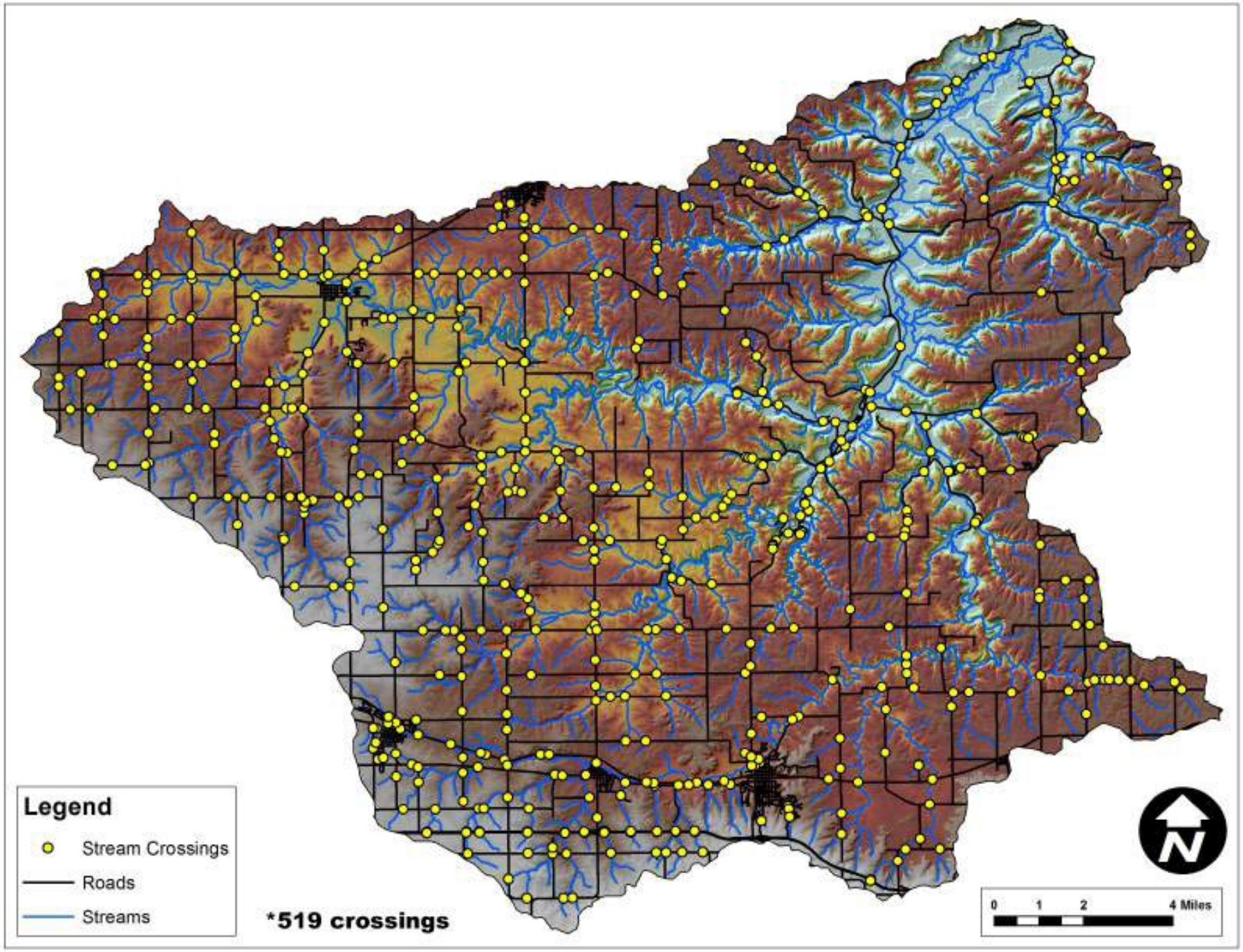
MINNESOTA

The Problem:
Degraded stream habitat from Fragmentation



An analysis of 32 dams throughout Minnesota found that the number of **fish species** decreased, on average, by 43% upstream of the first complete barrier dam.

The removal of dams (12) resulted in the return of an average of 67% of the absent species.



519 Stream crossings in the Whitewater River watershed

Installed 2012

Advantages

- Simple design
- Relatively low cost of initial construction

Dis-Advantages

- Constricts the floodplain
- Disrupts movement of sediment and wildlife
- Requires ongoing maintenance

Typical Design – Goal is to Convey Water

2017

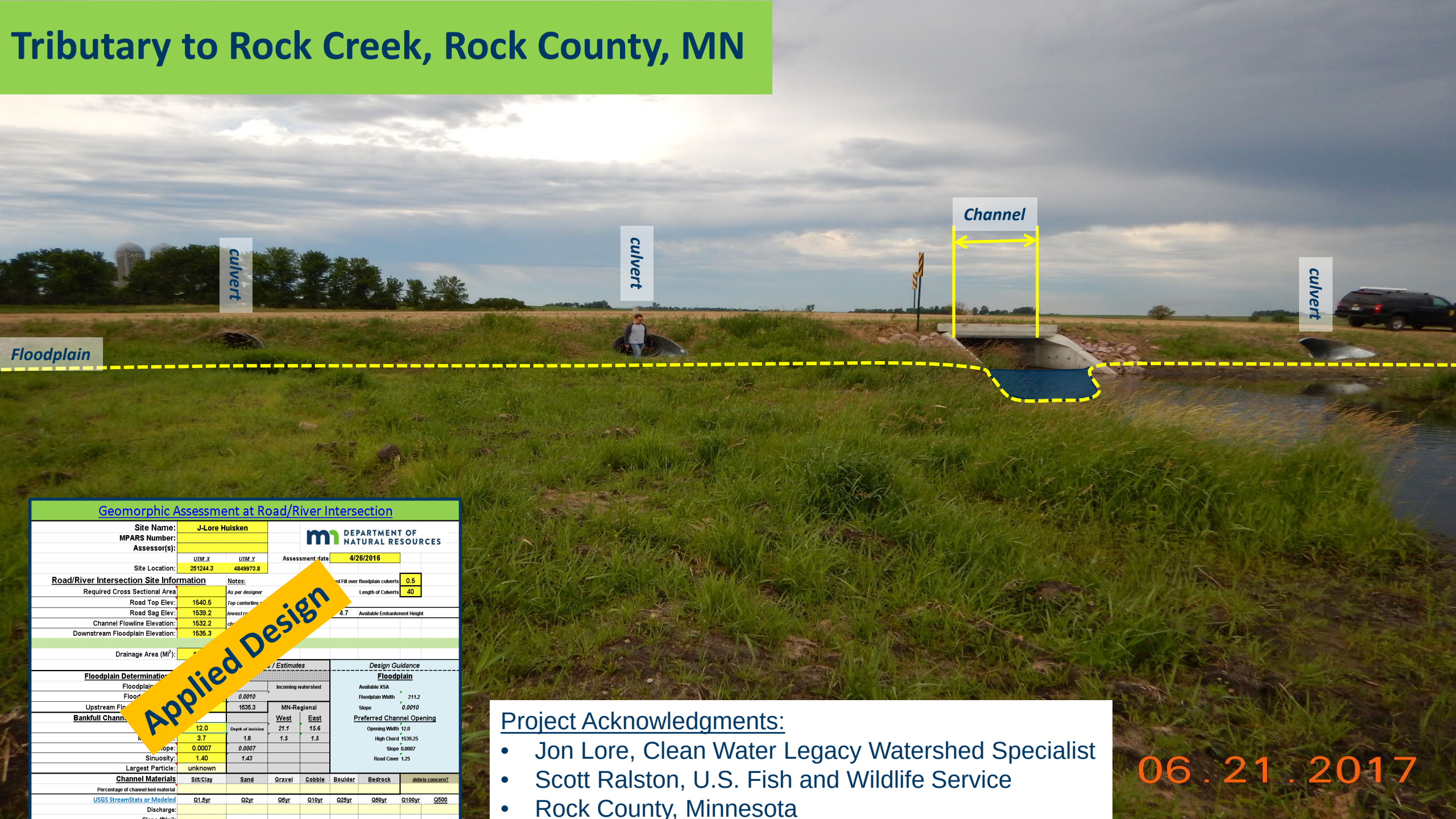
Sediment Accumulates – Conveyance is Reduced

Under-Sized Channel Culverts (connectivity)

Shortcomings of Traditional Designs

- Common impacts
  - Poor fish passage
  - Increased erosion
  - Degradation of habitat
  - Overtopping and washouts
  - High maintenance costs

Tributary to Rock Creek, Rock County, MN



Geomorphic Assessment at Road/River Intersection

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Site Name:	J-Lore Huisken		
MPARS Number:			
Assessor(s):			
	UTM X	UTM Y	Assessment date: 4/26/2016
Site Location:	251244.3	4849973.8	

Road/River Intersection Site Information Notes:

Required Cross Sectional Area		As per designer	Fill over floodplain culverts: 0.5
Road Top Elev:	1540.5	Top centerline	Length of Culverts: 40
Road Sag Elev:	1539.2	lowest	4.7 Available Embankment Height
Channel Flowline Elevation:	1532.2	ch	
Downstream Floodplain Elevation:	1535.3		
Drainage Area (MI^2):			

Applied Design

	/ Estimates				Design Guidance
Floodplain Determinatio					**Floodplain**
Floodplain		Incoming watershed			Available XSA
Flood	0.0010				Floodplain Width 211.2
Upstream Flo	1535.3	MN-Regional			Slope 0.0010
Bankfull Chann		West	East		Preferred Channel Opening
	12.0	Depth of incision	21.1	15.6	Opening Width 12.0
	3.7	1.6	1.5	1.5	High Chord 1539.25
Slope:	0.0007	0.0007			Slope 0.0007
Sinuosity:	1.40	1.43			Road Cover 1.25
Largest Particle:	unknown				

Channel Materials	Silt/Clay	Sand	Gravel	Cobble	Boulder	Bedrock	debris concern?
Percentage of channel bed material							

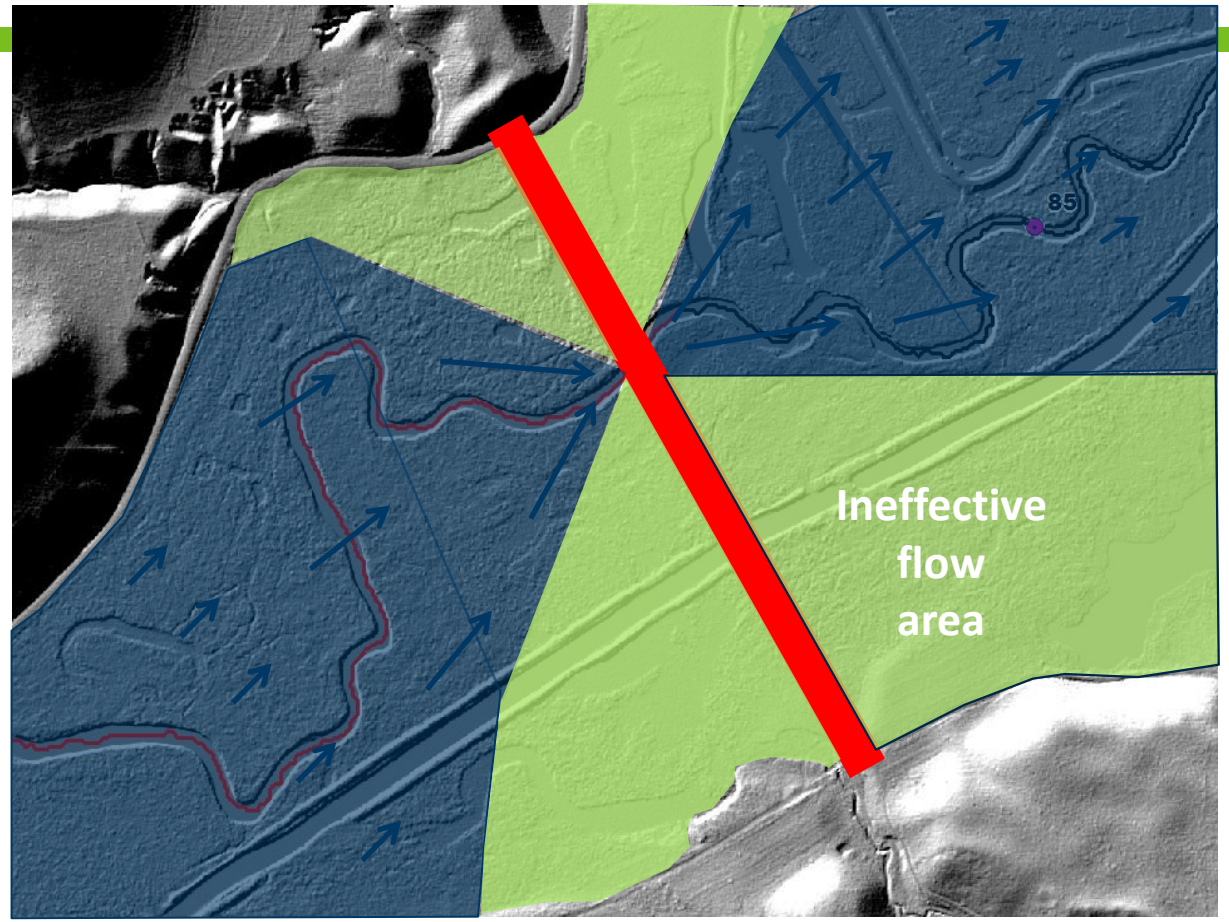
USGS StreamStats or Modeled	Q1.5yr	Q2yr	Q5yr	Q10yr	Q25yr	Q50yr	Q100yr	Q500
Discharge:								

Project Acknowledgments:

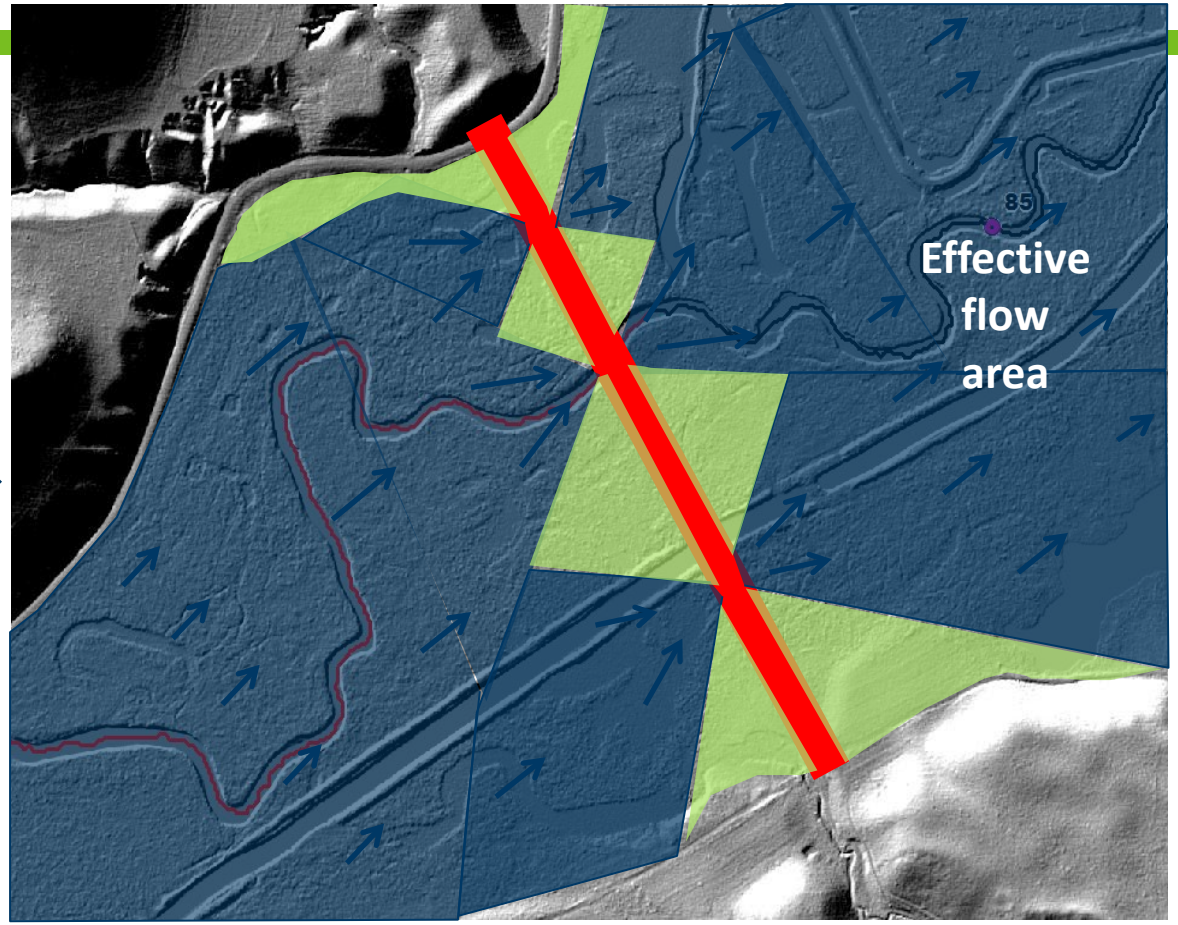
- Jon Lore, Clean Water Legacy Watershed Specialist
- Scott Ralston, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Rock County, Minnesota

06 . 21 . 2017

The geomorphic approach



Traditional Approach

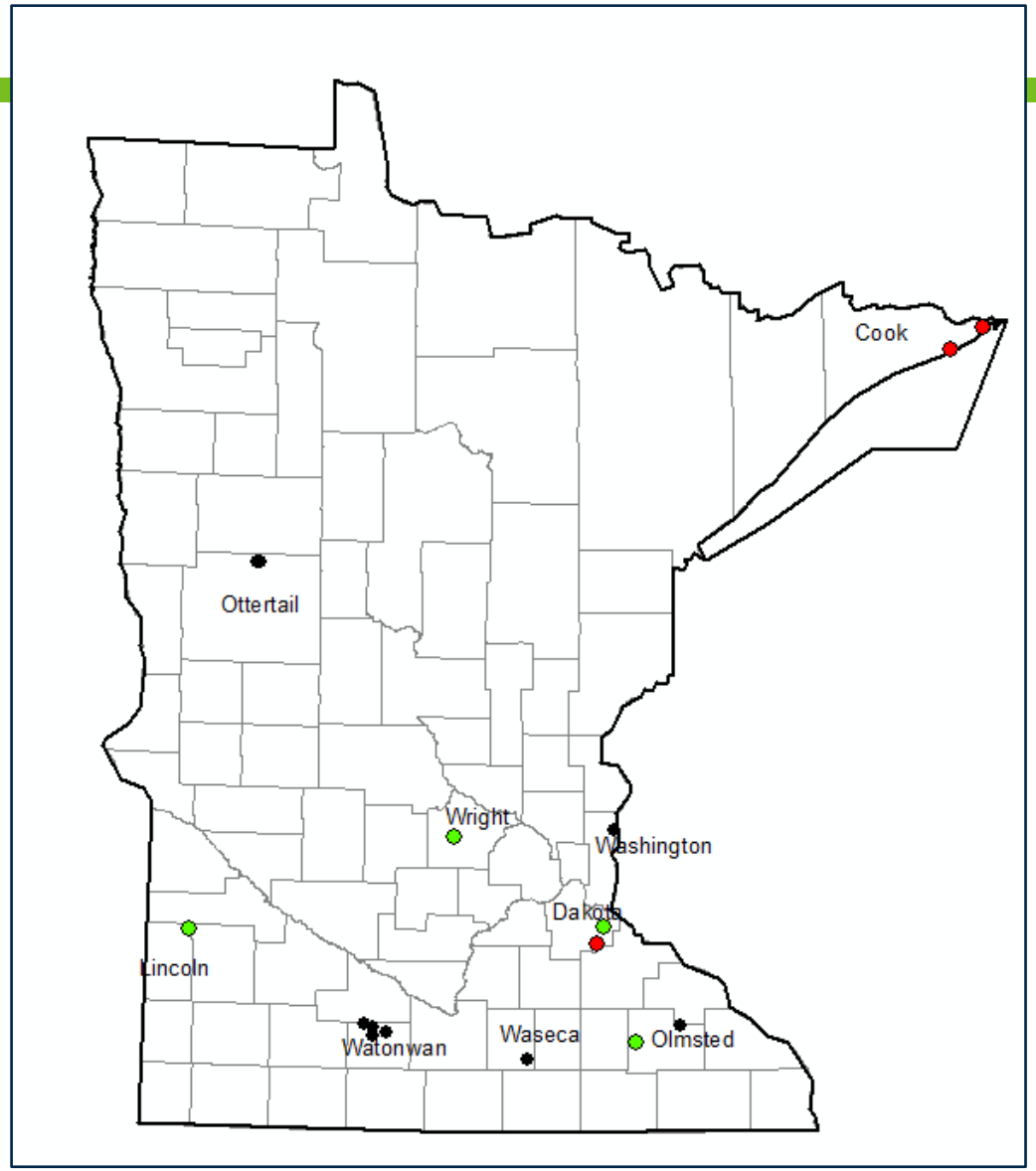


Geomorphic Approach

Proposal

- Use CWF to provide financial incentive for local governments to implement the Geomorphic Approach
  - ~25% cost share
- DNR hydrologists and engineers provide technical assistance
  - Habitats and connectivity are improved
  - Water quality is improved
  - Flood stage is lessened
  - Infrastructure is more resilient

Since Grant Launch last November, 2023



- 16 project “inquiries”
- 4 projects approved (green)
- 3 did not meet criteria
- 9 projects pending
- Commitments to date $461,418

County	Contact	Location	Ownership	Status to-date	Estimated Total Cost	25% of Total
Cook	County Engineer	Otis Creek and Arrowhead Trail	Trail	Rejected		
Cook	County Engineer	Grand Portage River	Tribal	Rejected		
Lincoln	County Engineer/Area Hydrologist	Yellow Medicine River and CSAH8	County	Formal agreement in process	$565,388	$141,347
Watonwan	County/Township/Area Hydrologist	North Fork Watonwan and 310th	Township	pending		
Watonwan	County/Area Hydrologist	North Fork Watonwan and 680th	Township	initial nod, but pending assessment		
Watonwan	County/Area Hydrologist	Butterfield and 310thth	Township	initial nod, but pending assessment		
Watonwan	Township/Area Hydrologist	St. James Creek	Township	initial nod, but pending assessment		
Wright	Consultant/Area Hydrologist	Tributary to Crow River	Township	Formal agreement in process	$302,284	$75,571
Dakota	County Engineer	Pine Creek and Inga Ave	Township	Rejected		
Dakota	County Engineer	205th and Dry Run	Township	Trying to find match from MNDOT	$236,000	$59,000
Olmsted	County Engineer	Cascade Creek and CSAH3	County	Formal agreement in process	$742,000	$185,500
Olmsted	County Engineer	Unnamed Trib in Whitewater Watershed	County	pending		
Ottertail	Nicholas Kludt/Mike Kelley	Ottertail River, two crossings	Township	pending		
Dakota	Jeff Dunn	Vermillion Watertshed	Watershed	pending		
Washginton	Mike Majeski	MN 95 and Mill Stream	EOR	pending		
Waseca	Waseca County Highway	CSAH 8 and Le Sueur River	County	pending		
Total					$1,845,672.40	**$461,418.10**

Culvert Replacement Incentive Program

	FY10-23	FY24-25	FY26-27
Clean Water Funds	na	$2M	~$2-3M
FTEs (state agency staff and seasonals)	na	2	~2.5