



DATE: January 20, 2015  
 TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources' Members, Advisors, and Staff  
 FROM: John Jaschke, Executive Director *JJ*  
 SUBJECT: BWSR Board Meeting Notice – January 28, 2015

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) will meet on Wednesday, January 28, 2015, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting will be held in the lower level Board Room at 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul. Parking is available in the lot directly in front of the building (see hooded parking area).

The following information pertains to agenda items:

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Metro Region Committee***

- Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan -**  
 The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was created in 1978 and is located along the western edge of Hennepin County. The Plan Revision is the Third Generation Watershed Management Plan for the organization. The plan focuses on education, monitoring and partnerships for successful implementation of projects. The Metro Region Committee met earlier this month to discuss the plan and recommends approval. **DECISION ITEM**

***North Region Committee***

- Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Amendment Extension Request -** Douglas County is requesting an extension until January 31, 2017, to the Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 5-year amendment requirement. This extension will provide the opportunity for Douglas County to participate in, and effectively utilize the information obtained from MPCA's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process, and utilize the Lake Protection Analysis information Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is currently developing. The North Region Committee met January 14, 2015 to review the extension request and recommends approval. **DECISION ITEM**
- Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension Request -** Grant County is requesting an extension, until December 31, 2017, to the Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan update requirement for the purposes of participating in and effectively utilizing the information from the MPCA's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process. This will allow Grant County to better address the water quality impairments and the potential for water planning at a watershed scale. The North Region Committee met January 14, 2015 to review the extension request and recommends approval. **DECISION ITEM**

Bemidji	Brainerd	Detroit Lakes	Duluth	Mankato	Marshall	New Ulm	Rochester
403 Fourth Street NW Suite 200 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 755-2600	1601 Minnesota Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 828-2383	26624 N. Tower Road Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 (218) 846-8400	394 S. Lake Avenue Suite 403 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 723-4752	12 Civic Center Plaza Suite 3000B Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 344-2821	1400 East Lyon Street Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-6060	261 Highway 15 South New Ulm, MN 56073 (507) 359-6074	3555 9 <sup>th</sup> Street NW Suite 350 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 206-2889

Central Office / Metro Office 520 Lafayette Road North Saint Paul, MN 55155 Phone: (651) 296-3767 Fax: (651) 297-5615

3. **Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request** - Stevens County is requesting an extension, until June 30, 2017, to the Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan update requirement for the purposes of participating in and effectively utilizing the information from the MPCA's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process. The North Region Committee met January 14, 2015 to review the extension request and recommends approval.  
**DECISION ITEM**
4. **Clay County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request** - Clay County requests an extension to their current Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan for one year to December 31, 2016. The current plan is due for a full ten year update. The chief purpose of Clay County's request is to utilize developing data and information from WRAPS, and to synchronize with other local planning efforts to compose a more scientifically reinforced water management plan. The North Region Committee met January 14, 2015 to review the extension request and recommends approval. **DECISION ITEM**
5. **Pelican River Watershed District (PRWD) Revised Watershed Management Plan Extension Request** - Pelican River Watershed District requests an extension to their current Revised Watershed Management Plan to December 31, 2016. The current plan will expire on February 24, 2015. The chief purpose of PRWD's request is to synchronize with Becker County planning efforts, and incorporate new data due to completion of a TMDL study and completion of a Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance grant which are pivotal to new decisions that will be made in the revision of Pelican River's Watershed Management Plan. The North Region Committee met January 14, 2015 to review the extension request and recommends approval.  
**DECISION ITEM**
6. **Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension** – Lake County submitted a cover letter and County Resolution to BWSR on October 1, 2014. The North Region Committee of the Board met January 14, 2015 to discuss the documents received and approved an extension to the Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. Based on the participation of Lake County in the Lake Superior North One Watershed, One Plan pilot project and the scheduled completion dates of Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies in Lake County between 2016 and 2019, the Committee recommends the full Board approve an extension of the Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management to January 1, 2019. **DECISION ITEM**
7. **Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 5-year Amendment** – Carlton County adopted a Resolution on May 13, 2014, to complete the required 5-year Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (CLWMP) Amendment. A properly noticed public hearing on the CLWMP amendment was held August 12, 2014. The North Region Committee of the Board met January 14, 2015, to discuss the Carlton County CLWMP amendment and the comments received on the amendment as part of the public hearing notice. Based on the comments received and the County's response to the comments received, the North Region Committee recommends the full Board approve the required 5-year amendment of the Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan. The Plan remains in effect until March 24, 2020. **DECISION ITEM**

***Audit & Oversight Committee***

1. **2015 PRAP Report to the Legislature** - The annual PRAP Report to the Legislature is required by statute as a summary of local government performance in water management. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> such report. Each year at the January meeting the Board is given the opportunity to approve this report before it is sent to the legislature by the February 1 deadline. This year the Audit and Oversight Committee has primary responsibility for the report and will be meeting one week before the Board meeting to act on a recommendation to the full board regarding this report and resolution. ***DECISION ITEM***

***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. **FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Recommendations** - The Grants Program & Policy Committee will meet on January 20. The Committee recommendation with attachments will be sent under separate cover and separate posting to the BWSR website. ***DECISION ITEM***
2. **FY2015 Clean Water Fund Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Second Round Buffer Initiative** – The Grants Program & Policy Committee will meet on January 20. The Committee recommendation with attachments will be sent under separate cover and separate posting to the BWSR website. ***DECISION ITEM***

If you have any questions regarding the agenda, please feel free to call me at 651-296-0878. The Board meeting will adjourn about noon. I look forward to seeing you on January 28th!

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD N.  
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155  
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2015

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

9:00 AM CALL MEETING TO ORDER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MINUTES OF DECEMBER 17, 2014 BOARD MEETING

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

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

INTRODUCTION OF NEW EMPLOYEE

- Grant Bullemer, Easement Development Specialist

REPORTS

- Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee – Brian Napstad
- Audit & Oversight Committee – Brian Napstad
- Executive Director – John Jaschke
- Dispute Resolution Committee – Gerald Van Amburg
- Grants Program & Policy Committee – Steve Sunderland
- RIM Reserve & Soil Conservation Committee – Gene Tiedemann
- Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee – Jack Ditmore
- Wetlands & Drainage Committee – Gerald Van Amburg
- Drainage Work Group – Tom Loveall/Al Kean

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

*Metro Region Committee*

1. Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – **DECISION ITEM**

### ***North Region Committee***

1. Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Amendment Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request – Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Clay County Water Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request – Tom Schulz – ***DECISION ITEM***
7. Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Five Year Amendment – Tom Schulz – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***Audit & Oversight Committee***

1. 2015 PRAP Report to the Legislature – Don Buckhout – ***DECISION ITEM***

### ***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Recommendations - Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Program – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***

### **AGENCY REPORTS**

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture – Matthew Wohlman
- Minnesota Department of Health – Chris Elvrum
- Minnesota Department of Natural Resources – Tom Landwehr
- Minnesota Extension Service – Faye Sleeper
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency – Rebecca Flood

### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

- Association of Minnesota Counties – Jennifer Berquam
- Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees – Ed Lenz

**ADVISORY COMMENTS continued**

- Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts – LeAnn Buck
- Minnesota Association of Townships – Sandy Hooker
- Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts – Ray Bohn
- Natural Resources Conservation Service – Walter Albarran

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Southern Region Committee Meeting, January 28, 2015 *immediately following Board Meeting adjournment*
- Next BWSR Board Meeting, March 25, 2015, St. Paul

Noon      **ADJOURN**

**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES  
520 LAFAYETTE ROAD N.  
LOWER LEVEL CONFERENCE ROOM  
ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155  
WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2014**

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Joe Collins, Jill Crafton, Jack Ditmore, Chris Elvrum, MDH; Doug Erickson, Rebecca Flood, MPCA; Christy Jo Fogarty, Sandy Hooker, Kathryn Kelly, Tom Loveall, Brian Napstad, Neil Peterson, Dave Schad, DNR; Tom Schulz, Rob Sip, MDA; Faye Sleeper, MES; Steve Sunderland, Gerald Van Amburg

**BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Gene Tiedemann

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Mary Jo Anderson, Don Buchout, Dan Fabian, Travis Germundson, John Jaschke, Al Kean, Les Lemm, Melissa Lewis, Ron Shelito, Doug Thomas, Jason Weinerman, Dave Weirens, Marcey Westrick

**OTHERS PRESENT:**

Craig Cox, Environmental Working Group  
LeAnn Buck, MASWCD  
Doug Norris, DNR  
Randy Ellingboe, MDH

**CALL MEETING TO ORDER** – Chair Napstad called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m.

#### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**\*\* 14-74** **ADOPTION OF AGENDA** – Moved by Rebecca Flood, seconded by Sandy Hooker, to adopt the agenda as presented. *Motion passed on a voice vote.*

**\*\* 14-75** **MINUTES OF OCTOBER 22, 2014 BOARD MEETING** – Jill Crafton stated that a correction is needed on page three, under SWCD Supervisor Districts Delegation, the word ‘expect’ should be ‘except’.  
Moved by Jill Crafton, seconded by Kathryn Kelly, to approve the minutes of October 22, 2014 as corrected. *Motion passed on a voice vote.*

#### **CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE**

Chair Napstad explained that the conflict of interest disclosure process is being used today on agenda item Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program Funding Recommendations. He then read the statement: “A conflict of interest, whether actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when someone in a position of trust has competing professional or personal interests and these competing interests make it difficult to fulfill professional duties impartially. At this time, members are requested to declare conflicts of interest they may have regarding today’s business.”

#### **REPORTS**

**Chair’s Report** – Brian Napstad reported that discussions continue regarding the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) concerning mitigation and the federal authority coordination. Chair Napstad attended the EQB meeting held in November; he summarized the topics of discussion including the MN Clean Energy Profile, and the silica sand technical library.

**Administrative Advisory Committee (AAC)** – John Jaschke reported that the Administrative Advisory Committee did not meet this month; the AAC plans to meet in January.

**Executive Director’s Report** – John Jaschke reviewed information in board members’ packets. John attended the MAWD, MASWCD, and AMC conventions. John stated that BWSR issued guidance on grant match requirements, administrative costs incorporated in grant reporting which is on BWSR’s website under the grants administration manual. John reported on staff development, Bill Penning graduated from the Senior Leadership Institute and Matt Drewitz is attending an Emerging Leadership Session. John reported that the BWSR Academy held in late October was a success; over 400 attendees participated in the three-day training session.

**Dispute Resolution Committee** – Travis Germundson reported that there are presently 12 WCA appeals pending. Two new appeals received, a restoration order in Stearns County; and an exemption in McLeod County. Travis reported that File #14-8, an appeal in St. Louis County has been rescinded and dismissed. Chair Napstad thanked Travis for his report.

**Grants Program & Policy Committee** – Steve Sunderland reported that the Grants Program & Policy Committee met via conference call on November 24; the Committee recommendation is on the agenda later today.

**Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee** – Jack Ditmore reported that the Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee met last night; the Committee recommendation is on the agenda later today. The Committee received a status report of four pilot programs, significant progress

being made; three are completed, and work continues on the fourth project. Jack reported that the Water Management & Strategic Planning Committee's next meeting is March 24, 2015.

**Wetlands & Drainage Committee** – Gerald Van Amburg reported that the Wetlands & Drainage Committee recommendation is on the agenda later today.

Tom Schulz arrived at the meeting at 9:35 AM.

**Drainage Work Group (DWG)** – Tom Loveall provided a brief report of the Drainage Work Group meeting on November 13, 2014. Al Kean provided a summary of the DWG's discussion topics. Chair Napstad thanked Tom and Al for their report.

***Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee***

**Modification to the Local Water Plan Extensions Policy** – Jack Ditmore reported that the Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee revisited the local water plan extensions policy on September 23, 2014, discussed the issues, and directed staff to modify the existing policy to broaden the applicability and expand the situations in which extensions will be supported. The Committee met on December 16, reviewed the final draft of the Local Water Plan Extension policy; and recommended approval. Moved by Jack Ditmore, seconded by Joe Collins, to adopt the Local Water Plan Extensions policy as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

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14-76

Chair Napstad stated that board members have submitted their completed Conflict of Interest Disclosure forms; the documents will be filed for the grant decision item. All board members are eligible to vote.

***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

**Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program Funding Recommendations** – Marcey Westrick reported that the Grants Program and Policy Committee met on November 24, 2014 to review the BWSR Senior Management Team's proposed grant allocations for the Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program. The Grants Program and Policy Committee recommends: 1) Approval of the grant allocation of \$5,412,083 by fully funding Scott WMO (\$2,200,000), Nicollet SWCD (\$1,676,000) and Cook SWCD (\$829,000) and partially funding Chisago SWCD (\$707,083) according to the Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program Recommendation; and 2) Authorizes staff to evaluate the availability of funds to fully fund Chisago SWCD as part of the Clean Water Competitive Grants Allocation. Discussion followed. Moved by Sandy Hooker, seconded by Steve Sunderlund, to approve the Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program funding recommendation as presented. ***Motion passed on a voice vote.***

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14-77

Chair Napstad called for a break in the meeting at 10:09 AM. The meeting reconvened at 10:24 AM.

***Wetland and Drainage Committee***

**Wetland Conservation Act Federal Approvals Exemption** – Les Lemm reported that the Wetland Conservation Act has included a Federal Approvals Exemption since enactment. The purpose of this Exemption is to reduce duplicative state-federal regulation of projects impacting wetlands. This Exemption has never been implemented, until now. Les presented the resolution. Jill Crafton stated that she opposes the resolution due to uncertainty about federal decision-making criteria and processes.

\*\* Moved by Gerald Van Amburg, seconded by Christy Jo Fogarty, to approve the Federal Approvals Exemption for Linear Utilities/Pipelines as provided under Minn. Rule 8420.0420, subp. 4; as recommended by the Wetlands and Drainage Committee. This approval only becomes effective

following the execution of a memorandum of understanding between the Board of Water and Soil Resources, Department of Natural Resources, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District that specifies notification and comment procedures between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, St. Paul District and the Department of Natural Resources. Staff are authorized to complete procedures for adopting and implementing this Exemption as approved, which includes providing notice to local units of government and publishing in the State Register. An approving agency may withdraw their approval of this Exemption at any time. A disapproval will take effect 30-days after the withdrawal of the Exemption is published in the State Register. The Board will coordinate a review of the performance of the Exemption with the approving agencies and whether any changes are desired or needed within 3-years of it becoming effective.

Les stated that assurances are in place as noted in the resolution and in the letters from the MPCA, DNR, and MDA. Gerald Van Amburg stated that the resolution removes the redundancy and the protection is still there. Discussion followed. Rebecca Flood stated that MPCA is in support of this resolution which provides efficiency in permitting while protecting waters. Dave Schad stated that DNR is in support of the resolution; he clarified that calcareous fens are not included in this. Rob Sip stated that MDA is in support of this resolution. *Motion passed on a voice vote.*

14-78

#### **NEW BUSINESS**

**Durable & Targeted Ideas for Conservation Challenges in the Agricultural Regions of the Midwest and Minnesota** - Craig Cox, Senior Vice President, Environmental Working Group (EWG) presented "Farming and a Healthy Environment: Personal Reflections on Policy to Finally Get Us There". Craig stressed the need for the same basic standard of care and the right local organization and criteria to make this happen. Discussion followed. Chair Napstad thanked Craig for his informative presentation.

Chair Napstad reported that Christy Jo Fogarty did not seek reelection after 12 years of city council membership; this is her last meeting serving as a BWSR voting member. Christy Jo will be recognized for her service at a future Board meeting.

#### **AGENCY REPORTS**

**Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)** – Rob Sip announced the Nutrient Management Conference on February 9, 2015 in Mankato. Rob invited the Board to attend the Joint Annual Conference of the Red River Watershed Management Board and the Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group on March 25-26 in Moorhead.

**Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)** – Dave Schad reported that Jason Garms has been hired to fill a new position at DNR, Ag Liaison; intended to focus on agricultural issues to better engage agencies. Dave reported on the Pheasant Summit held December 13 in Marshall; Governor Dayton convened the successful, well attended event, to educate and gather ideas from participants to identify high priority actions. DNR will establish a steering committee with BWSR and MDA, to guide and develop an action plan to enforce existing laws relating to buffers and easements; and to provide an increased level of support for wildlife management area acquisition. The action plan from Pheasant Summit will be announced at the DNR Roundtable on January 16, 2015.

**Minnesota Extension Service (MES)** – Faye Sleeper reported that the new director for MES will be named in January; Faye will continue to be Extension representative on the Board.

#### **ADVISORY COMMENTS**

**Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)** – LeAnn Buck thanked Board members for attending the MASWCD annual convention December 7-9.

Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) – Sandy Hooker reported that MAT looks forward to the upcoming legislative session.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

- Next BWSR Board Meeting, January 28, 2015, St. Paul
- Metro Region Committee Meeting, January 12
- Northern Region Committee Meeting, January 14 in Bemidji
- Audit and Oversight Committee Meeting, January 21
- Southern Region Committee Meeting, January 28 (immediately following adjournment of BWSR Board Meeting)

\*\* Moved by Doug Erickson, seconded by Christy Jo Fogarty; to adjourn the meeting at noon. *Motion*  
14-79 *passed on a voice vote.*

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Jo Anderson  
Recorder

DRAFT



# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Dispute Resolution Committee Report

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** Land and Water Section

**Contact:** Travis Germundson

**Prepared by:** Travis Germundson

**Reviewed by:** \_\_\_\_\_ Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Travis Germundson/Gerald

**Presented by:** Van Amburg

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

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

None.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

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

Dispute Resolution Committee Report. The report provides a monthly update on the number of appeals filed with the BWSR.

Dispute Resolution Report  
January 16, 2015  
By: Travis Germundson

There are presently 12 appeals pending. All of the appeals involve WCA. There have been no new appeals filed since the last report (December 17, 2014 Board Meeting).

Format note: New appeals that have been filed since last report to the Board.  
~~Appeals that have been decided since last report to the Board.~~

File 14-10 (12-8-14) This is an appeal of a restoration order in Stearns County. The appeal regards the draining and filling of approximately 1.67 acres of wetland associated with an agricultural drainage project. At issue is the after-the-fact replacement ratio. No decision has been made on the appeal.

File 14-9 (12-3-14) This is an appeal a series of similar exemption and no-loss decisions in McLeod County. The appeal regards the approval of three exemption and no-loss decisions. At issue is the LGU's assessment that the applications were approved by operation of law under Minn. Stat. §15.99 (60 day rule). The after-the-fact applications were submitted in conjunction with an appeal of a restoration order (File 14-4). *The appeal has been granted.*

File 14-7 (6-23-14) This is an appeal of duplicate restoration orders in Otter Tail County. The appeal regards the alleged drainage alterations to a Type 4 wetland. The petitioners have filed after-the-fact wetland applications for an exemption and no-loss with the LGU concurrently with the petition. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restorations orders stayed until there is a final decision on the wetland applications.

File 14-6 (5-28-14) This is an appeal of a replacement plan decision by DNR Land and Minerals involving the Hibbing Taconite Mine and Stockpile Progression and Williams Creek Wetland Mitigation. The appeal regards the approval of a wetland replacement plan application for mining related activities. A similar appeal was also filed simultaneously with DNR under procedures required for permit to mine. The appeal has been placed in abeyance for completion of DNR's contested case proceedings.

File 14-5 (5-2-14) This is an appeal of an exemption determination in Kandiyohi County. The appeal regards the denial of a wetland exemption application. At issue is the wetland type determination. The appeal has been remanded for technical work and administrative proceedings. *A tentative settlement agreement has been reached.*

File 14-4 (4-28-14) This is an appeal of a restoration and replacement order in McLeod County. The appeal regards alleged drainage improvements associated with the excavation of a private drainage system. At issue is a prior exemption determination. The appeal was placed in abeyance and the restoration and replacement orders stayed for the LGU to make a final decision on the after-the-fact wetland applications. The applications were determined to be approved by operation of law under Minn. Stat. §15.99. That decision has been appealed (File 14-9). *Therefore, the appeal will continue to be held in abeyance.*

File 14-1 (2-3-14) This is an appeal of a replacement plan decision in Stearns County. The appeal regards the approval of a wetland replacement plan application. Previous appeals (File 12-19 and File 13-5) were remanded for further technical work and administrative proceedings, and now the current approval is being appealed. The appeal was accepted and a pre-hearing conference took place on June 2, 2014. As a result the pre-hearing conference the appeal proceedings have been placed on hold by mutual agreement for additional survey work and an on-site visit (scheduled for August 19<sup>th</sup>). A verbal settlement agreement was reached during the 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-hearing conference. A final draft settlement agreement has been distributed to the parties for signature.

File 13-3 (3-19-13) This is an appeal of a restoration order in Big Stone County. The appeal regards impacts to DNR Public Waters and WCA wetlands on state property associated with an agricultural drainage project. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed until there is a final decision on an after-the-fact wetland application.

File 12-12 (7-16-12) This is an appeal of an exemption determination in Renville County. The appeal regards the denial of an agricultural drainage exemption associated with a 1.5 acre wetland. At issue is the wetland type determination. A previous appeal (File 12-5) was remanded for further technical evaluation and administrative proceedings, and now the current approval is being appealed. A verbal settlement agreement has since been reached that includes submittal of a replacement plan application. The appeal has been placed in abeyance by mutual agreement to determine the viability of a wetland replacement plan application.

File 11-1 (1-20-11) This is an appeal of a restoration order in Hennepin County. The appeal regards the filling of approximately 1.77 acres of wetland and 0.69 acres of excavation. The appeal has been placed in abeyance and the restoration order stayed until there is a final decision on an after-the-fact wetland application and confirmation of required mitigation.

File 09-10 (7-9-09) This is an appeal of a banking plan application in Aitkin County. The appeal regards the LGU's denial of a banking plan application to restore 427.5 acres of wetlands through the use of exceptional natural resource value. The appeal has been accepted and pre-hearing conferences convened on October 13 and 30, and December 14, 2009. Settlement discussions are on hold while the appellant addresses permitting issues with the Corps of Engineers. The appeal has been placed in abeyance by mutual agreement. A revised wetland bank plan application has been approved with conditions. Those conditions require the approval of partial ditch abandonment along with a Conditional Use Permit for alterations in the floodplain.

File 08-9. (03/06/08) This is an appeal of a replacement order in Pine County. The appeal regards impacts to approximately 11.26 acres of wetland. The replacement order has been stayed and the appeal has been placed in abeyance pending disposition with the U.S. Dept of Justice. A pending verbal settlement agreement is in place as a result of court ordered mediation.

## Summary Table

Type of Decision	Total for Calendar Year 2014	Total for Calendar Year 2015
Order in favor of appellant	2	
Order not in favor of appellant		
Order Modified		
Order Remanded	1	
Order Place Appeal in Abeyance	3	
Negotiated Settlement		
Withdrawn/Dismissed	1	

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Metro Region Committee***

1. Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan – Steve Christopher – ***DECISION ITEM***



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMC Watershed Management Plan

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** Metro Region

**Contact:** Steve Christopher

**Prepared by:** Steve Christopher

**Reviewed by:** Metro Region Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Steve Christopher

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

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

### ACTION REQUESTED

Approval of Pioneer-Sarah Creek Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan

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

**Background:**

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) is located exclusively in Hennepin County in the western portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound by the Crow River to the north, on the northeast by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south and southeast by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and on the west by Wright and Carver Counties. The Commission includes all or parts of the following six municipalities: Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista. The Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed covers approximately 70.5 square miles. There are seventeen lakes in the Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed and six major streams. The watershed continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture and rural residential development, with some high density housing, commercial, and townhouse developments in the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain.

The cities of Independence, Minnetrista, Medina and the Hennepin Conservation District created the Pioneer Creek Watershed Management Commission on January 13, 1978. On June 7, 1983, the City of Greenfield offered a resolution to the Pioneer Creek Commission requesting a merger of the Sarah Creek and Pioneer Creek Watersheds. This merger combined administrative services and avoided the creation of numerous small watershed organizations. In December 1984, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was formally established through a Joint Powers Agreement. Since that time, Watertown Township in Carver County and the city of Corcoran elected to leave the Commission, becoming members of

adjacent WMOs. The current plan was approved by the Board in October 2004. The second generation plan was amended one time in 2011 to revise the implementation program.

In January 2013, the Commission began the plan process of identifying watershed problems, priority issues, goals, and the development of Rules and Standards. The implementation plan was developed through submittal of projects by the member cities which were reviewed by member city staff along with the Commission's chair and technical staff. The projects were prioritized based upon the subwatershed that they contribute to. This group met two times following the submittal of the 60-day draft plan to revise the Capital Improvement Plan. The draft revised Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on September 5, 2014 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. A public hearing was held on November 20, 2014, resulting in few minor changes to the Plan. At that hearing the Commissioners approved a resolution to send the draft Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for final review which was received by the Board on December 15, 2014.

#### Plan Summary:

The Plan is an improvement over the current Commission plan. Through the development, the Commission along with the Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees, identified the following issues:

- Funding and Financial Stability: maintaining a sustainable funding level, funding TMDL implementation activities, sharing in the cost of capital projects.
- Information, Knowledge, and Commitment: lack of information and knowledge of water quality issues and actions by multiple stakeholders, cities do not see the Commission as a policy leader or watershed issues as a priority, conflicting opinions on water quality issues between stakeholders.
- Data Availability: need for more routine monitoring to evaluate TMDL implementation effectiveness, lack of information about wetlands in the watershed.
- Other Issues: how to evaluate progress toward TMDLs, how to foster partnerships, staying abreast of new requirements and emerging issues.

Guidance for the Plan is provided through the following three priorities and six goals:

#### Priorities

1. Educate the Commissioners and member City Councils and Planning Commissions regarding watershed and water resources management.
2. Undertake a monitoring program to monitor water quality trends and to track progress toward meeting TMDLs.
3. Partner with member cities and other parties to conduct subwatershed assessments and other studies to identify feasible and cost-effective Best Management Practices to protect and improve water quality.

#### Goals

1. Water Quantity
2. Water Quality
3. Groundwater
4. Wetlands
5. Drainage Systems
6. Commission Operations and Programming

The Commission has taken steps to prioritize the CIP by scheduling projects within the Lake Independence and Lake Sarah subwatersheds at the beginning of the implementation of the Plan cycle. This should lead to recognized improvements that will generate additional momentum to continue the efforts throughout the entire watershed in the later years of the Plan. The CIP extends to 2020.

The Plan relies heavily on financial contributions from member cities to successfully implement the projects that have been included instead of the member cities adequately funding the WMO to complete the projects in the CIP. The Commission is also currently undergoing a WRAPS which is set to be complete in 2017. Revisiting the CIP will likely need to take place to ensure that all areas are properly targeted.

Recommendation:

The Metro Region Committee met on January 12, 2015 to review the Plan, comments received and the BWSR staff recommendation. The Committee discussion focused on the Commission's funding capacity and commitment to the Implementation Plan. The Metro Region Committee unanimously voted to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board per the attached draft Order.

**Attachments**

1. Draft Order for approval of the Pioneer-Sarah Watershed Management Plan
2. PSCWMC 3<sup>rd</sup> Generation Plan Executive Summary
3. PSCWMC Plan Budget
4. Appendix F CIP
5. Map of the PSCWMC

Link to plan: <http://pioneersarahcreek.org/pages/ThirdGenerationPlan/>

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

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**In the Matter** of the review of the Watershed Management Plan for the **Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Organization**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subdivision 9.

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**ORDER  
APPROVING  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, the Board of Commissioners of the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) submitted a Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9, and;

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

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1. Watershed Management Organization Establishment.** The Cities of Independence, Minnetrista, Medina and the Hennepin Conservation District created the Pioneer Creek Watershed Management Commission on January 13, 1978. On June 7, 1983, the City of Greenfield offered a resolution to the Pioneer Creek Commission requesting a merger of the Sarah Creek and Pioneer Creek Watersheds. This merger combined administrative services and avoided the creation of numerous small watershed management organizations. In December 1984, the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission was formally established through a Joint Powers Agreement. Since that time, Watertown Township in Carver County and the City of Corcoran elected to leave the Commission, becoming members of adjacent Watershed Management Organizations. The current plan was approved by the Board in October 2004. The second generation plan was amended one time in 2011 to revise the implementation program.
- 2. Authority to Plan.** The Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act requires the preparation of a watershed management plan for the subject watershed areas which meets the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.
- 3. Nature of the Watershed.** The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (Commission) is located exclusively in Hennepin County in the western

portion of the Minneapolis – St. Paul seven county metropolitan area. It is bound by the Crow River to the north, on the northeast by the Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization, on the south and southeast by Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, and on the west by Wright and Carver Counties. The Commission includes all or parts of the following six municipalities: Greenfield, Independence, Loretto, Maple Plain, Medina, and Minnetrista. The Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed covers approximately 70.5 square miles. There are seventeen lakes in the Pioneer - Sarah Creek watershed and six major streams. The watershed continues to be heavily influenced by agriculture and rural residential development, with some high density housing, commercial, and townhouse developments in the cities of Greenfield, Loretto and Maple Plain.

3. **Plan Development and Review.** In January 2013, the Commission began the plan process of identifying watershed problems, priority issues, goals, and the development of Rules and Standards. The implementation plan was developed through submittal of projects by the member cities which were reviewed by member city staff along with the Commission's chair and technical staff. The projects were prioritized based upon the subwatershed that they contribute to. This group met two times following the submittal of the 60-day draft plan to revise the Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The draft revised Plan was submitted to the Board, other state agencies, and local governments for the formal 60-day review on September 5, 2014. A public hearing was held on November 20, 2014, resulting in few minor changes to the Plan. The final draft of the revised Plan was received by the Board on December 15, 2014.
4. **Local Review.** The Commission distributed copies of the draft Plan to local units of government for their review pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 7. The Commission received comments from the cities of Maple Plain and Medina as well as Hennepin County. The Commissions responded in writing to all stakeholders who commented, addressing each concern.
6. **Metropolitan Council Review.** Met Council was supportive of the revised Rules and Standards and commented that the Commission should anticipate revising its implementation plan following the completion of the WRAPS.
7. **Department of Agriculture Review.** The MDA offered drainage and manure management recommendations.
8. **Department of Health Review.** The MDH did not comment on the Plan.
9. **Department of Natural Resources Review.** The DNR commented they feel the third generation plan is stronger than the second, specifically in regard to the updated Rules and Standards. The re-prioritized CIP was also a commendable item. The DNR did express significant concern over the reliance on member cities to provide ninety percent of the funding for projects and studies within the CIP.

10. **Pollution Control Agency Review.** The PCA commended the Commission on their development of a manure management ordinance. The PCA also commented that the outreach plan should include interested landowners and the completed Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices study.
11. **Department of Transportation Review.** MNDOT requested clarification on a number of regulatory requirements. The Commission addressed the comments received.
12. **Board Review.** Board staff commended the Commissions for updating the Rules and Standards. Board staff also made recommendations to increase specificity to the Education and Outreach program and to provide outreach to landowners. Staff also indicated concern over the lack of financial commitment for the implementation of projects and programs.
13. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The Third Generation Plan is an improvement over the current Commission Plan. The Commission and Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees identified the following issues during the planning process:
  - Funding and Financial Stability
  - Information, Knowledge, and Commitment
  - Data Availability
  - Other issues such as evaluating progress, fostering partnerships and staying abreast of emerging issues

In response to these issues, they have established three priorities:

- A. Educate the Commissioners and member City Councils and Planning Commissions regarding watershed and water resources management.
- B. Undertake a monitoring program to monitor water quality trends and to track progress toward meeting TMDLs.
- C. Partner with member cities and other parties to conduct subwatershed assessments and other studies to identify feasible and cost-effective Best Management Practices to protect and improve water quality.

The goals that have been chosen are measurable and with an effective Capital Improvement Program could be achieved.

14. **Metro Region Committee Meeting.** On January 12, 2015, the Board's Metro Region Committee and staff met with the Commission in St. Paul to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Jill Crafton and Faye Sleeper via phone, Jack Ditmore, Rebecca Flood, and Joe Collins as chair. Board staff in attendance were Metro Board Conservationist Steve Christopher and Metro Region Manager Jim Haertel. The representative from the Commission were Chair Tom Cook and Diane Spector of Wenck Associates.

The Committee noted that the implementation section only extended through 2020. The Committee had a lengthy discussion on the Commission's commitment to fully implement the Plan. As a result, upon staff recommendation the Committee voted unanimously to recommend approval of the Plan to the full Board with a plan expiration of December 31, 2020, which is less than a typical ten year plan.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Watershed Management Plan for the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.231, Subd. 9.
3. The Watershed Management Plan for Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission attached to this Order defines water and water-related problems within the Commissions' boundaries, possible solutions thereto, and an implementation program.
4. This Watershed Management Plan will extend to the end of year 2020.
5. The attached Watershed Management Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Sections 103B.201 to 103B.251.

### ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Watershed Management Plan dated December 2014 as the Watershed Management Plan for the Pioneer Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission, valid through December 31, 2020.

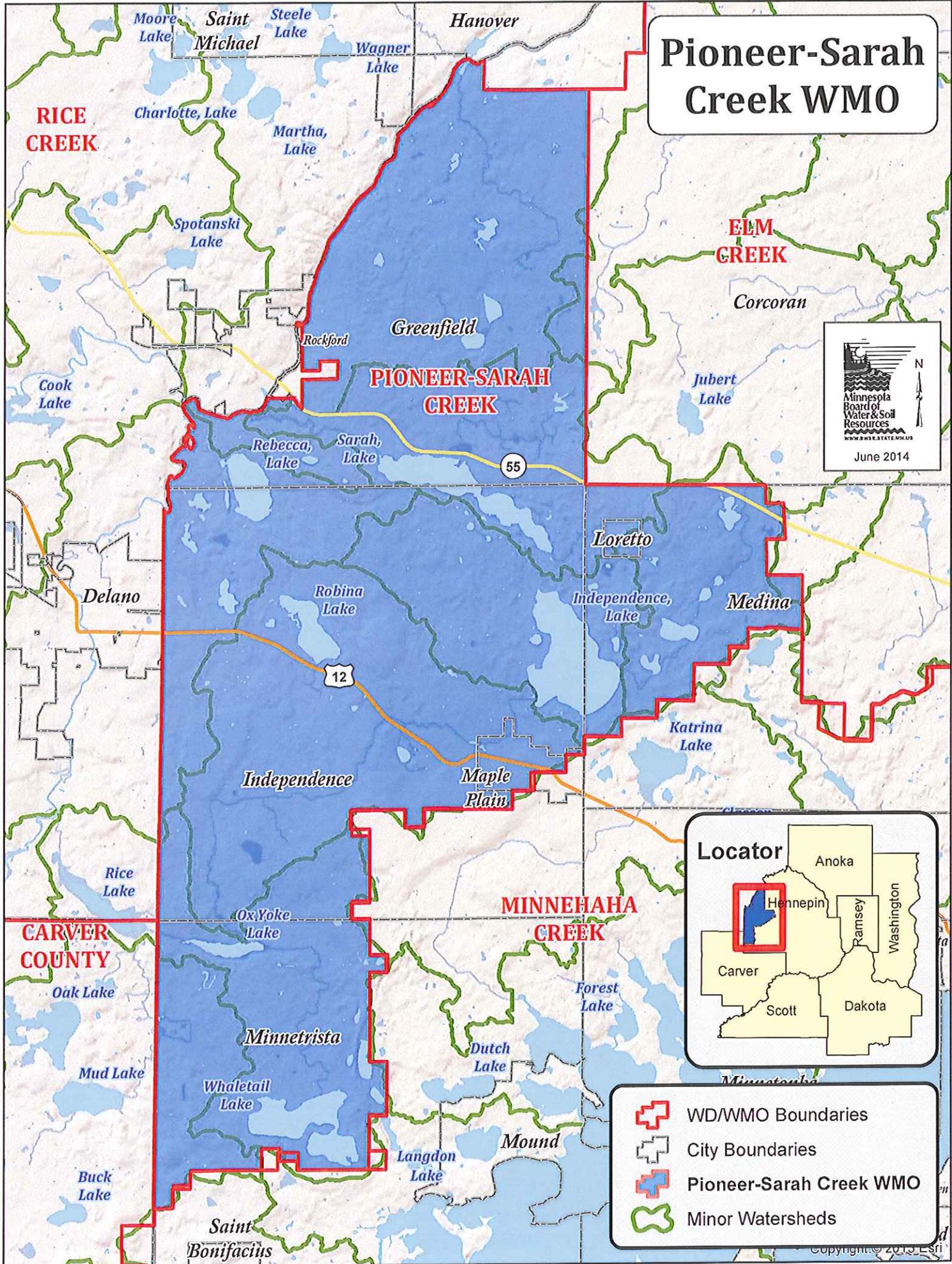
Dated at Saint Paul, Minnesota this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January, 2015.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

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BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO



- WD/WMO Boundaries
- City Boundaries
- Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO
- Minor Watersheds

## Executive Summary

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This Watershed Management Plan (Plan) describes how the Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission (PSCWM WMC) will manage activities in the watershed in the ten year period 2015-2024.

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission is a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) formed in 1984 using a Joint Powers Agreement developed under authority conferred to the member communities by Minnesota Statutes 471.59 and 103B.201 through 103B.251. The watershed is located in the northwest portion of the Minneapolis-St. Paul seven county Metropolitan Area and is comprised of all or part of the following cities in Hennepin County:

Cities	Area (sq mi)
Greenfield	21.32
Independence	29.72
Loretto	0.26
Maple Plain	0.76
Medina	7.52
Minnetrissa	10.70
Total	70.28

The WMO is governed by a Board of Commissioners that is comprised of one member appointed from each community by their respective City Councils. The Commission's purpose is set forth in Minnesota Statutes 103B.210, Metropolitan Surface Water Planning, which codified the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act of 1982:

- (1) protect, preserve, and use natural surface and groundwater storage and retention systems;
- (2) minimize public capital expenditures needed to correct flooding and water quality problems;
- (3) identify and plan for means to effectively protect and improve surface and groundwater quality;
- (4) establish more uniform local policies and official controls for surface and groundwater management;
- (5) prevent erosion of soil into surface water systems;
- (6) promote groundwater recharge;
- (7) protect and enhance fish and wildlife habitat and water recreational facilities; and
- (8) secure the other benefits associated with the proper management of surface and ground water.

### Third Generation Watershed Management Plan

The Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission initiated work on the Third Generation Plan in January 2013. The Plan includes information required in Minnesota Administrative Rules Chapter 8410, Local Water Management: an updated land and water resources inventory, goals and policies; an assessment of problems and identification of corrective actions; an implementation program; and a process for amending the Plan.

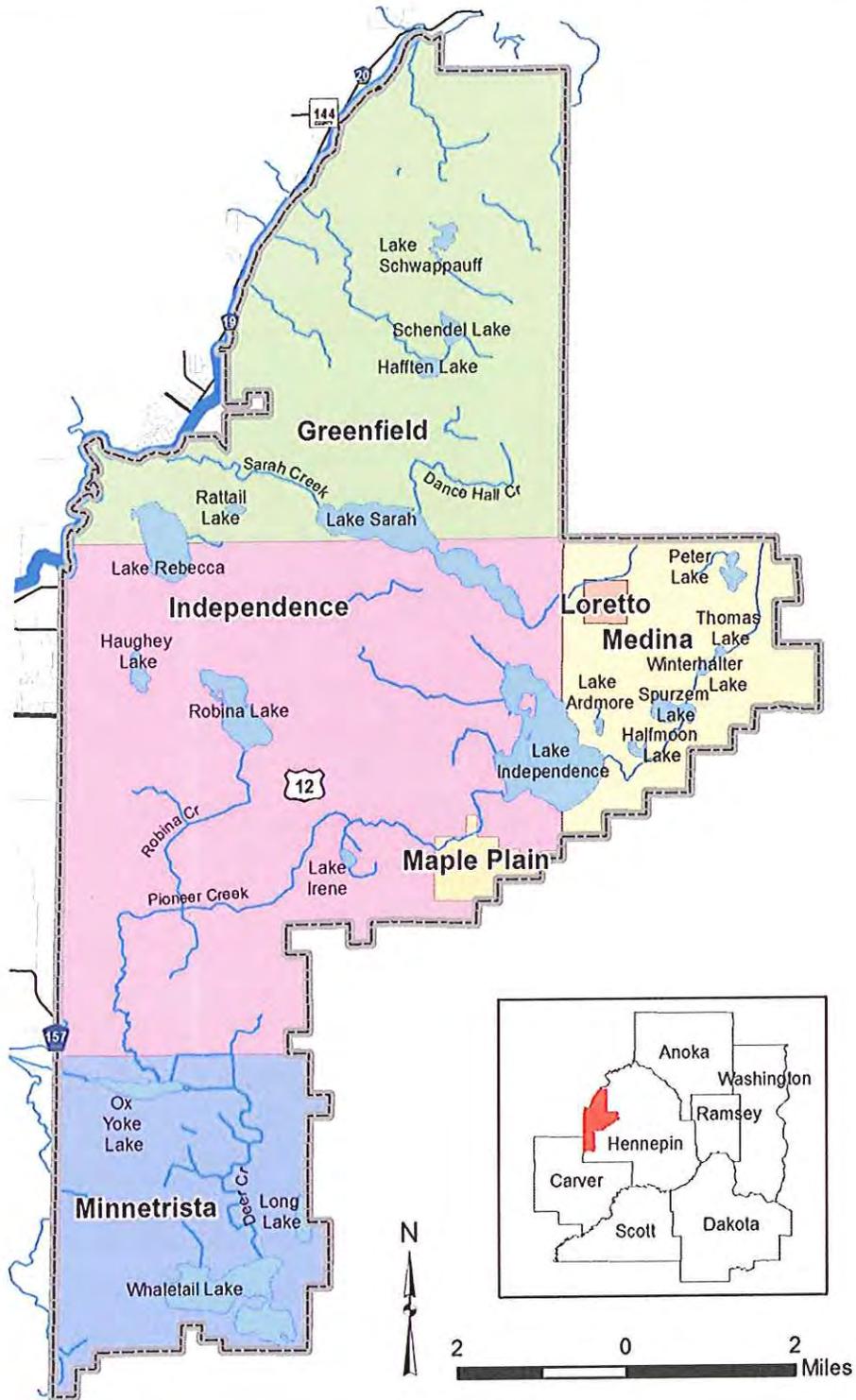


Figure ES.1: Cities in the Pioneer-Sarah Creek watershed.

## *Executive Summary (con't)*

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The Commission and Citizen and Technical Advisory Committees identified the following issues and issue areas during the planning process:

- Funding and Financial Stability: maintaining a sustainable funding level, funding TMDL implementation activities, sharing in the cost of capital projects.
- Information, Knowledge, and Commitment: lack of information and knowledge of water quality issues and actions by multiple stakeholders, cities do not see the Commission as a policy leader or watershed issues as a priority, conflicting opinions on water quality issues between stakeholders.
- Data Availability: need for more routine monitoring to evaluate TMDL implementation effectiveness, lack of information about wetlands in the watershed.
- Other Issues: how to evaluate progress toward TMDLs, how to foster partnerships, staying abreast of new requirements and emerging issues.

### **Management Plan Priorities and Goals**

Through the identification of issues in the watershed, the PSCWMC developed the following priorities and goals to guide water resources planning and management functions:

#### Priorities:

1. Educate the Commissioners and member City Councils and Planning Commissions regarding watershed and water resources management.
2. Undertake a monitoring program to monitor water quality trends and to track progress toward meeting TMDLs.
3. Partner with member cities and other parties to conduct subwatershed assessments and other studies to identify feasible and cost-effective Best Management Practices to protect and improve water quality.

#### Goals:

##### Goal Area A. Water Quantity

- Goal A. 1. Maintain the post-development 2-year, 10-year, and 100-year peak rate of runoff at pre-development level for the critical duration precipitation event.
- Goal A. 2. Maintain the post-development annual runoff volume at pre-development volume.
- Goal A. 3. Prevent the loss of floodplain storage below the established 100-year elevation.

##### Goal Area B. Water Quality

- Goal B. 1. Improve water clarity in the impaired lakes by 10% over the average of the previous ten years by 2023.

## *Executive Summary (con't)*

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- Goal B. 2. Maintain or improve water quality in the lakes and streams with no identified impairments.
  - Goal B. 3. Conduct a TMDL/WRAPS progress review every five years following approval of the TMDLs and WRAPS study.
  - Goal B. 4. Foster implementation of Best Management Practices in the watershed through technical and financial assistance.
- Goal Area C. Groundwater
- Goal C. 1. Promote groundwater recharge by requiring abstraction/infiltration of runoff from new development and redevelopment.
  - Goal C. 2. Protect groundwater quality by incorporating wellhead protection study results into development and redevelopment Rules and Standards.
- Goal Area D. Wetlands
- Goal D. 1. Preserve the existing functions and values of wetlands within the watershed.
  - Goal D. 2. Promote the enhancement or restoration of wetlands in the watershed.
- Goal Area E. Drainage Systems
- Goal F. 1. Continue current Hennepin County jurisdiction over county ditches in the watershed.
- Goal Area F. Commission Operations and Programming
- Goal F. 1. Identify and operate within a sustainable funding level that is affordable to member cities.
  - Goal F. 2. Foster implementation of TMDL and other implementation projects by sharing in their cost and proactively seeking grant funds.
  - Goal F. 3. Operate a public education and outreach program prioritizing elected and appointed officials education and building better understanding between all stakeholders.
  - Goal F. 4. Operate a monitoring program sufficient to characterize water quantity and quality and biotic integrity in the watershed and to evaluate progress toward TMDL goals.
  - Goal F. 5. Maintain rules and standards for development and redevelopment that are consistent with local and regional TMDLs, federal guidelines, source water and wellhead protection requirements, nondegradation, and ecosystem management goals.
  - Goal F. 6. Serve as a technical resource for member cities.

### **Implementation**

This Third Generation Watershed Management Plan continues a number of activities that have been successful in the past and introduces some new activities, including modified development rules and standards and TMDL implementation.

## *Executive Summary (con't)*

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Rules and Standards. In this Plan the Commission updated stormwater management and water resources protection policies from the Second Generation Plan and developed new standards based on the 2013 Minnesota NPDES General NPDES Permit for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer Systems (MS4s), the 2013 Minnesota NPDES Construction Stormwater General Permit, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA's) Minimal Impact Design Standards and State Stormwater Manual. These were compiled and codified into a Rules and Standards document. In general, the new Rules and Standards apply to all development and redevelopment one acre or more in size; require at a minimum no increase in pollutant loading or stormwater volume; no increase in the peak rate of runoff from the property; require the abstraction/infiltration of 1.1 inches of runoff from impervious surfaces; and clarifies the wetland buffer requirements.

Monitoring Program. The monitoring program establishes routine monitoring for flow and water quality on Pioneer and Sarah Creeks, with periodic monitoring on other smaller streams and tributaries on a rotating or as-needed basis. Four lakes – independence, Sarah, Whaletail, and Little Long – have been classified as “Sentinel Lakes,” and will be monitored every year. Other lakes will be monitored on a rotating basis.

Education and Outreach. The Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) for the Plan participated in developing a recommended Education and Outreach program that identifies stakeholder groups in the watershed and key education messages. This Plan expands education and outreach activities to key stakeholders.

Other Activities. The Implementation Plan includes funding to complete subwatershed BMP assessments and special studies such as feasibility studies and special monitoring that will identify the most cost-effective practices and projects. In 2014 the Commission has budgeted to establish and convene a Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) of staff and professional engineers to identify priorities for capital projects and to evaluate and prioritize those submittals for Commission funding. That TAC will continue in future years to provide advice and assistance to the Commission.

TMDL Implementation. The Commission was identified as being a partner in certain implementation activities in the Lake Sarah and Lake Independence TMDLs. Many of those activities are included in the monitoring, education and outreach, and special studies actions in this Plan. The member cities have taken on responsibility in the TMDLs for undertaking capital projects and activities to reduce pollutant loading. Where assessment or feasibility studies identify specific, feasible and cost-effective load reduction projects, the Commission may consider using its statutory authority to request Hennepin County to certify a levy for Commission financial participation in TMDL implementation capital projects.

A Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) study is being completed in 2013-2017 for several lakes and streams in the watershed, which will include additional TMDLs and implementation activities. This Plan will require future modification to incorporate those activities.

## *Executive Summary (con't)*

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### **Local and Watershed Plan Amendments**

On final approval of the Plan, cities will have 2 years to update their Local Stormwater Management Plan (LWMP). These updates will be expected to include:

- Updated land use, hydrologic, and hydraulic data, and existing or potential water resource related problems that may have changed since the last LWMP.
- An explanation of how the member city will help to implement the actions set forth in the Commission's Plan, including specifically addressing adoption and enforcement of a manure management ordinance.
- Show how the member city will take action to achieve the load reductions and other actions identified in and agreed to in TMDL Implementation Plans.
- Updated Implementation Plan identifying the specific structural, nonstructural, and programmatic solutions to the problems and issues identified in the LWMP.
- Set forth an implementation program including a description of adoption or amendment of official controls and local policies necessary to implement the Rules and Standards; programs; policies; a capital improvement plan; and estimates of cost and funding mechanisms.

This watershed management plan provides direction for PSC WMC activities through the year 2024. The Commissioners intend the Plan to provide a flexible framework for managing the watersheds and, as such, may initiate amendments to this plan at any time. The Commission will annually review and refine the budget, monitoring program, education and outreach plan and Capital Improvement Program and may adopt plan amendments adding or revising proposed capital improvement projects or making other revisions to the Plan.

Table 4.4. Pioneer-Sarah Creek Third Generation Plan Implementation Plan.

Action	Priority	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
<b>Expenses:</b>												
<b>OPERATING EXPENSES</b>												
Engineering/consulting	High	\$20,000	\$22,500	\$22,950	\$23,410	\$23,880	\$24,360	\$24,850	\$25,350	\$25,860	\$26,380	\$26,910
Administrative expense	Medium	50,000	47,000	47,940	48,940	49,880	50,880	51,900	52,940	54,000	55,080	56,180
Administrative -project reviews	High	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
WCA- administrative /legal expenses	Medium	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Administrative -tech support	Medium	2,200	1,000	1,020	1,040	1,060	1,080	1,100	1,120	1,140	1,160	1,180
Legal expense	Medium	1,500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Audit expense	Medium	4,000	4,000	4,080	4,160	4,240	4,320	4,410	4,500	4,590	4,680	4,770
Insurance	Medium	3,300	3,300	3,370	3,440	3,510	3,580	3,650	3,720	3,790	3,870	3,950
<b>PROGRAM DELIVERABLES AND EDUCATION</b>												
Administrative-general programs	Medium	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Technical Advisory Committee	High	2,000	3,000	3,060	3,120	3,180	3,240	3,300	3,370	3,440	3,510	3,580
Lake monitoring - contracted	High	3,400	3,600	4,810	3,740	4,620	3,890	4,800	5,690	5,390	5,910	5,180
Lake monitoring - CAMP	Medium	560	560	1,120	560	1,120	560	1,120	1,120	1,120	1,120	1,680
Stream monitoring – routine	High	3,900	7,000	7,140	7,280	7,430	7,580	7,730	7,880	8,040	8,200	8,360
Stream monitoring -other	Low			1,500	3,640	1,000	3,790	1,620	0	1,000	4,100	1,750
Management Plan Amendment	Medium		1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0	1,000	0
Education program	High	2,000	6,000	6,120	6,240	6,360	6,490	6,620	6,750	6,890	7,030	7,170
Education-events	Medium	500	500	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750	750
Grant writing	High		1,000	1,020	1,040	1,060	1,080	1,100	1,120	1,140	1,160	1,180
Invertebrate monitoring	Low	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	0
Website	High	2,200	2,200	2,240	2,280	2,330	2,380	2,430	2,480	2,530	2,580	2,630
<b>MISCELLANEOUS</b>												
Contingency - Other	Low	2,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Contribution to Next Gen Plan	Medium	5,000	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Subw Assessments/CIP Cost Share	High	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
<b>TOTAL OPERATING EXPENSE</b>		<b>\$125,060</b>	<b>\$126,760</b>	<b>\$135,110</b>	<b>\$136,730</b>	<b>\$138,080</b>	<b>\$141,510</b>	<b>\$142,680</b>	<b>\$143,860</b>	<b>\$146,510</b>	<b>\$151,550</b>	<b>\$151,610</b>
<b>Revenues:</b>												
Member Dues (max 2% increase)		\$126,000	\$126,760	\$131,090	\$133,710	\$136,380	\$139,110	\$141,890	\$144,730	\$147,620	150,570	153,580
Project Review Fees		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
WCA Administrative Fees		500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500	500
Interest & Dividends		20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20	20
(To) from Reserve		2,460	1,520	2,500	1,500	180	880	(730)	(2,390)	(2,630)	(540)	(3,490)
<b>TOTAL OPERATING REVENUE</b>		<b>\$125,060</b>	<b>\$128,280</b>	<b>\$135,110</b>	<b>\$136,730</b>	<b>\$138,080</b>	<b>\$141,510</b>	<b>\$142,680</b>	<b>\$143,860</b>	<b>\$146,510</b>	<b>\$151,550</b>	<b>\$151,610</b>
Dues Per Capita (Based on 2010 est. pop.)		\$ 12.86	\$ 12.94	\$ 13.20	\$ 13.47	\$ 13.73	\$ 14.01	\$ 14.29	\$ 14.57	\$ 14.87	\$ 15.16	\$ 15.47
Dues per \$100,000 2013 Market Value		\$ 10.19	\$ 10.25	\$ 10.46	\$ 10.67	\$ 10.88	\$ 11.10	\$ 11.32	\$ 11.55	\$ 11.78	\$ 12.01	\$ 12.25

Note: See Appendix F for Capital Improvement Projects and Programs.

**Table F.1. Capital Improvement Program.**

Note: See project descriptions following the tables. PSC = Pioneer-Sarah WMC

Year	Project	Project Name	Total Cost	Commission Share	Potential Funding Source(s)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>CAPITAL PROJECTS</b>												
2014-2015	ME-1	Lake Ardmore infiltration basin	30,000	3,000	PSC, Medina	3,000						
	IN-1	Lake Sarah curlyleaf pondweed treatment	40,000	4,000	PSC, Independence, Greenfield, lake assn		4,000					
	IN-2	Hydrologic restorations: HR 67, 68, 29, and 33	200,000	20,000	PSC, Independence		20,000					
	ME-2	Lake Independence curlyleaf pondweed treatment	122,000	12,200	PSC, Medina, Independence, lake assn		12,200					
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$392,000</b>	<b>\$39,200</b>		<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$36,200</b>					
2016	GR-3	Dance Hall Creek BMPs	200,000	10,000	PSC, Greenfield, grants			10,000				
	GR-4	Feedlot improvements: Dance Hall Creek	35,000	1,750	PSC, Greenfield, grants			1,750				
	GR-9	Buffer strips: Dance Hall Creek	35,000	1,750	PSC, Greenfield, grants			1,750				
	GR-11	Control carp population: Lake Sarah	10,000	500	PSC, Greenfield, DNR, grants			500				
	GR-11	Control carp population: other lakes	10,000	500	PSC, Greenfield, DNR, grants			500				
	IN-3	Lake Sarah curlyleaf pondweed treatment	32,000	3,200	PSC, Independence, Greenfield, lake assn			3,200				
	IN-4	Gully restorations: GS50 (design)	120,000	12,000	PSC, Independence, grants			12,000				
	ME-4	Lake Ardmore neighborhood projects	80,000	8,000	PSC, Medina, grants			8,000				
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$522,000</b>	<b>\$37,700</b>			<b>\$37,700</b>					
2017	IN-5	Lake Sarah curlyleaf pondweed treatment	26,000	2,600	PSC, Independence, Greenfield, lake assn				2,600			
	IN-7	Raingardens in targeted areas	75,000	7,500	PSC, Independence, property owners				7,500			
	IN-9	Shoreline restoration – Sarah and Independence	125,000	12,500	PSC, Independence, Greenfield, Medina, property owners, grants				12,500			
	GR-4	Feedlot improvements: Dance Hall Creek	35,000	1,750	PSC, Greenfield, grants				1,750			
	GR-9	Buffer strips: Dance Hall Creek	35,000	1,750	PSC, Greenfield, grants				1,750			
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$296,000</b>	<b>\$26,100</b>				<b>\$26,100</b>				
2018	GR-3	Hafften, Schendel, Schwauppaufl BMPs	100,000	10,000	PSC, Greenfield, grants					10,000		
	IN-6	Lake Sarah curlyleaf pondweed treatment	20,000	2,000	PSC, Independence, Greenfield, lake assn					2,000		
	MP-6	South Ravine cleanup	260,000	26,000	PSC, Maple Plain, grants					26,000		
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$380,000</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>					<b>\$38,000</b>			
2019-2020	ME-5	Sediment sampling in Lake Independence	18,500	1,850	PSC, Medina, Independence, 3 Rivers						1,850	
	IN-8	Sediment sampling in Lake Sarah	12,000	1,200	PSC, Independence, Greenfield						1,200	
	IN-9	Shoreline restoration – Sarah and Independence	125,000	12,500	PSC, Independence, Medina, Greenfield, property owners, grants						12,500	
	GR-4	Feedlot improvements	35,000	1,750	PSC, Greenfield, grants						1,750	
	IN-2	Hydrologic restorations GS50 (install)	200,000	20,000	PSC, Independence, grants						20,000	
	ME-6	Tomahawk Trail wetland project	230,000	23,000	PSC, Medina, grants						0	23,000
<b>Subtotal</b>			<b>\$620,500</b>	<b>\$60,300</b>						<b>\$37,300</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>	

Year	Project	Project Name	Total Cost	Commission Share	Potential Funding Source(s)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>SPECIAL STUDIES</b>												
2015	MP-4	Ravine study	3,000	300	PSC, Maple Plain		300					
2015	ME-3	Lake Independence Subwatershed Assessment	15,000	1,500	PSC, Medina		1,500					
2018	GR-1	Subw Assess-Hafften, Schendel, Schwauppau	20,000	1,000	PSC, Greenfield					1,000		
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>	<b>\$2,800</b>			<b>\$1,800</b>			<b>\$1,000</b>		
		<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,248,500</b>	<b>\$204,100</b>		<b>\$3,000</b>	<b>\$38,000</b>	<b>\$37,700</b>	<b>\$26,100</b>	<b>\$39,000</b>	<b>\$37,300</b>	<b>\$23,000</b>
		Capital Projects Account Est January 1 Balance					\$27,300	\$9,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
		Annual Capital Projects Fund Contribution					20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
		Estimated Expenditures				3,000	38,000	37,700	26,100	39,000	37,300	23,000
		Other Funding Sources						8,400	6,100	19,000	17,300	3,000
		Capital Projects Account Estimated December 31 Balance				\$27,300	\$9,300	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>No Year Assigned</b>												
	CIP-7	Lindgren Lane Pond	100,000	10,000								
	CIP-8	Koch's/Mill's Creek Inlet Ponds (now HR 97 and 29)	200,000	20,000								
	CIP-11	Manure Management Cost-Share Projects	250,000	25,000								
	LO-1	Chippewa Road Drainage	21,000	2,100								
	LO-2	Creekview Road Drainage	21,000	2,100								
	LO-3	Retention Pond mapping and cleanup	10,000	1,000								
	LO-4	Ditch Cleaning at Ballpark	10,000	1,000								
	LO-5	Sediment Pond Cleanout	25,000	2,500								
	LO-6	Sediment Pond Cleanout	80,000	8,000								
	MP-1	Drainageway Cleaning -E of Budd	55,000	5,500								
	MP-2	Rock checks, Main St Ravine	23,700	2,370								
	MP-3	Washout, Main St Ravine	8,000	800								
	MP-5	North Ravine Cleanup	286,000	28,600								
		<b>Subtotal</b>	<b>\$1,089,700</b>	<b>\$108,970</b>								
		<b>TOTAL COST</b>	<b>\$3,738,200</b>	<b>\$323,070</b>								
		Other Related Local Projects, No Commission Contribution										
	GR-2	Whisper Creek WWTP	\$500,000	\$ -								

Note: See project descriptions following the tables.

# Appendix F Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

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**Pioneer-Sarah Creek Watershed Management Commission  
Third Generation Watershed Management Plan  
Capital Improvement Projects and Funding**

Projects proposed for the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) are shown in Table F.1 and described in more detail following the table. This initial CIP was prepared from projects submitted by the member cities and reviewed and prioritized by the Commission's professional Technical Advisory Committee (TAC). Projects and studies that implemented Lake Independence and Lake Sarah TMDL load reduction or other actions were given the highest priority.

It is anticipated that this CIP will be reviewed annually, and additional projects and studies may be added by major or minor plan amendment as submitted by the member cities or as recommended by the TAC. In addition, the WRAPS currently underway will be complete by 2017, and it is expected that additional projects and studies will be identified in that study and considered for addition to the CIP.

The TAC met twice to review and prioritize the submitted projects. It is anticipated that TAC will meet 2-3 times per year to review submittals and make recommendations to the Commission. It is the intent of the Commission to finance these projects using its current Cost Share Policy as funds are available and through local funds and grants as available.

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## Project Descriptions

Unless otherwise noted, it is assumed that the Commission's share will be as shown on Table F.1, with the balance funded by the member city, supplemented as necessary through grant funds and stakeholder and land owner financial participation.

### 2014-2015

#### *ME-1 Lake Ardmore Infiltration Basin*

Build a sump and infiltration basin (or equivalent) on city-owned property within the Lake Ardmore Neighborhood to treat the 1" 'water quality' event in order to reduce the amount of untreated stormwater entering the lake. Lake Ardmore will likely be listed as impaired in 2016. This older neighborhood currently does not have any stormwater infrastructure and this will reduce from 60 to 100% of particulate and dissolved phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids.

#### *IN-1 Lake Sarah Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment*

Utilizing a volunteer-driven model, and in partnership with the DNR and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, apply herbicide (Aquathol) to non-native curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) which was included in the TMDL Implementation Plan as a solution to the large in-lake load for Lake Sarah (900 lbs/yr or 17% overall load). This is Year 3 of a 5 year project.

#### *IN-2 Hydrologic Restorations*

Restore hydrology to drained wetlands by adding box inlets to existing culverts, priority projects HR 67, 68, 29, and 33 as identified in the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment.

#### *ME-2 Lake Independence Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment*

Apply herbicide (Aquathol) to non-native curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) which was included in the TMDL Implementation Plan as a solution to the large in-lake load for Lake Independence.

### 2016

#### *GR-3 Dance Hall Creek Drainage Area BMPs*

The Lake Sarah TMDL identified flow discharging from Dance Hall Creek into Lake Sarah as a significant source of nutrient load to the lake. In 2014, the City of Greenfield is partnering with Hennepin County Environmental Services, Three Rivers Park District, and the Commission to complete a subwatershed assessment of the Dance Hall Creek drainage area. This project would implement high-priority BMPs identified in that study.

#### *GR-4 Feedlot Improvements: Dance Hall Creek Area*

This project would provide cost-share assistance to property owners installing improvements to feedlots to reduce the export of nutrients and bacteria to downstream waterbodies. Various locations with priority in the Dance Hall Creek drainage area.

*GR-9 Buffer Strips: Dance Hall Creek Area*

This project would provide cost-share assistance to property owners installing buffer strips and other structures to retain and filter stormwater runoff to reduce the export of nutrients and bacteria to downstream waterbodies. Various locations with priority in the Dance Hall Creek drainage area.

*GR-11 Control Carp Population: Lake Sarah*

Rough fish management in Lake Sarah to reduce lake internal load and improve water clarity.

*GR-11 Control Carp Population: Other Lakes*

Rough fish management in priority waterbodies to reduce lake internal load and improve water clarity.

*IN-3 Lake Sarah Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment*

Utilizing a volunteer-driven model, and in partnership with the DNR and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, apply herbicide (Aquathol) to non-native curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) which was included in the TMDL Implementation Plan as a solution to the large in-lake load for Lake Sarah (900 lbs/yr or 17% overall load). This is Year 4 of a 5 year project.

*IN-4 Gully Restorations*

Reduce direct flows and anchor gullies that have occurred near the lake primarily near Baker Regional Park, priority project GS 50 as identified in the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment. This project would complete field work and design for the proposed improvement.

*ME-4 Lake Ardmore Neighborhood Projects*

After the subwatershed is completed, determine Best Management Practices (BMPs) including raingardens, infiltration basins, etc. for an existing neighborhood with little to no stormwater infrastructure that directly or indirectly drains into Lake Independence or Lake Ardmore.

**2017**

*IN-5 Lake Sarah Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment*

Utilizing a volunteer-driven model, and in partnership with the DNR and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, apply herbicide (Aquathol) to non-native curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) which was included in the TMDL Implementation Plan as a solution to the large in-lake load for Lake Sarah (900 lbs/yr or 17% overall load). This is Year 4 of a 5 year project.

*IN-7 Rain Gardens in Targeted Areas*

Determine location and provide incentive to landowners to install the most cost-effective raingardens utilizing the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment.

*IN-9 Shoreline Restoration – Sarah and Independence*

Determine location and provide incentive to landowners to install the most cost-effective shoreline restorations utilizing the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment.

*GR-4 Feedlot Improvements: Dance Hall Creek Area*

This project would provide cost-share assistance to property owners installing improvements to feedlots to reduce the export of nutrients and bacteria to downstream waterbodies. Various locations with priority in the Dance Hall Creek drainage area.

*GR-9 Buffer Strips: Dance Hall Creek Area*

This project would provide cost-share assistance to property owners installing buffer strips and other structures to retain and filter stormwater runoff to reduce the export of nutrients and bacteria to downstream waterbodies. Various locations with priority in the Dance Hall Creek drainage area.

**2018**

*GR-3 Hafften, Schendel, Schwauppaufl Lakes Drainage Area BMPs*

Following completion of a subwatershed assessment (GR-1), this project would implement high-priority BMPs identified in that study.

*IN-6 Lake Sarah Curlyleaf Pondweed Treatment*

Utilizing a volunteer-driven model, and in partnership with the DNR and the Lake Sarah Improvement Association, apply herbicide (Aquathol) to non-native curly-leaf pondweed (CLP) which was included in the TMDL Implementation Plan as a solution to the large in-lake load for Lake Sarah (900 lbs/yr or 17% overall load). This is Year 5 of a 5 year project.

*MP-6 South Ravine Cleanup*

The scope of the project is to cleanup various spots along the ravine to the south of Main Street West via toe protection, realign channel, riffle pool, riprap channel, etc. Purpose of the project is to prevent the ravine sediment loss to the north wetland complex.

**2019-2020**

*ME-5 Sediment Sampling Lake Independence*

Obtain and analyze sediment cores from Lake Independence to evaluate the type of mobile and organic phosphorus contributing to the lake's internal loading, and to determine the internal loading rate. As mentioned in the TMDL Implementation Plan, after watershed inputs are reduced, internal load reductions will need to be undertaken in order to meet the MPCA standards for phosphorus. The loading was estimated for the TMDL so the correct dosage and/or best management strategy can be undertaken with this new data.

*IN-8 Sediment Sampling Lake Sarah*

Obtain and analyze sediment cores from Lake Sarah to evaluate the type of mobile and organic phosphorus contributing to the lake's internal loading, and to determine the internal loading rate. As mentioned in the TMDL Implementation Plan, after watershed inputs are reduced, internal load reductions will need to be undertaken in order to meet the MPCA standards for phosphorus. The loading was estimated for the TMDL so the correct dosage and/or best management strategy can be undertaken with this new data.

*IN-9 Shoreline Restoration – Sarah and Independence*

Continuation of previous program: determine location and provide incentive to landowners to install the most cost-effective shoreline restorations utilizing the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment.

*GR-4 Feedlot Improvements: Dance Hall Creek Area*

This project would provide cost-share assistance to property owners installing improvements to feedlots to reduce the export of nutrients and bacteria to downstream waterbodies. Various locations with priority in the Dance Hall Creek drainage area.

*IN-2 Hydrologic Restorations*

Restore hydrology to drained wetlands by adding box inlets to existing culverts as identified in the Lake Independence and Sarah Subwatershed Assessment, priority is GS50.

*ME-6 Tomahawk Trail Wetland Project*

This project was identified in the Lake Independence TMDL Implementation Plan completed in 2007. Reduce external phosphorus loading contributing to impairment of Lake Independence by designing and developing alum treatment and iron enhanced filter system for Tomahawk Trail wetland prior to inlet to Half Moon Lake. Project may include wetland restoration.

**Special Studies**

*MP-4 Ravine study*

The scope of the project is to study the costs to cleanup various spots along the ravine to the north and south of Main Street West via toe protection, realign channel, riffle pool, riprap channel, etc.

*ME-3 Lake Independence Subwatershed Assessment*

Assess a whole or part of a subwatershed within the Lake Independence watershed utilizing the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model to find and estimate costs for individual Best Management Practices that can be implemented in order to reduce nutrient loading.

*GR-1 Subwatershed Assessment-Hafften, Schendel, Schwauppaufl Lakes Drainage Area*

Complete a subwatershed assessment of the drainage area to this lake system to identify sources of phosphorus and sediment load and to identify potential Best Management Practices.

**Additional Potential Projects, No Year Assigned**

*CIP-7 Lindgren Lane Pond*

This potential project was carried forward from the Second Generation Plan. Construct retention pond on west side of Independence Road intersection w/Lindgren Lane to impound surface water by means of a dike or excavation to reduce external phosphorus loading contributing to impairment of Lake Independence

*CIP-8 Koch's/Mill's Creek Inlet Ponds*

This potential project was carried forward from the Second Generation Plan. Construct retention ponds at Koch's Creek and Mill's Creek inlets to Lake Independence to impound surface water by means of a dike or excavation to reduce external phosphorus loading contributing to impairment of the lake. (Now HR 97 and 29 in the Lake Sarah and Independence Subwatershed Assessment.)

*CIP-11 Manure Management Cost-Share Projects*

Undertake watershed-wide cost-share manure management improvement projects. Projects will reduce external loading to watershed lakes and streams due to livestock activities.

*LO-1 Chippewa Road Drainage*

Install drain tile along property lines to convey residential sump pump drainage.

*LO-2 Creekview Road Drainage*

Install drain tile along property lines to convey residential sump pump drainage.

*LO-3 Retention Pond Mapping and Cleanup*

Complete inventory and map of sedimentation ponds and make minor repairs as necessary.

*LO-4 Ditch Cleaning at Ballpark*

This ditch at the south end of the ballpark drains into the Loretto Creek system. Cleanout would stabilize the ditch to reduce sediment transport into the Creek and then to Lake Independence.

*LO-5 Sediment Pond Cleanout*

Cleanout of ponds to restore pollutant removal efficiency.

*LO-6 Sediment Pond Cleanout*

Cleanout of the Sunnyridge Pond to restore pollutant removal efficiency.

*MP-1 Drainageway Cleaning East of Budd*

The project is to clean the existing drainage way to the east of Budd Street and north of the Park to improve stability and reduce sedimentation to downstream wetlands.

*MP-2 Rock Checks, Main St Ravine*

This project would place two rock checks downstream of the existing flared end section in the ravine located on the north side of Main Street West. The purpose of the project is to slow velocities downstream of the flared end.

*MP-3 Washout, Main St Ravine*

Stabilize a washout area on the Main Street Ravine to reduce sedimentation to the Pioneer Creek outlet wetland.

*MP-5 North Ravine Cleanup*

The scope of the project is to cleanup various spots along the ravine to the north of Main Street West via toe protection, realign channel, riffle pool, riprap channel, etc. The purpose of the project is to prevent the ravine sediment loss to the north wetland complex.

**Related Local Projects, No Commission Contribution**

*GR-2 Whisper Creek WWTP*

Expand the Whisper Creek WWTP to accommodate new development to eliminate future SSTS. The plant treats wastewater from home sin an approximately 180 acre area of Greenfield and discharges to Whisper Creek, a Crow River tributary.

## COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

### *North Region Committee*

1. Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Amendment Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
3. Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request – Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
4. Clay County Water Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
5. Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Plan Extension Request - Gerald Van Amburg – ***DECISION ITEM***
6. Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension Request – Tom Schulz – ***DECISION ITEM***
7. Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Five Year Amendment – Tom Schulz – ***DECISION ITEM***



# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:**

**Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – 5 Year  
Amendment Extension**

**Meeting Date:**

January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**

Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**

Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:**

North Region

**Contact:**

Pete Waller

**Prepared by:**

Pete Waller

**Reviewed by:**

North Region Committee    Committee(s)

**Presented by:**

Gerald Van Amburg

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

**Attachments:**

Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None          | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

## ACTION REQUESTED

Act on North Region Committee's recommendation to extend the Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWMP) 5 Year Amendment to January 31, 2017.

## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Allowing the 5 year amendment to be completed January 2017 will synchronize the CLWMP 5 year amendment with completion of the four pertinent Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies, and the Douglas County SWCD's Lake Protection Analysis (a FY14 Clean Water Fund project). Having the information and products generated by the WRAPS and Lake Protection Analysis included in the amended Comprehensive Local Water Plan will enable a higher degree of Prioritization, Targeting and Measurability.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 5-year Amendment Requirement for **Douglas County** (Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367 and the Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy)

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ORDER  
EXTENDING  
DOUGLAS COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN AMENDMENT

**Whereas**, Douglas County has a State approved Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan pursuant to M.S. 103B.301 that is effective until May 27, 2019, with the 5-year amendment required by December 31, 2014, as per the Board Order dated May 27, 2009;

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted the Local Water Plan Extensions Policy on December 17, 2014.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1) On October 7, 2014, the BWSR received Resolution 1449 from Douglas County requesting an extension of the requirement to complete the 5-year amendment to their Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until January 31, 2017. The following are the reasons for the request:
  - Douglas County wishes to participate in and effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), which are scheduled to be completed in the County by December of 2015. The following table shows the WRAPS schedules and Major Watersheds of the County:

Watershed	% of County	Scheduled Completion Date
Pomme de Terre	4.3%	July 2013
Sauk	12.8%	August 2014
Chippewa	40.6%	December 2014
Long Praire	42.2%	December 2015

- The Douglas Soil and Water Conservation District is completing a Lake Protection Analysis with a fiscal year 2014 Clean Water Fund grant, which ends December 31, 2016. This analysis utilizes LiDAR data to identify lake-based contributing areas for landuse-based stress estimates, and documents additional protection and risk factors for each contributing area.
- 2) Board staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension to the 5-year amendment requirement requested by Douglas County.

- 3) On January 14, 2015, the North Region Committee met and reviewed the Douglas County request for an extension of the requirement to complete the 5-year amendment. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

### **CONCLUSION**

All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matters of extending the Local Water Management Plan 5-year amendment requirements for the Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367, and Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the extension to the 5-year amendment requirement for the Douglas County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until January 31, 2017.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

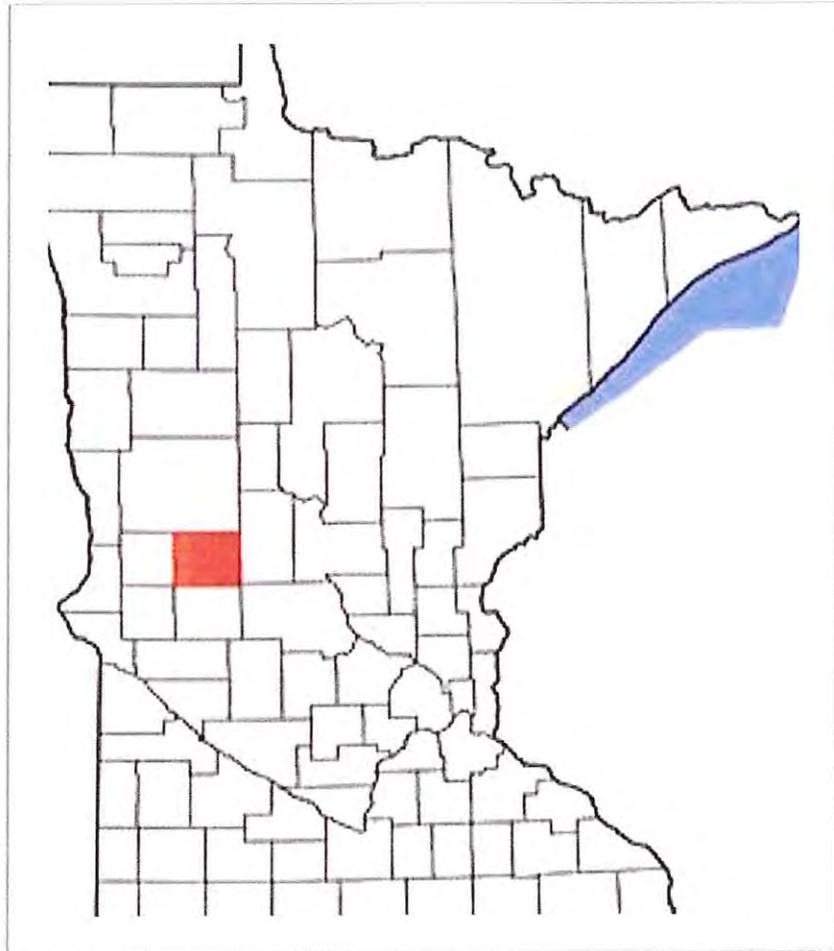
### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

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BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Douglas County

## Location Map





## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – Extension

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** North Region

**Contact:** Pete Waller

**Prepared by:** Pete Waller

**Reviewed by:** North Region Committee    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Gerald Van Amburg

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

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

### Fiscal/Policy Impact

None     General Fund Budget

Amended Policy Requested     Capital Budget

New Policy Requested     Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget

Other:     Clean Water Fund Budget

### ACTION REQUESTED

Act on North Region Committee's recommendation to extend the Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWMP) to December 31, 2017.

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Allowing an extension to December 31, 2017 will synchronize of the Grant County CLWMP with completion of four pertinent Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan. Having the information and products generated by the WRAPS included in the Comprehensive Local Water Plan will enable a higher degree of Prioritization, Targeting and Measurability. The potential to synchronize with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan is a good opportunity.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 10-year Update Requirement for **Grant County** (Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367, Board Resolution #12-85 and Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy)

---

ORDER  
EXTENDING  
GRANT COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

**Whereas**, Grant County has a State approved Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan pursuant to M.S. 103B.301 that is effective until December 31, 2015, as per the Board Order dated October 26, 2005;

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367;

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #12-85 "Red River Basin Watershed District Plan Expiration Date Extension" on September 26, 2012; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted the Local Water Plan Extensions Policy on December 17, 2014.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1) On November 12, 2014, the Board received a resolution from Grant County requesting an extension to complete the 10-year update to their Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until December 31, 2017. The reason for the request is:
  - Grant County wishes to participate in and effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), which are scheduled to be completed in the County in 2016. The following table and figure shows the WRAPS schedules for and Major Watersheds of the County:

Watershed	% of County	Scheduled Completion Date
Pomme de Terre	27.2%	July 2013
Chippewa	7.2%	December 2014
Mustinka	43.8%	March 2015
Bois de Sioux	21.8%	March 2016

- 2) The Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan is due to be updated by April 2017.
- 3) Board staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension to the 10-year update requirement by Grant County.

- 4) On January 14, 2015, the North Region Committee met and reviewed the Grant County request for an extension of the requirement to complete the 10-year update. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

### **CONCLUSION**

All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matters of extending the Local Water Management Plan 10-year update requirement for the Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367, Board Resolution #12-85 and Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the extension to the 10-year update requirement for the Grant County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until December 31, 2017.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

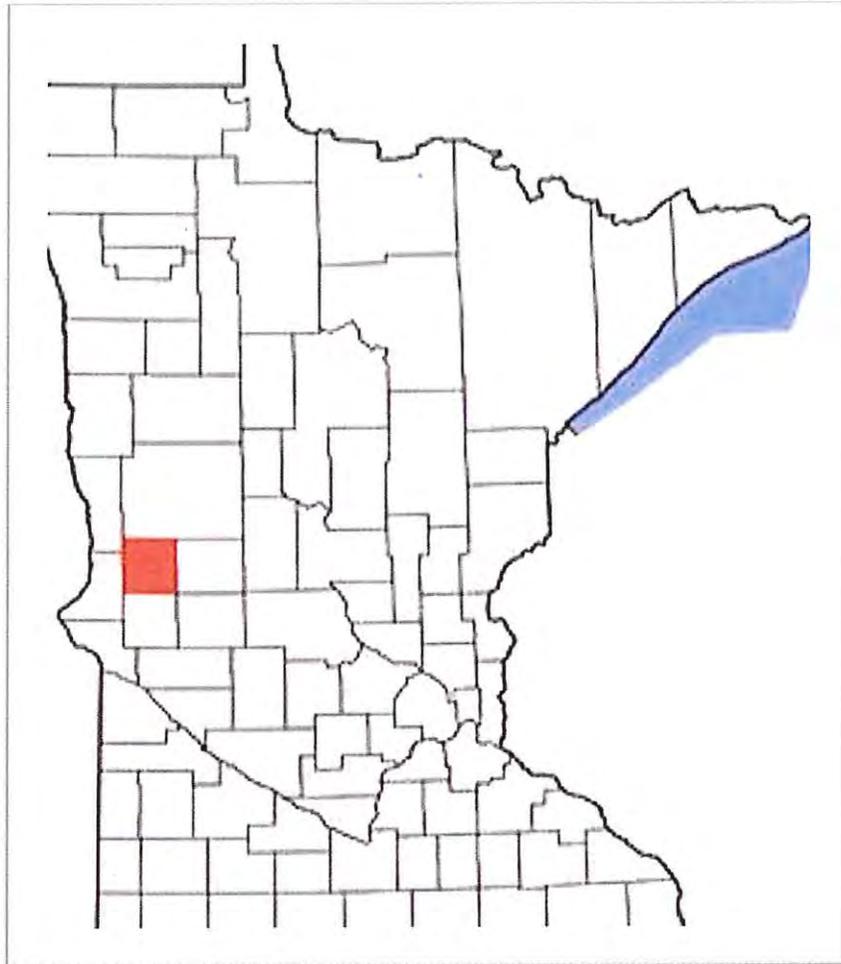
**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

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BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Grant County

## Location Map





## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Plan – Extension

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** North Region

**Contact:** Pete Waller

**Prepared by:** Pete Waller

**Reviewed by:** North Region Committee Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Gerald Van Amburg

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

### Fiscal/Policy Impact

None  General Fund Budget

Amended Policy Requested  Capital Budget

New Policy Requested  Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget

Other:  Clean Water Fund Budget

### ACTION REQUESTED

Act on North Region Committee's recommendation to extend the Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWMP) to June 30, 2017.

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

Allowing an extension to June 30, 2017, will synchronize the Stevens CLWMP with completion of three pertinent Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan. Having the information and products generated by the WRAPS included in the Comprehensive Local Water Plan will enable a higher degree of Prioritization, Targeting and Measurability. The potential to synchronize with the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan is a good opportunity.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 10-year Update Requirement for **Stevens County** (Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367, Board Resolution #12-85 and Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy)

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ORDER  
EXTENDING  
STEVENS COUNTY  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT  
PLAN

**Whereas**, Stevens County has a State approved Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan pursuant to M.S. 103B.301 that is effective until June 30, 2015, as per the Board Order dated May 25, 2009;

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367;

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #12-85 "Red River Basin Watershed District Plan Expiration Date Extension" on September 26, 2012; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted the Local Water Plan Extensions Policy on December 17, 2014.

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

- 1) On December 26, 2014, the Board received a resolution from Stevens County requesting an extension of the requirement to complete the 10-year update to their Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until June 30, 2017. The reason for the request is:
  - Stevens County wishes to participate in and more effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), which are scheduled to be completed in the County in 2015. The following table shows the WRAPS schedules and Major Watersheds of the County:

Watershed	% of County	Scheduled Completion Date
Pomme de Terre	60.0%	July 2013
Chippewa	14.6%	December 2014
Mustinka	24.0%	March 2015

- 2) The Bois de Sioux Watershed District Plan is due to be updated by April 2017.
- 3) Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended approval of the extension to the 10-year update requirement by Stevens County.

- 4) On January 14, 2015, the North Region Committee met and reviewed the Stevens County request for an extension of the requirement to complete the 10-year update. The Committee recommended approval of this request.

### **CONCLUSION**

All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matters of extending the Local Water Management Plan 10-year update requirement for the Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan, pursuant to M.S. 103B.3367, Board Resolution #12-85 and Board's Local Water Plan Extensions Policy.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the extension to the 10-year update requirement for the Stevens County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan until June 30, 2017.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of January 2015.

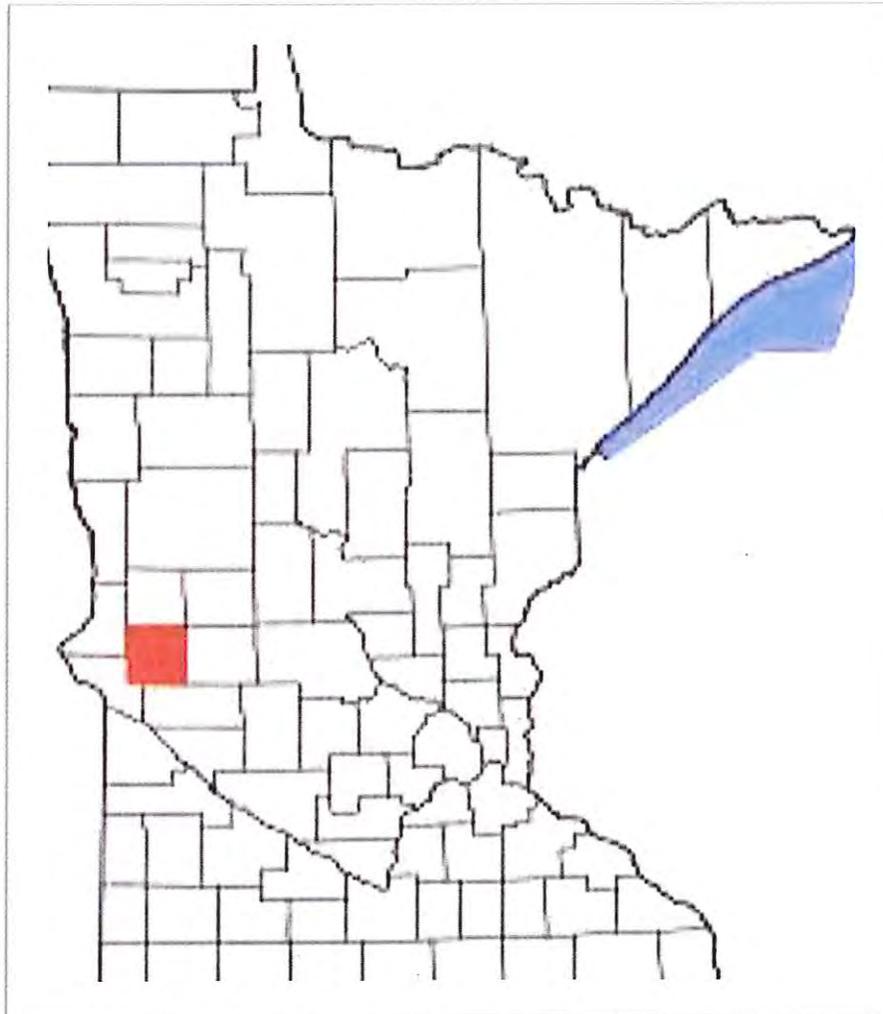
### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

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BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Stevens County

## Location Map





## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Clay County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** North Region

**Contact:** Brett Arne

**Prepared by:** Brett Arne

**Reviewed by:** North Region Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Gerald Van Amburg

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

### Fiscal/Policy Impact

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None          | <input type="checkbox"/> General Fund Budget          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Amended Policy Requested | <input type="checkbox"/> Capital Budget               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> New Policy Requested     | <input type="checkbox"/> Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other:                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Clean Water Fund Budget      |

### ACTION REQUESTED

Clay County requests BWSR:

- Extend the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan one (1) year to December 31, 2016 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103B.3367 and Board Resolutions #14-76 and #12-85

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

N/A

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

The request from Clay County is based on the following:

- Clay County has participated in the Buffalo-Red River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) effort which has not yet been approved, and will be a participant in the Wild Rice Watershed WRAPS process.
- Clay SWCD is a member of the Area 1 TSA which is utilizing BWSR Accelerated Implementation funds to provide GIS technical support and data to water planning efforts in the Red River Valley.
- Clay County wishes to synchronize efforts with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District who will be providing a plan update to BWSR by May 31, 2015.
- Clay County wishes to synchronize with neighboring counties Becker and Norman with interest in partnering on potential One Watershed One Plan opportunities.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan for **Clay County**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367.

---

**ORDER  
EXTENDING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, on December 14, 2005, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), by Board Order, approved the Clay County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (Plan) that is effective until December 31, 2015; and

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.3367; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #12-85 *Red River Basin Watershed District Plan Expiration Date Extension* on September 26, 2012; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #14-76 *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* on December 17, 2014;

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On September 23, 2014, the Board received a petition from Clay County requesting an extension to their Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (Plan) from the current date of December 31, 2015 until a new date of December 31, 2016. The following are the reasons for the request.
  - A. Clay County intends to participate in and more effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 10-year approach for monitoring, assessing, and developing Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). The following table shows the WRAPS schedules for the County.

Major Watershed	% of County	Scheduled WRAPS Completion Date
Wild Rice	23	2018
Buffalo Red	77	2014

- B. Clay County intends to use GIS products and services developed by Northern and Northwestern Minnesota Technical Service Areas 1 and 8 for the Red River Basin in the development of the

Plan. These data and services are funded through a Clean Water Fund Shared Services grant awarded January 22, 2014.

- c. Clay County wishes to synchronize Plan development efforts with the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District which is scheduled to provide a plan update to by May 31, 2015.
  - d. Clay County is interested in pursuing options under One Watershed One Plan wishes to synchronize Plan development efforts with the adjacent Norman and Becker Counties Comprehensive Local Water Management Plans which will both expire on December 31, 2016.
2. **Northern Regional Committee.** On January 14, 2015 the Northern Regional Committee (Committee) of the Board reviewed the Extension request. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Gerald Van Amburg, Thomas Schulz, Neil Peterson, Keith Mykleseth, and Brian Napstad. Board staff in attendance were Northern Regional Supervisor Ron Shelito and Board Conservationists Pete Waller, Ryan Hughes, and Brett Arne, as well as Brian Dwight, Clean Water Specialist and Travis Germundson, Water Management Specialist. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of approval of the request to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Extension request to the full Board.

#### CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending Comprehensive Local Water Management Plans, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367.
3. The Clay County extension request is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367 and the Board's *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* dated December 17, 2014.

#### ORDER

The Board hereby approves the extension of the Clay County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan to December 31, 2016.

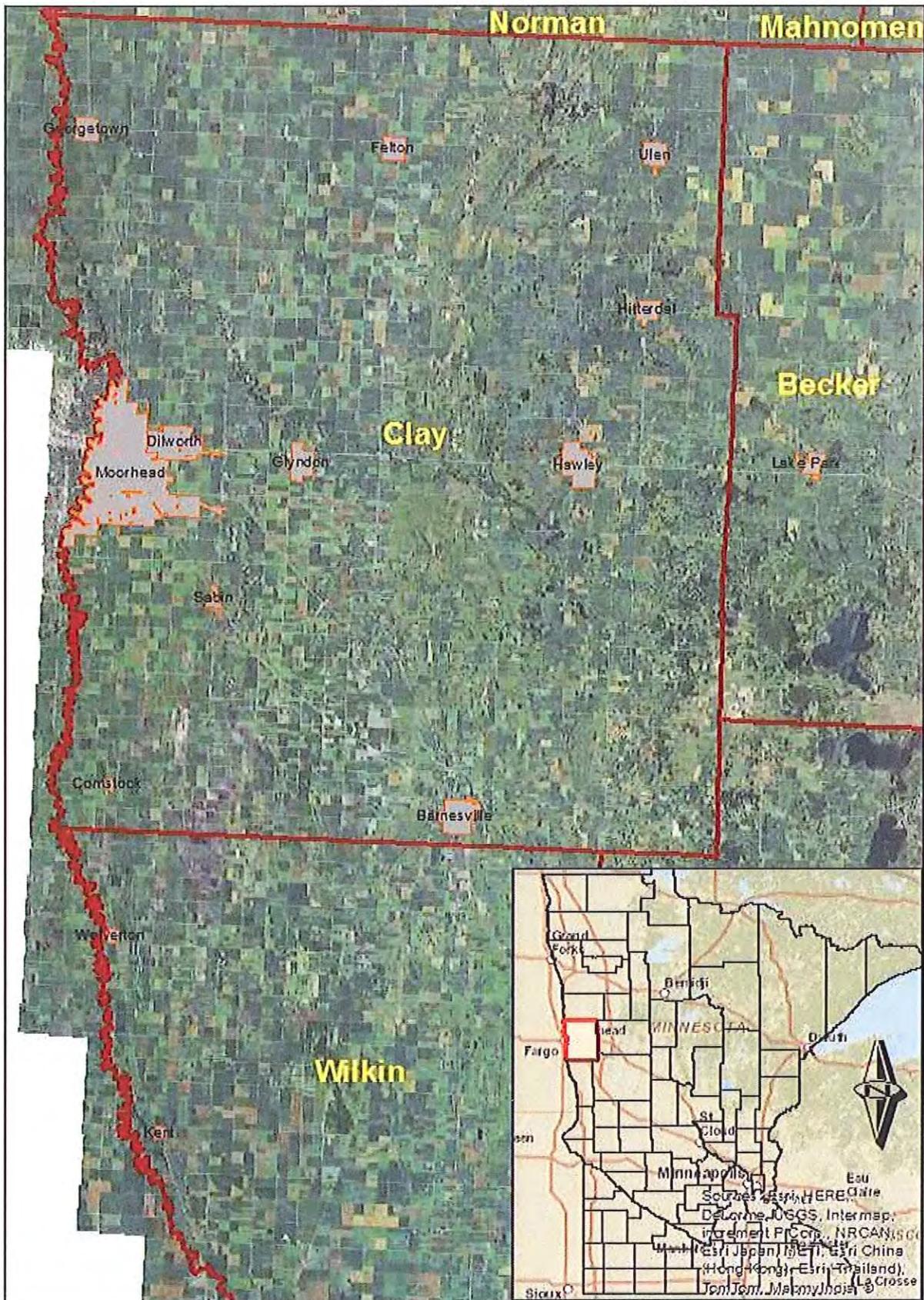
Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-eighth day of January, 2015.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

---

BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Clay County, MN





# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Pelican River Watershed District Revised Watershed Management Plan Extension

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** North Region

**Contact:** Brett Arne

**Prepared by:** Brett Arne

**Reviewed by:** North Region Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Gerald Van Amburg

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Pelican River Watershed District Requests from BWSR:

- Extension of Revised Watershed Management Plan to December 31, 2016 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 103B.3367, and BWSR resolution #14-76.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

N/A

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

The request is based on the following:

- PRWD wishes to synchronize plan development with Becker County which received an extension from BWSR to December 31, 2016. The PRWD land area is nearly entirely within Becker County and the entities regularly collaborate on water management.
- The PRWD will utilize new data received through an ongoing St. Clair Lake TMDL process, as well as data collected through a Soil Erosion Drainage Law Compliance grant awarded by BWSR in which the PRWD is partnering with Becker County and Becker SWCD.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Watershed Management Plan for **Pelican River Watershed District**, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367.

---

**ORDER  
EXTENDING  
WATERSHED  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, on August 24th, 2005, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), by Board Order, prescribed the Pelican River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan (Plan) that is effective until February 24, 2015, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103D.405; and

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.3367; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #14-76 *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* on December 17, 2014;

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On October 17, 2014, the Board received a resolution from Pelican River Watershed District (District) requesting an extension to their Watershed Management Plan (Plan) from the current date of February 24, 2015 until a new date of December 31, 2016. The following are the reasons for the request.
  - A. The District wishes to synchronize Plan development efforts with the Becker County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan which will expire on December 31, 2016. The District land area lies almost entirely within Becker County.
  - B. The District Plans to utilize data collected from the completion of the St. Clair Lake TMDL, as well as a joint effort with the Becker SWCD via a Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance grant awarded by the Board in 2014.
  
2. **Northern Regional Committee.** On January 14, 2015 the Northern Regional Committee (Committee) of the Board reviewed the Extension request. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Gerald Van Amburg, Thomas Schulz, Neil Peterson, Keith Mykleseth, and Brian Napstad. Board staff in attendance were Northern Regional Supervisor Ron Shelito and Board Conservationists Peter Waller, Ryan Hughes, and Brett Arne as well as Brian Dwight, Clean Water Specialist, and Travis Germundson, Water Management Specialist. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of

approval of the request to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Extension request to the full Board.

### CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending Watershed Management Plans, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367.
3. The Pelican River Watershed District extension request is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367 and the Board's *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* dated December 17, 2014.

### ORDER

The Board hereby approves the extension of the Pelican River Watershed District Watershed Management Plan until December 31, 2016.

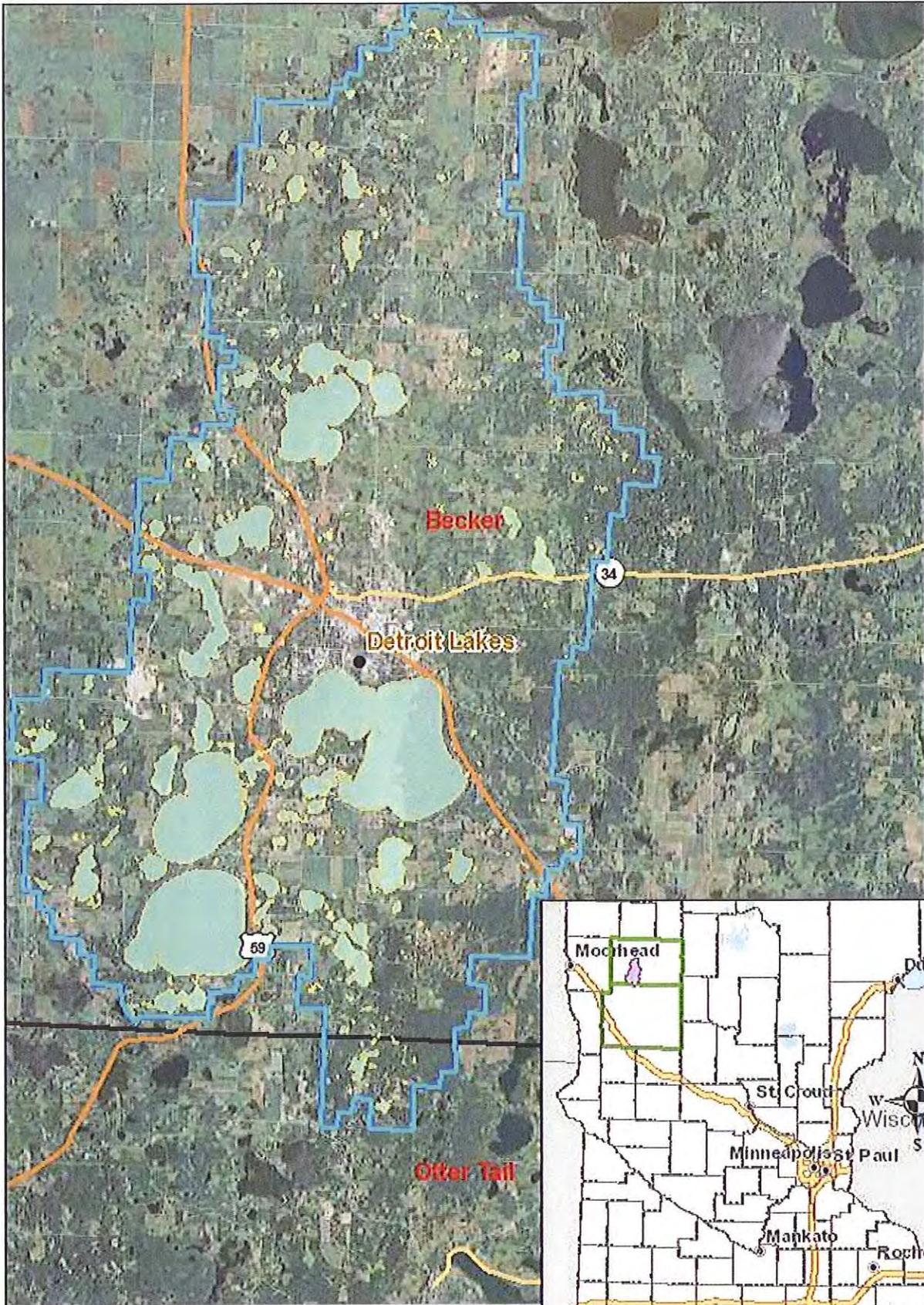
Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this twenty-eighth day of January, 2015.

**MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

---

BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# Pelican River Watershed District





## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Extension

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** North

**Contact:** Ryan Hughes

**Prepared by:** Ryan Hughes

**Reviewed by:** North Region Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Tom Schulz

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

### Fiscal/Policy Impact

None  General Fund Budget

Amended Policy Requested  Capital Budget

New Policy Requested  Outdoor Heritage Fund Budget

Other:  Clean Water Fund Budget

### ACTION REQUESTED

The North Region Committee recommended approval of the Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan extension to January 1, 2019 at their January 14, 2015 regular meeting.

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

[http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/soil\\_and\\_water\\_conservation\\_district/water\\_plan.php](http://www.co.lake.mn.us/departments/soil_and_water_conservation_district/water_plan.php)

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

The current Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan expires October 15, 2015. Lake and Cook County are participating in the BWSR funded One Watershed, One Plan pilot project for Lake Superior North Watershed. Lake County submitted a cover letter and resolution associated with the BWSR recommended extension on October 1, 2014. Staff and the North Region Committee recommended an extension be granted to January 1, 2019 in order to synchronize water management efforts between partners in Lake County for the purposes of developing and completing watershed-based plans through the One Watershed, One Plan process.

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

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In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive  
Local Water Management Plan for Lake County,  
pursuant to 2014 Minnesota Statutes, Section  
103B.3367.

---

**ORDER  
EXTENDING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

**Whereas**, on October 27, 2010, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), by Board Order, approved the Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (Plan) that is effective until October 26, 2015; and

**Whereas**, the Board has authorization to grant extensions pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.3367; and

**Whereas**, the Board adopted Resolution #14-76 *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* on December 17, 2014;

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On October 1, 2014, the Board received a petition from Lake County requesting an extension to their Local Water Management Plan from the current date of October 26, 2015 until a new date of January 1, 2019. The following are the reasons for the request.
  - A. Lake County and Lake SWCD have been selected as participants in the One Watershed, One Plan pilot program for the Lake Superior North watershed area, which is scheduled to be completed by the beginning of 2016, and participation will require a substantial amount of county and SWCD staff time and resources. The One Watershed, One Plan pilot project will include 31.4% of Lake County and will substitute for the current Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan when completed.
  - B. Lake County, Cook County, Lake SWCD and Cook SWCD have executed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of the One Watershed, One Plan process in order to develop and complete a watershed based plan for the Lake Superior North watershed area. Cook County and Cook SWCD will utilize the completed watershed based plan for the Lake Superior North watershed area, which comprises 79.7% of the county, as a substitute for the current Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan when completed.

- c. Lake County intends to participate in and more effectively utilize the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's 10-year approach for monitoring, assessing, and developing Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS). The following table shows the WRAPS schedules for the County.

<b>1W1P Major Watershed</b>	<b>% of County</b>	<b>Scheduled WRAPS Completion Date</b>
St. Louis River/Cloquet River	9.6	2018/2019
Lake Superior North/South	31.4	2017/2016
Rainy River – Headwaters	59.0	2018

2. **North Regional Committee.** On January 14, 2015, the North Regional Committee (Committee) of the Board reviewed the Extension request. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Tom Schulz, Brian Napstad, Gerald Van Amburg, Neil Peterson, and Keith Mykleseth. Board staff in attendance were North Regional Supervisor, Ron Shelito, and Board Conservationists, Ryan Hughes. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of approval of the request to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Extension request to the full Board.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending Comprehensive Local Water Management Plans, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367.
3. The Lake County extension request is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.3367 and the Board's *Local Water Plan Extensions Policy* dated December 17, 2014.

### **ORDER**

The Board hereby approves the extension of the Lake County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan to January 1, 2019.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015.

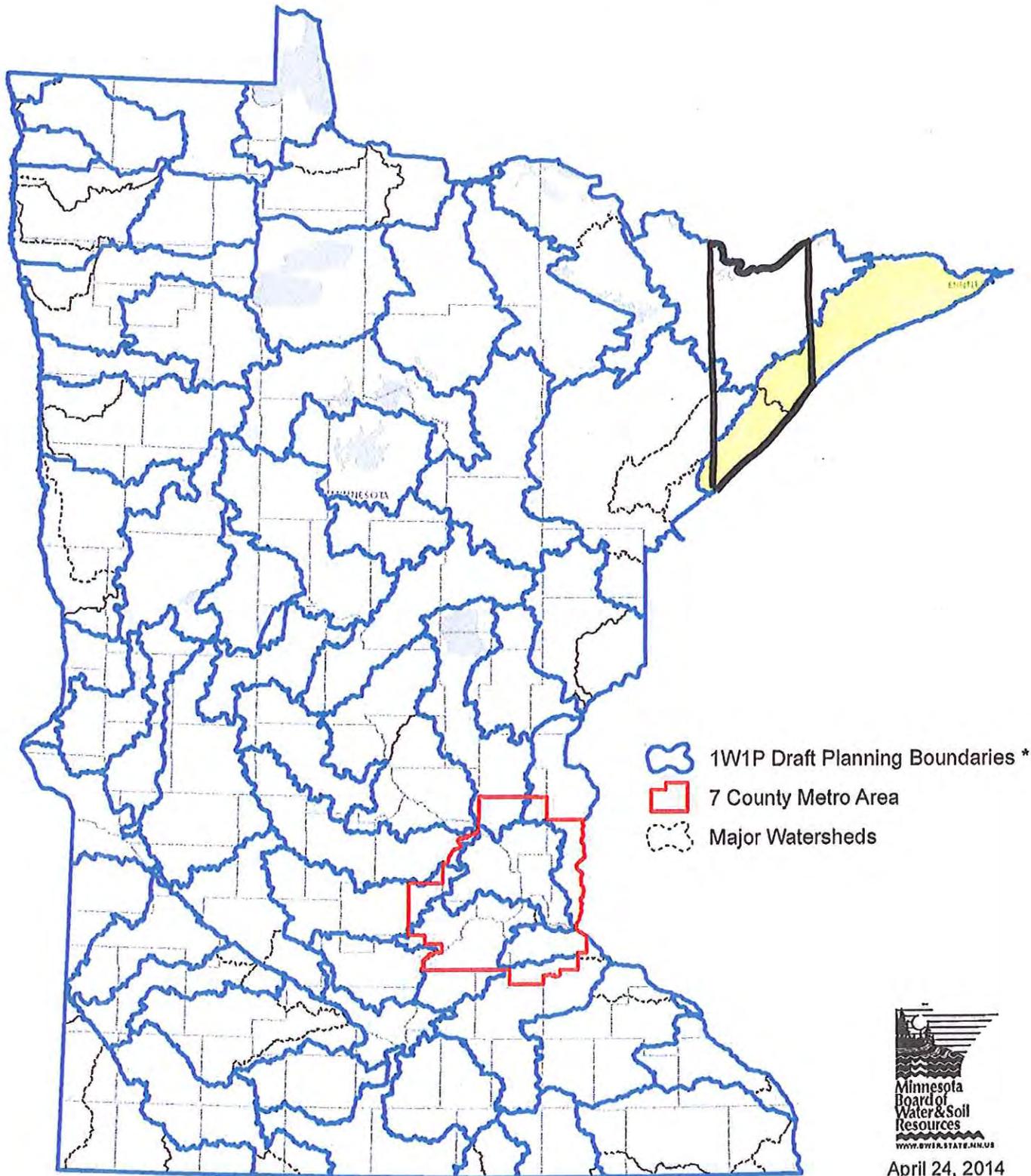
### **MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES**

---

BY: Brian Napstad, Chair

# One Watershed, One Plan

## *Suggested Boundary Map*



April 24, 2014

\*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.



# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Amendment

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation     New Business     Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision     Discussion     Information

**Section/Region:** North

**Contact:** Ryan Hughes

**Prepared by:** Ryan Hughes

**Reviewed by:** North Region    Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Tom Schulz

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**     Resolution     Order     Map     Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

The North Region Committee recommended approval of the Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan required 5-year Amendment at their January 14, 2015 regular meeting.

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

[http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=5DC5FEBF-7D4D-4466-89F2-040AED974A92&Type=B\\_BASIC](http://www.co.carlton.mn.us/index.asp?SEC=5DC5FEBF-7D4D-4466-89F2-040AED974A92&Type=B_BASIC)

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

The current Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan was approved March 24, 2010 with a requirement that the Goals, Objectives and Action Items be amended prior to March 24, 2015 (5-years). Carlton County adopted a resolution May 13, 2014, to amend the Goals, Objectives and Action Items of the Plan. A properly noticed public hearing was held August 12, 2014, and all required local units of government and state review agencies were notified on of the public hearing July 9, 2014. Based on staff observations of the amendment review process Carlton County has satisfied the guidelines established by BWSR, as well as the requirements of 103B.315, Subdivision 6.

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

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**In the Matter** of the review of the Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Amendment for Carlton County, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.315, Subdivision 6.

---

**APPROVING  
COMPREHENSIVE  
LOCAL WATER  
MANAGEMENT PLAN  
AMENDMENT**

---

**ORDER**

**Whereas**, on March 24, 2010, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), by Board Order, approved the Carlton County 2010-2020 Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (Plan); and

**Whereas**, this Board Order stipulated that Carlton County was required to update the goals, objectives, and action items of the Plan through amendment by March 24, 2015; and

**Whereas**, the Carlton County Board of Commissioners of Carlton County (County) submitted a Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Amendment (Amendment) to the Board on September 2, 2014, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.314, Subdivision 6; and

**Whereas**, the Board has completed its review of the Amendment;

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

**FINDINGS OF FACT**

1. On May 16, 2014, the Board received a petition from Carlton County stating its intent to amend its current Plan, pursuant to M.S. Section 103B.314, Subd. 6.
2. On July 9, 2014, Carlton County provided proper notice to local units of government and state agencies of the county's intent to amend its current Plan and invited all recipients to participate in the amendment process.
3. Carlton County received written comments from the Board on June 16, 2014.
4. The following summarizes state review agencies' written comments provided to Carlton County.
  - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture: No comments received.
  - B. Minnesota Department of Health: No comments received.
  - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: In a letter dated August 11, 2014, the DNR provided written comments recommending inclusion of language related to WRAPS and TMDL work in

Nemadji River watershed and that the most recent version of the DNR protected waters map be utilized in the Plan. In a letter dated September 3, 2014, Carlton County provided written responses to the DNR comments. The DNR did not require any revisions to the Plan.

- D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: No comments received.
  - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board: No comments received.
5. No other local government unit provided written comments to Carlton County.
6. **North Regional Committee.** On January 14, 2015 the **Error! Reference source not found.** Regional Committee of the Board reviewed the Amendment. Those in attendance from the Board's Committee were Tom Schulz, Brian Napstad, Gerald Van Amburg, Neil Peterson and Keith Mykleseth. Board staff in attendance were North Regional Supervisor Ron Shelito and Board Conservationist Ryan Hughes. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Amendment to the full Board.
7. This Plan will be in effect until March 24, 2020.

### CONCLUSIONS

- 1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
- 2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan Amendment pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, 103B.315, Subd. 6.
- 3. The Amendment attached to this Order is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 103B.301.

### ORDER

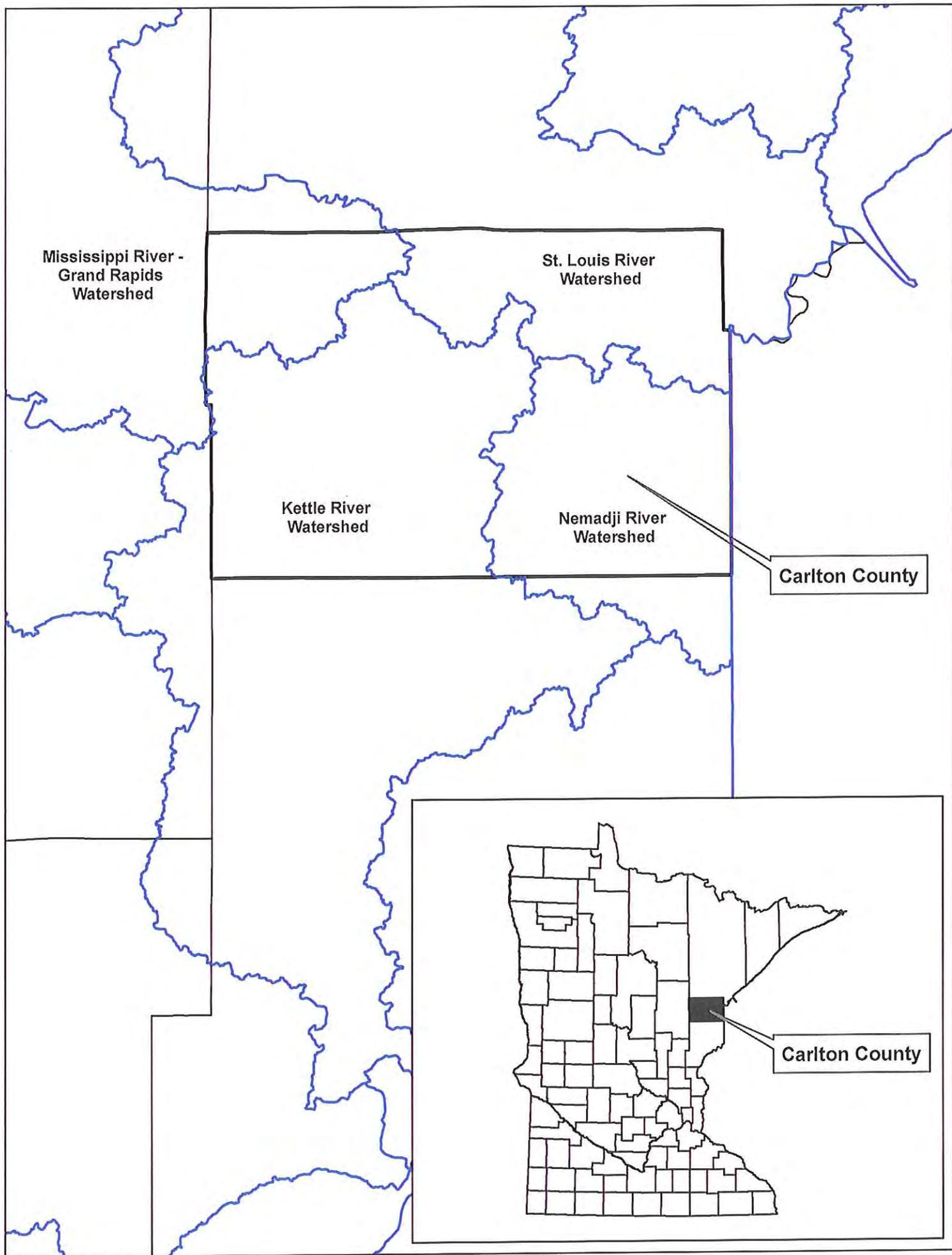
The Board hereby approves the attached Amendment of the Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan 2010-2020. The plan will be in effect until March 24, 2020.

Dated at St. Paul, Minnesota, this 28<sup>th</sup> of January, 2015.

### MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

---

BY: Brian Napstad, Chair



Mississippi River -  
Grand Rapids  
Watershed

St. Louis River  
Watershed

Kettle River  
Watershed

Nemadji River  
Watershed

Carlton County

Carlton County



## COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

2010-2020, Amended 2014

**Carlton County Local Water Management Plan Contributors**

Local Water Management Task Force

Diane Felde-Finke	Township Representative
Ann Gustafson	City Representative
Kari Jacobson Hedin	Fond du Lac Representative
Barb Dahl	Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Merrill Loy	Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisor
Dave Beal	Lake Association Representative
Gary Peterson	County Commissioner

Water Plan Technical Committee

Heather Cunningham	Zoning Administrator
Greg Bernu	Land Commissioner
Ryan Hughes	Board of Water and Soil Resources
Brad Matlack	Soil and Water Conservation District Manager
Kelly Smith	Soil and Water Conservation Technician
Neva Widner	Soil and Water Conservation Water Resources
Patricia Fowler	Department of Natural Resources – Waters Division
Karen Evens	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Carlton County Zoning & Environmental Services is the local government unit responsible for the Local Water Management Plan Program. The Water Plan coordinator is:

Karola Dalen  
Resource and Recycling Coordinator  
P.O. Box 220  
301 Walnut Avenue, Room 101  
Carlton, Minnesota 55718

Phone number (218) 384-9178 or 1-800-862-3760 (218 only)

The Plan is available on the Carlton County website [www.co.carlton.mn.us](http://www.co.carlton.mn.us)

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## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### **BACKGROUND**

Carlton County (County) is a rural county covering 862 square miles. It is located in northeastern Minnesota within easy commuting distance to the Duluth-Superior metropolitan area. The county seat is located in the City of Carlton. Surrounding counties include St. Louis to the north, Aitkin to the west, Pine to the south and Douglas County of Wisconsin to the east (Figure 1).

The State of Minnesota (State) is divided into ten major basins. Carlton County is unique in that it overlaps three of those basins. Water, from the eastern part of the county, flows east into the Lake Superior Basin. In the northwest corner of the county water flows west into the Upper Mississippi River Basin. Water, in the southwestern portion of the county, moves south into the St. Croix River Basin.

At the sub-basin level, Carlton County is divided into four major watersheds: St. Louis River, Nemadji River, Kettle River and Mississippi River (Grand Rapids) watersheds (Figure 2). Table 1 summarizes each basin, watershed and hydrologic unit code (HUC).

Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services is the local government unit (LGU) responsible for the Local Water Management Plan program. The Carlton County water planning process started when the Board of Commissioners passed a resolution on December 8, 1987, to enter into the Comprehensive Local Water Planning process under Chapter 103B.311 and 103B.315 of Minnesota Statutes. The original Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Plan was completed and adopted in late 1990. This is the fourth generation Local Water Management Plan in Carlton County. The Local Water Management Plan was amended as required by 2015 for the five year review.

A group of the County's citizens, known as the Water Plan Task Force, has been authorized by the Carlton County Board of Commissioners to oversee the development and implementation of the 2010-2020 Carlton County Water Plan. The Task Force met over a twelve-month period in 2008-2009 to establish the priority concerns, goals, objectives and implementation plan. The Task Force reconvened in 2014 to review and update the priority concerns, goals, objectives and implementation plan.

### **PLAN PURPOSE**

The purpose of the Carlton County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan is to provide the citizens of Carlton County, local government, state agencies and federal agencies with a strategic framework to manage its water and land resources. An assessment for the required five year review was undertaken in 2014.

This plan has been developed to meet the requirements of Minnesota Statute 103B.301 – 103B.355. In accordance with those guidelines, this Water Plan covers the whole of Carlton County; addresses water problems in the context of watershed units and groundwater systems; is based upon principles of sound hydrologic management of water, effective environmental protection, and efficient management; is consistent with

local water management plans prepared by counties and watershed management organizations wholly or partially within a single watershed unit or groundwater system; and will extend ten years from the date the Board approves the local water management plan, with a five-year review.

***PAST ACCOMPLISHMENTS (1990-2009)***

Since the Water Plan was adopted in 1990, there have been numerous accomplishments. Highlights of these accomplishments include:

- Abandoned well sealing demonstrations.
- Wetland Conservation Act workshops.
- Several Nemadji River Watershed studies and projects.
- Lake monitoring with volunteers.
- County Well Index computerized.
- Established several shoreland revegetation demonstration sites.
- Geologic Atlas.
- Private well testing program.
- Development of Wellhead Protection Plans with five Local Government Units.
- Feedlot inventory (Level 1 and 2).
- Carlton County Waters Summit.
- Collaboration with Arrowhead Water Quality Team on several projects.
- Several shoreland best management practices (BMP) workshops.

***CURRENT ACCOMPLISHMENTS (2010 - 2014)***

Since the 4<sup>th</sup> generation Water Plan was adopted in 2010, there have been numerous accomplishments. Highlights of these accomplishments include:

- Three surface water assessment grants (SWAG), see Tables 3 and 4, Water Quality Data.
- Annual DNR grants for the treatment of Eurasian Water Milfoil on Chub Lake.
- Facilitated semi-annual watercraft inspection training for Lake Associations.
- Developed a plan for annual water craft inspections and aquatic invasive species (AIS) education.
- Assisted the Carlton County Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) with implementation of a US Fish and Wildlife Service grant for a fish passage culvert inventory in the Nemadji River watershed.
- Participated in the Nemadji River and Deer Creek Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) process.
- Applied for two Clean Water Legacy grants for shoreland restoration projects.
- Annually reviewed and updated outreach and educational materials, including the County website.
- Attend and participate in lake association meetings, including Chub Lake, Big Sandy Watershed, Tamarack Lake, and Hanging Horn Lake.
- 2011 Waters Summit for all county lake associations held in conjunction with a volunteer recognition ceremony.

- Provided technical assistance on numerous shoreland restoration projects, including a project on the Midway River which included 12 acres of riparian buffer restoration on 7 sites.
- Facilitated the development of a public, web-based GIS mapping tool for the County.
- Added lakes listed on the Carlton County Waters and Wetlands Inventory Map, but not included in the Shoreland Management Overlay District, to list of waters requiring a 100 feet setback for Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) from the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL).
- Implemented a program for safe disposal of unwanted medications for county residents.
- Invasive Weed Management Project completed with local expert meetings held, development and distribution of a local resource document, and outreach with local groups.
- The SWCD assisted nine landowners in utilizing the 2012 Flooded Well Disinfection/Sealing Grant from the Minnesota Department of Health.
- Obtained more than \$600,000 in state grant funding and over \$450,000 in federal grant funding through the water plan process.

#### ***DESCRIPTION OF PRIORITY CONCERNS***

The Carlton County Water Plan Task Force has selected three priority concerns that will be addressed in this plan. The priority concerns were selected through a public input process that included written and online surveys, three public meetings and input from representatives of various government agencies and local groups. A complete history of this process can be found in the Carlton County Local Water Management Plan Priority Concerns Scoping Document found in Appendix A. From this process, the Task Force selected the following priority concerns:

##### ***Priority Concern #1: Water Quality in County Lakes, Rivers and Streams***

There are fourteen lakes in the County that are on the Impaired Water List, six of which are impaired due to excess nutrients (Eagle Lake, Tamarack Lake, Upper Island Lake, Lower Island Lake, Lac La Belle, and Net Lake). The other lakes are currently listed for mercury impairment only, which is addressed on a state level. The four major rivers in the County (Kettle, St. Louis, and Nemadji) have been identified as impaired due to a combination of conditions. The impairments for the turbidity include the Nemadji River and many streams in the Nemadji River Watershed. The selection of water quality in County lakes, rivers and streams as a priority concern includes assessing water to determine impairment, supporting the Impaired Waters TMDL process, and maintaining and improving water quality. Each of these goals is appropriate under the four major HUCs described in Table 1. TMDLs are a part of the MPCA's Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process, which is a 10-year cycle of restoration and protection of the 81 watersheds in Minnesota.

**Goal 1:** Assess waters that do not have sufficient data for determination of impairment.

**Goal 2:** Improve water resources that are listed as impaired.

**Goal 3:** Maintain and improve water quality in County lakes, rivers and streams.

*Estimated cost to implement Priority Concern #1: \$339,500 – \$584,000*

***Priority Concern #2: Development Impacts and Land Use***

According to the Carlton County Comprehensive Plan (2001), most development within the next 20 years is anticipated to occur in the northeastern part of the County and along Interstate 35. According to the Carlton County Comprehensive Plan, some areas, such as Thomson, Blackhoof, and Wrenshall Townships, as well as the cities of Wrenshall and Moose Lake, grew by over 10 percent from 1990 to 1998. With the close proximity to Duluth and Superior, Carlton County is seeing additional development of rural lands for residential housing. Due to the excellent recreational opportunities in Carlton County, it is also ideal for seasonal residents. Many of the small cabins along lakeshore have converted to retirement homes. Increased development has the potential to have a negative impact on the County's resources. The selection of development impacts and land use as a priority concern includes the following:

**Goal 1:** Promote strengthening regulations and policies to maintain and improve the County's water resources.

**Goal 2:** Encourage low impact development in both current and proposed developments.

**Goal 3:** Continue to manage and protect wetlands.

*Estimated cost to implement Priority Concern #2: \$582,000*

***Priority Concern #3: Promote and Educate the Public about the County's Water Resources***

Education is a major component for all of the selected priority concerns, but the Task Force felt it deserved a priority of its own. The selection of education as a priority concern includes both promoting programs that are currently in place to enhance our water resources and the development of new programs. Through the public meeting process, residents were asked which audiences would benefit from education about the County's natural resources. The public process chose the following target audiences:

- Current and seasonal residents
- Schools
- Contractors and developers
- Realtors
- Lake associations
- Recreational users
- Public employees

The selection to promote and educate the public about the County's water resources as a priority concern includes the following goals and actions:

- Goal 1:** Promote programs currently in place to enhance our water resources.  
**Goal 2:** Educate the public on how to be good stewards of the land and water.

*Estimated cost to implement Priority Concern #3: \$500,000*

***CONSISTENCY WITH OTHER PLANS***

The Carlton County Water Management Plan is consistent with existing local and State plans reviewed. Local and State plans reviewed include the Carlton County Comprehensive Plan; Cromwell, Carlton, Wrenshall, Barnum, Moose Lake, Esko, Cloquet and Kettle River Wellhead Protection Plans; St. Louis, Pine and Aitkin Local Water Management Plans and Carlton County Ordinances.

***RECOMMENDATIONS TO OTHER PLANS AND OFFICIAL CONTROLS***

No recommendations to other plans and official controls are included in this plan unless otherwise noted. However, the Water Plan Task Force would like to reserve the right to make recommendations, when necessary, for the duration of this plan.

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Audit & Oversight Committee***

1. 2015 PRAP Report to the Legislature – Don Buckhout – ***DECISION ITEM***



# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** 2015 PRAP Report to the Legislature

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:** X Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:** X Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** Organizational Effectiveness-PRAP

**Contact:** Don Buckhout

**Prepared by:** Don Buckhout

**Reviewed by:** Audit & Oversight Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Don Buckhout

Audio/Visual Equipment Needed for Agenda Item Presentation

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  Other Supporting Information

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

**ACTION REQUESTED**

Approve 2015 PRAP Legislative Report

**LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Previous PRAP Report: [http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/2014\\_PRAP\\_Final\\_Report.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/2014_PRAP_Final_Report.pdf)

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

The eighth annual 2015 PRAP Report to the Legislature contains a summary of BWSR’s review of LGU performance during the past year. The report presents the 2014 program activities compared to objectives set in last year’s report, including the completion of 26 Level II performance reviews, two more than the target. As do past reports, there are summaries of performance results from a basic review (Level I) of all 240 LGUs and summaries of each of the in-depth reviews (Level II). There is a list of program objectives for 2015, including some program changes. A draft of this report has been reviewed by the Board’s Audit & Oversight Committee. The recommendation for Board action comes from that Committee and is timed to meet a February 1 due date for report submittal to legislative environmental policy committees, as required by M.S. 103B.102, subd. 3.



Board Resolution # \_\_\_\_\_

## Performance Review and Assistance Program 2015 Report to the Minnesota Legislature

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**WHEREAS**, the 2007 Legislature authorized the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) to develop and implement a program to evaluate and report on the performance of each local water management entity, and

**WHEREAS**, in 2007 the Board developed a set of guiding principles and directed staff to implement a program for reviewing performance, offering assistance, and reporting results, now called the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP), in consultation with stakeholders and consistent with the guiding principles, and

**WHEREAS**, according to Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, Subdivision 3, beginning February 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the Board shall provide a report of local water management entity performance to the chairs of the House and Senate committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources policy, and

**WHEREAS**, the eighth annual PRAP 2015 Report to the Minnesota Legislature contains the summaries of the 26 local water management entity performance reviews conducted by BWSR staff in 2014 and a summary of findings describing the performance of 240 local water management entities regarding compliance with plan revision and basic reporting requirements, and

**WHEREAS**, the PRAP 2015 Report to the Minnesota Legislature was reviewed by the Board's Audit and Oversight committee, was revised based on committee comments, and was recommended for Board approval by the committee on January 21, 2015.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Water and Soil Resources approves the Performance Review and Assistance Program 2015 Report to the Minnesota Legislature for transmittal to the Legislature and publication on the Board's website, with allowance for any minor editing modifications necessary for publication.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Napstad, Chair  
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources



# Performance Review and Assistance Program

Report to the Minnesota Legislature

February 2015

**BWSR Board Review Draft**

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**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources**  
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This report has been prepared for the Minnesota State Legislature by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) in partial fulfillment of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103B.102, subdivision 3.

Prepared by Donald Buckhout, PRAP Coordinator (Don.Buckhout@state.mn.us; 651-296-0768)

The estimated cost of preparing this report (as required by Minn. Stat. 3.197) was:

Total staff time: \$3200

Production/duplication: \$125

Total: \$3325

BWSR is reducing printing and mailing costs by using the Internet to distribute reports and information to wider audiences. This report is available at [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP.index](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP.index) and available in alternative formats upon request.

## MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

### Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP)

#### Executive Summary

Since 2008, BWSR's Performance Review and Assistance Program has methodically assessed the performance of the units of government that constitute Minnesota's local delivery system for conservation of water and related land resources. The goal is to assist these local government partners to be the best they can be in their management of these critical resources.

#### PRAP focuses on three aspects of Local Governmental Unit (LGU) performance:

- Plan Implementation—how well an LGU's accomplishments meet planned objectives.
- Compliance with performance standards—administrative mandates and best practices.
- Collaboration and Communication—the quality of partner and stakeholder relationships.

BWSR's PRAP uses four levels of review to assess performance ranging from statewide oversight in Level I, to a focus on individual LGU performance in Levels II and III, and to remediation in Level IV.

#### 2014 Program Highlights

- Completed 26 Level II performance reviews exceeding the 2014 target of 24 reviews. By March 2015 BWSR will have conducted 88 Level II performance reviews since 2008.
- Conducted a survey to assess LGU implementation of BWSR performance improvement recommendations. Surveyed LGUs reviewed in 2008-2013 to find out if they have implemented BWSR's recommendations for organizational improvements. LGUs reported fully completing 46% and partially completing 34% of the recommendations in their Level II performance review reports.
- Coordinated PRAP Performance Review methods with surveys developed for the new One Watershed-One Plan pilot watershed groups.
- Used PRAP Assistance Grant funds and assisted BWSR field staff to restore financial stability to the North St. Louis Soil and Water Conservation District.

#### 2014 Results of Annual Tracking of 240 LGUs' Plans and Reports (PRAP Level I)

Overall compliance with LGU plan revision and reporting requirements improved in 2014. On-time drainage buffer and eLINK grant reporting was significantly better. Low WMO performance was due to overdue plan revisions and some WMOs' premature adoption of a pending rule change regarding audits.

##### Long-range Plan Status: the number of overdue plans increased to 9 from 6 in 2013.

- Soil & Water Conservation Districts: all plans or resolutions are current.
- Counties: all local water plans are current with 11 extensions; three metro county groundwater plan revisions are overdue.
- Watershed Districts: three plan revisions are overdue; all are in progress.
- Watershed Management Organizations: three plan revisions are overdue; all are in progress.

##### LGUs in Full Compliance with Level I Performance Standards: 79%.

- Soil & Water Conservation Districts: 88% compliance (78/89).
- County Water Management: 87% compliance (76/87).
- Watershed Districts: 65% compliance (30/46).
- Watershed Management Organizations: 28% compliance (5/18).

#### Selected PRAP Program Objectives for 2015 (see complete list on page 12)

- Maintain the new target for Level II performance reviews of 24 per year.
- Adapt PRAP performance review methods for assessing the One Watershed-One Plan pilots.
- Maintain the focus on resource outcomes in Level II performance reviews.
- Schedule surveys to track LGU compliance with Level II PRAP recommendations.
- Track 240 LGUs' Level I performance with emphasis on improving WMO and WD reporting.
- Adopt performance measures/targets for each program objective; report progress in 2016 report.

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# What is the Performance Review & Assistance Program?

## Supporting Local Delivery of Conservation Services

PRAP is primarily a performance assessment activity conducted by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The subjects of the assessments are the local governmental units (LGUs) that deliver BWSR's water and land conservation programs, and the primary focus is on how well they are implementing their long-range plans. Those LGUs reviewed are soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed districts (WDs), watershed management organizations (WMOs), and the water management function of counties—a total of 240 distinct organizations. PRAP, authorized in 2007 (see Appendix A), is coordinated by one BWSR central office staff member, with assistance from BWSR's 15 Board Conservationists and 3 regional managers, who routinely work with these LGUs.

## Guiding Principles

PRAP is based on and uses the following principles adopted by the BWSR Board.

- Pre-emptive
- Systematic
- Constructive
- Includes consequences
- Provides recognition for high performance
- Transparent
- Retains local ownership and autonomy
- Maintains proportionate expectations
- Preserves the state/local partnership
- Results in effective on-the-ground conservation

The principles set parameters for the program's purpose of helping LGUs to be the best they can be in their operational effectiveness. Of particular note is the principle of proportionate expectations. This means that LGUs are rated on the

accomplishment of their own plan's objectives. Moreover, BWSR rates operational performance using both basic and high performance standards specific to the different types of LGUs. (For more detail see [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html).)

## Multi-level Process

PRAP has three operational components:

- performance review
- assistance
- reporting

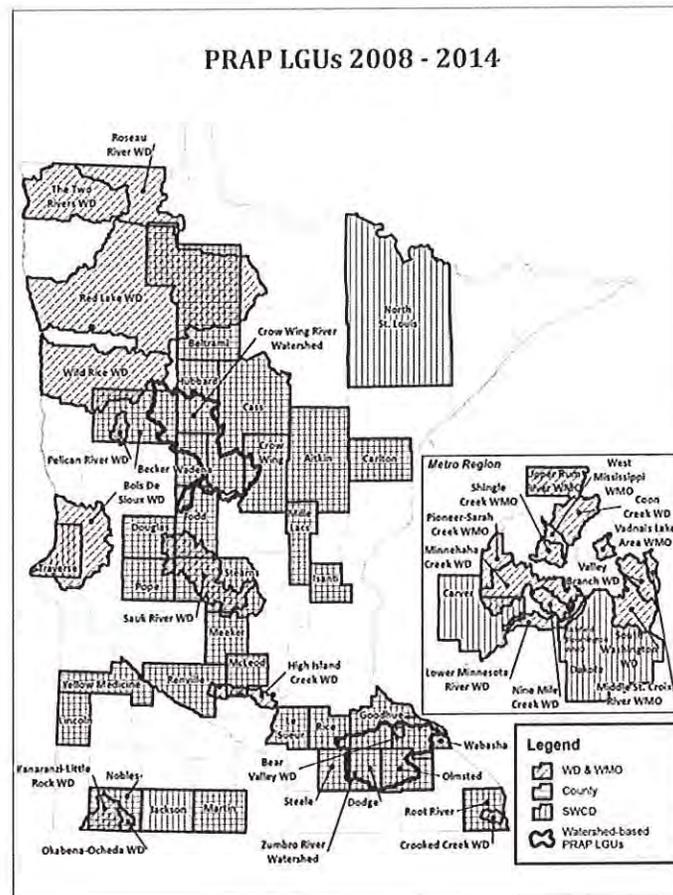
The **performance review** component is applied at four levels (see pages 4-8).

**Level I** is an annual tabulation of required plans and reports for all 240 LGUs with website posting of the results. Level I is conducted entirely by BWSR staff and does not require additional input from LGUs.

**Level II** is a routine, interactive review to cover all LGUs at least once every 10 years to evaluate progress on plan implementation, operational effectiveness, and partner relationships. This review includes assessing compliance with Level II performance standards. The map on page 2 shows which LGUs have received a Level II review.

**Level III** is an in-depth assessment of an LGU's performance problems and issues initiated by BWSR or the LGU and usually involving targeted assistance to address specific performance needs. Since 2008 BWSR has conducted Level III reviews for three LGUs at their request. BWSR regularly monitors all LGUs for additional opportunities.

**Level IV** is for those LGUs that have significant performance deficiencies, and includes BWSR Board action to assign penalties as authorized by statute. Levels I-III are designed to avoid the need for Level IV. To date there have not been any Level IV cases.



**Assistance** (page 9) varies with the needs of the LGU. BWSR provides practical and financial assistance to help LGUs make organizational improvements or address performance issues. Since 2012 BWSR has awarded PRAP Assistance Grants to LGUs for specialized assistance, usually in the form of consultant services, identified by LGUs themselves or recommended by BWSR in a performance review.

**Reporting** (pages 10-11) makes information about LGU performance accessible to the LGUs' stakeholders and constituents. Reporting methods specific to PRAP include links to performance review summaries, the database of Level I compliance, and this annual report to the legislature, which can all be accessed via the PRAP page on BWSR's website ([bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html](http://bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html)). In

addition the PRAP Coordinator has presented results from Level II performance reviews to county boards when requested to do so by LGU staff.

### **Accountability: From Measuring Effort to Tracking Results**

Administration of government programs demands and deserves a high degree of accountability. PRAP was developed, in part, to deliver on that demand by providing systematic local government performance review and then reporting publically accessible results. In 2014 two PRAP program elements were added to track resource outcomes based on LGU accomplishments and to follow up with LGUs to find out whether they have adopted BWSR's recommendations for organizational improvements (pages 6 and 8).

## Report on PRAP Performance

### BWSR's Accountability

BWSR continues to hold itself accountable for the objectives of the PRAP program. In consideration of that commitment, this

section lists 2014 program activities with the corresponding objectives from the 2014 PRAP legislative report.

PERFORMANCE REVIEW OBJECTIVES	
What We Proposed	What We Did
Meet amended authorizing legislation target by conducting 24 Level II reviews.	Conducted Level II reviews of 26 local governments, including 11 in the Zumbro River watershed.
Work with other BWSR program staff to improve the on-time reporting by LGUs.	Collaboration among BWSR staff resulted in significant improvement in reporting for drainage buffers (from 33% late in 2013 to 6% in 2014).
Conduct evaluation of LGU implementation of BWSR's PRAP recommendations to evaluate program effectiveness.	A 2014 survey sample of 2008-2013 Level II reviews revealed that LGUs fully implemented 46% of BWSR's recommendations and partially implemented 34%.
Modify watershed-based PRAP performance standards to incorporate accountability measures developed for the One Watershed-One Plan initiative.	Worked with the One Watershed-One Plan program by using PRAP performance review survey questions as a basis for assessing LGU readiness in four pilot watersheds.
Monitor and report Level I performance of all 241 LGUs.	All LGUs were tracked for basic plan and report compliance. Level I compliance was reported in the 2014 PRAP Legislative Report.

ASSISTANCE OBJECTIVES	
What We Proposed	What We Did
Continue monitoring LGUs experiencing change for assistance opportunities.	Monitoring by BWSR managers led to assistance for the North St. Louis SWCD supported by \$19,800 in PRAP Assistance funding.
Publicize the availability of PRAP Assistance Grants.	The November 2014 BWSR Spotlights publication featured the use of these grants by one LGU.
Notify PRAP LGUs of BWSR Academy training classes that address their expressed needs.	In 2014 Level II LGUs did not identify training needs so notifications were not required.

REPORTING OBJECTIVES	
What We Proposed	What We Did
Highlight resource outcomes in the plan implementation section of Level II reports.	All 2014 Level II reports featured Resource Outcomes information but only 2 plans have resource outcomes targets in their planned goals. Of those 2, only one had follow-up data that addressed those targets.

## 2014 LGU Performance Review Results

### Level I Results

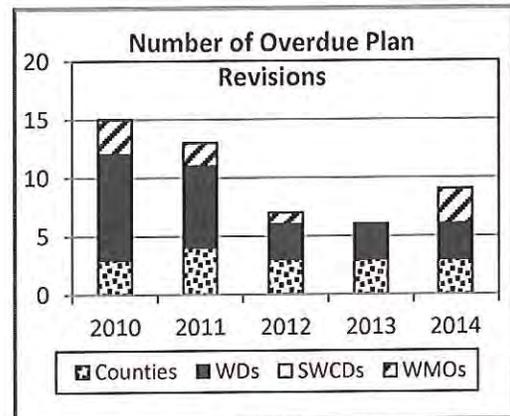
The Level I performance review monitors and tabulates all 240 LGUs' long-range plan updates and their annual reporting of activities, ditch buffer strip, grants, and finances. BWSR tracks these performance measures each year to provide oversight of legal and policy mandates, but also to screen LGUs for indication of potential problems. Chronic lateness in financial or grant reporting, for example, may be a symptom of operational issues that require BWSR assistance.

LGUs Meeting All Level I Performance Standards		
	2014	2013
<b>240 LGUs</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>68%</b>
SWCDs (89)	88%	82%
Counties (87)	87%	62%
WMOs (18)	28%	61%
WDs (46)	65%	57%
(number of LGUs)		

Overall, LGU compliance with Level I standards improved markedly over 2013. This was largely because of a significant improvement in county reporting that exceeded declines in WMO compliance. Because BWSR has tightened Level I compliance tracking in recent years, this report compares Level I performance with only one previous year rather than back to 2008, PRAP's first year of tracking.

**Long-range plans.** BWSR's legislative mandate for PRAP includes a specific emphasis on evaluating progress in LGU plan implementation. Therefore, helping LGUs keep their plans current is basic to that review. Level I PRAP tracks whether LGUs are meeting their plan revision due dates. After several years of reduction in the numbers of overdue plans, that trend reversed

in 2014 because three WMOs missed their plan revision due dates. No progress was made in watershed district plan revisions because, even though one plan revision was completed, two revisions remain in progress and another LGU missed the revision due date. Until their plans are revised and approved, the WMOs and WDs are ineligible for Clean Water Fund grants. As in each of the past four years, there are still three metro area county groundwater



plans that need updating. In 2015 BWSR will actively engage with Ramsey County, one of the three, to incorporate groundwater protection and management strategies in a revision of their draft groundwater management plan. Appendix B (page 14) lists the LGUs that are overdue for plan revisions.

**Annual activity and grant reports.** The Level I review tracks both missing and late reports. LGU annual reports are an important means of providing citizens and BWSR with information about LGU activities and grants expenditures.

In 2014 there was a significant improvement in on-time submittal of drainage system buffer strip reports by both county and WD drainage authorities. Of the 96 LGUs that must submit annual buffer

reports, 91% met the February 1, 2014, deadline compared with 67% in 2013. The reason was persistent work by BWSR staff to contact LGUs with missing reports before the due date.

Similarly, SWCDs and counties improved their on-time submittal of grant status reports via BWSR's on-line eLINK system with 93% of LGUs meeting the deadline compared with 86% in 2013. This improvement in reporting was even more noteworthy because BWSR had implemented a new eLINK system and conducted extensive LGU training in the interim. Some of the improvement in on-time reporting was likely due to the system upgrade.

Watershed district and metro area WMO compliance with the annual activity report requirement was similar to the previous year. This reporting compliance rate (79%) is not yet as good as it should be.

Finally, only one SWCD missed the website content requirement by the due date. Appendix C (page 15) contains details about reporting.

**Annual financial reports and audits.** In general, compliance with annual financial report and audit requirements declined slightly in 2014 compared with 2013.

All SWCDs submit annual financial reports to BWSR. In 2013 all these reports came in on-time. However, in 2014 four SWCDs submitted late reports, which accounts for some of the decline.

Most LGUs are required to prepare annual audits of their financial records. Exceptions are SWCDs whose annual expenditures fall below a certain threshold. BWSR does not track county audits because they are accountable to the Office of the State Auditor. Level I tracking showed that 79% of LGUs met the audit performance standard in 2014 compared with 89% in 2013. A few WMOs, anticipating pending changes in the rules that govern metro watershed organization reporting, did not submit audits in 2014. When those rules take effect in 2015 there will likely be improved performance in this area. See Appendix D (page 16) for financial report and audit details.

## Level II Performance Review Results

The Level II performance review process is designed to give both BWSR and each individual LGU an overall assessment of their effectiveness in both delivery and the effects of their efforts in conservation. The review looks at the LGU's implementation of their plan's action items and their compliance with BWSR's operational performance standards. It includes surveys of board members and staff and of the LGU's partners to assess internal and external effectiveness and working relationships. BWSR uses two approaches in conducting Level II reviews: standard and watershed-based.

### Standard Level II Performance Reviews

BWSR conducted standard Level II reviews of 15 LGUs in 2014: **Nobles County and SWCD, McLeod County and SWCD, Carlton County, Renville SWCD, Mille Lacs SWCD, Dakota County SWCD, the Okabena-Ocheda and Kanaranzi-Little Rock WDs** in southwest Minnesota, and the **Nine Mile Creek WD, Lower MN River WD, South Washington WD, the Richfield-Bloomington WMO and the Upper Rum River WMO**, all in the metro area. The McLeod County and SWCD reviews were conducted jointly because both entities share the same local water plan. For the four LGUs with jurisdiction in Nobles County (i.e., the Nobles County Environmental Services Department, the Nobles SWCD and the Kanaranzi-Little Rock and Okabena-Ocheda WDs), the four performance reviews reports were sent to each LGU because all four use the same local water management plan as their long-range plan. The remaining LGUs received individual reviews. Appendix E (page 17-29) contains summaries of the performance review reports. Full reports are available from BWSR by request.

While there are no findings or conclusions from these reviews that apply to all LGUs,

there are general observations about LGU performance worth noting. In the case of the four LGUs in Nobles County, their use of a common long-range plan is unique in Minnesota. While most SWCDs now use their county's local water management plan in place of their own district comprehensive plan, in Nobles County two of the three watershed districts with jurisdiction in the county have adopted the county plan as their watershed management

#### Reporting Resource Outcomes

All 2014 Level II PRAP reviews included an assessment of resource outcomes resulting from LGU programs and projects (e.g., water quality improvements, aquatic habitat enhancement). Each report featured a text box containing actual resource outcomes expected from LGU planned actions. However, only two plans contained specific resource outcomes as objectives. The Nine Mile Creek WD plan contains specific water quality and habitat objectives for lakes and streams in that district. The WD reports resource changes and trends each year in their annual report. The Lower Minnesota River WD plan contains specific long-term metrics for resource improvements. However, the WD has not started to track those metrics. In order to increase targeting of resource outcomes by LGUs, BWSR challenged a few of those LGUs to include resource outcome measures in their next water management plans.

plan. The performance reviews showed that such a coordinated planning approach has also led to good collaboration in implementation. Only the Kanaranzi-Little Rock WD has lagged in plan implementation. However, as a result of the existing local coordination the WD is now contracting with the SWCD for administrative services, which should improve their performance. This single plan approach in Nobles County prefigured the new One Watershed-One Plan approach to collaborative

local water management. The county has indicated a willingness to consider the One Watershed-One Plan option when their local water plan is due for revision.

In the metropolitan area, the Level II reviews revealed wide differences in performance. While some LGUs, such as the watershed districts and Dakota SWCD are systematically and effectively implementing their planned actions, the Upper Rum River WMO has adopted an approach to do the minimum necessary to maintain the function of a joint-powers WMO. The BWSR review was critical of the organization's low profile approach and encouraged engagement with citizens and neighboring LGUs to determine issues and approaches that are relevant to their mission.

In addition the reviews of the Upper Rum River and Richfield-Bloomington WMOs revealed the potential for an enhanced watershed focus and effectiveness by merging with a neighboring water management entity. BWSR recommended that option to each but they declined to pursue that option. The Lower Minnesota River WD review also highlighted their difficulty in addressing water quality issues because their jurisdiction does not include their upstream watersheds. The issue of jurisdictional boundaries for metro area watershed management LGUs is a factor in their ability to manage resources. (See Program Conclusions, page 12.)

**Watershed-based Level II Performance Reviews.** In 2013 BWSR began the second watershed-based performance review focused on the LGUs with jurisdiction in the same watershed. In addition to evaluating plan implementation, the watershed-based review examines the extent to which LGUs share a watershed focus and collaboration. BWSR selected the Zumbro River watershed because the majority of the LGUs in that watershed had not previously received a Level II review and most LGUs were

participating in the Zumbro Watershed Partnership organization. It was hoped that the process would be able to assess the effect of that participation on collaboration. The Zumbro River watershed includes 13 LGUs: the counties and SWCDs in **Steele, Rice, Dodge, Goodhue, Olmsted** and **Wabasha** counties and the **Bear Valley** WD. BWSR completed the process with the delivery of a joint report and individual reports to all LGUs. Appendix F (pages 30-38) contains the summaries from all the reports.

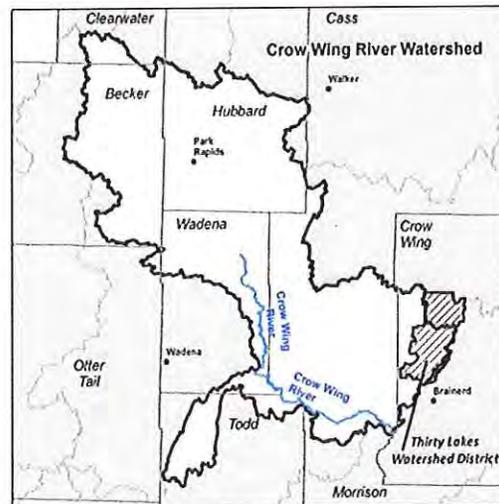


In general, the LGUs operating in the Zumbro watershed are making good progress in implementing their planned projects and programs. The high value resource, identified in the survey of board members and staff as the productive agricultural land base, along with the long history of soil conservation in southeast Minnesota are two factors that contribute to effective conservation delivery.

Most of the contributing LGUs with jurisdiction in the Zumbro River watershed already show moderate to good degrees of collaboration for certain aspects of their operations. Collaboration is stronger on programs than on services however. Also, collaboration is much stronger among the LGUs in the downstream reaches of the watershed. The most likely reason is that the upstream counties, Rice and Steele, have very small pieces of the Zumbro watershed and spend relatively little time and resources on

project and program implementation in those areas. Another factor is the active participation by the downstream LGUs in the Zumbro Watershed Partnership (ZWP) and the Southeast Minnesota Water Resources Board, two coordinative organizations

An interesting finding of this review was that while the survey showed that a majority of both board members and staff believe more collaboration would be good for both their organizations and for the resource, a not-insignificant 25% of board members believe that there would be no benefit to either themselves or the resource from more collaboration. Another 25% said they didn't know if more collaboration would help or not. This result could reflect a variety of perspectives, which the survey did not explore. Nevertheless, these opinions may have implications for future watershed-based planning in the Zumbro basin.



In October 2014 BWSR began its third watershed-based performance review, focusing on the LGUs (counties and SWCDs) with jurisdiction in the Crow Wing River watershed of north central Minnesota. The 10 LGUs are in **Becker, Hubbard, Wadena, Cass** and **Crow Wing** counties. The **Todd** and **Morrison** SWCDs will participate to a

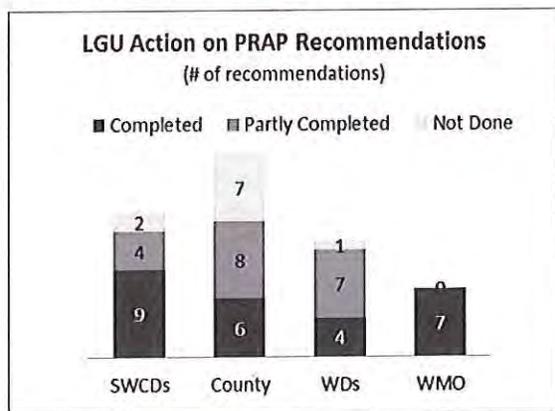
lesser extent than the five others. That process will be completed in 2015.

**Coordination with One Watershed-One Plan.** Elements of the watershed-based performance review process were used in BWSR's *One Watershed-One Plan* initiative. The University of Minnesota Extension Service used the PRAP watershed survey as the basis for an assessment of readiness for collaboration among the LGUs in the pilot watersheds. In a few years, BWSR will use the PRAP process to assess the implementation of these new watershed plans.

**Survey of LGU Implementation of PRAP Recommendations**

A PRAP program goal for 2014 was to find out to what extent LGUs are following through on the recommendations BWSR offered as part of their performance review.

In October BWSR surveyed a sample of 30 of the 63 LGUs that had a Level II performance review from 2008-2013 using an online Survey Monkey™ tool. Lead staff from these LGUs were directed to a list of the recommendations from their LGU's PRAP report and asked to indicate the level of completion for each one. The chart shows the number of recommendations completed fully, partially or not done.



Twenty-two of the 30 LGUs (73%) responded. Survey results showed that LGUs self-reported fully completing 46% of the recommendations and partially completing another 34%, meaning that 80% of BWSR's recommendations were addressed to some degree. One purpose of the

survey was to find out if the LGUs see BWSR's recommendations as beneficial. The premise is that useful recommendations are more likely to be adopted. The survey results indicate that they are useful but that more follow-up with LGUs is needed.

**Level III Results**

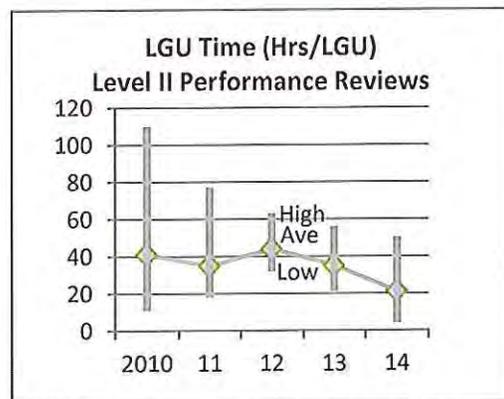
There were no Level III performance reviews conducted in 2014.

**Level IV Results**

No Level IV actions were conducted in 2014.

**PRAP Performance Review Time**

BWSR tracks the time spent by LGUs in a performance review as a substitute for accounting their financial costs. Factors affecting an LGU's time include the number of action items in their long-range plan, the number of staff persons who help with data collection, and the ready availability of performance data. In 2014 LGU staff spent an average of 21 hours on their Level II review, a significant reduction from past years and continuation of a recent trend. BWSR seeks to maintain a balance between getting good information while minimizing the LGU time required to provide it.



Not including overall performance review administration and process development, BWSR staff spent an average of 27 hours for each LGU's performance review, consistent with the past few years.

## Assistance Services to Local Governments

### Types of Assistance

Part of helping LGUs to be the best they can be involves targeted assistance to address organizational development issues. PRAP has systematically expanded BWSR's capability to assist LGUs. In addition to PRAP, BWSR field staff provided LGUs, such as the Wabasha SWCD, with many hours of assistance to support and enhance their operational effectiveness. The PRAP Coordinator provided assistance as described in the box below.

#### **2014 PRAP Assistance to LGUs**

*North St. Louis SWCD: BWSR contracted for an audit of the district's finances after the district manager announced in late 2013 that the SWCD was out of money. The audit was followed by a PRAP Assistance Grant to the neighboring Koochiching SWCD to provide administrative services and develop a recovery plan for North St. Louis. In addition, program staff and BWSR field staff attended several SWCD supervisor meetings to guide them in the recovery of district operations.*

*The result of this assistance and other efforts by BWSR staff and SWCD board members is a return to fiscal stability, improved collaboration with county government, and a plan for continued program and service delivery.*

### PRAP Assistance Grants

In 2014 BWSR Board reauthorized the delegated authority to the Executive Director to award grants or contracts for the purpose of assisting LGUs in making organizational improvements. Grants, which are 50-50 cost-shared with the LGU, were issued to the Koochiching SWCD, the Heron Lake WD, the Nicollet SWCD, the East Ottertail SWCD, and

the Vadnais Lakes Area WMO. These grants were used for staff realignment, evaluating merger options, and strategic planning. BWSR also used these funds to contract for a financial audit of the North St. Louis SWCD. Of the \$32,000 spent in 2014 (compared with \$8,000 in 2013 and \$6,300 in 2012), 30 percent was used for assistance to that one SWCD. BWSR publicized the grants in a November *BWSR Snapshots* article that described how the Buffalo-Red River WD used their grant to conduct a strategic assessment of the district's organizational issues.

LGUs that undergo a Level II or III performance review are automatically eligible for PRAP Assistance Grants to help with the implementation of organizational improvements recommended by BWSR in their Level II final report. The BWSR Executive Director regularly informs Board members of assistance grant status. Potential applicants can find information on the BWSR website ([bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html](http://bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/index.html)).

### Assessing and Meeting LGU Needs

While not part of the PRAP program, the BWSR Training Academy provides important skills and knowledge to support and enhance LGU staff performance. The Academy continues to be a popular and useful opportunity for increasing the effectiveness of the local government conservation delivery system. PRAP performance reviews can uncover needs for staff training that can be met at the BWSR Academy and the review process has been used to direct staff to that opportunity. The Level II reviews always include presentations to LGU board members, which frequently include opportunities for BWSR staff to advise board members on specific organizational issues and encourage them to take advantage of training and orientation offered by their LGU associations.

## Reporting

### Purpose of Reporting

The purposes of reporting about LGU performance are:

- to meet the legislative mandate to provide the public with information about the performance of their local water management entities, and
- to provide information that will encourage LGUs to learn from one another about methods and programs that produce the most effective results.

### Report Types

PRAP either relies on or generates different types of reports to achieve the purposes listed above.

#### LGU-Generated

These include information posted on the LGU websites and the required or voluntary reports submitted to BWSR, other units of government, and the public about fiscal status, plans, programs and activities. These all serve as a means of communicating what each LGU is achieving and allow stakeholders to make their own evaluations of LGU performance. PRAP tracks submittal of required, self-generated LGU reports in the Level I review process.

#### BWSR Website

The BWSR website contains a webpage devoted to PRAP information. The site gives users access to a searchable database of basic Level I performance information that BWSR has collected for each LGU from 2008-2013. As shown in the sidebar, the number of user visits to that database has dropped significantly since 2010. The most recent drop is partly because of a database shutdown for most of 2013 and part of 2014 because of a computer virus. BWSR plans to convert this database to BWSR's eLink system and add a

#### No. of Hits to PRAP Webpage

(by calendar year)

2010- 1437

2011- 695

2012- 213

2013- 784

2014- 59

[www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/reporting/index.php](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/PRAP/reporting/index.php)

portal to allow public access to the data. However that conversion is still not scheduled.

The BWSR website also includes regularly updated maps of long-range plan status by LGU type. Visitors to the PRAP webpage can find general program information, tables of current performance standards by LGU type, summaries of Level II performance review reports, and copies of annual legislative reports.

#### Performance Review Reports

BWSR prepares a report containing findings, conclusions, and recommendations for each LGU that is the subject of a Level II or Level III performance review. The LGU lead staff and board or water plan task force members receive a draft of the report to which they are invited to submit comments. BWSR then prepares both a final report that is sent to the LGU and a one-page summary that is included in this legislative report (see Appendices E and F) and added to the PRAP webpage. In 2014 BWSR added a resource outcomes feature to all Level II reports, highlighting those changes in resource conditions related to LGU projects and program. Occasionally, LGUs will request that BWSR present performance review results to their local county board. In 2014 the PRAP coordinator presented the Renville SWCD Level II report to that county board and will be presenting the reports from the four Nobles County LGUs to that board in early 2015.

### Annual Legislative Report

As required by statute, BWSR prepares an annual report for the legislature containing the results of the previous year's program activities and a general assessment of the performance of the LGUs providing land and water conservation services and programs. These reports are reviewed and approved by the BWSR board and then sent to the chairpersons of the senate and house environmental policy committees, to statewide LGU associations and to the office of the legislative auditor. This document is the eighth such report.

### Recognition for Exemplary Performance

The PRAP Guiding Principles include a provision for recognizing exemplary LGU performance. Each year this legislative report highlights those LGUs that are recognized by their peers or other organizations for their contribution to Minnesota's resource management and protection, as well as service to their local clientele. (See Appendix G.)

For those LGUs that undergo a Level II performance review, their report lists a "commendation" for compliance with each benchmark performance standard, demonstrating practices over and above basic requirements. All 2014 Level II LGUs received such commendations.



**Pam Tomevi**, Koochiching SWCD District Manager, received the BWSR award as the **2014 Outstanding SWCD Employee of the Year** from BWSR Executive Director **John Jaschke** at the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting and Trade Show.

## Program Conclusions and Future Direction

### Conclusions from 2014 Reviews

- **Focused BWSR staff attention can improve LGUs' on-time reporting, but LGUs need both reminders and incentives.** This was demonstrated by the significant improvement in drainage authority buffer strip reporting because of BWSR staff efforts. However, without financial incentives (e.g., grant ineligibility) lapses in on-time reporting will continue.
- **PRAP Level II reviews can track actual resource outcomes, but LGUs need encouragement to include measureable outcomes in their plans.** PRAP will continue to highlight resource outcomes in Level II reviews and make recommendations that LGUs develop such measures in subsequent plan revisions. The One Watershed Plans will provide examples of how LGUs can do this.
- **The PRAP watershed performance methods can help to assess LGU readiness for watershed-based collaboration.** Application of those standards in surveys of the pilot One Watershed LGUs showed good levels of collaboration. A follow-up survey will indicate whether LGUs are more collaborative after completing their watershed plans.
- **About half of the PRAP Level II recommendations for LGU improvements are seen as useful or necessary, as shown by the rates at which LGUs have adopted them.** However, BWSR must do more to follow-up with LGUs to find out why some recommendations are not being adopted, and to promote PRAP Assistance Grants as a means to implement improvements.
- **The alignments of some metro LGU jurisdictions, WMOs in particular, do not follow watershed boundaries, and require more collaboration with neighboring LGUs to effectively address water management issues.** Future PRAP Level II reviews of metro WDs and WMOs will include an evaluation of jurisdictional boundaries and, where appropriate, make recommendations to LGUs for mergers or collaboration agreements to facilitate effective water management on a watershed basis.

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### PRAP Program Objectives for 2015

- Maintain the new target for Level II performance reviews of 24 per year.
- Adapt PRAP performance review methods for assessing the One Watershed-One Plan pilots.
- Maintain the focus on resource outcomes in Level II performance reviews.
- Schedule surveys to track LGU compliance with Level II PRAP recommendations.
- Evaluate WMO and metro WD jurisdictional alignments in Level II performance reviews for the potential water management benefits of LGU realignments.
- Track 240 LGUs' Level I performance with emphasis on improving WMO and WD reporting.
- Promote the use of PRAP Assistance Grants to enhance LGU organizational effectiveness.
- Adopt performance measures/targets for each of these program objectives and report progress on meeting targets in the 2016 PRAP report.

## Appendix A

### PRAP AUTHORIZING LEGISLATION

#### ***103B.102, Minnesota Statutes 2013***

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#### **103B.102 LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT.**

##### **Subdivision 1. Findings; improving accountability and oversight.**

The legislature finds that a process is needed to monitor the performance and activities of local water management entities. The process should be preemptive so that problems can be identified early and systematically. Underperforming entities should be provided assistance and direction for improving performance in a reasonable time frame.

##### **Subd. 2. Definitions.**

For the purposes of this section, "local water management entities" means watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, metropolitan water management organizations, and counties operating separately or jointly in their role as local water management authorities under chapter 103B, 103C, 103D, or 103G and chapter 114D.

##### **Subd. 3. Evaluation and report.**

The Board of Water and Soil Resources shall evaluate performance, financial, and activity information for each local water management entity. The board shall evaluate the entities' progress in accomplishing their adopted plans on a regular basis as determined by the board based on budget and operations of the local water management entity, but not less than once every ten years. The board shall maintain a summary of local water management entity performance on the board's Web site. Beginning February 1, 2008, and annually thereafter, the board shall provide an analysis of local water management entity performance to the chairs of the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over environment and natural resources policy.

##### **Subd. 4. Corrective actions.**

(a) In addition to other authorities, the Board of Water and Soil Resources may, based on its evaluation in subdivision 3, reduce, withhold, or redirect grants and other funding if the local water management entity has not corrected deficiencies as prescribed in a notice from the board within one year from the date of the notice.

(b) The board may defer a decision on a termination petition filed under section [103B.221](#), [103C.225](#), or [103D.271](#) for up to one year to conduct or update the evaluation under subdivision 3 or to communicate the results of the evaluation to petitioners or to local and state government agencies.

##### **History:**

*2007 c 57 art 1 s 104; 2013 c 143 art 4 s 1*

## Appendix B

### Level I: 2014 LGU Long-Range Plan Status

as of December 31, 2014

#### Soil and Water Conservation Districts

(Districts have a choice of option A or B)

##### **A. Current Resolution Adopting County Local Water Management Plan**

All resolutions are current.

##### **B. Current District Comprehensive Plan**

All comprehensive plans are current.

#### Counties

##### **Local Water Management Plan Revisions**

All local water management plans are current, with 11 extensions.

##### **Metro County Groundwater Plan Revision Overdue**

Carver

Ramsey

Scott

(Anoka and Hennepin Counties have chosen not to participate in this optional program.)

#### Watershed Districts

##### **10-Year Watershed Management Plan Revision Overdue: Revision in Progress**

Crooked Creek

High Island Creek

Thirty Lakes

#### Watershed Management Organizations

##### **Management Plan Revision Overdue: Plan Revision in Progress**

Bassett Creek

Elm Creek

Pioneer-Sarah Creek

## Appendix C

### Level I: Status of Annual Reports for 2013 as of December 31, 2014

#### Soil and Water Conservation Districts

##### **eLINK Status Reports of Grant Expenditures**

All reports submitted; 7 districts submitted late reports.

##### **Website Content: Not in compliance on due date**

Beltrami

#### Counties

##### **Drainage Authority Buffer Strip Reports**

All reports submitted; 6 counties submitted late

##### **eLINK Status Reports of Grant Expenditures**

All reports submitted; 4 counties submitted late reports.

#### Watershed Districts

##### **Drainage Authority Buffer Strip Reports**

All reports submitted; 3 submitted late

##### **Annual Activity Reports Not Submitted**

Bois de Sioux

Pelican River

Joe River

Ramsey-Washington Metro

Lower Minnesota River

##### **Annual Activity Reports Submitted Late**

4 submitted late reports.

#### Metro Joint Powers Watershed Management Organizations

##### **Annual Activity Reports Not Submitted**

All reports submitted.

##### **Annual Activity Reports Submitted Late**

3 submitted late.

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**Appendix D**

<p><b>Level I: Status of Financial Reports and Audits for 2013</b> as of December 31, 2014</p>
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**Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

**Annual Financial Reports (all 90 Districts)**

All reports submitted. 5 submitted late.

**Annual Audits (57 required)**

**Audits Not Received**

All audits submitted; four pending review by the State Auditor.

**Watershed Districts**

**Annual Audits Not Completed:**

High Island Creek

Stockton-Rollingstone-MN City

Joe River

**Annual Audits Submitted Late:**

4 watershed districts submitted late audit reports.

**Metro Joint Powers Watershed Management Organizations**

**Annual Audits Not Submitted:**

Lower Rum River

Upper Rum River

Sunrise River

**Annual Audits Submitted Late:**

8 JPA-WMOs submitted late audit reports.

<p>PRAP Level II Report Summary</p>	<p>Carlton County Local Water Management</p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The Carlton County Zoning and Environmental Services Department has made good progress on several water quality and resource management programs for which it has taken a lead role or partnered with others. Through those partners the county has sought and received over \$1 million of both state and federal funds to implement many of these programs.</p>  <p>The analysis of plan accomplishments shows the county is making good progress on over two-thirds of the action items in their local water management plan, including several notable accomplishments. There is still much work to be done to address the plan action items in the next five years. Two-thirds of the Priority Concern 3 public education action items for which progress is reported have an updated website as the primary action contributing to that progress. While this website upgrade provides an important tool for making citizen access to county programs more efficient, the actions called for in this priority area include more.</p> <p>The survey responses obtained through this performance review mention dedicated county staff that are, nevertheless, hampered somewhat by the lack of capacity to meet all the needs within the county. At the halfway point in the implementation of the now updated local water management plan, the county needs to continue its efforts to ensure that the plan action items are addressed. (See Recommendations 1, 2 and 3, page 6.)</p> <p>The vast majority of partners indicate a strong working relationship between themselves and the county staff. The partners gave good marks for the county’s performance in four important operational areas, with a particularly strong performance in meeting deadlines and follow-through on projects. The conclusions about the county’s relationship with partners are based on a good response rate to BWSR’s survey. The department also shows strong compliance with BWSR’s operational performance standards.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Carlton local water management plan does not include targets or objectives for resource outcomes. Therefore, resource outcomes are not reported in this review of plan accomplishments.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider delegating local water management planning and associated funding to the Carlton SWCD.</li> <li>• Have more frequent meetings of the water plan task force.</li> <li>• Write an annual work plan based on staff capacity and watershed-based priorities with clear assignment of the lead agency for local water plan actions.</li> <li>• Develop targets or objectives for resource outcomes in the next plan revision.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>Carlton County received 9 commendations for meeting BWSR’s benchmark performance standards. (See page 5.)</p>

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Dakota Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota's counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>By every measure examined for this performance review, the Dakota County SWCD is shown to be a strong performer in delivery of soil and water conservation services. The board's adoption of a Strategic Plan to guide the activities of the district is a particularly noteworthy example of good management oversight and adaptation to the uncertain funding environment in which most SWCDs find themselves. Furthermore, the general objectives and strategies described in the Comprehensive Plan lead to simple, actionable goals in the Strategic Plan. What is missing from the mix of goals, objectives, strategies and policies are some resource targets or outcomes that can serve as a means for measuring progress toward goals. These can and should go beyond measuring level of effort or number of practices installed, for which the district has already demonstrated impressive accomplishments.</p> <p>The analysis of compliance with BWSR performance standards shows the district to be exemplary in every area of its operations.</p> <p>Finally, the Dakota County SWCD provides an impressive example of how an SWCD can adopt a strategy of collaboration for implementation and then follow-through with results that not only deliver the services and projects but make the district stronger and a key player in the region's conservation management.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Dakota County SWCD plan does not identify resource goals or targets for the purpose of tracking outcomes.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>None</p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The district receives commendations for meeting all 15 Benchmark Standards.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Consider adding measureable natural resource outcomes to the next version of the district Comprehensive Plan.</p> 

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Kanaranzi-Little Rock Watershed District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div style="width: 80%;"> <p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>A general conclusion of this performance review is that the KLRWD is not currently living up to its potential for putting good conservation in priority areas. Their successful implementation of federal ARRA and PL566 projects through a coordinated effort with other Nobles local governments is a prime example of the KLRWD’s capabilities. Plan implementation has been somewhat diminished and the lack of adherence to basic administrative and communication practices indicates a lack of enthusiasm for their mission. Hopefully, this is a temporary state because in the recent past the district has demonstrated their ability to accomplish projects and work successfully with partners.</p> <p>The KLRWD has the benefit of working among strong local government partners. Landowners have actively participated in these programs in the past and apparently there is still a lot of interest. A locally successful district program would be easy to build on in the future, by leveraging state and local resources with the district’s substantial operating fund surplus. This review reveals that the district has a number of willing partners among local organizations and agencies.</p> <p>While it is somewhat understandable that with the pending change in district administrative support the managers’ attention would be turned away from project implementation right now, the need for district services has not diminished.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The KLRWD watershed plan (i.e., Nobles County Local Water Management Plan) does not include targets or measureable outcome objectives assigned to the district. Consequently, there is no report of resource outcome accomplishments in this performance review.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Obtain administrative services that will support an expanded district project and program effort.</p> <p><b>Address Action Items</b></p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>There are five action items for the district to address.</p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The KLRWD is commended for meeting two of BWSR’s benchmark performance standards.</p> </div> <div style="width: 15%; text-align: center;">  </div> </div>

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Lower Minnesota River Watershed District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>This performance review reveals a watershed district that is making the effort to emerge from its historical single purpose as a dredged material management agency. Based on their report of accomplishments the LMRWD is seeking to broaden its scope as a local resource management entity with the publication of the 2014 Strategic Resources Evaluation. This document is an excellent first step in providing some strategic direction for district activities and sets the district up well for expanding partnerships with other neighboring or conterminous local, state and federal resource management entities.</p>  <p>The district shows reasonable progress in the implementation of planned goals and strategies. One noteworthy feature of the watershed management plan is the list of metrics the district has adopted to track both short- and long-term progress toward plan goals. While the district has not given much attention to reporting results for these metrics, they have indicated that that action item will receive increased attention as a result of this performance review.</p> <p>The performance standards assessment shows that the district has struggled with their compliance with some basic reporting requirements.</p> <p>Finally, the district has evidently turned a corner with regard to both board member dynamics and administrative services. What remains to be addressed in this regard is for the district to fill out the vacancies in the board to achieve a full complement of five managers and to increase staff capacity.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>As noted above, the LMRWD plan contains a list of “metrics” which include long-term measures of resource outcomes. These include, for example, trends in water quality parameters and number and acreage of wetlands protected, restored, and enhanced. However, the district has not yet begun to report on these metrics but plans to do so in conjunction with a biannual review.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Take the lead in pursuing projects and priorities identified in the 2014 SRE and the district watershed management plan.</li> <li>• Address Action Items</li> <li>• Fill board vacancies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>The LMRWD needs to address two action items: submit annual activity and audit reports on-time.</p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The LMRWD is commended for meeting 8 of 15 benchmark performance standards.</p>

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>McLeod County Environmental Services McLeod Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of two of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>A general theme that emerges from this assessment of local water management in McLeod County is that there is more that could be done for the resource if the capabilities of the Environmental Services (ESD) and SWCD were enhanced. However, the solutions for performance enhancement are different for each organization.</p> <p>For the county ESD, improved performance would depend on a recommitment to basic operations such as improved communication with partners and stronger follow-through on projects and programs. There are certainly some strong aspects to the work the county staff does, but the negative opinions of partners and the lack of identified successes by internal respondents are too prominent to ignore. With half the partners characterizing their working relationship with county staff as difficult, the issues causing that response should be identified and corrected.</p> <p>On the other hand, the limiting factor for the SWCD appears to be lack of staff capacity to engage with willing partners. Partners have a high opinion of the work that the SWCD does already. The fact that most partners would like to do more work with the SWCD is a strong call for adding staff capacity. However, this should be based on a careful assessment of the needs and skills required.</p> <p>The report of plan accomplishments shows most Action Steps partially completed or on-going. While this is to be expected with a relatively new comprehensive local water plan, there seems to be a pattern where the items assigned to the ESD show less progress than those carried by the SWCD. This could be a factor of detail in reporting for the Part 1 section of this performance review, or it may reflect the actual differences between these two agencies.</p> <p>Both agencies show good compliance with performance standards, with particularly strong benchmark standards compliance for the county.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The McLeod Local Water Management Plan contains two Action Steps (#16 and #68) that have as goals the reduction of certain water pollutants. However, neither the ESD nor the SWCD are the responsible agencies for these Action Steps. Therefore, they have not reported outcomes for this review.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County and SWCD: Reference plan measures in annual reporting.</li> <li>County #1: Seek partnership opportunities for conservation and water management programs and projects.</li> <li>County #2: Ensure compliance with grant administration requirements.</li> <li>SWCD #1: Conduct a staff capacity assessment.</li> <li>SWCD #2: Address two Action Items.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>County (10)</li> <li>SWCD (5)</li> </ul>



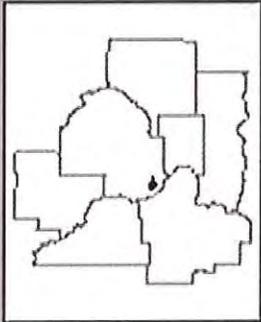
PRAP Level II Report Summary	Mille Lacs Soil and Water Conservation District
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-between;"> <div data-bbox="488 390 1201 762"> <p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The Mille Lacs SWCD is a well-run, efficient organization that does good work and gets good conservation projects on the ground. The SWCD has demonstrated good internal management within the past several years as indicated by two specific actions taken. They have revised their mission statement within the past five years and conducted a semi-formal strategic planning session. The district’s supervisors are engaged with the district’s operation and planning. The district staff are very respectful of the board’s direction and guidance and seek to keep the board fully informed of opportunities and limitations.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="1227 390 1435 646">  </div> </div> <p>In addition, the SWCD initiates and cultivates effective partnerships with neighboring LGUs, which serves to further accomplish the district’s mission. This is demonstrated by the high response rate to the partner survey and the uniformly high ratings given to the SWCD by those partners.</p> <p>The primary challenge to the SWCD is the lack of funding, particularly general funds, to meet all of the local needs. This is a challenge for many of the neighboring SWCDs, in part because of local economic limitations. One potential remedy is to explore shared services among districts that would free up district funds used for staffing to undertake additional or cooperative projects. The other avenue to pursue in this regard is more partnerships that could benefit the organization.</p> <p>In going forward, the challenge will be to ensure that the district’s limited resources are targeted to the most critical needs or priority areas for conservation projects.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The district’s comprehensive water management plan does not have measureable resource outcomes as goals for the action items. Consequently, there are no resource outcomes reported among the plan accomplishments.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Collaborate with neighboring districts to explore partnerships and shared services.</li> <li>• Address staff capacity.</li> <li>• Conduct annual prioritizing/targeting for projects and programs that promotes concentration of limited resources and the ability to measure progress.</li> <li>• Address Action Items.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations and Action Items</b></p> <p><i>Action Items:</i> 1) meet eLink reporting deadlines; 2) develop a data practices policy.</p> <p><i>Commendations:</i> The Mille Lacs SWCD is commended for meeting 8 of 15 Benchmark performance standards that indicate exemplary performance.</p>

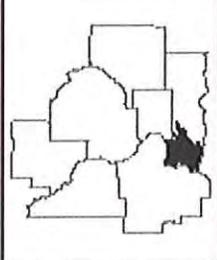
<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Nine Mile Creek Watershed District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The NMCWD has demonstrated for many years how effective, systematic watershed management and project implementation can be achieved in a complex, developed urban setting. The shift from flood control to water quality management over the life history of the district has followed the demands for service based on both resource needs and priorities of local communities.</p>  <p>The district has a solid record of accomplishment in all areas of their water management plan. The assignment of specific, measureable water quality and habitat objectives on a lake-by-lake basis is commendable. The district follows up these objectives with systematic monitoring, project implementation and reporting of results. If anything could be improved in this area it would be the summarizing of resource outcomes in an easy-to-understand format on the district website.</p> <p>The district’s compliance with BWSR performance standards puts them among the top performers statewide in meeting the routine, but essential, administrative, planning and communication practices that lead to an effective, efficient organization. The need to maintain consistency in reporting is a component of the public accountability and communication goals in the management plan.</p> <p>Finally, the partners who work with the NMCWD reinforce the value of the district’s contribution to urban resource management with high marks for their communication, quality of work, relations with customers and follow-through.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The NMCWD watershed management plan contains specific, measureable resource outcomes as objectives for the lakes and streams. The WD annual reports contain detailed information about the water quality results achieved by various lake and stream improvement projects. In general, the resource outcomes show a mix of improving, degrading and non-trending results. The district is applying a comprehensive, systematic approach to addressing these outcome goals, which is defined in the plan and applied in the district’s annual work plans and projects.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Activity reports: annual, on-time</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Add water resource trend data to the website in an easy-to-understand format.</p> <p>Consider using Prioritized, Targeted and Measureable as criteria for Goals and Objectives in the next water management plan</p> <p>Address Action Item to meet on-time reporting requirements.</p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The NMCWD is commended for meeting 10 of 14 benchmark standards.</p>

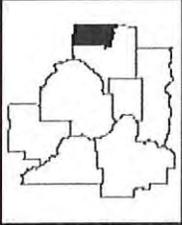
<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Nobles County Environmental Services Department and Nobles Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>	
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>This performance review reveals solid performance by two local water management entities that provide complementary services to the people and for the resources of Nobles County. Their progress in the implementation of a comprehensive local water management plan has been consistent, with many planned targets met or exceeded. The plan itself reflected the intent of all the local water management entities in the county, including the watershed districts, to collaborate in the complex tasks of watershed based planning and management.</p> <p>In particular, the joint powers arrangement between the SWCD and the Kanaranz-Little Rock watershed district exemplifies that collaboration.</p> <p>The ESD and SWCD show good compliance with BWSR’s basic and benchmark performance standards, another indicator of well-managed organizations.</p> <p>The partners who responded to the PRAP survey provided consistently high marks in their judgment of the performance of both LGUs.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Nobles Local Water Management Plan contains many action items with specific quantitative goals, but none of these are for specific improvements in natural resource characteristics, such as surface water quality parameters or habitat quality.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Joint Recommendation 1:</b> Explore the option of the One Watershed-One Plan concept in the next plan revision.</p> <p><b>County Recommendation 1:</b> Ensure that the next version of the local water management plan provides targeting of action items by watershed. (Action Item.)</p> <p><b>SWCD Recommendation 1:</b> Continue and expand operational and technical support for the watershed districts in Nobles County.</p> <p><b>SWCD Recommendation 2:</b> Develop and adopt a district data practices policy (Action Item).</p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>Nobles County received commendations for meeting 11 of BWSR’s benchmark performance standards.</p> <p>Nobles SWCD received commendations for meeting 7 of BWSR’s benchmark performance standards for SWCDs.</p>	

PRAP Level II Report Summary	Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District	
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District has been a consistent performer in delivering projects and programs commensurate with planned objectives and available resources. The leaders have a high degree of consensus on what has been accomplished, what still needs to be done, and where the challenges lie. This indicates an organization with a shared sense of mission, good communication among its members, and a common understanding of the issues and needs within their area of jurisdiction.</p> <p>The managers and staff identified partnerships and collaboration with other local government partners as the keys to their success. Based on that awareness they should be able to take advantage of existing partnerships and build new ones. It is a clear formula for continued effectiveness. This level of effective coordination would not be possible without the services of a full-time administrator. BWSR commends the managers for making this financial commitment.</p> <p>The OOWD’s partners have confirmed the value of the role the district plays in local water management. Their survey responses calling for additional opportunities to work with the district are one indication of that value.</p> <p>In looking ahead, the OOWD managers and staff suggested that improving public outreach and education efforts would boost the district’s program effectiveness. Nearly half the partners surveyed confirmed that there is room for improvement in the district’s relationship with clients and landowners.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The OOWD watershed plan does not include targets or measureable outcome objectives assigned to the district. Consequently, there is no report of resource outcome accomplishments in this performance review.</p> <p><b>Action Items and Commendations</b></p> <p>The OOWD has two action items to address to meet BWSR’s basic performance standards.</p> <p>The OOWD is commended for meeting 8 of 14 benchmark standards that indicate high performance practices.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Maintain and expand upon the strong partnerships that managers and partners have identified as district strengths. Consider watershed-based planning for the next plan update.</li> <li>• Address Action Items.</li> <li>• Consider strategies for enhancing public outreach, information and education to address priority issues.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Renville Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>	
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The Renville SWCD is a strong performer in all aspects of land and water conservation work, as well as having an efficient, well-run organization. Their effectiveness in the various conservation easement programs is exemplary. Those results are a combination of excellent landowner relations, persistent program marketing by staff and a sense of mission that motivates the district to take advantage of all the conservation tools at their disposal.</p> <p>With everything working so well, the main concern is how to ensure that the district continues to function at this high level for a long time. Given the potential for staff turnover in the not-too-distant future the board of supervisors needs a strong plan for succession and knowledge transfer.</p> <p>Partners gave high marks for the SWCD’s performance and several commented on what a pleasure it is to work with district staff. There are opportunities for even more partner collaboration, according to the survey, as one partner commented: “always looking for more projects to work together on.” The survey of supervisors and staff identified a few organizations with which an improved working relationship would benefit the district.</p> <p>Compliance with BWSR performance standards is good, but there may be room for additional attention to administrative best management standards.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Renville County local water management plan does not include measureable goals for resource outcomes. Consequently, the report of accomplishments in this report does not identify changes to Renville County resources resulting from the activities of this SWCD and their partners.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plan deliberately for district staff transitions.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities for even more partner collaboration.</li> <li>• Address Action Item and consider adding Benchmark Standards.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The Renville SWCD is commended for meeting 5 of 12 benchmark performance standards.</p>	

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Richfield-Bloomington Watershed Management Organization</b></p>	
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The Richfield Bloomington WMO has been quite effective at completing stormwater projects, maintaining urban water quality best management practices, and obtaining good cooperation and support from city staff and budgets. The result of collaboration between the two cities by means of the WMO has been effective and efficient stormwater management.</p> <p>The survey responses both internal and external reveal opportunities for a stronger role for the WMO in both increased public awareness and projects with partners.</p> <p>The challenge for this WMO is to ensure that this local collaboration extends beyond the city boundaries to consider a watershed perspective. The governance structure and the decision to contain the organization within the cities’ finances instead of as a separate organization with staff and budget could be limiting such a perspective.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The RBWMO management plan does not contain goals for specific resource outcomes. Therefore, there is no information about resource changes resulting from projects undertaken by the WMO.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p><b>Conduct a strategic assessment of the WMO mission and purpose with a view towards adopting more of a watershed perspective. Consider expanding the watershed focus of the current WMO, or joining the Nine Mile Creek Watershed District.</b></p> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The RBWMO is commended for meeting 7 of BWSR’s benchmark performance standards.</p>	

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>South Washington Watershed District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings and Conclusions</b></p> <p>The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) is an effective agent for positive water resource management in a complex metropolitan environment. The district’s systematic, deliberate approach to project development, as set out in their management plan and management processes, is impressive. The confidence that the cities within the district have in the organization’s capabilities is evidenced by the gradual expansion of the district’s jurisdiction as neighboring watershed management organizations have dissolved. The SWWD has been aggressive at applying the various tools and authorities available to a metro area watershed district in its pursuit of effective local water and resource management. In general, the partner organizations find the SWWD good to work with and recognize the quality of its efforts. If there are any areas for improvement in the district’s working relationship with its partners they would be in the area of improved communication about changing timelines or follow-through on projects or programs.</p> <p>The district meets an impressive 93 percent of BWSR’s benchmark performance standards. This rate of compliance shows organizational sophistication, attention to detail in overall district management, and a commitment to service for the people who live in the district and to the resources they depend upon.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The SWWD has adopted load reduction goals for water quality on a subwatershed basis. Progress toward those goals is not routinely reported in district documents, however.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>The district has two action items to address in the coming months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Submit annual audit reports on time</li> <li>• Establish an advisory committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <p>The SWWD is commended for meeting 12 of BWSR’s 13 benchmark performance standards.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Address action items Establish some measureable goals for the next management plan.</p> <div data-bbox="1182 415 1409 688" style="float: right; border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;">  </div>

<p><b>PRAP Level II Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Upper Rum River Watershed Management Organization</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up a program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities. This document reports the results of one of those reviews.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The URRWMO has a limited vision for what they can accomplish with the water resources of northwestern Anoka County. While the water quality monitoring program is well supported and on-going, it does not lead to correcting problems or enhancing the economic value of the region’s water resources. The current plan is relatively modest in scope, but even then some key elements are not being addressed. The annual reports recommend actions to address identified resource problems, but these actions do not make it into WMO work plans.</p>  <p>Based on the information collected for this assessment, it appears that there is a strong sentiment among some of the member cities to minimize the reach and influence of the WMO. This is reflected in recent board-adopted work plans that cut even modestly funded cost-share programs to zero.</p> <p>With the exception of the contract with the Anoka Conservation District, the WMO has not taken advantage of partnership opportunities and engagement with neighboring counties and watershed organizations. These alliances can make the organization’s limited funds more effective by using materials and expertise that others are able to share with them.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Upper Rum River WMO plan does not identify resource goals or targets for the purpose of tracking outcomes.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and submit annual audit and financial report on time.</li> <li>• Develop data practices policy.</li> <li>• Convene advisory committee.</li> </ul> <p><b>Commendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water quality trends tracked for priority water bodies.</li> <li>• Watershed hydrologic trends monitored / reported.</li> <li>• Website: contains meeting notices, agendas &amp; minutes; updated after each board mtg; additional content.</li> <li>• Coordination with County/City/Twp by WMO Board members or staff.</li> </ul> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider merger or start coordination now with neighboring organizations to learn from their successes.</li> <li>• Conduct a survey of watershed residents and local officials regarding water resource problems in the watershed.</li> <li>• Member cities must adopt ordinances required by the plan.</li> <li>• Address Action Items.</li> </ul>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>All LGUs</b></p>	
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of that review.</p>	<p><b>Key Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>In general, the LGUs operating in the Zumbro watershed are making good progress in implementing the projects and programs as identified in their long-range plans.</p> <p>Most of the contributing LGUs with jurisdiction in the Zumbro River watershed already show moderate to good degrees of collaboration for certain aspects of their operations. Collaboration is stronger on programs than on services. Also, collaboration is much stronger among the LGUs in the downstream reaches of the watershed.</p> <p>This assessment revealed that a slight majority (54%) of LGU board members either don’t know or don’t think the resources in the Zumbro watershed would be better off with more collaboration among the LGUs. 25 percent of the staff share this opinion. This viewpoint could be a significant barrier to moving forward with watershed-based planning.</p> <p>While this assessment revealed some shortcomings with the effectiveness of the ZWP as a coordinating body, nevertheless it has the potential to be a forum for sharing information among LGUs and others who participate. A more effective ZWP could provide a foundation for increased collaboration, if LGU members choose to promote such a purpose and then take advantage of it.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>None of the LGU plans include action items with resource outcome targets. There were no resource outcomes to report.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Joint Recommendation 1: Take Advantage of Existing Coordinative Entities, such as the ZWP and Southeast Water Resources Board.</b></p> <p><b>Joint Recommendation 2: Explore Additional Opportunities for Shared Services</b></p>	

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b> <b>Bear Valley Watershed District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of one of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The BVWD managers have faithfully carried out the responsibilities for which the district was formed back in 1961—the maintenance of the water control structures built to control flooding and runoff in the Cold Creek drainage area. Their reliance on local SWCD and county resource managers to apply land conservation and other types of runoff and wastewater management programs has also contributed to the managers’ structure maintenance objectives.</p> <p>The recently rewritten watershed management plan describes additional objectives which have not yet been addressed. While it is still early in the current planning cycle, the managers should indicate a schedule for when or how they will work on these items.</p> <p>Regarding collaboration with other LGUs, as noted above, they have a collaborative working relationship with the Wabasha SWCD, in particular. With their watershed management plan providing the framework and with careful application of their regulatory authority, the managers have the potential to expand their influence by contributing to funding and building projects that address objectives developed through watershed-wide planning efforts.</p> <p>With no paid staff, the managers have found it difficult to meet some of their basic reporting responsibilities. Nevertheless, they must find some way to meet these requirements.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Bear Valley Watershed Management Plan action items do not include resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Action Items:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complete an annual financial audit.</li> <li>• Expand webpage information.</li> </ul> <p><b>BVWD Recommendation 1: Participate with the other Zumbro watershed LGUs to contribute the BVWD’s resources to address strategic issues and problems, as well as objectives in the BVWD plan.</b></p> <p><b>BVWD Recommendation 2: Address action items.</b></p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b> <b>Dodge County Environmental Services</b> <b>Dodge Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of two of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Dodge County ESD and Dodge SWCD provide effective local water management and conservation services to the land users in the county. They have demonstrated good prioritization of project and program delivery based on available resources. The SWCD is poised to enter a new phase of service delivery with the hiring of a district manager to fill the recently vacated technician position.</p> <p>With 85 percent of the county in the Zumbro River watershed’s middle and upper reaches, the Dodge LGUs play a critical role in affecting the river and associated resources. Consequently, there is a continuing need for effective coordination and collaboration with other contributing LGUs in the Zumbro watershed. This need may largely be met through their continued participation in the Zumbro Watershed Partnership.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Dodge Local Water Management Plan action items do not include resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Dodge Recommendations</b></p> <p>SWCD Recommendation: <b>Continue to pursue district staffing plan.</b></p> <p>County Recommendation: <b>Prepare the next revision of the county Comprehensive Water Management Plan with consideration for county watershed units.</b></p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b> <b>Goodhue County and Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of two of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>Goodhue SWCD and county have developed the type of coordinated working relationship that results in effective and efficient delivery of conservation services and projects to local land users, as well as beneficial resource results.</p> <p>They operate under a detailed, targeted comprehensive plan that they are jointly implementing to good effect. Their continued participation on the Zumbro Watershed Partnership board will serve as a helpful influence to making that organization more effective as a basin-wide coordinating and strategic planning vehicle for all watershed LGUs.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Goodhue Local Water Management Plan action items do not include resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Action Item</b></p> <p>Ensure drainage system buffer reports are submitted to BWSR on-time.</p> <p><b>Goodhue Recommendations</b></p> <p>Address one action item.</p> <p>Maintain excellence in coordination and communication.</p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of one of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Olmsted County Environmental Resources Department (ERD) is a high functioning local water management entity that has effectively implemented water management projects and programs for many years. In one sense they have pioneered collaboration beyond the county’s borders, emphasizing regional water management in southeastern Minnesota long before watershed-based management planning came into focus. They have advocated and supported a stronger coordination role for the Zumbro Watershed Partnership organization, on which they actively participate. In addition, they are off to a good start in implementing the strategies in their new local water management plan.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Olmsted County Water Management Plan does not include strategies with resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>There are no action items for the Olmsted ERD to address.</p> <p><b>Recommendation</b></p> <p>Provide guidance for the ZWP as they seek to develop a strategic watershed focus and coordination framework.</p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review Olmsted County Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of one of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Olmsted SWCD has delivered a broad range of traditional soil and water conservation projects and programs for many years. In recent years they have taken advantage of the coordination opportunities provided by the Zumbro Watershed Partnership by participating actively in that organization. The supplemental projects included with the county local water plan adoption resolution demonstrate a willingness to partner on watershed-based projects. As such they are familiar with the issues and challenges of working on a watershed scale.</p> <p>Their progress in implementing their assigned strategies in the new county local water management plan has been reasonable, given that the plan was adopted only a year ago. In the future the Olmsted SWCD needs to develop a closer working relationship with the county Environmental Resources Department.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Olmsted County Water Management Plan does not strategies with resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>There are no action items for the Olmsted SWCD to address.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p>Make sure annual work plan includes strategies from the county water management plan for which the district is responsible.</p> <p>Improve coordination with the county Environmental Resources Department and a regular progress report presentation to the county Environmental Commission.</p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review Rice County and Rice Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of two of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Rice County WRMD and Rice SWCD have an excellent working relationship that shows up in the significant progress they are both making in implementing effective local water and land resource management projects and programs. While their interest and involvement in Zumbro River watershed matters are understandably low because of their relatively small piece of the watershed, they have a sound mechanism in place to address any resource issues that would benefit downstream land users.</p> <p>If the Zumbro Watershed Partnership is able to redefine itself as more of a strategic planning and coordinative body to address watershed-wide issues, there may be a place for the Rice LGUs to participate more actively in that body.</p> <p>With a major revision of the Rice County Local Water Management Plan currently in progress, there is an opportunity to align plan priorities and goals on a watershed basis. As local water planning will increasingly be done on a watershed basis, by anticipating that trend in the next iteration of the plan will position the county and SWCD for participating in that type of collaboration on plans and implementation.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Rice Local Water Management Plan does not contain action items that set resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no resource outcomes to report as part of this review.</p> <p><b>Rice Recommendation 1: Participate in Zumbro Watershed Strategic Planning Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Rice Recommendation 2: Intentional County/SWCD Coordination</b></p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b> <b>Steele County Environmental Services Department</b> <b>Steele Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of two of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>The Steele County ESD and SWCD provide high quality environmental management and resource conservation services within their respective areas of responsibility. The two LGUs also collaborate and work well with each other. However, with regard to the Zumbro watershed, the results of this performance review show very little collaboration with other downstream LGUs. This is somewhat understandable given the small percentage of Steele County that contributes runoff to the Zumbro River. While their current low level of involvement in Zumbro River watershed issues may be appropriate, the LGUs, in particular the lead staff, should participate in future watershed-based strategic or comprehensive planning activities. These would provide an opportunity for the Steele County LGUs, as well as other contributing LGUs, to target their efforts to address the most critical problems on a watershed basis.</p> <p>The local water plan committee is not meeting regularly. In order to prepare for the next local water management plan revision in 2016 the county should increase the use of the local water plan committee. This group of citizens and agency representatives can serve many functions to contribute to the effective implementation of local water plan objectives. They can also serve as a communication mechanism for getting messages out to county residents and providing feedback to LGU officials regarding their programs and projects. They should be meeting more frequently.</p> <p><b>Action Items</b></p> <p>There are no action items for Steele LGUs to address.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Steele Recommendation 1: Participate in Zumbro Watershed Strategic Planning Sessions</b></p> <p><b>Steele Recommendation 2: Re-convene the Local Water Plan Committee</b></p>

<p><b>Watershed-based PRAP (Level II) Report Summary</b></p>	<p><b>Zumbro River Watershed PRAP Summary of Performance Review</b> <b>Wabasha County Environmental Services Department</b> <b>Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District</b></p>
<p><b>What is a PRAP Performance Review?</b></p> <p>The Board of Water and Soil Resources supports Minnesota’s counties, watershed districts and soil and water conservation districts that deliver water and related land resource management projects and programs. In 2007 the Board set up the Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) to systematically review the performance of these local units of government to ensure their effective operation. Each year BWSR staff conduct routine reviews of several of these local conservation delivery entities.</p> <p>From 2013-14 BWSR conducted a review of all 13 local water management entities operating in the Zumbro River watershed. This document reports the results of the performance of two of those entities in the context of the broader watershed-wide review.</p>	<p><b>Key Findings, Conclusions and Recommendations</b></p> <p>Both Wabasha County and SWCD have had to deal with complications from staff turnover in recent years. These issues understandably distract from getting conservation work done. Nevertheless, both LGUs have made reasonable progress in addressing the action items in the local water management plan.</p> <p>In addition, their active involvement on the Zumbro Watershed Partnership board has provided opportunities for collaboration with other LGUs, which shows up in the level of compliance with watershed-based performance standards.</p> <p>However, the current financial uncertainties faced by the SWCD in particular represent a challenge to the on-going viability of the district. It is imperative that these issues be addressed effectively and quickly. In view of this matter BWSR is recommending that the district supervisors and staff focus on internal matters.</p> <p><b>Resource Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Wabasha County Local Water Management Plan does not contain resource outcome targets. Consequently there are no changes in resource conditions to report relative to implementation of plan action items.</p> <p><b>Recommendations</b></p> <p><b>Address SWCD and County internal issues as a first priority.</b></p>

## Appendix G

### 2014 Local Government Performance Awards and Recognition

(Awarding agency listed in parentheses.)

Outstanding SWCD Employee

(Board of Water and Soil Resources)

**Pam Tomevi, Koochiching SWCD**

Outstanding SWCD Supervisor Award

(Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)

**Bill Lonergan, Jr., Mower SWCD**

SWCD of the Year

(Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts)

**Cottonwood SWCD**

SWCD Appreciation Award

(Department of Natural Resources)

**Washington Conservation District**

Outstanding Watershed District Employee

(Board of Water and Soil Resources)

**Bruce Albright, Buffalo-Red River Watershed District**

Watershed District of the Year

(Department of Natural Resources)

**Roseau River Watershed District**

WD Program of the Year

(Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts)

**Clearwater River WD, Targeted Fertilizer Application Reduction Program**

WD Project of the Year

(Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts)

**Capitol Region WD, Green Line Green Infrastructure Project**

County Conservation Award

(Association of Minnesota Counties and Board of Water and Soil Resources)

**Otter Tail County, Buffer Initiative Program**

**COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS**

***Grants Program and Policy Committee***

1. FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Recommendations - Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***
2. Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Program – Marcey Westrick – ***DECISION ITEM***



# BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** FY 15 CWF Competitive Grant Program

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** Land and Water Section

**Contact:** Marcey Westrick

**Prepared by:** Marcey Westrick  
Grants Program and Policy

**Reviewed by:** Committee Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Marcey Westrick

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

**Attachments:** Resolution  Order  Map  **Supporting Information to be sent under separate cover.**

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

## ACTION REQUESTED

Authorization of the FY15 CWF Competitive Grants Program funding recommendations.

## LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

On June 25, 2014 the Board adopted resolution #14-42 which authorized staff to conduct a request for proposals from eligible local governments for Clean Water Fund projects in four program categories: Projects and Practices, Accelerated Implementation, Community Partners and Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance.

Applications for the FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from August 18 through September 26, 2014. Local governments submitted 197 applications requesting \$37,114,048 in Clean Water Funds. BWSR staff conducted multiple processes to review and score applications, involving staff of other agencies.

**The Grants Program & Policy Committee will meet on January 20. The Committee recommendation with attachments will be sent under separate cover and separate posting to the BWSR website.**



Board Resolution # 15-

**FY 2015 CLEAN WATER FUND AND COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM:  
FUNDING RECOMMENDATION**

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**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Fund (CWF) is established in M.S. 114D.50; and,

**WHEREAS**, Clean Water Funds have been appropriated to BWSR in Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture is contributing Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program funds; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has authority under Minn. Stat. 103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, joint powers organizations, and other special purpose districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project, practice or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan; and

**WHEREAS**, BWSR implementation of appropriated CWF funds is based on the Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15 which provides that funds may be “spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation”, and that “dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CWF implementation strategy recognizes that funding decisions should be based on the best available scientific information and directed to where clean water protection, enhancement and restoration work is most needed and most effective; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CWF implementation strategy incorporates the purpose of M.S. 114D.20 which directs the implementation of Clean Water Funds to be coordinated with existing authorities and program infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has previously endorsed an inter-agency granting strategy that includes the MN Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), the Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), the Department of Health (MDH), and the BWSR with the goal of effectively coordinating water quality projects or practices funded by the CWF, and

**WHEREAS**, on June 25, 2014 (Board Resolution # 14-42) the Board:

1. Authorized staff to finalize, distribute and promote a Request For Proposals (RFP) for the FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Program consistent with the provisions of appropriations enacted in 2013, Minn. Stat. 103B.3369 and this Board resolution; and,
2. Adopted the FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Policy; and,

**WHEREAS**, FY 2015 CWF competitive grant funds in the following amounts were made available to local governments through the RFP process that was open for applications from August 18 to September 26, 2014:

- A. \$15,434,176 from the CWF appropriated to BWSR, in the following categories:
  - 1. \$9,250,000 for Projects and Practices Grants;
  - 2. \$3,103,543 for Accelerated Implementation Grants;
  - 3. \$1,380,633 for Community Partners Conservation Program Grants;
  - 4. \$1,700,000 for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants
- B. Up to \$3,000,000 of Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program CWF Funds appropriated to the MDA; and,

**WHEREAS**, BWSR staff implemented a communication effort that included:

- email notification to eligible grantees on August 18, of the available CWF grant funds;
- A webinar was held on September 9 to review the grant programs; and
- a question and answer document was established on the BWSR website to provide an accessible information outlet; and,

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 125 applications that requested \$29,999,877 in funds for Projects and Practices projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
<u>Proposal Description:</u> The proposal description succinctly describes what results the applicant is trying to achieve and how they intend to achieve those results.	5
<u>Relationship to the Plan:</u> The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	15
<u>Targeting:</u> The proposal addresses identified critical pollution sources impacting the water resource identified in the application.	30
<u>Measurable Outcomes:</u> The project or practice has a quantifiable reduction in pollution and directly addresses the water quality concern identified in the application.	35
<u>Project or Practice Readiness:</u> The proposal has a set of specific initiatives that can be implemented soon after grant award.	10
<u>Biennial Budget Request (BBR):</u> A BBR was submitted by the applicant organization in 2012.	5
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 48 applications that requested \$4,826,770 in funds for Accelerated Implementation projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of the proposal’s goals, standards addressed and projected impact on land and water management and enhanced effectiveness of future implementation projects or practices.	40
Relationship to Plan: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	25
Means and measures for assessing performance, milestones for success, and capacity to measure outcomes.	20
Timeline for implementation.	15
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 14 applications that requested \$1,559,425 in funds for Community Partners Conservation Program projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of the application’s goals, projected impact, and involvement with community partners.	40
Relationship to Plan: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	30
Plan for assessing the proposal’s impact and capacity to measure project or practice outcomes.	20
LGU capacity to implement local grant program processes and protocols.	10
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 10 applications that requested \$727,976 for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance projects that were evaluated by BWSR staff based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Anticipated water quality benefits.	30
Relationship to a Plan: The proposal is clearly based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in, or derived from, an eligible water management plan.	15
Portion of jurisdiction impacted by proposed activity (ies).	20
LGU capacity to implement the local grant program processes and protocols.	10
Consistency with Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants purposes.	25
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, the BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the proposed FY 2015 CWF Competitive Grant allocations on January 13, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the FY2015 CWF Competitive Grants Program proposals developed by staff on January 20, 2014.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby:

1) Approves allocations to implement the FY 2015 CWF Competitive Grant Program according to the attached funding recommendation spreadsheets and the attached scoring results and funding recommendations document for the following programs and recommended allocation amounts shown below:

<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>Allocated Funds</u>
A. Clean Water Assistance Grants	\$9,250,000
B. Accelerated Implementation Grants	\$2,922,994
C. Community Partners Conservation Program Grants	\$1,359,425
D. Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance	\$610,476

2) Authorizes staff to:

- A. approve project workplans,
- B. enter into grant agreements consistent with this resolution and Legislative appropriations,
- C. Shift funds as follows:

Up to \$180,549 of Accelerated Implementation Grant funds to the Chisago Chain of Lakes Targeted Watershed Demonstration Project,

- D. assign funds noted in (1) that may become available, to unfunded project and practices applications, in rank order, if funded projects are withdrawn, do not receive workplan approval by March 20, 2015 unless extended for cause, or are modified to reduce the state funding needed to accomplish the project.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Napstad, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments:

1. FY2015 Projects and Practices Grant Recommendations
2. FY2015 Accelerated Implementation Grant Recommendations
3. FY2015 Community Partner Conservation Program Grant Recommendations
4. FY2015 Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grant Recommendations
5. FY2015 Clean Water Fund: Background on Scoring Results and Funding Recommendations



## BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

### FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants

January 16, 2015

Applications for the FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants were accepted from August 18 through September 26, 2014. Local governments submitted 197 applications requesting \$37,114,048 in Clean Water Funds. For purposes of reviewing and scoring the applications, they were divided into the following categories:

- **CWF Competitive Grants:** Projects and Practices; Accelerated Implementation; Community Partners; and Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance.

The Interagency Scoring Team consisting of staff from BWSR, DNR, MDA, MDH, and MPCA met on December 16 to score the CWF Competitive Grants. The resulting funding recommendations were reviewed by the BWSR Senior Management Team on January 13, 2014.

#### **CWF Competitive Grants.**

The FY2014 CWF Competitive Grants consists of 4 separate funds, as shown below:

<b>FY2014 Competitive CWF Competitive Grant Categories</b>	<b>FY14 Available Funds</b>	<b>Requested Funds</b>
Projects and Practices	\$9,250,000	\$29,999,877
Accelerated Implementation	\$3,103,543	\$4,826,770
Community Partners	\$1,380,633	\$1,559,425
Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance	\$1,700,000,	\$727,976
MDA Ag BMP Loans	\$3,000,000	\$300,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$18,434,176</b>	<b>\$37,414,048</b>

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#### **Projects and Practices:**

Funds used to make investments in on-the-ground projects and practices that will protect or restore water quality in lakes, rivers or streams, or will protect groundwater or drinking water. Examples

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts.)	Description
1	C15-2974	Becker SWCD	Becker and Clay	\$ 398,000	\$ 398,000	\$ 234,200	Buffalo Red Shallow Lakes and Mainstem Improvement Strategy	95.2	This project will reduce nutrient and sediment delivery to 12 impaired lakes and impaired reaches of the Buffalo River. Under this project, 65 Water and sediment control basins and 80 acres of filter strips will be implemented to meet 28% of the Phosphorus reduction goals for lakes in the watershed and as much as 32% of the Phosphorus reduction goal for the Buffalo River Mainstem.
2	C15-7778	Minneapolis, City of	Hennepin	\$ 399,425	\$ 399,425	\$ 225,000	Nokomis Neighbors For Clean Water	94.9	This project engages private property owners in a neighborhood scale effort to install up to 180 stormwater BMPs to protect Lake Nokomis, a water body in Minneapolis impaired for excess nutrients. Lake Nokomis is one of the most visited lakes in Minnesota.
3	C15-7726	Polk, West SWCD	Polk	\$ 875,300	\$ 475,000	\$ 118,750	Sand Hill River Watershed Projects and Practices Grant Application	94.4	This project will result in the installation of 18 rock riffles and 2 rock arch rapids to control the grade and stabilize the 5 mile channelized reach of the sediment impaired Sand Hill River, which contributes thousands of tons of sediment downstream.
4	C15-5124	Freeborn County	Freeborn	\$ 494,500	\$ 494,500	\$ 124,300	2015 Myrtle On-site sewer solutions	93.8	The City of Myrtle is an unsewered community in Freeborn County. Thirty-one of thirty-two properties are connected to a community straight pipe, which discharges raw sewage and are classified as an imminent threat to public health. This project will provide cost-share assistance to 28 low income property owners who are connected to the community straight pipe to construct individual sub-surface treatment systems.
5	C15-4810	Pomme de Terre River Association JPB	Multi-County	\$ 387,146	\$ 387,146	\$ 96,787	2015- Pomme de Terre WRAPS Implementation Plan	92.7	This project will result in the implementation of over 50 best management practices being installed in addition to the enrollment of up to 1,900 acres in conservation practices resulting in reductions of 17,801 tons of sediment and 17,784 pounds of phosphorous from entering surface waters yearly in the watershed.
6	C15-0337	Scott SWCD	Scott	\$ 136,130	\$ 136,130	\$ 66,000	Prior Lake Spring Lake Targeted Water Quality BMP Installation Project	92.2	This project is a cooperative initiative between the Prior Lake Spring Lake Watershed District, the City of Prior Lake, and the Scott SWCD to implement 30 to 35 on-the-ground best management practices that will protect and improve water quality in Spring, Upper Prior and Lower Prior Lakes including shoreland buffers, grassed waterways, and native prairie.
7	C15-1438	Pope SWCD	Pope	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	2015 Lake Minnewaska Targeted Sub Watershed Water and Sediment Control Project Phase II	92.0	This project will result in the installation of 22 water and sediment control structures in two priority sub watersheds with the potential to reduce sediment load by 514 tons per year and reduce phosphorus by 440 pounds of year. This will result in meeting 7 % of the phosphorus reduction goal for Lake Malmedahl, 11% of the phosphorus goal for Strandness, 40% of the Lake Emily phosphorus goal from flowage from Lake Minnewaska.
8	C15-8500	Benton SWCD	Benton	\$ 705,000	\$ 705,000	\$ 176,250	NE St Cloud Sediment Reduction Project	91.9	This project addresses the northeast St. Cloud drainage basin, an older part of town, with little to no stormwater treatment within the existing drainage system. The proposed projects are estimated to reduce sediment by approximately 11 tons which is 15% of the total drainage area loading.
9	C15-1978	Clearwater River WD	Meeker	\$ 351,906	\$ 351,906	\$ 131,909	Watkins Area Stormwater Treatment	90.9	Construction of a stormwater treatment facility to treat runoff from 6,500 acre urban and agricultural drainage area in and around the City of Watkins, MN. The result is an annual phosphorus reduction of 796 pounds to Lake Betsy, the Clearwater River, and the Clearwater River Chain of Lakes, as well as an oxygen demand reduction benefit of 10% for the Clearwater River.
10	C15-5748	Becker SWCD	Becker	\$ 257,000	\$ 257,000	\$ 152,800	South Branch Wild Rice Sediment Reduction Project	90.7	The South Branch Wild Rice Sediment Reduction Project will implement 45 erosion control structures and 40 acres of filter strips to reduce sediment loading to the South Branch of the Wild Rice River in Becker County. Fully implemented, this project stands to reduce sediment loads leaving the project area by 26% and reduce TSS in the Lower Wild Rice River by 7%.
11	C15-5947	Polk , East SWCD	Polk	\$ 253,800	\$ 253,800	\$ 150,000	Phase IV Sand Hill River Watershed Erosion BMP's	90.6	Phase IV is a continuation (since 2011) to install water and sediment basins located within Sand Hill Watershed. 50 water and sediment basins are proposed to be installed with sediment reduction estimates of 965 tons per year and phosphorus reduction estimates of 1,000 pounds per year.
12	C15-4698	Goodhue SWCD	Goodhue and Wabasha	\$ 317,984	\$ 317,984	\$ 80,000	Protecting and Restoring Water Quality in Mississippi River/Lake Pepin Watershed	90.5	This project will use a targeted approach to siting conservation efforts in the Mississippi River/Lake Pepin Watershed in Goodhue and Wabasha Counties, focusing on the construction of multiple targeted BMP's in priority areas which will provide measureable reductions in sediment and phosphorus loadings.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts.)	Description
13	C15-6848	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD	Washington	\$ 108,431	\$ 108,431	\$ 27,108	Carnelian Marine St Croix Priority Lake TMDL Implementation – 75 Pound Phosphorus Load Reduction by 2017	89.4	This project will implement watershed load reduction practices to restore the top priority water body in the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District. Proposed projects include two iron-enhanced sand filters, one sand filter, and one ravine stabilization. These projects, in total, will reduce annual phosphorus loads by 17 pounds to Goose Lake.
14	C15-6544	Browns Creek WD	Washington	\$ 204,350	\$ 204,350	\$ 139,700	Brown's Creek Improvement at Brown's Creek Park	89.2	Brown's Creek Watershed District is partnering with the City of Stillwater to reduce sediment and thermal loading to Brown's Creek from existing impervious gravel parking lot and paved roads to achieve water quality goals in this reach of the creek.
15	C15-7832	Middle St. Croix River WMO	Washington	\$ 142,000	\$ 142,000	\$ 142,000	Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge Stormwater Retrofits	88.9	This project will address the nutrient impairment of Lake St. Croix through the installation of targeted stormwater treatment best management practices as prioritized in the 2014 Lake St. Croix Direct Discharge Stormwater Retrofit Assessment. The goal is to install up to 16 Low Impact Development practices to reduce pollutant loading to Lake St. Croix by at least 8.0 pounds phosphorous and 2 tons of sediment.
16	C15-2843	Snake River Watershed Management Board	Pine	\$ 312,025	\$ 312,025	\$ 78,006	Snake River Watershed WRAPS based projects	88.9	The primary focus of this project is riparian restoration on 6.5 miles of targeted tributaries, ditches, and wetlands within five sub - watershed areas. These Best Management Practices are estimated to reduce phosphorus loading in the watershed by 1,230 pounds per year, which is a 6% reduction toward the phosphorus goal. In addition, sediment reduction is estimated at 123 tons per year, which is a 67% reduction toward the sediment goal.
17	C15-8417	Scott SWCD	Scott	\$ 340,080	\$ 125,000	\$ 31,250	Lower MN River Targeted Water Quality BMP Implementation Project	88.5	This project will result in constructing on-the-ground conservation practices in the targeted watersheds and near channel sources. Practices will include grade control structures, grass and lined waterways, water and sediment control basins, filter strips, native grasses/prairie, lakeshore and streambank stabilization, and alternative tile intakes.
18	C15-3594	Le Sueur County	Le Sueur	\$ 325,240	\$ 325,240	\$ 81,335	Lake Volney Targeted Restoration	88.4	The goal of the Lake Volney Targeted Restoration project is to improve the water quality draining to Lake Volney. The project consists of 8 priority areas that will have 14 Best Management Practices installed.
19	C15-9219	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	Carver	\$ 233,400	\$ 233,400	\$ 58,350	Lake Susan Watershed Treatment and Stormwater Reuse Enhancements	87.9	This is a joint grant application from the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District and the City of Chanhassen. The project has been identified as most cost effective for the watershed and will consist of modifying an outlet control structure at a higher elevation that will provide increased water quality treatment and the installation of a Minnesota Filter to treat dissolved phosphorus.
20	C15-7604	St. Paul, City of	Ramsey	\$ 695,000	\$ 695,000	\$ 200,000	Trout Brook Urban Stream Restoration - Phase II	87.5	This project will harvest storm water from the Trout Brook Interceptor storm sewer, remove sediment, and daylight the water to the surface stream and is anticipated to reduce phosphorus loading by 96 pounds per year, nitrogen by 960 pounds per year, and sediment by 16 tons per year. This restoration project also provides aquatic and terrestrial habitat in 1 of only 2 designated Metro Conservation Corridors within Saint Paul.
21	C15-8445	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	\$ 137,050	\$ 137,050	\$ 34,263	Cold Spring Southwest Stormwater Infiltration Project	87.5	The purpose of this project is to retrofit 24 acres of existing development within a 138 acre subcatchment to improve the water quality of Cold Spring Creek which is a designated trout stream. This project is a the first phase of a multiphase approach to provide stormwater treatment in the 138 acre subcatchment area.
22	C15-1992	Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD	Washington	\$ 98,200	\$ 98,200	\$ 24,550	Marine on St. Croix Innovative Stormwater Management Implementation – Phase 1	87.5	This grant project will result in the design and construction of a series of water quality improvements including 18 rain gardens, 1 bio filtration basin, and 1 sand iron filter in Marine on St. Croix.
23	C15-6291	Capitol Region WD	Ramsey	\$ 175,000	\$ 175,000	\$ 150,000	Retrofitting the Oldest High School in MN	87.5	Capitol Region Watershed District is partnering with St. Paul Public Schools to implement a variety of Best Management Practices at Central High School that will improve the quality of stormwater discharged to the Mississippi River. Implementing the projects will reduce sediment by 86% and total phosphorus by 90% over the target area annually. Additionally, 95% of the stormwater volume generated in the project area during a one-inch storm will be treated through infiltration.

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24	C15-7306	Ramsey Conservation District	Ramsey	\$ 59,766	\$ 59,766	\$ 15,000	Lambert Creek Stream Bank Restoration Project 2015	87.3	Lambert Creek discharges into East Vadnais Lake, which is the final impoundment reservoir containing the water supply that the Saint Paul Regional Water Services treats and then distributes to thirteen municipalities including the city of St. Paul. The restoration of this area will lead to a decrease of phosphorus by 8 pounds per year and sediment by 9 tons per year from entering the creek.
25	C15-0866	Chippewa River Watershed Project	Pope	\$ 271,073	\$ 271,073	\$ 67,768	Simon Lake and Lake Gilchrist Restoration and Protection in the Chippewa River Watershed	87.2	This purpose of this project is to implement 30 of the following best management practices: Stream-bank and shoreline restorations, prairie strip and buffer strips on highly erodible areas, critical seeding of perennial native species on vulnerable slopes, rotational grazing, exclusion fencing and alternative water sources.
26	C15-1304	Isanti SWCD	Isanti	\$ 99,736	\$ 99,736	\$ 24,934	Green Lakeshore Rehabilitation and Stormwater Treatment	86.7	This project will install nearly 800 linear feet of restored lakeshore on Green Lake with an emphasis on bioengineering techniques, native plants and buffers. By targeting properties that are eroding and/or with concentrated overland flow to the lake, sediment will be reduced by 8 tons per year and phosphorus will be reduced by approximately 1 per year.
27	C15-5327	Capitol Region WD	Ramsey	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 50,000	Stormwater Retrofits: East Kittsondale Subwatershed	86.4	This project will result in the implementation of a variety of cost-effective BMPs in the East Kittsondale subwatershed. Over 100 potential projects have been identified with over 700 BMP configurations to choose from. Capitol Region Watershed District will be selecting projects from the top 50% of the prioritized list.
28	C15-7364	Browns Creek WD	Washington	\$ 32,250	\$ 32,250	\$ 10,750	Long Lake - Stormwater Pond Retrofit	86.3	Partnering with the City of Oak Park Heights, Brown's Creek Watershed District will retrofit an existing stormwater pond to eliminate pond short circuiting and improve water quality in Long Lake.
29	C15-8972	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	Dry Creek Watershed Gully Stabilization Project	86.2	Two large, actively eroding gullies are contributing tremendous loads of phosphorus and sediment to the St. Croix River. Both of these perennial issues are located along the St. Croix River escarpment. Stabilizing these two gullies will greatly reduce the sediment and phosphorus loading to the St. Croix River, which will help meet the pollutant reduction goal of Lake St. Croix.
30	C15-8948	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 277,500	\$ 277,500	\$ 69,375	2015 Cyr Creek, Black River, and Red Lake River Sub-Watersheds Water Quality Improvement Projects	86.2	Targeting priority reaches to the Red River, this project will include but is not limited to installing grade stabilization structures, grassed waterways, and water and sediment basins to correct the erosion that is occurring. The twelve proposed practices are estimated to result in a sediment reduction of 590 tons per year and a phosphorus reduction of 690 pounds per year.
31	C15-4412	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Kandiyohi	\$ 176,000	\$ 176,000	\$ 52,434	Diamond Lake TMDL Implementation Projects	86.2	The purpose of this project is to reduce the phosphorus loading to Diamond Lake through wetland restoration, water and sediment control basins, side inlet controls, and buffer strips. The reduction of phosphorus load associated with these practices is estimated to achieve 55 percent of the overall pollutant reduction goal.
32	C15-0452	Nobles SWCD	Nobles	\$ 264,700	\$ 264,700	\$ 66,175	2015 - Rock River Bacterial Impairment Reduction Project	85.5	Environmental correction of a targeted concern identified as part of Level III animal agriculture inventories prioritized in a FY-2014 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant. This project will reduce bacterial loading by 87% off of this priority site.
33	C15-7249	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 143,625	\$ 143,625	\$ 36,000	Crow River Gully Stabilization to Reduce Turbidity Phase Two	85.5	This project will reduce the amount of sediment (225 tons per year) and phosphorus (250 pounds per year) being exported from the targeted stretch of the Crow River by constructing grade stabilization structures and water and sediment control basins at the headward eroding tops of these gullies.
34	C15-8106	Benton SWCD	Benton;Morrison	\$ 227,500	\$ 227,500	\$ 56,875	Little Rock Lake TMDL Implementation Project	85.1	This project is a continuation of a 2012 clean water fund grant. The purpose of this project is to continue implementation strategies at numerous sites to continue cleaning up Little Rock Lake.
35	C15-2077	Olmsted SWCD	Olmsted	\$ 400,000	\$ 400,000	\$ 100,000	Using Wetland Creation and Natural Stream Channel Restoration to Provide Water Quality Improvement and Protection for the South Branch Cascade Creek	84.7	The purpose of this project is to construct wetland basins on the Meadow Lake Golf Course to provide water quality improvement on a previously untreated branch that flows into the upper end of Cascade Creek. The wetland basins created will provide stormwater treatment, sediment storage and flood attenuation that will complement the overall South Branch of Cascade Creek project.

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36	C15-9237	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 202,500	\$ 66,263	\$ 16,566	2015 Terrebonne Creek, Beau Gerlot Creek, and Lower Badger Creek Sub-Watersheds Water Quality Improvement Projects	84.5	The Clearwater River is sediment impaired. The five proposed conservation practices are estimated to result in a sediment reduction of 123 tons per year and a phosphorus reduction of 118 pounds per year to the Clearwater River.
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 9,250,000	\$ 3,163,435			
37	C15-8244	Turtle Creek WD	Freeborn	\$ 130,000	\$ -	\$ 130,000	Geneva Lake Targeted Watershed Improvement Project	84.2	Geneva Lake is a shallow lake, located in south central Minnesota. This project is phase one of an overall watershed initiative. This project targets one of the highest pollutant yielding sub watersheds and utilizes a treatment train approach to reduce pollutants from that sub watershed.
38	C15-4107	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	\$ 333,750	\$ -	\$ 83,438	Targeted Pollutant Reduction Project for the Sauk River Chain of Lakes	84.2	This project will provide targeted pollution reduction practice placement for water quality improvement erosion control and shoreland sites in the watersheds contributing directly to the Sauk River Chain of Lakes.
39	C15-7136	Capitol Region WD	Ramsey	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Trout Brook Subwatershed Stormwater improvement Project	84.1	The purpose of this project is to construct a 3,000 square foot rain garden to capture and infiltrate runoff from an 8-acre subwatershed and conduct swale improvements upstream of the rain garden to provide pre-treatment of runoff and minimize sediment loading to the rain garden. On an annual basis, this would reduce stormwater volumes by approximately 135,000 cubic feet, phosphorus loading by nearly 3 pounds and sediment by almost 500 pounds.
40	C15-6745	Rice County	Rice	\$ 45,590	\$ -	\$ 11,398	Cannon River Wilderness Phosphorus and Sediment Reduction Project	84.1	The purpose of this project is to create 9 sediment basins within the Middle Cannon River Watershed. This project is projected to decrease sediment into the Cannon River by 195 tons per year and phosphorus by 196 pounds per year.
41	C15-6651	South Washington WD	Washington	\$ 1,398,800	\$ -	\$ 349,700	Wilmes Lake Watershed Retrofit	83.9	This project continues the restoration of Wilmes Lake through implementation of several BMPs identified in the completed Wilmes Lake retrofit analysis. These practices represent the most cost effective solution to fix listed impairments. T
42	C15-8915	Plymouth, City of	Hennepin	\$ 525,000	\$ -	\$ 175,000	Elm Creek Stream Restoration	83.8	This project will stabilize Elm Creek streambanks, add rock vanes, riffles, establish a native buffer, and enhance habitat in and near the stream. This is a cooperative project between the City of Plymouth, the Elm Creek Watershed Commission, and the Wayzata School District.
43	C15-3114	Burnsville, City of	Dakota	\$ 398,000	\$ -	\$ 480,000	Keller Lake Water Quality Improvement Project	83.6	The purpose of this project is to reduce phosphorus loading into the nutrient impaired Keller Lake. The project proposes to remove phosphorus from Crystal Beach Park by diverting the trunk storm sewer systems to a treatment train consisting of pre-treatment chambers, underground retention vault, and a filter drawdown system.
44	C15-6881	Nobles SWCD	Nobles	\$ 124,124	\$ -	\$ 36,175	2015 - Elk Creek Sediment Reduction Grant	83.5	The sub-watershed targeted as part of this application is listed as having a higher erosion probability and is a priority area within the Elk Creek Watershed. Multiple sediment reduction projects will be installed within this area of Elk Creek which is tributary to Rock River. Targeted projects were identified through use of the Rock River Watershed Terrain Analysis funded through the FY-2013 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant. The sub-watershed targeted as part of this application is listed as having a higher erosion probability and a priority area within the Elk Creek Watershed.
45	C15-7095	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Lake of the Woods	\$ 140,000	\$ -	\$ 35,000	Lake of the Woods Shoreline Stabilization Projects	83.4	Lake of the Woods is impaired for nutrients. This project will utilize the State Cost Share model to implement shoreline erosion control projects and best management practices on private lands on the southern shore of Lake of the Woods. These practices will reduce nutrient loading in Four Mile Bay and Lake of the Woods.
46	C15-1334	Pope SWCD	Pope	\$ 184,800	\$ -	\$ 47,500	2015 Lake Emily Targeted Sub-Watershed Implementation Project	83.4	This project will target the highest contributing direct drainage areas and has the potential to reduce the sediment by 630 tons per year and phosphorus by 540 pounds per year which will address 9% of Lake Emily's TP reduction goal for direct drainage from storm water runoff.
47	C15-7300	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 172,700	\$ -	\$ 43,175	Dean Lake Sand/Iron Filter	83.3	Though the technical assistance from the University of Minnesota, an iron enhanced sand infiltration trench will treat the wetland flow. Once installed, chemical analysis will be conducted by the SWCD to evaluate the effectiveness of this project. Literature supports an 80% reduction of Phosphorus from this source would be expected from this proposed practice.

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48	C15-7118	Columbia Heights, City of	Anoka	\$ 134,200	\$ -	\$ 67,100	Silver Lake Boat Landing Stormwater Retrofits	83.2	The City of Columbia Heights, as part of the Silver Lake TMDL Implementation Plan, proposes to redesign an existing stormwater treatment pond to enhance phosphorous removal efficiency resulting in reduced nutrient inputs into Silver Lake.
49	C15-3838	Wilkin SWCD	Wilkin	\$ 210,650	\$ -	\$ 187,150	Ditch Retrofits for Water Quality	83.0	This water quality improvement project involves retrofitting three County Ditches by incorporating 60 side inlet structure and a continuous berm along these ditches. The project will reduce sediment loading by 670 tons per year and phosphorus loading by 900 pounds per year.
50	C15-2776	Lake SWCD	Lake	\$ 351,000	\$ -	\$ 87,750	Stewart River Restoration	82.5	This project proposes to restore 4500 feet of the Stewart River, a high value designated trout stream. Expected outcomes include: 97% decrease in sediment (752 to 19 tons per year) from bank erosion; improved temperatures, base flow volume and habitat for trout and other aquatic organisms; restored floodplain connectivity and overall ecological function.
51	C15-8338	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Multi-County	\$ 540,000	\$ -	\$ 135,000	GBERBA - Targeted FY15 Ravines and Gullies Grant	82.5	The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance members will install best management practices to address targeted severe ravines and gullies directly affecting the riparian area within the Greater Blue Earth River Watershed. The majority of the requested grant dollars are earmarked for eight identified targeted projects. Several other projects are in the early stages of the process and will be encumbered when the grant is available.
52	C15-5723	South Washington WD	Washington	\$ 232,000	\$ -	\$ 58,000	Trout Brook Ravines Stabilization	80.9	South Washington Watershed District and its partners propose to continue restoration of the Trout Brook watershed to restore water quality in Trout Brook and help provide necessary phosphorus load reductions for Lake St. Croix by stabilizing active bluff side ravines.
53	C15-0902	Buffalo-Red River WD	Clay	\$ 170,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Clay County Ditches 39 and 59 Sediment Reduction	80.7	The Buffalo River carries excessive sediment and needs a 94% reduction on sediment loads. A project is proposed on two Clay County ditches to reduce the sediment loading to the Buffalo River. An estimated annual 950 tons of sediment and 1,100 pounds of phosphorus will be eliminated by this project.
54	C15-0552	Brown SWCD	Brown	\$ 279,950	\$ -	\$ 70,000	Brown SWCD Grade Stabilization Sediment and Nutrient Reduction Project	80.4	The purpose of this project will result in the implementation of 150 feet of shoreland stabilization projects and 6 grade stabilization projects. The activities will reduce sediment and phosphorus loading to the Cottonwood River, immediate tributaries to the Minnesota River, and the Minnesota River itself by 1,338 tons of sediment and 1,338 pounds of phosphorus annually.
55	C15-5429	Otter Tail, East SWCD	Otter Tail	\$ 190,000	\$ -	\$ 47,500	Otter Tail County Priority Lake Protection and Restoration Project	80.2	This project will target and prioritize the installation of identified best management practices including rain gardens, infiltration ponds, shoreland buffers and other appropriate stormwater practices that will address the water quality issues identified in the recently completed individual lake assessment reports for the locally prioritized lakes of concern in Otter Tail County.
56	C15-7649	Lake of the Woods County	Lake of the Woods	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 31,500	County Road 17 - Sediment/Erosion Reduction Project	80.1	Through discussions at Local Water Plan meetings, it was determined that the reconstruction of this road would provide an opportunity to work with agricultural producers to control field erosion at the points where surface field drainage enters the road ditches or streams. Row crop fields have been identified along the county road where practices could be installed.
57	C15-4054	Rock County	Rock	\$ 185,187	\$ -	\$ 47,000	City of Luverne and Rock County Rural Water Well Head Area Protection	80.0	Spring storms delivered intense rainfalls and extensive flooding in Rock County causing extensive stream bank erosion and established new channelization and direction of the Rock River. One site of severe bank erosion and re-routing of the Rock River has the potential of eroding an abandoned landfill. If the stream bank damage is not corrected and stabilized, the exposure of the old landfill could potentially contaminate the well head areas of the City of Luverne and the Rock County Rural Water Supply.
58	C15-6164	Anoka CD	Anoka	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	Mississippi Riverbank Stabilization	79.8	This project proposes to work with public and private landowners to stabilize severely eroding riverbanks along the Mississippi River upstream of the Coon Rapids Dam.
59	C15-1042	Vermillion River Watershed JPO	Dakota	\$ 100,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Vermillion River Watershed Trees Aiding Water Quality (TAWQ) Project	79.7	The Vermillion River Watershed Joint Powers Organization proposes to implement a program called Trees Aiding Water Quality in a targeted portion of the watershed. This proposal would assist the watershed in providing additional incentives to landowners to plant trees and shrubs within 50 feet of the river in critically identified reaches.

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60	C15-0591	Medina, City of	Hennepin	\$ 281,000	\$ -	\$ 93,625	Elm Creek Stormwater Retrofit for Medina Commercial Area	78.9	This shovel ready project is designed to improve water quality, reduce erosion and decrease flow rates to Elm Creek. The project includes retrofitting a two cell pond and iron-enhanced filtration system to reduce total phosphorus by 42 pounds per year, remove 8 tons of sediment and reduce peak flow rates by half for an existing 23-acre commercial area within 1000-feet of Elm Creek.
61	C15-1802	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Multi-County	\$ 228,125	\$ -	\$ 57,031	GBERBA - FY15 Drainage Water Management Grant	78.8	The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance will install targeted drainage water management practices on ditch systems throughout the watershed to address direct sediment/nutrient delivery points in public and private drainage systems. The 2011 Cobb River Ditch Conservation Drainage Assessment Final Report will help guide the work.
62	C15-8000	Dakota SWCD	Dakota	\$ 300,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	2015 Dakota County Clean Water Retrofit Partnership	78.7	This project retrofits stormwater Best Management Practices on public land to assist partnering Local Government Units to achieve water quality goals identified in their local stormwater plans, TMDLs and WRAPS reports.
63	C15-8795	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	\$ 197,920	\$ -	\$ 49,480	Paynesville North Regional Pond	78.4	A regional infiltration/bioretenion basin will be constructed to capture and treat stormwater runoff coming from the City of Paynesville's industrial area.
64	C15-8460	Renville SWCD	Renville	\$ 41,500	\$ -	\$ 10,375	Lake Allie Bank Stabilization	78.2	Renville County SWCD along with Lake Allie Lake Association, MNDNR, CROW Organization of Water, and Renville County propose to implement a natural revetment using root wads along an eroding bank that would decrease phosphorus entering the lake by more than 30 pound per year.
65	C15-4500	Fillmore SWCD	Fillmore	\$ 42,570	\$ -	\$ 43,818	Livestock Nutrient Reduction in Root River - Middle Branch Root River Watershed	78.0	The purpose of this livestock waste management project is to construct an open lot feedlot runoff control system within the Middle Branch Root River watershed, which is a sub-watershed to the larger Root River watershed.
66	C15-0276	Nobles SWCD	Nobles	\$ 133,539	\$ -	\$ 43,873	2015 - Kanaranzi Creek and Little Rock River Sediment Reduction Grant	77.8	Projects and practices prioritized and targeted to reduce sediment loading to the sediment impaired Kanaranzi Creek and the Little Rock River. The Kanaranzi Creek and the Little Rock River are managed as one watershed as part of the Kanaranzi - Little Rock Watershed District.
67	C15-3839	Fillmore SWCD	Fillmore	\$ 109,469	\$ -	\$ 106,100	Livestock Nutrient Reduction in Root River - Diamond Creek Watershed	77.6	The purpose of this livestock waste management project is to construct two roof structures to cover the open lot areas within the Diamond Creek watershed, which is a sub watershed to the larger Root River watershed.
68	C15-2982	Pennington SWCD	Pennington	\$ 105,000	\$ -	\$ 26,250	2015 - Drinking Water Supply Area Streambank Stabilizations	77.1	This project will target the restoration of high priority streambank stabilization projects located upstream of the reservoir in Thief River Falls. Reducing the amount of sediment entering these river courses is of more importance than a typical streambank stabilization as the City draws its drinking water from the reservoir.
69	C15-5103	Ramsey-Washington Metro WD	Ramsey; Washington	\$ 800,000	\$ -	\$ 200,000	Targeting Commercial Sites for BMP Retrofits	77.0	Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District has determined that large impervious sites such as churches, commercial sites, and schools are more economical for stormwater management retrofit projects than distributed small projects along roadways. The goal of this project is to receive funds to implement practices on as many sites as possible to meet stormwater volume and nutrient reduction goals.
70	C15-8405	Benton SWCD	Benton	\$ 120,000	\$ -	\$ 30,000	Green Roofs Blue Waters Mississippi River Renaissance Project	76.8	Protecting the Mississippi River corridor and reducing sediment and nutrient impacts in the Mississippi River became the focus of the Mississippi River Renaissance project in Stearns and Benton counties. Thirty four site assessments were completed, prioritized and ranked in Benton County. This project will install many of the projects with a focus primarily on reducing sediment and suspended solids.
71	C15-7178	Winona SWCD	Winona	\$ 180,802	\$ -	\$ 241,091	2015 Winona County Gully Stabilization and Sediment Control Initiative	76.8	The purpose of this project is to reduce turbidity levels by the stabilization of active gully heads and capturing upland sediment in grade stabilization structures, ponds, and water and sediment control structures in targeted locations within Winona County.
72	C15-9399	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 12,500	AgEQA Project Implementation	76.1	This project is designed to allow agriculture and conservation professionals equal access into farm conservation assessment, planning and management. It is also designed for an efficient means to account for and value land management strategies within the context of meeting Total Maximum Daily Load limits in the Sunrise Watershed.

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73	C15-2748	Chippewa SWCD	Chippewa	\$ 67,940	\$ -	\$ 16,985	Dry Weather Creek and Chippewa County Road 35 Streambank Erosion Stabilization Project	75.6	The purpose of this project is to armor the bank with bio-engineering techniques such as tow mats, root wads and/or stream barbs to help move the channel back away from a county road and reduce the amount of sediment and nutrients entering into the creek and subsequently the Chippewa River.
74	C15-6205	Chisago SWCD	Chisago; Washington	\$ 250,000	\$ -	\$ 62,500	St. Croix River LCCMR Projects	75.5	The Chisago SWCD and Washington Conservation District have completed Rural Stormwater Retrofit Analyses in areas that were identified as potential risks to water quality from soil erosion, proximity to waterbodies, and sensitive wildlife corridors. The Districts identified hundreds of risks, their pollutant loading, applicable BMPs, and associated costs. The Districts will install up to 10 conservation practices and remove an estimated 125 pounds of phosphorus per year.
75	C15-2076	Pipestone SWCD	Pipestone	\$ 90,000	\$ -	\$ 22,500	2015-LPRW Holland Wellfield Nitrogen Management	75.2	The use of nitrogen stabilizer products has been proven by the University of Minnesota to delay the change of nitrogen fertilizer into a leachable form. In doing so, the nitrogen is available for the growing crop to use rather than be lost to the environment. The purpose of this project is to promote the use of stabilizer products and cover crops within the Holland Wellfield.
76	C15-0903	Fillmore SWCD	Fillmore	\$ 67,930	\$ -	\$ 17,500	Livestock Nutrient Reduction in Upper Iowa River - Upper Iowa River Watershed	75.2	The purpose of this livestock waste management project is to construct an open lot feedlot runoff control system within the Upper Iowa River watershed, which is a sub-watershed to the larger Upper Iowa River.
77	C15-5480	Otter Tail, West SWCD	Otter Tail	\$ 148,372	\$ -	\$ 40,000	Otter Tail County Buffer Expansion and Protection Strategy	74.5	In March 2014, the West and East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District and Otter Tail County developed the Otter Tail County Buffer Initiative Implementation Schedule. This project will target and prioritize riparian filter strips and incentivize the expansion beyond the minimum 50 ft. buffer requirement with a goal of protecting 25 miles of shoreline.
78	C15-6175	Todd SWCD	Todd	\$ 68,650	\$ -	\$ 17,163	Swan River Watershed Restoration	74.4	Continue previous efforts to restore and stabilize residential shoreland areas throughout the headwaters of the Swan River Watershed to restore degraded lakes and protect high quality lakes. An estimated 262 tons per year of sediment is currently being lost along the 996 feet of heavily impacted residential shoreline. Restoration techniques include soft armor, hard armor, native plantings and shoreland vegetation establishment.
79	C15-3460	Wadena SWCD	Wadena	\$ 110,700	\$ -	\$ 27,675	Crow Wing Watershed Protection and Restoration in Wadena County	74.0	Provide cost share incentives to landowners to implement identified best management practices including rain gardens, stream bank stabilizations, shoreline buffers and agricultural practices. These practices will intersect storm water, filter sediment and reduce nutrient loads to improve the water quality of the targeted areas in the Crow Wing River Watershed.
80	C15-3320	Fridley, City of	Anoka	\$ 493,100	\$ -	\$ 152,900	2015 Street Retrofit Project - Stormwater Quality Improvements	73.9	This proposed project aims to improve the quality of stormwater discharged to the Mississippi River. The project area is slated for street construction in 2015. Using a combination of bioretention (0.6 acres at 14-18 sites), roadway narrowing/depaving (0.3 acres), and underground storage (0.45 acre-feet) practices, this project will provide over a 25% reduction in both sediment discharge and total phosphorus to the Mississippi River from the proposed project area.
81	C15-1720	New Hope, City of	Hennepin	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 205,872	Northwood Lake Stormwater Improvements	73.7	Redirect 89 acres of existing residential drainage in the City of New Hope, currently discharging directly into Northwood Lake, through a series of water quality and volume control BMPs.
82	C15-0645	Kandiyohi SWCD	Kandiyohi	\$ 175,000	\$ -	\$ 45,500	Kandiyohi Lakeshore and Streambank Stabilization and Restoration	72.1	This project will enhance the ability to stabilize and restore degrading shorelines and stream banks in the Norway chain of lakes in the Upper Shakopee Creek Watershed. The project will eliminate sediment erosion and reduce nitrogen and phosphorus transportation by implementing shoreline restoration best management practices reducing phosphorus inputs to the lake system by 95 pounds per year and sediment by 112 tons per year.
83	C15-3845	Valley Branch WD	Washington	\$ 224,000	\$ -	\$ 56,000	Lake Elmo Village Water Quality Improvement Project	71.5	The downtown area of Lake Elmo is the most densely developed area of the Downs Lake watershed. It was developed long before current stormwater management standards were in place, providing little-to-no existing water quality treatment. Within the next two years, the main roads through the village will be reconstructed. This reconstruction provides a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to use innovative technology to both manage village stormwater and create an attractive and pedestrian-friendly atmosphere for the downtown.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts.)	Description
84	C15-8274	Chanhassen, City of	Carver	\$ 59,000	\$ -	\$ 50,000	Crane's Vineyard Ravine Stabilization	71.3	This project will stabilize a ravine that receives drainage from a watershed approximately 75 acres in size. Sanitary sewer intersects the channel and has become exposed no fewer than 5 times in the last 9 years. A significant sediment delta has developed at the confluence with Christmas Lake. The stabilization of the ravine will result in an annual sediment load reduction of 16 tons of soil and an annual phosphorus load reduction of 6 pounds per year.
85	C15-9256	Belle Plaine, City of	Scott	\$ 180,600	\$ -	\$ 45,150	City of Belle Plaine - Blaha Ravine	71.1	The Blaha Ravine project will stabilize the existing ravine and provide storm water treatment to an 76.9 acre drainage area where no treatment is currently in place. The combined improvements are anticipated to remove 70% of total suspended solids, 60% of total phosphorus, and 60% of total nitrogen from the storm water.
86	C15-3464	Mille Lacs SWCD	Mille Lacs	\$ 472,894	\$ -	\$ 118,224	CSAH 1 / Rum River Bank Stabilization	70.5	This project will investigate causes leading to streambank slumping of a 700 to 1000 foot section of shoreline on the Rum River. Mille Lacs County Road 1 sits at the top of the bank and the road right of way has experienced severe erosion after a series of large rain events. Efforts by the Mille Lacs Public Works Department to stabilize the shoulder for safety purposes have resulted in additional fissures in the soil. Without stabilization, this site will continue to lose 248 tons of sediment into the Rum River each year.
87	C15-1733	Todd SWCD	Todd	\$ 77,280	\$ -	\$ 21,600	2015 - Livestock Waste Management - Todd County	70.4	A 210 animal unit dairy in Todd County is ready to install best management practices needed to prevent discharge to surface waters and wetlands. Livestock waste management practices installed will include a stacking slab, nutrient management, vegetation strips, and re-sloping and berming. Phosphorus is estimated to be reduced by 32 pounds per year.
88	C15-7031	Otter Tail, West SWCD	Otter Tail	\$ 210,550	\$ -	\$ 56,000	Pelican and Otter Tail Watershed Erosion Control Plan	70.4	This project will result in the implementation of various conservation practices including 10 water and sediment control basins, 3 grade stabilization projects and 25 critical area plantings within the Pelican and Ottetail Rivers. This will result in 491 tons of sediment and 245 pounds of phosphorus removed from surface water yearly.
89	C15-4322	Bloomington, City of	Hennepin	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 15,000	2015 Anti-Icing Production Upgrades	70.2	This project will result in improvements to Anti-Icing/Brine making capabilities allowing for faster response, 100% completion, increased potential for collaboration with other local agencies all in an effort to reduce chloride use in the City and Nine Mile Creek Watershed.
90	C15-4859	Buffalo-Red River WD	Clay	\$ 82,000	\$ -	\$ 23,000	Clay County Ditch No. 23 Sediment Reduction	69.7	The Red River of the North is impaired for sediment and is trending higher in the amount of sediment it is carrying. This project, which addresses the outlet of a Clay County ditch, begins to address the excessive sediment load carried by the River.
91	C15-1743	Roseau River WD	Roseau	\$ 84,000	\$ -	\$ 28,000	County Ditch 8 Outlet Stabilization	68.6	The goal of this project would be to attenuate the force of flows out of a county ditch and work with landowners to put conservation practices in place on the field drains. A secondary benefit of the project is reducing the stressors on the banks of the natural draw thereby reducing erosion and improving downstream aquatic habitats.
92	C15-1851	Wabasha SWCD	Wabasha	\$ 82,200	\$ -	\$ 20,550	2015 CWF Bear Valley Watershed	68.5	The purpose of this project is to treat 2 sinkholes and is expected to result in a sediment saving approximately 2,500 tons per year. The phosphorous reduction amount is estimated at 793 pounds per year. It is believed, and some studies show that unfiltered water travelling through sinkholes affects groundwater and stream health.
93	C15-2817	St Louis County	St. Louis	\$ 156,000	\$ -	\$ 75,000	2015 St Louis County Imminent Public Health Threat SSTS Abatement Program	68.4	This project will provide twelve low income property owners in 8 watersheds within the County boundaries with the means to obtain site evaluation, design and repair or replacement of their failed septic systems to improve the health, safety and quality of the local environment by eliminating ground surface discharge of into the watersheds and private drinking water wells.
94	C15-0748	Carver County	Carver	\$ 400,000	\$ -	\$ 400,000	City of Waconia Community Stormwater Reuse Project	67.5	This project will install a community-scale water reuse system that will capture untreated stormwater and reduce pollutant loading to Bent Creek. This collaborative project with Carver County, Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District, City of Waconia and Independent School District 110 will service an approximated 252 acre drainage area by retaining and reusing 11.6 acre feet of previously untreated volume annually.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts.)	Description
95	C15-7310	Steele County SWCD	Steele	\$ 79,420	\$ -	\$ 20,900	Straight River Sediment Reduction Project	64.8	The Straight River is one of the headwater branches of the Cannon River which outlets in the Mississippi River. This project will result in the reduction of erosion on four sites using various conservation practices. These practices will remove a total of 300 tons of sediment and 345 pounds of phosphorous from runoff water.
96	C15-3702	Crow River Organization of Water	Meeker	\$ 114,000	\$ -	\$ 28,500	Lake Manuella/Sucker Creek Improvements	64.3	The proposed project will improve two valuable resources in this region of the State - Sucker Creek and Lake Manuella by replacing a 60-inch culvert with a large culvert. This will stabilize the unnatural erosion that is occurring along the banks of the stream which is near Lake Manuella.
97	C15-9022	Morrison SWCD	Morrison	\$ 364,250	\$ -	\$ 91,063	FY15 CWF Feedlot Abatement	63.0	This project targets a dairy farm that has a pollution problem affecting the Swan River Watershed. The Swan River has been delisted on the Impaired Waters. However, it is still a target area of concern for continued protection. .
98	C15-5441	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	\$ 90,885	\$ -	\$ 22,850	Douglas SWCD Chippewa River Watershed Erosion Control	61.7	Provide cost-share to Douglas County landowners within the sediment impaired Chippewa River Watershed for erosion control practices. Funds will also be used for technical assistance and grant management.
99	C15-6957	Morrison SWCD	Morrison	\$ 102,750	\$ -	\$ 25,688	FY15 CWF Mississippi River Flood Erosion Repair	61.6	Due to excessive rainfall and storm events, several severe erosion sites on the Mississippi River have occurred depositing vast loads of sediment in the river and threatening homes and structures. These sites, if not stabilized, will continue to deposit thousands of yards of sediment, threatening an already impaired reach of the river.
100	C15-8663	Morrison SWCD	Morrison	\$ 91,875	\$ -	\$ 30,625	FY15 CWF City of Little Falls/Mississippi River Stormwater Control Project	61.3	The City of Little Falls has 19 storm sewer outfalls but only three have treatment structures. This project will result in the installation of a grit chamber on one outfall that has the largest impact. resulting in an additional 210 acres of runoff treated to remove grit and debris from entering the Mississippi River.

include stormwater practices, agricultural conservation, livestock waste management, lakeshore and stream bank stabilization, stream restoration, and SSTS upgrades.

A total of 125 applications for Projects and Practices Grant Funds were received. Of this total, 100 applications were scored. Thirty-one applications were assessed as low (29 applications) by BWSR staff or determined to be ineligible (2 applications). Six applications screened as low by BWSR staff were petitioned by other agencies to be scored by the interagency review team. The criteria used in the BWSR assessments and interagency scoring are shown below.

<b>Projects and Practices Ranking Criteria</b>	
<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
<u>Project Description:</u> The project description succinctly describes what results the applicant is trying to achieve and how they intend to achieve those results.	5
<u>Relationship to the Plan:</u> The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	15
<u>Targeting:</u> The proposed project addresses identified critical pollution sources impacting the water resource identified in the application.	30
<u>Measurable Outcomes:</u> The proposed project has a quantifiable reduction in pollution and directly addresses the water quality concern identified in the application.	35
<u>Project Readiness:</u> The application has a set of specific activities that can be implemented soon after grant award.	10
<u>Biennial Budget Request (BBR):</u> A BBR was submitted by the applicant organization in 2012.	5
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**Recommendation:**

1. Fully fund the highest scoring 35 applications (with exceptions noted below) and partially fund the 36<sup>th</sup> (CWF15-9237, Red Lake SWCD).
2. CWF 15-7726 West Polk SWCD (#3) is recommended to receive partial funding in the amount of \$475,000 due to applicant specify a lesser amount would be acceptable. CWF 15-8417 Scott County SWCD (#17) is recommended to receive partial funding in the amount of \$125,000 due to overlap with the FY 2015 Scott WMO Sand Creek Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program Grant.

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## Accelerated Implementation Grants:

Before on-the-ground clean water projects get implemented, there is the need for pre-project identification, planning and design. This grant invests in building capacity for local governments to accelerate on-the-ground projects that improve or protect water quality and perform above and beyond existing standards. Whether it is conducting inventories of potential pollutant sites, developing and using analytical targeting tools, providing technical assistance or increasing citizen interaction, local governments will be better prepared to increase the installation of water quality projects and practices after receiving these grants.

A total of 48 applications for Accelerated Implementation Grant Funds were received. Of this total, 39 applications were scored. Ten applications were assessed as low (8 applications) by BWSR staff or determined to be ineligible (2 applications). One application screened as low by BWSR staff was petitioned by other agencies to be scored by the interagency review team. The criteria used in the BWSR assessments and interagency scoring are shown below.

<b>Clean Water Accelerated Implementation Grants Ranking Criteria</b>	
<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of project's goals, standards addressed and projected impact on land and water management and enhanced effectiveness of future implementation projects.	40
<u>Prioritization and Relationship to Plan:</u> The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan or address pollutant load reductions prescribed in an approved TMDL.	25
Means and measures for assessing the program's impact and capacity to measure project outcomes.	20
Timeline for implementation.	15
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

### **Recommendation:**

1. Fully fund the 33 highest scored applications with exceptions noted below.
2. Project C15-5164 (#12) is recommended to receive partial funding. Concerns over the large project cost in comparison to other projects of similar nature resulted in staff contacting the applicant. As a result of this communication, the project is proposed to go forward with a budget of \$332,800. Project C15-4509 (#22) is recommended not to receive funding due to the project being ineligible and proposing the development of a new targeting tool that overlaps current tools being piloted through the One Watershed, One Plan pilot watersheds.

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**Community Partners Grants:**

These sub-grant funds leverage the interest of non-governmental partners such as faith organizations, lake and river associations, boy/girl scout troops, and other civic groups, to install on-the ground projects that reduce runoff and keep water on the land. Examples include: rain gardens and shoreline restorations.

A total of 14 applications for Community Grant Funds were received. Of this total, all 14 applications were scored. The criteria used in the BWSR assessments and interagency scoring are shown below.

<b>Community Partners Grant Ranking Criteria</b>	
<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of project goals, projected impact, and involvement with community partners.	40
Prioritization and Relationship to Plan: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan or address pollutant load reductions prescribed in an approved TMDL.	30
Plan for assessing the programs impact and capacity to measure project outcomes.	20
LGU capacity to implement the local grant program processes and protocols.	10
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

***Recommendation:***

Fully fund the 12 highest scoring applications.

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**Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants:**

The purpose of these grants is to restore and protect surface water quality, particularly Impaired Waters, and to supplement local efforts to sustain clean water in Minnesota, by applying existing soil erosion reduction and drainage ditch statutes, and associated rules.

A total of 10 applications for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grant Funds were received. Of this total, all applications were scored by BWSR staff. The criteria used in the assessments are shown below.

<b>Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance</b>	
<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Anticipated water quality benefits.	30
Relationship to a Plan: The proposal is clearly based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in, or derived from, an eligible water management plan.	15
Portion of jurisdiction impacted by proposed activity (ies).	20
LGU capacity to implement the local grant program processes and protocols.	10
Consistency with Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants purposes.	25
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

***Recommendation:***

Fully fund 9 applications (#1-8 and #10) and partially fund C15-1324 (#9) to the extent eligible.

**WHEREAS**, FY 2015 CWF competitive grant funds in the following amounts were made available to local governments through the RFP process that was open for applications from August 18 to September 26, 2014:

- A. \$15,434,176 from the CWF appropriated to BWSR, in the following categories:
  - 1. \$9,250,000 for Projects and Practices Grants;
  - 2. \$3,103,543 for Accelerated Implementation Grants;
  - 3. \$1,380,633 for Community Partners Conservation Program Grants;
  - 4. \$1,700,000 for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants
- B. Up to \$3,000,000 of Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program CWF Funds appropriated to the MDA; and,

**WHEREAS**, BWSR staff implemented a communication effort that included:

- email notification to eligible grantees on August 18, of the available CWF grant funds;
- A webinar was held on September 9 to review the grant programs; and
- a question and answer document was established on the BWSR website to provide an accessible information outlet; and,

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 125 applications that requested \$29,999,877 in funds for Projects and Practices projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
<u>Proposal Description:</u> The proposal description succinctly describes what results the applicant is trying to achieve and how they intend to achieve those results.	5
<u>Relationship to the Plan:</u> The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	15
<u>Targeting:</u> The proposal addresses identified critical pollution sources impacting the water resource identified in the application.	30
<u>Measurable Outcomes:</u> The project or practice has a quantifiable reduction in pollution and directly addresses the water quality concern identified in the application.	35
<u>Project or Practice Readiness:</u> The proposal has a set of specific initiatives that can be implemented soon after grant award.	10
<u>Biennial Budget Request (BBR):</u> A BBR was submitted by the applicant organization in 2012.	5
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 48 applications that requested \$4,826,770 in funds for Accelerated Implementation projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of the proposal’s goals, standards addressed and projected impact on land and water management and enhanced effectiveness of future implementation projects or practices.	40
Relationship to Plan: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	25
Means and measures for assessing performance, milestones for success, and capacity to measure outcomes.	20
Timeline for implementation.	15
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 14 applications that requested \$1,559,425 in funds for Community Partners Conservation Program projects that were initially assessed by BWSR staff and subsequently evaluated by an interagency team consisting of staff from the MDA, the DNR, the MPCA, the MDH, and the BWSR based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Clarity of the application’s goals, projected impact, and involvement with community partners.	40
Relationship to Plan: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	30
Plan for assessing the proposal’s impact and capacity to measure project or practice outcomes.	20
LGU capacity to implement local grant program processes and protocols.	10
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, local governments throughout the state submitted 10 applications that requested \$727,976 for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance projects that were evaluated by BWSR staff based on the following criteria:

<b>Ranking Criteria</b>	<b>Maximum Points Possible</b>
Anticipated water quality benefits.	30
Relationship to a Plan: The proposal is clearly based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in, or derived from, an eligible water management plan.	15
Portion of jurisdiction impacted by proposed activity (ies).	20
LGU capacity to implement the local grant program processes and protocols.	10
Consistency with Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants purposes.	25
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

**WHEREAS**, the BWSR Senior Management Team reviewed the proposed FY 2015 CWF Competitive Grant allocations on January 13, 2015; and

**WHEREAS**, the Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the FY2015 CWF Competitive Grants Program proposals developed by staff on January 20, 2014.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby:

1) Approves allocations to implement the FY 2015 CWF Competitive Grant Program according to the attached funding recommendation spreadsheets and the attached scoring results and funding recommendations document for the following programs and recommended allocation amounts shown below:

<u>Grant Program</u>	<u>Allocated Funds</u>
A. Clean Water Assistance Grants	\$9,250,000
B. Accelerated Implementation Grants	\$2,922,994
C. Community Partners Conservation Program Grants	\$1,359,425
D. Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance	\$610,476

2) Authorizes staff to:

- A. approve project workplans,
- B. enter into grant agreements consistent with this resolution and Legislative appropriations,
- C. Shift funds as follows:

Up to \$180,549 of Accelerated Implementation Grant funds to the Chisago Chain of Lakes Targeted Watershed Demonstration Project,

- D. assign funds noted in (1) that may become available, to unfunded project and practices applications, in rank order, if funded projects are withdrawn, do not receive workplan approval by March 20, 2015 unless extended for cause, or are modified to reduce the state funding needed to accomplish the project.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Napstad, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Attachments:

1. FY2015 Projects and Practices Grant Recommendations
2. FY2015 Accelerated Implementation Grant Recommendations
3. FY2015 Community Partner Conservation Program Grant Recommendations
4. FY2015 Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grant Recommendations
5. FY2015 Clean Water Fund: Background on Scoring Results and Funding Recommendations

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
1	C15-8259	Lake SWCD	Lake	\$ 77,000	\$ 77,000	\$ 20,000	Lake County Culvert Inventory	94.7	This project will serve to leverage the Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program culvert inventory efforts currently being conducted in the Coastal zone of Lake Superior into a Lake County-wide culvert inventory project.
2	C15-0447	Area 7 - Southeast SWCD Technical Support	Multi-county	\$ 205,280	\$ 205,280	\$ 59,000	Nutrient Management Accelerated Implementation in the SE MN	92.8	Two Nutrient Management Specialists will assist producers in the eleven-county SE MN area with creating and revising nutrient management plans and implementing BMP's for manure and fertilizer use. These positions will also partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to evaluate nutrient management practices and share the results in farmer learning groups.
3	C15-6885	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	\$ 210,000	\$ 210,000	\$ 52,500	Accelerated Middle Sauk Water Quality Practice Implementation Assistance	92.8	The goal of this projects to hire an Accelerated Water Quality Technician to focus on projects in the Middle Sauk area showing the greatest pollution reductions. The accelerated survey and design in Stearns County will help to eliminate the current backlog of projects to further implement conservation projects.
4	C15-9127	Crow Wing County	Crow Wing and Itasca	\$ 67,300	\$ 67,300	\$ 16,825	Large-lake screening for future watershed protection efforts	90.5	This project is a cooperative effort between Crow Wing and Itasca County to contract with RMB Laboratories to generate 65 lake assessments. The reports are an integral data component within the watershed protection model being effectively implemented by Crow Wing County and under development in Itasca County.
5	C15-8516	Carlton SWCD	Carlton	\$ 32,330	\$ 32,330	\$ 8,200	Carlton County Conservation Dashboard	89.8	This project will result in a conservation dashboard that will use the highly successful Crow Wing County Risk Assessment methodology to provide a system to target, prioritize, and measure the resource needs and effective conservation implementation within the subwatersheds of Carlton County.
6	C15-6400	Pope SWCD	Pope	\$ 38,158	\$ 38,158	\$ 9,540	2015 Lake Emily Water Quality Assessment & BMP Prioritization Project	89.3	The purpose of this project is to provide GIS-based water quality analysis to assist the Pope SWCD in determining effective locations for best management practice implementation and will prioritize the areas from high to low for phosphorus, nitrogen, and sediment delivery.
7	C15-9221	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Kandiyohi; Meeker	\$ 97,500	\$ 97,500	\$ 26,364	Integrated Water Quality Analysis for Targeted Priority Practices	88.0	The purpose of this project is to conduct a river assessment on an 11 mile reach of the Middle Fork Crow River to determine the scope of eroding riverbanks. In addition, a subwatershed assessment will be conducted to identify targeted locations for stormwater management.
8	C15-5222	Anoka CD	Isanti	\$ 72,400	\$ 72,400	\$ 18,100	Restoration Feasibility Study to Benefit Downstream Water Quality	86.5	The purpose of this project is to conduct a feasibility study that will produce strategies for wetland restoration and ditch hydrology changes in efforts to improve water quality in the nutrient impaired Typo and Martin Lakes.
9	C15-9978	Rice County	Rice	\$ 69,350	\$ 69,350	\$ 17,338	Shattuck Ravine Stabilization and BMP Feasibility Study	86.0	Shattuck Saint Mary's, located atop of a bluff area upland of the sediment impaired Straight River encompasses a 324 acre area that contains thousands of miles of eroded ravines and gullies; many of which directly discharge to the Straight River. The purpose of this project is to conduct a feasibility study to assess and quantify the extent of erosion and pollutant loading, identify critical source areas and recommended the most cost-efficient best management practices.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
10	C15-1680	Sauk River WD	Stearns	\$ 80,715	\$ 80,715	\$ 20,742	Ashley Creek & Adley Creek Inventory	84.9	Ashley Creek and Adley Creek are impaired streams that impact the Sauk River. The purpose of this project is to conduct a desk top analysis and field scale inventory of the riparian areas to determine priority areas to install erosion control best management practices and vegetative buffers for nutrient reduction.
11	C15-0148	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Lake of the Woods	\$ 46,750	\$ 46,750	\$ 13,250	Lake of the Woods Long Term Shoreline Protection Strategies	84.8	The purpose of this project is to implement strategies to protect and enhance private shoreline on the nutrient impaired Lake of the Woods by addressing long term shoreline management. The goals of this project are to accelerate projects and planning efforts utilizing a multifaceted approach including: zoning and land use planning, technical assistance, education and increased citizen interaction.
12	C15-5164	Le Sueur County	Le Sueur	\$ 532,800	\$ 332,800	\$ 83,200	Francis Rays Sakatah Tetonka Lakes Septic Inventory	84.5	The goal of this project is to complete up to 400 shoreland septic compliance inspections, create an ArcMap GIS layer and create community assessment reports on priority areas and provide education and outreach to the public through informational meetings and website development.
13	C15-2471	Valley Branch WD	Washington	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 12,000	Kelle's Creek Septic System Assessment	84.2	The goal of the proposed project is to examine septic systems throughout the bacteria impaired Kelle's Creek watershed to identify those systems that are non-functioning, non-compliant, or an imminent threat to public health and safety. The project will be completed in partnership with the Washington County Department of Public Health and Environment.
14	C15-0468	Pope SWCD	Pope	\$ 152,000	\$ 152,000	\$ 82,000	2015 City of Glenwood Water Quality Assessment & BMP Prioritization Project	83.2	The purpose of this project is to conduct a subwatershed retrofit assessment for the City of Glenwood. The project will result in identifying and prioritizing critical sources of nutrient and sediment reaching Lake Minnewaska and prioritizing retrofit opportunities.
15	C15-1375	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WD	Carver	\$ 48,000	\$ 48,000	\$ 12,000	Downtown Chanhassen BMP Retrofit Assessment	82.7	To reduce watershed phosphorus loads to Rice Marsh Lake and improve the water quality in downstream Lake Riley, this project will result in a stormwater best management practice retrofit assessment project. The goal of this project is to identify innovative retrofit opportunities that target soluble phosphorus and promote infiltration and groundwater recharge within this highly-developed area with significant impervious coverage.
16	C15-5231	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 7,500	Lower Sunrise River Active Gully Inventory	82.5	The purpose of this project is to conduct an inventory of actively eroding gullies along the Lower Sunrise River from the Kost Dam south to the confluence with the St. Croix. It is well known that there are major erosion issues along this stretch of river, but there is currently no organized and efficient way to begin work in the area. The inventory report would provide this critical missing link.
17	C15-3999	Dakota County	Dakota	\$ 63,000	\$ 63,000	\$ 15,750	Septic System Inventory - City of Randolph	82.3	The goal of this project is to inventory and inspect all septic systems within the City of Randolph. Based on a preliminary assessment, there are 105 properties that will require inspection. As part of the inspection, a well inventory will also be conducted.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
18	C15-3611	Rice County	Dakota, Goodhue, and Rice	\$ 103,875	\$ 103,875	\$ 25,969	Middle and Lower Cannon River Watershed BMP Targeting Assessment	82.0	The purpose of this project is to utilize LiDAR data to determine areas of highest sediment loading within the Middle and Lower Cannon. This analysis will assess the propensity of erosion on the landscape through the Stream Power Index and RUSLE. In addition to analyzing erosive potential, this project will determine ideal locations to store runoff on the landscape.
19	C15-0042	Minnehaha Creek WD	Hennepin	\$ 39,968	\$ 39,968	\$ 10,000	Mud Lake Subwatershed Assessment	81.9	The purpose of this project is to conduct a subwatershed retrofit assessment for the City of St. Bonifacius and surrounding rural areas. The project will identify several potential locations for best management practices throughout the city and surrounding areas. Preliminary designs will be developed to determine size, cost, and feasibility.
20	C15-5366	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 34,620	\$ 34,620	\$ 9,000	Ann Lake Watershed Targeted Fertilizer Application	81.3	The purpose of this project is to implement a targeted fertilizer application program in the Ann Lake watershed. The program will allow producers to measure soil fertility and apply needed fertilizer more accurately, preventing over-application and consequent runoff of nutrients, especially phosphorus, into surface waters.
21	C15-2336	Pine SWCD	Pine	\$ 63,400	\$ 63,400	\$ 17,000	St. Croix River Watershed Phosphorus Reduction and Forestry Re-establishment Project	81.1	The purpose of this project will be building a forest stewardship program targeting watersheds with the highest risk of impacts on water quality. A certified forest stewardship plan writer will be employed to write new forest stewardship plans, renew expiring forest stewardship plans and assist property owners with current forest stewardship plans to implement the practices within their plans.
22	C15-4509	North Fork Crow River WD	Multi-county	\$ 86,230	\$ -	\$ 21,558	NFCRWD GIS BMP Prioritization Tool	80.1	This project will develop a BMP prioritization scheme using intensive monitoring data, GIS data and the MPCA's HSPF model on the subwatershed scale to create a priority water quality improvement action plan and GIS tool. This tool will be used to develop project types and locations that address impairments in the watershed as well as the long term goal established for Rice Lake.
23	C15-1016	Chippewa River Watershed Project	Multi-county	\$ 138,957	\$ 138,957	\$ 38,000	Contacts and BMP Advancement in the Chippewa River Watershed's Lower Shakopee Creek	78.9	This project will provide the means to establish landowner relationships necessary for implementation of conservation practices and utilize the array of targeting tools available for the prioritization of projects that will provide the most measurable pollutant reductions.
24	C15-4310	Snake River Watershed Management Board	Mille Lacs	\$ 135,000	\$ 135,000	\$ 33,750	Snake River Watershed WRAPS based outreach and education	78.7	The purpose of this project is hire a Project and Outreach Coordinator to facilitate efforts within the watershed to assist citizens in finding local help and assistance in identifying areas in need of conservation plans and best management practices. There currently is no single contact person to oversee the management of the watershed and to ensure a coordinated delivery of services.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
25	C15-5799	Todd County	Todd	\$ 30,680	\$ 30,680	\$ 11,368	Todd County Septic Inventory IV	77.7	Todd County Septic Inspectors will research septic systems on 313 parcels that are located in the "highly vulnerable" portion of the City of Long Prairie's Drinking Water Supply Management Area. Each parcel will be inspected for septic system compliance in relation to MN 7080. Both tanks and soil drain fields will be inspected for compliance.
26	C15-2138	Faribault County SWCD	Faribault	\$ 42,500	\$ 42,500	\$ 11,000	MN Lake and Blue Earth Small Scale Watershed Planning	77.2	Development of sub-watershed plans and assessments for City of Winnebago and the City of Minnesota Lake to develop a priority list of practices to mitigate the synergistic impacts from agricultural runoff and urban stormwater. This project will work with landowners to develop a localized strategy to accelerate the adoption of BMPs that will reduce direct loading of sediment and nutrients to the Blue Earth River and surrounding shallow lakes.
27	C15-4527	Crow Wing County	Crow Wing	\$ 85,000	\$ 85,000	\$ 21,250	Planning Strategies to Effect Positive Change in Crow Wing County Watersheds	76.5	The purpose of this project is to continue the proven community and landowner outreach campaign by developing new water planning tools and using print and social media strategies to effect a positive change in Crow Wing County watersheds.
28	C15-5043	Pine SWCD	Pine	\$ 48,800	\$ 48,800	\$ 38,400	St. Croix River Watershed Agricultural Runoff Reduction Project	75.6	This project entails purchasing a no-till drill to install 1,600 acres a year of cover crops as a means of decreasing soil erosion, reducing phosphorus and fertilizer applications and increasing soil health. Outreach tools will be developed and a partnership with NRCS will provide cover crop plans financial match through USDA programs.
29	C15-1151	Kanabec SWCD	Kanabec	\$ 30,072	\$ 30,072	\$ 7,518	City of Mora Stormwater and Mora Lake BMP Assessment	74.8	The purpose of this project is to conduct a subwatershed retrofit analysis for the City of Mora, This will result in the identify of potential locations for best management practices throughout the city and surrounding areas. Preliminary designs for each practice will be developed to determine size, cost, and feasibility.
30	C15-8440	Mississippi Headwaters Board	Multi-county	\$ 81,000	\$ 81,000	\$ 20,250	2015 Accelerated Implementation Grant-Stormwater	74.5	The purpose of this project will be to develop stormwater planning options that prioritize, target, and measure the effectiveness of Best Management Practices and allow the local city officials to make decisions on stormwater Best management Practices that reduce pollutants in the watershed.
31	C15-7650	Rock SWCD	Rock	\$ 68,500	\$ 68,500	\$ 17,500	Accelerating BMP Implementation in Rock County Watersheds for Turbidity Impaired Waters	74.1	The purpose of this project is to build upon the terrain analysis products previously developed and extend the data products. The outcome will be GIS datasets, summary maps, and a technical report describing the suitability for best management practice placement and the measurable cost-effectiveness of pursuing opportunities to implement BMPs.
32	C15-0688	Aitkin SWCD	Aitkin	\$ 260,194	\$ 260,194	\$ 65,049	SWCD North Region Forester	72.5	This project will hire a Regional Clean Water Forester to service Technical Service Areas 3 and 8. The goal of this position is to increase installation of water quality related forestry practices installed by private landowners through enhanced technical guidance to local SWCDs and consultants assisting the landowners.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
33	C15-0152	Clearwater SWCD	Clearwater	\$ 89,845	\$ 89,845	\$ 22,462	Improving Water Quality, Soil Health and Pasture/Hayland production With No-Till	70.8	The purpose of this project is to facilitate the use of no-till management by implementing a no-till drill program. A series of workshops and field days will be held to highlight practice benefits and practical considerations for developing new pasture practices.
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 2,922,994	\$ 822,793			
34	C15-9727	Heron Lake WD	Multi-County	\$ 65,000		\$ 16,250	Prioritize, Target, and Measure in the West Fork Des Moines River Watershed	70.0	The purpose of this project is to build upon the terrain analysis products developed by Southwest Prairie Technical Service Area 5 and extend the data products to include Best Management Practices suitability, BMP effectiveness, and BMP value datasets.
35	C15-6068	Cass County	Cass	\$ 43,052	\$ -	\$ 11,000	Ten Mile Lake Watershed SSTS Compliance Inspections	64.7	The purpose of this project is to conduct 603 SSTS Compliance Inspections for Ten Mile Lake, Portage Lake and Big Bass Lake and complete a septic system inventory of each parcel. This will be the first attempt to conduct a compliance inspection program at the sub-watershed level.
36	C15-5479	Waseca SWCD	Waseca	\$ 112,694	\$ -	\$ 37,565	Waseca SWCD Conservation Technician	64.1	The purpose of this project is to provide much needed technical assistance and accelerated conservation practice application to the Waseca Soil and Water Conservation District. The technician will provide highly focused targeting of conservation programs and practices in the Cannon River and Le Sueur River watersheds.
37	C15-5388	Nobles SWCD	Nobles	\$ 99,900	\$ -	\$ 24,975	2015 - Kanaranzi - Little Rock Watershed BMP Implementation Acceleration	58.1	The purpose of this project is to create Best Management Practices targeting data products that include terrain analysis, water quality, suitability, effectiveness, and value datasets. This project will focus on the Kanaranzi Creek and Little Rock River watersheds which have streams listed for turbidity and fecal impairments.
38	C15-1878	Martin SWCD	Martin	\$ 63,000	\$ -	\$ 15,750	Targeted Implementation in the Center Creek Watershed	55.9	The goal of this project is to prioritize and target sites for conservation implementation in the Center Creek Watershed in collaboration with the GIS specialist from the South Central Technical Service Area. Precision conservation layers, such as Stream Power Index and restorable wetlands will be created.
39	C15-5882	Morrison SWCD	Morrison	\$ 163,800	\$ -	\$ 40,950	FY15 Accelerated Technical Capacity	49.7	The goal of this project is to hire an engineering technician to assist multiple counties in the overflow of workload and relieve the Technical Service Area in performing duties that improve or protect water quality. This position would still work under the direction of the Technical Service Area but be housed in one of the other counties and predominately serve the higher demand in Todd, Morrison, and Benton counties.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
1	C15-4804	Dakota SWCD	Dakota	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	2015 Dakota County Clean Water Community Initiative	87.8	This project will provide cost share funding to community organizations and associations who voluntarily construct medium sized water quality best management practices in Dakota County. This project will continue the successful Dakota County Community Initiative that received Clean Water Funds in 2012, 2013 and 2014. It is anticipated that up to 8 best management practices will be installed.
2	C15-6761	Crow Wing SWCD	Crow Wing	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000	Brainerd Lakes Targeted Community Centered Runoff Mini Grant Program 3	85.2	The Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District proposes to partner with citizen groups and nonprofit groups to complete projects that will reduce stormwater runoff and retain water on the land in Crow Wing County's 125 minor watersheds. To do this, a mini grant program will be developed and provide competitive grant funds to an anticipated 12 community groups.
3	C15-5637	Ramsey-Washington Metro WD	Ramsey and Washington	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	Targeting Faith Organizations for Water Quality Improvement (Phase 2)	83.0	The goal of this project is to continue to collaborate with faith organizations in priority areas to implement stormwater volume reduction retrofit projects. The primary objectives of this program are measurable reduction of outputs with development of long-term partnerships with the leaders and members of the faith organizations.
4	C15-1564	Ramsey Conservation District	Ramsey	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 50,000	Ramsey County Community Partners 2015 Program	77.7	The purpose of this program is to provide cost share funding and engage community groups for the installation of community accessible rain gardens and other water quality projects in Ramsey County. This unique program will focus on engaging groups through the installation of exceptionally visible and community accessible raingardens, or other stormwater bmps that help reduce stormwater runoff.
5	C15-3151	Aitkin SWCD	Aitkin	\$ 31,000	\$ 31,000	\$ 7,755	Reducing Stormwater Impacts through Community Partnerships in Aitkin County	76.8	The Aitkin County SWCD will partner with local lake associations, and other eligible community partners, to reduce the impacts of storm water runoff and retain water on the land through the implementation of a mini-grant program that will install rain gardens and native vegetation buffers along shorelines. This will be accomplished while building the capacity of local partners to address their own priority water quality improvement projects.
6	C15-8990	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 150,000	\$ 150,000	\$ 37,500	Wright SWCD Partners with Lake Associations to Apply Land Treatment	75.6	Through this project, the Wright SWCD will work with lake associations throughout the county. This project will allow them to utilize their local landowner networks and site specific knowledge to effectively implement best management practices that fit within the greater context of Wright County's Water Management Plan.
7	C15-3268	Cook SWCD	Cook	\$ 149,985	\$ 149,985	\$ 37,500	Cook County Shoreline Erosion Reduction Projects	75.1	The purpose of this project is to provide opportunities to community partners to implement 5-10 shoreline erosion reduction best management projects that will reduce sediment and improve water quality of county lakes and streams. Preference will be given to properties within a watershed of a TMDL, properties on a sentinel lake, properties on lakes and streams with active associations, and projects ranking high in sediment reduction amount.
8	C15-1693	Lake of the Woods SWCD	Lake of the Woods	\$ 89,000	\$ 89,000	\$ 22,250	Rainy River Community Partners	74.8	The goal of the program is to develop and implement stormwater management plans and shoreline restoration projects with community partners. Community partners for this program will include but are not limited to: non-profits, businesses, and faith organizations within the Rainy River-Baudette watershed.
9	C15-2412	Faribault County SWCD	Faribault	\$ 110,000	\$ 110,000	\$ 27,500	2015 Community Clean Water Partnership	73.5	The purpose of this partnership is to provide mini-grants to conservation conscious community organizations who voluntarily construct best management practices that provide storage and treatment of stormwater runoff at it source.
10	C15-5361	Middle Fork Crow River WD	Kandiyohi	\$ 125,000	\$ 125,000	\$ 31,250	Developed Partners Expanded Resource Accomplishment	73.5	The Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District is home to many natural resource community organizations, all of which have a vested interest in the quality of the local and region resources. This sub-grant opportunity will authenticate relationships and provide an avenue for these organizations to receive dollars needed to install practices on their adjacent resource. Funding shortfalls.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
11	C15-3418	Douglas SWCD	Douglas	\$ 74,440	\$ 74,440	\$ 19,971	Partners for Clean Water - Douglas County Phase 2	73.0	The Douglas County Partners for Clean Water program enables community groups to take action improving their water resources. Engaging citizens directly in project development and installation efforts provides immediate water quality benefits and cultivates a community of active stewardship.
12	C15-7859	Chisago SWCD	Chisago	\$ 30,000	\$ 30,000	\$ 7,500	Chisago County Community Partners Grant	71.5	The Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District will use this grant to empower community partners, especially lake associations, to award grants to some of these worthwhile projects that are otherwise just ideas.
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 1,359,425	\$ 366,226			
13	C15-2450	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Multi-County	\$ 150,000	\$ -	\$ 37,500	GBERBA - Le Sueur River and Watonwan River Watersheds - Community Partners	71.4	This project aims to instill stewardship through education, awareness, and accountability for water quality issues in the Le Sueur and Watonwan River Watersheds. Once engaged, the project will provide technical support and grant funding to community and watershed organizations for the implementation of small to mid-sized surface storm water best management practices.
14	C15-6126	Cass County	Cass	\$ 50,000	\$ -	\$ 12,500	Sediment Reduction on RPEL Roads throughout Cass County	53	Historic platting practices have created areas known as Road Pieces Ending in Lakes. These areas were created by developers to enable lake access for back lot owners. 71 of these historic areas have been identified as point source pollution sites for phosphorus, sediment and nutrient loading to Cass County lakes.

Row	CWF ID	Applicant	County	Amount Requested	Amount Recommended	Match Amount	Title	Average Score (100 pts)	Description
1	C15-4325	Red Lake SWCD	Red Lake	\$ 21,860	\$ 21,860	\$ 5,465	2015 Red Lake County Drainage Ditch Inventory and Inspection (Phase II)	96.7	Through this project, Red Lake Watershed District, Red Lake County Ditch Authority, along with the Red Lake County SWCD, will be working together prioritizing county ditch systems, targeting where the greatest need for Side Water Inlet Structures is, and where 1-rod buffer strips are needed.
2	C15-9865	West Otter Tail SWCD	Otter Tail	\$ 290,616	\$ 290,616	\$ 270,000	Otter Tail County Buffer Initiative Acceleration	92.3	In March 2014, the Otter Tail County Buffer Initiative Implementation Schedule was developed. This Initiative is a 9 year plan to take a systematic approach to inventory and analyze all Public Waters within the County. The funding of this grant would accelerate the inventory and compliance with State and County Shoreland Rules with a proposed completion in 5 years.
3	C15-6924	Red Lake WD	Red Lake	\$ 38,700	\$ 38,700	\$ 9,675	Red Lake Watershed District Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database	90.0	The Red Lake Watershed District will create an inspection database for 103E ditches under their drainage authority. The project will lead to improving the district's data management capabilities and identify drainage system needs that could lead to helping improve water courses that are impaired for turbidity.
4	C15-6253	Wright SWCD	Wright	\$ 7,200	\$ 7,200	\$ 2,400	Side Inlet and Buffer Inventory	87.0	The purpose of this project is to create an inventory and priority list of where inlet control and buffer strips are needed along approximately 10 miles of a judicial ditch to reduce the nutrients, sediment and volume of water being transported by field tile.
5	C15-7610	Brown County	Brown	\$ 36,200	\$ 36,200	\$ 9,050	Brown County Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database 2014	84.0	As part of the current re-determination process Brown County is participating in, the one-rod buffer requirement will be implemented. In addition, Brown County wants to upgrade the current manual operations to a one-stop web based drainage portal.
6	C15-1485	West Polk SWCD	Polk	\$ 45,000	\$ 45,000	\$ 11,250	Burnham Creek Watershed Restoration Project, Phase II - Inventory	80.7	The purpose of this Phase II project is to conduct inventory on 2,050 acres, 85.4 miles of ditch channel within the Burnham Creek Watershed of West Polk County. This will consist of surveying, assembling all available GIS data, ArcMap, LiDAR, review aerial photography, location of tile intakes, determine size of the erosion site (survey's), and prioritization of severity.
7	C15-8951	Blue Earth County	Blue Earth	\$ 95,000	\$ 95,000	\$ 23,750	Blue Earth County Targeted Ditch Inventory	79.0	This project will conduct Inventory and Inspection of four drainage ditches in Blue Earth County. The project will also prioritize sites for future side inlet control, buffer strip implementation, and/or storage and treatment implementation.
8	C15-8203	North Fork Crow River WD	Multi-County	\$ 34,200	\$ 34,200	\$ 8,550	North Fork Crow River Watershed District Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database	76.7	The purpose of this project will be to develop an inventory and inspection database for 103E ditches under their drainage authority. The project will also develop a process for completing the annual inspection and reporting requirements under Statue 103E.
9	C15-1324	Mille Lacs SWCD	Mille Lacs	\$ 125,000	\$ 7,500	\$ 1,875	Drainage 14 Sediment Management for West Branch Rum River	74.3	This project will identify and prioritize the opportunities to implement a multipurpose drainage management plan that will provide adequate drainage capacity, reduce peak flows and flooding and reduce erosion and sediment loading that will improve water quality to the West Branch Rum River.
10	C15-0576	McLeod County	McLeod	\$ 34,200	\$ 34,200	\$ 8,550	McLeod County Drainage Inventory and Inspection Database	74.0	The purpose of this project is to create an inspection database for 103E ditches. The project will also develop a process for completing the annual inspection and reporting requirements under Statue 103E.
				<b>Total</b>	\$ 610,476	\$ 350,565			



## BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM

**AGENDA ITEM TITLE:** FY 15 CWF Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Second Round - Buffer Initiative

**Meeting Date:** January 28, 2015

**Agenda Category:**  Committee Recommendation  New Business  Old Business

**Item Type:**  Decision  Discussion  Information

**Section/Region:** Land and Water Section

**Contact:** Marcey Westrick

**Prepared by:** Marcey Westrick

Grants Program and Policy

**Reviewed by:** Committee Committee(s)

**Presented by:** Marcey Westrick

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

**Attachments:**  Resolution  Order  Map  **Supporting Information will be send under separate cover.**

**Fiscal/Policy Impact**

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

### ACTION REQUESTED

The Board is being requested to authorize a 2<sup>nd</sup> Phase of the FY15 Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Grants.

### LINKS TO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

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

After two separate funding rounds for the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance grant category, approximately \$1.0M remains unallocated. Staff is proposing to conduct a second round of funding in efforts to provide a more targeted approach to shoreland compliance. The process is modeled after a similar method used for Technical Service Areas (Shared Services Grants).

**The Grants Program & Policy Committee will meet on January 20. The Committee recommendation with attachments will be sent under separate cover and separate posting to the BWSR website**

Board Resolution # 15-

**FY 2015 CLEAN WATER FUND COMPETITIVE GRANTS PROGRAM: SOIL EROSION AND DRAINAGE LAW COMPLIANCE - BUFFER INITIATIVE**

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**WHEREAS**, the Clean Water Fund (CWF) is established in M.S. 114D.50; and,

**WHEREAS**, Clean Water Funds have been appropriated to BWSR in Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137; and,

**WHEREAS**, the Board has authority under Minn. Stat. 103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, joint powers organizations, and other special purpose districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan; and

**WHEREAS**, BWSR implementation of appropriated CWF funds is based on the Minnesota Constitution, Article XI, Section 15 which provides that funds may be “spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation”, and that “dedicated money under this section must supplement traditional sources of funding for these purposes and may not be used as a substitute”; and,

**WHEREAS**, the CWF implementation strategy incorporates the purpose of M.S. 114D.20 which directs the implementation of Clean Water Funds to be coordinated with existing authorities and program infrastructure; and,

**WHEREAS**, eligible project proposals for funds appropriated in Laws of Minnesota 2013, Chapter 137, Section 7(e) will be evaluated on a first come, first serve bases.

**WHEREAS**, on June 25, 2014 (Board Resolution # 14-42) the Board adopted the FY2015 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Policy;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the Board hereby:

1. Authorizes staff to finalize, distribute and promote a Request For Interest (RFI) for the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Buffer Initiative consistent with the provisions of appropriations enacted in 2013, Minn. Stat. 103B.3369 and this Board resolution.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Napstad, Chair  
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**January 20, 2015**

**To: The Board of Water and Soil Resources**

**From: Marcey Westrick, Clean Water Coordinator**

**RE: Options for Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance Second Round - Buffer Initiative**

The purpose of this memorandum is to lay out three different options that were considered for conducting an additional funding round for the remaining Clean Water Fund Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance funds.

Background

The context for the proposed options are staff discussions and the fact that after two separate funding rounds for the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance grant category, approximately \$1.0M remains unallocated.

Three options were considered by the BWSR Senior Management Team on January 13, 2015 and reviewed by the Grants Program and Policy Committee on January 20, 2015. The following three options were considered:

1. Public Waters Inventory, including Chapter 103E drainage ditches that are Public Waters to determine conservation plan or buffer strip compliance and develop enforcement plans (currently this was activity 4 under the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance FY 2015 RFP).
2. Public Waters Inventory, including Chapter 103E drainage ditches that are Public Waters + inventory and prioritize opportunities for side inlet controls, wetland restoration or other drainage storage and treatment system. Applicant must propose, or have already completed/are in the process of completing, a plan to determine conservation plan or buffer strip compliance and develop enforcement plan(s). In addition, LGUs may also apply for opportunities to inventory and prioritize other drainage treatment options (currently this was activities 5 and 6 under the Soil Erosion and Drainage Law Compliance FY 2015 RFP).
3. Public Waters Inventory, including Chapter 103E drainage ditches that are Public Waters + Inventory and prioritize opportunities for side inlet controls, wetland restoration or other drainage storage and treatment system. Applicant may propose a plan to do any or all of the program activities.

The recommendation to be considered is Option 2 which is described in detail below.

Program: Public Waters Inventory, including Chapter 103E drainage ditches that are Public Waters + inventory and prioritize opportunities for side inlet controls, wetland restoration or other drainage storage and treatment system.

Program Purpose: Applicant *must* propose, or have already completed/are in the process of completing, a plan to determine conservation plan or buffer strip compliance and develop enforcement plan(s). In addition, LGUs *may* also apply for opportunities to inventory and prioritize other drainage treatment options.

Target Area: Counties with greater than 30% cultivated land (66 counties in total but 5 counties have already conducted or are in the process of conducting public water inventories for these purposes)

LGUs Targeted: County planning and zoning directors and drainage authorities but emphasize the opportunity and importance of partnering with soil and water conservation districts.

Means of Communicating to Target Audience: Letter written to county planning and zoning directors and drainage authorities giving funding opportunity, sideboards and expectations. This letter would also serve as the official request for interest. In addition, a fact sheet would be developed to accompany the letter that highlights the work that other counties have done.

Application Specifics: Brief application that can be submitted via Survey Monkey that indicates level of interest, dollar amount requested and what they would accomplish and the end results. These applications would be reviewed by BWSR Clean Water Specialists and forwarded to the Clean Water Coordinator.

Funding Available: \$1M

Match required: 25%

Funding Maximum: None proposed; 1st come, first served approach

Timeline: February 2, 2015 through April 3, 2015