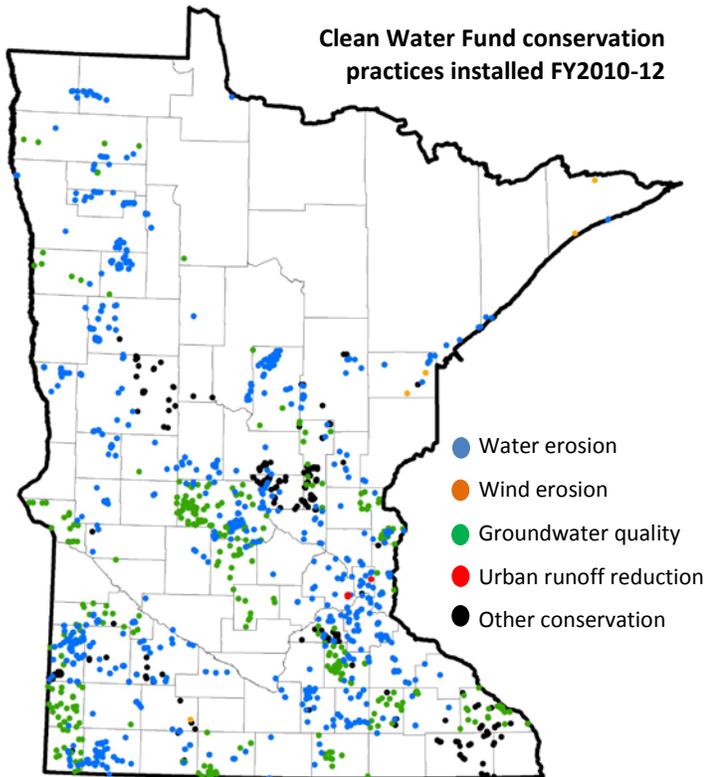




New eLINK system debuts in June 2013

July 2013 Snapshots



Maps like this one will be produced in the new eLINK, depicting pollution reductions across the state from on-the-ground conservation projects.

The new eLINK system includes technology upgrades for speed and data entry, is accessible from multiple browsers, uses the latest mapping technology, and incorporates features such as password resets and messaging; all while ensuring the latest appropriate security protocols are followed.

Introductory training sessions were provided to users throughout June, and additional training will be available throughout the year. Users can start reporting progress now and will get their first chance to utilize the new application feature of the software when the Clean Water Fund request for proposal process opens later this summer.

“As with any software project, we anticipate finding some glitches along the way – but the new system will also have much more flexibility,” Lewis said. “We heard from attendees at training sessions that the new program is very user friendly and simple to use, so we are encouraged the new system will work well.”

Tracking progress in protecting and restoring Minnesota’s water resources just got a lot easier.

Launched in June 2013, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) upgraded its conservation tracking software, eLINK. The new web-based system will track statewide conservation projects and activities, through improved efficiency and increased transparency for general public access.

Melissa Lewis, project coordinator, said the new system will not only show users how on-the-ground conservation projects reduce pollutants in Minnesota’s water resources, but will also serve as the system for local units of government to apply for funding and to report on their progress.

“The new system will integrate and streamline current grant processes such as applications, work plans, and reports and will reduce data entry, bringing efficiencies to state and local governments,” Lewis said. “But most importantly, the new eLINK will continue to tell the story of conservation successes in Minnesota.”

Funded through Clean Water Fund dollars (through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment), the project started in the summer of 2012 and “finished” in June, though Lewis says the software will continually be updated as appropriate.



For more information, visit <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html>
Project dollars provided by the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment).