



THE JUNE 16, 2022 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Agendas and Minutes are posted on www.bdswd.com. Underscored times will be honored as closely as possible.

8:00 AM

Verification of Quorum & Call to Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Consider Agenda Additions & Approve Agenda

Declarations of Conflict of Interest*

Consent Agenda

Approve: Minutes of May 19, 2022; Claims of June 16, 2022; Treasurer's Report, and Budget; State Grants Received/Expended

Public Comment

TurnKey Logistics Presentation on Carbon Capture Project & Transmission Line:
James Hanson, Blain Ware, Scott O'Kenk, and Joseph Caruso

PERMITS

#22-050 N. Findlay & D. Zych, S1/2 Section 12, Arthur Twp, Traverse Co.

#22-067 S. Miller, SE1/4 Section 19, E Brandrup Twp, Wilkin County

9:00 AM

Rob Sip, RRWMB Update

103E DRAINAGE SYSTEMS REPORTS

GCD #8 Update

GCD #21 Update

TCD #35 Update

WCD #Sub-1 Update

JD #6 Update & Approve Bond Expenses

Drainage Workshops Update

103D WATERSHED PROJECT REPORTS

Redpath & Mustinka Update

Schedule 103D.605 Hearing

Doran Creek Update

LTWQIP No. 1 Phase 2 Update, Pay App and Final
Balancing Change Order

Phase 3 Update

Approve 640th Avenue Road Raise Cost Share Agreement

Spring Flood Observations

Request to Remove Trees – Western 32

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Authorization to Replace Service Vehicle & Advertise Current for Bid

JCWMP Update, Pay Requests & Authorize Grant Request WBIF #2

MAWD Resolutions

Records Retention Schedule

Approve Pay Equity Survey

Approve Liability Coverage Non Waiver of Tort Liability

Approval of Annual Organization Resolution & Election of Officers

Annual Review and Certification of Conflict of Interest Policy

Managers Update

RRRA, RRBC, FDRWG, MAWD

Drainage Workgroup Update & Committee Reports

Letters & Minutes

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 22, 2022 at 10 am
North Ottawa Project Team
Impoundment Gazebo

July 20, 2022
Farm Bureau Member Water
Seminar, location TBD

July 20, 2022 at 9:30 am
MAWA/MAWD Region 1
Meeting via Zoom and in
Barnesville

June 30, 2022
Timesheets Due

July 21, 2022 at 8 am
Board Meeting

August 9 – 11,
BdSWD Drainage Workshops

August 18, 2022 at 8 am
Board Meeting

*Meetings may include a quorum
of the Bois de Sioux Watershed
District, dependent upon board
manager participation.*

Conflict of Interest: Examples of matters that should be disclosed include when a manager, or his/her close relatives, or his/her business associate: owns land which may be assessed, owns land which may benefit or be damaged other than by a direct tax, has close relatives who have either. This also includes matters in which a board manager serves as another public officer (for eg, township officer), which has potential interest or that may be affected by said project. *For more information, see the District's Policy & Procedures Handbook and Conflict of Interest Disclosure Policy approved 09/16/21 and 05/19/22.*

BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
May 19, 2022

- CALL TO ORDER** The meeting was called to order by President Vavra at 8:00 a.m. Present in the District Office: Linda Vavra, Doug Dahlen, Jerome Deal, Scott Gillespie, Allen Wold. Absent: Jason Beyer (arrived later), Ben Brutlag, John Kapphahn, Steven Schmidt. Also present in the District Office: District Engineer Chad Engels, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, Attorney Lukas Croaker, and Administrator Jamie Beyer. Present online: Engineer James Guler.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST** No conflicts of interest were declared.
- AGENDA** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the agenda was approved with the following additions: stream gage fees, nuisance fees, JD #6 and Big Lake.
- CONSENT AGENDA** Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the Consent Agenda was approved with the addition of payment to Wagner Company, Inc. in the amount of \$3,210 for snow removal.
- PUBLIC COMMENT** No public comment was given.
- #21-052 CHAMPION AG** Tanner Davison spoke on behalf of a Permit Application #21-52. A portion of the project crosses a subwatershed boundary. There were no comments received in opposition to the project, which is controlled by an outlet pump. Mr. Davison stated that permission had already been granted by Traverse County to bore under a county road. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the permit was approved.
- #22-058 T. BACKMAN &**
#22-059 K. DEAL Kevin Deal, Tim Backman, and Attorney Jason Lina spoke on behalf of Permit Applications #22-058 and #22-059. Mr. Kevin Deal presented pictures of chronic flooding adjacent to and across from GCD #8. Applicants propose to build dikes adjacent to and across from GCD #8. Board Manager Jerome Deal stated that there is a sensitive area three miles downstream of the proposed projects. District Engineer Chad Engels stated that a dike adjacent to GCD #8 would change the capacity of the Minn. Stat. Chapter 103E drainage ditch system, which requires initiation with a petition to improve the ditch system, which would ultimately get filed with the District, and that successful improvement proceedings would need to pass an adequate outlet test, which will likely not be achieved until the Redpath Flood Impoundment is constructed.
- DIVERSION CHANNEL** Discussion was held on the possibility of developing a diversion to the Impoundment utilizing Minn. Stat. Chapter 103E drainage law in order to compensate landowners for damaged lands, and the need for a redetermination of benefits of the GCD #8 drainage system. District Engineer Chad Engels offered for the District to coordinate a GCD #8 landowner meeting in July 2022.
- GCD #8** Attorney Jason Lina stated that the permit applicants are seeking temporary relief from floodwater damage. Attorney Lukas Croaker stated that the proposed project could be viewed to improve GCD #8, for which the District is not the ditch authority – Grant County is the ditch authority. Mr. Tim Backman stated that a report found that 94 – 96% of the water in GCD #8 originates east of Herman, outside of the current drainage system’s benefitting area, and that he is seeking compensation for water storage on his land. Attorney Lukas Croaker recommended that the applicant work directly with Grant County, as an improvement proceeding would start with a petition and not a permit.
- DITCH IMPROVEMENTS** Attorney Jason Lina challenged the assertion that the dike would increase the capacity of the drainage system. District Engineer Chad Engels stated that Grant County could conduct a review to verify the original condition of the drainage system – if a dike was in place when the system was built, the proposed project is arguably just restoration. If not, increasing the channel berms represent an increase to channel depth, and will be found to be an improvement to the drainage system. Mr. Pat Haney stated that because this project affects GCD #8, that the District should not require a permit.
- JOINT MEETING** Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, engineering and legal staff are authorized to meet with Grant County officials to discuss the project and project area. Mr. Pat Haney requested that they be part of the meeting.

**#22-059
K. DEAL**

Mr. Kevin Deal asked that his permit application be considered separately, as proposed work is not adjacent to GCD #8. Upon motion by Deal, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, engineering staff are authorized to work with Mr. Deal and evaluate his permit application against District standards and approve the permit if in compliance therewith.

HAY BIDS

There were three submissions for hay bids. Gillespie motioned, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, to approve the high bid received, which was from Mr. Luke Gayton in the amount of \$1,950.

**#21-054
R. ANDERSON**

The District's offer for a restoration/mitigation extension was declined by Mr. Ronald Anderson. Ohnstad Twichell will file a petition for relief with Stevens County to enforce the District's order to require the landowner to either restore the project site to its original condition or install tile and fill in the excavated channel, or to allow the District to hire the work be completed and assess the cost to the parcel.

**640TH AVE
ROAD RAISE**

The District is waiting for final design details to be provided by Interstate Engineering.

**ONLINE PERMIT
APPLICATION**

Administrator Jamie Beyer relayed a request from Board Manager John Kapphahn for the District to develop an online permit application. Board Manager Scott Gillespie requested more information about standard permitting practices for Red River Valley watersheds, and also requested that information be collected from contractors. The District is currently revising its rules, policies, and bylaws, but has put the process on hold until after planting season.

**PERMIT
APPLICATION
REVISION**

Staff relayed confusion with Section 9(A) of the current paper application, which asks permit applicants to identify affected neighbors and report if all neighbors listed were contacted. This activity and information is relatively subjective and is not required for permit approval nor contributes to a permit approval decision; the section does lead to criticism by permit opponents that an application should be deemed "incomplete," and therefore be denied. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to remove Section 9A - D from the permit application.

**DRAINAGE
WORKSHOP**

Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen proposes a drainage workshop to be held over the summer, possibly in multiple locations throughout the District. Staff have not finalized an agenda but the program would likely feature best management practices following ditch repairs, repair/improvement proceedings, and promotion of in-field water management practices. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to coordinate the event(s).

**JD #12
COST SHARE**

Wilkin SWCD has offered to provide 75% cost share for the installation of 10 – 12 side inlet culverts on JD #12. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the project is approved pending review by the District Engineer.

**NUISANCE
RATES**

Upon motion by Wold, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, beaver nuisance removal rates are increased from \$75 to \$100 per unit. Nuisances are identified by Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen prior to removal.

**STREAM GAGE
RATES**

Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the annual fee paid to stream gage readers is increased from \$75 to \$100.

JD #6

There is $\frac{3}{4}$ of a mile of the JD #6 repair project that has failed to establish vegetation. Grass was planted last year, and was established in the majority of the project area. Board Manager Scott Gillespie asked if this work should be pulled out of future construction contracts so that a specialist can be utilized. Engineering staff indicated that during the project, there are stormwater permit requirements for which the contractor is responsible for – including establishment of vegetation, and that often times the contractor hires a 3rd party to conduct the seeding. Board managers determined that no contractor action caused the vegetation to fail. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, the District ordered a second seeding, at an approximate cost of \$12,000 to be paid as a project expense .

LTWQIP NO. 1 PHASE #3	Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, the LTWQIP No. 1 Phase #3 Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program Contract, Conflict of Interest Disclosure, and BWSR Request for Grant Amendment were approved.
RING DIKE AGREEMENTS	Board managers reviewed the revised Ring Dike Cost Share Agreement. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Wold and carried unanimously, the Cost Share Agreement template was approved.
SAMANTHA & ELBOW LAKE COST SHARE	Board managers discussed the proposal from Grant County Highway Engineer Tracey Von Bargen and Field to Flyway Engineer Aaron Weinandt regarding several water quality and habitat enhancing projects proposed within the Bois de Sioux Watershed District at Strehlo Slough, Samantha Lake, Elbow Lake, Trisko Lake, West Wetland, and North Wetland. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to send a letter of support for the project's grant application. Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Deal and carried unanimously, the cost share proposed (\$15,000 for 5 years) was approved contingent upon the successful completion of a permanent drawdown of no less than 17" on Lake Samantha.
NORTH OTTAWA	The North Ottawa Project Team will likely be meeting for the first time in June. The current fund balance of approximately -\$170,000 includes expenses related directly to the 5-year negotiation of the 10-Year Operation and Maintenance Contract with the DNR. Administrator Jamie Beyer recommended a fund transfer in order to close the outstanding balance and provide the Impoundment with operating funds for 2022. Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, an intrafund transfer within the Construction Fund (from unallocated to the North Ottawa Fund) in the amount of \$245,000 was approved. Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen stated that the current maintenance needs include: road gravel, gate repair, and A4/B4 conversion from stop logs to solid gates.
LTWQIP NO. 1 PHASE #3	Upon motion by Gillespie, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to submit a grant application to the Red River Watershed Management Board on behalf of LTWQIP No. 1 Phase #3. Engineering staff presented the approximate temporary and permanent easement footprint for Phase 3, and board managers encouraged engineering staff to begin the land acquisition process with the two affected landowners.
BEYER ARRIVES	Board Manager Jason Beyer arrived at the meeting.
RIVERWATCH	Students participating in the Campbell-Tintah Riverwatch Program provided information on their activities for the school year. The program is comprised of seventeen students, and the regional project for the year was to hold an educational event with elementary students.
GILLESPIE LEAVES	Board Manager Scott Gillespie left the meeting.
GCD #21	A GCD #21 landowner meeting was held in Herman in May, and a petition for improvement is circulating.
TCD #35/ REDPATH PH. 1	All TCD #35/Redpath Phase 1 materials are ordered and are anticipated to arrive on schedule. It is anticipated that the contractor will begin mid-May.
WCD #SUB-1	Landowners have provided a portion of the required bond. Administrator Jamie Beyer attended a recent Wilkin County Commissioner meeting; the governing board did not express any opposition to bonding next year for the project.
REDPATH FLOOD IMPOUNDMENT	Federal permits will be issued within the next 30 days. Engineering staff have begun to assemble bid package documents.
DORAN CREEK	A funding strategy for Doran Creek was presented, divided by three phases (of approximately 2 – 3 project miles each) and various grants. Board managers and District staff discussed assessment calculations, weighing factors such as runoff, sediment transport, and equalization. Board managers supported a hypothetical average assessment of \$5/acre and utilizing runoff and sediment transport as the determining assessment factors. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, staff are authorized to apply for external funding, to drive the assessments lower. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Dahlen and carried unanimously, a landowner meeting is authorized.

**LTWQIP NO. 1
PHASE #3**

District Engineer Chad Engels stated that engineering staff have neared completion of permitting for LTWQIP No. 1 Phase #3 and will be finishing the project's cost estimate. At this time, it is clear that this Phase will require assessments from the project's water management district, so the District should highly encourage landowners to attend future project meetings.

**ELECTRONIC &
PAPER PACKETS**

Administrator Jamie Beyer relayed a request from Board Manager John Kapphahn to discuss whether board managers wish to move from mailed paper packets to utilization of a District tablet or laptop to view electronic board packets. Electronic packets are currently emailed the Friday before a board meeting; paper packets are mailed the same day, but are subject to unreliable postal service. The majority of board managers find value in a paper copy.

Upon motion by Dahlen, seconded by Wold and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 am.

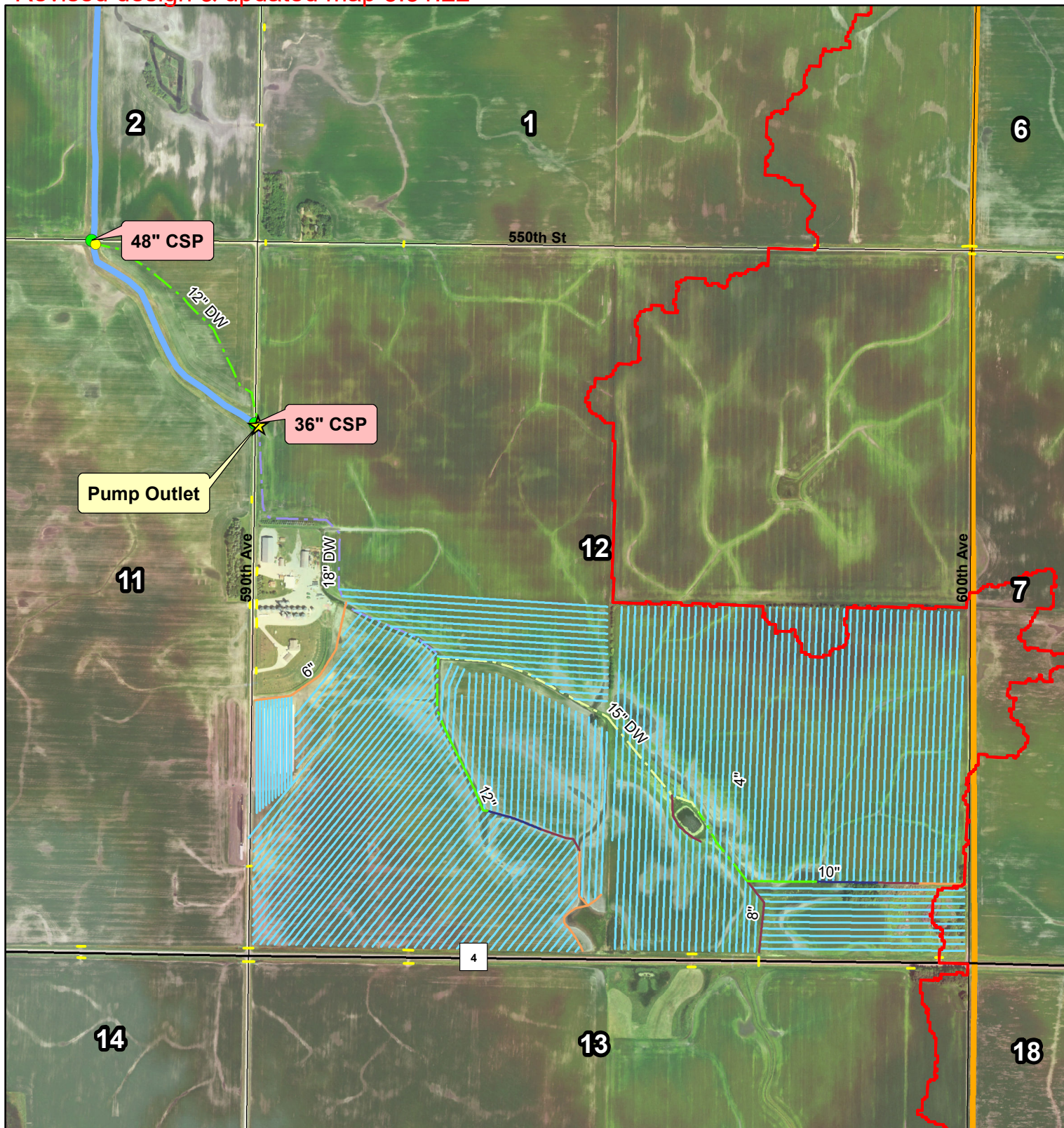
Linda Vavra, President

Jamie Beyer, Administrator

Date: _____, 2022

Date: _____, 2022

DRAFT



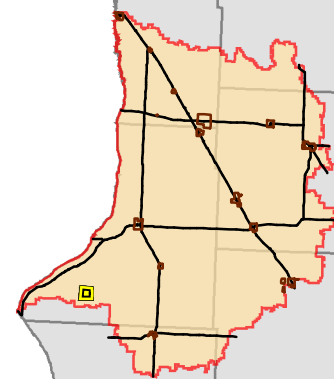
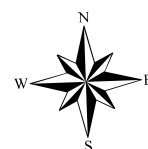
Legend

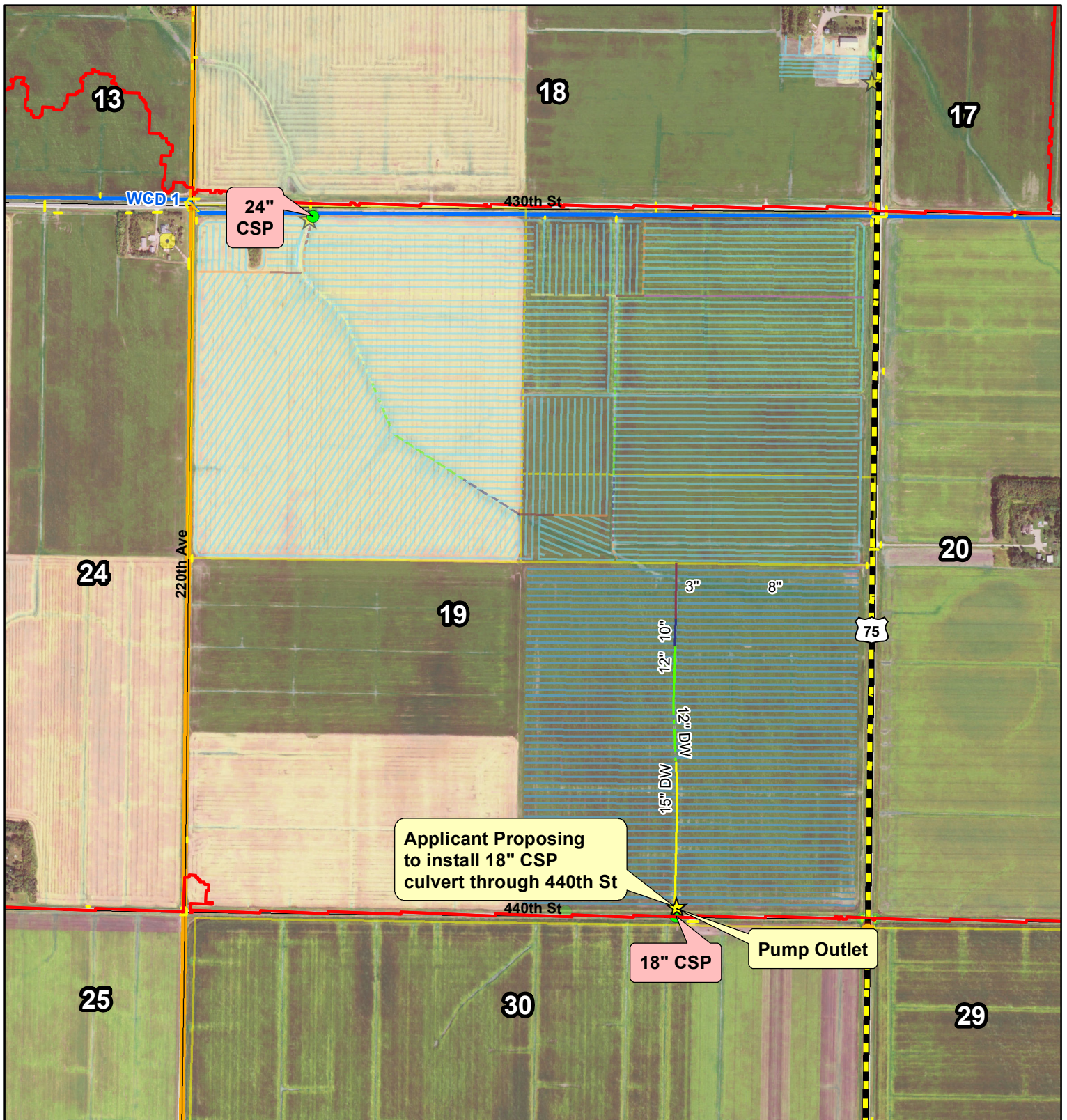
Structure		Culvert		Drain	
★ Pump/Lift	□ Inlet/Intake	● RCP	● CSP	— 3"	— 10"
✚ Control Structure	● Other	▲ RCPA	▲ CSPA	— 4"	— 12"
⬡ Dike/Embankment	● Gravity Outlet	■ RCB	◆ Bridge	— 5"	— 15"
⬢ Subwatersheds	— Culvert Inventory	● Other	— 6"	— 18"	— 24" & Greater
— N.O. Collection Channels	— MN PWI Streams			— (Tile)	— (Dual Wall)
				— (Non-Perf.)	— Other - Pipe
					— Road Permits
					— Ditch/Waterway
					— Other - Misc.




PA# 22-050 - Findlay, Nicholas & Zych, Dale
S 1/2 of Sec 12, Arthur Twp
Bois de Sioux Watershed District, MN

Created By: AKS Date Saved: 05/31/22 Date Exported: 05/31/22
 Plotted By: nick.naseth Aerial Image: 2013 County NAIP SIDS Elevation Data: IWI Lidar
 Horizontal Datum: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N Vertical Datum: NAVD 1988
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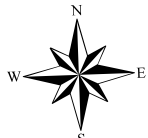



Legend	
Structure	Culvert
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ★ Pump/Lift ⊕ Control Structure 🏠 Dike/Embankment 🔗 Subwatersheds 📏 N.O. Collection Channels 🌊 MN PWI Streams 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Inlet/Intake ● Other ● Gravity Outlet ● Culvert Inventory ● RCP ▲ RCPA ■ RCB ● CSP ▲ CSPA ◆ Bridge ● Other
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3" (Blue) 4" (Light Blue) 5" (Purple) 6" (Orange) 8" (Pink) 10" (Dark Blue) 12" (Green) 15" (Light Green) 18" (Dark Purple) 24" & Greater (Light Green) (Tile) (Grey) (Dual Wall) (Dashed Grey) (Non-Perf.) (Dashed Grey) Other - Pipe (Brown) Dike (Pink) Ditch/Waterway (Light Blue) Other - Misc. (Yellow) Road Permits (Thick Purple)



PA# 22-067 - Miller, Steve
SE 1/4 of Sec 19, E Brandrup Twp
Bois de Sioux Watershed District, MN

Created By: AKS Date Saved: 05/09/22 Date Exported: 05/09/22
 Plotted By: andrew.smith Aerial Image: 2013 County NAIP SIDS Elevation Data: IWI Lidar
 Horizontal Datum: NAD 1983 UTM Zone 15N Vertical Datum: NAVD 1988
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Bois de Sioux
Watershed District

704 Highway 75 South | Wheaton, MN 56296

Phone | 320.563.4185

Fax | 320.563.4987

www.bds wd.com

bds wd@runestone.net

TOPIC FOLLOW-UP

WATER CONTROL/DRAINAGE WORKSHOPS

06/09/2022

BACKGROUND

Staff recommended providing a workshop to landowners, to cover various topics. We will invite Advisory Board members to attend one of the sessions, instead of holding a separate mid-year meeting. Landowners will be invited to attend any one session, but will try to tweak topics to be more relevant to the hosting area.

UPDATE

Three similar events:

August 9th (am) – Campbell

August 10th (am) – Graceville

August 11th (pm) – Herman

Possible Topics:

Ditch retrofits (Grant County)

Redpath update (Grant County)

Maintenance following ditch retrofits and clean-outs

BdSWD Permit Policies for Tile and Surface Drainage

Invite Contractor(s) to present in-field project?

Others TBD

GRANT REQUEST – WBIF #2 - \$1,064,522 – GRANT ACTIVITIES / BUDGET REQUEST

Notes: Workplan reduction estimates will be averaged across the watershed but reported as site specific. Reporting will be done to the watershed edge, priority resource point using PTMapp, or other tools.

Activity Name:	Category:	Grant \$ Requested:
Ag Filtration, Storage, and Protection Practices	AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES	\$ 111,000
Soil Health Management Practices	NON-STRUCTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES	\$ 121,800
Project Development	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	\$ 120,000
Technical Assistance & Engineering	TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE	\$ 117,000
Grant Administration and Plan Coordination	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION	\$ 24,722
Fivemile Creek Feasibility Study	PROJECT DEVELOPMENT	\$ 100,000
Ditch Retrofit BMP Construction	CONSERVATION DRAINAGE	\$ 370,000
Channel Stabilization Project Construction	STREAMBANK OR SHORELINE PROTECTION	\$ 100,000
Total Budget Request		\$1,064,522

Commented [TO1]: This is \$278 over the allocation amount.

Activity Name: Ag Filtration, Storage, and Protection Practices

eLINK Category: AGRICULTURAL PRACTICES

Grant \$ Requested: \$111,000

Activity Description: Funding will target agricultural practices within two priority planning regions - the Upper Mustinka and Five-mile Creek as identified in the plan through the use of PTMapp and best professional judgement. Priority for funding will be given to filtration, storage or protection practices within directly contributing catchments to Fivemile Creek, any 103E drainage systems or laterals, or private systems contributing runoff. Priority for structural practices in these planning regions will be evaluated periodically, and additional funding for project implementation may be allocated in other planning regions as opportunities arise.

Commented [TO2]: Activity Titles based on comment from Jamie for tighter link to plan implementation tables.

Activity Name: Soil Health Management Practices

eLINK Category: NON-STRUCTURAL MANAGEMENT PRACTICES

Grant \$ Requested: \$121,800

Activity Description: Funding will be used to enroll acres in soil health and agricultural management practices such as but not limited to tillage reduction practices, and cover crop utilization, within the Upper Mustinka and Five-mile Creek planning regions as identified in the plan through the use of PTMapp and best professional judgement. Priority for non-structural practices in these planning regions will be evaluated periodically, and additional funding for project development may be allocated in other planning regions as opportunities arise. Incentive programs will allow partners to work within their respective non-structural local policies, approved by BWSR, provided that they meet the 3-year contracting requirement of the WBIF Policy. Approximately 700 acres will be targeted within these planning regions for enrollment in cover crops, tillage management, nutrient management, MAWQCP or

other land management programs appropriate for the area. Projects will also meet a secondary benefit of working towards the 10-year altered hydrology goal for storage.

Activity Name: Project Development

eLINK Category: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Grant \$ Requested: \$120,000

Activity Description: Project development includes partner expenses such as hosting landowner meetings, conducting project mailings, staff time to identify priority projects, early coordination with permitting agencies and developing necessary agreements or contracts for project implementation. Funding will be utilized to evaluate the PTMap identified Targeted BMPs in the priority planning region for project feasibility through desktop analysis, program promotion, direct landowner outreach or other local efforts. Priority for project development in these planning regions will be evaluated periodically, and additional funding for project development may be allocated in other planning regions as opportunities arise. Project development will be focused on making 60 landowner contacts resulting in project contracting/design in 2022 and implementation in 2023 and ongoing as funds are available. Funding request for project development in FY2022-2023 take into account workload and remaining balances in prior FY2021-2023 funding requests. The current remaining funds are planned to be fully spent by the end December 2023.

Activity Name: Technical Assistance & Engineering

eLINK Category: TECHNICAL/ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE

Grant \$ Requested: \$117,000

Activity Description: Technical and engineering assistance includes expenses not limited to field survey, design, modeling, and construction observation from a licensed professional engineer or staff with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority for the specific practice. Funding may be used to hire additional, or supplement, staff or consultant to assist with survey and design work. Funding will be allocated for 40% towards PEs and/or consulted services and 60% for staff/TSAs with proper JAA authorities. Practices will be designed according to the NRCS FOTG, Blue Thumb Guide, or professional engineering standards. Funds will only be spent on eligible water quality related components of capital improvement projects.

Activity Name: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination

eLINK Category: ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION

Grant \$ Requested: \$24,722

Activity Description: The Bois de Sioux Watershed District has been appointed by the Policy Committee to act as the fiscal agent and coordinator on behalf of the partners. Funding will be utilized to meet FY22-23 WBIF Policy and other requirements of the BWSR Grants Administration Manual (GAM). Fiscal agent activities include, but are not limited to, tracking grant expenditures, processes payments on behalf of partners, assisting with grant reporting and other financial responsibilities. Coordination activities include, but are not limited to, organizing work group meetings, policy committee meetings, developing agendas, completing required reporting and other tasks associated for the implementation of grant activities as assigned in the approved operating agreement.

Activity Name: Five Mile Creek Feasibility Study

eLINK Category: PROJECT DEVELOPMENT

Commented [TO3]: Language reflects BWSR guidance.

Project development funds from SWCDs.
When estimating PD costs for SWCD, took into account the remaining funds from WBIF #1 . Not looking at this round of funding to cover the same time period, this funding request and the prior request are not going to be covering the same workload efforts. The current WBIF #1 remaining funds are planned to be fully spent by the end December 2023. This budget request for WBIF #2 is taking into account the remaining funds that will be left at the end of the #1 grant agreement. Requests for PD & TE reflect estimated remaining funding. This funding request was made cognizant of the currently available funds.

Grant \$ Requested: \$100,000

Activity Description: The Fivemile Creek Rehabilitation project is listed as a priority project within the planning region. The BdSWD will lead the effort to conduct a feasibility study within the subwatershed in order to pursue a stream rehabilitation project in collaboration with Grant County. Moore Engineering will complete a feasibility study that will incorporate outcomes of previous planning efforts, review of all data and alternatives analysis available, and result in project alternative for permitting, design and future funding.

Activity Name: Ditch Retrofit BMP Construction

eLINK Category: CONSERVATION DRAINAGE

Grant \$ Requested: \$100,000

Activity Description: The Bois De Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD) will utilize WBIF to complete multiple 103E drainage system repairs to address erosion and sedimentation issues. Funding will be used for construction of eligible water quality practices following the CWF MDM policy requirements. Priority systems for this funding request include WCD Sub-1, WCD 35 and WCD 20/25. Construction of practices is dependent on drainage proceedings and reevaluation of funding for other 103E systems may be necessary within the grant period. The BdSWD intends to pursue additional funding through CWF MDM grant program to provide a combined total up to 75% grant funding towards eligible water quality improvement practices under the MDM policy in conjunction with 103E repairs.

Activity Name: Channel Stabilization Project Construction

eLINK Category: STREAMBANK OR SHORELINE PROTECTION

Grant \$ Requested: \$100,000

Activity Description: The BdSWD will pursue activities leading to the construction of channel stabilization CIP projects identified in the planning region implementation tables. Priority for funding will be the final phase of construction for the Lake Traverse Water Quality Implementation Project. Funds may also be used for permitting, final design or construction of channel stabilization projects, including contributing upland areas, targeting priority river or stream channels as identified in the plan. These priority resources include the Mustinka River (downstream of Pine Ridge Park), Twelvemile Creek, Doran Creek, and Fivemile Creek. Priority resources can be reevaluated based on opportunities for partnering, funding, landowner petition, or other project opportunities as they arise.

LIABILITY COVERAGE – WAIVER FORM

Members who obtain liability coverage through the League of Minnesota Cities Insurance Trust (LMCIT) must complete and return this form to LMCIT before the member's effective date of coverage. Return completed form to your underwriter or email to psstech@lmc.org.

The decision to waive or not waive the statutory tort limits must be made annually by the member's governing body, in consultation with its attorney if necessary.

Members who obtain liability coverage from LMCIT must decide whether to waive the statutory tort liability limits to the extent of the coverage purchased. The decision has the following effects:

- *If the member does not waive the statutory tort limits*, an individual claimant could recover no more than \$500,000 on any claim to which the statutory tort limits apply. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would be limited to \$1,500,000. These statutory tort limits would apply regardless of whether the member purchases the optional LMCIT excess liability coverage.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and does not purchase excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could recover up to \$2,000,000 for a single occurrence (under the waive option, the tort cap liability limits are only waived to the extent of the member's liability coverage limits, and the LMCIT per occurrence limit is \$2,000,000). The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to \$2,000,000, regardless of the number of claimants.
- *If the member waives the statutory tort limits and purchases excess liability coverage*, a single claimant could potentially recover an amount up to the limit of the coverage purchased. The total all claimants could recover for a single occurrence to which the statutory tort limits apply would also be limited to the amount of coverage purchased, regardless of the number of claimants.

Claims to which the statutory municipal tort limits do not apply are not affected by this decision.

LMCIT Member Name: _____

Check one:

☒ The member **DOES NOT WAIVE** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04.

☐ The member **WAIVES** the monetary limits on municipal tort liability established by Minn. Stat. § 466.04, to the extent of the limits of the liability coverage obtained from LMCIT.

Date of member's governing body meeting: _____

Signature: _____ Position: _____

2021 - 2022

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
2021-2022 ANNUAL ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION**

BOARD OFFICERS

President..... Linda Vavra
Vice President Jason Beyer
Treasurer John Kapphahn
Secretary Allen Wold

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

Term 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2024

Delegate Linda Vavra
Alternate..... Jason Beyer

NEWSPAPERS

Traverse County..... Wheaton Gazette
Big Stone County..... The Northern Star
Grant County..... Grant County Herald
Wilkin County..... The Daily News
Otter Tail County The Daily Journal
Stevens County The Chokio Review

CONSULTANTS & DESIGNATIONS

Attorney at Law Lukas Croaker, Ohnstad Twichell
Engineer Chad Engels, Moore Engineering
Accountant Renee Kannegeisser, Morris & Associates
Auditor CliftonLarsonAllen
Drainage Ditch Inspector District Engineer Technician
Permit Officers..... District Engineers & Engineer Technician

DEPOSITORIES

Bank of the West..... Wheaton, MN
Bremer Bank Morris, MN

INSURANCE COVERAGE

League of Minnesota Cities Saint Paul, MN

COMMITTEES (appointed by the President)

**ADVISORY
BIG LAKE
BUFFER
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
DORAN CREEK
FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK
GROUP
LAKE TRAVERSE WATER QUALITY
IMPROVEMENT PROJECT
LEGISLATIVE**

**NORTH OTTAWA OPERATIONS &
MAINTENANCE
OFFICE BUILDING MAINTENANCE
PERMIT REVIEW
PERSONNEL
POLICIES & PROCEDURES
REDPATH**

2021 DISTRICT BILLABLE HOURLY RATES

	District Administrator	District Office Manager	District Engineer Tech
Salary + Benefits	\$ 40.00	\$ 21.97	\$ 47.98
Salary + Benefits + Facilities	\$ 67.04	\$ 49.00	\$ 75.02
Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.49	\$ 56.45	\$ 82.46

Historical Rates

2020 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.79	\$ 56.18	\$ 81.75
2019 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.52	\$ 55.78	\$ 80.05
2018 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 140.51	\$ -	\$ 130.30

(based on 2020 Audit and BWSR Calculator)

DISTRICT BILLABLE HOURLY RATES FOR CONTRACTED LEGAL SERVICES:

- Attendance at Meetings (attorneys) - \$150
- Specific File (attorneys) - \$200
- Specific File (paralegals) - \$125
- Mileage fees - \$100
- Bonding – flat fees

DISTRICT BILLABLE RATES FOR CONTRACTED ENGINEERING SERVICES

(on following page)

2021 - 2022

COMMITTEES (appointed by the President)

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Scott Gillespie
Steven Schmidt
Linda Vavra
Allen Wold

BIG LAKE COMMITTEE

Doug Dahlen
Allen Wold
John Kapphahn
Linda Vavra

NORTH OTTAWA PROJECT TEAM

Jason Beyer
John Kapphahn
Ben Brutlag
Linda Vavra

DORAN CREEK COMMITTEE

Jason Beyer
Linda Vavra
Jerome Deal
Ben Brutlag

OFFICE BUILDING MAINT COMMITTEE

Jerome Deal
Linda Vavra
Steven Schmidt

LAKE TRAVERSE WATER QUAL IMPR PROJ

Jerome Deal
Scott Gillespie
Steven Schmidt
Linda Vavra

PERMIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Engineer
Engineer Technician
Board Members Assigned to Respective
Areas-See Map

ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Jay Backer
Scott Bauer
Duane Duin
Dean Frisch
Doug Jahnke
Eric Klindt
Dwight Nelson
Ron Staples
Mark Summer
Vernell Wagner
John Walkup

POLICIES & PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

Jason Beyer
Scott Gillespie
Linda Vavra
Steven Schmidt

LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE

Allen Wold
Scott Gillespie
Linda Vavra
Lukas Croaker

SOIL LOSS COMMITTEE

John Kapphahn
Scott Gillespie
Linda Vavra
Allen Wold

REDPATH COMMITTEE

Allen Wold
Linda Vavra
John Kapphahn
Doug Dahlen
Lukas Croaker
Chad Engels

CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT COMMITTEE*

Jason Beyer
Ben Brutlag
Doug Dahlen
Linda Vavra

*Membership varies by project

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
2022-2023 ANNUAL ORGANIZATION RESOLUTION**

BOARD OFFICERS

President*
Vice President
Treasurer*
Secretary*

**authorized check signers; two signatures preferred when possible*

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

Term 01/01/2022 – 12/31/2024

Delegate Linda Vavra
Alternate..... Jason Beyer

NEWSPAPERS

Traverse County..... Wheaton Gazette
Big Stone County..... The Northern Star
Grant County..... Grant County Herald
Wilkin County..... The Daily News
Otter Tail County The Daily Journal
Stevens County The Chokio Review

CONSULTANTS & DESIGNATIONS

Attorney at Law Lukas Croaker, Ohnstad Twichell
Engineer Chad Engels, Moore Engineering
Accountant Renee Kannegeisser, Morris & Associates
Auditor CliftonLarsonAllen
Drainage Ditch Inspector District Engineer Technician
Permit Officers..... District Engineers & Engineer Technician

DEPOSITORIES

Bank of the West..... Wheaton, MN
Bremer Bank Morris, MN
Star Bank..... Wheaton, MN

INSURANCE COVERAGE

League of Minnesota Cities Saint Paul, MN

COMMITTEES (appointed by the President)

**ADVISORY
BIG LAKE
SOIL LOSS
CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT
DORAN CREEK
LAKE TRAVERSE WAT QUALITY IMP
LEGISLATIVE**

**NORTH OTTAWA PROJECT TEAM
OFFICE BUILDING MAINTENANCE
PERMIT REVIEW
PERSONNEL
POLICIES & PROCEDURES
REDPATH**

2022 DISTRICT BILLABLE HOURLY RATES

(approved 4/21/22)

2022 BILLING RATES

(based on 2021 Audit and BWSR Calculator)

	District Administrator	District Office Manager	District Engineer Tech
Salary + Benefits	\$ 45.00	\$ 23.95	\$ 50.88
Salary + Benefits + Facilities	\$ 73.63	\$ 52.57	\$ 79.51
Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 81.81	\$ 60.75	\$ 87.69

Historical Rates

2022 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 81.81	\$ 60.75	\$ 87.69
2021 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.49	\$ 56.45	\$ 82.46
2020 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.79	\$ 56.18	\$ 81.75
2019 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.52	\$ 55.78	\$ 80.05
2018 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 140.51	\$ -	\$ 130.30

DISTRICT BILLABLE HOURLY RATES FOR CONTRACTED LEGAL SERVICES:

- Attendance at Meetings (attorneys) - \$160
- Specific File (attorneys) - \$210
- Specific File (paralegals) - \$135
- Mileage fees - \$100
- Bonding – flat fees

DISTRICT BILLABLE RATES FOR CONTRACTED ENGINEERING SERVICES

(on following page)

MOORE ENGINEERING, INC.

2022 BILLING SCHEDULE

Effective January 1, 2022

NOTE: Rates contained in this Billing Schedule are valid until December 31, 2022. After December 31, 2022, Hourly Billing Rates will be escalated annually and direct expenses may be adjusted to meet market conditions.

	<u>Description</u>	<u>Billing Rate Per Hour</u>
1	Principal	\$195.00
2	Senior Project Manager	\$195.00
3	Senior Professional Engineer	\$190.00
4	Senior Technical Advisor	\$190.00
5	Grants and Funding Specialist	\$185.00
6	Project Manager	\$185.00
7	Professional Engineer II	\$180.00
8	Professional Engineer I	\$170.00
9	Project Coordinator	\$170.00
10	Watershed & Water Quality Coordinator	\$170.00
11	Municipal Administrative Specialist	\$160.00
12	Project Engineer	\$155.00
13	CADD Standards Coordinator	\$155.00
14	Senior Construction Engineer/Specialist	\$160.00
15	Construction Engineer/Specialist II	\$150.00
16	Construction Engineer/Specialist I	\$140.00
17	Graduate Engineer	\$140.00
18	Senior Engineering Designer	\$155.00
19	Engineering Designer II	\$140.00
20	Engineering Designer I	\$135.00
21	Environmental Scientist II	\$160.00
22	Environmental Scientist I	\$115.00
23	Environmental Technician I	\$90.00
24	Environmental Intern	\$65.00
25	Expert Witness	\$330.00
26	Project Manager Assistant	\$135.00
27	Engineering Technician III	\$125.00
28	Engineering Technician II	\$115.00
29	Engineering Technician I	\$95.00
30	CADD Technician III	\$130.00
31	CADD Technician II	\$125.00
32	CADD Technician I	\$110.00
33	Communications Manager	\$170.00
34	Communications Specialist	\$140.00
35	Marketing Manager	\$160.00
36	Marketing Specialist II	\$140.00
37	Marketing Specialist I	\$95.00
38	GIS Manager	\$170.00
39	GIS Developer	\$155.00
40	GIS Programmer III	\$145.00
41	GIS Programmer II	\$135.00
42	GIS Programmer I	\$130.00
43	GIS Technician III	\$130.00
44	GIS Technician II	\$125.00
45	GIS Technician I	\$115.00
46	Senior Land Surveyor	\$175.00
47	Land Surveyor	\$160.00
48	Survey Manager	\$145.00
49	Survey Crew Chief II	\$140.00
50	Survey Crew Chief I	\$130.00
51	Survey Technician III	\$105.00
52	Survey Technician II	\$95.00
53	Survey Technician I	\$85.00
54	Administrative Assistant	\$90.00

Travel Expenses	Project Mileage	Per current IRS rate per mile	
	Lodging	At Cost	
	Meals	At Cost	
Survey Supplies	Per Diem	\$60.00	per day
	Iron Pins	\$1.25	each
	Fence Posts	\$5.00	each
	Motorized Offroad Vehicles	\$75.00	per day
Miscellaneous	Project Expenses	At Cost	
	Sub Consultants	At Cost	

Section 8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST:

The Board of Managers hereby adopts for themselves and successor managers the following guidelines in an effort to avoid real and perceived conflicts of interest and to enhance the credibility of the Watershed's actions:

1. All managers shall comply with M.S.A. §471.87. No manager shall have a personal financial interest in any sale, lease or contract entered into by the Board.
2. Disclosure. At the beginning of the discussion on any subject, all managers shall disclose any potential conflict of interest and/or direct pecuniary interest they may have. Examples of matters which should be disclosed by the managers include:
 - (a) They own land which may be assessed.
 - (b) They own land which may benefit or be damaged other than by a direct tax.
 - (c) They have close relatives who have lands as described in (a) and (b) above.
 - (d) They have close friends or business associates who have lands as described in (a) and (b) above.
 - (e) They are a public officer, such as a township officer, which has potential interest or that may be affected by said project.
3. All managers shall abstain from voting on any resolution that involves a direct pecuniary interest.
4. Each manager shall use his own judgment in other situations and when in doubt should abstain from voting.
5. To avoid the appearance of wrongdoing, it is suggested that a manager should remove himself from the Manager's chair and sit in the audience when he wishes to participate in a public discussion, particularly a public meeting on subjects where he may have a direct conflict of interest.
6. To the extent applicable, the Watershed staff is instructed to follow the above guidelines.



Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Conflict of Interest

As referenced in the Minnesota Department of Administrations Office of Grants Management's Policy 08-01, a conflict of interest, actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when a person has actual or apparent duty or loyalty to more than one organization and the competing duties or loyalties may result in actions which are adverse to one or both parties. A conflict of interest exists even if no unethical, improper or illegal act results from it.

Actual Conflict of Interest

An actual conflict of interest occurs when a decision or action would compromise a duty to a party without taking immediate appropriate action to eliminate the conflict. Examples included but not limited to:

- One party uses his or her position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the other party's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence.
- One party receives or accepts money (or anything else of value) from another party or has equity or a financial interest in or partial or whole ownership of the other party's organization.
- One party is an employee, board member or family member of the other party.

Potential Conflict of Interest

A potential conflict of interest may exist if one party has a relationship, affiliation, or other interest that could create an inappropriate influence if the person is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. Examples included but not limited to:

- One party has a relationship, affiliation, or other interest that could create an inappropriate influence if one party is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. For example, when one party serves in a volunteer capacity for another party, it has the potential to, but does not necessarily create a conflict of interest, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two parties.

A disclosed potential conflict of interest warrants additional discussion in order to identify the nature of the relationship, affiliation, or other interest and take action to mitigate any potential conflicts.

Perceived Conflict of Interest

A perceived conflict of interest is any situation in which a reasonable third party would conclude that conflicting duties or loyalties exist.

A disclosed perceived conflict of interest warrants additional discussion in order to identify the nature of the relationship, affiliation, or other interest and take action to mitigate any potential conflict

Individual Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest that may benefit an individual employee where actions or non-action could be interpreted to be influenced by something that would benefit them directly or through indirect gain to a friend, relative, acquaintance or business or organization with which they are involved.

An employee uses his/her status or position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the grantee or grant applicant's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence

Revised June, 2019

Organizational Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest can also occur with an organization that is a grant applicant or grantee of a state agency. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the State due to competing duties or loyalties
- A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties
- A grantee creates an unfair competitive advantage in hiring for professional services or purchasing supplies or equipment by furnishing unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors and create a path to one or a few.

This section to be completed by Grantee's Authorized Representative:

I certify that we will maintain an adequate Conflict of Interest Policy, and throughout the term of our agreement will report any actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interests by individual employees or are organization as a whole to the State's Authorized Representative.

Organization Name: Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Project Name: Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project
Phase 3

Grant Program: CPL FY22

Authorized Representative Name: Linda Vavra

Signature: 

Date: 5-19-22



ENRTF/OHF Pass-Through Grant Agreement Attachment C: Conflict of Interest Disclosure

Conflict of Interest:

As referenced in the Minnesota Department of Administrations Office of Grants Management's Policy 08-01, a conflict of interest, actual, potential, or perceived, occurs when a person has actual or apparent duty or loyalty to more than one organization and the competing duties or loyalties may result in actions which are adverse to one or both parties. A conflict of interest exists even if no unethical, improper or illegal act results from it.

Actual Conflict of Interest:

An actual conflict of interest occurs when a decision or action would compromise a duty to a party without taking immediate appropriate action to eliminate the conflict. Examples included but not limited to:

- One party uses his or her position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the other party's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence.
- One party receives or accepts money (or anything else of value) from another party or has equity or a financial interest in or partial or whole ownership of the other party's organization.
- One party is an employee, board member or family member of the other party.

Potential Conflict of Interest:

A potential conflict of interest may exist if one party has a relationship, affiliation, or other interest that could create an inappropriate influence if the person is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. Examples included but not limited to:

- One party has a relationship, affiliation, or other interest that could create an inappropriate influence if one party is called on to make a decision or recommendation that would affect one or more of those relationships, affiliations, or interests. For example, when one party serves in a volunteer capacity for another party, it has the potential to, but does not necessarily create a conflict of interest, depending on the nature of the relationship between the two parties.

A disclosed potential conflict of interest warrants additional discussion in order to identify the nature of the relationship, affiliation, or other interest and take action to mitigate any potential conflicts.

Perceived Conflict of Interest:

A perceived conflict of interest is any situation in which a reasonable third party would conclude that conflicting duties or loyalties exist.

A disclosed perceived conflict of interest warrants additional discussion in order to identify the nature of the relationship, affiliation, or other interest and take action to mitigate any potential conflicts.

Individual Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest that may benefit an individual employee where actions or non-action could be interpreted to be influenced by something that would benefit them directly or through indirect gain to a friend, relative, acquaintance or business or organization with which they are involved.

A employee uses his/her status or position to obtain special advantage, benefit, or access to the grantee or grant applicant's time, services, facilities, equipment, supplies, badge, uniform, prestige, or influence

Organizational Conflict of Interest:

A conflict of interest can also occur with an organization that is a grant applicant or grantee of a state agency. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice to the State due to competing duties or loyalties
- A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties
- A grantee creates an unfair competitive advantage in hiring for professional services or purchasing supplies or equipment by furnishing unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors and create a path to one or a few.

This section to be completed by Grantee's Authorized Representative:

I certify that we will maintain an adequate Conflict of Interest Policy, and throughout the term of our agreement will report any actual, potential and perceived conflicts of interests by individual employees or are organization as a whole to the State's Authorized Representative.

Authorized Representative Signature. _____

Shirley L. Davis

Meeting Minutes
Bois de Sioux & Mustinka Joint Comprehensive Watershed Plan
Policy Committee
June 2, 2022 at 1:00 pm
IN PERSON

Member Organizations

Big Stone County
 Big Stone SWCD
 Grant County
 Grant SWCD
 Otter Tail County
 West Otter Tail SWCD
 Stevens County
 Stevens SWCD
 Traverse County
 Traverse SWCD
 Wilkin County
 Wilkin SWCD
 Bois de Sioux Watershed

Committee Representative

Commissioner Jay Backer **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Dan Morrill **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Bill LaValley
 Supervisor Randy Larson
 Commissioner Kurt Mortenson
 Supervisor John Walkup **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Ron Staples **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Greg Fynboh
 Commissioner Dwight Nelson
 Supervisor Chester Raguse **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Eric Klindt
 Supervisor Kyle Gowin
 Manager Linda Vavra

Designated Alternate

Supervisor Lon Moen **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Doyle Sperr **[Absent]**
 TBD
 Com. Lee Rogness **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Wayne Rotz **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Neil Wiese **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Debbie Anderson **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Kayla Schmidt **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Doug Frisch **[Absent]**
 Commissioner Dennis Larson **[Absent]**
 Supervisor Josh Deal **[Absent]**
 Manager Allen Wold **[Absent]**

Also Present

Pete Waller, BWSR
 Jamie Beyer, BdSWD

1. Call to order. Approval of Agenda and Minutes.

LaValley motioned, seconded by Klindt and carried unanimously, to approve the agenda and April 7, 2022 minutes.

2. Elections

Klindt motioned, seconded by Fynboh and carried unanimously, to re-elect the current slate of officers (Staples Chair; Larson Vice Chair; Backer Secretary, Vavra Treasurer) and designate BdSWD administrator to act as responsible clerk.

3. Update on Implementation WBIF #1 Grant & Work Activities

Budget, expense, and disbursements were presented.

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS
Budget & Expense Report
2021 - 2023

WBIF GRANT ACTIVITY	SOURCE	GRANT BUDGET	SUM OF REQUESTS	SUM OF ACTUAL		REQUESTS + ACTUAL	REQUIRED MATCH	BUDGET REMAINING
				EXPENDITURES PAID TO DATE				
Agricultural Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$105,000.00	\$ 6,421.35	\$ -	\$ 6,421.35	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98,578.65
BMP Construction (JD #6)	WBIF State Grant	\$148,000.00	\$ -	\$ 148,000.00	\$ 148,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Project Development (Doran Creek)	WBIF State Grant	\$115,000.00	\$ -	\$ 115,000.00	\$ 115,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Administration/Coordination*	WBIF State Grant	\$25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,853.68	\$ 7,853.68	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 17,146.32
Non-Structural Management Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$100,000.00	\$ 21,888.00	\$ 25,671.95	\$ 47,559.95	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,440.05
Progress Tracking and Evaluation	WBIF State Grant	\$10,000.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 2,780.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 7,220.00
Project Development	WBIF State Grant	\$194,000.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 44,673.77	\$ 46,533.77	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 147,466.23
Project Installation/Const. (LTWQIP)	WBIF State Grant	\$325,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 325,000.00
Project Installation/Const. (LTWQIP Cost Share)	Local Fund Match	\$106,452.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 106,452.00	\$ -	\$ -
Technical/Engineering	WBIF State Grant	\$41,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,908.48	\$ 4,908.48	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 36,091.52
Well Sealing	WBIF State Grant	\$1,522.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 722.00
TOTAL		\$ 1,170,974.00	\$ 32,069.35	\$ 347,787.88	\$ 379,857.23	\$ 106,452.00	\$ -	\$ 684,664.77

4. WBIF #2 Grant Application & Workplan

Beyer presented the draft grant narrative and budget. The WBIF #1 grant funds were targeted to the Rabbit River Planning Region and the Bois de Sioux & Lake Traverse Planning Region. The WBIF #2 grant funds will target the Upper Mustinka Planning Region and the Fivemile and Twelvemile Creek Planning Region. \$100,000 will be utilized to initiate a Fivemile Feasibility Study, and \$100,000 will be applied to the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 Phase #3 – or another channel stabilization project, if Phase 3 is sufficiently funded. All SWCD project funds were allocated to individual LGU's. Vavra motioned, seconded by Klindt and carried unanimously, to submit the request to BWSR for WBIF #2 Grant.

5. Update on 10-Year Plan Update for Boundary Revision

LaValley motioned, seconded by Klindt and carried unanimously, that the boundary revision prologue be added to the plan, with Waller's recommended statement that the next time the plan is formally changed, the plan will be based on the updated boundary.

6. Project Presentation

Participants discussed the FEMA Floodplain update process that occurred in 2019 in Wilkin County, is currently underway in Stevens County, and is upcoming in Traverse, Grant, and Otter Tail Counties. Property added to the FEMA floodplains will no longer qualify for government loans (for eg, agricultural programs offered through FSA). Stevens County requires official surveys for projects proposed in floodplains, adding to project costs. Klindt stated that FEMA has yet to certify the Breckenridge ring dike, and this delay means that landowner with mortgages must continue to pay for flood insurance in the mean time.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD SEPTEMBER 1st AT 1 PM

Meeting Minutes
Bois de Sioux & Mustinka Joint Comprehensive Watershed Plan
Steering Committee Member Notes
06/02/2022 at 9:00 am
by conference call and screenshare and in-person

Member Organizations

Big Stone County
 Big Stone SWCD
 Grant County
 Grant SWCD
 West Otter Tail SWCD
 Otter Tail County
 Stevens County
 Stevens SWCD
 Traverse County
 Traverse SWCD
 Wilkin County
 Wilkin SWCD
 Bois de Sioux Watershed

BWSR
 Moore Engineering
 Grant SWCD

Committee Representative

Danny Tuckett
 Tammy Neubauer [Absent]
 Greg Lillemon
 Jared House [Absent]
 Brad Mergens
 Kyle Westergard [Absent]
 Bill Kleindl
 Matt Solemsaas [Absent]
 Lynn Siegel [Absent]
 Sara Gronfeld
 Breanna Koval
 Craig Lingen
 Jamie Beyer

Pete Waller
 Tara Ostendorf
 Brent Gulbrandson

Designated Alternate

Darren Wilke [Absent]

 Reed Peterson [Absent]
 Don Bajumpaa

 Bruce Johnson [Absent]
 Brock Pearson [Absent]

 Linda Vavra

Approve Minutes: Lingen motioned, seconded by Mergens and carried unanimously, to approve the May 5, 2022 minutes.

2021-2023 Grant Budget & Expense Reports: The group reviewed the current budget and expenses.

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS
Budget & Expense Report
2021 - 2023

WBIF GRANT ACTIVITY	SOURCE	GRANT BUDGET	SUM OF REQUESTS	SUM OF ACTUAL			REQUIRED MATCH
				EXPENDITURES PAID TO DATE	REQUESTS + ACTUAL		
Agricultural Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$105,000.00	\$ 24,263.35	\$ -	\$24,263.35	\$ -	-
BMP Construction (JD #6)	WBIF State Grant	\$148,000.00	\$ -	\$ 148,000.00	\$148,000.00	\$ -	-
Project Development (Doran Creek)	WBIF State Grant	\$115,000.00	\$ -	\$ 115,000.00	\$115,000.00	\$ -	-
Administration/Coordination*	WBIF State Grant	\$25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 7,853.68	\$ 7,853.68	\$ -	-
Non-Structural Management Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$100,000.00	\$ 21,888.00	\$ 25,671.95	\$47,559.95	\$ -	-
Progress Tracking and Evaluation	WBIF State Grant	\$10,000.00	\$ 1,900.00	\$ 880.00	\$ 2,780.00	\$ -	-
Project Development	WBIF State Grant	\$194,000.00	\$ 1,860.00	\$ 44,673.77	\$46,533.77	\$ -	-
Project Installation/Const. (LTWQIP)	WBIF State Grant	\$325,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	-
Project Installation/Const. (LTWQIP Cost Share)	Local Fund Match	\$106,452.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$106,452.00	-
Technical/Engineering	WBIF State Grant	\$41,000.00	\$ -	\$ 4,908.48	\$ 4,908.48	\$ -	-
Well Sealing	WBIF State Grant	\$1,522.00	\$ -	\$ 800.00	\$ 800.00	\$ -	-
TOTAL		\$ 1,170,974.00	\$ 49,911.35	\$ 347,787.88	\$397,699.23	\$106,452.00	

2021 – 2023 Milestones & LGU Project Updates: Grant SWCD has identified a \$140,000 project to install 20 sediment basins for one landowner. An EQIP application is being prepared, and design work is not finished. Wilkin SWCD has its non-structural contracts in place. West Otter Tail SWCD reports that they have a contractor on site working on a structural practice. In response to recent flooding, they have put information on their website of how the SWCD can assist landowners with flood damage. Traverse SWCD has its non-structural contracts under contract is conducting erosion damage site visits. BdSWD will request a 18-month grant reconciliation from BWSR. A funding strategy has been drafted for Doran Creek, dividing the project into phases. A landowner meeting will be held this summer. JD #6 and LTWQIP Phase No. 1 Phase #2 will likely be closed in August.

Old Business – WBIF #1 Budget Changes: Grant SWCD will not utilize \$13,000 in its #5 Non-Structural Practices and has requested to move it to #1 Ag Practices. The goal to seal two wells has been met, and \$722 is requested to be moved from #11 Well Sealing to #1 Ag Practices. Lingen motioned, seconded by Beyer and carried unanimously, to make the requested budget changes.

On May 22, 2022, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District approved a request to shift up to \$325,000 allocated to Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 Phase #2 to the final Phase #3. The final amount is dependent upon consideration from the Red River Watershed Management Board, who is also a funding partner and imposes cost share percentage limitations. Upon motion by Lingen, seconded by Tuckett and carried unanimously, the request was approved and will be presented to the Policy Committee.

Old Business – WBIF #2 Workplan: Ostendorf presented the working budget for WBIF #2 and draft grant narrative. Participants recommended a soil health goal of 700 acres and a goal of 60 landowner contacts under project development. Waller suggested adding the fiscal year to the activity name, and that the active fiscal agent contract be submitted with the grant narrative. Compared to the WBIF #1 Workplan, the WBIF #2 Workplan activity names were written to relate more directly to the JCWMP 10-Year Plan activities. WBIF #2 Grant narrative activity descriptions are broader project-wise, and are more specific action-wise. This approach should result in increased flexibility because project types are described instead of limiting the grant to one specific project (several multipurpose drainage management projects are described instead of one, individual drainage system). Using specific actions in the grant narrative will clarify for LGUs what specific actions are grant eligible (for eg, hosting landowner meetings, conducting project mailings, staff time to identify priority projects, early coordination with permitting agencies and developing necessary agreements or contracts for project implementation). Gulbrandson asked if SWCD project grant funds were available on a first-come, first-served basis; for SWCD projects, WBIF #2 funds were allocated between the 6 partners; there are no unallocated funds. All partners are encouraged to notify the group if there are grant funds that they believe will not be utilized, so that other LGU's can consider utilization. Lillemon motioned, seconded by Lingen and carried unanimously, to approve the WBIF #2 narrative and budget request. Both will be presented to the Policy Committee for their approval.

Boundary Change: Beyer thanked the group for offering workarounds to the Traverse County's initial request to have all parcels surveyed – they were able to enter the new parcels into their computer systems without surveys. The Prologue text will be presented to the Policy Committee for their approval.

New Business: Tuckett motioned, seconded by Lingen and carried unanimously to approve the following officers: Gronfeld as Chair, House as Vice Chair, Solemsaas as Secretary and proof minutes (Beyer offered to write minutes).

Project Presentation: FEMA recently held a public hearing for changes proposed to the Stevens County map. For landowners, inclusion of their property on the FEMA Flood map may require them to purchase ongoing flood insurance, and may limit or completely prevent any development of the affected land (for eg, prevent the construction of a shed or shop). Moore Engineering has been engaged by Stevens County to product a hydrologic study in response to FEMA's proposed maps. Lillemon stated that Grant, Traverse, and Otter Tail Counties may be targeted next for FEMA updates. Koval added that FEMA has not finished responding to appeals filed by Wilkin County in 2019. Stevens County recommended that any county that receives updated FEMA maps contact landowners for land being added, and

strongly encourage landowners to provide information on where they feel the flood risks are on their properties – FEMA did not do an adequate job of notifying landowners, and comment periods were missed.

Lingen motioned, seconded by Lillemon and carried unanimously, to adjourn the meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 7TH AT 9 AM.

DRAFT

Meeting Agenda
Bois de Sioux Watershed
North Ottawa Project Team Meeting
June 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: NORTH OTTAWA IMPOUNDMENT GAZEBO

Project Team Members

SWCD Representative	Randy Larson	
Landowners	Dominic Blume	Jordan Schneeberger
County Commissioners	Eric Klindt	Bill LaValley
DNR Representatives	Nick Brown	Christine Herwig
Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board Managers	Ben Brutlag	John Kapphahn

CC:

Theresa Ebbenga, DNR Regional Director
Linda Vavra, BdSWD Board President and Alternate
Jason Beyer, BdSWD Board Manager and Alternate
Troy Fridgen, BdSWD Engineer Technician
Jamie Beyer, BdSWD Administrator

1. Introductions
2. Brief History of North Ottawa (Ebbenga & Vavra)
3. Policies
 - 10-Year Operations and Maintenance Agreement
 - Project Team Duties
 - Budget
 - Typical Calendar/Decision Cycle
4. Project Team Impoundment Experiences, Interests, Background & Next Meeting

MINUTES OF SPECIAL VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
MARCH 16, 2022

The Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) held a virtual / conference call meeting on March 16, 2022, at 10:00 a.m.

Participating were John Finney, Gary Thompson, Greg Holmvik, Rodger Olson and Bill Petersen, Board members; Theresa Ebbenga and Stacy Lundberg (for Ted Preister), non-voting members; Keith Weston, Executive Director; Carol Harbeke Lewis, Secretary-Treasurer; Nina Stone, Accountant; Melissa Maertens, Administrative Assistant; Mary Podoll, Christi Fischer and Rita Harmsen-Sveen, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS); Rob Sip, Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB); Zach Herrmann, Houston Engineering, Inc.; Pat Downs, Moore Engineering, Inc.; Morrie Lanning, Barr Engineering Co.; and William A. Hejl, Rush River Water Resource District. Board member Ben Varnson and non-voting member Pat Fridgen were absent.

John Finney called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

Agenda

It was moved by Bill Petersen, seconded by Gary Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the order of the agenda.

Minutes

It was moved by Gary Thompson, seconded by Rodger Olson and unanimously carried to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2021, meeting.

Financial Report

It was moved by Bill Petersen, seconded by Rodger Olson and unanimously carried to approve the Financial Report, as presented.

Bills

It was moved by Gary Thompson and seconded by Greg Holmvik to approve Check #1591 and the wire transfers, as presented. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

NRCS report

Rita Harmsen-Sveen reported on the status of the 6 active RCPP Watershed Plans in North Dakota. The Upper Maple River Watershed Plan is requesting an exception to the benefit-cost ratio for the Plan and the RRRA will be asked to provide a letter of support to accompany the request. The Rush River Watershed Plan has been sent to the Chief at

the National Watershed Management Center for authorization and Moore Engineering, Inc. is currently working on the project design that is due in September 2022. The North Branch Park River Watershed Plan and Tongue River Watershed Plan are being revised based on comments received. The Shortfoot Creek Watershed Plan and the North Branch Antelope Watershed Plan are currently working on maximizing environmental benefits.

Keith Weston reported Cassie Ahmed has changed positions within the NRCS and her office is now located in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota. Ms. Ahmed will remain a point of contact for NRCS questions or needs in the Red River Basin. The NRCS Minnesota Assistant State Conservationist – Field Operations will also be located in Detroit Lakes, Minnesota.

Outreach – public service ads and announcements

Mr. Weston discussed a proposal from Midwest Radio & Digital of Fargo-Moorhead for continued commercials to highlight RRRRA topics and retention projects in the Red River Basin. Discussion was held on how to reach the northern Red River Basin through radio. Mr. Weston indicated there is an option to participate in various live and pre-recorded shows that are broadcasted further north in the Red River Basin. Mr. Weston stated the radio commercials have been a great outreach opportunity thus far.

A motion was made by Rodger Olson and seconded by Bill Petersen to approve and authorize Co-Chair Gary Thompson to sign the Midwest Radio & Digital of Fargo-Moorhead proposal for radio commercials, and to authorize Mr. Weston to locate an additional radio station in the northern area of the Red River Basin to highlight RRRRA topics and retention projects in the Basin. Upon roll call vote, the motion carried unanimously.

Outreach – RRRRA 2022 Retention Project Priorities List legislative mailing

Mr. Weston reported the 2022 Retention Project Priorities List was recently sent to Minnesota and North Dakota legislators for their information. A few legislators have responded to the information thus far.

National Watershed Coalition

Keith Weston stated the RRRRA is a member of the National Watershed Coalition and he is planning to reach out to the Coalition to update them on the activities of the RRRRA.

Office space

Mr. Weston reported the Cass County Administrator recently inquired if the RRRRA is interested in office space as part of the proposed remodel and potential expansion at the Cass County Highway Department. The Board discussed the matter and indicated they are not interested in relocating the office at this time; however, if other water-related groups such as the NDDWR Red River Office, RRBC or IWI co-locate within Cass County offices, the RRRRA will revisit the topic.

Federal talking points

Mr. Weston stated a federal talking points paper was developed to assist in discussions with legislators and federal partners regarding the RRRRA. The document will be distributed to the Board.

Legislative committee

Discussion was held on the RRRRA potentially forming a committee to discuss legislative involvement of the RRRRA. The Board directed Gary Thompson, John Finney, Keith Weston, Randy Gjestvang and Rob Sip to further discuss the matter.

RRWMB legislative and project update

Rob Sip briefly discussed the upcoming RRWMB and Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup 23rd Annual Joint Conference that will be held March 22 and 23 in Moorhead, Minnesota. The conference will be an in-person event and everyone is invited to attend. Mr. Sip also reported on legislative updates in Minnesota regarding flood damage reduction, retention and drainage projects. The RRWMB remains focused on securing funding for current and upcoming projects the RRWMB has invested in.

Agency and partner reports

Theresa Ebbenga reported the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) will be presenting at the RRWMB and Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup Joint Conference. Ms. Ebbenga also reported on MDNR updates including ongoing work on flooding, potential drought conditions and the beginning of fire season in Minnesota. The MDNR also continues to work on the Metro Flood Diversion Project.

Meeting schedule

The next RRRRA meeting is scheduled for June 15, 2022, at 9:00 a.m. at the RRWMB office in Ada, Minnesota.

Adjournment

There being no further business to be considered by the Board, the meeting adjourned without objection.

APPROVED:

Gary Thompson
Co-Chair

John Finney
Co-Chair

ATTEST:

Carol Harbeke Lewis
Secretary-Treasurer



RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY

1120 28th Avenue North, Suite B, Fargo, ND 58102 Phone: 701-356-6644

**RED RIVER RETENTION AUTHORITY
VIRTUAL / CONFERENCE CALL MEETING
ORIGINATING AT THE CASS COUNTY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT
1201 MAIN AVENUE WEST, WEST FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA
AND ON LOCATION AT THE RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD OFFICE
11 5TH AVENUE EAST, SUITE B, ADA, MINNESOTA
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022
9:00 A.M.**

This will be a virtual / conference call meeting. Members of the public may participate by Microsoft Teams or by telephone. The information to do so is provided at the end of this agenda. If you wish to attend in person, the RRRA will have a speakerphone or computer available to view or participate in the meeting at both locations listed above.

1. Call to order - note participants
2. Approval of agenda
3. Minutes – March 16, 2022
4. Administrative items
 - a. Financial Report
 - b. Bills
 - c. 2021 Audit
 - d. 2023 Budget
5. NRCS report
 - a. Watershed and flood prevention operations update (Fisher and Ahmed)
6. Executive Director Report
 - a. Midwest Radio & Digital of Fargo-Moorhead and KTFR radio commercials
 - b. Cass County facility remodel / expansion
 - c. Strategic Plan – Legislative Committee
7. 2022 Red River Basin August tour (decision)
8. Minnesota and North Dakota state funding needs – Keith Weston
9. RRWMB legislative update – Rob Sip
10. Agency and partner reports (MDNR, NDDWR, RRBC, other)
11. Next meeting – September 14, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. – virtual / in person, Cass County Highway Department, 1201 Main Avenue West, West Fargo, North Dakota

Below are 2 options to join the virtual / conference call Teams meeting. Please choose the option that fits best for you.

To join the meeting via video on your computer or mobile app, click the following link (Ctrl + Click may be needed to follow the link):

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

To join the meeting via audio only:

[1-701-526-4298](#)

Phone Conference ID: **165 201 233#**

Please contact us at wrd@casscountynd.gov or 701-298-2381 if you have any questions or if you encounter issues joining the meeting.

People with disabilities who plan to participate in the meeting and require special arrangements should contact the Red River Retention Authority at (701) 356-6644 or (701) 298-2381.

[View as Webpage](#)

Monday, May 23, 2022

AMC's Government Relations Team



Regular Session Ends With a Possibility of a Brief Special Session to Finish Work

The Legislature ground to a halt at midnight on Sunday with legislative leaders unable to make progress on an assortment of closed and open-ended deals—aside from a couple of “escape pods” that included a deal on agriculture/broadband/disaster relief funding and a small omnibus on mental health provisions (both AMC-supported!).

Leadership on both sides expressed disappointment and frustration with some calling out a broken process while others lamented a lack of leadership. Moments after session's close, Gov. Tim Walz addressed press stating that he was open to calling a short special session because



GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Matt Hilgart

Government Relations Manager



ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

Brian Martinson



HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Child Wellbeing

Angie Thies



Human Services

Matt Freeman

Minnesota Association of County Social Service Administrators (MACSSA) Director



Public Health

Kari Oldfield

Local Public Health Association of Minnesota (LPHA) Director



PUBLIC SAFETY

Carli Stark

Minnesota Association of Community Corrections Act Counties (MACCAC) Director

job. At the same time, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller inferred that he was not interested in a special session and that things would have to be settled next year. At the same time, Leader Miller went on to say, "Never say never."

Casualties from a lack of legislative action include a historic \$4 billion tax agreement, an unfinished bonding bill, and several omnibus budget bills with several county-related priorities and provisions. It remains to be seen if or when the governor will call a Special Session to resurrect unfinished negotiations/bills.

Legislators from both chambers will gavel in later today to listen to retiring speeches but cannot act on any bills.

There Is Still Time to Register and Join Us TODAY!

End-of-Session Virtual Legislative Update

Monday, May 23, 2022

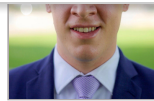
1:00 – 3:00 p.m.

[Via Zoom](#)

AMC's Government Relations Team will be hosting an [end-of-session webinar](#) for members. This webinar will provide an opportunity to review end-of-session outcomes and take questions from members on county priorities.

Please [register in advance](#) to join us on Monday, May 23, at 1:00 p.m.. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

We are looking forward to seeing you (virtually) this afternoon!



TRANSPORTATION & INFRASTRUCTURE
[Emily Murray](#)



WORKFORCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & HOUSING
[Jeanna Fortney](#)

Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards (MAWB)
Director

In This Issue... [Taxes](#)

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[Broadband Update](#)

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[Public Health Provisions in HHS Omnibus Negotiations](#)

[Transportation](#)

[Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund \(ENRTF\) Passes](#)

[Bonding](#)

[Economic and Workforce Development Updates](#)

[State Government/Elections](#)

[Agriculture, Drought/Disaster Relief Passes](#)

[Pensions](#)

[Human Services Provisions at the End of 2022 Session](#)



Tax conferees meet in Capitol Room 15 Sunday night.

Taxes

Senate Tax Chair Carla Nelson and House counterpart Rep. Paul Marquart held a [press conference](#) Saturday afternoon to announce an omnibus tax bill that provides close to \$4 billion in an assortment of tax relief, aids, and credits. The proposal included top AMC priorities surrounding County Program Aid, Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILT), and SWMT/SCORE funding. The bill also included a county-administered rental assistance program as well as \$6 million in new SWCD funding. Outside county provisions, the omnibus bill spent a significant amount of its target on the elimination of income tax on social security benefits, a reduction of the lowest income tax tier bracket (from 5.35% to 5.1%), and a significant strengthening of the renter credit program. There are several property tax relief mechanisms incorporated surrounding expansion of the homestead exclusion, targeted property tax refund program, senior property tax deferral program and more. Also included in property tax provisions were several new property tax rate reductions, exemptions, and exclusions related to energy storage systems, 4d (affordable rental units), class 1c ("ma and pa resorts"), and affordable housing. The bill had been labeled one of the largest tax bills (and "tax cuts" bill) in Minnesota State history, with Senator Tom Bakk stating that he "hasn't seen anything this big" during his tenure at the capitol.

Tax Bill Overview:

- \$30 million/year increase in CPA ([see draft CPA runs here](#)).
- \$9.2 million year increase and policy changes to PILT.
- 3% increase in SWMT general fund dedication to SCORE.
- \$6 million new SWCD funding.
- \$20 million county-administered rental assistance program.
- New property tax exemptions on energy storage systems.
- Reduced property tax rates on 4d (.25%).

dererral programs.

- AMC-supported child protection cost study.
- [See Tax spreadsheet.](#)

-[Matt Hilgart](#)

Public Safety Update

The week started with a hearing featuring discussion on community supervision funding and the formula that is being proposed through the Justice Reinvestment Initiative. Roseau County Commissioner and AMC Public Safety Chair Jackson Swanson testified on his participation on the working group and how the proposal will help all counties across the state regardless of delivery system. Scott County Commissioner Barb Weckman Brekke testified about how the current funding structure and lack of regular increases in funding have negatively impacted Scott County. Otter Tail County Commissioner Kurt Mortenson testified about the importance of community supervision as part of the legislative public safety solution. Later in the hearing, there were many questions from both chairs and acknowledgement that a new formula is necessary. To watch a recording of the hearing, [please visit this link.](#)

The Senate called a hearing the next day and took testimony. Throughout the week tensions grew as the House called for votes on certain provisions and the Senate did not show up to those hearings. The Senate asked for a global offer from the House and did not show up to hear the offer when it did not include a spreadsheet that aligned with the budget target set by agreement of the leadership in both bodies.

The [last public offer from the Senate](#) was consistent with its bill, short a few provisions, and included \$24.75 million for community supervision. There were agreements on surreptitious intrusion policies and some domestic violence related provisions. The [House's last public offer](#) included \$25 million for community supervision, but removed the change in the funding formula and did not remove the provisions prohibiting supervision fees and holding back funds for probation sentences revoked to prison. The Senate offer was made on Tuesday and the House offer was on Thursday. Though there have been rumors around the Capitol about additional offers going back and forth, the details have been sparse and none have been publicly shared.

Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller gave a statement on the floor Saturday night that an agreement had not been reached in public safety, the House offer included spending above the negotiated agreement, and the Senate was firm on their position of funding for new law enforcement officers.

As of late Sunday, it did not appear a public safety agreement would be possible unless leadership agreed on something by midnight or the governor agreed to a special session.

- [Carli Stark](#)

Housing Updates

A housing bill was not passed this session and a conference committee report never came to fruition. The conference committee met once to discuss housing and noted their divergent approaches to the state's housing issues. The Senate's bill focused on building new homes while the House's funded programs along the entire housing continuum, such as homeless prevention, preserving existing housing, and developing affordable housing. The two bills were also \$179 million apart in funding, with the House at \$229 million and the Senate at \$50 million. Housing received a \$50 million target from leadership last week, but negotiations did not bring about a resolution. AMC advocated for investments in

The Health and Human Services policy bill (HF4065), which was successfully passed, includes some provisions which are helpful to homelessness programming, including codifying funding for youth shelter improvement grants. – [Jeanna Fortney](#)

Broadband Update

The Legislature approved \$210 million for broadband expansion as part of the Drought Relief, Agriculture, and Broadband Omnibus Bill ([HF3420](#)). Members of the House and Senate appointed to the conference committee negotiated a compromise on a mix of state and federal funds, with most funding allocated to the state's Border-to-Border Broadband Grant Program.

- \$50 million general fund for Border-to-Border (\$25 million in FY23 and \$25 million in FY24).
- \$60.7 million ARPA Capital Projects Fund (must be spent by 2026):
 - Up to \$30 million for a low-density pilot program:
 - Increased state match to 75% and grant cap to \$10 million.
 - Report back to the Legislature by 12/31/2023 on impact of match and cap changes.
 - Up to \$15 million for state broadband mapping.
 - Up to \$15 million for a line extension pilot program.
 - Any unused funds for the above three categories revert to the Border-to-Border fund.
- \$50 million ARPA Capital Projects Fund left unallocated by the Legislature for the governor to spend within the bounds of Treasury guidelines.
- Ensures all funds the state receives from the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (\$100 million+) will be deposited in the Border-to-Border Grant Program for future infrastructure grants.

The conference committee wrapped up their report on Saturday and the House promptly passed the legislation a few hours later, 69-64. The Senate took up the bill on Sunday and passed it 66-1. The bill heads to Gov. Walz for his signature. The general fund appropriation means the Office of Broadband Development will issue an RFP for infrastructure grants as soon as possible, with the intention of getting some projects completed during the 2022 construction season. The additional general fund and federal money brings long-term stability to a popular program that has been hampered by intermittent funding since its inception. – [Nathan Zacharias](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Omnibus Bill Fails to Cross the Finish Line

The Environment and Natural Resources Conference Committee was challenged at the outset. The Senate version spent \$1.47 million this biennium and \$980,000 in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, while the House version spent \$240 million this biennium and \$35 million in fiscal years 2024 and 2025. The policy provisions also stood in stark contrast to each other by including numerous provisions that each had rejected in previous sessions.

The discussions hit an impasse on appropriations after the two sides agreed to adopt a variety of noncontroversial policy items, largely over a request from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) for an operating budget increase.

An agreement on spending at the committee's target of \$10 million this biennium and \$10 million next biennium came together Sunday night. The spending in that agreement would have appropriated funds for a few county items, including:

- An increase to county SCORE grants of \$700,000 per year.

wetland Replacement Program.

- \$876,000 this biennium with \$765,000 per year going forward to repay funds transferred from the Metropolitan Landfill Contingency Action Trust (MLCAT).

Although the conference committee reconvened around 11:40 p.m. Sunday to approve the conference committee report, there was not enough time to act in either body, leaving the bill undone. – [Brian Martinson](#)

Public Health Provisions in HHS Omnibus Negotiations

Over the past week, the conference committee for [SF 4410](#) met mostly behind closed doors, with a few public meetings throughout the week. Some offers between House and Senate conferees were exchanged publicly while others were not released. An early Senate offer, shared on Tuesday, largely focused on funding to relieve [12](#) the workforce crisis in caring professions including long-term care and group home settings. It included few provisions related to MDH. On Wednesday morning, the House provided a counteroffer to the Senate. That offer combined the public health system transformation language which was for approximately \$23.5 million/year and the bill which funds Public Health Emergency Preparedness at \$9 million/year. In the House offer, they proposed \$12 million per year total for both programs. The House offer also included an additional \$15 million for targeted home visiting in 2023 and nearly \$25 million in 2024-25. You can see the spreadsheet detailing the House and Senate offers [here](#). The Senate made [another public offer](#) on Saturday. The Saturday offer, similar to the previous Senate offer, also included little funding related to MDH programming, including no funding for Public Health Emergency Preparedness or public health system transformation.

On Friday, there was agreement on an HHS [policy-only bill](#) while negotiations continued to reach agreement on spending provisions. Much of the negotiations throughout the weekend happened behind closed doors. There were no public hearings on Saturday or Sunday and rumors circulated that the HHS priorities continued to vary significantly between House and Senate HHS conferees. As of late Sunday evening, the policy-only bill passed and no agreement was reached on spending priorities. – [Kari Oldfield](#)

Transportation

Going into the final week of session, the framework for conference committee allocations included a large number for transportation – \$360 million from the general fund in FY22-23 and \$486 million in FY24-25. This was enough to do the full statutory dedication of the auto parts sales tax to transportation. As the final days went by, it seemed like little progress was being made on transportation. Leadership spent several days discussing the auto parts sales tax provision, but a gridlock remained. We know that several offers were traded back and forth between House Chair Hornstein and Senate Chair Newman, but no deal was reached. The Senate wanted 100% of the revenue to go to roads and bridges, while the House was open to the full statutory dedication as long as part of it went to transit, with their initial position being 60% for roads and bridges and 40% for transit. On Sunday afternoon, Senate Majority Leader Jeremy Miller said, “auto parts is not done, it is very much still on the table.” In the end, they were not able to find compromise on this funding before midnight.

The State Government and Transportation Conference Committee met several times throughout the week, taking up lists of non-controversial policy provisions and approving them. Some of these approved provisions included policy items that AMC worked on as standalone bills earlier in session, including two truck weight related provisions that we were neutral on: House language to allow for greater width and weight for timber hauling trucks and a Senate provision to include grass seed on the list of qualifying agricultural

language on the Public Land Survey Monument Restoration, requiring the chief geospatial information office to report to the Legislature on the status of public land monuments and the work needed to update the monuments. AMC as well as the Minnesota Association of County Surveyors (MACS) supported this provision.

While the state government portion of the bill was wrapped up before 5:00 p.m. on Sunday, they kept the conference committee report open in hopes that there would be compromise on transportation. The conference committee met again late on Sunday evening and adopted an amendment to add provisions from the Independent Expert Review article of the bill. Despite these agreed upon provisions that were adopted by the conference committee, no official conference committee report was signed by conferees or taken up on the House/Senate floor. – [Emily Murray](#)

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) Passes

The ENRTF's balance is a combination of contributions and investment income, including 40% of the net proceeds from the Minnesota State Lottery. The Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) makes recommendations to the Legislature annually for appropriations of up to 5.5% of the market value of the fund.

This year, the LCCMR failed to reach agreement on a package, but the Legislature has approved appropriations ([HF3765](#)) that address many of the most supported items reviewed by the commission. Among those items is funding for the University of Minnesota to develop and examine methods for the destruction of PFAS in landfill leachate and funding for St. Louis County to test hybrid engineered wetlands for management of PFAS in landfill leachate.

They were also able to fund several other important projects for the benefit of the state's environment and natural resources including DNR aggregate resource mapping (\$500K), forest data inventory (\$500K), Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force (\$800K), and replacing failing septic systems (\$2 million). – [Brian Martinson](#)

Bonding

Going into the final weekend of session, things seemed very optimistic with bonding. The framework agreed to by leaders and the governor a week prior included a \$1.4 billion bonding bill with \$150 million in cash. During a press conference this past Saturday, Senate Capital Investment Committee Chair Tom Bakk announced that they were close to an agreement. According to Sen. Bakk, what they had at the time included around \$1 billion in asset preservation for agencies/roads + bridges/wastewater and that they were discussing the remaining \$400 million, most of which would go to local projects. He also mentioned the additional \$150 million in cash but did not give much information as to how that would be spent.

As a reminder, a bonding bill must originate in the House and takes a supermajority for passage rather than just a simple majority. Because of this, passage of a bonding bill requires members of the minority in both the House and Senate to vote in favor, so including the minority in the negotiation process is important. As of Sunday night, no bonding bill had been presented. AMC was hoping to see the \$1.4 billion bonding bill with strong investments in transportation-related programs including the Local Road Improvement Program, the Local Bridge Replacement Program, the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program, and the Busway Capital Improvement Program. We will remain hopeful that bonding will be taken up if there is a special session. – [Emily Murray](#)

Economic and Workforce Development Updates

make the deadline ([spreadsheet](#)). The bill includes needed economic relief for businesses in Koochiching County and Cook County through the development of the Canadian Border Counties Economic Relief Program, with a one-time appropriation of \$2 million. The program would provide grants to businesses adversely affected by the 2021 closure of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCA) or the closures of the Canadian border since 2020. There was also added funding for the Main Street Revitalization Program, created in 2021 to provide economic relief to businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic as well as the civil unrest after the murder of George Floyd.

On the workforce development side, the bill would have funded several priorities DEED advocated for, including tech training programs for adults and youth, staff positions to support veterans and immigrants and refugees, and \$1 million to modernize digital infrastructure. Funding for local workforce development boards which was included in the House omnibus bill did not make it into the final bill. AMC's affiliate MAWB (Minnesota Association of Workforce Boards) strongly advocated for this funding throughout session. However, the tax bill, which also did not meet deadline, included \$24 million for competitive grants to local workforce development boards to operate Career Academies to address the state's severe workforce shortage. – [Jeanna Fortney](#)

State Government/Elections

After several back-and-forth negotiations, State Government Finance, Elections, and Transportation Conference Committee Chairs Mike Nelson and Mary Kiffmeyer came to an agreement on a consolidated State Government Finance/Elections [spreadsheet](#)—a transportation deal never came to fruition. AMC worked with LMC and MACO on several last-minute election proposals and were content with the remaining elections provisions surrounding clarification of non-governmental sample ballot mailings as well as a generational change to the posting of sample ballots negotiated by AMC, the Minnesota Newspaper Association, and MACO. – [Matt Hilgart](#)

Agriculture, Drought/Disaster Relief Passes

The Omnibus Agriculture Bill typically is one of the earlier finishers each session. A relief package focused on the impacts of last year's drought and broadband provisions were also included in this package ([HF3420](#)).

The Agriculture Emergency Account gets a onetime transfer of \$1.5 million. Funds in this account are for agricultural emergencies affecting producers of livestock, poultry, crops, or other agricultural products. Eligible uses include agency costs directly attributed to responding to agricultural emergencies and purchasing necessary equipment and reimbursing costs incurred by local units of government that are not eligible for reimbursement from other sources.

There were several minor changes made to the Agriculture Best Management Practices (AgBMP) loan program, including a provision that local governments will no longer need to identify which account is used to finance an approved project. The more substantive change is removing the \$200,000 cap on a loan. Small solar installations of one megawatt or less was added to the list of allowable commercial and industrial operations for land in the Agricultural Land Preservation Program.

A new soil health grant program is established that is focused on the equipment cost associated with soil health practices. In addition to owners or lessees of farmland being eligible, local government entities are also eligible if they make the equipment or technology purchased available for use by the public.

– [Brian Martinson](#)

Pensions

An omnibus pensions bill failed to move forward—or be incorporated into any spending package—by the close of session. Senate GOP members had been pushing a proposal to provide significant dollars towards providing new pension benefit increases to Police and Fire members by decreasing employee contribution rates, increasing retiree COLAs, and decreasing vesting periods. The issue had increased as a major bargaining item throughout end-of-session negotiations. AMC weighed in on pension proposals throughout session asking legislators to make sure to fully fund any benefit increases and also invest in the expansion of public safety mental health tools as part of any effort to incent recruitment and retention. -[Matt Hilgart](#)

Human Services Provisions at the End of 2022 Session

Legislative leadership and the Governor will determine whether a special session will be called to finish uncompleted work. If a special session is called, coming to agreement on how to spend the \$1 billion HHS budget target that was left un-utilized due to the House Democrats and Senate Republicans not being able to reach an agreement will surely take considerable additional work. When asked after the Legislature had adjourned about which bills were “close” to agreement, [Speaker Hortmann](#) felt all of them were close – except HHS, which “still has a long ways to go”.

However, that is not to say Human Services was without frantic action and progress in the last minutes of session. Sunday night ended with both bodies approving two substantial bills in the last two hours before midnight, despite not passing a final omnibus HHS spending bill. The two bills that were able to pass were an omnibus mental health bill and the policy-only language that had been agreed upon already by the HHS conference committee.

[HF2725](#) (Draheim/Edelson) was the last bill passed late Sunday as the omnibus mental health bill. This bill originally passed the House floor as the competency restoration bill and was used as a “vehicle” to move the mental health package. It passed the Senate 66-0 and passed the House 68-65, as there was significant drama as to whether the House would take up the bill before midnight. The \$92 million dollar bill, as amended, contains the following provisions of interest:

- Competency restoration agreement, including creation of the State Competency Restoration Board and duties to provide or contract for forensic navigator services and \$16 million in funding for Corrections, a State Competency Restoration Board, forensic navigators, and district courts to administer competency examinations.
- AMHI changes, reflecting AMHIs as mental health infrastructure, prioritizing evidence-based practices and tracking AMHI services, direction that DHS shall ensure that no AMHI region receives less than the amount the region received in FY22, and an increase in base funding of \$20 million per year starting in 2025.
- Expands settings and services eligible for psychiatric residential treatment facility and child and adolescent mobile transition units, including an increase of \$4 million (FY24) to base funding and additional \$5.6 million increase in base funding starting in FY25.
- Exception to hospital moratorium for 144-bed psychiatric hospital on former Bethesda hospital site in Saint Paul and an exception to the hospital moratorium for increased mental health bed capacity.
- Direction to DHS that prior to implementing substantial changes to grant funding formula changes, DHS must provide the Legislature with a report on the nature of

supervision of interns and clinical trainees who are working toward becoming a mental health professional, including \$1.6 million (FY23) for loan forgiveness and \$2.5 million for the mental health provider supervision grant program.

- Creates children's residential facility crisis stabilization services and directs DHS to seek federal approval.
- Establishes First Episode of Psychosis grant program w/ \$480,000 in base.
- Allows intensive residential treatment services to operate locked facilities and establishes guidelines, including \$2.914 million (FY23) for start-up funds.
- Removes county cost share for the nonfederal share of cost for office-involved community-based care coordination (Yellow Line Project).
- Expands intensive treatment in foster care for at risk children.
- Directs managed care and county-based purchasing plans to reimburse critical access mental health services at a rate at least equal to the fee-for-service payment rate.
- Mental health urgency room pilot project - \$1.215 million (FY23); \$247,000 in FY24 and FY25.
- Mental health grants for health care professionals - \$1 million (FY23).
- School-linked behavioral health grants - \$2 million (FY23).
- Shelter-linked mental health grants - \$2 million (FY23).
- Direction to DHS to update the behavioral health fund room and board rate schedule to include programs providing children's mental health crisis admissions and stabilization.
- \$1 million for an African American mental health service to offer culturally specific, comprehensive, trauma-informed mental health and substance use disorder services.

HF4065 (Schultz/Abeler) was the vehicle bill for the Omnibus Policy Bill. It contained 458 pages of policy language that was agreed upon in the HHS conference Committee over the last week, which was inserted into the bill via a Delete-All amendment. HF4065 passed late Sunday, with the Senate voting 66-0 to pass the bill and the House voting 68-65 on the final measure.

Measures relevant to counties contained in the policy bill include:

- Allows mental health data to be provided to law enforcement when a person is involved in mental health crisis, adds community corrections and local law enforcement to multidisciplinary adult protection team, and requires written mental health data policies.
- Codifying Governor Walz's recent executive order establishing Opioids, Substance Use, and Addiction subcabinet and advisory council
- Creates a temporary waiver extension for fingerprint-based background studies.
- SNAP income eligibility modification, expanding SNAP eligibility to 200% of the federal poverty line along with policy language requiring DHS guidance to counties on the required work requirements for eligibility.
- Passes revisions to the Vulnerable Adult act, providing more authority and consistent guidance to Adult Protective Services across the state.
- Modifies the proportion of residents in a facility who must be waiver recipients and elderly waiver recipients, and reinstates the existing rate floor of \$119 per resident per day.
- Dedicates \$1,000,000 of an existing appropriation to repair and improvement grants for facilities of providers of services to homeless youth beginning in fiscal year 2024.

- Collection of cost of care payments from children and families is made permissive, removing requirements for courts and local social services agencies to order parents or custodians to use income and resources attributable to the child or parents to contribute to a child's cost of care, examination, or treatment; adds factors for local social services agencies to consider.
- Clarifies definition of excluded time for certain services, clarifying county of financial responsibility.
- Maya's law, modifying procedures for child maltreatment face-to-face contact and interview requirements.
- Clarify case manager qualifications and require counties to inform clients of who to contact at the county to lodge a complaint about their contracted case manager.
- Permits ICF/DD capacity in a single family home to increase from six to eight and permits variance to allow certain group homes capacity to be increased from 5 beds.

AMC will continue to track the HHS omnibus spending bill and conversations about an agreement that would need to be reached prior to a special session being called. Final [public offers of the bill](#) were exchanged Saturday, before leadership in the House and Senate became involved to try to bridge the differences that remained between the two bodies proposals. The Senate offers focused heavily on investments in workforce, nursing homes, and group homes. The House offers included investing more in different priorities in housing and homelessness and child care. AMC priorities included in offers from both sides included Basic Sliding Fee Prioritization, Family First (FFPSA) Implementation that included state funding for a statewide QI program, Childcare Stabilization and supports, and Investments in Child Welfare Prevention and Systemic Needs.

Without much change, AMC will continue to advocate for policy and funding in the areas of child care: increasing access by making the 2021 temporary changes to Basic Sliding Fee Child Care Assistance Program (BSF CCAP) permanent; in Family First Prevention Services Act (FFPSA) funding a statewide qualified individual program and addressing need in continuous improvement. AMC has also been successful in retaining (to date) language in the tax bill that funds a child protection cost study and redirects ICWA non-compliant fund to the UMD ICWA training program. In other areas, AMC continues to monitor several additional provisions that have funding attached including one that will plan for the impact of redirecting supplemental security income (SSI) and other federal benefits into a trust fund for the youth to access upon aging out of care. Counties will continue to be interested in emergency shelter facilities grants and emergency services grants to support counties work in homelessness and needed investments in IT infrastructure. – [Matt Freeman](#) and [Angie Thies](#)



2022 Legislative Session Update

May 24, 2022

The 2022 Legislature adjourned around midnight on Sunday, meaning they have concluded legislative work for the biennium unless the Governor calls them back for a special session. Many large bills that were part of a comprehensive package agreed to a week or so ago were not passed within the final moments of session leaving questions on what, if anything, might still happen.

When looking at the results from this year, a reminder that in even-numbered years the Legislature traditionally focuses on policy, supplemental funding, and bonding since agency budgets were passed in last year's biennial budget.

BWSR related items - Passed in regular session:

Omnibus Legacy - Outdoor Heritage Fund (OHF) *HF3438*

Bill passed and signed by the Governor. Background: While the original House bill contained supplemental funding for Clean Water Fund, the Senate's bill only funded OHF provisions. The final version of the bill contains OHF projects with limited policy language changes for the Clean Water Council recommendation reports.

BWSR-related projects in the final bill include:

- RIM Grassland Reserve, Phase IV
- RIM Buffers for Wildlife and Water, Phase X
- RIM Wetlands, Phase IX
- Camp Ripley Sentinel Landscape ACUB Program, Phase X – BWSR is partnering with Morrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Wild-Rice Shoreland Protection, Phase VIII
- Integrating Habitat and Clean Water (identified through One Watershed, One Plan)
- Mississippi Headwaters Corridor Project Phase VII (through DNR) – BWSR is partnering with Mississippi Headwaters Board

Total project appropriations for BWSR: \$21,589,000

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund *HF3765*

Bill passed and sent to the Governor for signature. Background: With no formal recommendation from the LCCMR, there were different versions of projects moving forward in the House and Senate bills. An agreement was reached in Conference Committee that excluded land acquisition projects and included some projects that did not go through the LCCMR process. Direct appropriations to BWSR included:

- Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match! (\$3,318,000)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) State Incentives (\$750,000)
- Strategic Framework to Guide Local Water Storage Implementation (\$200,000)

Drought Relief, Agriculture, and Broadband *HF3420*

Bill passed and sent to the Governor for signature. Background: Agriculture and Broadband components were added during the Conference Committee. The final bill included an appropriation (\$500,000) and policy language for a Department of Agriculture Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program. As part of this pilot, the bill requires the Dept. of Ag to develop a healthy soil management plan in consultation with other agencies and organizations including BWSR. Eligible applicants for the grants of equipment and materials include farmland owners or lessees, Tribal nations, and local governments including SWCDs.

Labor Agreements *HF3346*

Bill passed and signed by the Governor. The House and Senate ratified several labor agreements for state government employees.

BWSR related items NOT passed during regular session:

This year, many bills focused on the anticipated \$9 billion surplus including Taxes, Public Safety, Health and Human Services, Transportation, Environment, and more. These moved slowly through the Conference Committee process and ran out of time before votes in both House and Senate could happen. As a result, these will not take effect unless approved in a special session.

Environment Omnibus *HF4492 and SF4062*

Conference Committee Report passed by committee - not yet voted on in House or Senate.

Background: The House and Senate each passed different versions of this bill. In Conference Committee, a final version was agreed upon late Sunday but not in time for a vote in the Senate or House. BWSR provisions found in the final conference committee report include general fund appropriations for a Tribal Liaison position and for the Local Road Wetland Replacement Program (\$1.58 million in FY23/\$765,000 in future years).

Tax Omnibus *HF3669*

Individual Articles approved, but not a comprehensive Conference Committee Report.

Background: The House and Senate passed different versions of the Omnibus Tax Bill with the House providing SWCD funding and the Senate providing tax buffer credit. In Conference Committee, there was agreement to provide a new \$6 million per year from the General Fund via a Dept of Revenue aid payment to SWCDs starting in 2023.

Next Steps

Many bills including the Environment Omnibus, Tax Omnibus, and Bonding bill were not finalized during regular session. We are monitoring if there will be a special session. If not, the Legislature is next scheduled to meet in January 2023.

For more Information:

[Mike Nelson](#), BWSR Legislative Coordinator, 651-564-5250.



Clean Water Council Legislative Update: 23 May 2022

Minnesota Clean Water Council sent this bulletin at 05/23/2022 12:16 PM CDT

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Highlights

At its Sunday midnight deadline, the Legislature:

- Passed several water-related bills of interest by a Sunday midnight deadline
- Agreed to the content of other spending and tax bills before eventually missing the deadline
- Neither voted nor came to final agreement on still others.



Here is a wrap-up as of Monday. A short special session is possible, but not guaranteed pending agreement among the Governor, House, and Senate. Only the Governor can call a special session. The Council will keep you posted if a special session develops.

Legacy Finance/Clean Water Fund: The House and Senate [approved a Legacy Finance bill](#) that has no supplemental Clean Water Fund spending in it. The bill gives the Clean Water Council authority to submit supplemental Clean Water Fund recommendations in even numbered years by January 15th. The Council's biennial recommendations would also be submitted by January 15th instead of the current December 1st deadline. This position was supported by the Clean Water Council so that it can take advantage of the November revenue forecast in future years. The House had proposed spending a FY22-23 surplus in the Clean Water Fund of \$47 million but now that funding stays in the CWF for the Council's next round of recommendations. The bill passed the House and Senate and now goes to the Governor.

ENRTF/LCCMR bill: The annual appropriations of the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) passed the House and Senate, and the bill now goes to the Governor. The [House Session Daily has a summary](#). It includes funding for a BWSR strategic framework to guide local water storage implementation, contaminants of emerging concern, PFAS projects, a DNR groundwater storage and recovery database, the Forever Green Initiative, marketing for continuous living cover, a Pig's Eye Landfill Task Force, and \$2 million for replacing failing septic systems to protect groundwater.

Agriculture: The House and Senate agreed on supplemental agriculture spending as part of a larger bill. (This [House Session Daily article](#) summed it up before the Senate voted. The Agriculture and Broadband bill eventually was combined with a [drought relief bill](#).) It passed both houses and now goes to the Governor.) The Forever Green Initiative would receive an additional \$1.26 million for equipment and infrastructure in FY24-25, and that would be base funding going forward. The bill would create a pilot Soil Health Financial Assistance Program/AgBMP Grant Program that would receive \$500,000 in one-time funding in FY22-23. The Department of Agriculture would also develop a state healthy soil management plan. House-proposed funding for and regulation of plastic-coated fertilizer and pesticides did not get included in the final version. There is policy language modifying eligibility on agriculture best management practices loans related to drinking water; it would allow loans to be used to

address "inadequate flow" for privately-owned supplies of drinking water for people or livestock, and not just federal drinking water standards.

Higher Education Bill: The House Higher Education supplemental finance bill included \$650,000 for the University of Minnesota to "develop a plan to ensure that Minnesota has an abundant supply of clean water for the next 50 years." However, this appropriation is not included in the final conference committee report.

SWCD Funding in Tax Bill: The House and Senate [came to agreement on a tax bill](#), which included \$6 million a year for aid to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) using the General Fund instead of the Clean Water Fund. However, the conference committee report did not get issued and a vote was not taken in either body.

Environment & Natural Resources: A [conference committee report](#) for an Environment and Natural Resources supplemental spending bill was issued literally at the stroke of midnight Sunday but did not receive a vote in either the House or Senate. Leadership agreed to a \$10 million spending limit for this bill, which is considerably smaller than what was proposed by the Governor and passed by the House. Highlights would have included: One-time funding for the Red River Basin Commission to facilitate development of a feasibility assessment of adaptive phosphorus management for the Red River of the North (aka water quality trading) and completing a mercury TMDL for the St. Louis River.

Capital Investment: A bonding bill is usually the last piece of the puzzle to final passage of different bills. Leadership in the House and Senate agreed to maximum bonding of \$1.4 billion with an additional \$150 million in general fund spending. However, a final bill was never introduced by midnight Sunday. It likely would have included funding for the Public Facilities Authority for water treatment infrastructure.

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Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board Meeting

May 25, 2022

Gerald Van Amburg called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited. The agenda was adopted. The minutes of the April 27, 2022 BWSR Board (Board) meeting were approved. No one was present to address the Board in the Public Access Forum. New staff were introduced. The Conflict-of-Interest Declaration was read. Actions of particular interest to watershed organizations are highlighted in gray.

REPORTS

Chair & Administrative Advisory Committee

Chair Van Amburg stated the committee has not met. Carly Johnson was appointed to the BWSR Board as the non-metro representative. She was not able to attend today.

Executive Director

Executive Director Jaschke gave a legislative session update (included in MAWD's May newsletter) and BWSR Snapshots.

Audit & Oversight Committee

Vice Chair Collins reported that the committee has not met. No meetings are scheduled.

Dispute Resolution and Compliance Report

Rich Sve reported that the committee has not met. A meeting is scheduled for August 31. Travis Germundson explained the appeals that are pending. No new appeals have been filed.

Buffer Compliance Status Update: BWSR has received Notifications of Noncompliance (NONs) on 93 parcels from the 12 counties BWSR is responsible for enforcement. Currently there are no active Corrective Action Notices (CANs) and 6 Administrative Penalty Orders (APOs) issued by BWSR that are still active. Of the actions being tracked over 86 of those have been resolved. Statewide 31 counties are fully compliant, and 53 counties have enforcement cases in progress. Of those counties (with enforcement cases in progress) there are currently 607 CANs and 61 APOs actively in place. Of the actions being tracked over 2,215 of those have been resolved.

Todd Holmen and Mark Zabel are the new committee members. Executive Director Jaschke explained that this committee is required by statute. Travis Germundson is working with the attorney general's office on developing a training opportunity for committee members.

Grants Program and Policy Committee

Todd Holman said the committee met on May 23. The action item on the agenda was the outcome of the meeting. WBIF formula has been an ongoing discussion topic. There is consensus on the committee to build groundwater for drinking water into the formula. They hope that there will be a recommendation for the board in the fall. Kurt Beckstrom was welcomed as a member of the committee. The next meeting is scheduled for June 13.

Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Committee

Jayne Hager Dee reported that the committee did not meet.

Water Management and Strategic Planning Committee

Vice Chair Collins reported that the committee has not met. No meeting is scheduled.

Wetland Conservation Committee

Jill Crafton informed the Board that the committee has not met.

Buffers, Soils, and Drainage Committee

Mark Zabel stated that the committee has not met. No meeting is scheduled.

Drainage Work Group (DWG)

Neil Peterson reported that the DWG has not met. The committee will possibly meet in June.

AGENCY REPORTS

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)

Thom Peterson said that the MDA bill was approved. Drought relief and soil health funding were included. MDA received a grant from the McKnight Foundation for soil health. Information about this proposal will be released soon.

Minnesota Department of Health

Mark Wettlaufer informed the Board gave a legislative update. MDH is working on the wellhead protection rule.

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR)

Sarah Strommen said that the MDNR had a successful Governor's Fishing Opener and the summit to support the fishing industry. It was disappointing that the legislature could not invest in this. Some drought relief funding was received. By the time that funding was approved, the focus is now on flooding. The Environmental Quality Board is going to be doing a pollinator event on June 14 in Hastings in cooperation with Dakota County Parks. Sturgeon reintroduced to the Red River are spawning this year.

Minnesota Extension

Joel Larson gave an update on drought and flooding. In a partnership with several organizations, Extension has received funding for two climate adaptation staff. Greg Klinger has been hired for the agriculture position. Jeanie Mosul was hired for the forestry position. The Nature Conservancy thanked Extension for their assistance in a grant proposal. They were awarded a grant for climate resiliency.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Katrina Kessler spoke about opportunities that will be missed if the bonding bill is not passed. MPCA is receiving funding from Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for failing septic systems. EPA announced \$113M coming to Minnesota for projects in the Duluth/Superior Harbor and St. Louis River areas through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative.

ADVISORY COMMENTS

Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC)

Brian Martinson expressed AMC's disappointment with the legislature not passing many bills. He gave a legislative update. He is looking forward to working with the DWG. AMC staff will be hosting meetings in each of their 10 districts over the next several weeks.

Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

No report was given.

Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD)

LeAnn Buck expressed agreement with the other agencies about disappointment that the omnibus bills did not pass. SWCDs did receive \$6M per year. They are still going to work on how to secure the state's share of capacity funding. The work of SWCDs in partnership with MDA, BWSR, and NRCS leveraged money for irrigation cost-share.

MAT

Eunice Biel said that the 1st Congressional District primary was held on May 24. The election judges will need training for the 2022 election. There will be a special election in August to finish Jim Hagedorn's term. Candidates will also have to run for election in November. She gave an update on upcoming training.

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD)

MAWD Executive Director Javens thanked BWSR for offering the hybrid meeting schedule. She welcomed the new Human Resources director. She was happy to note that time is allowed for local governments to call the HR director with questions. This will be helpful for small watershed offices with limited resources. She welcomed Justin Hanson and is looking forward to meeting with him. She agreed with his opening comments that this is a time to reset. MAWD is also looking at how to work more efficiently and effectively.

MAWD's number one goal was to increase the general operating levy. Unfortunately, that bill got stuck in conference committee and didn't make it into an omnibus bill. MAWD will be working with partners on how to resolve this issue. MAWD's number two goal was flood hazard mitigation funding through the bonding bill. It is disappointing that the legislature could not agree to invest in reducing risks to infrastructure and agriculture. On a positive note, the drainage registry bill was not passed. She looks forward to discussing this in the DWG. The Summer Tour is planned for August 24-25 in the Red River Basin (RRB). There is potential for interaction with local, state, federal, and possibly international agencies and organizations.

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

Troy Daniell was not able to attend. He sent John Jaschke a note about NRCS activities that will be included in the minutes.

[A 10-minute break was taken.]

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

Central Region Committee

Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan)

Joe Collins reported that the Central Region Committee received a presentation on the plan and recommends approval. Jason Weinerman explained that the Rum River Plan was developed as part of the State of Minnesota's One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) program. The State's vision and purpose of the 1W1P program is to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies towards prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans. The process results in a comprehensive watershed plan and offers the opportunity for groups and organizations to work together in both planning and implementation across jurisdictional boundaries. While the Plan is comprehensive in that it includes improvements and protection for a variety of natural resources across a large geographic area, it also incorporates detail in its prioritization and targeting actions and outcomes for specific waterbodies. On May 5, 2022, the Central Region Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. The Committee's decision was to recommend approval of the Rum River Plan as submitted. The Rum River Plan was unanimously approved.

Grants Program and Policy Committee

ML 2015, 2017 and 2019 Clean Water Fund Capacity and ML 2017 Clean Water Fund (CWF) Buffer Cost-Share Reallocation

Dusty Van Thuyne explained that the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Outreach and Implementation Program grants are awarded to SWCD to employ staff to work on activities related to the CREP. These grants utilize an Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENRTF) appropriation as recommended by the LCCMR. The ENRTF appropriation is set to expire June 30, 2022, however, there is still a CREP workload that local government unit (LGU) staff are working on, ranging from application submittal to restoration oversight and easement recording. Four CWF appropriations have been identified to be utilized to amend existing FY 2022 CREP Outreach and Implementation Program grants to allow LGU staff to continue providing technical assistance to landowners interested in the CREP. The CREP Outreach and Implement grants were approved.

FY23 MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Continuation Grants

Dusty Van Thuyne explained the FY23 MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Continuation Grants Board Order, that would authorize the use of funds from Laws of Minnesota 2015, 1st Special Session,

Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(o), Laws of Minnesota 2017, 1st Special Session, Chapter 91, Article 2, Section 7(n), Laws of Minnesota 2017, Regular Session, Chapter 91, Article 2, Sect. 7(o), and Laws of Minnesota 2019, 1st Special Session, Chapter 2, Article 2, Section 7(n) to be available for grants to LGUs to provide technical assistance to landowners for conservation practices related to CREP. The FY23 MN CREP Outreach and Implementation Program Continuation Grants were approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB)

Rob Sip gave a PowerPoint presentation covering RRWMB background, 45th anniversary, COVID impacts, operating budget, funding commitments, 2021 LiDAR deliverables and current activity, 2020 to 2022 key activities, and a legislative update. He also provided an update on winter and spring weather conditions and flooding in the RRB.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **Grants Program and Policy Committee:** June 13
- **BWSR Board:** June 22

The meeting adjourned at 12:07 p.m.

Notes submitted by Jan Voit

FDRWG Meeting Highlights

May 25, 2022

*Reporting on meetings of the Red River Basin
Flood Damage Reduction Work Group*



Technical Support Grants: The Work Group awarded technical support grants to the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District for two projects. A \$31,920 grant was approved to help cover the costs of soil borings and botanical surveys needed to advance the permitting process on the Lilac Ridge Project. A \$12,000 grant was approved for modeling of a two-stage restored channel for the Swift Coulee project, in order to identify areas needing easements for the project.

Budgeting

After awarding the grants above, the Work Group has approximately \$40,000 left to distribute among watershed districts for project team support in the fiscal year ending June 30. This will add to the original allocations budgeted for each district with active project teams.

The Work Group will have \$264,000 from State general fund appropriations in the next fiscal year that begins on July 1. This is the same amount as in each of the past 10 fiscal years. After discussion, the Work Group approved the budget shown below:

Activity	FY2023 Budget
Project Planning & Development	
a) Project team support	\$140,000
b) Technical support grants	40,000
c) Facilitation	20,000
Floodplain Mapping	17,000
Pre- and Post-Project Monitoring	10,000
LCCMR Grant Startup (if grant is awarded)	10,000
Work Group Meetings and March 2020 Joint Conference	10,000
TSAC Coordination and Projects	6,000
NRE Evaluation Panel	6,000
Communications and Outreach	5,000
Total:	\$264,000

Technical Papers: The updated technical paper on using wetlands and wetland-like features in Red River Basin projects has been reviewed by the Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC). With minor adjustments, it will be completed prior to the next Work Group meeting.

Facilitation Services: The Work Group has selected two organizations to provide group-facilitation services to project teams. As the FDRWG's fiscal agent, the Red River Watershed Management Board will set up contracts with each organization. When project team sponsors request facilitation services, task orders will be issued with minimal additional paperwork. The sponsors (typically watershed districts) will participate in determining the task order scope and authorized budget for each facilitation assignment, and the Work Group will pay 50 percent of the cost. Sponsors are free to hire other facilitators if they wish to, at the same cost-share.

*The **next meeting** of the FDRWG is scheduled for **September 28, 2022**, in Barnesville, MN.*

For more information: contact the Minnesota DNR's Red River Basin Coordinator
Phone: 218-606-0128 / Email: Andrew.Graham@state.mn.us

Email Address e.g. name@email.com

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Water Talk Newsletter - May 2022

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Water Talk Newsletter - May 2022

- [Great Lakes Climate Change Video](#)
- [Recordings Available for Winter 2022 Floodplain & Shoreland Trainings](#)
- [Help for Communicating Shoreland Bluff Locations](#)
- [Updated FEMA Technical Bulletin 7](#)
- [A Generational Opportunity for Federal Infrastructure Funds – Act Now!](#)
- [Recent Risk Rating 2.0 Resources](#)
- [Spring 2022 Flooding Impacts](#)
- [ASFPM Lifetime Achievement Award for Suzanne Jiwani](#)
- [How to See LOMAs/LOMR-Fs for Your Community](#)
- [Reminder: FEMA 2022 Virtual Trainings Continuing](#)
- [FEMA Map Status Listing](#)

Great Lakes Climate Change Video

Interested in climate change at the regional level? See the [Climate Change in the Great Lakes](#) (~15 minutes). The video includes a brief overview of climate trends and impacts in the Great Lakes Region, and is provided by the Great Lakes Integrated Sciences and Assessments (GLISA) team.



For more information, see the [GLISA Summary Climate Information page](#).

Recordings Available for Winter 2022 Floodplain & Shoreland Trainings

Many of you attended the series of one hour virtual trainings presented by DNR Floodplain Program, Shoreland/River Program and Climatology staff in early 2022. Those

trainings were recorded (and captioned) and many were just posted on the DNR's Land Use Program's [Training and Education page](#) (and the remaining winter 2022 trainings should be posted very soon). Whether you missed the trainings or want a refresher, they are available to all who are interested.



Warning - Updates in Progress: The [Floodplain and Shoreland/Rivers programs Training and Education page](#) will be going through a big update over the next couple months. We'll be separating out pages for the Floodplain Program, Shoreland/River Program, *Water Talk* newsletter, and possibly other topics. Our intent is to improve the flow and usefulness of our site, and make it easier to find the resources you are seeking.

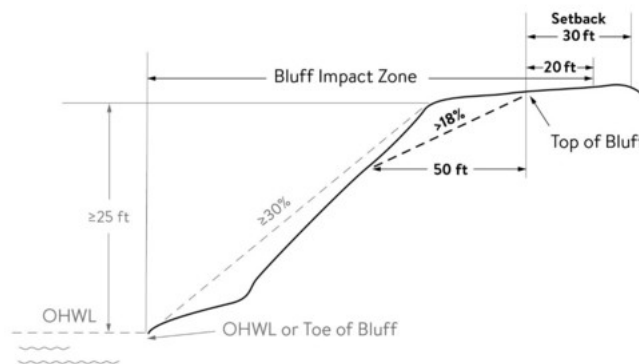
Help for Communicating Shoreland Bluff Locations

By [Dan Petrik](#), DNR, Shoreland/Rivers Program Manager

Communicating what a shoreland bluff is and where they are located are some of the most challenging tasks for local governments and the DNR. If a bluff is present on a property, shoreland standards for structure setbacks from bluffs, as well as standards for vegetation management and land alteration, apply. Here are some tips for understanding and communicating what a bluff is and how to locate them.

Updated Bluff Definition in Shoreland Ordinance

The bluff definition is complex and can be difficult to communicate. One of the best actions local governments can take is to update their shoreland ordinance definitions for bluff, bluff impact zone, toe of bluff and top of bluff, using the new graphics and text found in the updated [shoreland model ordinance](#). The graphics are especially helpful in illustrating these definitions.



Bluff definition diagram: shows key features that must be met to verify whether a feature is a bluff, and the location of the bluff toe, bluff top, bluff impact zone and bluff setback area.

Detailed Explanation of the Bluff Definition

After updating the bluff definitions with graphics in your ordinance, the next action is to understand the process for applying the multi-step bluff and bluff-related definitions. The DNR has developed a [technical guidance document](#) that explains each step in detail, including graphics and equations, along with two examples. Working through this document will prepare you to explain shoreland bluffs with confidence, and to evaluate surveys and other elevation data to assess whether a bluff is likely to exist.

Evaluate a Slope Feature to Determine if a Bluff is Likely to Exist

Step 1: Use [MnTOPO](#) - DNR's easy-to-use tool to view, evaluate and download elevation data - to quickly assess whether a bluff is likely to exist on a particular parcel. The DNR's [Quick Guide to Analyzing Slopes with MnTOPO](#) is useful for explaining how to conduct these initial assessments. MnTOPO uses LiDAR-derived elevation data for displaying contour lines. This elevation data can be used within the MnTOPO web application, and it can also be downloaded for use in GIS and spreadsheets. However, the MnTOPO application is not suited for locating the toe or top of bluff.

Step 2: The [DNR's Bluff Profile Tool](#) may be helpful to analyze a specific bluff, and locate bluff features once the presence of a bluff is verified using MnTOPO. This Excel spreadsheet tool can be used to develop graphics that show a bluff, including toe and top of bluff, and is especially helpful for situations that are controversial or for public

discussion. The Excel tool uses procedures and formulas that approximate the location of the toe of bluff, slope, and top of bluff. In especially difficult situations it can help demonstrate the need for a field survey. A field survey is always recommended to identify a bluff and top of bluff locations for locating structure setbacks. The bluff profile tool requires some time to learn how to use.

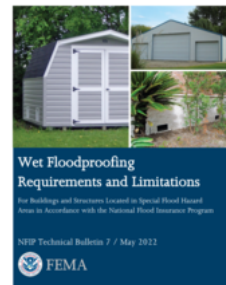
	A	B	C	D	E	F
	Cumulative Distance (Feet)	Elevation (Feet)	Toe of slope determination	Slope determination	Bluff Extent	Labels
1		OHWL=1270.4				
2						
3	0.00	1274.00	15.86%			
4	1.74	1274.08	16.88%			
5	3.49	1274.19	17.91%			
6	5.23	1274.25	18.93%			
7	6.98	1274.30	20.17%			
8	8.72	1274.37	21.35%			
9	10.47	1274.65	22.22%			
10	12.21	1275.01	22.81%			
11	13.96	1275.40	23.59%			
12	15.70	1275.72	24.51%			
13	17.44	1275.96	25.75%			
14	19.19	1276.09	27.18%			
15	20.93	1276.16	28.72%			
16	22.68	1276.23	30.28%			
17	24.42	1276.38	31.66%			
18	26.17	1276.64	32.78%			
19	27.91	1276.84	33.69%			
20	29.66	1276.88	34.31%			
21	31.40	1276.90	34.61%			
22	33.15	1276.90	34.61%			
23	34.89	1276.90	34.61%			
24	36.64	1276.90	34.61%			
25	38.38	1276.90	34.61%			
26	40.13	1276.90	34.61%			
27	41.87	1276.90	34.61%			
28	43.62	1276.90	34.61%			
29	45.36	1276.90	34.61%			
30	47.11	1276.90	34.61%			
31	48.85	1276.90	34.61%			
32	50.60	1276.90	34.61%			
33	52.34	1276.90	34.61%			
34	54.09	1276.90	34.61%			

These and other resources on bluffs can be found at the DNR's [Bluff and Slope Protections web page](#).

Updated FEMA Technical Bulletin 7

FEMA Building Science Branch is pleased to announce the release of the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) [Technical Bulletin 7, Wet Floodproofing Requirements and Limitations For Buildings and Structures Located in Special Flood Hazard Areas in Accordance with the National Flood Insurance Program](#). Future technical bulletins will follow this publication's new format.

Technical Bulletin 7 (TB 7) provides guidance on the NFIP floodplain management requirements for the design and construction of wet floodproofed buildings and structures in Special Flood Hazard Areas.



TB 7 discusses limitations on the use of wet floodproofing and how to evaluate the feasibility of using wet floodproofing measures for historic structures, agricultural structures and functionally dependent uses.

The major updates in TB-7 include:

- Updated to be consistent with the requirements of [FEMA Policy #104-008-03, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures](#), and [FEMA P-2140, Floodplain Management Bulletin, Floodplain Management Requirements for Agricultural Structures and Accessory Structures](#).
- Expanded discussion on best practices and measures to reduce flood damage when NFIP compliance is not required.
- Clarification of when wet floodproofing measures that require human intervention can be used.

TB 7 also discusses NFIP regulations and how building design criteria apply to new construction, substantial improvement and substantial damage.

To learn more about the eleven NFIP Technical Bulletins, visit the [FEMA National Flood Insurance Technical Bulletins](#).

For more information on building science, visit [fema.gov/building-science](#).

Note: Reprinted from FEMA notice.

A Generational Opportunity for Federal Infrastructure Funds – Act Now!

The funds available through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law can be viewed on the [build.gov](#) website. Water-related projects – particularly those that incorporate mitigation or resiliency into their designs – are expected to score very well for many of these programs.

On the main web page, users can scroll down and view each of the 375 funding programs available. (*This is not a typo.*)

Many of these are not new programs, and are instead repurposed and reinforced to accommodate this new pot of funds. Funds available for activities such as flood risk reduction, mitigation, watershed management, planning, bridge replacements, culvert enhancements, fish passage, and restoration. Many funding windows are open now, whereas others are anticipated in the near future. Now is the time to secure

partnerships and preliminary designs to make your application competitive. A few suggestions for interested applicants:



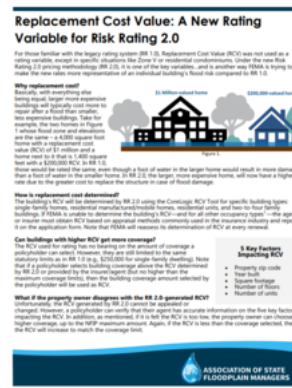
- From the main web page, open the “[guidebook data](#),” which is a searchable and sortable spreadsheet. This breaks down funding amounts, eligible uses, eligible recipients, application windows, cost share requirements
- Water-related funds are available through USACE, NOAA, EPA, DOT, DHS, and DOI (USFWS)
- The [EPA](#) and [DOT](#) have particularly useful websites
- Partnerships will make application more competitive

Recent Risk Rating 2.0 Resources

State and local officials, insurance agents, homeowners and others continue to try to better understand FEMA's new flood insurance rating system - Risk Rating 2.0 - that is effective for all new and renewing policies as of April 1, 2022.

Following are recent fact sheets and related resources:

1. [Risk Rating 2.0 and Elevation Certificates - Using Section C or E for First Floor Height](#) (ASFPF Fact Sheet, Nov. 2021)
2. [Replacement Cost Value: A New Rating Variable for Risk Rating 2.0](#) (ASFPF Fact Sheet, Dec. 2021)
3. [Explaining the CRS Discount in Risk Rating 2.0](#) (ASFPF Fact Sheet, April 2022)
4. [Discount Explanation Guide for Risk Rating 2.0](#) (FEMA, April 2022)



For more information:

- Visit FEMA's [Risk Rating 2.0: Equity in Action](#) page
- Other recent Water Talk articles related to Risk Rating 2.0:
 - [What You Need to Know About your NFIP Preferred Risk Policy \(PRP\)](#) (March 2022)
 - [FEMA Short Video - Risk Rating 2.0 Simplified Ratings](#) (March 2022)
 - [Are We Still Using FEMA Elevation Certificates?](#) (Dec. 2021)
 - [Risk Rating 2.0 Started Oct. 1 - Some FAQs](#) (Oct. 2021)

Spring 2022 Flooding Impacts

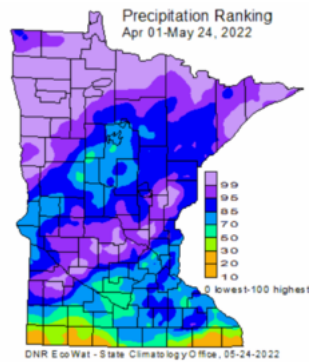
Flooding has been occurring in much of the state this spring. It's too early to report the full extent of the damage, but we can share some of the early reports.

Local officials and the Department of Public Safety Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (DPS-HSEM) staff began Preliminary Damage Assessments (PDAs) of public infrastructure damage the week of May 23, 2022. The PDAs are part of the process to determine whether a state or Presidential disaster declaration is warranted.

Wet spring in much of Minnesota

Parts of Minnesota hardest-hit by the major drought of 2021 have since become extremely wet during the 2022 spring, leading to high stream and lake levels in northern parts of the state, where some areas have experienced historic flooding.

Frequent late-winter snowstorms gave way to frequent rains, and then bouts of heavy thunderstorms.



Last modified: May 24, 2022

As can be seen in the weekly precipitation ranking map to the left, a corridor across central Minnesota also had extremely high precipitation through May 24.

See [links to Minnesota Weekly Precipitation, Departure and Ranking maps.](#)

Red River Valley flooding

Flooding peaked in the NW part of the state in late April and early May on the Red River of the North and tributaries including Red Lake River, Snake River and Clearwater River.

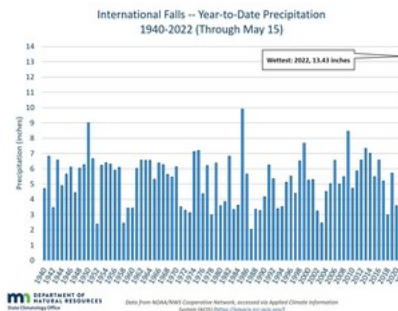
Many locations had river levels peak in the range of their top five historic crests. And as residents in that area know, the rivers stay high for extended periods of time, leading to extensive road closures.

The Red Lake River passed the third highest historical crest in Crookston, MN. While there were extensive sandbagging efforts and damage in the area, the many flood risk reduction projects done in the city since the record 1997 flood prevented the extensive damage to homes and businesses seen in previous record floods. Those projects involved funding from many local and federal sources, as well as over \$38 million of [state Flood Hazard Mitigation grants](#).

Record levels and lots of infrastructure damage in NE Minnesota

On the North Shore area in Minnesota, and the NE part of the state in general, spring rains have led to record flows and lake levels in May 2022 in many locations.

The graph to the right shows a record amount of precipitation compared to historical records for precipitation through May 15 at International Falls.



The DNR Climatology office will be doing weekly updates to a [Wet Conditions Return \(2022\) page](#) with much more information and useful links to lake and stream flow data.

Extensive infrastructure damage occurred at Tettegouche State Park, Finland State Forest, Pat Bayle State Forest, and Grand Portage State Forest.

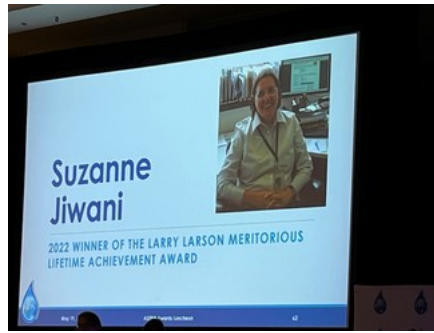
DNR staff report that several lakes in the Rainy River watershed reached new record elevations. The full extent of the damage is not known yet since there are many sites where staff cannot reach to assess damage to culverts and crossings due to road damage.



High Falls bridge at Tettegouche State Park damaged during record high flows in June 2022

ASFPM Lifetime Achievement Award for Suzanne Jiwani

Recently retired DNR Floodplain Mapping Engineer Suzanne Jiwani was honored as a recipient of the Larry Larson Meritorious Lifetime Achievement award. The Association of State Floodplain Managers (ASFPM) held their annual conference awards ceremony on May 19, 2022.



How to See LOMAs/LOMR-Fs for Your Community

By [Ceil Strauss](#), DNR, State Floodplain Manager

Community Copies of Letters of Map Change

In the past, FEMA mailed communities a copy of any Letters of Map Amendments (LOMAs), Letters of Map Revisions based on Fill (LOMR-F) and other FEMA letter of map change determination documents within the community. Starting in early 2019, FEMA no longer sends copies to communities.

You can still get copies of the determinations for your community in the following ways:

1. At [FEMA Map Service Center site](#) -

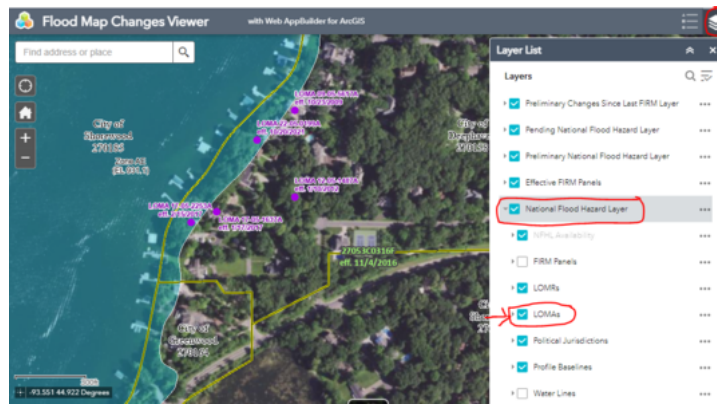
Select "Search All Products," enter community name and blue "Search" button, look in "Effective Products" folder for "LOMCs."

Example of Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) determination. Communities are no longer mailed copies.

2. **Email updates** - Sign up to get Email updates with links to new LOMAs, LOMR-Fs, etc. - Register for [FEMA Flood Map Service Center Email subscription](#). You'll need to set up an account, but can set up frequency of the email updates and select the locations (i.e., community, county or state) and FEMA mapping products of interest.

3. **Search for LOMAs and LOMR-Fs on interactive map** - The locations of LOMAs and LOMR-Fs are shown on [FEMA's Flood Map Changes Viewer \(FMCV\)](#) and [FEMA's National Flood Hazard Layer \(NFHL\)](#) viewer sites. See an example of the purple dots showing the locations of LOMAs in the screen shot below. Note the following:

- The LOMA layer is not a default layer in either FEMA viewer. As shown below, to turn the LOMA layer on, go to the layer list (in the top right), expand the "National Flood Hazard Layer" folder and turn on the "LOMCs" layer.
- The location of purple dots for newer cases (past 15 years or so) tend to be quite accurate, but location dots for older cases are often a ways from the structure involved.
- In the past, if the purple dots were clicked a box would come up that allowed the user to download the determination document. However, once case numbers are identified, the determination can be downloaded in the [Map Service Center - Search All Products site](#). (Hint: If you know the case number, it is easiest to enter the case number in the upper right Product ID box.)



Sample view in FEMA's Flood Map Changes Viewer. Purple dots show LOMA and LOMR-F locations.

Note: This is an update of a June 2019 Water Talk article.

Reminder: FEMA 2022 Virtual Trainings Continuing

FEMA Region 5 staff (based in Chicago, IL) are continuing their monthly one hour virtual training series. They are FREE!

It's not too late to register for many training topics!

Upcoming "Managing your Community's Floodplain" monthly series dates and topics:

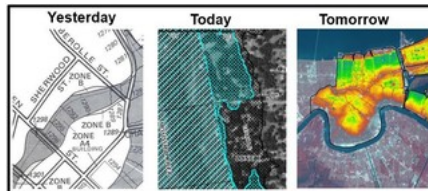
Note: All held 9-10 am Central Time.

- **June 23, 2022:** NFIP Fundamentals for New Floodplain Managers (Repeat of Topic #3 on March 30, 2022); Registration [Link](#)
- **Topic #6 June 29, 2022:** NFIP Compliance; Registration [Link](#)
- **Topic #7 July 27, 2022:** Managing FIRM Map Changes and Community Acknowledgement; Registration [Link](#)
- **Topic #8 August 31, 2022:** Coastal Resilience and Floodplain Management; Registration [Link](#)
- **Topic #9 September 28, 2022:** Resolving Potential Violations; Registration [Link](#)
- **Topic #10 October 26, 2022:** Higher Standards
- **Topic #11 November 30, 2022:** Basement Flooding Mitigation
- **Topic #12 December 14, 2022:** No Adverse Impact



FEMA Map Status Listing

Important Dates to Note:
(since March 2022 Water Talk and upcoming in next couple months)



Preliminary Maps:

- April 29, 2022: Wright County (revised panels)
- June 2022: Pipestone, Rock, and St. Louis Counties
- July 2022: Chippewa, Dodge, Le Sueur, and Morrison Counties

Local Officials Meetings & Open Houses*

- Itasca County: Local Official Meeting - March 31, 2022; Public Open House - April 12, 2022
- Otter Tail River HUC8 Discovery Kickoff for local officials - March 30, 2022
- Rum River HUC8 Discovery Kickoff for local officials - March 31, 2022
- Twin Cities Mississippi River HUC8 (portions of Anoka, Carver, Dakota, Hennepin, Ramsey, and Washington Counties) - Local Official Flood Risk Review Meetings:

- Coon Creek Watershed - Summer 2022
- West Mississippi Watershed - Summer 2022
- Elm Creek Watershed - Fall 2022
- Vadnais Lakes Watershed - Fall 2022
- South Washington Watershed - Fall 2022
- Wright County - Local Official Meeting & Public Open House - Summer 2022

***Most meetings and open houses expected to be virtual until further notice.**

90-Day Appeal Periods

- Carlton County - 3/31 to 6/29/2022
- Stevens County (panels) - 2/5 to 5/16/2022

Letters of Final Determination (LFDs)

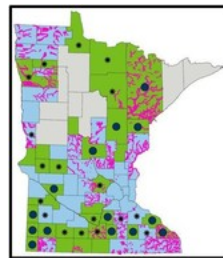
- Nicollet County - April 13, 2022
- Lake of the Woods County - April 27, 2022
- Koochiching County - May 17, 2022
- Pennington County - June 2022 (anticipated)

Effective (6 months after LFD date)

- Rice County (Zumbro watershed panels) - April 6, 2022
- Lyon County (levee panels) - Sept. 15, 2022

Additional Map Update Information:

- Latest [timetable for past and future map updates](#)
- More about [FEMA map updates in Minnesota](#).
- Find links to preliminary new maps and county level floodplain data work maps at [County Data and Map Viewers](#) web page



For more information

Water Talk Newsletter is issued four to six times per year with the support of a FEMA Community Assistance Program - State Support Service Element (CAP-SSSE) grant.

See [past Water Talk issues](#) (may need to scroll down page).

If you have ideas or requests for the next edition of *Water Talk*, contact editor: [Ceil Strauss](#) or 651-259-5713.



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources | mndnr.gov
Email us: info.dnr@state.mn.us | Call 651-296-6157 or 888-646-6367



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Buffalo River Watershed Stream Habitat Program—Phase 3

Project Background & Scope

Throughout the last century, channel straightening efforts and poor field practices have significantly reduced the habitat quality within the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD). Channel straightening efforts have eliminated hundreds of acres of quality stream habitat. Straightened channels create homogenous habitats that no longer have the shallow riffles and deeper pools that are required by fish at various stages in their life cycle. The straightened reaches also tend to lose access to their floodplains which increases erosion in the channel and causes downstream flooding. In addition, aggradation of the downstream channel, due to increased sediment loading, reduces habitat quality and makes flooding worse.

Over the last several years, the BRRWD—with input and in partnership with landowners, federal, state, and local agencies—designed comprehensive subwatershed restoration plans and intends to implement these plans over the next several years. A component of these plans includes the restoration of numerous reaches of straightened and abandoned creek and river channels throughout the Watershed District. Prioritization of projects is largely based on ecological benefits, being shovel-ready and having landowner and other stakeholder support.

In the third phase of this multi-phase project, the BRRWD plans to restore 4.2 miles of the South

Branch Buffalo River with 894 acres associated riparian habitat corridor, and 5.1 miles of the Stony Creek with 190-acres associated riparian habitat corridor. Requiring land often creates time constraints and delays project progress. To ensure timely progress on proposed and future phases of these projects, easement acquisition for additional future phases are considered in this proposal.

The South Branch Buffalo River and Stony Creek will be restored using natural channel design principles. The river restorations have been designed with direct input from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) River Ecology Unit as well as the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

A sinuous riffle-pool natural channel design is proposed to recreate the aquatic habitat diversity that was lost in the straightened channel. The naturally stable restored channel will not only recreate lost habitat but will reduce the current erosion that is overloading downstream reaches of the South Branch Buffalo River and Stony Creek.

The easement acquisition part of this project is proposed to be completed using the Reinvest in Minnesota project implemented by BWSR. As part of their comprehensive subwatershed planning process, the District has completed planning and design on three additional stream reaches that are included as part of this application package.



These include the restoration of Whiskey Creek (14.5 miles), Whiskey Creek, its south tributary (1.18 miles, Phase 4), and the Upper Buffalo River (16 miles) and their associated riparian corridors. Additional stream restoration enhancement along the Whiskey Creek, Whiskey Creek, and the Upper Buffalo River will be completed as funding permits when and if additional sources of match funding become available.

Combined, these comprehensive projects have the potential to restore and enhance more than 32 miles of natural prairie stream. **Ultimately, over 1,750 acres of stream, river, floodplain, wetland, and grassland habitat along these restoration reaches will be protected and restored.**

Outcomes/Benefits

- Over 1,084 acres of permanently protected, restored, and enhanced riparian prairie habitat
- 9.5 miles of restored stable natural meandering stream with functional floodplain
- Restored hydrology for riparian wetlands and uplands
- Runoff Reduction
- Improved water quality

Timeline



Buffalo River Watershed Stream Habitat Restoration

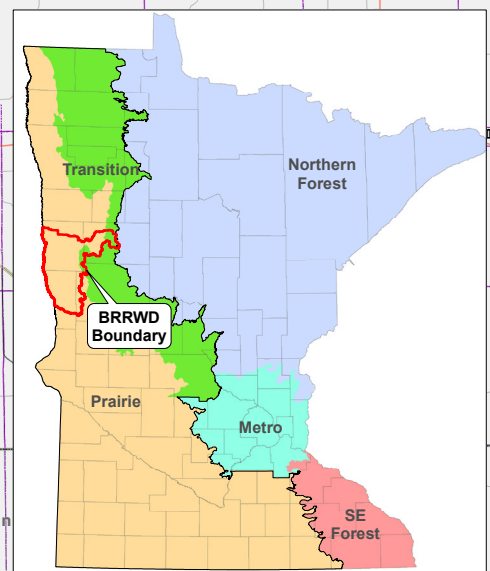
Legend:

- 2023-2026 Restorations (Pink line)
- Future Restorations (Yellow line)

Scale: 0, 4.5, 9, 18 Miles

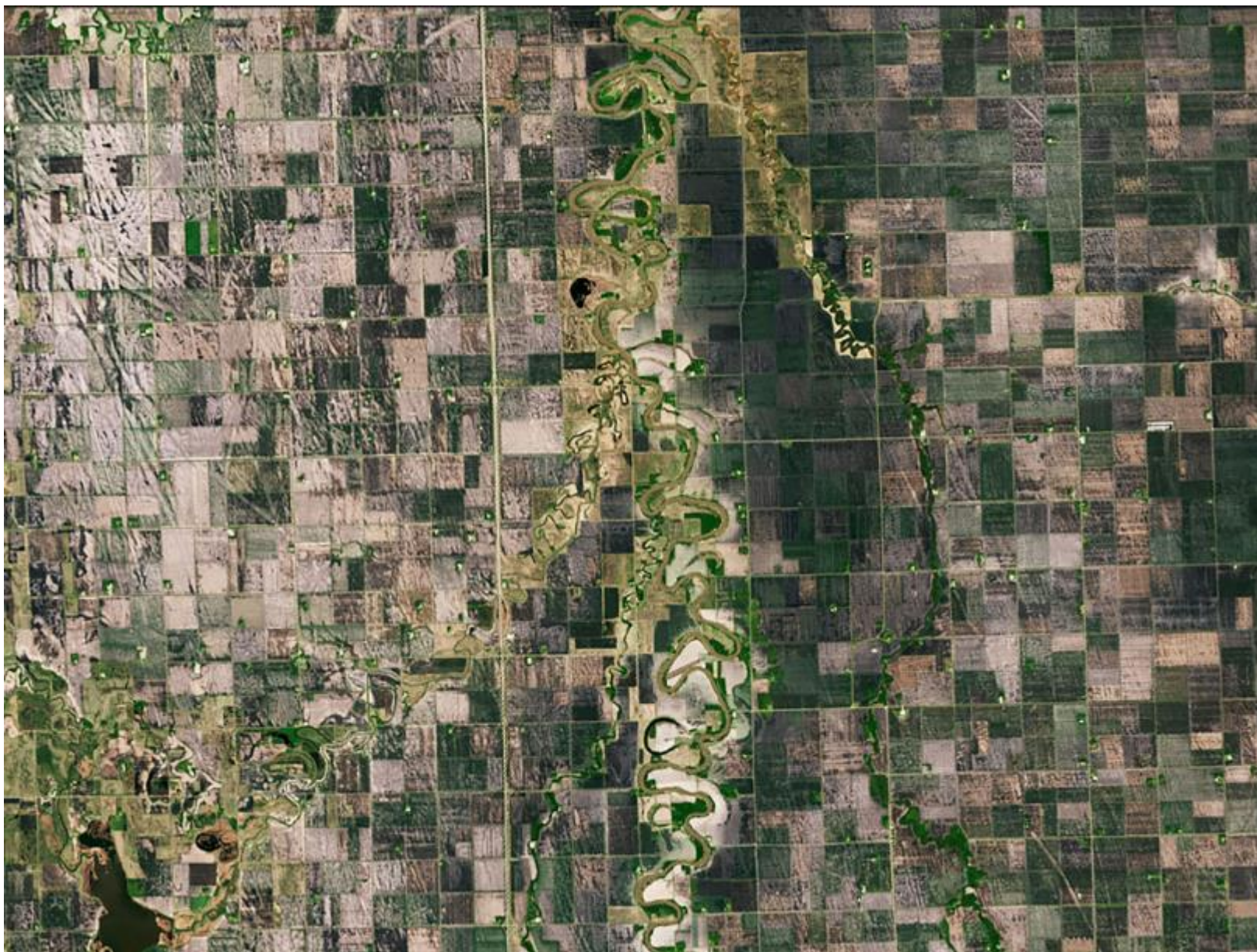
Inset Map: Shows the location of the Buffalo River Watershed (BRRWD) within Minnesota, highlighting the Transition, Northern Forest, Prairie, Metro, and SE Forest regions.

Map Labels: Georgetown, Fenton, Ulen, Hitterdal, Ogema, White Earth, Galtway, Becker, Clay, Hay Creek, Lake Park, Anderton, Detroit Lakes, Fargo, Varga, Dault, Redville, Otter Tail, Ely, Elizabeth, Fergus Falls, Foshome, Breckenridge, Oron, Wilkin, Kent, Waverton, Comstock, Moorhead, Dilworth, Glyndon, Sabin, Banerjeeville, Whiskey Creek, Deerhorn Creek, Lawndale Creek, Buffalo River, Buffalo River South Branch, Red River of the North, Otter Tail River, Granite Falls, Winchell, Nashua, and others.




Future Restorations

0 4.5 9 18 Miles

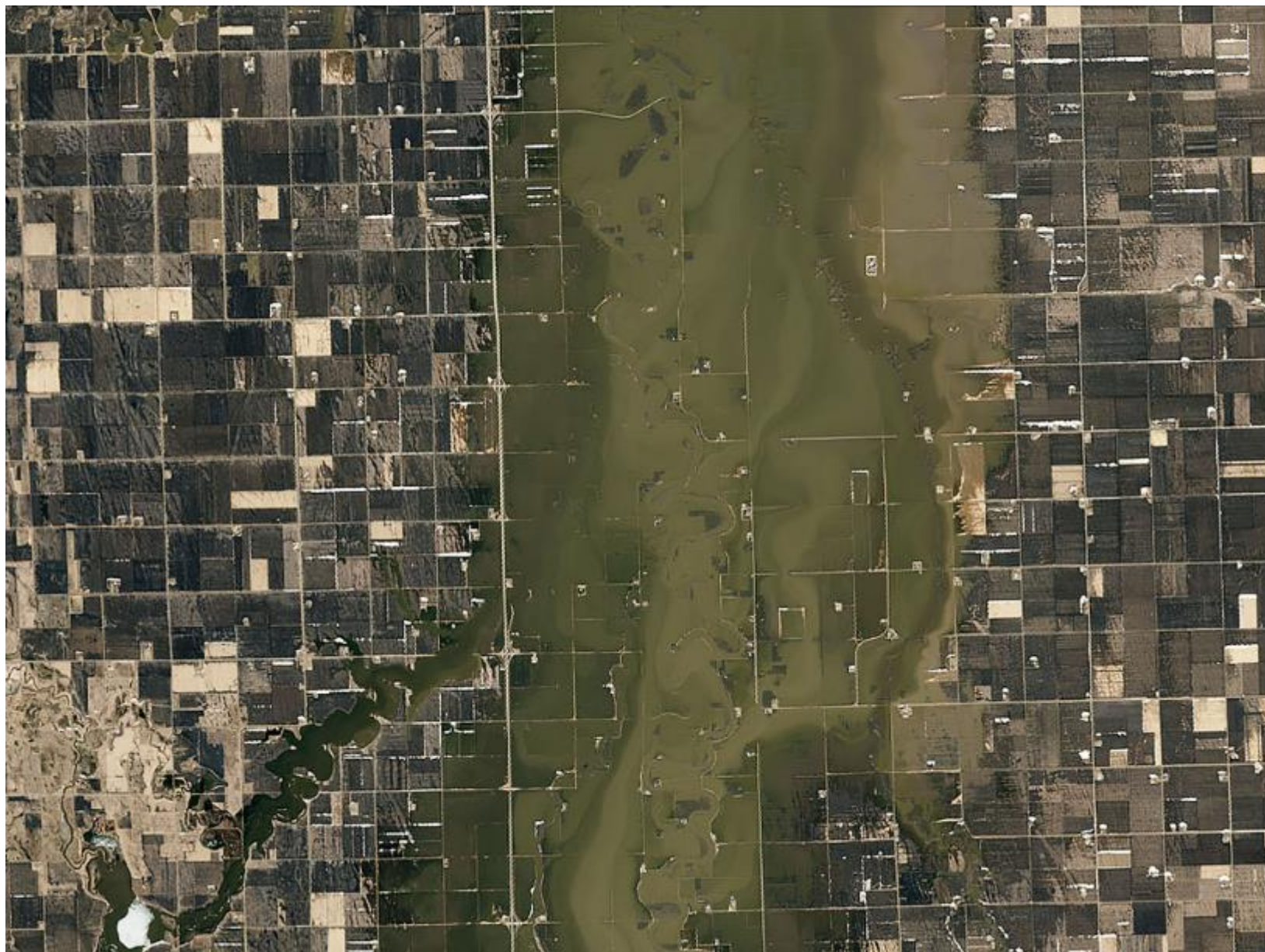


BEFORE AND AFTER


Red River's Frequent Flooding 

May 22, 2015 - April 17, 2020

<https://climate.nasa.gov/images-of-change?id=728#728-red-rivers-frequent-flooding>



BEFORE AND AFTER

Red River's Frequent Flooding 

May 22, 2015 - April 17, 2020

<https://climate.nasa.gov/images-of-change?id=728#728-red-rivers-frequent-flooding>

NASA releases satellite images of Manitoba flooding; province bracing for more rain

WINNIPEG — Severe flooding that has displaced thousands of people in southern Manitoba has reached levels that are quite literally out of this world.

Brittany Hobson, The Canadian Press May 12, 2022 3:20 PM May 12, 2022 3:35 PM

Flooding along the Red River on both sides of the Manitoba and Minnesota border is seen in false colour as observed by the Terra satellite in a May 10, 2022, handout image. THE CANADIAN PRESS/HO-NASA Earth Observatory, Lauren Dauphin, *MANDATORY CREDIT*

WINNIPEG — Severe flooding that has displaced thousands of people in southern Manitoba has reached levels that are quite literally out of this world.

Satellite images of flooding in the Red River Valley were NASA Earth Observatory's images of the day on Thursday.

The two false-colour images, taken on Tuesday and Wednesday, show the flooded valley on both sides of the Canada-U.S. border.

The images were taken with sensors that are used to track Earth and climate measurements on two NASA satellites called Terra and Aqua. They orbit throughout the day, passing over the equator from north to south and south to north.

The image from Tuesday shows dark masses of flooded area around the Red River from Winnipeg south to Grand Forks, N.D.

NASA Earth Observatory said the images were produced using different settings within the sensors to better distinguish river water out of its banks.

Heavy snowfall and spring rainstorms have left many parts of Manitoba flooded, including the Red River Valley.

Flood warnings are in place for most parts of the Red River north of Emerson, near the border, the province said in its latest flood bulletin.

Doyle Piwniuk, Manitoba's minister responsible for emergency measures, said water levels in some areas along the Red River have already peaked.

"The Red River peak is declining in Emerson, has peaked in St.-Jean Baptiste and (is) near peaking in Morris," Piwniuk said Thursday.

The province has issued an overland flood warning for a portion of southwest Manitoba and the southeast corner of the province, while an overland flood watch for all of southern Manitoba remains in effect.

A new low-pressure weather system is expected to bring 20 to 40 millimetres of rain beginning Thursday with the possibility of some areas exceeding 50 millimetres.

Environment and Climate Change Canada issued special weather statements for several communities across southern Manitoba.

It said heavy rain and thunderstorms were expected for the Winnipeg area and in the western part of the province near Brandon.

"The risks we have with this rainfall event is obviously an exasperation or worsening of overland flood concerns in any area that's having flooding issues," said Alysa Pederson, who is a meteorologist with the weather agency.

"When we get severe storms or thunderstorms that can drop 50 millimetres over a couple of hours even in mid-July, it can cause localized flooding. So it's not going to be a good situation where there is already a lot of flooding or overland concerns."

Pederson added the combination of heavy rainfall and strong winds means there is a concern of further washouts for some areas.

There is also a high risk of ice piling up on the east shore of Lake Manitoba including areas along Twin Lakes and Lundar beaches, the province said. Strong winds could also cause water levels in flooded areas of the Red River Valley to rise by up to about 30 centimetres.

Parts of Manitoba have recently been battered with heavy snow and rain. Most southern Manitoba basins received 20 to 40 millimetres of rain earlier this week.

Pederson said these amounts are normal for this time of year but not with the same frequency.

"We don't usually see this many consecutive events occur. Usually, there's one or two. This is (the) fourth or fifth week here with another system moving through."

There are 28 municipalities and four First Nation communities that have declared states of emergency, with 2,500 people out of their homes.

Three municipalities have requested resources to help with flooding ahead of the expected rainfall, said Piwniuk.

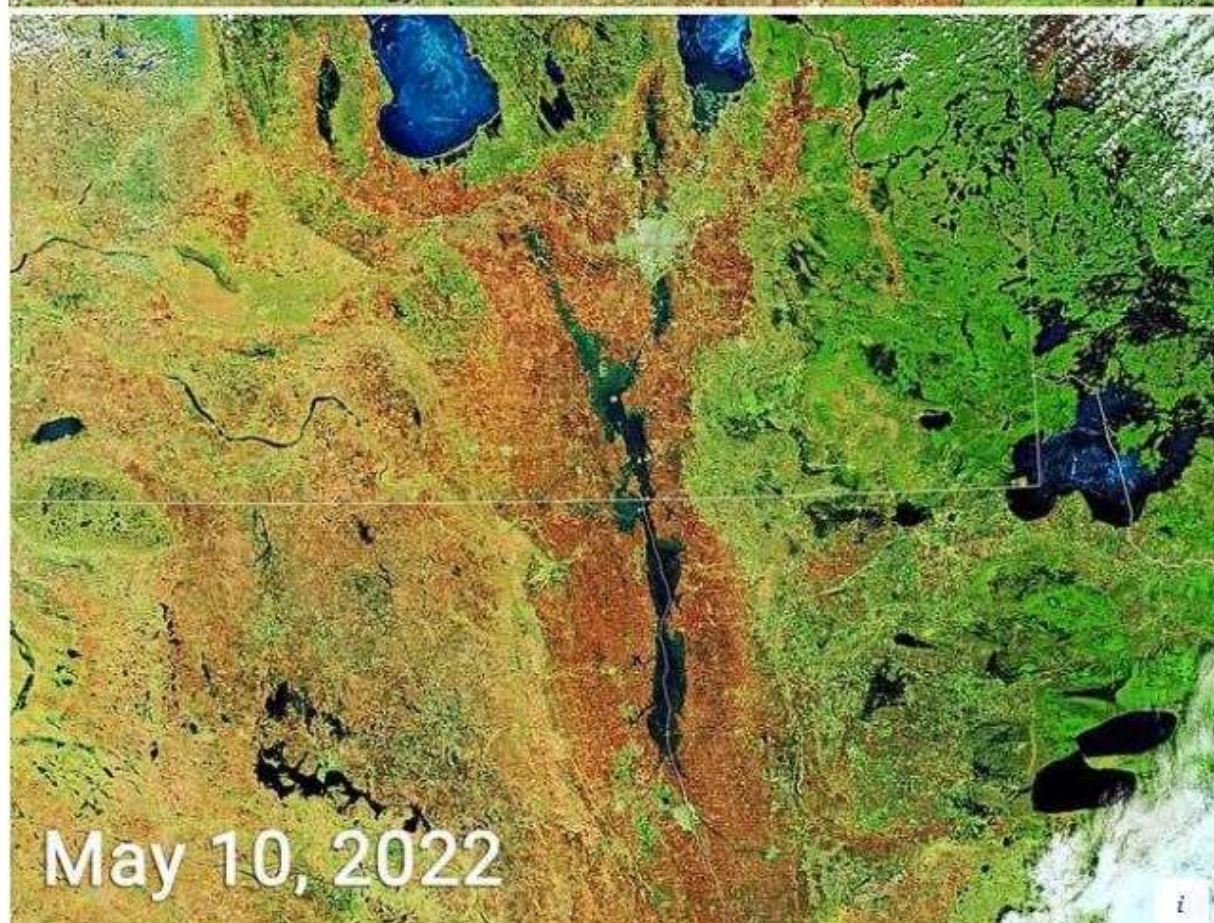
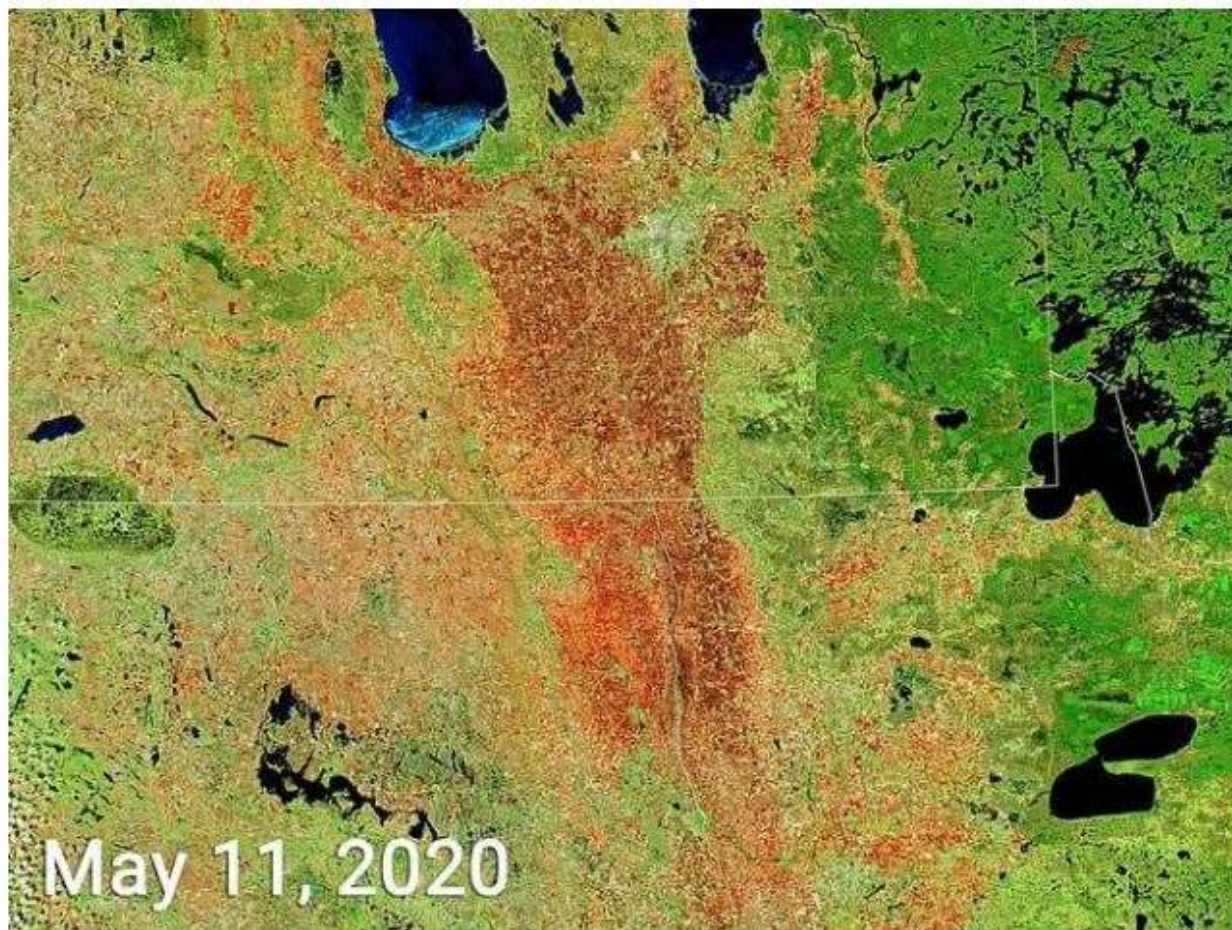
This report by The Canadian Press was first published May 12, 2021.

— With files from Steve Lambert in Winnipeg

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This story was produced with the financial assistance of the Meta and Canadian Press News Fellowship.

Brittany Hobson, The Canadian Press



The Prairie Ecologist

Essays, photos, and discussion about prairie ecology, restoration, and management

A Deep-Rooted Prairie Myth

Posted on [September 17, 2019](#) by [Chris Helzer](#)

Anyone familiar with prairies has likely seen [drawings](#) and [photographs](#) showing the incredibly deep root systems of prairie grasses and other grassland plants. The prairie ecologist J.E. Weaver, in particular, is well known for his [illustrations of long roots](#) extending below prairie plants. That root depth is frequently held up as a major factor that influences the resilience of prairies in the face of summer drought. After all, deep roots allow those plants to draw water from far down in the soil profile when rainfall becomes scarce. It's one of the defining components of prairie ecosystems.

There's just one problem. Prairies don't actually work that way.

Yes, prairie grasses and wildflowers have very deep roots, but research over the last decade or so has built a strong case against the idea that those plants use their deep roots to find moisture during times of scarcity. In fact, they might not be using them to draw moisture at all.



- This prairie has survived droughts, grazing, and fire. The root system beneath these plants plays a major role in that resilience, but not in the way many of us have been taught.

This revelation was first shared with me by Dr. Dave Wedin at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and it has been reinforced during discussions I've had with Dr. Jesse Nippert and his graduate students at Kansas State University. Increased attention to this topic and continued improvements in technology have allowed researchers to measure how, where, and when plants are drawing water from the soil. What they're learning doesn't fit the story we've all bought into.

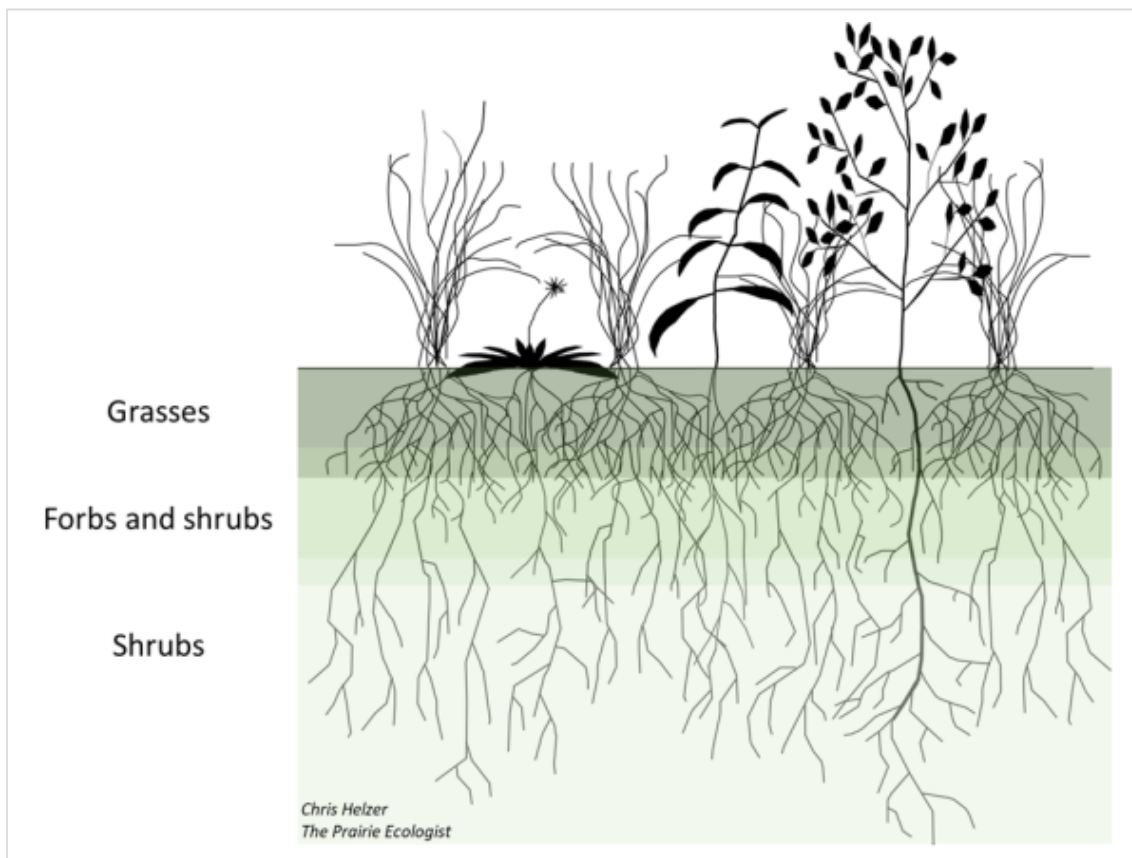
Here's what we know. Despite having very deep roots, most prairie grasses pull water primarily from the top 10 inches or so of the soil. Grasses dominate that shallow root zone with a very dense web of roots. Those grass plants also have deeper roots, but researchers have shown that those deep roots are rarely, if ever, used to draw water or nutrients, even during periods of drought. Jesse says that's been well documented within the Great Plains, but also in South Africa and Australia, so it seems to be a widespread phenomenon.



- Prairie grasses have a dense mass of roots in the upper reaches of the soil profile. They dominate the access to water within that zone, especially during times of drought. However, while they have deeper roots too, they don't seem to use them to access water from deep in the soil.

The way forbs use their roots is a little less well-known at this point, but progress is being made. Jesse says forbs seem to pull water from shallow depths when they can, but often get their moisture from below that zone of dense grass roots. However, even during droughts, they don't seem to access water below the top 30 inches of soil. Work from Dave Wedin and his colleagues in Nebraska supports what the Nippert lab in Kansas has found. In the Nebraska Sandhills, researchers found that vegetation doesn't have much impact on soil moisture below about three feet, even during drought years.

What about woody vegetation? Jesse's students have found that shrubs pull water from much deeper in the soil than grasses and forbs, starting at about 18 inches and reaching down to 8 or 10 feet. As with forbs, shrubs can draw water from shallower depths during times of plenty, but they seem focus mainly water from depths below what grasses and forbs can reach. This, by the way, applies to shrub species such as sumac (*Rhus* sp) and dogwood (*Cornus* sp), but not to more forb-like shrubs such as leadplant (*Amorpha canescens*) or New Jersey tea (*Ceanothus* sp).



- Grasses dominate the upper most zone of the soil profile with a dense mass of roots and rarely get water from greater depths. Forbs may pull water from near the surface when it is available, but usually get moisture from below the “grass zone” (but still within the top 30 inches). Shrubs can obtain water from any depth, but mainly get it from 18 inches and below – and down to deep as 8 to 10 feet or more. The purpose of deep roots for forbs and grasses is still under investigation.

So, during droughts, grasses and forbs don’t seem to be drawing water from deep in the soil, but shrubs do. This probably gives them a major advantage during those times of stress. Prairie grasses can survive drought, but it’s not because they access water from great depths. Instead, at least some of them have just developed the capacity to continue functioning with very little available soil moisture. Shrubs, however, don’t seem to suffer much when the top layers of soil are dry – they can just reach down deeper into the moist soil below.

Some of those shrubs have an additional advantage because they are clonal and can share water between the multitude of their aboveground stems, which are connected by underground rhizomes. The Nippert lab has shown that the more mature stems in the center of clone can pull water from deep in the soil and then transport it to the more shallow-rooted stems along the expanding outer edge of the clone. In that way, the young stems on the outside are better able to outcompete surrounding vegetation and allow the overall shrub clone to grow larger. As if that wasn’t enough, Jesse says it also appears that the big thick roots of shrubs alter water infiltration, speeding the passage of rainwater down through the soil to where only shrub roots can access it. This is especially true after those roots die and leave open channels behind.

Fortunately, while shrubs seem to have some serious advantages belowground, they still have a major disadvantage above ground, which is that their growing points are up in the air. Grasses produce new tillers (aboveground stems) from buds at or below the ground surface. That means that when they are grazed or burned off, they only lose the aboveground plant material they've invested in during the current growing season. If that defoliation occurs during the dormant season, it really doesn't bother them at all because all their living biomass is safely belowground. Shrubs, however, put on new growth from the tips of their aboveground stems. When fire comes through and destroys all their aboveground tissue, they lose a considerable investment, even during the dormant season, and have to start rebuilding from the ground – where they have to compete for light with surrounding grasses. Frequent fire, then, creates big problems for shrubs, but grasses and forbs can more easily take it in stride.



- Two students of Jesse Nippert (Marissa Zaricor and Seton Bachle) examine prairie roots as part of a project at our Platte River Prairies.

So why have we been so wrong about how prairie plant roots work? Dave Wedin points out that some of it is because we've paid attention to Weaver's drawings and ignored his data. Even in the 1940's, Weaver was [publishing data](#) showing that the vast majority of grass root biomass was found in the upper 6-12 inches of the soil. However, people have focused more on the depth of those roots than where the bulk of their mass exists. In addition, the idea that prairie plants are pulling water from great depths is just an attractive – and logical – story. The accompanying illustrations are also really compelling. It's easy to see how the myth has been perpetuated over time.

Our new understanding of prairie roots and how they work has important implications for prairie ecology and management. Over the last several years, I've found myself re-thinking