



Sauk River CWMP Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION

Date and Location: November 18th, 2024; Sauk River Watershed District Office

Time: 1-4 pm

Attendees: Steve Zeece (SRWD), Angela Beckman (Stearns Env), Becky Schlorf (Stearns Env), Abi Parker (SRWD), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns SWCD)

Online via Teams: Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD) Deja Anton (Todd SWCD)

Introductions Previous Meeting Notes

- No revisions to October meetings note.

Fiscal Agent Updates:

- Becky Schlorf of Stearns County Environmental Services provided an update on all of the SRW Collaborative's grants.



FY2022 WBIF

Below is a summary of the FY2022 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant (began September 2022). The grant period was extended to 12/31/2026. The grant agreement was amended to include the Supplemental WBIF money that was awarded by BWSR. Total award: \$1,136,821.

Tasks	Summary of Activity
Objective 1: Admin/Coord 63% allocated, encumbered or spent	One reimbursement request for the 2 nd quarter of 2024 (received 07/29/24) was paid as of 8/29/2024.
Objective 2: Project Dev 83% allocated, encumbered or spent	Getchel Creek Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Team - Five (5) reimbursement requests received and paid. Cedar Island & North Browns Lakes Outreach - One (1) reimbursement request received and paid.
Objective 3: Supplies/Equipment 0% allocated, encumbered or spent	Work plan designates for Sauk Watershed District (WD)
Objective 4: Plan/Assess 25% allocated, encumbered or spent	Five (5) reimbursements paid for Judicial Ditch 2 CIP Team (Sauk WD). An additional invoice (\$1,621.28) from February 2024 yet to be paid for Stormwater Pond Assessment (City of St. Cloud via Sauk River WD) because of insufficient details.
Objective 5: Ed/Info 65% allocated, encumbered or spent	Eight (8) reimbursement paid. One request for reimbursement not yet received from Stearns SWCD. An additional invoice (\$5,000) involving Sauk River WD and City of St. Cloud (Adopt-A-Drain) from February 2024 has yet to be paid because of insufficient details.
Objective 6: Tech/Eng 15% allocated, encumbered or spent	Nine (9) reimbursement requests received. All have been paid.

Objective 7: Ag Practices 63% allocated, encumbered or spent	One (1) cost-share project completed and paid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Douglas SWCD project SR-FY2022-004 Fontaine One encumbered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stearns SWCD SR-FY2022-016 Bosl Three project allotted funds.
Objective 9: Livestock Waste Management 100% allocated, encumbered or spent	One (1) cost-share project completed and paid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todd SWCD project SR-FY2022-005 Frericks
Objective 10: Non-Structural Mgmt Practices 49% allocated, encumbered or spent	One encumbered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stearns SWCD SR-FY2022-013 Clay Hills
Objective 11: Stream/Shore Project 59% allocated, encumbered or spent	Four (4) cost-share projects have been completed and paid. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-001 Struve Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-002 Hampton Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-003 Fairy Lake Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-007 Westbrock Two encumbered: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stearns SWCD SR-FY2022-006 Friedrichs Stearns SWCD SR-FY2022-012 Thellin 6 other projects have been allocated funds.
Objective 13: Urban Stormwater Mgmt 100% allocated, encumbered or spent	1 project has been allocated funds.

The Interest Earned through October 31, 2024 is \$26,662.87 but is not included as part of the budget.

The current expenditure percentage is 31.9%. The 50% expenditure rate for a request for the next grant allotment, which will be 40% of the funding, has not been reached.



FY2024 WBIF

The \$1,212,865 grant agreement was executed by BWSR on June 3, 2024. The grant agreement will expire on 12/31/2026.

Tasks	Summary of Activity
<u>Objective 11:</u> Streambank or Shoreland Protection 9% allocated, encumbered or spent	One project encumbered <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Todd SWCD FY24-001 Lindquist

<u>Objective 12:</u> Wetland Restoration 0% allocated, encumbered or spent	One potential project
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The Interest Earned through October 31, 2024 is \$12,021.77 but is not included as part of the budget.

CRP Incentive FY24 (Pilot) - \$30,000

The CRP Incentive Pilot Grant agreement had a grant agreement amendment approved in November 2024. The expiration of this grant agreement is 12/31/2025. The amendment was required in order to amend the work plan, which was also approved.

4 projects have been encumbered totaling \$13,655.

In October 2024, reimbursement from BWSR was requested for \$798.90 for Administration of the grant by Stearns County.

CRP Incentive FY25 – Pending Grant Agreement

All partners that would utilize the funds submitted their board resolutions, and application was made at the end of September for the full \$100,000; however, BWSR has not sent a grant agreement for signature.

• **Fiscal Report Discussion Notes:**

- FY 24 CRP Pilot workplan and amended grant agreement have been approved & executed.
 - Project request form in SharePoint is updated to include variable payment rates (within or outside priority areas).
 - Stephanie H pointed out acreage payment rates for 4 encumbered projects used the old rate (prior to amendment), totaling \$13,655 needs adjustment to the newly approved lesser payment rate.
 - CRP Contracts cannot be fully processed until federal Farm Bill passes.



SWCD Projects Review-

- Loxtercamp Wetland Restoration Project- Stearns SWCD
 - Outside of biennial workplan priority HSPF reach & objective 12 target area. Within priority area in the 10-year plan.
 - Is a targeted area under other objective #'s within the same workplan biennium
 - Under 50k BWSR threshold
 - Will require biennial targeting scheme expansion to include this projects region (scope of work change)
 - Jason W, BWSR- tentative approval at this time. Jason will follow up after further investigation and discussion with colleagues.
 - Decision: Inform policy Committee of changes to fy 24 objective 12 workplan, if approved by Jason W./BWSR Staff.
 - If approved Stearns SWCD will request prelim and Imp team review and

General Updates

- Getchell –No significant updates to report at this meeting. Recent progress includes surveys conducted by both Houston Engineering, and SRWD Staff working with MNDNR River Geomorphologist, Nick Proulx whom will provide services to assist with the Getchell Stream Project.
- JD #2 Alternatives Analysis –
 - i. J. Noren, USACE Staff is currently building and calibrating the Osakis Lake Response model.
 - ii. Reimbursement request forthcoming from SRWD.
 - iii. Match status from the US Army Corp was received by the SRWD the business day prior to this meeting.
 - iv. A handful of sediment samples will need to be taken from the northeast basin of Osakis Lake, an important region in this study known from past SRWD monitoring data to accumulate sediment, deficient in destratification/mixing, and prone to turn anoxic seasonally expelling nutrients as bacteria change metabolic processes in order to survive oxygen deficient parameters.
 - v. Drone survey by SRWD technician is complete and under review by engineering consultants. Following the review, a traditional field survey will be conducted to confirm
- Education and Outreach Report –



- i. Committee volunteering to present an update on the citizen norms at the November Policy committee meeting. Request of 5-10 mins on the PC agenda. "Keep it Rooted" theme.
 - ii. Stephanie H. presented the draft slideshow, to be finalized and presented to the PC later this week.
 - iii. Imp Team Feedback- Replace any language that promotes lawn/turf grass on shoreline property and replace with similar term such as "yard care" which does not promote turf grasses/lawns in riparian zones or adjacent uplands.
- Regulatory review-
 - i. A task order contract between Houston Engineering and the SRWD has been executed. It is anticipated to take 6 months to complete this review.
 - FY22 Funding Reallocation Discussion
 - Project request Forms – tabled until next meeting.

Land Stewardship Plan –

- On a first come first serve list with BWSR, awaiting update from Lindberg.
- Anticipated in 2025

Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items –

- Previous meeting minutes
- Fiscal Agent Report
- Funding Shifts- fy22
- Funding Adjustment fy24
- Tracking Tool Demonstration
- Education and Outreach Updates & Watershed Norms Presentation
- Project Feature- Stearns Shoreline
- Virtual Connection Policy

Close out and Next Meeting –

- December 19th, 2024 1-4 p.m.
- January __?__ 2025 9am- noon.- to be decided at Dec 2024 mtg. Current schedule is 4th Wednesday monthly. Continuing of this pattern lands us on Jan 22nd & Feb 26th 2025
- Meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.