



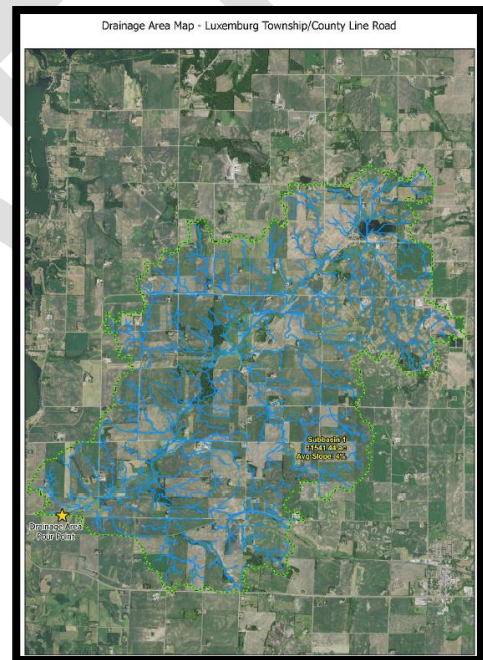
# Sauk River CWMP Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION	
<b>Date and Location:</b>	February 26th, 2025; Sauk River Watershed District Office
<b>Time:</b>	9am-noon
<b>Attendees:</b>	Steve Zeece (SRWD), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Kory Klebe (SRWD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County ES), Angela Beckman (Stearns County ES), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD) Greg Berg (Stearns CD), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD)  <b>Online via Teams:</b>

## SWCD Projects Review-

### Stearns Conservation District- Vails Lake Headwaters Luxemburg Township Feasibility Study Proposal

- Stearns County and Stearns Conservation District are seeking funding and technical support to conduct a feasibility study in the Headwaters of Vails Lake in Stearns and Meeker Counties to identify projects that reduce flooding of roadways, improve resiliency, and provide water quality and hydrology benefits.
  - Estimated funding needed: \$60,000 - \$75,000 for consultant to conduct study
- Implementation Team was supportive of funding this study, but partners making the request need to identify where the funds are being reallocated from and how that may impact the FY24 WBIF grant work plan.
- Partners connected with Jason at BWSR and he shared that this is eligible, but also needs clarity on where the funds will be reallocated from.
- Stearns SWCD will review FY24 WBIF grant work plan and bring recommendation and request for where to reallocate funds from for Imp. Team discussion on 3/31.



## Fiscal Agent Updates

Angela Beckman, Stearns County Environmental Services (fiscal agent) provided verbal updates on the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative's grants.





## **Getchell Creek/Stearns CD 26 Capital Improvement Project**

- N. Proulx, MNDNR and Lisa Odens, Houston Eng (SRWD engineer) are coordinating to determine channel sizing utilizing hydraulic & hydrologic modeling and geomorphic survey data gathered during fall 2024.
- Stearns Conservation District's Jason S. and SRWD's Steve Z. have conducted outreach with landowners posed for construction. Stearns CD and Landowners are preparing an application to submit to the RIM program.

## **Project Request & Checklist Form Potential Change & Adoption**

- The group briefly discussed the benefits of the proposed updated form that is borrowed from the Long Prairie River One Watershed One Plan Group.
- Decision tabled until Douglas SWCD staff return from leave and have an opportunity to weigh-in on proposed

## **JD2 Project Team & USACE Alternatives Updates**

- The next project team meeting will be held during the early-mid summer of 2025, once the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Alternatives Analysis data have been gathered, processed, and input into the USACE's lake response model. At this next meeting, The USACE Staff will facilitate a workshop as part project task 2; to set project goals. The data from previous tasks will be used to establish management goals that will improve the overall function of Lake Osakis. In addition, alternatives that are technically feasible for making progress towards the management goals for Lake Osakis will be identified. Up to 50 alternates from this workshop will be brought forth to the next task of this analysis; assessing and ranking projects to determine the top 10 alternatives. This meeting will occur in the City of Osakis with all Project Team members as well as representation from local ag production organizations including, but not limited to, the MN Corn Growers Association, MN Soybean Growers Association, Minnesota Milk Producer Association, and the Todd County Corn and Soy group.

## **Regulatory Review**

- The consultant has received all the local ordinances from agencies within the Sauk River watershed. The consultant has started the assessment portion of the review. This will include documenting how each ordinance is implemented and administered within each jurisdiction. In addition to documenting the overall structure and function of the local government ordinances, the vendor will also assess the similarities and differences among local ordinances with the purpose of identifying opportunities for alignment, redundancies, or gaps in protection. The vendor will summarize the results of this assessment in a draft report.
- The vendor will participate in an in-person meeting, tentatively in March or April 2025, at the Sauk River Watershed District to present the draft report to stakeholders and gather feedback on potential edits and enhancements to the draft report. The vendor will use this stakeholder feedback in Task 3 to finalize the report. SRWD will coordinate with local regulatory parties to invite all stakeholder to this meeting.



### Landscape Stewardship Plan

- BWSR primary contact, Lindberg Ekola, is no longer with BWSR as his position was temporary. New contact for project is Jeff Hrubes or Justin Hanson, both at BWSR.
- Plan development cost is \$26,000.00; 50% covered by DNR funds, 50% covered by WBIF (\$13K)
- Expectation: 3 meetings are required over 4-5 months to accomplish developing the plan
- Project could begin in summer of 2025.
- Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns CD is primary contact for project.

### Plan Tracking Tool Updates

- The Tracking tool is fully functional. Collaborative members are instructed to upload project data from projects complete after the approval date of the CWMP- March 2021.
- The guidance/instructions document can be found on the SharePoint site [here](#).
- For questions and assistance contact Ben Ruley at the Stearns Conservation District at [Ben.Ruley@nacdnet.net](mailto:Ben.Ruley@nacdnet.net).

### Education and Outreach Committee:

- [Feb 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting Minutes](#)
- [Next meeting agenda](#) (March meeting postponed until April 1st)

### MN Dept of Health Groundwater Accelerated Implementation Grant

<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/groundwater/accimpgrant.html>

#### 1.2 Program Description

The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) received funding from the Clean Water Fund to advance Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS). A portion of this funding is being offered as grants to build capacity to accelerate implementation of groundwater projects across the state. Each applicant will have the opportunity to apply for up to \$50,000 to conduct pre- project identification, planning and design work that is required before on-the-ground projects can be implemented. Whether it is conducting inventories of potential pollutant sites, utilizing existing targeting tools and datasets, providing technical assistance, or increasing citizen interactions, these grants equip local governments with the capacity to increase the installation and/or management of groundwater projects and practices that protect groundwater. This grant cannot be used for project implementation or mitigation purposes.

- Application period open until 3/14/2025, start date 5/1/2025, end date 1/31/2027.
- The Imp Team decided to table the discussion and revisit when the next round of funding opens.

### Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items & Updates

- Next meeting 5.15.2025
- Previous meeting minutes
- Fiscal Agent Report
- Election of Officers
- Regulatory Review

### Next Meeting Date



The Implementation team chose to postpone the March meeting, originally scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday (3/26) to **Monday 3/31 from 1-4 pm at the SRWD office.**

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