



# Sauk River CWMP Implementation Team Meeting

<b>MEETING INFORMATION</b>	
<b>Date and Location:</b>	March 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2025; Sauk River Watershed District Office
<b>Time:</b>	1-3pm
<b>Attendees:</b>	Steve Zeece (SRWD), Jerry Rapp (Douglas Co) Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Kory Klebe (SRWD), Angela Beckman (Stearns County ES), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Deja Anton (Todd SWCD), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Gene Mensen (SRWD), Allison Schugel (SRWD), Scott Wittkop (SRWD)  <b>Online via Teams:</b> Schlorf (Stearns County ES), Kevin Lahr (SRWD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Scott Klatt (SRWD), Sheila Hellerman, Zachary Dubay, Noah Czech, Brad Wozney, Bret Zimmerman, Ben Oleson, Dave Blommel, David Broxmeyer, Andrew___?___ (City of Melrose), Jon Stueve

## Review Previous Meeting Notes & Introductions;

There were no additions or corrections made to the minutes from the previous meeting in February. Introductions were given by those in attendance, including regulatory staff from numerous local governments, and the SRWD's rules committee.

## Fiscal Agent Updates

- Angela Beckman, Stearns County Environmental Services (SRWC fiscal agent) provided verbal updates on the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative's grants. Below are the copies of the budget reports that were shared during this meeting.
- Fy 22- SRWD payment requests in process for SRWD obj 1,2,4
- Fy22 Stearns CD obj 6 7 payments are in process.
- Fy 24 payment disbursed for Todd SWCD for obj 2 qtr 4, 2024.



## FY 2022 & Supplemental

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS							As of February 28th, 2025 - updated 3/24/2025		
Budget & Expense Report							FY22-23 Grant Required Match is 10%		
FY2022-2023							\$ 83,255.00		
<small>This budget &amp; expense report reflects allocations &amp; encumbrances processed by the fiscal agent, as well as actual expenditures paid. See "Object7-11 Details" sheet for details on allocations &amp; encumbrances. See "Expense Tracker" for more information.</small>									
WBIF GRANT ACTIVITY	GRANT BUDGET	SUM OF ALLOCATIONS + ENCUMBRANCES	SUM OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES PAID TO DATE	ALLOCATIONS/ ENCUMBRANCES + ACTUALS	BUDGET REMAINING	PERCENT SPENT & ENCUMBERED	BUDGETED WBIF MATCH	COMMITTED WBIF MATCH	ACTUAL WBIF MATCH TO DATE
Objective 1: Admin/Coord	\$ 93,731.80		\$ 70,521.25		\$ 23,210.55	75%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 2: Project Development	\$ 51,583.38		\$ 47,626.07		\$ 3,957.31	92%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 3: Supplies/Equipment	\$ 16,000.00		\$ -		\$ 16,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 4: Planning/Assessment	\$ 155,389.47		\$ 150,389.47		\$ 5,000.00	97%	\$ 70,389.47	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 5: Education/Information	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 6,200.00	\$ 26,356.30	\$ 32,556.30	\$ 17,443.70	65%	\$ -	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 4,865.58
Objective 6: Technical/Engineering	\$ 88,726.74		\$ 23,716.85		\$ 65,009.89	27%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 7: Agricultural Practices	\$ 165,810.08	\$ 50,781.50	\$ 8,687.00	\$ 59,468.50	\$ 106,341.58	36%	\$ 24,200.00	\$ 19,589.00	\$ 19,569.00
Objective 8: Conservation Drainage	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -		\$ 14,250.00	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 9: Livestock Waste Management	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	100%	\$ 6,250.00	\$ 7,375.00	\$ -
Objective 10: Non-Structural Management Practices	\$ -		\$ -		\$ -		\$ 25,437.50	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 11: Streambank or Shoreland Protection	\$ 186,308.53	\$ 66,823.25	\$ 111,498.53	\$ 178,321.78	\$ 7,986.75	96%	\$ 62,491.09	\$ 58,116.09	\$ 42,052.22
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 832,550.00</b>	<b>\$ 123,804.75</b>	<b>\$ 463,795.47</b>	<b>\$ 587,600.22</b>	<b>\$ 244,949.78</b>	<b>71%</b>	<b>\$ 203,018.06</b>	<b>\$ 86,280.09</b>	<b>\$ 66,486.80</b>
							MATCH (actual)	\$	66,486.80
							DIFF (planned match)	\$	(136,531.26)
							DIFF (required match)	\$	(16,768.20)

## FY 2024 WBIF

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS							As of March 24, 2025			
Budget & Expense Report							FY24 Grant Required Match is 10%			
FY2024							\$ 121,286.50			
<small>This budget &amp; expense report reflects allocations &amp; encumbrances processed by the fiscal agent, as well as actual expenditures paid. See "Object7-11 Details" sheet for details on allocations &amp; encumbrances. See "Expense Tracker" for more information.</small>										
WBIF GRANT ACTIVITY	SOURCE	GRANT BUDGET	SUM OF ALLOCATIONS + ENCUMBRANCES	SUM OF ACTUAL EXPENDITURES PAID TO DATE	ALLOCATIONS/ ENCUMBRANCES + ACTUALS	BUDGET REMAINING	PERCENT SPENT & ENCUMBERED	BUDGETED WBIF MATCH	COMMITTED WBIF MATCH	ACTUAL WBIF MATCH TO DATE
Objective 1: Admin/Coord	WBIF State Grant	\$ 52,190.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 52,190.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 2: Project Development	WBIF State Grant	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,244.61	\$ 76,755.39	4%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 3: Supplies/Equipment	WBIF State Grant	\$ 90,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 90,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 4: Planning/Assessment	WBIF State Grant	\$ 53,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 53,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 5: Education/Information	WBIF State Grant	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 6: Technical/Engineering	WBIF State Grant	\$ 187,800.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 187,800.00	0%	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 7: Agricultural Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$ 139,375.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 139,375.00	0%	\$ 34,843.75	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 9: Livestock Waste Management	WBIF State Grant	\$ 140,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 140,000.00	0%	\$ 35,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 10: Non-Structural Management Practices	WBIF State Grant	\$ 98,750.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 98,750.00	0%	\$ 24,687.50	\$ -	\$ -
Objective 11: Streambank or Shoreland Protection	WBIF State Grant	\$ 266,750.00	\$ 24,637.68	\$ -	\$ 24,637.68	\$ 242,112.32	9%	\$ 60,437.50	\$ 8,212.56	\$ -
Objective 12: Wetland Restoration	WBIF State Grant	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 17,550.00	\$ -	\$ 17,550.00	\$ 7,450.00	70%	\$ 6,250.00	\$ -	\$ -
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ 1,212,865.00</b>	<b>\$ 42,187.68</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 45,432.29</b>	<b>\$ 1,167,432.71</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>\$ 161,218.75</b>	<b>\$ 8,212.56</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Interest Earned (not budgeted)							\$	22,079.52		
							MATCH (actual)	\$	-	
							DIFF (planned match)	\$	(161,218.75)	
							DIFF (required match)	\$	(121,286.50)	



## FY 24 CRP Incentives Pilot & FY 25 CRP Incentives

- There are no significant updates to report due to Federal Govt delays with the Farm Bill.
  - Todd SWCD reports they have a couple of landowners interested in CRP.

### Fiscal Report Side Discussion Note:

- Todd SWCD reports they are continuing to work with the landowner across JD2 from the SRWD sediment basins.
  - Additional funding may be needed to complete this livestock exclusion fencing project; \$5000 is currently budgeted.
- Todd SWCD- Pit closure in Adley Creek MU (near Little Birch Lake) may be cancelled due to landowner health concerns.

## SWCD Projects Review

### Clay Hills Nutrient Management Plan- Stearns CD

- Fy 24 funding request; obj 10
- Gus Plus target area
- Discussion around practice details; soil testing, manure testing, application timeframes, application methods, crop tissue analysis, inspections, & landowner record keeping.
- 256 acres
- 3 year contract paid out after passing year 1 inspection.
- \$15,000.00 request
- **Approved**
- Fiscal Agent will send standard encumbrance email.
- Landowner is eager to start process.

### Goebel Residue Management- Stearns CD

- Overview- Reduced tillage on a corn and soybean rotation by replacing chisel plow and field cultivator with vertical tillage.
- Fy 24 funding; obj 10.
- 90 acres in GUS plus subwatershed target region, headwaters area.
- \$4081.50 request.
- **Approved**
- Fiscal Agent will send standard encumbrance email.

### Vails Lake Feasibility Study

- Will require funding allocation shift in fy 2024 from unidentified objectives
- \$60-75k will be needed to conduct study.
- Recommendation- if funds are shifted, reallocate from an activity/objective that does not have a grant deliverable associated reduction.
- Discussion around whether the midpoint planning grant fits this study proposal.
  - Mid point grant does not fit. This funding is for *BWSR's Performance Review And Assessment (PRAP)* process.



### **Rockville City Stormwater-**

- City has applied for an MPCA stormwater-based grant. If not awarded, funding may be requested from the SRW Collaborative at a later date in 2025.

### **Regulatory Review-**

- Bret Zimmerman, Houston Engineering's project contractor virtually presented, beginning with a project overview.
- SRWD has 4 main rules; Water Uses, Stormwater, Erosion Control, & Drainage.
- **Action Item:** Local regulatory agencies are responsible for reviewing their associated line items across all four tables of the provided memo, specifically where overlaps in regulations or ordinances exist between SRWD and other agencies. They must then communicate with the contractor and SRWD to determine the accuracy of the interpretation of their rules and whether any adjustments are necessary.
- Todd County/ Todd SWCD have yet to provide their ordinances. SRWD will follow up to gather them.
- Stearns County (ES) will additionally need to follow up as there was a meeting conflict with their regulatory personnel.
- Contractor will update report and provide memo to the group once all necessary data have been gathered.

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

- Project Engineer will be putting the proposed channel and floodplain in HEC-RAS model to confirm no reduction in drainage during the interim condition of project phasing.
- Engineer has revised the extent of floodplain grading based on DNR's feedback and the meetings with the landowners and will be adding approximate easement extents to the plans.
- 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.
- A meeting is in process of being scheduled during approximately mid-May with landowners who are planned for construction, landowners downstream of construction, Township, Engineer, and Stearns Conservation District.

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

- Form originated with the Long Prairie River 1W1P Group & modified to fit the SRW Collaborative.
- Should be reformatted into excel for easy transferring into the tracking tool for reporting.
- Next steps- Fiscal Agent will update
- Discussion around landowner and land-occupier on form, Tennessee warning, & privacy grey areas with utilizing public funding.



## JD2 Project Team & USACE Alternatives Updates

- The next project team meeting will be held during the early-mid-summer (June) 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 June 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.
- Todd SWCD advised June 18<sup>th</sup> they have a scheduling conflict and requested the SRWD avoid scheduling on that day.

## 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@nacdn.net](mailto:Ben.Ruley@nacdn.net).
- ArcGIS online interface was updated

## Education and Outreach Committee:

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

## Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items & Updates

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



- Reallocation (feasibility study for vails lake watershed)
- Groundwater Protection Rule.

**Closeout & Next Meeting Date**

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm

Next meeting is 4/23/25 9-noon

DRAFT