



Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION	
Date and Location:	August 27th, 2025; Sauk River Watershed District Office
Time:	9am- noon
Attendees:	Steve Zeece (SRWD), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Kory Klebe (SRWD), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County ES), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Adam Ossefoort(Todd SWCD), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Emily Forbord (Stearns County ES), Jason Weinerman (BWSR) Online via Teams: Nicole Brede, Holly Kovarik

Review Previous Meeting Notes & Introductions;

No edits or corrections to the previous meeting minutes.

Introduction were given by those remaining in attendance, with Fiscal Agent Stearns County Environmental Services new hire, Emily Forbord in attendance.

Fiscal Agent Updates

Fy 22 & Supplemental

- Total grant budget \$1,136,821
- Sum of expenditures- \$562,473.06 (49.47%)
- Sum of allocations and encumbrances- \$844,801.14 (74.3%)
- Interest earned (unbudgeted)- \$30,743.43

Fy2024

- Total grant budget- \$1,212,865
- Sum of expenditures- \$ 30,424.06 (2.5%)
- Sum of allocations & encumbrances- \$88,399.24 (7%)
- Interest earned (unbudgeted) \$31,217.16

Fy2024 Workplan Proposed Revision

The group discussed the proposed rewrite/revisions to the FY 24 workplan. The policy committee voted to approve this updated workplan pending BWSR review. Changes in the workplan are as follows:



- City of Rockville Stormwater Project
 - \$15,000 to objective 13 from objective 3
 - \$20,000 to objective 13 from objective 4
 - \$20,000 to objective 13 from objective 11
 - Added total of \$55,000
- Vails Lake and SRCOL Headwaters Feasibility Study
 - \$2,000 to objective 4 from objective 2
 - \$9,000 to objective 4 from objective 6
 - \$10,000 to objective 4 from objective 7
 - \$37,250 to objective 4 from objective 10
 - \$10,750 to objective 4 from objective 11
 - \$6,000 to objective 4 from objective 12
 - added total of \$75,000
- Added HSPF reaches to targeting for objectives 7,8,9,10, 11, 12, & 13.
 - Added HSPF reaches; **Osakis** 3, 10, 22; Sauk Lake 30, 43, 50, 54, 70, 71, 72, 73, 75, 77, 79, 100; **Centre Sauk** 110, 130, 181,190, 221; GUS Plus 157, 159, 230, 241, 242, 243, 245; **Chain of Lakes** 370, 375, 381, 383, 385, 388, 389, 392, 394, 400, 411, 420

CRP Interest Earnings

\$980.87 as of 7/31/2025

SharePoint Sandbox-

In an effort to streamline usage of the sharepoint, the Fiscal Agent has reorganized files, folder, and quick access tabs to commonly used folders, policies, agreements, by laws, meetings, etc. At this time the sandbox is not currently live but is accessible for review.

CRP Incentives Funding Requests

CRP Incentives request were reviewed by the group. None were approved at this meeting. Todd SWCD request for Smith, Cipala, & Williamson need CRP practice codes to determine eligibility. These requests will need to be completed in order to review & approval at the September meeting.

Cost Share Funding Policy Clarifications

Language discrepancies exist in the SRWC Cost share Policy for non-structural practices regarding length of contract, and to which fiscal year(s) that policies apply. The title of the cost share policy has “fy xx” atop, indicating it applies to all future workplans. Elsewhere in the document it specifically references Fy22. The Policy Committee will need to decide if and how they want to adjust this language.

SRWC Cost Share Policy:



“3.1 Design Standards. The LGU proposing a project or practice is responsible for project design. Design for projects and practices will be consistent with either: 1) the Natural Resource Conservation Service NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) practice standards, 2) standards contained in the Minnesota Stormwater Manual or 3) professionally accepted engineering standards. Design standards will include specifications for operation and maintenance for the life of the practice, including an inspection schedule, roles and responsibilities and procedures. Projects and practices that are structural in nature will have a minimum effective life of ten (10) years, **non-structural practices should have a minimum contract length of three (3) years**, and Capital Improvement Projects should have a minimum life of twenty-five (25) years and the beginning date for a practice’s effective life is the same date final payment is approved and the project is considered complete. “

“7.5. Non-Structural Practices. For a contract covering a non-structural practice, the following applies:

Duration. **Contracts are to be a minimum of three** years in duration. A one-year extension is allowed, if approved by a technical service provider.”

the BWSR FY 22 WBIF states:

“3.8b. Duration. Projects proposing to install or adopt non-structural land management practices **must have a minimum duration of 3 years** with a goal of ongoing landowner adoption unless otherwise approved by BWSR. Any projects proposing a duration other than 3 years must be reviewed by BWSR staff and approved by the Assistant Director of Regional Operations prior to work plan approval.”

BWSR FY24 Policy language:

“Incentive payments should be reasonable and justifiable, supported by grant recipient policy, consistent with prevailing local conditions, and must be based on established standards. BWSR reserves the right to review and approve incentive payment rates established by grant recipient policy. **Incentives to install or adopt best management practices have a maximum duration of three years with a goal of ongoing landowner adoption unless otherwise approved by the Assistant Director of Regional Operations prior to work plan approval. “**

SWCD Projects Review-

Todd SWCD Anderson Shoreline Stabilization- Sauk Lake

- **Approved**
 - Total Budget- \$24,844.20
 - Funding Request- \$18,633.15
 - Landowner Amount- \$6211.05



Todd SWCD Mayer Gully Erosion- Sauk Lake

- **Approved**
 - Total Budget- \$ 5454.48
 - Funding Request \$4090.86
 - Landowner Amount \$1363.62

Douglas SWCD Walsh Cover Crops-

- **Withdrawn.**
 - This request was withdrawn after group discussion around the SRWC's internal cost share policy, BWSR FY22 WBIF policy, and BWSR FY24 WBIF Policy specifically regarding variable language between policies about 3 year requirement for cover crops. See "*Cost Share Funding Policy Clarifications*" above for more info

Stearns SWCD Krippner Erosion Control- Mini Metro-Pleasant Lake Sub-watershed

- **Approved**
 - Total Project Budget- \$30,000
 - Funding Request- \$22,500
 - Landowner amount-\$7500

Sauk River Chain of Lakes Cold Spring Dam Rock Arched Rapids-

The group discussed funding possibilities to support the feasibility study. Group members advised this study could be prioritized and funded in upcoming workplan(s). CPL grants and USWFS funding were additionally discussed as funding sources.

Discussion also occurred around potential water quality benefits.

General Updates

Getchell Creek/Stearns CD 26 Capital Improvement Project

Letters were sent to landowners advising final recommendations for revisions are due by 9/5/2025 and should be sent directly to the contractor. The next step will be to coordinate with all landowners to

JD2 Project Team & USACE Alternatives Updates

The next project team meeting will be held on 9/15. At this meeting Staff from the St Croix Research Lab will present the results from the sediment cores taken through the ice last winter.

Landscape Stewardship Plan

Plan Tracking Tool Updates & Reminder

- Fiscal agent reminded the group to enter in any projects completed since March of 2021.
- The group discussed tracking progress toward plan goals. Whereas goals are spread throughout the plan and aren't clearly prioritized.
 - Stearns CD, SRWD, and Douglas SWCD will work between this meeting and the August meeting to develop a summary list of CWMP priorities.



- Further discussion around a public facing dashboard depicting progress via widget/graphic. BWSR BC advised- add a disclaimer that pollutant reductions calculated by modeling and field observations may vary. This was stressed as MPCA will be returning on their 10-year basis for field water quality testing and their results may differ from modeling.

Education and Outreach Committee:

- Soil Health Practice & Barriers report is complete by UofM's Sarah Roth and was reviewed at the last EO meeting. To view the report [click here](#)

Regulatory Review- Report was presented to the Policy Committee at the August meeting. Voting was tabled until the Q4 meeting to allow members time to thoroughly review. Once approved the next step will be to convene the regulatory agency staff and decide how to move forward with implementation actions based upon the report findings.

Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items & Updates

Previous Minutes

Fiscal Agent Report

Cost Share Policy Revisions

Project Highlight- Regulatory Review

Closeout & Next Meeting Dates

9/24, 10/29, 11/24, 12/24