



Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Implementation Team Meeting

| MEETING INFORMATION | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Date and Location: | Monday, February 2nd, 2026; Sauk River Watershed District Office |
| Time: | 1:00-4:00 pm |
| Attendees: | Attendees (In Person) Abi Borgerding (SRWD), Deja Anton (Todd co SWCD) Kory Klebe (SRWD), Emily Forbord (Stearns Co), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Jason Weirnerman (BWSR), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Holly Kovarik (Pope Co SWCD), John Maile (Stearns CD) Online via Teams: Annie Felix (MDH), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD) |

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes & Agenda

The December 22, 2025 meeting minutes were reviewed. Fiscal Agency edits previously submitted were included. No additional corrections were raised during the meeting.

Introductions were given by those in attendance, with Stearns CD's new Administrator John Maile present.

Fiscal Agent Updates

FY2022 Grant Status & Potential Reallocations

The fiscal agent provided an overview of FY22 grant balances, updated through December 31, 2025. The remaining unspent balance was reported as **\$373,067.66**. Recently submitted reimbursements were noted as not yet reflected in this total.

Fiscal Agent clarified the \$4785.29 remaining under Obj. Admin/Coord is Stearns CD's for the tracking tool. SRWD will bill admin/coord. expenses to the obj 1 FY24 grant.

Following discussion focused on:

- Remaining unencumbered funds of 116,326.58 in obj 7 ag practices.



- Todd SWCD informed approximately \$110,000 of this could be encumbered today for their Padua Prairie Partnership project.
- Potential reallocations within objectives.
 - SRWD obj 3 monitoring equipment- Per BWSR lab fees are not reimbursable expenses. Supplies & equipment are eligible expenses. Abi, SRWD plans to utilize this funding for a radar unit and pressure transducer and estimates it will use the majority of this \$16k allotment.
 - Advice from group to get an estimate before purchasing, and to check in with fiscal agent prior to purchase to ensure expense eligibility.
- Stearns CD Maus project has been cancelled due to landowner willingness and lack of communication. Stearns CD's obj 7 budget should be just under \$10,000 after updating.
 - Stearns informed they are willing to reallocate this to another project, if there is a need from another collaborative member.
- Douglas SWCD advised all of their \$18,913 Obj 7 funding and TEA can be reallocated.
- Todd SWCD advised \$40,000 of their obj 11 \$62,187.10 will be used, according to Todd SWCD staff.
- The group discussed and agreed upon the need to retain reallocations within the same objectives, to avoid further administrative processes.
- https://stearnscountymn.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ESSaukRiverWatershedCollaborative/_layouts/15/doc2.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BE91CE87A-7516-4229-9183-6E89CF2CD067%7D&file=FY22%20possible%20reallocations.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true

| FY22 | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|---------------------------|
| Objective | LGU | Amount | Allocated For | Reallocate (Y/N) | Confirmed date | |
| Objective 1 | SCD | \$ 4,785.29 | Tracking tool | N | Nov-25 | |
| Objective 3 | SRWD | \$ 16,000.00 | monitoring equip | | | check back with Jon/Abi |
| Objective 4 | SRWD | \$ 46,452.11 | JD2 study | N | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 4 | SRWD (St.Cloud) | \$ 3,378.72 | Stormwater pond equip/assessment | Y | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 5 | Multiple entities | \$ 8,501.28 | Watershed norm | N | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 5 | Multiple entities | \$ 1,412.42 | Targeted field days | Y - move within obj,5 | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 5 | SRWD (St.Cloud) | \$ 1,667.05 | Adopt-a-drain | Y - move within obj,5 | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 6 | Douglas SWCD | \$ 5,540.54 | TEA | Y | | Send an email to Danielle |
| Objective 6 | SCD | \$ 54,623.81 | TEA | | | Work with Steph |
| Objective 6 | Todd/SCD | \$ 16,571.70 | TEA | | | Work with Steph |
| Objective 7 | Douglas SWCD | \$ 18,913.00 | - | Y | | Send an email to Danielle |
| Objective 7 | Todd SWCD | \$ 110,210.08 | - | N | 25-Dec | |
| Objective 11 | SCD | \$ 15,168.64 | - | | | Work with Steph |
| Objective 11 | Todd SWCD | \$ 62,187.10 | - | | | |

- It was noted that reallocations involving unencumbered funds may require additional justification and approvals. This item will remain on future agendas.

FY2024 Update & Workplan Rewrite

- All signed resolutions are on SharePoint. Pending approval from BWSR.



- Stearns CD will be the lead and will contract with the city to implement the Rockville Stormwater BMP project.
 - Stearns CD is higher expertise and capacity for stormwater BMPs. Wayne C. will be the main point of contact. Stearns CD will work with Rockville and Bolton Menk to improve the design, likely with a pretreatment practice.
- FY24 balances were reviewed, with **\$1,016,576.22** remaining as of December 31, 2025. The group emphasized the need to advance project implementation to ensure timely expenditure.

CRP (FY24 & FY25)

- All FY24 CRP reimbursements have been submitted to BWSR.
 - FY24 expired at the end of 2025, per BWSR.
- Remaining FY25 CRP funds were noted, including a small amount freed due to a cancelled project.
- Partners were reminded to upload contracts and vouchers and to use the shared spreadsheet for tracking.

WBIF Extensions

The possibility of requesting extensions for FY22 and FY24 grants was discussed. It was discussed to revisit extension requests later in 2026, likely in September. It was cautioned that 3 open WBIF grants may be an issue, considering the FY2027 grant is in early workplan development.

Pollutant Reduction Discrepancies: Tracking tool/eLINK/reimbursement request form have discrepancies for some projects. Fiscal agent requested these reductions be reviewed and aligned between the request form and tracking tool to enable the fiscal agent to enter the correct amount into eLINK.

| Project Name | LGU | Grant Year | Issues |
|--------------|--------------|------------|--|
| Fontaine | Douglas SWCD | 2022 | eLINK is different than the tracking tool (tracking tool is missing TSS) and reimbursement request numbers |
| Fairy Lake | Todd SWCD | 2022 | eLINK is different than the tracking tool |
| Frericks | Todd SWCD | 2022 | eLINK is different than the tracking tool |
| Westbrock | Todd SWCD | 2022 | eLINK is different than the tracking tool |
| Struve | Todd SWCD | 2022 | eLINK is different than the tracking tool |
| | | | |
| | | | |

WBIF Billing Rates:

The fiscal agent reminded to group to upload you 2026 bill rates to Sharepoint https://stearnscountymn.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ESSaukRiverWatershedCollaborative/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BBE66185A-6DAA-40AC-9A14-



[A3A578FF58C6%7D&file=Sauk%20R%20Collaborative%20Billing%20Rates%202025.xlsx&action=default&mobileredirect=true](#)

Workplan Reductions:

- Reductions for project that's are not in workplan cannot be entered in Elink for FYxx workplans but can be entered in tracking tool and counted toward 10-year plan goals- per BWSR's Jason W.
 - PRAP- plan progress assessment to include SRWD Stormwater Permitting project that have pollution reductions "in perpetuity", but not with NPDES stormwater permit requirements.
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SWCD Cost-Shared Projects Review

Todd SWCD – Padua Prairie Partnership FY22

- An overview of the Padua Prairie Partnership project was provided.
 - Additional FY22 funding available from Douglas SWCD reallocation.
 - Total project cost estimate \$154,638; FY22 request \$115,978.50 (75% total cost); Match \$38,659.50 (25% of total cost), TEA budget \$30,900 (20% of total rounded to nearest \$100) (amounts above are pending fiscal agent review)
 - Approved by consensus.
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General Updates

Budget Corrections: Added agenda item upon request from Stearns County.

- Todd SWCD Mayer Project FY24: TEA overage. Todd SWCD are under TEA budget with other projects.
 - Consensus approval from the group for Todd SWCD to spend more than their original 20% allotment of \$1090.90 for TEA.
- Todd SWCD Overage for total project cost for Brunn FY24 - Original encumbrance \$16,275.00, current expenses & invoice of \$16,954.85. \$4340 (20% of \$21700) original TEA budget
 - Consensus approval to amend encumbrance to cover overage in the amount shown above for Todd SWCD Brunn project.
 - Fiscal Agent will send amended encumbrance email

Fiscal Agent change update:



- Stearns County is investigating contracting a 3rd party to serve as fiscal agent for current workplans, and possibly future WBIF grants.
- Stearns CD is considering being fiscal agent for future workplans & grants.
- Concerns were raised regarding Stearns CD's workload.
 - Current fiscal agent advised it is nearly a full-time workplan in this role.
- Discussion around neighboring watershed plan complexity compared to the Sauk Plan.
 - Sauk plan, policy, and procedure stems from a past issue regarding one of Stearns Counties former grant partners mishandling of funding. Stearns County & their Attorney, as a reactive & protective measure modified their internal grant policy structure to ensure the same issue will not occur in future watershed partnerships.

Getchell Creek:

Coordination between SRWD and Stearns CD continues regarding future RIM applications and easement opportunities. A meeting is being coordinated with landowners, SRWD, and Stearns CD staff targeted in the last week of Feb to first week of Mar.

JD2 Project Team & USACE PAS Alternatives Analysis

Updates were provided on ongoing coordination with USACE. Houston Engineering and SRWD deliverables are complete. USACE lake response model was reviewed by a separate USACE office. Some minor corrections are in progress related to HSPF inputs. The Comprehensive Plan has been drafted and SRWD is currently reviewing. Alternatives are nearly ready to be run through the model, including a scenario with a sanitary sewer system. The Osakis Lake Association contracted with Houston Engineering and completed last week a sanitary sewer feasibility study.

Rockville Stormwater Project

It was reported that Stearns Conservation District will assume lead responsibility for project implementation, including contracting with the City of Rockville. This change is intended to leverage stormwater expertise and streamline project management. Pollutant reductions from the overall lake improvement project can be counted toward 10 year plan goals, and pollution reductions directly from the BMP can be accounted for only in the FY24 grant.

Landscape Stewardship Plan

Stephanie advised the timeline to start is fall 2026-winter 2027.

Plan Tracking Tool

Ben Ruley will attend the next meeting to provide updates and training on dashboard widgets.

Education & Outreach Committee



Sarah Roth will be conducting focus groups on 2/17 in Greenwald and 3/3 in Freeport in an effort to understand barriers to adopt soil health practices.

No Collaborative staff will be present, only UofM's Sarah Roth, UofM interns, and landowners.

Cold Spring Dam Modification

- Discussion regarding the need for a **minor amendment** to the 10-Year Plan.
- This item will be brought to the policy committee on 2/19/2026 seeking a motion to recommend approval from each collaborative members boards to add this dam modification to the implementation tables. This will allow the collaborative (Stearns CD) to proceed with conducting a feasibility study with an estimated value of \$110,000.
- Other funds have been identified for design and engineering. If water quality benefits are shown in the study the design and construction would be eligible for additional WBIF funding.
- No other amendment should be requested it would elevate the status from minor to major amendment and delay the process.

Planning Boundary-

Watershed District boundary and 1W1P boundaries do not align and resulted in a billing eligibility issue involving the SRWD contracted with the City of St Cloud, and the Miss River 1W1P group.

BWSR's Jason W. requested SRWD Administrator to email about the issue to possibly resolve.

Concerns raised with domino effect of modifying this boundary. Other concerns voiced that it will continue to result in issues for future staff.

FY 2027 Workplan Wishlist

- A folder titled FY 27 WBIF Grant and spreadsheet for "wish list" items is on SharePoint.
- The workplan can be submitted between June 2026 and April 2027.

https://stearnscountymn.sharepoint.com/:x:/r/sites/ESSaukRiverWatershedCollaborative/_layouts/15/Doc.aspx?sourcedoc=%7BD373B6E7-77DB-48A1-AD74-5304448BF334%7D&file=FY27%20WBIF%20Request%20List.xlsx&action=default&mobiledirect=true

- Please add your organization's proposed projects.

Policy Committee 2025 Appointments- Stearns SWCD has appointed 1 new member, no other changes were reported. SRWD will appoint their 2026 policy committee members at their next board meeting.



Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items

- Previous meeting minutes
- Fiscal Agent report
- Project highlight (Bosl – Stearns CD)
- Collaborative Agreement adjustment
- 10-Year Plan minor amendment (Cold Spring Dam)
- Education & Outreach Committee update
- Plan Tracking Tool updates

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **February 19, 2026**. (3rd Thursday quarterly)

Closeout & Next Meetings

Upcoming Implementation Team meetings were confirmed as:

- February 25, 2026
- March 25, 2026

The group reaffirmed the 2026 meeting schedule of **4th Wednesday monthly meetings (9:00 AM – Noon)** unless otherwise adjusted.

The meeting adjourned at 3:57 pm.