



Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Implementation Team Meeting

MEETING INFORMATION	
Date and Location:	Wednesday, March 25th, 2026; Sauk River Watershed District Office
Time:	9:00a-Noon
Attendees:	Attendees (In Person) Abi Borgerding (SRWD), Adam Ossefoort (Todd co SWCD) Kory Klebe (SRWD), Emily Forbord (Stearns Co), Jon Roeschlein (SRWD), Jason Weinerman (BWSR), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Steve Zeece (SRWD) Online via Teams: Annie Felix (MDH), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD)

Review of Previous Meeting Minutes & Agenda

The February 2026 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.

Additions to the agenda:

1. Re-encumbrance for Krippner Erosion Control- Stearns CD FY22-028
2. Cost Share Project Status Updates, as a standing agenda item, under general updates.

Fiscal Agent Updates

FY22 & Supplemental

- The fiscal agent provided updates on current balances and ongoing invoicing.
- \$262,635.03 remaining budget.
- ~\$46,000 invoice from the SRWD for the JD2 PAS Alternatives Analysis is being processed but is not reflected in this fiscal summary.
- Discussion around remaining sum in Obj 7 Ag practices. Much is tied to Todd SWCD's Padua Prairie Partnership.
- Discussion around Obj 11 Streambank and Shoreland Protection. Over \$81,000 remains in the budget.
- Funding expires 12/31/2026. The partnership was advised to utilize this funding if possible, within the remaining time of the grant.



FY24 WBIF

- Interest earned of \$45,230 on this summary report was found to be incorrect due to an entry error from over 1 year ago. Fiscal Agent has made the correction and reported the interest earned is roughly \$43,000.
- \$971K+ budget remaining.
- The plan is to request an extension beyond the current end date of 12/31/2026, as we are currently developing the FY27 workplan and having 3 active WBIF grants is unpreferable for BWSR.
- Funding from the FY2024 grant rewrite is available.
- Discussion occurred around objective 11 \$15k for Getchell floodplain benches. SRWD wishes to reallocate this funding to cover the \$17k overage related to additional shoreline fetch and septic analysis incorporation into the report and model request by the public at the large workshop meeting in July 2025.

CRP Incentives

- Remaining CRP incentive funds were discussed. Partners were reminded to identify eligible projects and submit reimbursement requests in a timely manner ahead of program deadlines.
- \$17,339 remains unbudgeted. Funds are on a first come first serve basis, from the date of initial landowner contact.
- FY25 CRP reimbursement timeline- Partners were encouraged to coordinate submissions with the fiscal agent.

Fiscal Agent Transition & Payment Delays

- The group discussed the potential for temporary payment delays during the fiscal agent transition process. Staff are working to minimize disruption and maintain consistent reimbursement timelines.

SharePoint Transition

- Transition of SharePoint management to the SRWD as Plan Coordinator role is underway. Additional updates will be provided as responsibilities are shifted.
- SRWD currently has a limited version of SharePoint. They are meeting with their IT consultant the week following this meeting set up the SRWD Sharepoint. File transferring is expected to be minimally difficult. All users will need new accounts.
- Discussion additionally occurred around upcoming American Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance. Recommended resources mentioned were the UofM and Jessica Albertsen of Douglas SWCD. <https://www.ada.gov/resources/2024-03-08-web-rule/>

Process Mapping Diagram

Jason Weinerman, BWSR Board Conservationist presented a process mapping diagram outlining current workflows for project implementation and reimbursement.

The purpose of the exercise is to identify inefficiencies and opportunities to streamline processes as part of the fiscal agent transition.

WBIF Grant Assurances & Midpoint Evaluation

- Jason Weinerman and Stephanie Hatzenbihler provided an overview of WBIF grant assurance requirements and expectations for midpoint evaluation.
 - The team discussed compliance requirements, documentation expectations, and the importance of tracking progress toward measurable outcomes.
 - Todd Co & SWCD questioned whether Todd County's septic program pollutant reductions were eligible for reporting. The same as SRWD's permitting program, these reductions can be tracked toward the 10-year plan goals.
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SWCD Cost-Shared Projects Review

Stearns CD – Stang Reduced Tillage

Decision: Approved by consensus.

Stearns CD – Noll TEA Overage (\$124.98).

Decision: Approval by consensus to cover the \$124.98 overage using Stearns CD's existing allocation.

Stearns CD - Krippner Project Re-Encumbrance

Decision: Approved by consensus.

General Updates



Cost-Share Program Project Status Updates

- This item will remain on future agendas.

Getchell Updates

Coordination efforts continue regarding project development and additional flowage easements with Stearns CD and Landowners.

JD2 PT & USACE PAS Alternatives Analysis

- The group discussed ongoing progress with the USACE alternatives analysis and coordination with project partners.
- A first draft of the plan is due on 4/17/26, with a 60 day internal review/comment period before final publishing in June.
- At 1 hours and 50 minutes in the meeting recording, SRWD reported an overage of roughly \$18,500 related to additional study items (septic loading and fetch erosion) requested by the public at the large workshop meeting in July 2025. SRWD is seeking to reallocate funding to cover this overage.
 - Jason, BWSR BC, stated situations like his are common and the partnership alone can choose to approve a request for this reallocation and make the adjustment after the fact of incurring expenses.
 - BWSR recommended the SRWD draft a memo, formally describing and requesting the need the reallocation.

Education & Outreach Committee

- **Planning Commission & Board of Adjustment Presentation:** Development of outreach materials and presentations is ongoing.
- Continued coordination on outreach strategies and engagement efforts.

Cold Spring Dam Minor Plan Amendment

An update was provided regarding partner progress on adopting resolutions.

Reminder:

- All partner resolutions must be completed by 4/17, allowing for the required 30-day state planning authority review period prior to the May Policy Committee meeting and public hearing.
- Jason, (BWSR) requests they are notified of the amendment as early as possible in April to avoid delaying the public hearing beyond May 21st. Upon further discussion the group agreed if this becomes an issue, we can request a special PC meeting. The fiscal agent transition may already require a special meeting.



- It was additionally discussed this study and proceeding effort must heavily focus language on resulting water quality benefits during this process.
- Language for consideration:
 - To determine the effects and degree of water quality benefits resulting from modification of this dam into a rock-arched rapids structure.

WBIF FY2027 Wishlist

- The FY2027 workplan wish list will open in July 2026.
- Discussion included priorities, targeting approaches, and potential project submissions. Projects from any region of the SRW are appropriate to add to the wish list.
- **Pearl Lake Association** feasibility funding request letter was discussed. Additional coordination and evaluation will occur prior to formal consideration. The group commented this should be considered a sub-watershed assessment.

Upcoming Policy Committee Agenda Items

The next Policy Committee meeting is scheduled for **May 21, 2026**.

Proposed agenda items include:

1. Previous meeting minutes
2. Fiscal Agent Report
3. Minor Amendment Public Hearing
4. Fiscal Agent Transition
5. Cost Share Project Highlight (TBD)
6. Plan Tracking Tool Updates
7. SharePoint Hosting

Closeout & Next Meetings

Upcoming Implementation Team meetings:

- April 22, 2026
- May 27, 2026

The collaborative reaffirmed the 2026 meeting schedule of the **4th Wednesday of each month (9:00 AM – Noon)**.



Adjournment:

The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:00 PM.

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.