

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee Meeting



MEETING INFORMATION

Date Thursday, May 21, 2026

Location: Sauk River Watershed District Office
642 Lincoln Rd
Sauk Centre MN 56378

Time: 1 to 3pm

Invitees / Attendees: **Policy Committee:** Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD), Randy Neumann (Todd County), Bill Becker (Sauk River WD), Tom Williamson (Todd SWCD), Justine Meyer (Stearns CD), Paul Wildman (Pope County), Gary Reents (Pope SWCD), Steve Notch (Stearns County), Jerry Rapp (Douglas County)

Policy Committee Alternates: Billy Dropik (Douglas SWCD), Bob Byers (Todd County), David Zerr (Sauk River WD), Lee Buchholz (Todd SWCD), Tom Gregory (Stearns CD), Paul Gerde (Pope County), Randy Pederson (Pope SWCD), Jeff Bertram (Stearns County), Tim Kalina (Douglas County)

Implementation Team: Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Dave Rush (Douglas County), Deja Anton (Todd County & SWCD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Jon Roeschlein (Sauk River WD), Kyle Weimann (Stearns CD), Ralph Hanson (Pope County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Steve Zeece III (Sauk River WD)

Implementation Team CC: Jason Weinerman (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Noah Czech (City of St Cloud), Garrett Munson (Moore Engineering), Jerome Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Drew Kessler (Houston Engineering), Annie Felix (MDH), John Maile (Stearns CD)

Education & Outreach Committee: Kory Klebe (SRWD), Katie Disrud (Pope SWCD), Jessica Albertsen (Douglas SWCD), Sarah Katterhagen (Todd SWCD), Alyssa Scheve (Todd SWCD), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Abbie Meyer (Stearns CD), Jason Weinerman (BWSR)

PREPARATION FOR MEETING

Review materials packet prior to meeting.

AGENDA

Item	Page #	Guest Speaker(s)	Action	Time
1. Call to Order & Introductions	N/A	N/A	Information	1:00pm
2. Approve Agenda	1-2	N/A	Decision	1:03pm
3. Public Hearing for proposed Minor Plan Amendment to SRWC CWMP	3-7	Stephanie	Decision	1:05pm
4. Review and approve previous minutes	8-11	N/A	Decision	1:30pm
5. Fiscal Agent Report a) Discretionary Reallocations	12-17	Emily & Becky	Information	1:40pm
6. Fiscal Agent Transition	18-25	Emily, Becky, Stephanie	Decision	1:50pm
7. SharePoint Hosting Transition	N/A	Steve & Jon	Information	2:10pm
8. Project Highlight – Loxtercamp Wetland Restoration	26	Stephanie	Information	2:20pm
9. Next Meeting Date – Thursday, August 20, 2026, at 1-3 pm	N/A	Steve	Decision	2:30pm
10. Open Discussion	N/A	N/A	Discussion	2:35pm
11. Adjourn	N/A	N/A	Decision	3:00pm

**Sauk River Watershed Collaborative
 Minor Plan Amendment
 Public Hearing on 5.21.2026**



**Exhibit A - Minor Amendment to the Sauk River Watershed 10-Year
 Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)**

Chapter 6: Watershed-Wide Programs Implementation Schedule

Implementation Program: Data, Monitoring, and Planning

Page 6-7

Priority Implementation Action	Location	Measurable Output for This Activity	Timeframe	Estimated Cost	Lead LGU	Supporting Entities
Assess the Cold Spring Dam for modification opportunities to improve ecological functions; fish passage; water quality and altered hydrology improvements.	City of Cold Spring downstream from Sauk River Chain of Lakes	Complete a Feasibility Study on the Cold Spring Dam Modification.	Year 5 & 6	\$115,000	Stearns SWCD	MNDNR, City of Cold Spring, Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Minor Plan Amendment Public Hearing on 5.21.2026



Exhibit B – History of Process Steps for Proposed Minor Amendment

December 2025 – Stearns Conservation District presents proposal to Implementation Team for Sauk River Watershed Collaborative (SRWC).

January 2025 - SRWC Implementation Team recommends presenting proposal to the Policy Committee.

2.19.2026 – Policy Committee Meeting. Motion to recommend approval from each collaborative members’ boards for a minor amendment of the 10-year Sauk River CWMP to add a line to the implementation table for a feasibility study on modification of the Cold Spring Dam and to follow minor plan amendment operating procedures as written by BWSR.

March & April 2026 – SRWC Boards considered and passed resolutions in support of the minor plan amendment. See resolution in Exhibit C.

4.17.2026 – Notification to Plan Review Authorities. Inviting State Plan Review Authorities to review the proposed minor amendment and submit comments by Monday, May 18, 2026. See copy of notification in Exhibit D.

5.7.2026 – Notice of Public Hearing published in local newspapers and SRWD’s and Stearns CD’s websites. See copy of notice in Exhibit E.

5.18.2026 – Deadline for comments submitted by State Plan Review Authorities.

5.21.2026 – Public Hearing at SRWC Policy Committee Meeting

May & June 2026 – Minor Plan Amendment submission to BWSR for final review and approval.

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative

Minor Plan Amendment

Public Hearing on 5.21.2026



Exhibit C – Copy of resolution language for a Minor Amendment to the Sauk River Watershed 10-Year Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes §103B.801 establishes the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program, also known as the One Watershed, One Plan program (1W1P) administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), to align local water planning on major watershed boundaries with state strategies toward prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation plans; and

WHEREAS, *Collaborative Member* adopted the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) established through 1W1P for the area of the Collaborative Member’s jurisdiction identified within the Sauk River Watershed; and

WHEREAS, the Sauk River CWMP includes implementation tables in Chapter 6 for the Watershed-wide Data, Monitoring, and Planning Implementation Program to direct funding to targeted resource management and development of biennial work plans, to be reviewed by a Policy Committee established via the execution of a joint powers collaborative agreement amongst collaborative entities implementing the Sauk River CWMP.

WHEREAS, *Collaborative Member* entered into a joint powers collaborative agreement with collaborating entities to implement the Sauk River CWMP, and under this agreement a Policy Committee was established to, amongst other duties, review and recommend approval of 10-year CWMP amendments to collaborative member’s governing boards.

WHEREAS, *Collaborative Member* has received notice from said Policy Committee that: 1) the Policy Committee has reviewed the proposed minor amendment to the CWMP Chapter 6, Page 6-7, the addition of the priority implementation action “assess the Cold Spring Dam for modification opportunities to improve ecological functions; fish passage; water quality and altered hydrology improvements.” (full language in Exhibit A), 2) the Policy Committee recommends approval of the same by each collaborative member’s governing board and 3) the Policy Committee will upon receipt of support from all the collaborative member governing board, follow the required BWSR 1W1P Operating Procedures for a minor plan amendment which includes providing a 30-day comment for plan review authorities, holding a public hearing to respond to comments received, and then submitting the minor plan amendment to BWSR.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, *Collaborative Member* hereby approves of a minor amendment to the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Chapter 6, page 6-7, “assess the Cold Spring Dam for modification opportunities to improve ecological functions; fish passage; water quality and altered hydrology improvements.” (full language in exhibit A) and direct the Policy Committee to fulfill the required BWSR 1W1P Operating Procedures for a minor plan amendment.

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Minor Plan Amendment Public Hearing on 5.21.2026



Exhibit D – Copy of notification of minor plan amendment and invitation to submit comments on the proposed amendment to State Plan Review Authorities

From: Sauk River Watershed Collaborative

RE: Notification of minor plan amendment and invitation to submit comments on the proposed amendment

The local government units (LGUs) within the Sauk River Watershed are utilizing the minor amendment procedure as written in Operating Procedures version 3.0 to propose a small change to the Sauk River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan developed through BWSR's One Watershed, One Plan program.

The Policy Committee and the LGUs have reviewed the minor amendment and passed resolutions of support to utilize the minor amendment procedure which includes a 30-day comment period for Plan review authorities to provide comments on the proposed amendment. Comments must be submitted to both the collaborative and the BWSR Board Conservationist. The Policy Committee has scheduled a public hearing to occur on May 21, 2026 for the minor amendment.

This correspondence serves to invite all recipients to submit comments on the proposed minor amendment as outlined in Operating Procedures 3.0 by Monday, May 18, 2026 to:

Steve Zeece III

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Plan Coordinator
642 Lincoln Road Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320-352-2231
steve@srwdmn.org

Jason Weirnerman

BWSR Board Conservationist
320-223-7072
jason.weirnerman@state.mn.us

Please submit any comments by 05-18-2026 (30 days). The proposed minor amendment is included in Exhibit A.

Thank you,
Sauk River Watershed Collaborative
(Douglas County & SWCD, Pope County & SWCD, Sauk River Watershed District, Stearns County & SWCD, Todd County & SWCD)

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative
Minor Plan Amendment
Public Hearing on 5.21.2026
Exhibit E – Copy of notification of public hearing



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR A MINOR AMENDMENT TO THE SAUK RIVER COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN (SRCWMP).

Date: May 21st, 2026

Time: 1:05 pm

Location: Sauk River Watershed District- 642 Lincoln Rd Sauk Centre MN 56378, Large Conference Room.

Purpose: The local governments (Douglas County & SWCD, Pope County & SWCD, Sauk River Watershed District, Stearns County & SWCD, Todd County & SWCD) comprising the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative are utilizing the procedure of a minor amendment to the 10-year Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

Review of information: This minor plan amendment involves the addition of a feasibility study for the modification of the Cold Spring Dam (the outlet of the Sauk River Chain of lakes) into a set of “rock arched rapids”. To review the Sauk River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, visit <https://srwdmn.org/one-watershed-one-plan/>. A copy of the proposed minor amendment is available upon request to the Sauk River Collaborative Plan Coordinator, Steve Zeece III.

Public Comment: The Collaborative Policy Committee and the LGU’s have reviewed the minor amendment and passed resolutions in support of utilizing the minor amendment procedure which includes a public hearing and public comment period. Please submit written comments by May 18th, 2026 in order to be included in the Policy Committee meeting packet at the public hearing.

The public is also invited to comment on this plan amendment in person at the public hearing.

Comments must be submitted to both the Collaborative Coordinator and the BWSR Board Conservationist:

Steve Zeece III

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Plan Coordinator
642 Lincoln Road Sauk Centre, MN 56378
320-352-2231
steve@srwdmn.org

Jason Weinerman

BWSR Board Conservationist
320-223-7072
jason.weinerman@state.mn.us

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee Meeting



MEETING INFORMATION

Date Thursday, February 19, 2026

Location: Sauk River Watershed District Office
642 Lincoln Rd
Sauk Centre MN 56378

Time: 1 to 3pm

Invitees / Attendees:

Policy Committee: Ken Rutten (Douglas SWCD), Randy Neumann (Todd County), Bill Becker (Sauk River WD), Tom Williamson (Todd SWCD), Justine Meyer (Stearns CD), Paul Wildman (Pope County), Gary Reents (Pope SWCD), Steve Notch (Stearns County), Jerry Rapp (Douglas County)

Policy Committee Alternates: Billy Dropik (Douglas SWCD), Bob Byers (Todd County), David Zerr (Sauk River WD), Lee Buchholz (Todd SWCD), Tom Gregory (Stearns CD), Paul Gerde (Pope County), Randy Pederson (Pope SWCD), Jeff Bertram (Stearns County), Tim Kalina (Douglas County)

Implementation Team: Adam Ossefoort (Todd County), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Becky Schlorf (Stearns County), Danielle Anderson (Douglas SWCD), Dave Rush (Douglas County), Deja Anton (Todd County & SWCD), Holly Kovarik (Pope SWCD), Jon Roeschlein (Sauk River WD), Kyle Weimann (Stearns CD), Ralph Hanson (Pope County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Steve Zeece III (Sauk River WD)

Implementation Team CC: Jason Weinerman (BWSR), Brad Wozney (BWSR), Zach Guttormson (BWSR), Noah Czech (City of St Cloud), Garrett Munson (Moore Engineering), Jerome Haggemiller (Douglas SWCD), Drew Kessler (Houston Engineering), Annie Felix (MDH), John Maile (Stearns CD)

Education & Outreach Committee: Kory Klebe (SRWD), Katie Disrud (Pope SWCD), Jessica Albertsen (Douglas SWCD), Sarah Katterhagen (Todd SWCD), Alyssa Scheve (Todd SWCD), Emily Forbord (Stearns County), Stephanie Hatzenbihler (Stearns CD), Abbie Meyer (Stearns CD), Jason Weinerman (BWSR)

MINUTES

1. Call to Order, Introductions, Annual Election of Officers

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 by Chair, Steve Notch.

Introductions were given by those in attendance, including John Maile, the Stearns Conservation District's new Administrator.

Chair

Wildman nominated, seconded by Rapp to elect Steve Notch as 2026 Policy Committee Chair. All in favor. Motion carried.

Vice Chair

Rapp nominated, seconded by Rutten to elect Randy Neumann as 2026 Vice Chair. All in favor. Motion carried.

Secretary

Rapp nominated, seconded by Gregory to elect Bill Becker as 2026 Secretary. All in favor. Motion carried.

Implementation Team Ex-Officio

Becker nominated, seconded by Williamson to elect Jerry Rapp as 2026 Implementation Team Ex-Officio. All in favor. Motion carried.

2. Review of Previous Meeting Minutes and Agenda Additions

Becker made a motion to approve the meeting agenda, seconded by Williamson. All in favor. Motion carried.

Wildman made a motion to approve the previous meeting minutes from November 2025 as presented, seconded by Williamson. All in favor. Motion carried.

3. Fiscal Agent Report

a. Grants Update

- i. Emily Forbord, Stearns County, presented the Fiscal Agent report on behalf of the SRWC. Forbord highlighted that FY22 WBIF is at 51.67% spent and we have received the next 40% of the grant funds, and the FY24 CRP Incentive grant has been spent down with only \$2.00 unused but we still have FY25 CRP Incentive grant funds available in 2026.

b. Fiscal Agent Change

- i. Emily Forbord and Becky Schlorf, Stearns County, informed the Policy Committee that Stearns County is considering vacating the Fiscal Agent role.
- ii. Stearns Conservation District is considering becoming the Fiscal Agent for SRWC.
- iii. Third parties (contractors) are an option as well.

c. FY24 WBIF Objective 1 Reallocation

- i. Forbord and Schlorf, Stearns County, informed that Policy Committee that funds for objective 1 – administration and coordination were underbudgeted for the Fiscal Agent duties, and the Implementation Team will be working to identify reallocating funds to support the Fiscal Agent duties.

d. FY27 WBIF wish list for funding request and grant work plan

- i. Steve Zeece III and Jon Roeschlein. SRWD, informed the Policy Committee that SRWC members are starting the development of the FY27 WBIF funding request and grant work plan through a wish list spreadsheet. This information will also be used to develop the SRWC biennial work plan.
- ii. The WBIF grant funding request can be submitted between July 2026 and March 2027.

4. FY24 WBIF Grant Work Plan Revision Update:

The Fiscal Agent is waiting to receive approval from BWSR to enter the work plan revisions into eLINK. Funding must not be spent until approval is received.

Stearns CD has become the lead collaborative member with the City of Rockville on the Lake Road stormwater project along Pleasant Lake.

5. CWMP Minor Amendment – Cold Spring Dam Feasibility Study

The state requires a feasibility study due to the regional granite-dominant bedrock geology. WBIF funding for the feasibility study is not explicitly supported by the comprehensive 10-year plan, specifically in the implementation tables at the end of the Chain of Lakes Management unit section in Chapter 5. The City of Cold Spring is supportive and interested in seeing this project implemented. The feasibility study is estimated to cost \$112,000.00. The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association are supportive and have reportedly made a formal motion in a recent meeting to fund \$5,000-10,000 of the feasibility study. Stearns CD additionally reported the DNR group whom with they're partnering have funding for feasibility studies in the range of \$60,000-80,000, in addition to the DNR group's design & construction funding. The Implementation team will cover the remaining feasibility study costs through our WBIF or other means.

Becker made motion with second from Wildman to recommend approval from each collaborative member's boards for a minor amendment of the 10-year Sauk River Comprehensive Management Plan by adding a Feasibility Study on the Sauk River Chain of Lakes Cold Spring Dam Rock Arched Rapids Modification on the implementation table and follow the minor plan amendment procedure as outlined in BWSR One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. All in favor. Motion carried.

The Plan Coordinator & Implementation Team will draft and circulate a resolution and attachment to collaborative staff members.

6. Education and Outreach Update

Kory Klebe provided an update on the activities of the EO Committee. Currently, focus groups are underway in partnership with the UofM's Sarah Roth to understand drivers and barriers behind the adoption of agricultural soil health practices in this region. Prospective participant contact information of over 100 producers was provided by EO committee members. The names of the producers who were selected by the UofM for the focus group are kept anonymous to stimulate open discussion.

7. Project Highlight – Bosl Erosion Control (Stearns CD)

Hatzenbihler and Maile, Stearns CD, presented on the Bosl Erosion Control Project which installed water and sediment control basins in a farm field near Sauk Centre to address erosion concerns. This project was funded through FY22 WBIF through the SRWC.

8. Plan Tracking Tool Updates

The Collaborative has begun using a new pollution reduction modeling calculator from the MPCA known as BEET (BMP Effects Estimator Tool). This model is built upon the same model that was used in the original 10-year planning effort- HSPF SAM (Hydrologic Simulation Program Fortran Scenario Application Manager).

9. Next Meeting Date & Open Discussion

By consensus the Policy Committee opted to continue the 2026 meeting schedule pattern of the 3rd Thursday quarterly, from 1-3 pm.

The next meeting dates in 2026: May 21st, August 20th, & November 19th.

Chair, Steve Notch adjourned the meeting at 2:26 pm.

Memo



To: Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Policy Committee

From: Emily Forbord - Environmental Specialist (Stearns County)

Date: 05/21/2026

Re: Fiscal Agent Report

Stearns County is serving as the Fiscal Agent for the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative.

FY2022 WBIF

Below is a summary of the **FY2022 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)** grant (began September 2022). The grant period was extended to 12/31/2026. The grant agreement was amended to include the Supplemental WBIF money that was awarded by BWSR. Total award: \$1,136,821.

Tasks	Summary of Activity
<u>Objective 1:</u> Admin/Coord 95% spent	Budgeted: \$93,731.80. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All funds allocated to the Watershed Coordinator (SRWD) have been spent. All funds allocated to Fiscal Agent (Stearns Co) have been spent. Stearns Conservation District has billed \$5,473.73 of the \$10,000 budgeted for the tracking tool. Balance: \$4,526.27.
<u>Objective 2:</u> Project Dev 100% spent	Budgeted: \$51,583.38. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Getchel Creek Capital Improvement Project (CIP) Team. Cedar Island & North Browns Lakes Outreach. Balance: \$0.00.
<u>Objective 3:</u> Supplies/Equipment 0% spent	Budgeted \$16,000.00. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sauk River Watershed District equipment. Balance: \$16,000.00.
<u>Objective 4:</u> Plan/Assess 99% spent	Budgeted: \$260,389.47. <p>Judicial Ditch 2 CIP Team (Sauk River WD): all FY22 WBIF funds are spent. Supplemental funds remain (\$46,452.11).</p> <p>Stormwater Pond Assessment (City of St. Cloud via Sauk River WD): WBIF funds remain (\$3,378.72 of \$5,000.00).</p> Balance: \$3,378.72.

<p>Objective 5: Ed/Info 77% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$50,000.00.</p> <p>Adopt-A-Drain (City of St. Cloud via Sauk River WD): WBIF funds \$1,677.05 remains of \$5,000.00</p> <p>Watershed Citizen Norm balance remaining is \$9,413.70 of \$33,412.42</p> <p>Targeted Field Days - Spent</p> <p>Balance: \$11,581.75.</p>
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<p>Objective 6: Tech/Eng 49% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$117,997.74</p> <p>Spent: \$58,345.88</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD has \$5,540.00 remaining of \$24,356.74 • Stearns CD has \$45,359.43 remaining of \$60,800.00 • Supplemental funds remaining (Stearns CD and Todd SWCD): \$8,751.89 of \$29,271.00. <p>Balance: \$59,651.86.</p>
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<p>Objective 7: Ag Practices 13% spent</p>	<p>Budget: \$195,810.08</p> <p>Two (2) cost-share projects have been completed and paid for (\$24,483.50).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Douglas SWCD Project SR-FY2022-004 Fontaine • Stearns SWCD Project SR-FY2022-016 Bosl <p>Two (2) cost-share projects encumbered (\$145,978.50)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$30,000.00 SCD - Krippner • \$115,978.50 Todd SWCD - Padua Prairie. <p>Funds allocated to partners for TBD projects: \$12,203.50.</p> <p>Unallocated: \$13,144.58.</p> <p>Balance: \$25,348.08.</p>
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<p>Objective 9: Livestock Waste Management 100% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$25,000.00.</p> <p>One (1) cost-share project completed and paid (\$25,000.00).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD project SR-FY2022-005 Frericks <p>Balance: \$0.00.</p>
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<p>Objective 11: Stream/Shore Project 71% WBIF spent</p>	<p>Budget: \$307,631.10</p> <p>Seven (7) cost-share projects have been completed and paid for (\$132,141.65).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-001 Struve • Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-002 Hampton
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-003 Fairy Lake • Todd SWCD Project SR-FY2022-007 Westbrook • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-006 Friedrichs • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-012 Thellin • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-021 Noll <p>Three (3) encumbered projects (\$59,831.28):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-019 Schwartz • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-020 Kreatz • Todd SWCD SR-FY2022-022 Waldvogel <p>Funds allocated to partners for TBD projects: \$115,658.17.</p> <p>Balance: \$63,995.57.</p>
<p><u>Objective 13: Urban Stormwater Mgmt.</u> 0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$18,677.43</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stearns CD SR-FY2022-019 Schwartz has encumbered all these funds. <p>Balance: \$0.00.</p>

The Interest Earned through April 2026 is \$39,977.89 (not part of the budget).

The current expenditure percentage for the WBIF and Supplemental funds is **59.46%**.

FY2024 WBIF

The \$1,212,865 grant agreement was executed by BWSR on June 3, 2024. The grant agreement will expire on 12/31/2026. There is potential to have a year-extension for this grant.

Tasks	Summary of Activity
<p>Objective 1: Admin/Coord 43% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$82,190.00.</p> <p>Paid \$29,866.95 to Stearns County and \$8,847.59 to SRWD for coordinator activity.</p> <p>Balance: \$47,114.36</p>
<p>Objective 2: Project Development 54% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$78,000. Eight (8) reimbursements paid to Todd SWCD, one to Sauk River WD and two (2) to Stearns CD. Total paid: \$42,390.53.</p> <p>Balance: \$35,609.47</p>
<p>Objective 3: Supplies & Equipment 0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$26,596.86.</p>
<p>Objective 4: Plan/Assess 16% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$260,389.47.</p> <p>Mini Metro Hydraulic Subwatershed Models (Sauk River WD partnering with City of St. Cloud) \$5,000 budgeted.</p> <p>Stormwater Pond Assessment Phase 2 (Sauk River WD partnering with City of St. Cloud) \$8,000 budgeted.</p> <p>Watershed Regulatory Review (Sauk River WD) \$20,000 budgeted and paid \$19,896.75.</p> <p>JD2 Alt Analysis (SRWD) \$18,403.14 budgeted.</p>
<p>Objective 5: Ed/Info 25% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$50,000.00.</p> <p>Adopt-A-Drain \$40,000 budgeted. Paid \$20,130.01</p> <p>Watershed Stewardship Messaging (Sauk River WD) \$40,000 budgeted.</p>
<p>Objective 6: TEA 11% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$178,800.00.</p> <p>Total paid \$19,850.20.</p> <p>Balance: \$158,949.80.</p>
<p>Objective 7: Agricultural Practices 0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$129,375.00.</p> <p>One (1) encumbered Project (\$5,625.00)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD (FY24-004) Julig <p>Balance: \$123,750.00.</p>

<p>Objective 9: Livestock Waste Management</p> <p>0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$140,000.00.</p>
<p>Objective 10: Non-Structural Management Practices</p> <p>0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$61,500.00.</p> <p>Three (3) projects encumbered (\$34,080.00):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stearns CD FY24-003 Clay Hills • Stearns CD FY24-006 Goebel • Stearns CD FY24-009 Stang
<p>Objective 11: Streambank or Shoreland Protection</p> <p>0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$236,000.00.</p> <p>Four (4) projects encumbered (\$64,316.54):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Todd SWCD FY24-001 Lindquist • Todd SWCD FY24-005 Brunn • Todd SWCD FY24-008 Anderson • Todd SWCD FY24-007 Mayer
<p>Objective 12: Wetland Restoration</p> <p>97% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$19,000.</p> <p>One (1) project paid for: \$18,337.50</p>
<p>Objective 13: Urban Stormwater</p> <p>0% spent</p>	<p>Budgeted: \$55,000.00.</p>

The Interest Earned through April 2026 is \$46,621.44 (not part of the budget).

The current expenditure percentage for the WBIF funds is **13%**

CRP Incentive FY25 – \$100,000 (These funds do not require BWSR reimbursement requests.)
Encumbered funds: \$53,429.00.

Total spent \$19,232.00.

Balance remaining: \$17,339.00.

Grant administration **balance: \$10,000.00.**

Interest earned through April 2026: \$3,459.08

The grant was executed on May 14, 2025, and ends December 31, 2026.

FY24 Work Plan Reallocation Grantee Discretion

- \$30,000 from Objective 3 to Objective 1 for Fiscal Agent admin - IT approved on 2/25/2026
- \$18,403.14 from Objective 3 to Objective 4 for JD2 Alternative Analysis Study additional costs - IT approved on 4/22/2026

Fiscal Agent Transition

Summary:

On May 12, 2026, the Stearns County Board of Commissioners decided to vacate their role as the Fiscal Agent for the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative (SRWC). Each SRWC member has been sent a formal notification letter in the mail which was mailed on May 12, 2026. The SRWC agreements require a 30-day notice for vacated the Fiscal Agent Role.

The SRWC Policy Committee is responsible for assigning a new Fiscal Agent within 30 days of the notification.

The Implementation Team recommends that the Policy Committee assigns the Fiscal Agent role to Stearns Conservation District during the May 21, 2026 Policy Committee Meeting.

Stearns Conservation District has received advanced notice of this recommendation, and the Stearns Conservation District Board has voted to take on the role as Fiscal Agent for the SRWC if assigned to the role by the SRWC Policy Committee.

In preparation for this Fiscal Agent transition, Stearns County and Stearns Conservation District staff have met to develop the following documents and discuss a proposed transition period.

- SRWC Fiscal Agent Agreement Amendment
 - between Stearns Conservation District and each SRWC member that has signed the existing Fiscal Agent Agreement
 - This enables SRWC members to access the grant funds through the collaborative
- SRWC Fiscal Agent Assignment Agreement
 - Between BWSR, Stearns County, and Stearns Conservation District
 - This addresses Fiscal Agent duties for our existing SRWC grants through BWSR
- SRWC Fiscal Agent Transfer Agreement
 - Between Stearns County and Stearns Conservation District
 - This addresses some internal processing items needed to implement the transition

The proposed effective date for the transition is July 31, 2026.

Next Steps:

1. SRWC Policy Committee acknowledges Stearns County's notification to vacate the Fiscal Agent role and considers assigning the role to Stearns Conservation District
2. Each SRWC member board that has signed the existing SRWC Fiscal Agent Agreement considers the amendment and signs by July 17, 2026.
3. Stearns County and Stearns Conservation District will work through the additional agreements and preparations for the transition.
 - a. Stearns County and Stearns Conservation District will provide regular updates to the Implementation Team during the transition period.
4. Stearns Conservation District Staff proposes reviewing and updating SRWC policies to maximize administrative efficiency, ensure consistency with adjacent watersheds, and adopt industry best practices over the next 12 – 18 months.

Supporting Materials:

- Notification letter from Stearns County
- Draft Fiscal Agent Agreement Amendment

Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Amendment to Fiscal Agent Agreement

THIS AMENDMENT is made on the ___ day of _____, 2026, by and between the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Members (also referred to herein as the “SRWC”), the County of Stearns, and the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District.

WHEREAS, in the year 2021 both the Sauk River One Watershed, One Plan (“1W1P”) in accordance with Minnesota Statute §103B.101 and the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Agreement to implement the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) were adopted; and

WHEREAS, the SRWC appointed the County of Stearns as the Fiscal Agent for the SRWC and entered into the Sauk River Collaborative Fiscal Agent Agreement under which the County of Stearns administers the Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) Watershed-Based Implementation Funding Grants and other funding and grants received by Stearns County on behalf of the SRWC; and

WHEREAS, the County of Stearns wishes to withdraw as Fiscal Agent for the SRWC; and

WHEREAS, the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) wishes to assume the duties of Fiscal Agent for the SRWC and is willing to assume obligations of current Grant Agreements and enter into future Grant Agreements on behalf of the SRWC beginning July 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Agreement provides for withdrawal of the fiscal agent and appointment of a new fiscal agent; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the terms and conditions expressed in the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Agreement and this Agreement, the County of Stearns, the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the SRWC agree as follows:

1. That Stearns County shall remain the Fiscal Agent for the SRWC through July 30, 2026 and shall administer the funds from the Grant Agreement entered into by the County of Stearns on behalf of the SRWC through July 30, 2026.
2. That upon the withdrawal of the County of Stearns as Fiscal Agent for the SRWC, which is anticipated to occur July 30, 2026, the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District is appointed the Fiscal Agent on behalf of the SRWC.
3. That “the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District” shall replace “the County of Stearns” and “Stearns County” as the Fiscal Agent in the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent Agreement; and the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District shall thereafter be the Fiscal Agent for the SRWC and may apply for and receive grant funds on behalf of the SRWC.

4. That all other terms and conditions of the Sauk River Watershed Collaborative Fiscal Agent Agreement entered into in October 2023 shall remain in full force and effect. A copy of said Fiscal Agent Agreement is attached and incorporated herein.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties to this Agreement have caused this Amendment to be executed and effective on July 30, 2026.

STEARNS COUNTY

By: _____
Steven L. Notch, Stearns County Board Chair Date _____

By: _____
Randy R. Schreifels, Stearns Co. Auditor Treasurer Date _____

POPE COUNTY

By: _____
Pope County Board Chair Date _____

By: _____
Pope County Auditor Date _____

DOUGLAS COUNTY

By: _____
Douglas County Board Chair

Date

By: _____
Douglas County Auditor

Date

TODD COUNTY

By: _____
Todd County Board Chair

Date

By: _____
Todd County Auditor

Date

STEARNS COUNTY SWCD

By: _____

Board Chair

Date

By: _____

District Administrator

Date

POPE COUNTY SWCD

By: _____

Board Chair

Date

By: _____

District Administrator

Date

DOUGLAS COUNTY SWCD

By: _____

Board Chair

Date

By: _____

District Administrator

Date

TODD COUNTY SWCD

By: _____

Board Chair

Date

By: _____

District Administrator

Date

SAUK RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

By: _____

Board Chair

Date

By: _____

District Administrator

Date

PROJECT HIGHLIGHT - WETLAND RESTORATION



The Stearns Conservation District partnered with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the Sauk River Watershed District to gather funding for a wetland restoration project located in Getty Township. The landowner sought assistance from the District in 2023 after discovering that the land he had been haying for many years was experiencing ongoing water accumulation and runoff into the ditch during wet periods.

The landowner wanted to turn the depression into a restored wetland. A berm was initially put in place to stop the outflow of water and pool it into the project area. Construction and seeding were completed on the land in May of 2025 by Lange Trenching. The wetland at full capacity will be about 2 acres in size.

This wetland restoration project includes both wildlife and water quality benefits. Wildlife such as ducks, pheasants, deer, sandhill cranes, geese, swans, and more will be able to utilize this land in many ways. The wetland restoration will also help reduce sediment, phosphorus, and nitrogen in addition to reducing soil loss.

The wetland restoration was also paired with CRP plantings. This year, new CRP land will be established as a field windbreak and prairie strip. The landowner is also intending to plant more trees, native grasses, and forbs on the property.



PROJECT DETAILS

Practices:

- Wetland restoration

Project Implementation:

- 2023-2025

Components:

- Rock riprap
- Turf reinforcement mat
- Native seed mix
- Seed and mulch
- Erosion control blanket

Benefits:

- 2 acres of restored wetland
- Wildlife benefits
- Reduces soil loss by 0.45 tons/yr.

Pollution Reduction Estimates:

- Sediment: 0.45 tons/yr.
- Phosphorus: 3.7 lbs./yr.
- Nitrogen: 246.2 lbs./yr.

Partners:

- Stearns Conservation District
- Landowner
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sauk River Watershed District

Watershed:

- Sauk River Watershed