

**Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP)
Implementation Policy Committee**

<p>Policy Committee</p> <p>Meeting #6</p>	<p>Vision The St. Croix River, groundwater, lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, and upland habitat in the Lower St. Croix watershed sustain healthy ecosystems, recreation, public health, tourism, agriculture, the economy, and quality of life in our communities.</p>	
<p>Jan. 24, 2022 4:00-6:00 PM</p>	<p>Mission Guide protection and restoration of priority natural resources in the Lower St. Croix watershed over the next ten years through implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.</p>	
<p>https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81062688584?pwd=NDlrRzgxV3pCVlg3NDhjQ3hMWnUyZz09</p> <p>Meeting ID: 810 6268 8584 Passcode: 165880 Call in: (312) 626-6799</p>		
	<p>Facilitator: Angie Hong</p>	<p>Note taker: Barbara Heitkamp</p>
<p>Invited:</p>	<p>Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay Brown's Creek WD: Klayton Eckles Carnelian Marine St Croix WD: Wade Johnson Chisago County: Chris DuBose (Vice Chair), Lance Petersen, and Mike Mergens Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson Isanti County: Susan Morris (Secretary) Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach Middle St. Croix WMO: John Felleggy Pine County: Steve Hallan Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland Washington County: Fran Miron (Chair) Washington SWCD: Diane Blake Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan</p> <p>Copied: Policy Committee alternates; Advisory Committee members</p>	
<p>Meeting packet:</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10-25-21 Policy Committee meeting minutes • 2021 Annual Report for WBIF Grant • Jan. 2022 Grant Log • Updated WBIF Project Request Process Flow Chart with Guidelines for "Fast Track" Projects • Memo: Prioritization and Targeting • 1-13-22 Contact List 	

Agenda Items

Topic	Purpose	Lead	Time
Introductions; Approve agenda	DECIDE	Policy Committee	5 min
Approval of Oct. 25 Meeting Minutes	DECIDE	Policy Committee	5 min
2021 Summary and Highlights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Annual Report for WBIF Grant • Jan. 2022 Grant Log 	INFO	Angie Hong, Emily Heinz, and Craig Mell	20 min.
Water Quality Status Updates	INFO	Angie Hong	5 min.
2022 Timeline for Implementation and Planning	INFO	Angie Hong	5 min.
Discussion: Joint-Powers Collaborative vs Entity	DISCUSS	Jamie Schurbon	20 min.
Updated WBIF Project Request Process Flow Chart with Guidelines for "Fast Track" Projects	INFO	Emily Heinz	10 min.
Memo: Prioritization and Targeting	INFO	Emily Heinz	10 min.
Subcommittee Updates <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>A1 - Agronomy Outreach</u> – Jay Riggs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Status of Agronomy Outreach Position 2. <u>A2, 4, 5, 9 - Urban and Agricultural Projects</u> – Craig Mell and Mike Isensee 3. <u>A3 - Watershed Education</u> – Angie Hong and Barbara Heitkamp <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Planning for summer workshops with local decision-makers 4. <u>A6 - Wetland Restoration</u> – Becky Wozney 5. <u>A7 - Internal Analyses</u> – Susanna Wilson-Witkowski <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subcommittee reviewing eight applications 6. <u>A8 - Targeting Analyses</u> – Jay Riggs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Urban and rural subwatershed assessment protocols ○ Pine County and Sunrise River subwatershed analysis ○ Tree canopy protocol for enhanced street sweeping 	INFO	Planning Team	30 min.
Discussion: Topics for future meetings	DISCUSSION	Policy Committee	5 min.
Adjourn	DECIDE	Policy Committee	5 min.

**Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership
Policy Committee Meeting
October 25th, 2021, 4-6 pm via zoom**

MINUTES

I. The meeting was called to order at 4pm by Chair Fran Miron.

a. Roll call.

Policy Committee members in attendance:

- Anoka SWCD: Sharon LeMay
- Carnelian Marine St. Croix WD: Wade Johnson
- Chisago County: Chris DuBose (vice chair), Lance Petersen, Mike Mergens
- Chisago SWCD: Jim Birkholz
- Comfort Lake - Forest Lake WD: Jackie Anderson
- Isanti County: Susan Morris (secretary)
- Pine County: Steve Hallan
- Pine SWCD: Doug Odegard
- South Washington WD: Kevin ChapdeLaine
- Sunrise River JP WMO: Janet Hegland
- Washington County: Fran Miron (chair)
- Washington SWCD: Diane Blake

Not present:

- Browns Creek WD: Klayton Eckles
- Isanti SWCD: Jerry Schaubach
- Middle St. Croix WMO: John Fellegly
- Valley Branch WD: Ed Marchan

Other Attendees: Jay Riggs (WCD), Tiffany Determan (Isanti SWCD), Craig Mell (Chisago SWCD), Emily Heinz (CLFLWD), Jamie Schurbon (Anoka SWCD/Sunrise River WMO), Becky Wozney (Anoka SWCD), Susanna Wilson-Witkowski (Chisago County), Maureen Hoffman (Washington County), Melissa King (BWSR), Barb Peichel (BWSR), Joel Larson (UMN Extension), Dawn White (Chisago County alternate), Steve Schmaltz (CLFLWD alternate), Angie Hong (EMWREP), Barbara Heitkamp (EMWREP/Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership)

II. Approval of agenda

- a. Jackie Anderson requested to add two agenda items:
- Progress on emergency project evaluation/policy
 - Clarification of policy committee role in WBIF project application process
- b. Susan Morris moved to approve amended agenda, Jackie Anderson seconded. Motion was carried with no objections.

III. Approval of July 26, 2021 meeting minutes

- a. Fran Miron requested that the minutes be updated to note that motions to approve the 7-26-21 agenda and 5-24-21 minutes were carried.

- b. Jackie Andersen requested that minutes be amended to better explain Mike Mergens question related to negative match amounts shown in the grant budget table. Craig Mell and Angie Hong clarified that the education match funds are coming from local partners, through the EMWREP program, for education activities that support goals in the Lower St. Croix plan.
- c. Motion by Chris DeBose to approve the 7-26-21 minutes, with requested changes. Steve Hallan seconds. Motion carried with no objections.

IV. Financial Update – Craig Mell and Emily Heinz

- a. Emily – See packet document with financial summary. 47% of the initial \$1.2 million has been encumbered, 3% has been actually sent.
 - We have achieved 24% of our two-year phosphorus reduction goal.
 - At our current rate of progress, it will take us 100 years to achieve the phosphorus-reduction goals of the St. Croix TMDL. However, this progress chart does not include locally-led partner projects that are not funded through the WBIF grant.
- b. Craig – see budget spreadsheet. 5 of the 10 activities have funds encumbered toward them.
 - Jackie Andersen and Fran Miron requested that a notation be added to the spreadsheet to clarify the source of match funds for the listed grant activities.
- c. Craig – Also in the packet is a memo related to LSC WBIF Grant Agreement Amendments and Work Plan Revisions. This memo was reviewed and approved by the LSC steering committee on Sept. 22.
 - Request to combining funds for grant activities A2 and A5 (urban and ag structural practices) to allow greater flexibility in funding priority projects. The subcommittees for grant activities A2, A4, A5, and A9 are already meeting jointly, so there is a high level of coordination happening.
 - Request to follow BWSR recommendation for shifting funding between grant activities – if in excess of \$50,000, policy committee approval is needed before moving forward.
 - Jackie Andersen – what does BC stand for? Answer - BWSR Board Conservationist
 - Jackie Andersen moves to approve the requested changes outlined in the memo. Second by Jim Burkholz. Motion is carried with no objections.

V. Project Request Form – Emily Heinz

- a. Subcommittees and steering committee have developed a project request form for partners to use when requesting WBIF funding.
- b. To request funds, partners are asked to provide information about the prospective project and its anticipated benefit and note how the project meets a priority goal in the LSC plan. Information requested in the application form will also be used for BWSR grant reporting at the end of our two-year grant.
- c. The first two pages of the form apply to all projects. Then there are additional pages that are specific to different project types (ie. structural ag vs internal loading). Scoring criteria is still being finalized for the targeting and prioritization funds.

- d. The package also includes a flow chart outlining the project application and approval process. Partners bring projects to the relevant subcommittee first, and then to the steering committee. The policy committee provides oversight and approves the annual work plan.
- e. Emergency project proposals should be brought to the planning team for expedited review. The emergency protocol does not skip any part of the regular approval process, but can help move timelines along by ‘activating’ subcommittees outside their normal meeting times to accelerate the project evaluation timeline
- f. Questions and discussion:
 - Jackie Andersen requested that the procedure for emergency projects be written up as an official policy and approved by the policy committee.
 - Staff will bring draft language to the next policy committee meeting.
 - Jackie Andersen – does this mean that priority projects will not happen unless partners apply for funding to do them?
 - Yes, any projects need to be completed by one or more of the local partners who are signatories to the JPA. The LSC Partnership is not an entity and can not do projects on its own. Project proposals are evaluated by the subcommittees and steering committee and eventually approved for funding by Chisago SWCD, acting as the fiscal agent for the WBIF grant.
 - Jackie Andersen – partners are then individually responsible for 10% match?
 - Emily – Usually, yes.
 - Jackie Andersen – please make sure a list of steering committee members is published somewhere for ease of finding the information.
 - Angie will put it on the website. The steering committee consists of a minimum of one staff member from each partner entity.
 - Janet Heglund – does this mean project funding will be determined on a ‘first-come, first serve’ basis even though a higher priority project might simply come not along in time?
 - Craig Mell – yes.
 - Janet Heglund – I have hesitations about this and would appreciate further discussion at the next meeting.
 - Angie mentioned that there will be a steering committee meeting this Wednesday, October 27th. During the meeting, the committee will review two proposals: One to conduct targeted street sweeping evaluations; and one to delineate and prioritize contributing subcatchments within the northern portion of the LSC watershed. These two evaluation efforts should lead directly to implementation of priority water-quality improvement projects in the near future.
 - Jackie Andersen – I am also concerned that this structure doesn’t allow the partnership to actively pursue priority projects versus waiting for partners to apply for projects – what work then is the policy committee doing?
 - Fran Miron – This project request form is being presented as an informational item. The policy committee will not be voting on whether or not to approve the

project application form and project approval process, but we can discuss it further at the next meeting.

- Jim Burkholz and Steve Hallan – the project approval process is defined well currently and allows for adequate oversight by the policy committee. The project form looks good as well.

VI. Subcommittee Updates

a. Jay Riggs – agronomy outreach

- The closing date for the agronomy outreach specialist was extended from late September and closed yesterday (October 25th). Interview committee is meeting this Friday and will then offer invitations for interviews in mid-November
- Best case scenario – having an offer by December
- Fran Miron asked Joel Larson from UMN Extension about overall UMN process in hiring
 - Timelines can be tricky and getting things done is always subject to hiccups.
 - Initial review committee will include Joel, an ag colleague in extension, Barbara Heitkamp, Jay Riggs, Lance Petersen, and Dave Tollberg. The group couldn't meet earlier than late October, so decided to extend the job posting.
 - The review committee is individually assessing applicants and we will meet this coming Friday with our first round of picks.
 - Once we get beyond this first anonymous review, we can decide how public/open we would like interview process to be and whether members here want to be involved.
- 15 applicants – lower than hoped for, but we just need 1!

b. Urban and Ag Projects – Craig Mell

- Craig - \$180,100 has been encumbered thus far for the McQuade and Hinze projects.
- Activity 4 – waiting on the agronomist to be hired before proceeding.
- Activity 5 – street sweeping proposal is being discussed at Wednesday steering committee meeting – several cities have expressed interest in participating.
- Activity 9 – nothing yet, but some partners have indicated interest

c. Educator updates – Angie Hong and Barbara Heitkamp

- Angie – An email newsletter was sent to all policy, advisory, steering and subcommittee members via MailChimp last Wednesday. The quarterly newsletters are designed to give partners more information about ongoing projects and programming.
- Angie also shared a table that outlines what types of education and outreach activities will be funded by local funds through EMWREP vs state funds through the LSC.

EMWREP	Lower St. Croix
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General water and watershed education • MS4 <u>stormwater</u> education • Blue Thumb – Planting for Clean Water • Outreach support for partner programs and plans • Volunteer engagement • Education partnerships • Media and communications • <u>Stormwater U</u> for municipal staff and businesses • Groundwater education • Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education and Outreach to support goals of the Lower St. Croix WBIF grant <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education for local decision-makers to support MIDS and shoreline ordinances • Support for agronomy program • Outreach for landscape stewardship planning • Outreach to <u>shoreland</u> property owners • Coordination and relationship-building in northern communities

- EMWREP is entirely funded by local partners and has been in operation since 2006. Currently, all 25 partners are wholly or partially in Washington County. In 2022, several new partners from the northern portion of the LSC watershed will be joining EMWREP and providing local funding for the program as well.
 - The state funding through LSC can only be used for education and outreach activities that are directly related to implementation of projects in the WBIF grant.
 - Jackie Andersen would like to have a discussion of EMWREP priorities and funding that will be provided by northern partners at a future meeting.
- d. Wetland Restoration – Becky Wozney
- One partner has reached out about potential project
- e. Internal Analysis – Susanna Wilson-Witkowski
- Recently issued a call for projects with a deadline of October 31. The subcommittee will meet on November 3rd to review applications.
 - So far, they have received proposals from Anoka SWCD and CLFLWD. Chisago County and Chisago LID have indicated they will be applying as well.
 - Overall application deadline is December 15th, so there is still some time.
- f. Targeting Analyses – Jay Riggs
- Still working to overall prioritization criteria – work will continue as project applications are still being accepted/evaluated – folks from WCD, Chisago, CLFLWD are doing the work
 - Street Sweeping Proposal will be considered by steering committee on Wednesday, Oct. 27. A Rock Lake prioritization project was sent back to Pine SWCD and Pine Co to revise to make sure it meets WBIF funding criteria. WBIF funds can not be used for monitoring activities and funds spent on monitoring can not be used as match either. The steering committee will also be reviewing a proposal to prioritize catchments in the northern portion of the Sunrise River subwatershed.

VII. WBIF Funding and Plan Implementation – Jamie Schurbon

- a. 2023-24 funding will be divided into metro and non-metro pots, as it was during the last round of funding. There is \$807,509 available for the metro portion of the LSC watershed and \$471,070 for the whole watershed = \$1,278,579 total.
- b. Our current WBIF grant expires 12-31-2023. On July 1, 2022, FY 2023 funds become available, so there is overlap. The 3 year grant will expire on December 31, 2025.

VIII. Wrap Up

- a. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on Monday, January 24th, 4-6 pm. The group will wait until January to determine whether to meet in person or via zoom.
- b. Motion to adjourn by Doug Odegard, Susan Morris seconds, motion carries and meeting adjourns at 5:20 pm.

2021 WBIF – Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners Annual Report

Reporting Period: **March 31, 2021-December 31, 2021**

Grant ID: C21-4732 | Grant Expiration: December 31, 2023

Due to BWSR by February 1, 2022

eLINK Actual Results

This section contains the text to be pasted into the eLINK “Actual Results” reporting boxes for each work plan activity. The sections following this one will not be pasted directly into eLINK, but this document can be saved and uploaded to eLINK attachments.

For each activity, report the following:

- **Description of work:** *Provide a narrative of work that occurred under this activity during the reporting period. This should align with what was billed under the financial section.*
- **Outputs achieved:** *List what was produced or done by the organization. Outputs help tell the story of how the organization works toward outcomes. Examples may include number of landowners contacted, number of outreach materials produced, number of BMPs implemented. See Attachments A and B to the Detail Work Plan Text for a list of outputs for Activity 1 Basin Ag Outreach Program and Activity 3 Shared Services Educator, respectively.*
- **Outcomes achieved [if applicable]:** *Generally put, outcomes are the level of performance or achievement that occurred. Outcomes differ from outputs in that they are what is ultimately desired, rather than an interim step. For example, number of best management practices installed is an output, while nutrient load reduction at a target waterbody is the outcome. The two main outcomes to be reported are total phosphorus and total suspended solids loads reduced at target waterbodies. Priority target waterbodies and associated phosphorus reduction goals are listed in tables 5-2 and 5-3 of the LSC CWMP. Reporting tables based on tables 5-2 and 5-3 are included in this reporting template. Measurable outcomes will be reported for implementation activities (i.e., activities where on-the-ground project implementation occurs). For all other activities, only outputs will be reported.*

Activity 1: Basin Ag Outreach Program

Actual Results – December 31, 2021 Update:

- **Description of work:** The A1 subcommittee compared options for hiring the Agronomy Outreach Specialist including internal hire and contracting through University of MN Extension, ultimately deciding on the latter due to benefits of a partnership with UMNE. The A1 subcommittee worked closely with UMNE to post the job opening, review applications, interview candidates, and ultimately hired the number one candidate from the interview process. Projected start date is sometime in February 2022.
- **Outputs achieved:** Hired Agronomy Outreach Specialist in partnership with University of MN Extension.

Activity 2: Structural Ag BMP Implementation

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A2/4/5 subcommittee (note that this subcommittee encompasses multiple grant activities from structural urban/ag to nonstructural urban/ag) met several times over the course of the period to review potential projects.
- Outputs achieved: The A2/4/5 subcommittee approved two projects for WBIF funding: McQuade Ravine Stabilization (South Washington Watershed District) and Hinze Cattle Exclusion (Pine SWCD).
- Outcomes achieved: Implemented two projects using WBIF funds: McQuaid Ravine Stabilization (220 lb/yr phosphorus reduction, 250 tons/yr TSS reduction to St. Croix River) and Hinze Cattle Exclusion (3.48 lb/yr phosphorus reduction, 1.89 tons/yr TSS to Rock Lake).

Activity 3: Shared Services Educator

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A3 subcommittee completed the position description and announcement, reviewed applications, interviewed applicants, and ultimately hired Barbara Heitkamp as the LSC Shared Services Educator. Since then, Barbara has worked closely with EMWREP Coordinator, Angie Hong, as well as other partners throughout the basin to provide education services including: project tours, community events, workshops, newsletters, social media, and public engagement.
- Outputs achieved:
 - Virtual project tour, 10 new videos, 80+ social media posts, one cover crop flyer, three lake association events, two soil health field days, three visits with landowners, one public officials tour, two presentations for lake groups, two quarterly emails for Lower St. Croix partners, one e-newsletter to lake associations, a successful nomination for AMC-BWSR Conservation Award
 - Refer to WBIF Work Plan Attachment B – Shared Services Educator Details & Milestones

Activity 4: Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work:

The A2/4/5 subcommittee focused on working with the A8 subcommittee to establish protocols for enhanced street sweeping studies (a highly cost-effective non-structural urban BMP). See Activity 8. Once protocols are complete, partners will complete enhanced street sweeping studies for priority communities. Only communities with enhanced street sweeping studies in alignment with protocols will be eligible for street sweeping incentive payments through this grant activity.
- Outputs achieved: Protocols to be completed in early 2022.
- Outcomes achieved: No projects implemented yet.

Activity 5: Structural Urban BMP Implementation

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A2/4/5 subcommittee did not have any structural urban BMPs proposed by partners during this period. Outcomes of the A8 subcommittee's work on Subcatchment Prioritization will bring the LSC Partnership closer to targeting cost-effective urban practices to work toward achieving goals set forth in the CWMP.
- Outputs achieved: See Activity 8.
- Outcomes achieved: No projects implemented yet.

Activity 6: Wetland Restoration Implementation

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A6 subcommittee established the Wetland Restoration Scoring Matrix for inclusion in the Project Request Packet (see Activity 10). The subcommittee did not receive any applications for projects in 2021.
- Outputs achieved: Completed Wetland Restoration Scoring Matrix.
- Outcomes achieved: No projects implemented yet.

Activity 7: Internal Analyses

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A7 subcommittee established the Internal Analysis Request for Funding and Scoring Criteria for inclusion in the Project Request Packet (see Activity 10), advertised the request for partner proposals, and reviewed and gave preliminary rankings to proposed projects. Top tier lakes for internal analyses include Forest Lake, Martin and Typo Lakes and West Rush Lake. The deadline for full proposal submittal was December 15, 2021. Funding allotments will be made in early 2022.
- Outputs achieved: Completed Internal Analysis Request for Funding and Scoring Criteria, began project proposal and ranking process.

Activity 8: Targeting Analyses

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: The A8 subcommittee established the Targeting Analysis Eligibility Form for inclusion in the Project Request Packet (see Activity 10). It also began work on three initiatives under the Activity 8 category:
 - Enhanced Street Sweeping Study Protocols: establish criteria for partners to perform enhanced street sweeping studies. Such studies will prioritize areas for street sweeping, estimate pollutant reductions to be achieved, and recommend optimal sweeping frequencies. Communities will need to have an approved street sweeping study in order to be eligible for street sweeping incentive payments under Activity 4.
 - Prioritization and Targeting Protocols: establish criteria for partners to perform prioritization/targeting studies for project identification. Examples of analyses used to target and prioritize projects include a subwatershed analysis (SWA), diagnostic study,

feasibility study, etc. These analyses will include spatial and desktop analysis (including historical aerial photo review), water quality modeling or monitoring for pollution reduction analysis, field evaluation, and cost benefit analysis (see CWMP page 19).

- Subcatchment Prioritization: perform a desktop analysis to fill data gaps in the LSC basin. This initiative entails conducting GIS evaluations of the Lower St. Croix Watershed to delineate and prioritize contributing subcatchments, and to identify pollutant hot spots.
- Outputs achieved: Completed Targeting Analysis Eligibility Form, began work on several targeting initiatives.

Activity 9: Technical/Engineering

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work: None to date.
- Outputs achieved: None to date.

Activity 10: Administration/Coordination

Actual Results -- December 31, 2021 Update:

- Description of work and outputs achieved:
 - Chisago SWCD: Performed fiscal agent duties including execution of partner sub-agreements, payment of invoices, and eLINK financial reporting. Worked with CLFLWD to establish reporting forms and invoicing templates that align with reporting requirements to ensure all activities receiving WBIF grant funds are in alignment with work plan and reporting criteria.
 - WCD: Performed hiring and payroll administration for Agronomy Outreach Specialist and Shared Services Educator.
 - WCD/EMWREP: Kept the LSC website up to date with meeting information and other updates. Coordinated/facilitated/took minutes for meetings of the Policy Committee, Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, and Planning Team. Over the course of this period, the Steering Committee approved 5 activities to receive WBIF grant funding: McQuade Ravine Stabilization, Hinze Cattle Exclusion, Enhanced Street Sweeping Study Protocols, Prioritization and Targeting Protocols, and Subcatchment Prioritization.
 - CLFLWD: Coordinated establishment of Project Request Packet including cover memo, attachments associated with each work plan activity, and informational attachments such as maps and the project request process flow chart. Worked with Chisago SWCD to establish reporting forms and invoicing templates.

Implementation Category Budget Breakdown

The following text appears on [page 16](#) of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan:

In general, WBIFs are expected to be allocated across program areas with a distribution similar to:

- 70% Implementation (approximately 25% shared services + 45% BMPs & restoration/protection activities)
- 25% Prioritization and Analysis
- 5% Administration

The following tables summarize how the WBIF work plan compares to the estimated percentages in the CWMP and how actual spending compares to both.

Activity #	Grant Activity	eLINK Activity Category	Grant Budget	Match Budget	Grant Spend	Match Spend	Total Spend
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Project Development	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	Agricultural Practices	\$160,000	\$75,000	\$97,985.31	\$82,630.84	\$180,616.15
3	Shared Services Educator	Education/Information	\$125,000	\$4,800	\$39,448.98	\$23,060.00	\$62,508.98
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	\$200,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Urban Stormwater Practices	\$200,000	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0
6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	Wetland Restoration/Creation	\$39,531	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
7	Internal Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$50,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
8	Targeting Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$150,000	\$0	\$3,000	\$671.61	\$3,671.61
9	Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	\$40,000	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
10	Administration/Coordination	Administration/Coordination	\$100,000	\$0	\$24,219.27	\$712.17	\$24,931.44
TOTAL			\$1,264,531	\$129,800	\$164,653.56	\$107,074.62	\$246,796.74

Implementation Category	LSC CWMP (Page 16)	Work Plan (Grant Funds)	Actual Grant Spend	Actual Grant Spend % of Total
Implementation - BMPs/Restoration Activities*	45%	47%	\$97,985.31	59%
Implementation - Shared Services	25%	29%	\$39,448.98	24%
Prioritization & Analysis	25%	16%	\$3,0000	2%
Administration	5%	8%	\$24,219.27	15%
	100%	100%	\$164,653.56	100%

*Expenses billed to implementation (blue) line items are for implementation only and do not include staff time. Staff time for project coordination/design/oversight etc. is covered by the remaining three categories (green, orange, yellow).

Measurable Outcomes/Outputs and Milestones

Acti vity #	Grant Activity	Overall Measurable Outcome/Output	Year 1 (2021) Milestones	Year 1 (2021) Actual Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Actual Milestones	Year 3 (2023) Actual Milestones
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Output: Engage agricultural landowners (of both large and small operations) with a cumulative total of at least 3,000 acres of land to implement structural and nonstructural BMPs as outlined in other Activities See Attachment A – Agronomy Outreach Specialist Details & Milestones	Agronomy outreach specialist hired	Agronomy outreach specialist finalist selected		Agronomy outreach specialist hired	
2	Structural Ag BMP Impl.	Outcome: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 300 lb/yr		Implemented 2 BMPs to achieve 223 lb/yr phosphorus reduction and 252 tons/yr TSS	Implement 20 best management practices, or enough to achieve a 300 lb/yr phosphorus reduction		

Activity #	Grant Activity	Overall Measurable Outcome/Output	Year 1 (2021) Milestones	Year 1 (2021) Actual Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Actual Milestones	Year 3 (2023) Actual Milestones
3	Shared Services Educator	Output: 0.5 FTE See Attachment B – Education Details & Milestones	New education staff hired, develop basin-wide outreach plan for 2021-22	New education staff hired, developed basin-wide outreach plan for 2021-22	Implement basin-wide outreach plan		
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Impl.	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 400 lb/yr		None implemented with WBIF yet	Implement 2,000 acres of non-structural best management practices, or enough to achieve a 400 lb/yr phosphorus reduction		
5	Structural Urban BMP Impl.	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 200 lb/yr		None implemented with WBIF yet	Implement 20 best management practices, or enough to achieve a 200 lb/yr phosphorus reduction		

Activity #	Grant Activity	Overall Measurable Outcome/Output	Year 1 (2021) Milestones	Year 1 (2021) Actual Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Actual Milestones	Year 3 (2023) Actual Milestones
6	Wetland Restoration Impl.	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 15 lb/yr		None implemented with WBIF yet	Wetland restoration(s) construction		
7	Internal Analyses	Outputs: Complete 2 internal loading analyses		Completed majority of process to rank and select internal analyses to be completed in 2022	Complete 2 internal loading analyses		
8	Targeting Analyses	Outputs: Complete the following analyses (See Activity 8 Description for further detail) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linwood Lake Anoka County • St. Croix Direct Washington County • Desktop Analysis and Prioritized Catchments of the Sunrise River Watershed Chisago • Rock Lake Pine and St. Croix Direct Pine County • SWA protocol refinements • Enhanced street sweeping analyses for Rush City, Taylors Falls, Harris, North Branch, 		Began Enhanced Street Sweeping Study Protocols, Prioritization and Targeting Protocols, and Subcatchment Prioritization			

Activity #	Grant Activity	Overall Measurable Outcome/Output	Year 1 (2021) Milestones	Year 1 (2021) Actual Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Actual Milestones	Year 3 (2023) Actual Milestones
		Marine on St. Croix, Stillwater, Bayport, Lakeland, Lake St. Croix Beach, and Afton					
9	Technical/Engineering			No WBIFs used on this activity yet			
10	Admin/Coord	Complete eLINK annual reporting as required	Complete annual report	Completed annual report, established several processes for WBIF usage	Complete annual report		
Sum of outcomes:		915 lb/yr TP reduction at target waterbodies		223 lb/yr TP reduction and 252 tons/yr TSS at target waterbodies			

Pollutant Reduction Goals and Progress

Total Suspended Solids

Phosphorus Reductions Proposed in this Work Plan	2-Year Proposed Reduction (tons/yr)	Reduction Achieved as of [DATE] (tons/yr)
Activity 2: Structural Ag BMP Implementation	N/A	252
Activity 4: Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementation		0
Activity 5: Structural Urban BMP Implementation		0
Activity 6: Wetland Restoration Implementation		0
TOTAL		252

Total suspended solids reduction goals were not established for each activity but will be reported on.

Phosphorus

Phosphorus Reduction Summary Table – Reductions by Work Plan Activity

Phosphorus Reductions Proposed in this Work Plan	2-Year Proposed Reduction (lb/yr)	Reduction Achieved as of [DATE] (lb/yr)
Activity 2: Structural Ag BMP Implementation	300	223
Activity 4: Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementation	400	0
Activity 5: Structural Urban BMP Implementation	200	0
Activity 6: Wetland Restoration Implementation	15	0
TOTAL	915	223

Reductions reported are those estimated at target waterbodies. See Phosphorus Reduction Goals and Progress section in the Detail Work Plan Text for more information.

Phosphorus Reduction Detail Tables – Reductions by Target Waterbody

(per Tables 5-2 and 5-3)

[fill out in Excel spreadsheets and copy results into the following tables]

LSC CWMP Table 5-2: Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams for Pollutant Reductions

Stream Name	Lake St. Croix TMDL TP Reduction Goal (lbs/yr) ¹	10-year TP Reduction Goal (lbs/yr) ²	Actual Reduction Achieved as of 12/31/21 w/ WBIFs (lbs/yr)
Sunrise River and Tributaries	18,306	2,256	
Lawrence Creek ³	1,177	118	
Browns Creek ⁴	848	85	
Trout Brook ³	1,419	142	
Small Streams Draining to St. Croix River (south of Lawrence Cr & north of Valley Br.)	6,450	645	
Rock Creek	3,512	351	
Rush Creek	2,451	245	
Goose Creek	2,980	298	
St. Croix River Direct			220
TOTAL	37,143	4,140	0

(1) Table B-7, 2012 Lake St. Croix Total Maximum Daily Load Study

(2) 10% per stream + 425 lbs for stream restoration projects in Sunrise River Watershed

(3) According to Lake St. Croix TMDL: Actual phosphorus load reduction goals in Lawrence Creek, and Trout Brook may be smaller than shown (possibly even zero) due to substantial landlocked portions resulting in smaller drainage areas than those used to calculate load reductions.

(4) Browns Creek reduction goal based on Implementation Plan for Lake St. Croix Nutrient TMDL (2013), App B.

Lake ID	Name	County	Ag BMPs Needed	Urban BMPs Needed	Protection & Sustain. Dev. Needed	Overall TP Reduction Goal lbs/yr**	10-year TP Reduction Goal lbs/yr (5%/lake)	Actual Reduction Achieved by 12/31/21 w/ WBIFs (lbs/yr)
2002600	Linwood	Anoka	X	X	X	341	17.05	
2003400	Martin	Anoka	X	X		2,973	148.65	
13004200	Birch	Chisago		X	X	N/A	N/A	
13000100	Blooms*	Chisago	X		X	N/A	N/A	
1300120	Chisago	Chisago	X	X	X	143	7.15	
13006800	Fish*	Chisago	X	X	X	8	0.40	
13008301/ 13008302	Goose (North & South)	Chisago	X	X	X	4,935	246.75	
13004102 / 13004101	Green/ Little Green	Chisago		X	X	33	1.65	
13003300	Little	Chisago	X		X	2,657	132.85	
13003201	North Center Lk	Chisago	X	X	X	1,108	55.40	
13003500	North Lindstrom	Chisago	X	X	X	59	2.95	
13006901/ 13006902	Rush (East* & West)	Chisago	X		X	6,663	333.15	
13002700	South Center	Chisago	X	X	X	1,260	63.00	
13002800	South Lindstrom	Chisago		X	X	107	5.35	

30000800	Hoffman*	Isanti			X	Protection Strategies Only		
30001200	Horseleg*	Isanti	X		X	1	0.05	
30000300	Horseshoe*	Isanti			X	Protection Strategies Only		
30000700	Lower Birch*	Isanti			X	Protection Strategies Only		
58011700	Rock	Pine	X			6,641	332.05	3.48
82004900	Big Carnelian	Washington	X	X	X	53	2.65	
82005204	Big Marine*	Washington	X	X	X	35	1.75	
82004500	Clear*	Washington			X	Protection Strategies Only		
82003400	East Boot*	Washington			X	Protection Strategies Only		
82000400	Edith	Washington		X	X	6	0.30	
82010600	Elmo	Washington		X	X	56	2.80	
82015900	Forest	Washington	X	X		72	4.00	
82010400	Jane	Washington			X	Protection Strategies Only		
82001400	Little Carnelian*	Washington		X	X	29	1.45	
82002500	Louise	Washington	X			58	2.90	
82003300	Mays*	Washington			X	Protection Strategies Only		
82002000	McKusick	Washington		X		5	0.25	
82004600	Square	Washington	X	X	X	9	0.45	
82003100	Terrapin*	Washington			X	Protection Strategies Only		
					TOTAL lbs/yr	27,252	1,363	

*Groundwater Dependent Lakes
 ** TP reduction goal from TMDLs or MPCA's Lakes of Phosphorus Sensitivity Significance dataset

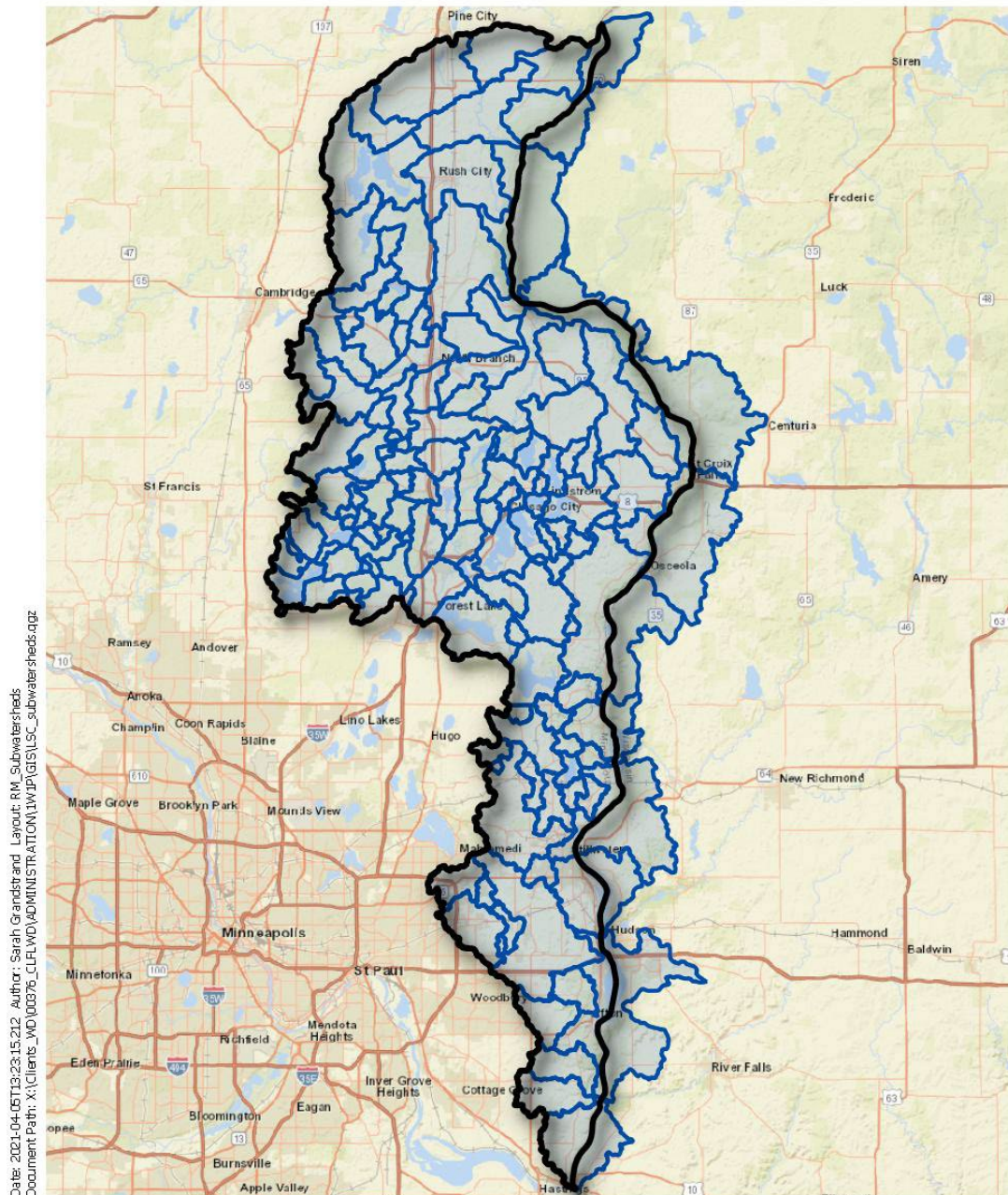
Project Cost-Benefit

Project	Project Lifetime Cost* (\$)	Phosphorus Reduction Achieved at Target Waterbody* (lb/yr)	Project Lifespan* (yrs)	Lifetime Cost-Benefit (cost per total reduction achieved over lifespan) (\$/lb)	Calculation Tool Used*	Project Status/ Comments
McQuade Ravine Stabilization (SWWD)	\$275,230	220	50	\$25	Modeled	Completed
Hinze Cattle Exclusion (Pine SWCD)	\$7,386	3.48	20	\$106	Lake Access Control Pollution Reduction Estimator	Completed

*All project details shown as reported by partners. Lifetime cost is reported by partners and must include construction and estimated O&M to achieve full lifespan.

Reporting by Subwatershed

Implementation subcommittees will prioritize projects by subwatershed. The following map shows DNR Level 08 subwatersheds within the LSC Basin. The LSC CWMP also contains several figures and tables describing priority implementation areas.




Date: 2021-04-05T13:23:15.212 Author: Sarah Grandstrand Layout: RM_Subwatersheds Document Path: X:\Clients_WD\00976_CLEL\WD\ADMINISTRATION\1W\FIGS\LSC_subwatersheds.qgz



-  Lower St.Croix Watershed
-  Subwatersheds



Lower St.Croix Subwatersheds



A north arrow pointing upwards and a scale bar showing 0, 5, and 10 miles.

FY21 WBIF - Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners Grant

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H
	ACTIVITY	BEGINNING WBIF BALANCE	BEGINNING MATCH BALANCE	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub-Agreements)	AMOUNT WBIF's SPENT (12/31/2021)	PERCENT WBIF's ENCUMBERED	PERCENT WBIF's SPENT	MATCH FUNDS RECEIVED (12/31/2021)
A1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	100%	0%	\$ -
A2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 160,000.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 97,985.31	\$ 97,985.31	61%	61%	\$ 82,630.84
A3	Shared Services Educator	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 39,448.98	100%	32%	\$ 23,060.00
A4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementati	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%	\$ -
A5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%	\$ -
A6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 39,531.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%	\$ -
A7	Internal Analyses	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%	\$ -
A8	Targeting Analyses	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 63,272.00	\$ 3,000.00	42%	2%	\$ 671.61
A9	Technical/Engineering	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	0%	0%	\$ -
A10	Administration/Coordination	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 83,000.00	\$ 24,219.27	83%	24%	\$ 712.17
PROJECT BALANCE:		\$ 1,264,531.00	\$ 129,800.00	\$ 569,257.31	\$ 164,653.56	45%	13%	\$ 107,074.62

Minimum Match Amount: \$126,454

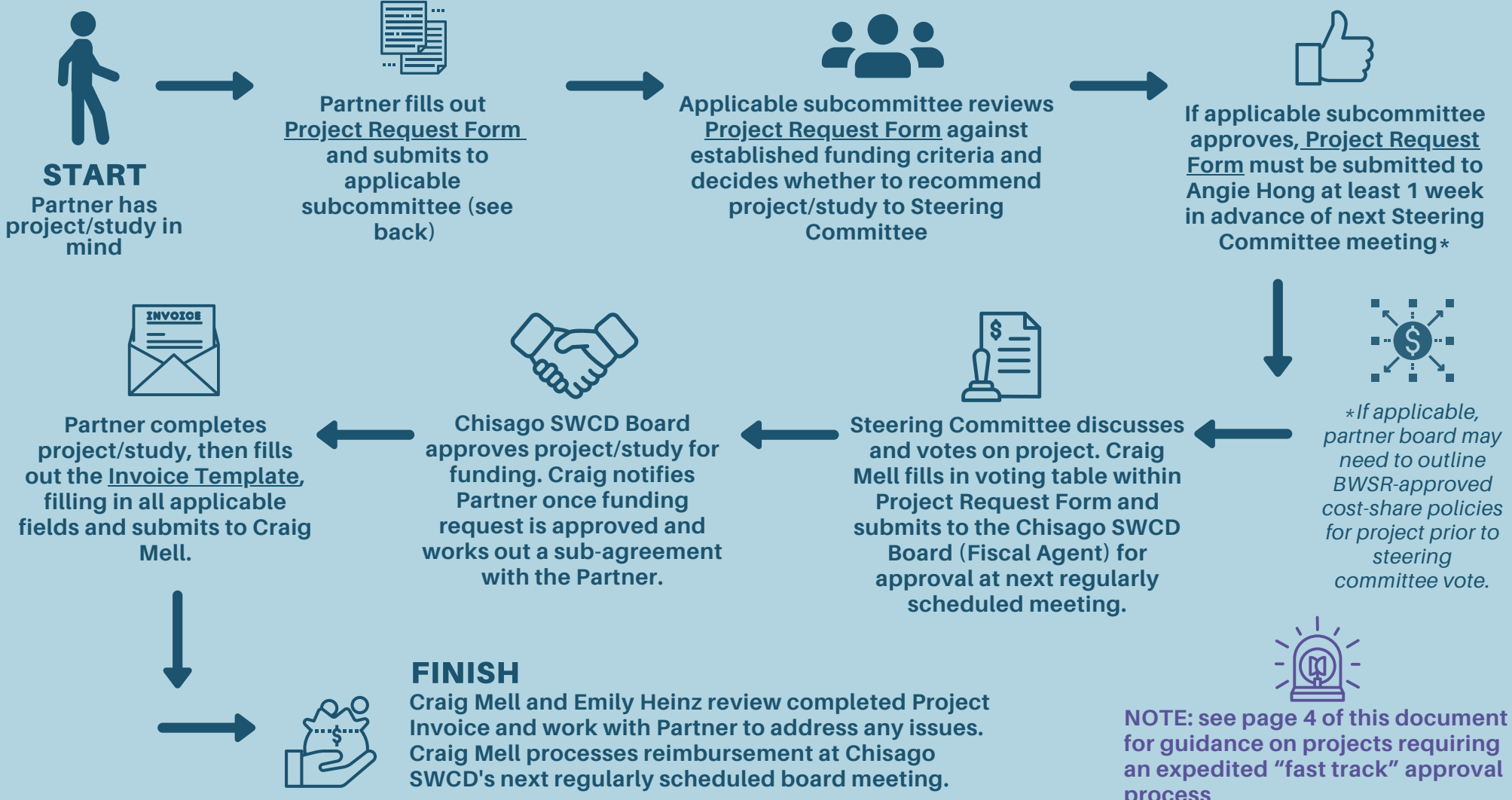
Grant Agreement BWSR Approved: 3/31/21


Grant Agreement Expires: 12/31/2023

Implementation Category	LSC CWMP (pg 16)	Work Plan (Grant)	Actual Grant Spend
Impl. - BMPs/Restoration Activities	45%	47%	60%
Impl. - Shared Services	25%	29%	24%
Prioritization & Analysis	25%	16%	2%
Administration	5%	8%	15%
	100%	100%	100%

WBIF Project Request Process

 **Lower St. Croix Policy Committee approves the annual WBIF work plan and provides oversight for plan implementation.**



 **NOTE: see page 4 of this document for guidance on projects requiring an expedited "fast track" approval process**

WHO IS A 'PARTNER?'

Eligible entities/applicants are limited to the 16 local government unit (LGU) partners that signed on to the joint powers agreement for implementation of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Non-included entities/individuals can work with one of the 16 partners to submit an application.

LOWER ST. CROIX PARTNERS

- Chisago County
- Isanti County
- Pine County
- Washington County
- Anoka SWCD
- Chisago SWCD
- Isanti SWCD
- Washington SWCD
- Pine SWCD
- Brown's Creek WD
- Carnelian-Marine St. Croix WD
- Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD
- South Washington WD
- Middle St. Croix WMO
- Sunrise River WMO
- Valley Branch WD

LOWER ST. CROIX SUBCOMMITTEE LEAD CONTACTS:

Activity 1: Basin Ag. Outreach Program Lead	Jay Riggs	jriggs@mnwcd.org
Activities 2, 4, 9: Structural and Non-Structural Ag BMP Implementation + Technical/Engineering Lead	Craig Mell	craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net
Activity 3: Shared Services Educator Lead	Angie Hong	angie.hong@mnwcd.org
Activities, 4, 5, 9: Structural and Non-Structural Urban BMP Implementation + Technical/Engineering Lead	Mike Isensee	mike.isensee@cmscwd.org
Activity 6: Wetland Restoration Implementation Lead	Becky Wozney	becky.wozney@anokaswcd.org
Activity 7: Internal Analyses Lead	Susanna Wilson Witkowski	susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us
Activity 8: Targeting Analyses Lead	Jay Riggs	jriggs@mnwcd.org

LOWER ST. CROIX PLANNING TEAM MEMBERS:

Jay Riggs	jriggs@mnwcd.org
Craig Mell	craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net
Mike Isensee	mike.isensee@cmscwd.org
Jamie Schurbon	jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org
Becky Wozney	becky.wozney@anokaswcd.org
Susanna Wilson Witkowski	susanna.wilson@chisagocounty.us
Emily Heinz	emily.heinz@clflwd.org
Angie Hong	angie.hong@mnwcd.org
Barbara Heitkamp	bheitkamp@mnwcd.org

RELEVANT LINKS:

Project Website: www.lsc1w1p.org
 Project Request Form: TBA

PROJECT REQUEST FORM DEADLINES

Project request form and attachments must be submitted to Angie Hong at (ahong@mnwcd.org) one week prior to the Steering Committee meeting. Note that project requests must be discussed with the applicable subcommittee prior to submittal to the Steering Committee. Contact the subcommittee lead for a schedule of subcommittee meetings. The fiscal agent, Chisago SWCD, approves funding at one of its regular meetings on the second Tuesday of the month.

The WBIF grant expires December 31, 2023. The following table shows deadlines through the end of 2023.

<u>Project Request Deadline</u> <u>(1 week before Steering Committee Meeting)</u>	<u>Steering Committee Meetings</u> <u>(every 4th Wednesday of the month)</u>
October 20, 2021	October 27, 2021
November 17, 2021	November 24, 2021
December 15, 2021	December 22, 2021
January 19, 2022	January 26, 2022
February 16, 2022	February 23, 2022
March 16, 2022	March 23, 2022
April 20, 2022	April 27, 2022
May 18, 2022	May 25, 2022
June 15, 2022	June 22, 2022
July 20, 2022	July 27, 2022
August 17, 2022	August 24, 2022
September 21, 2022	September 28, 2022
October 19, 2022	October 26, 2022
November 16, 2022	November 23, 2022
December 21, 2022	December 28, 2022
January 18, 2023	January 25, 2023
February 15, 2023	February 22, 2023
March 15, 2023	March 22, 2023
April 19, 2023	April 26, 2023
May 17, 2023	May 24, 2023
June 21, 2023	June 28, 2023
July 19, 2023	July 26, 2023
August 16, 2023	August 23, 2023
September 20, 2023	September 27, 2023
October 18, 2023	October 25, 2023
November 15, 2023	November 22, 2023
December 20, 2023	December 27, 2023



FAST TRACK PROJECT GUIDELINES (FORMERLY REFERRED TO AS EMERGENCY PROJECTS)

The following guidance is intended for instances in which a partner or subcommittee identifies a project that is considered an emergency project requiring an expedited timeline. Emergency projects may be necessary to mitigate significant environmental damage. Partners and/or subcommittees will use best judgement to classify a project as an emergency. The purpose of this guidance is to avoid approving funding after project construction has begun. WBIF grant allocations will be approved prior to project implementation. In general, the following guidance entails expediting the process outlined in the flow chart on page 1.

Guidance for emergency projects - requesting partner/project sponsor follow these steps:

1. Immediately fill out the Project Request Form.
2. Contact the following Planning Team members to submit the Project Request Form, explain the reasoning why project must be fast-tracked, and coordinate associated meetings/documents:
 - a. Applicable subcommittee lead: Work with subcommittee lead to schedule a special subcommittee meeting.
 - b. Angie Hong: Work with Angie to schedule a special Steering Committee meeting.
 - c. Craig Mell: Work with Craig to begin contracting with fiscal agent and schedule special meeting of fiscal agent (Chisago SWCD board).
3. Follow the flow chart on page 1 with an expedited timeline, as coordinated with the applicable Planning Team members.

MEMORANDUM

Lower St. Croix Partnership

To: Policy Committee

Date: November 23, 2021

From: Planning Team

Subject: Lower St. Croix Project Prioritization and Targeting

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide additional information following up to the discussion held at the October 25th Lower St. Croix (LSC) Policy Committee meeting. At that meeting, some Policy Committee members expressed concern regarding the idea that grant funding for projects is being allocated on a “first come first serve” basis. “First come first serve” is not a full depiction of how projects are being funded by the LSC Partnership. There are several sideboards in place to ensure it is not an arbitrary approval process.

There is no basin-wide list of identified projects ranked in order of greatest benefit to priority waterbodies or best cost-benefit. Some of the partners may have this level of targeting work completed on a localized basis, but large data gaps still exist in some parts of the basin. The Partnership has several ongoing initiatives aimed at filling these data gaps and refining gatekeeper criteria to help ensure high quality projects are being approved for grant funding. Additionally, there is higher level work that can be done to help provide grant funding for targeted tributary monitoring to occur, which would be very helpful to the targeting and project prioritization process.

Targeting & Prioritization Efforts by LSC Partners

The Partnership has its priority resources outlined in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). So far in the process, it has largely been up to partners (with help/resources from the Partnership) to identify and prioritize projects to achieve the shared goals outlined in the CWMP for these waterbodies.

- [Maps of Priority Waterbodies](#)
- [Table of Phosphorus Reduction Goals for Priority Rivers/Streams](#)
- [Table of Phosphorus Reduction Goals for Priority Lakes](#)

The Partnership has established gatekeeper criteria (see [Project Request Packet](#)), and is in the process of further refining said gatekeeper criteria. If a project meets these minimum requirements, then it might be considered a “priority project.” As such, we might say there are two priority categories: high priority (meets gatekeeper criteria) and low priority (does not meet gatekeeper criteria).

The Partnership is helping partners further delineate priorities within the “high priority” projects by:

- Hiring the Agronomy Outreach Specialist
- Hiring the Shared Services Educator
- Working with subject matter experts to perform activities identified under Watershed Based Implementation Funding Activity 8 Targeting Analyses, which so far include:
 - Subcatchment Prioritization: Perform a desktop analysis to fill data gaps in the LSC basin. This initiative entails conducting GIS evaluations of the Lower St. Croix Watershed to delineate and prioritize contributing subcatchments, and to identify pollutant hot spots.

MEMORANDUM

Lower St. Croix Partnership

- Enhanced Street Sweeping Study Protocols: Establish criteria for partners to perform enhanced street sweeping studies. Such studies will prioritize areas for street sweeping, estimate pollutant reductions to be achieved, and recommend optimal sweeping frequencies. Communities will need to have an approved street sweeping study in order to be eligible for street sweeping incentive payments under WBIF Activity 4.
- Prioritization and Targeting Protocols: Update Prioritization Protocols to include multiple prioritization options including targeted monitoring and Urban and Rural Subwatershed Prioritization (SWA) Protocols.
- Establish an encumbrance process – subcommittee leads will be handling this. The idea is to have a process in place where a partner can bring forth a project and ensure grant funds will be set aside for it to be used in the future. Through this process, we can have a better idea of potential projects coming forward in the next year or so, rather than not being sure about future projects and having to wait until the project is more fully developed and ready for actual approval. This may be similar to the state cost-share encumbrance process.

Grant Funds for Targeted Tributary/Diagnostic Monitoring

It is also pertinent to note that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) currently has a stance that monitoring of any kind (diagnostic, effectiveness, etc.) is not eligible for WBIF grant funding. This presents a barrier for a lot of the partners, as many have expressed a lack of funding to do any additional monitoring.

Partners and/or the Partnership as a whole may lobby BWSR to change this stance. BWSR typically decides eligibility criteria for the WBIF grant program biennially, and criteria for competitive programs annually. Policies and grant standards are typically developed through a series of internal staff teams and then typically with the various BWSR Board Committees for a recommendation to and decision ultimately by the BWSR Board. BWSR staff have indicated that staff-level discussions on the FY2023 competitive Clean Water Fund policy will be starting soon. BWSR staff typically suggests starting with reaching out to the Clean Water Coordinator, but since this position is currently vacant, Barb Peichel would be the contact to start with. There is also public opportunity for comments at Committee and Board meetings when the draft policies are presented for review/recommendation/action. This gets local government perspective directly to Board members.

Finally, cost-saving solutions for diagnostic monitoring exist. Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District implements diagnostic monitoring for priority waterbodies in need of restoration. Once a priority waterbody is identified as impaired or simply not meeting goals, CLFLWD undergoes an intensive and systematic diagnostic monitoring approach to identify the main sources of nutrient loading in the subwatershed – whether that be an agricultural area, upstream waterbody, degraded wetland, or other source. The approach is effective, but it can be an expensive and lengthy process. Over the last few years, CLFLWD has been exploring new technologies and strategies to streamline and improve the diagnostic monitoring process, save taxpayer dollars, reach similar conclusions to full-scale traditional diagnostic monitoring, and to identify future monitoring needs. CLFLWD staff will give a presentation on these methods to LSC subcommittees. View the 2020 DIY Diagnostic & Citizen Assisted Tributary (CAT) Monitoring Program Report at www.clflwd.org/monitoring.php or at [this direct hyperlink](#).