

Lower St. Croix Steering Committee Meeting – 11-8-22

Attending: Smita Rakshit – Washington County, Todd Kulaf – Isanti SWCD, Barbara Heitkamp – EMWREP/LSC, Emily Heinz – CLFLWD, Jennifer Hahn – MN Extension/LSC, Jamie Schurbon – Anoka SWCD, Paul Swanson – Pine SWCD, Ben Elfelt – Chisago LID, Caleb Anderson – Pine Co., Karen Kill – BCWD, Michelle Jordan and Barb Peichel – BWSR, Susanna Wilson-Witkowski, Mike Isensee – CMSCWD, John Hanson – VBWD, Jay Riggs – WCD, Matt Moore – SWWD, Matt Downing – MSCWMO, Craig Mell – Chisago SWWD

Status updates on FY21 WBIF funded projects:

LSC WP	Activity	Project Name & updates	Date encumbered	WBIF encumbered	Spent as of 9/30/22
Pine SWCD	A2	Hinze Project – waiting for construction to start in fall. Will go fast once it starts.	June, 2022	\$ 8,477.00	\$ -
Chisago SWCD	A4	NS AG – encumbered \$24k, with \$16k remaining. 75% is for cover crops. May transfer funds to other partners if needed.	July, 2022	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -
Washington CD	A4	NS AG – encumbered all funds available. All cover crop projects.	August, 2022	\$ 30,000.00	\$ -
Pine SWCD	A4	NS AG – All encumbered.	August, 2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Isanti SWCD	A4	NS AG – Three landowners interested in cover crops for 2023.	August, 2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Anoka CD	A4	NS AG – no funds encumbered. May not be able to spend funds. May transfer funds to other partners if needed.	September, 2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
CMSCWD	A5	Big Marine – going out to bid in early 2023.	June, 2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
SWWD	A5	Trout Brook – 90% plans complete. New estimate is coming in a bit high. Construction will begin in spring 2023.	October, 2022	\$ 350,000.00	\$ -
CMSCWD	A6	Goose Lake - wetland excavated last week. Next year will be planting. Will submit for reimbursement in Dec.	June, 2022	\$ 10,000.00	\$ -
Pine SWCD	A6	Jones & Jahnz – complete	July, 2022	\$ 15,408.00	\$ -
CLFLWD	A7	Forest Lake – internal loading study is complete and fully paid.	February, 2022	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00
CLFLWD	A8	Monitoring protocols – complete and fully paid. CLFLWD will share at the Dec. water consortium meeting. Will send protocols at the end of the year.	October, 2021	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
WCD	A8	Urban – complete. Will prepare final report once they have CLFLWD protocols.	October, 2021	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -

CMSCWD	A8	NE WC SWA – started in the fall. On track to be done by mid-summer 2023.	December, 2021	\$ 20,000.00	\$ -
Pine County	A8	Rock Lake SWA – Pine Co work is done and Pine SWCD work is in progress.	February, 2022	\$ 12,541.40	\$ 8,500.00
EOR	A8	Sunrise River PDA – goal to be done by end of Dec. 2022	September, 2022	\$ 27,200.00	\$ -
				\$ 575,126.40	\$ 28,000.00

LSC FY21 WBIF A8 grant fund requests for street sweeping

We currently have **\$43,586.60** available in the A8 Targeting Analyses activity. For more information about the approved A8 Targeting Analyses Activity see page 10 of the attached *Elink LSC 1W1P WBIF Work Plan Detailed Text April 1 2021*.

City	LSC Partner	Street Sweeping Study	Tree Canopy Study *	Total Request
Afton	WCD	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Lake Elmo	WCD	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
MSCWMO Cities	WCD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -	\$ 5,000.00
Wyoming	CLFLWD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 8,000.00
Marine on the St. Croix	CMSCWD	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Scandia	CMSCWD	\$ 2,500.00	\$ -	\$ 2,500.00
Linwood Twp	ACD	\$ 2,000.00	\$ -	\$ 2,000.00
North Branch	CSWCD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
Rush City	CSWCD	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 7,500.00
				\$ 40,000.00

* A tree canopy study has been completed for Washington and Anoka, but not in Chisago, Isanti or Pine.

- Angie requested a vote to approve all proposed street sweeping projects, as all communities drain to priority water bodies and the total cost of \$40k is within the available budget of \$43.5k.
- Michelle – are all communities listed as priorities for street sweeping?
 - Jay – All communities in Washington County drain to priority water bodies listed in the plan.
 - Jamie – yes
 - Craig – yes
 - Michelle – why weren’t all of the cities listed originally?
 - Jay – we didn’t have the tree canopy protocol identified yet and didn’t realize how easy and inexpensive it would be to do multiple communities at once.

- Michelle – need to provide justification that these will provide benefit to priority water bodies.
- Craig – motion to fund all projects, pending approval from BWSR for Scandia, Linwood, and Lake Elmo. Jamie second. All members vote yes.
- Mike, Jay and Jamie will follow up with Michelle to make sure BWSR approves.
- CMSCWD will include their applications with the WCD so that an additional sub-agreement with Chisago SWCD is not needed.
- Chisago will be bringing several more requests for street sweeping projects in the next round of funding.
- Angie – it is great that we will be able to fund enhanced street sweeping plans for 16 communities in this first round of funding. It’s even more than we hoped to do and will help to change the status quo for cities in our region.

Education and outreach updates:

- MIDS outreach – waiting until after elections to begin outreach to communities, related to MIDS. Have a few cities in Chisago Co and CMSCWD that they’ll be working with.
- Lakeshore Realtor Workshop – first week in February. In person in Center City. Barbara is submitting materials to SPARR for review and accreditation with MN Department of Commerce.
- Communities moving forward on street sweeping programs.
- Working to complete a number of farmer videos.
- Barbara, Jennifer and Angie are planning for 2023 currently.
- Getting ready to plan winter workshops for farmers.
- Conversation:
 - Pine SWCD has some funds through Wild Rivers Conservancy for forestry and land protection

Other updates:

- Craig – there is less than \$15k to encumber for the remainder of the FY21 grant.
- The group agreed to wait until the next steering committee meeting to develop an annual calendar with policies and procedures for reviewing project funding requests.
- Emily – Trout Brook got prioritized for FY21 funding because the first half was supposed to happen in the fall. But is it all happening in the spring now? Will BWSR ask why the timeline has changed?
 - Matt – we are too close to the ski season to begin the work now. The only part that was going to be done this fall was trees. Need to build between ski season and bat season.
 - Michelle – make a note in eLINK of project delays and the reason. Is there any concern about ability to complete the project by the end of the grant?
 - Matt – no. The project will be complete on time. Cost estimates are coming in high but they will bid a couple of pieces as alternates.
- Michelle – update on plan amendments.
 - BWSR has determined that the plan amendment requested by Valley Branch WD will be a “non-controversial” plan amendment. Plan review authorities must be notified. If no

one requests a public hearing, no hearing is required. If there are comments, the partnership must respond and post those responses online.

- VBWD will take the lead on notifications since they requested the amendment.
- Craig – did Sunrise River WMO discuss this?
 - Jamie – no because they were past the notification deadline.
- Emily and Craig submitted WBIF budget request for FY23-25 and BWSR approved in October. Now, just need Michelle’s approval on the work plan. The grant agreement has been signed on Chisago SWCD’s end. Then the grant will be executed.