



LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED  
PARTNERSHIP

1-23-23 Policy Committee meeting

## **1-23-23 Policy Committee Agenda**

- 1. Introductions**
- 2. Election of new officers**
- 3. Approve agenda**
- 4. Approve 9-26-22 minutes**
- 5. Administrative updates**
- 6. Project and program updates**
- 7. Review and consider endorsing policies for project evaluation and approval**
- 8. Adjourn**

# Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership

## Counties (4)

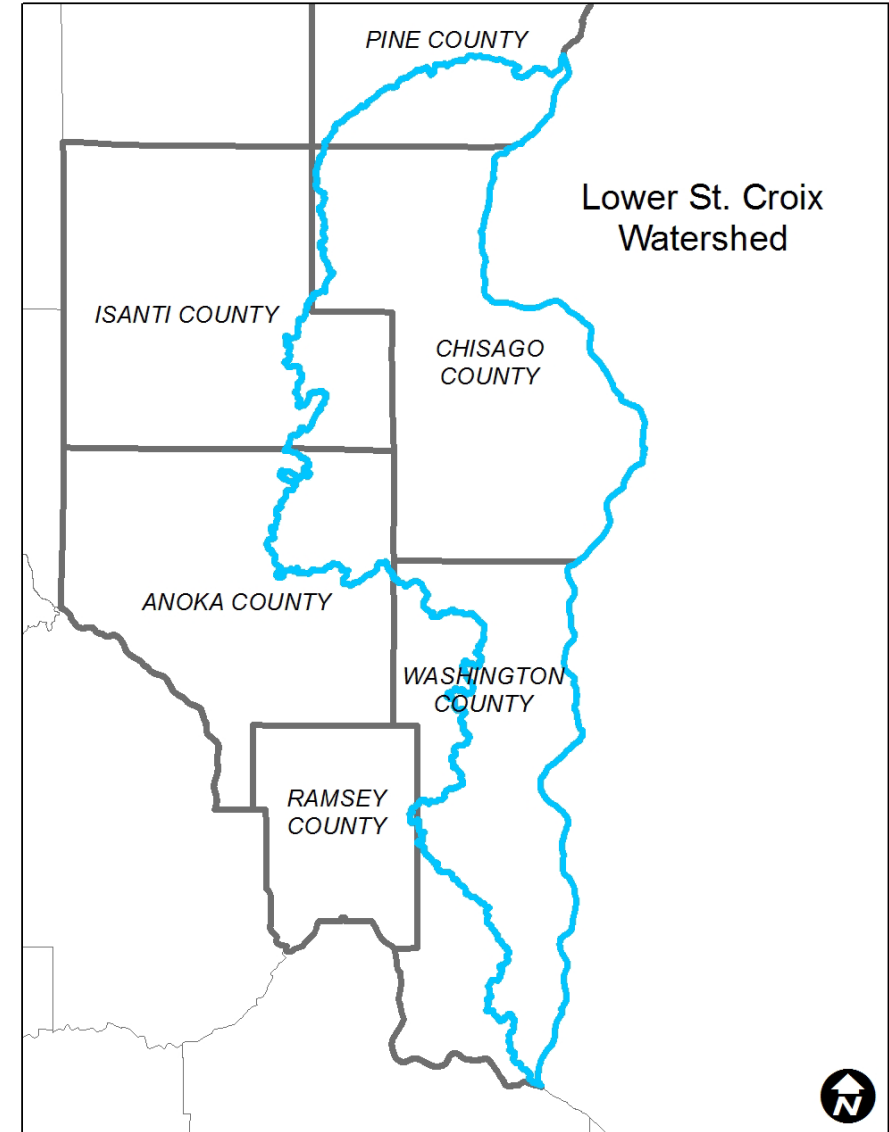
Chisago County  
Isanti County  
Pine County  
Washington County

## SWCDs (5)

Anoka CD  
Chisago SWCD  
Isanti SWCD  
Pine SWCD  
Washington CD

## Watershed Organizations (7)

Browns Creek WD  
Carnelian Marine St Croix WD  
Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD  
Middle St Croix WMO  
South Washington WD  
Sunrise River WMO\* (*departing on Feb. 14*)  
Valley Branch WD



# LOWER ST. CROIX “ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN”

## **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.

## **Mission**

Through the *Lower St. Croix “One Watershed, One Plan”* process, partners will develop a collaborative and comprehensive plan to guide the protection and restoration of priority natural resources in our region over the next ten years.

## **Strategies**

- Enhance collaboration and consistency between upstream and downstream neighbors, and between different levels of government;
- Identify and address gaps in data, technology, or implementation funding across the region;
- Avoid duplication of efforts; and
- Make efficient use of federal, state and local funds to address priority issues and protect/improve valuable natural resources in the Lower St. Croix watershed.

*Adopted by Policy Committee on 1-28-19*



## **Policy Committee**

**Responsibilities:** The Policy Committee makes recommendations on matters that require approval by the local governing boards, including: annual work plans, additional parties to the JPC agreement, and revisions to the agreement. Policy Committee member serve as liaisons to their respective governing boards.

## FY21 WBIF - Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners Grant - Updated January 2023

A		B	C	D	E	F
ACTIVITY		BEGINNING WBIF BALANCE	BEGINNING MATCH BALANCE	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub-Agreements)	AMOUNT WBIF's SPENT	AMOUNT OF MATCH FUNDS RECEIVED
A1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 81,032.37	\$ -
A2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 107,174.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 106,462.31	\$ 97,985.31	\$ 80,685.45
A3	Shared Services Educator	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 103,911.82	\$ 52,587.25
A4	Non-Structural BMPs	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	\$ -
A5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 360,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 360,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
A6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 105,857.00	\$ -	\$ 105,857.00	\$ 25,394.07	\$ -
A7	Internal Analyses	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 15,852.26
A8	Targeting Analyses	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 146,413.40	\$ 80,861.13	\$ 671.61
A9	Technical/Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
A10	Administration/Coordination	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 104,298.29	\$ 73,869.25	\$ 712.17
<b>PROJECT BALANCE:</b>		<b>\$ 1,264,531.00</b>	<b>\$ 129,800.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,264,531.00</b>	<b>\$ 523,553.95</b>	<b>\$ 150,508.74</b>
				100%	41%	116%

Grant Agreement BWSR Approved: 3/31/21

Grant Agreement Expires: 12/31/2023

## FY23 WBIF - Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners Grant - Updated January 2023

	A	B	C	D	E	F
	ACTIVITY	BEGINNING WBIF BALANCE	BEGINNING MATCH BALANCE	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub-Agreements)	AMOUNT WBIF's SPENT	AMOUNT OF MATCH FUNDS RECEIVED
	A1 Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ -		
	A2 Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ -		
	A3 Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementa	\$ 100,079.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	A4 Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 220,000.00		
	A5 Agronomy Outreach Specialist	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	A6 Shared Services Educator	\$ 270,500.00	\$ 2,857.90	\$ -		
	A7 Technical/Engineering	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	A8 Internal Analyses	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	A9 Targeting Analyses	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	A10 Administration/Coordination	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		
	<b>PROJECT BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 1,278,579.00</b>	<b>\$ 127,857.90</b>	<b>\$ 220,000.00</b>		

Grant Agreement BWSR Approved: 11/9/2022

Grant Agreement Expires: 12/31/2025

## Other administrative updates

- Sunrise River WMO departure
- Welcome Laura Jester and Becca Oldenburg





Jennifer Hahn

## **Basin Ag Outreach Program (\$200k in FY21-23) (\$225k in FY23-25)**

- Partnering with University of Minnesota to host an embedded Extension Educator in Agronomy and Water Resources
- Jennifer Hahn began on Feb. 28, 2022

# 2022 Education Outcomes

- Developed/organized LSCWP non-structural ag policy & program
- Successfully led the proposal effort to secure \$200K of CWF funding for non-structural ag program to initiate in 2023
- Organized/executed 3 field days and 1 small acreage workshop
- Initiated YouTube video series “Out Again with Jenn” (1,270 views) and “Conversations with a Farmer” (475 views)
- Contributed monthly radio segment on WCMP
- Reached 617 farmers (field days, mailings, phone, in-person, emails)
- Planned and implemented soil health practices on 880 ac
- Reduced TP by 1,143lbs, TSS by 1,022 tons, & erosion by 1,895 tons
- Developed network with area ag industry, organizations, and emerging farmers
- Developed and provided staff soil health training workshop
- Leveraged \$36,990 in local funds for increased implementation
- Secured \$4,500 in additional funds for outreach and education





**Nonstructural practices – ag and urban (\$200k in FY21-23, \$100k FY23-25)**

**Agriculture:** Financial incentives for cover crops, conservation tillage, prescribed grazing, and nutrient management (using CWF SH grant FY23+)

**Urban:** Cost-share to develop and implement targeted, enhanced street sweeping plans



## Nonstructural ag projects (FY 21-23)

- 335.7 acres of cover crops with 6 landowners in Chisago, Pine, and Washington Counties
- Funds still available in Anoka and Isanti Counties
- \$52,000 spent / \$48,000 remaining (\$36,000 earmarked, \$12,000 remaining)
- **TOTAL PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION = 682lb (Goal = 400lb)**

# 2023 Education/Outreach Goals

- Continued promotion of existing partner programs and identifying ways to enhance collaboration and consistency between LSC partners
- Organize/execute 3 field days and meetings for large-acreage farmers (>40 acres)
- Organize/execute 1 field day and meetings for smaller-acreage farmers (<40 acres)
- Contribute to monthly radio segment on WCMP
- Monthly video spotlights/interviews/podcast uploaded to the YouTube Channel
- Continue building resources for the “For Farmers” webpage on the Lower St. Croix WP website





## Structural Ag BMPs (\$107k in FY21-23)

- **McQuade Ravine Stabilization** – Denmark Twp. (South Washington Watershed District)
  - Stabilize a ravine directly tributary to Lake St. Croix delivering an estimated 250 tons per year of sediment to Lake St. Croix.
  - 251lb/year of phosphorus reduced
  - \$91,000
- **Hinze Cattle Exclusion** – Rock Lake, Pine County
  - Install fencing 50ft from edge of lake to keep cattle out of the water
  - 3.5lb/year of phosphorus reduced
  - \$6000
- **Hinze WASC0B**– Rock Lake, Pine County
  - Scheduled for construction in spring 2023
  - 20lb/year of phosphorus reduced
  - \$8,477

## (\$140k in FY23-25)

**TOTAL ENCUMBERED = \$106,462**

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION = 275lb (Goal = 300lb)**

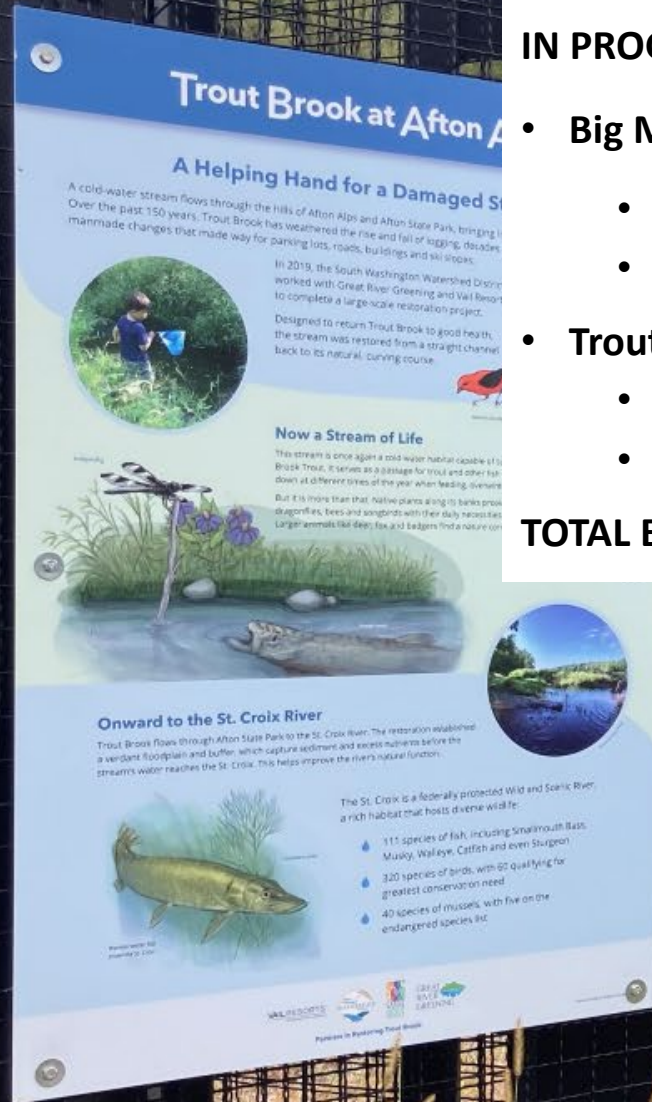
# Structural urban BMPs (FY21-23 = \$360k) (FY23-25 = \$140)

## IN PROGRESS

- **Big Marine Boat Launch Sediment Plume Reduction (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed)**
  - 1.1 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Big Marine Lake
  - \$10,000
- **Trout Brook Stream Restoration (South Washington Watershed District)**
  - 177lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Trout Brook and St. Croix River
  - \$350,000

**TOTAL ENCUMBERED = \$360,000**

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION = 178lb (Goal = 200lb)**





## Wetland restoration (FY21-23 = \$105k) (FY23-25 = \$220k)

### COMPLETE

- **Goose Lake Wetland** (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed)
  - 15 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Goose Lake\* (*not a target water body*)
  - \$10,000
- **Jones Wetland** (Pine SWCD)
  - 6.4 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Rock Lake
  - \$5100
- **Jahnz Wetlands** (Pine SWCD)
  - 5.5 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Rock Lake
  - \$10,300

### IN PROGRESS

- **Sunrise River Wetland** (Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District)
  - 81lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Sunrise River
  - \$300,500 (\$80,000 from FY21, \$220,000 from FY23)

**TOTAL ENCUMBERED = \$105,000 FY21 / \$220,000 FY23**

**TOTAL PHOSPHORUS REDUCTION = FY21 12lb (Goal = 15lb) FY23 81lb (Goal = 81lb)**





## Shared services education (FY21-23 = \$125k) (FY23-25 = \$270k)

- Support for agronomy outreach, education for local officials, outreach to shoreline owners, public education, partner support
- **Barbara Heitkamp** began May 24, 2021
- FY23 budget also includes materials expenses for agronomy outreach and contract support for MIDS community ordinance updates

# 2022 Outreach Outcomes

- Attended basin-wide lake association spring meetings to promote LSCWP goals and shoreline initiatives
- Organized first annual Workshop at the Winery for local leaders (43 attendees)
- Facilitated Adopt-a-Drain membership for Chisago County (60 drains adopted)
- Promoted existing programs basin wide
- Helped work over 30 community events promoting partner programs and conservation initiatives
- Helped Jenn execute ag field days and helped run small ag workshop
- Created content for YouTube channel
- Helped build visibility of LSC Enhanced Street Sweeping Program
- Started Knickpoints.blog (Over 2K views – you should subscribe!) and getting articles in area newspapers...



knickpoints

AGRICULTURE CONSERVATION LAND MANAGEMENT POLLUTION SOIL  
UNCATEGORIZED

A farm, a family, and a  
lifetime of learning.

# 2022 EMWREP stats



## 739 Workshop Attendees

- + 525 additional views on YouTube
- Tamarack Nature Preserve, with Wild Ones and Dr. Mohlenbrock (Feb. 15)
- Sustainable lawns and gardens, a workshop for area churches (Feb. 22)
- Spring Gardening for a Healthy Yard and Watershed, Wild Rivers Conservancy (March 16)
- Glacial Valley Park - info webinar (April 26)
- Glacial Valley Park - walking tour (May 24)
- Buckthorn and Goats Workshop (May 3)



## Onward & Upward

We've added five new partners, hired a second full-time educator, and are now working across the Lower St. Croix Watershed



## 300 New Site Visits

Washington Conservation District staff meet with people to plan clean water and habitat projects



**1020 Storm Drains Adopted in Chisago & Washington Counties**



## 60+ volunteers

Water Stewards  
Master Gardeners  
AIS Detectors  
Raingarden Adopters



## Many new resources!

[mnwcd.org/emwrep-resources](http://mnwcd.org/emwrep-resources)

- Displays for events
- Animated videos
- Fact sheets & booklets
- Spanish, Somali, and Hmong language resources



## Media & Communications

People reached to date through social accounts in 2022:

TikTok - 3.3 million  
Instagram - 896k  
East Metro Water blog - 32k  
Facebook - 27k  
YouTube - 16K

Weekly articles published in Stillwater Gazette - Valley Life

Monthly articles in Forest Lake Times + occasional articles in Country Messenger, Hugo Citizen, and LowDown newspapers



# 2023 Education/Outreach Goals

- Keep working those lakeshore owners – planning three shoreline virtual workshops and neighborhood show and tell events
- Ramping up MIDS: Working with Jay Michels and Mike Isensee to build/strengthen relationships with six communities in Washington/Chisago County
- Building partnerships: Assisting Chisago partners with We are Water application and getting more familiar/involved with local groups
- Bring Smart Salt training opportunities to the northern basin (early March local leader workshop)
- Continued rural/ag event support – prairie restoration walk series, land protection workshops
- More videos! Continued ag support, lakeshore buffer series, stormwater infrastructure series
- Outreach support for partner programs and projects, including tracking implementation of street sweeping program
- Building LSC Partner Materials Database on the website
- More blogs! More newspaper articles! More fun?





**Internal analyses (FY21 = \$16,500) (FY23 = \$18,000)**

**Forest Lake (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake WD) = \$16,500**

## Targeting and prioritization analyses (FY21 = \$150,000) (FY23 = \$45,000)

### COMPLETE

- **Updating urban and rural subwatershed prioritization (SWA) protocols**
  - \$8,000
- **Delineation and prioritization of contributing subcatchments - Pine County and Sunrise River**
  - \$26,772
- **Tree canopy assessment protocol for enhanced street sweeping**
  - \$8,500

### IN PROGRESS

- **Rock Lake SWA (Pine Co)**
  - \$12,541
- **Sunrise River Priority Drainage Areas (Anoka Co)**
  - \$27,200
- **Northeastern Washington Co St. Croix and Spring Streams (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD)**
  - \$20,000
- **Street sweeping studies – 16 cities**
  - \$40,000

**TOTAL ENCUMBERED = \$146,413**

## Street sweeping studies:

- North Branch and Rush City (Chisago SWCD) - \$15,000
- Wyoming (Comfort Lake – Forest Lake WD) - \$8000
- Linwood Twp (Anoka CD) - \$2000
- Bayport, Baytown, Lake Elmo, Lakeland, Lakeland Shores, Lake St. Croix Beach, Marine, Oak Park Heights, Scandia, St. Mary's Point, West Lakeland (Washington CD) - \$15,000

*Future contracts will provide annual incentive payments of \$100-125/curb-mile/year for 3-years to implement*





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# Lower St. Croix Partnership

Draft Project Evaluation and Approval Process



# Agenda

**01**

**Background & Purpose**

**02**

**Calendar**

**03**

**Written Policy & Graphic**

**04**

**Feedback & Discussion**

# Background & Purpose

- The documents function together and are intended to be reviewed and updated annually. There are 3 items that have been generated:
  - **The calendar**: outlines project submission deadlines and review dates.
  - **The process graphic**: is designed to be the cliff notes version of the written policy.
  - **The written policy**: details all aspects of the review schedule, process, and related procedures.

# Calendar

- 2 Project Categories
  - Greater than or equal to \$50,000
  - Less than \$50,000
- Projects greater than or equal to \$50,000 are reviewed 1x annually in April by the PC.
- Projects less than \$50,000 are reviewed 3x annually by the SC.

## 2023 LSC Project Process Calendar

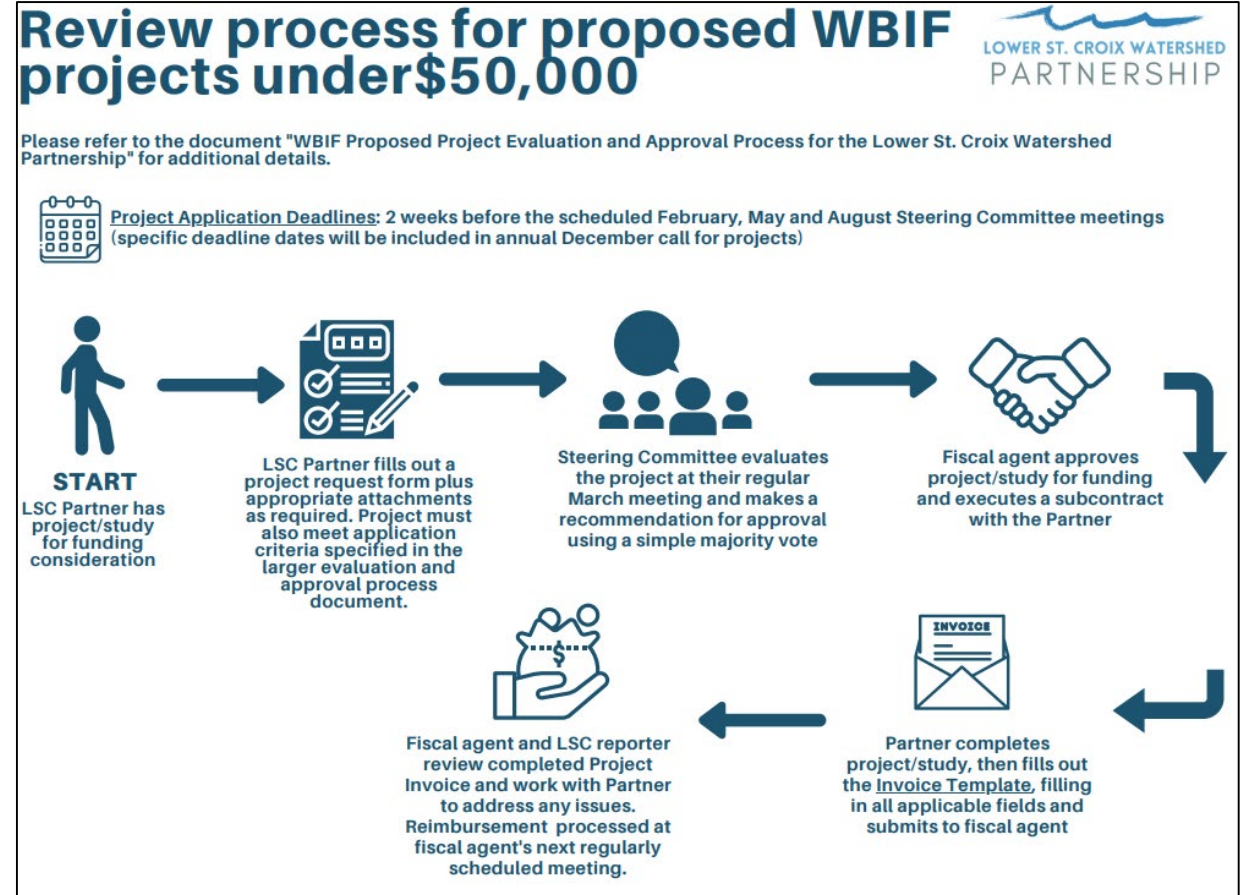
Policy Committee meets quarterly (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month)  
 Steering Committee meets monthly (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month)  
 Planning Team meets monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)  
 Advisory Committee meets as needed

*This calendar only shows meetings which pertain to the proposed project approval process. Additional meetings are held at the frequencies described above.*

<p><u>January</u></p>	<p><u>February</u></p> <p><b>2/8 Deadline:</b> project requests &lt;\$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p><b>2/22 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests &lt;\$50K</p> <p><b>2/28 Deadline:</b> project requests ≥\$50K submitted to meeting facilitator</p>	<p><u>March</u></p> <p><b>3/24 Deadline:</b> LSC partner staff will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 2 months in advance of the May application deadline</p> <p><b>3/22 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting review project requests ≥\$50K that are due to come to PC in April</p>
<p><u>April</u></p> <p><b>4/17 Deadline:</b> Policy Committee meeting packet posted, including project requests ≥\$50K</p> <p><b>4/24 Policy Committee:</b> at regular quarterly meeting consider project requests ≥\$50K once per year</p>	<p><u>May</u></p> <p><b>5/10 Deadline:</b> project requests &lt;\$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p><b>5/24 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests &lt;\$50,000</p>	<p><u>June</u></p> <p><b>6/23 Deadline:</b> LSC partner staff will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 2 months in advance of the August application deadline</p>
<p><u>July</u></p>	<p><u>August</u></p> <p><b>8/9 Deadline:</b> project requests &lt;\$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p><b>8/23 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests &lt;\$50,000</p>	<p><u>September</u></p>
<p><u>October</u></p>	<p><u>November</u></p>	<p><u>December</u></p> <p><b>12/22 Deadline:</b> LSC partner staff will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 2 months in advance of the February application deadlines (dual notice this month – projects less than and greater than \$50K)</p>

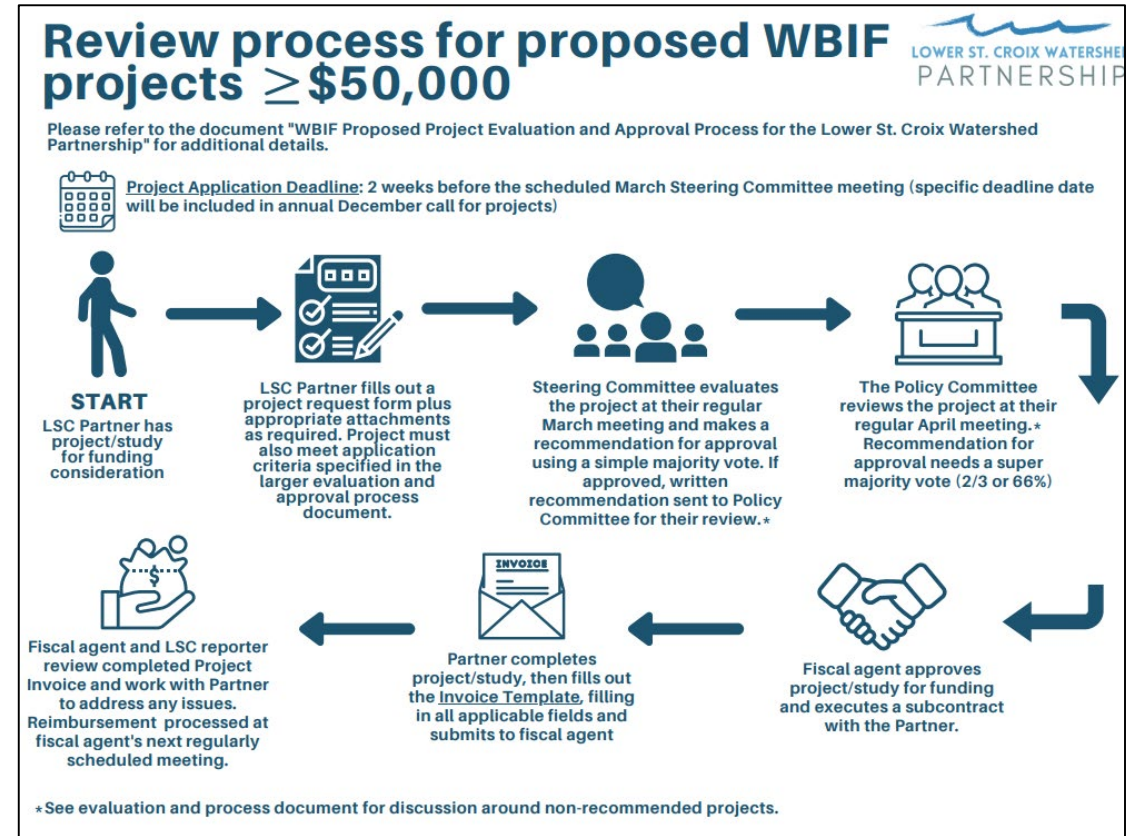
# Written Policy

- 4 Main Parts:
  - Review Schedule
  - Evaluation Process
  - Fast-Track Policy
  - Conflict of Interest Policy



# Evaluation Process

- 6 Steps
  1. Application
  2. Steering Committee Evaluation
  3. Steering Committee Recommendation
  4. Policy Committee
  5. Fiscal Agent
  6. Post-Project Administrative Steps
- This also includes exceptions and additional requirements, and a process for appeals.



# Fast-Track & Conflict of Interest

- The existing fast-track policy has been included.
- A conflict of interest policy mirroring BWSR's has been included. This policy:
  - Defines conflict of interest
  - Details its application; and,
  - Outlines its implementation.

# Feedback & Discussion

- Are there any significant reservations?
- What does/doesn't make sense?
- Is anything missing?
- What questions do you have?

# Next Steps

- Staff is before the Committee for acceptance of the Project Evaluation and Approval Policy and its supporting documents.
- As the policy is enacted, staff continually evaluate its effectiveness, and make any necessary changes each December. Those changes will be brought before the Policy Committee.