



**LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED
PARTNERSHIP**

4-24-23 Policy Committee meeting

Photo from: Friends of WI Interstate State Park and Straight Lake State Park

4-24-23 Policy Committee Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Approve agenda
3. Approve 1-23-23 Policy Committee minutes
4. Updates on Lower St. Croix Watershed Plan Implementation
 - WBIF Grant
 - Financial Report (FY21 & 23)
 - Ag outreach & non-structural ag program
 - Shared education program
 - Projects in-progress
 - CWF Soil Health Grant
5. Program snapshot: Targeted, enhanced street sweeping
6. Review and consider endorsing updated policies for project evaluation and approval
7. Summary of agendas for July and October Policy Committee meetings
8. Adjourn

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

A		B	C	D	E	F	G	H
ACTIVITY		WBIF BALANCE	MATCH BALANCE	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub-Agreements)	AMOUNT WBIF's SPENT	PERCENT WBIF's ENCUMBERED	PERCENT WBIF's SPENT	AMOUNT OF MATCH FUNDS RECEIVED
A1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	\$ 200,000.00	\$ -	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 102,676.62	100%	51%	\$ -
A2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 107,174.00	\$ 55,000.00	\$ 106,462.31	\$ 97,985.31	99%	91%	\$ 80,685.45
A3	Shared Services Educator	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 4,800.00	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 123,112.07	100%	98%	\$ 63,353.00
A4	Non-Structural BMPs	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 44,000.00	100%	44%	\$ -
A5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 360,000.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 360,000.00	\$ -	100%	0%	\$ -
A6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 105,857.00	\$ -	\$ 105,857.00	\$ 105,843.07	100%	100%	\$ -
A7	Internal Analyses	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	100%	100%	\$ 15,852.26
A8	Targeting Analyses	\$ 150,000.00	\$ -	\$ 146,413.40	\$ 108,243.72	98%	72%	\$ 671.61
A9	Technical/Engineering	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -			\$ -
A10	Administration/Coordination	\$ 100,000.00	\$ -	\$ 104,298.29	\$ 90,611.88	104%	91%	\$ 712.17
PROJECT BALANCE:		\$ 1,264,531.00	\$ 129,800.00	\$ 1,264,531.00	\$ 688,972.67	100%	54%	\$ 161,274.49

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

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	WBIF BALANCE	MATCH BALANCE	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub-Agreements)	AMOUNT WBIF's SPENT	PERCENT WBIF's ENCUMBERED	PERCENT WBIF's SPENT	AMOUNT OF MATCH FUNDS RECEIVED	WBIF BALANCE REMAINING
A1 Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ -		0%	0%		\$ 140,000.00
A2 Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 37,500.00	\$ 45,000.00		32%	0%		\$ 95,000.00
A3 Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementa	\$ 100,079.00	\$ -	\$ 3,630.00		4%	0%		\$ 96,449.00
A4 Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	100%	100%	\$ 50,000.00	\$ -
A5 Agronomy Outreach Specialist	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00		100%	0%		\$ -
A6 Shared Services Educator	\$ 270,500.00	\$ 2,857.90	\$ 227,840.00		84%	0%		\$ 42,660.00
A7 Technical/Engineering	\$ 40,000.00	\$ -	\$ 10,000.00		25%	0%		\$ 30,000.00
A8 Internal Analyses	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		0%	0%		\$ 18,000.00
A9 Targeting Analyses	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ -		0%	0%		\$ 45,000.00
A10 Administration/Coordination	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 60,000.00		75%	0%		\$ 20,000.00
PROJECT BALANCE:	\$ 1,278,579.00	\$ 127,857.90	\$ 791,470.00	\$ 220,000.00	62%	17%	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 487,109.00

Ag outreach & non-structural ag program

- **Planned & Held 3 In-Person Meetings**
 - Hastings (How management impacts soils and logistics of cover crops)
 - Scandia (Equipment set ups and economics of different management systems)
 - Pine City (How management impacts soils and logistics of cover crops)
- **Planned & Held 2 Virtual Meetings**
 - Beef Production Workshop
 - Small Livestock Workshop
- **Completed farmer mailings for programs and events**
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- **Beginning to promote events and activities on FB and Instagram**
- **Presented at partner events**
 - Isanti SWCD Ag Lunch & Learn
 - Pine & Isanti Counties Annual Corn & Soybean Meeting
 - Chisago County Master Gardener's Annual Expo
 - St Croix Valley Forage Council annual meeting
 - Collaborated with the WI Farmer-Led Watershed Councils of the St. Croix and Red Cedar Rivers to plan and hold a farmer meeting
 - Presented at BWSR's Local Implementer's meeting to discuss the logistics and opportunities of my position (shared outreach position) to others in the state

Providing conservation planning and support to partners for conservation planning

- Approximately 5,800 ac
- Tracking Reductions
 - Nitrate
 - TSS
 - Soil Loss
 - P Loss

Soil Health Grant



Secured a \$200,000 Clean Water Fund Grant allowing to shift WBIF23 Ag NS implementation funds to other projects, increasing the amount of funding to implement projects and provide outreach within the basin

Plan and implement soil health practices:

- No-till/strip till
- Cover crops
- Small grains
- Prescribed grazing
- Pasture/ hayland planting
- Conversion of cropland to perennials
- Nutrient Management

Currently:

Set to encumber > 80% of the funds
Have exceeded the N reductions by > 60%
Will result in implementation from 3 – 10 years
Have leveraged > \$30,000 in match



On the socials!



Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership

18 likes • 42 followers



lowerstcroixwater

Edit profile



24 posts

103 followers

98 following

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership

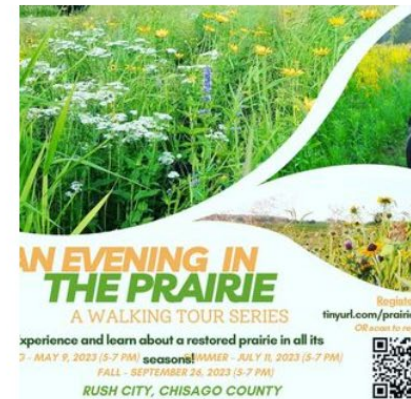
A collaboration among 15 fifteen local government units in east-central Minnesota dedicated to preserving and protecting our regional water resources
www.lsc1wlp.org

POSTS

REELS

SAVED

TAGGED



- Share LSCWP events
- Share partner updates
- Content for partners to share

Shoreland outreach:

- Feb 9th Lakeshore Realtor Workshop (45 realtors)
- April 18th Protect Your Shore Webinar (15 attendees)
- May 8th Restore Your Shore Webinar
- May 20th Navigate to a Cleaner Lake Showcase at the Uncommon Loon Brewery
- Associated lake association meetings
- New printed materials – welcome packets and project maintenance
- Working with MN Lakes and Rivers Advocates



Local leader outreach:

- February Smart Salting for Local Leaders (12 attendees)
- Planning Northern and Southern Workshops on the Water for 2023
- Assisting Jay Michels and Mike Isensee in assessing interest in communities to adopt Minimal Impact Development Standards
 - North Branch
 - Rush City
 - Chisago City
 - Scandia
 - Marine on St. Croix



ST. CROIX RIVER WORKSHOPS ON THE WATER

Workshops for local decision-makers

JUNE 27TH, 2023 | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
ABOARD THE PRINCESS
TAYLORS FALLS, MN

JULY 25TH, 2023 | 5:00 PM - 9:00 PM
ABOARD THE SHOWBOAT
STILLWATER, MN

Other initiatives :

- Street Sweeping Education/Outreach
- February 2nd Tap Your Potential: How good land management brews great beer (10 attendees)
- March 2nd Planting for Pollinators Webinar (140 attendees)
- April 3rd Bee lawn and lawn alternatives webinar (80 attendees)
- An Evening in the Prairie walking tour series (May 9th)
- Managing Woodlands for Resiliency (June 9th)
- Adopt a Drain Door Hanging with Girl Scouts
- Small Lakes Webinar (late September)
- Cottage Grove and North Branch Well Testing events
- Seagrant HOA survey grant and potential MN GreenCorps Intern to conduct HOA research/education



**AN EVENING IN
THE PRAIRIE**
A WALKING TOUR SERIES

Register:
tinyurl.com/prairiewalk2023
OR scan to register

Experience and learn about a restored prairie in all its seasons!

SPRING - MAY 9, 2023 (5-7 PM) SUMMER - JULY 11, 2023 (5-7 PM)
FALL - SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 (5-7 PM)

RUSH CITY, CHISAGO COUNTY



Projects currently underway

- **Big Marine Boat Launch Sediment Plume Reduction**
 - \$10,000 (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed)
- **New - Oak street bioretention basins**
 - \$45,000 (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed)
- **New - May Twp. stormwater retrofit engineering/tech**
 - \$10,000 (Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed)



Projects currently underway

- **Trout Brook Stream Restoration** (South Washington Watershed District)
 - 177lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Trout Brook and St. Croix River
 - \$350,000 from FY21
- **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)

Trout Brook at Afton Alps

A Helping Hand for a Damaged Stream

A cold-water stream flows through the hills of Afton Alps and Afton State Park, bringing life to a valley in the woods. Over the past 150 years, Trout Brook has weathered the rise and fall of logging, decades of farming, and several manmade changes that made way for parking lots, roads, buildings and oil slopes.

In 2015, the South Washington Watershed District worked with Great River Greening and Kill Roberts to complete a large-scale restoration project.

Designed to return Trout Brook to good health, the stream was restored from a straight channel back to its natural, curving course.

Now a Stream of Life

This stream is alive again! A cold-water habitat network of sustainable Trout Brook is open as a passage for trout and other fish to warm streams and down at different stages of the year when feeding, spawning and laying eggs. But it is more than that. Native plants along its banks provide vital animals like frogs, dragonflies, bees, and bird songbirds with their daily necessities: food, water and shelter. Larger animals like beavers and otters find a safe passage through the lake and

Onward to the St. Croix River

Trout Brook flows through Afton State Park to the St. Croix River. The restoration established a wetland floodplain and buffer, which capture sediment and excess nutrients before the stream's water reaches the St. Croix. This helps improve the river's natural function.

The St. Croix is a federally designated wild and scenic river, a rich habitat that hosts diverse wildlife:

- 111 species of fish, including brook trout, bass, muskie, walleye, catfish and even sturgeon
- 320 species of birds, with 80 qualifying for greatest conservation need
- 40 species of mussel, with five on the endangered species list

MADEIRA COUNTY WATERSHED DISTRICT GREAT RIVER GREENING KILL ROBERTS CARLE PLACE GREENING

Partners in Restoring Trout Brook



Targeting and prioritization analyses

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

COMPLETE

- **Updating urban and rural subwatershed prioritization (SWA) protocols**
 - \$8000
- **Delineation and prioritization of contributing subcatchments - Pine County and Sunrise River**
 - \$26,772
- **Tree canopy assessment protocol for enhanced street sweeping**
 - \$8,500

TOTAL AVAILABLE (FY21 = \$150,000) (FY23 = \$45,000)

TOTAL ENCUMBERED = \$146,413 from FY21

Program Snapshot:

Targeted enhanced street sweeping



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