



To: LSC WP Policy Committee

From: LSC WP Steering Committee

Re: LSC FY23 WBIF Work Plan Revision and Budget Amendment

The LSC WP A1 Subcommittee (SBC) met on Monday, March 11<sup>th</sup> to review and discuss the list of applicants provided by the University of Minnesota Extension for the vacant LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist. After reviewing the application, the SBC determined that none of the applicants met the minimum requirements of job announcement. The SBC discussed the future of the LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist and offers the following recommendation.

LSC WP A1 SBC recommendation: Continue with the LSC WP Agronomy Outreach Specialist position and approve the changes to the Lower St. Croix 2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan as listed below.

The LSC WP Steering Committee met on March 27<sup>th</sup> and accepted the recommendation of the SBC and recommends to the LSC WP Policy Committee the following work plan revision and budget amendment to the LSC FY23 WBIF grant work plan and budget.

### **Proposed LSC FY23 WBIF grant work plan revision.**

#### ***Activity 5: Agronomy Outreach Specialist***

**eLINK Activity Category:** Project Development

**Grant:** ~~\$225,000~~ **\$125,000**

**Co-Lead Agency:** Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs (~~partnership with UMN Extension~~), Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District, Craig Mell

**Co-lead Agency:** ~~Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell~~

**Priority areas:** Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

**CWMP Reference:** Page 61

**Activity Description:** Agronomy outreach specialist. (A) Shared Services: Work with an agricultural conservationist (~~one individual~~) for basin wide assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Approximately 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations. See Attachment A – Agronomy Outreach Specialist Details & Milestones for more information.

*This would allow for ~~1 full-time~~ **the** agronomy outreach specialist to work basin-wide. Staff will work basin-wide and may have more than one office space. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.*

*Costs billed to this item ~~for the embedded Extension Agent~~ will include the following: Staff salary, supervisory time (~~by University of MN~~), benefits, travel expenses, training expenses, and office supplies. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to direct landowner outreach and technical assistance, as described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the shared services educator, coordinated planning efforts, regular basin-scale coordination meetings with LSC partners and other agencies as appropriate.*

**Subcommittee:** *A subcommittee composed of LSC partners will meet on an as-needed basis in order to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category.*

### **Proposed LSC FY23 WBIF grant work plan budget revision.**

Adjust the FY23 budget, with the \$100,000 approved to move from the A5 category, shifting \$30,000 to the A2 category, \$35,000 to A4, \$25,000 to A7, and \$10,000 to the A10. (See attached spreadsheet, column F is the proposed grant work plan budget revision and column I represents the remaining WBIF grant funds if approved by the LSC WP).

### **Recommended Policy Committee Action**

Recommend that the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership local boards approve the proposed LSC FY23 WBIF grant work plan revision to Activity 5, Agronomy Outreach Specialist as presented and to adjust the FY23 grant work plan budget with the \$100,000 approved to move from the A5 category, shifting \$30,000 to the A2 category, \$35,000 to A4, \$25,000 to A7, and \$10,000 to the A10.

### **Next steps**

LSC WP Policy Committee recommended approval, a vote of 2/3rds of the members present of the Policy Committee is necessary to move a recommendation onto the governing boards, will mean this request along with an amended FY23 WBIF budget would be sent to local governing boards, the local governing boards must act on Policy Committee recommendations within 60 days after the day in which the Policy Committee formally adopted such recommendation. The decisions of the various governing boards of the Parties will be deemed approved for purposes of this Agreement when 2/3rds of the governing bodies have adopted formal action on the respective recommendation. The Chisago SWCD would then submit a work plan revision request to the Board of Water and Soil Resources for consideration and approval.

**FY23 WBIF GRANT WORK PLAN BUDGET (04/15/2024)**

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
	WBIF BALANCE (01/01/2024)	WBIF SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FUNDS (03/27/2024)	WBIF BALANCE WITH SUPPLEMENTAL GRANT FUNDS (04/04/2024)	WBIF GRANT WORK PLAN BUDGET REVISION SC RECOMMENDATION (03/27/2024)	PROPOSED WBIF BALANCE WITH WITH WORK PLAN BUDGET REVISION (04/22/2024)	AMOUNT WBIF's ENCUMBERED (Sub- Agreements)	CURRENT WBIF BALANCE REMAINING	PROPOSED WBIF BALANCE REMAINING
A1 Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 120,000.00	\$ 260,000.00	\$ -	\$ 260,000.00	\$ 62,410.00	\$ 197,590.00	\$ 197,590.00
A2 Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$ 118,054.00	\$ -	\$ 118,054.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 148,054.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 73,054.00	\$ 103,054.00
A3 Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementa	\$ 122,025.00	\$ -	\$ 122,025.00	\$ -	\$ 122,025.00	\$ 122,025.00	\$ -	\$ -
A4 Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$ 220,000.00	\$ -	\$ 220,000.00	\$ 35,000.00	\$ 255,000.00	\$ 220,000.00	\$ -	\$ 35,000.00
A5 Agronomy Outreach Specialist	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ 225,000.00	\$ (100,000.00)	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 225,000.00	\$ -	\$ (100,000.00)
A6 Shared Services Educator	\$ 270,500.00	\$ -	\$ 270,500.00	\$ -	\$ 270,500.00	\$ 227,840.00	\$ 42,660.00	\$ 42,660.00
A7 Technical/Engineering	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 47,615.00	\$ 87,615.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 112,615.00	\$ 62,000.00	\$ 25,615.00	\$ 50,615.00
A8 Internal Analyses	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ -	\$ 18,000.00	\$ 18,000.00
A9 Targeting Analyses	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 12,000.00	\$ 33,000.00	\$ 33,000.00
A10 Administration/Coordination	\$ 80,000.00	\$ -	\$ 80,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 67,312.50	\$ 12,687.50	\$ 22,687.50
<b>PROJECT BALANCE:</b>	<b>\$ 1,278,579.00</b>	<b>\$ 167,615.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,446,194.00</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 1,446,194.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,043,587.50</b>	<b>\$ 402,606.50</b>	<b>\$ 1,043,587.50</b>

## Lower St. Croix Partnership

### Steering Committee Voting Record

Craig Mell motioned to accept the recommendation of the LSC WP A1 Subcommittee regarding Activity 5: Agronomy Outreach Specialist, and to make attachment A consistent with this recommendation. Kyle Axtell seconded. The motion carried.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Anoka SWCD	X		
Brown's Creek WD	X		
Carnelian Marine St Croix WD	X		
Chisago County	X		
Chisago Lakes LID			X
Chisago SWCD	X		
Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD	X		
Isanti County			
Isanti SWCD	X		
Middle St. Croix WMO	X		
Pine County			
Pine SWCD			X
South Washington WD	X		
Valley Branch WD	X		
Washington CD	X		
Washington County	X		
<b>TOTAL (need majority vote to pass)</b>			
	<b>12</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>

## Lower St. Croix Partnership

### Steering Committee Voting Record

Craig Mell motioned to adjust the FY23 budget, with the \$100,000 approved to move from the A5 category, shifting \$30,000 to the A2 category, \$35,000 to A4, \$25,000 to A7, and \$10,000 to the A10. Kyle Axtell seconded. The motion carried.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>
Anoka SWCD	X		
Brown's Creek WD	X		
Carnelian Marine St Croix WD	X		
Chisago County			X
Chisago Lakes LID			X
Chisago SWCD	X		
Comfort Lake Forest Lake WD	X		
Isanti County			X
Isanti SWCD			
Middle St. Croix WMO			X
Pine County			X
Pine SWCD			X
South Washington WD	X		
Valley Branch WD	X		
Washington CD	X		
Washington County	X		
<b>TOTAL (need majority vote to pass)</b>			
	<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>6</b>