



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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2/23/94

MATERIALS - FOR YOUR INFORMATION
(not relating to the BWSR Meeting)

- 1) Memo from John Velin, Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR), regarding the Legislative Auditor Report on 1991 Trust Fund Appropriations
- 2) Minnesota Strategic Capital Budget Plan 1994-99, Governor's Recommendation
- 3) Memo to Doug Watnemo, Department of Finance, from Ron Harnack, regarding LCMR Proposals
- 4) 1994 Preliminary Legislative Proposal from Hennepin County
- 5) 1994 DFL Legislative Proposal, State Government Reform
- 6) Conservation Easement Programs Update
- 7) Minnesota River Citizen's Advisory Committee Progress Report
- 8) Association of Minnesota Counties 1993-94 Platform
- 9) Memo to SWCDs and WDs from Ron Harnack, regarding 1994 BWSR Training Calendar
- 10) Abstract of SWCS Annual Meeting, January 21, 1994
- 11) Letter from John Blashack, East Otter Tail SWCD, regarding Dale Krystosek's outstanding assistance
- 12) "H2O News", quarterly publication by Chippewa County Water Planning Personnel
- 13) Memo from Dale Krystosek regarding Arnold Ruther WCA trial
- 14) "Extenovations"
- 15) Board Member Update

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

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JOHN R. VELIN
Director



January 28, 1994

TO: Representative Phyllis Kahn, Chair
and Members, LCMR

FROM: John Velin, Director

A handwritten signature of John Velin in dark ink.

SUBJECT: Legislative Auditor report on 1991 Trust Fund appropriations
- staff report

RECEIVED
JAN 31 1994
BOARD OF WATER
RESOURCES

Reading this report requires use of the Audit report of November 1993. This report is organized as follows: For each issue raised, there is first an **ISSUE** summation of the auditor comments; next is a **BACKGROUND** statement based on our research of the situation; next is a staff **RECOMMENDATION** and finally is a report of **ACTION** that has occurred.

Item # 1

ISSUE: Achievement awards to non LCMR program employees for performance during FY 91 and paid in FY 92 - \$44,091.

BACKGROUND: this payment was made from Trust Fund appropriation to offset a general fund expense from Groundwater Sensitivity paid during FY 91 for a seismograph, before the TF appropriation was available, to get a jump on the LCMR project ahead of the '93 summer field season. The seismograph also supported the TF acceleration of Ground water Sensitivity, so, the Division of Waters then used Trust Fund money to offset that general fund payment.

RECOMMENDATION: DNR should pay back the Trust Fund (TF) the \$44,091.

ACTION: Chair requested reimbursement to TF. DNR has reimbursed the Trust Fund \$44,091, dated December 21, 1993.

Item # 2

ISSUE 2 A: Propriety of capital expenditures - 2 Vehicles (minivans) and some computers .

ISSUE 2 B: Disposition of equipment at terminus.

ISSUE 2 C: Appropriate for two-year project to purchase versus rent or lease? 2A and B can only be dealt with in the future sense, since there was no prohibition. LCMR has determined to examine these questions for future allocation recommendations.

BACKGROUND: DNR FLEET collected for both capital cost and maintenance costs for the vans. Fees paid were at least \$11,200 over 16 months including both replacement cost and maintenance. TF paid for the van capital cost up front.

It is true the work program did not specify equipment purchases. Neither the appropriation nor the work program disallowed such equipment purchases. Clearly the equipment was actually used by the project for which the appropriation was intended. LCMR staff have routinely advised program managers that, unless otherwise specified, they should acquire the tools necessary to properly succeed in a project. Thus equipment purchases as highlighted are of no surprise. The method, that is, outright purchase versus internal lease arrangements was still in its infancy stages in DNR when the appropriation and work program were adopted.

The Fleet management program started about 1990 with a tremendous backlog of vehicles in need of replacement. Fleet was authorized to borrow money through banks on a low bid basis through the Dept. of Finance, under a certain ceiling. Initially debt was high but is now cut in half. Thus in 1991, Fleet had no capital to finance the purchase cost of vehicles, so Waters paid the up-front cost with the TF appropriation. Fleet has a cost schedule which will recover costs of vehicles and cover maintenance. If Fleet were required to pay back that part of the charge that represents replacement cost, then Fleet would have to incur additional interest expense by not paying off debt, a net cost increase.

Note this should not happen again, because Fleet now has the ability to handle a small number of up-front purchases and a lease schedule to recover the cost from a project for the project period. DNR reports there were no other vehicle purchases in DNR using Trust or Minnesota Future Funds, 1991 or 1993 appropriations.

The equipment remains in state ownership. The Trust Fund is not an operating entity that could use the equipment and similarly is not an entity positioned to receive back and then liquidate used equipment for recapturing expenses, without significant additional administrative outlays. LCMR has determined to examine this question for future allocation recommendations.

RECOMMENDATION: For the computers, there is very little to be concerned about. In our own staff experience, we found that when we asked about trade-in value of computers about three years old, we were told there is a negative value. That is, the company supplying the new ones would charge us at least \$10.00 each to haul away.

RECOMMENDATION: There are two main ALTERNATIVES, 1 and 2, the LCMR should consider.

ALTERNATIVE 1: For the vehicles, LCMR could recommend that DNR reimburse the Trust Fund for that portion of the total Fleet management charge that represents replacement cost charged. As of the audit, it appears the net to reimburse would be at least \$9,200 just for the 16 months noted in the audit, further that the vans remain the property of DNR so long as their use is exclusively for the same long-term program. If the long-term program does not use the vehicles, then any residual value

should be returned as a cash payment to the Trust Fund, and further that 1993 and future appropriations be used to pay only the fleet management costs of vehicles as opposed to outright purchase.

ALTERNATIVE 2: Would be to consider the replacement cost part of the Fleet management fee paid at least \$9,200 as a one time acceleration to a long-term program (Ground Water Sensitivity, established in 1989 Ground Water Act) without further dispute.

ACTION: For 1993 appropriations, LCMR staff closely examined a number of projects and convinced some program managers to lease versus purchase main equipment and to consider other alternatives, such as in-house equipment loans. LCMR required as part of the 1995 RFP, a justification statement for any capital equipment. This is intended to surface issues like this one for a case by case decision. DNR now has a Fleet management cost schedule and sufficient internal financing which should preclude double charges like the one discovered. This will cover 2A, B, C in the future.

Item # 3

ISSUE: Unclassified versus classified employment status.

BACKGROUND: This requirement in some form, has been in place for nearly thirty years. During that time, management of employees has changed in many ways. One example is the termination by the Legislature of strict "complement control". Do the changes warrant deletion; a wholesale rewrite of this section; or an interpretation of intent? The intent was to ensure that agencies do not increase the permanent classified employees on staff as a result of an LCMR sponsored project. Both DNR and Dept. of Ed interpreted the statutory requirement as applying to new hires only. Both argue that in some cases the best person for a job is already on board, so the money would be spent best by using existing staff. Questions remain:

- does the statute address new hires only?
 - is there some sense to allowing use of TF (and MFRF) money for classified staff where this is the most expedient method - assuming the statute could be revised appropriately?
 - what happens to the regular budget for the staff if so funded?
- Would this be defined as supplanting?
- is there any additional employment obligation created by such a funding alternative?
 - is the reclassified requirement obsolete? given current budget driven control of staffing levels?

RECOMMENDATION: See separate memo regarding unclassified.

ACTION:

Item # 4 - same as # 3

Item # 5

ISSUE: Documenting the review process for grants.

BACKGROUND: BWSR did install and implement a review process for the well sealing grants. The agency response discusses this in some detail. No attempt has been made to document every aspect of the procedure followed.

RECOMMENDATION: LCMR should regard the agency response as adequate and take no further action.

ACTION:

Item # 6

ISSUE: Cash management and monitoring

- cash flow and investment earnings affected
- expenditure reporting, results and products not timely and not tied

to cash delivered.

BACKGROUND: The logic in the agency response is weak. What justification can there be for not requiring expenditure monitoring? Is there a rigorous post project review in place that would verify project performance? If not, there should be adequate control at the beginning, i.e., before sending out money.

RECOMMENDATION: None - see Action

ACTION: For 1993 appropriations, LCMR projects that were passed through state agencies were set up as reimbursable contracts. This will solve these concerns for pass through projects, but not for state agency programs. LCMR should insist that project work programs for state agencies meet the same level of detail for "deliverables" as required for pass through contracts. With agreement from the Commission, staff will design and implement the work program process to that effect, including substantial justification for techniques and ownership of capital equipment. In some cases with pass through contracts and grants, there may be a special need to advance part of the money, because they are set up on a reimbursement basis.

Item # 7

ISSUE: Project selection controls - didn't always follow all specified procedures for project review and ranking.

BACKGROUND: Agency response should solve the problem.

RECOMMENDATION: None

ACTION:

Item # 8

ISSUE: Charging professional service costs on land acquisition for Conservation Reserve Easements.

- paid for AG staff attorney to process easements and assigned the full cost to the TF project versus sharing it with regular budget conservation easements.

BACKGROUND: Staff attorney costs are professional services, not administrative staff. Professional services are a routine part of any land acquisition program and are regularly included as part of the projects. There was not a specific allowance or disallowance in the law or the work program for professional services. Similarly there is no specific authorization in the law or work program for DNR bonding (ML 92 Ch 558 Sec 18) nor for BWSR bonding for Conservation easements (*ibid*). Both the TF and regular budget were RIM and both do about the same thing, so precise allocation of charges seems the main issue. At our request BWSR staff did figure out the precise cost allocations and also portrayed all the appropriate professional service costs for both projects. (See separate memo from Ron Harnack). When both programs are viewed and all costs allocations considered, the distribution of costs is about equal. More precise accounting would have avoided this issue in the first place.

RECOMMENDATION: LCMR should require a workprogram with enough specifics in the deliverables or products area that a determination can be made as to the appropriateness of cost allocations. (SEE end of Recommendation in # 6 above)

ACTION:

Item # 9 **ISSUE:** Department of Ed. Cash management and monitoring
- cash flow and investment earnings affected
- expenditure reporting, results and products not timely and not tied to cash delivered.

BACKGROUND: Department staff were told they could not stop or challenge the project, but they did have fiduciary fiscal role. It is not clear which of the 3 or 4 project managers understood this guidance. The subd. 5(a) response is accurate and this activity was observed by LCMR staff. On the remaining four projects, once we found out the Department had passed out all the money, the additional intervention of the Department was no longer needed. All the reports are on file and the projects achieved their objectives.

RECOMMENDATION: same as # 6

ACTION: Current (1993) Department program manager met at length with staff and clearly understands the role of Department as well as reimbursement process, deliverables etc. This will avoid the situation in '93 projects and beyond.

Item # 10 **ISSUES:**
-10a paid for classified staff, same as item 3 for background and recommendations.
-10 B **ISSUE:** expenses exceeded Department contract limits (not LCMR workprogram) estimated budget by \$ 405.00.

10 B BACKGROUND: The Department has on file with the Department of Administration an Annual Professional Technical Services Plan. In this

plan they stated that they could hire consultants up to \$5000 per individual per fiscal year. The \$405 exceeded this \$5000. The Department had on file an explanation that the expense was justified and that it would cost more than \$405 in administrative expenses to hire another consultant for that additional work. The Department agreement with Administration is that contracts over \$5000 would be through an RFP process. This is an internal agreement. These circumstances were not in or out of the work program. The work program was for an overall amount to accomplish results.

10 B RECOMMENDATION: None. This is considered minor and not part of the LCMR workprogram requirements. Since the expense was consistent with the overall purposes of the program, this is not an issue. It was a Department policy not in the workprogram. The logic is sensible, that payment of the excess was more sensible than incurring the expense of a new contract or especially a separate RFP.

Item # 11 **ISSUE:** Monitoring of KTCA project.

BACKGROUND: Quarterly reports were received in the LCMR office. It is distinctly possible that the Department lost track of this project because the Departmental program managership changed at least three times during the biennium.

RECOMMENDATION: Same as recommendations and actions already taken for '93 and subsequent appropriations in item # 6 above.

ACTION : see item 6 above.

91proj\aud914

cc: Ron Harnack, BWSR



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DATE: January 10, 1994

TO: John Velin, Director
Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR)

FROM: Ron Harnack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES TRUST
FUND AUDIT

This memo is intended to provide written conclusions from our meeting on January 11, 1994, regarding the audit. The audit does reflect that the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) did take RIM-Related attorney general costs from the LCMR account and did not distribute them proportionately to the other RIM/PWP source of fundings. However, the report did not acknowledge that other professional services costs necessary to acquire the easements from the LCMR account were charged to those other sources of funding. When put in perspective, the distribution of costs is basically even. Costs for acquisition of RIM easements involve heavy real estate management activities. Some of these activities are done by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and some are done by BWSR. We currently pay districts a flat rate for their obligations and responsibilities. Costs for acquisition of RIM easements also involve technical support. Some performed by Soil and Water Conservation Districts, some by BWSR and some by contracting with DNR Engineering Section involves attorney general activities done by BWSR; and involves construction and practice measures paid by BWSR.

During the time frame under discussion, we have determined that 23 easements were processed utilizing LCMR funding out of a total of 472 easements processed; that represents 4.9% of the total. Next, we determined our professional services costs for all the easements. This results in the following apportionment to the LCMR account:

DNR Engineering:	\$ 28,000
Engineering Technician:	\$ 5,800
Real Estate Mgmt:	\$ 2,350
Title Insurance:	\$ 4,600
Attorney General:	\$ 2,725
Total:	\$ 43,475

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Mr. John Velin
January 13, 1994
Page Two

In addition, BWSR supported the LCMR project with additional cash outlays from the general fund appropriations. These expenditures included additional engineering and real estate management costs in Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the agency. That figure was reported at \$37,240.

If the audit had been more comprehensive in its scope, looking at the RIM Reserve Program in its entirety, the conclusions of the audit would have been different. I feel these calculations show that the total amount of professional services experienced from LCMR funds is justified even though the distribution of all costs were not specifically apportioned by category.

RDH:mja
cc: M-Team
BWSR Members

Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

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JOHN R. VELIN
Director



January 28, 1994

TO: Representative Phyllis Kahn, Chair and
Members LCMR

FROM: John Velin, Director *John Velin*

SUBJECT: Unclassified language requirement for Trust Fund and
Minnesota Future Resources Fund

The language in paragraph A is the exact citation from MS
116P.09, the Trust Fund organic law:

**A. MS 116P.09 - PERSONNEL Subd. 4 -- reads as follows: (small
arabic numbers added for analysis and explanation purposes)**

1. Persons who are employed by a state agency to work on a project and are paid by an appropriation from the trust fund or Minnesota future resources fund are in the unclassified civil service,
2. and their continued employment is contingent upon the availability of money from the appropriation.
3. When the appropriation has been spent, their positions must be cancelled and the approved complement of the agency reduced accordingly.
4. Part-time employment of persons for a project is authorized.

B. The purpose of this memorandum is to establish the reasoning for a recommendation to abolish this particular statute. Each of the above numbered parts will be addressed separately, in reverse order.

1. A4 It is superfluous. Clearly the ability to hire for a position includes part time as well as full time. The decision is a management one, and need not be separately authorized. Also MS 43A.08 subd 2A clearly authorizes the use of temporary positions.

2. A3 The legislature quit using complement control. Now, the question of staffing is driven by budgetary controls, presumably related to outcomes achieved or outcomes to be avoided. The effect of this phrase is the standard operating procedure. The

agencies must justify a budget request each biennium. If they choose to continue a project begun as an LCMR project, they must reallocate or argue successfully for an increase in budget. The phrase has no effect, so the requirement is redundant at best and adds a requirement with limited utility.

3. A2 The phrase is superfluous. See A3 discussion above. The agencies must separately argue their budget requests in succeeding biennia. Continued employment is now always contingent on availability of money from the appropriations.

4. A1 This leaves only the first phrase as an insistence on consistency. There is no practical advantage to requiring the unclassified status anymore. Again M.S. 43A.08 authorizes, but does not require, use of unclassified positions

Arguments for keeping the unclassified requirement:

Leaves of absence from the classified to the unclassified service allow the person to continue to revert back to the same or comparable position(MS 43A.07 subd 5) anyway.

Agencies do have considerably more flexibility in designing and advertising for unclassified positions.

Classified employees have access to disciplinary proceedings versus unclassified summary dismissal.

Arguments against keeping the unclassified requirement:

Employees have the same pay, benefits and pension available as do classified.

Creating the unclassified positions is a lot of extra work.

The right staff person may already be in place in the classified staff, so the maximum efficiency could be gained by placing them into the LCMR project position.

lcmr proc unclass

Minnesota Strategic Capital Budget Plan 1994-99
Governor's Recommendations
(in \$000)

Project Description	Agency Priority	Strategic Score	Agency Request			Governor's Recommendation	Governor's Planning Estimates	
			FY 94	FY 96	FY 98	FY 94	FY 96	FY 98
Water & Soil Resources Board								
Area II Minnesota River Basin	3	269	1,900	2,300	2,450	1,900	1,000	1,000
Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve	1	255	14,240	20,049	18,010	10,000	10,000	10,000
Abandoned well sealing	4	195	250	250	250	0	0	0
Erosion Control Cost - Share	2	180	1,200	1,500	1,200	0	0	0
Permanent Wetland Preserves	5	170	5,530	3,960	1,190	2,000	2,500	2,500
Agency Totals			\$23,120	\$28,059	\$23,100	\$13,900	\$13,500	\$13,500

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AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEF
Strategic Planning Summary
Fiscal Years 1994-99

Form A

1. **AGENCY:** Water and Soil Resources, Board of

2. **AGENCY MISSION STATEMENT:**

The mission of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is to provide leadership enabling local governments to properly manage water and soil resources and to help all citizens be stewards of our irreplaceable natural resources.

Although other agencies are involved in resource management, the BWSR is unique in that it is the only agency that accomplishes its goals through increasing the capabilities of local government units. This approach makes sense for a number of reasons.

First, local ownership of natural resource management activities is an important component of the success of such efforts. Rather than resentment at a state mandate that local personnel perceive they are being forced to carry out, a state-local partnership fosters feelings of pride and local responsibility.

Second, since resource management is primarily a land use issue, and local government is the land use authority in Minnesota, it makes sense to focus resource management assistance at the local level. Local governments, through their widespread planning and zoning authorities, make the vast majority of land use decisions. Sound land use management at the local level will protect soil, lakes, rivers, and streams, and sustain agriculture, forestry and development.

Finally, we enter a time of increased environmental awareness-but dwindling resources to address these concerns. Partnerships and strong working relationships are an effective way of leveraging our talents, resources, and finances to achieve the greatest results.

Recognizing the advantages of local resource management, the legislature in 1987 created the BWSR to facilitate local government effort and to ensure coordination of state, local, federal and private resource management initiatives. To accomplish this, the membership of the BWSR

includes representatives from local government, citizens, 4 state agencies and the University of Minnesota Extension. This composition provides a unique opportunity for communication of issues and concerns, policy discussions on resource management, and generally enhancing state/local/private partnerships.

To reach these objectives, the BWSR:

- promotes communication and partnerships among state, local, and federal governments, as well as private organizations;
- administers a number of grant programs providing funding to local governments for resource management;
- conducts training sessions and provides technical assistance to local units of government; and
- coordinates state government activities as they affect local governments.

3. **TRENDS, POLICIES AND OTHER ISSUES AFFECTING THE DEMAND FOR SERVICES, FACILITIES OR CAPITAL PROGRAMS:**

The following trends are shaping the development of policies and programs at the BWSR:

1. *Reduced state and federal government funding for local governments, and increased expectations of local responsibilities.* As more of the financial and administrative burdens of resource management fall on local governments, they need to increase their capability to handle the myriad demands of those responsibilities, and be supported by capital programs such as those administered by BWSR.
2. *Increased awareness among the general public, including landowners, of resource problems, and increased willingness to make reasonable efforts to accomplish resource conservation.* More Minnesotans are becoming concerned about our environment, particularly water quality-many people have noticed deteriorating conditions in their favorite lakes or fishing streams. As these concerns surface, more people are willing to make reasonable efforts and contributions to protect and improve their environment.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEF
Strategic Planning Summary (Cont'd.)
Fiscal Years 1994-99

Form A

3. *Movement from planning to implementation phase of non-point source pollution prevention strategy.* As Minnesota moves from the planning to the implementation stage of its non-point source strategy, BWSR's local government network increases in importance as a means of disseminating financial and technical aid to local governments. The BWSR has the structure and the relationships needed to address non-point concerns at the local level.

4. *Federal Actions.* Federal actions continue to affect BWSR local government programs in a wide variety of ways. Some examples of this are the recent funding cuts to the Conservation Reserve Program and the Wetland Reserve Program. Decreasing federal participation in flood control and related efforts has also resulted in a greater need for state participation. The BWSR must take this into consideration as it anticipates funding, programmatic and staffing needs, as well as an increased demand for state set-aside dollars, over the next bienniums.

4. **PROVIDE A SELF-ASSESSMENT OF THE CONDITION, SUITABILITY AND FUNCTIONALITY OF PRESENT FACILITIES, CAPITAL PROJECTS OR ASSETS:**

Since the inception of the RIM Reserve program in 1986, landowner interest in enrolling acreage into conservation easements has consistently exceeded appropriations. As of May, 1993, approximately \$62 million of applications have been received in consideration of approximately \$30 million appropriated. The board anticipates that this level of landowner interest in the program will be sustained for the foreseeable future.

The Area II Minnesota River grant-in-aid program administered and technically supported by the BWSR has proven to be an effective partnership for flood control, floodplain management and related erosion control and water quality improvements. The member counties of the Area II joint powers board remain focussed on their mission and have the desire and capability to support an expanded local/state partnership in a large portion of the Minnesota River basin. Existing studies by the Soil Conservation Service, Corps of Engineers and local governments have identified numerous potential project sites.

In the past, the Streambank, Lakeshore and Roadside (SLR) and Abandoned Well Sealing programs have not been directly funded by bonding. In recent years, demand for these programs has exceeded available funding by more than 2:1.

To date, the capital funds appropriated for the permanent wetland preserve program have been adequate to meet landowner interest in the program (\$7 million appropriated).

5. **DESCRIBE THE AGENCY'S LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN:**

The BWSR intends to use bonding to the extent possible to fund projects on public property or projects on private land with a long term public benefit; to protect the public interest, projects on private land will be done through easement acquisition.

The BWSR Strategic Plan (attachment A) identifies resource management strategies and related goals of the agency. The resource management strategies specified are education, incentives and regulation. The plan also identifies a number of goals (by resource area such as water quality management) that focus on assisting local governments and landowners in solving and preventing natural resource management problems. The projects outlined in this capital budget request utilize the "incentive strategy" as tools available to local government to enhance local program delivery. Incentives should provide opportunities to dissuade harmful and encourage beneficial land and water use activities. Incentives should also encompass urban as well as rural values, and loans as well as grants.

Some of the goals identified in the Strategic Plan that are achieved through the capital projects include:

- Protecting or retiring existing marginal agricultural lands and highly sensitive lands.
- Targeting land retirement programs to the highest priority marginal agricultural lands and sensitive lands.
- Retiring marginal agricultural lands and highly sensitive lands to permit

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEF
Strategic Planning Summary (Cont'd.)
Fiscal Years 1994-99

Form A

land managers to focus their stewardship efforts on more productive lands.

- Creating and protecting natural retention systems to aid in the management of surface water runoff and enhance groundwater recharge.
- Striving towards a "net gain" of wetland resources.
- Installing best management practices on Minnesota lands.
- Targeting land treatment cost-share programs to erosion-prone productive lands.
- Reducing soil loss at or below the soil loss tolerance level by the year 2000.
- Managing runoff to minimize property loss and environmental damage.
- Reducing groundwater contamination by sealing abandoned wells.

The requests included in this capital budget are a reflection of programs that have been successful in achieving the objectives outlined above. Wetland restoration, erosion control projects, well sealing and RIM have been specifically identified in local comprehensive water management programs as key incentives to realizing state and local water resource objectives.

6. AGENCY PROCESS USED TO ARRIVE AT THESE CAPITAL REQUESTS:

Budget requests were based on historic requests from local governments for financial assistance.

To determine the capital budget request for the RIM Reserve program goal acreage was extrapolated from the program's Five Year Plan (attachment B). The acreage was derived through a collaborative effort of LGU representatives and the BWSR RIM Reserve Strategic Planning Committee which considered the amount of eligible land for the program and forecasted landowner interest.

Information was provided by the Washington County Soil and Water Conservation District for the St. Croix River SLR request.

Area II requests were based on short and long range work plans which reflect project priorities and available capabilities. Abandoned wells information was derived from local water plans.

Internal agency estimates were used to arrive at the amount requested for the permanent wetland preserve program.

- All requests are a reflection of demands for service or assistance of local government and citizens.
- The county water plans, work plans of SWCDs, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations were key sources for these requests.

7. AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET PROJECTS DURING THE LAST SIX YEARS (1988-1993):

RIM Reserve received \$29.9 million from bonding between 1986 and the most recent appropriation in 1993, of these funds, 95% have been committed to specific easements. Please refer to the RIM Reserve, and Permanent Wetland Preserve project details for funding history by year.

The Wellner-Hageman multiple purpose reservoir received \$1,645,000 from bonding in 1990. This reservoir was completed in 1992.

Permanent wetland preserves has received \$7 million in FY 1993-94. One million has been reserved for permit denial compensation, with \$2.8 million committed to easements in FY 1993 and \$3.2 million available to fund easement applications in FY 1994.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET BRIEF
Projects Summary
Fiscal Years 1994-99
Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form B

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resources, Board of

Project Title	Project Type*	1994-95 Agency Priority Ranking	Agency Project Request (\$ by Session)				Strategic Score	Governor's Recommendation (\$ by Session)			
			1994	1996	1998	Agency Total \$		1994	1996	1998	Governor's Total \$
Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve	NB	1	\$14,240	\$20,049	\$18,010	\$52,299	255	10,000	10,000	10,000	30,000
Erosion Control Cost Share	NB	2	\$1,200	\$1,500	\$1,200	\$3,900	180	0	0	0	0
Area II Minnesota River Basin	NB	3	\$1,900	\$2,300	\$2,450	\$6,650	269	1,900	1,000	1,000	3,900
Abandoned Well Sealing	NB	4	\$250	\$250	\$250	\$750	195	0	0	0	0
Permanent Wetland Preserves	NB	5	\$5,530	\$3,960	\$1,190	\$10,680	170	2,000	2,500	2,500	7,000
Total Project Requests:			\$ 23,120	\$ 28,059	\$ 23,100	\$ 74,279		\$ 13,900	\$ 13,500	\$ 13,500	\$ 40,900

Project Type*	1994 Session	1996 Session	1998 Session
Construction of a new facility	\$	\$	\$
Adaption of an existing facility for new, expanded or enhanced programs or uses	\$	\$	\$
Adaption of an existing facility for code-required changes or liability purposes	\$	\$	\$
Renewal of existing facilities or assets and CAPRA requests (no program changes)	\$	\$	\$
Non-building projects, grants-in-aids, funds to other government units	\$ 23,120	\$ 28,059	\$ 23,100
Total	\$ 23,120	\$ 28,059	\$ 23,100

* Project Types (choose one for each project or program):

- C = Construction of a new facility for new program/uses or for expanded /enhanced programs/uses or for replacement purposes.
- AP = Adaption of an existing facility for a new program/use or for program expansion/enhancement purposes.
- AC = Adaption of an existing facility for code-required changes, handicapped access or legal liability purposes.
- R = Renewal of existing facilities or assets (no program expansion) and CAPRA requests.
- NB = Non-building projects, grant-in-aid programs, capital project funding to other government jurisdictions.

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resources, Board of
PROJECT TITLE: Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program
PROJECT COSTS: \$52,299
APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR 1994 SESSION: \$14,240
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1996 SESSION: \$20,049
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1998 SESSION: \$18,010
LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY): Statewide

AGENCY PRIORITY (for 1994 Session only):

1 of 5 requests

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

RIM Reserve was established in 1986 (M.S. 103F.505 to 103F.531, as amended) "to keep certain marginal agricultural land out of crop production to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitat." The requested funds will be utilized to acquire conservation easements from private landowners on marginal lands to restore wetlands and to establish permanent vegetative cover. Marginal lands targeted for acquisition include sensitive groundwater areas, riparian lands, drained restorable wetlands, and marginal agricultural croplands. In addition, the total dollar amount requested includes professional service costs associated with acquiring easements and conducting related engineering functions (12% for wetland easements and 10% for non-wetland easements).

2. PROJECT RATIONALE AND RELATIONSHIP TO AGENCY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL PLAN:

The RIM Reserve program conforms with the Board of Water and Soil Resources' (BWSR's) long-range plan by providing an incentive tool for local resource managers to utilize to protect and improve their water and soil resources. RIM Reserve is implemented at the local level by soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

RIM promotes the retirement of marginal intensive-use lands by reimbursing

landowners to cease cropping and grazing, and establish conservation practices. This conserving use reduces runoff, erosion and sedimentation, and benefits land, water, fish and wildlife resources. Specific benefits to the public include:

- prevention of groundwater contamination to surficial and bedrock aquifers through the retirement of cropland overlying wellhead protection areas or in the immediate proximity of sinkholes;
- prevention of further surface water quality degradation resulting from sedimentation through the retirement of riparian land and marginal agricultural cropland;
- enhancement of fish habitat due to reductions in sediment loadings through the retirement of riparian lands; and
- enhancement of upland game and nongame wildlife habitat due to increased permanent vegetative cover.

The Five-Year Program Plan 1993-1997 (see attachment B) sets forth both long-term and short-term goals and objectives. Long-term goals estimate resource protection needs based on an approximation of the acreage that meets land eligibility criteria. These acres have been factored by a percentage estimated to reflect the lands most in need of protection. Achievement of the long-term goals and objectives, as well as the time-frame, will be dependent on:

1. The state's financial commitment to the program.
2. The economic appeal of the program in relation to a landowner's management decisions.
3. The degree to which other conservation agencies and organizations contribute to the protection of the identified acres.

Short term goals (1993-1997) identified in the program plan represent the progress toward the long-term goals that the BWSR believes is realistic considering the past program activity and present program staff capability.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)

Form G-1

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Target enrollments are identified for marginal lands (including groundwater sensitive lands, riparian lands and highly erodible lands) and wetland restorations. The short-term goals also identify the need to sustain land presently in conserving-use but slated to expire from Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) contracts and RIM Reserve limited-duration easements. Conversion of these contacts to perpetual RIM Reserve easements is efficient because the land is already in conserving use, negating the need to expend dollars for the establishment of conservation practices. Only the most environmentally sensitive lands will be targeted for conversion, which can be defined as those lands that significantly contribute to the degradation of ground and surface water resources. Some counties have included these resource sensitive areas as priorities in their local water plans. Typically these lands are prone to erosive forces that detach sediment (often latent with nutrients and pesticides), and a direct transportation route between the land and a water body exists.

Acres scheduled for release from CRP and RIM limited-duration easements:

YEAR	CRP Acres	RIM Acres	Total Acres
1994	-0-	-0-	-0-
1995	-0-	-0-	-0-
1996	136,000	110	136,110
1997	1,007,000	8,120	1,015,120
1998	341,000	100	341,100
1999	221,000	100	221,100
TOTAL	1,705,000	8,430	1,713,430

Program plan acreage enrollment goals:

YEAR	MARGINAL LAND ACRES	WETLAND ACRES	CRP ACRES	RIM ACRES	TOTAL ACRES
1994	6,000	2,000	-0-	-0-	8,000
1995	6,000	2,000	-0-	-0-	8,000
1996	6,000	2,000	720	55	8,775
1997	6,000	2,000	4,085	4,060	16,145
1998	6,000	2,000	2,845	50	10,895
1999	6,000	2,000	2,845	50	10,895
TOTAL	36,000	12,000	10,495	4,215	62,710

Average cost per acre:

Land Type	Cost/Acre
Marginal Land	\$791.00
Wetland	\$1,186.00
CRP/RIM	\$652.00

While maintaining these acres in conserving use requires a significant investment, it is important to recognize that lands reverting to intensive use, such as cropping and grazing, will undoubtedly result in costly off-site impacts such as sedimentation and water quality degradation.

The BWSR acknowledges that alternative resource management techniques should be employed in conjunction with RIM Reserve to protect environmentally sensitive lands slated to expire from conservation programs. Comprehensive resource management techniques should include local adoption and enforcement of an ordinance to reduce erosion and sedimentation, and to promote maintenance of flood plain hardwood forests. An advisory committee is currently drafting a model *Agricultural Erosion control Ordinance* for counties to voluntarily adopt. The BWSR believes that regulatory approaches, such as ordinances, are only successful if imple-

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST **Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

mented in conjunction with educational efforts and incentive programs. In addition, SWCDs and counties must possess the base-capability of adequate numbers of properly trained technical staff to execute these resource management strategies.

Since its inception in 1986, RIM's funding source has largely been from the sale of bonds with limited support funding appropriated from the Environmental Trust fund for RIM. The BWSR submitted a \$12 million request for FYs 1992-93 and received \$1,000,000. For FYs 1994-95 \$10 million was requested, of which \$823,000 (Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources) was appropriated. In addition, the BWSR has solicited and received matching funds \$850,000 for wetland restoration in the Minnesota River Basin from the North American Wetlands Conservation Act (NAWCA). The BWSR continues to seek grants from NAWCA to fund conservation easements within priority watersheds. This matching program requires a 2.5:1 match to be competitive nationally.

It is anticipated that conservation groups, such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Isaac Walton League, Minnesota Waterfowl Association, Trout Unlimited and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will continue to leverage dollars towards the establishment of conservation practices on RIM easements. During FYs 1992-93 these organizations directly contributed approximately \$186,000 to the program, with more dollars donated in the form of grass seed and in-kind services. The BWSR continues to actively seek funding from these groups.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (OPTIONAL):

RIM Reserve has been a popular program stemming from the 1984 Citizens Commission report on the Governor to Promote Hunting and Fishing in Minnesota. Many individuals and organizations praised the report for its insightful recommendations, and as a result created a coalition to promote the passage of the landmark legislation that created RIM. The demise of this program would eliminate a vital incentive tool utilized in promoting good land and water stewardship. In addition, a growing partnerships with other public and private organizations would be greatly diminished.

Program accomplishments and trends:

LAWS OF: APPROPRIATIONS (millions)			LANDOWNER INTEREST 4 (MILLIONS)	
			1986	25.5
1987	9.0	Bonding	1987	5.5
1988	-0-		1988	5.0
1989	1.5	Bonding	1989	6.3
1990	0.75	Bonding	1990	4.2
1991	6.9	Bonding	1991	7.8
1991	1.0	Env. Trust Fund		
1992	1.25	Bonding	1992	3.7
1993	0.82	Env. & Future	1993	4.2*
		Resources Trust Funds	1993	5.0**
	0.50	Bonding		
	0.85	NAWCA (federal grant)		

* A fall sign-up for 1993 is scheduled.

** The recent flooding in the southern half of the state will place substantially more pressure on the RIM Reserve Program. It is the only program that can focus on the floodplain riparian lands and flooded farmlands (wetland restoration) and put funding in the hands of economically stressed farmers at a critical time and at the same time achieve significant resource protection and enhancement.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)
Fiscal Years 1994-99
Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-2

TYPE OF REQUEST (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Acquisition of State Assets
☐ Development of State Assets
☐ Maintenance of State Assets
☒ Grants to Local Governments
☐ Loans to Local Governments
☐ Other Grants (specify):

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Health and Safety
☐ Provision of New Program/Services
☒ Expansion of Existing Program/Services
☐ Other (specify):

PROPOSED METHOD(S) OF FINANCING (check one):

- ☐ Cash: Fund _____
☒ Bonds: Tax Exempt ☒ Taxable _____

DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ General Fund % of total 100
☐ User Financing % of total _____

Source of funds _____

FUNDING SOURCE:

- \$ 14,240 Appropriation Request (1994 Session)
\$ 14,240 State funding
\$ _____ Federal funding
\$ _____ Local gov't funding
\$ _____ Private funding

Agency Data Prepared by: Marybeth Block
Name

Easement Coordinator
Title

297-7965
Telephone

7-23-93
Date

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-3

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANALYSIS:

This submission meets all Department of Finance criteria for project qualification.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Governor recommends \$10,000,000 for the RIM Reserve Program. Also included are preliminary recommendations of \$10,000,000 in 1996 and \$10,000,000 in 1998.

STRATEGIC SCORE	
Criteria	Points
Critical Life Safety - existing hazards	0
Critical Legal Liability - existing liability	0
Critical Loss of Function or Services	0
Prior/Legal Commitments	0
User/Non-State Financing	0
Strategic Linkage	90
Agency Priority	80
Asset Preservation/Deferred Renewal	25
Customer Services Improved	60
Operating Savings/Efficiencies	0
Total Strategic Score	255

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AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resources, Board of
PROJECT TITLE: Erosion Control Cost-Share
PROJECT COSTS: \$3,900
APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR 1994 SESSION: \$1,200
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1996 SESSION: \$1,500
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1998 SESSION: \$1,200
LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY): Statewide

AGENCY PRIORITY (for 1994 Session only):

2 of 5 requests

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Eligible projects under the BWSR's cost-share programs include eroding sites on streambank, lakeshore and roadside areas. The program has statewide applicability with focus on lakes and rivers. Sites on public property are eligible, sites on private land are eligible if access--for maintenance--and use of the sites are restricted by easement.

The amount requested above for each of the next three bienniums is intended as grants to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) for cost-sharing with landowners at a 75%/25% (state/local private share) rate. The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) proposes that up to 20% of bond proceeds be used for the technical assistance necessary to survey and design the projects. This percentage is consistent with M.S. 103C.5-01, Cost-Sharing Contracts.

2. PROJECT RATIONALE AND RELATIONSHIP TO AGENCY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL PLAN:

The BWSR strategic plan states that programs should be available to assist local units of government in correcting problems on lakes and rivers. The sites that would be addressed by this proposal are locally identified by SWCDs as priority areas. The BWSR and its predecessor agency the Soil and Water Conservation Board (SWCB) has provided grants to SWCDs for

streambank, lakeshore and roadside projects since the late 1970's. The LCMR provided the initial funding to the SWCB of \$150,000 and \$250,000 per year, respectively, over two biennia. Since then, annual funding has averaged about \$159,000. The BWSR allocates funds to SWCDs on a request basis. For fiscal year 1994, SWCDs requested \$573,000 for 29 projects. The BWSR funded 12 requests for \$159,000. This trend of requests exceeding funding by a 3.5:1 ratio has existed for several years and the basis for part of this proposal. An additional \$400,000 per year is needed to fund requests.

The other component of this proposal regards the St. Croix River south of Stillwater. Estimates provided by local government personnel suggest that there are about 100 sites that need stabilization at an average cost of \$10,000 per site including cost of easements for access and restricted use. One million dollars is needed to complete these projects over the next 6 years.

The recent flooding in the state has contributed to significant erosion of streambanks and lakeshores, resulting in sedimentation of lakes and streams and diminished water quality and recreational capacity of the resources. Although the majority of the impact is on private land, significant public lands have been destroyed or severely damaged requiring repair and maintenance. Increased resources are necessary to restore lands to pre-flood conditions.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (OPTIONAL):

Local governments and BWSR have used other funds to augment this effort (e.g., local water planning and federal erosion control cost-share dollars). Lake Superior and Coastal Management funds are also leveraged by these requests. Shifting monies from other cost-share components is viable, however would detract from equally or higher priority areas.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST

Form G-2

Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

TYPE OF REQUEST (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Acquisition of State Assets
☐ Development of State Assets
☐ Maintenance of State Assets
☒ Grants to Local Governments
☐ Loans to Local Governments
☐ Other Grants (specify):

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Health and Safety
☐ Provision of New Program/Services
☒ Expansion of Existing Program/Services
☐ Other (specify):

PROPOSED METHOD(S) OF FINANCING (check one):

- ☐ Cash: Fund _____
☒ Bonds: Tax Exempt ☒ Taxable ☐

DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (Check all that apply):☒ General Fund % of total 100☐ User Financing % of total _____

Source of funds _____

FUNDING SOURCE:

\$ 2,200 Appropriation Request (1994 Session)
\$ 2,200 State funding
\$ _____ Federal funding
\$ _____ Local gov't funding
\$ _____ Private funding

Agency Data Prepared by: Greg Larson
Name

Head, Water and Land Section
Title

296-0882
Telephone

7-23-93
Date

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-3

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANALYSIS:

This submission meets all Department of Finance criteria for project qualification.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Governor does not recommend capital funds for this project.

STRATEGIC SCORE	
Criteria	Points
Critical Life Safety - existing hazards	0
Critical Legal Liability - existing liability	0
Critical Loss of Function or Services	0
Prior/Legal Commitments	0
User/Non-State Financing	0
Strategic Linkage	60
Agency Priority	80
Asset Preservation/Deferred Renewal	0
Customer Services Improved	40
Operating Savings/Efficiencies	0
Total Strategic Score	180

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AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resources, Board of
PROJECT TITLE: Area II Minnesota River Basin Grant-in-Aid Program
PROJECT COSTS: \$9,240
APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR 1994 SESSION: \$1,900
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1996 SESSION: \$2,300
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1998 SESSION: \$2,450
LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY): Five major subbasins of the Minnesota River between Ortonville and Mankato, Minnesota

AGENCY PRIORITY (for 1994 Session only):

3 of 5 requests

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

In 1978, the legislature created a pilot grant-in-aid program to cost-share with local units of government for floodwater retarding and retention structures within five major subbasins of the Minnesota River. The current authorizing statutes are M.S. 103F.171 - 103F.187. The project area is characterized by: broad upland and lowland plains connected by a steep transition known as the Coteau des Prairie; fertile soils; frequent flooding, including many interbasin floodwater overflows; and substantial erosion. These five subbasins were referred to as Study Area II in the Minnesota River Basin Study conducted by the U.S. Soil Conservation Service. A ten-county joint powers board "Area II Minnesota River Basin Projects, Inc." was established in 1978 to coordinate local implementation and cost sharing for the program, which is administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR).

The projects for which funds are being requested include: reservoirs, both with and without permanent pools; "road retention structures" involving temporary floodwater storage upstream from public road crossings, typically constructed during bridge or culvert replacements; and other potential floodwater and sediment retarding measures such as buffer strips and wetland restorations.

The projects funded through this program are components of a general plan for flood control and floodplain management. The Minnesota River Basin Study identified 81 major floodwater retention sites within the project area. That study, together with a subsequent joint study conducted by the SCS and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided technical, environmental and economic analyses of all of these sites and a basis for project prioritization. Road retention structure sites are identified in cooperation with county and state highway departments and selected based on the costs and benefits of the sites. Specific projects and programs for which funding is requested include:

Redwood-22 Reservoir, upstream of Marshall, MN	\$1,625,000
Lac Qui Parle-40 Reservoir	\$ 200,000
Lazarus Creek Reservoir	\$1,125,000
Lac Qui Parle-3 Reservoir	\$1,900,000
Numerous Road Retention Projects	\$1,800,000

The joint SCS/COE study documented recurring severe flood damage and soil loss within the five major Area II watersheds. The average direct flood damages were estimated to total \$8,000,000 annually. An average of 346,000 tons of soil per year were estimated to erode from these watersheds, washing into the Minnesota River. This soil loss was estimated to result in up to \$20,000,000 in annual productivity losses.

2. PROJECT RATIONALE AND RELATIONSHIP TO AGENCY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL PLAN:

The severe flooding in the Minnesota River basin in 1993 has highlighted the need to reduce flood damage to roads and bridges, public and private structures, farm fields, river banks and urban centers within the project area. An interagency hazard mitigation team led by the Federal Emergency Management Agency prepared a recent report for Minnesota, including the project area, which identified floodwater retention at roads, flood control reservoirs and wetland restorations as appropriate mitigation measures to reduce flood damage in the future. The reservoirs and road retention structures constructed under this program retard floodwaters, reduce flooding and allow sediments to settle out. Reduced flood peaks result in

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

reduced direct flood damages to roads, bridges, structures and fields, as well as reduced downstream sedimentation. The sediment trapping efficiencies of these floodwater retarding measures are approximately 50 - 90%, providing significant water quality improvement benefits.

The BWSR strategic plan states: "Runoff should be managed to minimize property loss and environmental damage by moderating high flows and maintaining low flows of streams." Both state and federal floodplain management and flood control programs rely upon local partners and local implementation. The Area II partnerships between local, state and federal governments have resulted in the construction of eight flood control reservoirs and a number of road retention projects, to date. These partnerships have capitalized on the efficiencies of local implementation through focussed efforts, mutual commitment and streamlined processes. Numerous additional road retention projects and reservoirs are planned within Area II.

The basic strategy of the BWSR, as capsulized in its mission statement and outlined in its strategic plan, is to empower local governments and private citizens to be effective resource managers. The state-wide local water planning efforts during the past several years have been very successful in this regard. On a watershed basis, this requires joint efforts among local units of government. The Area II joint powers board and state grant-in-aid program have provided opportunities to achieve local government cooperation for flood control and floodplain management in a priority area. The Area II grant-in-aid program has also provided opportunities for partnerships associated with erosion and sedimentation control, river and reservoir water quality monitoring, streamflow data collection and technical assistance.

The strategic plans for Area II include increased ties to comprehensive local water plans, as well as expanded partnerships under the state's Minnesota River improvement initiative. The board of directors for the Area II joint powers corporation has expressed to the Governor and area legislators, its interest in an expanded role under the Minnesota River improvement initiative.

The requested funding is necessary for continued commitment to the flood control, floodplain management and associated erosion control and water

quality partnerships within the project area. Substantial successes have been achieved through these partnerships. Opportunities remain for similar successes and for expanded partnerships with broader successes. The strategic plans for Area II envision more comprehensive projects involving multiple resource management measures and partners.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (OPTIONAL):

The requested funding would involve a maximum state cost-share of 75% for a specific project, if federal funding *is not* utilized, and maximum 50% state share of the local sponsor cost-share, if federal funding *is* utilized. If no action is taken to fund this project, the viability of the existing successful local and state partnership will be in jeopardy and opportunities for effective flood control and floodplain management in this priority project area will be greatly reduced or completely foregone. In all instances local government and BWSR have leveraged the optimum availability of federal funds.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)

Form G-2'

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

TYPE OF REQUEST (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Acquisition of State Assets
- ☐ Development of State Assets
- ☐ Maintenance of State Assets
- ☒ Grants to Local Governments
- ☐ Loans to Local Governments
- ☐ Other Grants (specify):

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Health and Safety
- ☐ Provision of New Program/Services
- ☒ Expansion of Existing Program/Services
- ☐ Other (specify):

PROPOSED METHOD(S) OF FINANCING (check one):

- ☐ Cash: Fund _____
- ☒ Bonds: Tax Exempt ☒ Taxable _____

DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ General Fund % of total 100
- ☐ User Financing % of total _____

Source of funds _____

FUNDING SOURCE:

\$ 1,900 Appropriation Request (1994 Session)
\$ 1,900 State funding
\$ 300 Federal funding
\$ 532 Local gov't funding
\$ 0 Private funding

Agency Data Prepared by: Al Kean
Name

Chief Engineer
Title

297-2907
Telephone

7-23-93
Date

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)
Fiscal Years 1994-99
Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-3

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANALYSIS:

This submission meets all Department of Finance criteria for project qualification.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Governor recommends \$1,900,000 for the Area II Grant-in-Aid Program. Furthermore, the Governor recommends that only the Redwood-22 Reservoir project (RW-22) be funded under the current matching formula (75% State/25% local) because of a prior commitment. Other Area II projects should be funded at 50%, the match formula for all other areas of the state.

This formula change will provide statewide uniformity. A statutory amendment affecting M.S. 103F.175 will be drafted to implement the Governor's recommendation. An appropriation rider is recommended to continue funding RW-22 at the 75% rate.

Also included are preliminary recommendations of \$1,000,000 in 1996 and \$1,000,000 in 1998.

STRATEGIC SCORE	
Criteria	Points
Critical Life Safety - existing hazards	0
Critical Legal Liability - existing liability	0
Critical Loss of Function or Services	0
Prior/Legal Commitments	0
User/Non-State Financing	39
Strategic Linkage	60
Agency Priority	60
Asset Preservation/Deferred Renewal	50
Customer Services Improved	60
Operating Savings/Efficiencies	0
Total Strategic Score	269

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resources, Board of

PROJECT TITLE: Abandoned Well Sealing

PROJECT COSTS: \$1,500

APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR 1994 SESSION: \$ 250

APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1996 SESSION: \$ 250

APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1998 SESSION: \$ 250

LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY): Statewide

AGENCY PRIORITY (for 1994 Session only):

4 of 5 requests

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The requested funds will be used to share the cost of sealing high-priority abandoned wells on public land (excluding state land) under Minnesota Statutes 103C.501. The state share of well-sealing costs will be up to 75%. Well sealing costs can range from several hundred to many thousand dollars, so the exact numbers of wells that will be sealed is not known, but using the statewide average of \$500 per well sealed, the requested funds will seal approximately 2,000 priority wells.

2. PROJECT RATIONALE AND RELATIONSHIP TO AGENCY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL PLAN:

Abandoned wells are wells that are no longer used on a regular basis, or are in such a state of disrepair that continued use is impractical or a health hazard. Unsealed abandoned wells are a potential source of ground-water degradation, and can pose a safety hazard. They can act as conduits or channels for contamination to reach ground water. Water from a contaminated aquifer may move through an unsealed abandoned well to contaminate another aquifer that is normally protected by an impermeable layer. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has estimated that there are approximately one million unsealed abandoned wells present throughout the state. Some counties are estimated to have as few as 1000 abandoned wells, while others may have many tens of thousands.

The Ground-water Protection Act of 1989 provided limited state funding to establish a cost-share program to seal abandoned wells. This program was administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). To date 1.1 million dollars have been allocated in grants to 39 counties to share the cost with landowners of sealing high priority abandoned wells. Over 1500 wells have been sealed to date with these cost-share funds, with an additional 2000 projected to be sealed as part of the cost-share grant allocation. Program results have been summarized in a "Status Report on Abandoned Well Programs" submitted jointly to the Minnesota legislature in January, 1993 by BWSR and MDH.

The well-sealing cost-share program has not been able to address the problem of abandoned wells on publicly owned land. The Department of Natural Resources has been charged with conducting inventories of abandoned wells on state land, and is separately seeking funding to seal priority wells on state land.

These requested funds will begin to address the problem of abandoned wells on publicly owned land other than state land. The requested funds will compliment the existing regulatory program which requires disclosure and sealing of unused wells at the time of property transfer.

The BWSR strategic plan identifies reducing ground-water contamination by cost-sharing on sealing abandoned wells as a goal. The BWSR, in cooperation with other agencies, has developed the capabilities and procedures to successfully implement well-sealing cost-share programs.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (OPTIONAL):

A concern in this type of program is setting priorities to insure that the highest priority wells (those with the greatest potential to contaminate ground water) are sealed with available funds. Setting priorities insures that the most effective use is made of state funds and that the state gets the most ground-water protection for its money. In 1990, BWSR led an interagency advisory group with representation from BWSR, MDH, DNR, MPCA, and several counties which developed a system for prioritizing wells for sealing.

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Form G-2

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

TYPE OF REQUEST (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Acquisition of State Assets
- ☐ Development of State Assets
- ☐ Maintenance of State Assets
- ☒ Grants to Local Governments
- ☐ Loans to Local Governments
- ☐ Other Grants (specify):

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Health and Safety
- ☒ Provision of New Program/Services
- ☐ Expansion of Existing Program/Services
- ☐ Other (specify):

PROPOSED METHOD(S) OF FINANCING (check one):

- ☐ Cash: Fund _____
- ☒ Bonds: Tax Exempt ☒ Taxable _____

DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ General Fund % of total 100
- ☐ User Financing % of total _____

Source of funds _____

FUNDING SOURCE:

- \$ 250 Appropriation Request (1994 Session)
- \$ 250 State funding
 - \$ _____ Federal funding
 - \$ 83 Local gov't funding
 - \$ _____ Private funding

Agency Data Prepared by: Greg Larson
Name

Head, Water and Land Management
Title

296-0882
Telephone

7-23-93
Date

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1.

Priority wells are wells which, by virtue of their construction, depth, condition, location, aquifer characteristics, or proximity to contamination sources and other wells provide increased potential for ground water contamination and contamination of drinking water. Examples include wells receiving surface drainage, wells penetrating confining layers, multi-aquifer wells, wells near public water supply wells and in the same aquifer, wells near a zone of surface contamination, and wells in an aquifer for which unsealed abandoned wells are the main potential contamination source.

A great deal of experience has already been gained in setting priorities for well sealing. The prioritization criteria developed as a part of the current well-sealing cost-share program will be used to prioritize requests from public entities for well-sealing funds so that the allocations will achieve the most ground-water protection per state dollar spent.

It is recommended that the BWSR be allowed for certain high priority wells, upon request from a local government unit and with approval of the interagency advisory group, to remove the \$2,000 cost-share cap that currently exists in MN Statutes 103C.501. The determination of these high priority wells will be made by the interagency group.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)
Fiscal Years 1994-99
Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-3

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANALYSIS:

This submission meets all Department of Finance criteria for project qualification.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Governor does not recommend capital funds for this project.

STRATEGIC SCORE	
Criteria	Points
Critical Life Safety - existing hazards	0
Critical Legal Liability - existing liability	0
Critical Loss of Function or Services	0
Prior/Legal Commitments	0
User/Non-State Financing	35
Strategic Linkage	60
Agency Priority	40
Asset Preservation/Deferred Renewal	0
Customer Services Improved	60
Operating Savings/Efficiencies	0
Total Strategic Score	195

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-1

AGENCY: Water and Soil Resource, Board of
PROJECT TITLE: Permanent Wetlands Preserves
PROJECT COSTS: \$10,680
APPROPRIATION REQUEST FOR 1994 SESSION: \$5,530
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1996 SESSION: \$3,960
APPROPRIATION ESTIMATE FOR 1998 SESSION: \$1,190
LOCATION (CITY, COUNTY): Statewide

AGENCY PRIORITY (for 1994 Session only):

5 of 5 requests

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

The permanent wetland preserve program was enacted under the Laws of 1991, c. 354, Article 3, subpart 1. The requested funds will be utilized to acquire perpetual conservation easements on existing type 1 (seasonally flooded basin or flat), 2 (inland wet meadow) and 3 (cattail) wetlands, adjacent lands, and for the establishment of permanent cover on the adjacent lands. The dollar amount requested includes 10% for professional service costs associated with acquiring easements.

2. PROJECT RATIONALE AND RELATIONSHIP TO AGENCY LONG-RANGE STRATEGIC GOALS AND CAPITAL PLAN:

The permanent wetland preserve program was enacted during the same legislative session that the Wetland Conservation Act 1991 (WCA) was passed. Both programs strive to protect the state's remaining wetland resources. The permanent wetland preserve program discourages the conversion of wetlands that are exempt from the regulatory restrictions of the WCA, and offsets the financial burden that may result when individuals are denied a permit exemption from WCA rules. When the permanent wetland preserve program was created, the state waterbank program which compensated landowners when a DNR protected wetlands permit to drain for agricultural purposes was denied was sunsetted. Even though the two programs are not identical, the permanent wetland preserves program was intended largely to replace the state waterbank program.

The BWSR's strategic plan (1990) states that "wetlands can provide significant public benefits by storing water, controlling erosion, purifying runoff by nutrient uptake, recharging groundwater, and by providing open space, landscape diversity, wildlife habitat and recreational opportunities." The permanent wetland preserve program provides county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) with an incentive tool to persuade landowners to alter present land use practices by refraining from cropping, grazing, draining or filling qualifying wetland basins. The strategic plan also identifies the BWSR's position that "a 'net gain' wetland management goal should be adopted in Minnesota." This position was formally adopted by the State via the wetland conservation act and is supported by the passage of the permanent wetland preserve program.

The BWSR received 7 million dollars from general bond funds in the 1991 Wetland Conservation Act for conservation easements and permit denials. The funds requested for FYs 1994-99 (\$10,680,000.00) are anticipated to secure an additional 13,500 acres.

SIGN-UP PERIOD	FUNDS AVAILABLE (in thousands)	FUNDS APPLIED FOR
October 1992	3,500	2,083
February 1993	3,500	741
October 1994	4,176*	N/A

* 1,000 will be reserved to fund permit denials.

3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS (OPTIONAL):

One intent of the permanent wetland preserve program was to ease the implementation of the WCA that now restricts activities taking place in certain defined wetlands. However, it is important to recognize protection of our valuable wetland resources was also a prominent objective of the program. The BWSR intends to implement the program to obtain maximum resource benefits. Priority will be placed on applications that are presently in agricultural use. In addition, type 1 and 2 wetlands will be targeted as they are likely to be in ag use, and are also liable to be exempt from current laws.

AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)

Form G-2

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

TYPE OF REQUEST (Check all that apply):

- ☒ Acquisition of State Assets
- ☐ Development of State Assets
- ☐ Maintenance of State Assets
- ☒ Grants to Local Governments
- ☐ Loans to Local Governments
- ☐ Other Grants (specify):

PROJECT CHARACTERISTICS (Check all that apply):

- ☐ Health and Safety
- ☐ Provision of New Program/Services
- ☒ Expansion of Existing Program/Services
- ☐ Other (specify):

PROPOSED METHOD(S) OF FINANCING (check one):

- ☐ Cash: Fund _____
- ☒ Bonds: Tax Exempt ☒ Taxable _____

DEBT SERVICE PAYMENTS (Check all that apply):

- ☒ General Fund % of total 100
- ☐ User Financing % of total _____

Source of funds _____

FUNDING SOURCE:

- \$ 5,530 Appropriation Request (1994 Session)
- \$ 5,530 State funding
 - \$ _____ Federal funding
 - \$ _____ Local gov't funding
 - \$ _____ Private funding

Agency Data Prepared by: Marybeth Block
Name

Easement Coordinator
Title

297-7965
Telephone

7-23-93
Date

**AGENCY CAPITAL BUDGET REQUEST
Non-Building Project Detail (Cont'd.)**

Fiscal Years 1994-99

Dollars in Thousands (\$137,500 = \$138)

Form G-3'

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ANALYSIS:

This submission meets all Department of Finance criteria for project qualification.

GOVERNOR'S RECOMMENDATION:

The Governor recommends \$2,000,000 for the Permanent Wetlands Preserves Program. Also included are preliminary recommendations of \$2,500,000 in 1996 and \$2,500,000 in 1998.

STRATEGIC SCORE	
Criteria	Points
Critical Life Safety - existing hazards	0
Critical Legal Liability - existing liability	0
Critical Loss of Function or Services	0
Prior/Legal Commitments	0
User/Non-State Financing	0
Strategic Linkage	90
Agency Priority	20
Asset Preservation/Deferred Renewal	0
Customer Services Improved	60
Operating Savings/Efficiencies	0
Total Strategic Score	170

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Fax (612) 297-5615

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Fax (218) 723-4794

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(218) 755-4235
Fax (218) 755-4201

217 S. 7th Street
Suite 202
Brainerd, MN 56401-3660
(218) 828-2383
Fax (218) 828-6036

Southern Region:

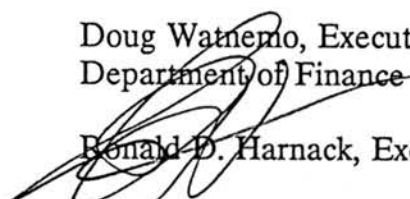
P.O. Box 756
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(507) 537-6060
Fax (507) 537-6368

Metro Region:

Southbridge Office Building
155 S. Wabasha Street
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St. Paul, MN 55107
(612) 296-3767
Fax (612) 297-5615

DATE: January 28, 1994
TO: Doug Watnemo, Executive Budget Officer
Department of Finance
FROM:  Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director
SUBJECT: LCMR Proposals

Attached are the requested LCMR proposals of the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) by theme:

THEME: Flood Disaster Recovery

Tier I

- Soil Conservation Practices
- Flood Reduction Alternatives in the Minnesota River Watersheds
- Floodplain Management and Flood Hazard Mitigation Effectiveness Evaluation

Tier II

- Community Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans
- Accelerated Surface Water Gaging/Monitoring and Applied Watershed Hydrology

THEME: Environmental Education

Tier I

- Environmental Education Assistance to Local Units of Government

Tier II

- Environmental Education Through Public TV and Radio

THEME: Environmental Protection

Tier II

- Well-Sealing Cost-Share Grants

THEME: Sustainable Development

Tier II

- Lake Management Planning Grants

THEME: Natural Resources Management

Tier I

- Lake Superior Sedimentation Reduction
- Watershed-Based Local Water Plan Implementation Initiatives

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LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Flood Disaster Recovery: Soil Conservation Practices

Project Manager: Wayne Zellmer

Affiliation: Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone Number: 612-296-3767

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$600,000

Matching funds are required from the landowner for the cost-shared practice (75% state - 25% local or landowner). In some instances match is also obtained from Federal sources.

I. NARRATIVE: Project will assist landowners with implementation of conservation practices to correct priority sedimentation and erosion problems resulting from the 1993 flood disaster.

II. OUTCOMES:

- A. Acceleration of the current cost-share program.
- B. Increased capability for the state in partnership with the local soil and water conservation districts to assist landowners in addressing critical erosion problems resulting from the flood disaster.
- C. Restoration of damaged cropland and reduction of sedimentation to rivers and streams thereby improving water quality, maintaining river and stream flow capacity, and restoring productivity.
- D. Enhancing economic recovery of landowners from the flood disaster.

III. OBJECTIVES:

- A. Cost-share on critical erosion areas resulting from the flood disaster.
 - A1. Summary: Provide grants to soil and water conservation districts to assist landowners in addressing flood disaster related erosion.
 - A2. Budget: \$ 600,000

A3. Timeline: 7\95

7\96

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

IV. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: The flooding this past summer has resulted in significant amounts of erosion and sedimentation that the disaster funds will not address. It will take several years just to get back to preflood condition, if that is in fact possible. Field gullies, stream bank failures, sedimentation that reduced river and stream capacity, farm fields less productive due to soil loss. Landowners are financially and emotionally stressed due to the severe losses due to the flood. The financial ability to address the problems are very limited and it is in the state's best interests to provide assistance to help landowners with these severe erosion and sedimentation problems.

B. Strategy: BWSR will utilize the existing cost-share program delivery system and provide soil and water conservation districts with the grants to address their priority problems. Because the problems are so great the districts will need to prioritize the problems in their districts.

C. Time: The need is so great that the amount of \$'s will not be sufficient to address the problems. The soil erosion problems from the flood disaster will take more years to resolve than two years and it can be expected that additional acceleration may be requested in future years.

D. Cooperation: The key cooperation is between the BWSR and the soil and water conservation districts. The soil and water conservation districts provide the coordination with the landowners.

V. BUDGET HISTORY

The state cost-share program has a history of funding through the general funds approximating \$1,400,000 per year.

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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LCMR Proposal 1995

Title : Flood Disaster Recovery: Soil Conservation Practices
Project Manager : Wayne Zellmer
Affiliation : MN BWSR
Mailing Address : 155 South Wabasha Street, Suite 104, St. Paul MN
55107
Telephone Number: (612) 297-7361

RESUME

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

To be a key player in the future welfare of our soil and water resources.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grants Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, 1993-present

Serve as overall coordinator of grant programs administered by the MN BWSR, developing grant recommendations, administrative procedures and training.

Resource Specialist II, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1989-1993.

Provided primary design and administration for the implementation of their Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Programs, prepared annual and long range plans.

Resource Specialist I, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1986-1989.

Provided engineering and technical planning services for erosion and sediment abatement practices, inventoried wetlands, developed erosion and sediment control plans.

District Technician, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1979-1986.

Staked, surveyed, designed, and supervised the construction of soil and water conservation practices.

AFFILIATION

Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist
- Soil and Water Conservation Society

EDUCATION

B.S., University of Minnesota, 1979

Major in Soil Science with special concentration in chemistry and agronomy.

A.S., University of Minnesota, 1977

Major in Soil and Chemical Technology with concentration in agronomy.

LCMR PROPOSAL 1995

Program Title: Flood Reduction Alternatives in the Minnesota River Watersheds
 Project Manager: David Leuthe, Regional Hydrologist
 Address: MN DNR Waters, P.O. Box 756, Highway 15 South, New Ulm, MN 56073
 Phone: (507) 359-6050

Total Biennial Budget: \$250,000

Matching funds may be possible from BWSR, Area II, existing cost-share and land retirement programs and other funding sources but none are currently guaranteed.

I. Narrative: Project will inventory and evaluate cumulative benefits of wetland restoration and other flood retention projects in pilot watersheds, and develop feasible economic alternative strategies for sustainable agriculture and flood reduction.

II. Outcomes:

- A. Coordination with DNR, BWSR, Area II, pilot watershed districts, SWCD's and counties to develop an inventory of restorable basins and wetlands.
- B. Development of watershed hydrologic modelling from existing data sources in cooperation with Area II and other state and federal agencies.
- C. Determination of flood control benefits of proportional amounts of wetland restoration and retention projects through use of the hydrologic models.
- D. Develop feasible economic strategies that utilize existing cost-share and land retirement programs and other alternatives to encourage landowners to participate in the pilot program. Strategies would be developed by a steering committee comprised of broad agricultural interests, local, state and federal agencies and special interest groups.

III. Objectives:

- A. Inventory of Restorable Basins and Wetlands
 1. Summary: Utilize results of EPA Pilot Statewide Inventory of Drained Wetlands and Ditches, SCS PL-566 studies, SCS/USCOE 87-639 study and local watershed information to produce inventory.
 2. Budget: \$75,000
 3. Timeline: 7/95 1/96 7/96 1/97 6/97
- B. Develop Watershed Hydrologic Models
 1. Summary: (1) Hydrologist 3 project manager will coordinate the overall project and develop current hydrologic models using SCS/USCOE 87-639, SCS PL-566 studies and calibrate to existing conditions.
 2. Budget: \$75,000
 3. Timeline: 7/95 1/96 7/96 1/97 6/97
- C. Determine Flood Control Benefits
 1. Summary: Use updated models to develop the amount of restoration and retention necessary to achieve flood reduction benefits.

2. Budget: \$75,000
3. Timeline: 7/95 1/96 7/96 1/97 6/97

D. Develop Economic Alternative Strategies

1. Summary: Establish a steering committee and develop a series of economically feasible options that would enable and encourage local landowners to participate in wetland restoration and flood reduction initiatives.
2. Budget: \$25,000
3. Timeline: 7/95 1/96 7/96 1/97 6/97

IV. Context

A. New strategies for flood control are needed that will allow for sustainable agriculture yet be more cost-effective in use of existing cost-share and federal farm program subsidies. Pilot projects are needed to establish effective applications to encourage a federal policy shift toward this type of innovative approach using federal farm program subsidies. Agriculture needs to be rewarded for land stewardship practices that benefit flood control and the associated water quality improvements to our precious water resources. Extensive resource information exists that can be utilized and applied to this project.

B. Strategy

This project addresses strategies G and H and also has indirect application to C, F, & J. Flood reduction strategies will in most cases, also directly apply to wetland restoration, erosion control, water quality improvements, non-point source pollution reduction and protection and enhancement of critical habitat. This effort also has a direct focus on identifying options that will encourage the shift of farming practices through development of improved management techniques and incentives.

C. Time

We anticipate the success of the pilot program may generate accelerated project requests in the future.

D. Cooperation

The project will have a strong coordination component and extensive cooperation is essential to its success. We see strong roles and cooperation with agricultural interests, environmental interests, local governments (Watershed Districts, SWCDs, Counties) and the federal (USCOE, SCS) state (MDA, BWSR, DNR, Ag Extension, PCA) and regional agencies (AREA II).

V. Budget History

Extensive investments of time and money (PL-639 & PL-566) at the federal, state and local level have been made to study measures to reduce flooding in the 1960s - 1980s. Although the large project solutions are being exhausted, the extensive data collected can now be utilized to identify smaller scale cumulative solutions. No LCMR or other funds have been directed at this type of project during the period 1990-94.

RESUME
FOR
DAVID P. LEUTHE

Education

B.S. University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point, cum laude
Double major - Natural Resource Management and Water Resource Management. Double minor in Soil Science and Biology.
Graduate level courses at Mankato State, U of M Civil Engineering, and Colorado State; and have completed numerous short courses, seminars, and training sessions, notably including the Leadership Institute.

Work Experience

16 years of experience with the DNR in which I have held the following positions:

Regional Hydrologist, current position
Regional Administrator, Region 6 mobility
Senior Hydrologist, Surface Water Unit
Senior Hydrologist, Flood Plain Management
Area Hydrologist in New Ulm, Marshall, St. Paul (Metro), Cambridge

Experience includes leadership, supervision, communication, coordination and human resource management skills. Technical abilities in hydrology/hydraulics, project management, field surveys, technical studies, watershed management, permit programs, dam operation planning, floodplain management, shoreland management, wild and scenic rivers, drainage, sewage treatment, flood studies, stormwater management, streamflow, erosion control, river meander, etc..

LCMR Experience

River Meander and Streambank Erosion Project Manager (1989-91)

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Floodplain Management and Flood Hazard Mitigation
Effectiveness Evaluation

Project Manager: John Linc Stine
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(612) 296-0440

Total Biennial Budget: \$300,000 LCMR: \$150,000
Corps of Engineers Section 22 Program: \$150,000
Total: \$300,000

- I. **NARRATIVE:** The Corps of Engineers will investigate floodplain management and flood hazard mitigation activities to evaluate their effectiveness in protecting people from flooding and preventing unwise resource development.
- II. **OUTCOMES:** The Corps of Engineers will provide a report that evaluates the effectiveness of floodplain management and flood hazard mitigation activities. The report will make recommendations to modify and improve floodplain management programs to make them more effective in meeting their goals.
- III. **OBJECTIVES:**
- A. Community survey
1. **Summary:** Contact each flood prone community in the state to determine the effectiveness of a variety of floodplain management activities.
 2. **Budget:** \$150,000
 3. **Timeline:** 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97
Survey *****
- B. Inventory Flood Prone Structures
1. **Summary:** Continue the inventory of structures located in flood fringe and floodway locations in communities.
 2. **Budget:** \$100,000
 3. **Timeline:** 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97
Inventory *****
- C. Economic Analysis
1. **Summary:** Conduct an economic analysis of various floodplain management and flood hazard mitigation techniques that have been implemented in Minnesota.

2. **Budget:** \$100,000

3. **Timeline:** 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97
Economic Analysis *****

D. Recommendations

1. **Summary:** Use all of the information gathered in Objectives A-C and other on-going investigations of the 1993 flood to develop recommendations on how to modify and improve the management of floodplains and flood problems in Minnesota.

2. **Budget:** \$50,000

3. **Timeline:** 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97
Recommendations *****

IV. **CONTEXT:**

- A. **Significance:** In the mid 1970's, it was estimated that 17,000 structures in Minnesota were subject to flooding. Recent estimates by FEMA indicate 40-50,000 structures subject to flooding. This FEMA estimate is incorrect because of all of the activities that have been occurring of the last 15 years to manage floodplains, implement flood control projects, and reduce the number of structures subject to flooding.
- B. **Strategy:** This study will directly or indirectly address strategies C, F, G, H, and I. This study will recommend improvements to existing floodplain management and flood hazard mitigation activities. One likely recommendation will be to increase the acquisition of floodplain areas where other uses are constantly susceptible to flood damage.
- C. **Time:** The project will be completed within the 2-year time frame.
- D. **Cooperation:** It is proposed that this project be conducted under the Section 22 (Planning Assistance to States) Program of the Corps of Engineers. Under this proposal the state will pay 50% of the total cost, and the Corps of Engineers will pay 50% of the cost. Both cost-shares are subject to the appropriation of funds by the Legislature and the Congress.

V. **BUDGET HISTORY:** None

VI. **FOR LCMR USE ONLY:**

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LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Floodplain Management and Flood Hazard Mitigation
Effectiveness Evaluation

Project Manager: John Linc Stine
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Waters
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(612) 296-0440

RESUME

Education:

Graduate of University of Minnesota in 1980 with Bachelor of Science in Soil and Water Resource Management.

Professional:

1980-1983, Land Use Hydrologist, responsible for implementation of floodplain, shoreland, and Wild and Scenic Rivers Programs in the seven county metropolitan area.

1983-1989, Area Hydrologist, responsible for all DNR water permit and land use programs in Anoka and northwest Hennepin Counties.

1989-1993, Regional Hydrologist, responsible for supervision of six professional staff and related budget for administration of all DNR waters programs in the seven county metropolitan area.

1993-present, Permits and Land Use Administrator, responsible for statewide administration for all DNR-Waters permits and land use programs; supervise the state floodplain management program; supervise and administer budget for fourteen professional staff and three supervisory staff; administer grant programs for flood damage reduction, shoreland management, and stream maintenance.

Relationship to LCMR Work Proposal:

Presently, the administrator of the statewide floodplain management program, which is the primary vehicle for flood hazard mitigation and flood damage reduction in the state. Responsibilities include monitoring local government efforts to administer the floodplain management program and oversee expenditure of statewide flood damage reduction grant funds. LCMR proposal will provide valuable information on program effectiveness which can be utilized to modify and enhance the statewide floodplain management program.

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Community Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans

Project Manager: Ogbazghi Sium
Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(612) 296-0444

Total Biennial Budget: \$250,000

- I. **NARRATIVE:** This program assists counties and municipalities in developing flood hazard mitigation plans in order to reduce the threat to life and flood damages.
- II. **OUTCOMES:** Flood hazard mitigation plans would be developed for four flood-prone communities. A generic plan would then be developed so other communities could easily develop mitigation plans.
- III. **OBJECTIVES:**
 - A. Mitigation plans for four select communities.
 1. Summary: Develop mitigation plans for four communities that address specific flood hazards. Mitigation plans may include measures such as levees and impoundments, relocating structures, flood proofing facilities, flood fighting plans, flood warning, evacuation plans, flood recovery plans, and open space land use. The four communities would be selected to represent different hydrologic and geographic areas, e.g., Red River Valley, Minnesota River Valley, Metro Area, and flash flood streams in southeast Minnesota.
 2. Budget: \$100,000
 3. Timeline: By June 30, 1997
 4. Benefits: Four communities that experience frequent flooding would have mitigation plans that would minimize flood damages and safety hazards.
 - B. Generic Flood Hazard Mitigation Plan
 1. Summary: Develop generic flood hazard mitigation plan. This would be based on specific plan developed for four communities with a variety of flood hazards.
 2. Budget: \$100,000
 3. Timeline: By June 10, 1977

4. Benefits: Communities could select hazard mitigation activities that meet their particular needs, use generic plan as format.

C. Hazard Mitigation Resource Library

1. Summary: Conduct a literature search and develop "library" of flood hazard mitigation techniques.
2. Budget: \$50,000
3. Timeline: By June 30, 1997
4. Benefits: Flood hazard mitigation library would be a resource for communities developing mitigation plans.

IV. **CONTEXT:**

- A. Significance: By implementing effective flood hazard mitigation plans, communities can reduce flood damages and increase public safety significantly in the event of a flood. Many Minnesota communities have all-hazard emergency response plans. A generic flood hazard mitigation plan would be used to "fine tune" the flood hazard portion of these plans for communities experiencing frequent flooding. There is currently a proposal before Congress to tie federal flood mitigation funds to approved community mitigation plans. Mitigation plans would also help target state Flood Damage Reduction grants.
- B. Strategy: This program would provide local units of government with tools to design flood hazard mitigation plans to their specific needs (IE.5), (1.3).
- C. Time: This project should be completed within the biennium.
- D. Cooperation: John Kerr, Division of Emergency Management; staff of four selected communities.

V. **BUDGET HISTORY:** None

VI. **FOR LCMR USE ONLY:**

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LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Community Flood Hazard Mitigation Plans

Project Manager: Ogbazghi "Obi" Sium, P.E.
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Waters
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4032
(612) 296-0444

RESUME

Objective: Management of diversified water and land resources developments and programs.

Summary of Experiences: Civil engineering; water resources; land use zoning, planning, design, construction, operation, teaching, and research--25+ years.

Education: B.S., Civil Engineering (1968), Haile Selassie I University, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. M.S., Mechanics and Hydraulics (1975), University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa.

Professional Registration: P.E. in Civil Engineering, Minnesota.

Professional:

1988-Present	Supervisor of Land Use Management Unit (Hydrologist 4), Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MDNR).
1983-1988	Technical Support (Hydrologist 4), MDNR: evaluated the flood hazard areas of 100+ counties and cities.
1980-1983	Supervisor of Surface Water Unit (Hydrologist 4), MDNR: managed technical studies and surface water programs' data collection.
1977-1980	Stream Hydrologist (Hydrologist 3), MDNR.
1976-1977	Water Resources Engineer II, Iowa Geological Survey: prepared the surface water availability report as part of the State Water Plan 2000 and 2020.
1973-1975	Research Assistant, Iowa Institute of Hydraulic Research, University of Iowa.
1969-1972	Chief of Technical Office, Water Supply Department, City of Asmara (population 200,000), Ethiopia: administrator of the water supply department (150+ employees).
1971	Technical Tour in France: water, waste water, and solid waste treatment; visited facilities in 10+ cities and the city of Paris, France, August-December.
1969-1972	Lecturer, Asmara University, Asmara, Ethiopia.
1968-1969	Assistant Resident Engineer, W.S. Atkins & Partners, Ethiopia, Ltd.: Legadadi Water Supply Project for the city of Addis Ababa (pop. 500,000).

LCMR Proposal 1995

Program Title: Accelerated Surface Water Gaging/Monitoring & Applied Watershed Hydrology

Program Manager: David Ford

Address: Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters

Phone: (612) 296-0437

Total Biennial Budget: \$250,000

I. Narrative:

Adequate data to guide decisions related to flooding, water quality and management are limited. Increased stream gaging and the understanding of watersheds is crucial to all water related management programs.

II. Outcomes:

This project will provide water quantity and stage information vital to state and local planning processes related to flooding, drought, water availability, use and non point water quality problems. Existing water flow information is limited. This past summer's flooding statewide emphasizes the need for accurate flow and stage information, and coordinated state and local action in water management issues. This project will help us understand and determine relative flow conditions in other parts of a watershed and in adjacent watersheds without gages. The project will expand a watershed based surface water gaging system to help address local needs and problems. The state has well over 60 years of historic lake level information. This project will develop methods of converting many of these historic lake levels into flow information for use in water management.

III. Objectives

A. Watershed Application of Gaged Flow Information.

B. State/Local Grant-in-aid Pilot Gaging Program.

C. Lake Outflows and Levels Investigation

A. Watershed Application of Gaged Flow Information.

1. Summary: Flow correlation research will be conducted on three pilot watersheds and will include field studies and data analysis.

2. Amount Budgeted: \$140,000

3. Product Timeline: 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97

Monitor Flows *****->
Analyze Results *****->

B. Grant-in-aid pilot gaging program.

1. Summary: Pilot demonstration with two to four cooperating water management organizations to aid establishment of a surface water gaging system to benefit local watershed management related to flooding, water supply and water quality.

2. Amount Budgeted: \$75,000.

3. Product Timeline: 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97

Establish Gages *****->
Monitor Flows *****->

C. Lake Outflow and Levels Investigation

1. Summary: Develop level and flow relations for approximately 30 priority lakes and convert historic lake levels to flow information vital to water planning and project designs.

2. Amount Budgeted: \$35,000

3. Product Timeline: 7/95 1/96 6/96 1/97 6/97

Data collection *****->
Analysis & Report *****->

IV. Context

A. Significance: The recent statewide flooding has illuminated the need for accurate water quantity information for use in project design and planning, and emergency action coordination efforts. The ability to effectively manage the state's water supply during periods of low flow and drought is also extremely limited while the need is critical. Inadequate funding for water monitoring programs has limited our ability to effectively manage waters of the state. Water quality planning and watershed management activities are dependent on water quantity information in applying corrective projects. This project will enhance decision-making for the millions of dollars being invested in water quality projects such as those associated with the MPCA's Clean Water Partnership Program and flood damage reduction projects. The needs identified in this project will continue to intensify if not immediately addressed. Past LCMR projects have increased our understanding of the importance of water in resource protection and preserving the quality of life. However, without adequate, ongoing gaging and monitoring, we do not have the necessary tools to provide essential resource protection. The project is consistent with the goals of the Legislative Water Commission and EQB's Minnesota Water Plan, and will enhance the state's ability to meet these goals.

B. Strategy: The project fulfills strategy F and I with application to C, J, and L. This pilot project will expand the usefulness of existing data, will provide expanded surface water gaging networks to meet local needs and provide for coordinated state and local water management. The project will build for the future and will be the prototype for addressing flooding, water allocation and supply issues and assist in evaluating water quality problems at the watershed level.

C. Time: The proposal is structured as a pilot project and will improve our understanding of flow and watershed characteristics. The knowledge and experience gained from this project may result in additional efforts on other priority watersheds within the state.

D. Cooperation: Mark Have, US Geological Survey; Ronald Harnack, BWSR; MPCA. Cooperation with the Blue Earth River Joint Powers Board, Buffalo-Red WD, Red River Watershed Management Board, Sauk River WD is expected and will be confirmed. The SWCD for each county will be involved in coordination of the project.

V. Budget History. No funds have been received from LCMR in previous years. No other funding is available to support this research.

VI. For LCMR Use Only:

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Program Title: Accelerated Surface Water Gaging/Monitoring & Applied Watershed Hydrology

David R. Ford
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Waters
296-0437

Bachelor of Civil Engineering, Univ. of Minnesota, 1972
Master of Civil Engineering, Univ. of Minnesota, 1976
Major - Water Resource Eng. Minor - Hydrogeology

Registered Civil Engineer in State of Minnesota, July 1978,
#013472
Registered Civil Engineer in State of Arkansas, Jan. 1987,
#5775

1989 to present - Surface Water Engineer & Supervisor of the Surface Water Unit, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Division of Waters:
The Surface Unit provides engineering and technical services on lake and stream hydrology in the development, review and analysis of data, projects and policies involving Minnesota waters. The Surface Water Unit is comprised of eight professional staff and includes the Division of Waters Instream flow, SW gaging and SW engineering technical analysis programs. In addition, I participate in and occasionally chair Division technical, rule making, and policy recommendation committees.

1979 to 1989 - Lake Hydrologist, MNDNR, Division of Waters:
Provided technical solutions for lake and stream problems involving levels, hydraulic and hydrologic design of structures including culverts, bridges and dams, and assistance in the formulation of policies, programs and procedures for lake and stream hydrology and management.

1978 to 1979 - Dam Safety Hydrologist, MNDNR, Division of Waters:
Conducted on-site inspections of existing, proposed, under-construction, or abandoned dams and evaluated their safety from a hydrologic/hydraulic engineering design standpoint and assisted in development of dam safety hydrologic/hydraulic criteria.

1977 to 1978 - Engineer, Barr Engineering Company:
Supervised and coordinated hydrologic and hydraulic computations performed for Flood Insurance Study contracts with the Department of Housing and Urban Development. Was responsible for conducting intermediate and final Flood Insurance Study meetings with local officials to explain the implications of the studies to the local community and respond to questions. Was Assistant Project Manager for a

Souris River Computer Simulation Study performed under contract with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

1974 to 1977 - Engineer, Wehrman, Chapman Associates, Inc.:
Performed hydrologic and hydraulic analyses for various reports and studies funded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Among the studies were flood control feasibility studies, flood plain information studies, and flood insurance studies.

Member of American Society of Civil Engineering (ASCE) since 1974. Beginning in 1981 have been on the ASCE Minnesota Section's Water Resources Technical Committee which plans an annual two-day Water Resource Engineering Seminar in conjunction with the University of Minnesota. Since 1988 have been a member of the National Society of Professional Engineers (NSPE) and the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (MSPE).

Have developed and presented in-house training courses on hydraulic and hydrologic design for DNR Division of Waters and Bureau of Engineering personnel, have written and presented professional papers at conferences and seminars and have taken supervisory and professional continuing education and training courses.

In 1975 completed the two-week Flood Plain Analysis course at the Hydrologic Engineering Center (HEC), Davis, California. One week of the course was devoted to the HEC-2 step-backwater computer model and the other week to the HEC-1 generalized watershed analysis computer model. Have since developed extensive expertise in using these and other hydraulic and hydrologic models including National Weather Service unsteady flow model DAMBRK to design and analyze water resource structures and have attended symposiums, seminars and short courses to maintain my water resource engineering expertise.

Since 1980 have, with other division staff, lead the development of an in-house computer model "WATBUD" which provides for continuous simulation of hydrology and hydraulics of lake and wetland basins.

While attending the University of Minnesota was employed as an undergraduate and graduate Research Assistant and as a graduate teaching Assistant for Hydrology and Open Channel Flow courses.

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Environmental Education Assistance to Local Units of Government

Project Manager: Susan Tsakakis

Affiliation: Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone number: 612-296-3767

Total biennial project budget: \$90,000

LCMR: \$75,000

match: BWSR/MN Extension

I. NARRATIVE: Project creates and uses partnerships between local governmental units and state agencies to educate local governments about the environment and how they can best convey environmental information to their audiences.

II. OUTCOMES: Local government officials and staff will increase their awareness of the environment and the effects of their land-use decisions. In addition, they will learn how to effectively convey that information to their target audiences, thus helping build public support for environmentally sound decisions.

III. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title: Increased local governmental unit (LGU) educational efforts

A1. Summary: A joint BWSR/Minnesota Extension Service (MES) half-time staff person will be hired to serve the educational needs of local governments within the metro area. The person will serve as a resource person and will also initiate projects and partnerships designed to educate LGUs and assist them in reaching their audiences. The project will be "kicked-off" through the staff person attending and/or hosting various area/regional meetings. The existing BWSR/MES Education Committee will approve the position's work plan.

A2. Budget: \$75,000

A3. Timeline:

- | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|-------|------|------|------|
| | 7/95 | 1/96 | 7/96 | 7/97 |
| 1. "kick-off" meetings | **** | | | |
| 2. develop/ok work plan | ***** | | | |
| 3. implementation of projects | ***** | | | |

B. Title: Training opportunities

B1. Summary: Staff person will provide training for LGUs within the work area in appropriate subjects. Training

will take place at regional and statewide meetings.

B2. Budget: \$15,000

B3. Timeline:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-------|------|
| | 12/95 | 7/97 |
| 1. training at LGU annual meetings | *** | |
| 2. sessions at regional/area meetings | ***** | |

IV. CONTEXT

A. Significance: MES and the BWSR in 1992 joined forces to fund an educational position serving local units of government in the northern half of the state. The person has been highly successful in leveraging assistance and cooperation from a wide variety of public and private governments and organizations. In 1994, the partnership was expanded to include a joint position serving the southern region of Minnesota. This proposal adds one additional half-time position serving the metropolitan area.

B. Strategy: The project focuses on strategy L, expanding the delivery systems for environmental education programs to local government officials to assist environmentally sound decision making. The BWSR/MES partnership has provided an effective framework for reaching local governments. The product of this framework has been twofold: 1) it has increased the knowledge of local officials and staff about the environmental effects of land-use decisions; and 2) it has raised the capacity of local governments to educate their target audiences about the environment. An expansion of this partnership will provide similar benefits in the metropolitan area.

C. Time: If the project continues to be successful, it is hoped that continued funding will be provided through the benefitting LGUs, the BWSR and the MES.

D. Cooperators: Minnesota Extension Service

V. BUDGET HISTORY

A. LCMR budget history: none

B. Non-LCMR budget history: The annual budget for each position has been about \$80,000, provided through BWSR and MES.

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Environmental
Education Assistance
to Local Units of
Government

Project Manager: Susan
Tsakakis

Affiliation: BWSR

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha Suite 104,
St. Paul, MN 55107

Phone: 612/296-3767

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

Office of the Dean and Director

240 Coffey Hall

1420 Eckles Avenue

St Paul MN 55108

(612) 624-1222

January 26, 1994

Susan Tsakakis
Board of Water and Soil Resources
155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Ms. Tsakakis:

We are pleased to offer our support for this environmental educational proposal.

We have collaborated with the Board of Water and Soil Resources in initiating a similar effort of providing environmental education assistance to local government in Northern Minnesota. This proposal, if funded, would allow us to begin to expand those efforts to the metro area. We anticipate that the project would grow rapidly into a full-time position.

We support this proposal and agree to join with the Board of Water and Soil Resources in providing support for the project as well as the match as indicated.

Sincerely,



Patrick J. Borich
Dean and Director

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Environmental Education Assistance to Local Units of Government

Project Manager: Susan Tsakakis

Affiliation: BWSR

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha,
Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107

Phone: 612/296-3767

Susan Mary Tsakakis

3775 Kipling Ave. S.

St. Louis Park, MN 55416

(612)922-6753

EXPERIENCE:

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, St. Paul, MN. *May 1990-present.*

Director of Communications. Responsible for all communications efforts of board. Regularly evaluates communication needs of the board and develops publications and media plans to fill those needs. Serves as spokesperson for the board. Writes, edits and designs publications on desktop publishing system. Develops and executes special events. Chosen by peers and supervisor to receive 1991 and 1992 monetary achievement awards. Supervises staff of one.

Minnesota Senate, St. Paul, MN. *Jan. 1988-May 1990.*

Public Information Officer. Reported on committee meetings and Senate floor sessions for weekly Senate newsletter sent to mailing list of 5,000. Designed, wrote, and laid out magazine-style publications and additional brochures as necessary. Helped supervise three staff writer positions. Responded to information needs of the public and the media. Served as a liaison between the Senate and the media.

Governor's Communications Office, St. Paul, MN. *June 1986-Jan. 1988.*

Media Associate. Responsible for writing letters for the governor's signature for publication and publicity purposes, as well as letters to the public. Responded to requests for proclamations and certificates of commendation, in addition to general information requests from the public and the media. Back-up staff photographer.

Media Assistant. Wrote news releases and helped organize media events for the governor. Tracked news coverage about the governor, selecting and compiling relevant articles. Responded to information requests from the public and the media.

Minnesota Senate, St. Paul, MN. *1986 legislative session.*

Staff writer. Responsible for attending committee meetings and floor sessions and reporting upon them for weekly newsletter. Also wrote for magazine-style publication on legislative issues and concerns. Interviewed staff, senators, and members of the public.

EDUCATION:

B.A. in Journalism, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN. *June 1985.*

G.P.A.: 3.6/Dean's list, all-A Dean's list.

Minnesota Daily, Minneapolis, MN. *Sept. 1983-Aug. 1984.*

Free-lance and staff reporter. Covered St. Paul campus and general assignment stories for college newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Experience working on a variety of word processing systems, personal computers and desktop publishing systems.

REFERENCES:

Available upon request.

LCMR Proposal 1995

Title: Environmental Education Through Public TV and Radio

Project Manager: Susan Tsakakis

Affiliation: Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone number: 612-296-3767

Total biennial project budget: \$250,000

LCMR: \$250,000

I. NARRATIVE: Project involves developing and distributing a series of broadcast public service announcements and environmental programs for use by local units of government.

II. OUTCOMES: Local officials, staff and the general public will become more aware of the role of local government in environmental management and will begin to learn more about environmental issues affecting different areas of the state.

III. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title: Environmental TV Programs

A1. Summary: Working with Twin Cities Public Television, a series of environmental programs focusing on different regional issues will be developed for use on TV and for local government training.

A2. Budget: \$200,000

A3. Timeline: 7/95 9/95 1/97 7/97

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. determination of topics | *** |
| 2. develop programs | ***** |
| 3. LGU training | ***** |

B. Title: Radio public service announcements (PSAs)

B1. Summary: A series of public service announcements, targeted at different areas of the state, will be created and marketed directly and through local governments to radio stations.

B2. Budget: \$50,000

B3. Timeline: 7/95 1/96 7/96 7/97

- | | |
|----------------------------|-------|
| 1. determine topics | ** |
| 2. develop PSAs | ***** |
| 3. marketing, distribution | ***** |

IV. CONTEXT

A. Significance: More and more frequently, local government officials and staff are being called upon to make decisions affecting the environment; however, many have little training in this area and, because they do

not see themselves as resource managers, may not be interested in pursuing environmental education. This project attacks that problem in two ways: first, by use of environmental programming and PSAs to increase the public's awareness about regional environmental issues and the role of local governments in those issues; and second, those same programs can be used at training sessions and other events to directly educate local officials and staff about environmental issues affecting their constituencies.

B. Strategy: The project focuses on strategy L, expanding the delivery systems for environmental education programs to local government officials to assist environmentally sound decision making. Through the use of mass media, local officials and staff will both learn about environmental issues in their area and be encouraged to see themselves as environmental managers.

C. Time: It is anticipated that the project would be completed within the two-year time frame.

D. Cooperators:

V. BUDGET HISTORY

A. This is a new initiative.

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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LCMR Proposal 1995
Title: Environmental Education Through
Public TV and Radio
Project Manager: Susan Tsakakis
Affiliation: BWSR
Address: 155 S. Wabasha Suite 104,
St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: 612/296-3767

Susan Mary Tsakakis
3775 Kipling Ave. S.
St. Louis Park, MN 55416
(612)922-6753

EXPERIENCE:

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, St. Paul, MN. *May 1990-present.*

Director of Communications. Responsible for all communications efforts of board. Regularly evaluates communication needs of the board and develops publications and media plans to fill those needs. Serves as spokesperson for the board. Writes, edits and designs publications on desktop publishing system. Develops and executes special events. Chosen by peers and supervisor to receive 1991 and 1992 monetary achievement awards. Supervises staff of one.

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EDUCATION:

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G.P.A.: 3.6/Dean's list, all-A Dean's list.

Minnesota Daily, Minneapolis, MN. *Sept. 1983-Aug. 1984.*

Free-lance and staff reporter. Covered St. Paul campus and general assignment stories for college newspaper.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Experience working on a variety of word processing systems, personal computers and desktop publishing systems.

REFERENCES:

Available upon request.

Program Title: Well-Sealing Cost-share Grants
Project Manager: Eric Mohring
Address: Board of Water and Soil Resources
155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: (612) 297-7360
Total Biennial Budget: \$250,000

Unsealed abandoned wells are a potential source of ground water degradation. Estimates of the number of abandoned wells in Minnesota range from 800,000 to 1,600,000. Properly sealing abandoned wells eliminates these contamination risks and helps protect ground water. The project will seal high-priority abandoned wells using locally-administered programs. The grant program allows for flexibility at the local level while insuring that the limited state funds are used in a cost-effective manner to maximize the ground-water protection achieved. The program encourages and builds upon local efforts to inventory and set priorities for sealing abandoned wells.

Biennial Budget System Program Title (FY 92-93):	Well-Sealing Cost Share - LCMR
	APID# 19040;25-03
	\$750,000

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Program Title: Well-Sealing Cost-share Grants
Project Manager: Eric Mohring
Address: Board of Water and Soil Resources
155 S. Wabasha, Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107
Phone: (612) 297-7360

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

Applied research in hydrogeology and environmental sciences. Technology transfer and related technical work. Ground-water training and education.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Hydrogeologist, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, 1990-present.

Duties include: technical assistance to local government, assisting counties with ground water planning, administering a well sealing cost-share grant program, and conducting ground water training programs.

Hydrogeologist, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 1985-1990.

Duties included: hydrogeologic investigations and regional studies, developing and improving data systems, providing technical expertise to state agencies, local units of government, and the public, and developing ground water training programs.

Staff Geologist, Woodward-Clyde Consultants, 1983-84.

Geologic and engineering field work included borehole logging, monitoring well installation, geologic reconnaissance, ground water sampling, and site investigations. Responsible for interpretive analysis, technical writing and report preparation. Served as site manager for several Superfund remedial investigation projects.

Teaching Associate, University of Minnesota, 1981-83.

Taught lecture and laboratory segments of geology courses.

Research Assistant, Minnesota Geological Survey, 1979-82.

Planned and coordinated field research for a hydrogeologic study in the karst area of southeastern Minnesota. Developed and used fluorometric ground water tracing techniques. Designed and built stream gauging and precipitation gauging installations on an experimental karst watershed. Coordinated several river dye trace experiments.

Field Assistant, E.K. Lehmann and Associates, 1976.

EDUCATION

M.S., University of Minnesota, 1983.

Major in geology, minor in civil engineering, specialization in hydrogeology. Coursework emphasized ground water geology, hydrology, and water chemistry.

Thesis: *A study of subsurface water flow in a southeastern Minnesota karst drainage basin.*

B.A., Princeton University, 1979, Summa Cum Laude.

Major in geology, substantial coursework in chemistry. Independent research focused on natural water geochemistry and sedimentology.

Thesis: *An electron microprobe investigation of oolitic iron formations.*

Title: Lake Management Planning Grants

Project Manager: Doug Thomas / Dan Steward
 Affiliation: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
 Mailing Address: 155 South Wabasha, Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107
 Telephone Number: (612)297-5617

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$LCMR: 300,000
 \$Match: 100,000 (local associations & COLA's, SWCD's & counties)
 \$Total: 400,000

I. NARRATIVE: Provide grants to counties and soil and water conservation districts to assist local lake associations with the development of local lake/watershed non-point source pollution control implementation plans.

II. OUTCOMES: Development of approximately 40 local lake/watershed implementation plans through a partnership between lake associations, county water planners, SWCD's, and local citizen organizations. The focus of these plans will be the identification of specific land use related problems affecting the lake and the development of a local action plan to correct, remedy or minimize the identified threats.

III. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title: Program Development

1. Summary: A workgroup comprised of representatives from BWSR, MPCA, DNR, Minnesota Lake Association (MLA), county water planners, soil and water conservation districts, and watershed management organizations will develop guidelines for the lake management grants.
2. Budget: \$1500
3. Timeline:

	7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
Program Guidelines	*****				

B. Title: Program Implementation

1. Summary: Accept and award grants through the existing county water planning/SWCD framework.
2. Budget: \$398,500
3. Timeline:

	7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
Application Period	*****				
Award Grants	***				
Plan Development		*****			
Final Report				*****	

IV. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: Local water planning in Minnesota has created a framework by which lake associations and other interested citizen based organizations can get involved in water and soil resources protection and management. The current level of funding committed to water planning has allowed for the building of local capability within counties through the hiring of local water plan coordinators and establishment of water planning taskforces. This capability has led to a more informed lake public as well as a conduit into the local conservation program delivery in the county. The current funding however falls short of the level needed to accelerate implementation efforts around lakes and their watersheds. BWSR believes that local action which uses the expertise of local, state and federal government is one of the most efficient means to help protect our lakes. BWSR also believes that a pilot program for lake management grants funded by the LCMR can build on these existing efforts and create a model for future accelerated local lake protection efforts, and will capitalize on the volunteer and financial resources that exist within lake associations. Local action plans will assist in the refocusing of local, state, and federal protection programs and assistance within Minnesota's lake counties.

B. Strategy: Lake management plans will build upon and accelerate implementation of identified non-point source pollution measures, such as feedlots, shoreline erosion, and gully erosion, both around lakes and within their contributing watersheds. This will occur through local action groups operating from well planned and prioritized action plans. Lake protection plans will also accelerate the use of agricultural best management practices within lake contributing watersheds by participating with local SWCD's on identified high priority erosion and sedimentation areas. This proposal addressed LCMR Strategies F & H.

C. Time: The project is anticipated to be completed within the two year LCMR project timeframe.

D. Cooperation:

V. BUDGET HISTORY:

A. LCMR Budget History: LCMR funded a pilot project in 1987 to provide incentive grants to 57 counties to assist in the development of county based local water plans. \$1 million.

B. Non-LCMR Budget History: 1989 to present

Local Water Planning - County water planning is currently funded at \$2.353 million per year. This funding primarily supports the local water plan coordinators, water planning task-forces, and various monitoring and data collection efforts within each county.

Local Lake Associations - Local associations have contributed thousands of dollars worth of contributions both cash and volunteer labor toward local lake protection efforts.

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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PERSONAL RESUME

LAKE MANAGEMENT PLANNING GRANTS

Doug Thomas, Water Planning Coordinator
Board of Water and Soil Resources
Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha, Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107 (612) 297-5617

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Science, Agronomy, University of Minnesota, 1978
Bachelor of Science, Soil Science, University of Minnesota, 1978

Professional Experience:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1978 - 1979 | Soil Conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Slayton MN. Primary responsibility for survey, design, and installation of a broad range of soil and water conservation practices is a agricultural county in SW Minnesota. |
| 1979 - 1989 | District Manager, Washington County soil and Water Conservation District, Stillwater MN. Manager of an urbanizing SWCD on the east side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Had program planning and oversight responsibilities for the District's erosion and sediment control, metropolitan surface water planning, and education and information programs. |
| 1989 - Present | Water Planning Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, St. Paul, MN. Program coordinator for all aspects of county local water planning and watershed district operations. Currently represents BWSR on the EQB Lakes Management Taskforce and the Interagency lake Coordination Committee. |

Major Activities and Accomplishments Related to Proposal:

- BWSR representative to Freshwater Foundation/Blandin Lakes management Forum.
- BWSR representative on EQB Lakes Management Taskforce.
- BWSR representative on Interagency Lakes Coordination Committee.
- State oversight for the development of 80 comprehensive local water plans.
- Project manager for the BWSR/LMIC Local Water Planning Interface.

LCMR Proposal 1995

Project Title: Lake Superior Sedimentation Reduction

Project Manager: Wayne Zellmer

Affiliation: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Mailing Address: 155 S. Wabasha St., St. Paul, MN 55107

Telephone Number: 612-297-7361

Total Biennial Project Budget:	\$LCMR:	\$600,000
	\$Match:	\$150,000
	\$Total:	\$750,000

I. NARRATIVE: Reduce sediment loading and associated nonpoint source pollution of Lake Superior from the Knife River and Minnesota portions of the Nemadji River and Lake Superior shoreline, which are major sediment sources.

II. OUTCOMES: Improved water quality, fisheries and aesthetics of Lake Superior, a critical water resource.

III. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title: Erosion and Sedimentation Reduction

1. Summary: Provide technical and financial assistance for installation of erosion control practices at priority sediment producing sites identified in comprehensive local water plans, Soil and Water Conservation District long range plans and North Shore Management Board strategic plans.
2. Budget: \$750,000
3. Timeline: FY 96-97

IV. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: C.A. Johnson, EPA-Duluth (1990) has reported that 37% of the Lake Superior sediment load enters within the western arm of the lake. The Nemadji and Knife Rivers and portions of the Lake Superior shoreline experience high rates of erosion and are major sources of sediment. At times, large expanses of the western end of the lake are colored red by suspended red clay sediment. This project would accelerate local and state efforts to reduce this sediment

loading and the associated water quality degradation. Expanded use of innovative and low-cost shoreline stabilization and erosion control methods would be fostered. This project would utilize priority site information from existing local resource management plans, as well as the investigation and implementation experience of the Lake Superior Red Clay Project. Technical and financial assistance would be provided to local units of government and landowners through the BWSR and the state Cost-Share program. This project would also leverage federal funds by providing state/local match for EPA Section 319 and Great Lakes Commission grants for Lake Superior nonpoint source pollution reduction.

B. Strategy: This project would address LCMR priority strategies C. and F. by reducing nonpoint source pollution, protecting aquatic resources and enhancing the aesthetics of Lake Superior.

C. Time: 2-year proposal, FY 96-97

D. Cooperation: Cooperators would include Carlton, So. St. Louis, Lake and Cook Soil and Water Conservation Districts and the North Shore Management Board.

V. BUDGET HISTORY: For 1990-1994:

A. LCMR Budget History: None

B. Non-LCMR Budget History:

- Approximately \$140,000 State Cost-Share Program grants for erosion control practices.
- \$100,000 EPA Section 319, FY 92-94, for BWSR North Shore Engineer position to implement Lake Superior shoreline stabilization, including technical assistance to SWCDs and landowners, and practice cost-sharing (requires state/local match).
- \$65,000 & \$25,000 Great Lakes Commission, FY 93-94, for cost-sharing of Lake Superior shoreline stabilization measures (requires state/local match).

C. TOTAL: \$330,000

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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LCMR Proposal 1995

Title : Lake Superior Sedimentation Reduction
Project Manager : Wayne Zellmer
Affiliation : MN BWSR
Mailing Address : 155 South Wabasha Street, Suite 104, St. Paul MN
55107
Telephone Number: (612) 297-7361

RESUME

PROFESSIONAL INTEREST

To be a key player in the future welfare of our soil and water resources.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Grants Coordinator, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, 1993-present

Serve as overall coordinator of grant programs administered by the MN BWSR, developing grant recommendations, administrative procedures and training.

Resource Specialist II, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1989-1993.

Provided primary design and administration for the implementation of their Agricultural Erosion and Sediment Control Programs, prepared annual and long range plans.

Resource Specialist I, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1986-1989.

Provided engineering and technical planning services for erosion and sediment abatement practices, inventoried wetlands, developed erosion and sediment control plans.

District Technician, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 1979-1986.

Staked, surveyed, designed, and supervised the construction of soil and water conservation practices.

AFFILIATION

Certified Professional Erosion and Sediment Control Specialist
- Soil and Water Conservation Society

EDUCATION

B.S., University of Minnesota, 1979

Major in Soil Science with special concentration in chemistry and agronomy.

A.S., University of Minnesota, 1977

Major in Soil and Chemical Technology with concentration in agronomy.

LCMR Proposal 1995

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Project Manager : Wayne Zellmer

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EDUCATION

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Major in Soil Science with special concentration in chemistry and agronomy.

A.S., University of Minnesota, 1977

Major in Soil and Chemical Technology with concentration in agronomy.

Title: Watershed-Based Local Water Plan Implementation Initiatives

Project Manager: Doug Thomas
 Affiliation: MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
 Mailing Address: 155 South Wabasha, Suite 104, St. Paul, MN 55107
 Telephone: (612)297-5617

Total Biennial Project Budget: \$LCMR: 500,000
 \$Match: 125,000 County/SWCD/Landowners
 \$Total: 625,000

I. NARRATIVE: Accelerate implementation of watershed management plans developed through joint local water planning initiatives. This project would provide grants through the BWSR cost-share program for accelerated conservation practice installation on a watershed basis.

II. OUTCOMES: Conservation treatment applied to over 7,800 acres of land within the participant joint powers watershed areas. Land treatment measures will be targeted to the most critical areas within the watershed. The initiative will capitalize on the anxiousness of local participants desire to accelerate the implementation of their watershed management plans.

III. OBJECTIVES:

A. Title: Participant Watershed Selection

1. Summary: The BWSR will select up to two accelerated watershed management implementation proposals from a candidate group of cooperative watershed management organizations including the Snake River, Whitewater River, Cannon River, and Blue Earth River.

2. Budget: \$0

3. Timeline:

7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
------	------	------	------	------

Project *****
 Selection

B. Title: Project Coordination

1. Summary: The BWSR will coordinate with the DNR and other participating agencies to assure that critical habitats, stream corridors, and other important fish and wildlife habitats are considered in the targeting and implementation of treatment measures.

2. Budget: \$5,000

3. Timeline:

7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97
------	------	------	------	------

Interdisciplinary *****
 Coordination

C. Title: Implementation

1. Summary: Treatment measure cost-share funds will be disbursed to participating groups. Cost-share funds will be encumbered and disbursed according to existing BWSR cost-share program guidelines.

2. Budget: \$620,000

3. Timeline:

7/95	1/96	6/96	1/97	6/97

Implementation
 Evaluation & Report

IV. CONTEXT:

A. Significance: Through the local water planning process partnerships between counties have been formed to focus local resource protection programs and efforts on a watershed basis. This watershed approach is consistent with recent initiatives of the MPCA and the DNR to emphasis integrated resource management on a watershed basis. The local enthusiasm for these efforts are likely to wane due to the lack of available cost-share dollars to treat highly visible resource problems on private lands. The current level of funding in the BWSR cost-share program is inadequate to meet this need. BWSR believes that the success of these new cooperative resource partnerships can be accelerated through the targeting of LCMR funds to these groups. Funding at this time will allow for quick successes and the correction of highly visible and damaging problems within the targeted watersheds.

B. Strategy: The strategy behind this proposal is to accelerate the implementation of conservation and land treatment measures to abate non-point source pollution within the selected watershed areas, through increased cost-share availability. Acceleration of farming practices is also expected due to increased awareness of the land use/water quality connection by landowners within the watershed. Protection of critical habitats, sensitive areas, and restoration of wetlands within the project areas is also possible. This proposal addresses LCMR strategy's C, F, G, and H.

C. Time: The project is intended to be a pilot and is fully expected to have all funds encumbered and/or spent by the end of the two year LCMR cycle.

D. Cooperation: BWSR will involve the DNR and other interested agencies in the development and implementation of this project.

V. BUDGET HISTORY:

A. LCMR Budget History: None.

B. Non-LCMR Budget History: 1978 to Present

The BWSR Cost-Share Program receives a general fund appropriation of approximate \$1.4 million per year. This has not increased since 1978. The current program does allow for accelerated land treatment initiatives such as this proposal. The Cost-Share Program requires a 25% landowner match.

VI. FOR LCMR USE ONLY:

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PERSONAL RESUME

WATERSHED-BASED LOCAL WATER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION INITIATIVES

Doug Thomas, Water Planning Coordinator
Board of Water and Soil Resources
Southbridge Office Building
155 South Wabasha, Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107 (612) 297-5617

Educational Background:

Bachelor of Science, Agronomy, University of Minnesota, 1978
Bachelor of Science, Soil Science, University of Minnesota, 1978

Professional Experience:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1978 - 1979 | Soil Conservationist, USDA Soil Conservation Service, Slayton MN. Primary responsibility for survey, design, and installation of a broad range of soil and water conservation practices is a agricultural county in SW Minnesota. |
| 1979 - 1989 | District Manager, Washington County soil and Water Conservation District, Stillwater MN. Manager of an urbanizing SWCD on the east side of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Had program planning and oversight responsibilities for the District's erosion and sediment control, metropolitan surface water planning, and education and information programs. |
| 1989 - Present | Water Planning Coordinator, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, St. Paul, MN. Program coordinator for all aspects of county local water planning and watershed district operations. Currently represents BWSR on the EQB Lakes Management Taskforce and the Interagency Lake Coordination Committee. |

Major Activities and Accomplishments Related to Proposal:

- BWSR representative to Freshwater Foundation/Blandin Lakes management Forum.
- BWSR representative on EQB Lakes Management Taskforce.
- BWSR representative on Interagency Lakes Coordination Committee.
- State oversight for the development of 80 comprehensive local water plans.
- Project manager for the BWSR/LMIC Local Water Planning Interface.

Leg. file
1994 PRELIMINARY LE

Post-it™ Fax Note 7671		Date <u>2-1</u>	# of pages <u>10</u>
To <u>Jim H.</u>		From <u>Pat M.</u>	
Co./Dept.		Co.	
Phone #		Phone #	
Fax #		Fax #	

Title: Consolidation of Water Management F

Brief summary statement:

This proposal, if enacted, will:

- consolidate existing water management authorities;
 - reduce the number of special purpose governments;
 - reduce public expenditures; and
 - establish the County as the local unit of government responsible for water resource management and protection.
- Lorrie* *copies to: Ron H. Jim B. Bruce* *return to Jmt*

Problem statement:

The existing water management structure is fragmented and complex. There are approximately seventy (70) entities that have roles and responsibilities affecting water management in Hennepin County. Public confusion regarding who is responsible causes difficulties in the implementation and administration of existing programs. Currently, no single agency or local unit of government in Hennepin County has the necessary authorities, technical capabilities or financial resources to effectively manage water resources.

The existing structure reflects the public's desire for local control of water related issues but is expensive. The combined budgets for special governmental units with water management responsibilities in Hennepin County was approximately 5.8 million dollars. Approximately 3.6 million came from property tax. The five (5) watershed districts and eight (8) joint-powers watershed management organizations account for 4.8 million (total) and 3.1 million (property tax). Eliminating these special purpose units and transferring their responsibilities and authorities to the County would reduce public expenditures for water management programs.

What will happen if proposal isn't enacted?

The current system will remain fragmented. Voluntary efforts to coordinate programs and control costs will continue to be haphazard and frustrated by "turf protection." Ground water protection efforts would be delayed.

Affected laws: Chapters 103B, 103D and the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991

Can this problem be solved by means other than legislative action? Yes ☒ No

Net fiscal impact on Hennepin County: Amount _____ or estimated range:

☐ Under \$100,000 ☐ \$250,001 - \$500,000 ☒ \$1-5 million
☐ \$100,001 - \$250,000 ☐ \$500,001 - \$999,999 ☐ over \$5 million

Statewide fiscal impact: None

Other Hennepin agencies or departments that would be affected:

Environmental Management Division, Hennepin Conservation District, cities and watershed districts.

This proposal impacts:

☒ Only Hennepin County
☐ Other Metro Counties

☐ All counties
☐ Other (Explain) _____

Other entities or groups considering action on this issue:

None

Do you expect this proposal to be controversial? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Who might oppose or support this proposal?

Municipalities and watershed district managers will oppose the elimination of watershed districts and joint-powers watershed management organizations. Municipalities will object to expansion of County authorities.

Has this or a similar proposal been considered previously? If so, when and what was the outcome?

No

Back-up data attached? ☒ Yes ☐ No

Attach draft legislation if it has been prepared.

Proposer's Name VERN GENZLINGER

Phone # 348-4077

Department/Division _____

Department Director Signature _____

Date 1/11/94

*Item Attached Summary of**1994 HC Legislative Program from
Committee of Jan 20, 1994*

Page 14

4. Increase the targeting and/or create other state tax policies that can accomplish the goals of "this old house" and the limited market value provisions without shifting the property tax burden.

GOVERNMENTAL REFORM

WHEREAS, Hennepin County and the six other metropolitan counties have been working together to formulate a proposal which would restructure the Metropolitan Council. This proposal strengthens the governance of the metropolitan region by empowering its stakeholders--the Governor, the Legislature, and the local units of government,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners requests that the 1994 Minnesota Legislature enact legislation to accomplish the following:

- 1.* Create a Legislative Commission on Metropolitan Governance
- 2.* Restructure the Metropolitan Council and divide the appointment powers between the Governor and local governments.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners supports the consolidation of existing water management authorities and responsibilities thereby reducing the number of special purpose governments and public expenditures in the county, and establishment of a Hennepin County Water Resources District as a county-wide special purpose governmental unit responsible for water resource management and protection, and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners seeks legislative approval to set campaign spending limits for Hennepin County elections, with the constitutional provision that campaign limits can only be enacted with some public subsidy. Hennepin County respectfully requests whatever public subsidy that the Legislature deems fair and adequate.

SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF OTHERS

WHEREAS, there are many legislative issues that are of concern to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners and also to other groups, agencies, and organizations, and

WHEREAS, because they are important, the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners supports these issues but cannot dedicate a great deal of time and effort in lobbying them because of the limited amount of resources available,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners publicly supports the efforts of others in the following areas of concern:

For Commissioner Drueger
late 1993

SUMMARY OF WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT IN HENNEPIN COUNTY

There are approximately seventy (70) entities that have roles and responsibilities affecting water management in Hennepin County. These entities include: municipalities, watershed management organizations (WMOs), Hennepin Conservation District (HCD), Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD), Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), Minnesota Emergency Response Commission (MERC), the Metropolitan Council, and Hennepin County.

Most of these entities concentrate their efforts on surface water management or the management of potential contaminants. The ground water protection that is being accomplished in Hennepin County is through the efforts of HCD, several cities, BWSR and MDH. No entity provides coordination between agencies that are trying to protect ground water.

There is no concerted process of managing ground water within Hennepin County at the present time. The Ground Water Plan attempts to facilitate information sharing and communication between the responsible entities through the creation of a Hennepin County Ground Water Resources Board (GWRB). The creation of the GWRB will provide a cooperative framework from which all the entities can work together. Some examples of projects that will be the responsibility of the GWRB and which will foster mutual participation are: hazard ranking system, phasing schedules and inventory techniques for potential sources, model ordinances for sensitive geologic areas, well head protection areas, ground water recharge areas, data automation and geographic information systems. The GWRB has no regulatory authority. Apart from the County Board, it has no direct reporting relationship to state and local agencies. It is strictly a coordinating body of local elected officials and will have only those powers agreed to by its members and the Board of County Commissioners. It will be responsible for developing working relationships with other water management units in the state.

Following is a list of the key special governmental units in Hennepin County that have responsibilities for water management. Also listed is the budget and the amount of direct property tax either assessed by the units or given to it by the counties.

ORGANIZATION	ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY	1993 BUDGET	PROPERTY TAX SUPPORT
<u>Soil and Water Conservation District</u>	Assist individuals and local governments in protecting water and soil resources. Administer state conservation easement and cost-share programs.		

ORGANIZATION	ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY	1993 BUDGET	PROPERTY TAX SUPPORT
Hennepin SWCD (HCD)		\$621,066	\$388,621
<u>Watershed Districts</u>	Prepare and implement watershed management plans. Plan describes land use, the hydrologic system, and water quality; states objectives and management plans; and contains an implementation program.		
Lower Minnesota River WD		\$200,000	\$80,723
Minnehaha Creek W.D.		\$1,556,072	\$1,545,492
Nine Mile Creek W.D.		\$808,537	\$695,715
Rice Creek W.D.		\$940,000	\$5,538
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek W.D.		\$549,475	\$413,396
<u>Watershed Management Organizations</u>	Prepare and implement watershed management plans. Plan describes land use, the hydrologic system, and water quality; states objectives and management plans; and contains an implementation program.		
Bassett Creek WMO		\$271,400	\$160,000
Carver Creek WMO		0	0
Elm Creek WMO		\$55,000	\$39,000
Middle Mississippi River WMO		\$120,000	0
Pioneer-Sarah Creek WMO		\$9,500	\$8,053
Richfield-Bloomington WMO		0	0
Shingle Creek WMO		\$135,000	\$135,000
West Mississippi WMO		\$61,500	\$61,500

ORGANIZATION	ROLE/RESPONSIBILITY	1993 BUDGET	PROPERTY TAX SUPPORT
<u>Lake Conservation District</u>	Manage and regulate the use of Lake Minnetonka		
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District		\$420,642	\$60,000
TOTAL		\$5,848,192	\$3,593,038

Note: Other funding for the organizations listed above comes from the following sources: conservation fund, property taxes from other counties, license and permit fees, reserve funds, carryover funds, storm water fees, utilities and sewer fees, interest, fines, contributions from cities and individuals, and grants.

\\dcm\sales\mcr\mcr

Hennepin Conservation District

Account Name	Account Number	1993 Budget
Sal & Wages-Reg	50020	279,168
Sal & Wages-Other LWP	50023	
Life Ins	50520	245
Health Ins	50540	16,320
FICA	50600	21,356
PERA	50620	12,507
Oth Pers Svc-Gen	50800	6,800
GWR Brd	50802	0
50000 Series		336,396
Commodities-small purch	51010	0
Office Supplies-Gen	51020	4,100
Office Supplies-GRWB	51021	0
Film & Photo-Gen	51050	350
Gen Supp-Gen	51100	550
Gen Supp-First Aid	51105	0
Food & Bev-Gen	51200	100
Automotive	51800	0
51000 Series		5,100
Advertising	52030	150
Auditing	52060	1,400
Book Binding-Gen	52090	100
Consulting-Gen	52120	1,000
DP - Gen	52150	1,000
Microfiche Charges	52159	0
Maint/Rep-Equip-Gen	52290	18,000
Mileage Allow-Gen	52330	450
Mileage Allow-GRWB	52331	0
Postage-Gen	52360	2,200
Postage-GRWB	52361	0
Printing-Gen	52390	3,500
Photocopying	52393	250
Rental-Building	52480	22,400
Rent-Equip-Gen	52500	4,100
Rental-Equipment- CMRD	52501	6,720
Communication-Gen	52660	2,900
Other Services-Gen	52900	1,000
52000 Series		65,170
Furn & Equip-Gen	56250	3,500
56000 Series		3,500
Conferences	58150	1,500
Insurance	58350	7,500
Membership Dues	58500	1,800
Publication/Periodicals	58600	100
53000 Series		10,900
Conservation Fund		200,000
TOTAL		621,066

SUMMARY OF 1993 METROPOLITAN COUNCIL WATER QUALITY STRATEGY STUDY GROUP PAPER

Seven Council members acted as a study group to review material concerning water quality management. The paper is entitled, "Water Quality Management for the Next Century", was drafted in February 1993 and was presented to the Council on August 5, 1993. The overall goal recommended by the Council study group is as follows:

In order to preserve the environmental integrity and economic vitality of the Twin Cities metropolitan area, the Metropolitan Council will strive to see that by the year 2015 no adverse impact on water quality occurs as water passes through the Metropolitan area.

A set of ten strategies would be used by the Council to implement this goal. They are:

1. Assure that water leaves the region with at least the same quality as it enters, but preferably better.
2. Reduce the use of polluting materials in every aspect of daily life.
3. Pursue the cost-effective reduction of non-point source pollution with the same resolve that eliminated point sources as the primary source of pollution.
4. Develop with as little impact on the environment as possible, while maintaining all natural drainage features (wetlands, floodplains, drainage ways, etc.) so that their functions can continue to operate.
5. Define and live within the sustainable capability of the regional water supply (ground water and surface water) and cooperate with all affected parties to achieve this.
6. Correct past surface and ground water pollution problems.
7. Document the changes in water quality in our receiving waters, and research methods to mitigate the impact.
8. Promote equitable means financing water quality improvement and maintenance activities.
9. Participate in inter-governmental efforts to address water quality problems.
10. Establish a means to coordinate the water management process in the metropolitan area.

Specifically in the ground water area, the Metropolitan Council views its role as a coordinator, facilitator, and technical advisor on ground water issues.

Strategies that would be utilized by the Council in the metropolitan area are:

1. Build a ground water modeling system for the metropolitan region. Cost \$350,000.
2. Use its statutory powers to influence agencies that manage ground water.
3. Use its statutory powers to influence agencies that regulate current and future use of ground water.

In conclusion, the Metropolitan Council water quality strategies do not address the immediate needs of Hennepin County to manage its ground water. The report by the Council refers to Minnesota rules to prevent ground water pollution. Minnesota rules do comprehensively apply to ground water protection as does the Hennepin County plan for ground water protection.

Local Governments/Metropolitan Council

Entity	Role/Responsibilities	Statutory Authority	Governance Structure	Financing Sources	Management Technique/ Regulatory Authority
Cities	Regulate development and land use, promote and protect the public welfare, prepare and implement comprehensive land use plans and local water plans.	473.851 et seq.	Elected councils	Property tax levies, permit fees	Local ordinances requiring permits, licenses and/or plan approvals
Watershed Districts	Prepare and implement watershed management plans	103D, 103B	5-7 member boards appointed by the boards of county commissioners of the counties that have land in the district	Property tax levies, permit fees	Watershed district rules requiring permits for development and other land disturbing activities
Joint-Powers Watersheds	Prepare and implement watershed management plans	M.S. 471.59, 103B	Each member appoints a representative to the joint-powers board.	City property tax levies	Site plan review and approval
Hennepin Conservation District (HCD)	Assist individuals and local governments protect water and soil resources. Administer state conservation easement and cost-share programs.	103C, 103B	5 member elected board of supervisors	No taxing authority; Hennepin County appropriations, state grants	Technical and planning assistance to local governments and individuals, no regulatory authority
Lake Minnetonka Conservation District	Manage and regulate the use of Lake Minnetonka	1033.601	14 member appointed board. Each city on the lake appoints a representative to the board.	City property tax levies, license fees	Issues licenses for docks, special events and charter boats. Establishes speed limits and no wake zones.
Hennepin County	Regulates solid and hazardous wastes, maintains county ditches.	103E	7 member elected board	County property tax, fees, etc.	Issues licenses for hazardous waste generators etc. Issues permits for solid waste facilities.
Ground Water Resources Board (proposed)	Coordinate ground water management efforts in Hennepin County	None	13 member board appointed by the Board of Hennepin County Commissioners. 11 voting members representing cities. 2 non-voting members representing the HCD and Hennepin County respectively.	Hennepin County appropriations to the HCD.	Develop a hazard ranking system for potential sources of ground water pollution. Develop model ordinances for ground water protection.
Metropolitan Council	Requires cities to include water supply plans as part of their comprehensive plans. Requires cities to adopt best management practices related to stormwater management.	M.S. 473	17 member board appointed by the governor.	Property tax levy appropriations from the legislature	Review and approval of municipal comprehensive land use plans

State Agencies

Entity	Role/Responsibilities	Statutory Authority	Program	Management Technique/ Regulatory Authority
MN Department of Health	Protect people from environment	Safe Drinking Water Act M.S. ch. 144	Public water supply program insures safe water in public supply system	MDH→System Operator System construction and operation; water quality standards and testing; operator training
		M.S. ch. 103I	Well Program insures that wells, borings, other underground uses don't become conduits for contaminants	MDH→(delegated to Mpls, Blm, & several counties)→Contractor Construction and sealing standards; contractor licensing; inspections
		Safe Drinking Water Act M.S. ch. 103I	Wellhead Protection Program insures clean water in capture zones of public wells	MDH→System Operator Standards for delineation, source identification and management
MN Department of Agriculture	Regulate agricultural chemicals	M.S. ch. 18C M.R. 1510	Fertilizer regulation	Manufacturer and dealer licenses; manufacturing plan construction permits; inspection; contingency plans for large stock piles
		Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act M.S. ch. 18B; M.R. 1505	Pesticide regulation	Pesticide registration and labeling; inspection; applicator certification; waste disposal; best management practices
		M.S. ch. 18D & 18E	Incident response and cleanup	MDA→Responsible Party Report; order corrective action; apportion liability; reimburse costs

State Agencies

Entity	Role/Responsibilities	Statutory Authority	Program	Management Technique/ Regulatory Authority
MN Board of Water & Soil Resources	Coordinate local planning and assist local governments	M.S. ch. 103B M.R. 8405, 8410, 9300	Local water plans	BWSR→Local government Rule making; local plan review and approval; grants for plan preparation and implementation
		M.S. §103B.101, 103C.401 103C.501 103F.501-.535	Cooperative Programs	BWSR→SWCD→Cooperator Grants for erosion control and water quality projects and RIM easements
MN Pollution Control Agency	Protect the environment from people	Clean Water Act, §402, CFR 122-124 M.S. §115.07, 116.081 M.R. 7001, 7050	Permits for pollution discharge from point sources NPDES→to surface water SDS→to land	PCA→Operator Permits limit contaminants in discharge; floor on minimum flow regulated
		Clean Water Act, §402 M.S. §103F.701; M.R. 7076	Clean Water Partnership	Best Management Practices for non-point discharges; financial & technical assistance to local governments
		Resource Conservation and Recovery Act M.S. ch 115 M.R. 7035, 7045, 7046, 7047	Solid Waste Hazardous Waste	PCA→(delegate to county)→Operator Permit; construction and operating standards; investigate problems; floor on minimum quantity regulated
		Resource Conservation and Recovery Act M.S. ch 115; M.R. 7105, 7150	Tanks and Spills	PCA→Operator Construction and operating standards; contractor licensing; emergency response to spills

State Agencies

Entity	Role/Responsibilities	Statutory Authority	Program	Management Technique/ Regulatory Authority
MN Pollution Control Agency	Protect the environment from people	Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation and Liability Act (SUPERFUND) M.S. ch. 115; M.R. 7044	Site response	EPA→PCA→Responsible Party Identify and rank sites; guide remedial action; recover costs
		M.S. §116.07 M.R. 7080	Septic systems	PCA→Operator if big City→Operator if small Construction standards; inspection; contractor training
		Clean Water Act, §402 M.S. §116.07 M.R. 7001, 7020	Agricultural waste systems	PCA→(delegate to county)→Operator Permit; construction standards
MN Department of Natural Resources	Help people wisely use the environment	M.S. ch. 105	Water appropriation program permits, records, and allocates water among large users	DNR→System Operator Permit; self reporting of water use
		M.S. ch. 103H	Groundwater Sensitivity	Set criteria and prepare maps
			Hydrologic information gathering & analysis insures decision makers have accurate information	County geologic atlases; DNR/USGS cooperative program; ground water investigation; data collection

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1994

Please take the time to read through this update carefully as it addresses many important issues that should be of interest to you. In an attempt to strengthen communication between the BWSR and SWCDs, we will periodically compile an easement programs update and a calendar of upcoming activities. The program update will inform you about important program issues, as well as clarify processing procedures. The calendar will outline our anticipated schedule of program initiatives and events. Please feel free to let us know how this format works for you. Suggestions are welcome!

CURRENT PROCESSING WORKLOAD: The central office continues to receive several conservation agreement packages a day. Our last tally indicated that there are approximately 470 easements being processed by SWCDs and our central office staff. While our staff are doing their best to keep on top of this workload. Please be aware that Realty Specialist Steve Miller will be on annual leave March 14 through 25. We will do our best to keep easements moving in the central office while Steve is gone. In the interim if you need Steve's assistance you better seek it soon!

PROGRAM FUNDING: The Legislature will convene on February 22 and the Capital Bonding bill will be a major agenda item. This bill includes funding requests for RIM Reserve and PWP for the next biennium (FY 1995 and 1996), as well as the subsequent two bienniums. This year the executive branch (governor and staff) and the agencies have developed a joint budget proposal. BWSR's original request was reduced during these negotiations - however, we are still quite pleased with the proposed stable funding of \$10 million for RIM Reserve for each of the next three bienniums (\$5 million per year to allocate). PWP is somewhat disappointing with \$2.5 million recommended per biennium. While the Governor's support of these funding levels will be beneficial going into the legislative session, it still is a very important that members of the legislature are contacted by constituents in support of funding for the easement programs.

NEXT APPLICATION FUNDING SUBMITTAL PERIOD: The BWSR has decided not to consider applications for funding this spring. The decision to delay the next submittal date to the Fall 1994 was based on: 1) essentially all of the available funds have been obligated and new funds will not be available until approximately August 1; 2) we are committed to focusing our efforts on completing the Handbook and providing training prior to the next application submittal period AND 3) the current heavy easement processing workload both at the central office and at many SWCD offices.

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1994 CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES**

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- SWCD**
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AUGUST/SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER

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- review applications
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DECEMBER

- BWSR**
- notify SWCDs which applications have been funded

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CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROGRAMS UPDATE

FEBRUARY 1994

Please take the time to read through this update carefully as it addresses many important issues that should be of interest to you. In an attempt to strengthen communication between the BWSR and SWCDs, we will periodically compile an easement programs update and a calendar of upcoming activities. The program update will inform you about important program issues, as well as clarify processing procedures. The calendar will outline our anticipated schedule of program initiatives and events. Please feel free to let us know how this format works for you. Suggestions are welcome!

CURRENT PROCESSING WORKLOAD: The central office continues to receive several conservation agreement packages a day. Our last tally indicated that there are approximately 470 easements being processed by SWCDs and our central office staff. While our staff are doing their best to keep on top of this workload. Please be aware that Realty Specialist Steve Miller will be on annual leave March 14 through 25. We will do our best to keep easements moving in the central office while Steve is gone. In the interim if you need Steve's assistance you better seek it soon!

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1994

DFL

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSAL



- ◆ **Improve Service to Taxpayers**
- ◆ **Downsize State Government**
- ◆ **Increase Accountability**

Wednesday, February 9, 1994

MN House of Representatives/DFL Caucus
MN State Senate/DFL Caucus
MN State Auditor Mark Dayton



IMPROVE SERVICE TO TAXPAYERS

Minnesota taxpayers deserve a government that recognizes their needs and provides service in a convenient, efficient way.

One-Stop Shopping

Problem:

Inconvenient and antiquated methods of licensing individuals and businesses.

Solutions:

For Individuals

- ◆ **Create service kiosks at convenient locations where people can purchase fishing, hunting, and other licenses. Kiosks also will provide public information like state job listings and are accessed with a "smart card" or with the new style driver's license/state I.D. which has a coded magnetic strip.**
- ◆ **Use the new Minnesota State Lottery computer system to make fishing, hunting, and other licenses available at lottery sales outlets.**
- ◆ **Allow motorists to purchase vehicle tabs at emissions testing stations in the Twin Cities area, creating only one-stop to re-license vehicles.**
- ◆ **Develop a long-term plan to incorporate new technology into the delivery of service to taxpayers.**



For Business

- ◆ Consolidate all business licensing functions into a Master Business Service Center with regional outlets throughout the state.
- ◆ Reduce number of inspections and government requirements by coordinating multiple contacts with business.

Uniform Election Day

Problem:

Schools and local government elections experience low voter turn out and incur additional election costs.

Solution:

- ◆ Have all elections on the same day each year to save costs and increase voter participation.

SAVINGS: \$300,000 per biennium to school districts

2.

DOWNSIZE STATE GOVERNMENT

The public demands sound management practices and wants to re-examine how state government is organized.

Agency Reorganization and Consolidation

Problem:

Duplication and inefficiency of state agencies, services, and missions.

Solutions:

- ◆ Build on CORE recommendations by consolidating the executive branch into 8 cabinet level executive officers.
- ◆ Downsize "top level" management by eliminating half of the executive or managerial positions and up to 30 professional staff.
- ◆ Empower employees to help re-organize their agencies. The focus would shift to generating creative change from the bottom up rather than imposing solutions from the top down.

SAVINGS:

Estimated savings would be \$6.2 million per biennium with the added benefit of a clear organizational structure.

Boards, Commissions and Task Forces

Problem:

Multiple layers of government create unnecessary expense and duplication.

Solutions:

◆ Metropolitan government reform:

- Eliminate the Regional Transportation Board (RTB), Metropolitan Transit Commission (MTC), and Metropolitan Waste Control Commission Boards and Chairs.

SAVINGS: \$600,000 per biennium

- Structure Metro Council into 3 areas: Transportation, Environment, and Community Development.

◆ Eliminate Racing Commission Chair and staff. Downsize membership and transfer duties to another department.

◆ Expand on the 1993 legislation eliminating advisory bodies.

◆ Charge executive agencies and the House and Senate Government Operations Committees with recommending reductions in boards, commissions, and task forces.

Employee Incentive Program

Problem:

The state, as a service organization, chronically under-invests in employee training. Governor Carlson eliminated the prior state employee achievement award program.

Solutions:

- ◆ Create an employee incentive program to empower and train employees to improve productivity.

This program will differ from past employee incentive programs in two ways:

- ◆ There will be no cash awards. Awards will consist of a portion of agency savings that must be used for employee training in the award winning units.
- ◆ There will be no awards to individuals. Awards will be made on a team, division or other sub-departmental unit.

Civil Service Reform

Problem:

Civil service rules and regulations may inhibit employee creativity and efficiency.

Solutions:

- ◆ Expand civil service pilot program established in 1993 from 2 agencies to 8.
- ◆ Charge labor-management teams with recommending waivers of civil service rules to enhance service to the public.



3.

INCREASE ACCOUNTABILITY

Lack of clear accountability and too much red tape.

Rulemaking

Problem:

The current rulemaking system:

- Takes too long.
- Is too costly - \$3.4 million per year.
- Lacks political accountability.

Solutions:

- ◆ Simplify process on non-controversial rules to make it shorter and less expensive, while more closely scrutinizing controversial rules.
- ◆ Decrease bureaucracy by removing Attorney General and Office of Administrative Hearings from passing judgement on rules and by creating centralized public access to rulemaking.
- ◆ Encourage greater public scrutiny earlier in the process.
- ◆ Improve oversight and strengthen ability of the Legislature and Governor to control rulemaking.
SAVINGS: \$1 million per biennium
- ◆ Eliminate outdated rules and regulations.

Consulting Contracts

Problem:

State government contracts out \$1 billion in state services with inadequate oversight. The Governor vetoed a bill which proposed a solution to this billion dollar problem.

Solutions:

- ◆ Revive the vetoed 1993 bill reforming contracting practices with estimated savings of \$22 million per biennium.

The bill provides:

- Strict criteria for choosing consulting firms and deciding when an outside consultant is necessary.
- An across the board 10% reduction in the number of consulting contracts signed.

SAVINGS: \$22 million per biennium

- ◆ Simplify agency purchasing and contract approval process.

Performance-Based Budgeting

Problem:

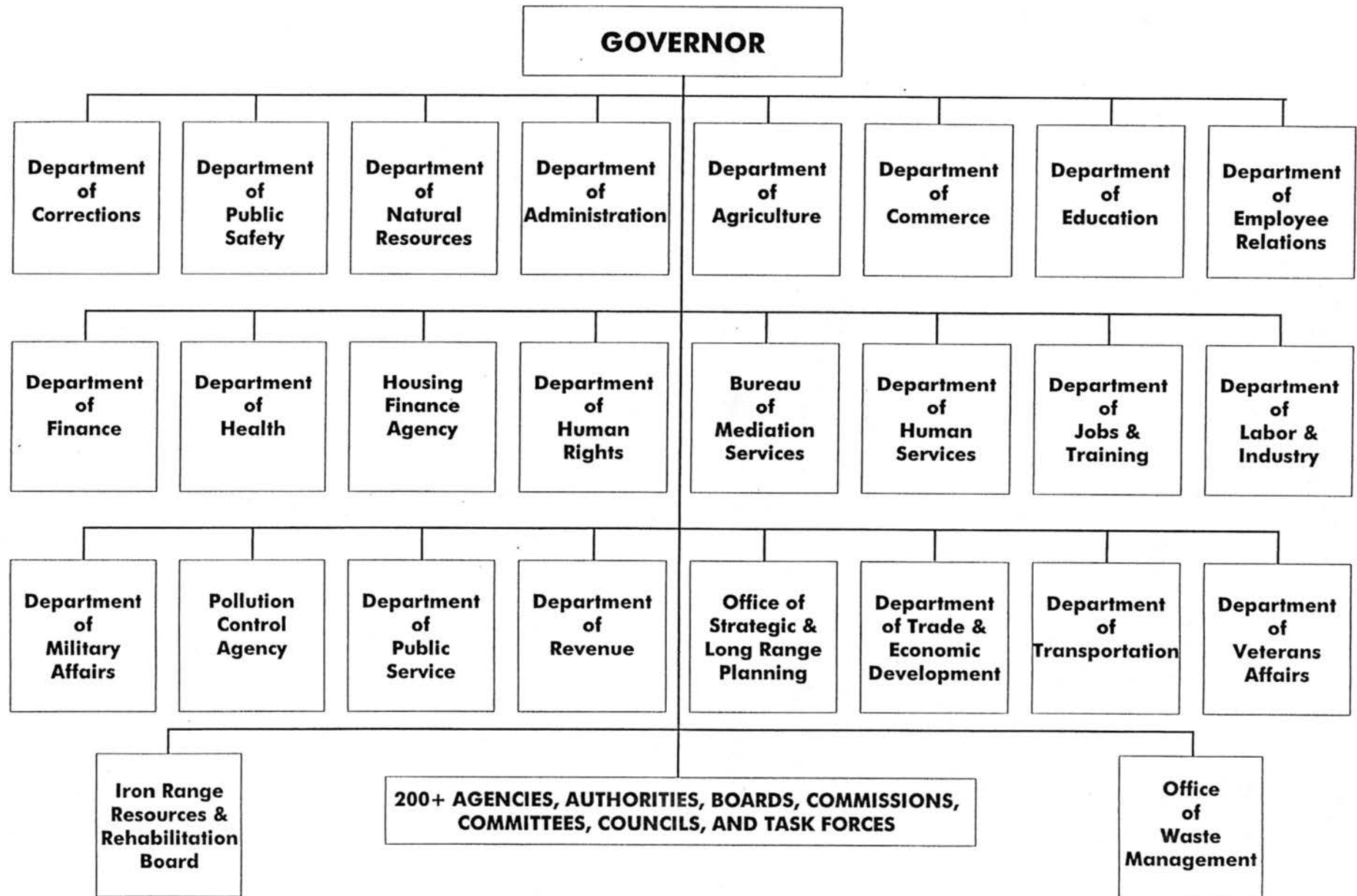
Past budgets lacked objective information to measure state agency performance.

Solutions:

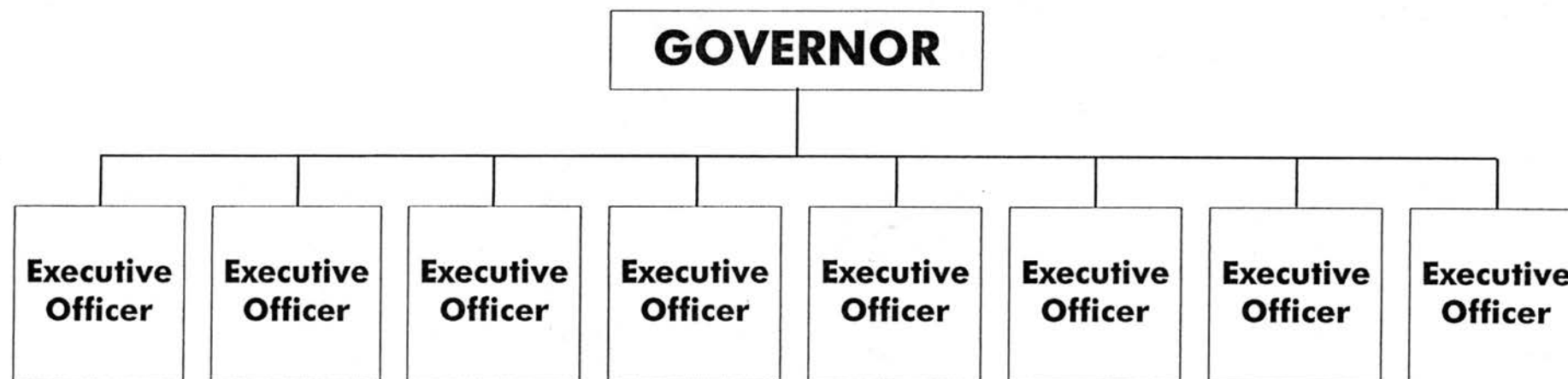
- ◆ Follow recommendations of the Legislative Auditor, enhance the mandate in 1993 DFL legislation for agencies to submit performance reports with clearly stated, attainable goals.
- ◆ Conduct an in-depth review of the state budget process to seek ways to encourage agencies to better focus on their missions and service delivery.
- ◆ Expand on state agency performance-based budgeting.



CURRENT MINNESOTA GOVERNMENT



PROPOSED MINNESOTA MODEL





STATE OF
WASHINGTON

REGISTRATIONS AND LICENSES

UNIFIED BUSINESS ID#: 000 000 000
BUSINESS ID#: 001
LOCATION: 0001
EXPIRES: 99-99-9999

ORGANIZATION TYPE
DOMESTIC PROFIT CORPORATION

JOHN Q. PUBLIC, INC.
PUBLIC'S CORNER STORE
ABC LANE
ANYWHERE WA 11111

TAX REGISTRATION
INDUSTRIAL INSURANCE
UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE
EGG DEALER
CIGARETTE RETAILER
RETAIL E-BEER-OFF PREMISES
RETAIL F-WINE-OFF PREMISES
LOTTERY RETAILER

REGISTERED TRADE NAMES:
PUBLIC'S CORNER STORE
PUBLIC'S CORNER MARKET

The above entity has been issued the business registrations or licenses listed
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING, BUSINESS & PROFESSIONS DIVISION,
P.O. BOX 9034 OLYMPIA, WA 98507-9034 (206) 753-4401

Kenny Rogers
Director, Department of Licensing

359

EXPIRATION DATE

UBI NUMBER

000 000 000 001 0001

JOHN Q. PUBLIC, INC.
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DETACH THIS SECTION FOR YOUR WALLET
The information printed here serves as notice that the
registrations or licenses listed have been issued for your
business.

Ron

Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee Progress Report

A river belongs to no one. And it belongs to every one. And no one has the right to contribute to the desecration of a river by irresponsible and abusive acts, at the expense of his neighbors and fellow American citizens, near or far removed from the stream itself.

Richard J. Dorer 1968

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FEB 10 1994
BOARD OF WATER
SOURCES

January 1994

For more information about this report, please call Lynne Kolze at (612) 297-3825 or toll-free at 1-800-657-3864, People with speech or hearing impairments, call (612) 282-5332 or 1-800-627-3529.

This material may be made available in other formats, such as Braille, large type or audio tape, upon request.



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from paper recycled by consumers

The Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee was established by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in May 1992 with the charge of collaborating on the development of recommendations for cleanup and protection of the Minnesota River.

Our membership was nominated by individuals and organizations across the river basin. We represent many different occupations, affiliations and geographical areas of the Minnesota River Valley.

We prepared this report to share information and to raise some questions about the Minnesota River with those who use and enjoy the river. We want to encourage discussion about how to improve water quality in the Minnesota River.

As we enter the second and most important year of our planning process, we would like to take the opportunity to hear from concerned citizens and organizations in the river basin. Your thoughts and concerns are important to us as we decide on what to recommend to the state agencies, the Governor and legislators in 1994. We welcome your input and any comments you may have about this report. Please take a few minutes to write to us and let us know how you feel about the Minnesota River.

Please send your responses to: Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee, c/o Lynne Kolze, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee

INTRODUCTION

Pollution in the Minnesota River and its tributaries has significantly diminished the value of these waters for recreation, fish and wildlife habitat and scenic beauty. The lower reaches of the Minnesota River, from Shakopee to its confluence with the Mississippi River, no longer provide water of sufficient quality to support recreational activities such as fishing and swimming. In many areas of the river basin, pollution has degraded water quality below what is needed to support healthy fish and invertebrate populations. In some tributaries of the river, water quality has been so degraded that very little aquatic life can survive.

The Minnesota River's average discharge increases the flow of the Mississippi by 47 percent and contributes disproportionately to its pollutant load.

No single tributary is controlling the water quality of the river.

The condition of the Minnesota River is a reflection of the ways in which we are managing the land within its drainage area or watershed. It is important to acknowledge that the Minnesota River basin has generated wealth and prosperity as a result of these land management activities. However, the negative impacts of that prosperity are often not acknowledged. Data recently collected through the Minnesota River Assessment Project (MRAP) makes a compelling case that the Minnesota River is in trouble and that its problems are largely caused by the cumulative impact of individual activities on the land. These activities include knowing violations of the law, as well as day-to-day actions that are assumed harmless. Members of society have held firmly to the belief that each individual has a right to engage in private actions on private land. While some activities have been restricted by a variety of laws and regulations, other activities have directly or indirectly caused degradation of the river.

Public policies have also played a role in the river's decline. Since the early part of this century, a variety of government policies related to development, agriculture, and flood control have actually contributed to both water quality and quantity problems by providing incentives to drain wetlands, to farm in marginal areas, to remove important buffer zones along tributaries, to build dams and levees along the river, etc. There have been a variety of mixed messages given to landowners regarding what are the appropriate practices and technologies to apply on their land.

The impacts of a degraded Minnesota River spill over into waters of another great river—the Mississippi. The Minnesota River is the largest single source of pollution to the Mississippi River. When the two rivers converge at Fort Snelling, water quality in the Mississippi is degraded significantly. As a state which serves as the headwaters for the Mississippi River, Minnesota has an obligation to deliver clean water to its downstream neighbors. The responsibility for maintaining clean water in these rivers and for our downstream neighbors rests with each individual and each community within their watershed boundaries.

There are very real public costs that we will bear if we allow the Minnesota River to remain in its present state. These costs include the loss of plants and animals, fish for eating, increased drinking water treatment costs, poor recreational

potential, increased public health risks, loss of topsoil for agricultural production, reduced visual appeal, dredging costs, and payments for flood damages. In addition, there is lost economic potential for communities when recreation and tourism industries cannot succeed due to poor water quality and limited aesthetic appeal of the river.

We are at a critical juncture in defining a future for the Minnesota River. We can no longer accept the river as it is now, with its limited uses, diminished economic potential, and the heavy costs associated with doing nothing to improve it. Instead, we must find ways to improve the river in a way that will improve economic stability for those who live in the river basin. As we develop ideas regarding what can be accomplished, we must ensure that responsibility for change is shared fairly among those who live in the river basin. For example, a better balance is needed between harshly regulating point sources of pollution, such as wastewater treatment plants and industrial facilities and doing little to nothing to address rural and urban runoff problems.

The purpose of this report is to share information and to raise some questions about the Minnesota River and the general quality of life in the river basin.

What is the Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee?

In May 1992, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency convened the Minnesota River Citizens' Advisory Committee. The committee was brought together to assist the Minnesota River Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in defining reasonable and effective ways in which to reach water quality goals that have been established for the lower Minnesota River.

The Citizens' Advisory Committee is comprised of a diverse group of 30 individuals. Members of this Committee were nominated by individuals and organizations across the river basin. They represent various occupations, affiliations and geographical areas of the river basin (see Appendix A for a list of committee members).

What has the committee accomplished?

To date, the Committee has accomplished several important things. First, the Citizens' Advisory Committee developed a mission statement and goals to serve as a framework for this process. The mission statement reads:

The Citizens' Advisory Committee shall develop a set of recommendations for improving water quality, biodiversity and the natural beauty of the Minnesota River.

It is estimated that every ton of soil that leaves a farm field due to erosion creates offsite damages that cost society \$5.

Goals include the following:

- encourage local units of government, other entities and individuals to play a major role in implementing solutions to Minnesota River problems
- encourage improved intergovernmental cooperation
- encourage equity between what will be expected of rural and metropolitan areas in solving problems
- significantly improve public involvement and awareness
- ensure viable farms, rural and urban communities in the river basin

How is the Minnesota River Assessment Project related to the work of this committee?

Data and information that have been gathered through the Minnesota River Assessment Project (MRAP) will continue to play a significant role in this planning process. The Minnesota River Assessment Project is a four-year, intensive study of the water quality in the Minnesota River basin. The study has involved numerous federal, state and local government agencies and will be completed in January 1994. What has been learned from this study will be important to the work of the Citizens' Advisory Committee over the coming year.

For the past year, this committee has heard testimony from a variety of environmental professionals who have been involved in studying the river. These presentations led to the identification of several issues that the committee was interested in learning about in greater detail. The key issues were first, the impact of land use on the quality and the quantity of water in the Minnesota River, and second, how drainage specifically might be affecting the river.

The committee has also heard from landowners, businesspeople, academic experts, agency representatives, and others interested parties who wished to share their views on water quality in the Minnesota River. Over the coming months, the Citizens' Advisory Committee will continue to gather information, solicit public input and consider specific recommendations for improving the river. By the summer of 1994, recommendations will be distributed widely to the broader public for review and comment.

PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF THE CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE ABOUT THE MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN

This report focuses on broader issues that Minnesotans must address in order to see a measurable improvement in water quality in the river. This report does not constitute a definitive set of issues or facts concerning land use, drainage or contamination in the Minnesota River basin.

The Minnesota River is an impressive state resource stretching 335 miles from the western border of Minnesota to its confluence with the Mississippi at Fort Snelling. The Minnesota River drains a 16,770 square-mile area, which includes all or part of 37 counties in Minnesota. Several counties in Iowa and South Dakota are also part of this expansive watershed. The Minnesota River flows through some of the richest agricultural land in Minnesota. Approximately 92% of the land area within the river basin is agricultural (1).

A serious deterioration in the river's water quality has resulted from both agricultural practices and urban development within the river basin. As prairie soils have been exposed to the ravages of wind and water, erosion occurred throughout the contributing watersheds. Wetlands that once purified water, were important homes for fish and wildlife, and which stored flood waters throughout the basin were drained and farmed. Large-scale use of agricultural chemicals (fertilizers and pesticides) contributed to the decline in water quality. Land which once captured and stored rain and snow melt was paved over in favor of cities, suburban development, and roads.

As a result of these activities, soil, pesticides, animal wastes, fertilizers, paints, litter, oil, grease and other chemicals have been transported to the river through storm sewers, tiles, ditches, and overland flow.

Inadequate sanitary sewer systems from towns and cities (often referred to as point sources) have also historically plagued this river. Most of these systems have been improved or replaced by effective treatment systems, however, some smaller communities and most rural households continue to discharge untreated or inadequately treated wastewater directly to surface waters throughout the basin (2).

The United States Environmental Protection Agency has given the MPCA until 1996 to reduce nonpoint source pollution (contaminated runoff from the land) in the lower Minnesota River by 40 percent. Scientific models have shown that if nonpoint sources of pollution can be reduced by this amount, the lower reaches of the Minnesota (between Shakopee and the mouth of the river) will sustain aquatic life, even during summer, low-flow conditions (3). The State of Minnesota is mandated by the Clean Water Act to ensure that water quality standards in the river are maintained.

Approximately one-half of the 67,500 household septic tanks in the Minnesota River basin are discharging wastes directly into tile lines, ditches and creeks.

Sources of bacteria to the river are home septic systems, feedlots and faulty wastewater treatment plants.

What are the principal factors affecting the quality of the Minnesota River?

Concentrations of phosphorus in the Minnesota River increase two- to five-fold during runoff.

During periods of stable flow (no runoff), turbidity is primarily caused by abundant algal growth with a lesser contribution from silt and clay.

On average, just under one million tons of sediment are carried past Mankato each year. This is the equivalent of one dumptruck load every five-and-one-half minutes.

In order to fully understand the effects of human activity on the Minnesota River, we must take a broader view of the entire system, recognizing the interactions between land, water, and people. All have some influence over the quality of the river environment and its surroundings. Because these three elements so strongly influence water quality in the Minnesota River, each will be discussed separately, recognizing that in reality, they are inseparable.

Water

Finding: The Minnesota River is being degraded by high levels of nutrients (such as nitrogen and phosphorus), bacteria and sediment. These pollutants cause the river to have low levels of dissolved oxygen, be unsafe for swimming, and have poor aesthetic qualities due to high turbidity. Sedimentation and habitat degradation are major forces in impacting biological communities in the Minnesota River. Recreational opportunities, fishing, and other domestic and industrial uses of the river are also significantly diminished as a result of degraded water quality.

a. Water quality

Nutrients

Nutrients are being delivered to the Minnesota River largely from agricultural areas. The Minnesota River environment is currently being degraded by nutrient enrichment — or excessive levels of nutrients, both nitrogen and phosphorus. The sources of these pollutants include commercial fertilizers and animal wastes. In most cases, nutrients are noted for the positive influences they have on improving crop yields and helping plants to grow. In water environments, however, high levels of nutrients create an imbalance in water chemistry, and in plant and animal life. When plants and algae die, the decomposition process removes oxygen from the water. Without proper levels of dissolved oxygen, the entire biological community in the river can be affected (4).

Suspended solids/sedimentation

The Minnesota River regularly carries heavy loads of sediment and organic matter. These suspended solids give the river its turbid or muddy appearance. As the water in the river rises, the amount of suspended material in the water also rises. As the river level drops off, the amount of material in suspension also falls. In the river, silts and clays represent a large proportion of the suspended material. Silts and clays are very fine particles which, once in suspension, do not settle out easily. Finer material has a greater impact because it is easily transported long distances in the river (5).

Reduced water clarity in the river significantly reduces the amount of sunlight that penetrates the water. Without proper light conditions, photosynthesis is reduced in rooted aquatic vegetation and microscopic algae. Aquatic plants and algae are critical to providing proper levels of oxygen, habitat and food for aquatic insects and fish.

High levels of suspended solids are also harmful to fish species by making sight-feeding difficult and by smothering important fish nest sites and their eggs. In addition, toxic substances and phosphorus attach to sediment particles and are then carried to the reservoirs and wetlands along the river. Finally, suspended solids greatly affect our ability to use the water for things like swimming, boating, drinking, industry, fishing, etc.

Bacteria

The Minnesota River often carries high levels of bacteria. High bacteria counts occurred under both low and high flow suggesting that some bacterial inputs are constant, such as inadequate municipal treatment plants, septic systems or directly discharging feedlots. (6). A constant source of bacteria enters the river and is evident at both low flow and during runoff. These bacteria levels are often found wherever human and/or animal wastes are present. Infectious diseases which are often associated with these bacteria may also be present. Recreational activities, such as swimming or canoeing, that involve body contact with the water are no longer possible if bacteria levels are too high.

b. Biological diversity

The combined effects of human settlement in rural and urban areas within the Minnesota River basin have resulted in significant changes in the physical environment. The health of plant and animal life in the river is an indicator of the quality of the physical environment in which they live.

Within the Minnesota River and its tributaries many impacts to life forms in the river are a result of habitat alterations (such as channelization, diking, and drainage activities) and sedimentation from agricultural lands.

Smaller, headwater streams in the Minnesota River basin appear to be more seriously affected by habitat alteration than the larger streams and main stem of the river. This becomes an important issue when one considers that these headwater areas are often the spawning and nursery areas for a number of fish species. Impacts to fish communities in the river and tributaries due to chemicals in the river are difficult to evaluate in light of habitat degradation and due to the limited water chemistry monitoring that is available (7).

The desirable condition for aquatic organisms is for rivers to have a combination of pools, riffles, rock and rubble river beds, and woody debris for habitat (8). The

Ninety percent of the sediment carried by the Minnesota River is silt size or smaller. Particles of this size are often carried long distances in the river before settling.

Smallmouth bass, once reported to be common in several tributaries and reaches of the river, have declined over the last 50 years.

large amounts of silts, clays and sand on the river bottom means that many of the rock and gravel habitats have been destroyed. This greatly reduces the amount of habitat for invertebrates, algal communities and fish. The tributaries of the Minnesota River generally have fewer problems with sediments settling on their river bottom than the main channel of the river. The bottoms of the river's reservoirs are covered with sand and heavier soil particles that settle out of water more easily. (9).

Land Use/Urbanization

Finding: Conversion of the natural landscape to agriculture and urban development has resulted in a serious degradation of water quality, biodiversity and the natural beauty of the Minnesota River Valley.

Tourists from the eastern United States toured the Minnesota River Valley during the mid-1800s by steamboat.

a. Drainage

The landscape of the Minnesota River valley has changed significantly since settlers first planned towns and cities along the river. The journals of the early European explorers described a river and valley which were beautiful and inspiring. The river upstream of Mankato was described in many areas as exceedingly clear, with white sand bottoms in many places (10). In upland areas, prairie and wetlands expanded as far as the eye could see.

As late as the mid-1800s, the landscape remained more or less unchanged. Surveyor's notes and maps generated during the 1850s showed that a significant portion of the river basin was dominated by wetlands and wet prairie. The landscape was peppered with small, isolated lakes and wetlands. Most of these small basins had no permanent surface water outlet. In other words, they did not drain directly to the Minnesota River and its tributaries. These lakes and wetlands had small drainage areas. Most of precipitation that fell within these small sub-watersheds was retained within the watershed and either evaporated to the atmosphere or percolated through the soils to recharge shallow groundwater aquifers (11).

An estimated two to three million acres of historic prairie wetland have been drained in the Minnesota River basin.

Since the turn of the century, however, the landscape has been drastically altered. Wetland drainage became a standard practice. A vast and efficient network of drainage tiles and ditches has changed the ways in which water moves through the river basin and the quality of that water. As a result of expanding drainage tile lines and ditches, large, previously isolated wetland basins were artificially connected to the Minnesota River.

Artificial drainage has created a vast network which can move water and pollutants great distances at a much faster rate than would have occurred under natural conditions. Rain water or snow melt moves quickly through this system, increasing the potential for bank erosion and flooding.

While the conversion of wet areas to agricultural fields has created rich, productive agricultural lands, there have been disadvantages as well. Along with water, some drainage systems can carry sediments, nutrients, pesticides, and animal and human wastes to surface water. The delivery of these pollutants causes degradation of water quality as well as changes in the plant and animal life in the river and extinction of some species (12).

Treating the quality of the water in the river and ignoring the physical habitat for fish and wildlife will not move us toward attaining our goals for the river. Channelization and upland erosion, for example, have a multitude of impacts on plants and animals, both at the site of the activity as well as downstream. Within the stream where habitat alteration occurs, the following impacts can be identified:

- increased suspended materials in the water,
- increased flow velocity (how fast water moves through the system),
- greater extremes of flow (both how much and how often),
- reduced amount of habitat area (such as pools, riffles and raceways) due to shortened channels,
- less stable stream banks and greater potential for erosion,
- decreased instream and streamside cover,
- shifts in aquatic invertebrate (small, spineless animals) and fish populations,
- shifts in the kinds of species present,
- changes in habitat and food availability, and
- changes in spawning and nursery areas for fish.

Downstream of areas where drainage or flood control projects have been completed, additional impacts can include flooding and low flow extremes, filling of backwater areas with sediment, changes in the amount of nutrients being delivered to the stream, and shifts in biological communities (13).

Important wetland ecosystems have also been lost due to drainage activities. It has been estimated that between 2-3 million acres of historic prairie wetlands have been eliminated in the Minnesota River basin due to drainage practices. Wetland destruction can result in a loss of flood storage capacity, nutrient entrapment and assimilation potential, reduced ground water recharge areas, and elimination of critical habitats for fish and wildlife (14).

Fish communities were found to be especially degraded in Blue Earth tributaries due to habitat degradation. This degradation is believed to be due to poor cover, siltation of the stream bottom and ditching activities.

A small stream that looks very clean in dry weather may carry a significant amount of pollution into the main stem of the Minnesota River during an intense rainfall of short duration.

Of 22 sampling sites throughout the basin, all but three of the sites violated the bacteria standard at least once and many violated the standard frequently.

b. Impacts of various land use activities

While drainage practices have significantly altered the way water moves through the river system, other land management practices have also drastically changed the landscape. Intensive cropping activities and development of feedlots have resulted in certain economic benefits; however, in many cases they have resulted in negative impacts to water and wildlife. The use of most land for row crop and monoculture agriculture has reduced the diversity of plant and animal habitats in the basin (15). The number, size, and management of some feedlots in the river basin have created problems related to the collection, storage and disposal of animal manure.

c. Development patterns

In the metropolitan area and in small cities in the Minnesota River basin, development patterns have created another set of problems. With the thousands of acres of pavement and other impermeable surfaces in our cities and towns, rain water and melted snow move swiftly to the Minnesota River and are deposited untreated through storm sewers. A host of pollutants are carried by storm water, including dust and dirt, atmospheric fallout, animal waste, sediment from construction sites, plant matter, and chemicals from a variety of sources.

Pollution concentrations in receiving streams may exceed recommended guidelines for good water quality. Fish and wildlife can also be seriously impacted. In addition, physical alterations take place in the receiving stream due to increased volumes of runoff. This can lead to channel scour, devegetation of stream banks, flooding, habitat destruction, and debris deposition (16).

d. Loss of corridors and pathways for wildlife

The way we have settled and cultivated the land has resulted in the loss of a significant amount of habitat in and around the river and its tributaries. Specifically, we have lost or degraded many of the green corridors that are pathways and thoroughfares for the movement of many species of plants and wildlife. In addition, there remain very few of the large tracts of undisturbed land necessary for the successful reproduction and rearing of many wildlife species (17).

Riparian corridors are especially critical to the health of the river system. Riparian zones are the transition zones between rivers and upland areas. Riparian zones form important corridors for the movement of living things within larger landscapes. In their natural state, they include a rich assortment of organisms and vegetation. For example, their trees and vegetation stabilize stream banks and shade the water, thereby regulating light and temperature conditions.

The importance of these areas is even greater than their total land mass would seem to suggest, since they serve such a wide variety of important functions (18). For example, riparian areas capture and retain surface water runoff that comes from upland areas, holding some of the nutrients and soil that might have otherwise reached rivers and streams.

People

Finding: Cultural factors involving the attitudes, behaviors and perceptions of rural and urban landowners in the Minnesota River basin add to the complexity of addressing environmental problems facing the river.

The Minnesota River is currently more affected by the cumulative impacts of many small abuses than by extreme or flagrant acts of environmental abuse. The river's deterioration has occurred slowly and almost imperceptibly over many decades. The public has, for the most part, come to accept its limited value. With this acceptance comes a belief that its polluted status is not a "big problem". As a result, there are very different degrees of perceived urgency regarding when a cleanup should begin and how it should proceed.

There is a perception among a portion of the agricultural community that the elimination of water pollution in the Minnesota River can only adversely affect the economic status of farmers. A companion perception is that there are no viable alternative methods of farming that will both eliminate pollution and be economically successful. These perceptions encourage an unwillingness to closely evaluate the costs and benefits of changing land use and agricultural practices.

In urban areas, many residents remain unaware or are not focused on water issues. For the majority of citizens, once water is "down the drain", it is no longer of concern to them. Even less awareness exists among homeowners regarding how they may be contributing to urban runoff problems in nearby rivers and streams. There is a common misconception that once water has traveled to a storm sewer, it is routed to a wastewater plant for treatment. This misconception leads to the dumping of many harmful wastes into our city storm sewers each year.

Ultimately, state and local politics will play a significant role in the health and quality of the Minnesota River. State and local politics can result in less-than-vigorous enforcement of state and local regulations related to land use practices and water quality. Areas where enforcement has traditionally been weak include feedlot management, drainage, construction runoff management, illegal dumping, home septic system maintenance, protection of wetlands, etc.

Minnesotans will have to develop a culture of cooperation and joint stewardship of natural resources, one that looks beyond individual benefit to significantly improve water quality in the Minnesota River.

The effects of pollution from municipal and industrial treatment facilities as well as pollution from septic tanks and feedlots with direct discharges are more pronounced during low flow conditions where there is less dilution.

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MINNESOTA RIVER CITIZENS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE PROCESS JANUARY 1994- JULY 1994

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|-------------------------|--|
| January 1994 | Committee develops a set of initial ideas/recommendations to take to the public as part of the Minnesota River open houses |
| February/
March 1994 | Committee participates in a series of four open houses held throughout the river basin |
| April 1994 | Committee discusses public input and comments received at open houses |
| May 1994 | Committee begins to select recommendations and to add definition to them

Committee begins to identify individuals or institutions who need to receive committee's recommendations |
| June 1994 | Recommendations are finalized by the committee |
| July 1994 | Committee distributes recommendations and delivers advice to appropriate parties |

River Reach

News from the Minnesota River Restoration Project

Winter 94 , No. 5

"Floating the rivers takes you through the land, not merely over its surface...this particular form of intimacy...can only be had on the rivers. It flows through your memory and leaves behind a ripple of emotion: reverence."

—Stephen Trimble

Minnesota River Assessment Project and Citizens Advisory Committee Reports to be released in January

The final reports from the Minnesota River Assessment Project (MRAP) and the Minnesota River Citizens Advisory Committee's Progress Report will be released in January 1994. The Minnesota River Assessment Project is a four-year study (1989-93) intended to evaluate water quality in the Minnesota River and its tributaries. A large number of cooperating organizations from all levels of government were involved in the study.

The MRAP report consists of a number of large separate reports and an executive summary, which provides an overview of the findings from all portions of the study. Copies of the executive summary will be available to all interested parties. For those interested in reading the complete report, copies will be placed in libraries around the river basin. Additional copies can be read at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's offices.

The Citizens Advisory Committee for the Minnesota River completed a Progress Report this fall and will release it when the MRAP Report is made available to the public in January. Information from the assessment project was used to develop the mid-term report. The Progress Report describes water quality problems in the river basin and the political, social and cultural hurdles we will face if we are to see an improvement throughout the river's watershed.

The Citizens Advisory Committee will spend the remaining months of its planning process developing a package of ideas for improving water quality in the river. A final report of the committee's recommendations will be available to the public during late summer 1994. These recommendations will be considered by agencies, the legislature, and local units of government as they begin to tackle the challenge of addressing land management, water quality and quantity issues within this river basin.

For more information about how you can obtain a copy of the Minnesota River Assessment Project Report and the Citizens Advisory Committee's Progress Report, call Pat Engelking or Lynne Kolze at 1-800-657-3864. TDD users can also call the same phone number.

MRAP findings indicate a river in trouble

The Minnesota River Assessment Project (MRAP) has provided additional evidence that the Minnesota River is one of the state's most highly polluted river systems. Most of this pollution is caused by nonpoint sources of pollution, or polluted runoff. Some common sources of pollution in the Minnesota River basin include runoff from roads, parking lots, agricultural fields, lawns, construction sites and feedlots and septic tank discharges.

MRAP found that the Minnesota River suffers from the cumulative effects of many small sources of pollution. Although some of the tributaries have higher concentrations of some pollutants, no single tributary is controlling water quality in the river. The major pollutants in the river are bacteria, sediments, nutrients, and toxics.

Bacteria

High fecal coliform bacteria counts are found throughout the river basin, making the water unsafe for swimming, wading and other body contact.

High bacteria counts are found during both low and high flow periods, indicating that some bacteria sources are constant, such as faulty septic systems, municipal treatment plants or feedlots discharging directly to the river. Feedlot runoff and improperly applied manure are other intermittent sources that also contribute to the river's problems.

Large numbers of individual home septic systems are directly linked to surface waters through tile lines and ditches, with an estimated 45-70 percent of all septic systems not in conformance with state standards.

Sediment

Large amounts of sediment are carried into the Minnesota River when it rains and when snow melts in the spring. These sediments are mostly fine particles of silt and clay. Fine sediments, which can be transported long distances, are the major cause for the river's brown, cloudy appearance. Fine sediments also reduce the amount of good habitat for aquatic creatures by smothering important spawning and feeding places. Nutrients, specifically phosphorus, often attach to soil particles and contribute to the degradation of water quality and low dissolved oxygen levels in the river.

Nutrients

Soils throughout most of the Minnesota River basin are naturally rich in nitrogen, phosphorus and other nutrients. Annual applications of commercial fertilizer and manure add soil nutrients. Nutrients enter streams dissolved in surface and ground waters and in association with fine sediments and other eroded particles. High phosphorus concentrations contribute to poor water quality by stimulating excessive algal growth. High nitrate levels in drinking water are of particular concern because nitrate is toxic to newborn infants.

Levels of nitrogen and phosphorus in the Minnesota River basin are high enough to produce excessive amounts of algal growth. When algae die and decompose, they rob the water of oxygen that is needed by aquatic life. Excessive algal growth causes wide swings in the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water, which may harm fish and other small aquatic creatures. Algae is especially abundant during the summer when water levels are low.

Toxics

MRAP included tests of surface waters and river bottom sediments. None of the surface water samples tested in the MRAP study were toxic to organisms at the bottom of the food chain. Water extracted from bottom sediments was toxic to some organisms, especially at Fort Snelling, Henderson and Lac Qui Parle sampling sites.

Fish consumption advisories in the Minnesota River for PCBs and mercury are a troubling concern. Higher levels of toxics occur in some locations but no specific sources or hot spots were found.

The diversity of biological communities throughout the Minnesota River and its tributaries is negatively affected by pollution. Siltation and excessive amounts of organic matter (manure, septic system runoff, antifreeze) are affecting the health and stability of fish and invertebrate communities.

Habitat quality is poor in most of the river and its tributaries. Habitat degradation is largely due to channelization and ditching activities. Sedimentation of habitats also has a serious negative impact on fish communities in the river system.

Mercury finds its way to the Minnesota River

by Mike Meyer, Metropolitan Waste Control Commission

Fish consumption advisories due to mercury contamination have been issued for the Minnesota River from Lac Qui Parle Reservoir to its confluence with the Mississippi. The advisories also extend to various tributaries of the Minnesota River, including the Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Redwood and Yellow Medicine Rivers. These watersheds are highly agricultural, with few industrial dischargers present that may be implicated as possible sources of mercury.

Inorganic mercury in the river water and sediment is converted to methylmercury by bacteria and other chemical processes. Methylmercury is biomagnified through the food chain or bioconcentrated directly by fish, resulting in tissue contamination.

Recent studies of the St. Louis River Estuary indicate that high concentrations of mercury in sediment are related to human activities. A historical chronology of mercury in estuary sediment indicates that concentrations have generally been increasing since 1895. Before 1895, mercury concentrations were less than 30 parts per billion. In more recent years, however, with man-made

1000 parts per billion. Other studies have indicated that:

- Soils accumulate mercury from atmospheric input, retaining up to 90 percent of the mercury currently deposited to our landscapes.
- Dry deposition of mercury may be a significant source of mercury to the landscape.
- In east-central Minnesota, mercury concentrations are greater in the upper four inches of soil than in the soil below. Mercury concentrations in upper soil layers may be three to 15 times greater than that mercury found naturally occurring in deeper soils.

The Metropolitan Waste Control Commission has been conducting preliminary studies of mercury and total suspended solids concentrations in water samples from the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers. Suspended solids in the river can include clay and soil particles, organic matter, algae, and other materials and are responsible for the river's murky, brown appearance. A very significant, direct relationship exists between total mercury and total suspended solids concentrations. In addition, it appears that as the amount of water moving through the river systems increases, so do mercury concentrations. This information suggests that nonpoint source (surface runoff) contributions to the Minnesota River may also transport very significant amounts of mercury from the landscape to the river. This, in turn, may create the need for fish consumption advisories.

Additional research will be needed to better understand the fate of mercury in the Minnesota River, especially with respect to the distribution, transport, and bioaccumulation mechanisms. It may then be possible to determine whether implementation of erosion control practices (such as conservation tillage) and other best management practices would result in a substantially decreased mercury input to the Minnesota River and tributaries. Ultimately, decreased loadings of mercury to the river could help to achieve a more "fishable" condition as is required by the Clean Water Act.

For more information contact Mike Meyer, Metropolitan Waste Control Commission at 612-772-7382.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture and farm producer organizations share information on Minnesota River activities

In an effort to keep agricultural producers within the Minnesota River abreast of information related to the Minnesota River, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has established the Minnesota River Agriculture Team. This committee's objectives include informing producers of the activities of state and federal agencies related to the Minnesota River and to provide avenues for them to be involved in related policy decisions.

The team hopes to develop and implement a communications strategy using the expertise and information networks of producers. Finally, the group hopes to identify opportunities for cooperation among producers and agencies.

For more information, contact Darla Ewert, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, at 612-282-5140.

Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge proposes expansion

by Terri Shopa, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Just a few miles from Minnesota's busiest airport and largest indoor shopping mall lies a unique wildlife sanctuary. This important nature preserve provides habitat and green space in an otherwise urban/suburban landscape. The Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge is one of only a handful of urban national wildlife refuges. It stretches 42 miles along the lower reaches of the river, from Jordan to Fort Snelling State Park.

The refuge was established as a result of the actions of concerned citizens who recognized the unique value and aesthetic beauty of the lower Minnesota Valley. As a result of their efforts, the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Recreation Area and State Trail was established by Congress in 1976 and currently covers 8,000 acres in several large, separate blocks. Although state, local and private entities share responsibility for the recreation area and state trail, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service serves as the lead federal agency charged with maintaining the refuge. The principal management goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is to protect the valley's habitats and wildlife from the stresses presented by the urban environment which surrounds the refuge and to preserve the diversity of wildlife and native plant communities.

The refuge currently consists mostly of land immediately adjacent to the river such as floodplain, shallow lakes and wetlands. There are also a few blufftop, upland or forested areas included in the refuge; however, they are often not contiguous with other important habitats in the refuge.

In addition to habitat issues, refuge managers must also deal with water quality problems affecting the Minnesota River, many of which stem from land use practices upstream. Point and nonpoint source pollution from residential, agricultural, industrial and urban areas have seriously degraded water quality throughout the river's watershed. The lower Minnesota River often violates state water quality standards and cannot support diverse aquatic life. However, water quality in refuge wetlands is generally very good.

To better protect the riverine environment in the lower Minnesota, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has proposed an addition of 6,445 acres to the refuge that would help connect all of the existing units and help provide improved protection of habitats and management of land uses along the river corridor. Studies have shown that fragmented blocks of land do not provide the kind of habitat preferred by wildlife. Large patches of land connected by green corridors offer better habitat quality. The additions would provide better connections between existing parcels while also providing a panoramic view of healthy native habitats such as prairie potholes, oak savanna, hillside forests, floodplain marshes, lakes and the Minnesota River.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has already spent approximately \$13 million to buy the existing lands within the refuge. Future additions to the refuge could run an additional \$8-10 million. It could take 20-30 years to acquire the lands for the refuge.

Much of the land proposed for acquisition is private property, requiring the purchase of fee title or perpetual easements. Publicly owned land could be federally managed through cooperative agreements. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service will not attempt to condemn any land in order to expand the refuge. For more information on the planned refuge expansion, contact Tom Larson at 612-854-5900.

Organic Buyers and Growers to hold Redefining Quality Conference

Redefining quality is the theme of the annual conference of Organic Growers and Buyers Association (OGBA). The conference will be held on February 19, 1994 and will feature Jennifer Greene, director of the Water Research Institute of Blue Hill, Maine.

Topics of the conference's workshops include: observation of water movement and its relationship to quality; the Organic Foods Production Act of 1990: how does it affect producers, handlers and what it will mean to consumers; crop rotation—an ancient practice with practical implications; and livestock—a vital element for the sustainability of the soil. If you are interested in this event, contact Hugo Skoppek at (612) 636-7922.

The Minnesota River Restoration Project is a multi-year effort devoted to improving and protecting water quality, biological diversity and recreation in the Minnesota River basin.

River Reach is published quarterly by the MPCA's Water Quality Division. This material may be made available in other formats such as Braille, large type or audio tape, upon request.

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Minnesota River Open Houses

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is sponsoring a series of four open houses in the Minnesota River basin in February and March. The open houses are designed to inform the public about the findings of the Minnesota River Assessment Project and to gather public input from people who live in the river basin. Members of the Minnesota River Citizens Advisory Committee will be there to hear your opinions about strategies to clean up the river.

The dates and general locations for the open houses are shown below. Watch your local newspapers for more information about the specific locations for the meetings.

Lamberton Agricultural Experiment Station

Friday, February 18 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 19 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Mankato Happy Chef

Friday, March 11 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 12 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Eden Prairie City Center

Friday, March 4 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 5 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Montevideo Best Western

Friday, March 25 6:30-9:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 26 9:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

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Association of Minnesota Counties

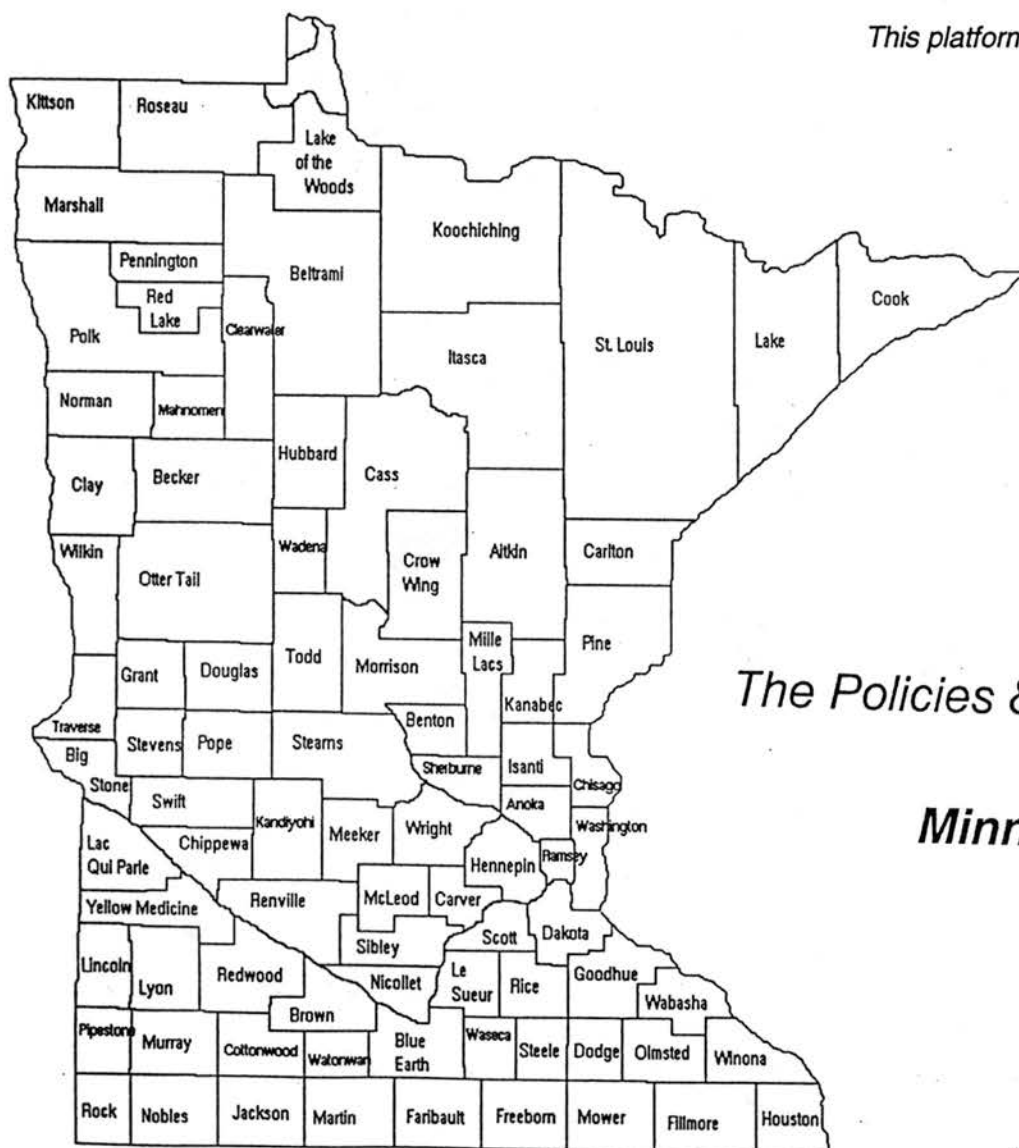
1993-1994

Platform

Copies to
MT & each officer
for Bids Feb.
packet

As approved by member counties December 7, 1993.

This platform has been edited for consistency.



*The Policies & positions of the
Association of
Minnesota Counties*

The Association of Minnesota Counties represents consensus of 86 of Minnesota's 87 counties. This consensus is demonstrated in both the basic principles and policies that have been established through the Association's platform.

Basic Principles

FLEXIBILITY

A flexible county government system must exist. That system must allow each county to organize itself administratively, encourage multi-county agreements, enable adequate revenue-raising to finance demanded services, and permit different programs and services in response to unique local needs.

REVENUE DIVERSITY

A broad-based revenue system will more likely result in a stable fiscal environment. As an administrative arm of the state, counties should share in that broad based revenue system.

RESPONSIBILITY

Local, state and federal governments should make a continuing fiscal commitment to program

initiatives and mandates that are consistent with their respective responsibilities and resources, and will ensure equity in taxing and spending decisions. The continued transfer and shift of fiscal responsibility to counties is not conducive to cooperative and effective governance.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Minnesota counties are an administrative extension of state government. Joint determination of policies, priorities, funding and evaluation must be made by federal, state and county governments through a strong intergovernmental system that encourages simple and clear administration, integrated services and consistency of purpose and direction. To ensure accountability, decisions should be made at the level of government closest to the delivery of government services. Just as counties must be held accountable by

their constituents, so too must the state and federal governments be held accountable by counties. True partnership between the state and counties encourages a dialogue based on shared concerns and needs.

AUTONOMY

Local authority, local decision-making and local autonomy in spending decisions are the most responsive procedures for delivering a wide range of public services and are most likely to meet the needs of the community.

EFFICIENCY

State planning and reporting requirements for counties should be efficient. Requirements should be minimal, flexible, integrated with county planning processes, and serve county management and staff needs.

Overall County Policies

O.C. 1 MANDATES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports requiring the state to provide funding for all programs and benefits it requires local governments to provide.

When state or federal funds are reduced or eliminated for a specific mandated program administered by counties, the state or federal government should also eliminate or proportionately reduce the legal requirements relating to the services that counties must continue to provide.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation that would establish a policy and procedure for the adoption of state-initiated mandates.

Discussion: The Association of Minnesota Counties recognizes that state mandates are an inherent part of the relationship between each governmental level. Mandates are not necessarily bad. However, the Association of Minnesota Counties has long held the position that the costs of all mandates must be addressed prior to their imposition. The necessity of existing mandates should be periodically reviewed and a method of determining accountability should be developed. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the enactment of strong

evaluation tools to assess fiscal responsibility and to ensure the fiscal integrity of meaningful programs and services.

While Minnesota law requires fiscal notes for all legislative proposals, the legislature and the state are often lax in their compliance and thoroughness with these requirements.

1993-1994 Action

- Support review of all Minnesota Rule mandates for elimination thereby giving counties discretion over programs funded by more than 40% of local dollars and support that all Minnesota Statutes be reviewed for possible elimination.

O.C. 2 RULES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the following changes by the legislature relative to rules:

- Severely restrict and limit emergency rulemaking authority;
- Mandate the inclusion of affected groups or persons during the drafting of rules;
- Require rules to be promulgated within defined time constraints;

- Require accurate fiscal notes on all rules, including the cost of the enacting legislation for each rule and review by the state's finance department;
- Require the legislative committee that initiated the law to do a complete review and hold a public hearing to determine if the rule meets the intent of the law; and
- Require each state agency to provide an executive summary of the rule in plain language, including an overview of the rule and a list of all major changes.

Discussion: The Association of Minnesota Counties recognizes that rules are a necessary and effective tool of state supervision. However, over the last decade the number of rules and their prescriptive nature have overwhelmed responsible county officials, and created administrative complexities and expensive remedial processes.

The Association of Minnesota Counties recommendations promote fewer rules with less autocracy by limiting emergency rulemaking, increasing policy oversight by state legislators, providing a degree of flexibility necessary to promote efficiency and encouraging more access for interested parties.

1993-1994 Action

- Support a complete review by the Legislature of Minnesota Rules that have been developed for possible elimination by legislative action; and support a policy that any new legislation passed and sent to the regulatory agencies for rule promulgation must come back to the committee of origin for review and vote and, subsequently, to the full legislature for a vote so that members go on record to ensure legislative intent was accomplished in the rule making process.

**O.C. 3
STATE BUDGET**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a responsible state budget process that recognizes the relationship between the state and local governments, and provides rational contingencies to deal with budget fluctuations.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the use of state revenue sources (sales and income tax revenue) to balance the state budget rather than shifting the financial burden to local units of government.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a state budget and tax policy that does not hinder counties' ability to raise revenue and provide needed county services.

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes state budget adjustments that require mid-year county expenditures that are not part of the county budget.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports, in the event of a revenue shortfall, a budget evaluation that examines both revenues and expenditures and leaves no expenditure exempt from scrutiny.

Discussion: The Association of Minnesota Counties recognizes that state biennial budgets are the legislatures' best efforts at establishing spending priorities through the use of revenue and expenditure data that is often unreliable; the state budget is highly sensitive to the economic environment in which it exists; and short term ups and downs in the national economy are not reflected in budget projections and forecasts. Counties face many, if not all, of these same problems. As economic indicators worsen, the need and demand for county services increase.

In adjusting for these changes, the state legislature must recognize that counties are dependent on the property tax as its primary revenue source. While reliable, predictable and dependable in the long term, it does not allow counties to replace lost state funds in the short term. The state cannot shift their budgeting problems to counties.

O.C. 4**OPERATING BALANCES**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports operating balances for counties that meet cash-flow needs, cover the impact of legislative decisions for a fiscal year and provide reasonable resources for unforeseen contingencies.

Discussion: Counties require operating balances and reserves for a number of reasons:

- Tax dollars only flow twice a year, May and November. A large operating balance on December 31 is simply indicative of the need to fund county operations from January to July. A 50 percent operating balance in the general fund is not excessive.
- Legislative actions that are effective in July can only be levied for in October and collected the following May. Thus, there is often an eleven-month gap between program implementation and the availability of local revenue.
- Reporting requirements of all funds should be standardized and uniform for all counties.

The Association of Minnesota Counties continues to support the need for adequate fiscal balances at all levels of government, including the state of Minnesota. It remains necessary and prudent for the state and counties to maintain operating balances and contingency reserves.

ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

**E.N.R. 1
COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continued county responsibility for solid waste management planning and implementation.

1993-94 Action

- Support thoughtful and cooperative voluntary efforts to develop regional programs, and oppose activities by state agencies to mandate solid waste districts or regional programs.
- Monitor activities by state agencies to control solid waste management through market based incentives.
- Monitor activities to address statewide regional solid waste management needs.

**E.N.R. 2
WASTE DESIGNATION
OR FLOW CONTROL**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports flow control or waste designation in order to ensure the protection of the environment and implementation of state policies.



Discussion: If counties do not have control over municipal solid waste (MSW), they should not be held accountable or liable for how the waste is managed. Counties in which a private landfill is owned and operated are not responsible for out-of-county waste accepted by private facilities.

If counties cannot control waste flow, they should not be held accountable for the actions of cities and private haulers.

1993-94 Action

- Support federal legislation authorizing flow control by state and county government.

- Encourage state legislative and administrative branch support of waste designation authority.

**E.N.R. 3
RECYCLING**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the sharing of responsibility for recycling between the public and private sectors.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports an annual disclosure by the state of Minnesota to local units of government of the total amount of SCORE funds available and the subsequent disbursement of those funds.

1993-94 Action

- Support continued SCORE pass-through grants for counties with an inflationary adjustment.

**E.N.R. 4
DEVELOPING MARKETS
FOR RECYCLABLES**

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state development of markets for collected recyclable materials.

Discussion: In order to complete the recycling loop, counties must be able to sell the materials collected for recycling. Counties understand that developing an infrastructure which utilizes recyclable materials takes time.

Counties should not be required to continue to collect materials which have limited markets or where no market exists. For some materials, counties are paying many times more to have the collected materials recycled than to have the materials landfilled or sent to a resource recovery facility.

In developing markets for recyclable materials, the state should encourage end products which make the best use of the material being recycled.

Counties must do their part to develop markets for recyclables by purchasing paper and products made from recycled materials. Counties should give a ten percent price preference for items with recycled content.

1993-94 Action

- Support state funding for market development activities including grant and loan programs for counties and the private sector.

E.N.R. 5

INTEGRATED WASTE MANAGEMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the development of integrated solid waste management programs.

Discussion: Waste reduction and recycling are integral parts of any county waste management program. However, they are only one part of managing solid waste and not the total solution. Counties must be able to utilize technologies which meet the specific needs and conditions of their region. In some cases, recycling and landfilling without further processing may be the option that is most protective of the environment and/or the most economically viable option.

1993-94 Action

- Encourage flexibility for counties to utilize all appropriate waste management technologies in developing and implementing their solid waste management programs.

E.N.R. 6

WASTE REDUCTION

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation which encourages less generation of garbage.

1993-1994 Action

- Support legislative efforts which encourage waste reduction and education, which encourage manufacturer responsibility for packaging reduction, including sensible cost-effective packaging legislation.

E.N.R. 7

PROBLEM MATERIALS AND TOXIC SUBSTANCES IN THE WASTE STREAM

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation which encourages the

reduction of toxic substances in the waste stream.

1993-94 Action

- Monitor and support landfill cleanup legislation which creates an alternative to Superfund including a hazardous products management fee and an insurance buy-out provision.
- Support increased state funding, including an inflationary adjustment, of county household hazardous waste programs.
- Support the current law which requires that, beginning in 1994, manufacturers take back the unused portion of agricultural pesticides.
- Monitor legislation requiring the collection and recycling of fluorescent light bulbs.
- Support federal administrative action or legislation to declassify fluorescent bulbs as hazardous waste.
- Monitor efforts to develop legislation to manage waste from automobiles.

E.N.R. 8

GARBAGE COLLECTION & DISPOSAL

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continued county efforts to address on-site disposal by generators, including education programs on the environmental impacts of on-site burning and burial of garbage.

1993-94 Action

- Support continued efforts by counties and state agencies to implement convenient collection and disposal options to manage garbage in rural communities.
- Support programs to educate waste generators about the environmental hazards of on-site burning and burial of garbage.
- Monitor legislation affecting on-site disposal.

E.N.R. 9

FUNDING SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports utilizing varied funding methods for solid waste management.

Discussion: Tipping fees can no longer continue to be a major funding source for solid waste management programs because high tipping fees may keep garbage from going to environmentally sound waste management facilities.

1993-94 Action

- Oppose legislation that would increase the tipping fee at facilities to pay for state agency programs.

E.N.R. 10

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR SOLID WASTE FACILITIES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation creating an MSW landfill cleanup program which will pay some post-closure costs and contingency action

costs at closed landfills, as well as closure, post-closure and cleanup costs at orphaned or abandoned landfills.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the concept of a credit toward financial assurance payments for those counties that have implemented household hazardous waste programs.

1993-94 Action

- Support a landfill cleanup bill which is an alternative to the Superfund process.

E.N.R. 11

FOREST MANAGEMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports programs that support county forest management on county forest lands.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports opportunities for county government to determine the general protection and management of forest lands.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state funding programs for county forest lands. These lands contain one-third of the commercial forest land managed by public agencies for the people of this state.

E.N.R. 12

NATURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the continued role of counties in resource management through planning and zoning activities.

1993-94 Action

- Support county board options for protection and management of natural resources. County land departments, highway departments, planning and zoning departments, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts can best address local natural resource management issues.

E.N.R. 13

COUNTY RESPONSIBILITY FOR WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports efforts by counties to implement water plans and supports a state funding program to aid counties with plan implementation.

1993-94 Action

- Support state funding programs to aid counties with water plan implementation.

E.N.R. 14

ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCIES STRUCTURE

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports decentralized services by state environmental agencies.

Discussion: In implementing state programs, counties are best served by area offices that have decision making authority.

1993-94 Action

- Monitor legislation to consolidate state environmental agencies.
- Encourage legislation which supports the delivery of decentralized services by state environmental agencies.

- Support keeping the Office of Waste Management (OWM) as a independent, free-standing agency, and oppose any efforts to abolish and merge the OWM into the Pollution Control Agency or any other regulatory agency. Small units of government with clearly defined missions

and good lines of cooperative communication are the most suited to increased efficiency and public accountability.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

PRINCIPLES

G.G. 1 TAX AND REVENUE PRINCIPLES

Simplification: Minnesota citizens have a right to know how property taxes are calculated and administered. While the number of classification rates has been reduced, the Association of Minnesota Counties believes that the number of actual classes must also be reduced, and that the administration and calculation of aids and credits must be simplified.

Accountability: Minnesota citizens must be able to hold all elected officials responsible for taxing and spending decisions at each level of government. Accountability can best be achieved by allowing as much local autonomy and flexibility as possible in taxing and spending decisions and by requiring the state and federal governments to pay for the programs they mandate.

Equity: The Association of Minnesota Counties believes that equity must be an integral component of any property tax system. Equity must be both vertical (one class of property to another) and horizontal (from one parcel of property to another in the same class). Equities can most easily be achieved by equalizing the financial burdens of essential services and by the state accepting responsibility for financing mandated programs.

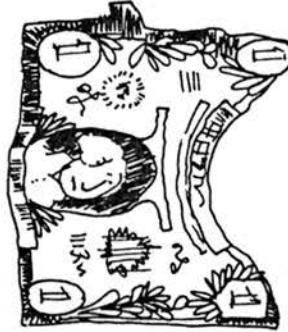
TAX AND REVENUE POLICIES

G.G. 2 HOMESTEAD AND AGRICULTURAL CREDIT AID (HACA)

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes any attempts by the state legislature to reduce HACA payments to counties unless the reduction is equivalent to a state takeover of county costs (income maintenance costs, trial courts and public defense costs).

G.G. 3 FEDERAL AND STATE PAYMENT IN-LIEU OF TAXES (PILT)

The Association of Minnesota counties supports payment-in-lieu of taxes (PILT) to



counties from the State of Minnesota and the Federal government. State agencies which own real estate should be required to make payment-in-lieu of taxes in an amount equal to the revenue that would have been generated through property taxes if the land would have stayed in private ownership. Those payments should be indexed to the annual rate of inflation.

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes a reduction in land value if a state agency transforms the land in such a way that would reduce the classification rate from what it was when the state took ownership of the land. All state agencies should be required to pay any special assessments on PILT land that were in effect when the state agency took ownership of the land regardless of any changes brought upon the land by the state agency.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the sale of PILT lands to the public if the state fails to make PILT payments at the 1991 level.

G.G. 4 COUNTY-WIDE TAX LEVY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a county-wide property tax levy which prohibits any taxing jurisdiction within the county from exempting their jurisdiction from any part of the county property tax levy.

G.G. 5 50-50 LANDS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a county board option to rescind resolutions conveying management rights of county tax forfeited lands to the commissioner of the Department of Natural Resources under Minnesota Statutes 89.034 to 89.036.

G.G. 6 CRIMINAL JUSTICE AID

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the continuation of the criminal justice aid that was established in the 1992 tax bill.

G.G. 7 TAX INCREMENT FINANCING (TIF)

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a tax abatement program that would replace the current tax increment financing program. This tax abatement program would allow cities, counties and, to a limited extent, school districts the option to participate, and would be called the Community Tax Abatement Program (C-TAP).

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the 1990 legislative changes to tax increment financing.

G.G. 8 PROPOSED AND FINAL TAX NOTICES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports proposed and final tax notice hearings that encourage citizen understanding and participation in the budget process. The Association supports an amendment that would remove from the property tax statement that portion which reads: "The State of Minnesota does not receive any property tax revenue."

G.G. 9 STATE SALES TAX

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports an exemption from the Minnesota state sales tax for all costs associated with the construction of all county government facilities.

G.G. 10 COUNTY FEES AND SURCHARGES

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes the transfer of fees and/or surcharges which are collected by the county, for county-wide services, to the state general fund or special program fund.

G.G. 11 ENHANCED 9-1-1 FUNDING AND RECORDS ACCESS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the option of a telephone user surcharge to assist in funding enhanced 9-1-1 services for every Minnesota citizen.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation which would classify 9-1-1 service recordings as confidential information not accessible to the public.

TAX AND REVENUE TECHNICAL CHANGES

G.G. 12 PROPERTY TAX STATEMENTS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a property tax statement that more accurately reflects the Homestead Agricultural Credit Aid (HACA) that counties receive from the state.

G.G. 13 TAX FORFEITURE

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the repeal of provisions of certain 1992 laws (Chapter 511, Article 2, Sections 28 and 29 and amended Minnesota Statutes Section 282.01, Subd. 7) to include the following provision: the owner at the time of forfeiture may not re-acquire tax-forfeited lands at such sale for a price which is less than the sum of all delinquent taxes and assessments computed, as provided in Section 282.251, together with the penalties, interest and costs which did or would have accrued if the property had not been forfeited to the state.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a change to state statute and/or rule that would require an equitable distribution among jurisdictions for the costs associated with clean-up and caretaking of tax forfeiture property until the time of sale.

G.G. 14 STATE SALES TAX

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a refund of the Minnesota state sales tax to any county constructing a correctional facility, retroactive to May 1, 1992.

G.G. 15 PROPERTY VALUES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the repeal of the "this old house" and the limited market value legislation enacted in 1993 and opposes any future

legislation which redefines, alters, limits, defers or freezes property values.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT STRUCTURE/FUNCTION

G.G. 16 DISTRICT TRIAL COURT FUNDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continued state funding of the district trial court costs which includes state funding of the county court administrators' budgets. In addition, all people employed in the county court administrators' office should become state employees.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports making the 8th Judicial District pilot project a permanent state funded and administered system.

Discussion: Since 1989, the state legislature has gradually transferred the costs of district trial court from the county general fund to the state general fund. It is important that the legislature continue moving toward total state funding of all trial court costs. Care must be taken, however, that the final results of state funding are positive for both county property taxpayers and county government.

G.G. 17 PUBLIC DEFENSE FUNDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports total state funding of all costs associated with providing defense services to indigent defendants accused of criminal acts. Total costs must include costs associated with expert witness fees and investigations.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state funding for civil commitments and other civil acts which require public defense services for indigent defendants.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports making the 8th Judicial District pilot project a permanent state funded and administered system.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continued funding for those public defense services currently funded and administered by the State Board of Public Defense, and supports a state initiative to transfer to state funding the costs associated with misdemeanor and juvenile public defense in the five judicial districts currently funded by the counties.

Discussion: Currently, the State Board of Public Defense is responsible for financing the costs of defending indigents accused of felony and gross misdemeanors across the state. The State Board of Public Defense is also responsible for financing the costs of defending indigents accused of misdemeanors as well as defense services for juveniles in five of the ten judicial districts.

G.G. 18 ANNUAL COUNTY AUDITS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a county option to enter into a

contract with a private sector certified public accountant for the purposes of the annual county audit.

G.G. 19 ATTORNEY GENERAL CHARGEBACKS

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes counties paying legal fees for services provided to counties by the attorney general's office.

G.G. 20 OPTIONAL FORMS OF GOVERNMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports amending the Optional Forms of Government Act (M.S. 375A) to substitute reverse referendum wherever referendum requirements currently exist excluding the county attorney and county sheriff.

G.G. 21 COUNTY PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports allowing county boards the option of publishing the delinquent real estate tax list, the county financial statements and the county budget summaries.

G.G. 22 COUNTY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation that would give counties the authority to form non-profit corporations as well as the ability to use county general revenue funds for economic development purposes.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports multi-county organizations, created through joint powers agreements between counties and/or regional development commissions, designed to enhance the cultural, social, economic and infrastructure programs in the participating counties.

G.G. 23 UNIFORM ELECTION DAY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the continuation of holding county elections in even years on general election day. The Association has no position on when elections for school districts, cities or townships should be held.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation requiring towns, cities, school districts and special districts to reimburse counties for costs incurred in administering elections for those governmental entities.

G.G. 24 REGIONAL LIBRARY AUTHORITY AND FUNDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the repeal of M.S. 134.34 as it relates to the minimum maintenance of effort

for regional public library funding. Library services should be treated equally with other county services. It is not prudent budget or fiscal management to have portions of a county's tax levy committed without budgetary justification.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports allowing counties to use a service charge to help defray the costs associated with library services.

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes giving independent taxing authority to regional library boards or regional library districts.

COUNTY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL/PENSIONS

G.G. 25 COMPARABLE WORTH

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the concept of pay equity for all county employees. The following principles should be followed when addressing the issue of pay equity:

- Minnesota counties must be allowed to maintain flexibility when implementing pay equity. Each county has a unique set of circumstances that guides pay equity implementation. Therefore, counties must be allowed to implement pay equity with flexibility and individual discretion.
- Arbitrators must be required to consider county pay equity plans when making arbitration awards. If arbitrators are not required to follow the plans, it is virtually impossible for counties to maintain equitable compensation relationships among all classes of employees.
- The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes any effort to apply pay equity requirements to those contracting with the public sector. Minnesota counties continually explore more efficient and effective means of administering county services, not the least of which is to contract with private agencies. It is reasonable to assume that private agencies would no longer consider contracting with local units of government if the contractor was required to have and implement a pay equity plan. Counties should not be forced to be without the contracting option.

G.G. 26 PREVAILING WAGE RATES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports revising the Minnesota prevailing wage law to ensure that prevailing wage rate schedules more accurately reflect the actual wage rates paid in each community.

G.G. 27 LICENSURE OF COUNTY EMPLOYEES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports training and education for all

professional and technical county employees and officers to more adequately carry out county employment responsibilities.

The Association of Minnesota Counties does not support licensure that is not part of an existing state or federal educational or training standard for service or program delivery. Licensure may result in the creation of a new, separate class of employees within labor relations contracts. Licensure may also create a new statewide class of employees, thereby establishing an employment bargaining process that diminishes local salary-setting and bargaining. This could result in the loss of internal integrity. Finally, licensure often creates the grandfathering of positions which may limit access to a position which is inconsistent with a democratic process.

G.G. 28 PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION (PERA)

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the following principles for the benefits, financing and administration of the Public Employees Retirement Association (PERA):

- PERA is a long-term retirement system, not an investment system. Public employees and employers should be encouraged to consider PERA as an investment in an individual's future retirement.
- The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes a defined contribution plan for all county employees.
- If any increase in benefits is enacted for pre-1973 retirees, the resulting costs should not be paid from the PERA fund. Instead, resulting costs should be financed by a direct appropriation from the state general fund.
- The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes any attempts by the legislative or executive branches to transfer, directly or indirectly, funds from PERA to less-funded plans or to the state general fund. Furthermore, counties oppose any attempts to combine administration of the three statewide pension programs. Combining administration may ultimately lead to combining funds.

G.G. 29 STATEWIDE PUBLIC EMPLOYEES INSURANCE PLAN (PEIP)

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the availability of affordable health insurance for county employees through carriers selected by county boards.

Discussion: Currently, the Public Employees Insurance Plan (PEIP) gives the exclusive representative of a bargaining unit the sole authority to choose participation in the statewide plan. Although participation in PEIP may be the most cost-effective alternative for a county, the decision to participate should be a management decision and not a union decision. Therefore,

county boards should be allowed to continue their present practice of carrier selection.

G.G. 30 VETERANS PREFERENCE ACT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports legislation that would incorporate specific time lines to be followed by both parties in proceeding with a veterans preference dismissal hearing, so that the hearing process would be completed within a reasonable time.

G.G. 31 PUBLIC EMPLOYER LABOR RELATIONS ACT (PELRA)

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports orderly and constructive labor-management relationships that contribute to the well-being of county management and county employees based on a balance of the rights and interests of both parties. The relationship should insure that counties retain absolute ability to conduct their operations in an effective and efficient manner and insure reasonable protection of the rights of employees. This relationship should not violate Minnesota's right to health, education, safety and welfare.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the following labor-management principles:

- In determining appropriate units for bargaining, the determination should be for the most appropriate unit with equal importance given to the desires of the parties.
- Strikes by essential employees should be prohibited only when a party to the bargaining impasse has satisfied the court with clear and convincing evidence that such strikes would endanger the health and safety of a county's citizens.
- In cases where arbitration is the means by which a bargaining impasse is resolved, the arbitrator should be required to select only the final total package position of one party.
- Compulsory binding arbitration of disciplinary actions should be required only when such discipline has caused the employee a loss of compensation to which the employee is otherwise entitled.
- All county employees should be covered by the same collective bargaining statute. Those county employees currently covered by the Charitable Hospitals Act should be transferred to coverage under MPELRA.
- Arbitration should not be extended to new groups of employees currently not defined as essential.

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

PRINCIPLES

H.S. 1

HUMAN SERVICES PRINCIPLES

Roles: An intergovernmental relationship involving the federal, state and county governments in funding, administering, delivering and supervising human services is the appropriate policy to ensure the best interests of the local community and those in need. Counties should be responsible for the administration of locally determined and delivered human services.

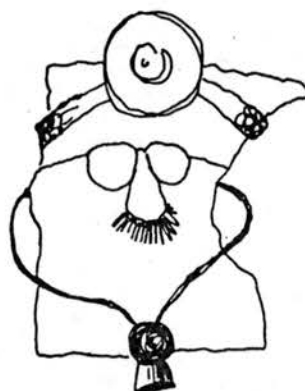
Responsibilities: Counties must have the flexibility to meet local human service needs. Participation of all community stakeholders, including clients and taxpayers, in identifying human service needs must be guaranteed. Federal and state incentives which foster innovation and creativity are necessary for improved management of the human services system. The state and federal government must provide adequate technical and administrative support to counties.

Regulation: Rules and regulations, including planning and reporting requirements, should be routinely reviewed and coordinated to eliminate unnecessary administrative tasks.

Revenue: Human service programs and their administration should be funded by using a mix of intergovernmental revenues to ensure access to programs and to avoid undue financial burdens on communities with limited ability to pay or with unusually high need for services.

State revenue allocations to counties should use the state subsidy approach and integrate funding. Integration of funds through mechanisms such as the Community Corrections subsidy, the Community Social Services subsidy or the Community Health subsidy is preferable to categorical funding because it gives counties the discretion and flexibility to manage programs needed by the community. The uses of intergovernmental revenues should be flexible so that local needs can be met. County maintenance of effort requirements should be eliminated from statute because they limit county flexibility in funding local services.

Results: State and/or federal requirements must be evaluated in light of limited fiscal resources available to federal, state and local authorities and the results to be achieved. County programs should be evaluated in light of outcomes achieved and community needs met. Government policies should aim at minimizing waste in order to maximize the use of scarce fiscal resources.



1993-1994 ISSUE STATEMENTS

The following positions are proposed for consideration by the 1993 Association of Minnesota Counties Human Services Policy Committee. All statements are drawn from the basic principles (see H.S. 1.)

SOCIAL SERVICES

H.S. 2

COMMUNITY SOCIAL SERVICES ACT (CSSA)

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the Community Social Services Act (CSSA) as the primary approach to the planning and delivery of social services. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports amendments to CSSA which will strengthen its focus on county administered and delivered social services.

1993-1994 Actions

- Seek the elimination of all county maintenance of effort requirements currently in state law and the enactment of county matching requirements.
- Seek consolidation of separate social service grant programs into the CSSA block grant process.
- Request a legislative study of the proliferation of human service funding sources, applications, reports and plans with the intent to recommend a more streamlined system that will provide more client contact and less administrative paperwork.
- Oppose legislation which permits the state to establish management entities, other than counties, for the administration of social service programs, including, but not limited

to, services for the developmentally disabled, the mentally ill and elderly.

H.S. 3

FAMILIES AND CHILDREN

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports policies aimed at strengthening families and providing safe and healthy environments in which children can grow into productive adults.

1993-1994 Action

- **Part H**
Endorse federal and state funding of Part H services with no additional property tax dollars.
- **Child Protection**
Support development of home-based services for all vulnerable children and at-risk families; and support state efforts to foster innovation and appropriate services as determined by the county.
- **Child Support**
Seek state reimbursement to counties of 50 percent of the non-federal share of all Aid for Dependent Children (AFDC) recoveries and 100 percent of the costs of the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) process in counties required by the Department of Human Services to use the ALJ process instead of the courts.
- Support state payment of 100% of the unreimbursed court costs paid by counties in child support cases.
- **Children's Programs and Services**
Support the enactment of children's programs and services which emphasize the coordinated local delivery of services and programs which are in the best interest of the child and provide the least restrictive environment for the child. Support continuation of family services collaboratives and state funding for county-school collaborative efforts.
- **Shelter Services**
Support state programs and policies which provide for statewide transitional services, including transitional housing, for battered women and their families which integrate them back into the community by moving them from the shelter system toward self-sufficiency.

H.S. 4

MENTAL ILLNESS AND CHEMICAL DEPENDENCY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports county agencies as the lead agencies in actions relating to mental illness and chemical dependency treatment and commitment. Counties should be required to provide services only as state funding for these programs is made available.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports expanded services to mentally ill persons in accordance with the CSSA statute and delivery system. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the identification and removal of fiscal disincentives to community care.

1993-1994 Action

- Support coordination of state and federal funding sources and simplification of the administrative process involved in planning and delivering mental health services.
- Seek changes in M.S. 254B.04, Subdivision 1, Paragraph D, to add persons under stayed commitments or commitments to the priority group for funding (Tier II) under the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Fund.

H.S. 5 COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES & THE ROLE OF REGIONAL TREATMENT CENTERS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports development of treatment options for clients which provide the least restrictive settings appropriate to that client. However, such programs must be developed within a continuum of care options which include state responsibility for clients who cannot be appropriately cared for in the community.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports sufficient state funding to provide a system of community-based services, including treatment centers and new clients needing services.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the transition to a community-based system that ensures the best interests of clients while making sure there is sufficient funding to serve them.

H.S. 6 GAMBLING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports public and private efforts to manage the impact of gambling on compulsive gamblers and their families.

1993-1994 Action

- Support dedication of a share of the state revenue received from all gambling operations to the treatment of compulsive gamblers and services to their families.

H.S. 7 DRUGS AND ALCOHOL CONTROL

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a statewide drug control policy that includes controlled substances, including alcohol, and addresses enforcement, treatment, prevention and education.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports increased state and federal financial support for county-delivered programs to respond to the drug epidemic. Such programs should include public education about the dangers and consequences of drug use, and programs aimed at incarceration and enforcement.

Counties should take the local lead in coordinating anti-drug efforts (along with

local school boards and other appropriate community agencies), and in ensuring that a broad network of activities and programs are being delivered at local levels and that public funds are being used effectively.

1993-1994 Action

- Support dedication of a share of the state revenue received from the liquor tax to the treatment of alcoholics and for the care of their family members.
- Support the addition of a tax on all alcoholic beverages, equal to one cent per drink, to be designated for the Consolidated Chemical Dependency Treatment Fund in order to serve more persons.

H.S. 8 SERVICES TO THE ELDERLY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports:

- Designating county boards as lead agencies for planning, coordinating and delivering services to the elderly;
- County boards' right of first refusal to act as the area agency for the aging, although counties should have a substantive role in planning undertaken by area agencies;
- Programs aimed at keeping the elderly in their homes;
- State funding for Pre-Admission Screening (PAS) and Alternative Care (AC) programs, including improvements aimed at providing greater administrative simplicity and expanding services covered; and,
- Innovative state and local programming aimed at improving county-administered services to the elderly.

1993-1994 Action

- Seek statewide implementation of programs and services which have been successfully tested by the Seniors Agenda for Independent Living (SAIL) project counties.
- Seek adequate funding in the various waiver programs to allow for a standardized rate for specific services no matter what waiver is used in order to reduce administrative problems for vendors, counties and the state.

INCOME MAINTENANCE PROGRAM

H.S. 9 COUNTY ADMINISTRATION

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports policies for public assistance and health care programs which provide greater administrative flexibility for counties to manage services and programs.

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes capping or eliminating the state's financial commitment to entitlement programs as a means to balance the state budget.

1993-1994 Action

- Support state payment of 100% of the non-federal share of the costs for the fraud program and support state-wide implementation of the Fraud Prevention Investigation Program at no cost to the counties.
- Support state reimbursement of counties for at least 50 percent of the non-federal share of the costs of county-administration of all income maintenance and health care programs, including Medical Assistance (MA).
- Support the statewide implementation of a state-funded fraud prevention investigation program in the State of Minnesota which focuses on identifying potential violators at the time of application for welfare services rather than after fraud has been committed. Such a program could be administered either by the state or individual counties.
- Support staged expansion of Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) statewide for welfare payments.
- Seek state policies which set the recoupment for General Assistance and Work Readiness programs' fraud be set at 10 percent and which establish the same disqualification periods as AFDC and the Food Stamp programs.
- Seek state indemnification for liability costs incurred by counties in providing work experience programs to AFDC-UP recipients.

H.S. 10 WELFARE PROGRAM

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the development and implementation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP).

1993-1994 Action

- Support a complete review of social service and income maintenance programs to more fully address individual responsibility through eliminating barriers to work and encouraging universal productivity and to include time limited services for adults which should encourage self-reliance.
- Support elimination of the time limitation for Work Readiness eligibility if the client is making progress in an approved plan.
- Support state funding for implementation of MFIP and oppose further delays in its implementation.

H.S. 11 WORK READINESS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a state-financed work readiness program and urges the Governor and state legislature to restructure the work readiness program so it adequately and effectively addresses the educational, employment and training needs of clients with significant barriers to employment, and assists them in

finding employment which will remove them from the public assistance program.

1993-1994 Action

- Seek state indemnification for liability costs incurred by counties in providing work experience programs to WR recipients.

CORRECTIONS

H.S. 12

STATE SENTENCING AND CORRECTIONAL POLICIES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports efforts to reduce violent crime including, but not limited to:

- Stronger sentences for violent repeat offenders;
- Improved statewide access to and funding for prevention, education and treatment programs, especially drug/alcohol programs, which can have a significant impact on violent crime and correction/jail crowding; and,
- Increased state financial support for community supervision of offenders and victim services.

However, the Association of Minnesota Counties opposes state sentencing and correctional policies which — directly or indirectly — shift the costs for incarceration, supervision and treatment of offenders to local services and facilities without adequate state revenue to assist counties with increased costs associated with tougher penalties.

1993-1994 Action

- Seek changes in state policy which address the effectiveness and high costs of juvenile offenders treatment, and seek state funding for juvenile sex offender treatment.
- Limit judicial discretion to place juveniles in treatment programs outside the county's jurisdiction without the county's approval that the placement meets the needs of the child.
- Support General Assistance Medical Care and Medical Assistance eligibility for incarcerated adults and juveniles.

H.S. 13

PROBATION AND CORRECTIONAL PROGRAMS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continuation of the county probation subsidy of at least 50 percent.

H.S. 14

COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continuation and expansion of community corrections (M.S. 401) throughout Minnesota at a county's request. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports public actions and policies aimed at strengthening the Community Corrections Act.

1993-1994 Action

- Oppose service mandates, such as requiring adult pretrial diversion programs, in M.S. 401 because mandating services violates the community based determination of services inherent MCCA.

H.S. 15

JAIL AND PROBATION CROWDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state programs and policies which aim to relieve local jail and probation crowding.

1993-1994 Action

- Support state policy which requires state sentences to be served in state facilities unless an agreement has been reached with a local authority to house such prisoners.
- Support limitations on judicial discretion to sentence offenders to local sanctions without consideration of local resource capacity.
- Support amendments to the intensive community supervision and intensive supervised release laws which require the state to fund such services through county boards.

HEALTH

H.S. 16

COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the delivery and management of public health services through the community health system. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state policies and procedures which strengthen Community Health Services (CHS), including those which support CHS agencies as the lead agencies in public health issues.

1993-1994 Action

- Seek an increase in the CHS subsidy for counties (at minimum, the subsidy should provide an inflationary increase) and support consolidation of public health funding into CHS.
- Support funding, including inflationary adjustments, for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) and Maternal Child Health Care.

- Support efforts to improve the immunization rate of children in Minnesota.
- Support proposals to contain communicable diseases, including HIV/AIDS; support coordination of local efforts through CHS working with other local governments; and support state funding to educate the public about communicable diseases and to conduct control efforts.
- Support consolidation of family anti-violence programs with identification of one local lead agency.
- Support a study by the Legislative Auditor of the effects of prior authorization of health care services funded by Medical Assistance (MA) on the local service delivery system. (Letter received from Cass-Todd-Wadena-Morrison Community Health Services Department, March 1992.)

- AMC supports the continuation of local licensing authority for Environmental Health Food, Beverage and Lodging Establishments and opposes any alteration of local licensing authority which abolishes local control of licensing, setting local license fee structure, and local collection of the fees for program operation.

H.S. 17

HEALTH CARE ACCESS AND REFORM

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports health system reform initiatives which continue to optimize utilization of the state/county government public health and human services infrastructure with adequate funding for effective implementation of local assessment, policy development and assurance functions to ensure public accountability.

The Association of Minnesota Counties also supports continuing availability and reimbursement of essential community providers as needed to ensure access to quality health services for special needs populations.

Health system reform initiatives should provide consumer flexibility and choice for selection, enrollment and transfer between Integrated Service Networks (ISNs); consumer protection through a publicly accountable advocacy system; and assurance of consumer input and influence regarding Integrated Service Network operations.

TRANSPORTATION & AGRICULTURE

T.A. 1

OVERALL TRANSPORTATION FUNDING POLICY

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a transportation funding program based on users' fees including, but not limited to, 1) motor vehicle registration fees; 2) motor vehicle excise taxes; 3) gasoline taxes; and, 4) wheelage taxes.

T.A. 2

1994 TRANSPORTATION FUNDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports passage of a transportation funding package by the legislature in 1994 that will: (1) result in sufficient highway funding to meet new federal matching requirements under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) and provide for needed road improvements on all road systems; and (2) meet currently identified transit needs in both the Twin Cities metropolitan area and Greater Minnesota.

The Association of Minnesota Counties is opposed to the extension of sales tax on gas.

T.A. 3

FEDERAL FUNDING TO COUNTIES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the allocation of federal funds under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991 (ISTEA) to counties in an amount and manner that recognizes the important role that counties play in providing transportation services, reflects the past experience of counties in the receipt and use of federal funds, and will offer all counties access and opportunity to use federal funds for county transportation system improvements.

T.A. 4

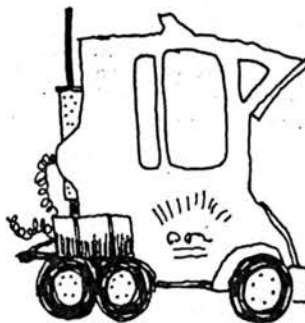
COUNTY PAYMENT OF VEHICLE FEES AND TAXES

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes the payment of motor vehicle license fees and motor vehicle excise taxes by local units of government.

T.A. 5

BRIDGE REPLACEMENT FUNDING

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports re-authorization of the local bridge replacement program at an annual level of \$30 million. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports significant dedication of bridge replacement funding for bridges that are located on minor collectors and local roads and providing a local match for federal bridge replacement funds through continuation of the local bridge replacement program.



T.A. 6

THE HIGHWAY USERS TAX DISTRIBUTION FUND

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports continued use of the constitutional formula (62 percent state, 29 percent county state-aid and 9 percent municipal state-aid) for distribution of the highway fund among the three jurisdictions.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the elimination of diversions from the Highway Users' Tax Distribution Fund for non-transit or non-highway uses.

T.A. 7

COUNTY STATE-AID HIGHWAY SYSTEM

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the use of state funds to build, maintain and improve County State Aid Highways as part of the comprehensive system of roads throughout the state. In addition, use of state funds should be based on the functional classification of the road, regardless of jurisdiction. However, changes in state-aid distribution must not be a substitute for additional funding.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports completing a functional classification study of all roads in the state, as proposed by the Transportation Study Board, prior to any significant change to the County State Aid Highway allocation formula.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the following changes to the County State Aid Highway (CSAH) system:

- 1. Adjusting the County State Aid Screening Board's make-up as proposed by the metro-rural partnership report (maintain the existing representation from the nine MN/DoT Districts and add one engineer from each of the statutorily defined urban counties; Hennepin, Ramsey, Dakota, Anoka and St. Louis);

- 2. Using lane miles instead of centerline miles;
- 3. Establishing a county wheelage tax that does not require a property tax offset;
- 4. Modify municipal approval of CSAH system changes to create a five member board to review the issue and make a recommendation to the commissioner of transportation. The five member board will be composed of one county commissioner, one county engineer, one city council person, one city engineer, and one representative of the MN/DoT Division of State Aid for Local Transportation.
- 5. Ensure that future individual county allocations not be less than their 1990 allocations nor annually increase by more than 20 percent of the statewide average;
- 6. Include the 10 percent equal apportionment of the total allocation;
- 7. Include a provision for ability to pay; and,
- 8. Include a provision which will allow individual county allocations to keep pace with inflation.
- 9. Items 5, 6, 7, and 8 can be changed pending negotiation on a new County State Aid Highway Allocation formula.

T.A. 8

1994 CSAH SYSTEM CHANGES

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports and recommends the Legislature increase the gas tax by 5 cents per gallon and enact the following changes to the CSAH system:

- 5 percent of available funds allocated equally among all 87 counties;
- 20 percent of available funds allocated based upon motor vehicle registration;
- 35 percent of available funds allocated based upon CSAH lane miles;
- 40 percent of available funds allocated based upon construction needs.
- the maximum increase a county can receive is 39.5 percent, the minimum increase is the 1993 allocation plus 3 percent;
- the make-up of the Screening Board is to be one county engineer from each of MN/DoT's seven non-metro maintenance districts and five from the metropolitan district. No county engineer can serve consecutively for more than four years;
- establish a method to resolve disputes between counties and cities; and
- apply the rural county mill levy deduction to all counties.

T.A. 9 HIGHWAY JURISDICTION

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the planned and mutually agreeable jurisdictional realignment of highways. High priority considerations are long-term funding for future improvements and maintenance, and the condition of roadways at the time of transfer. Jurisdictional realignment must not be considered a substitute for additional transportation funding.

T.A. 10 RAILROAD ABANDONMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports prior review and study of potential rail-line abandonments to determine their impacts on local economies and local transportation alternatives. Counties that contain regional rail authorities should have the right of first refusal to purchase the rail line in question.

T.A. 11 TRANSIT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the planning, development and adequate funding of public transit systems as part of an integrated transportation system.

T.A. 12 DETOURS AND HAUL ROADS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports an adequate, uniform, statewide Minnesota Department of Transportation policy and method for reimbursing counties for deterioration — short and long term — caused by traffic on county roads and County State Aid Highways designated as state detours and haul roads.

AGRICULTURE/LAND MANAGEMENT

T.A. 13 COMMODITY PRICING

The Association of Minnesota Counties recognizes the difficult economic situation facing rural Minnesota due to the current low farm prices and supports farm prices that are adjusted for inflation equal to the rest of the food industry.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the value added use of farm commodities, such as ethanol produced from corn, to increase farm commodity prices and employment in agricultural industries.

T.A. 14 SOIL CONSERVATION AND EROSION CONTROL

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports soil conservation through the use of landowner incentives.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the voluntary implementation of soil erosion control measures in cooperation with soil and water conservation districts.

T.A. 15 WETLAND PROTECTION AND DRAINAGE

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports federal and state wetland protection policies and programs that provide a balance between protecting the needs of the environment while respecting the needs of local economies in Minnesota.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the detailed study of individual proposals to revise drainage laws. Changes in federal and state authority over wetlands must not inhibit the maintenance and repair of existing drainage systems.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports transferring the responsibility for wetland identification, control, development and management from the Army Corps of Engineers to the United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state financial and technical assistance to local units of government for wetland program implementation and administration as required by the Wetland Conservation Act of 1991, and subsequent rules adopted by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the elimination of the regional and Clean Water Act Section 401 conditions placed by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on the Clean Water Act Section 404 Permit Program administered by the United States Army Corps of Engineers. The Association of Minnesota Counties supports requiring state agencies to comply with the rulemaking requirements of the Administrative Procedures Act in all reviews of federal permitting programs.

The Association of Minnesota Counties does not support compliance with wetland regulations imposed by agencies of the State of Minnesota - particularly the Department of Natural Resources, Board of Water and Soil Resources, and the Pollution Control Agency - which have rulemaking authority, but are not financially responsible for the impacts of their regulations, thereby burdening counties with unfunded mandates.

T.A. 16 WETLAND PROPERTY RIGHTS COMPENSATION

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports enacting legislation that recognizes the public's responsibility to fairly and equitably compensate private landowners for the loss of property rights resulting from environmental regulation of wetlands and public waters wetlands.

T.A. 17 CONSOLIDATED CONSERVATION LANDS

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports an appropriation to the Department of Natural Resources for the prompt payment of ditch benefits already determined and placed on consolidated conservation lands.

The Association of Minnesota Counties further supports procedures developed by the Northern Counties' Joint Powers Committee concerning determination of project effects and benefits on consolidated conservation lands.

T.A. 18 LAND USE STATUTORY REVISION

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports the recodification of local government planning and development statutes so long as the benefits of the current County Planning Act are preserved.

T.A. 19 SHORELAND AND RIVER MANAGEMENT

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a shoreland management program that protects the quality of our lakes and streams.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state financial and technical assistance for implementation and enforcement of the shoreland management program.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports a local, grassroots approach to river and lake management.

T.A. 20 BEAVER CONTROL

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports full implementation of beaver control by the Department of Natural Resources.

The Association of Minnesota Counties supports state funding to assist with local government administered beaver control programs.

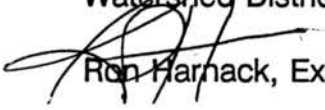
T.A. 21 NATIONAL FOREST ROAD HAUL FEES

The Association of Minnesota Counties opposes the U.S. Forest Services' national forests road maintenance policy that requires states and counties to pay haul fees for use of U.S. Forest Service roads used by the timber industry for access to state and county lands for harvesting timber.

MEMORANDUM

DATE: January 28, 1994

TO: Soil and Water Conservation Districts and
Watershed Districts

FROM:  Ron Harnack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **1994 BWSR TRAINING CALENDAR**

The BWSR Training Team is pleased to announce its proposed Training Calendar for 1994. Enclosed you will find the **BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES 1994 PROPOSED TRAINING CALENDAR**. This calendar was compiled with input from team membership as well as following the **Five Year Training Plan**.

Even though the Five Year Training Plan was assembled as a training guide for Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Training Team took it upon themselves to develop a 1994 Training Calendar that attempts to meet most of our clients identified training needs. Because the Training Team is made up of members from BWSR staff, Watershed District staff and board members, as well as staff and board members from Soil and Water Conservation Districts, we feel confident that it is an aggressive schedule that will begin to accomplish many individual training goals.

New to this year's Training Calendar, on the reverse side, is a very brief description on each proposed session, the target audience and anticipated cost of that session. It is hoped that this information will be helpful to you when planning this year's training events. However, not included on this Calendar are the regional sessions that will be offered from time to time on a region by region basis. The subject matter of these sessions will vary based on regional significance.

If there is any session or subject matter you would like to see addressed at a training session, please contact your Board Conservationist or any member of the Training Team. Enclosed for your convenience is the Training Team membership list.

BOARD OF WATER & SOIL RESOURCES

1994

PROPOSED TRAINING CALENDAR

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
Groundwater/Hydrology Workshops Eric M. & Bill B.	Manager/Chairman Leadership Session Brian D.	Wetland Banking Greg L., John J. & BC's			Watershed Districts Summer Tour & Annual Mtg., Cliff A.	Wetland Delineation Training Brainerd Greg L., John J.			Operations, Policy, & Procedure Training Sarah J.		Association of Minnesota Counties Annual Meeting
	Educational 3 Sessions Barb L.				Advanced Wetland Delineation 4 to 6 sites Greg L., John J., BC's	Management level II Ron S., Doug T., Sarah J.		Resource conservation for Administrators Doug T., Dave Benner., B.C.'s \$50 + MLT	Natural Resources Block Grant Training Sessions Doug T., Wayne Z.		Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts Annual Meeting
		Watershed Districts Orientation I (regional level) Kieth G., Cliff A., Doug T.				Orientation II Kieth G., Dave B., Cliff A.					Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Meeting
		SWCD's Orientation I (regional level) LeAnn B., Tom F.			MACDE Workshop						
							Multi - Clientele Workshop 1 N.W., Brian D. 1 Metro, Bruce S. 1 S.E. or N.E.				

OTHER SESSIONS TO WATCH FOR

RIM

Regional Special Interest Sessions

Well Head Protection / Local Water Planning

JANUARY

Groundwater/Hydrology Workshops:

Purpose: The workshops will briefly review some basic concepts of regional geology and ground water, but the focus will be on using geologic and ground water information, including basic data and interpreted maps. There will be a strong emphasis on the MGS county geologic atlas and regional geologic assessment products and their use. The workshops will also include poster displays and demonstrations of maps and applications.

Target Audience: LGU staff and board members involved in water management.

Cost: Meals and transportation

FEBRUARY

Session: Leadership

Purpose: This session is the second in a series of six sessions dealing with the topic of leadership. This session will be an inter-actionary session dealing with the powers of leadership. Issues to be discussed are: Identifying views of power, assessing and analyzing your use of power, determining how to motivate yourself and others, defining governance for boards, discuss and debate your board's governance, and applying skills in practical "hands on" situations.

Target Audience: WD and SWCD Boards and Staff

Cost: \$30.00 plus mileage

Session: Natural Resources Education

Purpose: This session will provide you with techniques in planning, preparing and presenting environmental educational material in a classroom or field day setting.

Target Audience: SWCD staff and other requested to provide informal education for youth.

Cost: \$12.00 plus mileage

MARCH

Session: Wetland Banking & Administrative Followup.

Purpose: A one-day session will be provided on a regional basis for LGU staff wanting more information on how to participate in the state wetland banking program. Part of the session will be set aside to cover miscellaneous updated information since the WCA Administrative sessions were conducted in the Fall of 1993.

Target Audience: LGU staff

Cost: \$0 to \$20

Session: Orientation I - Watershed District Managers.

Purpose: A program intended to provide an overview to the role of Watershed Districts and the duties and responsibilities of Watershed District Managers. Specific program topic areas will include: Review of the Watershed District Managers Handbook; Manager responsibilities and obligations; Watershed District planning and regulatory roles and responsibilities; Legal and administrative obligations; need for coordination with related resource management agencies and Funding for District administration and programs.

Target Audience: All new managers appointed to a Watershed District Board.

Cost: Low or no cost. May include the cost of a meal.

Session: SWCD's - Orientation I

Purpose: An introduction of the history of the Soil and Water Conservation District movement, programs and relationships of the local partners found within the SWCD's area (MASWCD, BWSR, MACDE, SCS, RC&D and other local governmental units). Also included is an introduction of the responsibilities, powers, duties and legal authorities of SWCDs.

Target Audience: New Supervisors and employees of SWCDs with less than two years of SWCD experience.

Cost: Meals and transportation

MAY

Session: Advanced Wetland Delineation Practicum.

Purpose: Three 2-day sessions will be offered for LGU staff involved with WCA project review and program administration who have successfully completed one of the previously offered 4-day basic delineation courses and wants to obtain a more in depth understanding of wetland delineation.

Target Audience: LGU staff

Cost: \$150 to \$200

JUNE

Session: MAWD Summer Tour & Program

Purpose: An annual 2-day event providing training and field inspection of activities and projects in one or more Watershed Districts. The program rotates among the three MAWD districts.

Target Audience: Watershed District Managers, staff, BWSR Central and regional staff and cooperating agencies.

Cost: Small registration fee, transportation and lodging.

Session: MACDE Workshop

Topic to be announced. This will be a 2-day session sponsored by the Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees.

Target Audience: SWCD employees

Cost: ?

JULY

Session: Basic Delineation Training

Purpose: Intended for LGU, Technical Evaluation Panel and state agency staff who have not yet taken a basic wetland delineation course and are involved in WCA project review and program implementation.

Target Audience: LGUs and Technical Evaluation Panel staff

Cost: \$200

Session: Management Level II

Purpose: This session will focus on some of the legal issues currently facing SWCDs, WDs and counties. Specifically the session will look at proper procedures for documenting local decisions that may be appealed or go to dispute resolution. We'll look at developing strong findings of facts, preparing for appeals, recording good field notes and making sound local decisions. Wetland Conservation Act enforcement issues and Watershed District permit decisions will be the situations used in this session.

Target Audience: SWCD managers, technicians and supervisors, WD managers and county WCA administrators.

Cost: A minimum registration plus travel, meals and lodging.

Session: Orientation II

Purpose: Orientation II will be set-up on a regional basis. Building on Orientation I, this will be a one-day session and be project orientated using coalition building skills to address regional soil and water conservation problems and concerns. This session will also provide a geographical review of Minnesota's diverse soil and water concerns.

Target Audience: Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Counties, including county commissioners and appropriate staff.

Cost: Meals and transportation.

AUGUST

Session: Multi-clientele

Purpose: These sessions will be offered in three regions of the state per year on a rotating basis and the subject matter will vary from region to region. The subjects will be such that it will encourage, inform and promote LGU cooperation and communication.

Target Audience: All LGUs that BWSR works with.

Cost: Meals and mileage

SEPTEMBER

Session: Resource Conservation for Administrators

Purpose: A technical introduction into soil and water resource management for the non-technician. Completion of the course will provide participants with a basic understanding of the soil and water conservation practices and the principles behind them.

Target Audience: Managers and Administrators who do not have a technical background and Secretaries that assist in program planning and development.

Cost: \$100 - \$150

OCTOBER

Session: Operations, Policy & Procedure Training.

Purpose: This session is conducted by the BWSR's SWCD Accounting Specialist addressing policy and procedural issues that have surfaced as a result of state auditor reports, frequently asked questions, or new legislation affecting districts fiscal matters.

Target Audience: SWCD bookkeepers and lead staff persons

Cost: Meals and mileage

Session: Natural Resources Block Grant Training.

Purpose: Provides natural resources block grant applicants current and updated information on program requirements and changes. Focus of 1994 sessions will be the addition of reporting requirements for the WCA and shoreland portion of the grant.

Target Audience: Individuals responsible for the preparation of all or parts of the natural resources block grant application, workplan, budget and report.

Cost: Mileage and meal.

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Target Audience: Individuals responsible for the preparation of all or parts of the natural resources block grant application, workplan, budget and report.

Cost: Mileage and meal.

See attached
meeting agenda
for context.

ABSTRACT
SWCS ANNUAL MEETING 1-21-94

TOPIC: CONSIDERING ALL THE OPTIONS

PRESENTER: AL KEAN, BWSR

Livestock, poultry and related industries are a very large component of Minnesota's economy. Our state is a leader in several areas of production. At the same time, we are also a leader in the area of environmental awareness. Most of us are concerned about the land and water quality we leave for future generations. Resource stewardship and sustainable development are common objectives. As a result, we continue to look for the best ways to be good stewards, while maintaining a strong economy and putting food on our tables.

Primary environmental and economic issues surrounding feedlots include:

- protecting surface and ground water quality
- nutrient management (i.e. putting manure to best use for crop production)
- how to most efficiently and effectively evaluate, design and construct manure management systems
- costs (how to control?, who should pay?, how to finance?)
- priorities and best use of available funding

In order to achieve the most efficient and effective response to these issues, we need to CONSIDER ALL THE OPTIONS.

This discussion will focus on the following three primary areas for considering all the options:

1. Manure Management System Selection and Design
2. Financial Assistance
3. Systems Management

Manure Management System Selection and Design

Many variables enter into system selection and design, including:

- type and size of operation
- site problems and constraints
- projected useful life
- closure issues
- management requirements and preferences
- costs
- regulatory requirements and options

Points to consider:

- a. Front-line manure management system designers are a key link between producers, regulators and funding assisters. These designers must have a good understanding of regulatory requirements and options, system options and associated management requirements, as well as costs and funding assistance options. They must also be able to work with producer preferences and site constraints. The ability of front-line designers to recommend the best solutions, as well as design them, improves the delivery of all aspects of feedlot pollution abatement programs. Training is very important for these designers.

AL -
Good stuff
Copy to
Stop & Read
AA

b. Alternatives analysis documentation is important for mutual understanding and agreement between producers, designers and regulators.

c. Approximately 40,000 feedlots went out of operation in MN during the past 15 years. It probably isn't cost-effective to construct expensive systems for feedlots that are expected to cease operation in the foreseeable future. Closure issues are also a concern. Partial, cost-effective solutions with written time limit agreements, for longer than existing regulations allow, might be appropriate for many sites.

d. Defining the applications and limitations of manure management system options is an ongoing need. The current Feedlot Advisory Group task force efforts in this regard are a substantial step in that direction, but will need follow up.

Financial Assistance

A number of existing financial assistance programs are available to producers, including:

- Agricultural Conservation Program Cost-Sharing - ASCS
- State Cost-Share Program - BWSR

These programs have definitive lists of cost-shareable practices.

Points to consider:

a. Relocation is sometimes the most cost-effective solution for a feedlot pollution problem. Financial assistance programs probably should include this as a cost-shareable option, where it is the least cost alternative.

b. Alternative watering methods and fencing options could keep substantial numbers of livestock out of our rivers, streams and lakes. Cost-share eligibility needs some clarification.

c. The state revolving loan fund (SRF) for point source pollution abatement is being considered for use in the nonpoint source arena. This may provide substantial loan funding for feedlot pollution abatement. However, the method of disbursement and coordination with other cost-share programs is still unclear. Adequate front-line system designer capability is essential for the effective implementation of the SRF, as well as existing funding programs.

d. Because funding assistance is and will surely remain limited, feedlot prioritization will remain an important aspect of the state's pollution abatement strategy.

System Management

Manure management systems are effective only when managed properly. A good manure application plan and sound implementation are essential for effective pollution control.

Points to consider:

a. The Manure Application Planner software developed by the MES is an efficient tool for manure application planning. Ongoing training for front-line system designers and producers is an important part of the state strategy.

b. Front-line system designers and producers must be knowledgeable about how producer consultants and commodity groups can assist with system management. (e.g. manure testing, soil testing and application equipment calibration)



MN Chapter Soil and Water Conservation Society

Annual Meeting

January 21, 1994

"FEEDLOTS: CURRENT PROGRAMS/FUTURE PROCESSES"

The status of Minnesota's feedlot program and its impact on the \$3.6 billion Minnesotans derive from livestock and livestock products annually provides the focus for this year's meeting.

As the title "Feedlots: Current Programs/Future Processes" announces, we invite you to join us in an informative discussion of current issues surrounding feedlots. These issues include: permitting, regulation enforcement, alternative systems and defining an acceptable level of treatment.

Our objectives for the meeting include:

1. Provide an understanding of current Minnesota feedlot permitting authorities and regulations, and assistance available to the livestock producer.
2. Evaluate and discuss alternative feedlot/livestock waste management systems and an acceptable level of treatment, and increase the awareness of all "players" as what to consider in developing acceptable solutions.
3. Encourage natural resource professionals to become advocates for the protection, enhancement, and wise use of soil, water, and related natural resources.

Individual panel presentations by representatives of key "feedlot" agencies and organizations will provide the foundation for an open forum for discussion. Issues will be addressed from both a policy and a reality perspective.

We encourage participants to come ready to discuss the issues which affect them most. To stimulate discussion, we pose the following questions: What is an acceptable level of waste treatment? Can we achieve zero runoff? Should the State mandate waste storage systems/feedlot runoff control systems? Is winter spreading of wastes an acceptable practice?

MINNESOTA CHAPTER OF THE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY
1994 ANNUAL MEETING

Holiday Inn, St. Cloud, Minnesota

"FEEDLOTS: CURRENT PROGRAMS/FUTURE PROCESSES"

Agenda

Friday, January 21, 1994

7:30 - 9:00 a.m.

Registration

Poster/Display Set-up
Coffee, Tea and Juice

9:00 - 9:05 a.m.

Welcome, Mayor Chuck Winkelman
City of St. Cloud

9:05 - 9:15 a.m.

Introductions and Outline

Timothy A. Koehler,
MN Chapter Past-President

Morning Forum M.C. - Michael J. Blaine

9:15 - 9:35 a.m.

MN Feedlot Permitting

Dave Nelson, Supervisor of Programs Unit,
MN Pollution Control Agency

9:35 - 9:55 a.m.

Citing Non-complying Feedlots

Randy Evans, Regional Enforcement Supervisor,
MN Department of Natural Resources

9:55 - 10:15 a.m.

Clean Water: Everyone's Responsibility

Lynn Alexander, Central Region Executive,
National Wildlife Federation

10:15 - 10:35 a.m.

Industry Perspective

**Roger Gilland, President,
MN Feedlot Advisory Group**

10:35 - 11:00 a.m.

Steve Wenzel, Chairperson,

MN House Committee on Agriculture

11:00 - 11:30 a.m.

FEEDLOT FORUM I

Fred Bergsrud, Moderator
Open panel discussion and audience participation.

11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Awards Luncheon

12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Chapter Business Meeting

"Advocates for Natural Resources"

Afternoon Forum M.C. - Wayne Anderson

1:30 - 1:50 p.m.

Technical Assistance

**John Brach, State Conservation Engineer,
Soil Conservation Service**

1:50 - 2:10 p.m.	Considering All the Options Al Kean, Chief Engineer, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources
2:10 - 2:30 p.m.	Local Implementation - Sauk River Chain of Lakes Steve Sellnow, District Conservationist Soil Conservation Service
2:30 - 2:45 p.m.	Refreshment Break
2:45 - 3:00 p.m.	Producer Perspective Pat McGonigle, MN Pork Producers <i>Dan French</i> <i>Tim</i> Jack Frost Farms, St. Cloud, MN <i>Controlled Grazing</i> <i>Mantorville, MN</i>
3:00 - 3:20 p.m.	Goal Oriented Agricultural Decision Making Larry L. Johnson, Senior Hydrogeologist, Dames and Moore Consulting
3:20 - 4:00 p.m.	FEEDLOT FORUM II Fred Bergsrud, Moderator Open panel discussion and audience participation
4:00 - 4:15 p.m.	Conclusion/Summary Fred Bergsrud, MN Chapter President-Elect
4:15 - 4:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks Michael J. Blaine MN Chapter President
4:30 p.m.	Adjourn

ANNUAL MEETING PRESENTERS

Lynn Alexander
Central Region Executive
National Wildlife Federation
Bismark, North Dakota

John Brach
State Conservation Engineer
Soil Conservation Service
St. Paul, MN

Randy Evans
Regional Enforcement Supervisor
MN Department of Natural Resources
New Ulm, Minnesota

Roger Gilland
President, Minnesota Feedlot Advisory Group
Morgan, Minnesota

Larry Johnson
Senior Hydrogeologist
Dames & Moore Consulting
New Brighton, Minnesota

Al Kean
Chief Engineer
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
St. Paul, Minnesota

Dave Nelson
Supervisor of Programs Unit
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
St. Paul, Minnesota

Steve Sellnow
District Conservationist
Soil Conservation Service
Stearns Co.
Waite Park, MN

Steve Wenzel
Chairperson, MN House Committee on Agriculture
Little Falls, Minnesota

DIRECTORY OF EXHIBITORS

ANOKA SAND PLAIN WATER QUALITY DEMONSTRATION PROJECT

David Cooper 612/261-4410
Box 250, 12433 Pine Street
Becker, MN 55308

Ground water quality - state/federal initiative

ST CLOUD STATE UNIVERSITY

Dr. Robert Bixby 612/255-2170
GIS Center
720 4th Avenue South
St. Cloud, MN 56301-4498

GIS & LISA for Township Zoning
Environmental Based Mapping for Watershed
Districts

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Darla Ewert 612/282-5140
90 West Plato Boulevard
St. Paul, MN 55107-2094

Agricultural Planning and Development -
Water Quality

MENSCH ENGINEERING

Robert Mensch 507/235-9151
2500 Albion Avenue
Fairmont, MN 56031

Agricultural Engineering Consulting -
Environmental Solutions

MINNESOTA VALLEY TESTING LAB., INC. (MVTL)

Randy Hemb or Greg Hanson 507/354-8417
P.O. Box 249 328 Center Street
New Ulm, MN 56073-0249

Agricultural & Environmental Testing Services

SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION SOCIETY Minnesota CHAPTER

Timothy Koehler 612/290-3682
375 Jackson Street Suite 600
St. Paul, MN 55101-1854

Non-profit, professional organization promoting
good land and water use worldwide.

JAMES BARON

Agricultural Engineer 612/323-9110
915 Benton Street
Anoka, MN 55303

Agricultural Engineering Consulting -
Environmental Solutions

MVBA HARVESTORE SYSTEMS

Rolly Meinke 507/451-1948
P.O. Box 233
New Prague, MN 56701

Livestock Waste Storage Systems and Solutions

DENNIS J. JOHNSON & ASSOCIATES, INC.

Dennis J. Johnson 507/831-2703
County Rd 26, Box 453
Windom, MN 56101

Agricultural Engineering Consulting -
Environmental Solutions.

January 31, 1994

TO: Randy Ellingboe, PCA

FROM: Al Kean, BWSR

Amk

SUBJECT: BWSR and SWCD Feedlot Roles for Inclusion in Feedlot Chapter of State Nonpoint Source Plan

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Enable local government units to provide educational, technical and financial assistance to producers for feedlot pollution abatement and proper manure management. This role is fulfilled through:

- Serving as the state administrative agency and point of contact for local government units.
- Development and/or dissemination of information and education materials statewide.
- Technical and administrative training and assistance.
- Administration of the state cost-share program, and assistance with any other funding sources.
- Coordination with local government units and other involved state and federal agencies to maintain strong partnerships that ensure effective and efficient delivery of resource management education, as well as technical and financial assistance.
- Advocacy for policy development that fosters effective water and soil resource management through local units of government.
- Serving as a mediator and adjudicator for conflict resolution.

Soil and Water Conservation Districts

Enable agricultural producers to be more effective stewards of water and soil resources, including feedlot runoff control and manure management. This role is fulfilled through:

- Working directly with producers to identify manure management problems and potential solutions.
- Providing information and education to producers regarding feedlot best management practices.
- Providing technical design and coordination assistance to producers for practice implementation.
- Coordinating financial assistance for eligible feedlot pollution abatement and manure management practices.
- Providing construction inspection assistance for practice implementation.
- Providing technical advice and assistance to other local government units and state agencies for effective program development and implementation.

cc: Brad Matlack, Feedlot Specialist
Ron Harnack, Executive Director
Ron Shelito, Northern Regional Supervisor
Jeff Nielson, Southern Regional Supervisor



**MINNESOTA
SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICTS**

**EAST OTTER TAIL SOIL AND WATER
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

655 3rd Avenue SE
Perham, Minnesota 56573-1719
Telephone (218) 346-2050

February 4, 1994

Mr. Ron Harnack
Executive Director
Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
155 South Wabasha Street
Suite 104
St. Paul, MN 55107

Dear Mr. Harnack:

On the behalf of the East Otter Tail Soil and Water Conservation District Board and staff, I would like to point out the outstanding assistance Dale Krystosek, Board Conservationist to our District, has shown our District.

His efforts shown to our District through our "budget woes" with the County, implementation of the Comprehensive of the Local Water Plan, and block grant application has been priceless to our District.

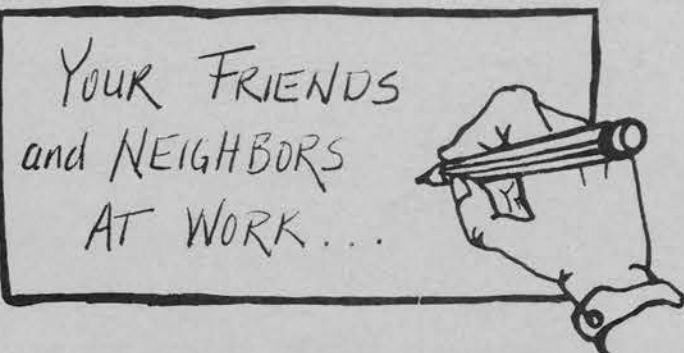
We would like to acclaim Dale of the meritorious job he has shown to our District.

Sincerely,

John Blashack
Chairman of the East Otter Tail
Soil and Water Conservation District

RECEIVED
FEB 14 1994
BOARD OF WATER
SOIL RESOURCES

Ron J
Band Members
Rock &



CHIPPEWA COUNTY WATER PLANNING TASK FORCE

Keith Beito, Township officer

Glen Moe, Agribusiness

Audrey Arner, Land Stewardship

Ron Stevens, Agriculture

Cathleen Hockert, Countryside
Public Health

Orville Meints, County
Commissioner

Jean Diggins, SWCD

Kenneth Koenen, County
Commissioner

Gordon Baker, Consulting
Engineer

Kenneth Nash, County Drainage

Kermit Swanson, Sportsman

Rich Giles, SCS

L. Robert Lee, LQP Lake Assn.

Kevin Molloy, Zoning & Solid
Waste

Steve Sunderland, SWCD

Roger Larson, Extension Agent

Jeff Miller, DNR

Judy Olson, Water Planner



RECYCLABLE

COUNTY-WIDE INVENTORY NEARING COMPLETION

For the past 18 months, Chippewa County has been working on a county-wide inventory of wells, active and abandoned, and storage tanks.

This inventory will serve two purposes:

✓ Provide the county with a much-needed data base for addressing water quality issues.

✓ Create an inventory from which sites will be chosen when cost-share monies become available.

Let's take abandoned wells for example -

When grant monies become available next year to seal abandoned wells, those wells that are on this inventory will be considered for sealing, based on certain priority criteria. If the well is **NOT** on the inventory, it will **not** be eligible.

One township board has chosen not to take part in the inventory process (Big Bend). The wells in that township, will not be on the list, and will not, therefore, be eligible for cost-share funds. Rheiderland and Stoneham residents received a letter on the inventory last summer.

The same holds true for any other cost-share monies that would be available for projects related to the county-wide inventory.

All but the one township board have designated a person to work on the inventory in each township. If you are contacted by that person, I ask for a few minutes of your time and consideration to help that person complete the inventory form.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
TIME AND COOPERATION!**

H₂O

New

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION BY
CHIPPEWA COUNTY WATER PLANNING PERSONNEL
FOURTH QUARTER 1993

SO, AFTER TWO YEARS, WHAT DID WE DO, AND WHAT'S NEXT?

by Judy Olson, Water Planner
269-8583

The Chippewa County Water Plan is now two years old. So, you say, what have we accomplished? I'm glad you asked!!

★ **ABANDONED WELLS** - 100 wells have been sealed under cost share programs through two grants.

★ **SEPTIC SYSTEMS** - 67 septic systems have been installed that will minimize effects on surface and ground water quality.

★ **BUFFER STRIPS** - 8.5 miles of buffer strips, totalling 17 acres, have been planted along drainage systems and water ways under a cost-share program through the water plan.

★ **NO-TILL ACRES** - 40 county farmers received cost-share funds (\$40/acre) to try no-till soybean plantings.

★ **WATER TESTING** - 189 wells were tested, under a 50/50 cost share program, for nitrates and coliform bacteria.

★ **HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE** - 185 residents brought household hazardous waste for proper disposal from 264 households.

★ **GRANTS** - 6 grants approved totaling \$105,700 to help implement the Comprehensive Local Water Plan.

SO, WHAT COMES NEXT? The Water Planning Task Force is in the process of addressing highest priority issues for 1994-95.

If you have any concerns, suggestions, or ideas, regarding water quality issues you would like us to address, please feel free to call one of the board members as listed on the back.

NO TILL SOYBEAN DEMONSTRATIONS SUCCESSFUL

by Roger Larson
Extension Office
269-6521



The Extension Service in cooperation with Chippewa County Water Planning conducted a reduced tillage, soybean planting demonstration. Incentive funds of \$10 per acre were offered to 40 farmers who planned to no till soybeans into 1992 corn fields.

The practice was well received by the farmers who wanted to try this method of conservation tillage. Fortunately, farmers and ag businesses had no till soybean drills available to rent.

Rich Giles, SCS, and Roger J. Larson, Extension, visited the farms and checked the crop development and residue. It was not a good year for soybeans or any other crop for that matter. An evaluation sheet was filled out by the participating farmers.

These are the results and conclusions:

- ★ Soybean yields ranged from 2.6-40 bushels per acre with an average of 22.

- ★ Farmers reporting light or medium texture soil were in general satisfied. There was less satisfaction on heavy soil plantings.

- ★ Early planting was best but many fields were slow to dry up and prevented timely planting.

- ★ 60% rated no till soybeans the same or better than

conventional plantings. 40% were rated less in yield.

- ★ Farmers liked less tillage, ground cover, erosion control, less wear on tractor, less labor, no cultivation, less compaction, easier to combine and faster spring planting.

- ★ Farmers disliked that the ground was cold, slow to dry out and planting was delayed, additional herbicides, crusting, poor seed emergence, extra seed needed, slow plant growth and somewhat rough ground at combining.

- ★ If they did it again they would plant at an angle, wait until soil was warmer, spray with burndown herbicide, maybe till in fall, plant heavier, seed as early as possible. Most important, "select" a warmer, dryer year so planting could be done earlier.

- ★ All farmers felt the \$10 per acre demonstration incentive for first time users should be continued.

- ★ 50% said they would use no till in 1994 and 50% said no.

In summary, it was a poor year to test the practice, but average yields were higher than the county average. We learned how to do no till better. The practice works on light and medium texture soil and may need modification on heavy soil.

EMERGENCY WATERSHED PROTECTION

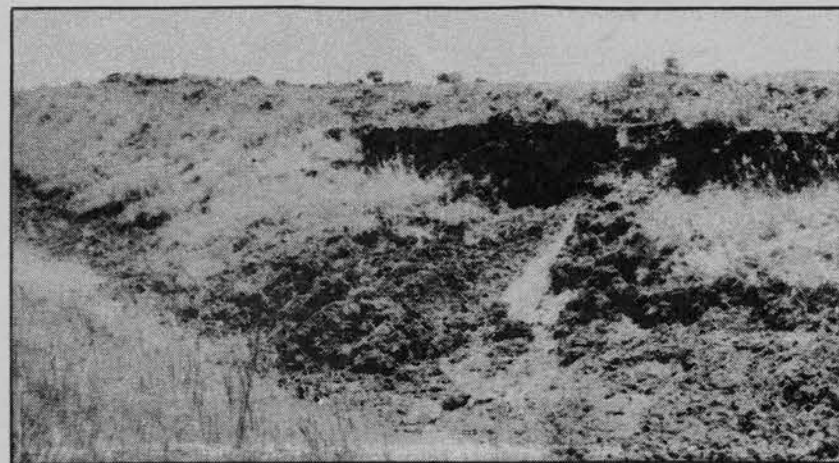
By Rich Giles, SCS
269-2139

District Conservationist Richard Giles and Chippewa County Ditch Inspector Ken Nash toured some of the County's ditches this fall and found over 300 gullies and bank sloughs from the 1993 wet summer.

Some of the gully sites are big enough for a truck to hide in.

If we calculate this to tons of soil lost, one hole 80 feet long, 30 feet wide and 10 feet deep can lose over 1,000 tons of soil.

This soil, lost from the fields, is deposited in our ditches and rivers, requiring manual removal and, thus, great expense to farmers and taxpayers, especially when the gullies continue to erode more each year if not repaired.



Gully erosion sites can be corrected easily with a corrugated metal pipe culvert, installed at the gully site.

Sometimes pipes installed by individuals are too small in diameter, too short, and not filled properly or compacted properly and the gully washes out a second time wasting time, money and soil.

Sometimes rock or concrete is dumped into the gully to slow the erosion process. If not properly placed, the

rock or concrete will actually speed up the erosion process by causing the water to pull the soil from between the air pockets as the water washes through the gully.

Giles and Nash found three of these sites where the gully repair will be more expensive because the rock and concrete have to be removed before the pipe can be installed.

Many of repairs will be made using special federal funds from the Emergency Watershed Protection Program. Repairs will begin next spring. If you have a gully that needs to be repaired, stop in to the SCS/SWCD office for engineering assistance. Cost sharing may also be available through the ASCS office or the state cost-share program.



February 7, 1994

Board packet
info

-- Mail --

February 2, 1994 3:14pm MAIL IS -
FROM: DALE KRYSTOSEK Private
TO: RONALD HARNACK
JIM BIRKHOLZ
RON SHELITO
GREG LARSON
JOHN JASCHKE
SUBJECT: RUTHER WCA TRIAL
COPY: DALE KRYSTOSEK

Good news from the Arnold Ruther WCA trial in Otter Tail County Monday. He was found guilty by the judge. The trial lasted about 1 1/2 hours. 4 people testified: CO, SWCD tech., LGU, and myself. I was called to the stand first to provide background on the Act, wetland definitions, exemptions and my involvement in tech panel, etc. (10-15 minutes on the stand)

In sentencing Mr. Ruther, the judge gave him about a 10 minute lecture on stewardship and public values of wetlands. Mr. Ruther was sentenced to:

- * \$700 fine (plus some court costs)
- * \$200 restitution (for LGU to re-stake site)
- * 90 days in jail
- * Must restore site (remove 1.6 acres of fill) by July 1, 1994

If he complies with the restoration order by July 1, 1994 the jail sentence and all but \$200 of the fine will be stayed. The judge warned Mr. Ruther that he would be subject to further criminal prosecution (in addition to the jail time) should he ignore the restoration order. Let me know if you need more info.
Mail item created by KAREN JOHANSEN

EXTENOVATIONS

For All of Extension

MINNESOTA EXTENSION SERVICE

Vol. 14, No. 5, December 1993

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

'PAINT THE TOWN' WARNS POLLUTERS



Brainerd teenagers, from left, Laura Lockwood, Rhoda Tomberlin and Tina Bieganeck sprayed the no dumping warning near a storm drain in their community in October. The participants in the "Paint the Town" campaign were 4-H and Brainerd High School Key Club members. (Photo by Joe Courneya)

In some communities, teenagers armed with cans of spray paint could equal a graffiti nightmare. Not so in Crow Wing, Stevens and Grant counties. There, 4-H members are wielding spray paint and warning stencils to promote awareness of water pollution and the hazards of dumping hazardous materials into storm drains.

➤ Sponsored statewide by MES and the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the "Paint the Town" effort involved 10 communities where storm drains empty directly into local rivers. Teens used stencils to spray the message, "Don't Dump — Drains to River" on pavement near the drains. In Crow Wing County, the river is the Mississippi. In Stevens and Grant counties, the river is the Pomme de Terre.

In addition to painting the warning messages, the teens also distributed brochures explaining how pesticides, motor oil, paint, antifreeze and other waste can be toxic to fish, birds, pets and people. Joe Courneya, MES educator in Crow Wing County, organized the project there "to start raising awareness. 'Paint the Town' is one thing where we can have fun and make an impact." He adds the effort gave local teens the opportunity to do meaningful public service on a problem that many of them care deeply about.

The painting drew media attention and resulted in newspaper articles and local television coverage that helped inform more people about the pollution problem.

Deedee Nagy



Board member Update

February 1994

The mission of the Board of Water and Soil Resources is to provide leadership enabling local governments to properly manage water and soil resources and to help all citizens be stewards of our irreplaceable natural resources.

Engineering and Technical Services section

FYI: current staff and position titles

Al Kean - Chief Engineer
Darrell Apelgrain - Area II Engineer
Brad Matlack - Feedlot Specialist
Marybeth Block - Easement Coordinator
Steve Miller - Sr. Realty Specialist
Scott Giese - Student Worker
Tom Wenzel - Design Engineer (Wetland Restorations)
Jeff Hedtke - Wetland Restoration Technician

New Board Members: Please note that the programs administered by this section involve some or all of our board conservationists (BCs) and several other central office staff to varying degrees.

Conservation easements

- We are in the process of establishing a new broad-based advisory group (SWCDs, agencies, conservation groups, sporting groups, etc.) for the conservation easement programs. Our motivations include the current program retooling initiative, which involves rule creation for the Permanent Wetland Preserves Program (PWP) and rule revision for the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program; and our desire for an ongoing

program advisory group for quality control, program priority advice, etc. The initial meeting of this advisory group was held in late January to discuss the rule revision initiative. Attendance was relatively poor, due to the cold weather and possibly the introductory nature of the agenda. We will be providing the latest draft of the proposed PWP and RIM Reserve program rules to this group and all SWCDs within the next week. We are requesting comments by mid-March, and intend to provide a rule revision progress report and schedule update to the board in March.

We have been trying to focus Easement Coordinator Marybeth Block's time (and that of other staff, as necessary) on the program procedures retooling initiative, which was slowed by the two program sign-ups last fall. The program procedure components that have been retooled to date have generally received good response from SWCDs. We continue to look for more ways to streamline the easement acquisition process as the retooling initiative progresses. This is a large and intimidating initiative, but we are keeping the faith and believe the results will be well worth the effort. Our fundamental goal is an effective and more efficient resource management program that BWSR and SWCDs, as implementers, can be proud of and that landowners, as customers, will be well served by.

- An interagency agreement for periodic realty specialist assistance from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Bureau of Real Estate Management is nearly in place. As previously reported, we intend to use this arrangement on a trial basis to help respond to peak workloads after program sign-ups (i.e., application submittal periods).
- We have decided that the next conservation easement programs sign-up will be held in the fall of 1994. Our reasons for not having a spring sign-up include: 1) essentially all of the available funds have been obligated and substantial new funding will not be available until approximately August 1, 1994; 2) we are committed to focusing our efforts on completing program retooling, including the new handbook and associated training, before the next sign-up; and 3) there currently is a heavy program workload at the BWSR and the SWCDs (approximately 470 easements are in process).

Area II

- The Wellner-Hageman multi-purpose reservoir project, which was completed and dedicated in 1993, was recently selected for an award by the Minnesota Society of Professional Engineers (seven wonders of engineering in Minnesota). Barr Engineering recently sent out invitations to attend an awards dinner February 25.
- Darrell Apelgrain, Area II engineer in Marshall, has completed a final draft of the operation and maintenance plan for the Wellner-Hageman reservoir. This plan is currently being reviewed by agencies and Brown County (project sponsor) and will be finalized in the near future.
- HDR Engineering continues to develop the final design for the RW-22 reservoir

project, including environmental analyses for the required Environmental Assessment Worksheet. A coordination meeting is planned for this week.

- Darrell and Wayne Zellmer, BWSR grants coordinator, met with staff from the Minnesota Department of Emergency Management and the Federal Emergency Management Agency in late January to coordinate continued implementation of flood disaster recovery efforts, as well as recommendations of the interagency Flood Hazard Mitigation Report prepared last year. The BWSR is the lead agency for preparation of statewide guidelines for road retention projects, many of which have been constructed within several Area II counties in recent years. This type of small flood-water retarding project typically involves replacing old bridges with smaller (and less expensive) culverts, downsizing of culverts, or construction of inlet control structures, all of which temporarily store floodwater upstream from road embankments. The Area II joint powers group and BWSR have promoted these cooperative projects through technical and financial assistance.
- Ron Harnack and Chief Engineer Al Kean met with Darrell, Kerry Netzke (Area II's coordinator) and several Area II board members recently to clarify roles and responsibilities and to establish a framework for more effective and efficient program delivery. Program procedures and roles have been evolving since Area II hired a coordinator last year and we separated the administrative, planning and project management roles from the project engineering roles. Concerns have remained in the project engineering area and room for growth exists in the project management and program planning areas. Al will be working more closely with Darrell and Kerry during the upcoming months to help build capabilities and

to improve monitoring as well as overall teamwork and program delivery.

Feedlots

- Feedlot pollution abatement and permitting programs continue to receive substantial attention by agencies, the Governor's office and at least some legislators. The recent integrated budget proposal efforts by state agencies have heightened the interest and communication in this area. Al and Duluth Feedlot Specialist Brad Matlack are involved in about a half dozen advisory groups and task forces regarding feedlot programs and issues. Board Member Jim Rossman is also involved in some of these groups, as the chair of the board's Feedlot Advisory Committee. We continue to promote addressing this resource management issue through the building of local government capability in cooperation with other involved state and federal agencies.
- Brad continues to provide feedlot training and technical assistance to SWCDs and producers. In cooperation with the Soil Conservation Service (SCS), Brad recently completed the design for a high priority polluting feedlot on Lake Shaokatan in southwest Minnesota. Brad is preparing for a Feedlot Evaluation Model training session in Rochester on Feb. 23 in cooperation with Root River SWCD. He has been following up on requests for additional information generated by several joint training sessions with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the Minnesota Extension Service, SCS, DNR, and the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) held around the state last fall.
- Since his recent relocation to Duluth, Brad has been looking into some of the needs and opportunities for additional feedlot training and technical assistance

in central and northern parts of the state. One of these opportunities is the Todd County low-cost feedlot alternatives project, which was funded in part by Cost-Share Program funds last year. We have tried to support this project technically, as well as financially, to the extent requested and possible.

- The BWSR received an EPA Section 319 grant (funding to start in May we've been told) for continued feedlot technical assistance and training statewide, with emphasis on the Minnesota River basin. Under this grant, we intend to hire a new person, probably to be housed in our Marshall office, where Brad was previously located. PCA staff tell us that EPA has indicated that this is the last time they will fund this position. We are thinking about how we would structure the proposed staffing that is associated with use of the State Revolving Loan Fund (SRF) for nonpoint pollution reduction, including feedlots, and how this might involve Brad and a new person hired under the 319 grant.

Lakeshore Engineering

- In early February, Al, Ron Shelito (Northern Regional Supervisor), and Mark Nelson (Duluth BC), telephone interviewed the four top applicants for our Lakeshore Engineer position (one from the Twin Cities, one from Omaha, and two from the east coast). Al and Ron S. will be interviewing the top candidate in person this week. We hope to fill this position in the very near future.
- The final design and construction specifications for the Sucker Bay site are nearly complete. Al and Mark Nelson have been working with the South St. Louis SWCD, project landowners and LHB Engineering to finalize these plans and specs. We've encountered some funding concerns due to the higher-than-

hoped cost estimate, an upcoming EPA grant period deadline and less-than-needed grant funding availability. We will be seeking additional grant funding via the state cost-share program, the Great Lakes Commission and/or other sources. We also need a commitment from one of the involved landowners, who has been out of state for some time.

Southern Region

- Southern region board conservationists (BCs) spent a lot of time in January assisting with and reviewing the initial Natural Resources Block Grant Applications developed by the counties. (The Natural Resources Block Grant includes funding for counties to assist with implementing local water plan activities, administering the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and administering the DNR shoreland regulations.) Sometimes one-on-one assistance was provided to the local water plan coordinators who were responsible for putting together the application. Other times assistance was provided through attendance at local water planning task force meetings. All applications were submitted by the required due date. BCs will be conducting the final reviews and granting approval of the applications submitted by the counties.
- RIM/PWP activities by BCs continue as SWCDs in the southern region submit the agreement packages for those special sign-up and regular sign-up applications that were approved for funding. (Many more easements could be acquired if funding was available.) BCs will be quite busy with reviewing agreement packages throughout the next month.
- On behalf of the BWSR, BCs Thomas Fischer and David Sill participated with individuals from the PCA, Prairie Country RC&D, Minnesota Extension Service and local governmental units (LGUs) in southwest Minnesota in planning and providing a workshop entitled "Working Together for Water Quality." The workshop was held in Wabasso, Minn., on Jan. 26, 1994. Over eighty individuals, representing counties, SWCDs and watershed districts (WDs), interested in enhancing cooperative efforts to improve water quality beyond county boundaries, attended. The workshop theme centered around the growing need to work together. Some types of successful cooperative ventures were highlighted. Comments provided by participants on the workshop's evaluation form suggest many various topics for follow-up sessions.
- The special Minnesota River basin state cost-share funding has created much interest and several watershed-based proposals. Other SWCDs and cooperating LGUs are planning for more proposals in the upcoming fiscal year. There are many possibilities and exciting opportunities if this cost-share funding continues to be available.
- Marshall BCs David Sill and Tabor Hoek individually provided several small group RIM/PWP conservation planning training sessions to SWCDs in each of their regions this past month. It provided a good opportunity to present new training in addition to answering questions regarding existing easement program activities.
- The south central 13 county coordinators met in mid-January to discuss a number of items including five-year comprehensive water plan updates. Several good comments came out of this meeting for use as the update process unfolds.
- The three SWCD area employees associations from the southern region are all working hard to plan their area Envirothons. Susan Tsakakis, St. Paul com-

munications director, and the BCs are all providing support to the SWCD employee associations in this effort.

Northern Region

- The Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) is still the issue of the day up in the frozen north. Tech panels are in full swing, BWSR staff are going to court, and the dozers are running at an idle waiting for the thaw. You'd think that when the wetlands are covered with four feet of snow people would forget about them for awhile. It doesn't seem to be working that way.
- Bemidji BC Dale Krystosek assisted Becker County in developing a wetland banking plan for a 160 acre parcel that was purchased by the county to use as a mitigation site for county road projects. He also assisted Wadena SWCD on a similar banking project. When Dale wasn't assisting with wetland banks, he was in court--he testified in the first WCA violation to go to court in the state. An Otter Tail County farmer was found guilty of violating a wetland restoration order. He was sentenced to a \$700 fine, restitution of \$200, 90 days in jail, and ordered to remove 1.6 acres of fill from the wetland. The judge will stay the jail term and part of the fine if the landowner removes the fill by July 1. Dale is the first BWSR staff person to earn his badge.
- Mark Nelson, Duluth BC, spent time in January talking with mining companies in a meeting sponsored by the DNR Minerals Division. Mark presented information on how wetland banking works. This is important to mining companies as they affect up to 80 acres of wetlands per year.
- Mark and Northern Supervisor Ron Shelito worked with the city of Barnum on a wetland site in the city limits. All of the commercial and industrial land in the city is wetland. This land was zoned several years ago and leaves the city in a bit of a bind as far as commercial and industrial development on these wetland sites. Several other small communities are no doubt in the same situation. We talked the city of Barnum into creating their own wetland bank.
- Keith Grow, Brainerd BC, also had WCA on his mind in January. The city of Branch in Chisago County called the first tech panel in his area under the permanent rules. It involved an 80 acre plat development and gave them the opportunity to address wetlands as an up front component just as the LGU does with setbacks, wells, etc. Keith says that they found that the permanent application and replacement process has its own version of sequencing: "avoid at all costs."
- Brainerd BC Dan Steward reports that the revised block grant application process was well received by clientele. Clientele appreciated the simplified process and they noted significant time savings. Activities in Crow Wing continue to become more coordinated. Planning and Zoning, the Water Plan Task Force and the SWCD are working together on issues such as forest stewardship, WCA, and lake management issues. Dan says it's rewarding to see the water plan being used as the umbrella for these resource management issues.
- Jim Lemmerman, forester in the Duluth office, spent much of January working with SWCDs on their Forest Stewardship Program proposals. There will be three SWCDs applying this year that didn't apply last year. Jim also spent time with Redwood SWCD developing methods to

reforest riparian lands that are frequently flooded.

- Water Resource Education Coordinator Barbara Liukkonen got a new training effort underway in January. The program is entitled **Shoreland Information Volunteers** and aims to educate volunteers to serve as local information sources for shoreland owners and lake associations. Water plans in Aitkin and Itasca counties listed this as a priority item and came to Barbara for assistance in setting the program up. A workshop is being planned for May 6 and 7 at Long Lake Conservation Camp.