



Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources.
Minutes.

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DATE: September 16, 2003

TO: Board of Water and Soil Resources Members, Advisors, and Staff

FROM: Ronald D. Harnack, Executive Director

SUBJECT: **September 24th BWSR Meeting Cancelled**

The September 24, 2003, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) meeting has been cancelled due to minimal agenda items. This decision is consistent with discussions at previous board meetings where it was decided to plan and reduce the number of meetings by two a year as part of budget considerations.

The upcoming Board meetings will be held on October 22nd and December 17th, in St. Paul. The agendas for these meetings will likely be a little longer so we will plan to meet into the afternoon and provide lunch.

Bemidji 3217 Bemidji Avenue N. Bemidji, MN 56601 phone (218) 755-4235 fax (218) 755-4201	Brainerd 217 S. 7th Street Suite 202 Brainerd, MN 56401 phone (218) 828-2383 fax (218) 828-6036	Duluth 394 S. Lake Avenue Room 403 Duluth, MN 55802 phone (218) 723-4752 fax (218) 723-4794	Fergus Falls 413 W. Stanton Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537 phone (218) 736-5445 fax (218) 736-7215	Marshall 1400 E. Lyon Street Box 267 Marshall, MN 56258 phone (507) 537-6060 fax (507) 537-6368	New Ulm 261 Highway 15 S. New Ulm, MN 56073 phone (507) 359-6074 fax (507) 359-6018	Rochester 40 16th Street S.E. Suite A Rochester, MN 55904 phone (507) 285-7458 fax (507) 280-2875	Saint Paul One West Water Street Suite 250 Saint Paul, MN 55107 phone (651) 282-9969 fax (651) 284-0000
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**BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES
PINE POINT ROOM at the EVENTS CENTER
SHOOTING STAR CASINO HOTEL
MAHNOMEN, MINNESOTA
THURSDAY, AUGUST 28, 2003**

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Jerome Deal, Perry Aasness, MDA; Kevin Anderson, Kay Cook, Wayne Edgerton, DNR; Quentin Fairbanks, Jack Frost, Karen Harder, Char Kahler, Paul Krabbenhoft, Randy Kramer, Clair Nelson, Victor Ormsby, Dwain Otte, Lisa Thorvig, MPCA; Dan Wilson, MDH.

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jim Anderson, Minnesota Extension Service

STAFF PRESENT: Ron Harnack, Doug Thomas, Ron Shelito, Jim Haertel, John Jaschke, Brian Dwight, Bill Best, Bill Eisele, Keith Grow, Mary Jo Anderson

ADVISORS PRESENT:

Scott Hoese, Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts
Ray Bohn and Tom Ebnet, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
Bryan Malone, Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees

OTHERS PRESENT:

Kevin Scheidecker, Red River Basin Commission

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Chair Deal called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

- ** Adopt Agenda** – Moved by Char Kahler, seconded by Jack Frost, to adopt the agenda as presented. Motion passed on a voice vote.
03-61
- ** Minutes of July 23, 2003** – Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Randy Kramer, to approve the minutes of July 23, 2003, as circulated. Motion passed on a voice vote.
03-62

Reports

Chair's Report – Chair Deal stated that the EQB did not meet this month. Chair Deal reported that he and Ron Harnack have made new BWSR committee assignments. The Dispute Resolution Committee members are: Jerome Deal, Karen Harder, Char Kahler, Clair Nelson, Dwain Otte and staff support is Jim Haertel. This committee is effective immediately. The new Committee listing will be distributed via e-mail to board members shortly.

- ** Moved by Chair Deal, seconded by Lisa Thorvig, to nominate Char Kahler as Vice-Chair. Nominations ceased. Motion passed on a voice vote.**
03-63

Executive Director – Ron Harnack thanked Ron Shelito, Bill Best, and Mary Jo Anderson for setting up the tour yesterday. The tour covered a lot of different programs and issues creating outcomes through the efforts of local governments independently or in partnership with the State. Ron mentioned that the budget process for next year is beginning. BWSR has three initiatives in for bonding (RIM Reserve/CREP; wetland banking for local public roads; and streambank, lakeshore and roadside (SLR). New legislative initiatives must be submitted by October 1, 2003. Ron will use the Administrative Advisory Committee for review of these initiatives. Ron introduced Bill Eisele, newly hired Administrative Services Director.

Dispute Resolution Committee – Jim Haertel reported that a new appeal has been filed regarding the City of Shevlin ditch issue, located east of Bagley. The appeal in the City of Foley regarding a wetland delineation has been denied. Jim reported that an appeal in St. Louis County regarding a restoration order has been remanded.

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The Education Committee, Cost-Share Committee, and Wetlands Committee did not meet this month.

Administrative Advisory Committee – Chair Deal stated that the Administrative Advisory Committee consists of the Board Chair, Vice-Chair, the chair of each committee, Ron Harnack, and Mary Jo Anderson.

Agency Reports

Perry Aasness, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), reported that an infestation of aphids has become a problem. There is also an infestation of gypsy moths in trees found in St. Cloud, Blaine and St. Paul. This infestation has impact on tree population and is important to control. Perry reported that MDA is involved in the Clean Water Cabinet efforts and the impaired waters initiatives.

Dan Wilson, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), reported that Doug Mandy has been hired to replace Gary Englund as manager of the Drinking Water Protection Section.

Wayne Edgerton, Department of Natural Resources (DNR), distributed the "2003 Guide to Buying a Minnesota Deer License." Wayne stated that the fall hunting seasons are now upon us. Overall, the wildlife populations look good to excellent. DNR hopes to see an increased deer harvest this fall, and expect to see a very good pheasant harvest in the southern part of the State. Wayne stated that some of the recent increases in the pheasant population can be attributed to successful land retirement programs such as a RIM Reserve, CREP and CRP.

Wayne reported that DNR will begin another year of intensive testing for Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in the wild deer herd. In 2002, DNR tested about 4400 deer that were hunter harvested; there were no positive tests from the wild deer tested. This year DNR hopes to triple the number tested, samples will be collected at 135 big game registration stations in 60 permit areas across the State. Wayne reported that the new importation restriction for hunter harvested cervids (deer, elk, moose, caribou) from other states as well as Canada will be effective this fall.

Wayne reported that there was a fish kill on the main stem of the Red River earlier this week. A large number of dead fish were sighted near Fargo-Moorhead. Preliminary investigations indicate low oxygen level due to low water levels and high temperatures was the cause of the kill.

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Wayne reported that Commissioner Merriam will present two youth awards at the State Fair on Friday. An award went to the Barber Flyers 4-H Club in Faribault County who developed a bluebird trail on a DNR wildlife management area; and the other award was presented to Gary Delaney from Perham High School in Ottertail County for tree planting and a water quality study he developed for his Future Farmers of America (FFA) project.

Lisa Thorvig, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), reported that Commissioner Corrigan has charged that Lisa's number one priority is impaired waters. Four or five excellent meetings have been held regarding impaired waters. A partners group meeting will be held on September 18, at the Science Museum in St. Paul, to review and critique the stakeholders impaired waters group. Lisa reported that TMDL studies are mandated, Long Prairie River is being studied by MPCA. The Alexandria Wastewater Treatment Center has challenged MPCA on their study. Lisa stated that the new federal feedlot rules will be a controversial issue in the State. MPCA is working with the League of Minnesota of Cities to look at how infrastructure needs might be used to clean up impaired waters, as this relates to the new federal stormwater rules.

New Business

**
03-64 Clay County Request for Comprehensive Local Water Plan Extension – Pete Waller presented the Clay County request and recommends approval of Clay County's two-year extension request to December 31, 2005. Moved by Clair Nelson, seconded by Jack Frost, that the Board approves the extension of the Clay County Comprehensive Local Water Plan until December 31, 2005. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Pine County Comprehensive Water Plan Update – Keith Grow presented the Pine County Plan update. Keith reported that on July 15, 2003, the Pine County Board of Commissioners adopted Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080 for Individual Sewage Treatment Systems countywide. Staff recommends approval of the Plan update, which is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300. Lisa Thorvig stated that Pine County has not applied for the delegated feedlot program, although not mandated, the County has not taken on the program; MPCA has funding available to them if they apply. Jack Frost asked if a letter could be sent to encourage Pine County to apply for this funding. Ron stated that Pine County has to match the funding. Moved by Lisa Thorvig, seconded by Clair Nelson, to approve the Pine County Comprehensive Water Plan Update. Motion passed on a voice vote.
**
03-65

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Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and South Two Rivers Watershed District Boundary Change – Jim Haertel reported that the Boards of Managers of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the South Two Rivers Watershed District filed a petition to change the common boundary of the two watershed districts. Each of the two watershed district boards of managers had adopted resolutions authorizing the boundary change prior to signing the petition. The petition for the boundary change was filed based on the hydrology of the petitioned area. The proposed boundary change affects 16.81 square miles of land in Marshall, Kittson and Roseau Counties. A legal notice of filing was published in four local newspapers and also mailed to affected counties, cities, and SWCD's. No requests for a public hearing were received and no comments were received within the specified time period in the legal notice. Approval of the boundary change would place each of the two boards of managers in charge of the waters that drain into their respective watershed districts. Staff recommends approval of the boundary change. Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Victor Ormsby, that the Board approves the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District boundaries are changed per the Order. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Chair Deal called for a break in the meeting at 10:00 a.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:15 a.m.

Funding Approval for Local Water Management Challenge Grant Projects – Wayne Zellmer reported that at the Board's June 25, 2003 meeting, a resolution was passed to solicit requests for proposals for projects to accelerate implementation of local water management plans. Wayne reported that 66 applications were received, a total of \$1,504,028 funds requested. Bill Best presented the applications, summary and ranking. Wayne stated that staff recommend approval of the Local Water Management Challenge Grant Projects as presented. Discussion followed. Randy Kramer asked if there is a summary report, so the information is shared among counties to save costs, and duplication minimized. Project summaries will be distributed to board members. In addition, the annual local water management conference does present many key successes and failures from the challenge grants. Moved by Jack Frost, seconded by Dwain Otte, that the Board approves projects #1 – #19 on the list be funded from the Environmental Trust Fund. These projects will receive half of project dollars requested immediately, and the remaining project dollars after the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources appropriates the Fiscal Year 2005 funds to the BWSR (anticipated to be early July 2005). Any approved project not submitting a project workplan by November 1, 2003, may have their funding revoked and the next highest-ranking project will be offered

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the available funds. Funding of projects #4 (Washington SWCD) and #9 (Stearns SWCD) will be contingent upon a resolution by the county or watershed district with jurisdiction in the SWCD's area granting them authority to receive and administer the funds for the project. The Board approves projects #20 and #21 on the list to be funded from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. These projects will receive the entire project amount of the project workplan. Motion passed on a voice vote.

FY04 Non-Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Base Grants – Wayne Zellmer reported that this is a noncompetitive annual grant allocated to the 11 SWCD Joint Powers Boards (JPBs). It is to be used by each JPB to provide engineering/technical services to help landowners to implement erosion control and water quality improvement practices. The Cost-Share Committee recommended this allocation procedure at their April 23 meeting. Wayne stated that all FY04 Joint Powers Board (JPB) budgets, including "budget shortfall plans" have been approved by board conservationists. Staff recommends approval of the FY04 NPEA Base Grants. Moved by Dwain Otte, seconded by Paul Krabbenhoft, to fund the eleven JPBs base grants. Dwain Otte stated that MASWCD will have seven areas and will have seven JPBs. Motion passed on a voice vote.

**

03-68

Northwest CREP Update and Red River Basin Commission (RRBC) - Kevin Scheidecker gave an update on the 41-member Red River Basin Commission. The challenge is to find commonalities that the Basin can agree on regarding goals and objectives. Kevin stated that the RRBC has coordinated the proposal for CREP in the Red River and is hopeful that the initiative will be included in the Governor's final initiative. Kevin stated that the RRBC is moving forward on CREP. RRBC received a 319 grant from MPCA for work on buffers. The RRBC is also working with Pheasants Forever on buffers.

Kevin gave an update on the Northwest CREP. He explained how CREP can be provided as a tool on the Dalen Coulee project and how CREP will fit into the SWCD and watershed district project efforts. The Northwest CREP would focus on buffers and wetland restorations in conjunction with local project work team flood damage reduction initiatives. Kevin stated that the three basins: southwest, southeast, and northwest (Red River Valley) are unified in a three-area CREP. Chair Deal thanked Kevin for his update.

CREP Second Generation Update – Ron Harnack reviewed the Minnesota CREP-2 Application Proposal 2003. There seems to be strong support for including all three areas in the CREP-2. Ron stated that agencies met with the

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Governor and staff last week to review the remaining issues and expects that the Governor will make a decision on the remaining issues in the next few weeks. The Governor's office will meet with the Minnesota Congressional Delegation on CREP-2 and then with FSA to review the state's position. It's hopeful that there can be agreement with FSA on conservation easement duration and acre caps options. Ron continues to carry the Board's position that permanent easement should be an ~~ad~~ option, but not at the expense of CREP-2 (Option C). Discussion followed. There was considerable discussion regarding the voluntary nature of the program and the flexibility for landowners to choose what works for them.

Clean Water Cabinet Update – Ron Harnack reported on the Governor's effort on Minnesota's water resources. Ron stated that the Clean Water Cabinet is substantially different from the impaired waters effort. The Clean Water Cabinet looks at all water issues not just water quality. The Clean Water Cabinet consists of the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff Bob Schroeder, chair; MDA Commissioner Gene Hugoson, DNR Commissioner Gene Merriam, MPCA Commissioner Sheryl Corrigan, MDH Commissioner Dianne Mandernach; select membership from EQB, and BWSR Executive Director Ron Harnack. Two meetings of the Clean Water Cabinet have been held to clarify the purpose and timeline for the efforts; and approve project recommendations from the Steering Team. Doug Thomas discussed the role of the Clean Water Steering Team, which is working together aligning resources and priorities. The Steering Team has a deadline of September 18 to make recommendations for pilot projects in the four areas. Doug is taking the lead on the Red River Project Team, which will identify local strategies to meet the goals/objectives and roles of different parties. The Red River Project Team has their first meeting today to discuss projects. Ron asked board members to contact him if they have questions or comments. Lisa Thorvig stated that it's exciting that a Governor is telling his Commissioners to look for more funding, and that water resources is a priority, and for the Governor to see that we can work together and look at long-term stable funding for water resources programs.

Advisory Comments

Bryan Malone, Pennington SWCD, representing Minnesota Association of Conservation District Employees (MACDE), reported that MACDE has a web site www.mnacd.org. Bryan reported that MACDE is working on a professional development committee for training. MACDE's next meeting is September 19.

Scott Hoese, President, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (MASWCD), reported that MASWCD is proposing to change three area boundaries. Scott thanked John Jaschke for his efforts working with MASWCD

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on this. Scott reported that the MASWCD annual meeting will be held November 30 – December 2, 2003, at the Radisson South in Bloomington. Scott thanked BWSR for the invitation to attend the tour yesterday. Scott reported that SWCDs have received a total of \$14.5M for EQIP.

Tom Ebnet, President, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts (MAWD), thanked BWSR for the invitation to attend the tour. Tom congratulated Jerome Deal on his appointment as Chair of BWSR. Tom reported that MAWD has been attending the impaired waters meetings. MAWD's annual meeting will be held December 4-6, 2003, at the Arrowwood in Alexandria. The next MAWD Board of Directors' meeting will be held September 12, 2003 at the Holiday Inn, in Alexandria.

Upcoming Meetings

Next BWSR Meeting, September 24, 2003, in St. Paul.

Chair Deal thanked staff for organizing the tour and meeting facilities.

The upcoming convention dates will be included in the next Board meeting notice. Ron asked that board members attend conventions of the associations they are not affiliated with, it's good cross-education between organizations.

** Moved by Clair Nelson, seconded by Victor Ormsby, to adjourn the meeting at
03-69 12:05 p.m. Motion passed on a voice vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jerome Deal". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Jerome Deal
Chair

Dispute Resolution Report
August 14, 2003
by Jim Haertel

There are presently ten appeals pending. All of the appeals involve WCA. There are three new appeals since the last report of July 9.

There is an appeal of a wetland delineation in the City of Foley in Benton County. No decision has been made on acceptance of the appeal.

There is an appeal of a restoration order in St. Louis County. The appeal is in abeyance pending a decision by the LGU on a replacement plan application.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision and two exemption decisions made by the Vadnais Lake Area Water Management Organization in Vadnais Heights, Ramsey County. The proposed project is for a residential development. The appeal is in abeyance since it was remanded to the WMO for an expanded TEP. Under remand the WMO made the same decision as before, and that decision has now been appealed. No decision has been made on acceptance of the new appeal.

There is an appeal of an exemption decision in the City of Independence in Hennepin County. The appeal has been accepted, a pre-hearing conference was held on July 29, a schedule for filing the written briefs has been established, and a hearing before the DRC has been set for September 24.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision in Douglas County. An agreement was mediated to resolve the appeal this summer. The status of the resolution should be known soon.

There is an appeal of a restoration order in Douglas County. An agreement was mediated to resolve the appeal this summer. The status of the resolution should be known soon.

There is an appeal of a no-loss decision in Meeker County. At issue is the wetland delineation. The appeal is being held in abeyance pending further technical evaluation work, however, it appears a settlement agreement may be reached between the county attorney and the landowner.

Another appeal is of a replacement plan in the City of Albertville in Wright County. The appeal is in abeyance since it has been remanded to the city because a TEP was not held.

Another appeal is of a replacement plan denial in Stearn's County. The appeal involves a single family dwelling site near the Mississippi River. The appeal has been accepted, a pre-hearing was held and the appeal is in abeyance pending the results of a lawsuit between the landowner and the county.

DNR AGENCY REPORT

AUGUST 28, 2003

BWSR MEETING

- **FALL HUNTING SEASONS ARE NOW UPON US. OVERALL WILDLIFE POPULATIONS LOOK GOOD TO EXCELLENT. WE HOPE TO SEE AN INCREASED DEER HARVEST THIS FALL, AND EXPECT TO SEE A VERY GOOD PHEASANT HARVEST IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE. AT LEAST SOME OF THE RECENT INCREASES IN THE PHEASANT POPULATION CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO SUCCESSFUL LAND RETIREMENT PROGRAMS SUCH AS RIM RESERVE, CREP, AND CRP.**
- **WE WILL BEGIN ANOTHER YEAR OF INTENSIVE TESTING FOR CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE (CWD) IN OUR WILD DEER HERD. IN 2002 WE TESTED ABOUT 4,400 DEER THAT WERE HUNTER HARVESTED. I AM HAPPY THAT THERE WERE NO POSITIVE TESTS FROM THE WILD DEER TESTED. THIS YEAR WE HOPE TO NEARLY TRIPLE THE NUMBER TESTED. SAMPLES WILL BE COLLECTED AT 135 BIG GAME REGISTRATION STATIONS, IN 60 PERMIT AREAS ACROSS THE STATE.**
- **THE NEW IMPORTATION RESTRICTION FOR HUNTER HARVESTED CERVIDS (DEER, ELK, MOOSE, OR CARIBOU) FROM OTHER STATES, AS WELL AS CANADA, IS IN EFFECT THIS FALL.**
- **WE HAD A FISH KILL ON THE MAIN STEM OF THE RED RIVER EARLIER THIS WEEK. A LARGE NUMBER OF DEAD FISH WERE SIGHTED NEAR FARGO-MOORHEAD. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATIONS INDICATE LOW OXYGEN LEVEL DUE TO LOW WATER LEVELS AND HIGH TEMPERATURES WAS THE CAUSE OF THE KILL.**
- *Tommy* **LAST FRIDAY, I PRESENTED TWO YOUTH AWARDS AT THE STATE FAIR. AN AWARD WENT TO THE BARBER FLYERS 4-CLUB IN FARIBAULT COUNTY WHO DEVELOPED A BLUEBIRD TRAIL ON A DNR WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA; AND THE OTHER AWARD WAS PRESENTED TO GARY DELANEY FROM PERHAM HIGH SCHOOL IN OTTER TAIL COUNTY FOR TREE PLANTING AND A WATER QUALITY STUDY HE DEVELOPED FOR HIS FUTURE FARMERS OF AMERICA (FFA) PROJECT.**

413 West Stanton Avenue, Fergus Falls, Minnesota, 56537

DATE: August 6, 2003
TO: Marybeth Block, BWSR, St. Paul
FROM: Pete Waller, Board Conservationist
SUBJECT: Clay County Request for CLWP Extension

The Clay County has requested that their Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) be extended to December 31, 2005 (two calendar years).

To my knowledge, the certified county board resolution requesting a two-year extension of the existing Clay County CLWP contains the necessary and pertinent information. It also lists the various other planning efforts underway that the county is participating in, which supports the request.

I agree with the Clay County request and hereby approve a two-year extension. This sets the effective date (end date) for the Clay County CLWP to be December 31, 2005.

Attached you will find a brief paragraph of explanation for the board agenda packet, the Findings of Fact, and Conclusions and Order document. The certified county resolution will be mailed to you today.

I request that our BWSR board be presented this request at the August meeting.

Please feel free to call me if you have questions or concerns.

Attachments

CLAY COUNTY COMPREHENSIVE LOCAL WATER PLAN (FOR BOARD ACTION)

Clay County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP), approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and locally adopted via county resolution on October 10, 1989. The second generation CLWP was approved by BWSR December 17, 1998 and locally adopted January 1999. The effective date (end date) of this CLWP is December 31, 2003.

The 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives the Board of Water and Soil Resources authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the ending date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot be for more than two years.

At their December 15, 1999 board meeting, the BWSR adopted policies that defined the Board's expectations of water plan updates, and encouraged counties extend their current plan if they are involved in multi-planning strategies.

Clay County is an active player in the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District planning efforts currently underway, as well as the project teams of the Wild Rice and Buffalo-Red River Watershed Districts. These plans require the input of the water planner and associated technical advisors, and once completed, will benefit the CLWP process. Also, with nearly 90 percent of Clay County's land area in agricultural production, the Federal Farm bill, once finalized, will certainly influence agricultural land use and the water plan.

Board Conservationist Pete Waller recommends approval of Clay County's two-year extension request to December 31, 2005.

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107**

In the Matter of Extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan
for **Clay County** (1995 Minnesota Session Law, Chapter 184,
Section 24 authorizing BWSR to approve **Clay County** extensions.)

Whereas, Clay County has a state approved Comprehensive Local Water Plan that is effective until
December 31, 2003 pursuant to Minnesota Statute 1990, Section 103B.301, and

Whereas, the Clay County Board of Commissioners requested an extension of the Comprehensive Local
Water Plan to the Board of Water and Soil Resources, pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter
184, Section 24, and

Whereas, the Board of Water and Soil Resources has authorization to grant Clay County extensions
pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

Now Therefore, the Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby makes the following Findings of Fact,
Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. On July 21, 2003, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Clay County
requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
2. On August 6, 2003, the Board of Water and Soil Resources staff reviewed and recommended
approval of the extension request by Clay County.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board of Water and Soil
Resources has proper jurisdiction in the matter of extending the Comprehensive Local Water Plan of
Clay County pursuant to Minnesota Session Law 1995, Chapter 184, Section 24.

ORDER

The Board of Water and Soil Resources hereby approves the extension of the Clay County Comprehensive
Local Water Plan until December 31, 2005. Dated at Mahanomen, Minnesota, this 28th day of August 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Jerome Deal, Chair
August 28, 2003

Marybeth

**RESOLUTION REQUESTING EXTENSION
OF
CLAY COUNTY LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Commissioner Waller offered the following resolution, No. 2003-36 and moved its adoption at the July 15, 2003 Clay County Board Meeting.

WHEREAS, Clay County has a Comprehensive Local Water Plan (CLWP) which was first approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and locally adopted October 10, 1989. The second generation CLWP was approved by the BWSR December 17, 1998 and locally adopted January 1999. The effective end date of the second generation CLWP is December 31, 2003.

WHEREAS, the 1995 amendments to the Comprehensive Local Water Management Act, M.S. 103B.301, gives the BWSR authority to grant extensions to counties for the purpose of extending the date of their water plans. These extensions must be requested in writing and cannot exceed two years.

WHEREAS, Clay County is actively involved in watershed level planning efforts currently underway and would request the full extension to work through the Wild Rice Watershed District and Buffalo-Red River Watershed District Comprehensive Plans.

WHEREAS, these watershed scale planning efforts will result in information that will greatly benefit the county in updating the Local Water Management Plan.

WHEREAS, nearly 90% of the land area in Clay County is in agricultural production and legislation relating to agriculture in the form of a Farm Bill is critical to the direction Clay County pursues in implementing initiatives to improve and protect water quality through the CLWP. Although the Farm Bill was passed the spring of 2002, final rules for this new legislation may not be distributed to the county level until 2004.

WHEREAS, to continue as an active participant and obtain information from watershed planning efforts and new Farm Bill legislation that will benefit the CLWP update, Clay County will not be able to complete its CLWP update prior to December 31, 2005.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Clay County Board of Commissioners request from the BWSR a two (2) year (until December 31, 2005) extension of the existing Clay County CLWP.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, Clay County will ensure continued public participation in the form of the Clay County Local Water Plan Advisory Committee and public informational meetings.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, no projects will be ordered or commenced under M.S. 103B.331, subd. 3 or 4 during the extension period.

Commissioner Campbell seconded the adoption of the resolution, and it was adopted on the following vote.

Ayes: 5 Nays: 0

Pine County Water Plan
OVERVIEW
Background

Pine County's first Comprehensive Local Water Plan, also referred to as its "first generation" water plan, was approved in December 1992. The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met May 8, 2002 and reviewed the Pine County "Second Generation" Water Plan Update. The plan, although, well written, was found to be inconsistent with state law, 9300.0170, subp. 5. Specifically, Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080 for Individual Sewage Treatment Systems. (Enclosed is a letter dated April 25, 2002, from Keith Grow, Board Conservationist to the Review Committee regarding the 7080 Rule.) The Review Committee voted to recommend withholding final approval of Pine County's water plan update by the full board pending adoption of 7080 Rules by the county. Once adoption by Pine County is verified, BWSR would then move for final approval. (Enclosed is a letter from Ron Shelito, Northern Regional Supervisor dated May 8, 2002, to Bob Pigeon, Water Planning Taskforce Chair, regarding the review committee's decision).

On July 15, 2003 the Pine County Board of Commissioners adopted the 7080 Rules countywide.

Pine County is located 60 miles north of St. Paul and 40 miles south of Duluth in the extreme northeastern edge of central Minnesota. It is bounded on the east by the St. Croix River and the State of Wisconsin. The 918,112 acres in Pine County contain about 10,000 acres of surface water. 73 percent of the County is privately owned. Agriculture, **forestry**, and recreation account for a majority of revenues.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The purpose of this summary is to give a background on what was included in the first Pine County Water Plan, its goals, objectives and major accomplishments. This summary will also lead into the major issues addressed in this "second generation" water plan. Where the first water plan emphasized the need for data collection, this water plan will place more emphasis on **implementation activities** based on the knowledge gained from the successes of the first water plan.

The first water plan outlined 110 actions, supporting 45 objectives that addressed 8 overall water and related resource goals. The following is a listing of some of the major successes of the first Pine County Water Plan:

- A comprehensive scientific study of the Askov sinkhole phenomena by the University of Minnesota.
- The making of a Pine County Geologic Atlas by the Minnesota Geological Survey and the DNR.
- The completion of a Clean Water Partnership diagnostic study of Pokegama Lake and its contributing watershed.
- The completion of a Clean Water Partnership diagnostic study of Cross Lake and its contributing watershed.
- The semi-annual publication of the *Pine County Waters* with a circulation of 23,000 copies per issue.
- Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) capability in the Pine SWCD office.
- The completion of a Phase II a county-wide feedlot inventory.

- An MPCA Lake Assessment Study (LAP) for Sturgeon Lake, Island Lake, and Big Pine Lake.
- Better coordination and working relationships between Pine County Board, other county departments, cities, state and federal agencies, the Snake River Watershed Management Board and the Pine SWCD.
- The soils mapping of 29,400 acres in the cities of Sandstone, Pine City, and the sinkhole study area in Partridge Township.
- An onsite inspection of all ISTS systems in the shoreland district of Pine Lake Township.

As a result of these listed successes, numerous water resource protection initiatives have been implemented and are in the planning phase. In the Snake River Watershed, Pokegama Lake and Cross Lake are now served by **central sewer systems**. Also the City of Henriette is planning to have central sewer soon. Pokegama Lake and its contributing watershed is starting to implement the recommendations of its Clean Water Partnership Diagnostic Study. The Pokegama Lake Watershed has been given Conservation Priority Status by NRCS and major watershed implementation activities are underway. Over **\$200,000 in cost-sharing for project implementation** has already been allocated and numerous water resource protection projects have already been installed.

As a result of the **soils mapping** project, Hinckley, Pine City and Sandstone now have accurate soils information available to them. This **soils information has been digitized** and is available through their computer software programs. Accurate soils information is a powerful tool to assist them in making wise land use decisions, especially with all the development activity along the Interstate 35 corridor.

The City of Hinckley has updated their waste treatment system to eliminate their leaking storage ponds and reduce the pollutants discharged in to the Grindstone River. This was a major concern in the first water plan. As a result of the Pine Lake Township ISTS inspection project, **over 60 nonconforming and failing septic systems have been replaced to date.**

The "second generation" water plan lists 151 Actions supporting 29 Objectives that address four major goals. Many of these actions build on the information learned from the above listed accomplishments. They include the following.

Snake River Watershed – From the standpoint of prioritization, the Snake River Watershed (and its sub-watersheds) is ranked as **Pine County's # 1 priority watershed**. This does not mean that its water quality problems are any more or less important than the other major watersheds. The ranking is simply a function of the "squeaky wheel phenomena" which led to the formation of the Snake River Watershed Management Board. The SRWMB is a joint powers board made up of Aitkin, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, and Pine County. A Pine County commissioner serves on this board. A supervisor on the Citizen Advisory Committee represents the Pine SWCD and SWCD staff serves as technical advisors to the SRWMB. Taxing authority is possible under the joint powers watershed. The Pokegama Lake Association has been a very active player in providing pull-tab revenues for projects plus it is a strong advocate for watershed protection. The Snake River Watershed also contains two general development lakes in Pine County, which are heavily used recreational lakes. **Clean Water Partnership Phase 1** studies have been completed on Cross and Pokegama Lake and these sub-watershed are ready for serious implementation activities with large amounts of funding already in place. **Objectives 26-29 and Action 135-151 are specific to implementing the management plan resulting from the Cross Lake Clean**

Water Partnership Study. Pokegama Lake and its watershed is the target of Objectives 20-25 including Actions 112-134.

Kettle River Watershed – The Kettle River Watershed would be considered the number two priority watershed for implementation activities. The sinkhole phenomenon is the biggest issue in this watershed. **Central sewer will soon serve Banning State Park and the I-35 businesses at Banning Junction. The City of Rutledge is in the process of planning for central sewer. Action 32 addresses these central sewer issues.**

The Askov area sinkhole study is completed and Pine County is waiting for the final report from the University of Minnesota. **Objective 3 and Actions 12-19 deal with this sinkhole study area.**

All Watersheds in Pine County – In order of watershed priority, the Lower St. Croix Watershed would be prioritized as number three, the Upper St. Croix Watershed would be number four and areas of concern alluded to in this “second generation” plan include **wellhead/source water protection**. The assurance of a potable drinking water supply for all Pine County residents, our visitors and our animals was an important theme emerging from the public theme conducted during the development of the “first generation” water plan. This theme continued to be echoed throughout the public meetings of the “second generation” water plan. **Wellhead protection plans and education efforts, as outlined in Objective 4, Action 20-26, will support these concerns.**

Stormwater management is another new area for this water plan. Although mentioned in the “first generation” water plan, greater emphasis is being placed on it in this plan. **Objective 11, Actions 53-56 and Actions 68-75 deal with stormwater management.**

High priority wetland types and/or areas are another new area included in this water plan. Wetlands in Pine County do not take on the same degree of significance as other areas of the state. This is due to the fact that nearly one-third of Pine County is wetlands and also that over 90 percent of Pine County’s pre-settlement wetlands are still on the landscape. Pine County has done an excellent job of preserving its wetlands in the past, and the Wetland Conservation Act will provide adequate protection into the future. It is believed that wetlands, like lakes, have varying degrees of nutrients richness or trophic status. The highest priority wetlands in Pine County are the eutrophic wetlands such as the type 2 and type 3 that have been altered by drainage. They are believed to contribute significant phosphorous loading to our surface waters. **Action 38, 39, 40, 126, 127, and 137 deal with these wetland issues. Other high priority wetlands in Pine County would be all wetlands within the shoreland management ordinance areas and the floodplain wetland of the Snake River and its tributaries.**

Individual Septic Treatment Systems (ISTS) receive a lot of attention in this plan. Actions dealing with septic systems are included under the groundwater and surface water goals. **Objective 5, Actions 27-33, and Objective 10, Actions 48-52 all deal with individual septic systems.**

Although this plan does not include a specific education goal, **educational efforts** abound in this plan. The Pine County Waters has been a big success of the water planning efforts in Pine County. It will continue to be a cost-effective way to educate and inform citizens of water and related resource information pertinent to Pine County. This newspaper published by the Pine SWCD goes to every household in Pine County and all non-resident property owners of Pine County. With a **circulation of over 23,000** every taxpayer and citizen of Pine County has access

to timely, cost-effective educational materials. Presently this newspaper is published in February and September. Expanding this paper to four publications each year should be considered.

Land use planning is an area of increasing public concern. Pine County presently does not have countywide zoning or land use planning. Some of the townships have adopted their own ordinances. Land use planning, like other Best Management Practices, can play an important role in water resource protection. **Actions 32, 69, and 76-78 address land use planning and related issues.**

Pine County still remains without a countywide soil survey. It was an Action item in the first water plan and remains in this plan as **Action 20**. The lack of accurate soils information is the missing link needed to make wise land use decision.

Other important areas addressed in this water plan include:

- County ditches
- Formation of a county GIS department
- Increased volunteer monitoring of lakes and streams
- Hazardous waste sites
- Water conservation
- Feedlot

Sustainable water resource protection requires a lifetime commitment to become educated and to educate others, to practice good stewardship as well as to promote good stewardship. It begs a willingness to become involved and help make a difference. This plan offers many opportunities during the next seven years for all of Pine County's citizens to help make a difference.

"Sustainable water resource protection is not an option, I consider it part of our birthright."

Richard W. Noyes, Pine County Water Planner



217 South Seventh Street, Suite 202, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

DATE: May 8, 2002

TO: Bob Pigeon, Pine County Water Planning Task Force Chair

FROM: Ron Shelito, BWSR North Region Supervisor

SUBJECT: Approval of Pine County Water Plan

The BWSR Water Plan Review Committee met May 8, 2002 and reviewed the Pine County Second Generation Water Plan update. On behalf of the review committee, I extend my congratulations to you for a job well done. The plan submitted for review is thorough and meets BWSR guidelines for plan revisions. It is clear that you put a lot of work into past water plan activities, as evidenced by your success with the Sinkhole Study Project, Pokegama Lake Cleanwater Partnership, activities in the Snake River Joint Powers Organization, the Pine County Waters newsletter, and many other water plan sponsored activities. Coordination between the SWCD and the county is excellent and your water planning task force is active. Your goals and objectives for future work also seem to be on target. You've done a good job on listing your objectives and how you plan to go about accomplishing them.

Based on the level of commitment and the thoroughness of the plan, the BWSR review committee is ready to recommend final approval of your plan to the full BWSR board. However, there is one glitch that prevents this from happening at this time. The MPCA review noted that Pine County has not adopted Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080 for Individual Sewage Treatment Systems and further noted that they could not recommend approval of the plan at this time. Water plan rules require that county water plans be consistent with state laws, 9300.0170, Subp. 5. While the water plan does list adoption of 7080 Rules as an objective, the review committee weighed MPCA's recommendation to not approve and the fact that the county has been out of compliance with 7080 Rules for some time. The BWSR Review Committee voted to withhold final approval of the water plan by the full BWSR Board pending adoption of the 7080 Rules by the county. Upon verification by the county that the 7080 Rules have been adopted by Pine County, BWSR will then move to make final approval of the Pine County Water Plan.

Please note that Natural Resources Block Grant or Challenge Grant funds cannot be released to any county without an approved water plan. The next round of grant applications is due January 15, 2003, with grant agreements being processed soon afterwards. The BWSR review committee understands that the county is currently taking steps to adopt 7080 Rules and encourages Pine County to adopt sooner rather than later.

The BWSR review committee again wishes to thank you, Dick Noyes, Norman Nelson, and Art Usher for attending the review meeting on May 8, 2002, in Brainerd. The work and leadership that they put into the Pine County water plan was evident during our review. Once the 7080 Rule issues are resolved, the BWSR will be happy to finalize approval of your water plan.

c: Dick Noyes, Water Plan Coordinator
Keith Grow, Board Conservationist
Ginny Imholte, Ad Hoc Committee Member

Lee Coe, Ad Hoc Committee Member
Darrell Bruggman, Ad Hoc Committee Member
MaryBeth Block, Water Plan Program Coordinator

<i>Bemidji</i>	<i>Brainerd</i>	<i>Duluth</i>	<i>Fergus Falls</i>	<i>Marshall</i>	<i>New Ulm</i>	<i>Rochester</i>	<i>Saint Paul</i>
3217 Bemidji Avenue N. Bemidji, MN 56601 phone (218) 755-4235 fax (218) 755-4201	217 S. 7th Street Suite 202 Brainerd, MN 56401 phone (218) 828-2383 fax (218) 828-6036	394 S. Lake Avenue Room 403 Duluth, MN 55802 phone (218) 723-4752 fax (218) 723-4794	413 W. Stanton Avenue Fergus Falls, MN 56537 phone (218) 736-5445 fax (218) 736-7215	1400 E. Lyon Street Box 267 Marshall, MN 56258 phone (507) 537-6060 fax (507) 537-6368	261 Highway 15 S. New Ulm, MN 56073 phone (507) 359-6074 fax (507) 359-6018	40 16th Street S.E. Suite A Rochester, MN 55904 phone (507) 285-7458 fax (507) 280-2875	One West Water Street Suite 250 Saint Paul, MN 55107 phone (651) 282-9969 fax (651) 284-0000

217 South Seventh Street, Brainerd, Minnesota 56401

DATE: April 25, 2002
TO: BWSR Water Planning Ad Hoc Committee
FROM: Keith R. Grow, Board Conservationist, BWSR
SUBJECT: Special Concern: Non-Adoption of MN Rule Chapter 7080.

Pine County has done a good overall job updating their water plan. One issue of concern is that they have not adopted MN Rule Chapter 7080. Minnesota Statute 115.55, Subp. 2(a) states "All counties...must adopt ordinances that comply with individual sewage treatment system rules". During the preliminary review, Minnesota Pollution Control could not recommend approval of the water plan because the County is out of compliance with state law. Ken Levoir, MPCA, reviewed the water plan as the representative of his agency. He indicated MPCA has been working with the County for four to five years regarding the adoption of MN Rule Chapter 7080. By telephone on April 24, 2002, Ken indicated he continues to work with the county regarding 7080. He felt Pine County was very close to adopting, but he would appreciate anything the water planning process could do to assist him and Planning and Zoning in the efforts.

Pine County's action item (48), Countywide Implementation of MN 7080 standard states "Assure that by June 1, 2002, a permitting program be implemented to regulate the uniform application of Minnesota 7080 standards by Pine County". Implementation of this action item would put Pine County in compliance.

I discussed this item with Pine County at their last water planning taskforce meeting and again at the SWCD board meeting on April 23, 2002. They are optimistic that they will be in compliance by June 1, 2002.

In summary, the County is out of compliance. The water plan addresses adoption of MN Rule Chapter 7080 as written. I have discussed this issue with Ron Shelito and Doug Thomas. We recommend the ad hoc committee approve the plan at the May 8, 2002 meeting but not bring it before the full Board until BWSR receives notification that Pine County has adopted 7080. If the County does not adopt 7080 by February 1, 2003, the BWSR may consider withholding their 2003 Natural Resources Block Grant.

If you wish to meet with me prior to the meeting on May 8, or have any questions, please call me at 218-828-6035.

**Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street
Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107**

In the Matter of Reviewing the Comprehensive Water Plan Update
for Pine County (Minnesota Statutes 1990, Section 103B.311,
Subdivision 4 and Section 103B.315, Subdivision 5 and Minnesota
Rules 9300.0170).

**ORDER APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATER PLAN**

Whereas, the Pine County Board of Commissioners adopted its first generation Comprehensive Water Plan (Plan) on May 15, 1990, under authority of M.S. 1990, Section 103B.301, which was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board), December 16, 1992, respectively pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Plan provided for updating in 2000 pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, and

Whereas, the Pine County Board of Commissioners submitted a Comprehensive Water Plan Update (Plan Update) to the Board on March 21, 2002, pursuant to M.S. 1990, Section 103B.315, Subd. 5, and

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan Update:

Now therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. M.S. 1990, Section 103B.311, Subd. 4, requires adopted Comprehensive Water Plans to be updated on a recurring basis.
2. On September 14, 1999, Pine County passed a resolution to develop a Comprehensive Water Plan Update to meet the Plan update requirements.
3. On October 17, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources received a resolution from Pine County requesting an extension of their Comprehensive Local Water Plan.
4. On December 13, 2000, the Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the extension of the Pine County's Comprehensive Water Plan until June 30, 2002.
5. Pine County completed a preliminary draft Plan Update on December 20, 2001, and submitted it to affected local units of government for review and comment pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 1.
6. On December 20, 2001, Pine County submitted a draft Plan Update to the Departments of Agriculture, Health, and Natural Resources, the Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Planning Environmental Quality Board and the Minnesota Geological Survey for preliminary review and comment.

7. On February 21, 2002, Pine County held a public hearing on the Plan Update, pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 4, for the purpose of obtaining public input into the Plan Update.
8. On March 21, 2002, Pine County submitted its Final Plan Update along with all written comments received on the Plan Update, and a record of the public hearing to the Board for final State review pursuant to Section 103B.315, Subd. 5.
9. On May 1, 2002, an executive summary, Board Conservationist findings, and goals and objectives of the Pine County Plan Update were sent to the Board Ad Hoc committee for their information and review.
10. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Review: In the preliminary review, MDA provided no comments. On April 29, 2002, MDA commended Pine County on the development of an outstanding plan and on progress made in implementation of the previous plans. We noted several areas within the plan where MDA may be able to coordinate with efforts identified including drainage issues, pollution prevention, and lawn care management.
11. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) Review: On February 28, 2002, in the preliminary review, MDH encouraged Pine County to consider setting up a small well-sealing cost-share program. Approximately 18 wells could be sealed for \$3000 to \$4000 at a 50% cost-share rate. MDH also updated the Source Water Protection status as of March 2002.
12. On May 3, 2002, in the final comment period, MDH indicated Pine County has done an excellent job of incorporating source water/wellhead protection issues into the plan. In my view they should be commended. Overall, I think it is a very good plan.
13. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Review: In the preliminary review DNR provided no comments.
14. In the final comment period the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), stated: Overall, it is a pretty good broad based plan. It appears to deal with most land use issues that occur in Pine County. Unfortunately, it appears to lack a clear long-range strategic plan to deal with future issues that may occur within Pine County. The plan states, "Existing wetland regulations are believed to be doing a good job of limiting wetland losses in Pine County." DNR response, "Are they really? What about cumulative impacts? Most environmental organizations feel that existing wetland regulations are inadequate or not effectively enforced. How much wetland has been lost in Pine County in the last ten years? The plan is acceptable even though it is not progressive.
15. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Review: In its preliminary review MPCA indicated it is unable to recommend approval of the plan since a countywide septic system ordinance is not in effect. Minnesota Stat. 115.55, Subp. 2(a) says "All counties... Must adopt ordinances that comply with individual sewage treatment system rules (Minn. R. ch. 7080)... unless all towns and cities in the county have adopted such ordinances." This statute has been in effect for several years. Also, MPCA recommended the county pursue delegation of the feedlot program. As evidenced in other delegated counties, administration of the feedlot program is much more efficient and effective when performed at the local county level. Counties have substantially more knowledge and sensitivity to local practices and understanding of local conditions. Local staff has the advantage of being part of a network of local agencies in which financial and technical assistance can be coordinated to support the needs of the feedlot owners. For this reason, producers generally favor county

administration of the feedlot program over that done by the State. The financial benefits to the county include receiving a Natural Resource Block Grant to run the program. Stormwater was also discussed. NPDES currently at five acres of disturbed land for development will be reduced to one acre. MPCA encourages the county through an action item to make sure the builder has the required NPDES construction storm water permit in possession prior to issuing the local building permit.

16. MPCA offered no final written comments. Verbally, they indicated they will continue to work with the county regarding adoption of 7080.

17. Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board (EQB) Review: On January 22, 2002, EQB, in its preliminary comments stated that they would be interested in learning more about the County's ideas for changes in state programs. Also, your mention of the projected housing needs in certain areas and the water-related challenges associated with growth shows the importance of the relationship the Comprehensive Local Water Plan has with other county planning work. We feel that working towards connections between these plans strengthens both planning efforts and will only add to the success of location water planning in the future.

EQB enclosed a list of contacts and services available through the Land Management Information Center, Minnesota State Planning's Local Planning Assistance team, and the Minnesota State Demographic Center. EQB recommended approval.

18. Minnesota State Planning Agency/Environmental Quality Board provided no final comments.

19. Minnesota Geological Survey (MGS) Preliminary Review: MGS provided no preliminary comments. On May 5, 2002 in the final comment period MGS approved the Pine County Water Plan. They also stated, "The authors of the update were kind enough to mention completion of the Atlas Part A as a major accomplishment of the past update period. They included a detailed summary of geology of Pine County in the resources inventory and proposed several actions based on information collected and mapped for the Atlas. I was most interested in the uses for the Atlas results identified in the update. First, they include controls on development were proposed for areas of surficial and shallow gravel, mapped as potential aggregate resources on the mineral endowment plate. Second, improvement of the Askov wastewater treatment system was proposed as it relates to the sinkhole distribution. Third, educational and informational activities to alert the public to potential drinking-water quality problems were proposed, based on high boron concentrations reported in ground-water samples collected for the Atlas part B hydrogeologic investigation.

20. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources: On January, 3, 2002, the Board provided preliminary written comments on the Plan Update. BWSR stated that Forestry has been assessed as an important industry in Pine County (\$2,848,056) in stumpage revenue.. The plan also indicates that private forestland is under utilized and poorly managed. The County or SWCD should consider an action item establishing a "forester" position to assist the DNR and private consultants. Also, one of BWSR's expectations, circulated in December of 1999, discussed framing the plan in a watershed context. This will provide a coordinated effort between land use activities, planning, and jurisdictions at all levels. The plan does a good job of providing goals, objectives, and action items to address the identified concerns and trends. As part of the assessment and or executive summary the plan should consider prioritizing the major watersheds from highest to lowest, based on assessments. This would give an area of focus and identify where to start implementation on a priority bases. Also, Pine County will need to identify its high priority wetland areas as require.

21. On April 12, 2002, BWSR final comments stated that the plan is very well written. Pine County has done an excellent job in providing a future direction regarding protection and enhancement of its natural resources. The 90-day review has included all BWSR preliminary comments, which included designation of high priority wetland areas, forestry, watershed prioritization, an abandoned well sealing program, and more accurate measure of action item costs.

On March 4, 2002 at a water planning taskforce meeting, concerns were discussed regarding the fact that Pine County has not adopted 7080. Adoption of Minnesota Statutes 155.55, Subp. 2(a), states " All counties... must adopt ordinances that comply with individual sewage treatment systems(Minnesota R. ch.7080). During the preliminary review Minnesota Pollution Control could not recommend approval of the water plan due to the fact that the county is currently out of compliance with state law. Action item 48, Countywide Implementation of Mn.7080 standard states, "Assure that by June 1, 2002, a permitting program be implemented to regulate the uniform application of Minnesota 7080 standards by Pine County". Board Conservationist recommendation is approval contingent on action item 48 being completed.

22. On December 31, 2001, United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), USFWS easements should not be under easements--this program is under USFWS Partners Program and offers free wetland restoration of small ditched or tiled wetlands (average one acre) to their former water level for wildlife an water quality benefits. There is no easement involved. Also, add Karner blue butterfly, and peregrine falcon to your endangered species list.

23. On February 18, 2002, Leland Magnuson, a private citizen stated, "Require erosion control plans for major grading and filling activities in shoreland areas." Amend the Pine County shoreland management ordinance to require erosion control plan for major grading and filling activities taking place within the shoreland management area, not in just the shore impact zoning. Also, amend the Pine County shoreland management ordinance to reference townships where standards have been adopted.

22. On March 13, 2002, Pine County responded to all preliminary comments. Final responses were made May 7, 2002.

23. The Board Water Plan Review Committee met on May 8, 2002, in Brainerd with Board staff and representatives from Pine County to review and discuss the Plan Update. Those in attendance were Ad Hoc Committee Chair Ginny Imholte, Lee Coe, and Darrell Bruggman, of the Board; Ron Shelito and Keith Grow of the BWSR Brainerd regional office, Pine County Water Planner Richard Noyes, plan review committee met to determine whether all relevant law and rule requirements had been met and to hear comments from the county on the planning process. At the conclusion of the meeting the BWSR water plan review committee voted to withhold final approval of the water plan by the full BWSR Board until adoption of the 7080 Rules. Upon verification that the 7080 Rules had been adopted by Pine County, BWSR will then move to make final approval to the Pine County Water Plan.

24. On July 15, 2003, the Pine County Board of commissioners adopted Minnesota Rules Chapter 7080 for Individual Sewage Treatment Systems, countywide.

CONCLUSIONS

1. All relevant requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Pine County pursuant to Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.311, Subd. 4, and Minnesota Rules, 9300.0170, Subp. 4.
2. The Pine County Plan Update attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the county, possible solutions, general goals, objectives and actions of the county, and an implementation program. The attached Plan Update is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes 1990, 103B.301 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 9300.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Plan as the Comprehensive Water Plan Update of Pine County, dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota, this Twenty-Eighth day of August 2003, effective until August 28, 2010.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BY: Jerome Deal, Chair

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
One West Water Street, Suite 200
St. Paul, Minnesota 55107

In the Matter of the Boundary Change for the
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed
District and the Two Rivers Watershed District
pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.251.

**ORDER BOUNDARY CHANGE FOR
MIDDLE-SNAKE-TAMARAC RIVERS
WATERSHED DISTRICT AND TWO
RIVERS WATERSHED DISTRICT**

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District filed a Petition with the Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) dated June 16, 2003, to change the common boundary of the two watershed districts pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.251, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Petition;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Boundary Change Petition.** The Petition to change the boundary of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District dated June 16, 2003, was filed by the two watershed districts with the Board on June 23, 2003.
2. **Property Description.** The territory to be included in the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District, the Petitioned Area, is contiguous to each of the two watershed districts, and is fully described in a table attached to the Petition as Exhibit A and further depicted on three maps attached to the Petition as Exhibit B which are attached hereto and fully incorporated herein. The Petitioned Area includes lands that are in the Counties of Marshall, Kittson, and Roseau and consists of a total of approximately 16.81 square miles. Approximately 2.05 square miles of the Petitioned Area would be added to the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District in the Township of Eagle Point in Marshall County and the Township of Arveson in Kittson

County. Approximately 14.76 square miles of the Petitioned Area would be added to the Two Rivers Watershed District in the Townships of Augsburg, East Park, Huntly, Nelson Park, and Sinnott in Marshall County, the Townships of Arveson and Deerwood in Kittson County, and the Townships of Deer, Huss, and Lind in Roseau County.

3. **Reasons for Change.** The Petition lists the following:
 - A. The Board of Managers should be in charge of the waters that drain into their respective watershed districts and the proposed boundary change would accomplish that purpose.
 - B. The boundary change would benefit the affected watershed districts because the lands to be added to said districts can be more feasibly administered by the managers of those respective watershed districts.
4. **Board of Managers Resolution.** Resolutions authorizing the boundary change and the managers to sign the Petition were adopted by the Board of Managers of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District on May 19, 2003, and the Board of Managers of the Two Rivers Watershed District on May 6, 2003.
5. **Notice of Filing.** Legal Notice of Filing was published in the Kittson County Enterprise on July 9, 2003, the Stephen Messenger on July 10, 2003, the Greenbush Tribune on July 9, 2003, and the North Star News on July 10, 2003. The Legal Notice of Filing was also mailed on July 11, 2003 to several addressees including the affected county boards of commissioners, county auditors, cities, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
6. **Public Hearing.** The legal notice was published pursuant to Minn. Stat. §§ 103D.105, Subd. 2 and 103D.251, Subd. 6, which require within 30 days of the last date of publication of the notice of filing of the Petition that at least one request for hearing be received by the Board before a hearing will be held. No requests for hearing were received during the specified period of time and no hearing was held.

7. **Comments Received.** No comments were received within 35 days of the last publication date of the legal notice of filing.

8. **Board Staff Report.** Board staff recommend the boundary change be approved since the proposed boundary more accurately reflects the hydrologic boundaries of the two watershed districts.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The Petition for boundary change of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District is valid in accordance with Minn. Stat. § 103D.251.
2. Proper notice of filing was given and a public hearing was not held in accordance with applicable laws.
3. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law and rule have been fulfilled.
4. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of ordering a watershed district boundary change.
5. The boundary change of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District as proposed in the Petition would be for the public welfare and public interest and would advance the purpose of Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103D.
6. The boundaries of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District as proposed in the Petition define contiguous areas for each of the two watershed districts.
7. The boundaries of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District as proposed in the Petition are more accurately based on the hydrology of the subject area than the present boundaries.

ORDER

The Board hereby orders that the boundaries of the Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District and the Two Rivers Watershed District are changed to transfer the area described in the Petition, which is fully described in a table attached to the Petition as Exhibit A and further depicted on three maps attached to the Petition as Exhibit B, all attached hereto and fully incorporated herein.

Dated at Mahnomen, Minnesota this 28th day of August, 2003.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

By: _____
Jerome Deal, Chair

Proposed Boundary Change									
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District/Two Rivers Watershed District									
Lands To Be Added To Two Rivers WD					Lands Added To MST Rivers WD				
County	Township	Twp	Rge	Acres	County	Township	Twp	Rge	Acres
					Marshall	Eagle Point	158N	50W	
						S2 Sec 4			320
						N2 SW4 Sec 3			80
						SW4 SW4 Sec 3			40
Marshall	Sinnott	158N	48W						
	N2 NE4 Sec 2			80					
	N2 NW4 Sec 1			80					
Marshall	Augsburg	158N	47W						
	S2 SE4 Sec 2			80					
	S2 S2 Sec 1			160					
	N2 NW4 Sec 12			80					
Marshall	Nelson Park	158N	46W						
	S2 SW4 Sec 3			80					
	S2 S2 Sec 4			160					
	S2 S2 Sec 5			160					
	S2 S2 Sec 6			160					
Kittson	Deerwood	159N	46W						
	NE4 Sec 23			160					
	N2 Sec 24			320					
	SE4 Sec 24			160					
Kittson	Arveson	159N	45W		Kittson	Arveson	159N	45W	
	NW4 Sec 19 No of Minn Hwy #11 and West of Harding St			102		S2 SW4 Sec 17			80
	SW4 West of Harding Street Sec 19			64		S2 SE4 Sec 17			80
	SW4 NW4 Sec 21			40		NE4 Sec 19 So of Minn Hwy #11			150
	N2 SE4 Sec 21			80		N2 Sec 20			320
	SE4 SE4 Sec 21			40		SW4 NW4 Sec 21			40
	NE4 NE4 Sec 35			40		S2 SW4 Sec 26			80
	SE4 Sec 36			160		S2 NW4 Sec 27			80
						NW4 NW4 Sec 27			40
Roseau	Lind	159N	44W						
	S2 Sec 31			320					
	S2 Sec 32			320					
Marshall	East Park	158N	44W						
	All Sec 1			640					
	All Sec 2			640					
	All Sec 3			640					
	N2 Sec 12			320					
Marshall	Huntly	158N	43W						
	N2 NE4 Sec 3			80					
	NW4 Sec 3			160					
	W2 SW4 Sec 3			80					
	N2 Sec 4			320					
	N2 SW4 Sec 4			80					
	SE4 SW4 Sec 4			40					
	SE4 Sec 4			160					
	N2 Sec 5			320					
	SW4 Sec 5			160					
	N2 SE4 Sec 5			80					
	All Sec 6			640					
	N2 NE4 Sec 7			80					
	SW4 NE4 Sec 7			40					
	NW4 Sec 7			160					
	N2 NE4 Sec 9			80					
	NE4 NW4 Sec 9			40					
Roseau	Deer	159N	43W						
	E2 Sec 34			320					
	N2 Sec 35			320					
	SW4 Sec 35			160					
	N2 SE4 Sec 35			80					
	SW4 SE4 Sec 35			40					
	N2 Sec 36			320					
	N2 SW4 Sec 36			80					
	SE4 SW4 Sec 36			40					
	SE4 Sec 36			160					
Roseau	Huss	159N	41W						
	S2 Sec 33			320					
	Total (Acres)			9,446					1,310
	Total (sq mi)			14.76					2.05

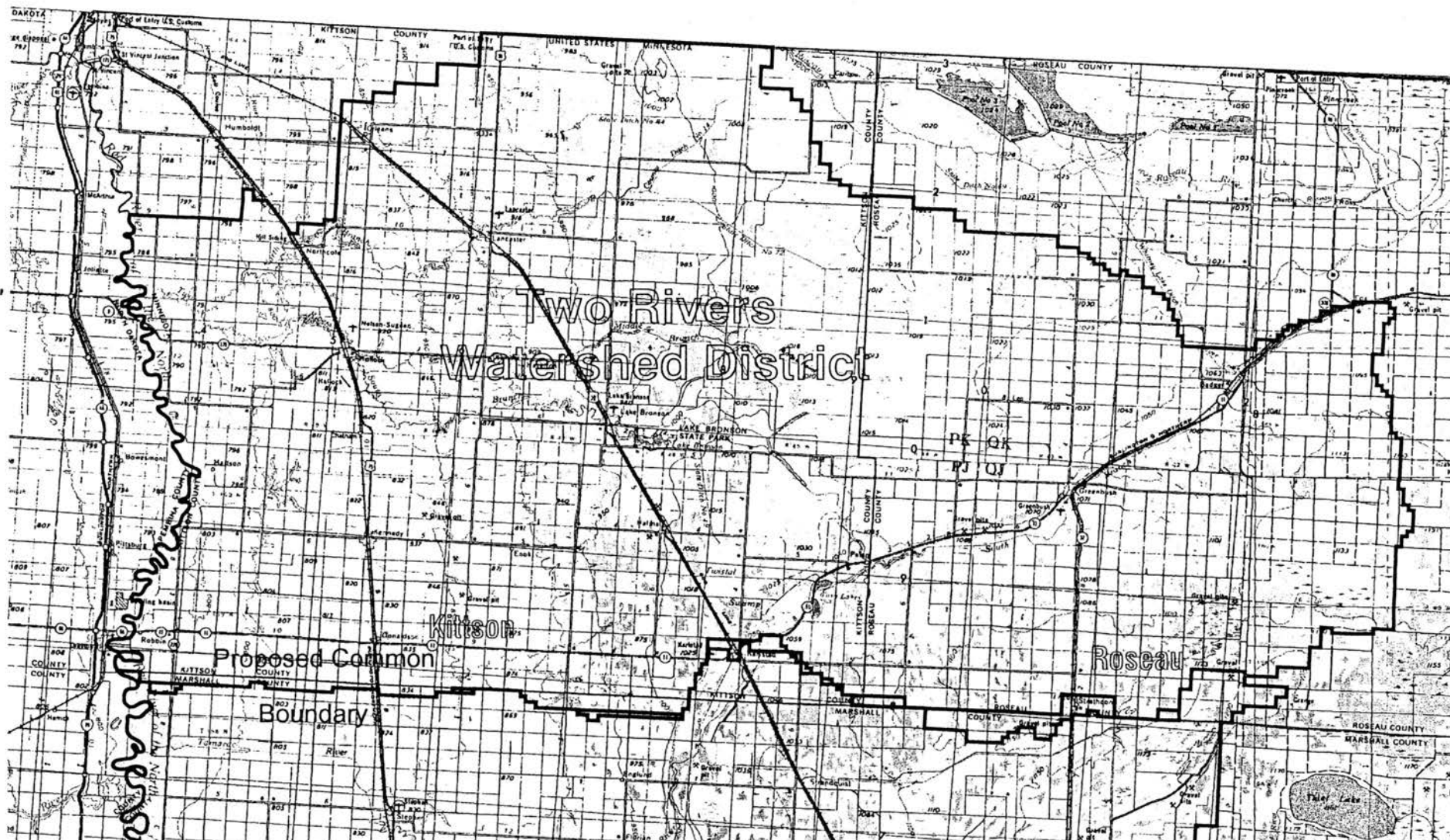


Figure 1
Proposed Boundary Change
Middle-Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
and the
Two Rivers Watershed District

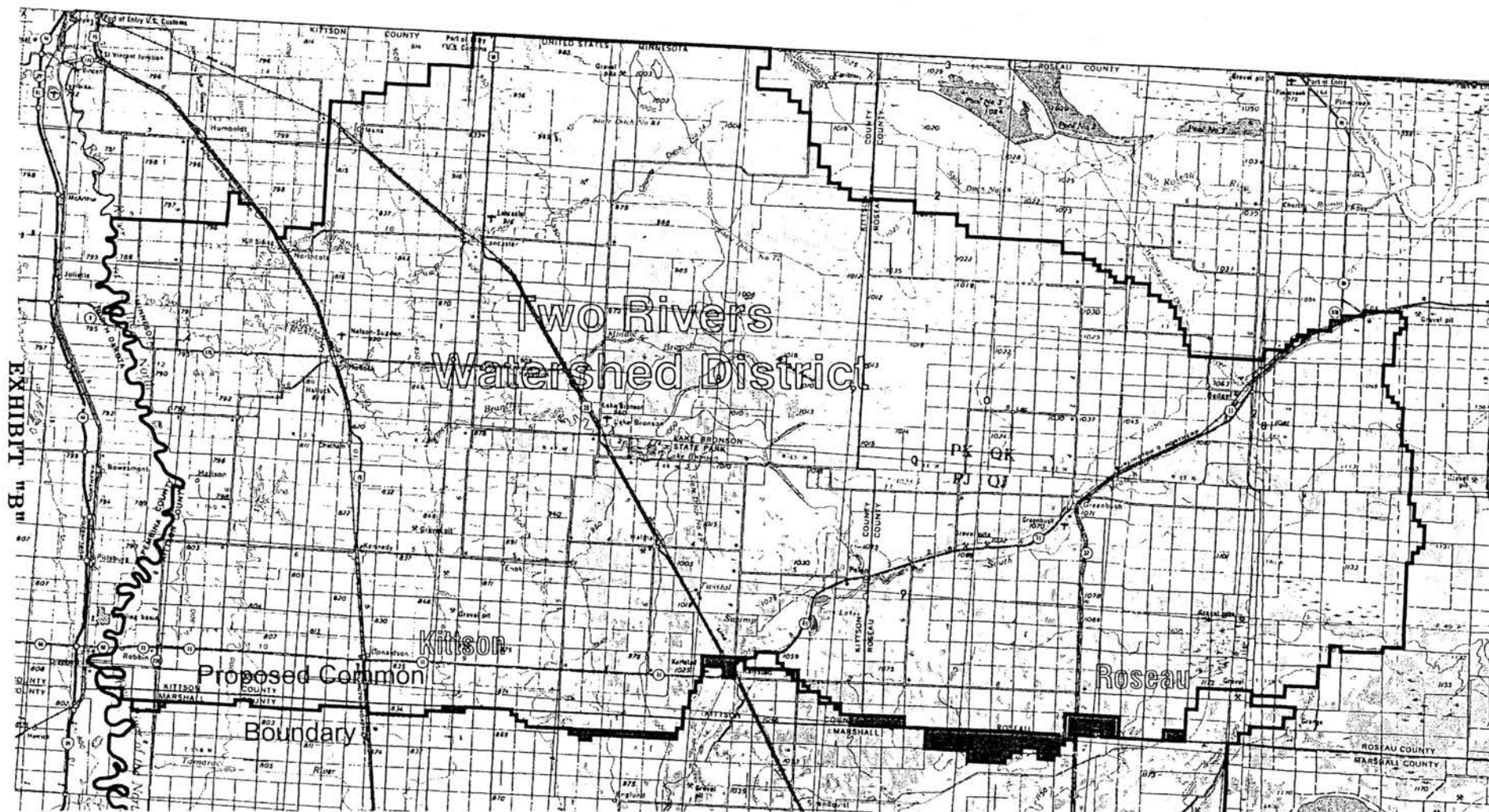


Figure 2
Properties To Be Included in the Two Rivers Watershed District
Proposed Boundary Change
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
and the
Two Rivers Watershed District

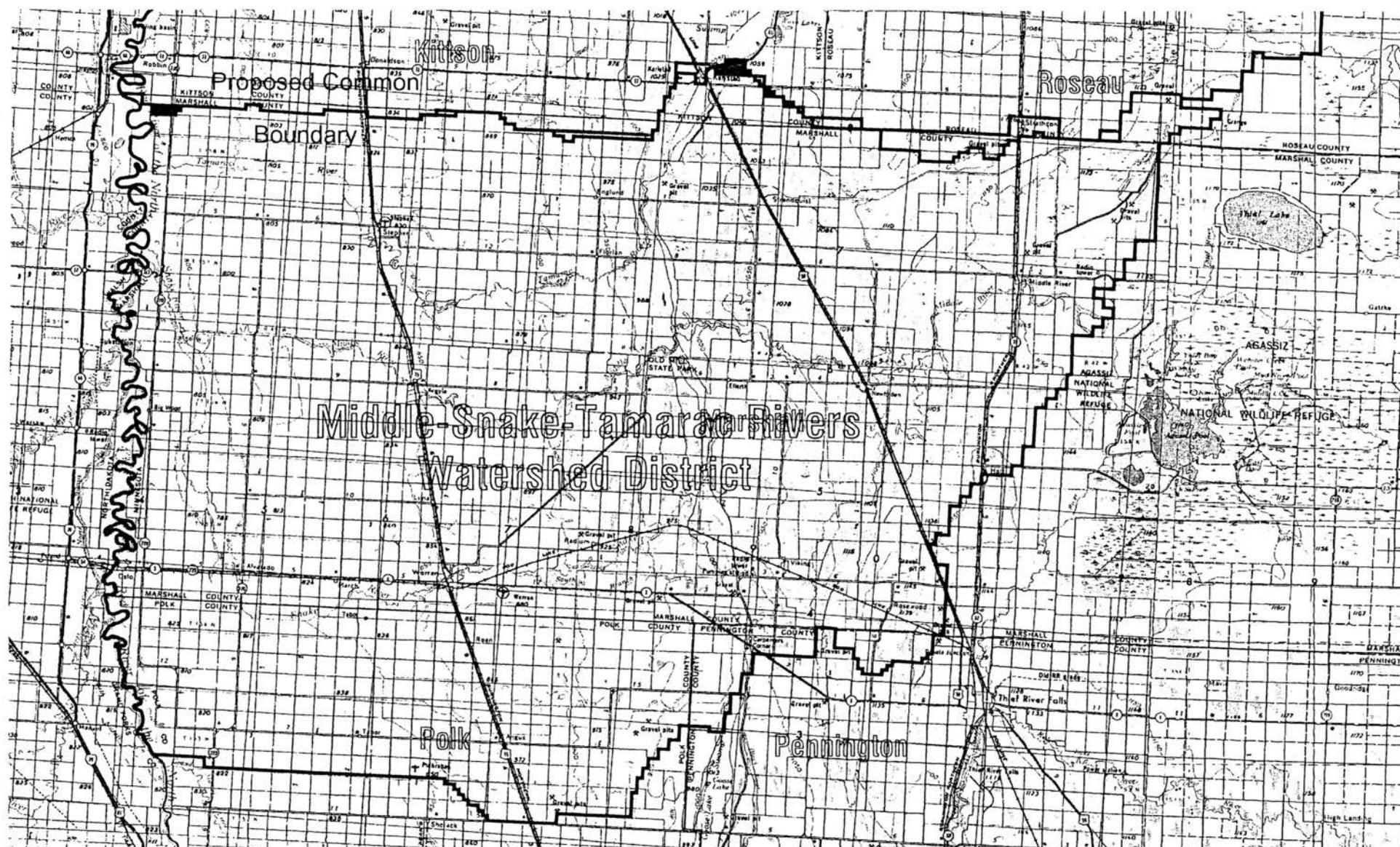


Figure 3
 Proposed Areas To Be Included in the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
 Proposed Boundary Change
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
 and the
 Two Rivers Watershed District

Proposed Boundary Change									
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District/Two Rivers Watershed District									
Lands To Be Added To Two Rivers WD					Lands Added To MST Rivers WD				
County	Township	Twp	Rge	Acres	County	Township	Twp	Rge	Acres
					Marshall	Eagle Point	158N	50W	
						S2 Sec 4			320
						N2 SW4 Sec 3			80
						SW4 SW4 Sec 3			40
Marshall	Sinnott	158N	48W						
	N2 NE4 Sec 2			80					
	N2 NW4 Sec 1			80					
Marshall	Augsburg	158N	47W						
	S2 SE4 Sec 2			80					
	S2 S2 Sec 1			160					
	N2 NW4 Sec 12			80					
Marshall	Nelson Park	158N	46W						
	S2 SW4 Sec 3			80					
	S2 S2 Sec 4			160					
	S2 S2 Sec 5			160					
	S2 S2 Sec 6			160					
Kittson	Deerwood	159N	46W						
	NE4 Sec 23			160					
	N2 Sec 24			320					
	SE4 Sec 24			160					
Kittson	Arveson	159N	45W		Kittson	Arveson	159N	45W	
	NW4 Sec 19 No of Minn Hwy #11 and West of Harding St			102		S2 SW4 Sec 17			80
	SW4 West of Harding Street Sec 19			64		S2 SE4 Sec 17			80
	SW4 NW4 Sec 21			40		NE4 Sec 19 So of Minn Hwy #11			150
	N2 SE4 Sec 21			80		N2 Sec 20			320
	SE4 SE4 Sec 21			40		SW4 NW4 Sec 21			40
	NE4 NE4 Sec 35			40		S2 SW4 Sec 26			80
	SE4 Sec 36			160		S2 NW4 Sec 27			80
						NW4 NW4 Sec 27			40
Roseau	Lind	159N	44W						
	S2 Sec 31			320					
	S2 Sec 32			320					
Marshall	East Park	158N	44W						
	All Sec 1			640					
	All Sec 2			640					
	All Sec 3			640					
	N2 Sec 12			320					
Marshall	Huntly	158N	43W						
	N2 NE4 Sec 3			80					
	NW4 Sec 3			160					
	W2 SW4 Sec 3			80					
	N2 Sec 4			320					
	N2 SW4 Sec 4			80					
	SE4 SW4 Sec 4			40					
	SE4 Sec 4			160					
	N2 Sec 5			320					
	SW4 Sec 5			160					
	N2 SE4 Sec 5			80					
	All Sec 6			640					
	N2 NE4 Sec 7			80					
	SW4 NE4 Sec 7			40					
	NW4 Sec 7			160					
	N2 NE4 Sec 9			80					
	NE4 NW4 Sec 9			40					
Roseau	Deer	159N	43W						
	E2 Sec 34			320					
	N2 Sec 35			320					
	SW4 Sec 35			160					
	N2 SE4 Sec 35			80					
	SW4 SE4 Sec 35			40					
	N2 Sec 36			320					
	N2 SW4 Sec 36			80					
	SE4 SW4 Sec 36			40					
	SE4 Sec 36			160					
Roseau	Huss	159N	41W						
	S2 Sec 33			320					
	Total (Acres)			9,446					1,310
	Total (sq mi)			14.76					2.05

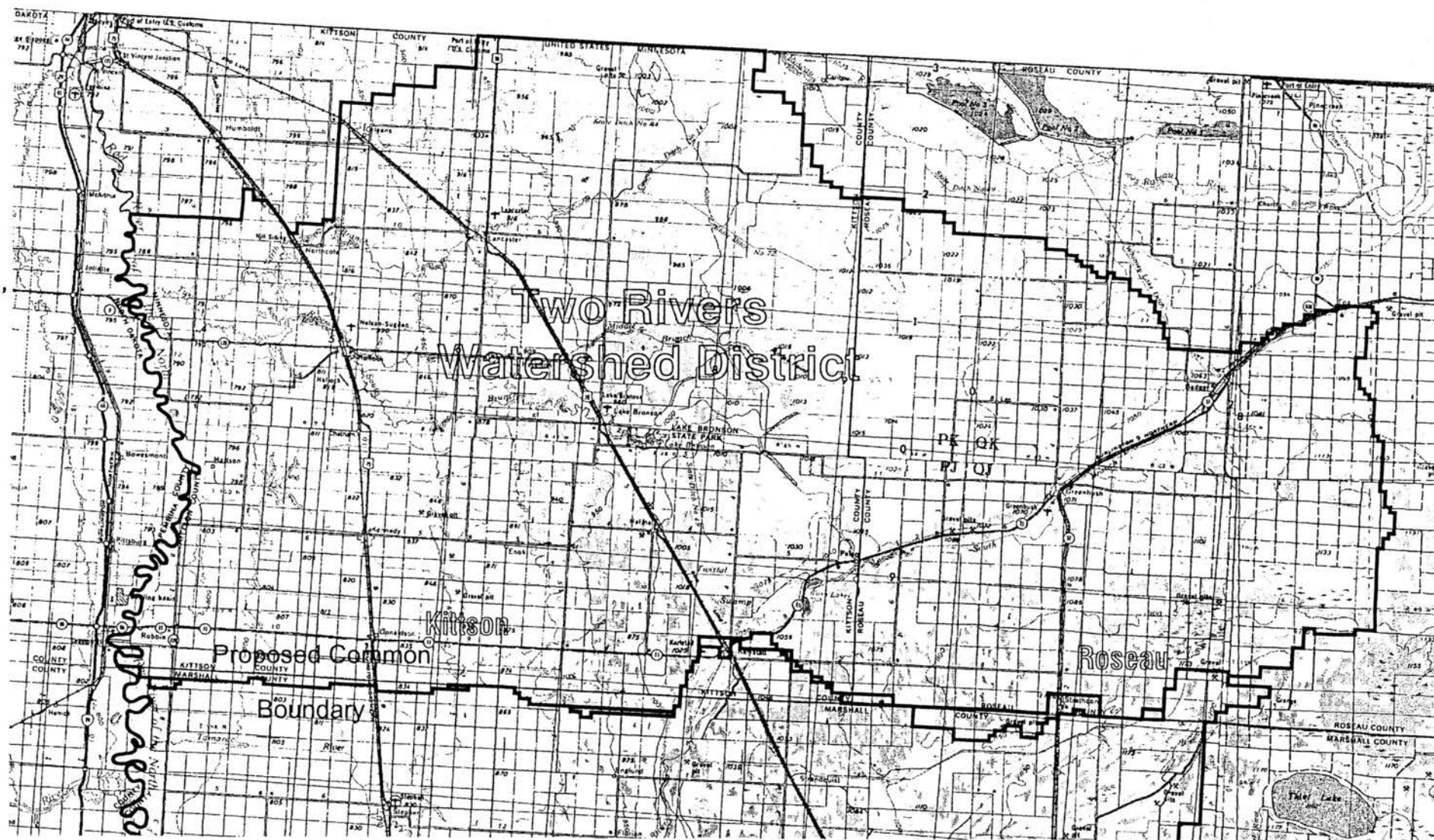


Figure 1
 Proposed Boundary Change
 Middle-Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
 and the
 Two Rivers Watershed District

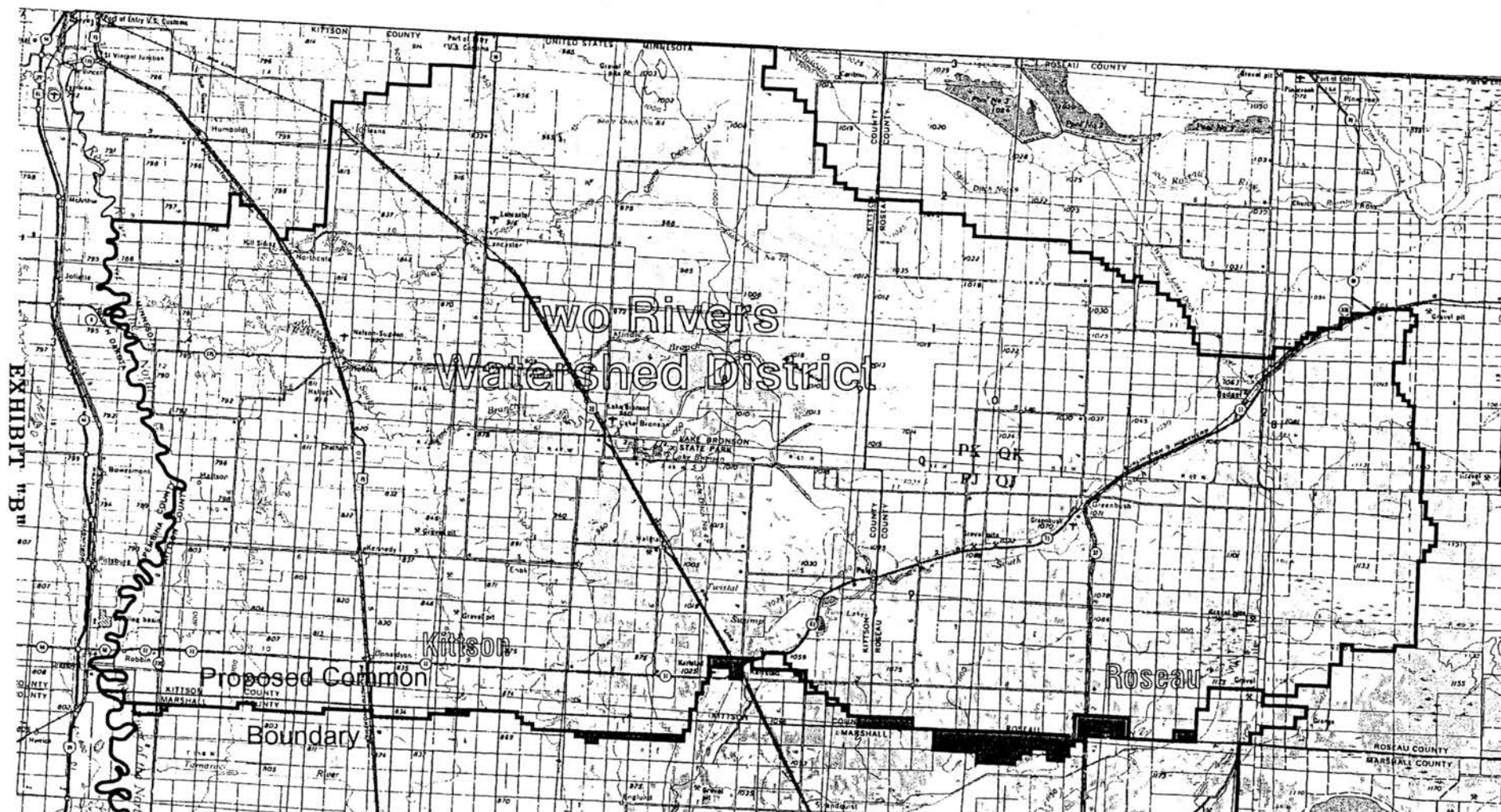


Figure 2
Properties To Be Included in the Two Rivers Watershed District
Proposed Boundary Change
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
and the
Two Rivers Watershed District

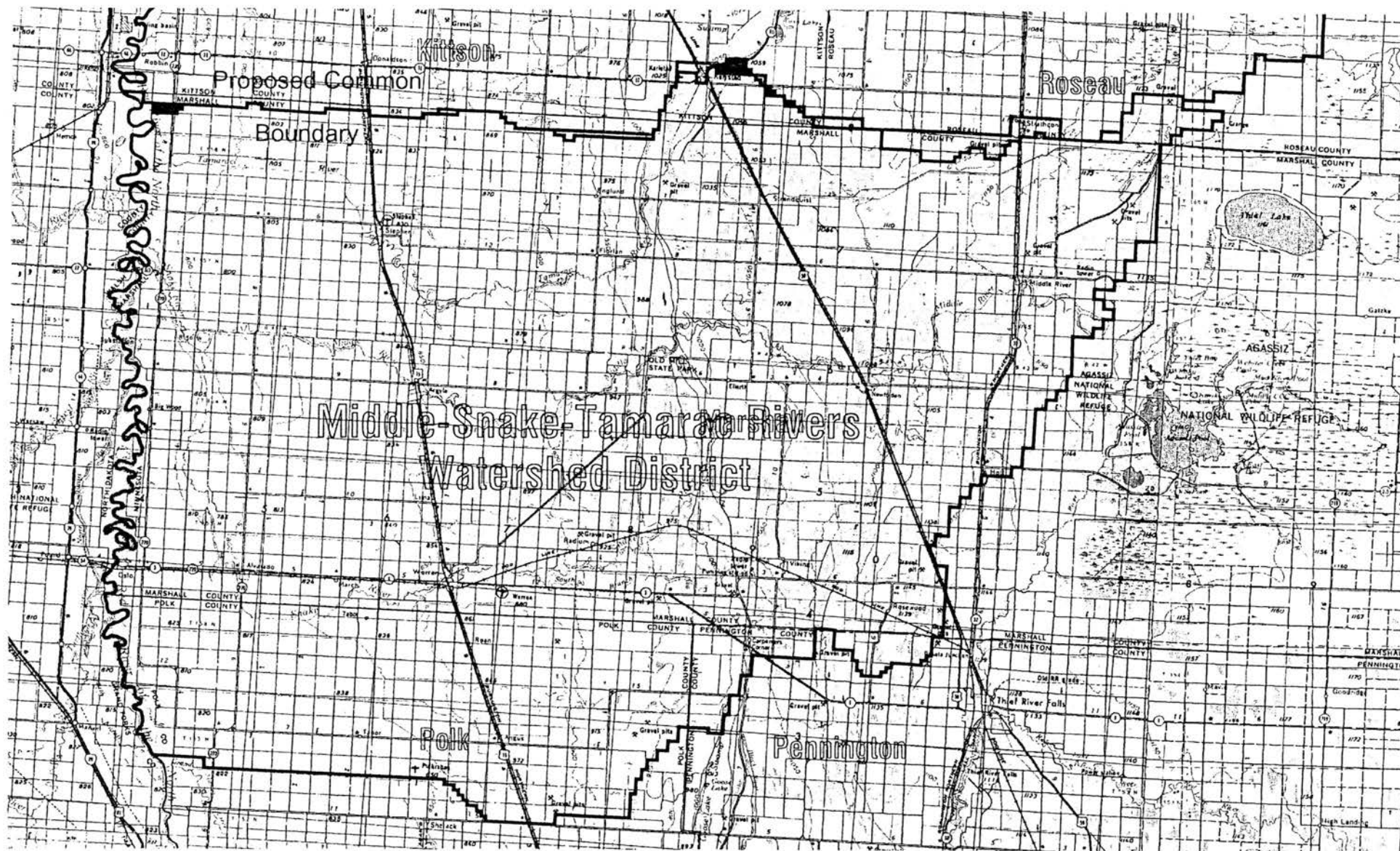


Figure 3
 Proposed Areas To Be Included in the Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
 Proposed Boundary Change
 Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
 and the
 Two Rivers Watershed District

AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION 03-67

Approve funding for FY 2004/05 Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants

WHEREAS the Board of Water and Soil Resources passed Resolution 03-67 at the regular meeting of the Board on August 28, 2003; and

WHEREAS Washington SWCD is not the delegated water plan authority for Washington County under 103B.311 Subd. 2 making them ineligible to receive a local water planning challenge grant unless the County passes a resolution transferring fiscal responsibility for the challenge grant; and

WHEREAS Washington County passed a resolution authorized the Dept. of Health and Environment division of Washington County to serve as fiscal agent for the Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Mgt challenge grant project; and

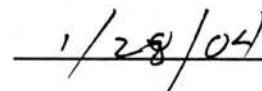
WHEREAS Itasca SWCD has submitted a resolution to the BWSR transferring fiscal and administrative responsibility for the Connecting Water Quality Data With Land Use mgt in the Lake Superior Basin challenge grant project to St. Louis County;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources amends the attached list Resolution 03-67 to reflect the following changes:

#	Project Name	Local Unit of Govt	awarded amount \$
4	Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Mgt	Washington SWCD <u>County</u>	\$60,450.00
21	Connecting Water Quality Data With Land Use mgt in the Lake Superior Basin	Itasca-SWCD <u>St. Louis County</u>	\$19,000.00



Jerome Deal
Chair, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources



Date

Board Resolution # 03-67

Approve funding for FY 2004/05 Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants

WHEREAS the Board of Water and Soil Resources submitted a Request for a Proposal to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for funds to eligible local units of government to implement high priority actions identified in current, state-approved local water management plans through competitive grants known as Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants; and

WHEREAS the Legislature appropriated the following funds for this project as per ML 2003, Chapter 128, article 1, Section 9, subd. 7a:

\$222,000 from the Environmental Trust Fund for Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants statewide in FY 2004;

\$56,000 from the Great Lakes Protection Funds for Local Water Mgt. Challenge Grants in the Lake Superior Basin in FY 2004; and

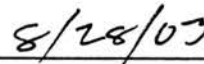
\$222,000 for Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants statewide in FY 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approves projects 1 – 19 on the attached list be funded from the Environmental Trust Fund. These projects will receive half of project dollars requested immediately upon BWSR approval of a project workplan, and the remaining project dollars after the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources appropriates the Fiscal Year 2005 funds to the BWSR (anticipated to be early July 2005). Any approved project not submitting a project workplan by November 1, 2003 may have their funding revoked and the next highest-ranking project will be offered the available funds. Funding of projects 4 (Washington SWCD) and 9 (Stearns SWCD) will be contingent upon a resolution by the county or watershed district with jurisdiction in the SWCD's area granting them authority to receive and administer the funds for the project.

Be it further resolved that the Board approves projects 20 and 21 on the attached list to be funded from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. These projects will receive the entire project amount upon BWSR approval of the project workplan.



Jerome Deal
Chair, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources



Date

August 15, 2003

To: board members

From: Marybeth Block, Water Mgt. Specialist

DECISION REQUESTED:

Approve funding for Local Water Mgt. Challenge Grant Projects

At the Board's June 25, 2003 meeting a resolution was passed to solicit requests for proposals for projects to accelerate implementation of local water management plans.

The following materials are included with the board packet pertaining to awarding funds to projects:

1. RFP Summary & Ranking

- RFP statistics
- Project ranking
- Summary of the review and scoring process
- Charts showing the geographic distribution of projects proposed for funding
- Chart showing the distribution of funds by category for projects proposed for funding
- The guidelines for submitting a RFP

2. Resolution to Approve Projects for FY 2004/05 Local Water Mgt. Planning Grants

Wayne Zellmer and Bill Best will be presenting this material at the August 27, 2003 Board meeting.

Upon board approval project managers will be notified of their funding status. Projects selected for funding will be required to update the project's eLINK information to provide a detailed account of the actions that will be taken and the funds required for each action. Upon BC approval of the workplan a grant agreement will be executed. Three progress reports will be required during the two-year grant period.

Board Resolution # 03-67

Approve funding for FY 2004/05 Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants

WHEREAS the Board of Water and Soil Resources submitted a Request for a Proposal to the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources for funds to eligible local units of government to implement high priority actions identified in current, state-approved local water management plans through competitive grants known as Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants; and

WHEREAS the Legislature appropriated the following funds for this project as per ML 2003, Chapter 128, article 1, Section 9, subd. 7a:

\$222,000 from the Environmental Trust Fund for Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants statewide in FY 2004;

\$56,000 from the Great Lakes Protection Funds for Local Water Mgt. Challenge Grants in the Lake Superior Basin in FY 2004; and

\$222,000 for Local Water Mgt. Planning Challenge Grants statewide in FY 2005;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approves projects 1 – 19 on the attached list be funded from the Environmental Trust Fund. These projects will receive half of project dollars requested immediately upon BWSR approval of a project workplan, and the remaining project dollars after the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources appropriates the Fiscal Year 2005 funds to the BWSR (anticipated to be early July 2005). Any approved project not submitting a project workplan by November 1, 2003 may have their funding revoked and the next highest-ranking project will be offered the available funds. Funding of projects 4 (Washington SWCD) and 9 (Stearns SWCD) will be contingent upon a resolution by the county or watershed district with jurisdiction in the SWCD's area granting them authority to receive and administer the funds for the project.

Be it further resolved that the Board approves projects 20 and 21 on the attached list to be funded from the Great Lakes Protection Fund. These projects will receive the entire project amount upon BWSR approval of the project workplan.

Jerome Deal
Chair, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date

Revised 8/19/03

Projects recommended to receive 2004/05 Local Water Management Challenge Grant funds

#	Project Name	Local Unit of Govt	requested amount \$	awarded amount \$	running total (\$500,000 available)
1	Cass County Land and Water Protection Initiative	Cass SWCD	\$23,800.00	\$23,800.00	
2	Connecting Water Quality Data With Land Use mgt	Itasca SWCD	\$47,375.00	\$28,425.00	\$52,225.00
3	Develop a Natural Resources Corridor Mgt Plan	Blue Earth COUNTY	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$72,225.00
4	Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Mgt	Washington SWCD	\$75,000.00	\$60,450.00	\$132,675.00
5	Winona County Planning Department	Winona COUNTY	\$15,000.00	\$15,000.00	\$147,675.00
6	Silver Creek Corridor Implementation Plan	Carnelian Marine WD WSHED	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$172,675.00
7	Drainage System Inventory and Management Plan	Le Sueur COUNTY	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$197,675.00
8	Stearns County COLA, Assessments and Mgt Plans	Stearns COUNTY	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$222,675.00
9	Sauk River Chain of Lakes Lakeshed Mgt Plan and Imple	Stearns SWCD	\$23,000.00	\$23,000.00	\$245,675.00
10	Develop four lake management plans and begin implementation	Todd SWCD	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$270,675.00
11	Fish Lake Project	Jackson COUNTY	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$280,675.00
12	Compe Drainage System Management Planning Model	Faribault SWCD	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$305,675.00
13	Drainage System Inventory	Swift COUNTY	\$18,975.00	\$18,975.00	\$324,650.00
14	Wadena/Hubbard Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program	Wadena SWCD	\$20,000.00	\$20,000.00	\$344,650.00
15	Fish Lake Management Planning	Prior Lk- Spring Lake WSHED	\$8,350.00	\$8,350.00	\$353,000.00
16	History of Drainage Systems and Alternative Intake Demo	Chippewa COUNTY	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$378,000.00
17	Yellow Medicine Drainage Ditch Inventory and Mapping	Yellow Medicine COUNTY	\$16,000.00	\$16,000.00	\$394,000.00
18	Meeker public drainage ditch systems inventory	Meeker COUNTY	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$419,000.00
19	Kandiyohi public drainage ditch systems inventory	Kandiyohi COUNTY	\$25,000.00	\$25,000.00	\$444,000.00
20	Wetland Education: Arrowhead Water Quality Team	Carellon County	\$37,000.00	\$37,000.00	\$481,000.00
21	Connecting Water Quality Data With Land Use mgt in the Lake Superior Basin	Itasca SWCD		\$19,000.00	\$500,000.00

2004/05 Local Water Management Challenge Grant RFP Summary & Ranking

Application Summary:

All applications were submitted using BWSR's eLINK program. This was the first official business task conducted via the software program.

Requests for proposals (RFPs) received: 66

(swcds 26; counties 22; and watershed districts/wmos 18)

Total funds requested:

\$1,504,028.00

Total match offered:

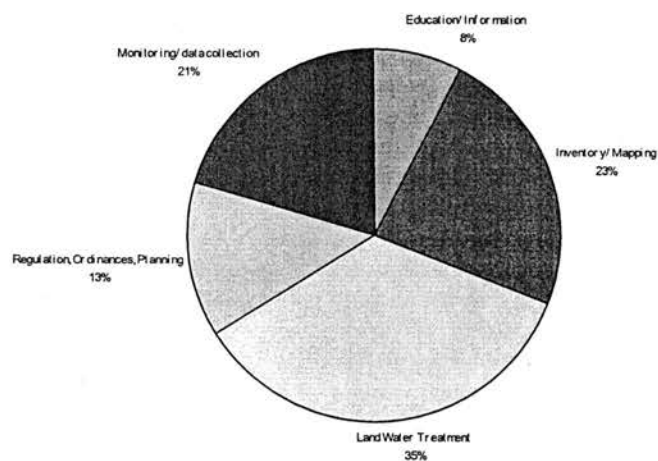
\$2,157,675

Ranked Projects: Below is a list of the projects submitted for funding, ranked from the highest to the lowest score.

	Project Name	Local Unit of Govt	requested amount \$
1	Cass County Land and Water Protection Initiative	Cass SWCD	\$23,800.00
2	Connecting Water Quality Data With Land Use mgt	Itasca SWCD	\$47,375.00
3	Develop a Natural Resources Corridor Mgt Plan	Blue Earth COUNTY	\$20,000.00
4	Integrating Groundwater and Surface Water Mgt	Washington SWCD	\$75,000.00
5	Winona County Planning Department	Winona COUNTY	\$15,000.00
6	Silver Creek Corridor Implementation Plan	Carnelian Marine WD WSHED	\$25,000.00
7	Drainage System Inventory and Management Plan	Le Sueur COUNTY	\$25,000.00
8	Stearns County COLA, Assessments and Mgt Plans	Stearns COUNTY	\$25,000.00
9	Sauk River Chain of Lakes Lakeshed Mgt Plan and Imple	Stearns SWCD	\$23,000.00
10	Develop four lake mgt plans and begin implementation	Todd SWCD	\$25,000.00
11	Fish Lake Project	Jackson COUNTY	\$10,000.00
12	Compe Drainage System Management Planning Model	Faribault SWCD	\$25,000.00
13	Drainage System Inventory	Swift COUNTY	\$18,975.00
14	Wadena/Hubbard Healthy Lakes and Rivers Program	Wadena SWCD	\$20,000.00
15	Fish Lake Management Planning	Prior Lk- Spring Lake WSHED	\$8,350.00
16	History of Drainage Systems and Alternative Intake Demo	Chippewa COUNTY	\$25,000.00
17	Yellow Medicine Drainage Ditch Inventory and Mapping	Yellow Medicine COUNTY	\$16,000.00
18	Meeker public drainage ditch systems inventory	Meeker COUNTY	\$25,000.00
19	Kandiyohi public drainage ditch systems inventory	Kandiyohi COUNTY	\$25,000.00
20	Wetland Education: Arrowhead Water Quality Team	Carellton County	\$37,000.00
21	Lincoln Co. Public Drainage Systems Inventory	Lincoln COUNTY	\$25,000.00
22	Natural Features Mapping and Model Adaption Project	Douglas COUNTY	\$25,000.00
23	Public and private ditch inventory	Wadena SWCD	\$5,000.00
24	Management Plan for High Priority Wetlands	West Mississippi WMO WMO	\$15,000.00
25	Renville Comp Drainage Ditch Inventory and Mgt	Renville SWCD	\$25,000.00
26	Powers Pond Park Pervious Pavement Parking Pad	South Wash WD	\$25,000.00
27	Enhance Sauk Lake Management Plan	Sauk River WD WSHED	\$4,600.00
28	Turtle River Watershed Assoc.Lake Mgt Plan Imple.	Beltrami SWCD	\$19,020.00
29	Beltrami County Lakes and Rivers Association	Beltrami SWCD	\$24,400.00
30	Martin and Typo Lakes Shoreline Restoration	Anoka SWCD	\$7,850.00
31	Drainage Inventory	Carver COUNTY	\$7,000.00
32	Spirit Lake Storm Water Retention Pond	Wadena SWCD	\$8,650.00
33	Wilkin County Non-Sewered Community Planning	Wilkin COUNTY	\$16,850.00
34	Stormwater Retention Strategy for the City of Clearbrook	Red Lake SWCD	\$18,500.00
35	Storm Water Management and Education Project	Douglas COUNTY	\$19,400.00
36	Arcola Creek Stormwater Mgt and Implementation Plan!	Marine on St. Croix WMO WMO	\$25,000.00
37	North Fork Crow River Watershed District	North Fork Crow River WSHED	\$25,000.00
38	Powers Pond Park Pervious Pavement Parking Pad	South Washington Watershed District WSHED	\$25,000.00
39	Nutrient Mgt Planning in the South Fork of the Root River	Fillmore SWCD	\$25,000.00
40	Carlton County Land Use Resource Guide	Carlton COUNTY	\$6,475.00

	Project Name	Local Unit of Govt	requested amount \$
41	Small City Stormwater Education	Sauk River WD WSHED	\$4,200.00
42	Natural Resource Inventories Citizen Education	Carver COUNTY	\$3,000.00
43	BMP Cost-Share for Nobles County and s WD'd	Nobles SWCD	\$75,000.00
44	Elk River Wellhead Prot. Area Contaminant Elimination	Sherburne SWCD	\$11,000.00
45	Sibley Arsenic Testing Program	Sibley SWCD	\$4,000.00
46	Public Ditch Benefits - Wild Rice Watershed District	Mahnomen SWCD	\$22,500.00
47	Nicols Meadow Groundwater and Precip Monitoring Study	Gun Club Lake WMO WMO	\$17,500.00
48	JD #10 Grade Stabilization	Two Rivers WD WSHED	\$22,500.00
49	West Buck Hill Park Stormwater BMP Treatment	Black Dog WMO WMO	\$25,000.00
50	Washington County Water Consortium	Washington COUNTY	\$75,000.00
51	Minnehaha Creek Stream Assessment	Minnehaha Creek WSHED	\$24,800.00
52	Root River Water Quality Improvement	Root River SWCD	\$75,000.00
53	Percy Blake Erosion Control Project	Kittson SWCD	\$14,148.00
54	Pipestone County Soil Survey Update	Pipestone SWCD	\$25,000.00
55	Determination of water level	Thirty Lakes WSHED	\$22,500.00
56	Streambank Protection with In Stream Habitat Enhance	Watsonwan COUNTY	\$25,000.00
57	Unused, abandoned well sealing program	Sibley SWCD	\$4,000.00
58	Push-up pond program	Root River SWCD	\$20,000.00
59	Wayne Stewart Erosion Control Project	Kittson SWCD	\$9,225.00
60	Pollution Contribution Model in the Sauk River Watershed	Sauk River WD WSHED	\$8,000.00
61	BMP Feasibility and Cost Assessment Study	Lower Mississippi - WMO WMO	\$22,000.00
62	District TMDL's	Thirty Lakes WSHED	\$24,000.00
63	New Grant Application - Wild Rice Watershed District	Wild Rice WD WSHED	\$24,960.00
64	Elm Creek Watershed Management Organization	Elm Creek WMO	\$50,000.00
65	Lakeshore Stewardship Project	Pope COUNTY	\$18,000.00
66	Enhance EQIP with additional cost share	Waseca COUNTY	\$25,000.00
			\$1,518,578.00

RFP Distribution by Category



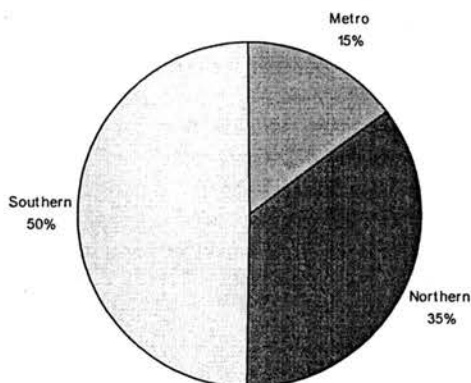
Application Review:

RFPs were reviewed and scored by four board conservationists and one water mgt specialist representing the metro region and central office. The DNR, PCA, MDH, MDA, MGS and MNPlanning/EQB were invited to score the applications; the PCA and MDH provided scores. There were some problems reviewing the applications in eLINK so they were posted to BWSR's website in .pdf files for the reviewers to use. It should be noted that DNR intended to review and score the applications but did not because of the problems with eLINK.

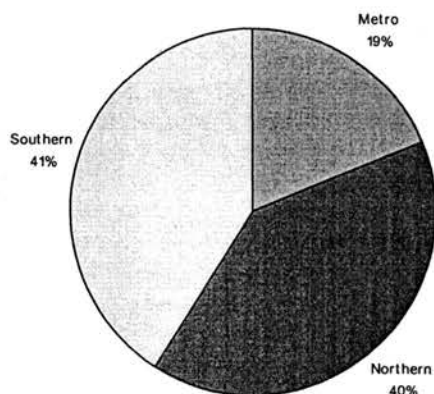
Additional points were added to each reviewer's score if the project met the special consideration criteria as listed in the guidance for the grant (see attachment A guidelines). All of the scores were then averaged and ranked to develop the funding recommendation .

Geographic distribution of projects recommended for funding:

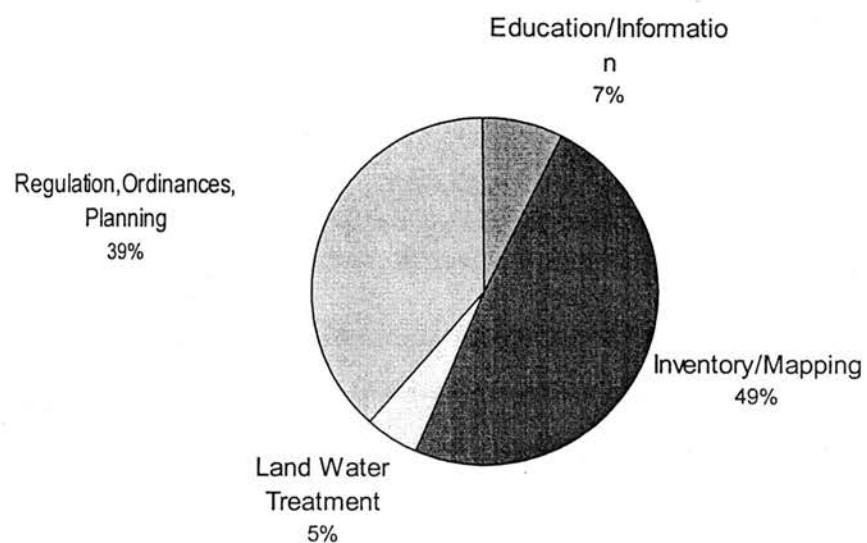
Distribution by Region (# Projects)



Distribution by Region (Funds)



Distribution by category of projects recommended for funding:



Attachment A: PROPOSED GUIDELINES FOR APPLICATIONS FOR FY 2004/05 LOCAL WATER MGT. PLANNING CHALLENGE GRANTS:

Eligible Local Units of Government includes counties, watershed districts and watershed management organizations. SWCDs may apply if the county has delegated the local water management planning responsibilities to them per 103B.311, subd. 2. All applicants must have an approved, current local water management plan.

Grant maximums: Grants will not exceed \$25,000 per LGU or \$75,000 per project where 3 or more LGUs are involved in implementing a project. Successful projects will receive half of the funds requested in FY 2004 and half in FY 05.

Required Match: All grants must be matched one-to-one with non-state cash or in kind contributions.

Eligible projects: Proposed projects must implement priority action items in an approved local water management plan. Eligible projects include:

1. land and water treatment (i.e., install erosion or water quality improvement practices);
2. inventories (e.g., inventory public and private drainage systems)
3. water quality monitoring; or
4. education activities.

Special consideration will be given to projects that:

1. develop, implement or complement plans for lakes, rivers or drainage management systems;
2. improve, develop, guide, or complement the development of environmental ordinances (e.g., develop comprehensive wetland protection standards, develop models or other tools to guide in drafting ordinances, etc.)

Ineligible projects include:

1. installation of ISTS's;
2. updating local water plans;
3. Clean Water Partnership Phase 1 diagnostic studies;
4. federal and state combined cost-share that exceeds 75% of the cost of the project;
5. additional state money for BWSR easement payments (RIM, CREP, WRP, road replacement) or admin/tech services associated with the easement acquisition; and
6. digitizing soil surveys not be done to USDA-NRCS standards.

Eligible/Ineligible costs can be found on pages 1 and 2 of LCMR's website:

LCMR PROJECT MANAGER INFORMATION- Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources

Application period closes at 4:30 on Tuesday, July 1st, 2003.

All applications must be submitted using the BWSR eLINK program.

PROPOSED FY 04 NPEA BASE GRANTS

BACKGROUND

The Non Point Engineering Assistance (NPEA) Grants are allocated annually to the eleven NPEA Joint Powers Boards for the purpose of providing technical assistance to landowners to apply conservation practices. For FY 04, the legislature has appropriated \$1.064 M for this Program. This is a \$66,000 reduction from last year.

ISSUE

These base grants are proposed to be allocated according to policy recommended at the April 23, 2003 Cost share Committee meeting, as follows:

- A) The entire FY 04 legislative appropriation will be allocated equally, (currently \$96,727 per JPB) up to the total requested amount.
- B) JPBs will be responsible for their budget shortfalls.
- C) JPBs will be required, to submit a Board Conservationist approved budget and plan detailing how they will resolve their budget shortfalls, and provide adequate engineering assistance in their JPB area.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the approval of the FY 04 NPEA Base Grants as listed on the enclosed spreadsheet. All FY 04 JPB budgets, including "budget shortfall plans", have been approved by Board Conservationists.

NOTE: Other funding sources to balance JPB budgets include the following:

- Charging fees for services
- SWCD contributions
- Grants from other sources
- Spending down JPB fund balances

PROPOSED FY 04 NPEA BASE GRANTS

AMOUNT AVAILABLE - \$1,064,000

JPB	PROPOSED FY 04 BASE GRANT	FY 04 BUDGET	OTHER FUNDING SOURCES
1	\$96,727	\$128,500	\$31,773
2	\$96,727	\$150,414	\$53,687
3	\$96,727	\$130,076	\$33,349
4	\$96,727	\$134,761	\$38,034
5	\$96,727	\$154,525	\$57,798
6	\$96,727	\$127,581	\$30,854
7	\$96,727	\$142,500	\$45,773
8	\$96,727	\$96,727	\$0
9	\$96,727	\$151,347	\$54,620
10	\$96,727	\$134,922	\$38,195
11	\$96,727	\$175,885	\$79,158
TOTAL	\$1,063,997	\$1,527,238	\$463,241
AVE.	\$96,727	\$138,840	\$42,113

NOTE: "OTHER FUNDING SOURCES" TO BALANCE JPB BUDGETS INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:
CHARGING FEES FOR SERVICES
SWCD CONTRIBUTIONS
GRANTS FROM OTHER SOURCES
SPENDING DOWN JPB FUND BALANCES

H:04NPEABG

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE CREP APPLICATION PROPOSAL 2003

Summary: Resolved & Unresolved Issues

	Area	Status		Comments
		Ready	Unresolved	
•Drafting of local CREP proposal	RRV SE SW	X X X		
•Readiness & motivation of local implementation team	RRV SE SW	X X X		
• Payment rates (See payment rate example for each watershed attached)	RRV SE SW	X X X		BWSR consulted with Steve Taff, Agricultural Economist with the University of Minnesota, and developed a statewide payment strategy for all counties in Minnesota.
• Watershed selections and acre allocations – targeting of acres in watershed proposals	RRV SE SW		X X X	225,730 acres requested by watershed proposals. States are limited to 100,000 acres per CREP application. Requires state to determine which watershed proposals to include in their application.
• Easement duration lengths • Acre caps	RRV SE SW	X	X X	FSA State Committee supports only 20 year, 30 year, and perpetual on wetland restoration with a 20% cap on wetland restoration acres, with the exception of SE CREP which was negotiated with State FSA and the BWSR Board 12/2002.

DECISION ITEMS

- Which watershed to include in CREP application?
Recommend all three watersheds be included in one state application.
- Target acres per watershed?
Recommend targeting: 42,500 acres RRV; 42,500 acres SE; 15,000 acres SW (With the ability to adjust acres depending on enrollment success in each watershed.)
- Adoption of statewide CREP payment schedule?
Recommend adopting CREP budget planner.
- Adoption of easement duration and wetland acreage cap option for statewide CREP implementation?
Recommend the administration use the four options to negotiate with state FSA in selecting a single option for implementation statewide.

MINNESOTA STATEWIDE CREP PROPOSAL 2003

RED RIVER BASIN **

<u>Easement</u> Location/Type	<u>CREP Red River</u> Recommendation	FSA State Committee Recommendations	BWSR Recommendation	Comments
Riparian Zones 60,000 Acres	Landowner Choice 20 yr., 35 yr., Perpetual	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 30 yr		Resolution needed on duration
Wetland Restoration* 40,000 Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 40% Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 20% Acres		Resolution needed on duration

100,000 acres

SE MN CREP

<u>Easement</u> Location/Type	<u>CREP Red River</u> Recommendation	FSA State Committee Recommendations	BWSR Recommendation	Comments
Highly Erodible Land 40,230 Acres	Limited Duration Only 20 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr.	Resolved
Riparian Zones 25,000/Acres	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Resolved
Groundwater Protection 10,500 Acres	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 35 yr., 50 yr., 85 yr.	Resolved
Wetland Restoration* 20,000 Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 20% Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 20% Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 20% Acres	Resolved

95,730 Acres

SOUTHWEST CREP

<u>Easement</u> Location/Type	<u>CREP Red River</u> Recommendation	FSA State Committee Recommendations	BWSR Recommendation	Comments
Riparian Zones 18,000 Acres	Limited Duration 20 yr., 35 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 30 yr.		Resolution needed on duration
Wellhead/Groundwater Protection 3,000 Acres	Limited Duration 20 yr., 35 yr., 85 yr.	Limited Duration Only 20 yr., 30 yr.		Resolution needed on duration
Wetland Restoration * 9,000 Acres	Perpetual Capped @ 30%	Perpetual Capped @ 20%		Resolution needed on duration

30,000 Acres

Easement Duration commences at the expiration of the 15 year CRP contract.

* Requires perpetual easement by MN Statute 103F.515 Subd. 5 (3).

**Proposal will include request to extend existing high priority CRP contracts.

MINNESOTA CREP CONSERVATION EASEMENT DURATION AND ACRE CAPS OPTIONS 2003

Option A • Agree to: Use existing negotiated State FSA and BWSR Board approved SE CREP as statewide model:

- ◆ 20 year, 35 year, 50 year, 85 year easements
 - ◆ 20% cap on acres enrolled in wetland restoration (perpetual)
-

Option B • Agree to: FSA State Committee's Recommendation that was presented at the June 11th meeting hosted at BWSR:

- ◆ 20 year, 30 year easements
 - ◆ 20% cap on acres enrolled in wetland restoration (perpetual)
-

Option C • Agree to: Use a landowner choice model which includes limited duration easements of varying length and perpetual as an option:

- ◆ 20 year, 35 year, and perpetual
 - ◆ Uses locally developed cap on acres enrolled in wetland restoration (perpetual)
-

Option D • Agree to: Develop a new statewide option:

- ◆ 35 year easement
 - ◆ 30% cap statewide on acres enrolled in wetland restoration (perpetual)
-

* Easement Duration commences at the expiration of the 15 year CRP contract.

CREP PAYMENT RATE EXAMPLE

Red River Basin CREP

Polk County Estimated Market Value \$606.00/Acre

Federal CRP Soil Rental Rate \$51/acre x 1.50 = \$76.50/acre x 15 years = \$1,147.50 acre

State RIM Reserve/CREP Conservation Easement Payment:	20 year easement = \$105/acre
	35 year easement = \$125/acre
	50 year easement = \$131/acre
	85 year easement = \$134/acre
	Perpetual = \$134/acre

Southeast CREP

Mower County Estimated Market Value \$1,798/acre

Federal CREP Soil Rental Rate \$94/acre x 1.50 = \$135.00/acre x 15 years = \$2,025.00/acre

State RIM Reserve CREP Conservation Easement Payment	20 year easement = \$312/acre
	35 year easement = \$370/acre
	50 year easement = \$388/acre
	85 year easement = \$396/acre
	Perpetual = \$397/acre

Southwest CREP

Cottonwood County Estimated Market Value \$1,524/acre

Federal CRP Soil Rental Rate \$94/acre x 1.50 = \$141.00/acre x 15 years = \$2,115.00/acre

State RIM/RESERVE/CREP Conservation Easement Payment	20 year easement = \$264/acre
	35 year easement = \$314/acre
	50 year easement = \$329/acre
	85 year easement = \$336/acre
	Perpetual = \$336/acre

Governor Pawlenty's Vision for Minnesota's Water Resources

Minnesota's waters – its scenic lakes and rivers, wildlife-rich wetlands and underground aquifers – are the state's most valuable natural resource. Water drives quality of life in Minnesota, provides habitat for fish and wildlife, and is the cornerstone of a \$10 billion a year tourism industry. Simply put, water quality and quantity are central to our success as a state. Despite their importance, many of our waters face increasing pressure from development, exotic species, intensifying demands for drinking water, and pollution. The Governor envisions a Minnesota that:

- Keeps its waters clean and highly valued, by guarding them from present and future threats.
- Monitors water bodies and watersheds to provide a clear and timely picture of the "state of our waters" so that citizens and leaders have the information they need to respond quickly and appropriately.
- Restores waters that are impaired by our society's practices.
- Ensures adequate supplies of clean water to sustain healthy communities and economies.

Governor Pawlenty's vision challenges Minnesotans to take greater responsibility to protect and restore our water resources.

Guiding principles

The Governor's vision and proposed actions are guided by the following principles:

1. **Keep working lands working.** We will protect and restore water resources while preserving citizens' abilities to use and enjoy natural resources in a sustainable manner.
2. **Focus and alignment on priorities.** We will recognize that it's better to do a few things well rather than try to do everything, and that priorities are achieved when local, state and federal efforts are aligned.
3. **Use a watershed approach.** Because threats to water are widespread and diffuse, and are largely the product of societal and individual choices about land use, economic development, and recreation, our success will require solutions that involve a watershed approach.
4. **Build on what we already have.** We will not call for new unnecessary government mandates or new bureaucracy. State and local agencies and organizations will work more effectively together to improve service and manage for results.
5. **Public-private partnerships.** Creating a better Minnesota is the job of many, not one. Local governments, business and industry, agriculture, non-profits and citizens, are critical to the implementation and success of the Governor's vision. Working with our partners, we will jointly set priorities and efficiently deliver resources and services.

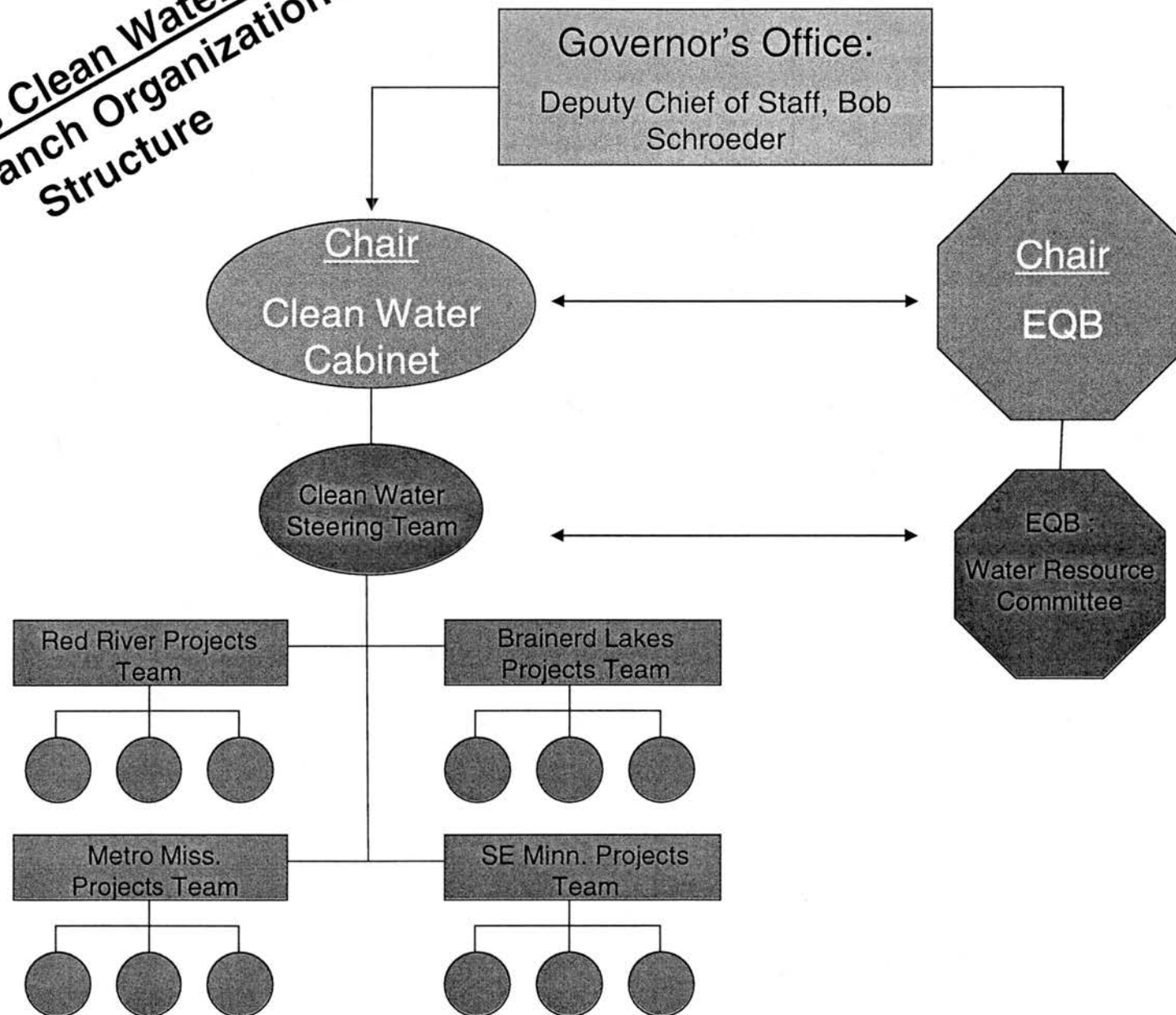
Other principles from *Minnesota Water Priorities 2003-2005*

A sound water program:

- Is transparent & easily understood
- Integrates & coordinates
- Makes the link to land use
- Collects & interprets the data needed by decision-makers
- Involves local governments and citizens
- Addresses problems in a sustainable way and prevents new ones
- Acts in a unified, economical manner

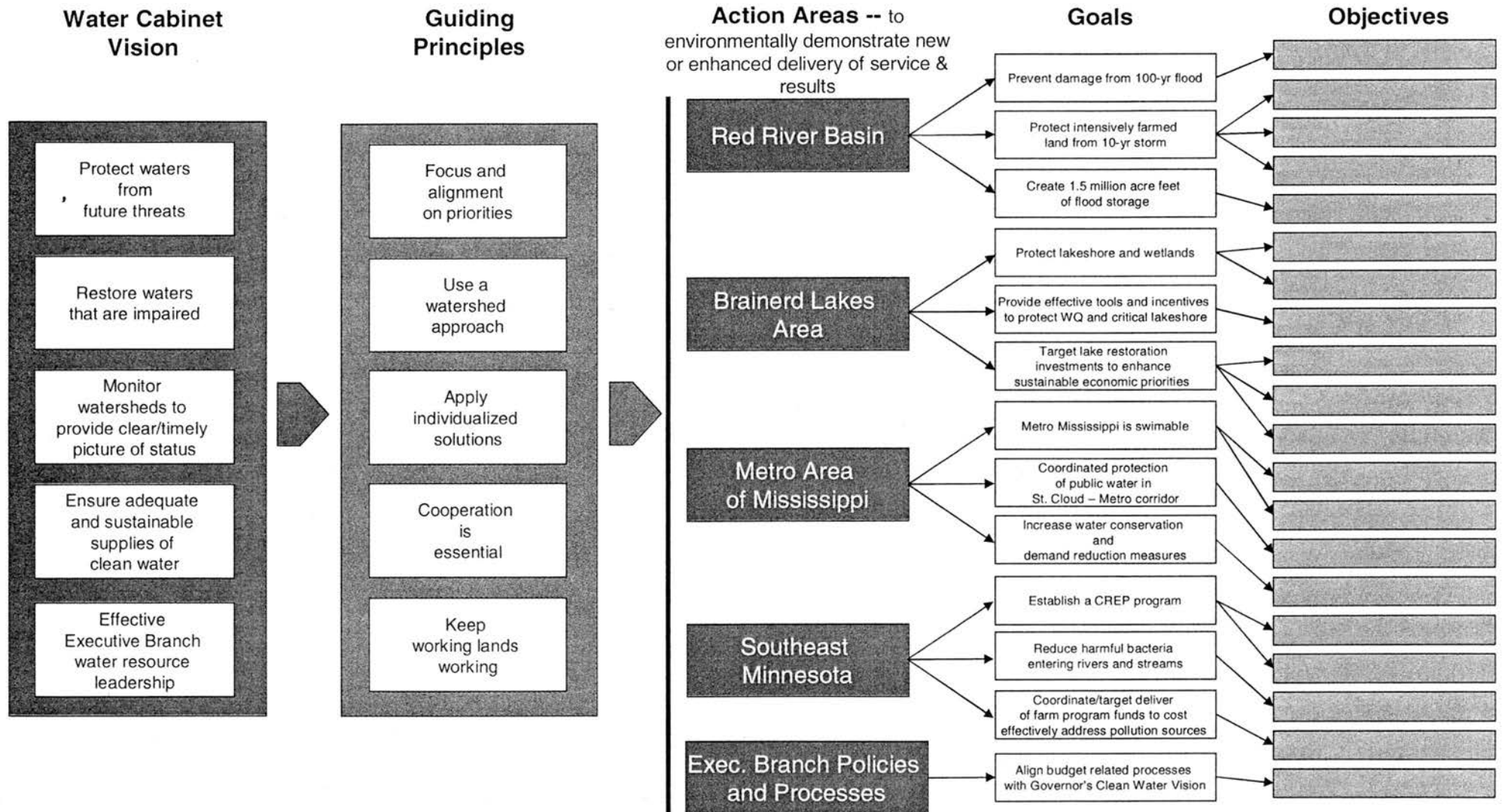
Governor's Clean Water Vision
Exec. Branch Organizational
Structure

Draft – 7/11/03

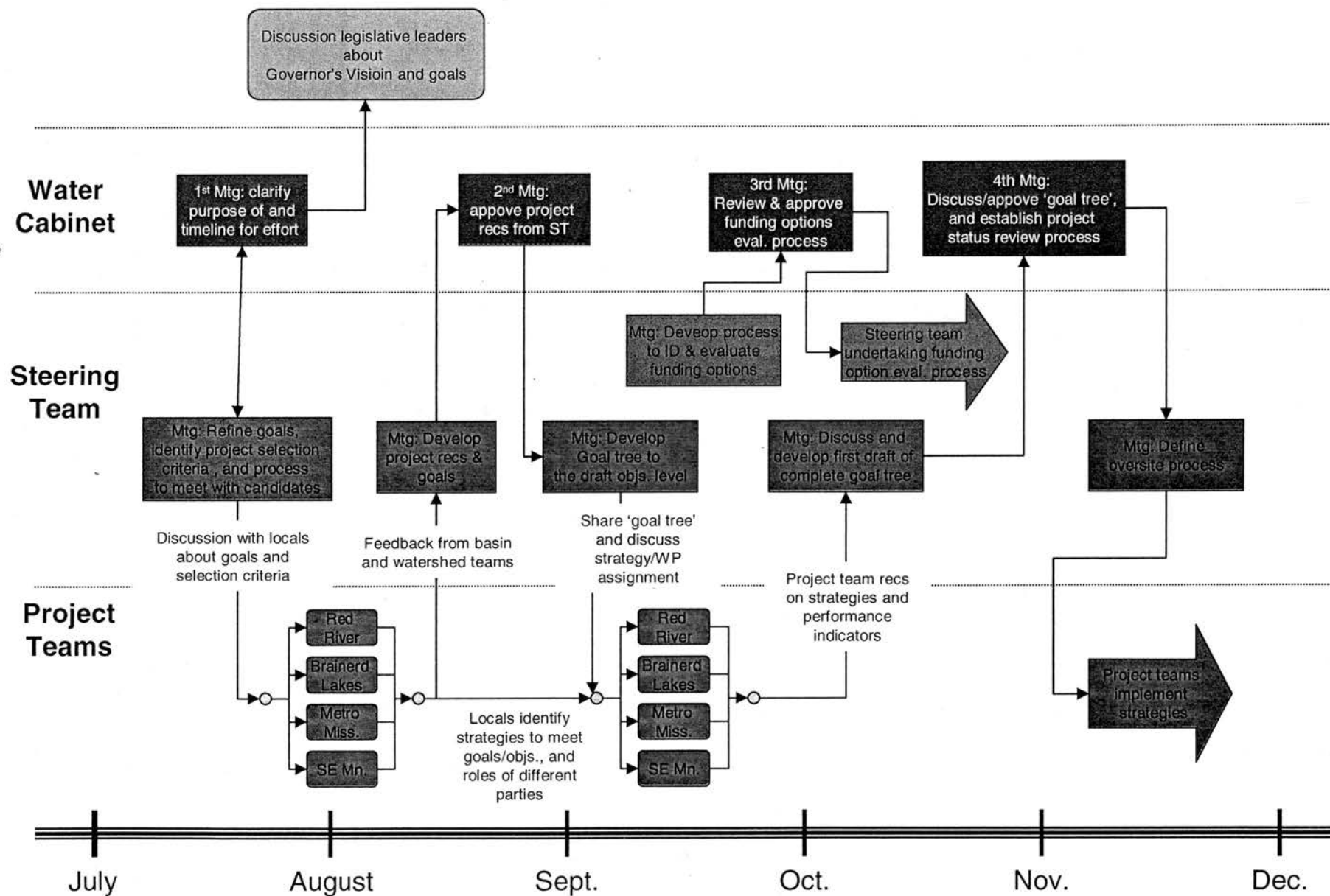


The Governor's "It all comes down to water!" -- Goal Tree

DRAFT – 7/11/03 [Detail in the goals area is only provided for purpose of examples]



Flowchart and Timeline for Governor's Clean Water Vision



BWSR Tour

Wednesday, August 27, 2003

Pine Point Room, Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Events Center
Mahnomen, Minnesota

Tentative Itinerary

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome and General Overview of Tour
(Ron Shelito, Bill Best, BWSR; Pete Revier, Mahnomen SWCD)
- 8:30 a.m. Depart Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Events Center
- 8:50 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site 1, Polk County - *Get off bus*
(Bill Best, Bruce Sandstrom, BWSR)
- 9:30 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Site 1
- 9:35 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site 2, Polk County - *Get off bus (Refreshments)*
(Jon Hodgson, NCJPB Engineer; Tom Wenzel, BWSR; and Terry Wolfe, DNR/Wildlife)
- 10:20 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Site 2
- 10:25 a.m. Drive by culvert installed to alleviate flooding to township road
- 10:35 a.m. Union-Lake Sarah connection site, Polk County - *Stay on bus*
(Dan Wilkens, SHRWD)
- 10:45 a.m. Union Lake Pump Station Site, Polk County - *Get off bus*
(Dan Wilkens, SHRWD)
- 11:10 a.m. Depart Union Lake Pump Station Site. Drive by Lockhart pilot flood storage impoundment project, Norman County, en route to Ada
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Ada, *lunch* at VFW
- 12:45 p.m. Issues Forum / Presentations at VFW
 - Flood Damage Inventory Project - Curt Borchert, Norman SWCD Manager
 - Use of "project teams" in watershed district planning - Jerry Bennett, Wild Rice Watershed District Administrator
- 1:45 p.m. Depart Ada for Dahlen Coulee
- 2:15 p.m. Arrive at Dahlen Coulee, Norman County - *Get off bus (Refreshments)*
(Jerry Bennett, Steve Dahlen, Curt Borchert, Kevin Kassenborg, Luther Aadland)
- 3:30 p.m. Depart Dahlen Coulee, Norman County
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive Heiberg Dam, Norman County - *Get off bus*
(Jerry Bennett, Curt Borchert, and Dave Friedel)
- 4:30 p.m. Depart Heiberg Dam, Norman County
- 5:00 p.m. Arrive Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Events Center



NEWS RELEASE

MB: FYI

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources • One West Water Street, #200 • St. Paul, MN 55107
Contact: Peter Raeker, Communications Office; 651-296-0884; fax: 651-297-5615 • www.bwsr.state.mn.us

Media Advisory

August 18, 2003
For immediate release

Contact: Peter Raeker, 651-296-0884

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES TO TOUR NORTHWESTERN MINN. AUG. 27

WHAT: State and local officials will get a first-hand look at issues related to natural resource management in northwestern Minnesota during a tour with the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Wednesday, Aug. 27.

BACKGROUND: The tour is intended to acquaint members of BWSR, a 17-member state board that provides funding and other assistance to local units of government, with resource management issues and projects in the Red River Basin (specifically in Mahnomen, Norman, and Polk counties). BWSR will hold its monthly meeting beginning at 9 a.m., Thursday, Aug. 28, at the Pine Point Room, Shooting Star Casino Hotel and Events Center, Mahnomen.

TOUR DETAILS: The tour leaves from the Shooting Star Casino Hotel and Events Center at 8:30 a.m. and returns around 5 p.m. Following lunch, an issues forum will be presented at the Ada VFW. Topics include "Flood Damage Inventory Project," with Curt Borchert, Norman SWCD manager; and "Use of Project Teams in Watershed District Planning," with Jerry Bennett, Wild Rice Watershed District administrator.

Tour sites will highlight a variety of projects, including the Vesledahl Wetland Banking Project site in Polk County, the Union Lake-Lake Sarah connection site and the pump station site in Polk County (to view and discuss lake level control issues), the Dahlen Coulee in Norman County (to view applied conservation practices including vegetative buffers), and the Heiberg Dam in Norman County (to see damage caused by the 2002 June floods). It's expected that the tour will stop and unload several times at the sites listed on the attached sheet.

The Vesledahl Wetland Banking Project is a wetland and prairie restoration project between the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (Mn/DOT). The project restored 750 acres of wetlands and 500 acres of native vegetation. The project is located two miles west of Winger. The restoration will generate nearly 1,200 acres of credit for the state's wetland bank used to offset wetland impacts that cannot be mitigated on site for state, city, county, and township road repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement projects. When the project is complete, the site will become a Wildlife Management Area (WMA) and managed by the Minnesota DNR Division of Wildlife.

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Note to media: If you are interested in reserving a seat on the tour bus, please call Peter Raeker. This advisory is posted at BWSR's web site: www.bwsr.state.mn.us.

BWSR Tour

Wednesday, August 27, 2003

Pine Point Room, Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Events Center
Mahnomen, Minnesota

Tentative Itinerary

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome and General Overview of Tour
(Ron Shelito, Bill Best, BWSR; Pete Revier, Mahnomen SWCD)
- 8:30 a.m. Depart Shooting Star Casino Hotel & Events Center
- 8:50 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site 1, Polk County - *Get off bus*
(Bill Best, Bruce Sandstrom, BWSR)
- 9:30 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Site 1
- 9:35 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site 2, Polk County - *Get off bus (Refreshments)*
(Jon Hodgson, NCJPB Engineer; Tom Wenzel, BWSR; and Terry Wolfe, DNR/Wildlife)
- 10:20 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Site 2
- 10:25 a.m. Drive by culvert installed to alleviate flooding to township road
- 10:35 a.m. Union-Lake Sarah connection site, Polk County - *Stay on bus*
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- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Ada, *lunch* at VFW
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 - o Flood Damage Inventory Project - Curt Borchert, Norman SWCD Manager
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Bemidji Brainerd Duluth Fergus Falls Marshall New Ulm Rochester Saint Paul

Helping Minnesota's local governments manage and
conserve their irreplaceable water and soil resources.



BWSR Board Tour

August 27, 2003

Shooting Star Casino, Mahanomen, MN

- 8:00 a.m. Welcome and general overview of tour. (Ron Shelito & Bill Best - BWSR; Pete Revier - Mahanomen SWCD)
- 8:30 a.m. Load Bus & Depart Shooting Star Casino
- 8:50 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site F, Polk County. (Bill Best & Bruce Sandstrom - BWSR). Get off bus.
- 9:30 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Site F. Drive by "neighborhood" ditch.
- 9:35 a.m. Vesledahl Wetland Banking Sites D2 & C, Polk County. (Jon Hodgson - NCJPB Engineer, Tom Wenzel - BWSR, and Terry Wolfe - DNR Wildlife). Get off bus. (Refreshments)
- 10:15 a.m. Depart Vesledahl Sites D2 & C.
- 10:20 a.m. Drive by culvert installed to divert water and to alleviate flooding to township road.
- 10:30 a.m. Union/Lake Sarah Connection, Polk County. Stay on bus. (Dan Wilkens - SHRWD)
- 10:40 a.m. Union Lake Pump Station, Polk County. Get off bus. (Dan Wilkens - SHRWD)
- 11:00 a.m. Depart Union Lake Pump Station. Drive by Lockhart Farmland Flood Storage Pilot Project en route to Ada.
- 12:00 p.m. Arrive Ada for lunch at VFW.
- 12:45 p.m. Issues forums and presentations at VFW.
 - Flood Damage Inventory Project (Curt Borchert - Norman SWCD Manager)
 - Perspectives on Water Management in the Red River Valley (Jerry Bennett - Wild Rice Watershed District Administrator)
- 1:45 p.m. Load Bus & Depart Ada for Dalen Coulee. Drive by community ring dikes at the Cities of Hendrum & Perley.
- 2:30 p.m. Arrive at Dalen Coulee, Clay County. (Jerry Bennett - WRWD, Curt Borchert - Norman SWCD, & Kevin Kassenborg - Clay SWCD). Get off bus at 2 stops. (Refreshments)
- 3:20 p.m. Depart Dalen Coulee, Norman County.
- 4:00 p.m. Arrive Heiberg Dam, Norman County. (Jerry Bennett - WRWD & Curt Borchert - Norman SWCD). Get off bus
- 4:30 p.m. Depart Heiberg Dam, Norman County. Drive by June 2002 flood damages & repairs en route to Mahanomen.
- 5:00 p.m. Arrive Shooting Star Casino.

What is the Goal?

The goal is to use this innovative systems approach in the development *and implementation* of a flood damage reduction plan. The plan will present a comprehensive solution consisting of structural and nonstructural measures, which attain both the flood damage reduction and natural resource goals for the WRWD. In essence, the plan represents the WRWD's shared vision for water and natural resource management for the next millennium.

We Want Your Help!

The District plans to include many individuals, agency staff, local policy makers and technical people in this effort. Present plans are to conduct a number of informational meetings to obtain input from residents about water management problems in the WRWD. The District also plans to establish a local committee for driving the effort. If you are interested in participating in the process, please contact Jerry Bennett at the District office.

Year 2000 Wild Rice Watershed District

District Managers:

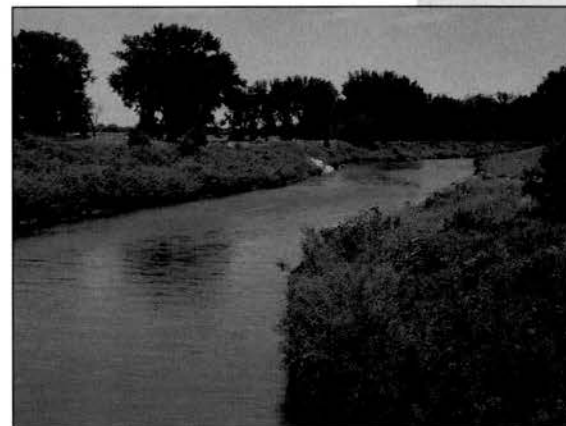
Warren Seykora, Chairman
Robert Wright, Vice Chairman
James Wagner, Sr., Treasurer
Jim Skaurud, Secretary
Steve Dalen
Joe Spaeth
Diane Ista

Wild Rice Watershed District
11 East 5th Avenue
Ada, Minnesota 56510

Phone: (218) 784-4085
Fax: (218) 784-2459
Email: jabwrwd@rrv.net

Wild Rice Watershed District Systems Approach

*A vision for water management
within the Wild Rice Watershed
District for the next millennium.*



WILD RICE WATERSHED DISTRICT

The "Systems Approach"

Since inception, the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) has worked to reduce flooding and flood damages. But, two significant events during the 1990s have perhaps contributed more to increasing attention to activities within the WRWD than all the previous years' efforts.



City of Perley, spring flood of 1997.

First, was the state and federal environmental review process initiated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources during 1993. Many of the District's early flood control efforts were

focused on developing flood storage to reduce downstream flooding. The use of alternatives to flood control impoundments became a major issue as a result of this process.

Second, was the catastrophic flood of 1997, which inundated the City of Ada, threatened communities along the Red River of the North, damaged rural residences and flooded thousands of acres of agricultural land.

The 1997 flood reinforced the need for the WRWD to find innovative methods to address water management and flooding problems, while striving to be responsive to the needs of the District's residents.



Rural residence during spring of 1997.

Why Call it the "Systems Approach"?

It is called the "systems approach" because it will involve implementing a series of measures strategically located throughout the entire District.

The WRWD developed the "systems approach" concept as a method to compre-

hensively address water management issues within the **entire** District. Water management and natural resources issues and problems are intimately intertwined and subsequently must be addressed together. The WRWD coined the term "systems approach" for many reasons, including the belief that:

- Problems must be viewed from a broad system-wide perspective;
- There is a feasible solution which decreases flood damages and improves natural resources;
- The solution consists of a combination of structural (e.g., levees) and nonstructural measures (e.g., land retirement) strategically located within the WRWD;
- A public process is needed to identify and obtain consensus about both flood damage reduction and natural resource management objectives within the WRWD;
- Water management and natural resource interests share many common goals;
- The comprehensive solution may require compromise between flood damage reduction and natural resources;

The approach must be compatible with the perspectives of local residents and recognize the need to maintain economic viability within the WRWD. Once developed, the District plans to implement the comprehensive solution in its entirety – specific measures will not be selectively removed, because this will render the comprehensive approach ineffective.

Vesledahl Wetland Restoration Project Takes Shape

By Peter Raeker

A piece of land two miles west of Winger in northwestern Minnesota's Polk County is being restored to a landscape that will someday resemble what it looked like before it was farmed.

The wetland and grassland restoration is a joint project between the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT).

The project will be used by BWSR and MN/DOT to offset wetland impacts that cannot be mitigated on site for state, city, county and township road repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement projects.

The Vesledahl project will restore 750 acres of wetlands and 500 acres of native vegetation. The entire piece of land covers 1,900 acres. The 130 basins restored will range from 0.5-50 acres in size. The state purchased the land from Steve and Bob Vesledahl.

"Having an opportunity to restore a piece of land this size and leave a legacy of such magnitude rarely comes around in one's lifetime," observed Dan Eklund, a BWSR wetland specialist from the agency's Brainerd office.

The project could not have been possible without funding, interagency coordination, and acceptance by neighbors, he noted.

"When I initially viewed the site, I knew we were onto something special."



This project will produce a number of benefits, according to Bill Best, a BWSR board conservationist whose region includes Polk County.

"This large tract of land restored to native prairie and wetlands will create a greenway that will connect DNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands," he said. "Certainly, everyone's hope is that the area will

become a sanctuary for wildlife. This in turn will help attract birders and hunters to the county, which will help support the local economy."

People should be able to see and identify a wide variety of grasses, forbs and wetland vegetation at the site once it is open to the public, said Best, who is housed in BWSR's Bemidji office.

"Big and little bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, prairie cord grass, purple



Aerial view of Vesledahl project.

prairie clover, black-eyed Susan and asters are just some of the vegetation that has been planted on site," he noted.

Seeds that might still be dormant in the wetland basins could germinate naturally, he added. "Schools should be able to take advantage of these resources for educating students on plant identification and the importance of natural ecosystems."

Because of the scope of the project, it will be completed in three phases. Phase-one construction took place in fall 2000 and spring 2001. Phase-one planting took place in summer 2000.

Phase-two planting was completed in summer 2001. Phase-two construction was planned for spring 2002 this spring, with phase-three planting scheduled for this summer. Phase-three construction is planned for fall 2002.

The 600-plus-acre phase-one planting was the largest single block of native planting ever done by a Minnesota state agency, according to Bruce Sandstrom, the project coordinator from BWSR. All seed planting for the restorations has been from local native harvests, he said.

"We were able to use seed from a nearby native prairie that was never plowed before. That's pretty hard to find," Sandstrom pointed out.

By using seed harvested by nearby native prairies, the resulting restoration will closely resemble the species composition that existed on the landscape prior to being drained and farmed. Seventy-five different native species were identified in the mix used. Standard seed mixes usually have 15 or fewer varieties, according to Sandstrom.

Another of the project's unique features is that much of the water is by design taken out of the upstream end of an existing ditch system and is routed through numerous wetland basins over the course of two miles before re-entering the ditch system, according to Sandstrom.

The combination of routing the water this way and the establishment of the native prairie will reduce runoff and flooding downstream.

When the project is finished, it will yield a total of 1,200 acres of wetland credits, which will be divided between BWSR and MN/DOT based on their proportional contributions. BWSR's wetland credits will be used to mitigate wetland impacts

reported to the agency by county, township and city road authorities. MN/DOT's share will be used to mitigate wetland impacts to the state highway system.

Once the restoration is complete, control of the land will be transferred from MN/DOT to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to become a wildlife management area (WMA).

The WMA will link two existing federal waterfowl production areas and will create one contiguous public land complex more than 2,600 acres in size that will be open to public hunting, bird watching and other forms of passive outdoor recreation.

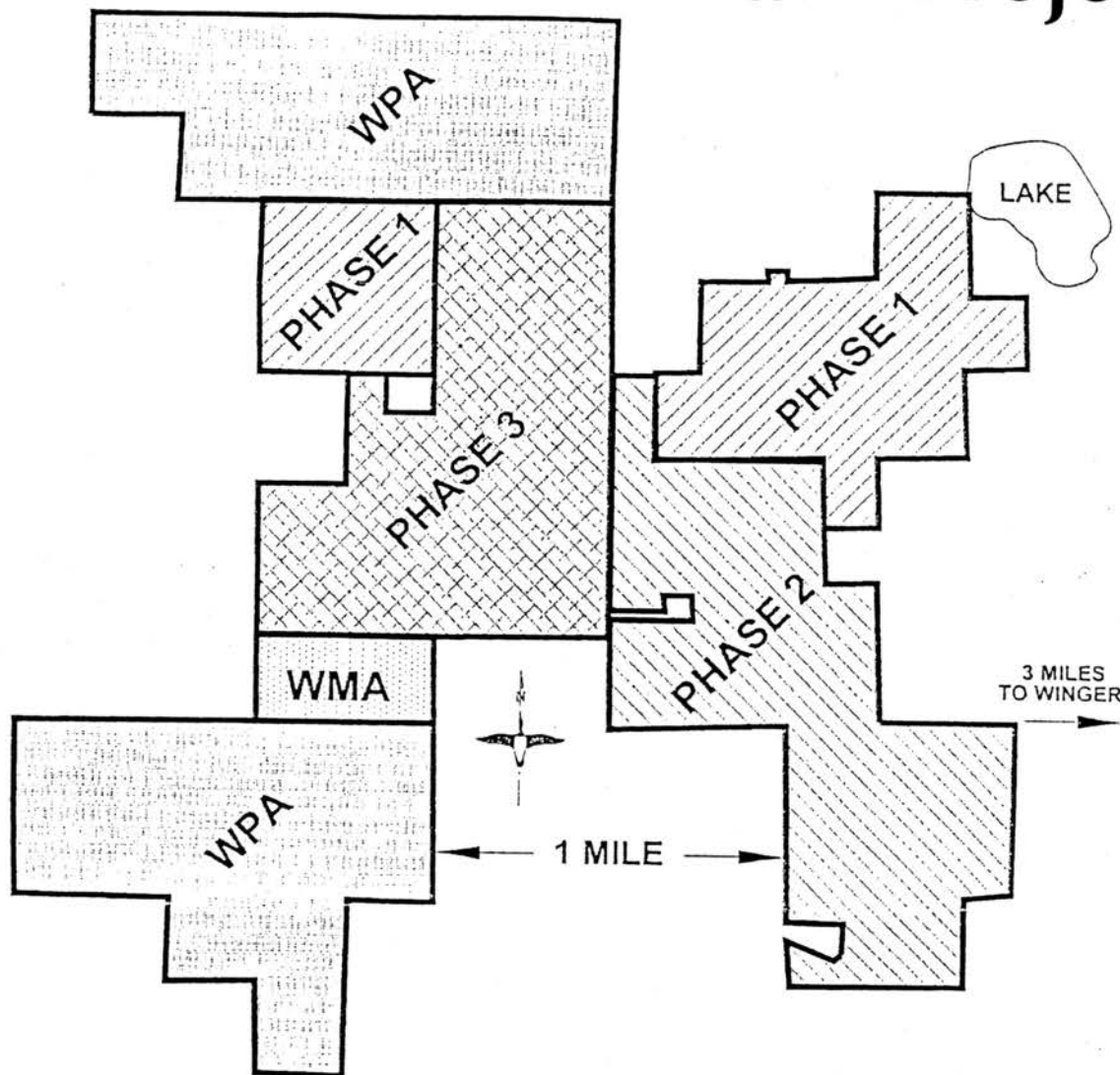
"The dividends for this project will go much further than just replacing public road impacts," Sandstrom added.

The public is asked to stay off the land until the WMA is officially opened. Any disturbances to the native plantings could harm the restoration.

Digital photos of this project are available on BWSR's web site: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/news/index.html.

Peter Raeker is communications director for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. For additional information on this and other BWSR projects, he may be contacted at 651-296-0884.

Vesledahl Wetland Bank Project



(Con-Con Lands continued from page 8)

policy director, has been leading the Con-Con issue for the DNR.

"The trail mileage stipulation will be difficult to achieve," Edgerton acknowledged. "However, we have already identified about 50 miles of potential trail in Beltrami, Marshall and Roseau counties.

"We will work with the recreational users, both motorized and nonmotorized, to do what is appropriate and in a manner that will protect both the wildlife and the wildlife habitat on these WMAs."

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individual land parcels (totaling about 260,000 acres in five counties) should be managed. Most were designated as WMAs or state forests and those recommendations were approved by the 2000 Minnesota Legislature.

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HEIBERG DAM



Brief History of Heiberg Dam

- Constructed by Mr. Heiberg in 1900 for flour mill operation
- Dam was later used to generate electrical power for 20 years or more
- 1965 – Dam was damaged by high water flows
- Engineer's Report filed in 1975 for the reconstruction of the Heiberg Dam
- 1978 – Construction finalized
- 1998 – DNR opens discussions on incorporating fish passage at Heiberg Dam site
- Summer 2002 – North embankment fails due to excessive flooding, estimated restoration costs are approximately \$330,000
- 2003 – FEMA evaluates environmental concerns and meetings held to discuss incorporating fish passage into the final design

Project Purpose

After the loss of the dam in 1965, it became apparent that considerable more channel damage was being caused by floating ice and debris in the downstream area. Considerable interest was expressed from local residents in replacing the low head dam. The Engineers Report filed in 1975 identified the following purpose and need for the project.

1. Assist in controlling the flow of ice during spring runoff periods.
2. Provide for enhancement to the aquatic environment and;
3. Increase the recreational facilities for swimming and fishing in the region.

Selection of Preferred Alternative

- Modify CD 6 flows
- Storage/Wetland
- Channel Restoration
- Channel Land Set-Aside
- Culvert removals and Modifications
- Selective Sediment and Vegetation Removal

Setaside State and Federal Payment Example

Location
 Section 1, T142N, R48W
 Non-tillable Acres = 20.8

Tillable Acres = 24.1
 Non-tillable Acres = 20.8

TILLABLE ACRES PAYMENT

<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Payment Rate</i>	<i>Landowner Payments</i>
CRP	17.2	Rental Rate+Bonus+Maintenance Fee	\$14,293.20
CRP	17.2	Signing Bonus (\$100 / ac)	1,720.00
RIM + CRP	17.2	RIM Rate (\$252 / ac)	4,334.00
PROJECT	6.9	\$850 / ac (Local Cost)	5,865.00
<i>TOTAL = \$14,293(CRP) + \$10,199.40 (CASH) = \$26,212.20 or \$1,016.29/ ac.</i>			

UNTILLABLE ACRES PAYMENT

<i>Land Type</i>	<i>Total Acres</i>	<i>Payment Rate</i>	<i>Landowner Payments</i>
RIM	1.1	RIM Rate (\$571.26 / ac)	\$628.40
PROJECT	19.7	\$450 / ac (Local Cost)	8,865.00
<i>TOTAL = \$628.40(RIM) + \$8865.00 (CASH) = \$9,493.40 or \$456.41/ ac.</i>			

PROBABLE COSTS (Approximation)

Part No. 1

Flood Reduction/Runoff Detention (Wetland) Structures \$ 390,640.00

Part No. 2

MnDNR Channel Restoration (Sec. 2 and 11, Clay Co.) \$ 482,190.00

Part No. 3

Cleanouts, Sediment Removal, Tree Removal, Buffers \$ 468,630.00

TOTAL PROBABLE COST = \$ 1,341,460.00

DALEN COULEE PROJECT

Brief History of Dalen Coulee

- Late 1930's -- selective channel straightening
- 1930's - 1980's development of watershed
- 1980's - early project proposals (no resolution)
- Early to mid 1990's -- continued concern
- 1996 - IWT formed & survey work completed
- 1997 SPRING FLOOD -- SLOWS PROGRESS
- Fall 1997 to Fall 1998 -- IWT meetings
- Fall 1998 -- IWT conclusion document
- Spring 2000 -- Engineer's Report
- 2001 -- Finalize Funding Sources
- Construction Contracts Awarded in 2002
- Project Completed Summer of 2003

Problem Statement

The problem is to determine whether modifications can be made to the natural waterway, adjacent to the natural waterway, and/or along the natural waterway with the intent of decreasing crop loss, without adversely impacting (and preferably enhancing) the natural resource value of the Dalen Coulee."

Design Goals

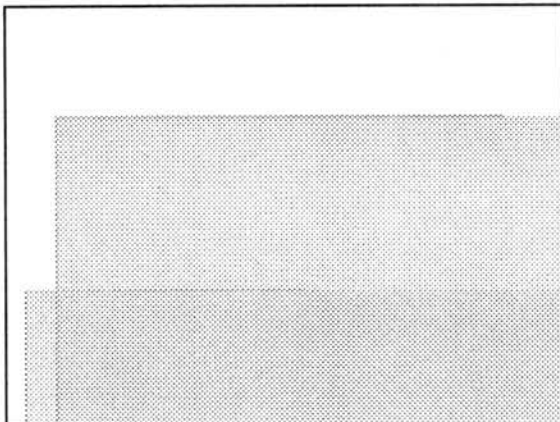
Reduce the frequency of repeated crop loss either by reducing flooding or alternative methods (runoff events equal to or less than the 10-year return period event).

2. Solution should not create or exacerbate problems in another area (i.e., the problem should not be moved elsewhere).

3. Enhance the natural resources within the Dalen Coulee watershed by reducing soil erosion and improving water quality and habitat.

Dalen Coulee Interagency Work Team Members

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------|
| • Wild Rice Watershed District | NRCS |
| • Clay County | SWCD's |
| • BWSR | |
| • MnDNR | |



Looking at ...

A Comprehensive Approach To Watershed Management



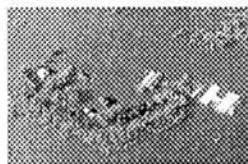
By: Jerry Bennett, Administrator, Wild Rice Watershed District

Flood Mitigation Efforts

- Acquisition/Flood-Proofing
- Community Protection
- Rural Ring Dike Program
- FEMA Repairs to Projects/Ditches
- USACE Non-Federal Levee Program
- NRCS – Emergency Watershed Protection
- Permitting & Regulatory Functions
- Comprehensive FDR Plan – “Systems Approach”



Flood Plain Management

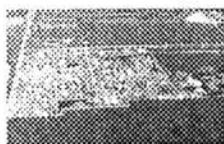


**Acquisition
Relocation & Flood
Proofing**



**38 Projects Completed - 14 Projects
Pending Funding Approval**

Community & Residential Flood Mitigation



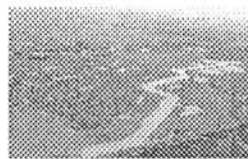
**Community Flood
Damage Reduction
Projects** — Shelly, Hendrum,
Percy, Twin Valley, Lockhart, Ada, White
Washburn, Earth River



**Farmstead Ring
Dike Program**

(41 Projects Completed, 20
Requests Pending Funding)

Mitigation of Flood Damages

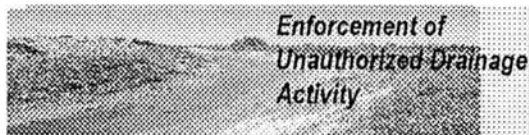


**Public Drainage
Systems FEMA
Repairs**



**U. S. Army COE
Non-Federal
Levee Program**

Permitting & Planning Activities



Enforcement of
Unauthorized Drainage
Activity



"Systems Approach"
Comprehensive Flood
Reduction Plan

FLOOD REDUCTION ...

WILD RICE
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

Board Vision ... Guiding Principals

- Must include natural resource enhancement!!
- Must provide for economic sustainability
- Must establish Priorities for both NRE & FDR
- Must recognize regional differences – "one size does not fit all"
- Must have measurable results
- Must not move the problem downstream
- Must Recognize that no one agency or organization can do it alone

Watershed Management Plan

"The Plan describes the purpose and objectives of the District"

The Wild Rice Watershed District and BWSR must revise the Watershed Management Plan once every Ten Years.... (1984, 1994 and 2003)

1998 Mediation Agreement

New Process – New Responsibilities!

1. Advisory to the Watershed District
2. Establishes a new Process for Development of Projects in the Red River Basin
3. ID Problems **AND** Opportunities for FDR and NRE (Flood Damage Reduction, Natural Resource Enhancement)
4. Formulation and Evaluation of Alternative solutions to address Problems and Opportunities
5. Recommend PREFERRED Alternatives to WD Board

WRWD - Project Team

WILD RICE
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

State Agencies:

- MPCA - Mike Vavra, Jim Ziegler
- MNDNR - Dave Edm, Earl Johnson
- BWSR - Brian Dwight, Pete Walter

Federal Agencies:

- NRCS - Ray Reading, Dennis Johnson
- FSA - Randy Tuffen
- USFWS - Mark Chase
- USACE - Tom Raster, Leo Grabowski

Local Government Units (LGU):

- CLWP - Steve Hofstad, Brad Grant
- NWCD - Corrie Bochart, Mark Christensen
- MWWCO - Aaron Newhart

Local Government Units (LGU):

- COUNTIES - Steve Bommerbach
- CITIES - Jim Silfason, Ron Rasmussen
- WD - Warren Beyers, Jim Wagner, Robert Wright

Non-Government

- Sportsman's Groups - Bob Platt, Ron Thorsrud
- Environmental - Henry Van Ossen, Mark Ten Eyck
- DNR - Jim Schneider
- CROWD - Don Vekings
- AS - Fred Houghens, Paul Houghens
- FACILITATOR - John Hovind

"Systems Approach" Core Planning Team

WILD RICE
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

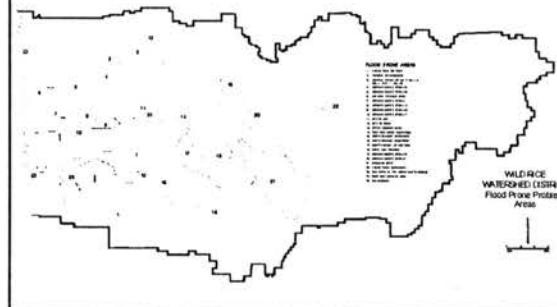
- Core planning team comprised of Watershed District Board, Engineer, Administrator and FDR Project Team
- Oversight provided by the BWSR and Flood Damage Reduction Work Group



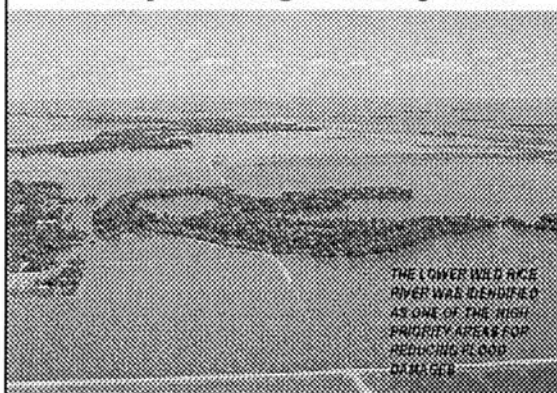
System Approach Planning Document

- Identify Problem Areas
- Prioritize Problem Areas
"Severity, Frequency, Resulting Damages"
- Establish Goals
- Develop structural and non-structural measures strategically located throughout the Watershed District for FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION and NATURAL RESOURCE ENHANCEMENTS

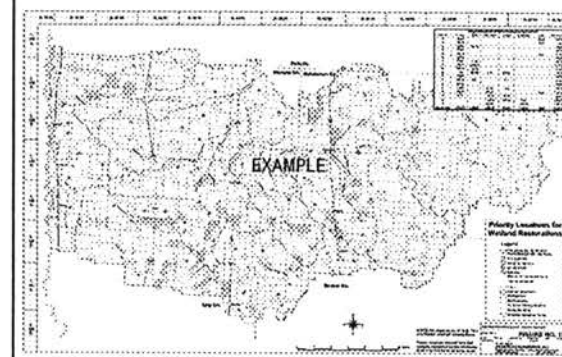
Prioritize FDR Problem Areas



Example of High Priority Area



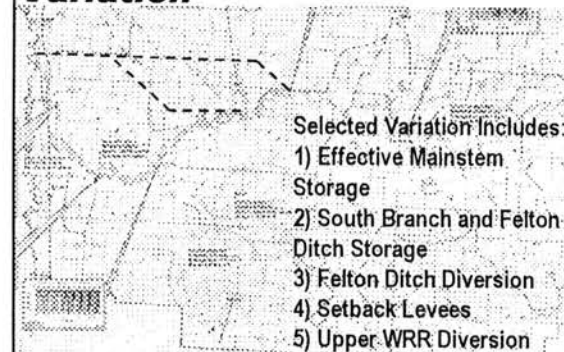
Strategies - NRE



FDR Implementation Strategies

- 15 Variations of Projects were Developed
- Effective Mainstem Storage
 - South Branch Storage
 - Felton Ditch Storage
 - WRR Diversions
 - Lower WRR - Felton Ditch Diversion
 - WRR Setback Levees
- * Projects evaluated on FDR (Ag. Damages, Public Infrastructure and Red River of the North) Natural Resource Enhancement and Socio-economic Results

Project Team Selected Variation



Plan Implementation Costs???

Flood Damage Reduction \$105 – 142 Million

- Effective Mainstem Storage – \$41-56M
- South Branch and Fabon Ditch Storage – \$24-45M
- WRR Diversion – \$12-17M
- Setback Levees – \$18-24M

NRE Projects? \$Unknown

Water Quality \$1 Million

WRWD Plan of Action

Specifically

- Identify three or four storage sites in upper basin
- Develop downstream improvements incorporating setback levees and channel rehabilitation
- Provide for flow distribution during peak flows on Wild Rice River when capacity on Red River can be utilized
- Incorporate off-channel storage adjacent to the Wild Rice River for multipurpose uses
- Select a local program providing incentives for small dispersed storage sites within the Wild Rice River basin

WILD RICE
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

Wild Rice Watershed District / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Wild Rice River Feasibility Study (WRRFS)

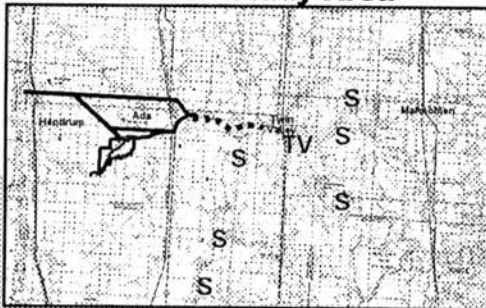
WILD RICE
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WRRFS = One Element in WRWD's Overall Approach

- Continues work of the Watershed District
 - SAPP / mediation process - identified and prioritized water resource problems and opportunities for fixes
 - Flooding
 - Ecosystem degradation
 - Price tag to fix all problems ~ \$100 million plus
- Partnership with Corps of Engineers
 - 65/35 cost sharing for project construction
 - Federal investment requires project justification process
 - 50/50 cost sharing for studies to get to construction

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WRRFS Study Area



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DISTRICT

WRRFS Organization

Two Phases

Phase 1 – Baseline data collection and preliminary assessment of Corps justification

Phase 2 – Detailed analyses and designs plus report to Congress asking for project authorization and funding

Schedule / cost:

Phase 1 – Completion May 04 / \$700,000

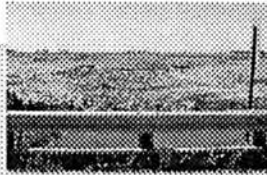
Phase 2 – 12 to 18 months / \$1,500,000

Measurable Results ...

Dalen Coulee

Project

- FDR
- NRE
- Water Quality



Lockhart Flood Storage Pilot Project

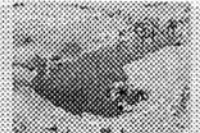


Measurable Results ...

HEC-1 Sub-Basin Model



Voluntary Flood Storage Program



BOARD OF MANAGERS
Warren Seykora, President
Robert Wright, Vice President
James Wagner Sr., Treasurer
Jim Skaurud, Secretary
Steve Dalen
Joe Spaeth
Diane Ista
DISTRICT ADMINISTRATOR
Jerry A. Bennett

WILD RICE
WATERSHED
DISTRICT

Thank You!
Any Questions?

Vesledahl Wetland Restoration Project Takes Shape

By Peter Raeker

A piece of land two miles west of Winger in northwestern Minnesota's Polk County is being restored to a landscape that will someday resemble what it looked like before it was farmed.

The wetland and grassland restoration is a joint project between the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MN/DOT).

The project will be used by BWSR and MN/DOT to offset wetland impacts that cannot be mitigated on site for state, city, county and township road repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement projects.

The Vesledahl project will restore 750 acres of wetlands and 500 acres of native vegetation. The entire piece of land covers 1,900 acres. The 130 basins restored will range from 0.5-50 acres in size. The state purchased the land from Steve and Bob Vesledahl.

"Having an opportunity to restore a piece of land this size and leave a legacy of such magnitude rarely comes around in one's lifetime," observed Dan Eklund, a BWSR wetland specialist from the agency's Brainerd office.

The project could not have been possible without funding, interagency coordination, and acceptance by neighbors, he noted.

"When I initially viewed the site, I knew we were onto something special."



This project will produce a number of benefits, according to Bill Best, a BWSR board conservationist whose region includes Polk County.

"This large tract of land restored to native prairie and wetlands will create a greenway that will connect DNR (Minnesota Department of Natural Resources) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service lands," he said. "Certainly, everyone's hope is that the area will

become a sanctuary for wildlife. This in turn will help attract birders and hunters to the county, which will help support the local economy."

People should be able to see and identify a wide variety of grasses, forbs and wetland vegetation at the site once it is open to the public, said Best, who is housed in BWSR's Bemidji office.

"Big and little bluestem, switchgrass, Indian grass, prairie cord grass, purple



Aerial view of Vesledahl project.

prairie clover, black-eyed Susan and asters are just some of the vegetation that has been planted on site," he noted.

Seeds that might still be dormant in the wetland basins could germinate naturally, he added. "Schools should be able to take advantage of these resources for educating students on plant identification and the importance of natural ecosystems."

Because of the scope of the project, it will be completed in three phases. Phase-one construction took place in fall 2000 and spring 2001. Phase-one planting took place in summer 2000.

Phase-two planting was completed in summer 2001. Phase-two construction was planned for spring 2002 this spring, with phase-three planting scheduled for this summer. Phase-three construction is planned for fall 2002.

The 600-plus-acre phase-one planting was the largest single block of native planting ever done by a Minnesota state agency, according to Bruce Sandstrom, the project coordinator from BWSR. All seed planting for the restorations has been from local native harvests, he said.

"We were able to use seed from a nearby native prairie that was never plowed before. That's pretty hard to find," Sandstrom pointed out.

By using seed harvested by nearby native prairies, the resulting restoration will closely resemble the species composition that existed on the landscape prior to being drained and farmed. Seventy-five different native species were identified in the mix used. Standard seed mixes usually have 15 or fewer varieties, according to Sandstrom.

Another of the project's unique features is that much of the water is by design taken out of the upstream end of an existing ditch system and is routed through numerous wetland basins over the course of two miles before re-entering the ditch system, according to Sandstrom.

The combination of routing the water this way and the establishment of the native prairie will reduce runoff and flooding downstream.

When the project is finished, it will yield a total of 1,200 acres of wetland credits, which will be divided between BWSR and MN/DOT based on their proportional contributions. BWSR's wetland credits will be used to mitigate wetland impacts

reported to the agency by county, township and city road authorities. MN/DOT's share will be used to mitigate wetland impacts to the state highway system.

Once the restoration is complete, control of the land will be transferred from MN/DOT to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to become a wildlife management area (WMA).

The WMA will link two existing federal waterfowl production areas and will create one contiguous public land complex more than 2,600 acres in size that will be open to public hunting, bird watching and other forms of passive outdoor recreation.

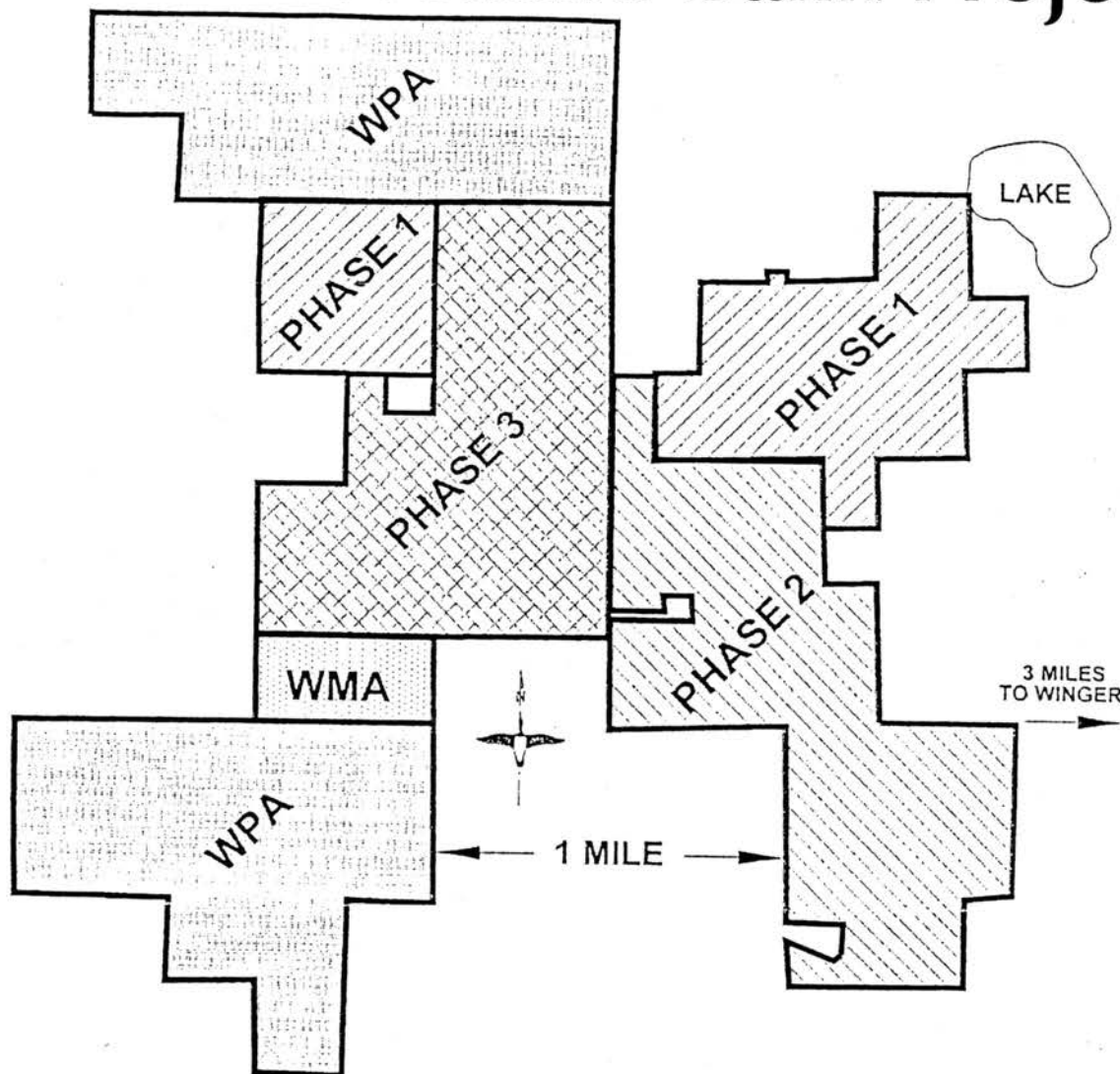
"The dividends for this project will go much further than just replacing public road impacts," Sandstrom added.

The public is asked to stay off the land until the WMA is officially opened. Any disturbances to the native plantings could harm the restoration.

Digital photos of this project are available on BWSR's web site: www.bwsr.state.mn.us/news/index.html.

Peter Raeker is communications director for the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. For additional information on this and other BWSR projects, he may be contacted at 651-296-0884.

Vesledahl Wetland Bank Project



(Con-Con Lands continued from page 8)

policy director, has been leading the Con-Con issue for the DNR.

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Staff Contributions:

- Dan Eklund, BWSR: agency coordination, project selection, wetland bank process.
- Bill Best, BWSR: agency coordination, project staking, easement coordination, wetland bank process
- Tom Wenzel, BWSR: engineering design, field survey, construction, coordination
- Karen Bonde, BWSR: engineering design, field survey, preparation of specifications
- Bruce Sandstrom, BWSR: general project coordination, contract oversight, preparation of planting specifications, land acquisition, field staking
- Jim Luniewski, BWSR: surveying
- John Filardo, MDNR: contract bidding, construction supervision
- Kim Montgomery, MDNR: preparation of bid packages & advertising
- Chuck Frach, MnDOT: handled all of MnDOT's land acquisition
- Bob Jacobson, MnDOT: assisted in planting specifications
- Mike Kaminkar, MnDOT: early project coordination, EAW preparation
- Karen Bedeau, MnDOT: public relations, organized four public meetings
- Jon Hodgson & Chad Severts (North Central Joint Powers Board): Staking and construction supervision

Contractors:

- Prairie Restoration Inc., Hawley, MN: Planting of Phase 1 and 2
- North American Prairies: Planting of Phase 3
- Steve and Bob Vesledahl, Winger: tillage and mowing
- Joe Geray, Mahnomon, MN: Construction of Phase 1 and 2
- Zimpel Construction, Plumber MN: Construction of Phase 3

Vesledahl Project (future Wingard WMA)

BWSR Board Tour August 27, 2003

Scope of Project

- 1,966 acre State acquisition (MnDOT = 1,886 ac. BWSR = 81 ac.)
- links two federal WPAs and one state WMA (2,600 ac. of contiguous public land)
- will create about 1,600 acres of wetland credit (half to BWSR Public Road Replacement Program)
- 141 basins (range in size = 0.25 to 50 acres)
- estimated final credit price = \$1,500- \$1,700 per acre
- 17 miles of wetland fringe in Phase 1 (Zones A1, B1, B2, and F)
- bulk of native seed used is native local harvest (45+ species)
- agreement with Sandhill River WD to do future ditch maintenance
- large numbers of ducks and swans used Phase 1 in 2002
- allows for large-scale water management

Timeline

1998

- MNDOT filed an EAW on project
- Agency presentation to Polk County Board
- three local public informational meetings held in Winger
- MnDOT distributed fact sheets at Polk County Fair

1999

- MOA signed by MnDOT, BWSR, DNR
- Design started

2000

- Summer - planting of Phase 1
- Fall - Phase 1 construction started

2001

- Summer - planting Phase 2

2002

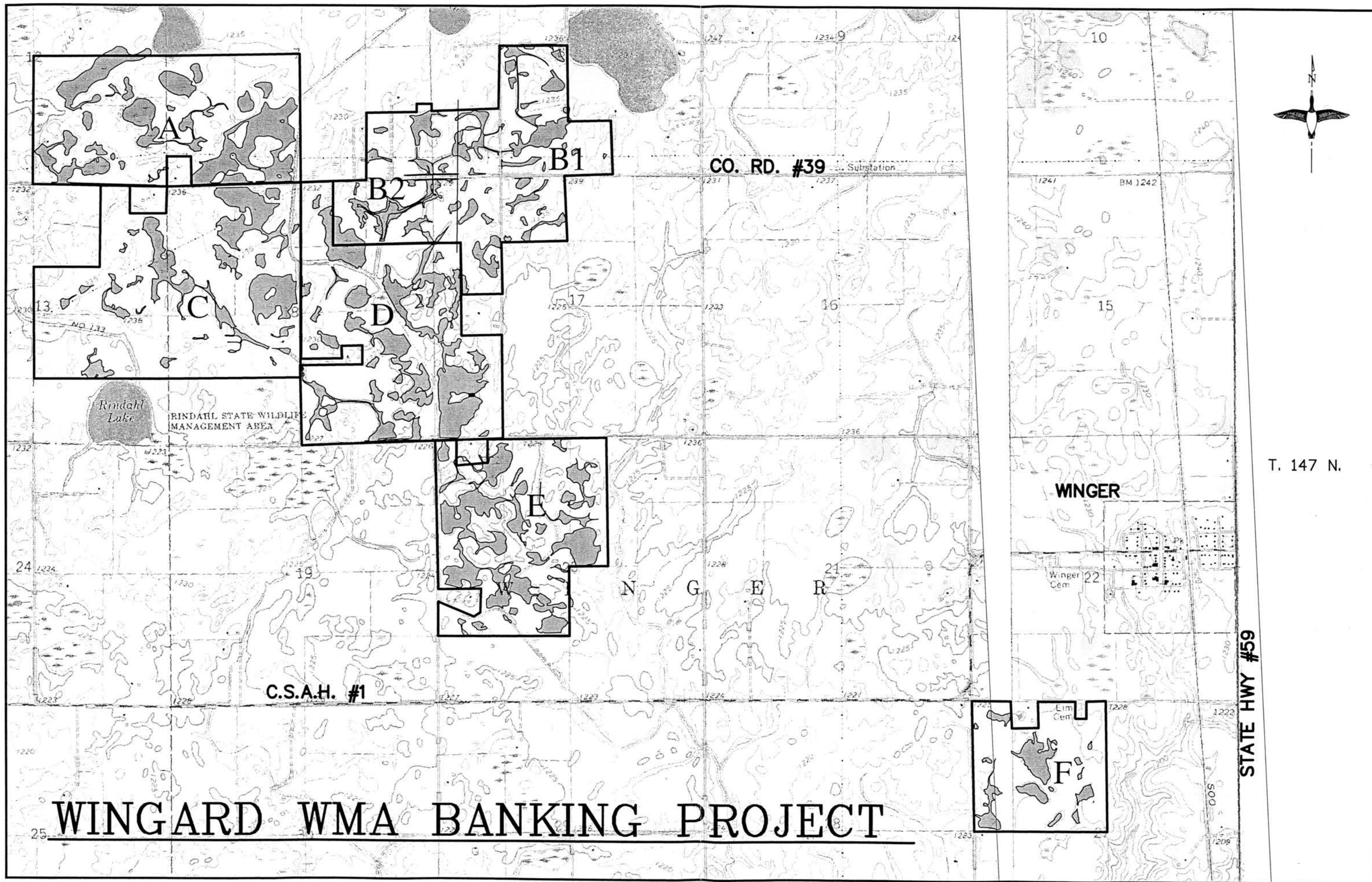
- Fall – planting of Phase 3
- Fall – Phase 2 construction started

2003

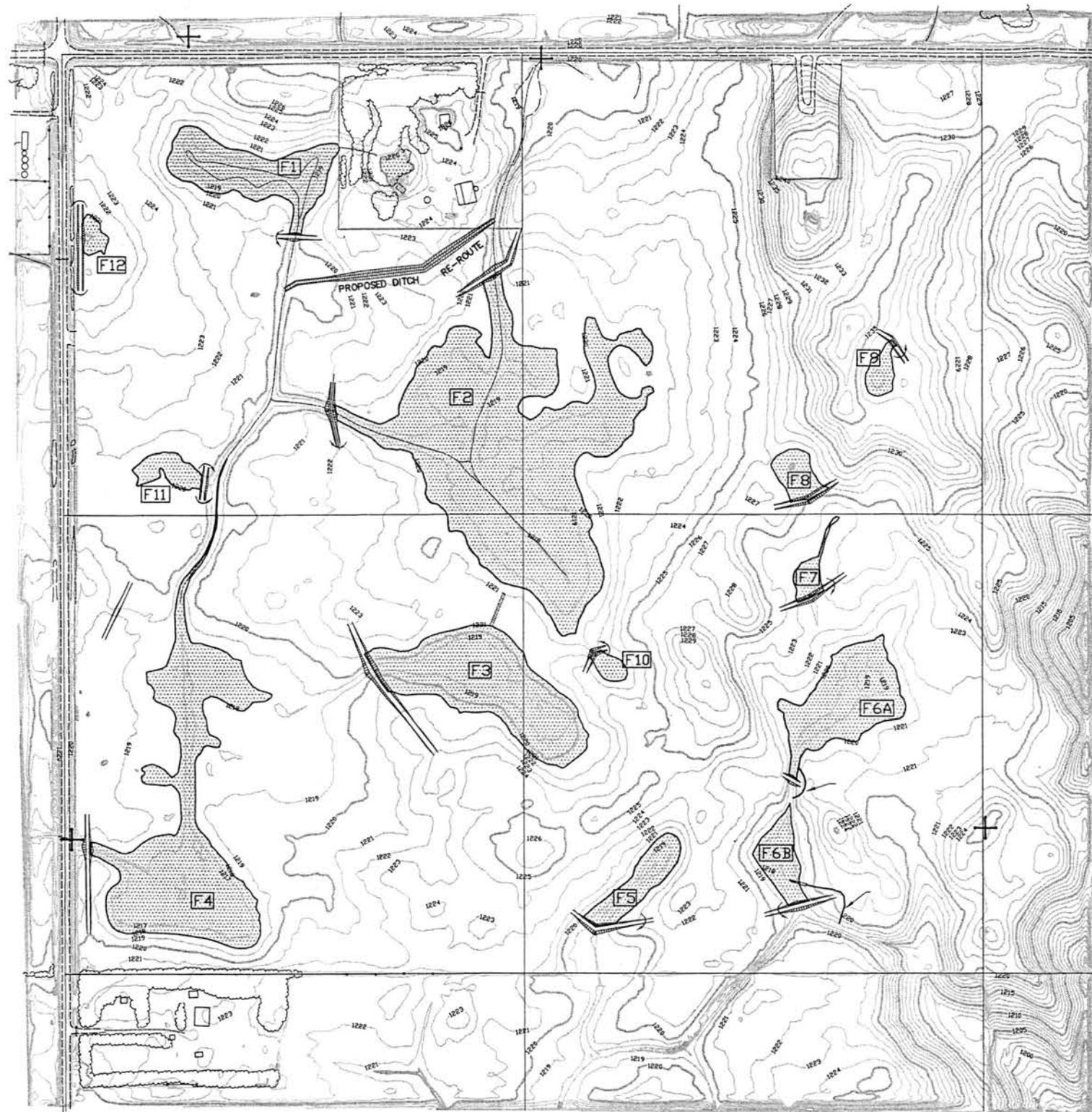
- Phase 1 credits certified and deposited in MnDOT and BWSR accounts
- Late summer – Phase 3 construction started

2004

- Certification of Phase 2 and 3 credits expected
- Transfer of land to DNR for WMA



WINGARD WMA BANKING PROJECT



LEGEND

DENOTES STATION MARK

DENOTES BENCHMARK

ZONE F BOUNDARY

PROPOSED EARTHEN EMBANKMENT

PROPOSED VEGETATIVE SPILLWAY LOCATIONS

PROPOSED WETLAND AREAS

F



Scale 1" = 200'

LEGEND



DENOTES STATION MARK



DENOTES BENCHMARK



ZONE D BOUNDARY



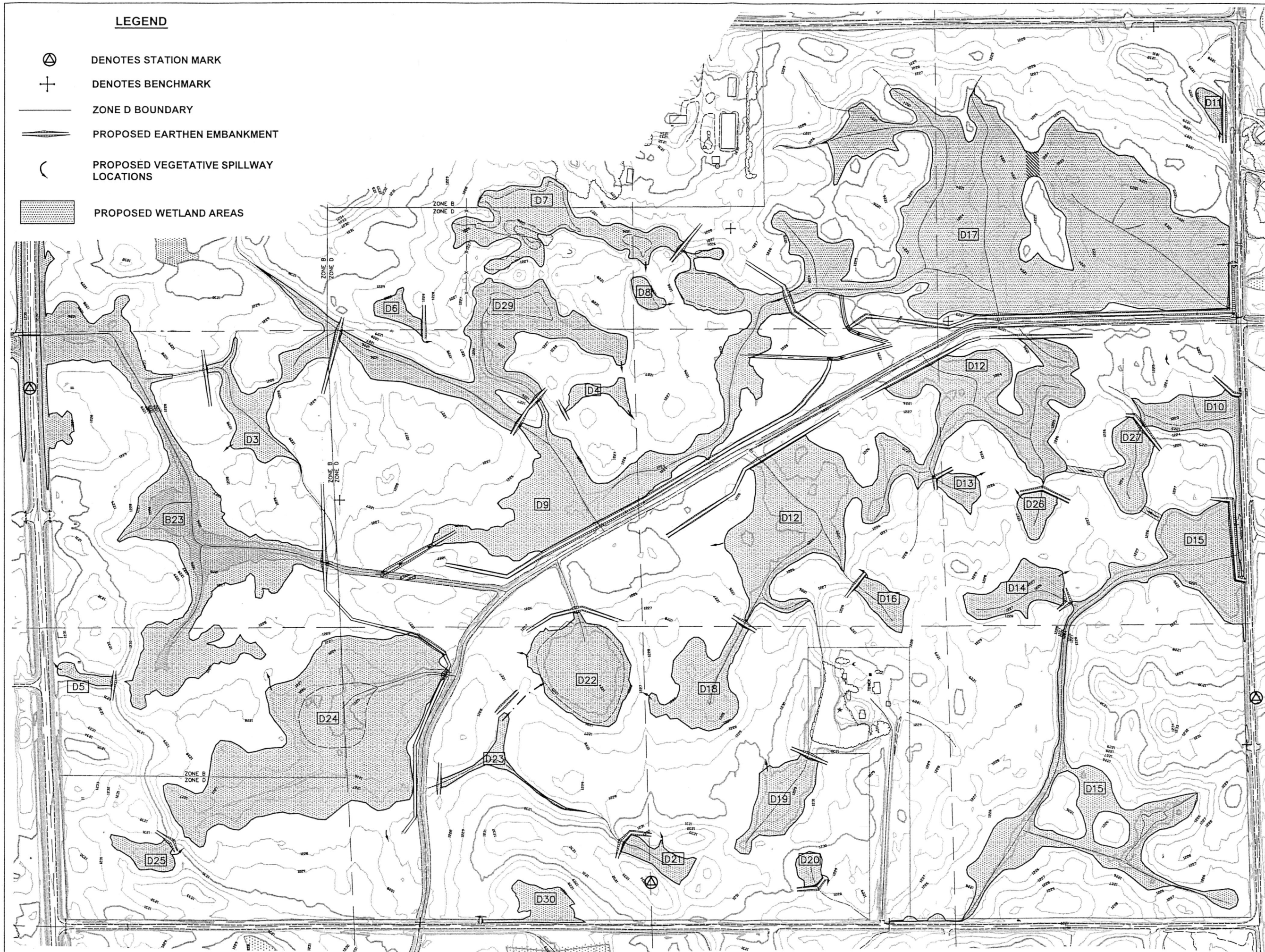
PROPOSED EARTHEN EMBANKMENT



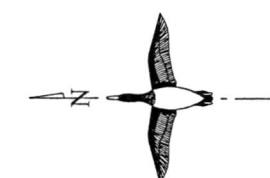
PROPOSED VEGETATIVE SPILLWAY LOCATIONS



PROPOSED WETLAND AREAS



D

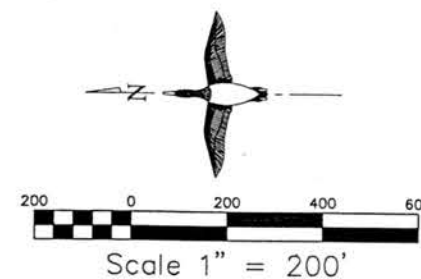


Scale 1" = 200'

B1

LOFGREN LAKE
WATER SURFACE EL.
ON 6/9/99 = 1234.6
ON 8/24/99 = 1234.73

EXISTING
TYPE III
WETLAND



LEGEND



DENOTES STATION MARK



DENOTES BENCHMARK



ZONE B1 BOUNDARY



PROPOSED EARTHEN EMBANKMENT

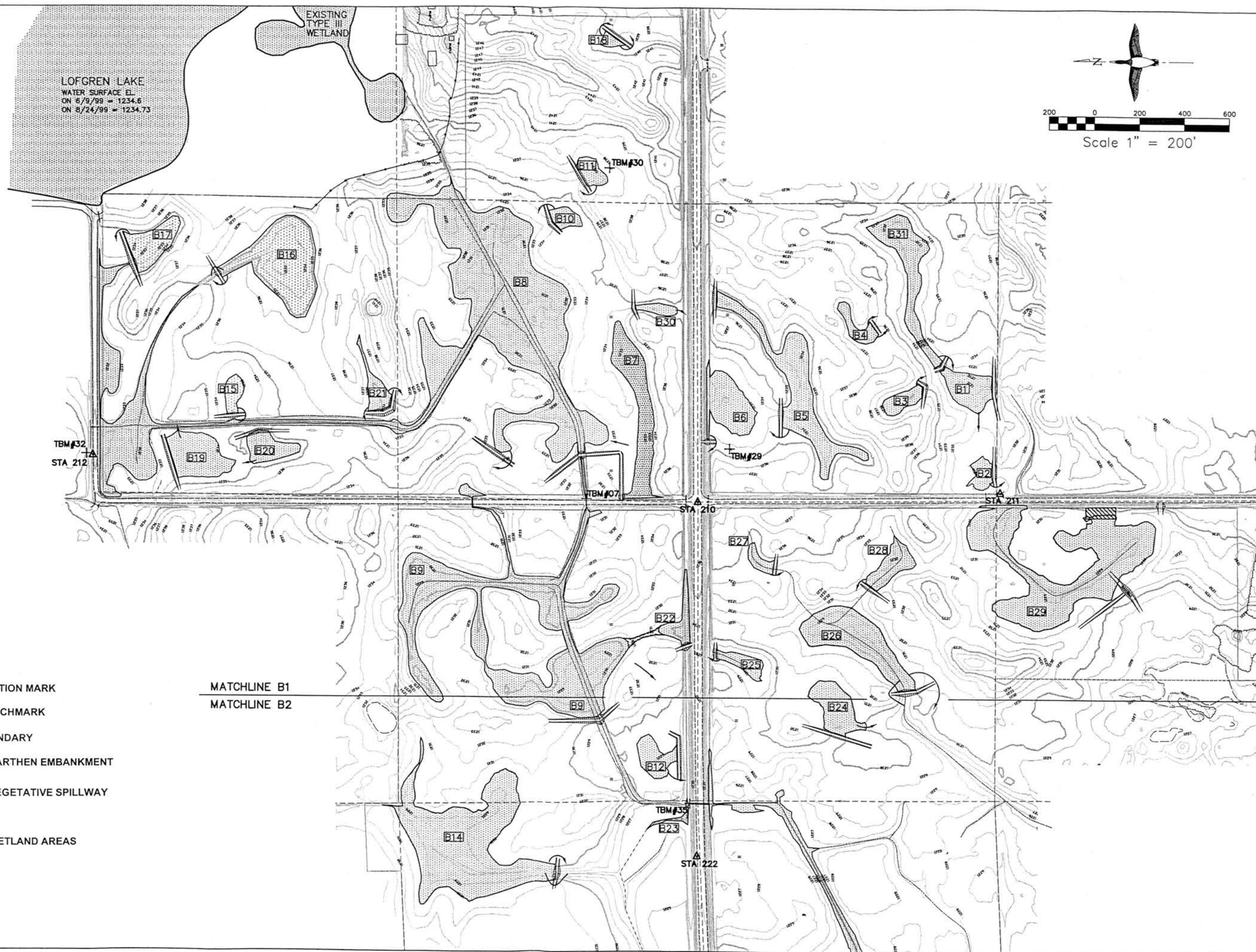


PROPOSED VEGETATIVE SPILLWAY
LOCATIONS



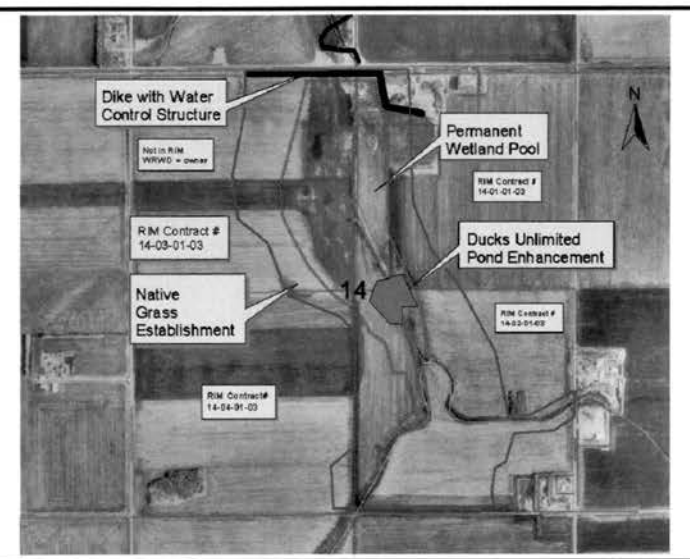
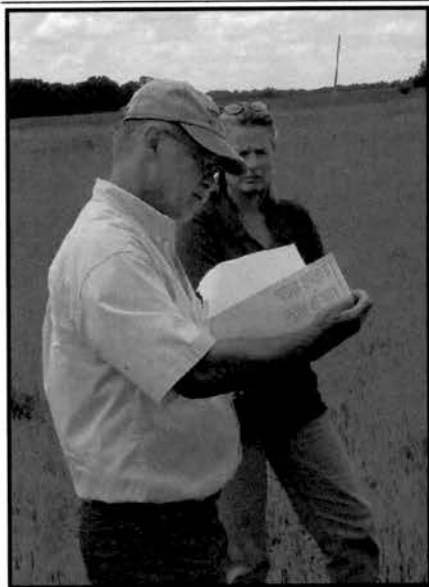
PROPOSED WETLAND AREAS

MATCHLINE B1
MATCHLINE B2



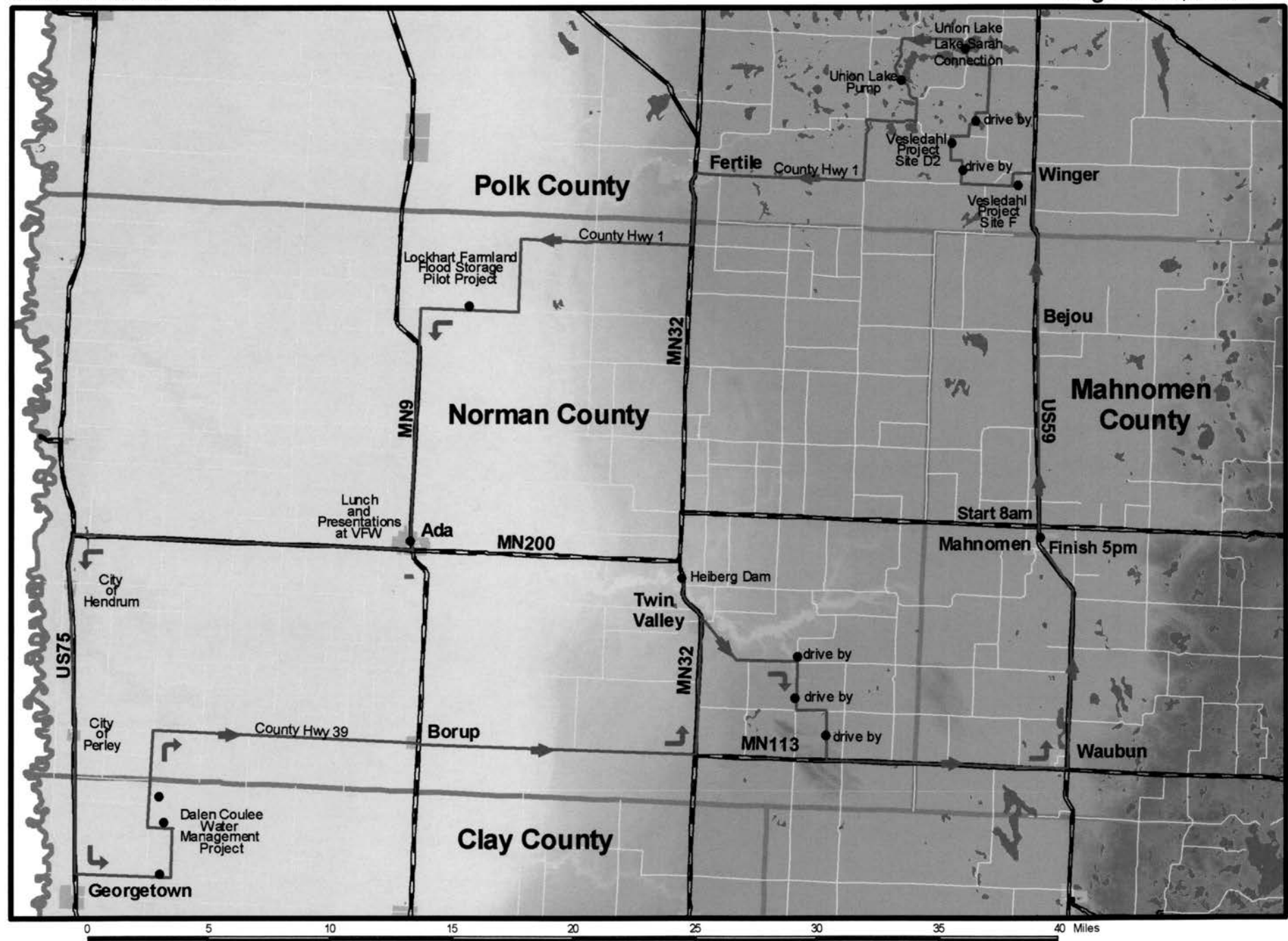
Board of Water and Soil Resources Tour

August 27th, 2003



Tour Itinerary

- **Vesledahl Public Road Mitigation Wetland Banking Site F**
- **Neighborhood Ditch (Drive By)**
- **Vesledahl Public Road Mitigation Wetland Banking Sites D2 & C**
- **Culvert Installation to Divert Water through Project and Alleviate Flooding to Township Road (Drive By)**
- **Union/Lake Sarah Connection (Drive By)**
- **Union Lake Pump Station**
- **Lockhart Farmland Flood Storage Pilot Project (Drive By)**
- **Issues Forums and Presentations @ Ada**
- **Hendrum & Perley Community Levees (Drive By)**
- **Dalen Coulee Water Management Project**
- **Heiberg Dam**
- **June 2002 Flood Damages and Repairs (Drive By)**



Vesledahl Public Road Mitigation Wetland Banking Site

General Background Information

This wetland and upland grassland restoration is a joint project between the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT).

The project will be used by BWSR and MnDOT to offset wetland impacts that cannot be mitigated on site for state, city, county and township road repair, rehabilitation, reconstruction, or replacement projects. The Vesledahl project will restore approximately 750 acres of wetlands and 1,150 acres of native upland vegetation. The entire piece of land covers more than 1,900 acres. The 130+ basins restored will range from 0.5-50 acres in size. The state purchased the land fee title from Steve and Bob Vesledahl.

Because of the scope of the project, it will be completed in three phases. Phase-one construction took place in fall 2000 and spring 2001. Phase-one planting took place in the summer of 2000. Phase-two planting was completed in the summer of 2001. Phase-two construction began in the spring 2002 and phase-three planting was completed in the fall of 2002. Phase-three construction began in the summer of 2003.

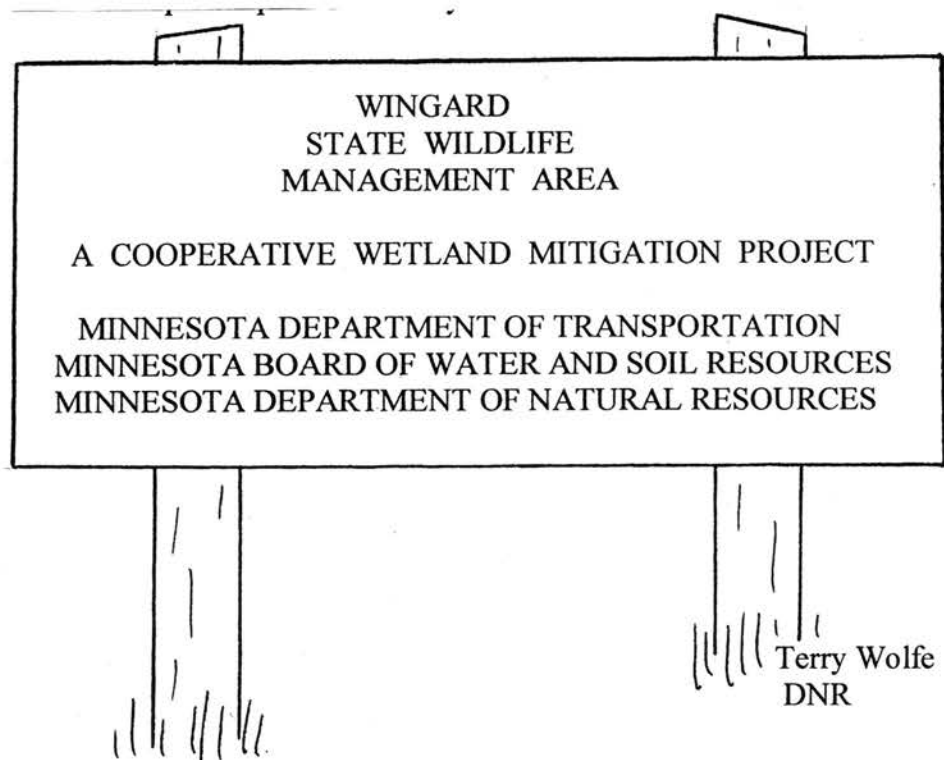
The 600-plus-acre phase one planting was the largest single block of native planting ever done by a Minnesota state agency. All seed planting for the restorations has been from local native harvests.

Another of the project's unique features is that much of the water is by design taken out of the upstream end of an existing ditch system and is routed through numerous wetland basins over the course of two miles before re-entering the ditch system. The combination of routing the water this way and the establishment of the native prairie will reduce runoff and flooding downstream.

When the project is finished, it will yield a total of approximately 1,200 acres of wetland credits, which will be divided between BWSR and MnDOT based on their proportional contributions. BWSR's wetland credits will be used to mitigate wetland impacts on local government roads and highway systems.

Once the restoration work is complete, control of the land will be transferred from MnDOT to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources as a wildlife management area (WMA). The WMA will link two existing federal waterfowl production areas and will create one contiguous public land complex more than 2,600 acres in size that will be open to public hunting, bird watching and other forms of passive outdoor recreation.

Vesledahl Wetland Banking Site – Wingard WMA



Upon project completion, and after wetland credits are determined, the site will be managed as a State Wildlife Management Area (WMA).

WINGARD WMA is the proposed name – named after Winger and Garden Townships it is located in. The area will be open to public use – hiking, wildlife observation, hunting, trapping – all uses allowed on other WMAs. Vehicle use will be confined to present public roads.

Water control structures will be monitored and maintained by the DNR Crookston Wildlife Office. Water level records will be maintained in cooperation with the Sand Hill River Watershed District.

This wetland restoration project fits together with Federal Waterfowl Production Areas and a State WMA in the prairie pothole country of western Minnesota.

-- Submitted by Terry Wolfe (DNR Wildlife - Crookston)

Union/Lake Sarah Connection & Outlet

Flooding has occurred numerous times in the past on Union and Sarah Lakes in Polk County, Minnesota. These closed basin lakes have fluctuated as much as 5 to 6 feet above the Ordinary High Water Level (OHWL). Dozens of cabins and homes have been damaged, or were threatened, and almost all of the lake adjacent properties (approximately 286 on both lakes) suffered high water damage to property. Fifty-six (56) properties on the two lakes have been devalued \$860,900 by the Polk County Assessor.

In 1999 the urgency of the flooding situation on Union/Sarah Lakes was realized when several meetings were held with concerned property owners, the Red Lake WD, Sand Hill River WD, Red River Watershed Management Board, DNR, PCA, BWSR, Polk County, the Union/Lake Sarah LID, E. Polk SWCD, and USACOE. A process was developed that analyzed several of the most obvious alternatives that were pre-selected and agreed upon by the participants. The alternatives were comprised of various surface water and/or upstream watershed storage and watershed management strategies.

A feasibility study recommended that the pumping alternative originating from the southwest area of Union Lake be pursued. The basic components of this alternative involved the construction of a pumping station and the installation of 2,500 feet of buried force main crossing under CSAH 42 and across USF&WS land. The force main outlets into a PWW basin and then back into another force main for another 1,000+ feet before discharging into a drainage system. From here the water flows through a series of privately owned wetlands and then into the Sand Hill River. The estimated project costs of \$600,000 were exceeded due to unforeseen changes to the project's design.

Lockhart Farmland Flood Storage Pilot Project

In 1998 the Minnesota Legislature appropriated \$250,000 for the purpose of funding two pilot projects for developing temporary flood storage easements on agricultural land. The Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) and the Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) were selected as pilot sites for the project.

In January of 1999 the BWSR approved funding in the amount of \$10,000 for startup costs associated with the project. The WRWD Flood Damage Reduction team spent the spring of 1999 reviewing potential sites with landowners plus discussing possible payment programs that would be acceptable to agencies and the landowners. The team also discussed the proposed project design in 1999 and addressed environmental concerns related to bounce in the water retention area, and the size and design of the proposed outlet. In 2000 the WRWD completed a plan and funding mechanism for the pilot project. Construction of the flood storage project began in 2001.

Total project costs were estimated at \$360,000 with funding of \$100,000 from BWSR, \$59,000 from the DNR, \$100,000 from the RRWMB, \$50,000 from the Red River Mediation Group, and \$50,000 from the benefiting landowners on the JD #53 ditch system.

Hendrum & Perley Community Levee Projects

City of Perley

The Perley levee project included improvements in three regions of the city. The improvements included the rehabilitation and raising of approximately 4,600 feet of existing levee. A second region involved the construction of a permanent ring levee around the Cenex Station in the northwest corner of the city. Internal draining and pump locations to handle run-off were also constructed. The project was finalized in August of 2000 at a total cost of \$165,492.

City of Hendrum

The Hendrum project consisted of constructing permanent levees on the north, east, and south side of the city. After the 1997 flood, the temporary levees constructed by the Army Corps of Engineers were removed leaving the city without flood protection. The new levees provide permanent protection for the community from future flood events. Internal drainage and pump stations were designed into the project to provide internal drainage. The project was finalized in August of 2000 at a total cost of \$287,972.

Dalen Coulee Water Management Project

The Dalen Coulee Water Management Study is a design concept to reduce flood damages and flooding along an intermittent stream named Dalen Coulee. Dalen Coulee is located in an area of intense agricultural production northeast of Georgetown and east of Perley, Minnesota. The coulee became the focus for an intense debate in 1998, about how to best manage water, after the Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD) received a petition to improve the coulee from several landowners farming adjacent to the intermittent stream. State and federal agencies were opposed to a traditional drainage system because the intermittent stream and the area along the coulee was one of the few remaining largely unmodified natural waterways within the area. Therefore, a different solution was needed that was acceptable and financially viable for the landowners along the coulee and maintained or enhanced the existing natural character.

Dalen Coulee has a drainage area of approximately 12 sq. miles, is the outlet for several existing county legal drainage systems, and flows north terminating at the Wild Rice River. The coulee floods, which results in repeated, crop loss and economic hardship for landowners. The flooding occurs because of high water levels at the Wild Rice River and/or excessive runoff from upstream areas.

An Interagency Work Team (IWT) was assembled to develop a model process for resolving the water management and natural resource issues. The IWT established flood protection and natural resource goals, coordinated a survey of the coulee, developed hydrologic and hydraulic information and gathered ecological data. The culmination of the IWT consisted of a document titled "Dalen Coulee Natural Waterway, Interagency Work Team Conclusion Document (1999)". The document evaluated and ranked a range of concept designs to address the problems along Dalen Coulee. The concept design agreed to by the IWT included a combination of activities including culvert replacement and sediment blockage removal, restoring a portion of the intermittent stream, set-asides adjacent to the stream, and upstream storage.

Several state, federal, and non-profit organizations contributed financially or technically to the success of this project. The Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) group is providing funding totaling \$200,000 through flood reduction funds provided by the Minnesota Legislature. The Red River Watershed Management Board has approved \$100,000 in funding for the project. Minnesota DNR has approved \$100,000 in funding. Landowners will contribute \$250,000 for the project. Other contributors on the project include Ducks Unlimited, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. The NRCS and Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources funded the set-aside costs, which is a CRP/RIM payment valued at \$406,000. The BWSR approved \$200,000 for the RIM payments to fund the wetland and flood storage enhancements.

Portions of the project were designed by Houston Engineering, Inc. and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. Ducks Unlimited assisted with the design and funded an upstream storage area. The WRWD, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Clay and Norman Counties, provided financial incentives to landowners along the intermittent stream to retire frequently flooded cropland. Plans and specifications for this project were completed in early 2002. Construction was largely completed in 2002, with minor clean-up occurring in 2003.

It is the first flood damage reduction project approved since the development of the mediation process.

Heiberg Dam

The Heiberg Dam is located on Trunk Highway No. 32, North of Twin Valley. The Wild Rice Watershed District completed planning for this project in 1975 and completed the construction in 1977.

The low-head dam replaced the original structure that was build during the late 1900's. The benefits from the project are to help in controlling the problems with spring ice breakup and movement of ice downstream along the Wild Rice River.

The North embankment of the dam was breached during the 2002 flood. Estimated costs for the repairs are in the range of \$300,000. FEMA is currently conducting an environmental review of the project with concerns being expressed over fish passage. The watershed district is currently working with the agencies to address concerns in formulation of an acceptable repair for the dam.