



BWSR Budget Overview

Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee

John Jaschke | Executive Director
Andrea Fish | Assistant Director

Our Vision and Mission

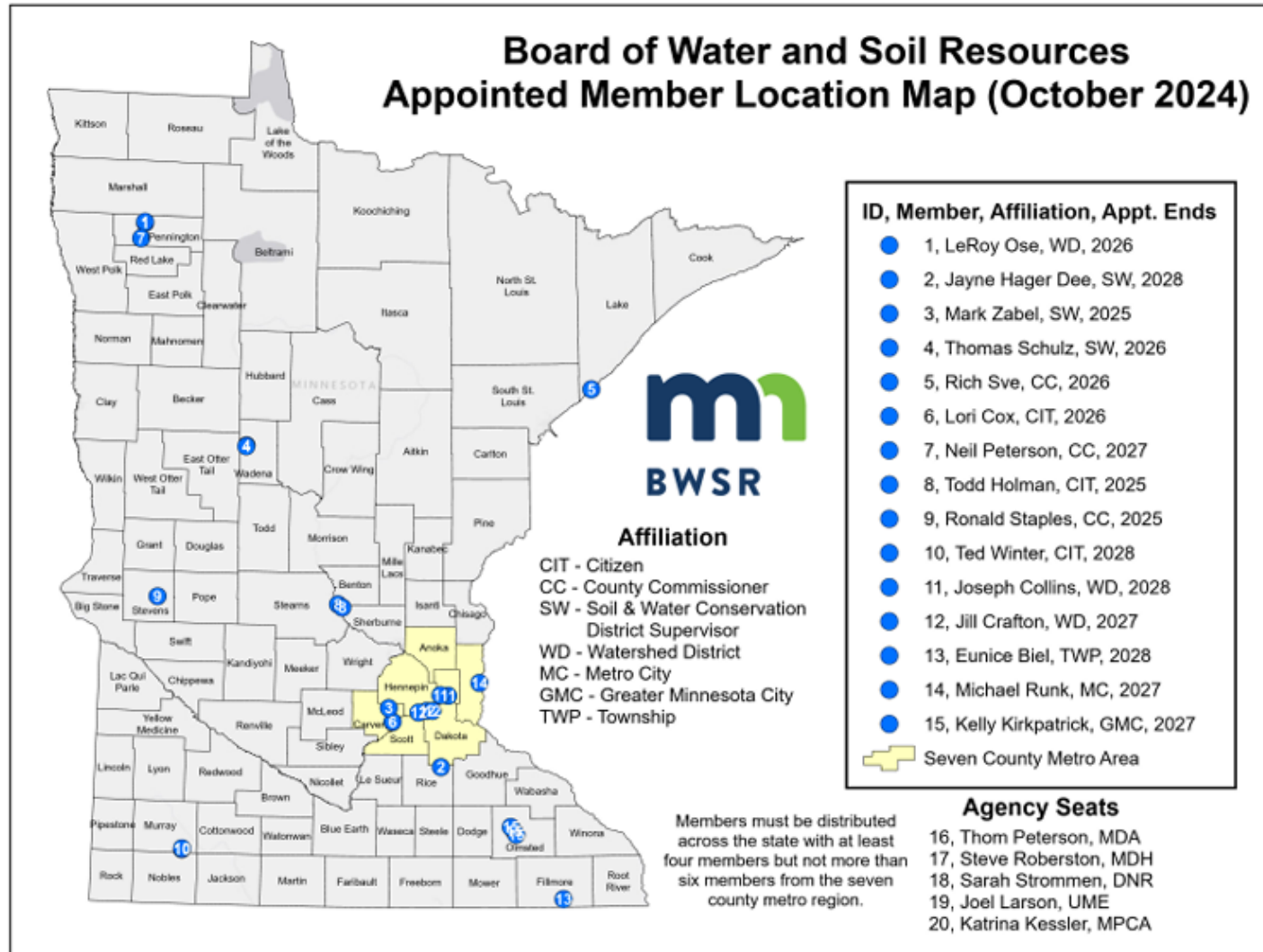
Vision:

All of Minnesota benefits from lands and waters that are ecologically and economically sustainable.

Mission:

Work with partners to improve and protect Minnesota's land and water resources.

BWSR Structure

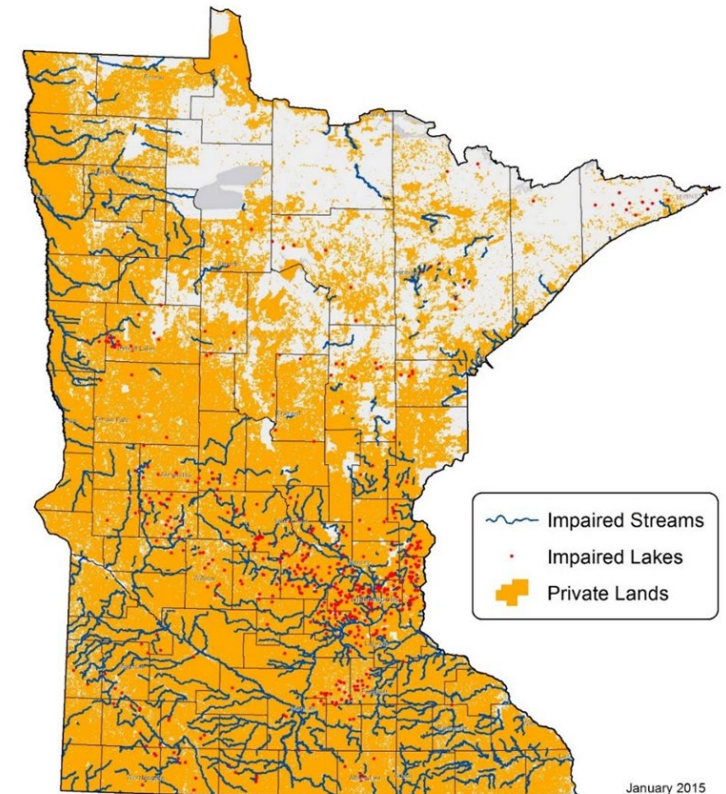


- Governor-Appointed 20-member board: Local Govts, Citizens, Agencies
- 150 staff
- Offices in Bemidji, Brainerd, Duluth, Detroit Lakes, Mankato, Marshall, Rochester, St. Paul, and Waite Park

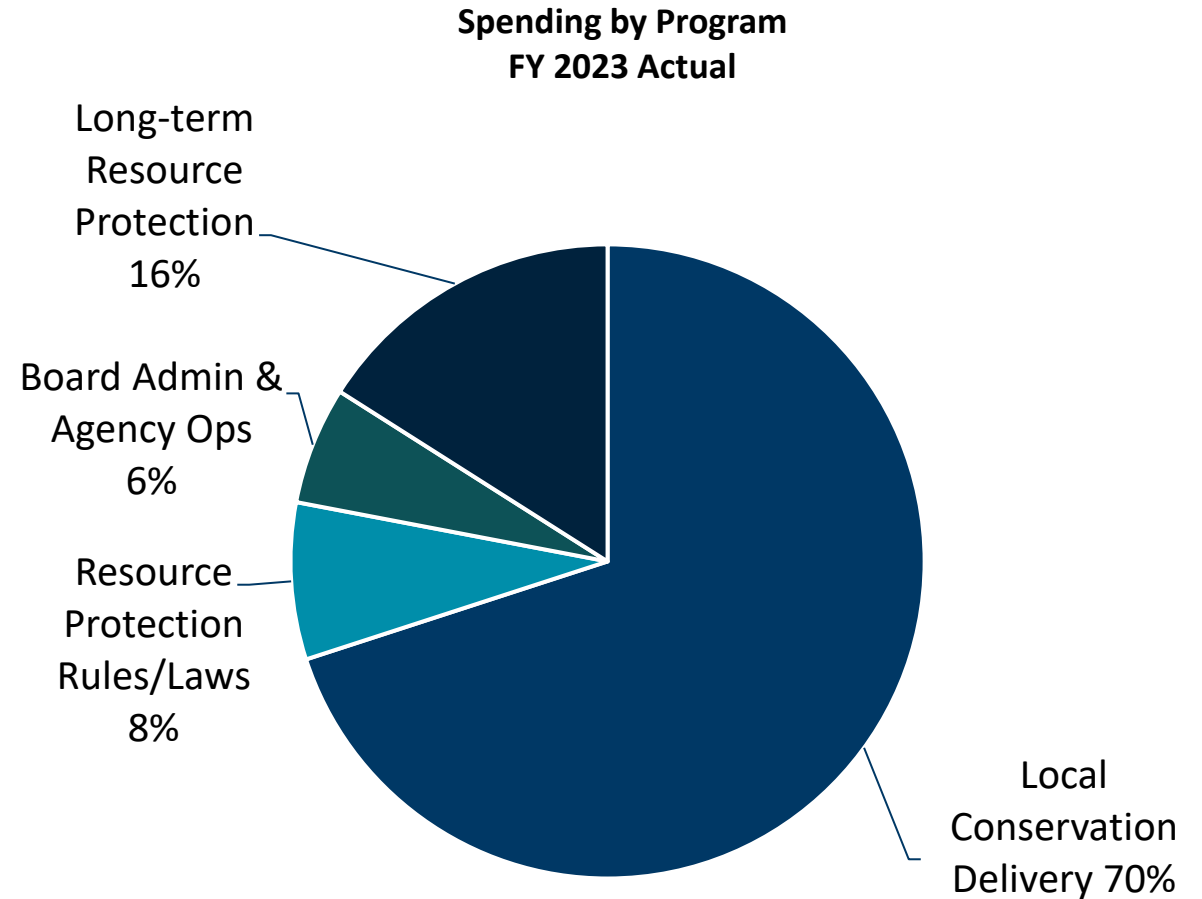
Who We Work With

- **88** Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- **45** Watershed Districts
- **87** Counties
- Joint Powers Organizations
- State and Federal agencies
- Agricultural and Environmental NGOs
- Tribal Governments

**Focus on Minnesota's private lands –
76% of the state**



- **Local delivery system**
(Counties, Cities, SWCDs, Watershed Districts/WMOs, NGOs, Tribal Govts)
- **On-the-ground conservation results**



Status Updates



Updates from 2023 one-time appropriations



Federal Funding



2025 BWSR proposals

BWSR Living Landscapes Initiatives



- Encourage individual actions that increase carbon storage and establish landscapes to conserve and enhance biodiversity.

Lawns to Legumes Habitat Friendly Utilities Program Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program

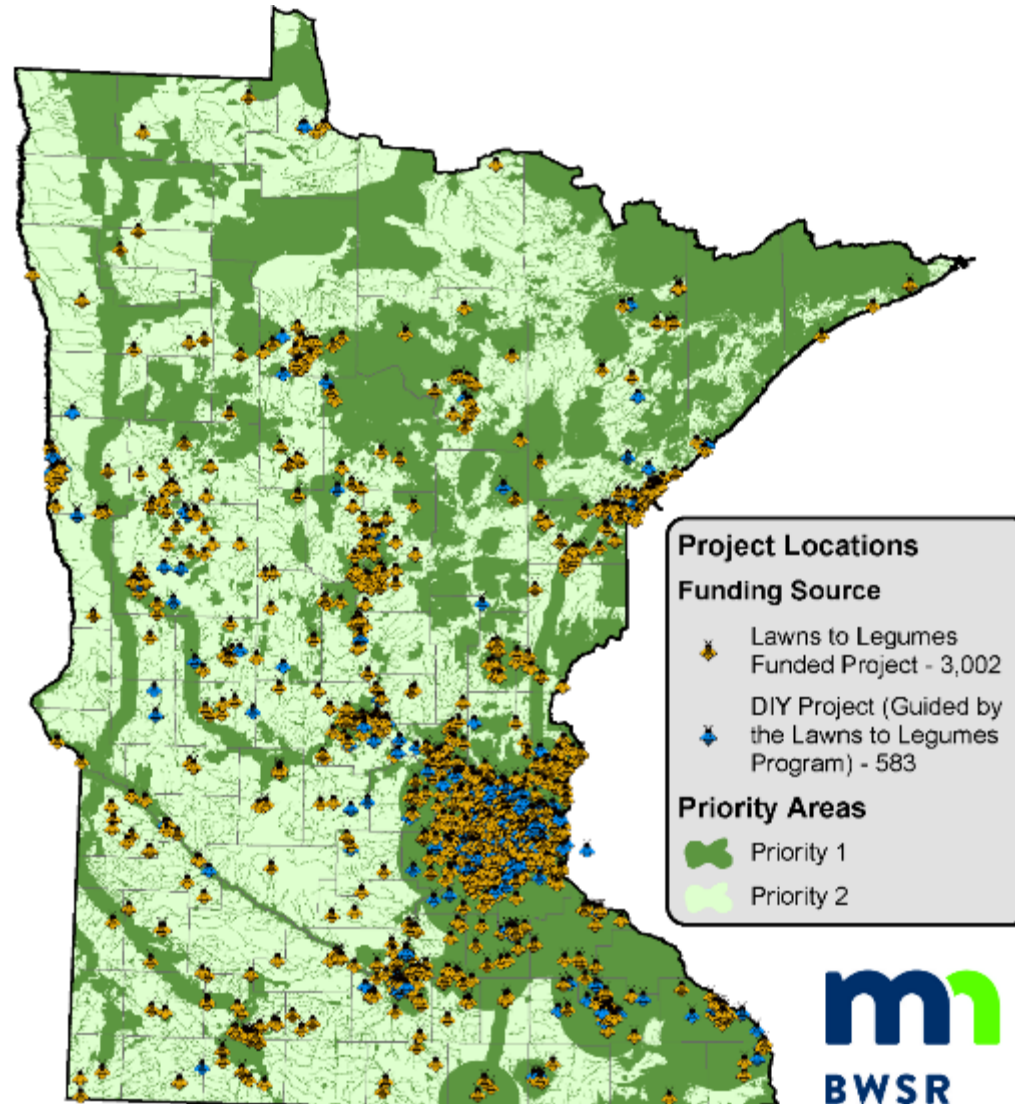
Lawns to Legumes

M.S. 103B.104

Reimburses residents
\$400 for creating new
pollinator habitat in
their yards

10,000 projects
installed since 2019

Projects in all 87
Minnesota counties



Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP)

M.S. 103B.106

Provides financial and technical assistance to establish and enhance habitat on existing conservation lands, such as easements

\$3.4 million awarded to 12 organizations and governments last year



Provides financial and technical assistance to establish habitat within solar, wind, pipeline and electrical transmission corridors



Pollinator Funding Update

2023/2024 One-time Appropriations	Status
Lawns to Legumes – \$4 million (2023); \$800K (2024)	\$361K remaining; 10,000 individual cost-share projects supported; 10 pathway grants awarded Applications for fall plantings currently open
Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program - \$4 million	\$315K remaining; 12 grants awarded to communities
Habitat Friendly Utilities - \$1 million	\$470K remaining; Technical Assistance and pilot projects

Pollinator Account	Status
Anticipate \$940K per year	Technical Assistance, Cost-sharing

Soil Health Practices Program

M.S. 103F.06



- Voluntary and locally-led
- Practices on sensitive lands to slow water and address surface and groundwater quality.
- Provides climate resiliency and carbon sequestration.
- Achieved through local staffing, outreach and education, and on-the-ground implementation.

Examples - Soil Health Practices



Soil Health Funding Update

2023 One-time Appropriation	Committed/ Obligated	Funding Status	Federal Funds	Activities
\$ 21.1 million	\$20.6 million	\$500K (future years match)	\$25 million awarded in October 2024	Soil Health Delivery grants to SWCDs 40 Increased Capacity grants to SWCDs 88 Implementation grants pending

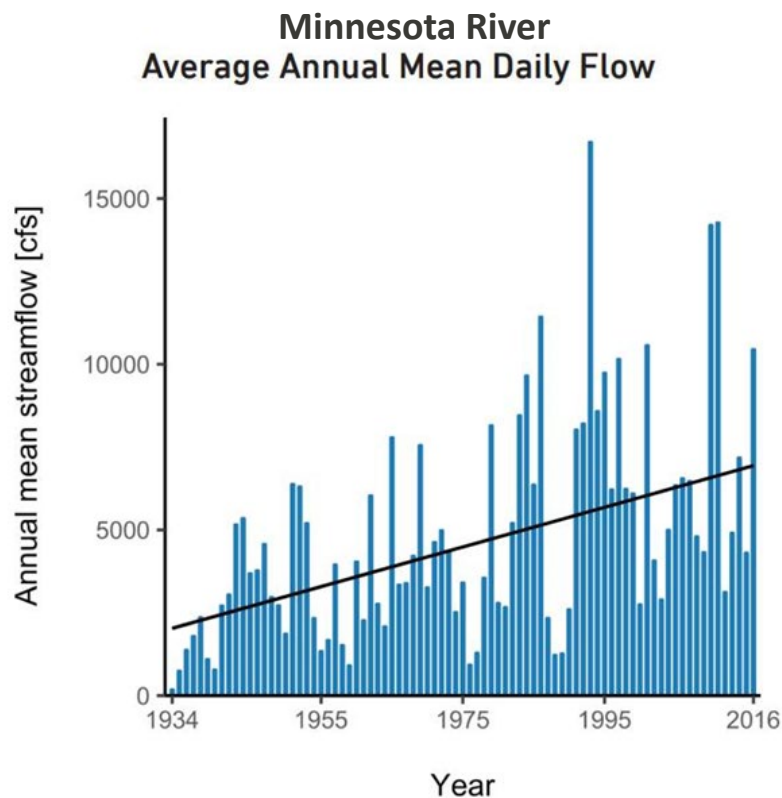
Increasing climate resiliency

Goals

- Increase water storage capacity
- Control water rates
- Protect infrastructure



Accelerated Water Storage Program



- Adapt to changing climate
- Acquire, design, and construct projects to control water volume and rate
- Voluntary and locally-led



Water Storage Funding Update

2023 One-time Appropriation	Committed/ Obligated	Funding Status	Federal Funds	Activities
\$ 17 million	\$3.6 million	\$13.3 million	\$21 million awarded in October 2024	10 projects funded; Current open application period until April 10

Private Lands Conservation Easements

M.S. 103F.515

Climate Action via the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program

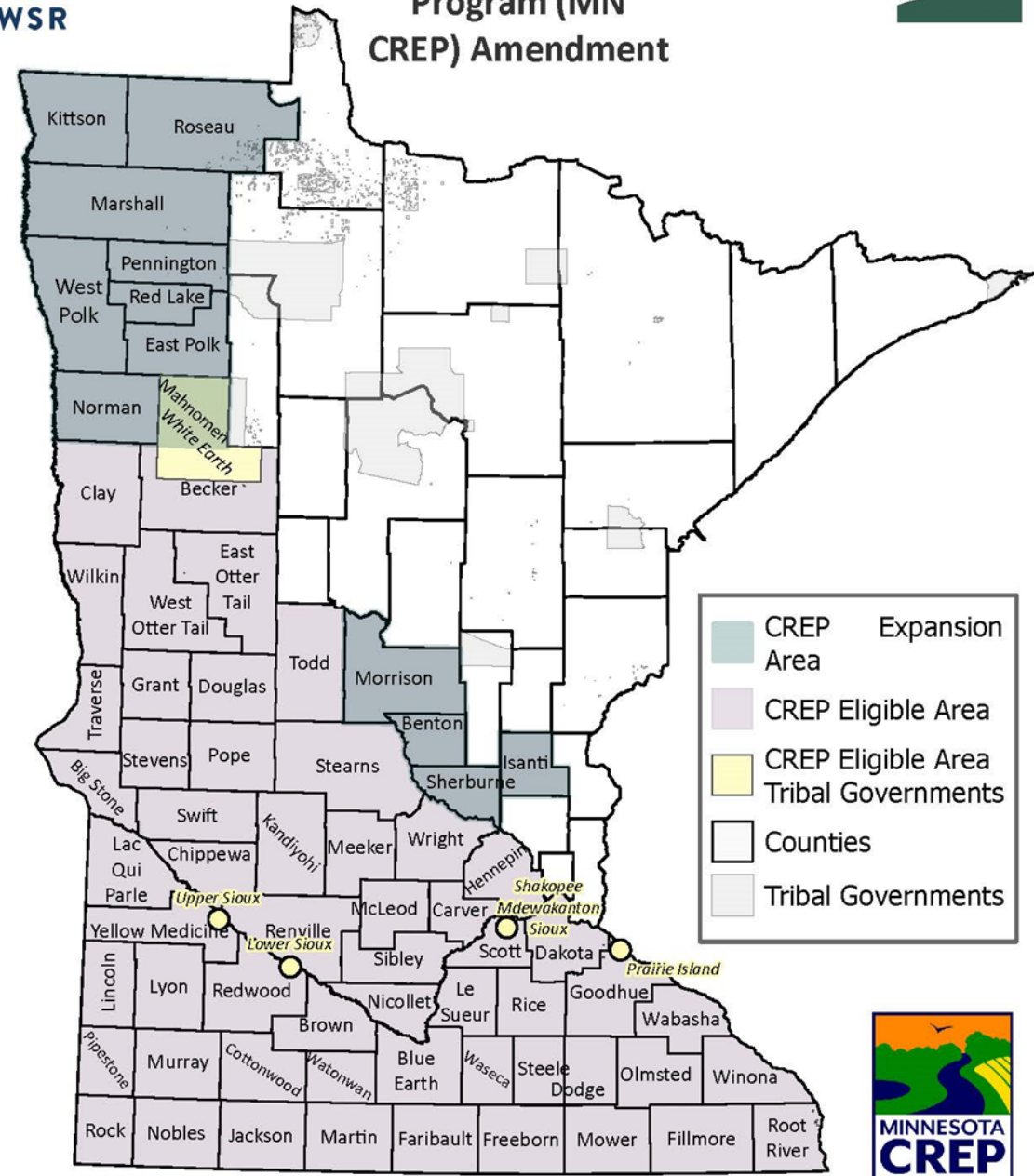
- Grassland/Working Land Restorations
- Peatland Restorations
- Mitigation and Resiliency for Existing State Easements



MN CREP

Agreement amended/extended
January 2025

- adds 12 new counties
- increases acreage cap from 60,000 to 75,000
- Adds private well protection practices
- Fed:State funding leverage 70:30



Federal Leveraging Update



#	BWSR	2023 One-Time Appropriation	Federal Match
1	Accelerated Water Storage	\$17 million	\$21 million
2	Accelerated Soil Health	\$21 million	\$25 million
3	Peatland Restoration	\$9 million	\$8 million
4	Grassland/Working Land Restoration	\$21 million	1.5:1 ongoing (permanent)
5	Conservation Reserve Protection State Incentive	\$3 million	10:1 ongoing (15 years)



Other 2024 One-time BWSR Regional Projects

\$850,000 for
Southeast Manure
Management grants
(waiting for Federal RCPP)

\$300,000 for
Red River of the
North phosphorus
water quality trading
study

2025 BWSR General Fund Request



#	BWSR Change Item	FY26 Funding Request	FY27 and ongoing
1	Operating Adjustment	\$153K	\$310K

Policy - Drainage Work Group

The Drainage Work Group's purpose revolves around two overarching points:

- 1) Foster science-based mutual understanding about drainage topics and issues; and
- 2) Develop consensus recommendations for drainage system management and related water management, including recommendations for updating Minnesota Statutes Chapter 103E Drainage and related provisions.

2025 Consensus Recommendation:

- **Repeal of duplicative buffer strips reporting requirement - 103E.067**

BWSR Contacts

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Thank you

