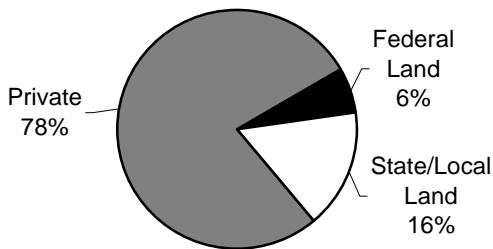


Agency Purpose

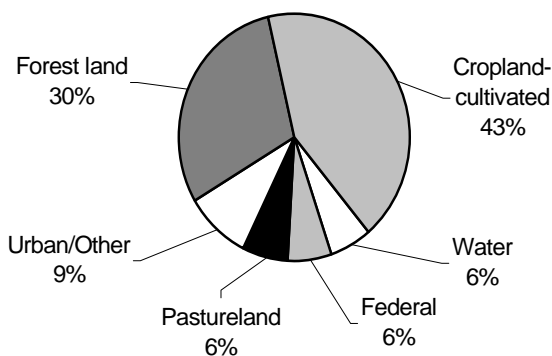
The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is charged with implementing state soil and water conservation and wetland policies locally. It works with local governments to achieve state and local goals for soil and water resources. Agency focus is on channeling technical and financial assistance to the local level to achieve targeted results on privately held lands.

Because 78% of the state is held in private ownership, the agency's focus on private lands is critical to the state attaining its goals for clean water, clean air and abundant fish and wildlife. Managed wisely, these working lands – Minnesota's farms, forests and urban areas – can contribute to the state's environmental goals of cleaner air and water, protection of fish and wildlife habitat and preservation of open spaces.

Land Ownership



Variety of Land Uses



The board implements the Wetland Conservation Act, Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve, water quality incentives, and comprehensive local water management through local units of government. The agency is the state's administrative agency for 91 soil and water conservation districts, 46 watershed districts, 27 metropolitan watersheds and 80 county water management organizations.

Agency programs to assist landowners and local government have resulted in less sediment and nutrients entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; more fish and wildlife habitat; and the drastic slowing of wetland losses.

At A Glance

Local Government Delivery System:

Agency responsibilities are delivered with or implemented by local government to assure local priorities are met and water and soil conservation programs are implemented on private lands. The agency oversees and assists a variety of governmental units:

- ◆ Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) – 91 SWCDs; 450 Elected Supervisors; 347 District Employees
- ◆ Watershed Districts – 46 Watershed Districts; 220 Managers; 66 Employees
- ◆ Watershed Management Organizations (WMO) – 27 WMOs; 162 Members
- ◆ 87 Counties
- ◆ 230 Cities
- ◆ 304 Local governmental units involved in implementing the Wetland Conservation Act.

Accomplishments *:

- ◆ 179,235 acres of wildlife habitat and wetlands restored on private land through Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve
- ◆ 29,588 acres of wetland loss avoided
- ◆ 125 feedlots modified to reduce pollutants through the state cost share program
- ◆ 370,000 tons per year of prevented soil erosion
- ◆ 570,000 tons of sediment kept out of lakes, rivers and streams
- ◆ 650,000 pounds of phosphorus kept out of lakes, rivers and streams.

* Years 2003 through July 2006. Source: eLINK system

These outcomes are achieved in spite of intensification of agriculture, greater demands for forest products, and urbanization in many parts of the state.

Core Functions

BWSR's mission is implemented through the following core functions:

- ◆ serve as the state soil conservation agency (M.S. 103B.101);
- ◆ direct private land, soil, and water conservation programs through the state's SWCD's, counties, cities, townships, Watershed Districts, and Water Management Organizations (M.S. 103B, 103C, 103D);
- ◆ promote linkage of water resource planning with comprehensive land use planning (M.S. 103B);
- ◆ provide resolution of water policy conflicts and issues (M.S. 103A.211, 103A.305, 103A.315, 103A.311);
- ◆ implement all comprehensive local water management acts (M.S. 103B.201, 103B.255, 103B.301);
- ◆ provide a forum (through the board) for local issues, priorities, and opportunities to be incorporated into state public policy (M.S. 103B.101);
- ◆ enforce the state Wetland Conservation Act (M.S. 103G); and
- ◆ coordinate state and federal resources to realize local priorities.

Operations

The board consists of 17 members representing local government entities, state agencies, and citizens. The board sets a policy agenda designed to enhance service delivery through the use of local government. Agency staff is located in eight geographically distributed areas throughout Minnesota. The focus of agency staff is to provide technical and financial assistance to local government to plan and implement policy on private lands. The agency also works with private landowners to implement conservation on the ground. This provides an opportunity to apply state, federal, local, and private resources to projects to improve water quality, prevent soil loss and erosion, plan for future land use, and protect wetlands located on private lands. These partnerships in service delivery ensure that the interest of state policy is implemented with local issues and problems in mind.

Budget

Two-year state budget:

- ◆ \$30.671 million for FY 2006-2007 biennium
- ◆ \$22.525 million (73%) in grants
- ◆ FY 2007 full-time: 70.05 FTE, of which 48.6 FTE are funded by General Fund.

The primary funding source for agency operations is the General Fund. For FY 2007, 82% of the agency's total budget was General Fund, excluding bond funds.

Contact

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Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Direct Appropriations by Fund</u>					
Environment & Natural Resource					
Current Appropriation	900	900	900	900	1,800
Forecast Base	900	900	0	0	0
Change		0	(900)	(900)	(1,800)
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					-100%
General					
Current Appropriation	16,140	21,071	21,071	21,071	42,142
Forecast Base	16,140	21,071	15,231	15,231	30,462
Change		0	(5,840)	(5,840)	(11,680)
% Biennial Change from 2006-07					-18.1%
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	1,135	900	0	0	0
General	15,061	23,146	15,531	15,431	30,962
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	1,459	2,326	1,438	1,438	2,876
Federal	28	548	0	0	0
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	3,485	3,640	3,499	3,499	6,998
Other Operating Expenses	1,391	2,000	823	823	1,646
Capital Outlay & Real Property	606	1,385	931	931	1,862
Local Assistance	12,201	19,895	11,716	11,616	23,332
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
<u>Expenditures by Program</u>					
Water & Soil Resrcs Bd	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
Full-Time Equivalentents (FTE)	44.3	41.5	41.0	41.0	

Program Description

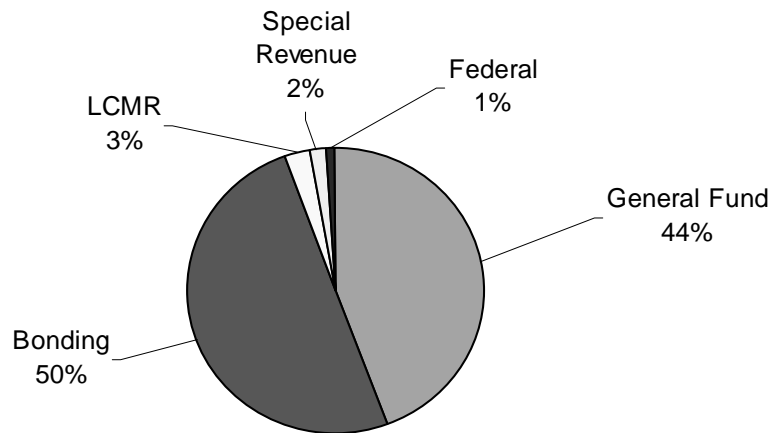
The purpose of this program is to provide the necessary resources to implement the state's soil and water conservation policy; to facilitate comprehensive local water management; and to enforce the Wetland Conservation Act. Program resources support agency and local government staff implementing conservation and resource protection programs locally. The financial and technical support provided through grants and staffing assist local government to deliver on state mandated resource protection objectives.

Budget Activities

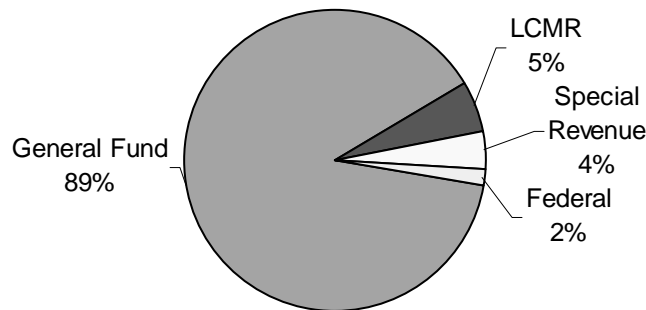
- ⇒ BWSR Operations
- ⇒ Grants to Local Governments
- ⇒ Easements
- ⇒ Wetland Conservation Act
- ⇒ Clean Water Legacy
- ⇒ Public Drainage

Financing

**FY2006-2007 Operating Funds
(Including Bonding) \$69.5 Million**



**FY2006-2007 Operatng Funds
(Excluding Bonding) \$34.5 Million**



WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD
 Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Program Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	2008-09
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	1,135	900	0	0	0
General	15,061	23,146	15,531	15,431	30,962
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	1,459	2,326	1,438	1,438	2,876
Federal	28	548	0	0	0
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	3,485	3,640	3,499	3,499	6,998
Other Operating Expenses	1,391	2,000	823	823	1,646
Capital Outlay & Real Property	606	1,385	931	931	1,862
Local Assistance	12,201	19,895	11,716	11,616	23,332
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
<u>Expenditures by Activity</u>					
Bwsr Operations	5,374	6,472	5,103	5,103	10,206
Grants To Local Govt	12,008	14,062	11,866	11,766	23,632
Easements	193	545	0	0	0
Clean Water Legacy	108	5,841	0	0	0
Total	17,683	26,920	16,969	16,869	33,838
Full-Time Equivalentents (FTE)	44.3	41.5	41.0	41.0	

Activity Description

This activity exists to provide technical and administrative resources to assure state soil and water resource goals and objectives are met. The activity provides agency staff support to local governments for implementation of the state's soil and water conservation policy, resource protection programs required by the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), staff support for local water planning, and technical assistance for conservation projects implemented on private land.

Population Served

This activity provides services to local governments for the implementation of soil conservation and water management practices, especially on privately owned lands. Meeting state environmental goals requires working with a broad network of local governments who each possess some of the tools to address particular issues in land and water management. Almost 800 local units of government are empowered to deliver services on behalf of the agency to achieve the state soil and water conservation goals. These entities are clients, as well as agents, in that they receive technical and administrative support from the activity but also serve as the activity's major service provider.

Activity at a Glance**Activity Clientele**

- ◆ Local Units of Government
 - ⇒ 91 SWCD's
 - ⇒ 46 Watershed Districts
 - ⇒ 27 WMO's
 - ⇒ 87 Counties
 - ⇒ 304 WCA Authorities
- ◆ Private landowners throughout the state
- ◆ Other state and federal conservation partners
- ◆ Private conservation organizations

Available Statewide Land Resources

- ◆ 41.7 million acres of private lands including
 - ⇒ 23 million acres of cropland
 - ⇒ 5.3 million acres of private forested land
 - ⇒ 7.4 million acres of wetlands

Services Provided

Following is a description of key services provided by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR):

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) M.S. 103C

- ⇒ Hear petitions and order formation, consolidation and/or division of districts, approve location changes, conduct referenda and order discontinuance of districts as needed.
- ⇒ Approve changes to the nominating process for districts elections, hear petitions and order removal of elected supervisors as necessary.
- ⇒ Establish and enforce penalties for violation of grant programs and/or misconduct of supervisors or SWCD employees.
- ⇒ Approve and administer state grants, and coordinate programs and activities with state and federal agencies.
- ⇒ Develop programs designed to achieve soil and water conservation goals.
- ⇒ Review and approve local soil and water conservation improvement projects.

Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs) M.S. 103B and D

- ⇒ Establish, define boundaries, enlarge, consolidate or terminate districts; and appoint an initial board of managers for new districts.
- ⇒ Receive and hear appeals of district project orders.
- ⇒ Receive annual audits and reports, enforce member eligibility requirements, and assign areas to associated counties for watershed management.
- ⇒ Approve management plans and revisions; review rules and regulations; review and approve engineering reports on proposed projects; and approve plans for establishing storm water utility fees.
- ⇒ Investigate misconduct of district managers as necessary.

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: BWSR OPERATIONS

Narrative

Counties and Cities M.S. 103B, F and G

- ⇒ Approve land management plans.
- ⇒ Hear and decide appeals of wetland replacement, wetland exemption determinations and municipal contracts with water plans.
- ⇒ Rescind enforcement authority for the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) and impose building moratoriums as necessary.
- ⇒ Certify employees' completion of wetland delineation training and certify wetland banking transactions.
- ⇒ Approve comprehensive local water management plans and revisions.
- ⇒ Approve and allocate grant funding to counties; conduct audits and investigate potential grant violations.

Wetland Conservation Act M.S. 103A, B and G

- ⇒ Review projects, resolve disputes, and decide appeals.
- ⇒ Participate on technical evaluation panels.
- ⇒ Support interagency coordination and enforcement.
- ⇒ Evaluate local government unit (LGU) performance.
- ⇒ Administer program rules, banking, forms, manuals, training, and delineator certification.
- ⇒ Develop, review, and approve local wetland plans and ordinances.
- ⇒ Acquire land and develop procedures for the local government wetland road replacement program.

Comprehensive Local Water Management Program M.S. 103

- ⇒ Develop program guidelines for submitting local water management plans, including citizen involvement.
- ⇒ Review and approve plans submitted.
- ⇒ Resolve disputes arising from planning process.
- ⇒ Support local implementation of water management plans.
- ⇒ Support development and adoption of local ordinances to protect and improve water quality or quantity.
- ⇒ Support and provide technical assistance for the installation of practices to protect, conserve or improve water quality or quantity.

Drainage Management

- ⇒ Implement the 2005 legislature's directive to assess implementation of public drainage system buffers and their use, maintenance and benefits in cooperation with farm groups, SWCD's, watershed districts, counties, conservation organizations, and the federal government.
- ⇒ Analyze group recommendations regarding developing methods for modernizing drainage records, educating landowners on best management practices, and the efficacy of current reporting requirements for future implementation.
- ⇒ Prepare and present findings and recommendations to the legislature.

RIM RESERVE/Permanent Wetland Preserves/Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program M.S. 103F.506 – 103F.535

- ⇒ Keep certain marginal agricultural land out of crop production to protect soil and water quality and support fish and wildlife habitat.
- ⇒ Acquire conservation easements from landowners to restore wetlands and establish wildlife habitat.

Historical Perspective

The agency was created in 1987 as a result of the merger of the Water Planning Board, the Southern Minnesota Rivers Basin Council and the Minnesota Soil and Water Conservation Board. The history of the agency dates back to the 1930s in some form. BWSR is different from other agencies because of its board of local officials, citizens, and state agencies. This forum is unique in its ability to bring diverse interests together to coordinate activities and achieve mutual goals. The board also provides a means for local government to have input into the administrative branch of government regarding soil and water resource issues.

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: BWSR OPERATIONS

Narrative

The RIM program enacted in 1986 added the ability to use conservation easements as another tool in the protection of water quality. Soil loss, sediment control, phosphorus reduction, and creation of fish and wildlife habitat are some of the demonstrated benefits of conservation easements.

In 1991 the activity added a major regulatory function with the passage of the Wetland Conservation Act. The goal of the act is no net loss of wetlands in the state. The WCA is intended to ensure both the quality and quantity of Minnesota wetlands. Activity efforts focus on restoring wetlands that have been drained or filled for agriculture or wetlands that are disturbed for urban development and transportation projects.

Current Issues

Drainage Management

The 2005 legislature directed BWSR to conduct an assessment of the use, maintenance, and benefits of required grass strips along public drainage ditches. A work group of stakeholders was formed and decided not only to provide perspective and recommendations for this study, but also to explore other drainage issues, potential areas of consensus and associated recommendations.

The group recommended (1) developing method(s) for modernizing drainage records; (2) developing a Best Management Practices (BMP) Manual to promote landowner education; (3) further consideration of the advisability of requiring regular reporting by drainage authorities; and (4) the work group seek consensus recommendations and provide them to the 2007 legislature.

Office of the Legislative Auditor (OLA)

OLA has been asked to study the effectiveness of the state's multi-layered structure for managing watersheds. In addition, some legislators want to know if individual local watershed organizations are well managed and whether BWSR is adequately overseeing them. The evaluation will focus primarily on those organizations most directly involved in watershed management – watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, counties, and BWSR. It is anticipated that increased oversight activity and facilitation of governance option workshops will create a demand for additional appropriations.

Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA)

The CWLA was enacted by the 2006 legislature and provided first-year funding to begin addressing impaired waters as required by the federal Clean Water Act. BWSR received \$5.84 million for grants to support lake and river protection; implementation of individual sewage treatment system programs; reporting and evaluation of program results; granting cost-share incentive payments; and providing technical compliance and engineering assistance to local projects.

Key Measures

See key measures for individual activities.

Contact

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WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: BWSR OPERATIONS

Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	2008-09
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	636	400	0	0	0
General	3,892	4,293	4,103	4,103	8,206
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	846	1,779	1,000	1,000	2,000
Total	5,374	6,472	5,103	5,103	10,206
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	3,361	3,603	3,499	3,499	6,998
Other Operating Expenses	1,374	1,484	823	823	1,646
Capital Outlay & Real Property	463	1,235	781	781	1,562
Local Assistance	176	150	0	0	0
Total	5,374	6,472	5,103	5,103	10,206

Activity Description

Grant programs provide funding to local units of government to deliver soil and water conservation services to their communities. The funding is used for local program administration and implementation of conservation projects. The goal is to meet state objectives for clean water, clean air, and abundant fish and wildlife habitat.

Population Served

The activity issues grants to a core delivery network of 200 organizations. Grant funds are used to implement local water management programs and to cost-share with private landowners who install conservation practices on their land to benefit state water and soil resources.

Services Provided

Local units of government and landowners use these financial incentives primarily to implement conservation practices. The majority of these funds leverage federal and landowner dollars as part of a required local match. Funding is also provided for limited planning and regulatory activities. These dollars help local governments manage the quantity and quality of their water and provide need funds to construct projects that improve water resources.

Funding for wetland regulatory activities allows local governments to protect wetland resources in their communities. The funding and regulatory authority they receive through Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) programs allows them to identify and protect wetlands from development.

Finally, funding is provided to support the administrative operations of soil and water conservation districts. Counties provide the majority of funding for these operations. The state contribution assists in providing resources for staff and operating expenses associated with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) delivery of state programs.

Historical Perspective

The state has provided funding to SWCD's to assist with the expenses of their operations, to perform maintenance inspections on Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements and to provide local engineering services for state and federal cost share projects.

Cost share funding is provided to construct water quality and erosion control treatment practices. There are a wide variety of practices that can be implemented depending upon the specific nature or condition of the resource or the objective to be achieved by implementing the practice. The activity funds are matched with landowner contributions and frequently also matched with local and federal contributions. There has been an increase in funding for feedlot cost share as the state has identified a 10-year plan to solve the problem of polluting feedlots in the state. Cost share funding is a major component of that plan and is provided to producers to assist them in complying with rules and regulations for feedlots.

The natural resources block grant provides funding for program administration at the local level for water planning, shore land management, and enforcement of the Wetland Conservation Act. Competitive funding for high priority local water planning projects was provided in the past through a challenge grant program that was eliminated in the 2003 budget reductions.

Activity at a Glance

Reporting for Years 2003 through July 2006

Land and Water Treatment Projects

- ◆ 4,200 projects statewide
- ◆ \$23.87 million in total costs
- ◆ \$9.36 million in state grants
- ◆ \$1.459 million in state loans
- ◆ \$5,849,966 in landowner costs
- ◆ \$4.122 million in federal grants
- ◆ \$901,000 in federal loans
- ◆ \$867,000 in Minnesota Pollution Control Agency state loans
- ◆ \$2.179 million: Local Government Unit cost
- ◆ 370,000 tons per year estimated soil loss reduction
- ◆ 570,400 tons per year estimated sediment reduction
- ◆ 650,000 tons per year estimated phosphorus reduction

Feedlot Water Quality Cost Share Projects

- ◆ 125 projects
- ◆ 35,000 tons estimated phosphorus reduction annually

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVT

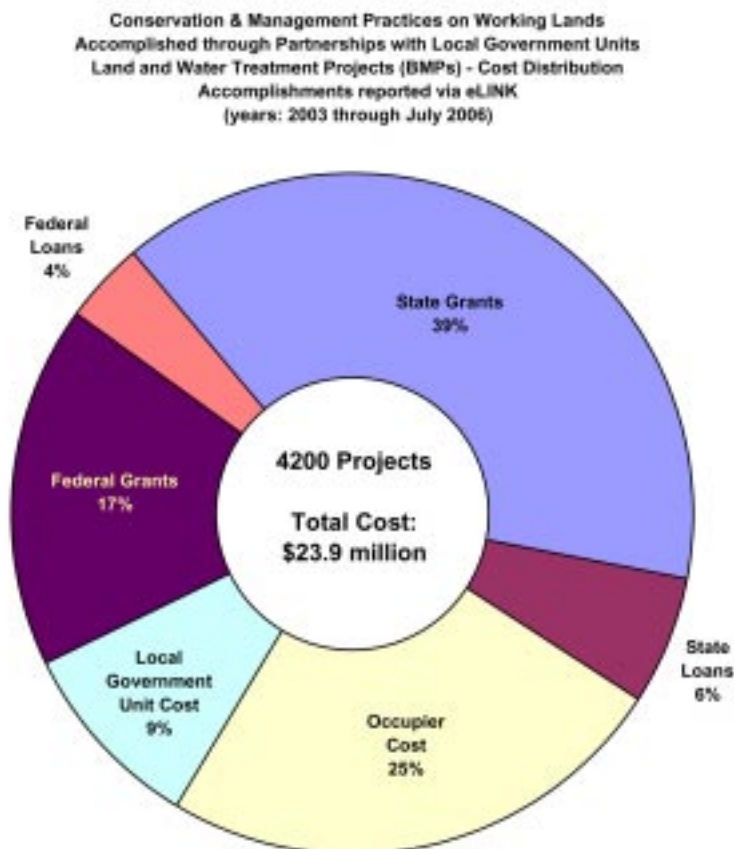
Narrative

Current Issue

The summer of 2006 saw drought conditions severely impact livestock producers in 36 disaster-declared counties in the northwest part of the state. BWSR reallocated \$500,000 of cost-share funds to assist with water supplies for livestock operations.

Key Measures

As a key measure, the percent of land eroding at less than sustainable soil erosion limits from water and wind will demonstrate the effectiveness of grant funded projects on maintaining soil on the land where it belongs. Annual results reported include estimated soil loss reduction of 370,000 tons per year, estimated sediment reduction of 570,000 tons per year, and estimated phosphorus reduction of 650,000 pounds per year. In addition, conservation partnerships are developed to provide a minimum of one to one match for state project dollars. (See outcome data in "Activity at a Glance" section.)



Contact

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WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: GRANTS TO LOCAL GOVT

Budget Activity Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
Environment & Natural Resource	499	500	0	0	0
General	10,961	13,012	11,428	11,328	22,756
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	520	502	438	438	876
Federal	28	48	0	0	0
Total	12,008	14,062	11,866	11,766	23,632
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	48	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Expenses	(108)	7	0	0	0
Capital Outlay & Real Property	143	150	150	150	300
Local Assistance	11,925	13,905	11,716	11,616	23,332
Total	12,008	14,062	11,866	11,766	23,632

Activity Description

The Reinvest in Minnesota Reserve (RIM Reserve) program establishes the activity's ability to take conservation easements on private lands. Keeping marginal agricultural land out of production protects soil and water quality and fish and wildlife habitat. The conservation easement is one of the many resource management tools provided to local government to work with landowners for managing and protecting our state's working lands. Easements provide public benefits without removing lands from local tax rolls or having the state incur the costs and liabilities of ownership.

Population Served

Services of the activity are provided to local governments who serve as a sales force for the state. Their effectiveness is manifested in landowner demand that is historically double the supply of easement money.

Services Provided

The activity provides financial incentives to landowners in exchange for a conservation easement that defines future land use options. In exchange for compensation for the easement, the landowner agrees to take the land permanently out of crop production or pasture. The land is then restored to a natural state, using native grasses and wetland restoration techniques. The benefits derived are improvements to water quality, reduction in soil loss and sediment and habitat creation. Resources of this activity leverage federal US. Department of Agriculture (USDA) programs like the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Wetland Replacement Program (WRP) to maximize benefits.

Activity at a Glance

Land and Water Treatment Projects

- ◆ 4,903 easements (1986-2006)
- ◆ Number of acres enrolled in easement programs
 - ⇒ RIM 58,363
 - ⇒ RIM/CREP 102,273
 - ⇒ RIM/WRP 7,109
 - ⇒ PWP 11,490
- ◆ Acres by land type enrolled:
 - ⇒ Marginal Cropland 14,689
 - ⇒ Riparian 67,679
 - ⇒ Sensitive Groundwater 1,355
 - ⇒ Wetlands Restored 81,686
 - ⇒ Other 14,108
- ◆ 9.6 tons per acre per year soil loss reduction
- ◆ 4.7 tons per acre per year sediment reduction
- ◆ 5.8 pounds per acre per year phosphorus reduction
- ◆ State dollars invested in easements \$169,923,000
- ◆ Federal dollars matched for easements \$200,612,000

Historical Perspective

In 1986 The Reinvest in Minnesota Act (RIM) was created to keep certain marginal agricultural land out of crop production or from being pastured in order to protect water quality and increase fish and wildlife habitat. In the 1996 Federal Farm Bill, a CRP was authorized. The Minnesota legislature authorized funding to supplement the federal CRP program. Called the Minnesota Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP), it was one of the first state efforts to be approved in the nation and has resulted in over 100,000 acres of easements acquired over the last four years.

In 2004, Governor Pawlenty submitted Minnesota's second CREP (CREP II) application to USDA that would secure an additional 120,000 acres to be targeted in three watersheds in Minnesota. This will require the state legislature to appropriate \$50.7 million in bonding funds that will leverage \$200 million in CRP funds for Minnesota.

Current Issue

Successful enrolling of conservation easements by Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and various nonprofit groups has allowed the state to accomplish many natural resource management goals without having to purchase land outright. Easements offer the advantage of protecting large tracts of land that may not otherwise be available for sale. They also keep these privately held lands on local tax rolls without incurring the maintenance funding "tails" associated with land ownership. As conservation easements increase concurrent with a trend toward small tract ownership, the ability of landowners to both understand and carry out their maintenance responsibilities becomes a problem. There is a need for nonprofits, Department of Natural Resources, BWSR and the agricultural community to assess land maintenance techniques and identify where state level assistance may

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

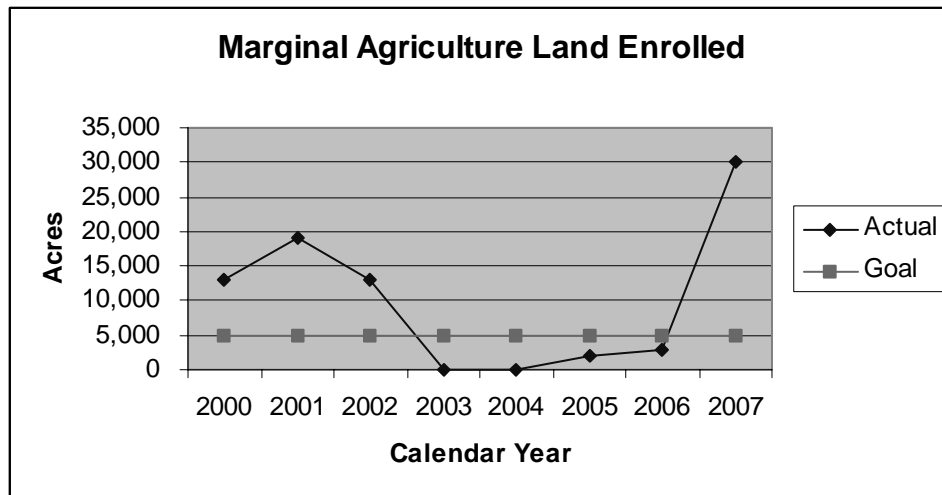
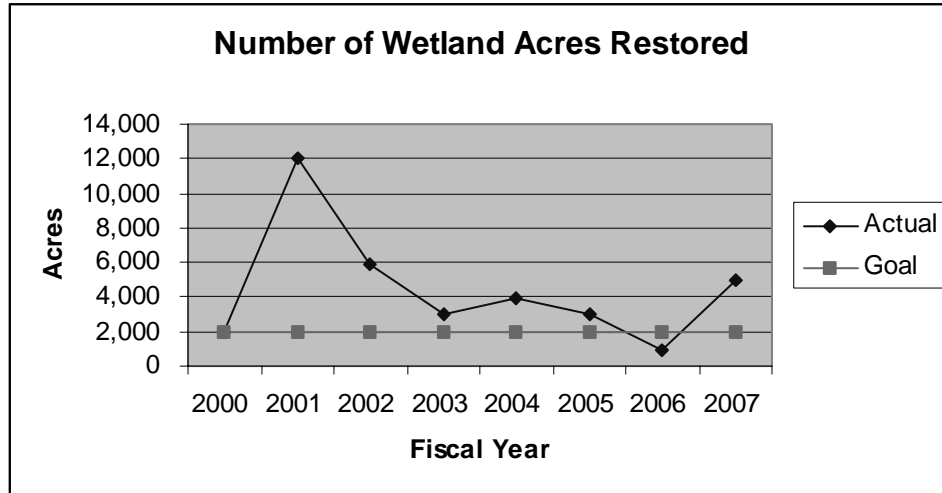
Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: EASEMENTS

Narrative

be required. For example, periodic controlled burns are necessary for managing many of the native prairie species that have been planted in riparian buffers and around wetland restoration projects. Aside from the technical complexity of undertaking burns, insurance and liability issues often present a formidable obstacle.

Key Measures



Contact

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WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: EASEMENTS

Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium 2008-09
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	100	0	0	0	0
Statutory Appropriations					
Misc Special Revenue	93	45	0	0	0
Federal	0	500	0	0	0
Total	193	545	0	0	0
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	24	37	0	0	0
Other Operating Expenses	69	8	0	0	0
Local Assistance	100	500	0	0	0
Total	193	545	0	0	0

Activity Description

The 2006 legislature enacted the Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) to continue to identify impaired waters, conduct total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies and implement cleanup activities in accordance with the federal Clean Water Act. Funds were appropriated to Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to implement nonpoint pollution reduction programs as part of the state's overall effort to address its impaired waters. Authorized funding will provide one-time funding for local government project grants, technical assistance and program reporting and evaluation services. This activity differs from the grants budget activity in its greater emphasis on selecting priority projects identified in local water plans or contained in approved TMDL implementation plans.

Population Served

CWLA funds are appropriated through the Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program (M.S. 103B.3369). These funds can be directed to cities, towns, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, joint-powers organizations, or other special purpose district or authority with local jurisdiction in water and related land resources management.

Services Provided

The majority of Minnesota's listed impaired waters are caused by nonpoint source pollution. The pass through grants and reporting activities are targeted at protecting or restoring waters identified in an approved TMDL implementation plan or listed as a priority within Local Water Management Plans approved under M.S. 103B. The majority of these funds will leverage federal, local, or landowner dollars.

Historical Perspective

CWLA appropriations were discussed in the 2004, 2005, and 2006 legislative sessions. The appropriation passed by the 2006 legislature is available for FY 2007, which requires BWSR to encumber the funds to local government units no later than 6-30-2007. Various alternatives were discussed in the legislative progress for a long-term source of funding for the CWLA without success. The current sources of CWLA funds are the General Fund.

Key Measures

BWSR captures the outcomes associated with grant programs to an Internet-based reporting system call eLINK. eLINK has the ability to capture project scope, funding sources, and estimated pollutant reductions while tying all this data to a geographic information system for visual display proposes. The system is being altered to allow for tracking of CWLA funds. Due to the legislative intent to apply these funds only to priorities contained in local water management plans and on-the-ground activities contained in approved TMDL implementation plans, the estimated pollutant reduction and funds leveraged by state sources should increase. In the long-term, the number of waters de-listed from the Pollution Control Agency (PCA) impaired waters list will grow.

Current Issue

In the 2006 session the legislature appropriated \$5.84 million to BWSR for the Clean Water Legacy Act as a one-time appropriation. The issue of permanent funding has yet to be resolved for this program.

Contact

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Activity at a Glance

Clean Water Legacy Appropriations

- ◆ \$1.5 million for target nonpoint restoration cost-share and incentive payments.
- ◆ \$2.0 million for target nonpoint restoration technical, compliance, and engineering assistance activities.
- ◆ \$200,000 for reporting and evaluation of applied soil and water conservation practices.
- ◆ \$730,000 for grants to implement county Individual Sewer Treatment System programs.
- ◆ \$1.41 million for grants to support local nonpoint source protection activities.

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Program: WATER & SOIL RESRCS BD

Activity: CLEAN WATER LEGACY

Budget Activity Summary

<i>Dollars in Thousands</i>					
	Current		Forecast Base		Biennium
	FY2006	FY2007	FY2008	FY2009	2008-09
<u>Expenditures by Fund</u>					
Direct Appropriations					
General	108	5,841	0	0	0
Total	108	5,841	0	0	0
<u>Expenditures by Category</u>					
Total Compensation	52	0	0	0	0
Other Operating Expenses	56	501	0	0	0
Local Assistance	0	5,340	0	0	0
Total	108	5,841	0	0	0

WATER & SOIL RESOURCES BOARD

Agency Revenue Summary

Dollars in Thousands

	Actual FY2006	Budgeted FY2007	Current Law		Biennium 2008-09
			FY2008	FY2009	
<u>Non Dedicated Revenue:</u>					
Departmental Earnings:					
Misc Special Revenue	337	0	0	0	0
Total Non-Dedicated Receipts	337	0	0	0	0
<u>Dedicated Receipts:</u>					
Other Revenues:					
Misc Special Revenue	1,573	1,464	1,438	1,438	2,876
Federal	73	500	0	0	0
Other Sources:					
Misc Special Revenue	6	0	0	0	0
Total Dedicated Receipts	1,652	1,964	1,438	1,438	2,876
Agency Total Revenue	1,989	1,964	1,438	1,438	2,876