



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

**Date:** August 15, 2024  
**To:** CLFLWD Board of Managers  
**From:** Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
**Subject:** Clean Water Council Letter



**District Wide**

### **Background/Discussion**

The purpose of this agenda item is to provide an update on the Clean Water Council's discussion regarding the future of the Clean Water Fund. Manager Anderson will provide an update at the board meeting.

### **Attached**

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Letter Packet to Clean Water Council



Anoka Conservation District  
Brown's Creek WD  
Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD  
Chisago County  
Chisago SWCD  
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD  
Isanti County  
Isanti SWCD

Middle St. Croix WMO  
Pine County  
Pine SWCD  
South Washington WD  
Valley Branch WD  
Washington County  
Washington Conservation District

To the members of the Clean Water Council –

Greetings from east-central Minnesota! Our partnership, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSCWP), appreciates the opportunity to provide input as the Clean Water Council (Council) begins to develop their FY26-27 budget recommendations.

Our partnership consists of 15 local government units across metro and non-metro counties, including 4 counties, 5 SWCDs, and 6 WD/WMOs. Our comprehensive planning process began in 2017 and with approval of our plan in October 2020, we began implementation in 2021. The long-term, stable funding from the Clean Water Fund (CWF) has played a crucial role in funding projects that have led to very successful outcomes for our watershed.

**Over the past 3 years, our partnership has been able to reduce phosphorus pollution across our watershed by 9,306 lbs/year.** While this effort includes projects funded through a variety of sources, Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) and CWF have contributed a significant share, including:

- **Trout Brook Stream Restoration Project:** Trout Brook is a direct tributary of the St. Croix River and provides important cold-water habitat for trout. A ravine stabilization and a stream re-meandering project has led to a 177 lb/yr phosphorus reduction to Lake St. Croix.
- **Sunrise River Wetland Restoration:** Restoration of a 22-acre wetland complex diverts flow from an existing ditch system and reduces phosphorus pollution by 89 lbs/yr to the Sunrise River, a major tributary of the St. Croix River.
- **Basin-wide non-structural ag program:** Our WBIF-funded shared agronomist worked with partner staff to develop a non-structural incentive program for basin farmers, which has led to the enrollment of over 12,000 acres in soil health practices like no-till, reduced till, and cover crops. In the past two years, this has led to a phosphorus reduction of 1,964 lbs/year from WBIF funding with an additional 3,471 lbs/yr reduction coming from a CWF soil health grant administered basin-wide.
- **Structural practices in urban and agricultural landscapes:** Installations of Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOBS), cattle exclusion fencing, bioretention basins, and a ravine stabilization have also reduced phosphorus pollution across the watershed upwards of 274 lbs/yr.
- **Creation of Enhanced Street Sweeping Program:** We have utilized WBIF funding to support evaluation of street sweeping programs across 16 communities in our watershed, with several communities signing up for enhanced street sweeping with incentive reimbursements. Last year, one community was able to reduce phosphorus pollution 17.9 lbs/yr with 3 enhanced street sweepings.

As we finalize our FY25 workplan in the coming months, the LSCWP continues to work collaboratively to make sure funding is utilized for the best possible pollution reduction and CWMP outcomes. We have iteratively devised a project vetting and approval process to ensure any project brought forward addresses pollution in priority locations, and monthly steering committee meetings comprised of partner staff and quarterly meetings of our policy committee ensures that frequent and open communication keeps us focused on achieving our CWMP goals.

One Watershed One Plan organizations, the new regional approach to watershed management, are just getting started. While our LSCWP has had the opportunity to quickly mobilize since plan adoption, with ready projects in the queue for implementation, many watersheds are only now finalizing their plans and starting implementation. Reducing funding at this point would sidetrack and derail their momentum. It is critical to maintain access to these funds for the success of this new initiative.

Additionally, member partners rely on the CWF for local projects and programs, with each one contributing to the march toward clean water for Minnesota. We strongly encourage the Council to support both One Watershed One Plan partnerships and CWF programs with stable, consistent funding.

Thank you for your ongoing leadership and consideration!

Sincerely,

The Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership

**Please see attached individual organization support letters following this letter.**



Paul Gardner  
Council Administrator  
Clean Water Council  
520 Lafayette Road North  
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Gardner,

As a local unit of government representing a watershed partnership that uses Clean Water Funds for implementation, we appreciate the opportunity to provide input as the Clean Water Council (Council) begins to develop their FY26-FY27 recommendations.

Brown's Creek Watershed District is a partner in the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. One of the first actions under the approved comprehensive watershed management plan for our partnership was to fill an identified void in critical education and outreach with the general public, our public officials, lake and homeowner associations, the business and agricultural communities. The stable Watershed-based Implementation Fund funding allows us to attract and retain two amazing staff that have significantly increased both landowner and partner project implementation in the Lower St. Croix Watershed.

Without long-term, stable funding, none of these efforts would be possible. We respectfully request that the Council continue to fully fund the Watershed-based Implementation Fund so that local governments can fulfill their responsibilities in carrying out the work for clean water on behalf of the state of Minnesota.

Sincerely,

Karen Kill  
BCWD Administrator



# Chisago Soil & Water Conservation District

38814 Third Avenue, North Branch, MN 55056  
Phone: 651/674-2333 | [www.chisagoswcd.org](http://www.chisagoswcd.org)

Date: August 6, 2024

To: Minnesota Clean Water Council

Re: Continued Stable Funding for the WBIF and CWF Programs

The Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District is one of the partners in the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership and currently serves as the fiscal agent for the fifteen-member joint powers collaborative. We offer our voice and support of continuing consistent funding of the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) offered through the One Watershed One Plan initiative.

While we have had the opportunity and privilege of being awarded \$5M dollars in BWSR Clean Water Fund grants since 2011, we have realized many significant gains utilizing the WBIF grant funds award to the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. This includes:

- Shared Staff
  - Our WBIF-supported agronomist lead the development of our non-structural ag program, promoting a variety of soil health practices to area farmers, and was instrumental in securing an additional \$200,000 through a FY22 CWF Soil Health grant for the five SWCD members of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership.
  - Our WBIF-supported shared water resources educator has enabled us to increase outreach to our communities and residents, promoting programs and opportunities that have helped increase the number and type of projects implemented that are in our Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Outreach has included workshops, requested presentations, tabling community events, helping us become members of the Adopt-a-Drain program, and building stronger relationships across our communities and partners.
- Funding to
  - Develop a subwatershed assessment for portions of the Goose Creek watershed.
  - Implement soil health practices such as cover crop and strip tillage.
  - Develop and implement enhanced street sweeping studies for the Cities of North Branch, Ruch City and Wyoming.
  - Implement structural Ag BMPs in both the Rush Lake and Goose Lake watersheds.
  - Complete a wetland restoration in the Goose Creek watershed.

As the Lower St. Croix Partnership reaches year 5 in implementation, there is a building momentum and synergy in our county and between our group of local government partners. We sincerely hope the Clean Water Council will continue to provide broad support and funding through the WBIF to help us achieve our goals. Please contact me at 651-674-2333 or [craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:craig.mell@mn.nacdnet.net) if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Craig Mell".

Craig Mell  
District Administrator

*“Bringing Conservation to Chisago County”*



Chisago County Water Resources  
Department of Environmental Services / Zoning  
313 North Main Street  
Center City, Minnesota 55012  
651-213-8380 [susanna.wilson@chisagocountymn.us](mailto:susanna.wilson@chisagocountymn.us)

**Date:** August 12, 2024  
**To:** Minnesota Clean Water Council Members  
**From:** Susanna Wilson Witkowski, Chisago County Water Resource Manager  
**Re:** Letter of Support for FY26-27 Budget Recommendations

Dear Clean Water Council Members,

I am writing to express our strong support for the Clean Water Fund (CWF) project funding and Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) for FY26-27.

On November 18, 2020, the Chisago County Board of Commissioners approved the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (LCS CWMP) and Chisago County Local Priorities Appendix, replacing the previous county local water management plan. Since that time, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership and Chisago County has benefited from CWF funding, including WBIF funding.

Chisago County has benefited primarily from CWF and WBIF funding through the shared services education partnership. Barbara Heitkamp, the WBIF funded Shared Services Educator, has provided innumerable services from working with local county governments including, but not limited to, adopting MIDS ordinance changes, educating residents and encouraging them to join the Adopt-a-Drain program, and conducting and presenting at St. Croix Workshops on the Water events, and holding workshops to encourage lakeshore residents to restore their shorelines.

As the County Water Resources Manager for Chisago County, I work cooperatively with the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership. The Shared Services Educator position is crucial for providing education and outreach activities in Chisago County and reaching out to residents, including lakeshore owners, as there is limited county funding for such activities to meet the goals of the LSC CWMP and Chisago County Appendix.

We appreciate the continued support and funding for the One Watershed One Plan partnerships WBIF Funding and CWF programs, and especially for shared education services, for the FY26-27 budget recommendations.

Sincerely,

Susanna Wilson Witkowski  
Chisago County Water Resource Manager





<b>Fiscal Year, Program</b>	<b>Grant Name</b>	<b>Grant Award</b>	<b>Phosphorus Reductions</b>	<b>Total Suspended Solids Reductions</b>
2012, P&P	Greening the Big Box & Streets	\$246,466	9 lb/yr	
2012, AIG	Tools for Targeting Drained Wetlands	\$30,200	(Targeting plan completed)	
2014, P&P	Bixby Park Wetland Improvement	\$360,750	206 lb/yr	177,000 lb/yr
2016, P&P	Moody Lake Wetland Rehabilitation	\$429,284	445 lb/yr	457,000 lb/yr
2016, P&P	Forest Lake Wetland Treatment Basin	\$162,000	56 lb/yr	1,700 lb/yr
2017, P&P	Bone Lake Southeast Wetland Restorations	\$88,000	35 lb/yr	325,000 lb/yr
2017, P&P	Shields Lake Stormwater Reuse & Alum Treatment	\$824,000	1,000 lb/yr	
2017, AIG	Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Study	\$30,600	(Sweeping plan completed)	
2018, P&P	Moody Lake Alum Treatment	\$135,000	324 lb/yr	
2018, P&P	City of Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Implementation	\$220,000	167 lb/yr P	137,000 lb/yr
2019, P&P	Bone Lake Agricultural BMPs	\$144,000	147 lb/yr	314,000 lb/yr
2020, P&P	Sunrise River Wetland Restoration	\$492,000	89 lb/yr	52,000 lb/yr
2020, P&P	County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter	\$747,400	97 lb/yr	6,000 lb/yr
2021, P&P	Bone Lake Northeast Wetland Restoration	\$171,200	15 lb/yr	
2022, P&P	Moody Lake Capstone Projects	\$239,500	58 lb/yr	9,000 lb/yr
2022, P&P	WJD-6 Wetland Enhancement	\$386,000	20 lb/yr	3,200 lb/yr
2023, P&P	Forest Lake Alum Treatment	\$533,600	527 lb/yr	
2024, P&P	July Ave Feedlot	\$90,000	61 lb/yr	178,000 lb/yr
<b>Totals</b>		<b>\$5,330,000</b>	<b>3,256*</b>	<b>1,675,200</b>

\*3,256 lbs of P reduction stops 1,628,000 lbs of algae from growing each year!

Acronyms: Projects & Practices (P&P), Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG), Phosphorus (P), Total Suspended Solids (TSS)

<p>Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Progress Toward Lake Water Quality Improvements</p> <p>*The District started with a goal of reaching as close as possible to pre-development conditions for long-term sustainability.</p>	<p><b>State Standard Reduction Goal: 3,245lbs</b> <b>District Sustainable Reduction Goal: 5,802lbs*</b></p>	<p>Mike Kinney, District Administrator (651) 395-5856 <a href="mailto:Michael.Kinney@clflwd.org">Michael.Kinney@clflwd.org</a></p>
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**We could not have achieved these outcomes without access to the Clean Water Grants!**



## Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

11660 Myeron Rd North • Stillwater, MN 55082 • Tel 651-275-7451

July 31, 2024

Minnesota Clean Water Council

RE: Continued Stable Funding for the WBIF and CWF programs

Dear Council Members,

Like many other local units of government in east-central Minnesota the Carnelian Marine on St. Croix Watershed District's (CMSCWD) 31 lakes, 21 streams, and 18 miles of the St. Croix River have benefited from strong partnerships and stable and consistent funding from the State of Minnesota.

While the District is rich in water resources utilized by residents around the state, our tax base is small, so Clean Water Funds have been a critical supplement to local funding. These supplemental funds have come from both competitive clean water fund grants and more recently the consistent funding from the Watershed Based Implementation Funding.

The promise of consistent and stable funding was also a catalyst for formation of the Lower St. Croix Partnership through One Watershed One Plan. Together we are collaboratively prioritizing targeted projects and engaging landowners through education and technical assistance to implement practices and get real results.

Through these partnerships and supporting funding from the Clean Water Fund the CMSCWD has completed the following projects:

- Marine on St. Croix Town Center Stormwater Retrofits (Mill Stream and St. Croix River)
- Goose Lake (Scandia) Iron Enhance Sand Filter
- Goose Lake (Scandia) Wetland Restoration
- Big Marine Lake (Scandia) East Boat Launch Water Quality Improvement Project
- Oak Street (Marine on St. Croix) Bioretention Basins (St. Croix River)
- Scandia and Marine on St. Croix Enhanced Street Sweeping Plans (Big Marine Lake and St. Croix River)

The projects are helping us make progress toward the following goals over the next seven years:

### **MANAGERS:**

Tori Dupre, Manager  
Pat Gleason, Manager  
Paul Richert, Secretary  
Fred Rozumalski, Manager

Kristin Tuenge, Treasurer  
Ann Warner, Manager  
Mike White, Manager



- Delisting Goose Lake from the Impaired Waters List- a popular fishing and duck hunting lake in Scandia
- Avoiding an Impairment Listing for Big Carnelian Lake- a popular recreational lake with a public launch in May Township
- Avoiding an Impairment Listing for Big Marine Lake- a popular recreational lake with three public launches and a beach in Scandia
- Reduce phosphorus discharges to the St. Croix River by over 100 lbs./yr.

We hope the Clean Water Council will continue to provide stable funding through Watershed Based Implementation Funds to help us achieve these goals. Please contact me at 612-839-6492 or [mike.isensee@cmscwd.org](mailto:mike.isensee@cmscwd.org) if I can answer any questions about our support.

Sincerely,

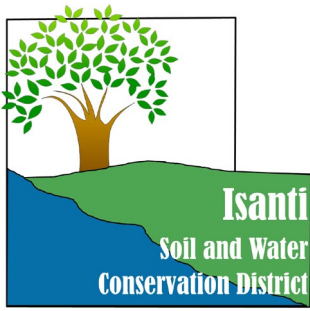


Mikael Isensee  
Administrator, Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District

#### **MANAGERS:**

Tori Dupre, Manager  
Pat Gleason, Manager  
Paul Richert, Secretary  
Fred Rozumalski, Manager

Kristin Tuenge, Treasurer  
Ann Warner, Manager  
Mike White, Manager



**ISANTI SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT**  
**110 Buchanan Street South**  
**Cambridge, MN 55008**  
**763-689-3271**

The Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District is happy to voice our support for continued and consistent funding of the Watershed Based Implementation Funds offered through the One Watershed One Plan initiative. Isanti SWCD is a member of two watershed-based partnerships, The Rum River Watershed (80% of our land area) and the Lower St. Croix Watershed (13% of our land area). We rely on the reliability of the WBIF funds in both watersheds. A separate letter of WBIF support was sent for the Rum River Watershed via the Rum River Watershed Partnership. This letter speaks specifically to the value of WBIF funds in the Lower St. Croix Watershed.

Here's how we have utilized funding in the Lower St. Croix Watershed:

- Shared Staff:
  - **WBIF shared agronomist** was vital in developing our non-structural Soil Health program and supporting new staff in implementing it. We have leveraged \$10,000 of WBIF funds and \$15,000 of Lower St. Croix Shared Clean Water Funds for Soil Health. Furthermore, Isanti SWCD has built our non-structural Soil Health program to the point where we have a waiting list of producers (County-wide).
  - **WBIF shared Water Resources Educator** has played an essential role in communicating the importance of the Oxford Township Natural Environment lakes to the public, Town Board members, County staff, and Commissioners. Specifically, the WRE has developed two educational videos highlighting the Oxford Township Lakes and secured a consultant to support the County in updating its Shoreline Ordinances to be more restrictive for NE lakes within the Lower St. Croix Watershed.

To prepare ourselves for the FY25 WBIF funding round, the SWCD sent nearly 200 letters to farmers in the Sunrise River Watershed and is taking calls and arranging site visits. We aim to list projects needing funding by fall/winter 2025!

We sincerely hope the Clean Water Council will continue to provide broad support and funding through the WBIF to help us achieve our goals. These funds are essential to the success of the Soil and Water Conservation District!

Please contact me at 763-689-3271 or [tiffany.determan@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:tiffany.determan@mn.nacdnet.net) if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Determan  
District Manger  
Isanti SWCD



Pine County  
**Soil & Water**  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT

July 31, 2024

Dear members of the Clean Water Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to share with you a few of the successes that Pine County and the Pine Soil and Water Conservation District have had working cooperatively in the Lower St. Croix Watershed.

- Pine County, with the assistance of Pine County Soil & Water staff, carried out a subwater analysis of Rock Lake to better identify the types of conservation efforts that might be needed. This helps us better identify high priority areas that are in more critical need of conservation work. By identifying these areas, we are able to use watershed funds more efficiently with greater environmental benefits.
- Pine SWCD was able to partner with the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program to help a producer install a livestock exclusion fence on Rock Lake, and install a native shoreline buffer. These efforts reduce shoreline erosion, reduce the likelihood of bacteria impairments in the lake, and create critical habitat for wildlife that are utilizing the lake.
- We created multiple water and sediment control basins to help process water coming off fields in a more environmentally-friendly way. This helps reduce erosion, and benefits both the environment and the producer. Less sediment entering our waterways reduces pollution, and by maintaining top soil on farm fields can increase field productivity in the long run for the farmer.
- Pine SWCD was able to provide funding for two wetland restorations. Wetlands act as a natural water filtration system, and they also play a critical role in water storage.
- Cover crops are of great interest in the agricultural areas of our county. With watershed-based implementation funds and other clean water funds, we have been able to assist producers in implementing this practice that can help build healthier soils, and protect field from water and wind erosion.

We agree wholeheartedly with the other members of our partnership that sustained funding from the Clean Water Fund has been key to carrying out projects in our watershed that have made a significant difference to water quality in our area. These funds have also allowed the County and the SWCD to have a much more cooperative relationship, working together to make it possible to complete initiatives that may not have been successful otherwise.

Thank you for all your efforts to preserve and improve Minnesota's waters for this and future generations. We strongly encourage the Council to support both One Watershed One Plan partnerships and CWF programs with stable, consistent funding.

Best,

A blue ink signature of Mike Gainor.

Mike Gainor  
Land and Resources Manager  
Pine County

A blue ink signature of Paul Swanson.

Paul Swanson  
District Manager  
Pine County Soil & Water Conservation District



# SOUTH WASHINGTON WATERSHED DISTRICT

August 2, 2024

To: Clean Water Council

The South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) appreciates the opportunity to provide input as the Clean Water Council (Council) begins to develop their FY26-27 budget recommendations. In particular, SWWD wishes to outline its support for continued strong financial support of the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grant program of the Clean Water Fund.

SWWD is a unique watershed district in Minnesota in that we drain to two major riverine resources, the Mississippi River and the St. Croix River. Thus, we find our jurisdiction separated into two WBIF allocations areas. An eastern portion of our jurisdiction is included within the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership, while the remaining western portion of SWWD draining to the Mississippi River receives a separate WBIF allocation. Maintaining access to these project implementation funding sources is critical to achieving our goals.

SWWD generates much of its project implementation revenue through stormwater utility fees collected from three distinct management units within the watershed. The Lower St. Croix and East Mississippi management units, on their own, do not generate enough fees through this mechanism to support the scale of project implementation necessary to address the resource concerns and goals of our watershed plan. The WBIF grant program has provided a welcome and necessary funding source recently, helping us to complete the following projects:

## **SWWD South Washington Metro WBIF Projects**

WBIF funding has been consistently utilized to provide stormwater treatment in environmental justice areas of the watershed along the Mississippi River. Extremely shallow bedrock and aging development and infrastructure combine to create a situation where providing any form of stormwater treatment in this area is both difficult and costly.

***FY19: 15th & Cedar BMP (\$78,760 grant, \$168,650 match)*** – SWWD installed an underground stormwater filter system in Newport which will treat otherwise untreated stormwater from the existing Newport stormwater system. The filter is expected to remove 3.65 tons/yr TSS and 13.5 lbs/yr TP that would otherwise be discharged directly to the Mississippi River.

***FY21: Nuevas Fronteras BMP (\$93,042 grant, 215,667 match)*** – SWWD installed an underground stormwater filter system at Nuevas Fronteras which will treat otherwise untreated stormwater from the existing St. Paul Park stormwater system. The filter is expected to remove 5 tons/yr TSS and 25 lbs/yr TP that would otherwise be discharged directly to the Mississippi River.

**FY23: 16th & Cedar BMP (\$163,947 grant, \$234,046 match)** – SWWD installed an underground stormwater filter system in Newport which will treat otherwise untreated stormwater from the existing Newport stormwater system. The filter is expected to remove 22 tons/yr TSS and 31 lbs/yr TP that would otherwise be discharged directly to the Mississippi River.

**FY25: St. Paul Park Public Works BMP (\$228,539 grant, \$75,029 match)** – SWWD is poised to install an underground stormwater filter system this fall near the St. Paul Park public works facility which will treat otherwise untreated stormwater from the existing St. Paul Park stormwater system. The filter is expected to remove 4.11 tons/yr TSS and 5.3 lbs/yr TP that would otherwise be discharged directly to the Mississippi River.

### **SWWD Lower St. Croix Metro WBIF Projects**

WBIF funding made available through the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership has helped SWWD undertake some major stabilization and restoration work in this area in recent years.

**2022: McQuade Ravine Stabilization (\$93,407 grant, \$81,823 match)** – SWWD worked with private landowners to stabilize a ravine directly tributary to Lake St. Croix that had been delivering an estimated 250 tons/yr TSS to the lake.

**2024: Trout Brook Restoration Phase III (\$350,000 grant, \$706,010 other funds)** – SWWD is currently completing the final phase of in-stream restoration of Trout Brook, located in Afton State Park and Afton Alps Ski Area. Work includes replacement of the remaining perched culverts within the Ski Area, 700 feet of floodplain reconnection within the upper portion of Afton State Park, 1,000 feet of new channel remeandering in the lower portion of Afton State Park, and 2,000 feet of stream stabilization in the existing straightened channel within the Ski Area. We expect this work to provide pollution reduction benefits of 115 lbs/yr TP and 263 tons/yr TSS in addition to greatly improving trout habitat and fish passage connectivity.

SWWD strongly encourages the Clean Water Council to support robust funding to this vital program as it prepares its FY26-27 Clean Water Fund budget recommendations.

Sincerely,



Kyle Axtell  
Watershed Project Manager  
South Washington Watershed District  
Phone: (651) 714-3718  
Email: kyle.axtell@woodburymn.gov

cc: SWWD Board of Managers





## PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENT

David Brummel, Director  
Jill Timm, Deputy Director

August 9, 2024

To the members of the Clean Water Council,

Washington County (county) is submitting an addendum to the Lower St Croix (LSC) Partnership's letter, in support of continued levels for Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF).

The LSC Partnership is an entity that has worked together to protect and preserve water resources in cooperation with 15 local governments. The letter highlights several efforts funded by WBIF including built water quality projects, as well as broader basin wide activities. This work would not have been able to be completed without funds from WBIF.

In addition to the LSC partnership, the county has been fortunate to receive Metro WBIF in the past to implement projects in support of our Groundwater Plan. These include:

- FY 2019 Metro WBIF (county based)
  - Created an educational video on chlorides, in partnership with East Metro Water Resources Education Program.
  - Contracted with a consultant to expand a stormwater reuse methodology to the entire county, that was originally developed just for the Rice Creek Watershed District.
  - Analyzed data from Minnesota Department of Health and the Minnesota Geological Survey to identify potentially unsealed wells and conducted outreach to properties on well sealing.
  - Hosted targeted education for realtors and homeowners on Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS), wells and groundwater and proper disposal of hazardous waste.
  - Offered 100% reimbursement in grant money to seal abandoned wells in targeted areas (known areas of contamination, Special Well Construction Areas and Drinkwater Water Supply Management Areas). Thirty wells were sealed with this grant.
- FY 2021 Metro WBIF – Mississippi East Watershed
  - Offered SSTS fix-up grants to low-income systems that failed compliance inspections within the East Mississippi Watershed. One system was replaced.
  - Offered jointly with Dakota County, Smart Salting Classes, once per year for three years, to Property Managers, Road Maintenance personnel, and businesses. Total participants over three years was 115.
  - Offered 100% reimbursement in grant money to seal abandoned wells in targeted areas (known areas of contamination, Special Well Construction Areas and Drinkwater Water Supply Management Areas). Ten wells were sealed with this grant.

More recent distributions of WBIF have moved to watershed planning area, but the county continues to participate with partners in discussions on projects and programs to implement with those funds.

WBIF are integral to implementing efficient and effective water protection projects and providing education. These projects would not have been implemented without these funds. Please consider continued funding of WBIF.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Brummel".

David Brummel, Director  
Washington County Public Health & Environment



August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2024

To the members of the Clean Water Council:

The Washington Conservation District (WCD) welcomes the opportunity to share some of the successes that we have experienced working cooperatively with the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership, our partners in our One Watershed One Plan.

Since 2010 we've been fortunate to receive over \$1.1 million in BWSR Clean Water Fund grants, which has led to significant progress to reducing and preventing pollution of our water resources in Washington county. Since implementation started in 2021, Watershed-Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) have also served to help us achieve cleaner water. This includes:

**Shared staff services:** WCD has served as the office 'home' for two shared staff supported by WBIF funding.

- Our agronomist played a pivotal role in launching our non-structural agricultural program, which encourages local farmers to adopt soil health practices. She spearheaded the effort to secure an additional \$200,000 through a FY22 CWF Soil Health grant, benefiting the five SWCD members of the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership.
- Our water resources educator has enabled us to expand the reach and impact of our highly successful East Metro Water Resources Education Program. The increased engagement has led to an increase in the site visit requests to our office (over 350 for 2023) and project implementation that aligns with the goals in our Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan, including a targeted enhanced street sweeping program for a dozen Washington county communities.

**Projects:** WBIF has supported subwatershed analyses and prioritization plans in our county, helping highlight pollution hot spots and potential pollution reduction projects. WCD has also worked collaboratively with our watersheds as they have utilized WBIF funding to achieve CWMP goals.

Highlights include:

- Supporting South Washington Watershed District (SWWD) in a ravine stabilization project whose drainage directly flows to the St. Croix River, as well as a stream restoration project on a St. Croix River tributary that reduces pollution and increases aquatic habitat
- Providing support for installation of bioretention basins in the Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District
- Working with the Comfort Lake Forest Lake Watershed District in their wetland restoration project that increases water storage capacity and reduces pollution to downstream priority waters

We encourage the Clean Water Council to continue strong, consistent funding for WBIF and related CWF programs to help us achieve our goals of cleaner water. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Riggs", is placed on a light gray rectangular background.

Jay Riggs  
District Administrator