



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: November 21, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership 2025-2026 Work Plan



Background/Discussion

On Monday, October 28, the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSC) Policy Committee reviewed the attached 2025-2026 Work Plan and unanimously agreed to recommend this plan for approval by LSC partner boards.

This work plan represents all work expected to be accomplished in priority areas of the Lower St. Croix watershed in 2025 and 2026 – including projects and programs funded with Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), as well as work completed with local funding from partners and other grants.

Process & Next Steps

It was requested that partner boards put this item on their November or December meeting agendas for review. Approval from two-thirds of the members (10 of 15) is needed to approve this plan.

September 25, 2024	Advisory Committee recommended work plan approval
October 28, 2024	Recommended Policy Committee action to recommend grant work plan approval to partner boards
November/December	Lower St. Croix partner boards consider approving grant work plan. Need 2/3 approval.
December/January	Board of Water and Soil Resources reviews and considers approving <u>WBIF grant</u> work plan. Then grant agreement execution w/ fiscal agent.

Recommended Motion

Proposed Motion: Manager _____ moves to approve the 2025-2026 work plan and authorize the Lower St. Croix Planning Team to make non-substantive changes to the work plan as required by the Board of Water and Soil Resources for grant implementation. Seconded by Manager _____.

Attached

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners 2025-2026 Biennial Work Plan

Lower St. Croix Watershed Partners

2025-2026 Biennial Work Plan

The [Lower St. Croix River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan](#) adopted in October 2020 includes implementation activities for the 10-year life of the plan in Table 5-1. This 2025-2026 work plan presents all activities from Table 5-1 including those implemented through the LSC Partnership with Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF), and other activities implemented by partners in priority areas. This work plan estimates expenditures of over \$2.6M in WBIF (FY23+FY25) and \$6.6M in match and other funding for increased staff capacity with shared positions and implementation of projects resulting in significant water quality and ecological benefits.

The complete work plan is presented in Attachment A. Activities are categorized into four areas: Implementation, Staffing, Prioritization & Analysis, and Administration. Priority areas, expected outcomes, implementing entities, estimated funding from various sources, and WBIF-eligibility are also included in the table.

A summary of the work plan is presented below. Additional attachments and links are included for a complete set of existing calendars, policies, and the joint powers agreement:

Attachment A: 2025-2026 Detailed Work Plan

Attachment B: 2025 LSC Project Process Calendar

Attachment C: FY25 WBIF Work Plan & Budget

Additional Resources: (see www.lsc1w1p.org/workplan-forms)

WBIF Proposed Project Evaluation and Approval Process

Agricultural Conservation BMP Policy

Enhanced Street Sweeping Policy

Tree Canopy Assessment Protocol

Lower St. Croix Fast Track Project Policy

[Joint Powers Agreement](#)

2025-2026 Work Plan Summary

Implementation	
Estimated Expenses	FY25 WBIF: \$1,005,000 ^a FY25 Match: \$139,500 FY23 WBIF: \$262,000 ^b Other Funding: \$4,789,500 ^c
Activities	Structural agricultural BMPs* Structural urban BMPs* Non-structural agricultural/urban BMPs* Wetland Restoration and Protection* Streambank and Shoreline Restoration & Protection* Land Acquisition & Management Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management Ditch Implementation
2025-2026 Estimated Outputs	500 acres with structural or non-structural BMPs that improve soil health and/or reduce nitrogen and pesticide pollution to groundwater 1,090 lbs total phosphorus reduction through structural or non-structural BMPs in priority areas 4 developments retrofitted with infiltration, recharge or reuse projects 30 irrigation systems with smart technology installed 20 Upgraded SSTS in sensitive areas and shoreland 200 acres new or restored wetlands 20 shoreline restoration projects 85 lbs total phosphorus reduction w/ 1 stream restoration project 1 LGU with new adopted innovative shoreline standard 10% of land in new developments dedicated to habitat 200 acres protected new easements/acquisitions 2 resilient landscape designs 4 Landscape Stewardship Plans & 4 Forest Management Plans 5% increase in watercraft inspections for AIS 2 new AIS decontamination stations and new signage at 4 launches 1 comprehensive AIS rapid response plan Maintained/improved water quality downstream of ditch maintenance

* Some or all activities eligible for WBIF

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Staff Activities

Estimated Expenses	FY25 WBIF: \$865,000 ^a FY25 Match: \$56,507 FY23 WBIF: \$300,000 ^b Other Funding: \$663,000 ^c
Activities	Shared Services Basing Ag Outreach Program* Shared Services Education* Technical Engineering + Project Development* Interagency Coordination Ditch Policy and Review
2025 – 2026 Estimated Outputs	Assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Shared education and outreach program across basin to provide education; engage residents, businesses, and local officials; and promote/market programs and practices. Shared 0.5 FTE engineering technician 10 communities with Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) 2 communities with updated rate and volume control ordinances 45% of all cities with MPCA Smart Salt certified staff 1 LGU with new wetland protections 1 landlocked basin with nutrient reduction analysis Managed water levels and channel/weir operations on Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes Pine County Soil Survey completed Collaboration and coordination with agencies across multiple areas including groundwater pollution, groundwater recharge areas, observation wells, climate resiliency, and floodplain management 100% of private ditches mapped with new conservation plans 100% of drainage projects assessed for wetland impacts

* Some or all activities eligible for WBIF

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Prioritization & Analysis	
Estimated Expenses	FY25 WBIF: \$0 FY25 Match: NA FY23 WBIF: \$63,000 ^a Other Funding: \$1,050,720 ^b
Activities	Internal analysis* Targeting analysis
2025 – 2026 Estimated Outputs	3 lakes with internal loading analyses
	Baseline water quality data collected on specific lakes in Anoka, Chisago and Isanti Counties
	Routine lake level monitoring performed
	4 subwatershed analyses on priority lakes
	4 subwatershed analyses on priority rivers or streams
	10 new monitoring stations on St. Croix tributaries
	Identified and prioritized gullies into St. Croix River and tributaries
	MLCCS land cover mapped basin wide
	Terrestrial invasive species mapped and prioritized in each county
	5 degraded wetlands identified
	Ditch outlet water quality monitored
Isanti County wetland inventory completed	

* Some activities eligible for FY23 WBIF

^a FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^b Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Administration	
Estimated Expenses	FY25 WBIF: \$100,071 ^a FY25 Match: \$1,000 FY23 WBIF: \$25,000 ^b Other Funding: \$0
Activities	Administration and Coordination*
2025 – 2026 Estimated Outputs	Coordination of WBIF-funded activities; grant reporting; all-activity reporting; coordination of committees and partners; participation in committee meetings; fiscal management; annual and biennial planning

* Some or all activities eligible for WBIF

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

LSC Biennial Work Plan: 2025- 2026

Implementation

Structural Agricultural BMPs

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$350,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$75,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$52,500

Estimated Other Funding: \$780,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#1	GW Quality	Basin Wide Priority · Agricultural lands where: 1) DWSMA vulnerability is moderate, high, or very high; or 2) Pollution sensitivity to wells is high or very high; or 3) Pollution sensitivity to near surface materials is karst or high; or 4) Well testing show ≥ 5 mg/L nitrate See Figure 5-1	Install BMPs on 500 acres that improve soil health and/or reduce nitrogen and pesticide pollution to groundwater	All partners	Yes
#2	Rivers & Streams + St. Croix River WQ	Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams: - All streams and tributaries in Sunrise River Watershed (whole watershed regardless of direct drainage) - Direct drainage areas to St. Croix River through Rock, Rush, Goose, Lawrence, and Browns Creeks and Trout Brook and other small streams shown in Figure 5-2 See Table 5-2 for streams and total phosphorus reduction goals; see Figure 5-2	Reduce total phosphorus by 750 lbs/year (install approximately 50 BMPs @ estimated 15 lbs/BMP) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit	All partners	Yes

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#3	Lake WQ from ag	Regionally Significant Lakes for Agricultural BMPs See Table 5-3 for lakes and total phosphorus reduction goals; see Figure 5-3 for map	Install conservation BMPs, near sensitive lakes or in direct lake catchments to reduce TP by 300 lbs (approx. 500 ac and/or 20 BMPs estimated 15 lbs/BMP) and reduce TSS, bacteria, N as secondary	All partners	Yes
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Structural Urban BMPs

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$300,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$100,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$45,000

Estimated Other Funding: \$155,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#12	GW recharge & stream flow	In critical groundwater recharge areas as identified in existing or future maps or studies	4 projects to retrofit existing developments with infiltration, recharge and reuse projects	All partners	Yes
#14	St. Croix River + Rivers & streams WQ	Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams: - All streams and tributaries in Sunrise River Watershed (whole watershed regardless of direct drainage) - Direct drainage areas to St. Croix River through Rock, Rush, Goose, Lawrence, and Browns Creeks and Trout Brook and other small streams shown in Figure 5-2 See Table 5-2 for streams and total phosphorus reduction goals; See Figure 5-2	Reduce TP by 20 lbs. (approximately 20 BMPs) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit [Assume 1 lb/BMP; typical reduction for raingarden or similar BMP]	All partners	Yes
#15	Lake WQ	Regionally Significant Lakes for Urban BMPs See Table 5-3 for lakes and total phosphorus reduction goals; See Figure 5-3	Reduce TP by 20 lbs. (approximately 20 BMPs) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit [Assume 1 lb/BMP; typical reduction for raingarden or similar BMP]	All partners	Yes

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMPs

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$75,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$80,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$0

Estimated Other Funding: \$2,210,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#1	GW Quality	Agricultural lands where: 1) DWSMA vulnerability is moderate, high, or very high; or 2) Pollution sensitivity to wells is high or very high; or 3) Pollution sensitivity to near surface materials is karst or high; or 4) Well testing show ≥ 5 mg/L nitrate	Install BMPs on 500 acres that improve soil health and/or reduce nitrogen and pesticide pollution to groundwater	All partners	Yes
#2	Rivers & Streams + St. Croix River WQ	Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams: - All streams and tributaries in Sunrise River Watershed (whole watershed regardless of direct drainage) - Direct drainage areas to St. Croix River through Rock, Rush, Goose, Lawrence, and Browns Creeks and Trout Brook and other small streams shown in Figure 5-2	Reduce total phosphorus by 750 lbs/year (install approximately 50 BMPs @ estimated 15 lbs/BMP) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit	All partners	Yes
#3	Lake WQ from ag	Regionally Significant Lakes for Agricultural BMPs See Table 5-3 for lakes and total phosphorus reduction goals; see Figure 5-3 for map	Install conservation BMPs, near sensitive lakes or in direct lake catchments to reduce TP by 300 lbs (approx. 500 ac and/or 20 BMPs; estimated 15 lbs/BMP) and reduce TSS, bacteria, N as secondary benefit	All partners	Yes
#4	GW Quantity	All agricultural irrigators; highest priority given to highest consumers	Install or retrofit smart technology on 10 irrigation systems	Counties	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#14	St. Croix River + Rivers & streams WQ	Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams: - All streams and tributaries in Sunrise River Watershed (whole watershed regardless of direct drainage) - Direct drainage areas to St. Croix River through Rock, Rush, Goose, Lawrence, and Browns Creeks and Trout Brook and other small streams shown in Figure 5-2 See Table 5-2 for streams and total phosphorus reduction goals; See Figure 5-2	Reduce TP by 20 lbs. (approximately 20 BMPs) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit [Assume 1 lb/BMP; typical reduction for raingarden or similar BMP]	All partners	Yes
#15	Lake WQ	Regionally Significant Lakes for Urban BMPs See Table 5-3 for lakes and total phosphorus reduction goals; See Figure 5-3	Reduce TP by 20 lbs. (approximately 20 BMPs) and reduce TSS, bacteria, and nitrogen as secondary benefit [Assume 1 lb/BMP; typical reduction for raingarden or similar BMP]	All partners	Yes
#17	GW Quantity	All irrigators; highest priority given to highest consumers and communities with highest residential usage	Install or retrofit smart technology on 20 irrigation systems	Counties	No
#8	GW Quality	Where pollution sensitivity to near surface materials is high, or in karst areas, or where bedrock is at or near the surface; see Figure 1-3 Secondary priority: Basin wide	Upgrade 20 non-conforming or non-compliant SSTS to properly functioning, compliant systems.	Counties	No
#19					No
#9	Lake impacts from SSTS	Basin wide: Shorelands adjacent to nutrient impaired lakes Chisago Co: Countywide	Basin wide: Decrease non-compliant and Non-conforming SSTS in shorelands adjacent to nutrient impaired lakes Chisago Co: Decrease non-compliant and Non-conforming SSTS in all areas by 50% and in shorelands adjacent to nutrient impaired lakes by 80%	Counties	No
#20					No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#10	GW Quality	Basin wide	Properly seal or floodproof 100% of known or discovered abandoned wells or wells at risk of flooding	Counties	No
#18	GW Contamination	Basin wide - all currently unlicensed facilities and generators	License 100% of hazardous waste generators	Counties	No
#37	Internal loading	In lakes where internal loading is estimated to be a significant contributor to degraded water quality and where not addressing the internal loading would result in sustained degradation (See Internal Loading Lakes Table 5-4)	Address source of internal loading by implementing 1 internal loading study	All partners	Yes (FY23 only)

Wetland Restoration & Protection

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$200,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$7,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$30,000

Estimated Other Funding: \$3,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#28	Wetland quantity	1. In highest priority catchments (red, yellow and green areas) within BWSR's Compensation Planning Framework priority catchments in the Lower St. Croix River Watershed (Figure 5-5) 2. In locations where studies or mapping tools find that restoration will have significant positive impact on natural resources.	Create or restore 200 acres of historic wetlands lost to land use changes	All partners	Yes
#30	Wetland quantity	Basin wide	Create and maintain 1 new BWSR and USACE approved wetland banks within the basin	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Streambank and Shoreline Restoration & Protection

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$80,000

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: \$12,000

Estimated Other Funding: \$378,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#21	Lake shorelines	Regionally Significant Lakes for Protection and Sustainable Development: Table 5-3 and Figure 5-3	Install 20 shoreline restoration projects [100% of lakeshore owners with altered shorelines are provided information on restoration programs]	All partners	Yes
#26	Rivers and streams ecosystems	St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix direct drainage tributaries	Implement 1 stream restoration project to reduce TP loading by 85 lbs and TSS loading by 217 tons	All partners	Yes
#27	Trout populations	Trout streams (Brown's Creek, Valley Creek, Lawrence Creek, Trout Brook, Willow Brooke, Mill Stream, Falls Creek, Gilbertson's Creek)	All streams trout YOY recruitment, survival of previous year class	All partners with trout streams	No
#38	Shoreland	Basin wide	1 LGU with new adopted innovative shoreline standard	All partners	No

Land Acquisition & Management

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$360,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#23	Maintain & restore habitat	Land with priority habitats and corridor connections	10% of land in new developments is dedicated to wildlife habitat [significant new areas of land conversion from vacant or rural land to residential, commercial/industrial, institutional, or transportation]	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#24	Sensitive lake protection	Regionally Significant Lakes for Protection and Sustainable Development: Table 5-3 and Figure 5-3	Implement sustainable development and land preservation programs in lakesheds of priority lakes through 2 easements or acquisitions	All partners	No
#39	Resilient lands	Private lands in priority corridors and critical habitat areas and large-scale developments with land-use change	2 landscape designs and plantings resilient to climate change	All partners	No
#40	Land protection	First priority: Areas near already protected lands (public or private), tributaries near impaired waters, areas where known endangered species are present and identified biologically significant natural areas as identified by MLCCS mapping Second priority: Basin wide	200 acres protected through acquisition and easements	All partners	No
#41	Lane protection	First priority: Areas where upland habitat is fractured and shoreline areas where there is high to moderate development or land under future development pressure Second priority: Basin wide	4 new Landscape Stewardship Plans	All partners	No
#42	Habitat improvement	Basin wide based on prioritized mapping including MLCCS maps and other critical habitat mapping	200 new acres managed for better habitat, or as recommended in Landscape Stewardship Plans	All partners	No
#43	Protected lands	Areas located along bluffland or adjacent to publicly owned forest land such as state parks and trails	4 new private Forest Management Plans or Woodland Stewardship Plans developed	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention & Management

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$887,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#31	AIS in lakes and St. Croix River	High traffic boat launches on St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix	Increase watercraft inspection hours by 5%	CLIID, WCD, watersheds, counties	No
#32	AIS	Within 15 miles of all public boat launches on zebra mussel infested lakes and rivers	Provide 2 AIS decontamination stations (2021 – 2026)	CLIID, WCD, watersheds, counties	No
#33	AIS signs	Basin wide	Install AIS informational signage at 4 boat launches and marinas	CLIID, WCD, watersheds, counties	No
#34	AIS in lakes	Lakes in Chisago Co. and Isanti Co. with public access	Develop 1 comprehensive AIS rapid response plan for lakes (2021 – 2030)	Isanti and Chisago Counties	No
#35	Phragmites	In order of priority 1. Chisago Lakes LID 2. Carlos Avery WMA 3. Elsewhere in Chisago Co and Isanti Co 4. Headwaters of North Branch & West Branch Sunrise River	Reduce the size and number of invasive phragmites locations as reported on EddMaps by 9 infestation areas. Stabilize and eradicate those small infestations less than 1,000 – 2,000 sq. ft. through rapid response plans, where available	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Ditch Implementation

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$45,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#7	Drainage impact on rivers & streams	Judicial and public ditches	Maintain or improve downstream water quality following ditch maintenance	Ditch authorities	No
#29	Wetland loss	Judicial and public ditches	Mitigate loss of wetland acres resulting from ditch maintenance activities	Ditch authorities	No

Staff Activities

Shared Services Basin Ag Outreach Program

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$300,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$90,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$0

Estimated Other Funding: \$0 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
NA	Agronomy Outreach Specialist	Priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag Implementation	Assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Approx 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits	WCD: lead Chisago SWCD: co-lead	Yes

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Shared Services Education

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$265,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$150,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$56,507

Estimated Other Funding: \$0^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
NA	Education and Outreach (EMWREP)	Basin wide	Facilitate shared education and outreach program across basin to provide education; engage residents, businesses, and local officials; and promote/market programs and practices. Education and outreach tasks will serve the goals outlined in the LSC Comprehensive Plan with a primary benefit to water quality in priority resources. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 90% = develop, distribute and implement outreach programs that result in behavioral changes achieving water quality benefits • 10% = solicit willing landowners to install BMPs 	WCD: lead Chisago SWCD: co-lead	
#11	GW recharge & infiltration	Basin wide [Estimated 40 communities in basin without MIDS or similar standards]	Implement Minimal Impact Design Standards or more restrictive in 10 communities; including climate resiliency provisions or standards	EMWREP through WCD	Yes
#13	St. Croix River Flows	Direct catchments to the St. Croix River and Lake St. Croix	Evaluate and update small storm volume control and large storm rate control ordinances in 2 communities	EMWREP through WCD	Yes
#16	St. Croix River chlorides	Basin wide	Total of 45% of all cities have staff certified in MPCA's Level 1 and Level 2 Smart Salting Training	EMWREP through WCD	Yes
#22	Protect wetlands	Basin wide during land use change or alteration, development or redevelopment	1 LGU with (new) adopted wetland protections including buffer requirements and setbacks for permanent structures	EMWREP through WCD	Yes

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Technical/Engineering + Project Development

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$300,000 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$60,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: \$0

Estimated Other Funding: \$629,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
NA	Engineering Technician	Basin wide	Funding for this activity is for 0.5 FTE engineering technician AND for outside engineering assistance, as needed. Activities include technical site assessment, surveys, preliminary analysis and design, final design, construction supervision, installation, inspection, and completion of projects.	Chisago SWCD	Yes
NA	Project Development	Basin wide	Targeted outreach, site visits, and relationship building for high priority projects	Anoka CD, Chisago SWCD, Isanti SWCD, Pine SWCD, Washington CD	Yes
#25	Landlocked basin impact on River	Eutrophic natural landlocked basins to be discharged to St. Croix River	Perform analysis and implement measures to meet state standards for nutrients on 1 waterbodies	Valley Branch WD, Brown's Creek WD, and Washington Co	No
#36	Lake levels	Chisago Co. Lakes = Chisago Lakes Chain of Lakes (Chisago, South Lindstrom, North Lindstrom, Green, Little Green, North Center, South Center), Fish, Horseshoe, Little Horseshoe, Sunrise	Develop resiliency plans or responses, such as a Slow-No-Wake Ordinance or Channel and Weir Operations and Maintenance Plans, to address vulnerable properties	Chisago County	No
#52	Manage channel & weirs	Chisago Chain of Lakes	100% of lakes prone to anthropogenic water level variation are identified; manage the channel and weir system with an approved operation and maintenance plan	Chisago County	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Interagency Coordination

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$223,730 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#44	Lead WQ metrics & report progress	Basin wide	Evaluate the water quality metrics, set reporting standards, report on goal progress for the St. Croix River	??	No
#45	Map GW pollution sources	Order of Priority: 1) Surrounding known contamination sites where data are lacking 2) DWSMAs 3) Townships without nitrate testing 4) Basin wide	Work with state agencies and Met Council; Pollution sources (including mines), areas around chemical contamination sites, vulnerable areas, and surface water-GW interactions are studied and mapped	Counties	No
#46	Map GW recharge areas	Basin wide	Support DNR and Met Council; 100% of recharge areas and groundwatersheds of GW dependent natural resources are mapped (2021 – 2030)	All partners	No
#47	Develop GW plans	Basin wide where needed	Complete at least one county groundwater plan (2021 – 2030)	Chisago, Isanti, Pine, or Anoka County	No
#48	GW well monitoring	Maintain basin wide; expand in Isanti and Pine Co. 1) DWSMAs 2) Groundwatersheds of GW-dependent natural resources	Maintain existing or increase number of new observation wells	Isanti and Pine Counties and SWCDs	No
#51	Build climate resiliency	Basin wide	Participate in studies and/or stay informed of latest science to assess the impact of a changing climate on lakes and the St. Croix River; use latest climate science to implement adaptive management	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#57	Floodplain ordinance evaluation	Landuse authorities in the St. Croix Riverway	Work with land use authorities along St. Croix River and MnDNR Area Hydrologists to evaluate floodplain and zoning ordinances for consistency and effectiveness in protecting floodplain function; update where appropriate	EMWREP through WCD	No
#61	Pine Co. soil survey	Pine County	Complete soil survey as developed by NRCS, USDA & shown in Soil Survey Geographic (SSURGO) Database	NRCS	No

Ditch Policy & Review

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$34,000^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#5	River & Stream Flows	Basin wide	Identify and map 100% of private ditches as part of developing Conservation Plans	Counties	No
#6	Drainage impacts on wetlands	All public and private ditches	Review 100% of drainage projects for possible impacts to wetland quality	Ditch authorities	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Prioritization & Analysis

Internal Analyses

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$18,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$57,000 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#49	Calc internal loads	Regionally Significant Lakes for Internal Loading Analyses Table 5-4	Calculate internal loading of phosphorus on 3 lakes	All partners	Yes (FY23)

Targeting Analyses

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$0

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$45,000 ^b

Estimated FY25 Match: NA

Estimated Other Funding: \$1,050,720 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
#50	Lake monitoring	Anoka Co. Lakes = Pet, Rice, South Coon, Skunk, Tamarack Chisago Co. Lakes = Sunrise, Little Horseshoe Isanti Co. Lakes = Hoffman, Horseleg, Horseshoe, Upper	Baseline data such as transparency, total phosphorus and chlorophyll-a are collected	All partners	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

		and Lower birch, East and West Twin, Tamarack (30- 0001-00), Long (30-0002- 00,) Big Pine (30-0015-00), Grass (30-0017-00), Splittstoesser (30-00041-00)			
#53	Lake level monitoring	Basin wide	Participate in DNR lake level monitoring program to routinely collect lake level data; 100% of lakes prone to direct anthropogenic water level variation are identified	All partners	No
#54	Subwatershed analyses for lakes	Subwatersheds of Regionally Significant Lakes Table 5-3 and Figure 5-3	Conduct 4 subwatershed analyses to identify and prioritize water quality improvement projects within a priority subwatershed	All partners	Yes (FY23)
#55	Subwatershed analyses for streams	Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams: - Streams and tributaries in Sunrise R. Watershed - Direct drainage areas to St. Croix River through Rock, Rush, Goose, and Browns Creeks and Trout Brook and other small streams as shown in Table 5-2 and Figure 5-2.	Conduct 4 subwatershed analyses to identify and prioritize water quality improvement projects within a priority subwatershed	All partners	Yes (FY23)
#56	St. Croix TMDL evaluation	Tributaries to the St. Croix River	Coordinate and operate up to 10 new monitoring stations that lack data (quality and quantity) to evaluate progress toward achieving the TMDL and to identify priority subwatersheds	All partners	No
#58	Gully evaluation	Intermittent and perennial tributaries and watercourses flowing directly to St. Croix River	Identify, evaluate, and rank (prioritize) active gullies directly discharging into the St. Croix or its tributaries	All partners adjacent to St. Croix River	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

#59	Map priority areas	Basin wide	Complete level 4/5 MLCCS basin wide; map priority restoration and protection areas for acquisition, easements, and voluntary stewardship	All partners	No
#60	Map terrestrial AIS	First priority: Public lands or near public lands; areas may be further prioritized thru cooperative weed mgmt area Second priority: Basin wide	Map and target "eradicate and control list" invasive species populations for each county; contact 50% of landowners for species on restricted list; implement cooperative weed management area	All partners	No
#62	Wetland monitoring	Wetlands upstream of nutrient impaired streams and lakes	Use subwatershed analyses or monitoring/modeling data to identify degraded wetlands with the potential of contributing high nutrient loads to downstream resources.	All partners	No
#63	Wetland restoration prioritization	Basin wide	Use existing Restorable Wetland Prioritization Tool to focus effort; identify 5 degraded wetlands with best restoration potential in each HUC 10 (2021 – 2030)	All partners	No
#64	Ditch monitoring	1st priority: Public ditches in Isanti Co. 2nd priority: Basin wide	Collect water quality data near ditch outlets of 5 ditches to identify areas for ditch improvements to filter runoff	Isanti County; All partners	No
#65	Wetland inventory	1st Priority: Isanti County 2nd Priority: Basin wide	Create wetland inventory based on MLCCS; Increase by 5 the number of LGUs with policies requiring wetland function and value assessments with project proposals such as developments or ditch work (2021 – 2030)	Isanti County; All partners	No
#66	Wetland inventory	Pine and Isanti Counties	Verify recently completed wetland inventory and map % of areas of wetland loss and historic wetlands	Pine and Isanti Counties	No

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

Administration

Administration/Coordination

Estimated FY25 WBIF: \$100,071 ^a

Estimated FY23 WBIF: \$25,000 ^b

Estimated Match: \$32,000

Estimated Other Funding: \$0 ^c

#	Activity	Priority Location	Actions/ Measurable Output (2025-2026)	Implementation Entity	WBIF eligible
NA		Basin wide	Coordination of WBIF-funded activities; grant reporting; all-activity reporting; coordination of committees and partners; participation in committee meetings; fiscal management; annual and biennial planning	Chisago SWCD: lead	Yes

^a FY25 WBIF expire 12-31-27

^b FY23 WBIF expire 12-31-25

^c Other funds = estimated funds from Table 5-1 in LSC Comprehensive Plan minus WBIF and match

2025 LSC Project Process Calendar

ATTACHMENT B

Policy Committee meets quarterly (4th Monday of the month)

Steering Committee meets monthly (4th Wednesday of the month)

Planning Team meets monthly (2nd Wednesday of the month)

Advisory Committee meets as needed (e.g., AC meets to approve annual work plan)

This calendar only shows meetings which pertain to the proposed project approval process. Additional meetings are held at the frequencies described above.

<p style="text-align: center;"><u>January</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>February</u></p> <p>2/12 Deadline: project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p>2/26 Steering Committee: at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50K</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>March</u></p> <p>3/15 Notice: Meeting facilitator will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 60 days in advance of the May application deadline</p> <p>3/12 Deadline: project requests greater than or equal to \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator</p> <p>3/26 Steering Committee: at regular monthly meeting review project requests greater than or equal to \$50K that are due to come to PC in April</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>April</u></p> <p>4/20 Deadline: Policy Committee meeting packet posted, including project requests greater than or equal to \$50K</p> <p>4/27 Policy Committee: at regular quarterly meeting consider project requests greater than or equal to \$50K once per year</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>May</u></p> <p>5/14 Deadline: project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p>5/28 Steering Committee: at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>June</u></p> <p>6/14 Notice: Meeting facilitator will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 60 days in advance of the August application deadline</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>July</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>August</u></p> <p>8/13 Deadline: project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)</p> <p>8/27 Steering Committee: at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50,000</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>September</u></p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><u>October</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>November</u></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>December</u></p> <p>12/14 Notice: LSC partner staff will send out call for projects reminder to all partners at least 60 days in advance of the Feb/Mar application deadlines (dual notice this month – projects less than and greater than \$50K)</p>

FY25 Lower St. Croix 1W1P
Watershed Based Implementation Funding Work Plan

Grant ID: TBD | Grant Expiration: December 31, 2027

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Grant Activities

This section provides a description of each grant activity. The Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP) identifies four categories for Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) use: Implementation – BMPs/Restoration, Implementation – Shared Services/Staffing, Prioritization & Analysis, and Administration (CWMP, page 16). Contrary to prior grants, this work plan does not including funding for Prioritization & Analysis activities. The Board of Water and Soil Resources requires all WBIF grant work plans assign an eLINK activity category to each activity. Table 1 summarizes the ten grant activities across three categories and their associated eLINK categories and CWMP categories.

The project review and approval process for funding to local partners will utilize already established policies and procedures (see www.lsc1w1p.org/workplan-forms) and may use subcommittees to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category. A subcommittee meeting is not required for all project requests; partners may submit project requests directly to the Steering Committee for consideration.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.

Table 1. Grant Activities and Categories

Activity Name	eLINK Activity Category	CWMP Category
Structural Ag BMP Implementation	Agricultural Practices	Implementation – BMPs/Restoration
Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Urban Stormwater Practices	
Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	
Wetland Restoration Implementation	Wetland Restoration/Creation	
Streambank/Shoreline Restoration	Streambank & Shoreline Restoration	
Agronomy Outreach Specialist	Project Development	Implementation – Shared Services/Staffing
Shared Services Education	Education/Information	
Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	
Project Development	Project Development	Administration
Administration/Coordination	Administration/Coordination	

Implementation – BMPs/Restoration Activities

Activity: Structural Ag BMP Implementation

eLINK Activity Category: Agricultural Practices

Grant: \$350,000

Match: \$52,500

Match Source(s): Local or landowner funds

Lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (also the lead for non-structural ag BMP implementation; subcontracts with local partners for specific projects).

Co-lead Agency: Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs

Priority areas:

- LSC CWMP Table 5-2 Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams (page 81)
- LSC CWMP Table 5-3 Regionally Significant Lakes (page 82)
- LSC CWMP Figure 5-1 Vulnerable Groundwater in Agricultural Areas (page 84)
- Also see priority locations for implementation items in LSC CWMP Table 5-1 which are related to this activity (pages 61-64)

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Pages 61-62. Activities #1 #2, #3

Activity Description: Provide cost-share/incentives for installing or implementing structural agricultural best management practices (e.g., feedlot improvements, buffers, WASCOBs, diversions, lined waterways, grade stabilization structures, vegetative swales, livestock water management, etc.). Project partners will check BWSR eligibility requirements and consult the BWSR Board Conservationist to ensure projects are eligible. NRCS or other BWSR accepted standards will be followed for all practices installed. For feedlot improvement projects, the project partner will complete the BWSR supplemental feedlot worksheet to ensure compliance with BWSR policy for using CWF funds for feedlot improvements. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B and Appendix C of the CWMP.

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 150 lb/yr.

Activity: Structural Urban BMP Implementation

eLINK Activity Category: Urban Stormwater Practices

Grant: \$300,000

Match: \$45,000

Match Source(s): Local or landowner funds

Lead Agency: Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD, Mike Isensee (also the lead for nonstructural urban BMP implementation)

Co-lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas:

- LSC CWMP Table 5-2 Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams (page 81)
- LSC CWMP Table 5-3 Regionally Significant Lakes (page 82)
- Also see priority locations for implementation items in LSC CWMP Table 5-1 which are related to this activity (pages 61-64)

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Page 66, Activities #12, #14, #15

Activity Description: Provide cost-share/incentives for implementing structural urban best management practices (e.g., vegetated swales, pervious pavement, gully stabilization, rain gardens, and other urban practices). BWSR accepted standards will be followed for all practices installed. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B and Appendix C of the CWMP.

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 12 lb/yr.

Activity: Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementation

eLINK Activity Category: Non-Structural Management Practices

Grant: \$75,000

Ag Lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (also the lead for Structural Ag BMP Implementation)

Urban Lead Agency: Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD, Mike Isensee (also the lead for Structural Urban BMP Implementation)

Urban/Ag Co-lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas:

- LSC CWMP Table 5-2 Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams (page 81)
- LSC CWMP Table 5-3 Regionally Significant Lakes (page 82)
- Also see priority locations for implementation items in LSC CWMP Table 5-1 which are related to this activity (pages 61-64)
- Priority locations for nonstructural urban BMP implementation are described in the LSC Nonstructural Urban BMP policy.

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Pages 61, Activities #1, #2, #3, #14, #15

Activity Description: Provide cost-share/incentives for implementing non-structural *agricultural* best management practices (e.g., soil health BMPs, reduced tillage, cover crops, nutrient management planning, forage/biomass plantings). NRCS or other BWSR accepted standards will be followed for all practices installed. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B and Appendix C of CWMP.

Provide cost-share/incentives for implementing non-structural *urban* best management practices (e.g., enhanced street sweeping). BWSR accepted standards will be followed for all practices implemented. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B and Appendix C of CWMP. Specific enhanced street sweeping targeting analyses will be performed for priority areas.

View the Non-Structural Agricultural Practices Policy and Enhanced Street Sweeping Protocols at www.lsc1w1p.org.

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 150 lb/yr.

Grant funds under this Activity will not be used to pay for staff time such as targeting analyses. See Implementation Category Budget Breakdown at the end of the Detail Work Plan Text.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: WBIF grant funding under this activity will be bifurcated between agricultural and urban practices.

Agricultural Non-Structural: Due to the urgent nature of implementing non-structural agricultural practices with landowner coordination, these practices do not require approval by the Steering Committee nor the Policy Committee. See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.

Urban Non-Structural: Urban non-structural street sweeping incentive funding will only be available to communities with approved enhanced street sweeping plans. See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.

[Activity: Wetland Restoration Implementation](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Wetland Restoration/Creation

Grant: \$200,000

Match: \$30,000

Match Source(s): Local funds

Lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas:

- LSC CWMP Table 5-2 Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams (page 81)
- LSC CWMP Table 5-3 Regionally Significant Lakes (page 82)
- LSC CWMP Figure 5-5 High Priority Areas for Wetland Restoration (page 88)
- Also see priority locations for implementation items in LSC CWMP Table 5-1 which are related to this activity.

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Page 71, Activity #28

Activity Description:

This Activity will involve implementation of wetland restoration project(s) as needed to achieve the target phosphorus reduction. The primary purpose of the wetland restoration project(s) will be for the improvement of water quality in receiving lakes/streams. Secondary benefits of wetland restoration projects will be considered as well, such as floodplain storage and habitat creation/enhancement.

Wetland restorations will not be used to mitigate wetland impacts. Grant funds will not be used for fee title land acquisition (but may be used as match in accordance with WBIF Policy). LSC Partners will ensure proposed wetland restorations are consistent with WBIF eligibility requirements. LSC Partners will target specific restorations through utilization of existing studies and targeting analyses (e.g., drained wetland inventories, diagnostic studies, subwatershed assessments), performance of additional modeling analyses using existing data from said studies, and completion of additional targeting analyses as necessary to fill data gaps. Work pertaining to targeting strategies is included as part of other grant Activities. Wetland restoration phosphorus reduction will be dependent on a number of factors beyond acres restored (e.g., proximity to target waterbody, level of degradation, hydrology).

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 50 lb/yr.

[Activity: Streambank/Shoreline Restorations](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Streambank/Shoreline Restoration

Grant: \$80,000

Match: \$12,000

Match Source(s): Local funds

Lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas:

- LSC CWMP Table 5-2 Regionally Significant Rivers and Streams (page 81)
- LSC CWMP Table 5-3 Regionally Significant Lakes (page 82)
- Also see priority locations for implementation items in LSC CWMP Table 5-1 which are related to this activity.

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Pages 68 and 70, Activities #21, #26

Activity Description: This activity includes one large-scale streambank restoration project with bank stabilization, and/or in-channel work, and/or improvements in floodplain connectivity; and/or cost share for up to 20 shoreline restoration and habitat improvement projects. Cost share projects are likely to be implemented by private landowners. Engagement with shoreline landowners and marketing of cost share programs will be accomplished through outreach, education, and workshops delivered through the Shared Services Educator. BWSR accepted standards and practices will be followed for restoration projects and assurances for long-term maintenance will be secured for each project.

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 7 lbs/yr

Implementation – Shared Services/Staffing

Activity: Agronomy Outreach Specialist

eLINK Activity Category: Project Development

Grant: \$300,000

Co-Lead Agencies: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell and Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs

Priority areas: Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag Implementation

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Page 61, Shared Services Activity

Activity Description: Agronomy outreach specialist. (A) Shared Services: Work with an agricultural conservationist (one individual) for basin wide assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. Approximately 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations. Staff qualifications are subject to change and included in eLINK. Any updates will be submitted to the BWSR BC for review. See Agronomy Outreach Specialist Details & Milestones for more information.

This would allow for 1 full-time agronomy outreach specialist to work basin-wide. Staff will work basin-wide and may have more than one office space. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.

Costs billed to this item will include the following: Staff salary, , benefits, travel expenses, training expenses, and office supplies. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to direct landowner outreach and technical assistance, as described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the shared services educator, coordinated planning efforts, regular basin-scale coordination meetings with LSC partners and other agencies as appropriate.

Activity: Shared Services Education

eLINK Activity Category: Education/Information

Grant: \$265,000

Match: \$56,507.10

Match Source: Parties to the LSC JPC

Lead Agency: Washington Conservation District, Jay Riggs

Co-lead Agency: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (Subcontract with WCD to act as host entity)

Priority areas: Basin-wide

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Page 65, Shared Services Activity

Activity Description: Facilitate shared education and outreach program across basin to provide education; engage residents, businesses, and local officials; and promote and market programs and practices through the well established East Metro Water Resources Education Program (EMWREP). Education and outreach tasks will serve the goals outlined in the LSC CWMP and may not always pertain to the implementation items described in this WBIF grant work plan, but will always have a primary benefit to water quality in priority resources.

- 90% = develop, distribute and implement outreach programs that result in behavioral changes achieving water quality benefits;
- 10% = solicit willing landowners to install BMPs that are goals within this plan. Promoted practices will be in line with BWSR eligibility requirements and will focus on water quality.

[0.5 FTE to implement EMWREP basin wide + educational materials + Supplemental Community Assistance]. Supplemental Community Assistance will include promoting MIDS in communities, reviewing ordinances, and providing education through Non-point Education for Municipal Officials (NEMO). Outreach will also include work with LGUs to set shoreline "view corridors" to 25% of lot width or maximum 35' width and maximum vegetation clearing standards or adopt innovative shoreland standards to protect buffers, native ecosystems, and habitat corridors. This work will provide water quality benefits through their protection of shoreline and streambank buffers.

LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements. Staff qualifications are subject to change and included in eLINK. Any updates will be submitted to the BWSR BC for review. See Education Details & Milestones for more information.

Costs billed to this item will include staff pay, program expenses, and contracted services for MIDS adoption initiative. As with all grant activities, LSC partners will ensure program expenses are eligible before billing to the grant/match. All costs will primarily benefit water quality in a priority resource as identified in the LSC CWMP. In addition to the outreach tasks described above, staff time will also include program and work plan coordination: annual partner coordination meetings, updates to partners, interfacing with the agronomy outreach specialist, coordinated planning efforts.

Subcommittee: A subcommittee composed of LSC partners will meet on an as-needed basis in order to review projects and assist with project planning. Subcommittees may be grouped by implementation category.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: This activity is composed of three types of education & outreach expenditures.

Shared Services Educator: Approval for expenditure of grant dollars for this task is inherent in work plan approval.

Education Materials/Expenses: Approval for expenditure of grant dollars for this task is inherent in work plan approval.

Supplemental Community Assistance: MIDS Adoption Initiative expenditures will be composed of professional services (technical assistance from a MIDS subject matter expert). See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.

Activity: Technical/Engineering

eLINK Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Grant: \$210,000

Lead Agencies: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (lead agency for structural and non-structural ag implementation; subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Staff Qualifications: This task includes funding for a 0.5 FTE engineering technician to be shared basin-wide, along with funding for qualified private engineering services.

CWMP Reference: Table 5-1, Pages 61 and 65, Technical Assistance Activity

Activity Description: This Activity will include technical site assessment, surveys, preliminary analysis and design, final design, construction supervision, installation, inspection, and completion of projects. Funds may be used to contract with a third-party consultant for technical/engineering assistance. Funding allocation will be prioritized in areas where there are not local funds to support design work.

Project Review & Grant Approval Process: See project approval policies and procedures at www.lsc1w1p.org.

Activity: Project Development

eLINK Activity Category: Project Development

Grant: \$90,000

Lead Agencies: Chisago SWCD, Craig Mell (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Staff Qualifications: Staff of partners or their qualified consultants

Activity Description: This activity provides funding to partners to augment staff capacity needed to build relationships and provide outreach to key landowners. Outreach will increase likelihood that landowners will implement critical BMPs in urban and agricultural areas. The activity will include targeted outreach, site visits, and relationship building for high priority projects.

Administration

Activity: Administration/Coordination

eLINK Activity Category: Administration/Coordination

Grant: \$100,071

Match: \$1,000

Lead Agencies: Chisago SWCD, WCD

Activity Description: Staff qualifications are subject to change and included in eLINK. Any updates will be submitted to the BWSR BC for review. See Staff Assignments and Qualifications document for more detail. This Activity will include the following tasks.

- Grant and progress reporting – includes coordinating with fiscal agent and other partners to gather reporting information, compiling said information, and entering reports into eLINK; will also include assisting fiscal agent with any grant/work plan amendments as necessary. Progress reporting will include demonstration of progress toward measurable outcomes (i.e., nutrient load reductions seen at target waterbodies) – examples include pounds of phosphorus and tons of total suspended solids removed from existing loads. Partners may use local funding to perform effectiveness monitoring to demonstrate actual outcomes achieved by projects. Otherwise, modeled loads will be reported. Staff will also report on outputs achieved (i.e., the interim steps needed in order to achieve the ultimate outcomes) – examples include number of landowners contacted, number of projects completed, description of outreach activities performed. Progress reporting will include comparison of budget vs actual spend for each cost category, as described in the final section of this work plan and on page 16 of the LSC CWMP.
- Coordination of Policy Committee, Steering Committee, Advisory Committee, and work plan activity planning team (lead coordination of meetings, agendas, meeting material distribution)
- Website upkeep: This activity includes the use of grant funds to host and update the LSC interactive web map as necessary.
- Fiscal agent administration and contract coordination – includes coordinating with other partners to gather reporting information and reviewing draft report; will also include leading any grant/work plan amendments as necessary
- Agronomy Outreach Specialist and Educator payroll administration.

Budget

Table 2. Grant Budget

Activity Name	Grant Budget	Match Budget	Total Budget
Structural Ag BMP Implementation	\$350,000	\$52,500	\$402,500
Structural Urban BMP Implementation	\$300,000	\$45,000	\$345,000
Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	\$75,000	\$0	\$75,000
Wetland Restoration Implementation	\$200,000	\$30,000	\$230,000
Streambank/Shoreline Restorations	\$80,000	\$12,000	\$92,000
Implementation – BMPs/Restoration Subtotal	\$1,005,000	\$139,500	\$1,144,500
Agronomy Outreach Specialist	\$300,000	\$0	\$300,000
Shared Services Education	\$265,000	\$56,507.10	\$321,507.10
Technical/Engineering	\$210,000	\$0	\$210,000
Project Development	\$90,000	\$0	\$90,000
Implementation – Shared Services/Staffing Subtotal	\$865,000	\$56,507.10	\$921,507.10
Administration/Coordination	\$100,071	\$1,000	\$101,071
Total	\$1,970,071	\$197,007.10	\$2,167,078.10

Table 3. Shared Services Education Budget Breakout

Activity Name	Grant	Match	Total
Shared Services Education	\$265,000.00	\$56,507.10	\$321,507.10
Educator Compensation	\$180,000.00		
Education Materials/Equipment	\$30,000.00		
Supplemental Community Assistance	\$55,000.00		

The Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan ([page 16](#)) provides an expected distribution of WBIFs across program areas. Table 4 compares the FY25 WBIF grant budget to the CWMP distribution.

Table 4. Grant Budget Distribution Across Program Areas

	LSC CWMP (Page 16)	Work Plan (Grant Funds)	Actual Grant Spend**
Implementation - BMPs/Restoration Activities*	45%	51%	TBD
Implementation - Shared Services	25%	44%	TBD
Prioritization & Analysis	25%	0%	TBD
Administration	5%	5%	TBD
	100%	100%	100%

*Expenses billed to implementation (blue) line items will be for implementation only and will not include staff time/engineering. Staff/consultant time for project coordination/design/engineering/oversight etc. is covered by the remaining three categories (green, orange, yellow).

**Progress reporting will include comparison of budget vs actual spend for each cost category.

Phosphorus Reduction Goals and Progress

Phosphorus Reductions from CWMP	10-Year Phosphorus Reduction Goal (lb/yr)	2-Year Average (lb/yr)	FY21 WBIF Goal (lb/yr)	FY21 Actual (lb/yr)	FY23 WBIF Goal (lb/yr)	FY23 Expected (lb/yr)	FY25 WBIF Goal (lb/yr)
Priority Streams (CWMP Table 5-2)	4,140	828	915	1818.5	381	428.8	369
Priority Lakes (CWMP Table 5-3)	1,363	273					
TOTAL	5,503	1,101					

The table above contains total phosphorus reduction goals from the LSC CWMP (see Tables 5-2 and 5-3 on pages 81 and 82) for priority streams and priority lakes. If divided equally throughout the 10-year plan period, the average total lakes/streams phosphorus reduction goal would be 1,101 pounds/year achieved every 2-year period. The WBIF goal load reductions are below the CWMP 2-year average. The

LSC partners estimated that the full basin-wide goal cannot be achieved solely with WBIF funds. Partners must leverage local dollars and other funding sources in order to meet the basin's goals.

LSC partners may utilize multiple calculation tools to estimate load reductions. Examples include MIDS calculator, PTMApp, BWSR Pollutant Reduction Estimator, estimation via outflow, and internal loading analysis. See CWMP page 99 for a full list of potential reduction tools and their general intended uses. LSC partners will choose the calculation tool best suited to the proposed BMP. Phosphorus reductions will be estimated at the target waterbody (not just at edge-of-field).

Phosphorus reductions achieved at specific priority waterbodies will be reported annually. LSC partners will also estimate, on an annual basis, the load reduction achieved at the St. Croix River as a result of implemented practices.