



# Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership

*Original presentation at January 11, 2024 Regular Board Meeting  
Updated for December 18, 2025 Regular Board Meeting*

Emily Heinz, Planning Coordinator

**St. Croix River**





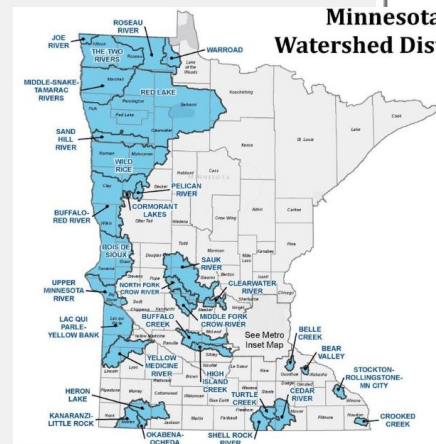
## What is One Watershed One Plan? (1W1P)

### Purpose:

- **Align** local water planning under statutes 103C and 103D
- Create a systematic, **watershed-wide**, science-based approach to watershed management;
- Build off existing local government procedures/data
- Focus on **prioritized** and **targeted** actions, **measurable** progress
- Serve as a substitute for a local comp plan, if appropriate

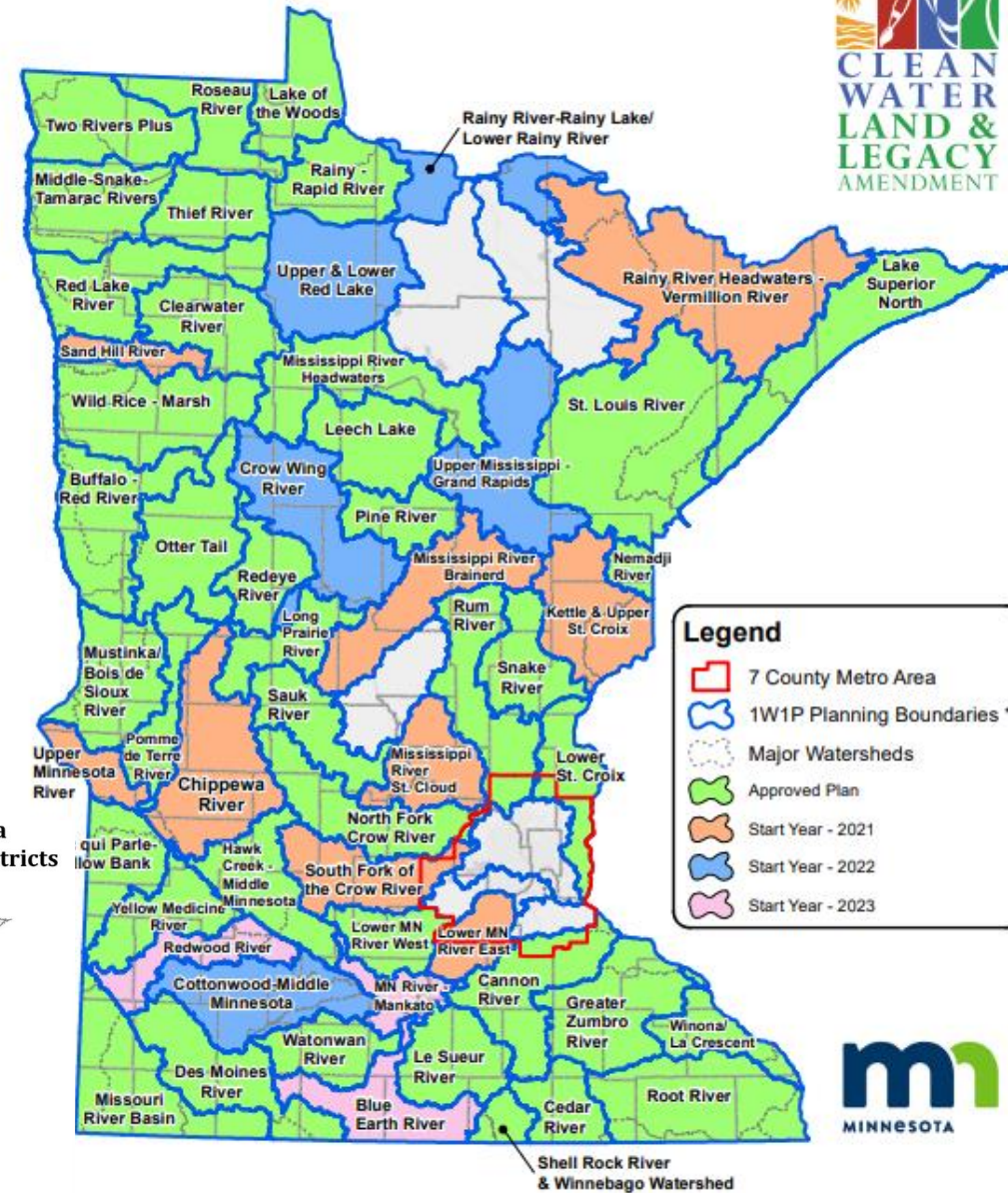
More info: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan>

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District | **LSC Partnership**



Minnesota Watershed Districts

## One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds



boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.

September 2023



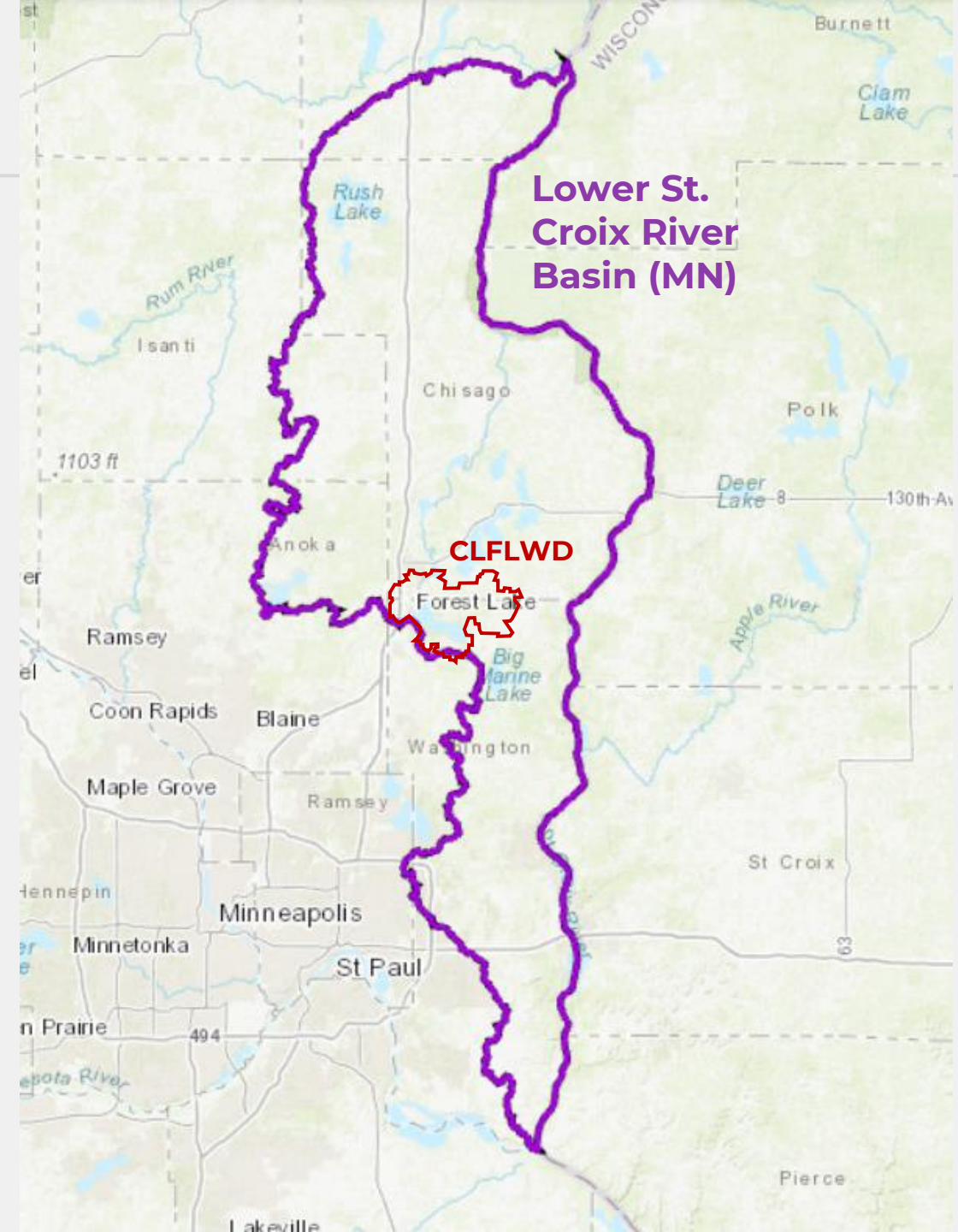
# Lower St. Croix River Basin

15 partners include:

- [Anoka Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
- [Brown's Creek Watershed District](#)
- [Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix Watershed District](#)
- [Chisago County](#)
- [Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
- [Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District](#)
- [Isanti County](#)
- [Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
- [Middle St. Croix Watershed Management Organization](#)
- [Pine County](#)
- [Pine Soil and Water Conservation District](#)
- [South Washington Watershed District](#)
- [Valley Branch Watershed District](#)
- [Washington County](#)
- [Washington Conservation District](#)

More info: <https://www.lsc1wlp.org/our-partners>

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District | **LSC Partnership**







# Lower St. Croix Partnership Timeline



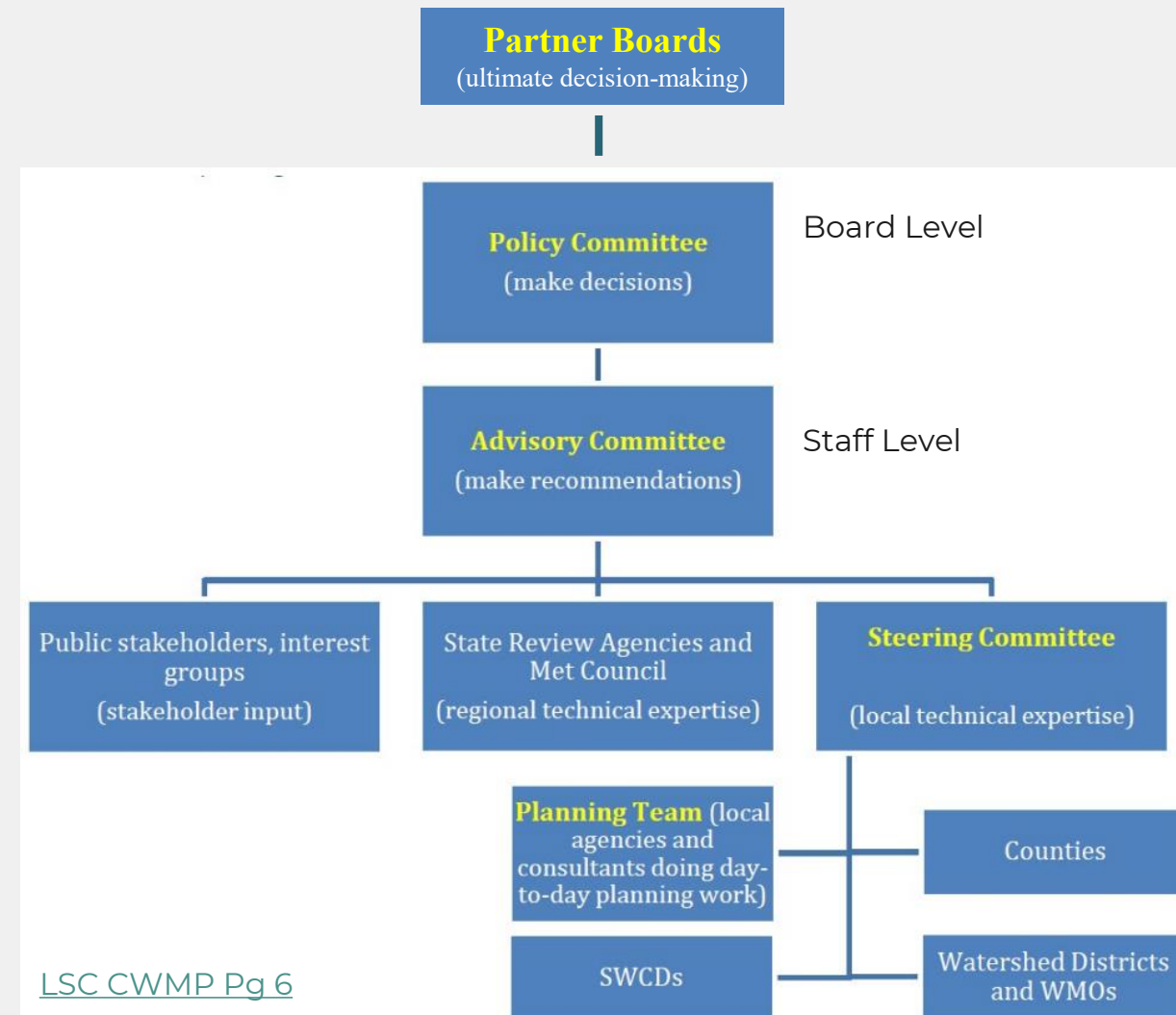
*WBIF = Watershed Based Implementation Funding  
(subsection of Clean Water Fund state grant program)*



# Lower St. Croix Partnership Structure

- LSC operates under a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA)
  - not a Joint Powers Entity (JPE)
- Actions must be taken by each partner board, rather than the Policy Committee acting as its own board
  - E.g., approving work plans, amendments

More info: <https://www.lsc1wlp.org/transition-documents>





## Grants: Legacy Amendment

The Legacy Amendment increases the state sales tax by three-eighths of one percent beginning on July 1, 2009 and continuing until 2034. The additional sales tax revenue is distributed into four funds as follows: 33 percent to the clean water fund; 33 percent to the outdoor heritage fund; 19.75 percent to the arts and cultural heritage fund; and 14.25 percent to the parks and trails fund.



### Clean Water Land & Legacy Amendment

#### Outdoor Heritage Fund

(Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council  
and DNR Conservation Partners Legacy)

#### Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund

#### Clean Water Fund

(Board of Water and Soil Resources)

#### Parks and Trails Fund



## Grants: Clean Water Fund → Watershed Based Implementation Funding

### Clean Water Fund

#### Competitive Grants

- Projects & Practices
- Clean Water Legacy Partners/Green Infrastructure Grants
- Accelerated Implementation Grants
- Soil Health Grants

#### Non-Competitive Grants

- **Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF)**
- 1W1P Mid-Point Evaluation Grants



## WBIF Funding Allocation Process

State allocates biennial grant amount for

- 1) Metro portion of LSC
- 2) Non-metro portion of LSC

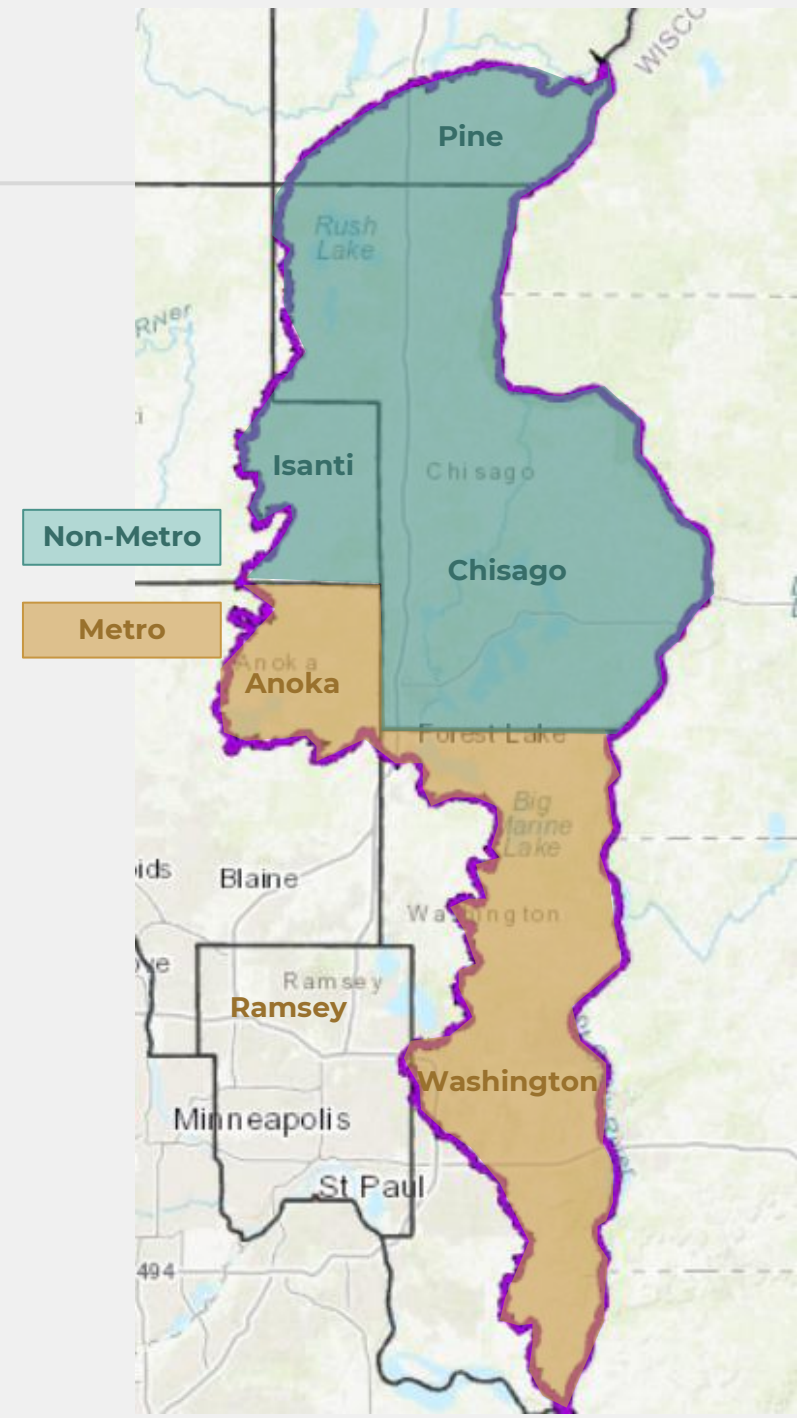


Metro partners hold convene meeting to decide

- 1) Pool metro + non-metro funds, or
- 2) Keep separate (or combo)



Past three years, most funds have been pooled and distributed according to process determined by LSC Partnership







## LSC WBIF Grants & Work in CLFLWD

| Biennium     | Basin<br>(Non-Metro) | Metro              | Supplemental<br>WBIF via<br>BWSR <sup>1</sup> | Total              | Direct<br>Allocation to<br>non LSCWP<br>Partner <sup>2</sup> | LSCWP<br>Allocation |
|--------------|----------------------|--------------------|---|--------------------|--|---------------------|
| FY21         | \$471,070            | \$793,461          |   | \$1,264,531        | \$0  | \$1,264,531         |
| FY23         | \$471,070            | \$807,509          | \$167,615                                     | \$1,446,194        | \$0  | \$1,446,194         |
| FY25         | \$778,691            | \$1,266,380        |   | \$2,045,071        | \$75,000   | \$1,970,071         |
| FY27         | \$782,706            | \$1,266,376        |   | \$2,049,082        | TBD <sup>3</sup>   | TBD <sup>3</sup>    |
| <b>TOTAL</b> | <b>\$2,503,537</b>   | <b>\$4,133,726</b> | <b>\$167,615</b>                              | <b>\$6,804,878</b> | <b>\$75,000</b>  | <b>\$4,680,796</b>  |

<sup>1</sup>In FY23, the LSCWP was awarded additional funding as other 1W1P partnerships did not spend their WBIF allocations

<sup>2</sup>In FY25, \$75,000 of the metro allocation was provided directly to the Sunrise River WMO for work in their watershed, per vote at convene meeting

<sup>3</sup>TBD during biennial metro convene meeting to be held sometime in 2026

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

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/Coordination            | Administration/Coordination         | Administration                            |

## Budget

Table 2a. 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              |
| <b>Implementation – BMPs/Restoration Subtotal</b>         | <b>\$1,005,000</b> | <b>\$139,500</b>    | <b>\$1,144,500</b>    |
| 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              |
| <b>Implementation – Shared Services/Staffing Subtotal</b> | <b>\$865,000</b>   | <b>\$56,507.10</b>  | <b>\$921,507.10</b>   |
| <b>Administration/Coordination</b>                        | <b>\$100,071</b>   | <b>\$1,000</b>      | <b>\$101,071</b>      |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$1,970,071</b> | <b>\$197,007.10</b> | <b>\$2,167,078.10</b> |



## WBIF Grant Approval Process

- Grant isn't "competitive" like CWF Projects & Practices program
- Not intended to be "first-come-first-serve" either
- Policies try to put emphasis on
  - Prioritized, Targeted, Measurable
  - Ties back to LSC Comprehensive Watershed Mgmt. Plan
  - Seeking alternative grant sources first, when possible
- WBIF Project Request Forms and Templates:
  - Project Request Form Template
  - Attachment 1 - Project Review Process
  - Attachment 2 - CWMP Priority Waterbody Maps
  - Attachment 3 - CWMP Appendix C Scoring Matrix
  - Attachment 4 - Wetland Restoration Scoring Matrix
  - Attachment 5 - Internal Analysis Request for Funding
  - Attachment 6 - Internal Analysis Selection Criteria
  - Attachment 7 - Targeting Analysis Eligibility Criteria

## 2025 LSC Project Process Calendar

Policy Committee meets quarterly (4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month)

Steering Committee meets monthly (4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of the month)

Planning Team meets monthly (2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month)

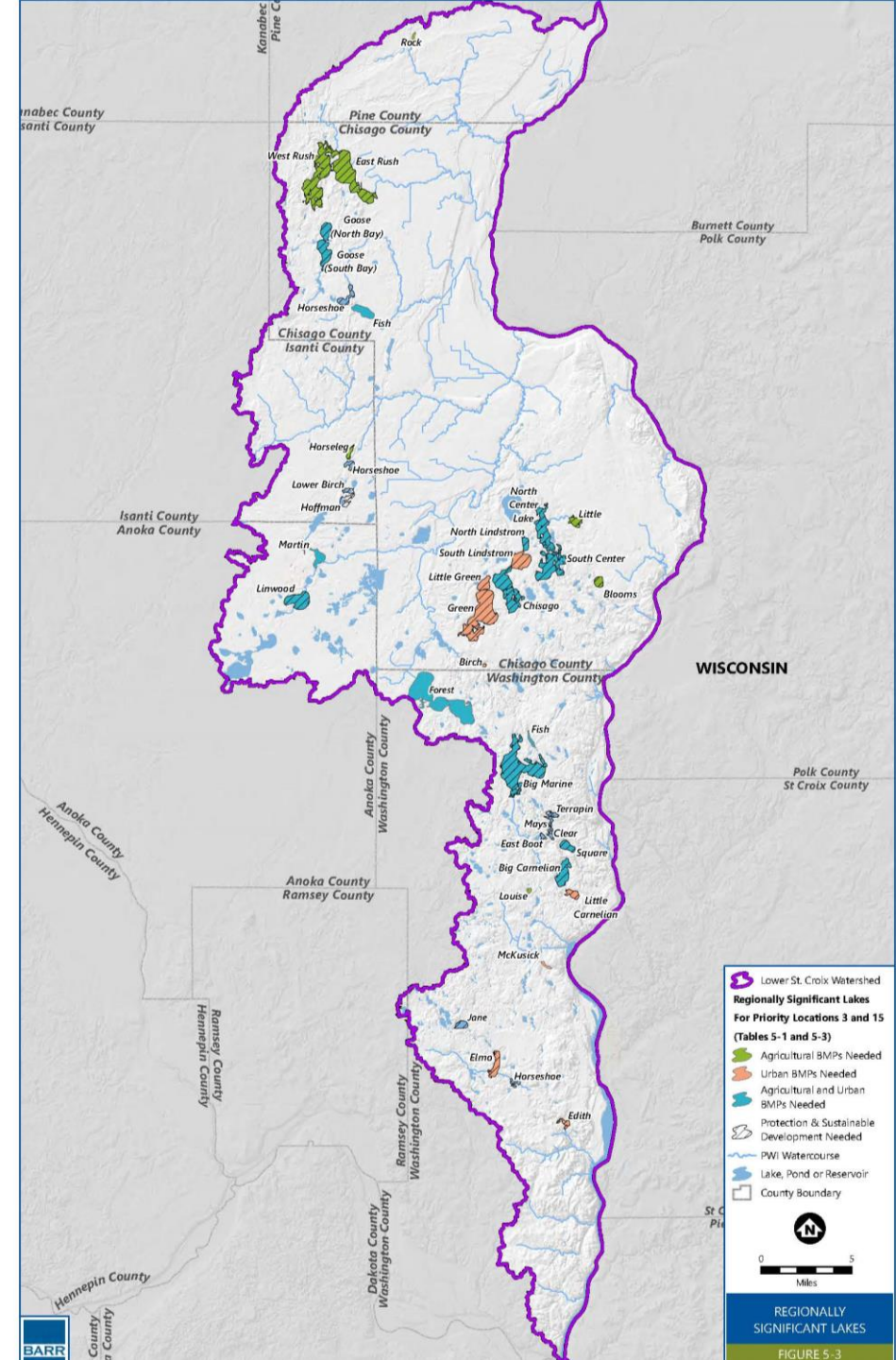
Advisory Committee meets as needed (e.g., AC meets to approve annual work plan)

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

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <u>January</u>   | <u>February</u><br><br><b>2/12 Deadline:</b> project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)<br><br><b>2/26 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50K  | <u>March</u><br><br><b>3/15 Notice:</b> Meeting facilitator will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 60 days in advance of the May application deadline<br><br><b>3/12 Deadline:</b> project requests greater than or equal to \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator<br><br><b>3/26 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting review project requests greater than or equal to \$50K that are due to come to PC in April |
| <u>April</u><br><br><b>4/20 Deadline:</b> Policy Committee meeting packet posted, including project requests greater than or equal to \$50K<br><br><b>4/27 Policy Committee:</b> at regular quarterly meeting consider project requests greater than or equal to \$50K once per year | <u>May</u><br><br><b>5/14 Deadline:</b> project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)<br><br><b>5/28 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50,000    | <u>June</u><br><br><b>6/14 Notice:</b> Meeting facilitator will send out call for projects reminder to all partners 60 days in advance of the August application deadline  |
| <u>July</u>  | <u>August</u><br><br><b>8/13 Deadline:</b> project requests less than \$50K submitted to meeting facilitator (2 weeks before SC meeting)<br><br><b>8/27 Steering Committee:</b> at regular monthly meeting consider project requests less than \$50,000 | <u>September</u>   |
| <u>October</u>   | <u>November</u>   | <u>December</u><br><br><b>12/14 Notice:</b> 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)   |



| Criteria and Points for Ranking Agricultural and Urban BMPs for Watershed Based Funds as referenced in Section VII.B. |  |  |  |
|---|--|--|--|
| 1   | <b>Lake Restoration &amp; Protection</b> | The project addresses total phosphorus on a priority lake (See table on page 2)  | LPSS Priority Class* is “Impaired” or “Highest” = 5<br>LPSS Priority Class is “High” or “Higher” = 3 |
| <b>Can score points for #1 or #2, but not both.</b>   |  |  |  |
| 2   | <b>Stream Restoration</b>                | Project is located near stream reach and will address stream impairment or Lake St. Croix total phosphorus impairment)   | Within ¼ mile = 5<br>Within ½ mile = 3   |
| 3   | <b>Groundwater</b>                       | Project improves groundwater quality/quantity (examples: soil health, nutrient management, pesticide reduction, recharge, infiltration, reuse)   | Yes = 3<br>No = 0  |
| 4   | <b>Readiness</b>                         | Concept plans, cost estimates, and landowner agreements/easements are complete 3 or 0  | Yes = 3<br>No = 0  |
| 5   | <b>Urgency &amp; Opportunity</b>         | Is the project contingent on securing funding now? (Example, BMP is part of a larger project that will move forward with or without the BMP; opportunity would be lost if not funded and implemented now)                        | Yes = 1<br>No = 0  |
| 6   | <b>Cost effectiveness</b>                | Level of cost benefit when compared to all projects analyzed in particular SWA or similar targeting analysis.  | Top 1% = 10<br>Top 10% = 7<br>Top 25% = 5<br>Top 50% = 3<br>< 50% = 0                                |
| 7   | <b>Partners &amp; Funding</b>            | Partnership and collaboration with agencies, organizations, or other groups is being leveraged or utilized by this project (Are there multiple partners providing funding, in-kind support, or other assistance or involvement?) | Yes = 1<br>No = 0  |
| 8   | <b>Multiple Benefit</b>                  | Project provides added benefit of habitat improvements (aquatic, riparian, upland, wetland). Note: water quality improvements are not considered habitat improvements for this criterion.  | Yes = 1<br>No = 0  |
| 9   | <b>Multiple Benefit</b>                  | Project provides added benefit of education (examples: signage, demonstration project)   | Yes = 1<br>No = 0  |
| 10  | <b>Multiple Benefit</b>                  | Project improves water quality while also addressing flooding concern (examples: pond, wetland restoration, or floodplain expansion)   | Yes = 1<br>No = 0  |
| <b>TOTAL POINTS POSSIBLE</b>  |  |  | <b>26</b>  |



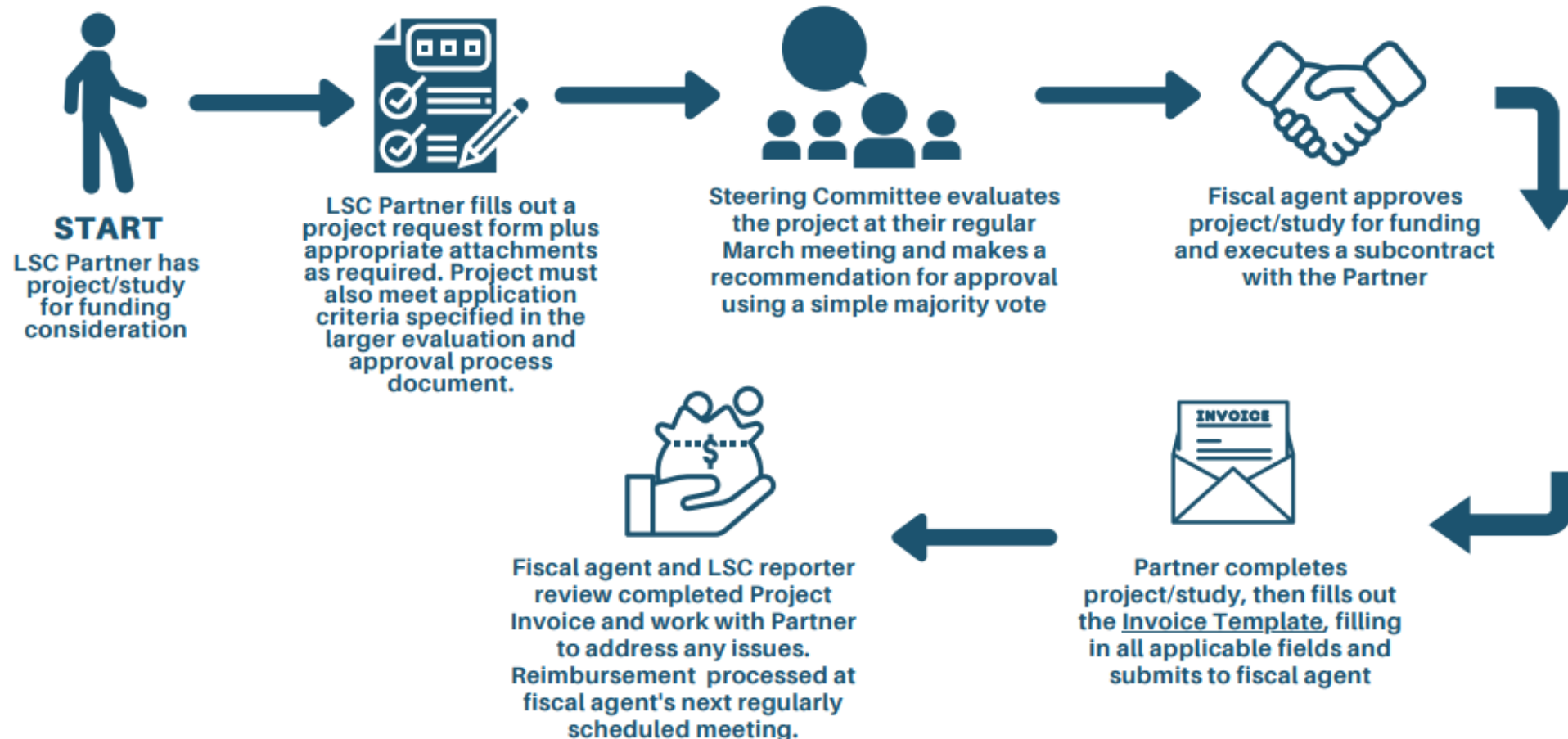
# Review process for proposed WBIF projects **under \$50,000**



Please refer to the document "WBIF Proposed Project Evaluation and Approval Process for the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership" for additional details.



**Project Application Deadlines:** 2 weeks before the scheduled February, May and August Steering Committee meetings (specific deadline dates will be included in annual December call for projects)

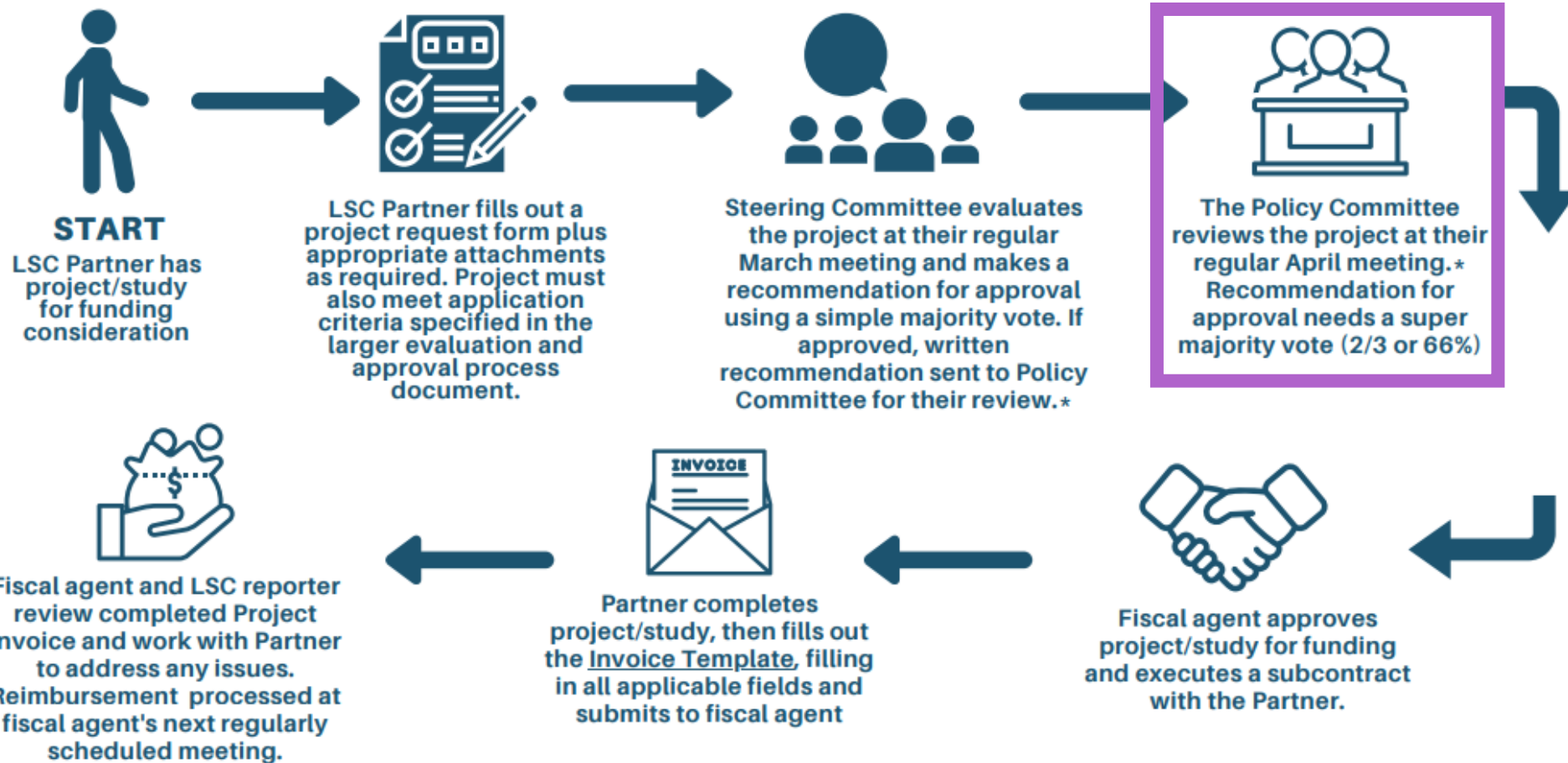


# Review process for proposed WBIF projects $\geq \$50,000$

Please refer to the document "WBIF Proposed Project Evaluation and Approval Process for the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership" for additional details.



**Project Application Deadline:** 2 weeks before the scheduled March Steering Committee meeting (specific deadline date will be included in annual December call for projects)



\*See evaluation and process document for discussion around non-recommended projects.





## LSC WBIF Grants & Work in CLFLWD

Funds rec'd by CLFLWD = ~\$380K

- Sunrise River Project: \$300,449
- Forest Lake Internal Load Assessment: \$16,500
- Wyoming Enhanced Street Sweeping Study: \$5,712
- Diagnostic Monitoring Protocols: \$3,000
- Admin/Reporting Assistance: \$8,000
- Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Feasibility: \$45,798

Plus...

Carnelian-Marine-St. Croix WD and WCD completed the Scandia Enhanced Street Sweeping Study

City of Wyoming directly receives enhanced street sweeping incentives (\$20K awarded to date)



Sunrise River Project



Forest Lake Internal Load Assessment



Enhanced Street Sweeping



## LSC WBIF Grants & Work in CLFLWD

Summary: There have been three rounds of WBIF Implementation Funding awarded to the Partnership thus far totaling \$4.6 million.

An estimated \$3.8 million has been spent or encumbered to date; of the funds spent/encumbered:

|             |  |
|-------------|--|
| 47%         | has gone to shared services/basin wide initiatives benefitting all partners                                  |
| 3%          | has gone to cities for enhanced street sweeping implementation   |
| 29%         | has gone to watershed districts (10% went to CLFLWD, 15% went to South Washington WD, 5% went to Car Mar WD) |
| 21%         | has gone to SWCDs  |
|             |  |
| \$1,822,926 | has gone to shared services/basin wide initiatives benefitting all partners                                  |
| \$2,054,363 | has gone to partner-specific initiatives (i.e., project requests)  |
| \$368,459   | has gone to CLFLWD-specific initiatives  |
| 18%         | Of the WBIF not dedicated to shared services/basin wide initiatives, CLFLWD has rec'd 18% of funding         |
| \$136,958   | If that \$2 million above were split evenly between 15 partners, it would be \$137K per partner              |
| 7%          | meaning each partner would receive 7% of the remaining funding   |