

**RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP
MEETING AGENDA**

August 22, 2018
Minnesota DOT meeting room
1000 Highway 10 W,
Detroit Lakes, MN

- 10:00 Introductions
- 10:10 Review and approve May meeting notes
- 10:20 Present FDRWG updated membership and committees lists
- 10:30 Present Black River Impoundment Compatibility and Readiness form
- 10:50 Discussion on Strategic Planning
- 11:45 Lunch on-site
- 12:30 Budget
- Budget Recap FY2018
 - FY2018 unallocated funds
 - FY 2019 Budget Final Review and Approval
 - IWI FY 2019 Project Monitoring Agreement
 - FY 2019 Additional Objectives and Funding Sources
- 1:15 Updates and committee reports/ discussion
- Communication Committee
 - TSAC update/Dates for meeting with RLWD
 - Legislative and funding related issues (Lisa/Rob)
- 1:30 Watershed District Updates
- 1:45 Agency and Organization Updates
- 2:00 Other Issues
- 2:30 Adjourn

**RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP
MEETING NOTES**

May 16, 2018

Tamarac Wildlife Refuge, Detroit Lakes, MN

These meeting notes are provided as a record for this meeting. ***Action Items are indicated in bold italicized text.***

Work Group members present: Rita Albrecht, Jerome Deal, Jim Courneya, Eddie Bernhardson, Greg Holmvik, Stephanie Miranowski, Gerald Van Amburg, Henry Van Offelen, Jim Ziegler, Stefan Bishchhof, Debra Walchuk, Theresa Ebbenga

Guests present: Kerry Ross, Chuck Fritz, Erik Jones, Tony Nordby, Blake Carlson, Nikki Swenson, Rob Sip, Leah Thvedt, Jim Courneya, Danni Halvorson, Nick Brown.

Introductions and Review Agenda Meeting agenda was reviewed and approved.

Review and approve October meeting notes. Highlights of the October meeting notes were reviewed and approved. Henry provided an update on the action items from the meeting and the FY18 objectives.

Discussion and feedback of result from small group exercise at conference. Kerry Ross presented the results and feedback gathered at the 2018 March Conference. She provided the attached notes from her presentation at our May meeting.

IWI Monitoring presentation. Danni Halvorson presented the IWI work plan and budget for project monitoring for FY 2019. For FY 2019 IWI has estimated costs will remain at \$85,000. The monitoring activities planned include continuing collection of water quality data at up to 70 sites associated with FDR projects and proposed project. Danni discussed the conditions monitoring being conducted in relation to the wetland assessments and reports being prepared by IWI. The Story maps being produced to provide a picture of water quality and condition associated with the projects were also demonstrated by Danni.

Discuss and affirm FDRWG membership and committees The current lists of FDRWG members, TSAC members and members of various committees were reviewed and updated. The updated list is attached.

Budget update

- Rob Sip reviewed the current status of line items in the FY18 budget. Costs for the March Conference and additional financial support received were discussed.
- A draft budget for FY 2019 was presented. The FDRWG forwarded it to the finance committee and scheduled a meeting. The FDRWG finance committee reviewed and approved the proposed budget at their June 12th meeting.

Acceleration Grant Applications Tony Nordby from Houston Engineering gave presentations on the Swift Coulee application made by MSTRWD and the Black River Impoundment application made by RLWD. Both projects received funding earlier in the fiscal year. The FDRWG decided to provide additional funding to the projects. Swift Coulee was granted an

additional \$5,000 of funding and Black River was granted \$8,000 due to the more advanced stage of the project.

Committee updates and reports

- Communications – A brief recap of the Annual conference was given.
- TSAC update – nothing new to report.
- Legislative update - Rob highlighted portions of the report to the RRWMB.

Watershed District Project Team Updates

The watershed updates were provided by representatives present from each watershed district.

Agency and Organization Updates

The agency and organization updates were provided by agency representatives.

Other Items

No other items were presented.

Meeting Adjourned at 3:30

FDRWG Meeting Notes
May 16, 2018
Discussion and feedback of results from small group exercise at conference

Kerry Ross, regional planner with the DNR, began the discussion with a summary of the small group exercise conducted at the RRWMB and FDRWG Joint Annual Conference held in March 2018. Conference attendees were given 6 discussion questions that revolved around current goals of the RRWMB and FDRWG. While the FDRWG members were provided with the full summary of all responses to all questions, the discussion at the FDRWG meeting revolved only around questions 2, 3, and 6 that specifically applied to FDRWG.

After a brief highlight of themes of responses to questions 2, 3, and 6, Kerry asked the group for their reaction to the feedback. Reaction from FDRWG members and meeting attendees are noted here:

1. Strategic planning should be considered for FDRWG. Participants in that process should include:
 - a. RRWMB
 - b. FDRWG
 - c. Agricultural interest groups
 - d. Farmers and landowners
2. In moving FDRWG forward, it is important to keep it in context of history. Some processes are in statute and would be extremely difficult to change.
 - a. Keep intention of Mediation Agreement in tact
 - b. Technical papers could be a source of information; some need updating
 - c. Involvement of agencies is unique, and important
 - d. Need to provide information to watershed districts
3. Need to evaluate current goals
 - a. Consider forming a subcommittee of the FDRWG to serve in this role
 - b. Consider looking beyond flood damage reduction
 - i. Water QUALITY, not just quantity
 - c. Expanded goals may lead to expanded potential for funding projects
4. Consider looking at building unique niches that are not otherwise served
 - a. Sustainable agriculture may be one opportunity
5. Enhance communication
 - a. Remind people of the technical papers, serve as a good resource of information
 - b. Include landowners on communication target
 - c. Include SWCD's on communication target
6. Review of the original Mediation Agreement
 - a. What has changed in the last 20 years?
 - b. What do we know now that we didn't know then?
 - c. Strategies section should be reviewed thoroughly
 - d. Principles section should be reviewed thoroughly
 - e. Make updates/revisions via addendum, vs. revision (too time consuming – legislative approval, signatures, etc.)

7. Technical Papers need review and updating
 - a. This can be done via direction from FDRWG to TSAC
 - b. Guidance, design and operation for impoundments may be an important topic for a new technical paper
8. Terminology
 - a. Based on background and education, people may define terms differently. Be sure terms are clearly defined in any updates or new documents created.
 - b. "Function" is something that stakeholders have not yet been able to assign a value to, but deemed important, may be more a quality value than a quantifiable value
 - c. "Benefit" is something that has a dollar value assigned
 - d. "Cost Benefit Analysis" can be calculated because of the dollar value, factoring in functions make it more difficult to determine return on investment of project
 - i. What other means to define problem/need could be used?
 - ii. What other means to determine return on investment could be used/prioritizing projects for funding support?
9. Are we just about impoundments?
 - a. Define goals of impoundments
 - b. Look at other models that may be used successfully
 - c. LCCMR or Lessard Sans may have models of prioritization that could be adapted for FDRWG
 - d. Establish clear criterion for project assessment/funding within application process
 - e. How to follow through with O & M for the long-term
 - f. Expand strategies to go beyond impoundments
10. Update best management practices
 - a. Technical paper #3 is outdated
11. Is the 20% flood reduction goal still applicable?
 - a. 20% is a RRWMB goal
 - b. 100 year protection is the FDRWG goal
 - c. Have either of these goals been achieved?
 - i. What cities are not yet protected from 100 year flood or a 20% reduction?
12. Climate change needs to be considered across the board
 - a. Consider the impact of climate change in all technical papers
13. 2019 Annual Conference will focus on innovation
 - a. Invite engineering companies to share information on new methods they have read about, seen, or implemented
14. Reminder that water protection is a year round issue for agricultural protection, not just spring flooding
15. If strategic planning is pursued, components that should be considered include:
 - a. Mediation Agreement
 - b. RRWMB representation
 - c. FDRWG does not necessarily need to align with RRWMB goals, but certainly should not conflict
 - d. FDRWG has a broader scope than RRWMB

ACTION ITEMS

1. Update TSAC membership – see agenda item on review of committee membership
2. Ask TSAC members to review current papers
 - a. TP #3 needs to be updated
 - b. Prioritize other papers for updates
 - c. Seek other topics that should be researched and written
 - d. Encourage to consult with TAC
 - e. Ask TSAC to report back to FDRWG on which papers need updates and other topics that should be researched
3. Establish sub-committee of FDRWG to engage in facilitated discussion/strategic planning
 - a. Outcome – Sub-committee is asked to review items noted and bring suggestions back to FDRWG for discussion and direction on action
 - b. Topics/items to be reviewed:
 - i. Mediation agreement
 - ii. Conference feedback
 - iii. Funding/financing
 - iv. Review and prioritize current goals
 1. Edit current goals
 2. Add new goals as deemed appropriate
 - v. Review project team process for possible edits
 - vi. Seek a holistic view on FDRWG work within the Basin along with other groups
 - vii. Define what our work includes
 - c. Members identified
 - i. RRWMB
 1. Rob Sip should be a member
 2. **ACTION – request will be made of RRWMB to appoint member representative on this sub-committee**
 - ii. Henry VanOffelen
 - iii. Jim Ziegler
 - iv. Chuck Fritz
 - v. Theresa Ebbenga
 - vi. Rodger Hemphill – serve as committee organizer and recorder
 - vii. Nicole Bernd – SWCD rep – **ACTION – Henry will invite Nicole**
 - viii. Landowner rep Brian – **ACTION – Rob will invite Brian or other landowner**
 - ix. Federal Agencies
 1. NRCS – Deb will participate
 2. Red River Retention Authority – Keith Weston **ACTION – Deb will invite Keith**

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Membership – May, 2018

Jerome Deal - RRWMB (co-chair)
Rita Albrecht - MN DNR (co-chair)
Dan Money - RRWMB
Jason Braaten - RRWMB
Greg Holmvik - RRWMB
Vacant - RRWMB Alternate
LeRoy Ose - RRWMB Alternate
Theresa Ebbenga - MN DNR
Craig Jarnot - St. Paul District, USACE
Vacant- St. Paul District, USACE Alternate
John Jaschke - MN BWSR
Henry Van Offelen - MN BWSR Alternate
Jim Ziegler - Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Jim Courneya - MPCA Alternate
Ryan Frohling - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Laurie Fairchild - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Alternate
Vacant – County Government Representative
Vacant- Citizen and Landowner
Eddie Bernhardson - Citizen
Gerald Van Amburg – Citizen
Chuck Fritz - Citizen Alternate
Debra Walchuk – USDA NRCS
Kelly Turgeon – USDA Farm Services Agency
Stefan Bishof- MN Dept. of Agriculture
Jeppe Kjaersgaard - MN Dept. of Agriculture Alternate
Shane Bowe- Red Lake Nation
Vacant - environmental/conservation organization rep.
Brian Lacey - Agricultural Representative

FDR Work Group Committees

Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (TSAC)

Consultant Engineer	Chuck Johnson
Al Kean (retirement)	Christine Herwig
Nate Dalager	Henry Van Offelen
DNR Engineer	Chuck Fritz
Rob Sip	Jeppe Kjaersgaard

Finance Committee

Rob Sip	Jim Ziegler
Nikki Swenson	Pat Lynch
Jerome Deal	Jason Braaten
Rita Albrecht	Rodger Hemphill

Communications Committee

Rob Sip	Henry Van Offelen
Nikki Swenson	Jim Ziegler
Pete Waller	Kerry Ross
Rodger Hemphill	Rita Albrecht
Julie Goehring	Nichole Bernd
Eddie Bernhardson	

WQ Monitoring Committee (ad hoc)

Danni Halvorson	Rob Sip
Chuck Fritz	Henry Van Offelen
Evelyn Ashiamah-Finch	Jim Courneya
Rodger Hemphill	

Work Group Contact:

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SECTION 4C(2). PROJECT FUNDING

FDRWG Project Compatibility and Readiness Form

PROJECT NAME Black River Impoundment

PROJECT PROPOSER Red Lake Watershed District

DATE OF THIS EVALUATION 7-23-18

EVALUATORS Myron Jesme

Use of this Form: This form is for projects that are eligible for or that have received a portion of required State of Minnesota Capital Bonding funds. The FDRWG will use the information in this form to make a recommendation regarding funding eligibility and readiness of this project. The instructions for each section are in the boxes at the head of the section.

Compatibility with FDR Objectives

This category identifies the project’s consistency with established goals, principles, and strategies for Flood Damage Reduction. Section A: Identify the statement that most accurately reflects your project’s flood damage reduction effects for each item. Add up the pluses and minuses at the end. Section B: record the information about the project using TSAC Technical Paper 11 as a reference (available at www.rrwmb.org under Resources).

A. Consistency with Mediation Agreement FDR Goals (Net Downstream Impacts)

- A.1 People and Property Flood Damage Reduction
 - (---)___ A.1.1 Increased potential flooding of homes, farm structures, or communities
 - (0)___ A.1.2 No homes, farm structures, or communities affected by project
 - (+++) A.1.3 Project will reduce flood potential for homes, farm structures, or communities

Provide specific Description and Location for A.1.1 or A.1.3:

Downstream from the impoundment site along the Black River and also upstream where waters will be diverted into the impoundment site.

- A.2 Transportation Flood Protection
 - (--)_ A.2.1 Project will increase flood damages to transportation
 - (0)___ A.2.2 Project has no effect on transportation flood damage potential
 - (++) A.2.3 Project will reduce flood damages to transportation

Provide specific Description and Location for A.2.1 or A.2.3:

Downstream from the impoundment site along the Black River and also upstream where waters will be diverted into the impoundment site.

- A.3 Flooding Effects on Intensively Farmed Agricultural Land
- (-) ___ A.3.1 Increased crop damage on intensively farmed ag land
- (0) ___ A.3.2 No effect on crops of intensively farmed ag land
- (+) ___ A.3.3 Protects crops on intensively farmed ag land up to 10-year summer storm event
- (++) A.3.4 Protects crops on intensively farmed ag land at greater than the 10-year summer storm event when feasible at a minimal incremental cost

Provide specific Description and Location for A.3.1, A.3.3 or A.3.4:
 Diversion ditches are design to handle the 10-year 24 hour storm event and outlet into the impoundment site. These diversion ditches will also decrease the impacts caused by events larger than the 10-year 24 hour storm events.

- A.4 Flooding Effects on Water Quality
- (-) A.4.1 Project includes measures that reduce runoff storage or increase conveyance capacity resulting in increased turbidity
- (+) A.4.2 Project includes measures that increase runoff storage or reduce flood volume resulting in reduced turbidity
- (+) A.4.3 Project includes measures that will improve water quality, other than turbidity. Describe:

Total Number of (+) 8 Total Number of (-) 0

**B. Consistency with TSAC Technical Paper 11: FDR Framework
 (Table 1: Expected RR Mainstem Peak Flow Reduction Effects)**

Use the table below to record information about each of the FDR Measures of this project as listed in Table 1 of TP 11. Each FDR Measure has its own footprint and for each of these footprints *only one* FDR Measure can be listed (e.g. do the rating for an ungated impoundment *or* a wetland restoration, not both on the same footprint). In order for the effects ratings to apply (i.e. + or -) the specific measure as planned for the project must be consistent with the guidance for operation and design in the Flood Damage Reduction Measures section of TSAC TP 11; pg. 24-36. Negative (-) effects must be explained below as to how those effects will be minimized or mitigated.

Flood Damage Reduction Measures (from Table 1 p. 9 of this form)	Timing Zone (E,M,L) of Project Drainage Area (Fig 24 see p.10)	RR Effects (+ or -) (Table 1, see p. 9)
Gated Impoundments	M	++

Explanation:

- C. Contribution to Mainstem Flow Reduction Goals (RRBC)**
[Currently undeveloped. This is a placeholder for when tributary goals are established.]

Compatibility with NRE Objectives

- A. List the NRE Features associated with this project:**

Enhance existing upland and aquatic habitats.
Enhance waterfowl habitat diversity.
Improve water quality.

Project Readiness

This category evaluates a project's readiness for FDR program funding. Use checkmarks to indicate the project's status for each of the item, A-H. Use no more than one checkmark per item unless otherwise indicated. Leave item blank if none of the options apply. **For items highlighted in Yellow or Red, provide explanation about project readiness with respect to timing of the next bonding cycle.**

- A. Project Team Support**

- A.1** (R) Project Team not formed for this project
- A.2** (R) Project Team does not have a recommended project
- A.3** (Y) Project Team majority support of recommended project
- A.4** (G) All Project Team members can live with the recommended project

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

- B. Acquisition of Land Rights (can have more than one checkmark)**

- B.1** (R) Land acquisition issues not identified
- B.2** (R) Significant difficulties with acquisition of land rights expected
- B.3** (R) Project proposer waiting for willing seller(s)
- B.4** (Y) Acquisition of land rights proceeding with landowner opposition
- B.5** (Y) Acquisition of land rights proceeding without landowner opposition
- B.6** (G) Land or use rights acquired

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

- C. Project Operating and Monitoring Plans**

- C.1 Project Operating Plan
- C.1.1**(R) Operating plan not addressed
 - C.1.2**(Y) Operating plan under development
 - C.1.3**(G) Project has draft operating plan
 - C.1.4**(G) Project has an approved operating plan
 - C.1.5**(G) Project does not need an operating plan

- C.2 Project Monitoring Plan (see TSAC TP9 for guidance)
- C.2.1**(R) Monitoring plan not addressed
 - C.2.2**(Y) Monitoring plan under development
 - C.2.3**(G) Project has draft monitoring plan
 - C.2.4**(G) Project has an approved monitoring plan

**For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:
Monitoring plan development underway.**

D. Watershed Board Approvals

- D.1**(R) No Preliminary Engineers report
- D.2**(Y) Preliminary Engineers report ordered
- D.3**(Y) Preliminary Engineers report approved
- D.4**(G) Public Hearing
- D.5**(G) Final Engineers report approved
- D.6**(G) Order to Proceed

**For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:
Public Hearing Set for August 9th.**

E. Funding Status

- E.1 Total Project Cost Information
- E.1.1 Total Project Cost \$ 8 million
 - E.1.2 Total State FDR Bonding Share \$ 4 million (50 % of project cost)
 - E.1.3 Total State non-FDR Bonding Share \$ 0
 - E.1.4 Total non-State Share \$ 4 million
 - E.1.5**(G) State FDR Bonding already under contract/received \$
[Also check the corresponding item in the summary on page 8]

- E.2 State FDR Bonding Application Status for this Request
- E.2.1 State FDR Bonding this Request/Phase* \$ \$4 Million
 - E.2.2**(Y) No funding request/application submitted to DNR
 - E.2.3**(G) Project application submitted (accepted)

When the project is proposed to be constructed in “stand alone” phases attach a description of each phase and expected cost, identifying bonding dollars needed and fiscal year schedule for each phase.

- E.3 Non-State Match for this Request/Phase \$ 4 million

_____ **E.3.1**(R) Funding Sources for Required Match Not Identified

Project Proposer Share	Amount \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. committed \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
Partner 1 _____	Amt. anticipated \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. applied for \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. committed \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
Partner 2 _____	Amt. anticipated \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. applied for \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. committed \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
Partner 3 _____	Amt. anticipated \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. applied for \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____
	Amt. committed \$ _____	% of Non-state match _____

_____ **E.3.2**(R) Non-State match insufficient for this request/phase

_____ **E.3.3**(R) Sufficient Non-State funds anticipated

_____ **E.3.4**(Y) Sufficient Non-State funds applied for or requested

X _____ **E.3.5**(G) Sufficient Non-State funds committed

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

F. Environmental Review Status

_____ **F.1**(R) Environmental review requirements not determined

_____ **F.2**(R) Environmental review requirements identified

_____ F.2.1 State EAW required (Mand. Cat. _____)

_____ F.2.2 State EIS required (Mand. Cat. _____)

_____ F.2.3 Fed. EA required

_____ F.2.4 Fed. EIS required

_____ **F.3**(Y) Environmental review in process

_____ **F.4**(G) Environmental review completed

X _____ **F.5**(G) Environmental review not required

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

G. Regulatory Status (list all permits/approvals)

G.1 Corps 404 Concurrence Point Process

_____ (G)no jurisdiction

_____ (G)qualifies for general permit

_____ (R) prior to or at concurrence point 1 approval

_____ (Y)concurrence point 2 approval

_____ (G)concurrence point 3 approval

_____ (G)concurrence point 4 or permit issued

G.2 DNR Public Waters/Dam Safety Permit

- (G)no jurisdiction
- (Y)director's report response received
- (Y) permit not applied for
- (Y)permit applied for
- (G)permit received

G.3 NPDES Stormwater Permit (MPCA)

- (Y)permit/approval not applied for
- (Y)permit/approval applied for
- (G)permit/approval received

G.4 Permit/Approval 2 _____

- (R)permit/approval not applied for
- (Y)permit/approval applied for
- (G)permit/approval received

G.5 Permit/Approval 3 _____

- (R)permit/approval not applied for
- (Y)permit/approval applied for
- (G)permit/approval received

_____ G.6 Additional permit/approval status listed on attachment

_____ **G.7**(R) All required permits and approvals have not been identified

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

H. Consistency with Approved Local Plans

[WD plans, land use plans, local water plan, SWCD comp plan]

_____ **H.1**(Y) Project inconsistent with any local plan

X _____ **H.2**(G) Project consistent with all local plans

For Red and Yellow provide Explanation:

External Support and Partnerships

This category looks at the amount of political support or opposition for a project and which partners are involved. Use checkmarks to indicate which item describes the project for each of the factors A-D. For items highlighted in **Yellow(Y)** provide an explanation with respect to the timing of the bonding cycle.

A. Local Landowner Support (in and around project)

_____ **A.1**(Y) Significant landowner opposition (in funding timeframe)

X _____ **A.2**(G) No significant landowner opposition

For Yellow provide Explanation:

B. Political Support

B.1a Local political: (indicate twp) Polk Centre, Bray, Sanders, & Black River

B.1a.1 (Y) opposition

B.1a.2 (Y) unknown

B.1a.3 (G) neutral

B.1a.4 (G) support

B.1b Local political: (indicate county) Pennington

B.1b.1 (Y) opposition

B.1b.2 (Y) unknown

B.1b.3 (G) neutral

B.1b.4 (G) support

B.1c Local political: (indicate city) Thief River Falls

B.1c.1 (Y) opposition

B.1b.2 (Y) unknown

B.1b.3 (G) neutral

B.1b.4 (G) support

B.2. State (other than project team members) (can have more than one checkmark)

B.2.1 (Y) State government officials/legislators opposed to project

B.2.2 (Y) State government officials/legislators not aware of project

B.2.3 (G) State government officials/legislators neutral

B.2.4 (G) State government officials/legislators support for project

B.2.5 (G) Project received special state designation/recognition (e.g., governor's pilot project, earmarked funds in legislation)
[Also check the corresponding item in the summary below]

B.3 Federal (other than project team members) (can have more than one checkmark)

B.3.1 (Y) Federal government officials/legislators opposed to project

B.3.2 (Y) Federal government officials/legislators not aware of project

B.3.3 (G) Federal government officials/legislators neutral

B.3.4 (G) Federal government officials/legislators support for project

B.3.5 (G) Project received special Federal designation/recognition (e.g., special congressional authorization, earmarked funds in legislation)

For Yellow provide Explanation:

C. Non Governmental Organization Support

Name of NGO _____: **Support** (G) _____ **Opposed** (Y) _____

Name of NGO _____: **Support** (G) _____ **Opposed** (Y) _____

Name of NGO _____: **Support** (G) _____ **Opposed** (Y) _____

For Yellow provide Explanation:

No Non Governmental Organization is Opposed to Proposed Project

D. Participating Partner Programs

(Check all that apply as to whether project program has been considered, and/or program is part of the project.)

<u>Considered</u>	<u>Participating</u>	
_____	_____	CREP/WREP (Cons. Reserve/Wetland Reserve Enhancement Programs)
_____	_____	RIM (Reinvest in Minnesota)
_____	_____	CRP/CCRP/WRP (Conservation Reserve/Continuous Conservation/Wetland Reserve Programs)
_____	_____	CSP (Conservation Security Program)
_____	_____	319
_____	_____	TMDL (Total Maximum Daily Load)
_____	_____	Clean Water Partnership
_____	_____	Clean Water Legacy
_____	_____	Challenge Grants
_____	_____	Corps 206/1135 Habitat Restoration
_____	_____	WMA (state wildlife management area)
_____	_____	WPA (federal waterfowl production area)
_____	<u>X</u> _____	Other (specify) NRCS EQIP

Other Issues

Provide additional information relevant to items listed below as they apply to project readiness or compatibility with Mediation Agreement goals and objectives. Additional information may be added by FDRWG members during review of this project.

- A. Local Issues**
- B. Caution Flags**
- C. Consistency with Basin-wide Priorities**
- D. Other Priorities/Information**

Summary of Project Compatibility and Readiness

The following information is transferred from the preceding sections.

FDR Compatibility: A. 8 + ___ - B. ___ + 0 -

NRE Compatibility: under development

Special Considerations for Priorities (repeated from above)

- _____ E.1.3 State FDR Bonding previously under contract/received
- X_____ B.2.5 Project received special state designation/recognition (e.g., governor's pilot project, earmarked funds in legislation)

_____ B.3.5 Project received special Federal designation/recognition (e.g., special congressional authorization, earmarked funds in legislation)

Project Readiness

_____ 6 (# of **Green**) _____ 6 (# of **Yellow**) _____ 0 (# of **Red**)

External Support and Partnerships

_____ 7 (# of **Green**) _____ 0 (# of **Yellow**)

Funding Priority

To be completed by FDRWG.

Project is Compatible with Mediation Agreement _____ **Yes** _____ **No**

Not Determined _____

Explanation:

Project Ready for Bonding:

	Fiscal Year
_____ Immediate	_____
_____ Second year of cycle	_____
_____ May be ready in next Bonding Cycle	_____

**RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP
FY 2019 Budget**

Minnesota's Flood Damage Reduction Work Group is working to ensure the full implementation of the 1998 Mediation Agreement. This spending plan identifies sufficient funds to continue a reasonable level of planning, project development, coordination, and oversight of the project team process.

Work Item	FY18	FY19
Project Team Support	120,000	120,000
Project Monitoring	95,000	95,000
Project Acceleration Grants	23,000	23,000
TSAC: Coordination and projects	11,000	11,000
Work Group Meetings and Conference	10,000	10,000
Communications and Outreach	5,000	5,000
Total	264, 000	264,000

**RED RIVER BASIN FLOOD DAMAGE REDUCTION WORK GROUP
FY 2018 Budget**

Work Item	FY18	Remaining Funds FY18
Project Team Support	120,000	12,150.55
Project Monitoring	95,000	12,726.48
Project Acceleration Grants	23,000	0
TSAC: Coordination and projects	11,000	11,000
Work Group Meetings and Conference	10,000	0
Communications and Outreach	5,000	2478.28
Total	264, 000	38,355.31
<i>*Project Monitoring \$2,726.48 will be carried forward.</i>		

**Red River Watershed Management Board
Mediation Income/Expense FY2017**

	Approved	Received		Overage	Percentage	Overage		Amount Remaining
	Amount	Amount	Expenditures	Submitted	of Overage	Available	Transfer In/(Out)	To Allocate
Work Group Meetings and Conference	10,000.00		12,521.72				2,521.72	0.00
Project Monitoring								0.00
Water Quality								0.00
Other Monitoring			2,726.48					-2,726.48
Total Monitoring	95,000.00	0.00	82,273.52	0.00			-10,000.00	2,726.48
Distributed Detention Strategy								0.00
RRWMB								0.00
BRRWD								0.00
Total Distributed Detention Strategy								0.00
Communications and Outreach	5,000.00						-5,000.00	0.00
Project Development Grants	23,000.00		23,000.00					0.00
TSAC Coordination								0.00
WSN								0.00
HDR								0.00
Other	11,000.00							11,000.00
TSAC Projects								0.00
Culvert Sizing Phase II								0.00
Project Assessment								0.00
Total TSAC Coordination	11,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			-11,000.00	0.00
Watershed District Support								0.00
PT Support							23,478.28	0.00
Bois de Sioux WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	40,455.52	7.22%	\$ 2,572.71		0.00
Buffalo-Red River WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	21,847.91	3.90%	\$ 1,389.39		0.00
Middle River-Snake River WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	47,550.17	8.49%	\$ 3,023.89		0.00
Red Lake WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	325,378.97	58.08%	\$ 20,692.03		0.00
Roseau River WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	44,067.69	7.87%	\$ 2,802.43		0.00
Sand Hill River WD	15,000.00		13,058.48		0.00%	\$ -		1,941.52
Two Rivers WD	15,000.00		4,790.97		0.00%	\$ -		10,209.03
Wild Rice WD	15,000.00		15,000.00	80,957.45	14.45%	\$ 5,148.38		0.00
PT Support - Other								0.00
Total PT Support	120,000.00	0.00	107,849.45	560,257.71		35,628.83	23,478.28	12,150.55
Total Watershed District Support	120,000.00	0.00	107,849.45	560,257.71			23,478.28	35,628.83
Total Mediation	264,000.00	0.00	225,644.69	560,257.71			0.00	12,150.55

Letter Agreement

Parties

The International Water Institute (IWI) is a non-profit watershed education and research organization working in the Red River of the North basin.

The MN Flood Damage Reduction Work (FDRWG) group was formed in 1992 to address issues related to the development of flood damage reduction projects in that portion of the Red River of the North Basin in Minnesota.

This agreement supersedes any previously dated agreement between these parties.

This Agreement is made this 1st day of June, 2018, between and among FDRWG and the IWI

Purpose

The purpose of this Letter of Agreement is to guide and direct the parties' respective efforts to acquire water quality and floristic quality data at proposed and existing FDRWG project sites and enable IWI staff to provide coordination, technical assistance, training and reporting to and for the FDRWG and respective watershed districts.

Term

This Letter of Agreement shall commence on July 1st 2018 and end on June 30th, 2019. Thereafter, the term shall be extended upon agreement of both parties for a period of one (1) year.

Resource Commitments – IWI Work plan

Objective 1: Monitoring and Data Management as identified in the KCWRP #11 Fen Surface Water Quality Monitoring Work plan.

Tasks

- Collect field data (up to 70 samples) for DO, temp, pH, conductivity, secchi tube, field notes, water level, and photos. Continuous field data collection at Lat13 SD 72 ice free months.
- Collect water chemistry (up to 70 samples) for Total Suspended Solids, Total Phosphorous, Ammonia Nitrogen, Alkalinity, Total Kjeldahl Nitrogen, and Potassium.
- Submit water quality data each year by December 1st to the project sponsor.

Objective 2: Coordination, Wetland Monitoring, Training, and Technical Assistance

Tasks

- Lead and facilitate quarterly or as needed MAC meetings.
- Coordinate with MAC members and provide annual Water Quality Training for basin partners.
- Attend TSAC, FDR Workgroup and FDR project team meetings as needed and provide monitoring planning assistance.
- Lead and facilitate the FQA monitoring planning process. Determine monitoring schedule and reporting details.
- Coordinate vegetative plant community monitoring activities.

Objective 3: Project Condition Reporting (occurs as directed by TSAC)

Tasks

- Assemble and maintain a central database for all FDRWG projects in the MN Portion of the Red River Basin.
- Complete project condition reports which incorporate all available monitoring data for the projects as assigned by the FDR Coordinator (Rodger H.)
- Provide reports in a web-friendly format and post to web.

Implementation

All work will be done in the State of Minnesota.

Notices

All notices or demands required under this Letter of Agreement shall be in writing and shall be deemed to have been duly given when: a) physically received in hand by the party to whom directed; or b) when sent by certified U. S. Mail, return receipt requested, postage prepaid, to the other party at the following address (or at such other addresses given in writing by either party to the other);

Compensation for Services

Payment will be on a reimbursement basis. 50% of all requests will be matched with Non-State funds. The IWI shall submit invoices to the MN FDRWG for approval and payment at least quarterly. The Institute budget for services will not exceed \$85,000 unless both parties agree to amend this agreement. The budget categories include:

Project Budget

BUDGET ITEM	<u>Objective 1</u>	<u>Objective 2</u>	<u>Objective 3</u>	TOTAL
				BUDGET
	<i>Klondike Water Quality Monitoring</i>	<i>Coordination, Training, Tech, rFQA</i>	<i>Project Condition Reporting</i>	
Personnel	\$15,252.00	\$34,300.00	\$13,400.00	\$62,952.00
rFQA Monitoring		\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00
Travel Reimbursement \$0.54/mile (6482 miles)	\$2,268.00	\$1,500.00		\$3,768.00
Shipping	\$280.00			\$280.00
Lab Analysis	\$6,650.00			\$6,650.00
Equipment	\$600.00			\$600.00
Other Supplies	\$750.00			\$750.00
COLUMN TOTAL	\$25,800.00	\$45,800.00	\$13,400.00	\$85,000.00

Entire Understanding

This Letter of Agreement sets forth the entire arrangement between the parties and supersedes all prior oral and written understandings, representations, and discussions between the parties respecting the subject matter of this letter.

Governing Law

This Letter of Agreement shall be governed by and subject to the laws of the State of Minnesota.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto affixed their signatures on the date indicated to signify their acceptance of this Letter of Agreement.

International Water Institute

MN Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Signature: _____

Title: Executive Director

Administrator/Chair

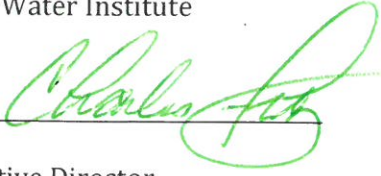
Date: _____

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have hereunto affixed their signatures on the date indicated to signify their acceptance of this Letter of Agreement.

International Water Institute

MN Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

Signature: _____



Title: Executive Director

Administrator/Chair

Date: _____

8/14/18

Watershed District Reports

August 22, 2018 - FDR Work Group Meeting

Bois de Sioux

Redpath – In July, our board received a detailed presentation on the water quantity and quality motives behind the proposed Redpath Impoundment Project; regional flooding, channel erosion, and break-out flows will be eased. The engineers spent a great deal of time talking about the project design and recent changes to the original design. Currently, construction is broken into Phases 1a, 1b, 2, 3, and 4, at a total cost of around \$25,000,000. Permits will be completed this year; land acquisition and securement of funding remain.

Traverse County Ditch #52 – Moore Engineering has received positive feedback from the DNR regarding their proposed design concept to addressing sedimentation in Traverse County Ditch #52. Because TCD #52 is considered impaired, along with its outlet Lake Traverse, staff are pursuing multiple grant application opportunities.

Bois de Sioux RCPP – We recently hosted an economist, who is gathering data about the Doran Creek region and flooding costs.

Clean Water Ditch Retrofits – Last year's project, Traverse County Ditch #37, will be closed-out in September. Construction is nearing "substantially complete" on Wilkin County Ditch #8. Next year, we anticipate the improvement of Wilkin County Ditches #9 & #10; in 2020, we anticipate the repair of Judicial Ditch #11 and Judicial Ditch #6.

Buffalo - Red

Since our May, 2018 report, the Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) Mediation Project Team (PT) has met once, on August 9th. We are currently making plans for our annual Fall Tour, which will be held on Thursday, September 6th, at 1:30 PM. Tour notices will be sent out shortly. We've had a busy summer, and work efforts have concentrated on getting the Phase 1, Wolverton Creek Restoration, landowner options signed (20 landowners). Bids were opened on June 25, 2018. There were four (4) bidders. The Engineers' Estimate was \$2.1-\$2.2 million. The low bidder was Selling Brothers, Inc. with a bid of \$1,813,440. They expect to start on Phase 1 the week of August 20th. The project has two more phases, and is expected totally to cost \$10.4 million. Where possible, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) will be used to acquire the permanent easements. A Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed with Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) regarding the use of CREP and the construction and future maintenance of the project. Project funding is secured, including the use of watershed management fees (\$1M), A BWSR Targeted Watershed grant (\$2.8M), BRRWD contribution (\$2M), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (\$1.8M), Enbridge Pipeline (\$100K), and the use of CREP for easements (approx. \$2.6M). The Wilkin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) was hired to do the Phase 1 upland native grass seeding. Phase II easements will be mailed out around Labor Day. Hopes are that the entire project can be completed by the end of 2019.

Our workplan/budget for the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) was approved by BWSR, and we have now contacted agencies to put them on 60-day notice to provide their priority resource concerns. Advisory Committees are being formed (citizen/technical). The planning effort is tentatively scheduled for completion by 12/31/19.

A DNR protected waterway by the City of Glyndon has been surveyed, and problems identified. The problem is being guided through the Mediation Process by the Team.

Work continues on the Otter Tail River Restoration, with a landowner informational meeting held on July 10th. Studies by the Army Corps of Engineers (COE), a MPCA 319 grant, and a BWSR grant, are all scheduled to wrap up by the end of the year. Next steps will include engaging interested landowners and searching for implementation/construction funds.

In addition to the \$498,000 Clean Water Action (CWA) Section 319 grant secured earlier this year for a water quality project in the Upper Reaches of the Buffalo River in Becker County, the Watershed has also been selected for an on-site interview for a CWA Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Program. There were 41 applicants, which after a telephone interview have been narrowed down to 19 applicants, and after the field review, approximately 10 will be selected for projects/funding. The target area is Whiskey Creek by Kent.

The BRRWD has been an active participant with BWSR on their Working Lands Initiative. An agency meeting was held August 14th, and the BRRWD is looking at forming a Co-op with the Wilkin, Becker, Clay, and West Otter Tail SWCDs to hire a possible staff person, provide landowner incentives, and promote soil health and practices that improve water quality.

Kathy Fenger, BRRWD Administrative Assistant and HEI employee has been selected as the new Administrative Trainee. She will work with Administrator Albright over the course of the next 12-24 months as he plans for retirement.

Wild Rice

Goose Prairie. Staff is working with landowners to acquire flowage easements, and temporary and permanent right of way necessary for the project. A project team meeting was held with agency representatives. USFWS requested the channel be straightened for a small stretch with the hopes that an adjacent wetland could be restored through the process.

Lower Wild Rice. An application was made for additional funding from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage council. For Phase II, we are asking for an additional 5.008 million dollars. The additional funding is being requested in anticipation that it would provide continuity to the project once the easement program is available to landowners. The current accomplishment plan has been accepted by LSOHC. The Board authorized Chair to sign a MOU with BWSR for

planning and implementing the Lower Wild Rice Corridor Habitat Restoration Project, developing a RIM style program available to landowners along the corridor.

RCPP. The Green Meadow committee met to review public responses and determine future study focus. The committee determined that studies should continue regarding the dam location and localized concerns within the subwatershed district.

Red Lake

Four-Legged Lake Watershed PT – After meeting the Red River Retention Authority at their meeting on June 29, 2018, it was the consciences of the Board and project presenters that the possibility of moving forward with the project without completing the RCPP process, was probably the best alternative. This is not saying the RCPP process failed, but by using the RCPP process it was determined that this project could most likely proceed without this program.

Pine Lake Watershed PT – On June 29, 2018, Red Lake Watershed District and consultant for the RCPP process, met with the Red River Retention Authority Board to request additional funding to complete the process. To date the RRA is waiting for a determination from the NRCS to see if the funds the Authority is holding can be used for this recommendation.

Black River Impoundment – To date the Step I and Step II submittal has been made to the Red River Watershed Management Board. The RLWD has also applied for a Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant through the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources which was recently denied due to lack of bonding money. It is the hopes of the District that we can reapply this winter during the next legislative session. The RLWD has moved forward with the final engineering for this project and recently held its public hearing for the project in anticipation of getting the funding package together for construction.

The Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project – The project is proceeding into the design phase of the project with hopes that construction could begin Fall 2019. The preliminary engineers report has been filed, and a public hearing will be held in the coming months pending development of a complete funding package which includes establishment of a Water Management District. Other ID funding partners include the City of Thief River Falls, Pennington County, MnDOT, RRWMB, RLWD, FDR grant program, and private benefitting landowners. The Project maintains wide support based upon the multiple flood damage reduction benefits the project will provide.

Sand Hill

To be provided at the meeting.

Middle Snake Tamarac

Newfolden / Middle River Flood Damage Reduction Project Team - Since the placement of a significant portion of the town of Newfolden in the 1% Annual (100-Year) Chance Floodplain by FEMA, the focus of the project has been Newfolden and the surrounding areas. The floodplain designation is largely due to flow restrictions through a railway crossing within the Middle River running through the center of town.

An Alternatives Analysis has been completed and resulted in two preferred alternatives. Each of the two alternatives has an off-channel impoundment aspect near Newfolden. These sites will reduce the volume of runoff to the Middle River during spring flood events and large summer events. Preliminary Engineering has begun and field surveys for each alternative are complete.

A Step 1 has been submitted to the RRWMB for approval and a tour of the two preliminary sites was taken on August 21st after the RRWMB meeting. HDR is providing engineering services for this project.

Two Rivers

Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11- Currently we are working on Concurrence Point #2 with the USCOE, and we are on Review Point #3 in the RCPP/PL566 process. Design alternatives are being looked at and reviewed for both the flood damage reduction and the natural resources enhancement aspects of the project. We are currently looking at a 5 phase design, funding, and construction implementation plan.

Joe River

Nothing to report

Roseau River

To be provided at the meeting.

July ~ August 2018 International Water Institute Activity Report

FDR, Condition, Watershed, and SWAG Projects:

- The 2018 WPLMN project continues with a sampling schedule that is following hydrograph conditions throughout the fall months. Staff have completed load calculations working with 2016 flows and concentrations. Thirty-four (34) contract loads of the 42 are complete.
- BRRWD monitoring project for 2018 began in April. Samples are being collected monthly for bacteria, nutrients, and sediment at 27 sites through October 2018. Field and lab data will be submitted to the State system.
- MN Department of Ag pesticide project started in May. Seven (7) sites will be sampled in the Red River Basin for nutrients and pesticides. Two (2) sites; Pelican River at Fergus Falls and Red Lake River at Fisher will be sampled bi-monthly May through August. And five (5) sites; Snake at Alvarado, Tamarac at Stephen, Bois de Sioux at Doran, Sand Hill at Fertile and Grand Marais Creek will be sampled bi-monthly May through September.
- FDR monitoring at the Klondike project is suspended pending water level increases. Staff removed continuous monitoring equipment August 9, 2018. Grab samples were collected at five (5) sites bi-monthly and continuous sonde data collection at one (1) site from May 3, 2018 through last week.
- Klondike project rapid floristic quality assessment (rFQA) protocol work is being considered. Planning is underway to develop a monitoring strategy for the large area. This monitoring if completed will be pre-project monitoring of the Fen areas within the project area. All work is pending FDR fund award.

River Watch:

- The first ever River Watch Camp was held July 17 – 18, 2018 at the U of M Crookston. Ten (10) students participated in events from leadership activities to continuous monitoring station deployment and maintenance. Next summer the plans are being made to hold a similar Teacher Camp.
- IWI education staff attended the July 16, 2018 meeting of the MN Clean Water Council in St. Paul to report on River Watch activities and to discuss expanding programming to all of Minnesota. As a result of the July 16th meeting IWI was asked to attend the CWC Budget and Outcomes (BOC) committee meeting on August 3, 2018. Executive Director Fritz and Education Specialist Andy Ulven attended with Rob Sip and Lisa Frenette from the RRWMB. The result was that the BOC voted 3 -2 to recommend River Watch funding for the FY20-21 to be increased from \$250K to \$500K to allow for a MN state-wide River of Dreams (ROD) pilot project. This is only the first step in the process but is significant largely because the CWC has never recommended funding for past River Watch activities.
- IWI submitted for watershed education funding through the Red Lake River Corridor project. This funding if received would target communities and schools within the Red Lake River Watershed. Programming would include community paddle events and expanded ROD activities. This is the third time that this project funding has been submitted to the Greater MN Parks and Trails Commission.
- ND River of Dreams Project started July 1, 2018. The RRJWRD with cost share money from the NDSWC funded this watershed education and awareness project which will reach 16 schools and over 700 students in the RRJWRD member areas.

RRWMB Mainstem 20% Reduction Flood Damage Estimate – Green Meadow Preliminary BCA

- Meeting with Rob Sip and Jay Leitch to discuss the BCA manuscript August 14th.

PTMApp

- ND Red River Basin PTMApp Project.
 - Wild Rice River, Maple River, Bois de Sioux River, Upper Sheyenne, Middle Sheyenne, Lower Sheyenne, and Forest River.
 - 50 - 100% DEM conditioning completed.
 - Turtle River - Client review underway.
 - ND Wild Rice PTMApp data posted.
 - Park River - Conditioning completed. Developing PTMApp inputs.
 - Other ND RRB watersheds.
 - Wilson ~ 25% conditioning completed.
 - Goose ~ 25% conditioning completed.
 - Elm – conditioning started.
 - Work on Pembina / Border areas will be coordinated with MB partners.
- Otter Tail River Watershed – Conditioning plus PTMApp inputs finished – currently in third-party QC.
- Red Eye River Watershed– PTMApp inputs completed. 3rd party QA underway.
- MN Wild Rice – ready for PTMApp processing.
- Mustinka / BdSWD - ~50% conditioning completed.
- Roseau Watershed PTMApp workshop 5/30.
 - Preparing final LCCMR report – Due August 16th.
 - Implementation plan under development (HEI).

Stewardship/Sustainability

- SB&B Foods Inc. growers meeting scheduled for Sept 7th in Casselton, ND.
- Prep underway with Mosaic Fertilizer Inc.

Drained Basin (MN Red River Basin)

- Skype demonstration workshop scheduled August 24th.

Red River Basin LiDAR Collect

- NRCS, FEMA, ND State Water Commission and the US COE are collecting LiDAR data along the Red River mainstem (ND and MN) and selected ND counties (~\$235/square mile).
 - Emailed information to RRWMB and NDRRJWRD after with colleagues in MN and LiDAR vendor.

Runoff and Sediment Based Charge Option

- Presenting GIS method (with Al Kean, MN BWSR) at the August 16th MN Viewers Association meeting in Alexandria.

BTSAC Surface and Tile Drainage

- Presentation at the ND State Water Commission meeting August 9th.

Administration

- Situation/Target/Path IWI Strategic Planning Committee meeting July 20th.

Buffer Program Update: August 2018

BuffCAT Inventory

BuffCAT is back up and running from a two-week maintenance window in late July. We have included all of the updated compliance data from the SWCDs using this system or their own GIS system.

Through the remainder of this year, we ask that SWCDs please work to make use of the BuffCAT system a part of your regular buffer workload. It will be extremely helpful to be able to keep track of progress through this fall's November 1, 2018 compliance deadline.

Currently, we are sitting at about 99% compliance on Public Waters statewide, including the remaining waivers that are documented in BuffCAT. Our overall compliance rate is at approximately 95.3% on all water bodies.

While these numbers show great progress, there is still a lot of work to be done in the coming year. With that in mind, the SWCD, County and Watershed District staff working on the Buffer Program around the state are due a significant thanks for their efforts.

Even more than that, the landowners around the state who have brought their parcels into compliance or are in the planning/implementation steps of doing it on their properties deserve a HUGE THANK YOU!!

Buffer Enforcement Options

Seventy five counties have elected jurisdiction to enforce the Buffer Law, and 73 of those have an adopted local official control in place for enforcement. Two additional counties recently elected and are currently developing their official control.

Of the 73 adopted official controls, 14 are using previously established enforcement provisions in their ordinance, 22 are using APO only, and 37 are using a combination of these options.

Fourteen of the state's watershed districts have elected to enforce on their 103E public drainage systems beginning November 1, 2018. Of those, seven have already adopted a rule and the remaining 7 are currently in the development process.

Thank you to all of the counties and watershed districts who have chosen to take on the enforcement provisions of the buffer law at the local level.

Bemidji	Brainerd	Detroit Lakes	Duluth	Mankato	Marshall	Rochester	St Cloud
403 Fourth Street NW Suite 200 Bemidji, MN 56601 (218) 755-2600	1601 Minnesota Drive Brainerd, MN 56401 (218) 203-4470	26624 N. Tower Road Detroit Lakes, MN 56501 (218) 846-8400	394 S. Lake Avenue Suite 403 Duluth, MN 55802 (218) 723-4752	11 Civic Center Plaza Suite 300 Mankato, MN 56001 (507) 344-2826	1400 East Lyon Street Marshall, MN 56258 (507) 537-6060	3555 9 th Street NW Suite 350 Rochester, MN 55901 (507) 206-2889	110 Second St. South Suite 307 Waite Park, MN 56387

Enforcement Communications

SWCDs: Please remember that according to the buffer law language in Minn Stat 103F.48 Subd 7 (a), if the soil and water conservation district determines a landowner is not in compliance with this section, the district must notify the county or watershed district with jurisdiction over the noncompliant site and the board.

This means that even when BWSR is not the entity enforcing, we are required by statute to receive a copy of any notifications to a county or watershed district.

Counties and Watershed Districts: Please remember that according to the buffer law language in Minn Stat 103F.48 Subd 7 (a), the county or watershed district with jurisdiction (or the board) must provide the landowner with a list of corrective actions needed to come into compliance and a practical timeline to meet the requirements in this section. The county or watershed district with jurisdiction must provide a copy of the corrective action notice to the board.

This means that even when BWSR is not the entity enforcing the law, we are required by statute to receive a copy of any Corrective Actions Notices from a county or watershed district to a landowner.

When an SWCD, county, or watershed district is copying BWSR on the communications listed above please CC your respective [Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist](#) and your [Board Conservationist](#).

Buffers and Alternative Practices Pictures

We are always looking for good pictures of Buffers and Alternative Practices before, during, and after installation. Please send any pictures you may have or that you take in the coming months to me at tom.gile@state.mn.us. We have seen some great pictures this spring and are particularly interested in pictures of alternative practices. I look forward to seeing what comes in!

Other watercourses status

A few Counties and WDs are still in the process of adding their “other watercourses” to their local water management plans. Please remember when incorporating the summary as an addendum to the water plan, by adopting the summary submitted by the SWCD and providing notice to the agencies, organizations, and individuals that are required to receive a copy of the plan changes (including BWSR). This option assumes no additional changes, beyond incorporation of the summary of watercourses, are being made to the water plan.

If you have any questions on this process, please contact your BC or Buffer and Soil Loss Specialist.

Thank you

Thank you all for your efforts and your ideas. We look forward to connecting with you over the summer and as always if you have any comments or questions please don't hesitate to contact Tom Gile at tom.gile@state.mn.us or (507) 206-2894.