

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

January 23, 2025

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	January 9, 2025 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report dated January 22, 2025	Action
	2025 IRS Mileage Rate	Information
	2025 League of MN Cities Dues	Info/Action
	Huot Bank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149	Information
	Lost River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 17	Information
	SD 83 Project Area & Project Work Team Meeting	Information
	Mud River, RLWD Project No. 180C	Information
	Establish Project Numbers – 1W1P Match	Information
	RRWMB & FDRWG 26 th Annual Joint Conference	Information
	Administrator's Update	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information
	Managers' Updates	Information
	Adjourn	Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS

January 23, 2025	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
January 28, 2025	BWSR Watershed Manager Training
February 11, 2025	RRWMB Meeting, 9:00 am
February 12, 2025	SD 83 Flooding Concerns Project Work Team Meeting, 9:00 am
February 13, 2025	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
February 19-20, 2025	MN Watersheds Legislative Event, Radisson-Downtown St. Paul
February 27, 2025	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
March 5, 2025	Inter-Agency Meeting w/ USFWS/MnDNR, 9:00 am
March 18-19, 2025	RRWMB/FDRWG 26 th Annual Joint Conference, Moorhead

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
January 9, 2025

President, Gene Tiedemann, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office, Thief River Falls, MN.

Present: Managers: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, Tom Anderson, Brian Dwight, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, and Allan Page. Staff Present: Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Elaine Rychlock, Erick Huseeth, Nate Koland, Tony Olson, Lindsey Deselich, and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, and passed by unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the December 30, 2024, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to approve the December 30, 2024, Board meeting minutes, as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated January 8, 2025. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to approve the Financial Report dated January 8, 2025. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette reviewed the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Page, to approve the Auto Pay Vendors List. Motion carried.

Pennington County confirmed the re-appointment of Grant Nelson, for a 3-year term on the Board. Polk County confirmed the reappointment of Manager Sorenson, for a 3-year term on the Board. Red Lake County confirmed the reappointment of Manager Page, for a 3-year term on the Board.

Election of officers was conducted with President Tiedemann turning the meeting over to Vice-President, Terry Sorenson.

Manager Sorenson called for nominations for President. Manager Dwight nominated Gene Tiedemann for President. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, for nominations to cease and that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Gene Tiedemann for President of the Board. Motion carried.

Vice-President Sorenson turned the meeting over to President Tiedemann to conduct elections for the remaining Board positions.

Nominations were opened for the Vice-President. Manager Dwight nominated Terry Sorenson, seconded by Anderson. Manager Page nominated Sorenson, for the position of Vice-President. There was not a second to this motion. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no

further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Terry Sorenson for Vice-President of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the Secretary. Manager Page nominated LeRoy Ose. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for LeRoy Ose for Secretary of the Board. Motion carried.

Nominations were opened for the Treasurer. Manager Sorenson nominated Tom Anderson. Upon calling for further nominations three times, no further nominations were made. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Ose, that the Board cast a unanimous ballot for Tom Anderson for Treasurer of the Board. Motion carried.

President Tiedemann reviewed the Advisory Committee members. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, to approve the Advisory Committee members as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the committees for 2025. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the committees for 2025 as proposed and presented. Motion carried.

A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote that the regularly scheduled Board meetings be held at 9:00 A.M. at the Red Lake Watershed District Office on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month for the year 2025.

A motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Page, that the following institutions be designated as depositories for the RLWD: Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Dakota Heritage Bank of Red Lake Falls, American Federal Bank, and Edward Jones with the following signatures on the signature cards at the financial institutions: Gene Tiedemann, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Tom Anderson, Tammy Audette, and Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Conflict-of-Interest policy was reviewed by the Board. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Conflict-of-Interest Policy and have each Board member sign the Conflict-of-Interest policy and return it to staff member, Elaine Rychlock. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the invoice for the 2025 Minnesota Association of Watershed District's dues in the amount of \$7,500.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, in the amount of \$66,025, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Chief's Coulee Project, RLWD Project No. 46S, to Quality Spray Foam LLC dba Anderson Excavating. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette stated that the District was informed that we received a MnDNR Conservation Partners Legal (CPL) Grant in the amount of \$372,213 for the Huot Streambank

Habitat Improvement Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. The District is required to have a 10% match to the MnDNR CPL Grant. Audette will proceed with documentation to execute the grant.

Administrator Audette discussed applying for a MnDNR CPL Grant application for the Clearwater River Headcut Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. Applications are due by February 19, 2025. Audette noted that a 10% match would be required by the District, if we were awarded the grant. A motion was made by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve applying for a MnDNR CPL Grant application for the Clearwater River Headcut Stabilization Project. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the District's five year ditch plan which is required per MN State Statute, which includes surveying ditch systems to determine if the ditches are functioning adequately. District staff have set up a rotational system, where each system under the jurisdiction of the District will have a survey review completed. Audette noted that Project No. 48, JD 2 Branch A and Branch A-1; Project No. 113, Winsor-Hangaard; and Project No. 119, Polk County Ditch Improvements 104, 61, 47 and 94; have been surveyed and are in need of review by an engineer. Project 43B, Burnham Creek Channel will also require review by an engineer once the final survey is completed. Audette requested authorization from the Board to have a review of said ditch system surveys completed by an engineer. It was the consensus of the Board to have an engineer review the surveys and present an estimate to the Board for necessary repairs.

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Page, to approve the purchase of a FlowTracker 2 to be used for precisely defined sampling of water velocity across a wider range of environments. Motion carried.

The board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit. No. 24234, Casey Wangen, Crookston Township, Polk County. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed hiring a summer intern for the summer of 2025. The District has received one very qualified applicant to date. Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson to approve the hiring of a summer intern for 2025. Motion carried.

The 2025 MN Watershed's Legislative Event is coming up February 19 & 20 in St. Paul. Please let Melissa know if a Board member is planning on attending.

The 30th River Watch Forum will be held on February 26, 2025, at the Alerus Center in Grand Forks, ND. The event will take place from 9 am – 1 pm.

Administrator's Update:

- **Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P:** The BWSR Northern Committee Meeting approved the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P on January 6th. Manager Ose will present the report to the full BWSR Board on January 22nd.
- **RRWMB:** Audette and Manager Ose attended the RRWMB meeting on January 7, 2025, in Ada.
- Rob Sip and Andrew Graham met with Minnesota Homeland Security and Emergency Management staff to develop a state grant agreement for the Rural Flood Inundation Mapping update. Sip hopes to have the grant agreement available for their February 2025 meeting.
- **Pine Lake:** The lake elevation is currently at 1282.8; winter target is 1282.5. There is currently one stoplog out.
- **MS4 Front Demo:** Currently, it does not appear there is any interest in the 1W1P partnering for the MS4 Front program. Melissa has reached out to Houston Engineering for an estimate of costs, if the District decides to proceed on its own.
- **Survey Equipment:** District staff are in discussion with Frontier to receive a cost estimate for additional survey equipment that was budgeted for 2025.
- **Inter-Agency Meeting:** The interagency meeting between the District, USFWS, and MnDNR will take place on March 5, 2025, at Agassiz NWR. Time to be determined.
- **Red River Basin Commission:** Audette plans to participate in a portion of the Red River Basin Commission Conference next week in Grand Forks, ND.

Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report for January 23, 2025

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
direct	EFTPS	Withholding FICA,Fed & Medicare(1/15/25 pp)	\$4,610.81
direct	MN Tax	Withholding (1/15/25 pp)	\$827.95
direct	PERA	Public Retirement Account (pp 1/15/25)	\$3,112.03
41616	Minnesota Watersheds	2025 Dues	\$7,500.00
41617	Void	reprinted check	\$0.00
41618	Quality Spray Foam	Pay Est #1 - Chief's Coulee	\$66,025.00
41619	Dakota Heritage	Purchase of CD - (board approved 1/9/25)	\$500,000.00
41620	Void	printer error	\$0.00
41621	Corporation Technologies	Microsoft 365 & Managed IT Services	\$1,980.00
41622	HDR	**see below	\$23,276.26
41623	Houston Engineering	**see below	\$12,978.75
41624	James Langlois	CCRP Incentive Program-West Polk/Red Lk 1W1P	\$1,891.00
41625	League of Minnesota	12 month Membership Dues	\$2,358.00
41626	Marco	Mfiles install (Elaine & Melissa)	\$241.25
41627	MN DNR License Center	License on ATV	\$66.00
41628	Pennington SWCD	Reimbursement of Pheasants Forever- Mud River	\$1,625.00
41629	Pitney Bowes	postage refill	\$300.00
41630	Station 59	refill car washes	\$80.00
41631	Todd & Debra Stanley Farms	Mowing RLWD ditch #9	\$225.00
online	Quick Books	1099 Filing Fee	\$60.00
online	WEX	FSA Medical	\$126.23
online	City of Thief River Falls	Utility Bill	\$492.58
online	WEX	FSA Medical	\$732.00
online	WEX	FSA Medical	\$14.88
online	Purewater	Office H2O	\$38.00
online	Les's Sanitation	Garbage Services	\$35.74
online	Sun Life Financial	Staff Life Insurance	\$144.64
online	Intuit Quick Books	Monthly Fee	\$464.50
online	WEX	FSA Medical	\$184.09
direct	Staff Payroll	Salaries (pp 1/15/25)	\$15,431.00
	Total Checks		\$644,820.71

<u>Northern</u>	Balance as of January 8, 2025		\$93,224.23
<u>State</u>	Total Check Written		-\$644,820.71
<u>Bank</u>	Receipt # 12323	Edward Jones - Cashed out CD's	\$300,064.23
<u>TRF</u>	Receipt # 12324	RRWMB - Final Pmt Cardinal Ring Dike	\$10,355.68
	Receipt # 12325	RRWMB - Final Pmt Payment Ring Dike	\$28,349.37
	Receipt # 12326	Transfer Funds From American Federal for CD	\$500,000.00
	Receipt # 12327	Final DNR Payment - Cardinal Ring Dike	\$20,711.35
	Receipt # 12327	Final DNR Payment - Payment Ring Dike	\$56,698.73
	Receipt # 12328	Marshall County Tax Settlement 2024	\$14,997.37
	void check	West Polk SWCD - returned ck # 41594	\$3,511.30
	Receipt # 12329	Pennington County Taxes	\$5,040.49
	Receipt # 12330	Red Lake County Taxes	\$6,025.92
	Balance as of January 22, 2025	Current interest rate is 3.25%	<u>\$394,157.96</u>

**HDR	<i>Turtle Cross project management</i>		\$8,414.94
	<i>Mud River project management</i>		\$14,461.32
	<i>Flage Inspection - BIM Specialist</i>		<u>\$400.00</u>
			\$23,276.26
**Houston	<i>Thief River/SD 83 Streambank & Stab.</i>		\$171.00
	<i>Huot Streambank Stabilization</i>		\$9,777.00
	<i>Knutson Dam Structure Replacement</i>		\$57.00
	<i>Thief River FDR Watershed Planning</i>		\$342.00
	<i>Clearwater River Channel Stability</i>		<u>\$2,631.75</u>
			\$12,978.75
American	Balance as of January 8, 2025		\$ 4,495,264.14
Federal	Receipt # 12326	Transfer Funds to NSB to Purchase CD	-\$500,000.00
Fosston	Balance as of January 22, 2025	Current interest rate is 3.30%	<u>\$3,995,264.14</u>

<u>CD's</u>	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.9% Expiry 1-30-25	\$ 238,000.00
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.9% Expiry 2-14-25	\$ 237,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	7 month CD 5.17% Expiry 2-24-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	9 month CD 5.25% Expiry 4-24-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 5.15% Expiry 5-09-25	\$ 237,000.00
	Edward Jones	12 month CD 5.2% Expiry 5-09-25	\$ 243,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	7 month CD 5.17% Expiry 5-9-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	9 month CD 5.25% Expiry 7-9-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage NEW	9 month CD 4.97% Expiry 9-18-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage NEW	9 month CD 4.97% Expiry 9-18-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage NEW	9 month CD 4.82% Expiry 10-15-25	\$ 500,000.00
	Total CD Investments		\$ 4,455,000.00
	Total Cash (NSB + AFB + CD's)		\$ 8,844,422.10

Cash that has been received and earmarked for projects:
(taken from remaining balance on financials)

2022 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149	\$ 185,704.26
2024 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149	\$ 1,673,444.20
2022 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A	\$ -
2024 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A	\$ 693,938.75
2023 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	\$ 588,166.33
2025 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B	\$ 742,941.00
Mid Point Grant Project #149	\$ 10,202.57
Chief Coulee Project #46S	\$ 214,375.00
2025 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P	<u>\$ 100,000.00</u>
	\$ 2,349,623.65

Payables committed to by board action:

Chief Coulee Proj. #46S	<u>\$ 800,000.00</u>
	\$ 800,000.00
Total accessible cash (Est.)	\$ 5,694,798.45

What is the mileage rate for 2025?



70 cents per mile

The IRS 2025 Mileage Rates for Using a Vehicle for Business Purposes are: **70 cents per mile for each business mile** (an increase of 3 cents per mile from 2024) 21 cents per mile for medical purposes (unchanged from 2024) Jan 9, 2025



Invoice Number: 419511

RECEIVED

JAN 10 2025

Initial: ja

Membership Dues Invoice

For the Period covering January 1 - December 31, 2025

Red Lake Watershed District

Dues Amount: \$2,358

(Dues amount rounded to nearest dollar.)

Population: N/A

(Population represents the 2023 State Demographer and Metropolitan Council Estimates.)

Dues are based on your population. See how we calculated your dues at: www.lmc.org/dues

For membership dues in the League of Minnesota Cities for the year beginning January 1, 2025. Annual dues for membership in the League of Minnesota Cities include subscriptions to Minnesota Cities magazine.* Pursuant to the disclosure requirements of Minnesota Statutes, Section 6.76, the proportionate amount of dues spent for lobbying purposes is 10.4%. This percentage is reported to the State Auditor as required by statute.

Payment from Public Funds Authorized by Minn. Stats, Sec. 465.58

I declare under the penalties of law that the foregoing account is just and correct and that no part of it has been paid.

Dated: January 1, 2025

Luke Fischer
Executive Director, League of Minnesota Cities

Please Remit To:

Finance Department
League of Minnesota Cities
145 University Ave W
St Paul, MN 55103-2044

Include this invoice or reference
invoice #419511 with your
payment.

Questions: billing@lmc.org

*Annual dues include subscriptions to *Minnesota Cities* magazine at \$30 per subscription; the League reserves the right to limit the number of magazine subscriptions a member organization receives. This information is provided to meet USPS regulations; please do not factor in the value of the subscription when paying your dues invoice.

The League will routinely communicate via e-mail with your city's staff and elected officials as part of your membership in the League.



January 2025

Dear city official,

In September, we sent you a letter announcing that the League of Minnesota Cities Board of Directors adopted a 6% dues schedule increase for the League's 2025 fiscal year. In an earlier action, League members voted to move to a calendar year for the League's fiscal year which will encompass January-December going forward. To account for the adjustment, the League's FY 2025 budget is being spread over 16 months, from Sept. 1, 2024 through Dec. 31, 2025, with an initial invoice sent in September to cover the first four months.

Because of the fiscal year change, members are now receiving the second of two invoices (attached) to cover the next 12 months of the extended 16-month 2025 fiscal year. Starting in 2026, members will receive one annual invoice each January.

Please note that while the scheduled dues increase is 6%, any shift in your city's population over the past year might have an additional effect on the total dues your city pays for the coming fiscal year. To learn more about how your dues are calculated, visit lmc.org/dues.

Thank you for your continued support of League services. Please don't hesitate to reach out to us at any time if you have questions about changes to the League's fiscal year, your city's dues, or your League membership.

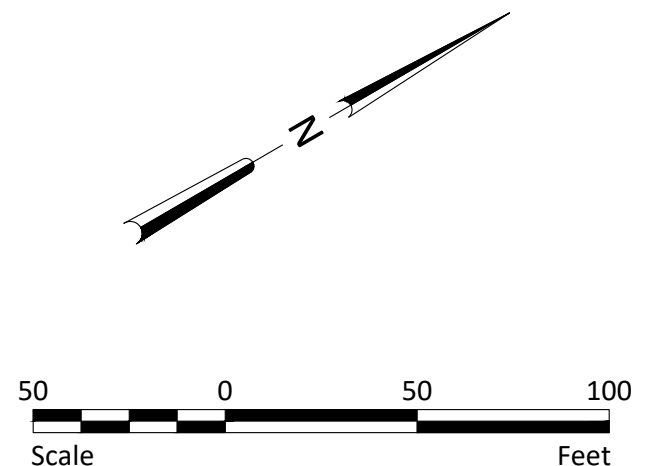
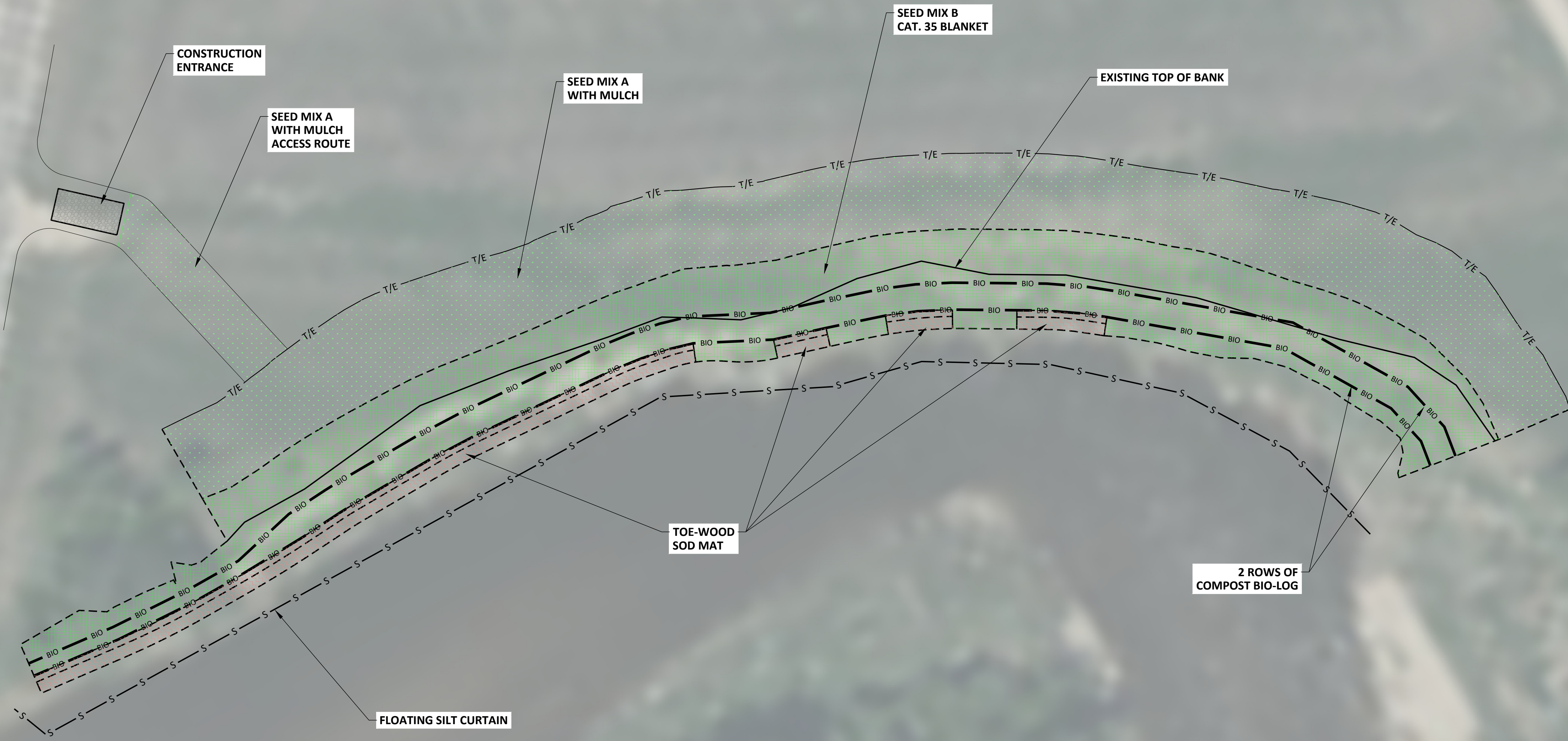
A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Justin Miller".

Justin Miller
President


A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Luke Fischer".

Luke Fischer
Executive Director

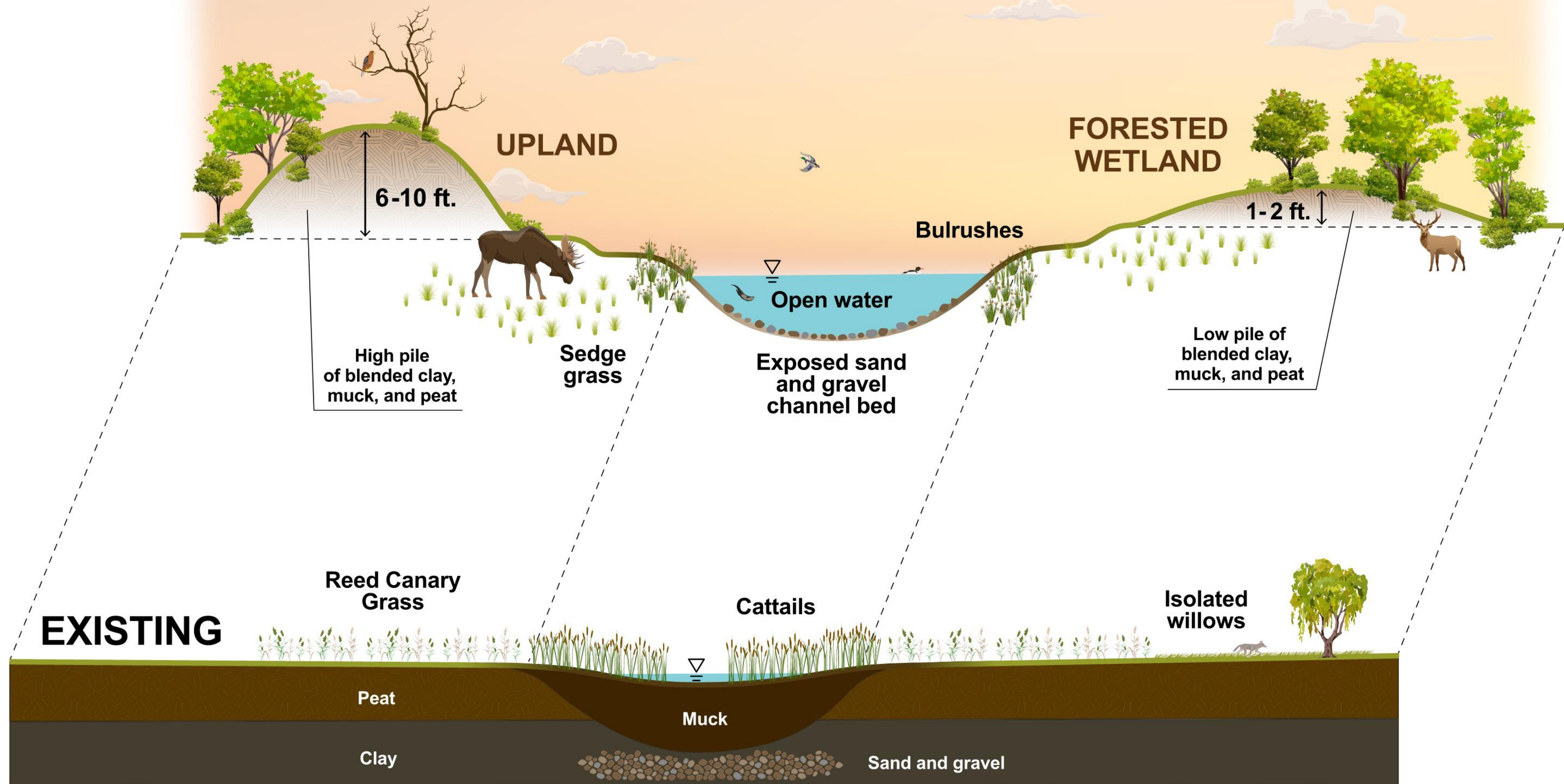
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PRELIMINARY
NOT FOR CONSTRUCTION

		By
		Date
		Revision
		No.
HUOT STREAMBANK STABILIZATION RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT RED LAKE RIVER		
EROSION & SEEDING PLANVIEW		
 Houston engineering, inc.		
Drawn By TJO		
Checked By TAN		
Date X-XX-XX		
Scale As Shown		
Project No. 3655-0116		
SHEET 15		

PROPOSED





MARCH
18
12:30 PM

AGENDA 26TH ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE

12.30	REGISTRATION/ CHECK-IN	03.00	NOT SCARY: DRAINAGE LAW - A CONSERVATION TOOL? -B. Uhler
01.00	WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS -D. Money	03.20	WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT: POTENTIAL IMPACT OF STATUTE CHANGES IN THE RED RIVER BASIN -M. Amerson
01.05	MN DRAINAGE CASE LAW UPDATES -J. Kots	03.50	WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT Q&A WITH BWSR -S. Hofstad
01.30	RED LAKE WD: COUNTY DITCH 39 UPDATE -L. Smith	04.00	DNR UPDATE: PROCESS TO REVISE THE PUBLIC WATERS INVENTORY MAP -DNR Lead Staff
01.45	DETERMINATION/ REDETERMINATION OF BENEFITS: WHAT'S NEW? -J. Kolb	04.15	PANEL DISCUSSION: STUMP THE EXPERTS -Facilitated by L. Smith
02.10	COORDINATION BETWEEN COUNTIES AND WATERSHED DISTRICTS ON DRAINAGE ISSUES -L. Holstengard, A. Sivunby, E. Jones	04.45	ANNOUNCEMENTS/ CLOSE DAY 1 -K. Sip
02.30	APPLICATION OF CULVERT SIZING TECHNICAL GUIDANCE IN THE RED RIVER BASIN -C. Engels	05.00	SOCIAL HOUR
02.45	BREAK	06.00	EVENING NETWORKING -on your own



MARCH
19
8:00 AM

AGENDA 26TH ANNUAL JOINT CONFERENCE

07.30	BREAKFAST	12.00	LUNCH
08.30	ANNOUNCEMENTS -B. Dargatz	12.45	FAMILY FEUD - WATER & NATURAL RESOURCES EDITION -Facilitated by M. Ruler
08.35	PROGRESS OF THE FDRWG FIVE-YEAR MONITORING PLAN -J. Martelczak, P. Oswald	01.15	KINGS IN THE NORTH-RESTORING STURGEON IN THE RED RIVER BASIN -N. Kludt
08.55	RURAL INUNDATION MAPPING INITIATIVE -E. Jones, C. Fritz	01.40	FLOOD PROJECTS IN PROGRESS IN THE WATERSHEDS -D. Nelson, C. Engels, J. Reiter
09.10	FLOOD IMPACTS ON HIGHWAYS: THE NORTHERN RED RIVER STUDY -Study Team	02.20	BREAK
09.30	WATER BENEATH OUR FEET: AQUIFERS OF THE RED RIVER BASIN -E. Conscience	02.40	ADMINISTRATORS ROUND TABLE-WHAT'S HAPPENING IN YOUR DISTRICT?
10.00	BREAK	03.10	RAPIDAN DAM-WHAT HAPPENED AND WHAT COMES NEXT? -J. Boyle
10.20	CURRENT EVENTS AT THE RRWMB -R. Sip	03.30	CLOSING REMARKS -K. Sip
10.35	GET TO KNOW THE RRWMB		
11.20	Basin History: The Stockwood Fill -M. Poole		



Administrator's Report

January 23, 2025

Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P: Manager Ose presented the Upper/Lower Red Lake 1W1P BWSR Board on January 22nd.

Houston Avenue-Crookston: Audette and Corey Hanson met with staff from the City of Crookston and West Polk SWCD regarding the Houston Avenue Project. There is no funding currently available, however, landowner Gail Meyers was asked to get estimates on moving homes, if grants would become available. A one-page fact sheet will be put together to assist in presenting the project to various legislators.

Ditch Repairs: District staff have been working with HDR Engineering, and Houston Engineering regarding maintenance/repairs to various ditch systems. More information to follow.

SD 83/Thief River 1W1P: District staff developed a list of sites for maintenance or repairs as part on SD 83 and Thief River 1W1P. Staff will review possible sites and report back to the Board.

USDA: Included in the packet is an announcement expanding the CREP voluntary, incentive-based conservation program to include additional counties and to increase the enrollment goal to 75,000 acres for Minnesota agricultural producers.



Farm Service Agency
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

USDA and Minnesota Announce Expanded Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program to Improve Water Quality and Wildlife Habitat

News Release | Minnesota | January 14, 2025

[View PDF](#)

Saint Paul, Minn., Jan. 14, 2025 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the State of Minnesota are expanding their partnership through the [Farm Service Agency \(FSA\) Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program](#) (CREP) to assist Minnesota farmers, and agricultural landowners in improving water quality and conserving other natural resources.

The [Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP](#), offered by USDA, and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), has expanded the voluntary, incentive-based conservation program to include an additional 12 counties and increased the enrollment goal to 75,000 acres for Minnesota agricultural producers.

“This expanded partnership with the state of Minnesota is a testament to the power of collaboration and allows us to leverage both federal and state dollars to address locally driven natural resource concerns,” said FSA Administrator Zach Ducheneaux. “By including additional counties in the existing agreement, we can now offer the benefits of CREP participation to more Minnesota landowners, building on the program’s already proven conservation successes across the state.”

The agreement makes federal and state resources available to program participants to voluntarily enroll in 14-to 15-year contracts and a permanent conservation easement with the State of Minnesota. Participants remove cropland from agricultural production and establish practices dedicated to native grasses and forbs, filter strips and wetlands. This improves water quality by reducing sediment, nutrients, nitrogen and other pollutants that enter streams and rivers, and enhances wildlife habitat in the project area. In return, FSA provides participants with rental payments and cost-share assistance.

“Expanding this program will benefit Minnesota’s farmers, environment, and economy,” said Governor Tim Walz. “By helping landowners conserve our most vulnerable ecosystems, we are making Minnesota more resilient to climate change, improving access to clean water, and supporting our farmers. I’m grateful for the federal government’s support of this important program.”

Eligible farmers and landowners can qualify for annual rental payments, up to 50% cost-share for installing the approved conservation practices, and incentive payments for certain practices. Additionally, the State of Minnesota will provide eligible participants with cost-share assistance and a one-time payment for all land entered into an easement.

The Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP will now include the following 66 counties: Becker, Benton, Big Stone, Blue Earth, Brown, Carver, Chippewa, Clay, Cottonwood, Dakota, Dodge, Douglas, Faribault, Fillmore, Freeborn, Goodhue, Grant, Hennepin, Houston, Isanti, Jackson,

Kandiyohi, Kittson, Lac Qui Parle, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lyon, McLeod, Mahnomen, Marshall, Martin, Meeker, Morrison, Mower, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Norman, Olmsted, Otter Trail, Pennington, Pipestone, Polk, Pope, Red Lake, Redwood, Renville, Rice, Rock, Roseau, Scott, Sherburne, Sibley, Stearns, Steele, Stevens, Swift, Todd, Traverse, Wabasha, Waseca, Watonwan, Wilkin, Winona, Wright and Yellow Medicine.

Currently, CREP has 39 projects in 25 states with more than 768,000 acres enrolled in the program. The Minnesota Water Quality and Habitat CREP is part of USDA's broader effort to leverage CREP as an important tool to address climate change and other natural resource challenges while expanding opportunities for producers and communities, especially those historically underserved by USDA.

More Information

Interested farmers, ranchers and agricultural landowners are encouraged to contact FSA at their local [USDA Service Center](#) to learn more or participant.

USDA touches the lives of all Americans each day in so many positive ways. USDA is transforming America's food system with a greater focus on more resilient local and regional food production, fairer markets for all producers, ensuring access to safe, healthy and nutritious food in all communities, building new markets and streams of income for farmers and producers using climate smart food and forestry practices, making historic investments in infrastructure and clean energy capabilities in rural America, and committing to equity across the Department by removing systemic barriers and building a workforce more representative of America. To learn more, visit usda.gov.

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk
FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov