

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

June 11, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 am	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	May 28, 2026 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report as of June 10, 2026	Action
	Certificate of Deposit Renewal	Info/Action
	MPCA Draft 2026 Impaired Waters List	Information
	RRBC Water Quality Offset Plan Project/City of TRF	Information
9:15 am	Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, Muzzy/Thief River LLC Sites - Final Payment Hearing	Info/Action
9:30 am	BWSR Assessment Survey Results – Matt Fischer	Information
10:00 am	2025 Audit/Brady Martz – Olivia Morton	Info/Action
	Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project. No. 179 Legal Fees/Bond	Information
	Turtle Cross Connection, RLWD Project No. 114 - Update	Information
	Permits: 26017, 26020, 26025, 26030, 26033, 26038-26047, and 26052	Action
	2026 MN Watersheds Resolutions Comment Period	Information
	2027 Budget and Salary Schedule	Information
	Administrator’s Report	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information
	Managers’ Updates	Information
	Adjourn	Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

June 11, 2026 RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am
June 16, 2026 RRWMB Meeting, 10:00 am, Ada
June 17, 2026 SD 83 Project Team Meeting, 9:00 am
June 19, 2026 HOLIDAY - RLWD Closed
June 25, 2026 RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 am

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
May 28, 2026

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

The Board reviewed the agenda. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Page, and passed by a unanimous vote that the Board approve the agenda, with additions as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the May 14, 2026, Board meeting minutes. Motion by Page, seconded by Sorenson, to approve May 14, 2026, Board meeting minutes, with corrections as noted. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report as of May 27, 2026. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the Financial Report as of May 27, 2026. Motion carried.

Staff member, Elaine Rychlock, reviewed the current Certificate of Deposit rates for the following area banks: Dakota Heritage Bank, Northern State Bank of Thief River Falls, Ultima Bank MN of Fosston, Edward Jones, and American Federal Bank-Fosston. There is one CD maturing 5/29/26 at Edward Jones. After much discussion, a motion was made by Anderson, seconded by Nelson, to re-invest the maturing CD (\$237,000) with Ultima Bank MN of Fosston for six months at a rate of 4.00%. Motion carried.

Staff members Audette and Rychlock provided a General Fund update as of March 31, 2026.

Administrator Audette stated that she and staff member Corey Hanson prepared a BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant application in the amount of \$340,000, for the installation of side water inlets for the Improvement to Polk County Ditch 39, RLWD Project No. 179. Audette noted that if the project is awarded the grant, a 10% match is required, which would be paid by the legal drainage system's benefited area.

Administrator Audette presented a map showing locations of the Clearwater River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B. The OPC from HEI and the construction plans were reviewed, with discussion on the Bid Opening date. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Anderson, to set the Bid Opening date for the Clearwater Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, for June 25, 2026, at 9:15 am. Motion carried. Audette stated that Hanson prepared an RRWMB Base Funding Application in the amount of \$100,000, which requires a cash match in the amount of \$33,333. The Project also received a CPL Grant in the amount of \$492,046, which requires a match in the amount of \$49,205, for a total match requirement for both grants in the amount of \$82,538. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Page, to approve the total match requirements for

the Clearwater River Streambank Project, RLWD Project No. 149B, in the amount of \$82,538. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Tiedemann stated that the bid opening for the 2026 Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, would be conducted. Legal Counsel Sparby noted the time and that no further bid proposals would be accepted after the 9:30 a.m. bid submittal deadline. Bids were opened and bid amounts were announced and are on file at the District office. The following bids were received:

Olson Construction TRF Inc., Thief River Falls, MN, \$533,571.70;
Tunheim Construction, Fargo, ND, \$518,950.75;
MNL, Otsego, MN, \$585,777.00;
Northern Harbor, LLC, Walker, MN, \$385,792.00; and
Anderson Excavating, Newfolden, MN, \$504,687.16;

Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Ose, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low bid from Northern Harbor, LLC, \$385,792.00 for the 2026 Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, contingent upon the audit by staff and review of the bids and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District staff, and Project Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc.

Administrator Audette discussed Chuck Flage Erosion Control, RLWD Project No. 174. A motion was made by Nelson, seconded by Sorenson, to accept quotes for the project until 4:30 pm on July 8, 2026, and to review the quotes received at the July 9, 2026, RLWD Board meeting. Motion carried.

Administrator Audette discussed the Red Lake/Polk County Line Outlet Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Two estimates for soil boring were reviewed: AET \$19,348 and Braun \$36,041. Motion by Page, seconded by Nelson to approve hiring AET to complete the soil borings. Motion carried.

Staff member, Tony Olson, presented photos of the recent mulching at the Brandt Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 60D.

Staff member, Tony Olson, discussed RLWD Permit No. 25020 located in Gervais Township, Red Lake County. The recommendation was to grant the permit extension request. A motion was made by Dwight, seconded by Page, to approve the permit extension request for RLWD Permit No. 25020. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the following permits for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded by Nelson, to approve the following permits with conditions stated on the permit: No. 26018, Al Bauer, Knute Township, Polk County; No. 26021, Jacob Sundberg, Spruce Grove Township, Beltrami County; No. 26027, Brandt Township, Bray Township, Pennington County; No. 26028, Rodney Larson, Brandt Township, Polk County; No. 26032, Bryan Boll, Kertsonville Township, Polk County;

No. 26034, Marshall County Highway Department, Excel Township, Marshall County; No. 26035, Wade Westlake, Emardville Township, Red Lake County; No. 26036, Logan Ellis, Gentilly Township, Polk County; and No. 26037, Marshall County Highway Department, Excel Township, Marshall County. Motion carried.

Administrator's Update:

- West Polk SWCD Envirothon: The Board reviewed a thank you from the West Polk SWCD for the District's support of the Envirothon.
- 2025 Tree Planting: Audette updated the Board on tree planting efforts on recent bank stabilization projects.
- JD 1/Greg Hilgeman Petition: District staff are currently surveying the petitioned project.
- Paul Stolen/TCC Project: Audette received a call from former MnDNR employee Paul Stolen who is also a landowner on the Turtle Connection Cross Project.
- RRWMB: Audette plans to attend the June 2026 RRWMB meeting.
- Little Black River: Audette stated that local landowners will be removing a beaver dam downstream of the Goose Lake structure as water is backing up.

Motion by Nelson, seconded by Anderson, to adjourn the meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

LeRoy Ose, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report as of June 10, 2026

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
online	EFTPS/MN Withholding	Withholding FICA, Fed, Medi, & MN Tax (pp 6/3/26)	\$6,844.13
online	PERA	pp 6/3/26	\$3,373.18
42257	Ultima Bank of Minnesota	New CD - (Board approved 5/28/26)	\$237,000.00
42258	Ace Hardware	garden supplies / hose	\$40.13
42259	Champion Media/TRF Times	Advertise for Bids-Notice of final payment 149A	\$369.86
42260	East Polk SWCD	***	\$4,452.65
42261	ESRI	ArcGIS Annual Subscription	\$420.00
42262	Farmers Union Oil	Fuel for vehicles	\$1,084.57
42263	HDR	***	\$33,118.53
42264	Houston	BWSR PRAP Assessment	\$9,114.60
42265	Hugo's	Meeting Supplies	\$276.37
42266	Jeremy Rychlock	Read & Observe Moose Imp./Beaver #13	\$2,669.50
42267	Kelly Dahlen	Beaver Removal on Good Lake #67	\$2,500.00
42268	Les Cota	Mowing Behind Border Bank #171A	\$855.00
42269	Marco	Cannon Copier Monthly	\$408.03
42270	Marshall SWCD	***	\$5,436.16
42271	Northdale Oil	Fuel for vehicles	\$99.22
42272	Northern Motors	Repairs on Erick's Bumper- Traverse Oil Change	\$1,449.36
42273	Northwoods Lumber	Lumber for staff gauges on Moose River #13	\$21.74
42274	Oil Boyz Express	Tony's Truck - Oil Change	\$88.46
42275	Pennington SWCD	***	\$4,750.74
42276	Pitney Bowes	Postage Refill	\$300.00
42277	Red Lake County SWCD	***	\$3,506.03
42278	Red River Watershed Mgmt.	SD 83 PT facilitation cost share	\$5,085.00
42279	RMB	Lab Analysis & Courier Fees	\$146.00
42280	West Polk SWCD	***	\$49,667.74
42281	VOID		\$0.00
online	Garden Valley	Internet Monthly Fee	\$68.95
online	Corporate Technologies	Microsoft 365 & Managed IT Services	\$2,080.00
online	Cardmember Services	Monthly CC charges	\$1,482.09
online	Medica	Health Insurance Premiums	\$11,319.06
online	Vestis	Rug Rental	\$102.07
online	Voya	Staff Health Care Saving Plan (pp 6/3/26)	\$457.65
online	WEX	Medical Care Reimbursement	\$444.96
online	Aflac	Staff Insurance	\$277.16
online	Delta Dental	Dental Insurance Premium	\$631.22
online	WEX	Medical Care Reimbursement	\$989.08
online	NCPERS	Staff Life Insurance	\$128.00
direct	Brian Dwight	Mileage	\$327.70
direct	Grant Nelson	Mileage	\$50.75
direct	Al Page	Mileage	\$75.40
online	Board & Staff Payroll	pp (6/3/26)	\$19,244.79
	Total Checks		\$410,755.88

East Polk	Project Dev #149B 1W1P		\$553.28
SWCD	Pennington SWCD T&E Invoices #149B		<u>\$3,899.37</u>
			\$4,452.65
HDR	T&E for JD1		\$5,901.50
	Mud River Restoration Fee study		\$1,790.00
	T&E for projects #92,43B & 174		\$13,764.78
	T&E Red Lake-Polk Cty Outlet Stab.#149		<u>\$11,662.25</u>
			\$33,118.53
Marshall	Admin & PD. Fees for TR #149A 1W1P		\$3,055.73
SWCD	Pennington SWCD T&E Invoices #149A		<u>\$2,380.43</u>
			\$5,436.16
Penn	Red Lake River Admin #149 1W1P		\$3,142.56
SWCD	Thief River Admin #149A 1W1P		<u>\$1,608.18</u>
			\$4,750.74
Red Lake	Red Lake Rvr Admin/Pro.Dev #149 1W1P		\$2,789.74
County	Admin Fees #149B 1W1P		<u>\$716.29</u>
SWCD			\$3,506.03
West	Ag Prac. Reimb. Red Lake Rvr #149 1W1P		\$44,857.06
Polk	Penn SWCD Invoices		\$1,022.78
SWCD	Admin/PD for Red Lake Rvr. #149 1W1P		<u>\$3,787.90</u>
			\$49,667.74
NSB	Balance as of May 28, 2026		\$1,304,583.39
	Total Checks Written		-\$410,755.88
	Receipt #12517	Marshall County - Taxes	\$127,350.57
	Receipt #12518	May Monthly Interest	\$3,161.43
	Receipt #12520	Cash CD from Edward Jones (board approved 5/28/26)	\$247,064.65
	Receipt #12521	Red Lake County Taxes	\$395,691.31
	Receipt #12522	Dakota Heritage Monthly Interest - May	\$5,669.52
	Receipt #12523	Marshall County Taxes	\$13,236.20
	Receipt #12525	Nick Knott - Land Rent Proj. #176 Black River	\$9,403.14
	Balance as of May 28, 2026	Current interest rate is 3.25%	\$1,695,404.33
American	Balance as of May 28, 2026		\$3,906,339.75
Federal	Receipt #12519	May Monthly Interest	\$10,242.10
	Receipt #12524	Clearwater County Tax Settlement	\$523,513.14
Fosston	Balance as of May 28, 2026	Current interest rate is 3.35%	\$4,440,094.99

CD's	Edward Jones	12 month CD 4.30% Expiry 6-18-26	\$ 239,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	7 month CD 3.89% Expiry 11-12-26	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 2-11-27	\$ 250,000.00
	Ultima Bank	12 month CD 3.75% Expiry 2-27-27	\$ 500,000.00
	Ultima Bank	6 month CD 4.0% Expiry 11-29-26	\$ 237,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 3-4-27	\$ 500,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 3-4-27	\$ 250,000.00
	Dakota Heritage	12 month CD 4.04% Expiry 5-06-27	\$ 500,000.00
	Total CD Investments		\$2,976,000.00
	NSB, AFB +CD's		\$9,111,499.32
	Cash that has been received and earmarked for projects: (taken from remaining balance on financials)		
	2024 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149		\$258,286.70
	2024 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A		\$90,126.22
	2023 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B		\$155,385.76
	2025 Grant Clearwater 1W1P Project #149B		\$1,485,882.00
	2024 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P		\$2,132.00
	2025 CRP Payment Red Lake 1W1P		\$100,000.00
	2026 Grant Thief River 1W1P Project #149A		\$353,194.00
	2026 Grant Red Lake River 1W1P Project #149		\$856,311.50
	2026 MIDPOINT Red Lake River Project #149		\$10,000.00
	2025 MIDPOINT Thief River Project #149A		\$38,198.00
			\$3,349,516.18
	Payables committed to by board action:		
	City of Grygla		\$12,500.00
	Mud River 180C		\$500,000.00
			\$ 512,500.00
	Total accessible cash (Est.)		\$ 5,249,483.14

<u>Dakota Heritage</u>	<u>American Federal</u>	<u>Northern State Bank</u>	<u>Ultima Bank MN</u>	<u>Edward Jones</u>
218-253-2265	218-435-1474	218-681-4020	218-435-2265x104	218-683-5436
Red Lake Falls	Fosston	Thief River Falls	Fosston	Thief River Falls
Casey	Ryan (Matt)	Personal Banking	Mike	Kevin (Jennifer)

CD Rates as of 6/10/2026	24 mo. @ 4.04%	12 mo. @ 3.8%	13 mo. @ 3.50%	24 mo. @ 3.80%	12 mo. @ 4.05%
	18 mo. @ 4.04%	6 mo. @ 3.8%	7 mo. @ 3.20%	12 mo. @ 4.05%	6 mo. @ 3.95%
	12 mo. @ 4.04%	3 mo. @ 3.8%		6 mo. @ 4.05%	
	9 mo. @ 3.89%				
	7 mo. @ 3.89%				

Number	Financial Institution	Amount	Rate	Mature Date
Charolette	Edward Jones	\$239,000.00	12 mo. @ 4.30%	6/18/2026
79416727	Dakota Heritage	\$250,000.00	12 mo. @ 4.04%	2/11/2027
79416728	Dakota Heritage	\$500,000.00	12 mo. @ 4.04%	2/26/2027
79416729	Dakota Heritage	\$250,000.00	12 mo. @ 4.04%	2/27/2027
115183	Ultima Bank	\$500,000.00	12 mo. @ 3.75%	2/27/2027
xxxxx	Ultima Bank	\$237,000.00	6 mo. @ 4.0%	12/xx/06
79416730	Dakota Heritage	\$500,000.00	12 mo. @ 4.04%	5/7/2027
79416731	Dakota Heritage	\$500,000.00	7 mo. @ 3.89%	12/7/2026

Corey Hanson

From: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency <mpca@public.govdelivery.com>
Sent: Tuesday, May 19, 2026 10:16 AM
To: Corey Hanson
Subject: Corrected: MPCA releases 2026 draft impaired waters list



MPCA releases 2026 draft impaired waters list

Public comment period open through July 22

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) today released the [draft 2026 impaired waters list \(IWL\)](#), which identifies lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands across Minnesota that do not currently meet all water quality standards.

The MPCA proposes removing impairments from 45 bodies of water on the IWL, which is the most removals in a two-year cycle since the state began the IWL.

program in 1992. The agency is also adding 46 new impaired bodies of water and remains hopeful to continue improving water quality across the state.

With this year's additions, more than 100 impairments will have been removed from the IWL, demonstrating long-term restoration progress.

This year's list assessed and reviewed the Cannon River, Nemadji River, Leech Lake River, and Grand Marais Creek watersheds, among others throughout the state.

Common impairments in these watersheds throughout central and west central Minnesota include conditions stressing fish and insect populations, such as poor habitat, sediment and nutrients. These impairments led to studies and plans to restore the waters to meet standards.

List available now for public comment

We encourage people to provide public comments through July 22, 2026.





Minnesota's draft impaired waters list, assessment manual, and revisions to appendix A of the statewide mercury TMDL will be on public notice through 11:59 p.m., July 22, 2026. The MPCA invites Minnesotans to submit comments on whether additional waters should be placed on or removed from the list, and to attend one of several public meetings about the list. For the list, more information about Impairments, upcoming public meetings, and how to comment, [please visit the MPCA website](#).

As required by the [federal Clean Water Act](#), Minnesota develops a list of impaired waters every two years. The draft 2026 list will be submitted to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which will make the final decision on approving the list.

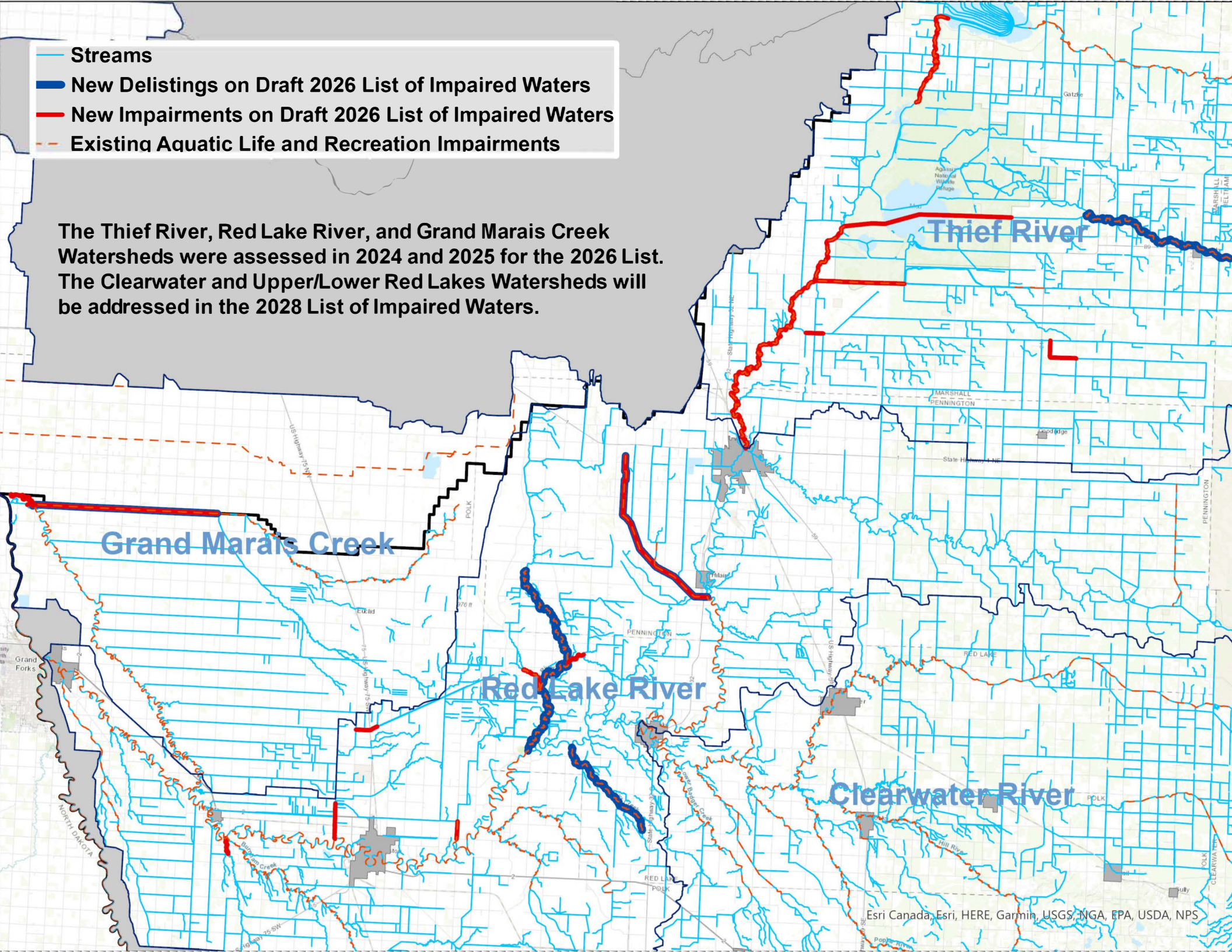
The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is a state agency committed to ensuring that every Minnesotan has healthy air, sustainable lands, clean water, and a better climate.

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-  Streams
-  New Delistings on Draft 2026 List of Impaired Waters
-  New Impairments on Draft 2026 List of Impaired Waters
-  Existing Aquatic Life and Recreation Impairments

The Thief River, Red Lake River, and Grand Marais Creek Watersheds were assessed in 2024 and 2025 for the 2026 List. The Clearwater and Upper/Lower Red Lakes Watersheds will be addressed in the 2028 List of Impaired Waters.



Water body name	Water body description	Year added to List	AUID	County	Watershed name	Affected designated use	Pollutant or stressor
Black River	Little Black R to Red Lake R	2026	09020303-529	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Judicial Ditch 60	Lateral Ditch 4 to 260th St SW	2026	09020303-570	Polk	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
County Ditch 32	Unnamed ditch to CD 20	2026	09020304-554	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Judicial Ditch 11 Branch 200	Unnamed ditch to -95.844 48.266	2026	09020304-534	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Thief River	Agassiz Pool to Red Lake R	2026	09020304-501	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Grand Marais Creek	Diversion ditch to Red R	2026	09020306-513	Polk	Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments
Burnham Creek	Polk CD 15 to Red Lake R	2026	09020303-515	Polk	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Little Black River	Unnamed ditch (channelized portion) to Black R	2026	09020303-528	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Pennington County Ditch 96 (76)	Headwaters to Red Lake R	2026	09020303-505	Pennington	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Thief River	Thief Lk to Agassiz Pool	2026	09020304-504	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Unnamed ditch (Ditch 200)	Unnamed ditch to Unnamed ditch	2026	09020304-511	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
County Ditch 2	CD 66 to Grand Marais Cr	2026	09020306-515	Polk	Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Grand Marais Creek	Diversion ditch to Red R	2026	09020306-513	Polk	Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek	Aquatic Life	Dissolved oxygen
Browns Creek	Unnamed ditch to Black R	2026	09020303-539	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)
County Ditch 1	CD 60 to Red Lake R	2026	09020303-536	Polk	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)
Kripple Creek (County Ditch 66)	Unnamed ditch to Unnamed cr	2026	09020303-526	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)
Unnamed creek	Unnamed cr to Red Lake R	2026	09020303-569	Polk	Red Lake River	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments
County Ditch 20	Unnamed ditch (Branch A CD 30) to Unnamed ditch (Branch D CD 20)	2026	09020304-519	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments
County Ditch 32	Unnamed ditch to CD 20	2026	09020304-554	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments
Thief River	Agassiz Pool to Red Lake R	2026	09020304-501	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments
Grand Marais Creek	Diversion ditch to Red R	2026	09020306-513	Polk	Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek	Aquatic Life	Fish bioassessments
Judicial Ditch 11	Unnamed ditch to Thief River	2026	09020304-536	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)
Thief River	Thief Lk to Agassiz Pool	2026	09020304-504	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Total suspended solids (TSS)

New Impairments in the Red Lake Watershed District, 2026 Draft List of Impaired Waters

Delist year	Waterbody name	Water body description	Year added to List	AUID	County	Watershed name	Affected designated use	Pollutant or stressor	Reason for delisting
2026	Pennington County Ditch 96 (76)	Headwaters to Red Lake R	2016	09020303-505	Pennington	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained, due to restoration activities
2026	Black River	Little Black R to Red Lake R	2016	09020303-529	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained, due to restoration activities
2026	Cyr Creek	CR 14 to Red Lake R	2016	09020303-556	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained, due to restoration activities
2026	Black River	-96.4328 48.0146 to Little Black R	2016	09020303-558	Red Lake	Red Lake River	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained, due to restoration activities
2026	Mud River	Headwaters to -95.694 48.318	2020	09020304-567	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained; due to unknown reasons
2026	Mud River	-95.694 48.318 to JD 11	2020	09020304-568	Marshall	Thief River	Aquatic Life	Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained; due to unknown reasons
2026	County Ditch 2	CD 66 to Grand Marais Cr	2016	09020306-515	Polk	Red River of the North - Grand Marais Creek	Aquatic Recreation	Escherichia coli (E. coli)	Delisting: Applicable WQS attained, due to restoration activities

2026 Delistings in the Red Lake Watershed District

Technical Memorandum

To:

From:

Subject: Thief River Streambank Stabilizations Plan Package Proposal for Total Phosphorus Offset

Date: April 2026

1. Purpose and Overview

This technical memorandum is intended to serve as the proposed best management practice (BMP) package submittal consistent with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Trading Guidance Section 5.1 and Section 5.2.1 (<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/business-with-us/water-quality-trading>; accessed on 08/28/2025) as well as the Red River Basin Water Quality Offset Plan. This technical memorandum contains the following information:

Baseline Information

- This section includes information on the target water body, baseline water quality conditions, and the assessment of baseline conditions for **XXXXX (entity seeking to offset its' baseline)**

Practice Information

- This section includes a description of the practice that is proposed for the offset including the practice type, location, function, installation year, and lifespan. This section also references necessary design information associated with the proposed practice.

Offset Information

- This section describes the methods and outcomes associated with the total phosphorus offset from the proposed practice. It also includes information connected to trade ratios, risk/uncertainty, and offset renewal.

Declarations

- This section describes declarations associated with the proposed practice. This includes declarations connected to funding restrictions, limitations of sale, stacking of benefits, antidegradation or backsliding, and project stewardship.

Operations and Maintenance

- This section describes the monitoring and maintenance plan associated with the proposed practice to verify that the offset total phosphorus continues to be delivered.

Steps to Establish Trade

- This section provides the pathway forward from transitioning this proposed offset practice into a water quality trade

Supporting Material

- This section describes any appendices that are provided in support of this proposal

2. Baseline Information

Table 1 provides a summary of the baseline information associated with the proposed BMP package. Target Water Body is the location at which the goal of reduction in Total Phosphorus (TP) is to occur, the Canadian border along the Red River of the North. The Baseline Year(s) were chosen per an International Joint Commission (IJC) agreement. Baseline Loading at Buyer is the amount of phosphorus loading occurring at the location of the offset buyer. Calculations Method describes model(s) or method(s) used to estimate the loading at the waterbody. Baseline Loading At Waterbody describes existing annual TP load on the Red River of the North at the Canadian Border. Assimilation Method describes model(s) or method(s) used to estimate the loading at the target water body. Baseline Load Reduction Needed At Waterbody is the amount of load reduction needed to meet the phosphorus loss limits proposed by the IJC. In this instance, the Red River of the North at Canadian Border has a loading limit of 3,086,500 lbs/year of TP (1,400 metric tons) The remainder of this section describes how this summary baseline information was developed. A Phosphorus Reduction Offset Calculator (P-ROC) was developed from the USGS SPARROW model for this region and used in this assessment.

Table 1. Baseline information associated with the proposed BMP package.

Attribute	Value
Target Waterbody:	Red River of the North at Canadian Border
Baseline Year(s):	2019-2024
Baseline Loading at Buyer:	XX lbs./year of TP
Calculation Method:	USGS SPARROW
Baseline Loading at Waterbody:	5,418,556 lbs./year of TP
Assimilation Method:	P-ROC Tool
Baseline Load Reduction Needed at Waterbody:	2,332,085 lbs./year of TP accounting for MOS

The Red River of the North at Canadian Border has a baseline loading of 5,418,556 lbs./year of TP. The U.S. has a baseline phosphorus reduction at the border of the U.S. and Canada along the Red River of the North of 2,332,085 lbs. (accounting for MOS).

3. Practice Information

Table 2 provides summary information associated with the proposed practice. The remainder of this section describes the proposed practice.

Table 2. Practice information associated with the proposed BMP package.

Attribute	Value
Geographic Extent of Watershed:	HUC 12 090203050202 Drainage area 28,818 acres
Offset Practice Type:	River and Stream Restoration
Offset Practice Description:	Streambank Stabilizations
Offset Practice Installation Year:	2025
Offset Practice Lifespan:	25 years

Table 2 summarizes the key attributes of the proposed BMP package for the stream restoration project (Appendix A). It identifies the project's geographic setting within a HUC 12 watershed (090203050202) draining approximately 28,818 acres and classifies the offset practice type as River and Stream Restoration. The primary practice described is streambank stabilization (Figure 1), with implementation planned for 2025. The expected lifespan of this offset practice is 25 years.

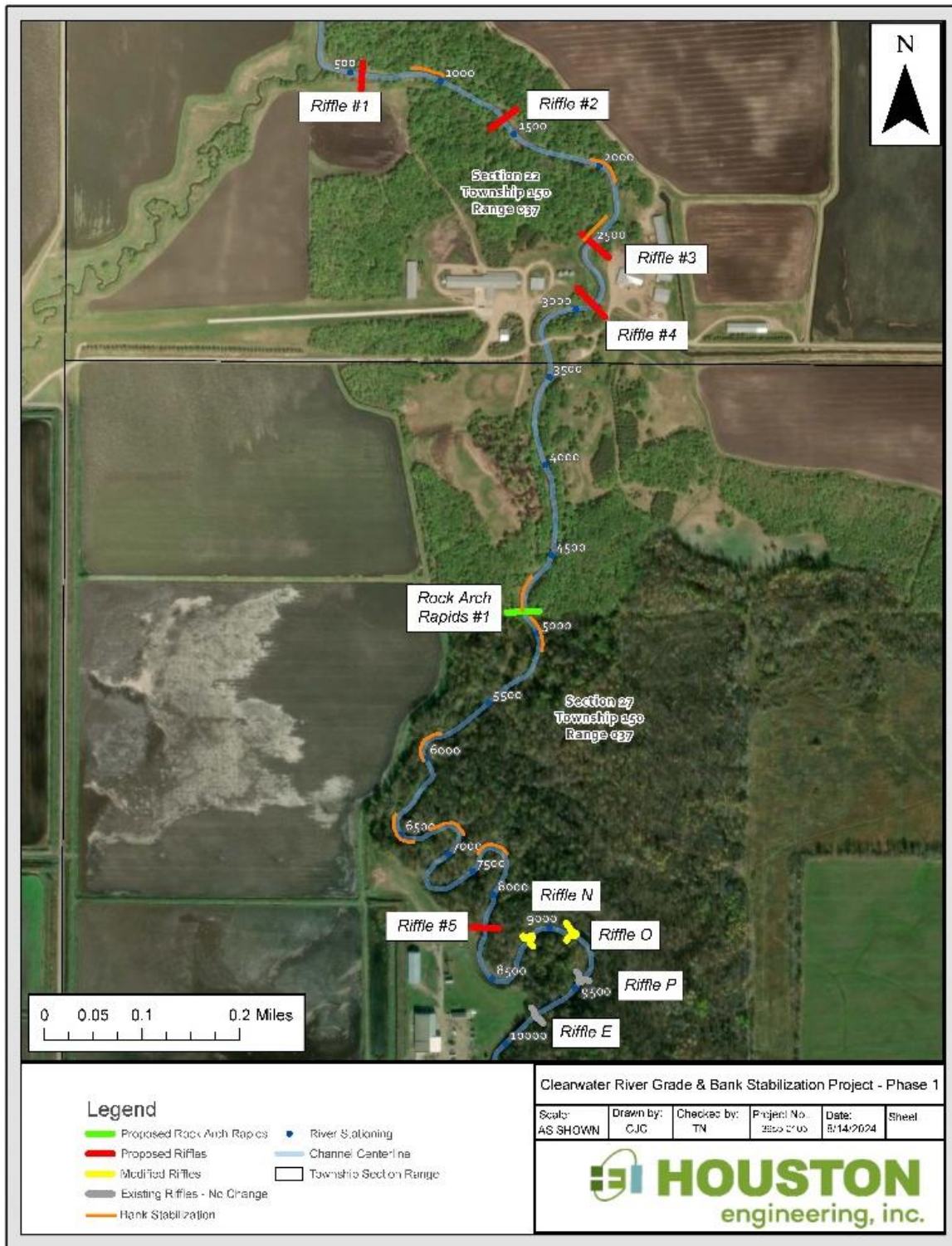


Figure 1 Clearwater River Grade & Bank Stabilization Project - Phase 1.

4. Offset Information

Table 3 provides a summary of information associated with the proposed TP offsets associated with the BMP package. *Treatment Offset At Practice* is the amount of annual reduction in pounds, of TP at field edge/end of BMP. The *Offset Calculation Method(s)* describes model(s) or method(s) used to estimate the treatment offset. *Treatment Offset at Target Waterbody* is the estimated annual TP offset at Red River of the North at Canadian border, without a trade ratio applied. *Assimilation Calculation Method*

describes the model(s) or method(s) used to estimate the annual TP offset. *Trade Ratio* is the standard trade ratio (margin of safety) currently being used for MPCA water quality trading offset documentation for a point to nonpoint source trade. *Offset Mass* is the estimated annual TP offset at Red River of the North at Canadian border including the trade ratio. *Risk and Uncertainty* lists model(s) and method(s) in which risk or uncertainty could occur. *Duration of Offset* is based on the duration of the agreement between buyer and seller. *Offset Renewal* is based on the duration of the agreement between buyer and seller. The remainder of this section describes how this offset information was derived.

Table 3. Total Phosphorus offset information associated with the proposed practice.

Attribute	Value
Treatment Offset at Practice:	925 lbs/year of TP
Offset Calculation Method:	BWSR Water Erosion Pollution Reduction Estimator 2.0 / P-ROC
Treatment Offset at Target Waterbody:	777.66 lbs/year of TP
Assimilation Calculation Method:	P-ROC
Trade Ratio:	Assumed 2.6 as standard from MPCA documentation
Offset Mass (includes trade ratio):	299.1 lbs/year of TP
Risk and Uncertainty:	Result was based on MPCA nutrient trading guidance and SPARROW modeling to account for phosphorus attenuation between the project site and the target waterbody, ensuring offsets are conservatively credited.
Duration of Offset:	Filled in based on the duration of the agreement between buyer and seller
Offset Renewal:	Filled in based on the duration of the agreement between buyer and seller

Table 3 summarizes how total phosphorus offsets from the proposed BMP package were calculated and translated from the practice site to the target waterbody. Stream restoration activities are estimated to reduce phosphorus loading by 925 lbs/year at the practice scale using BWSR Water Erosion Pollution Reduction Estimator 2.0 and P-ROC. Applying P-ROC (Appendix B) and an MPCA-standard trade ratio of 2.6 results in a credited offset of 299.1 lbs/year of TP at the target waterbody, with conservative assumptions accounting for watershed transport, retention, and uncertainty.

5. Declarations

The following declarations are made associated with the proposed practice within this BMP package.

Funding Restrictions

We are unaware of any funding restrictions associated with the proposed project that would preclude the development of total phosphorus offsets.

Limitations of Sale

Upon approval of a trade, both the buyer and project developer have agreed that this will be the sole total phosphorus credit associated with the proposed project so long as **Project Stewardship** agreements are in effect.

Multiple Offsets

We are unaware of any restrictions connected to the proposed BMP plan that would preclude the **project developer** from pursuing water quality credits for other pollutants such as nitrogen or sediment.

Stacking

We are unaware of any restrictions connected to the proposed BMP plan that would preclude the **project developer** from developing additional environmental attributes (e.g., greenhouse gas reductions or reductions in other water quality constituents) associated with the project.

Antidegradation or Backsliding

The proposed project within this BMP plan should not result in antidegradation or backsliding.

Project Stewardship

Describe the planned contractual obligations among parties for ensuring the ongoing operation of the proposed project.

6. Operation and Maintenance

Refer to Engineering Report for full Operations and Maintenance plan.

7. Supporting Material

- Appendix A contains information and justification for the streambank stabilization project that started in 2025.
- Appendix B includes the USGS SPARROW modeling used to calculate the offset at the treated waterbody in this project.



Organizational Evaluation

Red Lake Watershed District

May 6, 2026

Introduction

The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) has been in existence since 1970. Given the changes in administration and the board over the past 5-10 years, this was an appropriate time to pause and assess the organization. The purpose of this evaluation was intended to better understand organizational strengths, challenges, and opportunities to help inform the overall effectiveness of the RLWD. Feedback was gathered from Board, staff, partners, and stakeholders regarding their experiences working with RLWD. Responses have been paraphrased and grouped into themes to preserve confidentiality while accurately reflecting shared perspectives. This evaluation was funded by a Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources.

Methods

Feedback was gathered using a mixed-methods approach that combined online surveys and semi-structured phone interviews. This approach allowed for both broad input across stakeholder groups and more in-depth qualitative insights.

Online Surveys

Online surveys were distributed to identified stakeholder groups using Google Forms. Surveys included a combination of closed-ended questions and open-ended prompts to capture both quantitative trends and narrative feedback. Participation was voluntary, and responses were collected anonymously to encourage candid input. Survey data were reviewed in aggregate to identify themes, patterns, and areas of alignment or concern.

Phone Interviews

In addition to the surveys, one-on-one in-person interviews were conducted with each board and staff member to gather more detailed perspectives. Phone interviews were also conducted with selected partners and stakeholders. Interviews followed a semi-structured format, allowing for consistent topic coverage while providing flexibility to explore issues raised by participants. Interviews typically lasted approximately 10–15 minutes. Notes were taken during each interview, and no comments were attributed to individuals or organizations in reporting.

Data Analysis and Confidentiality

Survey responses and interview notes were synthesized and analyzed together to identify key themes and insights. All feedback was treated as confidential and reported only in summary form to protect participant anonymity. Findings reflect collective input rather than individual responses.

Surveys, interviews, and analysis were conducted by Houston Engineering.

Overall Organizational Evaluation

Feedback from staff, Board members, and partners paints a clear picture of RLWD as a trusted, high-performing organization with a strong foundation and regional credibility. At the same time, it highlights some constructive areas for improvement—ranging from increased outreach to townships and the public to annual staff evaluations. Together, these insights reflect both the strength of the organization today and do-able improvements that can be made moving forward.

Organizational Strengths

Across staff, Board, and partner feedback, RLWD is consistently described as a strong, capable organization with a positive reputation and a high level of trust.

Key strengths identified include:

- Strong collaboration among staff and effective working relationships with the Board, partner agencies, LGUs, tribes, and landowners.
- A highly capable, dedicated staff with diverse technical expertise and a culture of mutual respect.
- Effective leadership and smooth administrative and board transitions, contributing to organizational stability and continuity.
- Financial stewardship, including careful use of levy dollars and success in securing grants and external funding.
- Willingness by the Board to invest in innovation, new technology, staff training, and non-traditional project ideas.
- Transparent governance, with staff empowered to manage technical details and project execution while the Board focuses on policy-level decisions.
- Strong credibility with state agencies and partners, positioning RLWD as a regional leader among watershed districts.
- Meaningful project outcomes that improve water quality, enhance drainage and flood resilience, and benefit future generations.

Challenges and External Threats

Several internal and external challenges were identified across feedback groups:

- Rising project and engineering costs, along with funding uncertainty.
- Lengthy and complex state and federal permitting processes.
- Political polarization, misinformation, and mistrust of government entities.
- Climate change impacts and more frequent extreme weather events.
- Administrative complexity associated with watershed-wide implementation efforts, such as 1W1P reporting and invoicing.

Board and Staff Feedback

Overall, feedback from both staff and Board members points to a strong, functioning organization built on trust, professionalism, and mutual respect. Staff express confidence in the Board's leadership and value its openness to science-based recommendations, while Board members consistently recognize staff for their expertise, preparation, and follow-through. Improvements focus on improved onboarding of staff and board members and making sure annual staff evaluations are completed. Together, these perspectives reflect a positive organizational culture with effective communication practices, collaborative decision making, and a shared commitment to continuous improvement.

What Staff Appreciates About the Board

Staff feedback reflected high levels of trust and confidence in Board leadership.

Staff value that the Board:

- Listens to staff expertise and science-based recommendations.
- Demonstrates openness, accessibility, and respect in interactions.
- Supports professional development, technology upgrades, new equipment purchases, and training opportunities.
- Trusts staff to manage permits, projects, and technical details without excessive oversight.
- Engages collaboratively rather than acting as a “rubber stamp,” while maintaining transparency in decision-making.
- Has improved communication and governance practices over time.
- That staff are welcome to sit in on board meetings.

What the Board Appreciates About Staff

Board members expressed strong appreciation for staff professionalism and dedication.

The Board highlighted that staff:

- Are well-prepared, knowledgeable, and organized for meetings and projects.
- Demonstrate strong coordination, follow-through, and accountability.
- Maintain strong communication and keep the Board informed of projects, particularly within specific geographic areas.
- Are approachable, proactive, and solution-oriented.
- Have navigated leadership transitions smoothly, maintaining continuity and forward momentum.

Organizational Culture

Feedback from all groups described RLWD's culture as positive, collaborative, and respectful.

Themes included:

- A supportive work environment where individual expertise is valued.
- Strong working relationships between staff and the Board with minimal friction.
- Improved morale and trust compared to past periods.
- An open-door leadership style that encourages communication and problem-solving.
- Healthy partnerships with counties, SWCDs, NGOs, tribes, and other watershed organizations.

Communication and Decision-Making

Communication within the organization and with partners is generally viewed as effective, though there are opportunities for refinement.

Strengths:

- Clear flow of information from staff through administration to the Board.
- Comfort with direct communication between staff, Board members, and partners.
- Transparency in decision-making, even when there is disagreement.
- Consistent sharing of agendas, meeting packets, and minutes.

Opportunities for improvement:

- Ensuring Board discussions are fully explored before decisions are finalized.
- Keeping meetings focused and aligned with agreed-upon agendas.
- Providing more consistent updates to Board members and partners about project status, particularly for ditch systems.
- Clarifying points of contact, roles, and responsibilities for joint projects and drainage issues.

Partner Feedback and External Reputation

Feedback from partners, residents, and community stakeholders indicates that RLWD is broadly viewed as a capable and respected watershed district, with perceptions varying based on familiarity and level of engagement. External partners and stakeholders who regularly work with RLWD consistently report strong performance and collaboration, while resident perceptions are more mixed and closely tied to awareness, communication, and visibility of completed work.

Strengths

- Viewed by external partners as a high-functioning watershed district and a reliable, respected regional leader.
- Strong technical expertise and effective coordination across a large and diverse district.
- Staff are responsive, approachable, and easy to work with, often engaging beyond formal meetings.
- Effective balance of sound science with practical considerations and community realities.
- Willingness to act as a fiscal agent and step up to advance priority projects.
- Strong collaborative approach that leverages partner strengths to achieve shared goals.
- Education and outreach efforts (e.g., River Watch and monitoring partnerships) are highly valued and exceed what many peer districts provide.
- Board members are generally perceived as accessible community members rather than distant government officials.
- Residents and stakeholders familiar with RLWD's work typically hold positive views.

Opportunities for Improvement

- Increase awareness among residents and stakeholders who are less familiar with RLWD or unaware of completed successes.
- Address communication gaps that can contribute to negative perceptions related to project timelines, permitting complexity, or equity concerns.
- Expand proactive outreach through press releases, storytelling, and sharing project success stories.
- Maintain a more consistent presence at township, county, and SWCD meetings.
- Establish regular or annual meetings between RLWD officials and townships.
- Improve clarity and accessibility of information related to ditch responsibilities, project status, and points of contact through maps and web-based resources. Make sure partners know where to find this information.

Overall Future Improvement Ideas and Priorities (3–5 Years)

Looking ahead, several opportunities emerged to strengthen capacity, sharpen operations, and expand impact. These focus on making the most of staff resources, improving onboarding and governance practices, advancing projects so they are ready when funding aligns, and deepening outreach and partnerships. Together, these areas reflect a proactive approach—building on a strong foundation while positioning RLWD to be more efficient, responsive, and visible in its work across the watershed.

Staffing and Capacity

- Hire a new watershed coordinator through watershed partnerships for outreach, planning, and workload support.
- Develop clearer onboarding plans, training roadmaps, and consistent annual staff evaluations.
- Get technical staff more involved with Project Teams.
- Celebrate/acknowledge RLWD staff milestones such as birthdays and work anniversaries for staff bonding.

Governance and Operations

- Improve orientation and onboarding for new Board members.
- Hold annual project tours for Board members.
- Clarify personnel policies related to staff flexibility and workload management.
- Require Board members to share key takeaways after attending external meetings.
- Get a PA system and microphones for the boardroom. It would help with everyone in the room and online to hear better and more clearly.

Projects and Planning

- Advance project development so opportunities are ready when funding becomes available.
- Learning is needed on ditch repair. Have a ditch plan that rotates through the district with a timeline. Have an online mapping page to show ditch authorities and projects.
- Continue refining RLWD's role in watershed-wide implementation efforts (e.g., 1W1P), including clearer processes for invoicing, reporting, and coordination with partners.

Outreach and Relationships

- Expand community engagement, especially in underserved areas.
- Expand township outreach, especially on ditch projects.
- Better communicate project successes and use of Clean Water funding.
- Continue and strengthen partnerships with tribes, focusing on aligned goals such as water quality, erosion control, and shared implementation opportunities.
- Consider enhanced outreach capacity through staffing, contracting or dedicated responsibilities.

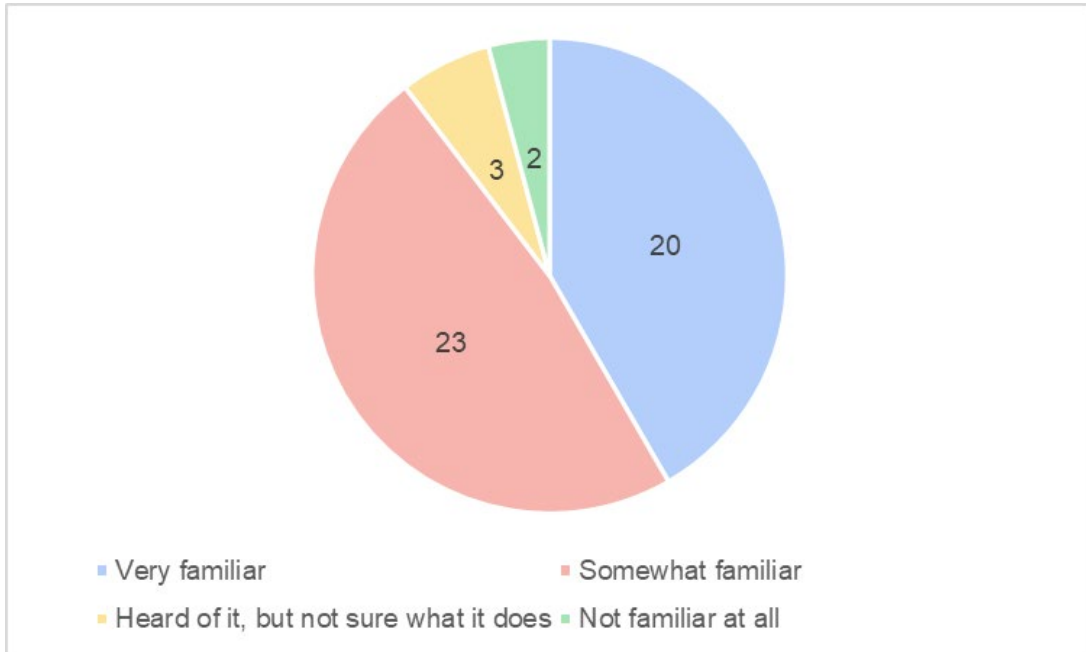
Overall Sentiment

Overall feedback strongly indicates that RLWD is viewed as a great place to work and a highly effective watershed organization. Staff, Board members, and partners expressed pride in the District's mission, appreciation for collaboration, and confidence in RLWD's current direction. While challenges remain, there is broad agreement that continued investment in staff, thoughtful governance, proactive communication, and strong partnerships will position RLWD for long-term success.

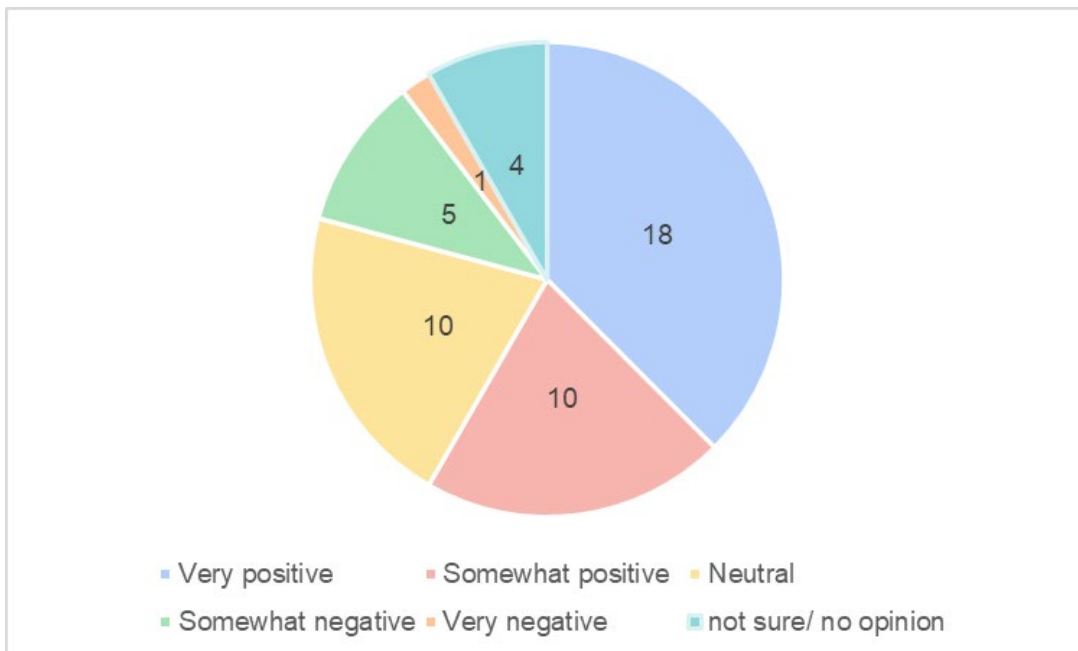
RLWD Survey 1: Residents Results

Responses: 52 people

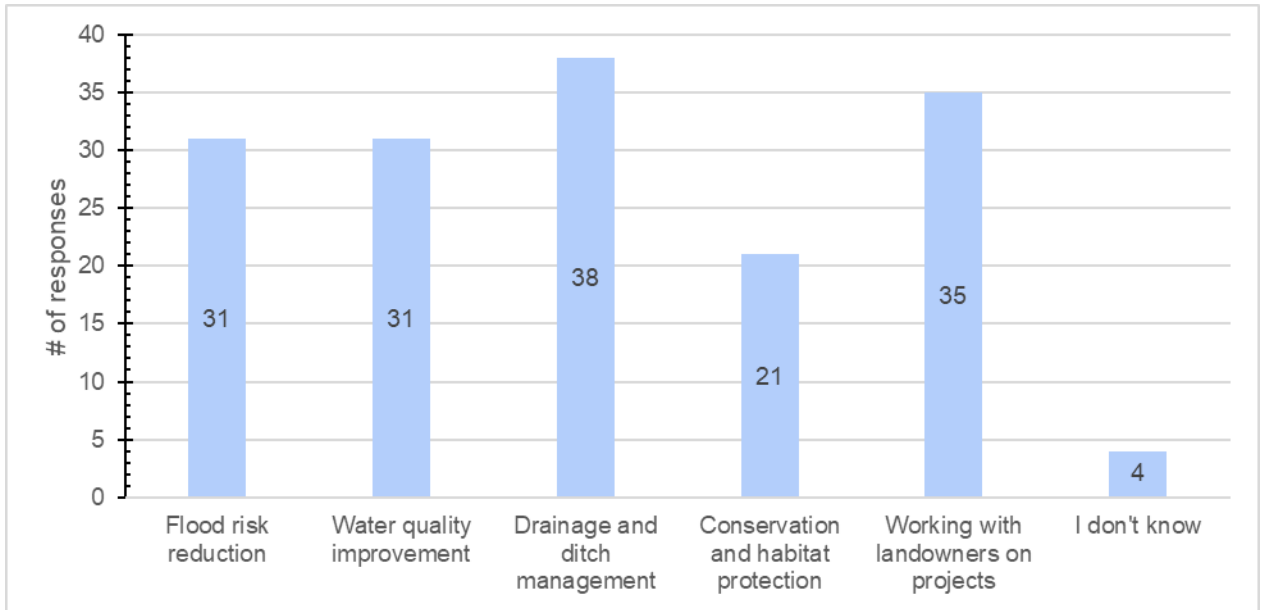
1. Before today, how familiar were you with Red Lake Watershed District?



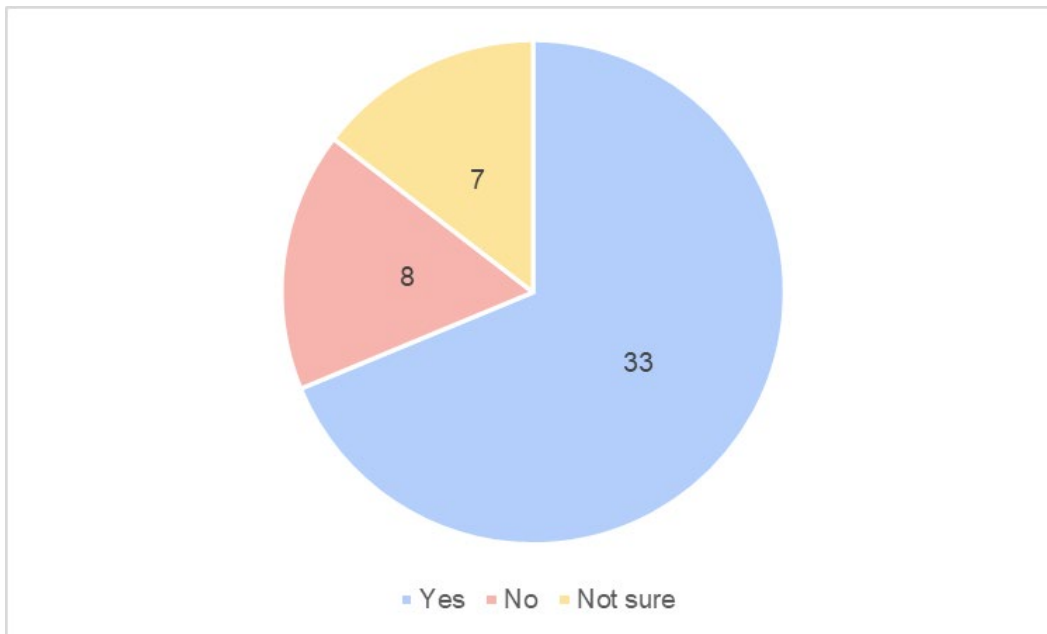
2. How would you rate your overall impression of the Red Lake Watershed District?



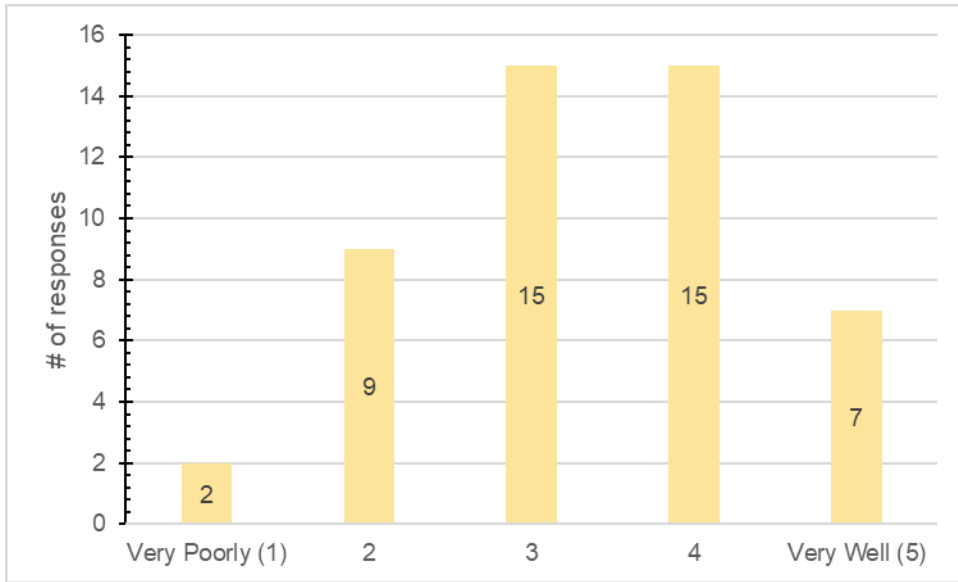
3. Which of the following do you believe are responsibilities of the Red Lake Watershed District?



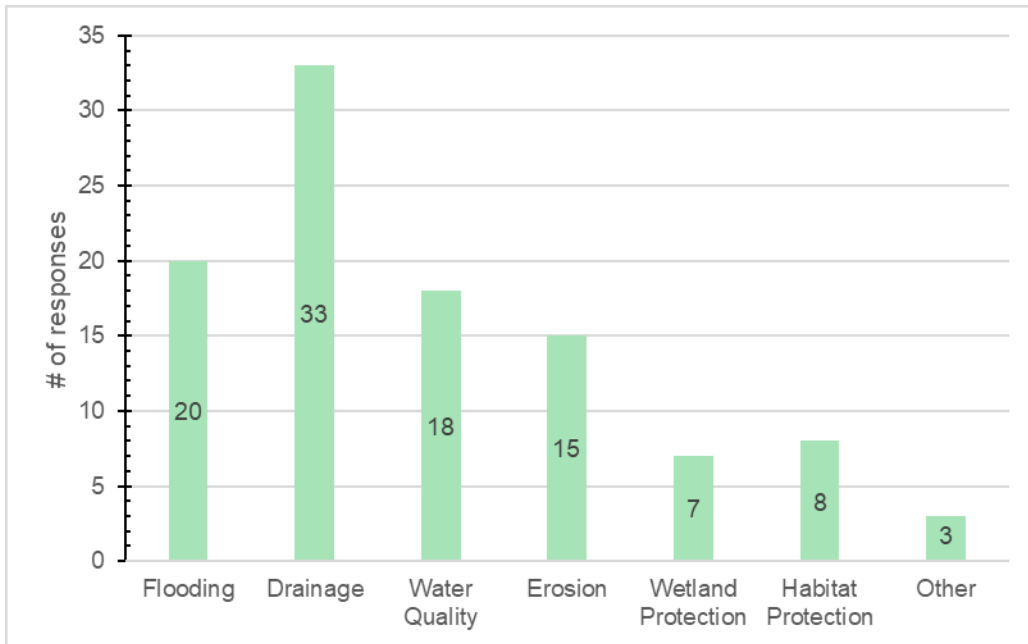
4. Have you ever participated in or been directly affected by an RLWD project or activity?



5. How well do you feel RLWD communicated with residents in the watershed?



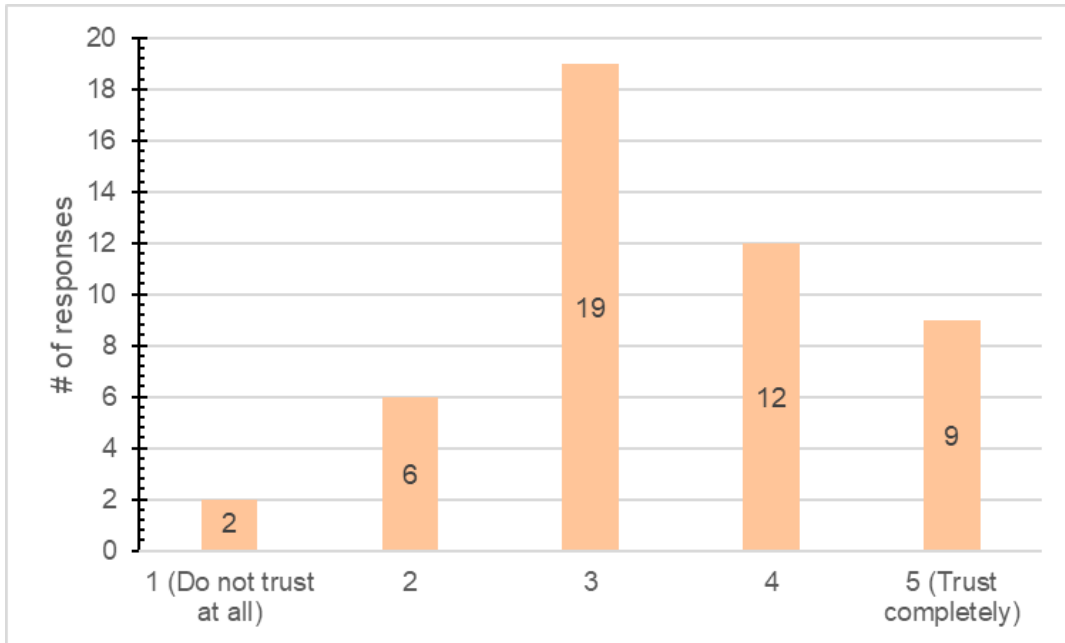
6. What are the most important water-related issues in your area right now?



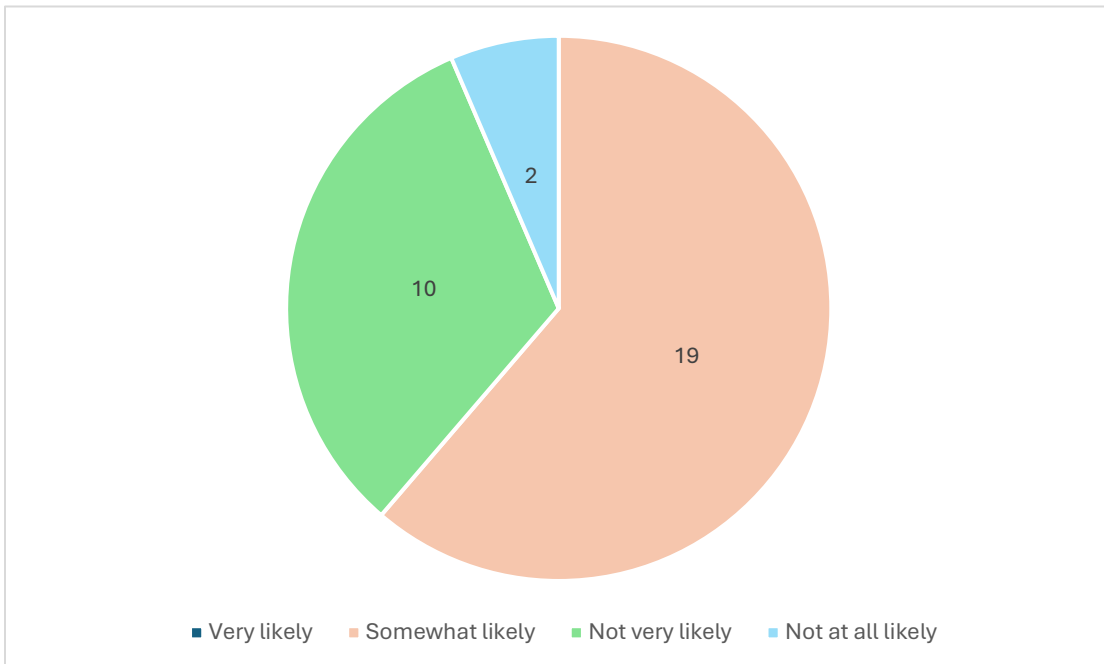
Other:

- None.
- Parasites.

7. How much do you trust RLWD to make decisions that are in the best interest of the watershed and community?



8. How likely are you to engage with RLWD in the future (attend meetings, provide input, participate in projects)?



9. What is one thing RLWD could do to improve its relationship with residents?

- Publish or mail a semi-annual newsletter with a local focus.
- Continue to provide information and support to local communities.
- None, I'm good with it.
- You can never satisfy everyone.
- Not sure.
- Put the RLWD sign back up at Bartlett Lake.
- Nothing.
- Not sure , there doing a good job.
- Share with residents RLWD long term goals.
- More local meetings in different locations.
- Not sure.
- Keeping your residents informed.
- Be more visible.
- Tax payers should have a say on where their funds are getting used.
- More information on what that is.
- Quarterly news letters.
- I think it is doing fine.
- Connect with townships. attend meetings, learn the priorities of the areas. Also recognize this is largely an agricultural community that needs to be supported and prioritized.
- Communication and listening for all watershed districts.
- I think they do a pretty good job.
- More information.
- Doing a great job good communication.
- Better communication.
- Market its services and scope to communities.
- They are VERY poor about returning calls.
- I don't know, be more flexible.
- More info about the directors.
- Monthly letters.
- Stop the overkill. Work with people and help them instead of punishing them for trying to improve there property.
- Keep residents informed.
- Newsletters quarterly.

- If you are having meetings and working on issues it would be nice to receive a newsletter/flyer with meeting minutes or progress on projects rather than hearing it from neighbors or friends in the community. I understand these projects can be a long process but it's reassuring knowing it's being addressed.
- Unsure what they even stand for or do.
- Education and outreach.
- Mowing more ditches.
- Stop adding projects that may be beneficial to some but detrimental to others.
- Keep communication open.
- Stop with all the unnecessary money spending on "flood control projects". It's wasteful spending and is mostly detrimental to wildlife, especially the fish that were poisoned out and not allowed to come back.
- Information when needed.
- I feel like residents and those affected by these projects have no idea of when or where meetings are held. The RLWD needs to send postcards, do radio announcements, add meetings to newspaper events, etc. But by far, postcards to all area residents are the only way to be sure that people know about these meetings. The RLWD needs to be more upfront with their projects - meaning a clear, simple and basic outline/checklist needs to be shared with residents or those affected. Basic summaries of proposed projects **NEED TO BE MAILED** to townships before annual March meetings so they can discuss implications. Townships should also be sent the meeting dates of RLWD to share at each annual meeting. Annual March township meetings are a good way to share info and meeting data pertaining to RLWD. It's difficult and frustrating to read a 200+ page report about proposed projects which is why a summary or project checklist would be easier to review if someone is crunched for time. Listen to landowners who are opposed to projects and take their concerns seriously. So many of these projects come across as solutions to a so called "problem" that doesn't exist.
- Transparency.
- We live 26 miles south of Bagley. Is this within the RLWD?
- Listen to lifetime residents from the area more, take into account their thoughts and concerns.
- Better communication.

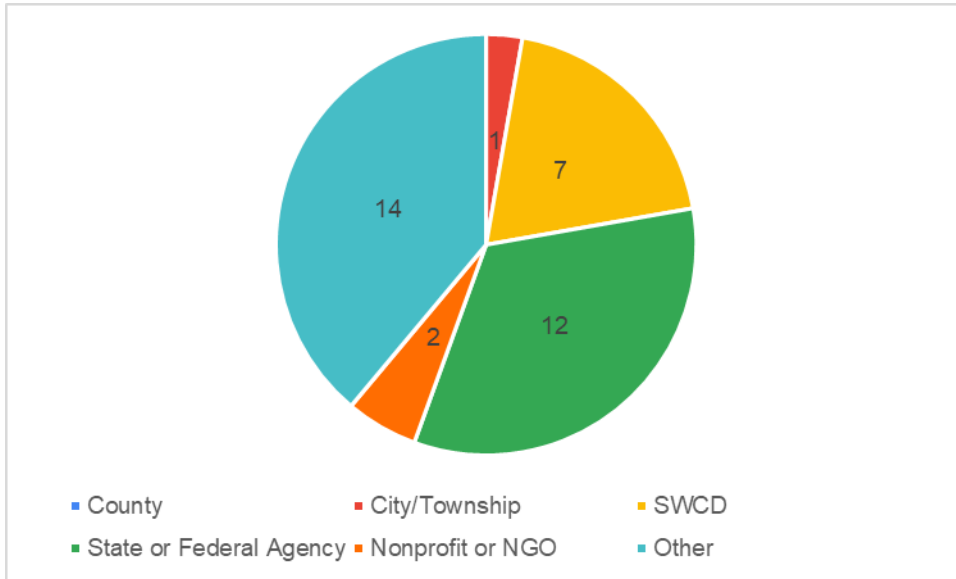
10. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- I appreciate the opportunity to represent my lake area association to share our concerns and to communicate about the outcomes of projects in our community.
- No perks for volunteers; not even a pen. You do say thank you, though.
- Extra funds should be returned to tax payers.
- Anything at all would help.
- Collaborate with your townships!
- Before this system of impoundments were created, we had a stable moose population, MUCH higher water fowl presence, West Nile was practically unheard of, Lyme disease wasn't rampant, and public land was being used & enjoyed much more than it is now. My feelings towards the RLWD could drastically be improved if the impoundments were managed better by - 1. stop storing stagnant water in impoundments. 2. Encourage more controlled burning to help control parasite and tick populations. I know that might not be a current duty of RLWD, but our area is in desperate need for fire to help control Lyme disease, improve forest health, and improve grass conditions for wildlife.
- Don't impede farmers. They are the economic engine of the region.
- Instead of impoundments for flood control, research tiling on swampy areas for water control, if you drain them out during dry periods there would be storage for wet periods, the opportunity to install tile has been possible the last couple years.

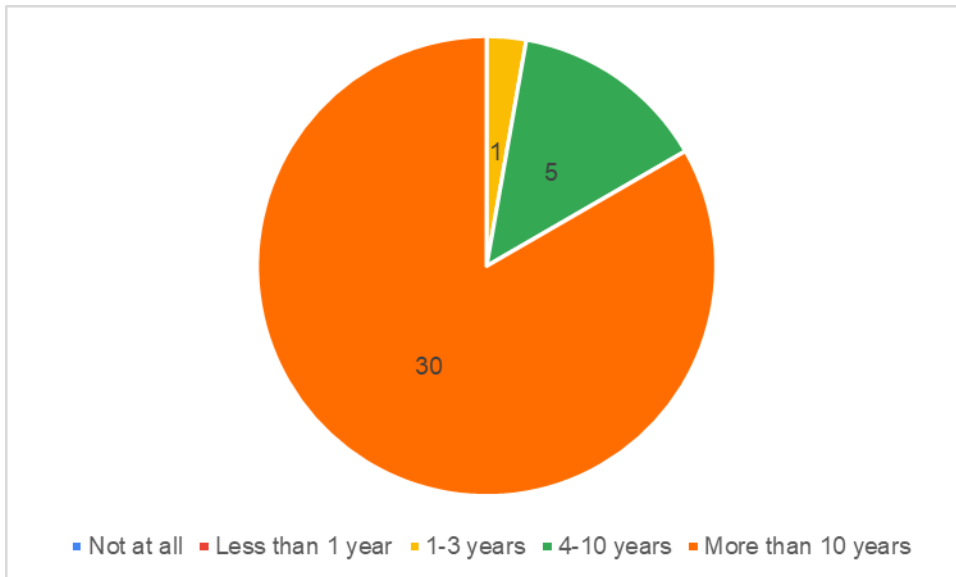
RLWD Survey 2: Partner Results

Responses: 36 people

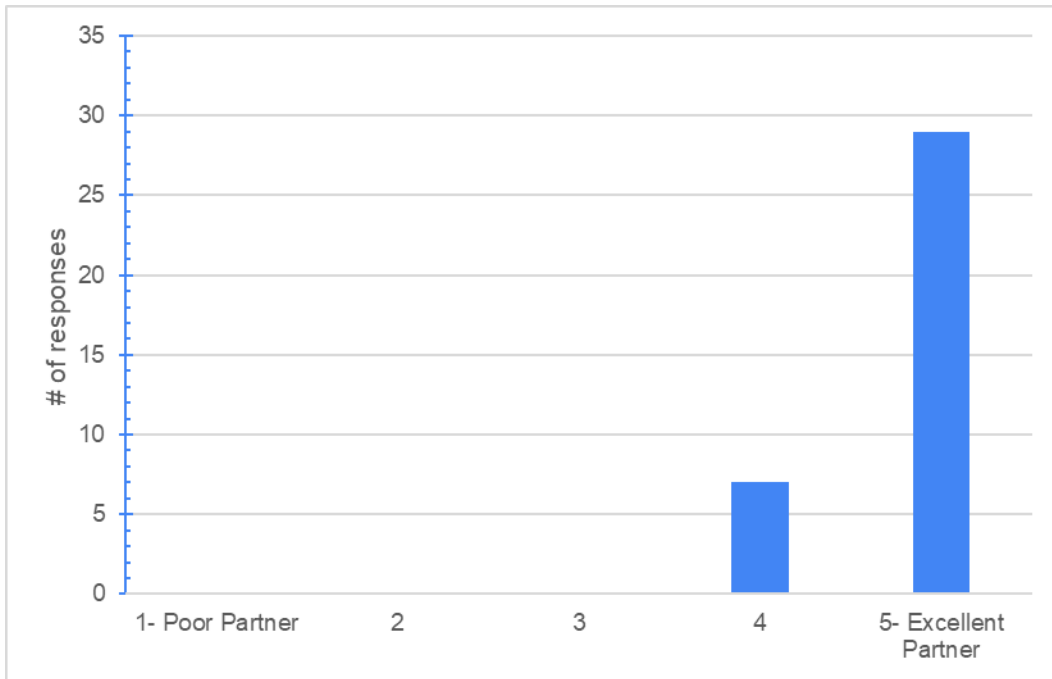
1. What type of organization do you represent?



2. How long has your organization worked with the Red Lake Watershed District?



3. How would you rate RLWD as a partner overall?



4. Why did you rate them that way?

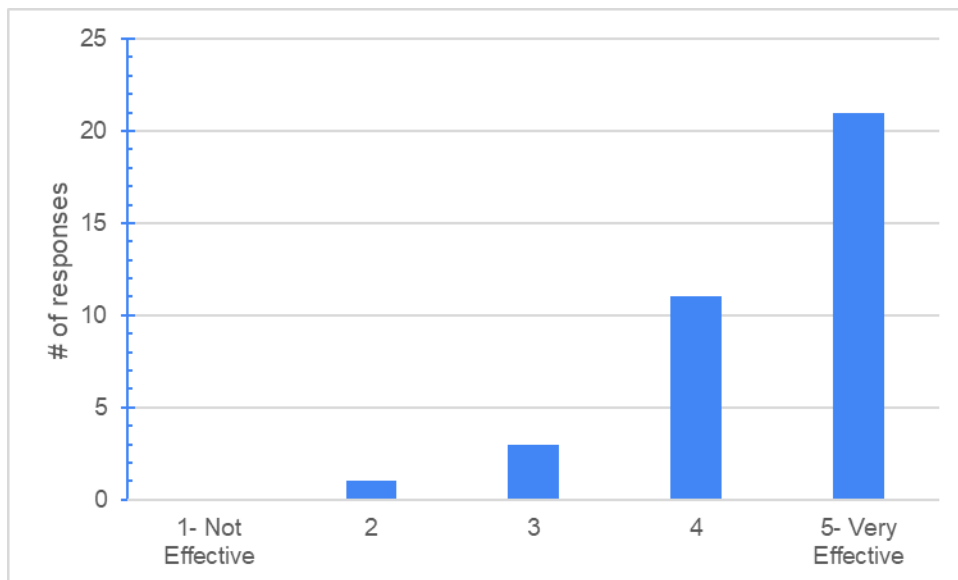
- Their board and administer make good decisions spending tax payers money wisely and efficiently, providing flood damage reduction, drainage, and water quality benefits to the entire district.
- RLWD staff are very eager to assist with questions or project ideas. Staff promptly respond to emails or phone calls of questions or concerns and is always willing to provide help where needed. RLWD staff are good to attend any and all meetings and provide excellent input and feedback. Staff are also good to follow up with and hold partners accountable which promotes the forward progress in various planning groups.
- They are a high performing watershed district. They are actively involved in the 1W1P partnerships and are a significant contributor, providing technical and financial support for projects.
- The district fulfills its mission but that doesn't stop it from finding ways to increase benefits beyond just what their constituents need. In the spirit of collaboration and building relationships, they are willing to serve as a pass-through entity for projects they don't directly sponsor. When it comes to having open discussions and sharing perspectives, they always make time to meet and talk things through. The district staff communicates well and participates in voluntary committees to the extent they can, which helps build relationships beyond when issues come up. I feel the

district is community-minded, approaches issues with curiosity rather than blame, and employs trusted experts.

- Excellent communication and collaboration on projects.
- Progressive, responsive, and an awesome board and staff. Tammy and staff are great to work with.
- RLWD has always been a great partner. RLWD is always willing to collaborate and communicate on projects that we have identified as priorities in our District. RLWD staff and board are always willing to listen, and support our efforts.
- The Board has consistently demonstrated strong support for projects that enhance natural resources across the watershed, and staff have maintained effective communication on customer service, water-flow management, water-quality monitoring, and infrastructure maintenance.
- Staff are willing to work with my agency and work together on assessments and improvement projects.
- We have had a long-term relationship with the RLWD and have a high degree of trust in the current team as they are professional and impactful. We look forward to continuing our work together!
- Staff and expertise.
- The RLWD Board and staff have been a strong partner in all projects we have worked with them on throughout the years.
- RLWD Staff is excellent to work with.
- We've had great success in doing programming together, working together to host trainings, and utilizing space at the RLWD.
- Their work has always been high quality. They are also concerned not only with managing the quantity of water on the landscape within their jurisdiction, but about quality as well. They are very active in working with local land owners and funding agencies to get projects on the ground to improve water quality and water management. They also have a very robust water quality monitoring program.
- Committed, organized, intentional.
- They have been very supportive in the River Watch program and the Envirothon Program.
- Driven, knowledgeable, and capable.
- Transparency, specialized expertise, delivers goals, provides data-driven advice.
- They are a good agency to work with on day to day questions and large scale projects.
- They are committed to help the community by building projects that help everyone.

- RLWD is always willing to partner with other organizations when working towards improving water quality, reduce soil loss, and improve habitat.
- They have been a great partner to work with over the 10 plus years we have worked together.
- Great, open communication. Willing to step up when needed. Understand they are stronger working with others than by themselves. Teamwork mindset.
- Great partner and resource, but issue priorities are not necessarily aligned.
- The head administrator and all staff members do their jobs very well.
- They are open to new ideas for partnerships with our agency.
- I truly enjoy the River of Dreams project every year!
- RLWD provides excellent support for the area River Watch teams!
- The RLWD is a great partner. Communication on 1W1P projects and financials could improve.
- They show up when they say they will and work well with my students.
- They have been great to offer educational activities for my students.
- Excellent team, knowledgeable staff.
- We have had positive experiences with them each year.
- Easy to work with and provide good information for our work.
- MnDOT and RLWD have worked well together for many years. No major issues.

5. How effective is communication between RLWD and your organization?



6. What does RLWD do well as a partner?

- Communication skills with the RLWD staff have been really successful being timely and efficient.
- Communication, get good projects done quickly, share information and resources, leverage additional funding, great fiscal agent.
- They are always looking for ways to contribute to the partnerships and more than willing to use technical and financial resources to do priority work.
- Serving as a platform for multiple groups to collaborate on issues - they offer their office as a place to gather and have connections that can bring people together. They are the opposite of zero-sum thinkers and support strategies that benefit other organizations in addition to their own. They are responsible with their resources and also find ways to be generous - if a project has minimal cost to them and lots of benefits to others compared to the benefit to themselves, they will still participate (or consider participating). I see the district as an organization that prioritizes the overall health of the watershed.
- Excellent communication and collaboration on projects. They provide information when requested on a timely basis.
- Great communication and they get stuff done!
- Communication, collaboration, and if needed, RLWD will take the lead on the larger scale projects.
- The Board and the Administrator treat all the stakeholders in the watershed fairly. They listen to the concerns and make informed decisions on how to proceed for the benefit of the entire watershed.
- RLWD is proactive in assessing, prioritizing, and seeking solutions for issues.
- The RLWD is prompt and accessible with their communication.
- Communication.
- Project coordination.
- Streambank Stabilization Projects. Hold excellent meetings and presentations.
- Clear and concise communication regarding questions and opportunities.
- Water quality monitoring, getting projects done, and relations with local land owners.
- Landowner collaboration and project development.
- Come alongside and support things.
- Team coordination.
- Transparency, specialized expertise, delivers goals, provides data-driven advice.

- They stay focused on their stated goals to keep water clean and reduce flooding problems.
- RLWD communicates well with their partners, provide technical and engineering assistance, provide financial assistance, and is a leader to their partner organizations.
- They are very organized and thorough.
- Recognize their own strengths as well as the strengths of others and are open to give and take as needed to provide the best possible outcome.
- Shares reports and data.
- They seek out other sources of funding for new construction projects.
- Not afraid to be candid with our agency, good board members, and open minded.
- Teach my students about our watershed, make learning fun.
- For all questions and inquiries I have presented, RLWD staff has met or exceeded expectations.
- Their staff is friendly and knowledgeable. They are always willing to partner on projects or help out with information or training when needed.
- Lead.
- Work well with students.
- Assist with projects.
- They are dependable, communicate, and provide valuable lessons for our kids.
- Communicate very well with us.
- We haven't had a partnership project between our agencies for several years now. Recent work together has really just been through permitting process.

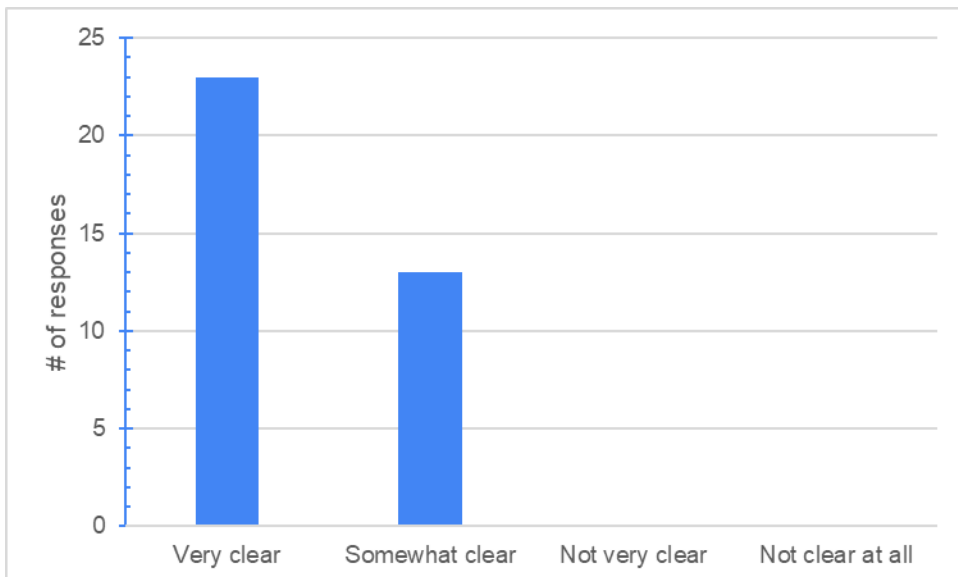
7. Where could RLWD improve its coordination or collaboration efforts?

- I think continued outreach with the public is a good way to show what the RLWD is working on and provide the public with the goals the district is trying to achieve.
- RLWD does great work! They could reach out to partners earlier in project planning phases to see if there is any way the partners could assist. Also, they can continue to refer landowners to their local SWCDs that could benefit from their various programs.
- The watershed district has a lot on their plate. Adding some staff capacity would be helpful and would allow them to collaborate more with partners and secure additional funds to do more work.
- I have no suggestions - everyone could learn a little from RLWD.

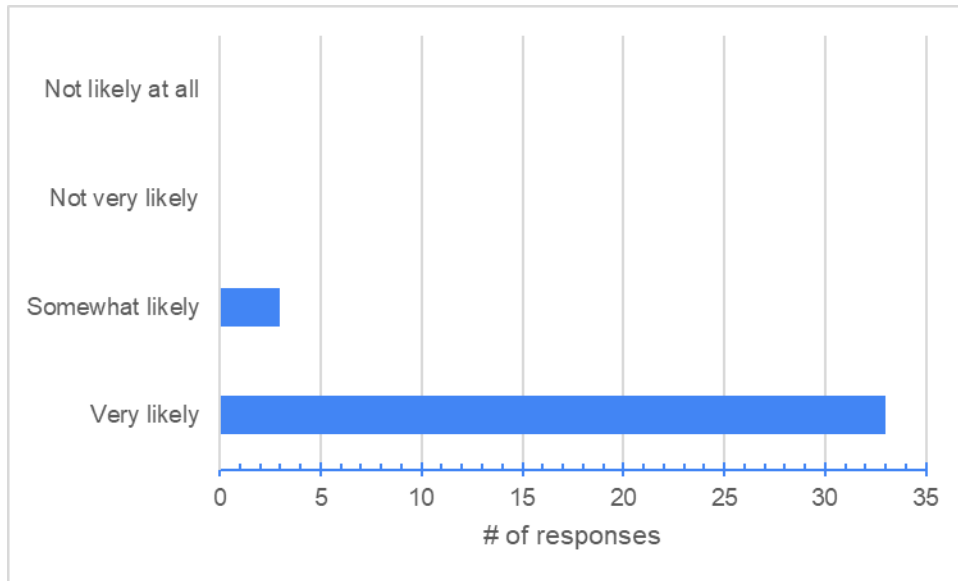
- I would say the coordination of the projects has been trending in a good direction. I like to have input meetings early to allow for all parties the opportunity to provide input. I feel the front end meetings allow all parties, especially the private landowners, the opportunity to feel invested in the direction the project goes.
- Administering a watershed of this scale is inherently challenging, with stakeholders spanning agricultural, municipal, and natural resource interests. By continuing to prioritize what is best for the watershed as a whole—rather than any single entity—you will maintain credibility and earn lasting respect.
- Lately, some of the improvement projects have been introduced to our agency with an already well-developed solution. It would be helpful for "water" managers (E.g. state & local governments and landowners) to come together on the identified problem and work towards a solution. A newsletter would be helpful. RLWD may already have one and I don't get it.
- No suggestions at this time.
- Nothing. Doing a great job.
- To date their coordination and collaboration efforts have been adequate.
- They do a good job of this already.
- Better communication about multiple projects ongoing at the same time.
- They could increase coordination with US Fish and Wildlife on Agassiz Wildlife Refuge water management operations, but that is certainly not a one-sided issue.
- Continued board support of staff.
- Maybe offer a classroom visit, with real life scenarios that are applicable.
- I think RLWD does a great job communicating with the public and project partners.
- Communication.
- Clean Water and involving DNR staff in projects early on.
- Nothing.
- RLWD does an excellent job with coordination and collaboration with the staff they have. ---RLWD Staff capacity is one area where with all the projects, water quality and biological monitoring, permitting, administrative and financial tasks, technical and engineering assistance, etc... they could use some additional staff capacity in their workforce due to their heavy workload.
- Further communication in needs for project completion.
- I've got nothing.
- Share work plans in advance to get stakeholder buy-in.
- I think they are doing all that is possible to coordinate and collaborate with all private and public entities.
- Nothing comes to mind.

- None - the people I have worked with have made the River of Dreams project easy to do.
- For the area I work in, I have no improvement recommendations.
- It seems that there are too many RLWD employees dealing with the 1W1P financials. The RLWD is not the coordinator for the 1W1P my office is involved in yet they are taking on the role of coordinator which is confusing. I believe this is done with the best intentions but it creates extra unnecessary work for the districts. There is also so much confusion around project information and what is needed by the RLWD. Despite multiple attempts to clarify this I just get basic, common BWSR info, that as a SWCD I already am well aware of. Submitting invoices is a dreadful process because what I submitted last time and got paid for won't be enough this time and I have yet to get a clear answer as to why or what is needed. My office is involved with multiple 1W1Ps and I don't have these issues with the others.
- Treats.
- Be more decisive.
- None that I can think of.
- All their efforts are great.
- Communication could be a little faster.

8. How clear is RLWD’s role and decision-making process in joint projects?



9. How likely is your organization to partner with RLWD on future projects?



10. Is there anything else you would like to add?

- RLWD does great work and has awesome, well qualified staff that are very involved and passionate about their work. Very grateful to have them as one of our partners and look forward to continuing to work with them!
- The watershed district is doing a good job managing land and water resources and utilizing the tools they have to address priority resources. They are a strong partner. Their coordination and collaboration make the partnerships they are part of better.
- Thank you for the continued commitment to continuous improvement and for opening yourself up to feedback! That can be a vulnerable experience. I hope RLWD is very proud of themselves.
- Keep on trucking!
- I enjoy working with the current staff and board members at RLWD. They are all very approachable and willing to listen.
- Thank you for having positive intent in managing water for all uses in the Red Lake Watershed District.
- RLWD staff is excellent to work with and we look forward to working with them in the future.
- They are a great organization!
- Thankful we have a organization that cares about our environment and keeping it usable for future generations.

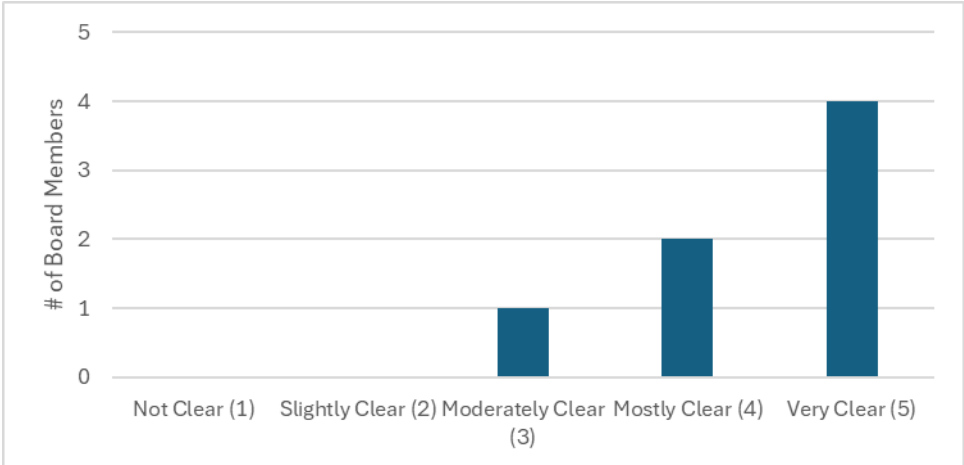
- Without the RLWD as a partner we would not have been able to accomplish the projects we have implemented over the past years. They are a valued and appreciated partner.
- It is a pleasure to work with the Red Lake Watershed District board and staff. They value partnerships and it shows from the great work they do!
- A huge thank you to Lindsey!!!!
- No.
- Thank you for reaching out to Challenger and providing this educational opportunity for our kids!
- Appreciate their professional and friendly help on our projects.

RLWD Survey 3: Board Results

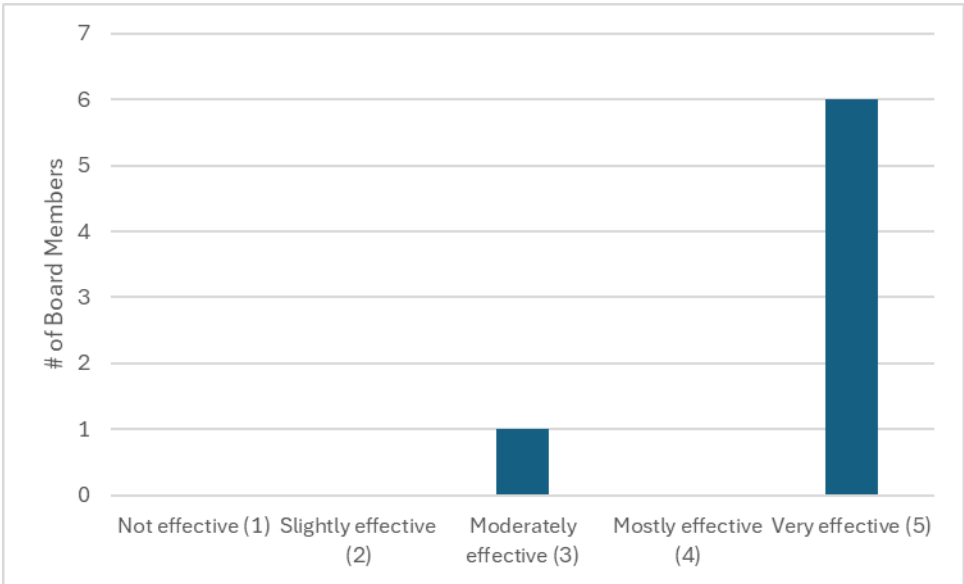
1. What is your role with the Red Lake Watershed District?

Board Member (7)

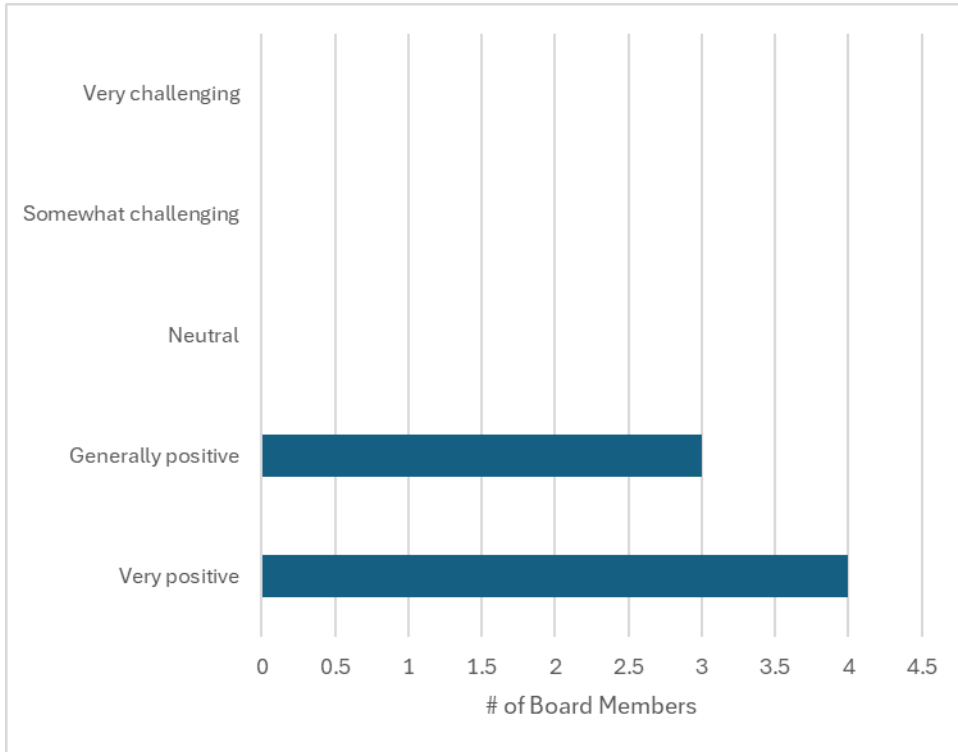
2. How clear is RLWD's overall mission and strategic direction?



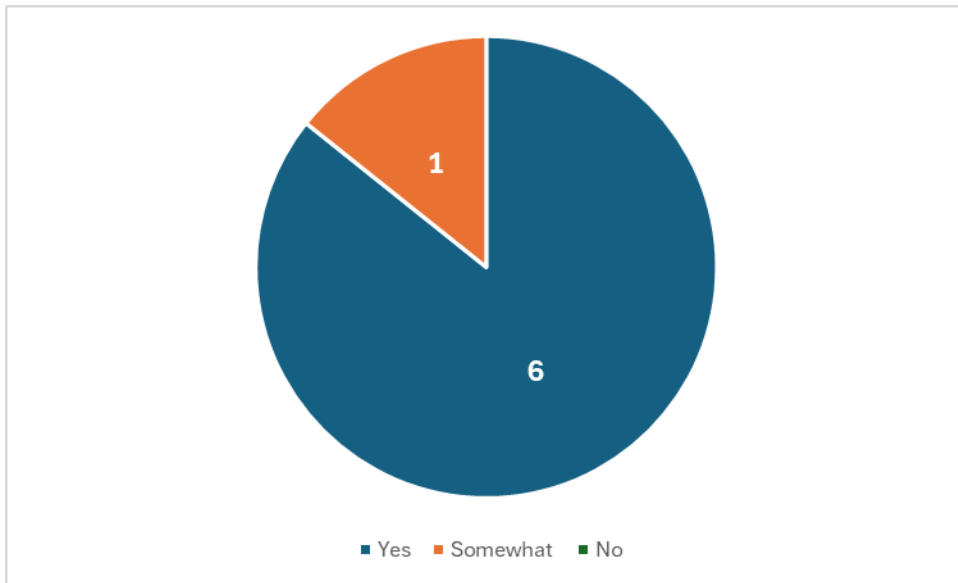
3. How effective is communication between the Board and Staff?



4. How would you describe RLWD's organization culture?



5. Do you feel decision-making processes at RLWD are clear and transparent?



6. What are the strengths of RLWD as an organization?

- Communication and knowledge.
- We don't feel we have to always agree but seem to come to a consensus to move on.
- Great staff, good board.
- Dedicated and knowledgeable staff and board. Staff are understanding of grant opportunities and how to submit well-prepared applications. Willing to support partner projects. Open minded.
- Board and staff seem to work well together
- Young ambitious staff that are willing to expand their duties. Very professional.
- Doing flood damage and water quality projects.

7. What are the weaknesses of RLWD as an organization?

- We need a mapping system to flag trouble spots where spring flooding occurs.
- They don't always agree with me.
- I don't know of any specific weakness.
- At times don't thoroughly discuss issues before voting on motions. Internal capabilities to facilitate project team discussions. Bank at questioning engineer expenses.
- Nothing major noted.
- Small staff for the 6000 sq miles.
- We can't seem to please everybody all the time.

8. What new opportunities do you envision for RLWD in the future?

- I hope that the SD83 project will be a long-term, successful project that helps many generations.
- Haven't thought about it.
- None come to mind.
- 1w1p plan coordinator.
- Lots of water quality issues.
- To perfect the program MS4 front with other LGU's
- Better relations with the Red Lake Nation.

9. What are some external threats to the long-term success of RLWD?

- Misinformation, political bias, underserved mistrust.
- Politics and no common-sense environmental groups.
- Funding needs, permitting delays from agencies.
- The political atmosphere: local, state, and federal.
- More environmental regulations that make it difficult to complete projects.
- Funding and permitting.
- Racism.

10. What 1-2 things need our immediate attention moving forward into 2026-2027?

- We need to have less socializing and better structure in our twice-monthly meetings.
- Politics.
- Less permits, less delays in getting approval.
- Review of our policies (internal and external) and our rules.
- None noted.
- I think everything is going as needed.

11. Is there anything else you would like us to know or add?

- No
- No
- I would like to see us use the advisory committee for more guidance and feedback. Do we need a more subjective employee evaluation system? There seems to be no issues now but better to have things in order before you need them.
- No
- No

Good afternoon, all –

Attached, please find the following preliminary General Obligation Bond scenarios related to Ditch 39:

- Preliminary G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A – assumes the County will levy for the 8/1/2027 and 2/1/2028 interest payments. The total estimated levy amount is approximately \$229,772.81. The County would need to certify a levy this fall (2026) for first collection in 2027, with assessment revenues beginning in 2028.
- Preliminary G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A – assumes Capitalized interest to cover the 8/1/2027 and 2/1/2028 interest payments. Total capitalized interest is estimated to be \$243,419.69. Same as the first scenario, assessments are assumed to begin in 2028.

For planning purposes, we have assumed an approximate closing date of September 16, 2026 – this date is flexible so we're happy to move this around based on the Watershed's determination regarding the use of cash to fund the project upfront. Both scenarios assume 20-year bonds. The estimated True Interest Cost of the bonds is approximately 4.40% (this includes a 25-basis point "cushion"), which brings the estimated assessment rate to 5.40% (1% over the True Interest Cost of the bonds). The actual interest rate will not be known until the bonds are issued.

If you have any questions or would like to schedule time to review the assumptions/scenarios together, please let us know.

Thank you!

Jessica Green

Managing Director, Public Finance

Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,125,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A
(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Sources & Uses

Dated 09/16/2026 | Delivered 09/16/2026

Sources Of Funds

Par Amount of Bonds	\$4,125,000.00
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Total Sources	\$4,125,000.00
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Uses Of Funds

Deposit to Project Construction Fund	4,000,000.00
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Total Underwriter's Discount (2.100%)	86,625.00
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Costs of Issuance	34,600.00
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Rounding Amount	3,775.00
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Total Uses	\$4,125,000.00
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Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,125,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A

(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
09/16/2026	-	-	-	-	-
08/01/2027	-	-	146,219.06	146,219.06	-
02/01/2028	-	-	83,553.75	83,553.75	229,772.81
08/01/2028	-	-	83,553.75	83,553.75	-
02/01/2029	145,000.00	3.200%	83,553.75	228,553.75	312,107.50
08/01/2029	-	-	81,233.75	81,233.75	-
02/01/2030	145,000.00	3.250%	81,233.75	226,233.75	307,467.50
08/01/2030	-	-	78,877.50	78,877.50	-
02/01/2031	150,000.00	3.300%	78,877.50	228,877.50	307,755.00
08/01/2031	-	-	76,402.50	76,402.50	-
02/01/2032	155,000.00	3.400%	76,402.50	231,402.50	307,805.00
08/01/2032	-	-	73,767.50	73,767.50	-
02/01/2033	160,000.00	3.500%	73,767.50	233,767.50	307,535.00
08/01/2033	-	-	70,967.50	70,967.50	-
02/01/2034	170,000.00	3.650%	70,967.50	240,967.50	311,935.00
08/01/2034	-	-	67,865.00	67,865.00	-
02/01/2035	175,000.00	3.750%	67,865.00	242,865.00	310,730.00
08/01/2035	-	-	64,583.75	64,583.75	-
02/01/2036	180,000.00	3.850%	64,583.75	244,583.75	309,167.50
08/01/2036	-	-	61,118.75	61,118.75	-
02/01/2037	185,000.00	3.950%	61,118.75	246,118.75	307,237.50
08/01/2037	-	-	57,465.00	57,465.00	-
02/01/2038	195,000.00	4.050%	57,465.00	252,465.00	309,930.00
08/01/2038	-	-	53,516.25	53,516.25	-
02/01/2039	205,000.00	4.100%	53,516.25	258,516.25	312,032.50
08/01/2039	-	-	49,313.75	49,313.75	-
02/01/2040	210,000.00	4.150%	49,313.75	259,313.75	308,627.50
08/01/2040	-	-	44,956.25	44,956.25	-
02/01/2041	220,000.00	4.200%	44,956.25	264,956.25	309,912.50
08/01/2041	-	-	40,336.25	40,336.25	-
02/01/2042	230,000.00	4.250%	40,336.25	270,336.25	310,672.50
08/01/2042	-	-	35,448.75	35,448.75	-
02/01/2043	240,000.00	4.300%	35,448.75	275,448.75	310,897.50
08/01/2043	-	-	30,288.75	30,288.75	-
02/01/2044	250,000.00	4.350%	30,288.75	280,288.75	310,577.50
08/01/2044	-	-	24,851.25	24,851.25	-
02/01/2045	260,000.00	4.400%	24,851.25	284,851.25	309,702.50
08/01/2045	-	-	19,131.25	19,131.25	-
02/01/2046	270,000.00	4.450%	19,131.25	289,131.25	308,262.50
08/01/2046	-	-	13,123.75	13,123.75	-
02/01/2047	285,000.00	4.500%	13,123.75	298,123.75	311,247.50
08/01/2047	-	-	6,711.25	6,711.25	-
02/01/2048	295,000.00	4.550%	6,711.25	301,711.25	308,422.50
Total	\$4,125,000.00	-	\$2,296,797.81	\$6,421,797.81	-

Yield Statistics

Bond Year Dollars	\$54,326.88
Average Life	13.170 Years
Average Coupon	4.2277378%
Net Interest Cost (NIC)	4.3871892%
True Interest Cost (TIC)	4.4156754%
Bond Yield for Arbitrage Purposes	4.1961513%
All Inclusive Cost (AIC)	4.5052265%

IRS Form 8038

Net Interest Cost	4.2277378%
Weighted Average Maturity	13.170 Years

2026A Ditch Levy F1 | SINGLE PURPOSE | 6/4/2026 | 9:49 AM

Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,125,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A

(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Date	Total P+I	105% Levy	Less:	Equals:	Levy Year	Collection Year
			Special Assessments Revenues*	Net Levy/ (Excess Revenues)		
02/01/2027	-	-	-	-	-	-
02/01/2028	229,772.81	241,261.45	-	241,261.45	2026	2027
02/01/2029	312,107.50	327,712.88	344,560.07	(16,847.20)	2027	2028
02/01/2030	307,467.50	322,840.88	344,560.08	(21,719.21)	2028	2029
02/01/2031	307,755.00	323,142.75	344,560.06	(21,417.31)	2029	2030
02/01/2032	307,805.00	323,195.25	344,560.06	(21,364.81)	2030	2031
02/01/2033	307,535.00	322,911.75	344,560.08	(21,648.33)	2031	2032
02/01/2034	311,935.00	327,531.75	344,560.08	(17,028.33)	2032	2033
02/01/2035	310,730.00	326,266.50	344,560.07	(18,293.57)	2033	2034
02/01/2036	309,167.50	324,625.88	344,560.06	(19,934.19)	2034	2035
02/01/2037	307,237.50	322,599.38	344,560.07	(21,960.70)	2035	2036
02/01/2038	309,930.00	325,426.50	344,560.06	(19,133.56)	2036	2037
02/01/2039	312,032.50	327,634.13	344,560.07	(16,925.95)	2037	2038
02/01/2040	308,627.50	324,058.88	344,560.08	(20,501.21)	2038	2039
02/01/2041	309,912.50	325,408.13	344,560.06	(19,151.94)	2039	2040
02/01/2042	310,672.50	326,206.13	344,560.07	(18,353.95)	2040	2041
02/01/2043	310,897.50	326,442.38	344,560.06	(18,117.69)	2041	2042
02/01/2044	310,577.50	326,106.38	344,560.06	(18,453.69)	2042	2043
02/01/2045	309,702.50	325,187.63	344,560.06	(19,372.44)	2043	2044
02/01/2046	308,262.50	323,675.63	344,560.07	(20,884.45)	2044	2045
02/01/2047	311,247.50	326,809.88	344,560.07	(17,750.20)	2045	2046
02/01/2048	308,422.50	323,843.63	344,560.07	(20,716.45)	2046	2047
Total	\$6,421,797.81	\$6,742,887.70	\$6,891,201.36	(148,313.66)		

*Special assessments are based on assessments totaling \$4,125,000 in principal assessed a rate of 5.40%, which is 1% over the TIC, spread in equal annual payments over 20 years.

Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,370,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A
(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Sources & Uses

Dated 09/16/2026 | Delivered 09/16/2026

Sources Of Funds

Par Amount of Bonds	\$4,370,000.00
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Total Sources	\$4,370,000.00
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Uses Of Funds

Deposit to Project Construction Fund	4,000,000.00
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Deposit to Capitalized Interest (CIF) Fund	243,419.69
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Total Underwriter's Discount (2.100%)	91,770.00
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Costs of Issuance	34,600.00
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Rounding Amount	210.31
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Total Uses	\$4,370,000.00
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Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,370,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A

(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Debt Service Schedule

Date	Principal	Coupon	Interest	Total P+I	Fiscal Total
09/16/2026	-	-	-	-	-
08/01/2027	-	-	154,903.44	154,903.44	-
02/01/2028	-	-	88,516.25	88,516.25	243,419.69
08/01/2028	-	-	88,516.25	88,516.25	-
02/01/2029	150,000.00	3.200%	88,516.25	238,516.25	327,032.50
08/01/2029	-	-	86,116.25	86,116.25	-
02/01/2030	155,000.00	3.250%	86,116.25	241,116.25	327,232.50
08/01/2030	-	-	83,597.50	83,597.50	-
02/01/2031	160,000.00	3.300%	83,597.50	243,597.50	327,195.00
08/01/2031	-	-	80,957.50	80,957.50	-
02/01/2032	165,000.00	3.400%	80,957.50	245,957.50	326,915.00
08/01/2032	-	-	78,152.50	78,152.50	-
02/01/2033	170,000.00	3.500%	78,152.50	248,152.50	326,305.00
08/01/2033	-	-	75,177.50	75,177.50	-
02/01/2034	180,000.00	3.650%	75,177.50	255,177.50	330,355.00
08/01/2034	-	-	71,892.50	71,892.50	-
02/01/2035	185,000.00	3.750%	71,892.50	256,892.50	328,785.00
08/01/2035	-	-	68,423.75	68,423.75	-
02/01/2036	190,000.00	3.850%	68,423.75	258,423.75	326,847.50
08/01/2036	-	-	64,766.25	64,766.25	-
02/01/2037	200,000.00	3.950%	64,766.25	264,766.25	329,532.50
08/01/2037	-	-	60,816.25	60,816.25	-
02/01/2038	205,000.00	4.050%	60,816.25	265,816.25	326,632.50
08/01/2038	-	-	56,665.00	56,665.00	-
02/01/2039	215,000.00	4.100%	56,665.00	271,665.00	328,330.00
08/01/2039	-	-	52,257.50	52,257.50	-
02/01/2040	225,000.00	4.150%	52,257.50	277,257.50	329,515.00
08/01/2040	-	-	47,588.75	47,588.75	-
02/01/2041	235,000.00	4.200%	47,588.75	282,588.75	330,177.50
08/01/2041	-	-	42,653.75	42,653.75	-
02/01/2042	240,000.00	4.250%	42,653.75	282,653.75	325,307.50
08/01/2042	-	-	37,553.75	37,553.75	-
02/01/2043	255,000.00	4.300%	37,553.75	292,553.75	330,107.50
08/01/2043	-	-	32,071.25	32,071.25	-
02/01/2044	265,000.00	4.350%	32,071.25	297,071.25	329,142.50
08/01/2044	-	-	26,307.50	26,307.50	-
02/01/2045	275,000.00	4.400%	26,307.50	301,307.50	327,615.00
08/01/2045	-	-	20,257.50	20,257.50	-
02/01/2046	285,000.00	4.450%	20,257.50	305,257.50	325,515.00
08/01/2046	-	-	13,916.25	13,916.25	-
02/01/2047	300,000.00	4.500%	13,916.25	313,916.25	327,832.50
08/01/2047	-	-	7,166.25	7,166.25	-
02/01/2048	315,000.00	4.550%	7,166.25	322,166.25	329,332.50
Total	\$4,370,000.00	-	\$2,433,127.19	\$6,803,127.19	-

Yield Statistics

Bond Year Dollars	\$57,553.75
Average Life	13.170 Years
Average Coupon	4.2275737%
Net Interest Cost (NIC)	4.3870246%
True Interest Cost (TIC)	4.4154720%
Bond Yield for Arbitrage Purposes	4.1959627%
All Inclusive Cost (AIC)	4.4999676%

IRS Form 8038

Net Interest Cost	4.2275737%
Weighted Average Maturity	13.170 Years

2026A Ditch Capint FI | SINGLE PURPOSE | 6/4/2026 | 9:48 AM

Northland Securities, Inc.

Public Finance

Polk County, Minnesota

\$4,370,000 G.O. Ditch Bonds, Series 2026A

(Preliminary AA, BQ Rates as of 6/4/26 +25 BPS)

Date	Total P+I	CIF	105% Levy	Less: Special Assessments Revenues*	Equals: Net Levy/ (Excess Revenues)	Levy Year	Collection Year
02/01/2027	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
02/01/2028	243,419.69	(243,419.69)	-	-	-	2026	2027
02/01/2029	327,032.50	-	343,384.13	365,024.85	(21,640.73)	2027	2028
02/01/2030	327,232.50	-	343,594.13	365,024.85	(21,430.73)	2028	2029
02/01/2031	327,195.00	-	343,554.75	365,024.84	(21,470.09)	2029	2030
02/01/2032	326,915.00	-	343,260.75	365,024.86	(21,764.11)	2030	2031
02/01/2033	326,305.00	-	342,620.25	365,024.84	(22,404.59)	2031	2032
02/01/2034	330,355.00	-	346,872.75	365,024.86	(18,152.11)	2032	2033
02/01/2035	328,785.00	-	345,224.25	365,024.85	(19,800.60)	2033	2034
02/01/2036	326,847.50	-	343,189.88	365,024.84	(21,834.97)	2034	2035
02/01/2037	329,532.50	-	346,009.13	365,024.84	(19,015.72)	2035	2036
02/01/2038	326,632.50	-	342,964.13	365,024.84	(22,060.72)	2036	2037
02/01/2039	328,330.00	-	344,746.50	365,024.85	(20,278.35)	2037	2038
02/01/2040	329,515.00	-	345,990.75	365,024.84	(19,034.09)	2038	2039
02/01/2041	330,177.50	-	346,686.38	365,024.86	(18,338.49)	2039	2040
02/01/2042	325,307.50	-	341,572.88	365,024.86	(23,451.99)	2040	2041
02/01/2043	330,107.50	-	346,612.88	365,024.85	(18,411.98)	2041	2042
02/01/2044	329,142.50	-	345,599.63	365,024.85	(19,425.23)	2042	2043
02/01/2045	327,615.00	-	343,995.75	365,024.85	(21,029.10)	2043	2044
02/01/2046	325,515.00	-	341,790.75	365,024.85	(23,234.10)	2044	2045
02/01/2047	327,832.50	-	344,224.13	365,024.84	(20,800.72)	2045	2046
02/01/2048	329,332.50	-	345,799.13	365,024.84	(19,225.72)	2046	2047
Total	\$6,803,127.19	(243,419.69)	\$6,887,692.88	\$7,300,496.96	(412,804.08)		

*Special assessments are based on assessments totaling \$4,370,000 in principal assessed a rate of 5.40%, which is 1% over the TIC, spread in equal annual payments over 20 years.



Permit # 26-017

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/10/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Gregory Sparby		34313 380th Ave Ne Grygla, MN 56727	Greg.sparby@gmail.com	tel: 218-686-7302

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Channel Stabilization or Restoration, Erosion Control, and Other Water Related Facilities,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Beltrami** Township: **Spruce Grove** Range: **37** Section: **35**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Check Ditch grade, cleaning
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Water not draining**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves the recommendation to clean a portion of ditch that is part of our Moose River Impoundment inlet ditch. Applicant shall contact the DNR to discuss the project. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		04/16/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-020

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **06/03/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Timothy Caillier		18677 240th St sw Crookston, MN 56716	caillierfarms@gmail.com	tel: 218-289-2833

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Red Lake Falls** Range: **44** Section: **17**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Replacing culvert under private road.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **The old pvc culvert has collapsed and is getting replaced with a larger galvanized steel one.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to install 18" culvert in crossings for access to property. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdiction. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/03/2026
Received		04/23/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-025

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/10/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Josiah Rostad	Moore Engineering Inc.	1808 East Fir Ave. Fergus Falls, MN 56537	josiah.rostad@mooreengineeringinc.com	tel: 218-770-1608

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement), Other,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **City of Red Lake Falls** Range: **44** Section: **22**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: The City of Red Lake Falls is updating there roadway, water main, sewer main and storm sewer. The project will be replacing the existing clay sanitary sewer main to plastic sanitary sewer main. The existing water main (ductile) will be replaced with plastic water main. The existing storm sewer will be replaced with concrete pipe. The water and sewer services will be replaced from the mains to the right of way. The roadway will be replaced with the same width. The proposed road surface will match existing road surface. The ditches will be left in the same location with some ditch cleaning. Will be replacing all culverts mostly in the same location.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **The water and sewer main are old and have out lived the life expectancy. The roads will be replaced back to the same width.**

In this project we will be raising and lower the roads and placing catch basin at the low points to improve the drainage.

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves the Water and sewer main replacement project. Applicant shall contact Stephanie Klam with the DNR to discuss project proximity to Public Waters located to the West of the Project. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the project start date and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		04/29/2026



Permit # 26-030

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **06/03/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
David Bachand		28930 230th st se Oklee, MN 56742	marylbachand@gmail.com	tel: 218-280-8353

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Tiling,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Numedal** Range: **45** Section: **27**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Pattern tiling the SE, NE, and East 80 of the SW quarter of Section 27 in Numedal Township. As well as the Northwest quarter of section 26 in Numedal Township.
All of the acres will gravity outlet into a ditch that drains into the Black River.
Daren Asp farms all of these fields and also owns the Southwest quarter which has the outlet ditch and the Black River on it.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Increase yields and reduce erosion.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves the Pattern tile project with 'gravity' outlet(s). Applicant shall contact Stephanie Klam with the DNR to discuss project proximity to Public Waters located to the West of the Project. It is also recommended that the Applicant contact Pennington County SWCD to discuss any wetlands that are located on this parcel as well. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Directly downstream of the tile and/or pump station(s) outlets, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install appropriate markers to show the outlet end of the pipe, any damage caused by maintenance will be at the expense of the landowner/applicant Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/03/2026
Received		05/05/2026



Permit # 26-033

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/03/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Mark Reiersen	Marshall County Hwy Dept	447 South Main St Warren, MN 56762	mark.reiersen@co.marshall.mn.us	tel: 218-201-1424

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Marshall** Township: **Rollis** Range: **40** Section: **35**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace failed culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert has failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 18" culvert with a new 18" culvert. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to any work starting. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/03/2026
Received		05/11/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-038

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Cole Schmitz		16694 130th Ave SW Red Lake Falls, MN 56750	coleschmitz@hotmail.com	tel: 218-416-0140

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Tiling, Surface Drainage (New Ditch or Improvement),**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Red Lake** Township: **Red Lake Falls** Range: **44** Section: **5**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Looking to have contractor work up rough/low spots in ditch and create a pitch to have water drain properly to limit standing water.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **Water is not draining properly from south side of driveway. It sits there creating cattails and is a breeding ground for mosquitoes.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean a portion of ditch along township road 130th Ave SW. RLWD staff has conducted a survey (see attached). If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		05/28/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-039

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Randy Larson	Unkle and property caretaker	39524 300th ave ne Gatzke,MN 56724	rlarsontx500@gmail.com	tel: 218-689-8477

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Marshall** Township: **Rollis** Range: **40** Section: **5**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Replace culvert on field crossing.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **This is the only field access crossing and is needed for the farmer to get his equipment on the field.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 24" culvert with another 24" culvert. Set new pipe at the current invert elevation as existing pipe. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		05/28/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-040

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Mark Reiersen	Marshall County Highway Dept	424 South Main Warren, MN 56762	mark.reiersen@co.marshall.mn.us	tel: 218-201-1424

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Marshall** Township: **Veldt** Range: **39** Section: **27**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert with a 36" would like to go with what is already in
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 36" culvert with another 36" culvert. Set new pipe at the current invert elevation as existing pipe. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		05/28/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-041

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Pennington County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Wyandotte** Range: **42** Section: **1**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace steel culvert in Wilde driveway
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert has failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 45"x73" RCP-Arch culvert with a same size or 60" round equivalent if there is adequate ground cover. Red Lake Watershed District recommends having a public hearing to address any landowner concerns. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-042

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/10/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Pennington County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Rocksbury** Range: **43** Section: **36**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert has failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 36" culvert with another 36" culvert. Set new pipe at the current invert elevation as existing pipe. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-043

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **06/10/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Pennington County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Rocksbury** Range: **43** Section: **27**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert failure**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 24"x36" Arch culvert with a same size or 24" round equivalent if there is adequate ground cover. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-044

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Penninton County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Hickory** Range: **39** Section: **23**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert has failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 36" culvert with new 36" culvert. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-045

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/05/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Pennington County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Kratka** Range: **41** Section: **30**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: replace culvert
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **culvert has failed**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace (2) failing 60" culvert(s) with new 60" culvert(s). Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/05/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Red Lake Watershed District

Permit # 26-046

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **06/10/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Pennington County Highway Dept		250 125th Ave NE Thief River Falls, MN 56701	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-689-0330

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification**,
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Pennington** Township: **Sanders** Range: **44** Section: **2**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: **replace culvert**
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **needs longer pipe**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to replace a failing 72" culvert(s) with new 72" culvert(s). Set new culvert at current invert/flowlines. Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Directly downstream of the outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		06/02/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf



Permit # 26-047

Status Report: **Approved**

Expiration: **06/10/2027**

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Brent Strickler		10333 280th Ave NW Euclid, MN 56722	strickler.brent@gmail.com	tel: 218-289-7333

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Tiling,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Polk** Township: **Brandt** Range: **46** Section: **31**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: Pattern tile 300 acres. South 1/2 section 31 of Brandt Twsp. Pump in SW corner of project. Dual 10 hp pump in liftstation with GPM of 2149. This pump will be on a VFD.
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **improved subsurface water management. improved drainage and productivity of land.**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves the Pattern tile project with 'Pumped' outlet(s). It is also recommended that the Applicant contact Polk County SWCD to discuss any wetlands that are located on this parcel as well. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Directly downstream of the tile and/or pump station(s) outlets, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant shall install appropriate erosion control measures for energy dissipation at the tile outlet(s) to prevent erosion. Applicant shall install appropriate markers to show the outlet end of the pipe, any damage caused by maintenance will be at the expense of the landowner/applicant Note: Please be aware of and review the 'bullet points' on the bottom half of the application. This application does not exempt the permit applicant from local, state, or federal authority that might require their approval. If any of the work is done near adjacent wetlands or public watercourse, applicant shall contact the appropriate jurisdictional authority prior to the installation of the tile lines and meet their spec's/conditions. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		06/02/2026



Permit # 26-052

Status Report: Approved

Expiration:06/10/2027

Applicant Information

Name	Organization	Address	Email	Phone Number(s)
Mike Tiedeman		25509 130st sw Euclid, MN 56722	jpgarry@penningtonmn.gov	tel: 218-289-1301

General Information

- (1) The proposed project is a: **Culvert Installation / Removal / Modification, Other,**
- (2) Legal Description
- (3) County: **Polk** Township: **Belgium** Range: **46** Section: **12**
- (4) Describe in detail the work to be performed: clean ditch 1 mi
- (5) Why is this work necessary? Explain water related issue/problem being solved. **better drainage**

Status

Status	Notes	Date
Approved	The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) approves to clean the township ditch along 210th Ave SW. contingent upon approval from Belgium Township since they have jurisdiction along this project. RLWD staff surveyed the township ditch. (See Attached Plans). Set culverts at existing invert/flowline. Red Lake Watershed District recommends having a public hearing to address any landowner concerns. If any work is within a public road and/or public ditch Right-of-Way, applicant shall contact the appropriate road/ditch authority for their approval and must meet their specs/conditions. Permit Holder shall contact the road authorities when cutting through roads when applicable. Directly downstream of the project outlet, applicant shall ensure that adequate grade and drainage is provided. Applicant is responsible for utility locates by calling Gopher 1. (1-800-252-1166)	06/10/2026
Received		06/08/2026

Conditions

NOTE: This permit does not relieve the applicant of any requirements for other permits which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.

- Work in road right-of-way is subject to approval of road authority (Township, County, or State).
- For work within Legal drainage system right-of-way or RLWD Project Easement Areas, applicant agrees to move their utilities at their own expense if it is determined that the utility needs to be moved in the future by the RLWD.
- Unless otherwise noted, all approved permit applications expire one year from the date of board approval. A permit renewal can be applied for prior to the expiration date by contacting the district office.
- This Permit does not relieve you of any requirements for other permits, which may be necessary from Township, County, State, or Federal Government Agencies.
- Please be aware of the requirements of the Rules of the District, found on our web-site at

http://www.redlakewatershed.org/PDF_Files/RED%20LAKE%20WATERSHED%20DISTRICT%20RULES_Adopted%208-27-15.pdf

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #1

Proposing Watershed: Wild Rice Watershed District

Name: Tara Jensen, Administrator

Phone Number: 218-784-5501

Email Address: tara@wildricewatershed.org

Resolution Title: Encouraging DNR and USFWS to Construct Retention Sites on DNR and USFWS Lands for Storing Water

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Our Board of Managers feels that land owned by DNR and USFWS would provide opportunities for retention sites to store excess waters on wetlands owned and controlled by DNR and USFWS.

Efforts to solve the problem

Our staff has worked with DNR to construct a control structure on the Goose Prairie WMA to allow excessive flood waters to be held during an identified date range in the spring. We would like there to be more effort and communication to encourage DNR and USFWS to review other parcels in which water could be stored to alleviate downstream flooding impacts.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Communicate the possibility to utilize public lands to store water with legislators in an effort to have them support the resolution and develop a committee to review public lands and potential storage opportunities which can occur on them.

Anticipated support or opposition:

This resolution would be of interest to other watershed districts, counties, cities and wildlife organizations.

This issue (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #1: ENCOURAGING DNR AND USFWS TO CONSTRUCT RETENTION SITES ON DNR AND USFWS LANDS FOR STORING WATER

WHEREAS, the WRWD discussed the frequent, severe floods within the State of Minnesota and further discussed ways to reduce flood impacts; and

WHEREAS, it is the WRWD's desire for watershed districts and other drainage authorities within the State of Minnesota to discuss with the DNR and the USFWS about the construction of retention sites on certain existing wetlands owned by the Minnesota DNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the temporary diversion and storage of excess water in times of major flood events within said retention sites as doing so would reduce flood impacts to both private and public property.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds appoint a committee to meet with the DNR and USFWS, identify existing wetlands owned by DNR and USFWS that could serve as retention sites, and discuss the potential for construction of retention sites and storage of excess waters on said existing wetlands owned and controlled by DNR and USFWS in times of major flood events.

Summary Background and Rationale for Shoreline Management Resolutions

Background that led to the submission of these resolutions

Minnesota's natural shorelines are continuing to disappear, contributing to degraded lake water quality, reduced habitat, and declining aquatic biological health. The 2023 Natural Shoreline Partnership report, *Minnesota's Vanishing Natural Shorelines: A Loss that Contributes to Degraded Lake Quality*, found that approximately 40 to 50 percent of Minnesota's natural shorelines have already been lost, and that natural shoreline loss is continuing at an estimated rate of 1 to 2 percent per decade. The report also found that mowed "lawn down to lake" shorelines allow 7 to 9 times more phosphorus to enter lakes than naturally vegetated shorelines and recommends a reasonable protection and restoration goal that 75 percent of a shoreline exist in natural vegetation at least 25 feet landward from the lake.

To explore this issue in greater depth, the statewide Natural Shoreline Partnership formed a Shoreline Protection Subcommittee to identify ways to improve how state agencies, local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners regulate and provide technical services for shoreline property owners. The Subcommittee met several times between September 2024 and April 2025 to review challenges with existing state and local rules, DNR Public Water Restoration Rules, shoreline assessments, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, and DNR enforcement procedures.

A central conclusion of the Subcommittee was that Minnesota's public waters rules are not necessarily the primary barrier to natural shoreline protection. Rather, many of the most significant challenges arise from how shoreline alteration rules are explained to the public, how those rules are administered, how consistently they are applied, and how state and local governments coordinate on projects that often affect areas both above and below the ordinary high water level.

Several recurring issues were identified. Public-facing DNR guidance for riprap, sand blankets, and ice-heave repair may be outdated, misunderstood, or applied inconsistently. "No permit required" shoreline activities can be difficult to track and verify. Criteria for determining demonstrated erosion need are not always clear. Coordination among DNR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, and townships varies across the state. Public agencies have also lost technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, and field-based landowner assistance.

These issues create practical problems for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies. Landowners may receive inconsistent information. Contractors may rely on long-standing practices that do not fully protect natural shoreline functions. Local governments may be asked to respond to shoreline impacts without adequate funding, training, or technical support. DNR staff may face increasing expectations without updated guidance, consistent procedures, or sufficient interagency coordination.

The following four resolutions are intended to address these related but distinct needs:

1. **Dedicated State Funding for Local Shoreline Management Assistance** — to build local capacity for landowner assistance, site evaluations, project review, restoration support, and permit coordination.
2. **Statewide Shoreline Management Training and Certification Program** — to improve consistency and technical understanding among state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, restoration, permitting, compliance, and landowner assistance.
3. **Updated Public Shoreline Guidance and Education** — to replace outdated public-facing shoreline alteration guidance and improve statewide communication about natural shoreline protection, bioengineering, riprap, sand blankets, ice-heave repair, permits, and alternatives to hard armoring.
4. **Public Waters Rule and Process Improvements for Shoreline Alterations** — to improve consistency in DNR implementation, develop clearer shoreline evaluation procedures, strengthen coordination among agencies and local governments, address recurring contractor violations, and improve rule and process clarity.

Together, these resolutions request that Minnesota Watersheds support state agency advocacy and, where necessary, legislative action to improve natural shoreline protection and restoration. The intent is not to create unnecessary regulation, but to make shoreline management more consistent, practical, understandable, and effective for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies while better protecting Minnesota's public waters and natural shoreline functions.

This issue applies statewide and affects watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, landowners, contractors, DNR, BWSR, MPCA, and other partners involved in shoreline management and public waters protection.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #2

Proposing Watershed: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District

Contact Name: Mike Isensee

Phone Number: 612-839-6492

Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Resolution Title: Supporting Dedicated State Funding for SWCD and Watershed District Shoreline Management Assistance

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Minnesota's natural shorelines continue to be lost or degraded through cumulative shoreline alterations, vegetation removal, hard armoring, grading, sand blankets, and other activities that reduce water quality, habitat, and lake resilience. Local governments, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, counties, cities, and townships, are often the first point of contact for landowners seeking help with shoreline stabilization, restoration, permitting, and natural shoreline alternatives.

As the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other partners improve shoreline evaluation, guidance, and implementation of public waters restoration and shoreline management requirements, additional workload will likely fall on local partners. Many SWCDs and watershed districts do not currently have dedicated funding or staff capacity to provide consistent technical assistance, site visits, project review, landowner support, monitoring, and follow-through for shoreline management.

Successful shoreline protection depends on timely, locally available assistance that helps landowners understand and implement natural shoreline practices before hard armoring or other damaging alterations occur.

Efforts to solve the problem

The statewide Natural Shoreline Partnership has documented the continuing loss of natural shoreline and the need for stronger coordination, education, technical assistance, incentives, and restoration support. A Shoreline Protection Subcommittee later examined shoreline alteration management in more detail and identified a need to rebuild local and state technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration, bioengineering, landowner assistance, and coordinated review.

Local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, and lake associations already provide outreach and technical support where capacity exists. However, this assistance is inconsistent statewide because it often depends on local funding, grants, or limited staff availability.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Yes. Legislative action is likely needed to establish dedicated and ongoing state funding for local shoreline management assistance.

The purpose of legislative action would be to create a stable state funding source that supports SWCDs, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local partners in providing shoreline technical assistance, landowner site visits, project design support, permit coordination, monitoring, and implementation assistance.

If legislative action is not immediately pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate with DNR, BWSR, MPCA, and legislative committees to recognize shoreline management as a shared state-local responsibility and to include shoreline technical assistance in future state funding programs.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, lake associations, local governments, fisheries and habitat advocates, and organizations working to protect water quality and aquatic life.

Opposition or concern may come from parties concerned about new state spending or increased local government involvement in shoreline projects. These concerns can be addressed by emphasizing that the funding is intended to provide practical landowner assistance, improve consistency, reduce confusion, and support voluntary natural shoreline restoration before enforcement or regulatory conflicts occur.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #2: SUPPORTING STATE FUNDING FOR SWCD AND WATERSHED DISTRICT SHORELINE MANAGEMENT ASSISTANCE

WHEREAS, Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and public waters provide substantial public benefits, including water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, flood resilience, recreation, and property value protection; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota's natural shorelines continue to be lost or degraded through cumulative shoreline alterations, vegetation removal, hard armoring, grading, and other activities that reduce habitat and water quality benefits; and

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources is working to improve shoreline evaluation, guidance, and implementation of public waters restoration and shoreline management requirements; and

WHEREAS, improved shoreline evaluation and implementation will likely create additional workload for local governments, including Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, counties, and other local partners; and

WHEREAS, local governments are often the first point of contact for landowners seeking assistance with shoreline stabilization, restoration, permitting, and natural shoreline alternatives; and

WHEREAS, many SWCDs and watershed districts do not currently have adequate dedicated funding or staff capacity to provide consistent technical assistance, site evaluations, landowner support, and project follow-through for shoreline management; and

WHEREAS, successful shoreline protection and restoration depends on timely, practical, and locally available technical assistance that helps landowners understand and implement natural shoreline practices before hard-armoring or other damaging alterations occur;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the creation of dedicated state funding to assist Soil and Water Conservation Districts, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local government partners with shoreline management technical assistance, project review, landowner support, and implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this funding should support local staff time, technical evaluations, landowner site visits, project design assistance, permit coordination, monitoring, and follow-up needed to advance natural shoreline protection and restoration.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports state funding that recognizes shoreline management as a shared state-local responsibility requiring adequate and ongoing local capacity.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #3

Proposing Watershed: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District

Contact Name: Mike Isensee

Phone Number: 612-839-6492

Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Resolution Title: Supporting Statewide Training and Certification for Shoreline Management Staff

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Shoreline management decisions often require technical evaluation of erosion causes, shoreline condition, vegetation, soils, slopes, wave energy, ice action, habitat impacts, water quality impacts, and the suitability of proposed stabilization or restoration methods. Inconsistent understanding and application of shoreline standards can result in inconsistent permitting decisions, landowner confusion, unnecessary hard armoring, and continued loss of natural shoreline functions.

The Wetland Conservation Act provides a useful model for structured training, certification, and interagency review that helps support consistent implementation across jurisdictions. Shoreline management would benefit from a similar statewide training and certification program for state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, permitting, restoration, compliance, and technical assistance.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee reviewed DNR Public Waters Rules, riprap, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, enforcement procedures, and local shoreline assessment work. The Subcommittee identified the need for shared training standards, consistent terminology, common evaluation methods, and improved understanding of natural shoreline restoration and bioengineering alternatives.

Local staff, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, and DNR staff currently work on shoreline issues, but training and technical capacity vary significantly across the state. This creates inconsistent outcomes for landowners and natural resource protection.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action may be needed if a formal statewide certification program requires statutory authority, dedicated funding, or direction to state agencies.

The purpose of legislative action would be to direct or fund the development of a statewide shoreline management training and certification program, modeled in part on the structured training and certification approach used for Wetland Conservation Act implementation. The program should include shoreline condition evaluation, erosion drivers, natural shoreline design, bioengineering methods, public waters permitting requirements, restoration standards, vegetation protection, habitat impacts, enforcement considerations, and long-term maintenance.

If legislation is not required, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate for DNR, BWSR, MPCA, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners to develop and implement the training program administratively.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, SWCDs, local governments, state agency staff, lake

associations, and professional organizations seeking more consistent shoreline evaluation and permitting.

Opposition or concern may come from those concerned about additional certification requirements, cost, or administrative burden. These concerns can be addressed by designing the program to improve consistency, provide practical field-based training, and support better landowner service rather than simply adding new requirements.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #3: SUPPORTING STATEWIDE TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION FOR SHORELINE MANAGEMENT STAFF

WHEREAS, shoreline management decisions often require technical evaluation of erosion causes, shoreline condition, vegetation, soils, slopes, wave energy, ice action, habitat impacts, water quality impacts, and the suitability of proposed stabilization or restoration methods; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent understanding and application of shoreline standards can result in inconsistent permitting decisions, landowner confusion, unnecessary hard armoring, and continued loss of natural shoreline functions; and

WHEREAS, the Wetland Conservation Act provides a useful model for technical training, certification, and interagency review that helps support more consistent implementation across jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, shoreline management would benefit from a similar structured training and certification program for state and local staff involved in shoreline evaluation, permitting, restoration, compliance, and technical assistance; and

WHEREAS, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, counties, cities, townships, and DNR staff would benefit from shared training standards, consistent terminology, and common evaluation methods; and

WHEREAS, certification-based training would help ensure that shoreline evaluations consider the cause and degree of shoreline change, the impacts of proposed alterations, and the availability of natural or bioengineering alternatives before structural hard armoring is authorized;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development of a statewide shoreline management training and certification program for state and local staff, modeled in part on the structured training and certification approach used for Wetland Conservation Act implementation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the training program should include evaluation of shoreline condition, erosion drivers, natural shoreline design, bioengineering methods, public waters permitting requirements, restoration standards, vegetation protection, habitat impacts, enforcement considerations, and long-term maintenance.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development of a consistent shoreline evaluation framework that can be used by DNR staff, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, and other local partners.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the use of technical evaluation panels or similar interagency review processes for complex shoreline alteration proposals, similar in concept to technical review processes used under the Wetland Conservation Act.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #4

Proposing Watershed: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District

Contact Name: Mike Isensee

Phone Number: 612-839-6492

Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Resolution Title: Supporting Improved Public Education and Updated Shoreline Management Guidance

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Landowners, contractors, consultants, local officials, and local government staff rely on public-facing information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources when evaluating shoreline stabilization, restoration, and alteration options.

The Natural Shoreline Subcommittee identified several recurring issues with DNR guidance for riprap, sand blanket, and ice-heave “no permit required” documents. Requirements are often unmet, misunderstood or ignored; “no permit required” shoreline alterations are difficult to track and verify; criteria for determining a demonstrated need for riprap are ambiguous or inconsistently applied;

The outdated or incomplete shoreline alteration guidance documents can create confusion and may encourage practices that are not aligned with current natural shoreline science, restoration standards, state statute, or the protection of public waters.

Older riprap guidance and similar materials contribute to misunderstanding about when riprap is appropriate, what alternatives should be considered, and how natural shoreline functions should be protected. Public education materials should clearly identify the limited circumstances in which riprap, sand blankets, and ice-ridge repair are appropriate, explain the benefits of natural shorelines, including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat, slope stability, wave energy dissipation, climate resilience, and long-term property protection.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership developed Minnesota’s Vanishing Natural Shorelines, which documented the scale of natural shoreline loss and the connection between shoreline alteration and degraded lake quality. The Shoreline Protection Subcommittee then identified the need to update public-facing shoreline materials, improve consistency in messaging, and better explain the difference between natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, riprap, retaining walls, beach creation, vegetation removal, grading, and other shoreline alterations.

Local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, lake associations, and state agencies already provide public education, but messaging is not always consistent and may be undermined by older or outdated state guidance still available to the public.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action is not necessarily required if DNR can update all public-facing guidance, webpages, fact sheets, and permit materials administratively.

However, legislative action may be appropriate if agency direction or funding is needed to ensure outdated materials are replaced and updated guidance is developed in coordination with local governments, SWCDs, watershed districts, BWSR, MPCA, lake associations, and other partners.

The purpose or intent would be to ensure that Minnesota’s public shoreline guidance reflects current natural shoreline science, state statute, best available restoration practices, and clear permitting expectations.

If legislation is not pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate directly with DNR and partner agencies to replace outdated shoreline alteration guidance, including older “Shoreline Alterations: Riprap” materials, and to coordinate statewide public education on natural shoreline protection and restoration.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, SWCDs, lake associations, local governments, habitat advocates, and organizations working to improve water quality and shoreline stewardship.

Opposition or concern may come from various divisions or regional offices within the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources that have relied on existing shoreline alteration guidance, fact sheets, and implementation practices for decades. Concerns may include staff capacity to update guidance, uncertainty about changing long-standing interpretations, the need for internal consistency across DNR programs and regions, concern that revised materials could increase review workload, and reluctance to create expectations that existing past practices were inadequate or inconsistent.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #4: SUPPORTING IMPROVED PUBLIC EDUCATION AND UPDATED SHORELINE MANAGEMENT GUIDANCE

WHEREAS, landowners, contractors, consultants, local officials, and local government staff rely on public-facing information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources when evaluating shoreline stabilization, restoration, and alteration options; and

WHEREAS, outdated shoreline alteration guidance can create confusion and may encourage practices that are not fully aligned with current natural shoreline science, restoration standards, state statute, or the protection of public waters; and

WHEREAS, the continued public availability of older shoreline riprap guidance may contribute to misunderstanding about when riprap is appropriate, what alternatives should be considered, and how natural shoreline functions should be protected; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota’s public education materials should clearly explain the benefits of natural shorelines, including water quality protection, fish and wildlife habitat, slope stability, wave energy dissipation, climate resilience, and long-term property protection; and

WHEREAS, effective public education should help landowners understand the difference between natural shoreline restoration, bioengineered stabilization, riprap, retaining walls, beach creation, vegetation removal, grading, and other shoreline alterations; and

WHEREAS, updated public education materials should support consistent messaging by DNR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, contractors, consultants, and other partners;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources updating its public-facing shoreline management webpages, guidance documents, permit materials, and educational resources to reflect current natural shoreline science, state statute, and best available restoration practices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports replacing outdated “Shoreline Alterations: Riprap” guidance and similar materials with updated guidance that more clearly prioritizes avoidance, minimization, natural shoreline restoration, bioengineering, vegetation protection, and long-term shoreline function.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that updated public education materials should clearly identify when permits or notifications are required, what activities may violate public waters rules, and what alternatives are available to landowners before hard armoring is pursued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports coordinated public education among DNR, BWSR, SWCDs, watershed districts, counties, cities, townships, lake associations, and other partners to promote consistent shoreline management information statewide.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #5

Proposing Watershed: Carnelian Marine St. Croix Watershed District

Contact Name: Mike Isensee

Phone Number: 612-839-6492

Email Address: mike.isensee@cmsc wd.org

Resolution Title: Supporting Rule and Process Improvements for Public Waters Shoreline Alteration Management

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 establishes requirements for restoration and alteration of public waters, including activities that affect shorelines, beds, banks, and public water resources. Consistent implementation of Minnesota's public waters rules is necessary to protect natural shorelines, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the public interest in lakes, rivers, and streams.

Watershed districts and other local government partners have identified discrepancies and inconsistencies in the implementation of shoreline alteration rules, guidance, permitting, notification, and enforcement. These inconsistencies can result in landowner confusion, uneven regulatory outcomes, continued shoreline degradation, and reduced confidence in state and local shoreline management programs.

Shoreline alteration decisions should include a clear evaluation of existing shoreline condition, the cause and degree of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, less-impactful alternatives, and cumulative impacts to public waters. Contractors who repeatedly conduct shoreline alterations without required notice, permits, or approvals can create significant damage to public waters and place landowners and local governments in difficult compliance situations.

Efforts to solve the problem

The Natural Shoreline Partnership's Shoreline Protection Subcommittee reviewed challenges with existing state and local shoreline rules, DNR Public Waters Restoration Rules, shoreline assessments, sand blankets, ice heaves, general permits, and DNR enforcement procedures. The Subcommittee concluded that DNR Public Waters Rules are not necessarily the primary barrier to natural shoreline protection. Rather, the more significant problems are how shoreline alteration rules are expressed to the public, how those rules are administered, and how governments coordinate with each other on projects that span jurisdictional boundaries.

The Subcommittee developed recommendations to update DNR guidance, improve coordination among DNR and local governments, develop administrative procedures for "no permit required" shoreline work, create tools to determine demonstrated erosion need, strengthen training, clarify grading and filling requirements, encourage contractor training or certification, review General Permit barriers, and rebuild technical capacity for natural shoreline restoration and bioengineered shoreline design.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action may be needed if rule changes, agency direction, funding, or statutory clarification are necessary to ensure consistent statewide implementation of public waters shoreline alteration requirements.

The purpose or intent of legislative action would be to support clearer, more consistent, and more

coordinated implementation of Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 and related public waters shoreline alteration requirements. This may include direction or support for DNR to:

1. Develop a consistent shoreline evaluation process;
2. Clarify how demonstrated erosion need is evaluated before riprap or other hard armoring is authorized;
3. Establish administrative procedures for “no permit required” shoreline work;
4. Improve coordination between DNR, local governments, SWCDs, and watershed districts;
5. Create a technical evaluation panel or similar interagency review process for complex or sensitive shoreline alteration proposals;
6. Ensure consistent DNR processes and determinations across regions and area offices;
7. Strengthen procedures for recurring contractor violations involving shoreline modifications completed without required notification, permits, or approvals; and
8. Review General Permit processes that may discourage natural or bioengineered shoreline alternatives.

If legislative action is not immediately pursued, Minnesota Watersheds should advocate directly with DNR, MPCA, BWSR, counties, SWCDs, watershed districts, and other partners to implement these process improvements administratively.

Anticipated support or opposition

Support is anticipated from watershed districts, watershed management organizations, SWCDs, local governments, lake associations, fisheries and habitat advocates, and organizations working to protect water quality, aquatic life, and public waters.

Opposition or concern may come from shoreline contractors, some riparian landowners, and parties concerned about additional process requirements, delays, or limits on shoreline hardening. These concerns can be addressed through clear guidance, timely review procedures, contractor training, practical landowner assistance, and recognition that the resolution seeks consistency, coordination, and protection of public waters rather than unnecessary regulation.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #5: SUPPORTING RULE AND PROCESS IMPROVEMENTS FOR PUBLIC WATERS SHORELINE MANAGEMENT

WHEREAS, Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 establishes requirements for restoration and alteration of public waters, including activities that affect shorelines, beds, banks, and public water resources; and

WHEREAS, consistent implementation of Minnesota's public waters rules is necessary to protect natural shorelines, water quality, aquatic habitat, and the public interest in lakes, rivers, and streams; and

WHEREAS, watershed districts and other local government partners have identified discrepancies and inconsistencies in the implementation of shoreline alteration rules, guidance, permitting, notification, and enforcement; and

WHEREAS, inconsistent application of public waters rules can result in landowner confusion, uneven regulatory outcomes, continued shoreline degradation, and reduced confidence in state and local shoreline management programs; and

WHEREAS, shoreline alteration decisions should include a clear evaluation of the cause, severity, and extent of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, the availability of less-impactful alternatives, and the cumulative impact to public waters; and

WHEREAS, contractors who repeatedly conduct shoreline alterations without required notice, permits, or approvals can create significant damage to public waters and place landowners and local governments in difficult compliance situations; and

WHEREAS, clearer rules, procedures, and enforcement expectations would improve consistency, fairness, and environmental outcomes for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports rule, guidance, and process improvements by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to ensure consistent implementation of Minnesota Rules part 6115.0215 and related public waters shoreline alteration requirements.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports development and implementation of a consistent shoreline evaluation process that considers the existing shoreline condition, the cause and degree of shoreline change, the proposed alteration, natural shoreline alternatives, and the public water impacts of the proposed work.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports creation of a technical evaluation panel or similar interagency process for complex or potentially impactful shoreline alteration proposals, similar in concept to review processes used under the Wetland Conservation Act.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports improved procedures to ensure consistent DNR processes and determinations across regions and area offices.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports stronger and more consistent enforcement for recurring contractor violations involving shoreline modifications completed without required notification, permits, or approvals.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports rule and process changes that make shoreline management more understandable, consistent, timely, and effective for landowners, contractors, local governments, and state agencies while better protecting Minnesota's public waters and natural shorelines.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #6

Proposing Watershed: Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

Contact Name: Joni Giese

Phone Number: 952-440-0067

Email Address: jgiese@plslwd.org

Resolution Title: Seeking Revision of Minnesota State 477A.19 to Preserve \$10 million of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

For over a decade \$10 million has been annually appropriated from the state general fund for Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Aid pursuant Minnesota Statute 477A.19. The commissioner of revenue computes an amount of AIS prevention aid payable to each county in the state for the following year. Counties must use the proceeds solely to prevent the introduction or limit the spread of AIS at all access sites within the county. In recent years, Scott County has allocated AIS Prevention Aid to Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) to perform Curly-leaf pondweed treatments in District Lakes and to offset the cost of boat inspections at District lakes.

At part of the 2025 legislative session, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 was revised to reduce the annual appropriation by 50 percent (\$5 million) for aid payable in 2027 and thereafter. At current funding levels, the AIS Prevention Aid comprises 37 percent of PLSLWD's Aquatic vegetation management funding and comprises 50 percent of the PLSLWD's boat inspection funding.

Prior Lake is an extremely popular lake in the Minneapolis-Saint Paul metropolitan area, with large numbers of boaters bringing their watercraft to the lake and thus increasing the risk of AIS spread. A 50 percent reduction in state AIS Prevention Aid will have a significant and negative impact the PLSLWD's efforts to prevent the introduction and limit the spread of AIS. This issue is not limited to PLSLWD, the reduced funding negatively impacts counties, watershed organizations, soil and water conservation districts, lake associations, and other public agencies that work to prevent the spread of AIS.

Efforts to solve the problem

In 2025, when the proposed funding reduction was first brought forward, numerous organizations lobbied to retain historic funding levels. These efforts were successful in preserving the \$10 million funding levels for 2025 and 2026 and delaying the reduced \$5 million funding level to 2027. A coalition of lake associations are currently organizing to lobby for the preservation of the \$10 million funding levels during the 2027 legislative session. Watershed organizations should join with partners to lobby for the preservation of the \$10 million funding level.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative action is the only means of addressing the matter as Minnesota

Statute 477A.19 calls for the funding level to be reduced to \$5 million in 2027. The intent of this proposal is to request that Minnesota Statute 477A.19 be revised to change 2027 funding to \$10 million and to remain at the \$10 million level thereafter.

Anticipated support or opposition

The DNR could also be a partner as they administer and support the program. Lake associations, soil and water conservation districts, lake resorts, and communities that rely on lake activities for economic development are likely partners in supporting this legislative revision. Likely detractors from this legislation may be organizations that advocate for smaller government spending.

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #6: SEEKING REVISION OF MINNESOTA STATE 477A.19 TO PRESERVE \$10 MILLION OF AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION AID

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid, allocates funds to counties within Minnesota for the purpose of preventing the introduction of or limiting the spread of aquatic invasive species at all access sites within counties that receive the funding; and

WHEREAS, counties may appropriate a portion of the proceeds received from the state to provide funding for a joint powers board or cooperative agreement with another political subdivision, a soil and water conservation district in the county, a watershed district in the county, or a lake association located in the county; and

WHEREAS, for over a decade, the state has annually appropriated \$10 million from the general fund for Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid to Minnesota counties; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statute 477A.19 was revised in 2025 to reduce the annual appropriation from \$10 million to \$5 million starting in 2027; AND **WHEREAS**, watershed districts, soil and water conservation districts, and lake associations in the state depend on Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid to prevent the introduction of and limit the spread of aquatic invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the reduction of Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid will result in reduced prevention efforts that will harm water resources in the state and negatively impact habitat, recreation, and economic development within the state.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds seeks to revise Minnesota State 477A.19 to preserve annual Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid at \$10 million payable in 2027 and annually thereafter.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #7

Proposing Watershed: Two Rivers Watershed District

Contact Name: Dan Money

Phone Number: 218-843-3333

Email Address: dan.money@tworiverswd.com

Resolution Title: Seeking Establishment of Hazard Mitigation Fund

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

Watershed Districts have a long history of fighting floods and reducing flood damages. Severe and repeated flooding is documented throughout MN. Current state funding to recover from disasters is available through MN Statute 12A, and funding to prevent/mitigate flooding is available through DNR's Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Program under MN Statute 103F. According to DNR, the current known funding needs total \$2.13 million, however in the 2026 session the legislature only approved \$9 million in the bonding bill to address the problem. In fact, since 2010 there has been a steady decline in the funding of this program, and no funding was approved in 2016, 2019, 2021, 2022, and 2024. Therefore, it is apparent that other sources of funding are needed to meet the significant need.

Efforts to solve the problem

Over the past 5 years, meetings have been held with MN DNR to streamline their grant program and bring attention to the needs. This resulted in DNR overhauling the application process and this past session DNR asked for \$45 million to fund the program.

In addition, several meetings were held with various Senators and Representatives. While this was mildly effective, the result was still a significant under-funding of the program. However, HF 4581 and SF 5002 were introduced in 2026 to establish an additional program through the MN Department of Homeland Security Emergency Management that would provide an additional resource to provide funding for prevention / mitigation of natural disasters, including flooding. Although introduced, these bills were not heard in committee.

This resolution seeks to build upon Minnesota Watersheds 22-05 resolution that seeks stable funding for this issue. It is suggested that this issue should be considered one of the highest legislative priorities for the upcoming legislative session.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

YES. In order to provide a more stable, reliable source of funding that will help to mitigate the effects of severe and repeated flooding HF 4581/SF 5002 are proposed. These bills will create a new program and a new funding source to supplement existing sources which are dreadfully underfunded. It is proposed that the fund be used for hazard mitigation planning and projects that diminish the potential effects of emergencies through long term risk reduction. The new proposal is modelled after MN Statute 12A and therefore follows a tried and true example of success.

Anticipated support or opposition

Potential Support: MN Homeland Security Emergency Management; MN Association of Emergency Managers; Association of MN Counties; Association of Townships; League of MN Cities

Potential Opposition: unknown

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #7: SEEKING ESTABLISHMENT OF HAZARD MITIGATION FUND

WHEREAS, Severe flooding is known to occur repeatedly within the State of Minnesota, costing both public and private entities millions of dollars for repair and replacement of infrastructure, damage to homes, erosion and sediment control, and damage to cropland, and

WHEREAS, flooding also has severe and repeated impacts to water quality and habitat from erosion, sedimentation, nutrient loading, raw sewage discharges, and chemical spillage, and

WHEREAS, economic studies have estimated that for every dollar spent on flood damage reduction there is a six dollar return on investment, and

WHEREAS, The DNR's Flood Damage Reduction grant program (FHMG) under MN Statute 103F has historically been a successful tool for local governments to utilize to design and build projects to reduce and prevent flooding, protect the environment, and prevent social and economic losses, and

WHEREAS, The DNR's FHMG has not recently been funded adequately by the Legislature, in fact annual bonding appropriations have been significantly declining over the past 10 years with no funding appropriated in 5 out of the past 11 years. Current 2026 legislative appropriations for hazard mitigation funding only amount to 4% of the documented need, and

WHEREAS, The cost of construction continues to increase as proposed shovel ready projects continue to go unfunded, and

WHEREAS, additional funding sources and programs will be necessary to keep up with the need for hazard mitigation projects. In the 2026 legislative session HF 4581 and SF 5002 were introduced to address the problem but were not passed out of committees.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts pass a resolution to make hazard mitigation funding a top 2027 legislative priority and direct its lobbyist to work on passage of HF 4581 and SF 5002 as introduced in the 2026 legislative session.

Background Information

2026 Minnesota Watersheds Resolution #8

Proposing Watershed: Capitol Region Watershed District

Contact Name: Anna Eleria

Phone Number: 651-644-8888

Email Address: aeleria@capitolregionwd.org

Resolution Title: Seeking Legislation that Allows Stormwater as an Alternative Water Source for Outdoor Uses

Background that led to the submission of this resolution

The MN Plumbing Board, a board of the MN Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), is proposing revisions to Chapter 15 of the Uniform Plumbing Code and the 2020 MN Plumbing Code that would effectively prohibit stormwater as an alternative source of water for non-potable uses. Key proposed changes include prohibiting stormwater as an allowable source of water for irrigation and other outdoor uses, expanding plumbing code jurisdiction from buildings to entire sites, and requiring installation of irrigation systems by licensed plumbers which would displace existing landscape and irrigation professionals, and requiring usage of plumbing code-certified materials.

Stormwater reuse is a proven, cost-effective practice that protects lakes and rivers, conserves groundwater, improves water quality, reduces flooding, and supports climate resilience. Eliminating or restricting reuse would remove a critical tool used by municipalities who depend on groundwater for drinking water and seek to conserve it for that use, and watershed districts and municipalities that rely on reuse projects to meet MS4 permit requirements, particularly in areas where infiltration is not feasible.

The proposed changes create significant environmental, financial, and regulatory concerns. They could render existing reuse systems non-compliant, require costly retrofits, and jeopardize millions of dollars in public investments funded through Clean Water Fund grants administered by MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and Metropolitan Council (Met Council), and local capital budgets.

Additionally, the proposal conflicts with longstanding state policies and guidance encouraging stormwater reuse, including MPCA stormwater guidance, the Metropolitan Council's 2050 Water Plan, and legislative directives to advance a framework for water reuse practices. It also conflicts with local ordinances, such as one in Lake Elmo, that require stormwater reuse to conserve groundwater. It also contradicts the purpose of the State Interagency Workgroup for Stormwater Capture and Use (SCU), of which the MN Department of Labor and Industry is a member of, for advancing the development and implementation of safe and sustainable stormwater capture and use practices. This group committed to continue active participation in the work group and support for a broad stakeholder engagement process to ensure a coordinated, collaborative and transparent approach to SCU guidance and policy in Minnesota.

Efforts to solve the problem

Minnesota Watersheds and Capitol Region Watershed District are working closely with a

large and broad coalition group who share similar concerns. Key members of the coalition so far include the League of MN Cities, MN Cities Stormwater Coalition, MN Nursery and Landscape Association, MN Farmers Union and many others. For a full list, see the information below. Efforts to address these concerns include:

- Communicating with watershed districts and watershed management organizations to raise awareness of the issue, keep them informed of how they can help, and the activities of the coalition group
- Reaching out to various state agencies and boards including the Minnesota Plumbing Board, MN Department of Labor and Industry, MN Department of Public Health, MN Pollution Control Agency, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, and others. The outreach has included notifying them of the proposed changes and our concerns
- Initiating outreach to legislators, counties, and conservation organizations
- Developing shared messaging, talking points and response strategies with the broad coalition group
- Raising concerns about the lack of coordination with agencies responsible for water quality and stormwater management

To date, stakeholders are responding quickly and helping to get the word out to the groups and individuals listed above and in turn, they are also reaching out to State agency leaders and legislators and expressing their concerns. In addition, a request has been made for a special Plumbing Board meeting to show opposition to their proposed changes.

Is legislative action the best means of addressing the matter? If yes, what is the purpose or intent of your proposal? If not, what advocacy steps could be taken with state or local government officials?

Legislative actions are needed to address this issue. The intent of this resolution is to:

- Prevent adoption of plumbing code revisions that prohibit stormwater reuse
- Explicitly allow for stormwater capture and use for irrigation and other outdoor non-potable uses in State law
- Ensure coordination between the Plumbing Board, MPCA, MDH, BWSR, cities, watershed organizations, and other local governments
- Align plumbing regulations with existing state policies and guidelines supporting stormwater reuse, water conservation, groundwater protection, and climate resilience
- Protect prior public investments in stormwater reuse systems
- Maintain stormwater reuse as a viable strategy for MS4 compliance
- Ensure decisions on regulation and design for stormwater infrastructure are made by the appropriate agencies and practitioners

Recommended actions include:

- Legislation that allows stormwater reuse for irrigation and other outdoor uses. In 2025, Senate bill (S.F. No. 2442) was introduced and brought to the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee. This committee passed an amended bill and referred it to the Health and Human Services Committee in 2026. It is our understanding that it remains in the hands of the Health and Human Services Committee who has not and will not conduct a hearing in the 2026 legislative session.
- Direction to the Minnesota Plumbing Board to pause all revisions to plumbing code (including Chapter 15) until interagency coordination and alignment is achieved
- Continued coordination and advocacy with state agencies and policymakers

Anticipated support or opposition

There is a growing broad coalition of groups who are partnering in efforts to prevent changes to the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would explicitly eliminate stormwater as an alternative source of water for outdoor uses. As of May 14, 2026, the list of partners include:

- League of Minnesota Cities
- Minnesota Cities Stormwater Coalition
- Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
- Minnesota Farmers Union
- Minnesota Watersheds
- LiUNA
- Associated General Contractors
- Housing First
- Minnesota Association of Cemeteries
- Minnesota Turf and Grounds Foundation
- Minnesota Council on Latino Affairs
- Irrigators Association of Minnesota
- Hospitality Minnesota
- Minnesota Golf Course Superintendents Association
- Freshwater Society
- American Society of Landscape Architects MN Chapter
- Anoka County
- Minnesota Chapter of the American Public Works Association

Groups who are or may be opposed to our efforts include:

- Minnesota Plumbing Board
- Minnesota Pipe Trades Association
- Minnesota Plumbing, Heating, and Cooling Contractors
- Plumbing unions

This issue: (check all that apply)

Applies only to our district		Requires legislative action	x
Applies only to 1 or 2 regions		Requires state agency advocacy	x
Applies to the entire state	x	Impacts MW bylaws or MOPP	

RESOLUTION #8: SEEKING LEGISLATION THAT ALLOWS STORMWATER AS AN ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCE FOR OUTDOOR USES

WHEREAS, the Minnesota Plumbing Board, under the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), is proposing revisions to Chapter 15 of the Uniform Plumbing Code and related provisions of the Minnesota Plumbing Code that would prohibit stormwater as an alternate source of water for irrigation and other outdoor non-potable uses; and

WHEREAS, stormwater reuse is a proven and cost-effective practice that protects lakes and rivers, conserves groundwater, improves water quality, reduces flooding, and supports climate resilience; and

WHEREAS, restricting stormwater reuse would remove a critical compliance and water-management tool for municipalities, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and other local governments, particularly where groundwater resources are limited, where infiltration is not feasible and where reuse projects help meet MS4 permit requirements; and

WHEREAS, the proposed code changes could render existing reuse systems non-compliant, require costly retrofits, and jeopardize significant public investments funded through local budgets and grants administered by Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and the Metropolitan Council (Met Council); and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes conflict with the directives of the MN Legislature in 2015, 2017, and 2021 to advance safe and sustainable water reuse in Minnesota, including stormwater capture and use; and

WHEREAS, the proposed changes conflict with longstanding state and local policies and guidance encouraging stormwater reuse including MPCA's Stormwater Manual and Met Council's 2025 Water Policy Plan;

WHEREAS, a broad coalition of local governments, watershed organizations, professional associations, businesses, and nonprofit partners has formed in support of preserving stormwater reuse as a lawful and practical water-management strategy; and

WHEREAS, Minnesota Senate Bill SF2442, a 2025 bill relating to the outdoor use of rainwater and stormwater, would authorize state agencies and local governments to allow untreated rainwater or stormwater for outdoor purposes when the probability of human or animal consumption or immersion is low or nonexistent, and was reported out of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee to the Health and Human Services Committee in March 2026.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to explicitly allow stormwater as an alternate water source for outdoor non-potable purposes, including irrigation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds supports legislation to assign MPCA as the State agency responsible for oversight of stormwater capture and use systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Minnesota Watersheds requests that the Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry and the Minnesota Plumbing Board pause proposed

plumbing code revisions affecting stormwater reuse until interagency coordination and meaningful stakeholder engagement are completed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any future regulation of stormwater capture and use should align with existing State policy and guidelines, protect prior public investments, and preserve stormwater reuse as a viable strategy for water conservation, groundwater protection, and stormwater management.

2027 Budget and Salary Schedule

1. Before July 23, 2026 - Budget and Salary committee meet and prepare budget for July 23, 2026 Board meeting
2. July 23, 2026 - Proposed budget is presented to full Board for discussion and approval set hearing date and time for August 27, 2026 at 9:30 a.m.
 - a. Publications week of August 10th and August 17th
3. August 27, 2026 - Hearing on 2027 Proposed Budget. Approve Special Revenue Levies.
4. Submit Levies to County Auditors by September 15, 2026

2023 Minnesota Statutes

103D.911 BUDGET.

Subdivision 1. **Hearing.** (a) Before adopting a budget, the managers shall hold a public hearing on the proposed budget.

(b) The managers shall publish a notice of the hearing with a summary of the proposed budget in one or more newspapers of general circulation in each county consisting of part of the watershed district. The notice and summary shall be published once each week for two successive weeks before the hearing. The last publication shall be at least two days before the hearing.

Subd. 2. **Adoption.** On or before September 15 of each year, the managers shall adopt a budget for the next year and decide on the total amount necessary to be raised from ad valorem tax levies to meet the watershed district's budget.

History: 1999 c 391 art 4 s 70; 1994 c 416 art 1 s 2

Administrator's Report

June 11, 2026

Red Lake County Soil Erosion Ordinance: Included in the packet is a soil ordinance implemented by Red Lake County.

Middle Snake Tamarc WD Ground Breaking: The RLWD will be the host office for the MSTRWD Nelson Coulee Ground Breaking ceremony on June 30th. MSTRWD and the RRWMB are working hard to get local legislators and LSOHC Committee members in attendance.

BWSR Snapshots: Included in the packet is the BWSR Snapshots newsletter that includes an article on the Clearwater River Bank Stabilization and the District's PR

RRWMB/River Watch Update: Included in the packet is a RRWMB update and photos from the River Watch Program and their presentation to the Clean Water Council.

AN ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND LIMIT SOIL EROSION

The Red Lake County Board of Commissioners hereby ordains:

SECTION 1. FINDING AND PURPOSE

The purpose of this ordinance is to implement the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 342, which authorizes Red Lake County (County) to protect the public health, safety, and welfare of County residents by regulating soil erosion within the County.

The County finds and concludes that the proposed provisions are appropriate and lawful land use regulations for the County, that the proposed amendments will promote the community's interest in reasonable stability for now and in the future, and the proposed provisions are in the public interest and for the public good.

The following standards shall apply to all development and activity that necessitates the grading, stripping, cutting, filling, or exposure of soils. This ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted under Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 103B and 103F, and any other applicable laws and rules.

SECTION 2. AGRICULTURE

Any land occupier, including but not limited to owners, tenants, or users, of agricultural land shall be considered in compliance with this Ordinance if the occupier is using soil conservation practices approved by the Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District Board to prevent erosion and, under normal conditions, the occupier does not have rills, gullies, or sediment deposits, in the fields and the occupiers farming methods do not create erosion or sediment problems on adjoining properties.

SECTION 3. WOODLAND ACTIVITIES

Land occupiers who use wooded land for pasture must ensure that proper management is used to prevent accelerated erosion or sedimentation due to over-grazing or cattle paths.

SECTION 4. CONSTRUCTION/SUBDIVISION ACTIVITIES

Any construction/ subdivision plan that will disturb over ten thousand (10,000) square feet shall submit to the County a proposed erosion control plan as part of the overall plan. Any plan submitted to and approved by the MPCA, in conjunction with the construction, shall be considered as meeting this requirement.

SECTION 5. VIOLATIONS

Failing to comply with the above Sections 1, 2, and 3 or failing to abide by the Conservation Plan is considered a violation of this ordinance.

SECTION 6. COMPLAINTS

Affected Red Lake County land occupiers and/or township, county, state, or federal

officials may submit a complaint, verbal or written, against any land occupier alleging that accelerated erosion or sediment damage has occurred or is occurring. Complaints shall be submitted to the Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District.

SECTION 7. ACTION INITIATED BY COMPLAINT

Upon receipt of a complaint, the Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District shall investigate the complaint.

Within five (5) days of completion of the investigation, Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District representative will notify the County whether an actual violation exists. The Red Lake County attorney's office will then notify the violator by letter. If a violation exists, the land occupier will be given thirty (30) days from the date of the letter to either: (1) work up a Conservation Plan to correct the violation with the Soil and Water Conservation District representative on a voluntary basis or (2) request a hearing before the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners. Failing to take action as required in the Section may result in penalties including, but not limited to, civil fines, the imposition of a Conservation Plan, Corrective Action, and/or Remediation.

SECTION 8. HEARING

If a hearing is requested as described in Section 5, the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners will determine by a preponderance of the evidence and after hearing all evidence whether a violation has occurred. The complainant, the violator, and the Red Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District representative shall all be notified of the hearing and be allowed to present evidence.

SECTION 9. ENFORCEMENT

Red Lake County shall have the authority to inspect sites, issue notices of violation, and require corrective actions including the implementation of a conservation plan. Failure to comply may result in penalties as authorized by law.

SECTION 10. CONSERVATION PLAN

If a violation is determined to exist, the violator shall enter into a Conservation Plan. The plan will include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Specific conservation management and/or structural practices to be implemented to bring the parcel of land in question to "T" or to control/correct the accelerated erosion or sedimentation.
- (b) The deadline date when the practices will be completed.
- (c) If the land occupier is unwilling or unable to develop a plan within thirty (30) days, the Soil and Water Conservation District representative

will notify the County of the situation, and an evaluation of what practices will be required to bring the land into compliance with the Ordinance.

SECTION 11. CORRECTIVE ACTION

Whenever the Red Lake County Board has determined, based upon the conservation district's report, that any roadway, right-of-way, or drainage conveyance under the jurisdiction of Red Lake County has been adversely affected by excessive sedimentation resulting from land-disturbing activities as described in sections 1, 2, and 3, the Red Lake County Board and the Red Lake County attorney may seek remediation of the adverse effects as permitted by Minnesota Statutes.

SECTION 12. REMEDIATION ACTIONS

Remediation may include, but is not limited to, any of the following actions or combinations of actions:

- (a) requesting the right of way authority to direct or oversee the excavation of the sediment deposited due to land-disturbing activities from the land in question and adjacent to the adversely affected roadway, right-of-way, or drainage conveyance;
- (b) requesting the right of way authority to direct or oversee the restoration of the adversely affected roadway, right-of-way, or drainage conveyance to its intended design specifications;
- (c) requesting the right of way authority to direct or oversee the transport of the excavated sediment to a mutually agreed-to location on the land occupier's land; or
- (d) billing all costs for remediation directly to the land occupier with notification that all costs are to be paid in full to the Red Lake County treasurer within 30 calendar days. If full payment is not remitted within the specified time limit, Red Lake County may assess the cost of remediation against the land in question.

SECTION 13. INCORPORATION OF MINNESOTA STATUTES 103F.401 – 103F.48.

In addition to the provisions of this ordinance, the rights, processes, and obligations of Minnesota Statute 103F.401 – 103F.48 are incorporated herein by reference.

SECTION 14. ADOPTION

The ORDINANCE TO REGULATE AND LIMIT SOIL EROSION is hereby adopted by the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners on the 26th day of May, 2026.

SECTION 15. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance becomes effective on the date of its publication, or upon the publication of a summary of the ordinance as provided by Minn. Stat., § 412.191, subd. 4, as it may be amended from time to time, which meets the requirements of Minn. Stat. § 331A.01, subd. 10, as it may be amended from time to time. |

Adopted and effective this 20th day of May, 2026 by the Red Lake County Board of Commissioners.

RED LAKE COUNTY

By E. Mickelson
Eric Mickelson, Chair Red Lake
County Board of Commissioners

Date: 5-26-26

Kelsey Gervais
Kelsey Gervais
Red Lake County Administrator

Water quality, fish habitat shape Clearwater River streambank work



YOUR Clean Water
Fund AT WORK

Clean Water Funds are the sole source of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding grants from BWSR. The DNR's Conservation Partners Legacy grants are funded by the Outdoor Heritage Fund. Thirty-three percent of the sales tax revenue from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment approved by voters in 2008 is distributed to the Clean Water Fund; 33% to the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

CLEARBROOK — A mile-long streambank stabilization on the Clearwater River is designed to restore fish passage and habitat, and improve water quality in the 35-mile-long upstream stretch impaired for nutrients, E. coli and sulfates.

Work is expected to begin this summer.

The site north of Clearbrook is where the naturally meandering stream meets the 35-mile-long reach dredged and straightened by the USACE in the 1950s for agricultural drainage — a common practice at the time. Without bends in the river to slow it down, fast-moving water ate away at the banks, resulting in steep, vertical drops. Channels had started to form across the floodplain.

The most recent fix in 2004 installed rock riffles to tame the velocity and reduce erosion. It stabilized the banks, and restored floodplain wetlands within highly erodible peat soils.

“It improved habitat and the river and protected water quality, protected the water supply, and restored or improved wetlands, the floodplain,” Corey Hanson said of the previous work. Hanson is

“ There are multiple habitat benefits with our macroinvertebrates, around fish passage, major waterfowl usage with all the rice production nearby. So we do want to keep that natural geomorphology. ”

— Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD water plan coordinator and program technician

the water quality coordinator for the Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD), which is the Clearwater River watershed partnership's fiscal agent.

Ten years after the project was installed, a routine streambank assessment showed exacerbated erosion, unstable banks and dangerously fast flows. Geomorphology data showed an abrupt change in stream stability downstream from the grade-stabilization structures. The vertical drops had moved farther upstream. They were steeper, and no longer met the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) standards for fish passage.

“Our largest (resource benefit) is keeping the river stable. Since a majority of the

Related article: A 2024 [Conservation Story](#) focused on improving water-quality trends in the Fertile area.

From left: Rock riffles were installed in 2004 where the naturally meandering stream meets the 35-mile-long reach dredged and straightened in the 1950s for drainage. In October 2025, Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District water quality coordinator, left, and Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD water plan coordinator and program technician, visited the site of a planned streambank stabilization on the Clearwater River. Downstream from the rock riffles installed in 2004, the banks are eroding and the flows are dangerously fast. **Photo Credits:** Ann Wessel, BWSR

water in the watershed is draining into this river, we want this to be our stronghold within the watershed. This is our main resource,” said Chester Powell. A Clearwater Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) water plan coordinator and program technician, he is also the Clearwater River watershed One Watershed, One Plan coordinator.

The project is the No. 1 priority for the Clearwater River watershed partnership.

It grew to a mile-long project after additional surveys, hydrologic modeling, concept reviews and discussion among RLWD, DNR and Houston Engineering staff showed the potential for habitat improvements and a longer-term erosion fix.

The Clearwater River flows to the Red Lake River, which joins the Red River in East Grand Forks. Its 1,360-square-mile watershed includes Red Lake County, and parts of Beltrami, Clearwater, Mahanomen, Pennington and Polk counties. From east to west, the landscape changes from wetlands and forest to cultivated wild rice paddies and agricultural drainage.

“We have great habitat upstream, and there’s great fish habitat downstream, especially when you get to the Red Lake Falls area,” Hanson said.

In the headwaters area near Bagley, part of the river is a spring-fed designated trout stream. At the outlet of Clearwater Lake, RLWD monitoring consistently shows sediment levels too low for the lab to measure. Near the mouth of the river at Red Lake Falls, the Clearwater is known as a good fishing spot.



DNR records show 41 documented fish species in this general area of the Clearwater River. Those of particular interest to anglers include walleye, Northern pike, smallmouth bass, channel catfish, white suckers, golden redbreast and shorthead redbreast.

“ We want to see a more stable stream — reduce that erosion, improve the water quality downstream. We want to see better habitat for fish in this section of river. ”



— Mike Kelly, DNR northwestern regional clean water specialist

“For fish to get into that better habitat, those deeper pools that (a naturally) meandering stream has, they need to be able to move through that ditch section and move through this section where those grade control structures were likely too steep for them to move through,” said Mike Kelly, DNR northwestern regional clean water specialist.

The \$872,875 project includes five grade-stabilization structures and one rock arch rapids to cut velocity, and three toe-wood sod mats to stabilize the banks.

It draws \$232,875 from Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) grants the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) awarded to the Clearwater River watershed partnership in 2023 and 2025. WBIF paid for

the conceptual and technical design, and will cover part of the erosion control elements tied to water quality improvement.

“This was one of the projects that was at the top of our mind for things that they could do with that funding to improve water quality,” Hanson said.

The DNR provided a \$492,000 Conservation Partners Legacy grant awarded in 2025. The balance comes from a \$100,000 Red River Watershed Management Board water quality grant and \$54,200 in RLWD funds.

“We want to see a more stable stream — reduce that erosion, improve the water quality downstream. We want to see better habitat for fish in this section of river. We want to see fish be able

to pass upstream through this section of river, and to connect the upstream and downstream water body,” Kelly said.

The toe-wood sod mats — masses of tree roots that stabilize the bank — also shelter insects and smaller fish. Deeper pools give fish a place to escape predators or over-winter. Riffles can serve as spring spawning beds.

“There are multiple habitat benefits with our macroinvertebrates, around fish passage, major waterfowl usage with all the rice production nearby. So we do want to keep that natural geomorphology here and not just the dredged main stem of the river as we get farther downstream. We want to keep that habitat quality there,” Powell said.

This is the third streambank stabilization project retired state lawmaker Rod Skoe has been involved with since the 1980s, when he volunteered to serve on the Clearwater River Water Quality Advisory Group. His property borders the project site.

“Our farm probably wouldn’t be there if it wasn’t for the channelization, but on the other hand, you have to try to make sure that you’re not causing problems downstream,” Skoe said. He produces cultivated wild rice, along with red potatoes, edible beans and soybeans.

“We want to help. We don’t want to contribute to the problem that’s occurring up in Lake Winnipeg if we can help it,” Skoe said, referring to the increasingly frequent algae blooms.

BWSR staff members write and produce *Snapshots*, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.

PRAP grant helps Red Lake Watershed District assess strengths and opportunities



Left: The Spring Gravel Dam project in Polk County at the headwaters of Burnham Creek is one example of projects the Red Lake Watershed District pursues to meet local water quality goals. The project installed rock riffles to stabilize the streambank after a washout. **Top right:** District staff members (from left) Lindsey Deselich, Corey Hanson, Tony Olson, Erick Huseuth, Tammy Audette, Melissa Bushy, Nate Koland and Elaine Rychlock were among the people surveyed as part of the PRAP assessment process. **Bottom right:** District board members (clockwise from top left) Tom Anderson, LeRoy Ose, Grant Nelson, Allan Page, Terry Sorenson, Gene Tiedemann and Brian Dwight also participated in the survey process.

Photos courtesy of Red Lake Watershed District

THIEF RIVER FALLS – The Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD) is using a Performance Review and Assistance Program (PRAP) grant from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) to survey residents, partners, board and staff about the RLWD’s existing programs, strengths and weaknesses.

The effort comes at a time of transition and reflection for the district.

“I’ve only been in this role three years now as administrator,” said RLWD Administrator Tammy Audette, who has been with the district for 38 years. “I’ve got a lot of new staff. We’ve got two new board members.”

The assessment aims to ensure the district is moving in the right direction.

“I don’t want to be doing things just because that’s the way we’ve always done them. That’s not right,” Audette said. “Maybe we need to broaden our ideas and think differently.”

RLWD Board Member Brian Dwight said the process is designed to evaluate how the organization functions internally and externally.

“It gives us the opportunity to hear what we’re doing good and where we’re maybe missing the mark,” Dwight said.

BWSR awarded the district a \$10,000

PRAP grant in January. The RLWD anticipates contributing about \$4,500 in staff and board time.

District staff and board members met several times with Houston Engineering to develop a tailored survey and outreach approach for three separate groups: residents, partners, and internal staff and board members.

Staff and board surveys and interviews were conducted in early April, followed by broader outreach to partners and residents later that month. Selected partners and residents completed follow-up phone interviews. Responses were submitted directly to the consultant to encourage open and honest feedback. A summary report was expected later this spring.

Dwight said using an outside facilitator helps people feel more comfortable providing candid feedback.

The district's outreach effort included 226 residents and 76 partners. Outreach included local governments, schools, engineering firms, non-governmental organizations, state and federal agencies, township officials, county commissioners and landowners involved in project work teams. Outreach also included Red Lake Nation staff; a portion of the Red Lake Watershed District is within the Red Lake Reservation.

The watershed spans nearly 6,000 square miles across northwestern Minnesota. It includes all



Top: One of the district's primary activities for its One Watershed, One Plan work is stabilizing eroding streambanks in the Red Lake River, Clearwater River and Thief River. Toe-wood sod mat stabilization was installed along the Thief River in 2024, with vegetation established the following year. **Bottom:** Local agencies and artistic volunteers completed storm drain stenciling as part of a stormwater treatment project designed to help protect drinking water for the City of Thief River Falls. The project was substantially completed in 2025.



of Red Lake County, most of Pennington County, and parts of Mahnomon, Polk, Itasca, Marshall, Clearwater, Beltrami, Roseau and Koochiching counties.

"We sent (the survey) to every township in our watershed ... it was quite the process," Audette said.

The survey was also sent to people who may have had little or no interaction with the RLWD. Dwight said those results can show if residents understand the district's role and responsibilities or if additional public outreach may be needed.

The surveys evaluated communication, partnerships, organizational

effectiveness and program delivery. They asked what the district is doing well and where improvements could be made. For example, partners were asked how they would rate their partnership with the district and why, how effective communication has been, and how coordination or collaboration could be improved. Residents were asked how familiar they were with the watershed district, what they believed its responsibilities were, and whether they had been affected by any district projects.

Early responses are already providing insight, particularly around awareness.

"A lot of people don't

understand what a watershed is," Audette said. "We need to make the public aware of what we are, or who we are and what we can do."

The district plans to use findings to refine priorities, improve communication and guide decision-making. Information gathered through the surveys will guide strategic planning, help refine goals and priorities, enhance internal and external communication, and strengthen engagement with residents, partners and stakeholders. The district also plans to develop actionable next steps based on the findings to help guide future efforts.

Audette emphasized that she welcomes constructive feedback as part of the process.

"Is there something we're doing wrong? I want to know," Audette said.

Dwight said the board views the assessment as an opportunity to strengthen the organization and better support staff, partners and the public.

Ultimately, the goal is to ensure the district is aligned with community needs and expectations while building a stronger organization.

"We're working on taxpayers' money ... and they need to know what we are doing," Audette said.

BWSR staff members write and produce Snapshots, a monthly newsletter highlighting the work of the agency and its partners.



