



LOCAL GOVERNMENT WATER ROUNDTABLE



The Watershed-Based Funding Approach

Clean Water Council Presentation

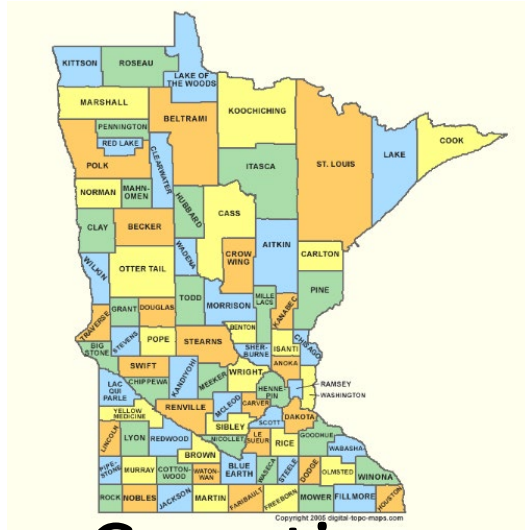
February 26, 2024



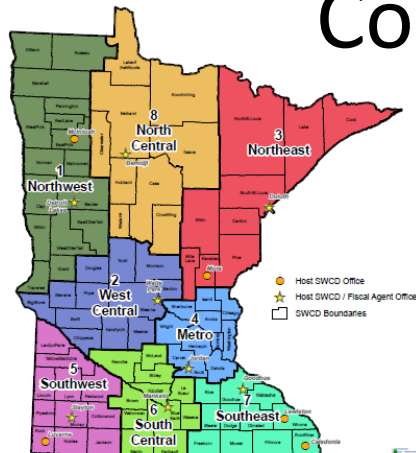
The Minnesota Water Management Framework



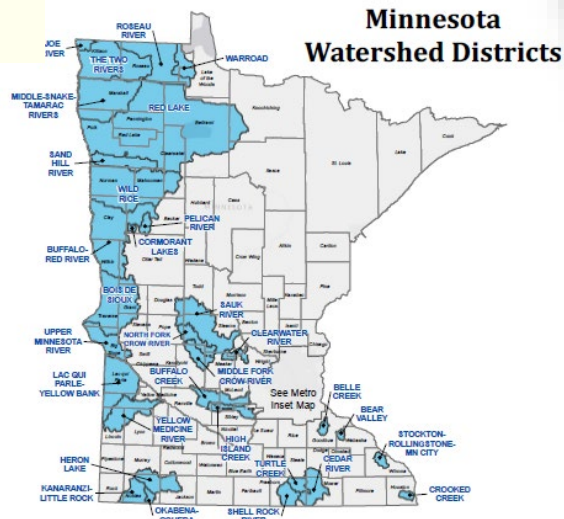
Local Government Water Roundtable



Counties



SWCDs



Watershed Districts



Linking Data to Local Action



**One Watershed
One Plan**



MDA



MPCA



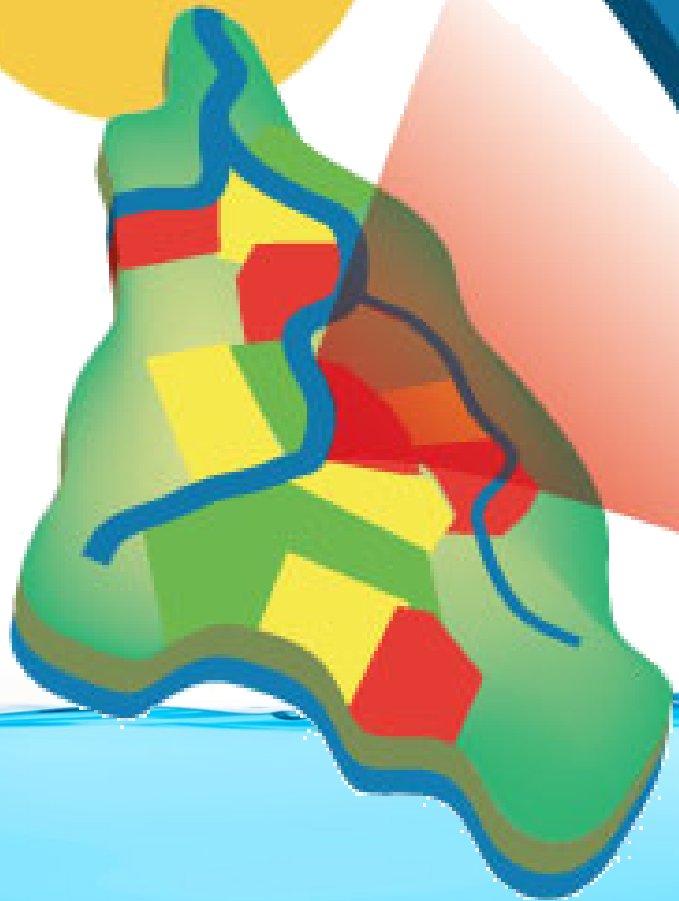
MPCA



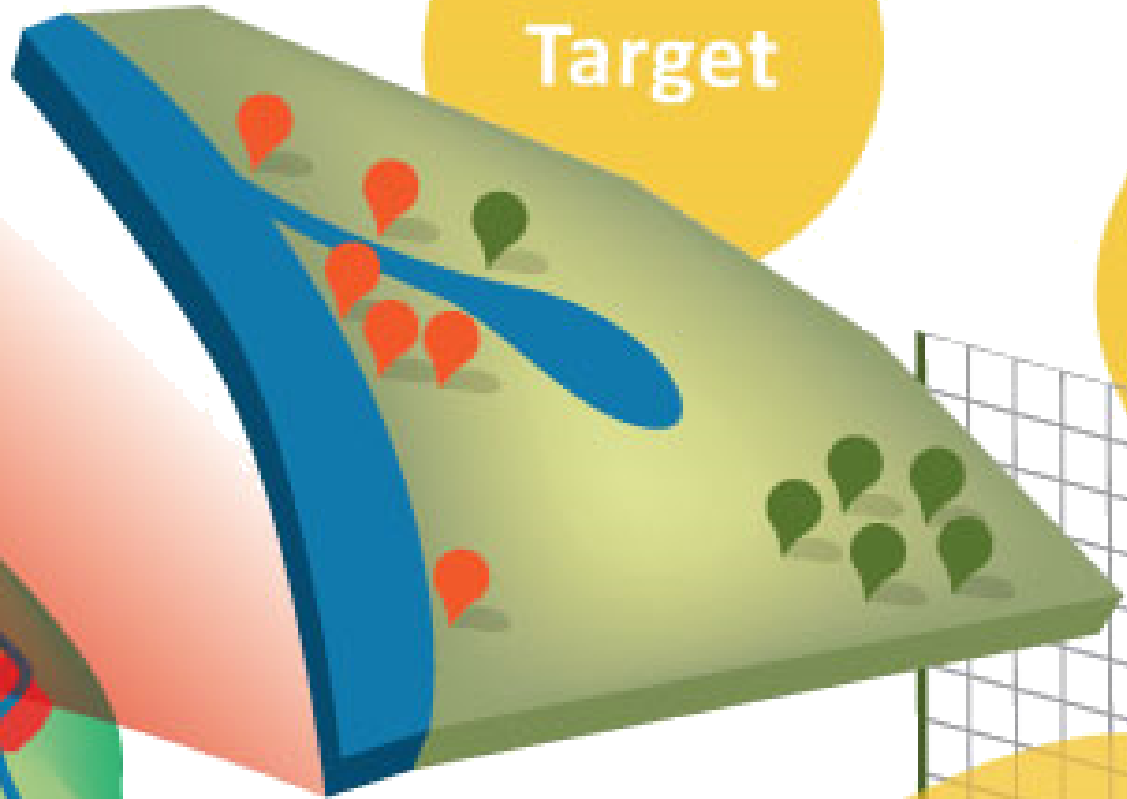
BWSR



Prioritize



Target



Measure



Vision: Watershed Based Implementation



Coordinated

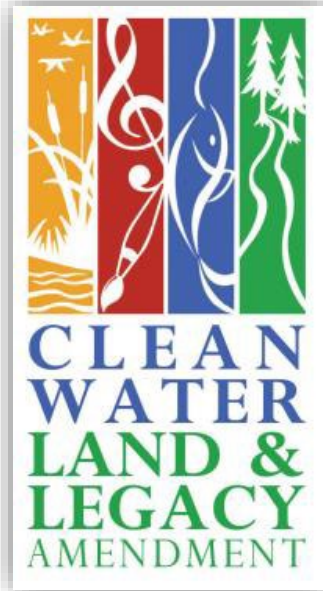
Locally led collaboration.

Predictable

Funding implementers can count on.

Accountable

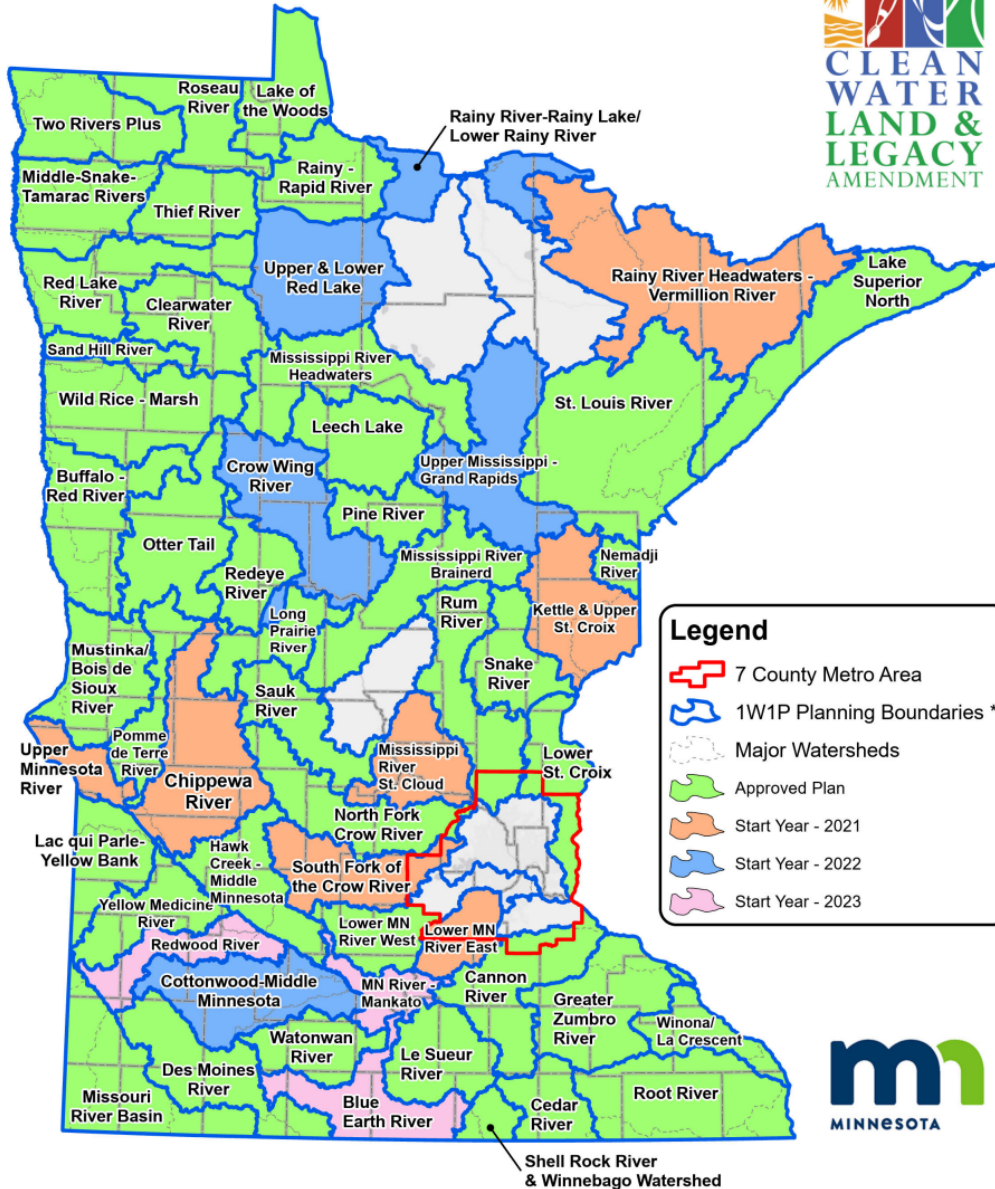
Prioritized, targeted, and measurable.



One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds



Status of Planning Efforts

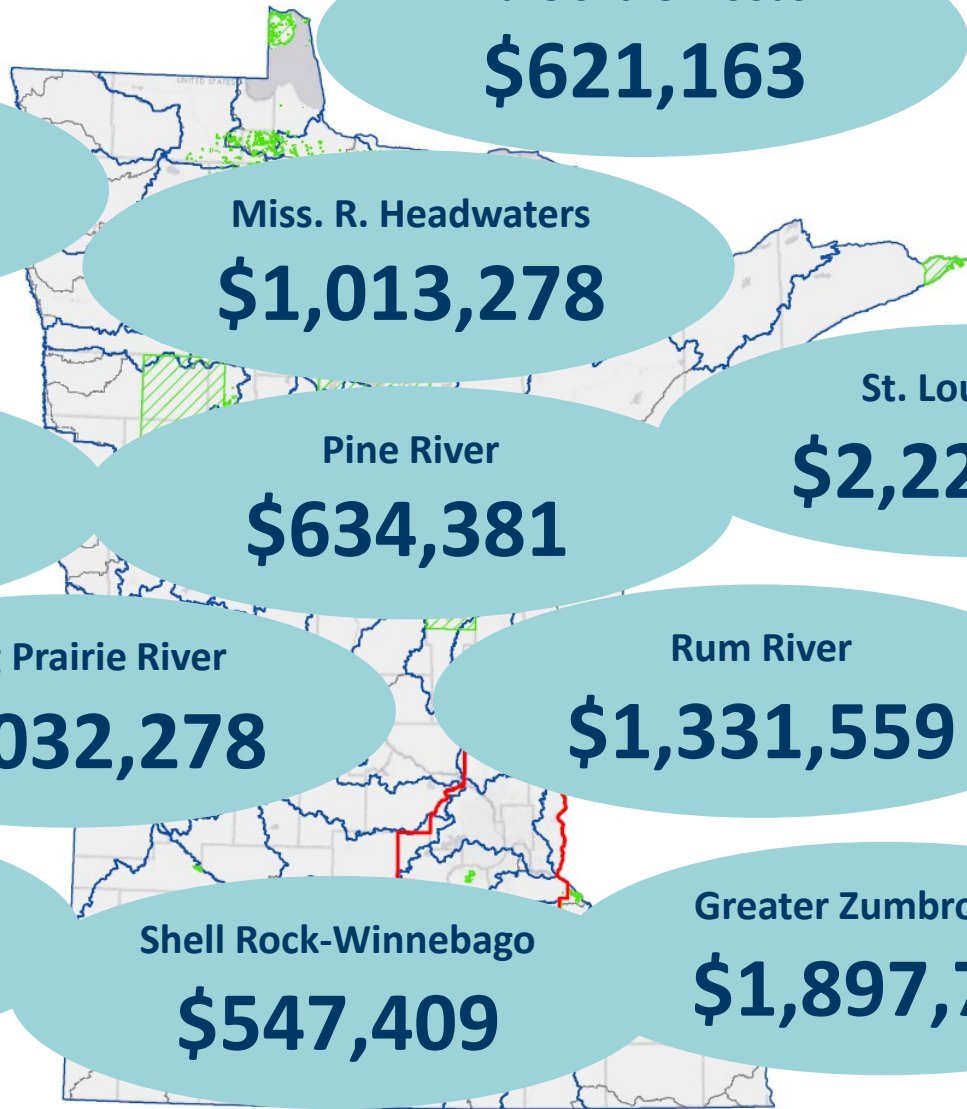


Planning efforts involve 2 – 17 local and tribal partners (avg = 9)

- 57/60 participating
- 42 approved (70%)
- 6 in review



Selected Funding Amounts – FY24-25



Total Appropriation
\$79,000,000

7-County Metro Area
\$9,000,000

Clean Water Council Strategic Plan



Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

- 2 Goals, 5 Strategies, and 14 Actions

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

- 2 Goals, 8 Strategies, and 12 Actions

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

- 3 Goals, 6 Strategies, and 16 Actions

Vision: All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

- 1 Goal, 1 Strategy, and 8 Actions

Clean Water Council Strategic Plan



WBIF will be used to implement many actions in the CWC strategic plan

- Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034.
- Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans updated every ten years).
- Support local efforts to support those impaired waters that are closest to meeting state water quality standards.
- **Use the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) model to fund protection and restoration in watersheds that have an approved comprehensive watershed management plan or other approved plan.**
- Support efforts to protect those high-quality unimpaired waters at greatest risk of becoming impaired.
- Restore and protect water resources for public use and public health, including drinking water.
- Track completion of activities for priorities in each comprehensive watershed management plan
- Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.
- Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.
- Support local efforts to engage farmers in water quality efforts.
- Support innovation to accelerate progress toward clean water goals
- Engage water managers statewide.
- Complete plans and fund activities for protection and restoration of groundwater statewide using a major watershed scale
- Reduce risk of bacteria in groundwater.
- Reduce risk of stormwater contaminants entering groundwater.
- Prioritize areas of high water use intensity.
- Implement water efficiency BMPs, water use reduction, and irrigation water management in areas of high water use intensity by agricultural irrigators, highly sensitive areas, (GWMAs), and highly vulnerable (DWSMAs).
- Support implementation funding and technical assistance to reduce nitrate in DWSMAs that are Level 1 and Level 2 under the GPR.
- Fund protective actions that assist public water suppliers in meeting safe drinking water levels.
- Assist all well users with information on how to achieve safe drinking water.
- Assist qualifying low-income households and households with vulnerable populations to mitigate contaminants, such as well replacement, water treatment systems, etc.
- Support local efforts to engage lakeshore property owners and private landowners
- Engage non-traditional audiences with water planning and implementation.

Watershed Transition Vision – Moving Forward



Continue the
commitment

Apply the science

**Actions
Driving
Success**

Support the
partnerships

Increase the
momentum

WBIF in Action: Wilkin County



- \$12,000 WBIF
- \$1.45 million Cargill and General Mills
- \$45,000 MBOLD
- Incentives to implement one or more soil health practices: cover crops, nutrient management, crop rotation and reduced tillage

WBIF in action – Scott WMO



- \$84,900 WBIF
- \$155,794 WMO match
- Applicators training, purchase of chloride reduction equipment, smart salting webinars



m1 BOARD OF WATER
AND SOIL RESOURCES

2023 December Snapshots
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Watershed-Based Implementation Funding at work in the metro area



Plan Implementation: Leech Lake and Pine River



Forest Protection: A High Priority strategy for water quality protection in both plans
Parcel – based prioritization

- WBIF funded:
 - Forest Stewardship Plans on 5274 acres
 - Enrollment in voluntary forest protection programs
- Related projects: OHF\$ for permanent protection in Mississippi River headwaters (>\$1.9 M leveraged)



Plan Implementation: Red Lake River



- WBIF funded:
 - 200 grade stabilization structures to reduce soil loss and gully erosion
 - Channel stabilization work
 - 2077 tons/year of sediment reduced
- 2 WBIF grants leveraged >\$1M
- Related project: Black River Impoundment Flood Damage Reduction Project stores up to 4,000 acre-feet of runoff



2023 Conservation Practices



Cover Crops
600 acres
Planted by 9 Producers in Dodge, Goodhue & Wabasha Counties



Grassed Waterways
31,652 linear ft
12 projects funded



Water & Sediment Control
3,721 linear feet basins & 3,979 linear feet of terrace repair
6 projects funded



Grade Stabilization Structure
2 structures



Waste Storage Facilities
2.7 million gallons of storage



Well Sealing
7 Wells Sealed

WBIF In Action: Greater Zumbro River



REDUCING POLLUTION

2023 By the Numbers

4,182

Nitrogen (pounds)

total pounds of nitrogen reduced per year through planting cover crops and installing other best management practices.

114

Sediment (tons)

total tons of suspended sediment per year prevented from entering our waterways.

227

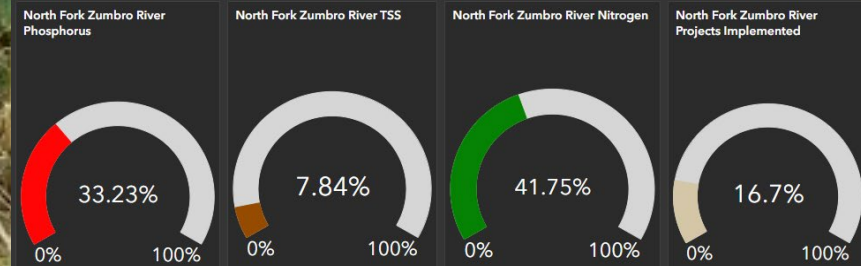
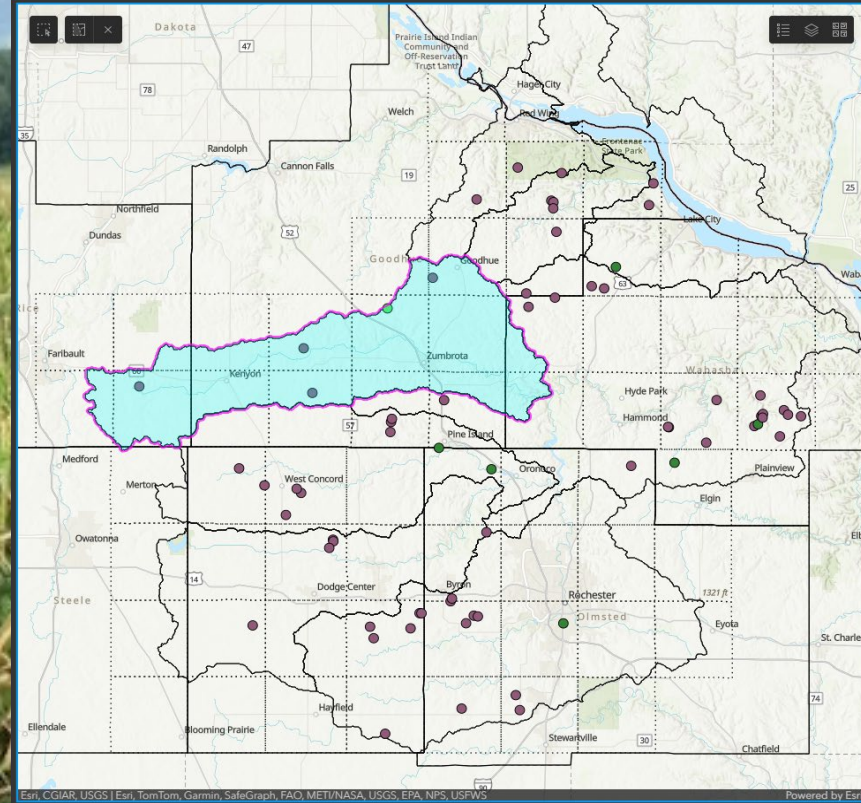
Phosphorous (pounds)

total pounds of phosphorus per year prevented from entering our surface waters.



2023 Pollutant Reductions

WAGZ Projects and Goals since 2022



Commitment to Implementation



Turning Plans Into Actions

- Historic Change - Follow the Water
- Partnerships and Collaboration
- Locally led and locally implemented
- Leverages technical expertise and funding

Landowners

Water Quality Improvement

Targeted Efforts

Delivering Outcomes

**Soil and Water
Conservation Districts**

Clean Water Council

Counties

Minnesota State Agencies

Water Quality Protection

Address Impairments

Every Corner of the State

Cities and
Towns

Watershed Districts

Federal Agencies

Minnesota Legislature

Private Sector Partners

Questions & Discussion



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