

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT

December 9, 2021

9:00 a.m.

Agenda

9:00 a.m.	Call to Order	Action
	Review and approve agenda	Action
	Requests to appear	Information
	November 24, 2021 Minutes	Action
	Financial Report dated December 8, 2021	Action
	General Fund Budget as of November 30, 2021	Information
	Thief River Falls Oxbow Project, RLWD Project No. 46Q Pay Estimate No. 2	Action
	Schirrick Dam Outlet Repair, Project, RLWD Project No. 25	Information
	BR 6 Wildlife Habitat Structure, RLWD Project No. 43A CPL Grant Close Out	Information
9:15 a.m.	Beltrami SWCD Funding Request-Aly Bergstrom	Info./Action
	Pine Lake Flood Damage & Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B	Info./Action
	The Nature Conservancy-Marcoux Prairie-Drainage Dispute	Information
	RRWMB-USGS Stream Gage Cost Share	Action
	Environmental Quality Board (EQB)-Open Board Position	Information
	Administrators Update	Information
	Legal Counsel Update	Information
	Managers' updates	Information
	Adjourn	Action

UPCOMING MEETINGS

December 9, 2021	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
December 14, 2021	RRWMB Annual Legislative Meeting, Ada, 10:00 a.m.
December 23, 2021	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
December 24, 2021	Christmas Holiday-Office Closed
December 31, 2021	New Year's Holiday-Office Closed
January 11, 2022	RLWD Board Meeting, 9:00 a.m.
January 11-13, 2022	39 th Annual Red River Basin Land & Water International Summit Conference
February 4, 2022	BWSR NW MN Watershed District Managers Orientation/Refresher Training, Warren

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RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Board of Manager's Minutes
November 24, 2021

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

Present: Managers: Dale Nelson, Terry Sorenson, LeRoy Ose, Brian Dwight, Tom Anderson, Gene Tiedemann and Allan Page. Staff Present: Myron Jesme, Tammy Audette and Legal Counsel, Delray Sparby.

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

The Board reviewed the November 10, 2021, minutes. Motion by Anderson, seconded by Ose, to approve the November 10, 2021, Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the Financial Report dated November 23, 2021. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight, to unanimously approve the Financial Report dated November 23, 2021. Motion carried.

Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that no additional work had been completed on the Black River Impoundment Project, RLWD Project No. 176, since the last Board meeting. Nordby stated that he met with R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., to review a punch list of items to be completed, noting that R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. requested that the Board reduce the retainer that is currently being withheld from 5% to 3%. The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 16 in the amount of \$148,791.39, which includes the reduction in retainer to 3%. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve Pay Estimate No. 16, in the amount of \$148,791.39, to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. for construction of the Black River Impoundment, RLWD Project No. 176, which includes a reduction of retainage withheld from 5% to 3%. Motion carried.

Gladden Construction, Inc., completed some clearing and grubbing of trees on the Demarais/Hanson Outlet Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc, stated that after receiving rain and snow at the project site, the contractor decided to suspend work until the Spring.

Discussion was held on the low quote received from Wright Construction of TRF, Inc. for the Schirrick Dam Outlet Repair, RLWD Project No. 25. Administrator Jesme stated that Wright Construction of TRF, Inc. was not aware that fractured rock was required. Wright Construction of TRF, Inc. has rock available, but it will need to be fractured, therefore they are requesting an additional \$13,500 to fracture the rock. Discussion was held on Wright Construction of TRF, Inc.'s request and what steps are available to the Board considering the existing quote is not sufficient nor does it meet the rock specifications. Motion by Dwight, seconded by Page, to allow Wright Construction of TRF, Inc., to withdraw their quote due to the quote being insufficient due to rock specification not being met. Motion carried. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Dwight to accept the next lowest quote from Quality Spray Foam/Anderson

Excavating in the amount of \$76,800.25, for the Schirrick Dam Outlet Repair, RLWD Project No. 25, contingent upon the review and approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District Staff, and Project Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., of the quote documents and materials. Motion carried.

Administrator Jesme stated that the District is holding a Cashier's Check from Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Jesme stated that the project is substantially completed, with the only work left being some minor seeding. The District is currently withholding a retainer on the pay estimate which will more than cover the cost of re-seeding. Motion by Ose, seconded by Anderson, to release the Cashier's Check from Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$238,269.50 to Davidson Construction, Inc. for the Pine Lake Outlet Structure Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the gates and steel for the walkway are on backorder. Dalager gave a presentation on the construction progress. Administrator Jesme questioned the size of the first culvert downstream of the outlet structure, stating that the Clearwater County Engineer feels the existing culvert may restrict flows downstream of the township road. Dalager indicated that this culvert along with various other culverts downstream will be reviewed and sized as part of Phase 2. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$238,269.50, to Davidson Construction, Inc. for the Pine Lake Outlet Structure Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. Motion carried.

At 9:30 a.m., President Nelson called the final payment hearing for R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc., for the construction of the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project, RLWD Project No. 178 to order. Proper notice of the hearing had been given. President Nelson asked the Board members or audience if there were any comments or objections to the final payment to R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$310,740.52. Jesme indicated that the District received the IC-134 from R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc. With no other comments or objections from the Board or audience, a motion was made by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to close the final hearing. Motion carried. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, and carried unanimously, to approve the final payment to R.J. Zavoral and Sons, Inc. in the amount of \$310,740.52.

Administrator Jesme stated that at the October 14, 2021 Board of Managers' meeting the Board approved advertising the sale of 5.88 acres of property the District purchased for the Thief River Falls Westside FDR Project, RLWD Project No. 178. It was the consensus of the Board to notify adjacent landowners regarding the sale, advertise in the local paper and notify local realtors. Access to the property will need to be provided by the buyer. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to accept sealed bids until 8:30 a.m., December 23, 2021 at the Red Lake Watershed District office for the sale of 5.88 acres located in the NW1/4, Section 33, North Township, Pennington County, with the two highest bidders receiving a chance to raise their bids in \$1,000 increments. Motion carried.

Engineer Dillion Nelson, HDR Engineering, Inc. reviewed project construction on the Thief River Falls Oxbow Project, RLWD Project No. 46Q. Nelson informed the Board that work is substantially completed with minor site grading, seeding and the addition of a screw gate on the east structure to be completed. Two flap gates at the outlet, near the river were replaced. Water will be approximately 3-4 feet deep in the pond. Nelson presented a video on the operation of how the hydrodynamic separators work to remove debris and infiltration from the drain tile to help with water quality. The City of Thief River Falls will be responsible for debris removal from the hydrodynamic separator.

Staff member Nick Olson stated that the Little Pine Lake WMA Structure, RLWD Project No. 26A, is approximately 1.2 feet lower than it should be at for winter elevation and that the stop logs are not installed per operation agreement. Olson has tried to reach out to MnDNR staff responsible for operation of the structure, but they have not returned any calls at this point. Levels at Pine Lake, RLWD Project No. 35 are reaching winter elevations, with the boards being installed to 1282.5 by December 1st per the operating plan.

The Board reviewed a request from the Red Lake SWCD for the Weiss/Knott Grade Stabilization Project located in Sections 8 and 9, Lake Pleasant Township, Red Lake County. The total project construction cost is \$32,340.21, with the Red Lake SWCD requesting a cost share of \$4,885 from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Page, seconded by Dwight, to approve a cost share request in the amount of \$4,885 for the Weiss/Knott Grade Stabilization Project from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount \$7,789.99 to Bertils Gravel for construction of the Larson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AV. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve Pay Estimate No. 2 in the amount \$7,789.99 to Bertils Gravel for construction of the Larson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AV. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$21,292.16 to Trent Stanley for construction of the Nelson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AU. Staff member Nick Olson stated that ring dike is substantially completed, with placement of topsoil and seeding to be completed in 2022. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 in the amount of \$21,292.16 to Trent Stanley for construction of the Nelson Ring Dike, RLWD Project No. 129AU. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson requested the Board to increase the amount paid to individuals for the trapping of gophers. Currently the District is paying \$4.00 per gopher. Olson requested that the District pay \$5.00 per gopher. Trapping is completed within the right of way of legal drainage systems and impoundments under the jurisdiction of the District. Individuals interested in trapping, must have prior approval from District staff, and documentation from the township clerk as to the number of gophers collected. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve paying \$5.00 per gopher and that approval must be given by the District staff prior to trapping gophers on legal drainage systems or impoundments under the authority of the District. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the permit for approval. Motion by Ose, seconded Page, to approve RLWD Permit No. 21179, Darwin Boutain, Reiner Township, Pennington, with conditions stated on then permit. Motion carried.

The Board reviewed a quote from DKT for the renewal of three seats of Civil 3D-Autocad in the amount of \$3,363.37. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Anderson, to approve the renewal of three seats of Civil 3D-Autocad in the amount of \$3,363.37 from DKT. Motion carried.

The MAWD Annual Conference and Business meeting will be held virtually from December 1-3, 2021.

Manager Ose requested that the District change the January 13, 2022 Board meeting date, due to a scheduling conflict with the Red River Basin Commission meeting held January 11-13, 2022. Motion by Ose, seconded by Tiedemann, to change the January 13, 2022 Board meeting to January 10, 2022. Motion carried.

Staff member Nick Olson updated the Board on District impoundment elevations.

Administrators Update:

- Jesme attended the RRWMB virtually on November 16th, and Manager Ose attended in person. There will be a RRWMB Legislative meeting held at 10:00 a.m. on December 14th in Ada.
- Jesme participated in a 1W1P focus group webinar meeting hosted by the MN Department of Management and Budget.
- Jesme and Staff members Joppru and Audette met with staff from Brady Martz on November 18th on various steps in moving forward with QuickBooks Online.
- The MAWD Annual Conference will be held virtually on December 1-3, 2021.
- The MAWA Legislative Committee will be via zoom on December 10th at 11:00 a.m.
- The Clearwater River Planning Work Group will meet on December 15th at 1:00 p.m.
- The Red Lake River 1W1P Advisory Committee meeting will meet at 9:30 a.m. on December 15th, followed by a Policy Committee meeting at 11:00 a.m.
- Jesme will participate in giving a presentation on the Black River Project and the Pine Lake Project at the Red River Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting on December 8th in Grand Forks, ND.

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

LeRoy Ose, Secretary

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
Financial Report for December 9, 2021

Ck#	Check Issued to:	Description	Amount
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	4,312.14
online	MN Department of Revenue	Withholding taxes	793.64
online	Public Employees Retirement Assn.	PERA	2,689.26
online	Further	HSA & FSA	215.96
online	EFTPS	Withholding for FICA, Medicare, and Federal taxes	336.88
online	MN Department of Revenue	Withholding taxes	50.00
online	BlueCross Blue Shield	Health Insurance Premium	6,788.50
39214	Larry Berg	Gophers Projects #20,#109, #41,#49	830.00
39215	Bertils Gravel & Exc. LLC	Pay Estimate #2 - Ring Dike 129AV	7,789.99
39216	Davidson Construction	Pay Estimate #1 - Pine Lake Outlet Proj #26B	238,269.50
39217	Ihle Sparby & Haase PA	Legal Fees	7,182.00
39218	VOID	Wrong Payee	-
39219	Lonnie Peck	Gophers Projects #81,#60D	570.00
39220	R.J. Zavoral & Sons, Inc.	Pay Est #16 proj#176 & Final Pay Westside #178	459,531.91
39221	Trent Stanley	Pay Estimate #1 Ring Dike #129AU	21,292.16
39222	DLT Solutions	Civil 3D Government Single User Annual Subscription	3,363.37
39223	Farmers Union Oil Company	Gas for Vehicles	544.33
39224	Fastenal Company	Maintenance Expense for Proj #26B	85.36
39225	HDR Engineering	See detail below*	14,030.14
39226	Hugo's	Meeting supplies	181.92
39227	Harvey Klipping	Gophers Project #161	345.00
39228	Les's Sanitation	Recycling & Garbage	58.24
39229	Grant Nelson	Professional Services - Pictures Proj #178	40.00
39230	Northwest Beverage	H2O for office	39.75
39231	Page's Country Creations	Jackets for River Watch Proj #82F	1,058.00
39232	Sun Life Financial	Life Insurance Premium	147.84
39233	TRF Times	Ad for Final Payment Hearing & Veterans Day Ad	88.74
39234	Widseth Smith Nolting & Assoc.	Engineering Services for Project #129AS	218.75
online	Brian Dwight	Expenses	394.18
online	Dale Nelson	Expenses	37.52
online	Allan Page	Expenses	87.36
online	Terry Sorenson	Expenses	184.80
	Payroll		-
	Check #12373-12384		15,495.74
	Total Checks		<u>\$ 787,052.98</u>

*** HDR Engineering**

Proj. 26B Pine Lake	4,408.73
Proj. 180C Mud River Restoration	2,474.93
Proj. 46Q City of TRF- Oxbow Rest	7,146.48
Total	14,030.14

Banking

Northern State Bank

Balance as of November 24, 2021	\$ 866,551.52
Total Checks Written	(787,052.98)
Receipt #224031 Transfer in from American Federal Bank	300,000.00
Receipt #224034 Monthly Interest	95.04
Receipt #224049 Polk County 2nd half taxes	631,589.58
Balance as of December 9, 2021	<u>\$ 1,011,183.16</u>

Current interest rate is .20%

American Federal Bank-Fosston

Balance as of November 24, 2021	\$ 2,008,319.07
Receipt #224031 Transfer to Northern State Bank	(300,000.00)
Receipt #224033 Monthly Interest	1,012.78
Receipt #224035 rent payment from Ray Zammert	1,718.46
Receipt #224036 dental & health insur from Sanderson	795.45
Receipt #224037 Itasca County 2nd half taxes	584.72
Receipt #224038 Marshall County 2nd half taxes	54,518.89
Receipt #224039 Beltrami County 2nd half taxes	62,973.53
Receipt #224040 Roseau County 2nd half taxes	31.48
Receipt #224042 Koochiching County 2nd half taxes	5,069.64
Receipt #224044 Red Lake County 2nd half taxes	89,615.68
Receipt #224045 Mahnomen County 2nd half taxes	1,386.65
Receipt #224046 Pennington County 2nd half taxes	231,930.08
Receipt #224047 Clearwater County 2nd half taxes	171,097.06
Receipt #224048 Polk County 2nd half taxes	289.18
Balance as of December 9, 2021	<u>\$ 2,329,342.67</u>

Current interest rate is .50%

2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

as of November 30, 2021

(unaudited)

	2021 BUDGET	2021 Exp	(over) under
Manager's fees, salaries	40,000.00	21,925.00	18,075.00
Board of Manager's expense	24,200.00	8,233.43	15,966.57
Staff salaries	558,000.00	470,816.51	87,183.49
Payroll taxes	42,687.00	35,472.16	7,214.84
Employee benefits	85,000.00	64,886.18	20,113.82
Travel & meetings(mileage & exp.)	5,000.00	1,482.61	3,517.39
Audit	9,450.00	9,450.00	0.00
Legal	16,000.00	10,390.00	5,610.00
Office supplies	20,000.00	13,399.08	6,600.92
Office equipment	30,000.00	2,673.74	27,326.26
Appraiser/Viewer Expense	2,000.00	0.00	2,000.00
Professional services	20,000.00	19,814.00	186.00
Dues and subscriptions	10,000.00	9,725.00	275.00
Insurance and bonds	30,000.00	42,270.00	(12,270.00) ***
Repairs and maintenance-Building	15,000.00	9,471.56	5,528.44
Utilities	12,000.00	8,093.53	3,906.47
Advertising and publications	4,000.00	10,128.24	(6,128.24) *
Telephone	13,000.00	8,878.40	4,121.60
Vehicle expense and maintenance	15,000.00	14,115.82	884.18
Engineering supplies	3,000.00	3,974.14	(974.14)
Engineering equipment	40,000.00	7,098.44	32,901.56 ****
Interest	0.00	0.00	0.00
TOTAL	994,337.00	772,297.84	222,039.16
Less: Overhead	837,000.00	682,881.24	(154,118.76)
Less: Miscellaneous revenue	7,000.00	8,186.42	1,186.42 **
General Fund Budget	150,337.00	81,230.18	69,106.82

January 1, 2021 Beg. Balance	212,187.05	212,187.05
County levies revenue	0.00	75,176.98
Gross balance with revenue		287,364.03
Less net expenses		(81,230.18)
Subtotal- General Fund w/o interest		206,133.85
Plus interest earned-if allocated to GF 100%		16,607.87
General Fund Balance 11-30-21		222,741.72

* Ads for engineering and accounting officer staff positions

** Sale of excess property

*** Increase in Liability Insurance

**** Surveying Equipment \$32,596.55



Contractor's Application and Certificate for Payment Summary

To (Owner): City of Thief River Falls & Red Lake Watershed District	From (Contractor): Spruce Valley Corporation Inc.	Via (Engineer): Dillon Nelson
Owner's Project No.:	Contractor's Project No.:	Engineer's Project No.: 10168013
For (Contract): Oxbow Restoration & Stormwater Treatment Project	Application No.: 2	Application Period: 10/1/2021 - 12/2/2021

Summary of Previous Payments

Application No.	Application Period	Payment Amount
1	8/16/2021 - 10/1/2021	\$ 269,731.32

Application No.	Application Period	Payment Amount



Contractor's Application and Certificate for Payment

For (contract):		Oxbow Restoration & Stormwater Treatment Project					Contractor:		Spruce Valley Corporation Inc.					
Application No.:		2					Application Period:		10/1/2021 - 12/2/2021					
A			B			C		D	E	F	G	H	I	J
Item			Work Completed											
Item No.	Description	Unit	Contract Quantity	Contract Unit Price	Scheduled Value	From Previous Applications	This Period	Materials Presently Stored (not in C or D)	Total Completed and Stored To Date (C+D+E)	Percent Complete To Date (%)	Total Cost This Period	Total Cost Complete to Date	Quantity to Finish (A - F)	
2021.501	MOBILIZATION	LUMP SUM	1	\$25,535.00	\$25,535.00	0.90	0.10	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$2,553.50	\$25,535.00	0.00	
2101.501	CLEARING AND GRUBBING	LUMP SUM	1	\$12,400.00	\$12,400.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$6,200.00	\$12,400.00	0.00	
2104.502	REMOVE 36" FLAP GATE	EACH	2	\$256.00	\$512.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	100.00%	\$512.00	\$512.00	0.00	
2104.502	REMOVE 24" RC APRON	EACH	1	\$340.00	\$340.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$340.00	\$340.00	0.00	
2104.503	REMOVE 24" RC PIPE CULVERT	LIN FT	40	\$25.00	\$1,000.00	0.00	40.00	0.00	40.00	100.00%	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00	0.00	
2104.503	REMOVE 54" RC PIPE CULVERT	LIN FT	16	\$40.00	\$640.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	100.00%	\$640.00	\$640.00	0.00	
2104.503	REMOVE 6' DIA. PRECAST STRUCTURE	EACH	1	\$1,025.00	\$1,025.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$1,025.00	\$1,025.00	0.00	
2105.507	MUCK EXCAVATION (P)	CU YD	27,770	\$4.50	\$124,965.00	20827.00	6,943.00	0.00	27770.00	100.00%	\$31,243.50	\$124,965.00	0.00	
2105.507	COMMON EXCAVATION (P)	CU YD	420	\$3.35	\$1,407.00	0.00	420.00	0.00	420.00	100.00%	\$1,407.00	\$1,407.00	0.00	
2105.507	COMMON BORROW (P) (CV)	CU YD	100	\$6.70	\$670.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	100.00%	\$670.00	\$670.00	0.00	
2105.601	SITE GRADING	LUMP SUM	1	\$3,000.00	\$3,000.00	0.00	0.50	0.00	0.50	50.00%	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00	0.50	
2105.609	HAUL & DISPOSE OF EXCAVATED MATERIAL (P)	CU YD	27,670	\$7.60	\$210,292.00	20752.00	6,918.00	0.00	27670.00	100.00%	\$52,576.80	\$210,292.00	0.00	
2118.509	AGGREGATE SURFACING, CLASS 5 (P) (CV)	TON	38	\$27.00	\$1,026.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	38.00	
2451.507	GRANULAR BEDDING (P) (CV)	CU YD	13	\$27.00	\$351.00	0.00	13.00	0.00	13.00	100.00%	\$351.00	\$351.00	0.00	
2501.502	FLAP GATE FOR 36"CS PIPE (CAST IRON)	EACH	2	\$3,227.00	\$6,454.00	0.00	2.00	0.00	2.00	100.00%	\$6,454.00	\$6,454.00	0.00	
2501.502	12" CANAL GATE (CAST IRON)	EACH	1	\$3,016.00	\$3,016.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$3,016.00	\$3,016.00	0.00	
2501.502	24" RC PIPE APRON	EACH	1	\$1,168.00	\$1,168.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$1,168.00	\$1,168.00	0.00	
2502.603	6" HDPE DRAIN TILE WITH SOCK & CONNECTORS	LIN FT	2,056	\$5.00	\$10,280.00	0.00	2,056.00	0.00	2056.00	100.00%	\$10,280.00	\$10,280.00	0.00	
2503.503	18" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006, CLASS III	LIN FT	16	\$157.00	\$2,512.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	100.00%	\$2,512.00	\$2,512.00	0.00	
2503.503	24" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006, CLASS III	LIN FT	16	\$219.00	\$3,504.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	100.00%	\$3,504.00	\$3,504.00	0.00	
2503.503	54" RC PIPE SEWER DESIGN 3006, CLASS III	LIN FT	16	\$432.00	\$6,912.00	0.00	16.00	0.00	16.00	100.00%	\$6,912.00	\$6,912.00	0.00	
2506.502	CONSTRUCT 6' DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN SPECIAL	EACH	1	\$39,952.00	\$39,952.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$39,952.00	\$39,952.00	0.00	
2506.502	CONSTRUCT 8' DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN SPECIAL	EACH	1	\$24,648.00	\$24,648.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$24,648.00	\$24,648.00	0.00	
2506.502	CONSTRUCT 10' DRAINAGE STRUCTURE DESIGN SPECIAL	EACH	1	\$85,465.00	\$85,465.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$85,465.00	\$85,465.00	0.00	
2506.502	STRUCTURE GRATE - HINGED COVER	EACH	1	\$2,635.00	\$2,635.00	0.00	1.00	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$2,635.00	\$2,635.00	0.00	
2511.507	RANDOM RIPRAP (CLASS 3)	CU YD	30	\$77.00	\$2,310.00	0.00	38.00	0.00	38.00	126.67%	\$2,926.00	\$2,926.00	-8.00	
2511.509	GRANULAR FILTER MATERIAL (P) (CV)	TON	480	\$25.00	\$12,000.00	0.00	480.00	0.00	480.00	100.00%	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00	0.00	
2540.602	INSTALL BOLLARD	EACH	7	\$414.00	\$2,898.00	0.00	7.00	0.00	7.00	100.00%	\$2,898.00	\$2,898.00	0.00	
2563.601	TRAFFIC CONTROL	LUMP SUM	1	\$475.00	\$475.00	0.50	0.50	0.00	1.00	100.00%	\$237.50	\$475.00	0.00	
2573.501	STABILIZED CONSTRUCTION EXIT	LUMP SUM	1	\$2,880.00	\$2,880.00	0.50	0.00	0.00	0.50	50.00%	\$0.00	\$1,440.00	0.50	
2573.502	STORM DRAIN INLET PROTECTION	EACH	4	\$153.00	\$612.00	4.00	0.00	0.00	4.00	100.00%	\$0.00	\$612.00	0.00	
2573.503	SEDIMENT CONTROL LOG TYPE WOOD CHIP	LIN FT	50	\$8.20	\$410.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	50.00	
2573.503	FLOTATION SILT CURTAIN TYPE MOVING WATER	LIN FT	40	\$25.50	\$1,020.00	40.00	0.00	0.00	40.00	100.00%	\$0.00	\$1,020.00	0.00	
2574.505	SOIL BED PREPARATION	ACRE	2	\$408.00	\$816.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	2.00	
2574.508	FERTILIZER, TYPE 1	POUND	400	\$1.00	\$400.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	400.00	
2575.505	SEEDING	ACRE	2	\$816.00	\$1,632.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	2.00	
2575.505	DISK ANCHORING	ACRE	2	\$51.00	\$102.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	2.00	



Contractor's Application and Certificate for Payment

For (contract):		Oxbow Restoration & Stormwater Treatment Project					Contractor:		Spruce Valley Corporation Inc.					
Application No.:		2					Application Period:		10/1/2021 - 12/2/2021					
A			B		C		D	E		F	G	H	I	J
Item					Work Completed			Materials Presently Stored (not in C or D)	Total Completed and Stored To Date (C+D+E)	Percent Complete To Date (%)	Total Cost This Period	Total Cost Complete to Date	Balance to Finish (A - F)	
Item No.	Description		Unit	Contract Quantity	Contract Unit Price	Scheduled Value	From Previous Applications							This Period
2575.508	SEED MIXTURE, 25-131		POUND	440	\$4.10	\$1,804.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	440.00
2575-509	MULCH MATERIAL TYPE 1		TON	1	\$204.00	\$204.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00%	\$0.00	\$0.00	1.00
SUBTOTAL OF PROJECT BID ITEMS												\$304,626.30	\$588,554.00	



Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District
701 Minnesota Ave NW, Ste 113
Bemidji, MN 56601
218-333-4158

December 7, 2021

Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Ave South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701

Re: Funding Proposal Forest Stewardship Cost-Share

Dear Red Lake Watershed District and Board,

The Beltrami Soil and Water Conservation District is requesting \$5,400 to assist in providing a cost-share program for Beltrami County landowners. This cost-share would reimburse a portion of the cost for private landowners who own forested property in Beltrami County to obtain a forest stewardship plan.

A forest stewardship plan is largely a “foot in the door” for a landowner to become enrolled in one of two conservation incentive programs. These programs provide forest protection through the life of the contract.

Beltrami County’s portion of the Red Lake Watershed District is largely forested. There are scientific reports that point out the correlation between a catchment that is 75% protected and improved water quality. Forest stewardship plans and subsequent conservation incentive programs increase protected lands on the landscape.

The Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Report specifically outlines protection goals to encourage forestry practices, such as Forest Stewardship Plans.

This funding would bridge the gap between now and the time when there is prioritized money allocated via the Red Lake Watershed One Watershed, One Plan.

If the requested funding were provided, it would account for approximately 1,000 acres of forested property to be cost-shared through this program.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Aly Bergstrom
Beltrami SWCD
218-333-4141
Alyson.Bergstrom@co.beltrami.mn.us

BELTRAMI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Request for Funding

Forest Stewardship Plan Cost-Share

Aly Bergstrom
Beltrami SWCD
Conservation Technician

2021 Program Details

Total Property Acres	Forest Stewardship Acres	Cost-Share Amount
79.78	76.78	\$499.43
482.18	231	\$1,161.78
88.91	39	\$320.82
203	179	\$934.59
151.07	146	\$799.48
147.5	85 (estimated – not complete)	\$522.30 (estimated – not complete)
250.04	246.04 (estimated – not complete)	\$1,227.66 (estimated – not complete)

TOTAL PROJECT ACRES (actual & estimated): 1,002.82

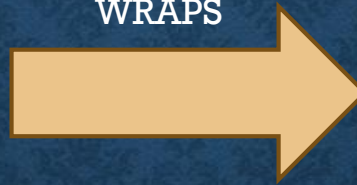
TOTAL COST-SHARE (actual & estimated): \$5,400

May 2021

Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Report



Forest Stewardship Plans are an area of focus in the WRAPS



3.3.1.2 Forest protection programs

Water quality in this watershed is currently in good shape due to well managed forestlands, grasslands, and agricultural lands. **Forestland ranks among the best land cover in providing clean water** by absorbing rainfall and snow melt, slowing storm runoff, recharging aquifers, sustaining stream flows, filtering pollutants from the air and runoff before they enter the waterways, and providing critical habitat for fish and wildlife. In addition, forested watersheds provide abundant recreational opportunities, help support local economies, provide an inexpensive source of drinking water, and improve the quality of our lives.

Minnesotans have strong conservation values. Citizens of Minnesota have long since recognized the value of forests and clean water by creating various legislative conservation programs to help conserve working land forests. There are many groups dedicated to helping protect water quality in this watershed including the RL DNR, Upper Red Lake Area Association, Beltrami County Lakes and Rivers Association, and others.

Fortunately, many minor watersheds are already forested in the ULRW and are protected by public ownership (federal, tribal, state, and county) (Figure 29 and Figure 30). Forest protection programs play a major role in ensuring private forest lands stay working forest lands to provide optimal ecosystem services while providing landowners with a monetary incentive to keep the land forested. Table 14 outlines applicable forest protection programs that will help the ULRW continue to maintain its biological integrity and provide healthy waters by promoting forest land stewardship. See the DNR

Forest Stewardship Programs page at <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/foreststewardship/index.html>

Table 13. Forest protection programs for the Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed.

Forest Protection Program	Applicability to Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed
Forest Stewardship Plan	An instrumental plan for family forest landowners who own 20 acres or more of forestland. This voluntary plan offers land management recommendations to landowners based on their goals for their property from a natural resource professional. Plans are updated every 10 years to stay current with your needs and your woods. A Forest Stewardship Plan registered with the DNR qualifies you for woodland tax and financial incentive programs.
Sustainable Forest Incentive Act (SFIA)	SFIA is a tax incentive program available for landowners that have a registered Forest Stewardship Plan. This program offers an annual tax incentive payment per acre based off the amount of forest stewardship acres you have. Payments per acre range from the \$9-16.50, based off the length of covenant the landowner decides to enroll into. SFIA restricts land use conversion and subdivision of the parcel(s). A minimum of 3 acres must be excluded from the SFIA program if there is a residential structure present, landowners can exclude more acres if they plan to make future improvements on the land.
Conservation Easements	Most, but not all conservation easements are perpetual. Some landowners want to ensure their land will never be developed or converted to another use by selling or donating a conservation easement. Conservation easements serve a variety of conservation purposes and are generally intended to protect important features of the property. They are voluntary, legally binding agreements by the landowner to give up some of the rights associated with their property such as the right to develop, divide, mine, or farm the land to protect the conservation features such as wildlife habitat, water quality, and forest health, to name a few

FEATURE

A Fish Habitat Conservation Framework for Minnesota Lakes

Peter C. Jacobson
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, 603 First Street West, Park Rapids, MN 56470.
E-mail: peter.jacobson@state.mn.us

Timothy K. Cross
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Hutchinson, MN

Donna L. Dustin
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Detroit Lakes, MN

Michael Duval
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Brainerd, MN

302 Fisheries | Vol. 41 • No. 6 • June 2016

Scientific report links forest protection improved water quality

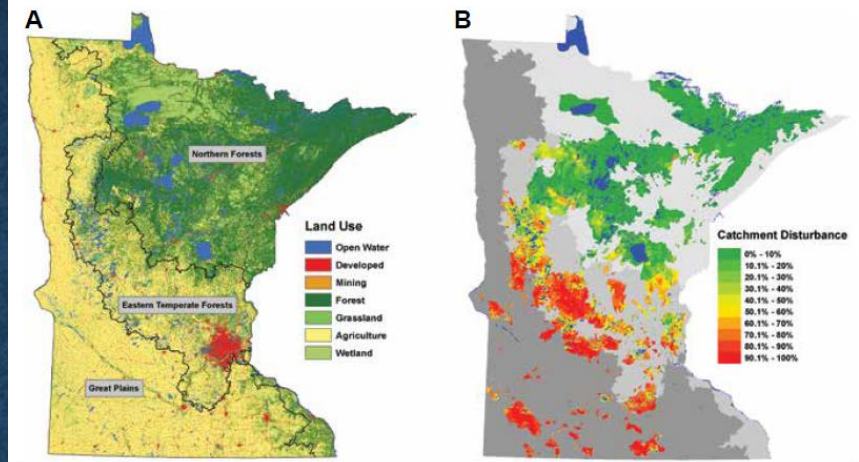
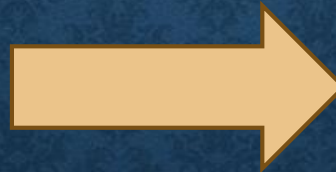


Figure 5. (A) National Land Cover Database 2001 land use in Minnesota and (B) land use disturbances for individual catchments of lakes greater than 40 ha managed for fish by Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Section of Fisheries. Disturbed land uses for panel B consisted of NCLD 2001 agricultural, urban, and mining categories. Only lakes with watersheds entirely contained within the state of Minnesota are displayed. Also displayed are Commission for Environmental Cooperation (1997) Level 1 ecoregions.

shallow lakes (Papst et al. 1980); and filamentous algal density (Maberly et al. 2002). Watershed land use is a primary driver of nonpoint nutrient loading in lakes with significantly higher concentrations of nutrients in runoff from agricultural, urban, and mining land uses than forests, grasslands, and wetlands (Heiskary et al. 1987; Wang et al. 2010; Cross and Jacobson 2013).

We quantified water quality effects of land use by calculating the relative amount of disturbed land within a watershed. A simple, yet direct watershed disturbance variable (percentage of urban, agriculture, and mining land uses in a catchment) was developed by Cross and Jacobson (2013) using National Land Cover Database 2001 land use GIS data. The percentage land use disturbance variable was significant in models predicting total phosphorus concentrations in Minnesota lakes (Cross and Jacobson 2013). Catchments with undisturbed land uses lie primarily in the Northern Forests ecoregion (CEC 1997; Level 1) and generally provide good water quality to lakes and streams in that region (Figure 5). Catchments within the agricultural Great Plains ecoregion have the highest disturbed land uses and appreciably poorer water quality (Heiskary et al. 1987; Ramstack et al. 2004). Catchments in the transition from forest to prairie in the Eastern Temperate Forests ecoregion have a wide range of disturbance values. Cross and Jacobson (2013) noted that phosphorus concentrations generally become elevated when watershed land use disturbance reached 25% and greatly increased when land use disturbances exceeded 60%. These disturbance values set the foundation for the identification of appropriate management strategies for water quality in lakes under this framework. Lakes with relatively undisturbed watersheds need protection, whereas lakes with heavily disturbed watersheds need restoration.

HABITAT CONDITION FRAMEWORK

Faced with large numbers of lakes located across an expansive geographic area, we classified Minnesota lakes by habitat condition to facilitate prioritization and targeting of appropriate management strategies. The need to consider both physical and water quality habitat components simultaneously stems from experiences of nearshore physical habitat remediation being overwhelmed by water quality impacts emanating from the watershed (Jennings et al. 1999; Cross and McInerney 2005). Likewise, projects to ameliorate water quality impacts directed at watershed disturbances may not have the desired effect if significant disturbances to nearshore physical habitat also occur.

We developed a bivariate classification of physical and water quality habitat condition to facilitate the simultaneous consideration of both fish habitat components (Figure 6). Ligeiro et al. (2013) describe a similar approach for streams where catchment and local (riparian) stressor gradients are visualized in a "disturbance bi-plane" (48). Quadrants in the bivariate classification are defined by designations of levels of disturbance (percentage watershed disturbance and docks per kilometer) that are detrimental to habitat and fish communities. This classification distinguishes lakes identified with restoration priorities for water quality improvements (C) from lakes with physical habitat restoration tied to residential development (B) or both (D). Importantly, it identifies lakes with unimpaired fish habitat functionality (A) that warrant habitat protection, usually the most inexpensive and cost-effective strategy.

Fish habitat is intact and generally unimpaired in many Minnesota lakes (Figure 6). A full 50% of the assessed lakes throughout the state have minimal disturbances of both physical and water quality habitats, and only 9% had habitat

Beltrami SWCD Request

- \$5,400 from the Red Lake Watershed District to assist in providing a cost-share program for Beltrami County landowners within the Red Lake Watershed District
 - Cost-share would reimburse a percentage of the cost for private landowners to obtain a forest stewardship plan
 - Provide springboard into Red Lake Watershed One Watershed, One Plan
 - \$5,400 would equate to approximately 1,000 forest stewardship acres

QUESTIONS??

References:

Final Upper/Lower Red Lake Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS)
Report

<https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-ws4-81a.pdf>

A Fish Habitat Conservation Framework for Minnesota Lakes

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/303745823_A_Fish_Habitat_Conservation_Framework_for_Minnesota_Lakes

From: [Tammy Audette](#)
To: [Nick Olson](#)
Cc: [Myron Jesme](#)
Subject: FW: TNC Marcoux Prairie (Piche 4) - Neighbor drainage
Date: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:27:06 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Tammy Audette
Tammy.audette@redlakewatershed.org
Red Lake Watershed District
1000 Pennington Avenue South
Thief River Falls, MN 56701
218.681.5800

From: Travis Issendorf <tissendorf@TNC.ORG>
Sent: Wednesday, November 3, 2021 4:01 PM
To: Tammy Audette <tammy.audette@redlakewatershed.org>
Subject: TNC Marcoux Prairie (Piche 4) - Neighbor drainage

Hi Tammy-

I have been out of the office with some sick kids this past week, so my apologies for not getting you this information right after we spoke by phone.

I traveled to The Nature Conservancy's Marcoux Prairie in Red Lake County on Thursday, Oct. 21st to document what was relayed to me from one of our field staff.

They had first observed the damage the day before while installing burn breaks on the property.

I spoke with neighbors close by and they thought it had been done by "the Peterson's" in the last month or two. I believe the land to the south of Piche 4 where the cleanout continued is owned by an absentee landowner, so I'm assuming that the Petersons are who rent that land?

The property that received the trespassing and unallowed drainage actions is our Piche 4 tract.

Legal description of said tract is: T150N R44W NE1/4 Sec. 23

Attached are maps I've drawn up describing where the damage was done on the property and I've included some of the photos that document the damage well.

I will be forwarding on this information to our Legal/Conservation staff to inform them of what has occurred as well.

Please let me know once you've reviewed the photos of who I would need to follow-up with at your office and what actions we can potentially take to remediate this damage.

Thank you for your time.

Travis

Please consider the environment before printing this email.

Travis Issendorf
ABR Prairie Recovery Specialist
tissendorf@tnc.org
(218) 844-3405 - Office
(218) 396-0852 - Cell

The Nature Conservancy
Stationed at Detroit Lakes WMD
1732 North Tower Road
Detroit Lakes, MN 56501



nature.org

th St SW

250th St SE



Nature
Conservancy

Nature
Conservancy

Approximate Length of
Ditching

Center Ave S

110th Ave SE

23

Darrell &
Evelyn Glass

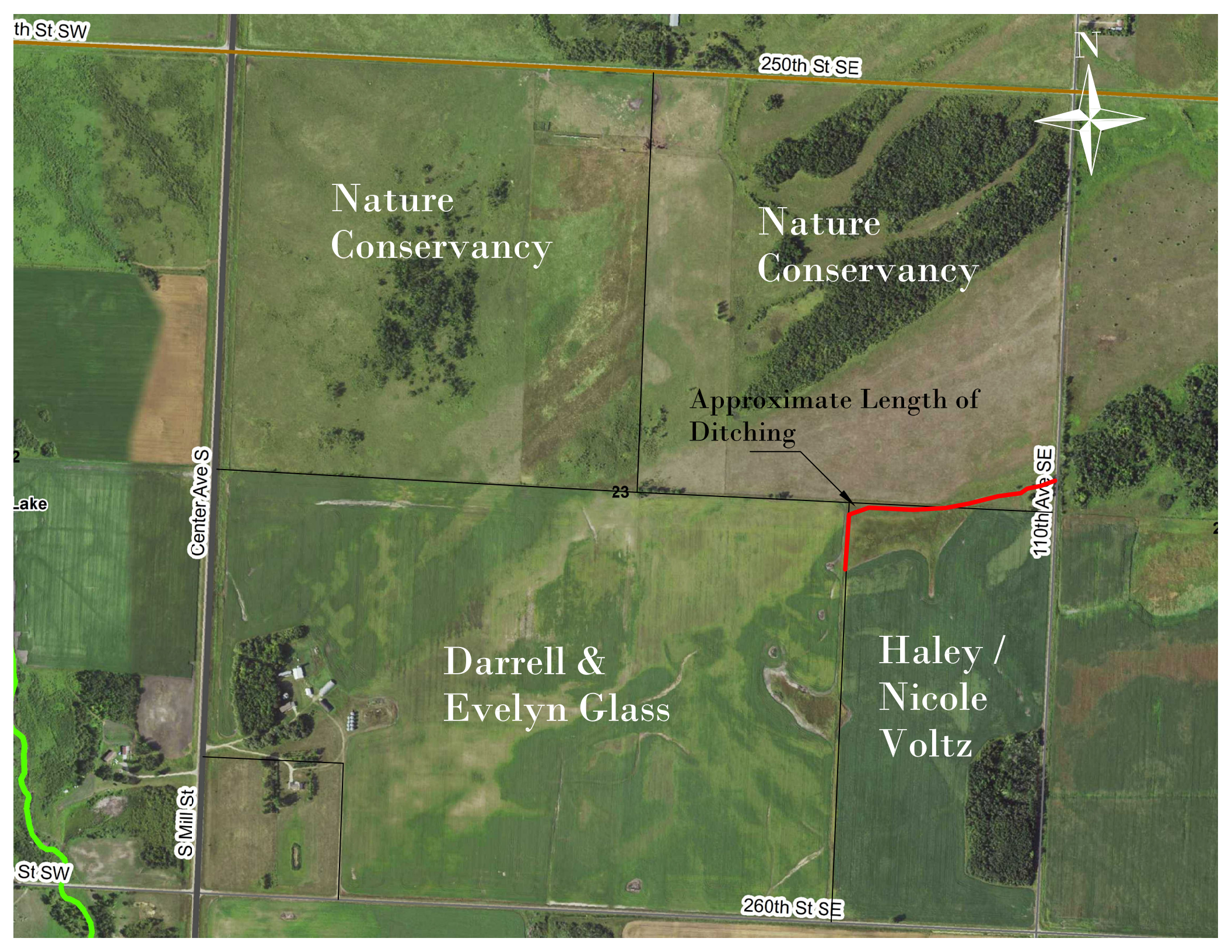
Haley /
Nicole
Voltz

lake

St SW

S Mill St

260th St SE



th St SW

250th St SE



Nature
Conservancy

Nature
Conservancy

Center Ave S

110th Ave SE

23

lake

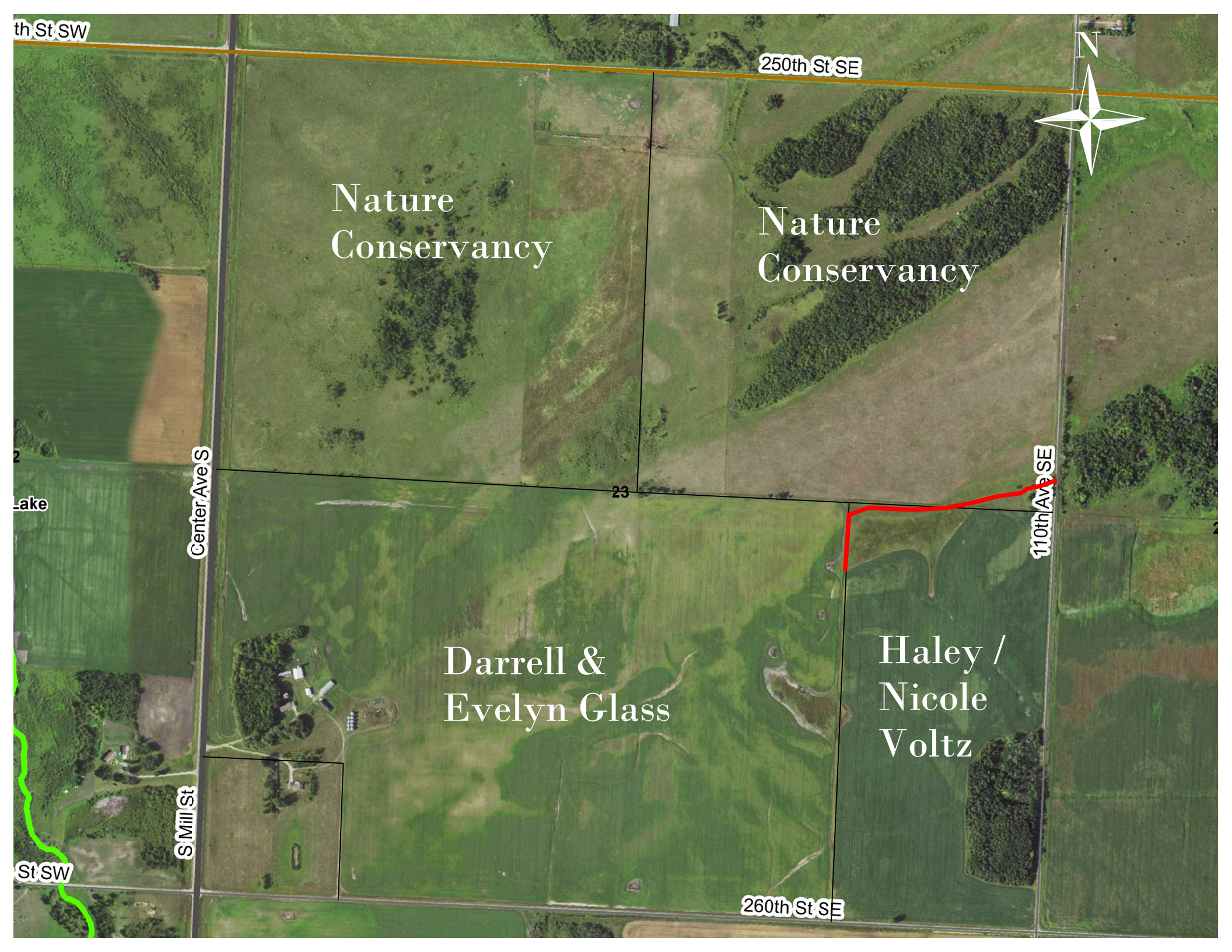
Darrell &
Evelyn Glass

Haley /
Nicole
Voltz

S Mill St

St SW

260th St SE



Looking West/Southwest from 110th Ave SE



Looking East at 110th Ave SE





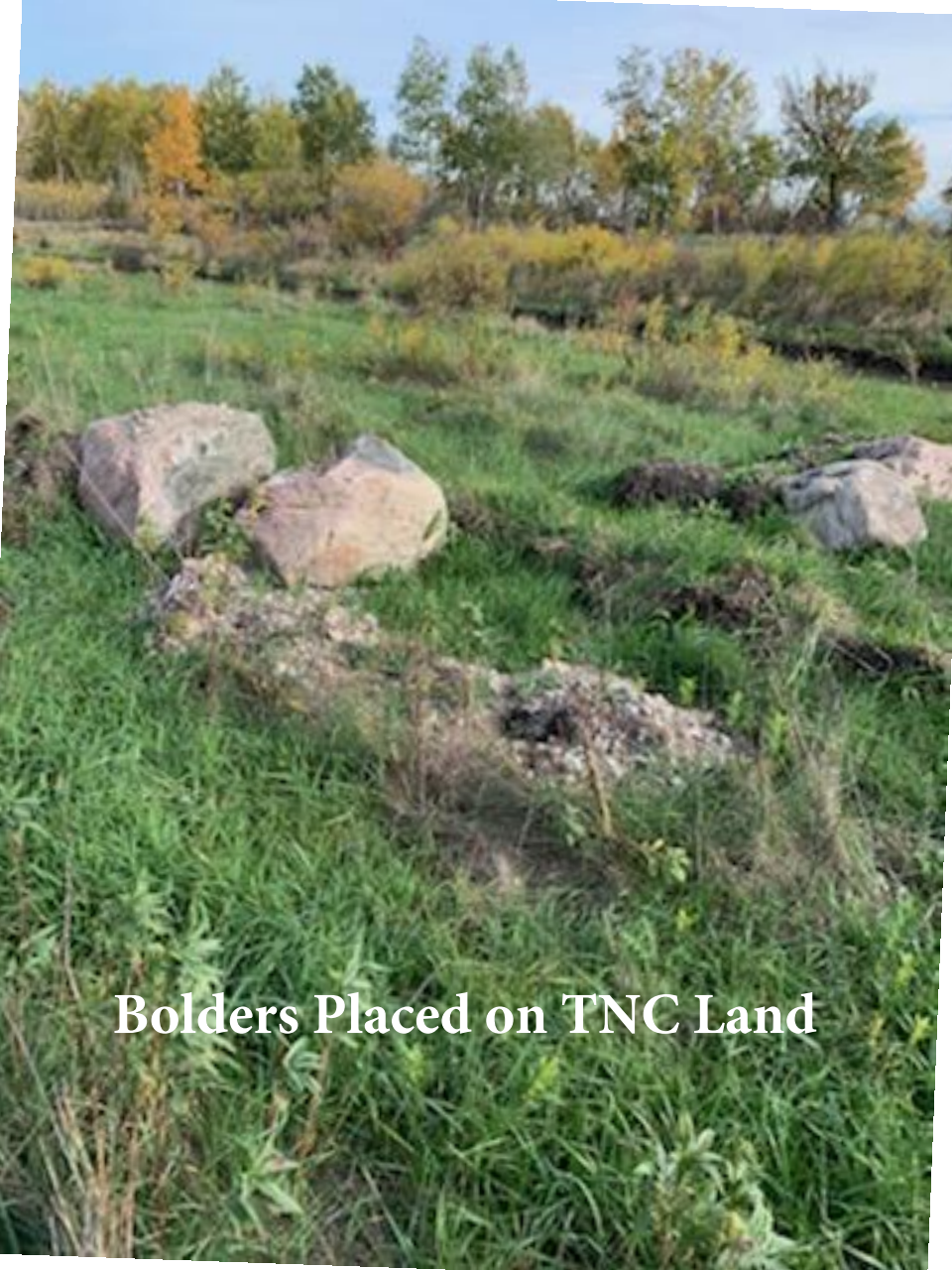
Looking East on TNC Land



Cleaned Channel



Cleaned Channel



Boulders Placed on TNC Land

Spoil placed on TNC land



Cut fence-line @ South Boundary





Looking east at ditching near boundary line



Looking south at ag land ditching



Red River Watershed Management Board

Date: December 2, 2021
To: Member Watershed Districts
From: Robert Sip, Executive Director
Subject: Cost share payments due for USGS Stream Gages

Enclosed please find documentation regarding the cost share payments due for USGS stream gages. The cost share time period is for the operation of gages from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (FY22).

The RRWMB has renewed the contract and will be paying USGS both the RRWMB match as well as the share for each member district. The RRWMB is requesting each district to remit their respective amounts as per the enclosed memo for 2021-2022.

Please remit payment to the RRWMB at 11 5th Ave E Ste B, Ada, MN 56510. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the number listed below. Thank you.

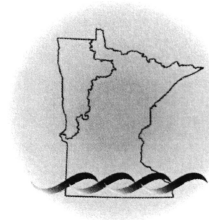
RLWD- \$11,675.00

WRWD-\$13,033.00

MSTRWD-\$9,300.00

TRWD-\$2,325.00

RRWD-\$11,621.50



Red River Watershed Management Board

DATE: December 2, 2021
TO: Watershed Administrators
FROM: Robert Sip, RRWMB Executive Director
SUBJECT: Cost-Share Payments Due for USGS Stream Gages

The individual cost-share responsibilities for the last two years and for this year's contract are listed below.

The cost-share time period for which watershed district payment is now due is for operation of gages from October 1, 2021 through September 30, 2022 (Fiscal Year 2022).

	<u>2019-2020 (FY20)</u>	<u>2020-2021(FY21)</u>	<u>(AMOUNT DUE) 2021-2022(FY22)</u>
<u>Red Lake</u>			
Lost River at Oklee	4,500.00	4,590.00	4,650.00
Thief River near Thief River Falls	4,500.00	4,590.00	4,650.00
Red Lake River at Fisher	<u>2,352.50</u>	<u>2,352.50</u>	<u>2,375.00</u>
	\$11,352.50	\$11,532.50	\$11,675.00
<u>Wild Rice</u>			
Marsh River near Shelly	3,500.00	3,500.00	3,622.50
Wild Rice River at Hendrum	3,900.00	3,908.00	4,010.00
South Branch Wild Rice River near Felton	4,500.00	4,590.00	4,650.00
Wild Rice River at Twin Valley	<u>726.50</u>	<u>726.50</u>	<u>750.50</u>
	\$12,634.50	\$12,724.50	\$13,033.00
<u>Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers</u>			
Middle River at Argyle	4,500.00	4,500.00	4,650.00
Snake River above Warren	<u>4,500.00</u>	<u>4,590.00</u>	<u>4,650.00</u>
	\$9,000.00	\$9,090.00	\$9,300.00
<u>Two Rivers</u>			
So. Branch Two Rivers at Lake Bronson	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,325.00
<u>Roseau River</u>			
Roseau River at Ross	\$4,500.00	4,590.00	4,590.00
Sprague Creek near Sprague	4,500.00	4,590.00	4,650.00
Roseau River near Malung	<u>2,373.50</u>	<u>2,381.50</u>	<u>2,381.50</u>
	\$11,373.50	\$11,561.50	\$11,621.50
Watershed District Totals	\$46,610.50	\$47,158.50	\$47,954.50
<u>RRWMB</u>			
RRWMB (50% match)	\$46,610.50	\$47,158.50	\$47,954.50
Bois de Sioux River near Doran	5,900.00	6,018.00	6,097.00
Red River at Halstad, MN	10,260.00	10,260.00	10,360.00
Red River at Enloe Bridge, ND	<u>4,750.00</u>	<u>4,750.00</u>	<u>4,798.00</u>
RRWMB Totals	\$67,520.50	\$68,186.50	\$69,209.50
USGS Contract Amount	\$114,131.00	\$115,345.00	\$117,164.00

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Red Lake Watershed District - Administrators Report

December 9, 2021

Red River Watershed Management Board – LeRoy (live) and I (virtual) will be attending the RRWMB Legislative session followed by the RRWMB regular Board meeting. The Legislative session starts at 10:00 am December 14th and will go through lunch with Red Board meeting following. If you would like to attend, please let Tammy know and she will register you.

QuickBooks Online Software – Ann has been in close contact with Alexandria Schwab, Brady Martz & Associates. We are in the process of ordering checks from Northern State Bank which will work in our new laser check printer that has yet to be ordered. Marco has been contacted to get us a quote as will Corporate Technologies.

MAWD Annual Conference – Upwards of 6 RLWD staff attended various sessions that were part of the MAWD Annual Conference which was held December 1st thru December 3rd. Tony Nordby and I gave our presentation on the Black River Impoundment at the breakout session held at 11:00 am December 2nd. I also noticed various Board members in attendance so if any of you want to discuss the conference, feel free.

Minnesota Association of Watershed District Administrators Legislative Committee – The MAWA Legislative Committee will be via Zoom at 11:00 am December 10th. This will be a meeting where every region can give an update on legislative efforts that are being made throughout the state concerning water resource legislation.

Red Lake River 1W1P – Red Lake River Advisory Committee will be meeting at 9:30 am December 15th to review projects and receive updates. The Policy Committee will meet at 11:00 am to review final billing for the 2018 Watershed Based Grant as well as progress made concerning projects for the 2020 Watershed Based Funding.

Clearwater River 1W1P – Clearwater River Planning Workgroup will be meeting at 1:00 pm December 15th to discuss various items in the plan development. The meeting will be hybrid from the RLWD Board Room following the Red Lake River 1W1P Advisory/Policy Committee.

Red River Flood Damage Reduction Workgroup – Nate, Tony and I gave a brief presentation of the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Habitat Project as well as the Black River Impoundment at the RRFDWG meeting held at 9:00 am December 8th at the RLWD Board room. The workgroup meeting was to be held at the Alerus in Grand Forks, ND, in conjunction with the Prairie Grains Conference but due to the uptick in COVID, it was determined to keep it more local thus less people.

Mud River Project Team – We will be holding a Mud River PWT at 8:30 am Friday, December 17th at the RLWD Board room.

RED RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT BOARD

LEGISLATIVE OPEN HOUSE – RRWMB OFFICE, ADA, MN
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Meeting Participation Information:

[Click here to join the meeting](#)

Telephone: 1-701-404-1699 • Conference ID: 440 667 706#

	Agenda	Time
1	Welcome	10:00 a.m.
2	RRWMB Overview	10:05 a.m.
3	Watershed District (WD) Project Overviews:	
	A. Bois de Sioux WD	10:10 a.m.
	B. Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD	10:20 a.m.
	C. Red Lake WD	10:30 a.m.
	D. Roseau River WD	10:40 a.m.
	E. Two Rivers WD	10:50 a.m.
	F. Wild Rice WD	11:00 a.m.
4	Discussion of 2022 RRWMB Member WD Bonding Needs	11:10 a.m.
5	Individual Legislator Comments	11:30 a.m.
6	Lunch	12:00 p.m.

NOTE: RRWMB regular December 14, 2021 board meeting to follow Open House.

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT MONTHLY WATER QUALITY REPORT

August 2021

By Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District Water Quality Coordinator. 12/2/2021

Water Quality Monitoring

Clear water and low water levels in the Red Lake River at CSAH 11, near Gentilly



District staff completed the third round of 2021 samples at Red Lake Watershed District long-term monitoring sites. Many sites were not sampled this month where streams had gone dry or stopped flowing.

No flow in Judicial Ditch 73, near Rydell National Wildlife Refuge



The District's new Eureka Manta 2 multi-parameter sonde was delivered in time for August water quality monitoring.

A high total suspended solids (TSS) concentration (>30 mg/L) was recorded in Polk County Ditch 14, near the outlets of Maple Lake and Pine Lake (algae).

The Red Lake River, at East Grand Forks, Fisher, and Crookston, had a relatively low concentration of TSS. Exceptionally clear water with very low total suspended solids concentrations (at or below the laboratory's minimum reporting limit) was found in:

- Branch A of Judicial Ditch 21 at CSAH 49
- Clearwater River near Plummer
- Clearwater River at CSAH 2 (north of Shevlin)
- Clearwater River at CSAH 25, near Bagley (low concentrations of all parameters at this site)

A notably low *E. coli* concentration was recorded at the 159th Avenue crossing of Silver Creek, a site that has typically had high *E. coli* concentrations. Other impaired or nearly impaired streams with notably low *E. coli* concentrations included Branch A of Judicial Ditch 21 and the Mud River at CSAH 54.

High *E. coli* concentrations (>126 MPN/100 mL) were found in:

- Clearwater River at CSAH 5
- Clearwater River at County Road 2 (Gully Road)
- Clearwater River at CSAH 2 (north of Shevlin)
- Hill River at County Road 119, near Brooks
- Hill River at CSAH 35
- Hill River at 335th Avenue SE
- Lost River at County Road 119, north of Brooks
- North Cormorant River at CSAH 36
- Polk County Ditch 14, near the outlet of Maple Lake
- Red Lake River at CSAH 13 near Red Lake Falls (Sportsman's Bridge)
- Ruffy Brook at 490th Street (large increase compared to the samples collected upstream at CSAH 4)
- Thief River at 140th Avenue NE
- Walker Brook at CSAH 19

High total phosphorus (greater than 0.5, 0.1, or 0.15 mg/L, depending on location) concentrations were found in:

- Burnham Creek at CSAH 48
- Clearwater River near Plummer
- Clearwater River at County Road 127
- Clearwater River at CSAH 5
- Clearwater River at CSAH 10
- Clearwater River at County Road 2
- Clearwater River at CSAH 2 (north of Shevlin)
- Hill River at County Road 119, near Brooks
- Hill River at CSAH 35
- Hill River at 335th Avenue SE
- Lost River at County Road 119, north of Brooks

RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT MONTHLY WATER QUALITY REPORT

August 2021

- Marshall County Ditch 20 at 180th Ave NE
- Mud River at Highway 89
- Mud River at CSAH 54
- Nasset Creek
- North Cormorant River at CSAH 36
- Polk County Ditch 14, near the outlet of Maple Lake
- Poplar River at 310th Street SE
- Ruffy Brook at CSAH 11

Due to the anticipated sulfate impairment of the channelized portion of the Clearwater River, sulfate analysis was added to the suite of parameters for water quality samples collected from that portion of the Clearwater River and upstream reaches/tributaries. In August, samples were collected at additional road crossings along the Clearwater River and Ruffy Brook to help determine the extent of the high sulfate problem that has been identified by the EPA and MPCA in the Clearwater River. Low sulfate concentrations were found at most sites along the Clearwater River upstream of the channelized reach (CSAH 2, CSAH 14) as well as one site on Ruffy Brook (CSAH 11). Because the samples weren't all collected on the same day, the results were inconclusive. Though a low concentration was recorded in Ruffy Brook one day, the August samples and previously collected data indicate that the high sulfate concentrations originate in Ruffy Brook and may be inconsistent. High concentrations were found in Ruffy Brook upstream of the Clearbrook wastewater treatment facility, so wastewater will not be the only source to consider. More intensive investigation would be needed to determine the specific sources (nonpoint runoff, tile drainage, natural sources, etc.). High sulfate concentrations (>10 mg/L) were found in:

- Clearwater River near Plummer
- Clearwater River at CR 127
- Ruffy Brook at CSAH 4
- Ruffy Brook at 490th Street

Low dissolved oxygen levels (<5 mg/L) were recorded in:

- Burnham Creek at CSAH 48
- Clear Brook at CSAH 92
- Clearwater River at County Road 2
- Hill River at CSAH 35
- Hill River at 335th Avenue SE
- Lost River at 109th Ave
- Marshall County Ditch 20 at 180th Ave NE
- Moose River at Highway 89
- Mud River at Highway 89
- South Cormorant River at CSAH 37
- Thief River at 380th St. NE
- Walker Brook at CSAH 19

Samples were collected from the Polk County Park marina on Maple Lake on August 3rd and August 19th for [blue-green algae](#) toxin testing. No toxins were found in the samples.

Early detection zebra mussel veliger samples were collected from the Red Lake River at 420th Ave SE (East Line monitoring site, S003-944). Thankfully, RMB labs did not find any zebra mussel veligers in the 2021 samples collected from the Red Lake River.

In August, deployments of HOBO dissolved oxygen loggers began at key sites throughout the District. The district has a long-term schedule for rotating the loggers among stream reaches to maximize the number of reaches that can be fully assessed for dissolved oxygen and stream eutrophication (dissolved oxygen fluctuation) in a ten-year period. Most of the stations on tributary streams (several in the Black River subwatershed) that were scheduled for continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring in 2021 were already dry in August 2021. The lower flow levels provided an opportunity to deploy dissolved oxygen loggers safely and inconspicuously on mainstem sites along the Clearwater River and the Thief River. The dissolved oxygen loggers were deployed at:

- Thief River upstream of Agassiz Pool (380th Street NE)
- Clearwater River near the lower end of the channelized reach (County Road 127)
- Clearwater River at Plummer (Minnesota St. N.)
- Clearwater River near Terrebonne (CSAH 12)
- Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls (Klondike Bridge)

Discrete (manual) water quality measurements were collected at the beginning, near the middle, and at the end of each deployment. At the end of each deployment period, a freshly calibrated logger was deployed to replace the recently deployed logger. After retrieval loggers were cleaned and re-calibrated in the District's laboratory. Quality assurance measurements were recorded to determine the extent of drift or calibration corrections. The quality assurance measurements are used to calculate any calibration/fouling drift corrections that are needed. Software is used to apply necessary drift corrections and compare logger data to discrete measurements.

DNR Stream Gauging System Installed along Silver Creek, near Clearbrook



Red Lake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District staff brainstormed and experimented with different strategies for tracking budgets and expenditures among the multiple projects, categorizations, and funding sources of the Red Lake River 1W1P. Some projects, like the Black River Impoundment side water inlets and rock-check grade stabilization structures, had multiple funding sources (2018 1W1P, 319 Grant, RRWMB Water Quality Funding, local matching funds). Finally, a matrix table with individual projects in rows and funding sources in columns and was successful in helping District staff keep track of how projects are being funded.

Houston Engineering created a [website for the Black River Impoundment](#), which included videos that describe the features of the project.

Construction of the Ditch 10 outlet stabilization project was completed. Progress was made in designing and planning the Demarais-Hanson erosion control project.



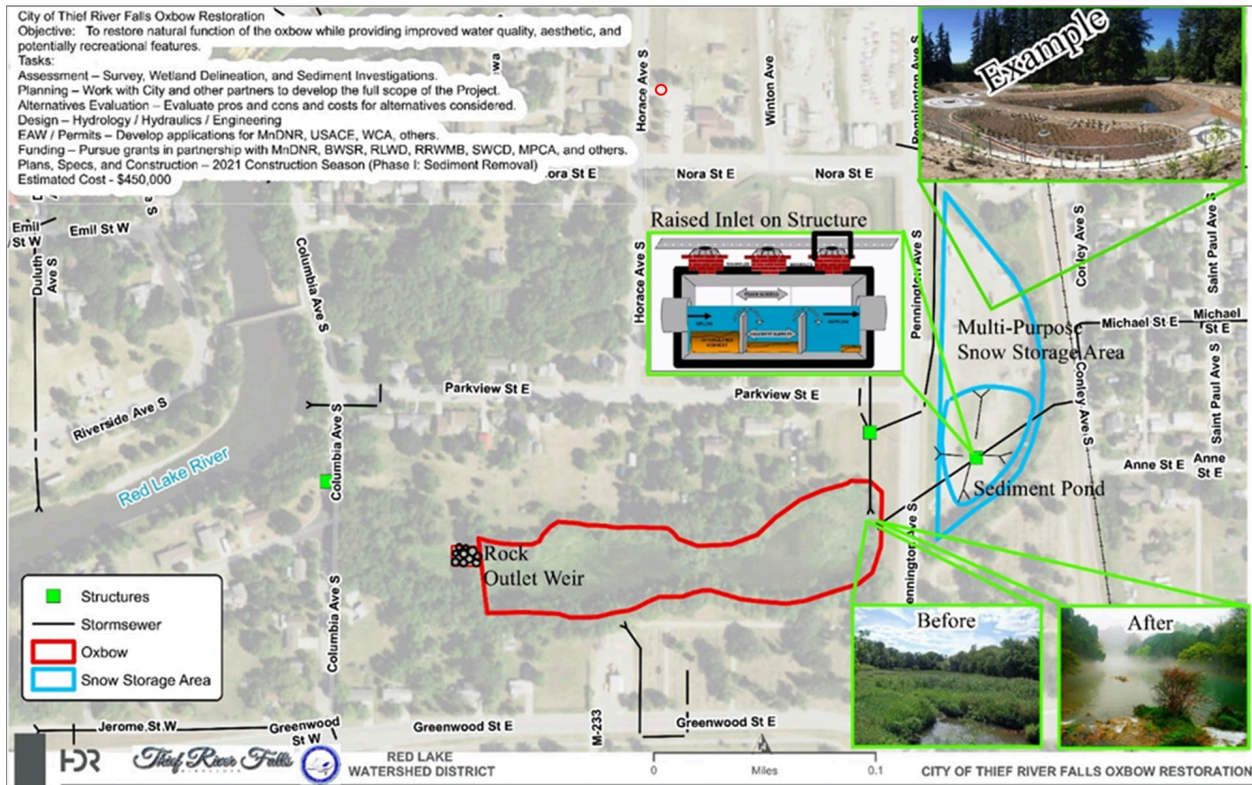
Thief River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District and SWCD staff cooperated to plan an educational workshop for farmers in the watershed. The event was postponed when harvest began sooner than anticipated. Project partners began planning a Project Team meeting for the Mud River Restoration project.

Clearwater River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District staff updated the Clearwater River Watershed 1W1P [website](#). The Planning Work Group met on August 18, 2021.

Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration Project



A [website](#) and [Facebook](#) post were created to provide public information about the Thief River Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment project. Construction of the project began in the last week of August with mobilization and preparation for excavation of sediment in the oxbow wetland.



Other Notes from August 2021

- District staff reviewed a draft East Polk SWCD Clean Water Fund application for water and sediment control basin (WASCOB) installation upstream of impaired and nearly impaired lakes in the Clearwater River watershed and provided some suggestion for edits.

Water quality related notes and minutes from the August 12, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- Thief River One Watershed One Plan, RLWD Proj. 149A, State Ditch 83/Thief River Bank Stabilization Plans and Specifications were presented to the Board by Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc. Following discussion, motion by Ose, seconded by Dwight, to accept the plans and specifications and move forward with the project. Motion carried.
- HDR, Inc., Engineer, Nate Dalager, gave a City of TRF Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment, RLWD Project 46Q, construction update. The contractor, Spruce Valley Corporation, has staged equipment in the project area and is likely to start construction on Monday, August 16, 2021.
- East Polk County SWCD is reapplying for a competitive CWF grant like the grant that they applied for back in 2018. Part of their 2018 grant application was to earmark a 25% grant match which our Board approved the match by motion at our August 23, 2018, Board meeting. The motion approved the East Polk County SWCD's submission of a Clean Water Grant application and a 25% match from the Red Lake Watershed District's Water Quality Project, RLWD Project No. 46. It was the consensus of the Board that our motion still stands as approved. Jesme will report to the East Polk SWCD to assure they can continue to apply for their grant.

Water quality related notes and minutes from the August 26, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- Rob Sip, Executive Director for the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) presented an update on RRWMB activities. Sip discussed updating LiDAR, with the flight scheduled to occur at leaf off in the Fall of 2021. Extensive discussion was held with the Board on the areas to be collected with the potential of additional counties and watersheds participating in the LiDAR data collection.
- The Mud River Restoration Project Work Team, RLWD Project No. 149A, was presented to the Board for review. Administrator Jesme stated that the District has not heard from several of the agencies/associations regarding who will participate as a Delegate for their respective agency/association. Motion by Sorenson, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve the Mud River Restoration Project Work Team, RLWD Project No. 149A, and that any additional changes be presented to the Board. Motion carried.
- Quotes were received for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, and passed by unanimous vote to accept the apparent low quote from Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$93,842.34 for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 149A, contingent upon the approval by Legal Counsel Sparby, District Staff, and Project Engineer Tony Nordby Houston Engineering, Inc. in their review of the quote documents and materials.
- Administrator Jesme stated that a pre-construction meeting with the contractor and landowners for the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B, will

be held on August 31, 2021 at the project site. Manager Sorenson recommended inviting landowner Dave Dalager to participate in the meeting.

- Administrator Jesme and Manager Dwight discussed a request from the Beltrami SWCD to assist them in their efforts to purchase a no till drill for installation of buffers strips to prevent erosion and improve water quality. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the request in the amount of \$5,000 to the Beltrami SWCD, for assistance in the implementation of buffer strips and water quality purposes to be funded through the District Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164.

August 2021 Meetings and Events

- **August 18, 2021** – Clearwater River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
 - PTMApp hydro-conditioning and a quality control review have been completed. The model is looking really good and should be done in a couple of weeks.
 - The PWG discussed Priority Issues, rankings, and consolidation of multiple, related issues into a single issue statement.
- **August 23, 2021** – CPR training
- **August 24, 2021** – Red River Watershed Management Board Water Quality Monitoring Advisory Committee meeting
 - The group reviewed a proposal for competitive RRWMB water quality funding for the Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project.
- **August 25, 2021** – Clearwater River 1W1P Advisory Committee and Policy Committee meeting
 - [Project Update #1](#)
 - [Advisory Committee Meeting Report](#)
 - Red Lake County staff talked about including septic inventory/repair funding in the 1W1P.
 - Concern was expressed by an Advisory Committee member about irrigation in respect to groundwater sustainability. DNR staff noted that there has been a record number of well interferences and complaints this year. There was discussion about whether groundwater issues should be “Priority A” or “Priority B.” It will likely be categorized as “Priority B” because there are relatively few things that local government units can do to address groundwater using 1W1P.
 - A Policy Committee member expressed disappointment that outdoor recreation was not selected as a priority for this plan. Outdoor recreation is addressed by other plans and agencies.

Red Lake Watershed District Monthly Water Quality Reports are available online:

<http://www.redlakewatershed.org/monthwq.html>.

Learn more about the Red Lake Watershed District at www.redlakewatershed.org.

Learn more about the watershed in which you live (Red Lake River, Thief River, Clearwater River, Grand Marais Creek, or Upper/Lower Red Lakes) at www.rlwdwatersheds.org.

“Like” the Red Lake Watershed District on [Facebook](#) to stay up-to-date on RLWD reports and activities.

By Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District Water Quality Coordinator. 12/2/2021

Water Quality Monitoring



District staff completed the fourth round of 2021 samples at Red Lake Watershed District long-term monitoring sites. Many sites were not sampled this month where streams had gone dry or stopped flowing.

High total suspended solids (TSS) concentrations (>65 mg/L, >30 mg/L, or >15 mg/l, depending on location) were found in:

- Burnham Creek at CSAH 48.
- O' Briens Creek at Harvest Road NE

Exceptionally clear water with very low total suspended solids concentrations (at or below the laboratory's minimum reporting limit) was found in:

- Clearwater River at CSAH 25, near Bagley
- Heartsville Coulee at 13th Street Southeast
- Judicial Ditch 30 at 140th Ave NE

Improved Red Lake River canoe/kayak access under the CSAH 11 Bridge
(A [Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement](#) Project)



High *E. coli* concentrations (>126 MPN/100 mL) were found in:

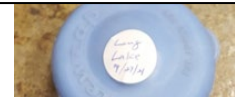
- Blackduck River at Deer Trail Road NE
- Branch A of Judicial Ditch 21 at CSAH 49
- Chief's Coulee at Dewey Avenue
- Clear Brook at CSAH 92
- Clearwater River at CSAH 2 (north of Shevlin)
- Clearwater River at County Road 24
- Hill River at 335th Avenue SE
- Judicial Ditch 30 at 140th Ave NE
- Lost River at CSAH 28
- Lost River at 486th Street, near the outlet of Pine Lake
- Moose River at CSAH 54
- Mud River at CSAH 54
- Nasset Creek
- North Cormorant River at CSAH 36
- O' Briens Creek at Harvest Road NE
- Polk County Ditch 14, near the outlet of Maple Lake
- Poplar River at CSAH 30, near Fosston
- Red Lake River at CSAH 24 (Highlanding)
- Silver Creek at 159th Avenue
- South Cormorant River at CSAH 37
- Thief River at CSAH 7

High total phosphorus (greater than 0.5, 0.1, or 0.15 mg/L in streams, depending on location) concentrations were found in:

- Burnham Creek at 320th Avenue SW
- Burnham Creek at CSAH 48
- Chief's Coulee at Dewey Avenue (also had a high biochemical oxygen demand concentration)
- Heartsville Coulee at 13th Street Southeast
- Hill River at CSAH 35
- Hill River at 335th Avenue SE
- Long Lake (32 mg/L result and 30 mg/L standard, chlorophyll-a was also high, and blue-green algae was found along the shore)
- Lost River at 109th Ave
- Moose River at Highway 89
- Nasset Creek
- North Cormorant River at CSAH 36
- O' Briens Creek at Harvest Road NE
- Poplar River at 310th Street SE
- Ruffy Brook at CSAH 11
- South Cormorant River at CSAH 37
- Thief River at CSAH 7



Long Lake
blue-green algae
jar test: the green,
floating stuff is
blue-green algae



Due to the anticipated sulfate impairment of the channelized portion of the Clearwater River, sulfate analysis was added to the suite of parameters for water quality samples collected from that portion of the Clearwater River and upstream reaches/tributaries. High sulfate concentrations (>10 mg/L) were found in:

- Ruffy Brook at CSAH 11

Low dissolved oxygen levels (<5 mg/L) were recorded in:

- Burnham Creek at CSAH 48
- Chief's Coulee at Dewey Avenue
- Clear Brook at CSAH 92
- Clearwater River at CSAH 25, near Bagley
- Judicial Ditch 73 at the Maple Lake inlet
- Lost River at 109th Ave
- Moose River at Highway 89
- Mud River at CSAH 54
- Thief River at CSAH 7
- Walker Brook at CSAH 19

Deployments of HOBO dissolved oxygen loggers continued at key sites throughout the District. Most of the stations on tributary streams that were scheduled for continuous dissolved oxygen monitoring in 2021 were dry. The lower flow levels provided an opportunity to deploy loggers safely and

inconspicuously on mainstem sites along the Clearwater River and the Thief River. The dissolved oxygen loggers were deployed at:

- Thief River upstream of Agassiz Pool (380th Street NE)
- Clearwater River near the lower end of the channelized reach (County Road 127)
- Clearwater River at Plummer (Minnesota St. N.)
- Clearwater River near Terrebonne (CSAH 12)
- Clearwater River in Red Lake Falls (Klondike Bridge)

Discrete (manual) water quality measurements were collected at the beginning, near the middle, and at the end of each deployment. At the end of each deployment period, a freshly calibrated logger was deployed to replace the recently deployed logger. After retrieval, loggers were cleaned and re-calibrated in the District's laboratory. Quality assurance measurements were recorded to determine the extent of drift or calibration corrections. The quality assurance measurements are used to calculate any calibration/fouling drift corrections that are needed. Software is used to apply necessary drift corrections and compare logger data to discrete measurements.

Early detection zebra mussel veliger samples were collected from the Red Lake River at 420th Ave SE (East Line monitoring site, S003-944). Thankfully, RMB labs did not find any zebra mussel veligers in the 2021 samples collected from the Red Lake River.

A fall drawdown of the Thief River began in mid-August. The Thief River was dry at CSAH 7 during the first site visit, but it was revisited so that a sample could be collected when flow resumed during the drawdown. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collected regular samples from the Thief River during the drawdown period. Though total suspended solids, total phosphorus, and chlorophyll-a were relatively high on September 20th (receding limb of hydrograph) compared to other September samples collected at the CSAH 7 crossing of the Thief River, the samples did not exceed the state's applicable water quality standards.

River Watch and Public Education

The District Natural Resource Specialist received macroinvertebrate sampling training from International Water Institute staff to prepare for macroinvertebrate sampling outings with local River Watch groups. The District Natural Resource Specialist led water quality monitoring outings with Red Lake County Central, Red Lake Falls, and Clearbrook-Gonvick River Watch groups.

The District Natural Resource Specialist presented water quality demonstrations to multiple groups of Challenger Elementary 4th Grade students on September 27th and 29th.

District water quality staff taught 6th grade students about the water cycle and aquatic invasive species at the Pennington County Outdoor Education Day at 8:30 am on September 15th in Thief River Falls. District staff also taught 4th grade students about water quality at the Northwest Minnesota Water Festival events held in Warren and Fertile. Based on the numbers provided by the schools, as many as 292 students attended the Warren water festival on September 21st. As many as 198 students attended the Fertile water festival on September 22nd. At the water quality station, students learned about the importance of clean water, as well as sediment, turbidity, erosion, and water quality monitoring. They also participated in an activity in which they were "scientists" testing water quality and a game in which

they (as “water droplets”) learned about the importance of maintaining vegetation along streams and lakes to keep sediment out of the water.





Red Lake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Construction of the Black River Impoundment diversion ditches and associated water quality features (side water inlets and in-channel rock-check grade stabilization structures) is in progress and could be nearly complete within a month. Houston Engineering created a [website for the Black River Impoundment](#), which included videos that describe the features of the project.



Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration Project

Construction of the Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration project began at the end of August 2021. The first task was excavation of the old oxbow wetland. The contractor created a clever system for navigating the wetland with equipment and hauling sediment. Mats (wooden beams) used for pipeline construction were used to create a path from the east end of the pond to the west end. A tracked, rotating dump truck was used to ferry sediment from the west end to the east end. At the east end of the project, the sediment was loaded onto Sidump'r trucks and hauled away.



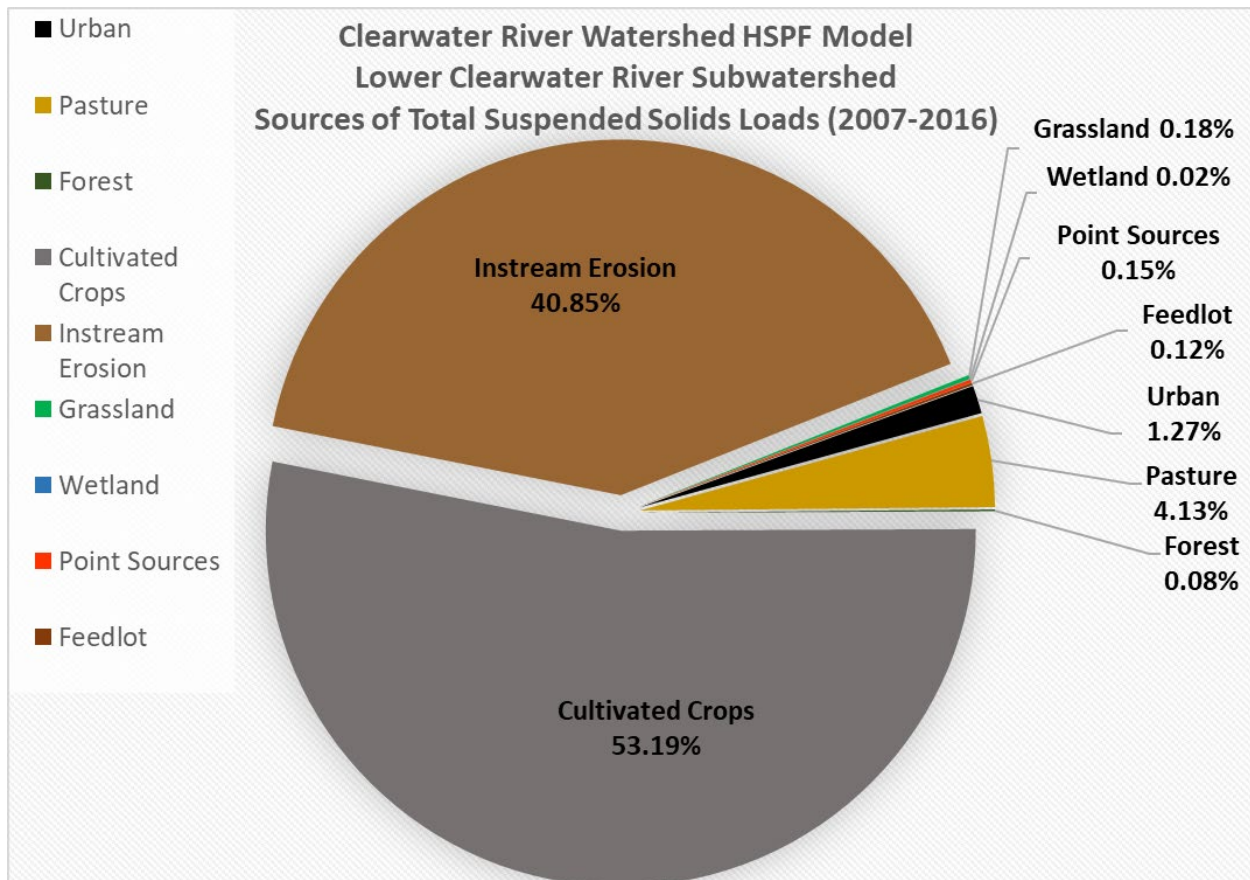
Thief River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

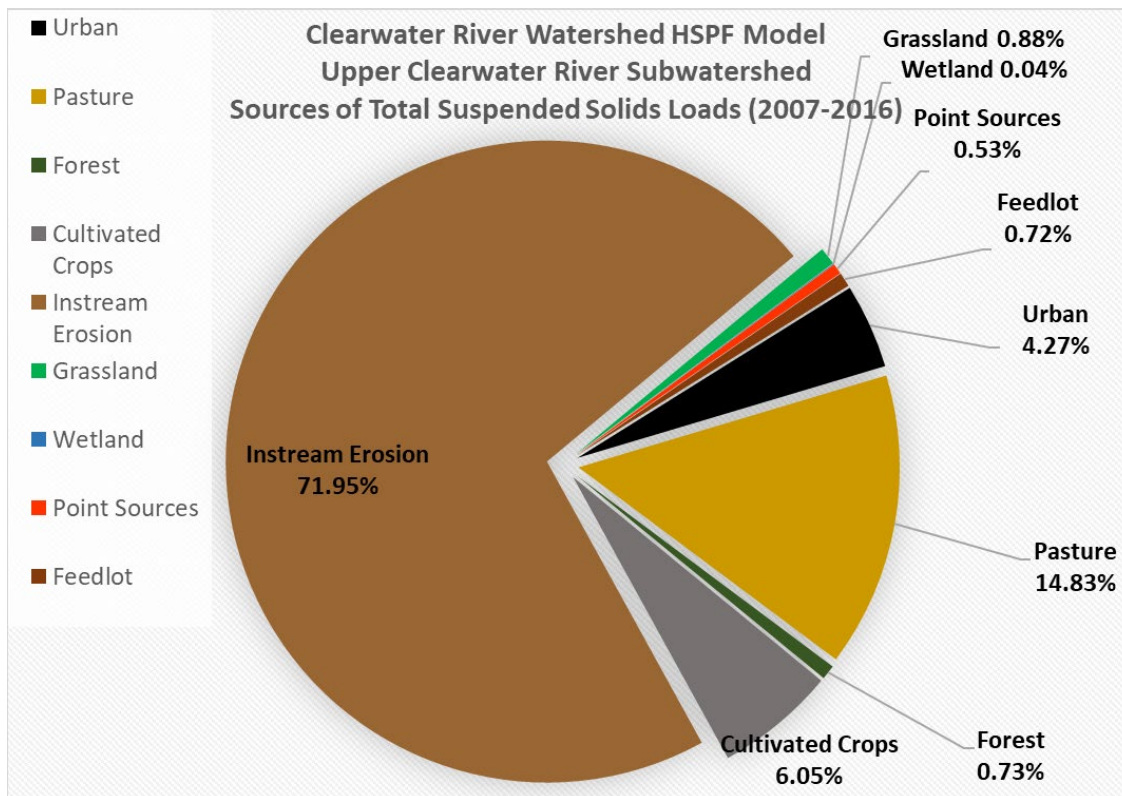
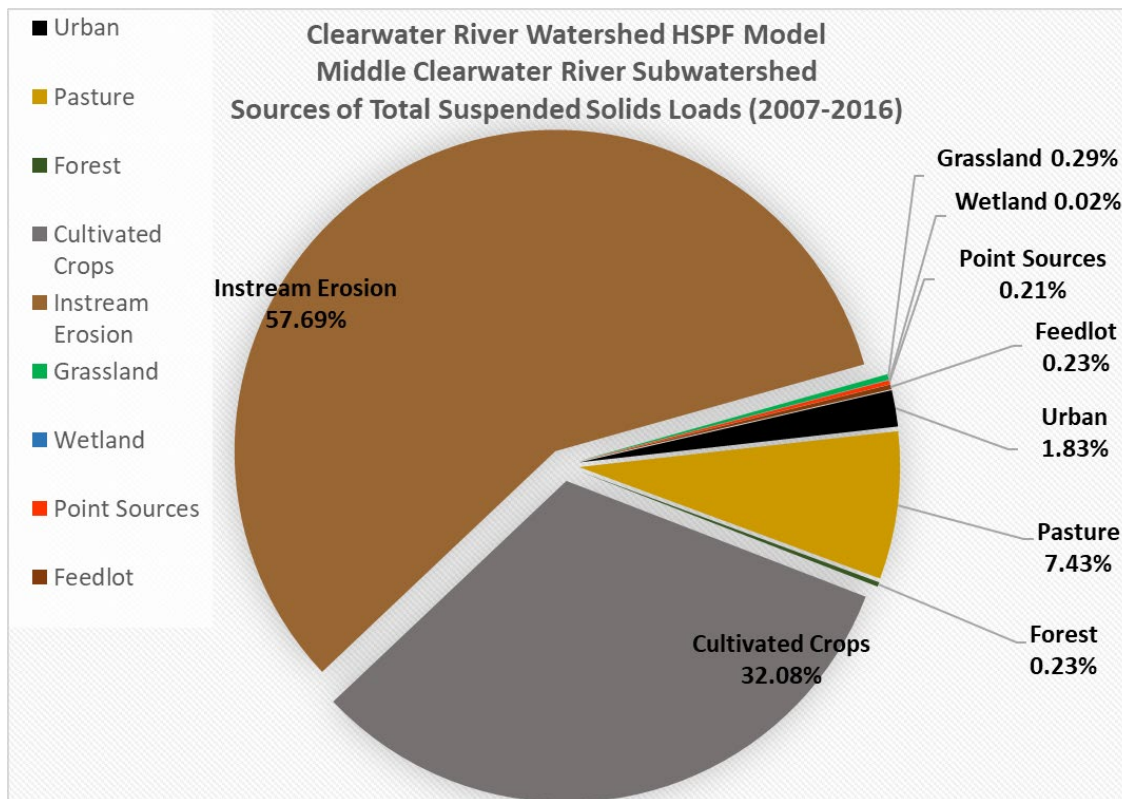
Construction of the streambank stabilization projects, stabilization of a ditch outlet, and repair of an access road along the State Ditch 83 portion of the Thief River began in August 2021. Construction was scheduled to begin in September 2021 on a project that will stabilize the Judicial Ditch 23 outlet to the Thief River, though the start of construction was delayed for several weeks, until early October.

Clearwater River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District staff updated the Clearwater River 1W1P [website](#) to add the [August newsletter](#) and [Advisory Committee report](#).

District staff mapped known in-channel erosion problems in the Clearwater River watershed (streambank erosion, unstable ditches and ditch outlets, etc.). Information and assessments collected during the fluvial geomorphology study, ditch inspections, PTMApp groundtruthing, windshield surveys during the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy project, and examination of aerial photos were used to compile the map of erosion problems. District staff used the HSPF Scenarion Application Manager tool to create a spreadsheet that calculated load reduction goals for each anthropogenic source in each HUC 10 subwatershed of the Clearwater River Watershed. The following three charts show how the ratio of contributions from different sources changes along the main channel of the Clearwater River along with changes in land use.





Other

- District staff received a complaint about water quality in the Clearwater River (channelized portion). The water in that portion of the river had been cloudy during June and July site visits. The green duckweed on the surface of the river, which may have prompted the complaint, is not harmful and may have been present because of lower flows and wild rice paddy drainage.
- District staff began drafting an application for Red River Watershed Management Board Water Quality funding. A meeting was scheduled to discuss the advancement of some projects that were identified in the Thief River 1W1P 2020 Work Plan but were in need of additional funding (additional Thief River Streambank stabilization work and a feasibility study for the stabilization of the Judicial Ditch 30 outlet.
- District staff answered questions from the MPCA about high nitrate concentrations in the Red Lake River. There were a lot of abnormally high nitrate concentrations during that summer and examination of the data (including blank samples) suggested that there as a problem with RMB Laboratory's nitrate analysis methods for a period of time in 2018.
- The Clearwater Lake Area Association shared the fall issue of their [Dockside](#) newsletter.

Water quality related notes and minutes from the September 9, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- The Board reviewed a funding request from the Red Lake SWCD, for the Randy Myhre Grade Stabilization Project, located in Section 6, Poplar River Township, for a total project cost of \$13,600.20. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting cost share in the amount of \$2,000.00 for construction from the from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to approve cost share in the amount of \$2,000 for the Randy Myhre Grade Stabilization Project, from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Projects Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.
- Construction on the Pine Lake Flood Damage Reduction and Fish Habitation Project, RLWD Project No. 26 B is slated to begin on September 13, 2021. Landowners are removing the trees today. The Board reviewed a letter to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MnDNR) from the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians regarding the issuance of a Public Works permit for replacement of the Pine Lake outlet structure. Discussion was had on the fact that the letter and the comments/requests was received weeks after the permit was issued and the bid awarded. The request will be determined by the State of Minnesota.
- Contractor Andy Anderson, Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavation, plans to begin construction on September 13, 2021, on the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Projects, Thief River 1W1P Plan, RLWD Project No. 149A. Administrator Jesme indicated that there may be extra funding for additional sites to be completed.

Water quality related notes and minutes from the September 23, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- The Board reviewed two grade stabilization funding requests from the Red Lake SWCD, for landowner, Matt Knutson. Administrator Jesme stated that there are two sites in Gervais Township, for a total project cost of \$15,860.91. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting cost share in the amount of \$2,500.00 from the from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve cost share in the amount of \$2,500 for the Matt Knutson Grade Stabilization Projects, from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Projects

Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried. Jesme stated that landowner, Matt Knutson, has an additional 10 grade stabilization sites located in Red Lake Falls Township, with a total project cost of \$89,201.26. The Red Lake SWCD is requesting cost share in the amount of \$7,500.00 from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion by Page, seconded by Tiedemann, to approve cost share in the amount of \$7,500 for the Matt Knutson Grade Stabilization Projects, from the District's 2021 Erosion Control Projects Funds, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

- The Board reviewed two grade stabilization funding requests from the West Polk SWCD, for landowner, BTN Farms, located in Fisher Township and Sorenson Farms, Inc., located in Roome Township. The total project cost for the BTN Farms Grade Stabilization is \$7,000, with a cost share request from the District in the amount of \$5,250. The Sorenson Farms, Inc. Grade Stabilization Project has a total project cost of \$12,000, with a cost share request of \$9,000. Administrator Jesme stated that funding could come through the District's Erosion Control Funds, RLWD Project No. 164, or from the RRWMB Base Funding for Water Quality Projects, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$5,250 for the BTN Farms Grade Stabilization Project, from the District's RRWMB Water Quality Base Funding, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Ose, to approve the cost share request in the amount of \$9,000 for the Sorenson Farms, Inc. Grade Stabilization Project, from the District's RRWMB Water Quality Base Funding, RLWD Project No. 46. Motion carried.
- Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., discussed the construction on the Pine Lake Flood Damage & Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B. The contractor has completed the in-channel work, with plans to place the rock riffles and structure next week. Administrator Jesme discussed the permitting comment period and public review. At the request of the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, the Department of Natural Resources completed a Phase 1 archaeological review, noting that nothing was found within the project area.
- Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., and staff member Nick Olson discussed downstream repairs to the outlet of the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Nordby reviewed two alternatives to armor 600 feet of the east side bank, recommending Alternative 2 at an approximate cost of \$88,720, as the best option. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to authorize Houston Engineering, Inc., to complete Plans and Specifications using Option 2 for the downstream repairs to the Schirrick Dam, RLWD Project No. 25. Motion carried.
- The Board reviewed the Plans, Specifications and Engineer's Opinion of Probable Cost for the Demarais/Hanson Outlet Repair Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Administrator Jesme stated that a majority of the project will be funded through the Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., estimated the approximate cost of construction to be \$160,625, recommending that Plans and Specifications be sent out to the contractors, with quotes submitted back to the District office by 9:30 a.m. on October 7th, with final approval by the Board on October 14th. Motion by Ose, seconded by Sorenson, to approve the Plans and Specification for the Demarais/Hanson outlet Repair Project, with quotes to be submitted to the District office no later than 9:30 a.m. on October 7, 2021, and presented to the Board for review at the October 14, 2021 meeting. Motion carried.
- Discussion was held on the Mud River Project Work Team meeting held on September 14, 2021. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc. will work the staff from the MnDNR and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, to determine the best project concept. Dalager stated that Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge has a planned project that will complement the Mud River Project.

- Construction is proceeding on various sites of State Ditch 83, RLWD Project No. 14, in collaboration with the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating is completing the work. The bid was awarded to Davidson Construction for work on the Judicial Ditch 23, under the jurisdiction of Marshall County and funded for through the Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149A. Marshall County requested that the District lead the construction portion of the project.

September 2021 Meetings and Events

- **September 7, 2021** – Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
 - Financial update
 - Project updates
 - Some landowners have backed out of projects. The group discussed asking for a bond from landowners to keep them committed to projects.
 - Stabilization of the Ditch 10 outlet has been completed. The final funding breakdown will depend on how much of the project will be funded by FEMA.
 - Phase I of the Pennington County Ditch 96 stabilization project was completed. Left over funding from that project's budget can be used to help fund construction of the Demarais-Hanson stabilization project.
 - SWCDs will use a selection of parcel data, based on areas prioritized by PTMApp, for outreach efforts to promote ag practices.
 - The next round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding will likely be approved by BWSR in October and 1W1Ps can start applying for the funding in November or December.
 - The West Polk SWCD's Andover 9 grade stabilization project will be constructed as soon as possible.
 - The West Polk SWCD still plans to construct the Roome 2 grade stabilization project this year. The PWG discussed using as much of the remaining 2018 budget as possible for the West Polk grade stabilization projects.
 - Stabilization of high bluffs near Red Lake Falls was briefly discussed. It was noted that the rock weirs along a high bank of the Red Lake River near Huot appear to be working well.
 - The Red Lake SWCD is working on 2 grade stabilization projects in Section 32 of Browns Creek township, a grade stabilization structure in Section 10 of Louisville Township, and a grade stabilization project in Section 8 of Lake Pleasant Township. A bid for technical and engineering work for the Voyageurs View streambank stabilization was received from Houston Engineering.
 - A streambank failure in Section 34 of Crookston Township was discussed. Geotechnical work and surveying to determine the cause and a solution for this rotational bank failure will be very expensive and not guaranteed to work. Rotational failures are a problem along this portion of the river. The geological mechanisms that cause these failures seemingly can't be prevented by streambank protection alone. Solutions can be very expensive and complex (like the \$6.4 Million dollar project to stabilize the bank of the Red Lake River along Highway 2 in Crookston and the work done to move Highway 2 away from a rotational slump east of Crookston). One thing that we can do, however, is offer

up to 75% of the revegetation cost to plant trees, etc., using the 319 Grant budget for riparian buffer establishment.

- **September 13, 2021** - Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
 - The PWG reviewed two project requests from the West Polk SWCD for projects that will stabilize gully erosion problems along the Red Lake River, near East Grand Forks. The projects could not be recommended for funding using current grants, however, because they were not located within any of the priority areas that were specified in the 2018 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF), 2020 WBIF, or 319 Grant work plans. In the 2022 Red Lake River 1W1P WBIF work plan, it will be important to budget a limited amount of funding (10-20%) for projects that accomplish written 1W1P goals for resources within lower priority management areas. District staff recommended that the West Polk SWCD should bring the projects to the next RLWD Board of Managers meeting to see if they can be approved for funding using the District's erosion control budget (the Board approved the funding at their September 23, 2021 meeting).
- **September 14, 2021** – Mud River Restoration Project Team meeting
 - Review of history, previous work, meetings, and goals
 - Discussion of design, water quality, land ownership, scope of work, etc.
 - A landowner shared that water will sometimes back up onto his farmland located 1 mile east and north of the Highway 89 crossing of the Mud River. It looks like the land would be along Branch 50 of Judicial Ditch 11.
 - Established a consensus that we are on the right path for addressing sediment sources along the Mud River (Buffer Law requirements, 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding for BMPs).
 - There may be less water going into Branch 8 than the 60/40 that was previously assumed
 - DNR staff recommended examining the possibility of sending all (or most) water through the restored channel.
 - The concerns of the ditch authority (Judicial Ditch 11) would be drainage, of course. It will be important to avoid any negative impacts. The project has potential to improve the drainage system's outlet.
 - DNR staff identified another potential historical channel, but landowners thought that it was a separate stream (not the historical Mud River) and were opposed to using that path for the restoration project.
 - Branch 30 of Ditch 11 appears to come to a dead-end in forest north of Branch 8 of JD 11.
 - A landowner mentioned that in the early 1900s, before Agassiz Pool was created to restore the historic Mud Lake, a boat could travel between Grygla and Thief River Falls.
 - A landowner mentioned that the Mud River does leave its channel near the WMA.
 - A landowner mentioned that ditches and rivers carried much more sediment in the 1950s.
 - Next steps and summary
 - We need to find a solution that everyone can live with
 - The project would provide habitat for waterfowl (mergansers were specifically mentioned as an example)

- The USFWS shared long-term plans to rebuild levees along JD 11 within Agassiz Pool, which would effectively turn Agassiz Pool into an off-channel impoundment.
- Sediment from upstream sources is a concern. Will there be enough flow to move sediment through the channel or will it become a sediment trap?
- **September 14, 2021** – Clearwater River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
 - Houston Engineering, Inc. has completed development of the PTMApp model for the Clearwater River Watershed
 - Vision statement brainstorming
 - Discussed approach to setting numerical goals. PTMApp estimates overland sediment erosion, but not in-channel erosion. The HSPF model does estimate in-channel erosion and can be used to find a in-channel-to-overland erosion ratio for subwatersheds and priority resource points. Should TMDL pollutant reduction goals be used, or load reduction estimates be based on the newly created PTMApp model?
- **September 15, 2021** – Pennington County Outdoor Education Day
- **September 21, 2021** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival in Warren
- **September 22, 2021** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival in Fertile

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“Like” the Red Lake Watershed District on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/redlakewatershed) to stay up-to-date on RLWD reports and activities.

By Corey Hanson, Red Lake Watershed District Water Quality Coordinator, 12/3/2021

River Watch and Public Education

District staff and International Water Institute staff led Clearbrook Gonvick River Watch students on a River Explorers kayaking trip down the Clearwater River. The students had an opportunity to visit with a DNR fisheries employee that was on-site.



RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT MONTHLY WATER QUALITY REPORT

October 2021

To help the Red Lake County Central River Watch group with planning for a second group of students, District staff examined current monitoring efforts and identified locations where additional data collection would be beneficial to create a second list of sites near Oklee that could be monitored by River Watch students. The District Natural Resource Technician led Red Lake County Central and Red Lake Falls River Watch groups on water quality monitoring outings. The District Natural Resource Technician led a group of Red Lake Falls River Watch students in a day of macroinvertebrate sampling and identification in the Clearwater River.



Water Quality Monitoring

Long Lake water quality data from the most recent 10 years (including 2021) was assessed to see if the impairment status has changed. Most samples collected by the District have met water quality standards. There were some occasions in which the standards were exceeded, included some relatively poor conditions that were recorded after a storm (or lake turnover) in September 2021. The summer average total phosphorus concentration in Long Lake has decreased to 28.5 mg/L in 2012-2021 data (down from 44 mg/L in 2011-12 data) and now meets the 30 mg/L standard. Chlorophyll-a exceeds the 9 mg/L standard at 10.4 mg/L. Secchi disk transparency in Long Lake meets the 2.0 meter standard with a 2.7 meter average transparency measurement. District staff will consult with MPCA staff about either removing the lake from the list of impaired waters or collecting additional data.

Red Lake River Watershed One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District bookkeeping staff compiled a financial report with recent invoices and grant funding balances through September 30, 2021 for the 2018 and 2020 Red Lake River 1W1P Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Clean Water Fund grants from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Other financial tracking spreadsheets were also updated.

The construction of side water inlets and rock-check grade stabilization structures along ditches in the Black River Impoundment drainage area is mostly complete. These structures are installed to protect/improve water quality and are partially funded by grants from the Red River Watershed Management Board (Water Quality Base Funding), United States Environmental Protection Agency (319 Grant administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency), 2018 Red Lake River 1W1P WBIF grant, and the Red Lake Watershed District. Houston Engineering provided some nice aerial drone photographs and created a [website](#) for the project.



**RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT
MONTHLY WATER QUALITY REPORT**

October 2021



The Demarais-Hanson project was advertised for bids in early October. District engineering staff examined the quality of rip-rap material for the project. The Red Lake SWCD reported that Houston Engineering was planning to start surveying the Voyageurs View streambank stabilization project in October.

Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration Project

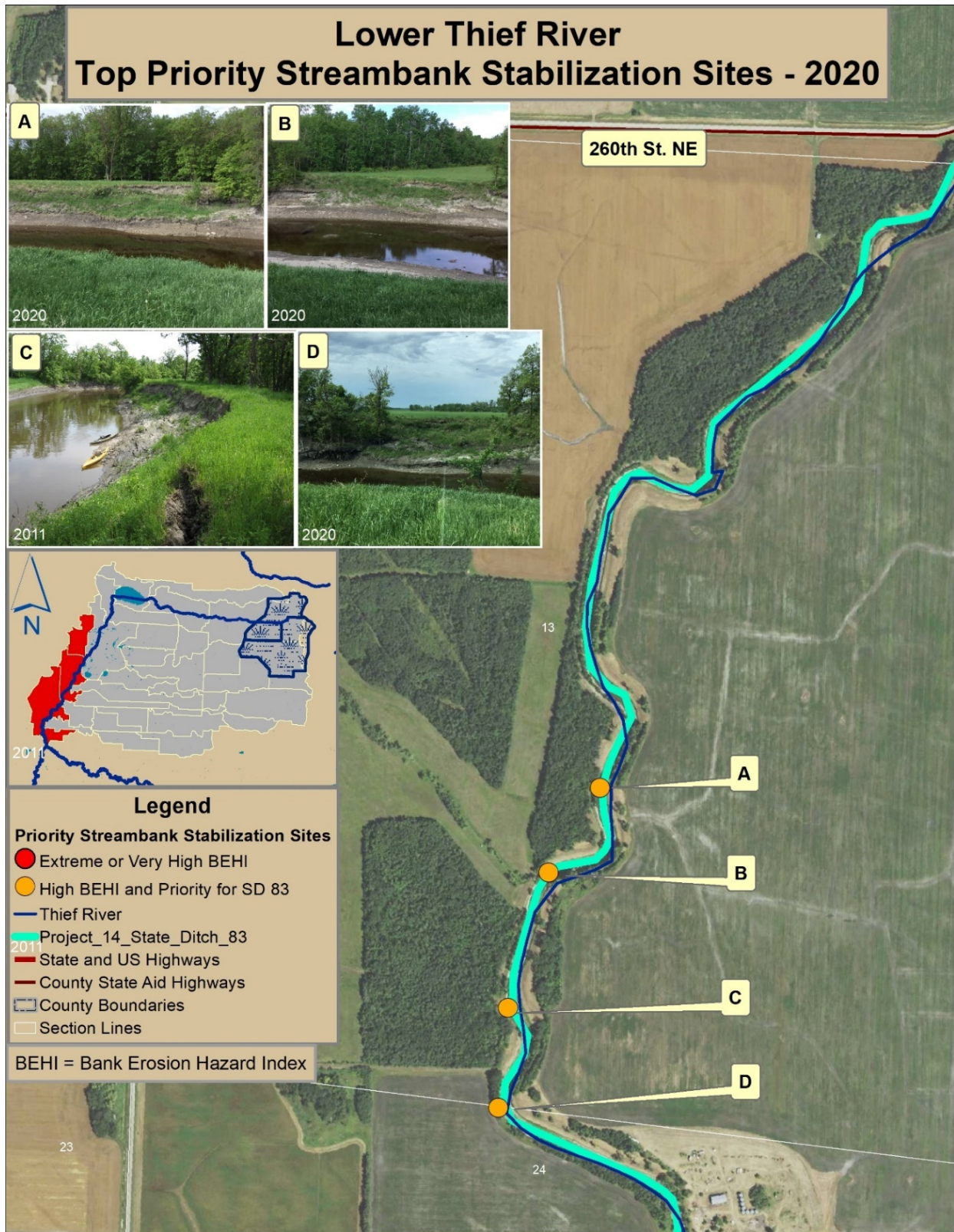
Construction of the Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration project began in late August and was approximately 47% complete at the beginning of October. Much progress was made on excavation of sediment from the oxbow wetland (top photo). The continuous deflective separation structures were installed to remove trash, sediment, and oils from stormwater drainage that flows to the oxbow from the north and from the east. The structure on the east side of Pennington Avenue will also create a settling pool to keep sediment runoff from the city's snow dumping area out of the oxbow wetland.



Thief River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

Priority stream bank stabilization sites were chosen where relatively high bank erosion hazard index (BEHI) ratings from the Thief River Watershed Fluvial Geomorphology study overlapped with State Ditch 83 jurisdiction (access easements) and priority stream bank stabilization sites identified by the Red Lake Watershed District ditch inspector. In late 2020, RLWD staff engineering technician and water quality staff met with Houston Engineering to tour the project area. One of the banks (Site C on the map) had begun to stabilize itself, so we decided to leave that one alone. With approval from the RLWD Board of Managers, Houston Engineering designed projects to stabilize Site A, Site B, Site D, an eroding channel between a 260th Street NE culvert and the river, and some access road repair near CSAH 7. Construction began in early September and was completed in October. In addition to re-sloping, the projects incorporated toe-wood sod mats to provide the toe protection that is important to the success of streambank stabilization projects. Separate from this project, the RLWD Ditch Inspector has been overseeing the installation of rock at the outlets of side water inlets along SD 83 to prevent future erosion.





RED LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT MONTHLY WATER QUALITY REPORT

October 2021

District staff and Houston Engineering Staff discussed different options for estimating annual sediment load reductions from streambank stabilization project.

District staff provided the plan coordinator progress summaries of projects that District staff have worked on.

The FEMA-funded portion of the Judicial Ditch 23 outlet stabilization has been completed. That includes stabilization, via rock armoring, of the outlet. Remaining work includes some work on ditch slopes and side water inlet installations. It is anticipated that work could be done in just a couple of days when conditions and the contractor's schedule align.



The RLWD Ditch Inspector has identified more potential sites for streambank stabilization work. It looks like there will be funds available in the 1W1P Lower Thief River Streambank Stabilization budget after the completion of the 2021 projects. There has also been discussion about using Red River Watershed Management Board Water Quality Base Funding to help pay for the design and construction of additional projects along the Thief River. Some initial surveying and verification of instability has begun. The Pennington SWCD has also identified a need for additional meander cut-off stabilization near their previous work upstream of the Golf Course. That would also be a good project for 1W1P/RRWMB funding because it would not only stabilize that specific erosion problem but would prevent the worsening of upstream erosion that would occur if the river increased its slope by cutting across a meander.

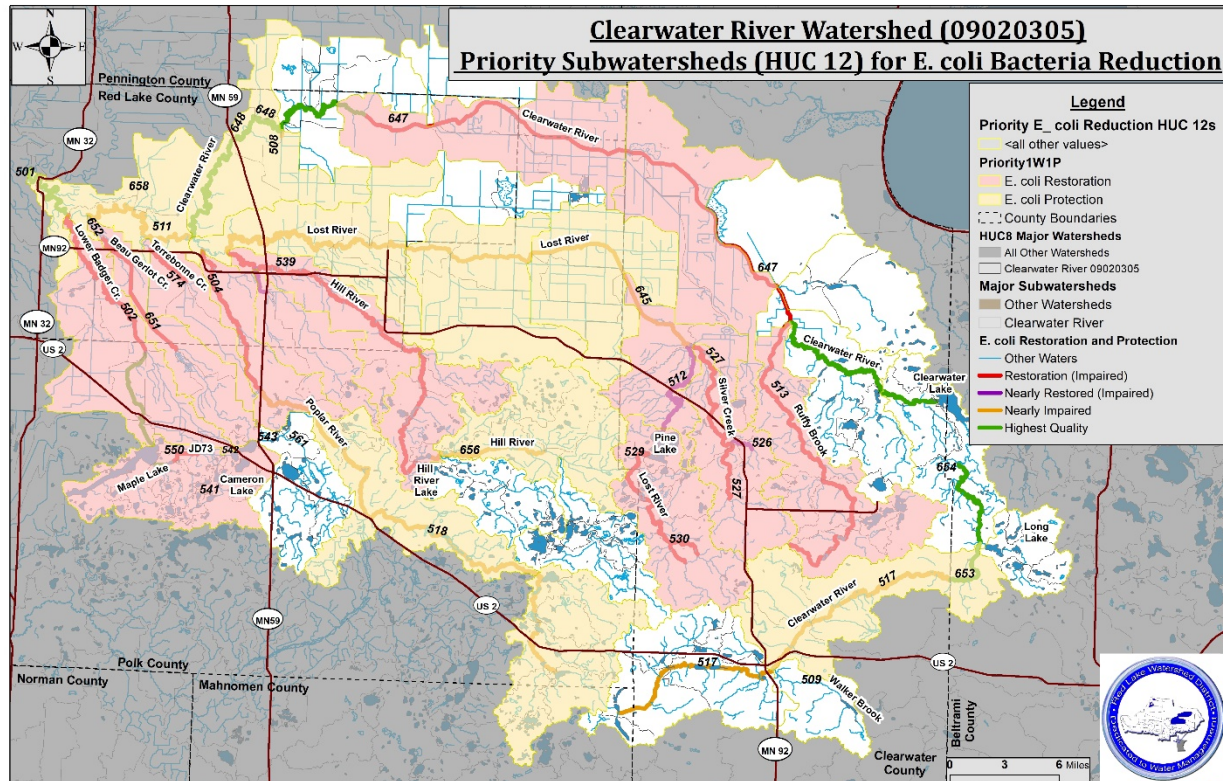


Clearwater River One Watershed One Plan (1W1P)

District staff mapped known in-channel erosion problems in the Clearwater River watershed (streambank erosion, unstable ditches and ditch outlets, etc.). Information and assessments collected during the fluvial geomorphology study, ditch inspections, PTMApp groundtruthing, windshield surveys during the Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy project, and examination of aerial photos were used to compile the map of erosion problems. District staff used the HSPF Scenarion Application

Manager tool to create a spreadsheet that calculated load reduction goals for each anthropogenic source in each HUC 10 subwatershed of the Clearwater River Watershed.

District staff created map of prioritized HUC 12 subwatersheds for projects that will reduce *E. coli* runoff. The priority subwatersheds were those that contained waters impaired by *E. coli*, waters that were nearly impaired by *E. coli*, and monitoring stations that exceeded water quality standards.



Planning Work Group (PWG) staff completed a baseline funding worksheet, which estimates and summarizes existing funding for projects in the Clearwater River Watershed. Project partners also reviewed a draft [Priority Issues document](#). District staff met with the consultant to discuss calculation of numerical pollutant reduction goals.

Other

- Flow was measured at two locations along the Clearwater River to improve flow rating curves at those sites. There is a possibility that continuous, real-time stage/flow monitoring equipment could be installed at two key sites along the Clearwater River in 2022 to help inform water allocations to wild rice paddies
- District staff toured potential 2022 biological sampling stations throughout the Thief River Watershed with MPCA staff. Intensive Watershed Monitoring of the Thief River is scheduled to begin in 2022. Staff from the MPCA will sample fish and macroinvertebrates. Water quality sampling will likely be conducted by staff from local agencies. District staff also provided MPCA staff with GIS layers, including ditch inventory layers (ditch names).

- District staff provided maps and GIS layers to MPCA staff to help with linework edits to MPCA maps that are used to identify waterbodies during water quality assessments. The alignment Ditch 200 upstream of Elm Lake and the new Westside Flood Damage Reduction project's diversion channel were edited. The Pennington SWCD will be collecting water quality samples near the outlet of the "Westside" diversion channel.
- Some of the District's water level loggers, streams that had gone dry during the summer, were retrieved near the end of October so that they would not be damaged by freezing temperatures.
- Monthly water quality reports for the months of [January](#), [February](#), [March](#), [April](#), [May](#), [June](#), and [July](#) of 2021 were completed and posted on the [RLWD website](#).

Water quality related notes and minutes from the October 14, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- Matt Fischer, Board of Water and Soil Resources, presented a Legislative Summary and explained in detail the funding sources and which agency the funding sources were for. The Clean Water fund dollars projected for the next biennium for the Red Lake and Thief River One Watershed One Plan were approximately \$1,071M for Red Lake and \$500,000 for Thief River. Manager Dwight inquired of Mr. Fischer on the amount of 1W1P funds that could be used as Administrative and if that amount could be from contracted services. The answer was yes it could be used for contracted services and possibly up to 50%. Currently BWSR is planning a watershed district manager training on February 4, 2022 in Warren and February 11, 2022 in Buffalo Red. Grants training for watershed staff for competitive grants is upcoming.
- The Board reviewed Pay Estimate No. 1 for the Thief River Falls Streambank Stabilization Project, RLWD Project No. 14/ Thief River 1W1P, RLWD Project No.149A to Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$75,510.96. Motion by Ose, seconded by Page, to approve Pay Estimate No. 1 to Quality Spray Foam/Anderson Excavating in the amount of \$75,510.96 for the Thief River Streambank Stabilization Projects, RLWD Project 14/149A. Motion carried.
- Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR, Inc. gave a Pine Lake construction update, RLWD Project No. 26B. Dalager indicated that the outlet structure has been poured, the outlet channel has been constructed, the fish passage rock weirs were placed and the inlet channel from the lake to the concrete structure have been completed. MnDNR had been onsite for a complete day to help with placement of the rock for the fish passage. Currently the optimum winter elevation has already been reached.
- Quotes for the Demarais/Hanson Outlet Project, Red Lake River 1W1P, RLWD Project No. 149, were reviewed. The engineer's estimate for the project was \$160,625.00. The low quote was from Gladen Construction, Laporte, MN, in the amount of \$147,350. A preconstruction meeting is scheduled for October 20, 2021 at the Red Lake Watershed District office. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, and unanimously passed, to accept the low quote from Gladen Construction, Inc., and award the contract in the amount of \$147,350.
- Cost share requests from Red Lake Soil and Water Conservation Districts for Grade Stabilization Projects were reviewed. The Beyer project is located in Section 10 of Louisville Township and \$1,100 is requested to assist with the local match requirement for this project. The total project cost is \$9,170 and 75% of project will be using the 2020 Watershed Based Funding. Second cost share request is \$1,000 for two grade stabilization projects located in Section 28 of Gervais Township for landowner Gagnon. The total project costs for the Gagnon project were \$9,110.50 with Red Lake SWCD using Board of Water and Soil Resources Clean Water Fund to fund 75% of the project cost. The third cost share request is for two grade stabilization projects in Section 32

of Browns Creek in the amount of \$3,000. The total project cost is \$28,446.00. The Red Lake SWCD will be using 2020 Watershed Based Funding for 75% of total project cost. Motion by Page, seconded by Ose, to approve the three pay requests to Red Lake SWCD in the amount of \$5,100, with funds to come from the 2021 Streambank Erosion Fund, RLWD Project No. 164. Motion carried.

- River Watch Advisors from the school districts were inquiring about purchasing additional River Watch apparel for newer students in the groups. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Anderson, to approve the purchase of additional River Watch apparel for current River Watch Students. Motion carried. Manager Page abstained from discussion and voting.

Water quality related notes and minutes from the October 28, 2021 Red Lake Watershed District Board of Managers meeting.

- Chester Powell, Clearwater SWCD, presented information to the Board about conducting a pilot project along the Lost River, located in Section 20 and 21, Winsor Township in northern Clearwater County, which is under the jurisdiction of the District. The proposed project is to plant dormant willow stakes along the unstable and failing banks of the Lost River to establish woody perennial cover to stabilize the banks during peak flows. Data obtained during a WRAPS study on the Lost River is listed as having bank instability and is a priority resource concern. Powell stated that work would be completed in November, dependent on current temperatures. The Clearwater SWCD has funding for the project and will complete the installation. Motion by Tiedemann, seconded by Page, to grant permission to the Clearwater SWCD, for installation of willow stakes along the Lost River, RLWD Project No. 4. Motion carried. Powell stated that he will contact the local landowners.
- Construction at the Pine Lake Flood Damage and Fish Habitat Project, RLWD Project No. 26B is almost complete. Engineer Nate Dalager, HDR Engineering, Inc., stated that the rock is in place, seeding is complete, and they are waiting on structural steel and gates for the structure. Dalager stated that the rock riffle structure is in place so the lake will be able to drain down if we get a large amount of rain. Currently there is no water coming out of the lake.
- A pre-construction meeting was held with Gladen Construction for the Demarais/Hanson Outlet Project, RLWD Project No. 149. Engineer Tony Nordby, Houston Engineering, Inc., stated that the contractor is anticipating being completed with construction in three weeks.
- Rob Sip, Executive Director, RRWMB appeared before the Board to present information on the 2021 lidar collection areas. Sip stated that collection of the data is about 52% complete, with the contractor flying approximately 16 days. If the weather holds out, the contractor estimates that the work will be done in the next 2-4 weeks.
- Manager Dwight discussed Clean Water Fund Grants that will be coming out in early 2022, and the need for discussion on the Fiscal Manager appointment for the One Watershed One Plan Projects. Further discussion will be held in early 2022.

The District's long-time Accounting Officer/Office Administration Specialist Principal, Arlene Novak, began her retirement at the end of October.

October 2021 Meetings and Events

- **October 7, 2021** – Red Lake River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
- **October 11, 2021** – Pennington County water Resources Advisory Committee meeting

- Clean Water Fund Project Updates
 - County Ditch 96 Stabilization
 - Monitoring wells were installed along the portion of the ditch that will be stabilized in Phase II of the stabilization effort.
 - Thief River Falls streambank stabilization
 - Three eroding streambanks will be stabilized
 - Costs have been increased by design updates that will improve project safety
 - Construction is planned for the summer of 2022
 - Cover Crop and Grade Stabilization – Lower Thief and JD 30/18/13
 - A total of 24 side water inlets have been installed in 2020 and 2021. Cover crops haven't generated much interest, yet.
 - Cooperative Weed Management Area Grant
 - An inventory of noxious weeds is 95% complete.
 - Completed maps of weeds identified in the inventory will be sent to townships.
 - Oxbow Wetland Restoration
- One Watershed One Plan Updates
 - The Pennington SWCD has identified a need for additional work to stabilize a meander cutoff near the Erickson Group project (upstream of the Thief River Gold Club).
- Pennington SWCD Activity Reports
 - \$1.2 million in Ag BMP loans have been approved. \$200,00 of additional approved applicants are waiting to be funded.
 - 5 wells were sealed this year
 - A drop structure was installed near Hudson Electric in Thief River Falls to stabilize the riverbank (Red Lake River).
 - Septic system installations have been slow until the last month or so. The county is distributing funding that was received from BWSR (\$25,000) and the MPCA.
 - 11,000 trees have been ordered for next spring
 - A new water quality monitoring station was established where the Thief River Falls Westside diversion ditch crosses CSAH 7 to replace the SWCD's former monitoring station near the outlet of Pennington County Ditch 70.
 - Most of the DNR groundwater observation wells in the county had their lowest levels ever recorded (since monitoring began in 1995) in August. The wells had a slight increase in water levels at the end of September.
 - The SWCD installed stationary zebra mussel settling pipes in the Red Lake River and inspected them monthly. No zebra mussels have been observed.
- DNR Activity Report
 - Drought-related communication and outreach
 - Lots of well-interference problems in Red Lake and Polk Counties
 - It has been difficult to get all irrigators to cooperate with restrictions
 - Work related Line 3 installation
 - The pipeline started operating on October 1st

- An “uncontrolled flow” occurred near Clearbrook. The uncontrolled flow was a result of rupturing an aquifer confining layer while completing a horizontal boring under existing pipelines at Enbridge’s Clearbrook Terminal.
- BWSR Activity Report
 - The Clearwater River One Watershed One Plan can apply for approximately \$974,000 of Watershed Based Implementation Funding when the plan is completed.
 - 2022-23 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding will also be allocated to the Thief River and Red Lake River 1W1P projects. The allocations for those watersheds will be similar to 2020-21 funding.
 - \$13 million was available for competitive Clean Water Fund grants this year. A total of 63 applications were received, requesting a total of \$22 million (the available funding will cover approximately 59% of the requested grant funding).
 - Governor Walz has announced a goal of planting 12 million trees by 2025.
- Pennington County Highway Department Activity Report
 - County Ditch 46, near the community college, will need a redetermination of benefits.
 - County Ditch 31, near St. Hilaire, has interest in abandonment due to a lack of maintenance or maintenance funding. Buffer requirements brought this issue to light.
- MPCA Activity Report: Project charters will be used for future WRAPS processes.
- There hasn’t been any progress in obtaining the funding that is necessary for moving the City of Thief River Falls drinking water intake upstream to the cleaner water of the Red Lake River upstream of the Thief River confluence.
- There are plans to replace the Kratka Bridge within the next 2 years
- **October 13, 2021** – Red Lake River 1W1P Policy Committee meeting
 - Financial report
 - Cost-share policy amendment
 - Project updates
 - 81 side water inlets were installed along Ditch 16
 - The Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration Project is approximately 75% complete
 - The Black River Impoundment Project, including side water inlets and rock-check grade stabilization structures along ditches, will be mostly complete before the end of the year.
 - The RLWD and the contractor are working on a contract for the Demarais-Hanson stabilization project.
 - The West Polk SWCD has been working on the installation of three grade stabilization structures in Section 9 of Andover Township. The structures may be completed by the end of the year.
 - A streambank failure was examined in Section 34 of Crookston Township (west of town, near the old Ottertail Power Dam) as a potential 319 Grant or 1W1P project. A concept report was completed by HDR Engineering. The conclusion was that the project might not be feasible due to the amount of work that would be needed to determine the cause of the rotational slump. There would be no guarantees that a stabilization project would fix the problem. Cost-share

for vegetation establishment will be offered to help slow the rate of erosion. The landowner was advised to move a paved road away from the bank. The RLWD could help with surveying for the re-sloping or road relocation if needed.

- The Pennington SWCD installed a drop structures to reduce erosion from stormwater runoff near Hudson Electric in Thief River Falls.
- 2022 funding request
 - The amount of Watershed Based Implementation Funding available for 2022-23 will be similar to the amount that was available for the 2020-22 biennial work plan (\$1,071,149).
 - Some additional West Polk SWCD projects didn't fit into either the 2018 or 2020 biennial work plans (outside of priority areas), even though they addressed a goal in the comprehensive, 10-year plan. They were eventually funded by the Red Lake Watershed District (Bygland 1 and Fisher 7/18). In the next round of Watershed-Based Implementation Funding, a pot of money should be made available for projects like these that address goals that were established in the overall, ten-year Red Lake River One Watershed One Plan (like sediment loading reduction goals for more severely impaired waters and protection of unimpaired waters).
- **October 15, 2021** – Mud River Restoration Project meeting
- **October 18, 2021** – Thief River 1W1P Planning Work Group meeting
- **October 19, 2021** – Minnesota Water Resources Conference
- **October 20, 2021** – Clearwater River 1W1P Planning Work Group (PWG) meeting
 - PTMApp decisions
 - The group was leaning toward using cost estimates that are double the EQIP costs for each practice to account for staff time (surveying, design, communication, etc.) involved in the total cost to install each practice. Staff from SWCDs will review the rates to make sure that they look reasonable.
 - Which parameter should be used to rank best management practices (BMPs)? Sediment loading has been used in other watersheds. There are a lot of waterbodies with phosphorus reduction goals in the Clearwater River Watershed, though.
 - Should we rank BMPs by load reductions or cost effectiveness?
 - The PWG reviewed the list of BMPs that will be evaluated by the PTMApp model.
 - Review of draft goals
 - The consultant looked at eLINK data to estimate how much work can be accomplished.
 - Low-income requirements for septic system upgrades is an obstacle to getting projects funded and completed. Environmental resources staff from counties will be consulted to help set goals related to septic systems.
 - RLWD staff will create a map to show where *E. coli* pollution reduction projects should be targeted.
 - Funding
 - Project partners will fill out spreadsheets to estimate baseline expenditures for water resource projects (quality and quantity) in the Clearwater River Watershed.

- Approximately \$974,728 will be available for the first round of Watershed Based Implementation Funding for the Clearwater River Watershed (2022-2023).
- **October 26, 2021** – BWSR Academy
 - [Successful Fiscal Grants Management](#)
- **October 27, 2021** – BWSR Academy
 - “Something about that GAM (Grants Administration Manual)”
 - 1W1P Success Through Partnerships
- **October 28, 2021** - BWSR Academy
 - Hydrology
 - Improve your Photos

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