



BOARD ORDER

One Watershed, One Plan FY25 Planning Grants

PURPOSE

Authorize the fiscal year 2025 One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Laws of Minnesota, 2021, 1st Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 2, Section 6 (i) and the Laws of Minnesota, 2023, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6 (i) appropriated funds for assistance, oversight, and grants to local governments to transition local water management plans to a watershed approach as provided for in Minnesota Statutes, chapters 103B, 103C, 103D and 114D.
2. The Board has authority under Minnesota Statutes §103B.101 and §103B.3369 to make grants to cities, townships, counties, soil and water conservation districts or authorities with jurisdiction in water and related land resources management when a proposed project, practice or activity implements a county water plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan.
3. The Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program authority, also known as One Watershed, One Plan, is established in Minnesota Statutes §103B.801.
4. The Board on June 22, 2016 adopted a One Watershed, One Plan Transition Plan (Board Resolution #16-53) for development, approval, adoption, and coordination of plans consistent with Minnesota Statutes §103A.212.
5. The Board on March 27, 2024 authorized staff to distribute and promote a request for proposals (RFP) for planning grants for the One Watershed, One Plan Program and a formal request for proposal was noticed on March 28, 2024 with a submittal deadline of June 14, 2024.
6. The BWSR Senior Management Team met on July 23, 2024 and reviewed the applications with consideration of staff, consistency with the Transition Plan, and the selection criteria within the RFP and recommended providing planning grant funds to the following three watershed planning boundaries: Big Fork River, Little Fork River, and Mississippi River Sartell.
7. The Grants Program and Policy Committee met on August 19, 2024 and reviewed the Senior Management Team's recommendations for One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants and recommended board approval of planning grants for the Big Fork River, Little Fork River, and Mississippi River Sartell watershed planning boundaries.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- A. Approves and authorizes three One Watershed, One Plan Planning Grants: Big Fork River, Little Fork River, and Mississippi River Sartell watershed planning boundaries.
- B. Authorizes staff to approve work plans and enter into grant agreements with these watershed areas for development of One Watershed, One Plans.
- C. Approves the allocation of grants funds for the three watershed areas not to exceed \$850,000 in total.

Dated in Duluth, Minnesota, this August 29th, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: August 29, 2024



BOARD ORDER

Adaptive Phosphorus Management Grant - Red River Basin Commission

PURPOSE

Provide legislatively appropriated general funds to the Red River Basin Commission to complete an adaptive phosphorus management plan for the Red River Basin.

RECITALS /FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The Laws of Minnesota 2024, Regular Session, Chapter 116, Article 1, Section 4, Subd. 3. appropriated \$300,000 for a grant to the Red River Basin Commission to facilitate development of a feasibility assessment of adaptive phosphorus management for the Red River of the North.
 - a. The assessment: (1) must address applicable water-quality targets for phosphorus loading; (2) must include an allocation of phosphorus between point and nonpoint sources; (3) must identify cost-effective nutrient reduction implementation strategies; and (4) may include other state water-quality goals and objectives.
 - b. The commission must submit their final assessment to the chairs and ranking minority members of legislative committees with jurisdiction over agriculture and environment policy and finance by June 30, 2026.
2. The Grants Program and Policy Committee reviewed the order at the August 19, 2024 meeting and recommended approval to the full board.

ORDER

The Board hereby:

- A. Approves the allocation of \$300,000 to complete this project and submit required reports to the legislature by June 30, 2026.
- B. Authorizes staff to enter into a grant agreement with the Red River Basin Commission in the amount of \$285,000 for this purpose.

Dated at Duluth, Minnesota, this August 29, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



 Todd Holman, Chair
 Board of Water and Soil Resources

Date: August 29, 2024

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Chippewa River Watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Policy Committee of the Chippewa River Watershed Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on May 9, 2024 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decision #18-14, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan.

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. **Partnership Establishment.** The Partnership was established in July of 2020 through adoption of a Joint Powers Agreement establishing a joint powers entity for the purpose of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The membership of the Partnership includes Chippewa County, Chippewa Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Douglas County, Douglas SWCD, Grant County, Grant SWCD, Kandiyohi County, Kandiyohi SWCD, Otter Tail County, Otter Tail SWCD, Pope County, Pope SWCD, Stevens County, Stevens SWCD, Swift County, and Swift SWCD.
2. **Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801 established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as One Watershed, One Plan. And, Board Decision #21-08 adopted Version 2.1 of the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures and on Board Decision #19-41 Plan Content Requirements policies version 2.1.
3. **Nature of the Watershed.** The Chippewa Watershed planning area lies in west central Minnesota, encompassing portions of Chippewa, Douglas, Grant, Kandiyohi, Otter Tail, Pope, Stevens, and Swift counties. The northern branch of the Chippewa River starts in Otter Tail County and flows south, draining an area of 2,140 square miles. The northern part of the watershed lies within the North Central Hardwood Forest ecoregion, which is characterized by rolling hills and many lakes. As the river flows south, the landscape transitions to the Northern Glaciated Plains eco-region and the West Corn

Belt Plains ecoregion where the land becomes substantially flatter and crop-based agriculture becomes the dominant land use. The river outlets into the Minnesota River at Montevideo. There is a small portion of the watershed that lies outside of the ecological watershed boundary, lying adjacent to the Minnesota River and is typical of the landscape in this region.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies, and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation efforts and lays out specific actions to manage water quantity, protect and restore water quality, natural habitat, recreational uses, and drinking water sources in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On May 9, 2024, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments pertaining to the Plan for final State review pursuant to Board Decisions #21-08 and #19-41. State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings throughout the development of the Plan. The following state review comments were received during the 90-day comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture: The MDA has received the final draft plan, reviewed the responses to comments, and does not have any further comments or suggestions. MDA recommends approval of the Chippewa River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health: The Minnesota Department of Health has received the final draft plan to review and does not have any further comments or suggestions. MDH recommends approval of the Chippewa River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.
 - C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources: The DNR has received the final Chippewa River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and reviewed responses to comments submitted under the 60-day review of the draft plan. The DNR is satisfied with the responses to issues raised during our review, has no additional comments, and recommends that BWSR approve the plan. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. We look forward to working with watershed partners to help implement the plan. The DNR leads will continue to be the Area Hydrologists in the watershed.
 - D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) commends the members of the partnership that undertook this significant planning effort and participated in the development of the Chippewa River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). The actions implemented under this CWMP will result in significant water quality improvements throughout the Chippewa River Watershed. The MPCA reviewed the response to comments submitted during the 60-day review of the Chippewa River CWMP. Overall, the comments were sufficiently addressed and the priorities, goals, and actions in the Chippewa River CWMP are well developed. The MPCA appreciates the opportunity to participate and provide input throughout your CWMP development process. Overall, it is very well written, concise, and thorough. We have no comments as part of the official 30-day Review and Comment period and recommend it for approval. Again, thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on the draft CWMP. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Paul Wymar at 507-476-4282 at the MPCA's Marshall Regional Office.
 - E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board did not provide comment.
 - F. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources: BWSR finds that the partnership has adequately addressed our comments provided during the 60-day review. During our final review, we find that the plan meets all items found within the One Watershed, One Plan Content Requirements (version 2.1). Therefore, we recommend approval of the plan as submitted.

6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the plan include:
- The policy and advisory committees received extensive input during the early stages of the planning process including state agency priority concern letters, a public kick-off meeting attended by 90 citizens, and reports ranging from county water plans to Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy documents that identified the conditions and trends within the watershed and local citizen interests and needs.
 - The advisory committee identified 17 original resource concerns, which were narrowed down to fourteen high and medium priority issue statements grouped into seven resource categories. There were also three issues that were identified as low priority, which would not be a focus for immediate implementation. The partnership identified 30 lakes (out of 93 total) as a priority for restoration, protection, or enhancement.
 - There are six geographic management areas within the watershed and each management area was assessed for how it could best be managed to achieve the objectives for each resource concern. Within each management area, there are targeted and prioritized areas for implementation as well a unique implementation schedule that identifies the activity, the location, the time for implementation, and the estimated cost for implementing the activities.
 - Separate targeted implementation tables were created for each planning zone that include structural and management practices. Watershed-wide implementation tables were created for capital improvements; education and outreach; data collection, monitoring and analysis; and regulation and enforcement.
 - For the ten-year duration of the plan, the estimated total cost is \$19,790,000 with an estimated \$14,500,000 going towards on-the ground implementation. Costs that are more than current expenditures will be derived through state and federal grant opportunities and the potential implementation of a collaborative capital improvement project process.
7. **Planning Boundary Adjustment.** The Board adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map on April 23, 2014. The map established suggested planning boundaries for plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Partnership requested a boundary adjustment to portions of Chippewa watershed and Upper Minnesota River Watershed, which includes the planning boundary #20 (Chippewa Watershed) and planning boundary #16 (part of the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed District) as indicated on the Board adopted Suggested Boundary Map. The Partnership provided documentation for local concurrence, rationale, and justification of the adjusted boundary. The adjusted boundary was approved by Board staff per the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. The adjusted boundary is included as part of the board packet.
8. **Central Regional Committee.** On August 5, 2024, the Central Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance were Joe Collins, Mark Zabel, Mike Runk, Steve Robertson, Grant Wilson, Joel Larson, Jill Crafton, and Lori Cox. The representatives from the Partnership were Ron Staples, Sarah Boser, Holly Kovarik and Margaret Johnson. BWSR staff in attendance were Anne Sawyer, Barb Peichel, Jason Weinerman, and Justin Hanson. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee’s decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
9. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 29, 2034.

CONCLUSIONS

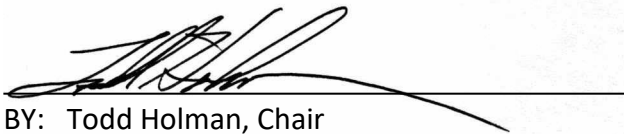
1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Chippewa River Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decisions #19-41 and #21-08.
3. The Chippewa River Watershed Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Decisions #19-41 and #21-08.
5. The attached plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will serve as a replacement for the comprehensive plan and local water management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Chippewa River Watershed, dated April 2024.

Dated at Duluth, Minnesota, this twenty-ninth of August, 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Todd Holman', is written over a solid horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, extending slightly to the right of the line.

BY: Todd Holman, Chair

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

In the Matter of the review of the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Minnesota River East Watershed, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801.

**ORDER
APPROVING
COMPREHENSIVE
WATERSHED
MANAGEMENT PLAN**

Whereas, the Lower Minnesota River East Partnership submitted a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Plan) to the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) on June 24, 2024 pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #21-08, and;

Whereas, the Board has completed its review of the Plan;

Now Therefore, the Board hereby makes the following Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Order:

FINDINGS OF FACT

- Partnership Establishment.** The Lower Minnesota River East Partnership (Partnership) was established through adoption of a Memorandum of Agreement for the purposes of developing a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. The members of the Partnership include Le Sueur County, Le Sueur Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), Rice County, Rice SWCD, Scott County, Scott Watershed Management Organization (WMO), Scott SWCD and the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District.
- Authority to Plan.** Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subdivision 14 allows the Board to adopt resolutions, policies or orders that allow a comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapters 103B, 103C, or 103D to serve as substitutes for one another or be replaced with a comprehensive watershed management plan. Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.801, established the Comprehensive Watershed Management Planning Program; also known as the One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program. Board Decision #21-08 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Program's *Operating Procedures (Version 2.1)* and Board Decision #19-41 adopted the One Watershed, One Plan Program's *Plan Content Requirements (Version 2.1)* policies.
- Nature of the Watershed.** The Lower Minnesota River East watershed covers 634 square miles (405,789 acres), spanning three counties and one tribal nation (Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community). Most of the middle and upper watershed is dominated by agricultural land use (65% by area), while the lower portion of the watershed (Scott County) transitions from agricultural to suburban and urban land use types (13% by area). The watershed has 117 lakes and 870 stream miles, with 70 of those miles being Minnesota River reaches. Within the watershed, there are ample recreational opportunities and valuable habitat for species ranging from wild rice to endangered mussels.

4. **Plan Development.** The Plan was developed as a single, concise, and coordinated approach to watershed management. The Plan consolidates policies, programs, and implementation strategies from existing data, studies and plans, and incorporates input from multiple planning partners and public input to provide a single plan for management of the watershed. The Plan focuses on prioritized, targeted, and measurable implementation actions to protect and restore the water quality of lakes and streams, address groundwater quality and knowledge gaps, restore and preserve habitat and natural resources, and tackles surface water hydrology issues in the watershed.
5. **Plan Review.** On June 24, 2024, the Board received the Plan, a record of the public hearing, and copies of all written comments and responses for final State review pursuant to Board Resolution #21-08. During the development of the Plan, State agency representatives attended and provided input at advisory committee meetings. The following review agency comments were received during the comment period.
 - A. Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): “Thank you for the opportunity to review this plan. Any concerns we have had with the plan have been addressed throughout the advisory committee process. The MDA has no further comments at this time and will support approval.”
 - B. Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): “MDH has reviewed the responses to the 60-day review comments, as well as the relevant changes made to the Plan. Overall, MDH is satisfied with these responses and changes to the Plan. However, there are a few instances where the changes indicated in a response were applied incorrectly, resulting in some minor inaccuracies in the final Plan.
 - MDH provided a comment during the 60-day review on the data source for Figure 1.18 and complementary text on page 50 of the Plan. The initial response to this comment included an updated narrative that was inaccurate. MDH followed up with a corrected narrative and this narrative is what is included in the final response to the 60-day comment. This corrected narrative was added into the Plan; however, it was inserted without removing the inaccurate narrative. Therefore, the inaccurate statements remain, and the paragraph is now confusing and redundant. The last three sentences under “County Geologic Atlases” should be deleted to relieve these issues and to align the Plan updates with the final response to the 60-day comment.
 - As discussed with the Plan authors based upon informal comments from the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), there are 10 municipal water systems in the Planning Area. The responses to BWSR’s informal comment and to MDH’s follow-up stated that this change would be made, but the Plan still states that there are 11 on page 153 of the final Plan. It appears that instead of making this correction, the number of municipal separate storm sewer systems (MS4s) (two sections above the wellhead protection on the same page) was changed instead, from 12 to 10. The MS4s listed add up to 12. This should be changed back to 12 and the number of municipal water systems changed to 10.

MDH will recommend the Plan for approval, but it is recommended to correct the above inaccuracies in future updates to the Plan.

MDH would also like to reiterate from our 60-day comment letter our commendation of the Partnership for including groundwater and drinking water as priorities in the Plan. Additionally, the Partnership continued to be open to incorporating MDH’s ideas and suggestions into the Plan and were understanding of our staffing change during the planning process.

MDH has appreciated being a part of the technical advisory committee and would like to continue to assist and collaborate with the Partnership in this capacity moving forward into implementation.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue to provide input in this process.”

- C. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): “The Minnesota DNR has received the final Draft Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. During the 60-day review process the DNR provided comments, and the resulting changes and responses have been reviewed. The DNR is satisfied with the detailed responses and updates to the plan and have no additional comments and recommends that BWSR approve the plan. We look forward to working with watershed partners to help implement the plan. Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process.”
- D. Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): “The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) appreciates the opportunity to participate and provide input throughout the Lower Minnesota River East Watershed One Watershed, One Plan (Plan) development process. Overall, the Plan is very well written, concise, and thorough. We have no comments as part of the official 90-day Review and Comment Period and recommend it for approval.”
- E. Minnesota Environmental Quality Board (EQB): Policy requires that EQB be notified of the final draft document. EQB confirmed receipt of the Plan and did not provide comments on the 90-day final draft Plan.
- F. Metropolitan Council: “Thank you for coordinating a well written plan and doing a comprehensive job on addressing all comments. The Met Council has no additional comments on the 90-day draft of the Lower MN River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. I look forward to working with you more during the implementation of this plan.”
- G. Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): The entire report is very well-organized, easy to understand and is visually appealing with informative graphics. BWSR appreciates that the Plan includes goals and strategies that address altered hydrology and storage, erosion, groundwater, and riparian restoration. We commend the Partnership for developing versatile outreach and education strategies to address soil health practice adoption, chloride reduction, and groundwater education. They also were inclusive of the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community during the planning process. All the 60-day comments provided by BWSR have been answered or addressed and we have no additional formal comments. BWSR staff involved in the development and review of this plan include Melissa King (former Board Conservationist), Anne Sawyer (Board Conservationist) and Barb Peichel (Clean Water Specialist).
6. **Plan Summary and Highlights.** The highlights of the Plan include:
- The Partnership has prioritized surface water quality to address issues of excess sediment, nutrients, and other pollutants that degrade lakes and streams. A major pollutant in the Minnesota River and its tributaries is sediment, largely from near-channel sources, such as gully, ravine, and bluff erosion. Cropland erosion is the second-largest source of sediment in the watershed. The Plan’s implementation strategy includes a variety of options to address erosion while also providing maximum flexibility for rural and urban landowners to adopt voluntary conservation practices.
 - Similarly, addressing altered hydrology is a primary goal for the Partnership. Artificial drainage has created an agriculturally rich landscape, but the combination of wetland loss, agricultural drainage, and increased precipitation over the past several decades has led to increased flows on the Minnesota River and its tributaries. The Partnership’s storage goal will help address altered

hydrology by reducing annual surface runoff through implementation of storage projects in priority subwatersheds.

- Groundwater is the primary source of drinking water in the watershed. Most of the aquifers within the watershed are considered to have “medium” vulnerability to contamination based on geology and soil type, but much of the area adjacent to the Minnesota River is highly vulnerable to contamination. The Partnership prioritized protection of groundwater resources through targeted activities that reduce contamination from nitrates, chlorides, and other pollutants, utilizing farm and urban best management practices.
- The Partnership also recognized that groundwater resources, particularly in Le Sueur County, are not well understood, so they have prioritized completion of the County Geologic Atlas in Le Sueur County. Further, they are developing an outreach and education campaign to engage with residents across the watershed regarding groundwater contamination and management of natural (e.g. arsenic) and human-caused (e.g. nitrates) contaminants.
- The Policy and Steering Committees sought community engagement during the early stages of the planning process, including a public kick-off meeting and a virtual open house. They also reached out to the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community, neighboring watershed entities, and municipalities during the formation of the plan. The information gathered was used to identify and prioritize issues. The Advisory Committee further refined implementation actions by utilizing subcommittees of local experts on topics including groundwater, stormwater, shoreland, and outreach/education.
- The Partnership refined the priority issues based on input from the public and topic meetings, existing plans and studies, comment letters from state agencies, and input from local government staff. The six issue statements address surface water hydrology; surface water quantity; groundwater quality; groundwater knowledge, data, and understanding; habitat and natural resources restoration; and habitat and natural resources protection and preservation.
- Within those six issue categories, the partners developed 14 measurable goals for the watershed. These goals include reducing sediment loading to streams by 1,886 tons/year, reducing phosphorus loading to impaired priority lakes by 87 pounds/year and maintaining phosphorus levels in unimpaired priority lakes, developing and implementing chloride reduction and groundwater management outreach campaigns, reducing annual surface runoff by 0.09 inches across the watershed through water storage projects, repairing/replacing 10 septic systems and sealing 40 unused or abandoned wells, increasing perennial cover by 300 acres in riparian areas, and increasing permanently protected land in conservation easements by 800 acres, among other goals.
- The Plan goals were estimated using models (primarily HSPF and HSPF-SAM) and then further refined based on local staff professional judgement for realistic, yet optimistic, expectations for what could be accomplished over 10 years.

7. **Boundary Adjustment.** The Board maintains a suggested boundary map for the One Watershed, One Plan program. The Lower Minnesota River East (planning area 56) Partnership proposed a boundary adjustment to reduce the watershed area as multiple optional participants in Hennepin, Carver, and Dakota County decided not to participate due to local capacity issues and existing watershed planning efforts. In addition, this smaller boundary allows the current partners to better target the types and locations of the Plan’s implementation activities. The Partnership provided documentation of local concurrence, rationale, and justification for the adjusted boundary. The adjusted boundary was approved by Board staff per the One Watershed, One Plan Operating Procedures. The adjusted boundary is included as Figure 0.1 on page 13 of the Plan.

8. **Central Regional Committee.** On August 5, 2024, the Central Regional Committee met to review and discuss the Plan. Those in attendance were Joe Collins, Mark Zabel, Mike Runk, Steve Robertson, Grant Wilson, Joel Larson, Jill Crafton, and Lori Cox. The representatives from the Partnership were Holly Bushman, Mike Schultz, Troy Kuphal, and Doug Schoenecker. BWSR staff in attendance were Anne Sawyer, Barb Peichel, Jason Weinerman, and Justin Hanson. Board regional staff provided its recommendation of Plan approval to the Committee. After discussion, the Committee's decision was to present a recommendation of approval of the Plan to the full Board.
9. This Plan will be in effect for a ten-year period until August 29, 2034.

CONCLUSIONS


1. All relevant substantive and procedural requirements of law have been fulfilled.
2. The Board has proper jurisdiction in the matter of approving a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan for the Lower Minnesota River East Watershed pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, Sections 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #21-08.
3. The Lower Minnesota River East Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan attached to this Order states water and water-related problems within the planning area; priority resource issues and possible solutions thereto; goals, objectives, and actions of the Partnership; and an implementation program.
4. The attached Plan is in conformance with the requirements of Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.101, Subd. 14 and 103B.801 and Board Resolution #21-08.
5. The attached Plan when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership will replace the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, or watershed management plan, developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapters 103B, 103C, or 103D, but only to the geographic area of the Plan.
6. With exception to #5 above, the attached Plan, when adopted through local resolution by the members of the Partnership within the Metropolitan area as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.205, Subd. 8 or a Metropolitan county as defined in Minnesota Statutes 473.121 Subd. 4 is not required to, but may, serve as a substitute in whole or part for the comprehensive plan, local water management plan, watershed management plan, or county groundwater plan developed or amended, approved and adopted, according to Chapter 103B, 103C, or 103D for the geographic area of the Plan and consistent with the One Watershed, One Plan Suggested Boundary Map.

ORDER

The Board hereby approves the attached Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan of the Lower Minnesota River East Watershed, submitted June 24, 2024.

Dated at Duluth, Minnesota, this twenty-ninth day of August 2024.

MINNESOTA BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES


Todd Holman, Chair
Board of Water and Soil Resources