



# Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Governor Budget Recommendations


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# Our Mission

A scenic view of a wetland area. In the foreground, there are tall, thin reeds with some brown seed heads. The middle ground shows a calm body of water reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The background is a flat expanse of wetland with more reeds and a line of trees on the horizon under a cloudy sky.

Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

# Statutory Authorities

- 12A – [Natural Disaster, State Assistance](#)
- 103A – [Water Policy and Information](#)
- 103B – [Water Planning and Project Implementation](#)
- 103C – [Soil and Water Conservation Districts](#)
- 103D – [Watershed Districts](#)
- 103E – [Drainage](#)
- 103F – [Protection of Water Resources](#)
- 103G – [Waters of the State](#)
- 103H – [Groundwater Protection](#)
- 114D – [Clean Water Legacy Act](#)

# BWSR General Fund Change Items

#	BWSR Change Items	Biennial Funding request	Ongoing (biennial)
1	Climate - Soil Health Practices Program	\$27.16 M	\$27.16 M
2	Climate - Accelerated Water Storage Program	\$17M	\$960K
3	Climate - Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program	\$9M	\$2M
4	Climate - Private Lands Grasslands/Working Land Restoration Easements for Carbon Sequestration	\$22M	\$800K
5	Climate - Private Lands Peatland Restoration Easements for Carbon Sequestration	\$15M	\$1.42M
6	Climate - Mitigation and Resiliency for RIM Easements	\$7.1M	\$960K
7	Conservation Easement Stewardship Account	-	-
8	Support for Tribal Liaison	\$265K	\$288K
9	Grant Making to Tribes and NGOs	-	-
10	Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) Funding Restoration	\$2.5M	\$2.5M



# BWSR Soil Health Practices Program

Climate Action Framework – Fiscal and Policy Request (\$27.16M)



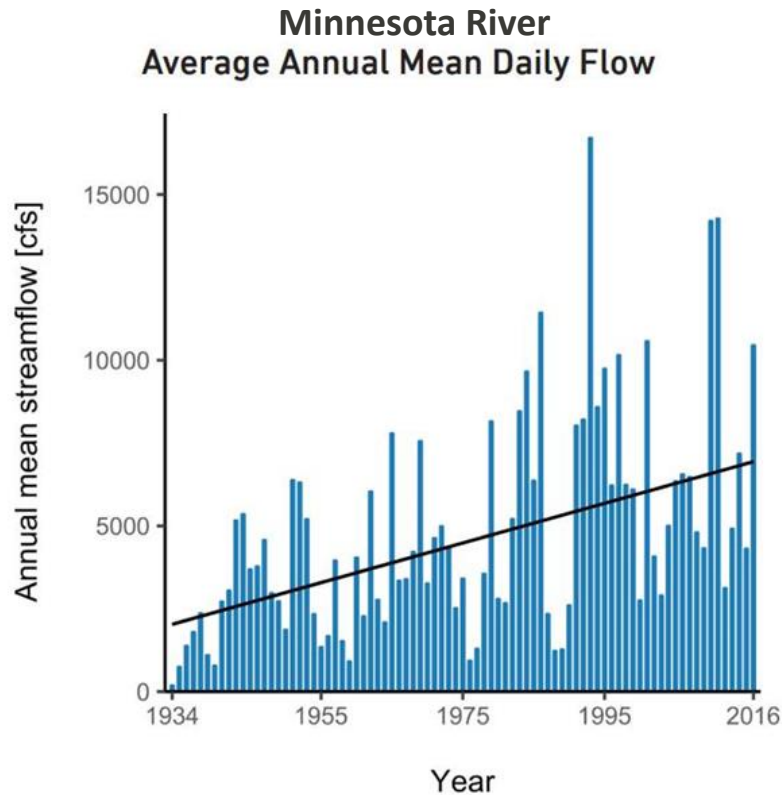
- Establishes a voluntary and locally-driven Soil Health Practices Program (new 103F).
- Sets practices on sensitive lands to slow water and nutrient movement.
- Provides for carbon sequestration.
- Opportunity for federal matching dollars (103C)



# Accelerated Water Storage Program

Climate Action Framework - Fiscal Request (\$17M)

- Adapt to changing climate
- Acquire, design, and construct projects to control water volume and rate
- Voluntary and locally-led



# Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP)

Climate Action Framework – Fiscal and Policy Request (\$4M)



- Building on a current program, offers cost-share grants and technical guidance for projects on lands that are a priority for the protection of endangered or threatened pollinators and other wildlife species.
- Eligible lands include **existing natural areas, conservation plantings, and open spaces.**



# HELP – Habitat Friendly Utilities

Climate Action Framework – Fiscal and Policy Request (\$1M)

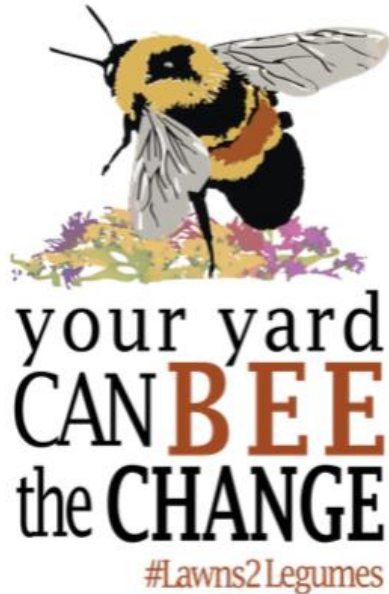


- Building on a current program, provides financial and technical assistance to promote the **successful establishment of native vegetation as part of utility projects** including solar, wind, pipelines and electrical transmission corridors to ensure the integrity and resiliency of Minnesota landscapes and protection of habitat and water resources.



# HELP – Lawns to Legumes

Climate Action Framework – Fiscal and Policy Request (\$4M)



- This award-winning program offers a combination of workshops, coaching, planting guides and cost-share funding (individual support grants) for installing pollinator-friendly native plantings in **residential lawns and community spaces**.
- Over 17,000 applications received for individual grants across the state; approximately 12,000 applications waiting additional program funding.



# Private Lands Conservation Easements for Carbon Sequestration

## Climate Action Framework - Fiscal and Policy Request



### Climate Action via the Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program

- Grassland/Working Land Restorations (\$22M)
- Peatland Restorations (\$15M)
- Mitigation and Resiliency for Existing State Easements (\$7.1M)



# Federal Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA)

## Climate Conservation Funding



IRA funding in millions						
	Current- '22	2023	2024	2025	2026	IRA total
EQIP	\$ 1,800	\$ 250	\$ 1,750	\$ 3,000	\$ 3,450	\$ 8,450
CSP	\$ 800	\$ 250	\$ 500	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 3,250
RCPP	\$ 300	\$ 250	\$ 800	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,400	\$ 4,950
ACEP	\$ 450	\$ 100	\$ 200	\$ 500	\$ 600	\$ 1,400



# Additional BWSR Related Changes

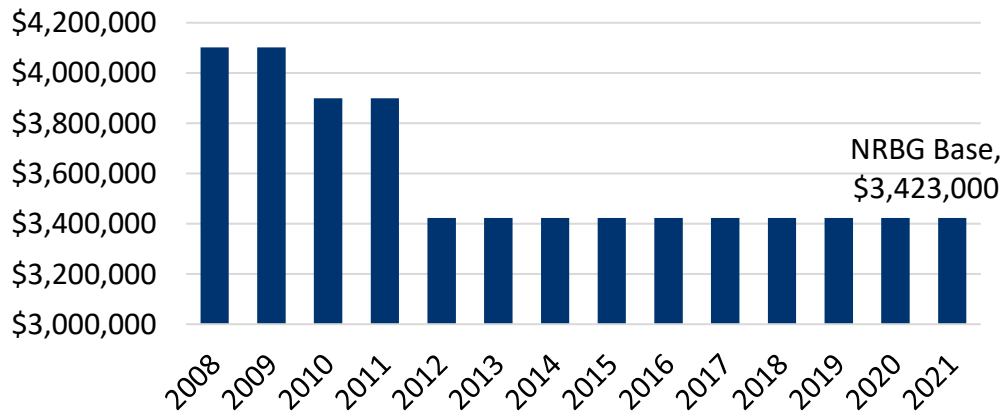
<b>Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) Funding Restoration:</b>	<b>\$2.5M</b>
<b>Support for Tribal Liaison:</b>	<b>\$265K</b>
<b>Grant Making to Tribes and NGOs:</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Conservation Easement Stewardship Account:</b>	<b>\$0</b>



# Natural Resources Block Grants (NRBG)

Fiscal Request (\$2.5M)

## Natural Resources Block Grants to Counties



Counties implement statutorily mandated environmental programs:

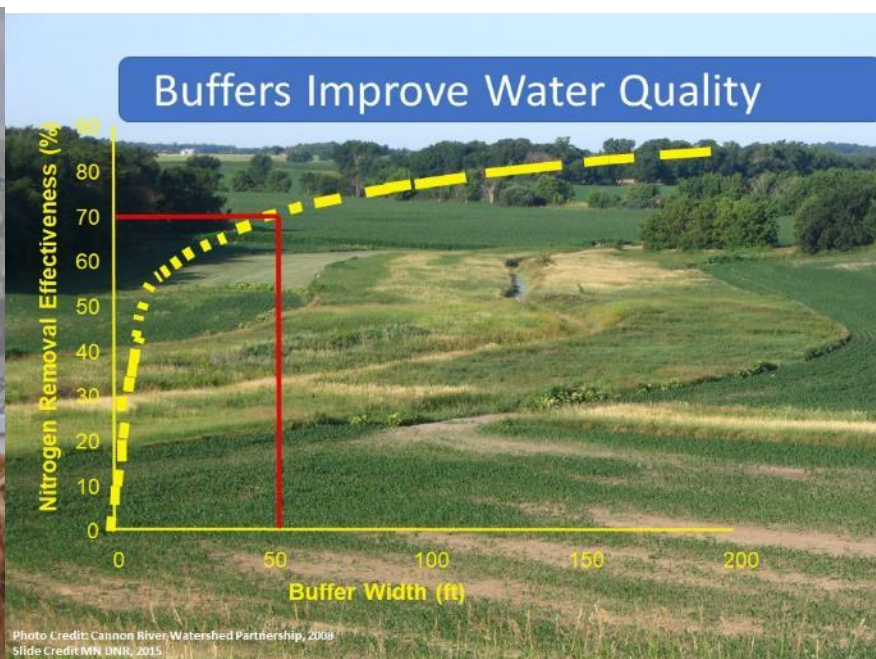
- Shoreland Protection - DNR
- Wetland Conservation Act - BWSR
- Local Water Management - BWSR
- SSTS (Septic Sewage) - MPCA

# Soil and Water Conservation Districts

## SWCD Aid Funding – Tax Bill/Dept. of Revenue

If Minnesota wants to increase its pace of progress toward **clean water**, **healthy soil** and **climate resiliency** goals we need to establish an adequate, permanent state funding solution for SWCDs.

A state investment in **SWCD Aid** will help address a chronic funding shortfall and build SWCD capacity statewide.





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