

# Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources Capital Investment Requests House Capital Investment Committee – March 6, 2024

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# Our Mission

A photograph of a wetland landscape. In the foreground, there are tall, thin grasses with some brown seed heads. The middle ground shows a body of water reflecting the sky and the surrounding vegetation. The background is a flat expanse of wetland with more tall grasses under a cloudy sky.

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

# Who We Work With

- **88** Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- **45** Watershed Districts
- **87** Counties
- Joint Powers Organizations
- State and Federal agencies
- Agricultural and Environmental NGOs
- Tribal Governments

**Focus on Minnesota's private lands –  
76% of the state**



# BWSR Statutory Authorities

Chapter	Title
12A	<a href="#"><u>Natural Disaster, State Assistance</u></a>
103A	<a href="#"><u>Water Policy and Information</u></a>
103B	<a href="#"><u>Water Planning and Project Implementation</u></a>
103C	<a href="#"><u>Soil and Water Conservation Districts</u></a>
103D	<a href="#"><u>Watershed Districts</u></a>
103E	<a href="#"><u>Drainage</u></a>
<b>103F</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>Protection of Water Resources</u></a></b>
<b>103G</b>	<b><a href="#"><u>Waters of the State</u></a></b>
103H	<a href="#"><u>Groundwater Protection</u></a>
114D	<a href="#"><u>Clean Water Legacy Act</u></a>

# 2024 Capital Investment Requests

## BWSR

BWSR Capital Investment Requests	Amount Requested
Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program	\$10M
Local Government Roads Wetlands Replacement Program	\$2.5M – GO \$2.0M – GF

# Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM): \$10M



\$10M in bonding is requested to acquire conservation easements from landowners.

Purposes:

- to preserve, restore, create, and enhance wetlands and associated uplands of prairie and grasslands
- restore and enhance rivers and streams, riparian lands, and associated uplands to protect soil and water quality, support fish and wildlife habitat, reduce flood damage, increase climate resiliency, and provide other public benefits.

An agreement remains allowing an opportunity for a federal match.

# Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program: \$4.5M



\$2.5M in GO Bonds and \$2M in GF is requested in 2024 to address BWSR statutory requirements to replace wetlands and wetland areas of public waters drained or filled by public transportation projects on existing roads.



These funds will restore and permanently protect wetlands and generate wetland replacement (mitigation) credits for the Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program (LGRWRP) to meet requirements.

**Average annual demand is 170 credits.**

# Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program: \$4.5M

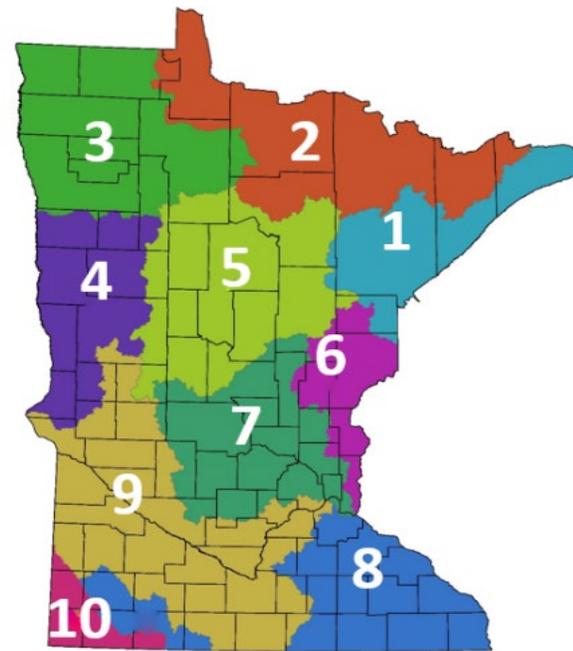


- Larger, higher-quality wetland mitigation
- More cost-efficient
- Expedited permitting



# The Need

- When available credits in an area are insufficient, credits are taken from the closest area with a positive balance at an extra cost.
- Credit needs are driven by road construction activity (exacerbated by federal funding).
- It typically takes at least 7 years from when funds become available until all credits are deposited.



Bank Service Area Map

Bank Service Area (BSA)	Avg Annual Demand	Current Balance (as of 01-19-24)
1 - Great Lakes	7.0	27.1
2 - Rainy River	7.0	126.3
3 - Red River North	28.0	42.3
4 - Red River South	10.0	12.1
5 - Upper Mississippi North	22.0	68.7
6 - St. Croix River	13.0	0
7 - Upper Mississippi South	50.0	28.2
8 - Lower Mississippi	5.0	9.1
9 - Minnesota River	27.0	5.4
10 - Missouri River	2.0	0.1

# BWSR Budget Request

## BWSR Contacts

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