



Bois de Sioux
Watershed District

Calendar Year 2024 Annual Activity Report



Clear waterflow from grassed Traverse County Ditch #44 (right) meets sediment-laden water flow from a natural watercourse (left).

This report is provided pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103D.351

**BOIS DE SIOUX WATERSHED DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT
CALENDAR YEAR 2024**

BOARD OF MANAGERS

NAME	COUNTY	PHONE	TERM EXPIRES	OFFICERS
<i>Linda Vavra</i>	Stevens	320-677-2586	2025	President
<i>Allen Wold</i>	Traverse	320-563-8743	2023	Secretary
<i>John Kapphahn</i>	Grant	218-685-4604	2023	Treasurer
<i>Scott Gillespie</i>	Big Stone	320-748-7149	2027	
<i>Jerome Deal</i>	Traverse	320-563-8377	2025	Served thru 10/2024
<i>Steven Deal</i>	Traverse	320-760-5747	2025	Appointed 12/2024
<i>Doug Dahlen</i>	Grant	320-766-5794	2025	
<i>Benjamin Brutlag</i>	Otter Tail	218-731-2117	2023	
<i>Jason Beyer</i>	Wilkin	218-651-0135	2027	Vice President
<i>Steven Schmidt</i>	Traverse	320-563-8104	2027	

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Troy Fridgen, Engineer Technician
Jamie Beyer, Administrator

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The Legacy Act Clean Water Fund, Red River Watershed Management Board, the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, and the Outdoor Heritage Fund have provided grants supporting District projects in 2024. Please see "Project Grant Funding Sources" at the end of this report for awards from pass-thru state agencies, councils, and commissions.

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Construction continued in 2024 on the Mustinka River Rehabilitation

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SECTION ONE - GENERAL FUND

Project Status and Business Transacted

2024 Board Meetings

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District Board of Managers meet regularly on the third Thursday of each month starting at 8:00 a.m., April through October, and at 9:00 a.m., November through March.

January 25, 2024
February 15, 2024
March 21, 2024
April 18, 2024
May 16, 2024
June 17, 2024
June 21, 2024

July 18, 2024
August 15, 2024
September 19, 2024
October 11, 2024
October 17, 2024
November 26, 2024
December 19, 2024

Background

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District (the “District”) was established on May 11, 1988, by order of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). The District represents an area of about 1,420 square miles and includes Traverse County (38%), Grant County (27%), Wilkin County (14%), Stevens County (10%), Big Stone County (7%) and Otter Tail County (4%).

The District includes the drainage basins of Lake Traverse and the Bois de Sioux River within the State of Minnesota. The major tributaries are the Mustinka River and numerous creeks in the south and east and the Rabbit River to the north.

Mission Statement & Founding Petition

To provide coordinated water resource management over the entire hydrologic basin of the Bois de Sioux River lying within the State of Minnesota.

Petitions submitted to establish the Bois de Sioux Watershed District cited the need for:

1. Control or alleviation of damage by flood waters;
2. Improvement of stream channels for drainage, navigation and any other public purpose;
3. Reclaiming or filling wet and overflowed lands;
4. Providing water supply for irrigation;
5. Regulating the flow of streams and conserving the waters thereof;
6. Diverting or changing watercourses in whole or in part;
7. Providing and conserving water supply for domestic, industrial, recreational, agricultural, or other public use;
8. Providing for sanitation and public health and regulating the use of streams, ditches, or watercourses for the purpose of disposing of waste;
9. Repair, improve, relocate, modify, consolidate, and abandon, in whole or in part, drainage systems within a watershed district;
10. Imposition of preventative or remedial measures for the control or alleviation of land and soil erosion and siltation of watercourses or bodies of water affected thereby;
11. Regulating improvements by riparian landowners of the beds, banks, and shores of lakes, streams, and marshes by permit or otherwise in order to preserve the same for beneficial use;
12. Protecting or enhancing the quality of water in watercourses or bodies of water;

13. Providing for the protection of groundwater and regulating groundwater use to preserve groundwater for beneficial use.

Furthermore, the petition cited that establishment of the District would be conducive to the public health and public welfare by:

1. Preventing damage to farm buildings and farmyards, public roads and farmlands due to flooding.
2. Removing county boundaries from determining an overall and comprehensive use of the water and natural resources.
3. Controlling and regulating private ditching, obstruction of natural waterways and the antagonism amongst neighboring landowners regardless of the county in which they are located.

Board Activity

The board held fourteen (14) meetings in 2024. Staff, committee, and project team meetings were also conducted for purposes of reviewing issues identified at the board meetings and to meet with landowner groups in an informal setting, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103E.043, to discuss legal ditch repairs, improvements, permit activity, and other surface water related problems.

Board Education Opportunities

CONFERENCES & MEETINGS

Drainage Work Group Meetings (Monthly at times)
Red River Basin Commission Conference (January 16, 2024)
North Ottawa Project Team Meetings (January 23 & August 23, 2024)
AMC Drainage Conference (February 7 & 8, 2024)
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Capitol Hill Meetings & Visits (March 6 – 7, 2024)
Joint Red River Watershed Management Board & Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Conference (March 19 & 20, 2024)
Association of Drainage Inspectors (March 21 & 22, 2024)
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Summer Tour (June 25 & 26, 2024)
SWCD Field Days
Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts Annual Conference (December 3 – 6, 2024)
Prairie Grains Conference (December 11 & 12, 2024)
1W1Plan/Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (Monthly)

INCLUDED IN BOARD MEETING PACKETS

Big Stone South to Alexandria Transmission Line (01/25/24, 05/16/24)
Analysis of RRWMB Disbursements to the BdSWD: 1998 – 2023 (02/15/24)
Article: Buffer strips were implemented to improve water quality, but their effectiveness is difficult to quantify (03/21/24)
Current Known Flood Hazard Mitigation (FHM) Funding Needs (03/21/24)
Red River Basin Riparian Habitat Program (04/20/24)
Article: Small solutions to the big phosphorus water quality challenge (05/16/24)
Article: Government regulation hits rural landowner as Feds claim dry ditch is “Waters of US” (05/16/24)
Minnesota Geographic Names: Traverse County, Wilkin County, Stevens County, Otter Tail County, Grant County, Big Stone County (05/16/24)
Board of Water and Soil Resources: 2024 Legislative Session Overview (06/21/24)
Board of Water and Soil Resources: Buffer law approaching 100% compliance, BWSR staff focuses on maintenance and relationships (06/21/24)
Clean Water Council: Buffer Compliance Nears 100% (06/21/24)
RRWMB Results of 2024 Minnesota Legislative Session (06/21/24)
Article: Minnesota lawmakers assert protections for public waters (06/21/24)

Article: Villagers praise farmer who went to jail for protecting their homes by bulldozing a riverside beauty spot (06/21/24)
2024 Wetland Conservation Act Statute Changes (07/18/24)
Wetland Conservation Act Summary of Key 2024 Statutory Amendments (07/18/24)
Article: Types of Streams (07/18/24)
Public Waters Inventory (PWI) Update Project (07/18/24)
Article: 5 Takeways from the 2024 Legislative Session (09/19/24)
Tonga Volcano & Global Warming (09/19/24)
MN DNR: Frequently Asked Questions – Public Waters Inventory Update (09/19/24)
MN DNR: Public Waters Inventory Update Project (10/17/24)
Article: New Report: Dam Removal Movement Breaks Barriers and Records (11/26/24)
Article: Flood damage looks like sheer carnage (11/26/24)
Article: Move by DNR to update Minnesota public waters list has some farmers concerned (11/26/24)
Collaboration on Surface Water Management in Northwest Minnesota: The Red River (11/26/24)

Red River Retention Authority

In 2010, the Red River Retention Authority (RRRA) was formed through a joint powers agreement between the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) in Minnesota and Red River Joint Water Resource District (RRJWRD) in North Dakota.

The RRRA is comprised of members of the RRWMB, a Minnesota political subdivision and the RRJWRD, a North Dakota political subdivision. The primary objective of the RRRA is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitate implementation and construction of retention in the Red River Valley. The RRRA and its members aggressively pursue federal dollars to off-set local costs for retention projects, and serve as an advocate for local projects in the federal regulatory process. The RRRA Directors seek basin-wide solutions to realize effective flood protection and flood damage reduction, accomplished on a strategic project-by-project basis.

Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group

The Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG or Work Group) was originally formed in 1998 to address issues related to the development of flood damage reduction projects in that portion of the Red River of the North Basin lying in Minnesota.

While recognizing that the ultimate solutions to the flood damage and natural resource problems in the Red River Basin will take a concerted effort from people throughout the Basin, the Work Group was formed to address issues that are unique to Minnesota. However, the Work Group maintains extensive communications and coordination with jurisdictions and organizations throughout the Basin. For example, in 2005, two members of the Flood Damage Reduction Work Group also served as chairpersons for other Basin-wide organizations.

The Work Group is not a legally constituted body and has no regulatory or funding authority. It is an ad hoc group of individuals representing federal, state, and local governments, and non-governmental organizations that meet voluntarily under a set of mutually agreed upon ground rules. The Work Group meets for the purpose of coordinating the implementation of the 1998 Mediation Agreement and making recommendations to other authorities and jurisdictions within the Red River Basin to that effect.

Linda Vavra serves as a member to the FDRWG representing the RRWMB.

Minnesota Watersheds

Minnesota Watersheds is a statewide organization that provides educational opportunities, information, and

training for watershed district managers and staff through yearly tours, meetings, and regular communication. Minnesota Watersheds represents 45 watershed districts in the state. The watershed districts are partners in water protection and management.

Linda Vavra continued to serve as a member representing Region I for Minnesota Watersheds Board of Directors, and in 2024 served as President.

BdSWD Advisory Committee

Chair Ron Staples	Dean Frisch	Doug Jahnke	Chad Zimmer
Doyle Sperr	Mark Summers	Eric Klindt	
Scott Bauer	Duane Duin	John Walkup	

The Advisory Committee met on January 8, 2024. Committee members met with Engineer James Guler, Attorney Lukas Croaker, Engineer Technician Troy Fridgen, President Linda Vavra, and Administrator Beyer. The Committee received information on permitting, ditch projects, watershed projects, buffers, and the One Watershed One Plan.

Other General Fund Activities

- **Legal & Engineer Rates:** 2024 rates were approved (01/25/24).
- **Billable Rates for 2024 set as follows (06/21/24).** Billable Rates were also set for engineering and legal staff (06/21/24):

2024 BILLING RATES

(based on 2023 Audit and BWSR Calculator)

	District Administrator	District Office Manager	District Engineer Tech
Salary + Benefits	\$ 45.00	\$ 28.38	\$ 57.10
Salary + Benefits + Facilities	\$ 77.65	\$ 61.02	\$ 89.74
Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 86.28	\$ 69.65	\$ 98.37

Historical Rates

2023 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 85.75	\$ 68.24	\$ 95.97
2022 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 81.81	\$ 60.75	\$ 87.69
2021 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.49	\$ 56.45	\$ 82.46
2020 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.79	\$ 56.18	\$ 81.75
2019 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 74.52	\$ 55.78	\$ 80.05
2018 Salary + Benefits + Facilities + Administration	\$ 140.51	\$ -	\$ 130.30

- **2024 Resolutions:**
 1. 2024 – 2025 Annual Organization Resolution (06/21/24)
 2. 2025 Ad Valorem Levies Resolution (08/15/24)
 3. 2025 Resolution Budgeting Annual Redpath Impoundment Project Funds (08/15/24)
 4. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds – Clean Water Retrofit Cost Share – WCD #Sub-1 (09/18/24)
 5. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds – Culvert Sizing Cost Share – WCD #Sub-1 (09/18/24)
 6. Resolution Authorizing Transfer of Funds – Clean Water Retrofit Cost Share – LTWQIP No. 1 (09/19/24)
 7. 275.065 (a)(a) Special District Resolution Certifying Project Cost & Assessment – LTWQIP No. 1 (11/26/24)
 8. 2025 Resolution of Ad Valorem Tax Levy (12/19/24)
 9. 2025 Resolution for Ditch Assessment Levies (12/19/24)
- **Financial Activities:** Grants associated with the 2023 Flood, WCD #Sub-1 Improvement, Lighting Lake

Outlet, Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project Phase #3, and 1W1Plan Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Grant #1 were received as part of the final project close-out process. An additional \$424,163 was awarded to an existing Watershed Implementation Fund Grant from the Clean Water fund Legacy Act Board of Water and Soil Resources on behalf of the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Program participants; \$95,468 of that grant to be used to support development of the Doran Creek project; the balance of the funds are estimated to be applied to projects by the Soil and Water Conservation Districts. (03/21/24, 08/15/24).

- **End of Year:** End of year transfers and journal entries for 2023 were approved (01/25/24).
- **Yukon Disposal:** The District's 2001 GMC Yukon was offered and awarded to highest bidder at a price of \$2,100 (01/25/24).
- **Certificates of Deposit:** The People's State Bank was approved for inclusion in the District's depositories (02/15/24).
- **Annual Audit:** The financial statements and results of the 2023 annual audit were presented (04/18/24).
- **Transfers and Project Closeouts:** Project closeout hearings were held for Lightning Lake Outlet No. 1 (07/18/24), Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 Phase #3 (07/18/24), Mustinka River & Redpath Flood Impoundment Phase 2A (07/18/24), and WCD #Sub-1 Improvement (08/15/24)
- **Elections, Annual Organization & Committees:** Approval of the annual organization resolution, election of officers, and committee assignments was approved (06/21/24).
- **Tort Liability:** Tort liability limits were not waived (07/18/24).
- **Annual Review of Conflict of Interest Policy:** Conflict of Interest, Data Access, and Records Retention Schedule policies were reviewed (07/18/24).
- **District Engineer:** After over 10 years of service and supported by the District Board, Chad Engels recommended that Mr. James Guler be designated District Engineer (07/18/24).
- **2024 Audit:** A master services agreement and state of work with CliftonLarsonAllen were approved; the cost for the 2022 audit and financial statements will be \$15,500 (11/17/23).
- **Budgets, Assessments & Levies:** Budget hearings were held, with assessment and levy approvals following each hearing (08/15/24, 12/19/24).
- **2024 Staff Wages:** Staff increases were set at 3.5% (12/21/23).
- **Traverse County Wind & Solar Ordinance:** Board Manager Allen Wold volunteered service on a sub-committee to review and draft a solar/wind energy ordinance for Traverse County.
- **CD Purchases:** CD purchases were authorized (08/15/24).
- **Service Contract:** A legislative state advocacy service contract was approved for 2025 (09/19/24).
- **Mileage Distances:** Distances between board manager residences and the District Office were reviewed but not changed for 2024 (01/26/24).
- **Depository Added:** People's State Bank of Fairmount/Wahpeton was added (02/15/24).
- **Property Sold:** The District's GMC Yukon was sold by bid (01/26/24).
- **Annual Policy Reviews:** District managers reviewed the District's Data Access Policies, Records Retention Schedule, and Conflict of Interest Disclosure (07/18/24).
- **2025 Employee Compensation:** Upon motion by Wold, seconded by Schmidt and carried unanimously, the \$1,800 increase to employee health insurance will be covered by the District and a \$2,500 increase in wages.



View from the Northwest corner of the Mustinka River Rehabilitation & Redpath Flood Impoundment, looking East.

SECTION TWO - RRWMB FUND

Project Status and Business Transacted

The Red River Watershed Management Board's jurisdiction and authority encompasses the area managed by the individual watershed districts that have membership on the Board. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District continued with its membership to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

Seven watershed districts within the Red River Valley form the RRWMB including the Joe River, Two Rivers, Roseau River, Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers, Red Lake, Wild Rice, and Bois de Sioux.

The RRWMB was created by an act of the Minnesota Legislature in 1976 to provide an organization with a basin-wide perspective concerning flooding. Historically, the activities of the RRWMB have centered on flood control. Previous efforts in dealing with the flooding problem within the Red River Basin consisted of single projects within a localized area, planned with primary regard to local benefits. The RRWMB actively promotes a basin-wide perspective for water management.

Linda Vavra was elected to represent the District (11/26/24). According to RRWMB, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District position will expire December 31, 2027.

Expire on December 31st of each year noted.

- 2024, 2027, 2030, and 2033
Bois de Sioux Watershed District
Joe River Watershed District
- 2022, 2025, 2028, and 2031
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
Roseau River Watershed District
- 2023, 2026, 2029, and 2032
Red Lake Watershed District
Two Rivers Watershed District
Wild Rice Watershed District

Red River Watershed Management Board Levy

Per a notice from a RRWMB meeting dated July 16, 2024 – effective for the 2025 certified tax levy:

WHEREAS, the RRWMB Budget and Finance Committee reviewed RRWMB finances and funding commitments on June 25, 2024 and recommended that the 2025 Red River Levy be set at 75 percent or 0.0003627 times the taxable market value on all taxable property within RRWMB member watershed districts;

Other RRWMB Fund Activities

- **RRWMB Update.** Executive Director Rob Sip gave an update of financial position and funding commitments (02/15/24, 08/15/24).
- **Closed Grants:** \$112,500 Base Funding Grant for WCD #Sub-1; \$1,091,440.67 Water Quality Grant for Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 Phase #3
- **New Grants:** \$90,000 Base Funding Grant for Doran Creek

SECTION THREE – CONSTRUCTION FUND

Project Status and Business Transacted

Project Teams

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District is a subwatershed of the Red River of the North Basin. In December 1998, many agencies and organizations signed the Red River Basin Mediation Agreement which outlined how projects will be developed in the Red River Valley in Minnesota. That agreement states that the districts within the basin will attempt to balance each project design with Flood Damage Reduction (FDR) benefits and Natural Resource Enhancements (NRE). Part of that process requires that each district establish a project team for each project containing members from local, regional, state, and federal agencies along with environmental organizations and local landowners.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District has eight (8) historical project teams: Bois de Sioux Direct/Doran Creek (ROW acquisition), North Ottawa (project complete), Redpath (construction), East Branch Twelvemile Creek, West Branch Twelvemile Creek, Moonshine, Rabbit River, TCD #52. A great deal of information has historically been gathered from these teams, and the information gathered is considered in subsequent project design and permitting tasks.

Active Project Teams: North Ottawa (NRE operations), Twelvemile Creek (project design), Moonshine (project design).

Bylaws and Regulations

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District has adopted rules to control watershed activities as required by Minn. Stat. § 103D.341. Bois de Sioux Watershed District rules lay out a permit process that landowners must follow. Permits are required for any type of work related to subsurface drainage tile; new ditching; improved ditching; bridge and culvert installations; drainage from one sub-watershed to the other; construction, alteration, or removal of any dike; reservoir work; land forming – exclusive of the common farming practice of land leveling; wetland drainage; and work within natural drainage ways, lakes, wetlands, and other abutting land and drainage structures. Landowners should contact the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Office for assistance and direction in filing permits.

For a copy of the Policies and Procedures Manual of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, please contact the Bois de Sioux Watershed District Office or go to www.bdswd.com.

Any land owner that proceeds to do work without a permit, when the project requires one, is subject to a minimum \$250 After-The Fact Permit Fee plus any Engineering/Attorney Fees incurred in processing of said permit.

There were a total of 154 permit applications received in 2024.

2024 Projects and Programs

Distributed Storage Strategy

In 2012, the BdSWD completed a 20% Flow Reduction Strategy for the watershed, requiring 123,561 Ac-Ft of storage to be constructed after 1997. The study used a synthetic 100-yr event called the “Standard Melt Progression” that was calibrated to the USACE wet period 100-yr balanced hydrograph at Fargo. A total of 26 sites or potential projects were identified within the District, placing locations in the Lake Traverse and Rabbit River basins. Site selection was based primarily on the need for local flood control as flooding problems are widespread in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District.

The Bois de Sioux Watershed District prioritizes development of specific impoundment projects based on need, landowner support, permit compatibility, funding opportunities, and importance of other watershed projects and

programs that require the time of district staff. Projects currently under construction: Redpath Flood Impoundment (19,000 ac-ft of gated storage; 23,000 ac-ft total storage).

The 20% flow reduction goal for the BdSWD and progress made by the BdSWD defined by “total utilized storage” which is gated and ungated storage:

TOTAL POST-1997 STORAGE GOAL	123,561 ACRE-FEET
STORAGE CONSTRUCTED	-17,341 ACRE-FEET (NORTH OTTAWA)
STORAGE CONSTRUCTED	- 51 ACRE-FEET (SAMANTHA LAKE)
STORAGE CONSTRUCTION IN-PROGRESS	<u>-23,000 ACRE-FEET (REDPATH)</u>
REMAINING GOAL	83,169 ACRE-FEET

In 2014, the Red River Basin Commission published the 2014 Halstad Upstream Retention (HUR) Study (https://www.mvp.usace.army.mil/Portals/57/docs/Civil%20Works/Projects/Red%20River/A03_AttachmentA3_RRBC%20HUR%20Final%20Report_R.pdf?ver=2018-04-18-101738-873), that included information on the 20% Flow Reduction Strategy for the District and the 26 sites or potential projects.

Southern Boundary

In July 2023, an amendment was filed with BWSR to correct the description used with the January 26, 2022 BWSR Boundary Resolution; a map included with the resolution identified the correct parcels to be included/removed from the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, but the description of the land excluded three quarter-quarters that were requested for addition to the District by the landowner in Section 20 of Parnell Township, Traverse County. In August 2023, a second resolution changing the District Boundary was submitted upon request of a landowner for portions of two parcels in Section 30 of Pepperton Township, Stevens County. Neither resolution was approved by BWSR before December 31, 2023. The Parnell Section 20 boundary change was approved January 24, 2024; the Pepperton Section 30 boundary change was approved September 30, 2024.

North Ottawa Impoundment Project

The North Ottawa Project Team met 2 times in 2024 (01/23/2024, 08/23/2024). A subcommittee of board managers met with North Ottawa area landowners to discuss 2024 spring flood operations, damages, and repairs.

Project Team members identified possible lease terms for a producer interested in growing wild rice in cell B3. Although an amendment to the current agriculture lease was drafted and a new lease for wild rice production in Cell B3 was drafted, neither were signed in 2024.

Spring Operations and Events: 2024 late spring/early summer precipitation events were in enough volume to fill the Impoundment several times; active drawdowns have been necessary operations to create storage capacity for the next storm event. In a meeting with neighboring landowners, the Board Manager Representatives identified a need to:

- Gages: Establish/Install downstream indicators to determine how quickly water can be released.
- Outlets: Identify and document outlet nuances that complicate operations in practice; identify and pursue improvements to Impoundment outlets and downstream channels (including repair/replacement of non-functioning traps and culverts). Beaver dams have been found to be a significant problem downstream of North Ottawa outlets; because land grades are nearly flat, a beaver dam three miles away can cause flooding upstream.
- Gates: Technician Fridgen talked about the difficulty in operating A4/B4 gates – there is so much pressure against the gate, that it can’t be operated until the cells are equalized. Manager Kapphahn suggested the use of a hydraulic cylinder.
- Operations: Write operation plans that include modifications for growing season flood events.
- Monitoring: Install a monitoring system; employ closer communication with neighboring landowners on local flood events. Engineering staff are putting together a plan for expanded cameras, and Runestone is going to be providing information also.

- Staff Coverage: Employ a clearer set of operation instructions when District staff are absent.
- Ag leases: The lease for the 2023, 2024, and 2025 growing seasons was continued (12/15/22). The producer requested and received a refund for rent of B3, as the operation of the Impoundment prevented for timely spring planting.

Maintenance & Repairs: A flood-tolerant grass is needed in A3.

NRE's: No agricultural production took place in Cells A4, B4, and B3.

NORTH OTTAWA 2024 OPERATIONS



River Watch Program

The River Watch (RW) program provides hands-on watershed science education, promotes water resources stewardship, and introduces high school participants to career opportunities in watershed science. The program focuses on education through water quality monitoring, macroinvertebrate and mussel sampling, snow and frost depth studies, and river geomorphology. The District supports the RW program and valuable water quality data is obtained within the watershed as a result of this project.

The District provides support for the program by covering costs of substitute teachers, transportation, and students' lunches on sampling days and when students attend the RW Forum and the water quality training/certification session. Laboratory analyses of water samples have also been covered if a special research project is undertaken by a RW team or student. Financial support is also provided by the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) and the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Fund. Coordination and implementation support is provided by the International Water Institute.

This partnership with the watershed district and area schools contributes to the education of the students, promotes good stewardship of our water resources, and provides valuable data to area water resource managers and agencies.

Minn. Stat. § 103F.48 Buffers

The Soil Loss Committee met once in 2024 to discuss District-led initiatives to reduce soil erosion, and discussed the use of annual riparian aid.

The District's Use of Buffer Funds for Ditch Repairs Policy was approved (09/21/23). The policy allows Buffer/Soil Loss Prevention Funds to be used to stabilize ditches that have both a high ditch grade (which creates fast moving water and can erode side slopes) and steep side slopes (which creates an opportunity for sloughing).

The District's Preferred Alternative Practice Policy was approved (09/21/23). The policy provides a common alternative practice (no-till and cover crop) for landowners in the Bois de Sioux Watershed District to the 16.5' vegetated buffers required adjacent to public drainage ditches. In December 2023, staff from the Board of Water and Soil Resources requested that the District not send corrective action notices to landowners with the District's approved, preferred alternative practice. They also recommended that District staff meet with SWCD staff from the various counties within the District's jurisdiction to discuss alternative practices.

The Board of Water and Soil Resources has defined common alternative practices that are available to all landowners to implement for compliance. For 16.5' drainage system buffers, these practices are: Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program; Negative slopes or concentrated inflow; Glacial Lake Plain Areas no-till or cover crop.

In 2024, District staff met with Wilkin SWCD Staff and Supervisors (04/10/24), Traverse SWCD Buffer Staff (04/11/24), and Grant SWCD Staff and Buffer Committee (03/22/24). The results of these meetings, in addition to information gathered from Minnesota NRCS staff, emphasized that landowners in different areas of the District may be:

- told that they can only utilize certain, differing alternative practices or that the alternative practices must meet certain restrictions. SWCD staff in all three districts have a history of working closely with landowners on alternative practices that include NRCS Field Office Technical Guide Practices of (at a minimum): 410 Grade Stabilization Structure; 468 Lined Waterway or Outlet; 329 Residue and Tillage Management, No-Till; 340 Cover Crop; 590 Nutrient Management.
- told they are prohibited from utilizing one or more of BWSR's common alternative practices, or that there are additional conditions that must be met in order to implement a BWSR common alternative practice.
- told the SWCD staff cannot determine a parcel "compliant" through the use of an alternative practice without the landowner first installing a 16.5' grass buffer.

- told that they must install an alternative practice on *all field acres* - requiring a practice to be installed on the full 40-, 80-, 160-, 640-acres, or whatever the size of the field is, in order to provide comparable benefits as a 16.5' buffer.

The District confirmed that the use of at least one computer model offered to document an alternative practices' "water quality protection comparable to the buffer protection for the water body" was not designed to be applied to long, low-slope field buffers; this misapplication produces extreme, errored sediment reduction calculations. Using the software, no alternative practice can produce an equivalent reduction because the calculation of sediment reduction for a 16.5' buffer is exaggerated and misrepresented.

On May 21, 2024, staff from the Board of Water and Soils Resources stated that the District, "...should exclude the alternative practice language identified in the draft CAN that was presented to BWSR last winter and determined not to meet the standards/provisions of the Buffer Law;" this determination was provided with no objective data, and seems to be in conflict with BWSR's Alternative Practice 4B Glacial Lake Plain Areas no-till or cover crop.

In an effort to support any District landowners' statutory right to adopt an alternative riparian water quality practice, or combination of structural, vegetative, and management practices, based on the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide, per Minn. Stat. § 103F.48, subd. 3(b) and Section 9(C)(5) of the District's Riparian Protection and Water Quality Practices Rule "Buffer Rule," District staff pursued the help of a professional agricultural technician. The technician was slated to work with landowners and District staff to help bring non-compliant parcels into compliance. A contractor spoke with the board regarding her approach to implementation (04/18/24, 06/15/24). This approach was also supported by the Soil Loss Committee, who also recommended that the District's Corrective Action Notice be revised to reflect this option for landowners (06/05/24). A professional services contract was drafted (07/18/24, 08/15/24). Ultimately, the contract was not signed by the contractor.

After several attempts to coordinate with the third party consultant, District staff began contacting landowners with non-compliant parcels (09/19/24).

The District continues to partner with District landowners to take an aggressive approach building a large number of projects that include the goal of preventing soil erosion into ditch systems and public waters. Some of these projects include:

- Close-out of 2023 Flood Damage Repairs (including sediment removal and vegetation restoration) reimbursed with FEMA aid.
- WCD #Sub-1 Drainage System Redetermination, including buffer acquisition and installation.
- GCD #21 Drainage System Redetermination development.
- GCD #3 Drainage System Repair development.
- Mustinka River Rehabilitation Corridor: 8 miles of meandering channel and buffers have been created.
- Doran Creek Stream Rehabilitation development.
- Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 Phase 3 buffer acquisition and installation.
- Wilkin SWCD Cover Crop Program \$5,000 commitment renewed for 2023, 2024, and 2025 (05/18/23, 06/15/23).
- Traverse SWCD Erosion Prevention Program commitment for lined waterway cost-share in the amount of \$30,000 for 2024 (12/21/23).
- Grant County Mustinka Corridor Program, for which the District continues to maintain a \$400,000 cost-share commitment.
- Bois de Sioux Watershed District #5 development.
- Staff coordinate re-seeding of buffers following clean-outs of legal drainage systems; additional stabilization measures are taken in areas with high slopes where it is harder to establish vegetation.

Land Acquisition and Sales

Buffer easements continue to be acquired for the close-out of JD #11, JD #6, and WCD #Sub-1. Watershed Districts are limited to \$2,000,000 in total debt, so the District relies on county bonding to finance these projects.

Board managers discussed the sale of unused Redpath land as an option to continue construction on the Redpath Impoundment Project. Staff were authorized to draft sale documents for this real property (11/26/24).

Moonshine Lakebed Restoration Project

A petition for the improvement of Big Stone County Ditch #8 (BSCD #8) was drafted (this is the outlet channel for the proposed Moonshine Lakebed Restoration Project. BSCD #8 construction will be completed under Minn. Stat. Ch. 103E improvement proceedings; by definition, the addition of storage to the legal drainage system requires that improvement proceedings be followed. Bonds are used to cover the costs associated with improvement reports and plans if the project is not established or a contract for construction of the project is not awarded; because the District is a landowner within the BSCD #8 assessment district, the District can fulfill bond requirements. Engineer staff believe that – due to the sediment and phosphorus reductions that will be realized for impaired Lannon and Toqua Lakes, and the addition of flood impoundment storage – this project will be a competitive candidate for outside grant funding. Board managers authorized the District to fulfill bond requirements as a landowner and in recognition of the wider impacts that the stabilization and impoundment designs will provide beyond BSCD #8 landowners (04/18/24).

Moonshine 24/13

No action was taken on this project in 2024.

Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project

Phase One: Construction completed in 2021.

Phase Two: Construction completed in 2022.

Phase Three (Final): Construction completed in 2024 (07/18/24).

Phases for this project have received funding from BWSR Clean Water Fund Legacy Act, Red River Watershed Management Board, DNR Conservation Partners Legacy, Traverse County Local Water Planning, and Traverse SWCD.

The Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project consists of a multi-phased approach to stabilize a tributary inlet to Lake Traverse. The tributary is listed as a MN Public Water and is also a 103E ditch system known as Traverse County Ditch No. 52 (TCD #52). The TCD #52 tributary consists of 15 miles of open channel providing drainage for approximately 32.4 square miles of agricultural lands.

The vast majority of the system is designated as Minnesota Public Waters including the outlet reach which empties into Lake Traverse. Phase 1 of the stabilization project, finalized in 2021, began at the outlet into Lake Traverse and proceeded upstream to the first road crossing at State Highway 27. This 3,500 lineal foot stretch of public water was a severely eroded gully; this stretch alone discharged approximately 50,000 tons of sediment since 1951 into Lake Traverse. Phase 1 of the project has provided a stable outlet and enhanced fish passage and habitat. Runoff producing storms in 2021 demonstrated an effective natural-channel design that conveyed flows and provided ample habitat features such as pools and riffles.

Phase 2 of the project, constructed in late 2021, consisted of stabilizing a private drainage ditch identified as a public water, which outlets into TCD 52. This reach of public water runs parallel with State Highway 27 and experiences a steep drop in grade (approximately 19 feet in 1,575 ft) which resulted in considerable downcutting, unstable side slopes and sediment deposition into Lake Traverse. Completion of Phase 2 was crucial to stabilize in order to minimize sedimentation and other impacts to the stable outlet created in Phase 1 of the project.

Construction of Phase 3, located upstream of Phase 1 and Highway 27, began in 2023 and continued into 2024. This final phase of the project stabilized 1.2 miles of heavily eroded stream bank. Stabilization methods used for the project included installation of a series of 4 boulder riffles, containing 6 weirs each and 23 individual permanent rock weir structures to provide aquatic passage, grade control, and aquatic habitat, consistent with the natural channel design used in Phases 1 and 2. The majority of the channel is stabilized using native vegetation (primarily grasses) with rip rap used in the vicinity of the rock riffles. The rock riffles provide additional water quality benefit as some

sediment is likely to settle out immediately upstream of the riffle structures. Phase 3 construction was initiated on May 10, 2023, and was completed rapidly with the lack of precipitation during the 2023 construction season, over the course of five pay applications. The final construction punchlist and vegetation establishment confirmation will be completed Spring 2024.

For bookkeeping purposes, Phases 1, 2, and 3 were combined into one fund. A Minnesota Department of Agriculture BMP Loan was used to finance the landowner portion of the project — \$343,193 amortized over 10 years at 1% (09/19/24, 11/26/24). A public hearing held to receive feedback and approve two related assessments: 1) on a per parcel basis: the proposed amount to be assessed for the project cost (as a lump sum payment or assessed at 1% over 10 years); and 2) on a per parcel basis: the proposed amount to be assessed for 2025 maintenance and repair. In total for 2025: \$7,500. Per the rules of the Lake Traverse Water Management District, assessments are capped at \$75,000 annually, and the water management district remains in place in perpetuity. The calculation of parcel contributions were calculated in part with consideration to soil types and land use, utilizing a runoff formula. In general, lands in the western side of the district are relatively homogenous in their contributions (because they utilize Phases 1 & 2 of the project for drainage) and lands in the eastern side of the District are relatively homogenous in their contributions (because they utilize Phases 1 & 3 of the project for drainage). In general, lands in the eastern side of the district were weighted for a larger assessment to equitably distribute the costs of Phases 1, 2, & 3 as Phase 3 was the most expensive.

Redpath Flood Impoundment & Mustinka River Fish and Wildlife Habitat Corridor Project

Phase 1: Construction completed in 2023.

Phase 2A: Construction completed in 2024.

Phase 2B: Construction began Spring 2024.

Phase 3 (Completion of Dike Walls) & 4 (Inlet Channel & Installation of Concrete Structures): Under limited development and permitting.

In 2008, the Board of Managers established the Redpath Project Team and charged them with the task of identifying the problems in the area and reviewing alternative solutions. The team did their work in the first eight (8) months of the year and recommended a project solution to the Board in August 2008.

The Mustinka River Rehabilitation project is located in Traverse and Grant Counties, immediately north of the Redpath Flood Impoundment. A new Mustinka River channel was meandered within a two-stage flood corridor channel. The design recreates a natural river sinuosity with flow controls that stabilizes the channel and protects it from future erosion. This project has been constructed concurrently with the Redpath Flood Impoundment Project, and with the exception of confirmation of vegetation establishment, is essentially complete; materials excavated from the rehabilitated Mustinka River two-stage channel have been used to build the north, east, and south levies of the Redpath Flood Impoundment. There is widespread support (from landowners, Grant & Traverse Counties, and state agency representatives) for the Mustinka River Rehabilitation and Redpath Flood Impoundment Projects.

This project will be a significant bird and wildlife watching destination. In 2024, there were significant project developments.

Phase 2A construction began May 2023, rehabilitating approximately two miles of the Mustinka River, constructing of a portion of the north levee embankment, and pre-loading at the outlet structure. Construction was not interrupted by adverse weather, so construction milestones were achieved ahead of schedule. Remaining minor punchlist items were moved to the Phase 2B construction contract. A close-out hearing was held June 21, 2024.

Phase 2B was awarded a \$1,000,000 water storage grant from the Board of Water and Soil Resources (01/24/24). A one year construction bid option was approved from John Riley Construction Inc. (03/21/24). Pay applications were processed throughout the year, and included change orders for extra handling of wet material generated under Phase 2A and placed under 2B, and the placement of unanticipated extra excavated material for placement on embankments (08/15/24, 08/19/24). The Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project, north levy, east embankment,

north half of the west embankment are complete, and south half of the west embankment is 80% complete. The remaining 20% will be constructed in 2025 (11/26/24).

These projects (with distinct habit enhancing and flood storage features) have received funding from the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund, the Legacy Act LCCMR Fund, Legacy Act BWSR Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices and Multipurpose Drainage Management Grants, DNR Flood Hazard Mitigation Program, the Red River Watershed Management Board, DNR Conservation Partners Legacy, and Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

Redpath Collection Channel

Development is paused until the Redpath Impoundment is near completion.

Doran Creek Restoration

Engineering staff continue to refine project details of a proposed Doran Creek Restoration. The ultimate goals of the project are to construct a 19.25 mile channel restoration, remove up to 3' of sediment, establish a permanent buffer corridor, and construct measures that reduce sediment transport. In order to meet this goal, engineering staff anticipate that grassland easements will be required and meandering pools be widened. Depending on the event (2-, 5-, or 10-Year), up to 1,300 acres would be enrolled under an easement. The project would need to be constructed in phases, as grants are available and – because easement grants are the primary mechanism to pay for the majority of the project – willing, supporting landowners are imperative. The proposed project would address 80% of the 10-year sediment reduction goal and 53% of the 10-year nutrient reduction goal for the Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux Watershed District planning region. Estimates are that the project could cost up to \$8.4 million (02/27/23). RRWMB prepared and submitted a joint Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council Grant on behalf of several RIM projects, including Doran Creek (04/20/23). The Draft Engineer's Report was prepared March 2023, and a Minn. Stat § 103D.605 public hearing was held on July 20, 2023. The meeting was reconvened August 17, at which a request from the DNR was presented stating that the project could not be established until a negative declaration on the need for an Environmental Impact Statement is issued, following official Environmental Assessment Worksheet (EAW) review.

The Draft EAW was authorized for publication (01/25/24). A public hearing was held, and the District Issued the Doran Creek Restoration Project Findings of Fact and Record of Decision and the determination of No Significant Environmental Impact (03/21/24); additional comments were received and acknowledged (05/16/24). A public hearing establishing the Doran Creek Restoration Project was held and the project was approved for establishment (04/18/24, 11/26/24). Right of Entry Agreements were drafted to receive landowner consent for pre-project surveys needed for permitting and funding (07/18/24).

This project has received funding from the BWSR Clean Water Fund Legacy Act, the Red River Water Management Board, and the NRCS National Water Quality Initiative.

Fivemile Creek Restoration

A technical unsteady, 2D RAS river model was developed, a survey and soil borings were completed, and an 85-page hydraulic study was produced. In general, the area is naturally flat and sediment deposits are not frequent in the channel; barring construction of an impoundment, the prior problem contributing to flood conditions are cattail and vegetation growth. Engineering staff have met with DNR permitting authorities and discussed the results of the study.

Following a landowner meeting, engineering staff verified that there are some areas of sedimentation, but that excessive vegetation growth is more prevalent and could be controlled by individual landowners. Two options were presented to Board Managers – Option 1: District support offered to landowners seeking private vegetation control/removal permits; Option 2: District creates a project based watershed assessment District to generate funds for permitting and construction. Engineering staff cautioned that it is not clear whether a creek-scaled vegetation permit or assessment district would be successful with the corresponding stakeholders.

Board managers authorized a pilot project to support individual landowner efforts to acquire a vegetation control permit and employ treatment (01/25/24, 02/15/24).

This project has received funding from the BWSR Clean Water Fund Legacy Act.

East Branch Twelvemile Creek Project/Eldorado Township Flooding/640th Ave Road Raise

In December 2005, the East Branch Twelvemile Creek Project Team made a recommendation to the BdSWD Board for the implementation of 3,300 acre feet of storage in the sub-watershed, but to-date, site suitable land has not been offered for sale by landowners.

Following the Spring 2019 flood, residents voiced a need and support for flood mitigation efforts in this area. Drainage issues continue on the Traverse County-Stevens County line. Drainage issues in the area were divided into those north and south of Stevens County Highway 20/Traverse County Highway 6. In general, landowners and township officials support project plans that correctly separate and control overland flow between the TCD #37 and TCD #8 drainage areas. A 640th Road Raise Project was identified in Dollymount Township and a new drainage system that would outlet to TCD #37 was identified for Eldorado Township.

Dollymount Township received bids for the construction of the 640th Ave Road Raise, which will provide some flood damage protection and is supported by area landowners; the District entered into a cost-share agreement for construction of the project because of the flood damage reduction benefits derived from the project (10/19/23). Construction was to begin in 2024, but at least one landowner easement remained outstanding (04/18/24, 10/17/24, 11/26/24). A payment was made to Dollymount Township for culverts purchased in preparation for the project (10/17/24).

Twelvemile Creek System

Twelvemile Creek is prone to substantial spring flooding. In 2023, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District was awarded a \$300,750 FEMA grant through the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program. The District will use the funds to conduct an engineering feasibility study for the future implementation of infrastructure projects along Twelvemile Creek, downstream from Graceville to the confluence of the Mustinka River. The model will be used to evaluate alternative flood risk reduction practices. Input from three targeted Project Team meetings will be integrated into the model (08/15/24).

Landowner complaints were received from Everglade Township regarding flood conditions upstream of Stevens County Ditch #1, which outlets into Twelvemile Creek (06/21/24).

Construction of proposed BdSWD Ditch #5 would benefit Twelvemile Creek in a variety of ways: the project would include side inlet culverts to transport surface runoff off the field in a controlled manner, and direct flows through grassed channels behind grassed berms – reducing sediment and nutrient transport. Spring flooding along Twelvemile Creek tends to be slow moving and volume-driven; hydrologic modeling of the proposed project indicates a small change in the timing of peak flows and a reduction in peak flows from larger events (05/16/24).

Samantha Lake Flood Outlet Control Project

Grant County is pursuing implementation of a drawdown of Elbow and Samantha Lakes (of up to 18”), and were awarded cost-share funds to complete a Desktop Wetland Delineation and Assessment; Bathymetric Survey; and Hydraulic Study (08/17/23). An existing culvert between Lake Samantha and Elbow Lake was replaced, at an elevation determined by DNR staff (10/19/23).

Grant County Highway staff requested additional information for inclusion in their Environmental Assessment Worksheet for Samantha and Elbow Lake flood control. The District has provided environmental impact data for two scenarios: 1) Lowering the outlet of Samantha Lake by 18”, and 2) Lowering the outlet of Samantha Lake by 18” and replacing a current culvert between the lakes. Grant County Highway staff requested hydraulic data for two more scenarios: 3) Lowering the culvert between Samantha and Elbow Lakes, and 4) Lowering the culvert between

Samantha and Elbow Lakes and keeping outlet gates closed on Samantha Lake (03/21/24).

Lightning Lake

In January 2022, DNR staff presented a cost-share opportunity in coordination with Stoney Brook Township and Grant County to replace a failing Lightning Lake outlet structure with three rock weirs and an additional culvert. The current structure is located on Township Road 54, at the outlet from Lightning Lake to the Mustinka River. The existing structure consists of a concrete weir drop structure that limits the ability for fish to navigate between the two waterbodies. The replacement structure will be redesigned for lower velocities while improving the hydraulic capacity of the crossing. Engineering staff presented the current culvert and



Aerial view of the completed Lightning Lake Outlet Improvement No. 1. Mustinka River (top) and Lightning Lake (below)

dam condition and plan to increase the culvert size and replace the current dam with two staggered rock weirs. The new system maintains the current OHWL, and feature small notches that will allow for continuous flow into the downstream channel. Permanent and temporary easements were obtained for construction and future maintenance. Construction took place in 2023 and punchlist items were finished in 2024. An additional culvert was installed to prevent Stoneybrook Township Road 118 from overtopping, and fish connectivity has been provided with the replacement of the concrete weir structure with a series of boulders, rocks, and chinking material. A closeout hearing was held on June 21, 2024, but had to be recessed and reconvened due to additional requested by DNR staff prior to contract close-out (06/2/24, 07/18/24).

Ownership of the rock weirs is transferred to the Department of Natural Resources and ownership of the concrete box culverts is transferred to Stonybrook Township. The District will have no further responsibility in the project (07/18/24).

Spring Flood

Winter 2023 – 2024 provided a record lack of snowfall accumulation. Temperatures from December – April were mild and above average. However, late spring rains caused flooding in areas of Grant (for eg North Ottawa) and delayed agricultural planting in many areas of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. The prevalence of beaver dams, large rocks dropped into JD #2 by a private landowner, collection and outlet channel storage and culvert sizes for the North Ottawa Impoundment, and the timing of North Ottawa releases could have contributed to, or exacerbated, areas of flooding.

Lake Traverse & Mud Lake Impoundments

Federal US Army Corps staff held listening sessions to collect comments on the update to the Lake Traverse-Mud Lake operations manual. The District provided comments, including a request that the US Army Corps perform maintenance to restore the Bois de Sioux channel to its original design standard and install a stream gage on the Bois de Sioux River at Minnesota State Highway 55.

Some of the proposed changes include how flows out of the White Rock Dam to the Bois de Sioux River will be managed (11/26/24):

Spring Releases

Current Condition: Drawdown may not begin before March 1, and are restricted to a maximum of 1100 CFS (without authorization).

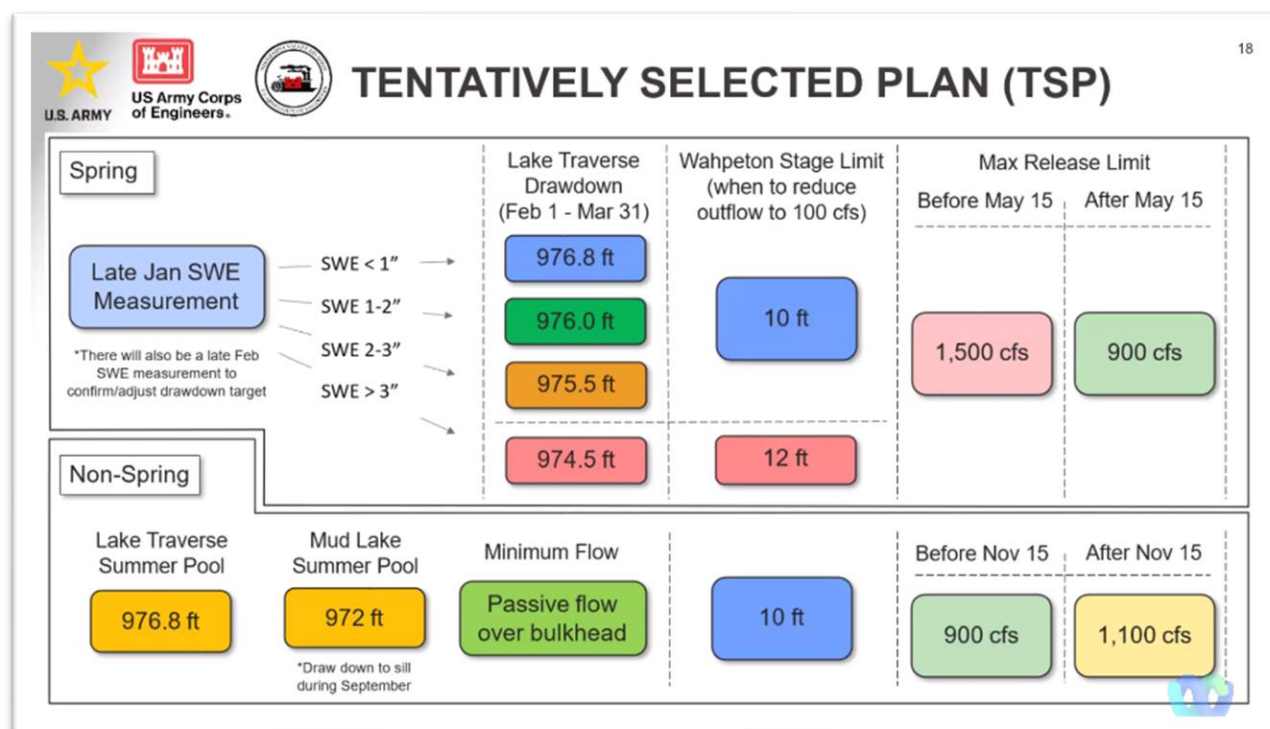
Proposed Condition: Drawdown may not begin before February 1, and is restricted to a maximum of 1500 CFS before May 15 and is restricted to a maximum of 900 CFS after May 15.

Non-Spring Releases

Current Condition: Drawdown may not begin until 976.8' Lake Traverse Elevation is met; restricted to a maximum of 1100 CFS and there is no minimum flow established.

Proposed Condition: Drawdown may not begin until 976.8' Lake Traverse Elevation is met; restricted to a maximum of 900 CFS before November 15/a maximum of 1100 CFS after November 15 and a passive flow over bulkhead for a minimum flow. A Mud Lake drawdown will be coordinated in September, to address the silt.

Army Corps staff stated that their modeling demonstrates that minimal lands adjacent to the Bois de Sioux River channel are flooded at 900 CFS. Beyond 900 CFS, agricultural lands will be flooded to varying degrees; they also recognized that sediment has accumulated in the Bois de Sioux River channel.



Stream Gaging & Locations

Volunteers that live within the vicinity of each gage conduct the actual day-to-day monitoring of the stream gauge. The program is coordinated through the administrative office. Volunteer readers are compensated at a rate of one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125) per gauge, per year, to help offset costs for accessing the gauge. Stream Gauge Data for 2024 has been entered into the BdSWD computer database.

Each year, gauge readers are asked about the condition of their gauging site via a questionnaire sent by mail. If the gauge needs work or there is a request to modify the gauge, it is reviewed by the administration and assigned to an engineering technician to investigate, repair, or modify as the case may require.

This year an electronic fillable form was utilized for interested gauge readers. This allows readers to input the information on their phone through ESRI ArcGIS Survey 123. All information submitted by gauge readers can be found at an online dashboard (link below).

<https://mooreengineering.maps.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/d0a689a20cbd45c19efc15ba649bc0c3>

2024 Legislative Changes

As discussed July 18 and August 15, 2024, There were significant changes enacted during the 2024 legislative session that will impact both watershed and landowner water projects.

- BWSR staff added language to a “housekeeping bill” draft by Minnesota Watersheds bill that implemented a large number of changes to the Wetland Conservation Act. BWSR staff stated the purpose of these changes was to implement state regulation of areas deemed not to be wetlands by the recent Sackett decision which significantly narrowed the scope of the Clean Water Act’s protection of wetlands and other waterways of the Waters of the United States.
- The DNR received approval to expand the definition and application of Public Waters designations to new areas of currently private lands. As stated by DNR staff, “...that the watercourse has been farmed-through has no bearing on whether the watercourse is public water.” Testimony given on the bill’s behalf asserted that around 400 miles would be added to the Public Waters Inventory. In reality, this change has the potential to affect tens of thousands of miles of land, not water.
- BWSR staff are currently designing a new “stream mitigation” system, under which LGU’s and private landowners will be required to replace and create new streams, similar to the wetland banking system, a system that ensures they will continue adding more private land to BWSR regulating authority.
- BWSR gained new government authority over private lands through a new regulatory policy on perennial and intermittent streams. In 2025, BWSR staff are expected to release their draft of how they intend to regulate intermittent and perennial “watercourses” (these likely do not contain standing or flowing water). These private land areas are new, and in the case of intermittent, are likely dry. The relevant EPA definitions are:

Year-round streams (perennial) - typically have water flowing in them year-round. Most of the water comes from smaller upstream waters or groundwater while runoff from rainfall or other precipitation is supplemental.

Seasonal streams (intermittent) – these flow during certain times of the year when smaller upstream waters are flowing and when groundwater provides enough water for stream flow. Runoff from rainfall or other precipitation supplements the flow of seasonal stream. *During dry periods, seasonal streams may not have flowing surface water.*

These initiatives have interrelated consequences; their initiation triggers an avalanche of subsequent cascading government activities. For example, the designation of “public waters” results in requirements for double-sided 50’ buffers, MPCA chemistry and biological water quality monitoring and standards, impairment designations that oftentimes hinder the very projects that can improve water quality, DNR minimum/ordinary water level designations and requirements, etc. It is important to note that county shoreland ordinances will also now apply to the new wetlands and public waters – so the expansion of these designations amplifies the application of county zoning rules and restrictions, and the resources required to enforce the same.

These three major campaigns – to change wetland rules, to expand the designations of public waters, and to authorize government rule over new areas of private land – were not vetted through the Drainage Workgroup. What is certain, is that each of these three areas will have a direct and dramatic impact to both Minnesota watershed and drainage authority project feasibility, permitting, design, and cost – and will have impacts both for LGU’s and private landowners.

New in 2024: BWSR and DNR are asserting authority to make rules and decisions that apply to land outside the physical banks of the public watercourses; BWSR and DNR are asserting authorities to control what landowners do

in the entire subwatershed/dry land upstream and adjacent to their proposed watercourses. This is a dramatic shift. They are also asserting an authority to not only regulate surface activities - but also subsurface activities. These changes will likely result in overlapping jurisdictions; the DNR's definition of "public waters" is based on a description of land and BWSR's definition of intermittent and ephemeral streams is based on a description of water. Overlap between the two definitions is entirely possible.

Other Construction Fund Activities

- **Permit Committee:** A Permit Committee was designated (Brutlag, Wold, Kapphahn, Schmidt, Vavra) and met to discuss possible changes to District permit application requirements (09/19/24, 11/26/24).
- **Property Tax Exemptions:** Approval was given to request exemptions for District owned land purchased for public property used exclusively for public purposes (01/25/24).
- **Cover Crop Cost Share:** Wilkin SWCD presented the results of District cost-share funds used in 2023 (05/16/24). An annual \$5,000 cost share award was approved for Wilkin SWCD for 2023, 2024, and 2025 (05/18/23).
- **Construction Fund Transfers:** \$110,000 was transferred to WCD #Sub-1 under the District's Clean Water Retrofit Cost Share Policy; \$414,460.42 was transferred to WCD #Sub-1 under the District's Culvert Sizing Cost Share Policy (09/19/24). \$150,000 was transferred to the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project under the District's Clean Water Retrofit Cost Share Policy (09/19/24).
- **Agricultural Leases:** District owned Redpath and Moonshine farmland was noticed for bid. A lease was approved for crop years 2024, 2025, and 2026 (01/26/24).
- **District Culvert & Clean Water Cost Share Policies:** Policies were revised to recognize sediment reductions resulting from system-wide repairs and improvements to public drainage systems that include subsurface drainage features (02/15/24).
- **Chronic Flood Conditions:** Board Managers received comments and complaints related to chronic flooding in Almond Township and Everglade Township.
- **Campbell Slough:** Engineering staff has been gathering information on behalf of Almond Township officials in regard to flooding of Campbell Slough in Big Stone County. Staff provided a letter detailing site findings and support for a review of the Campbell Slough Ordinary High Water Level designation (03/21/24).
- **Ring Dike Program:** In response to published public notices, four landowners have expressed interest in ring dike flood protection. Staff were authorized to meet with landowners, collect preliminary survey elevations, and provide project costs estimates (08/15/24).
- **Bradford Township:** Engineering staff met with landowners from Bradford Township to discuss flooding issues on land and roads in the area between WCD #8 and WCD #9. Landowners intend to work with Bradford Township officials to implement a project in the road right-of-way to right-size four miles of culvert sizing and elevations. Upon motion by Beyer, seconded by Gillespie and carried unanimously, Moore Engineering staff are authorized to provide the necessary hydraulic analysis, including surveys, elevations, and gradelines, at an estimated cost of \$10,000 - \$15,000 (11/26/24).



Aerial view of Phase 3 of the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1, looking North towards Lake Traverse.

SECTION FOUR - DITCH FUND

Project Status and Business Transacted

Beginning in 1992, sixty-three (63) ditch systems have been under the jurisdiction of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District - this amounts to approximately 414.9 lineal miles of ditch. Ditch funds are managed by the District office. Annual ditch inspections are completed on a three-year rotation, or as deemed necessary by the District. A copy of the inspection reports are kept on file at the District office.

Summer 2024, Grant County approved the transfer of authority of their remaining Bois de Sioux Watershed District legal drainage systems to the legal authority of the Bois de Sioux Watershed District. The systems are:

GCD #3	GCD #8	GCD #22
GCD Cons Judicial Ditch #2	GCD #9	GCD #29
GCD #5	GCD #11	GCD #32
GCD #6	GCD #15	GCD #33

The District administers an annual spray program to remove, as needed, heavy vegetation, trees, cattails, and brush in legal ditch systems. The District also performs beaver removal practices. This work is also conducted on a three-year rotation, or as deemed necessary by the District.

Legal Drainage Ditch Work

General Activities

- **Equipment Purchased:** No substantial equipment purchased.
- **Equipment Sold:** No substantial equipment sold.
- **Interest Rate:** The interest rate was set in 2019 as an annual index, based on the Long Term Federal Interest Rate for December. For negative ditch funds, the amount used for 2024 was 4.53% (12/19/24).
- **Contractors Hired:** LM Road Services was contracted with to spray cattails and remove trees and brush for Inspection Area 2, and a similar service delivered by Persing Drone Spraying, LLC was contracted with (03/21/24). Ditch maintenance contractors included: Hormann Works LLC, Houston Engineering Inc, Persing, Northland Area Services, Olson & Tile Excavating LLC, Wagner Company Inc, and Whaley Excavating & Concrete.
- **Viewer Pay Rate:** \$45/hour continued (08/17/23).
- **Lined Waterway Outlet Mats:** An additional \$12,000 in cost-share to Traverse SWCD was approved, but mats installed on Minn. Stat. Ch. 103E legal drainage ditches require a District permit.
- **Ditch Inspections:** Zone 2 Inspections were completed and presented (02/15/24).
- **Ditch Assessments Received in 2024 (excluding bond payments): \$459,326.09**

Specific Activities by Ditch

- **BdSWD #3:** Culvert and apron removal; cleanout, flap gates, rip rap, rock removal, cleanout.
- **BdSWD #5:** A landowner bond was provided August of 2023. The Preliminary Engineer's Report was

submitted in 2024, and the Minn. Stat. § 103E.261, subd. 2 hearing was held May 18, 2024.

The need for the project is based on damages associated with the current condition. Excess precipitation flows over bare and cropped ground. During 5-year flood events (and larger), 630th Avenue overtops, sending uncontrolled flows in excess of the current culvert capacity. The project area is used to grow crops that in most areas, can only be accessed by low-elevation dirt roads. Roads become impassable and crops are damaged regularly from small, frequent in-season precipitation events. Landowners also reported that one farmstead is regularly threatened by spring flooding, along with at least one downstream farmstead. The proposed project would direct excess precipitation flows to a centralized, grassed, edge-of-field channel connected to TCD #37, Lateral 1. The proposed condition would reduce the overtopping of 630th Avenue, controlling flow and reducing peak flows on 10-year flood events (and larger). The project area would benefit significantly from a ten-year level of flood protection to prevent road damage and overtopping, and crop yield loss – both of which are happening regularly from small, frequent precipitation events. The proposed channel bottom would include an 8' bottom width, to match the width of downstream TCD #37, Lateral 1. Flows ultimately outlet into Twelvemile Creek. Twelvemile Creek, prone to substantial spring flooding, would benefit in a variety of ways: the project would include side inlet culverts to transport surface runoff off the field in a controlled manner, and direct flows through grassed channels behind grassed berms – reducing sediment and nutrient transport. Spring flooding along Twelvemile Creek tends to be slow moving and volume-driven; hydrologic modeling of the proposed project indicates a small change in the timing of peak flows and a reduction in peak flows from larger events. Per their Advisory Letter, DNR Representatives stated that the Preliminary Survey Report is inadequate, and a number of issues and recommendations were provided. The primary issue raised by DNR representatives is a concern that the proposed project would redirect the majority of existing flow away from a dry ephemeral channel, designated as public water mapped in Dollymount Township Section 24 (05/18/24).

A Petition for Revision to the Public Waters Inventory and Map was submitted by the landowner in Section 24, requesting that, pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 103G.201(e)(2)(i), the depression in the SE1/4 of Section 24, 126 North, Range 45 West be removed based on its failure to meet the definition of a Public Watercourse. The petition was subsequently denied by DNR. Two additional meetings with DNR representatives each resulted in additional, proposed requirements that could be imposed on a project. These meetings failed to identify a realistic flood hazard mitigation project that could be successful in receiving a public waters permit by DNR. The Red River Mediation Agreement states that watershed districts and the DNR are committed to providing Flood Damage Reduction Goals, including: #3. **Reduce** damage to farmland by:

- a. Providing protection against a ten-year summer storm event for intensively farmed agricultural land;
- b. Maintaining existing levels of flood protection when consistent with a comprehensive watershed management plan; and
- c. Providing a higher level of protection, e.g., 25-year event, when feasible at a minimal incremental cost.

Petitioners met with District Managers to emphasize that establishing road access for vehicles/equipment is an urgent landowner and safety need. Township officials intend to move forward with a road project without development of a Minn. Stat. Ch. 103E public drainage system at this time. A future decision will be made to decide if the public drainage system will proceed with development or be abandoned (11/26/24).

- **Cons. JD #2:** Engineering staff found clay tile that requires immediate repair; the system is also affected by manipulation of a US Fish and Wildlife control structure that floods downstream properties with no notice (08/15/24). Engineering staff are authorized to survey existing conditions, prepare a hydraulic analysis, and a feasibility report for a repair and improvement (11/26/24). Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #3:** A public hearing on the Minn. Stat. § 103E.714, subd. 4 Engineer's Repair Report was held March 21, 2024. Grant County will provide bonding. Grant County Highway asked that their culverts be separated in order to pursue state aid (05/16/24). Detailed documents were required by Grant County in order to demonstrate that the repair of the existing system does not impose hydrologic changes that will create new

impacts to wetlands (09/19/24); subsequently a no loss wetland determination was issued by Grant County (11/26/24). The project will be bid in 2025.

- **GCD #5:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #6:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #8:** Beaver dam removal. Cleanout. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment. Minnesota DOT will be working on Highway 27 in 2027 & 2028; the project will include a full depth claim, mill, and overlay (08/15/24). Contact for one of two landowners associated with GCD #8 fish barrier removal has not been established. Overall, DNR representatives are supportive of the barrier's removal, but have not provided letters of support to include with a Conservation Partners Legacy Grant application (09/19/24).
- **GCD #9:** Tree removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #11:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #15:** Tree removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #21:** The Final Hearing on the Improvement Petition, Amended Detailed Survey Report, DNR's Final Advisory Report, and Amended Viewers' Report for the Improvement was reconvened (01/25/24). At the February 15, 2024 board meeting, four orders were approved: Order Suspending Final Hearing to Correct Procedural Errors; Amended Administrator's Order Designating Viewers' Meeting; Findings and Order Initiating the Redetermination of Benefits and Appointing Viewers; and Amended Findings and Order for Detailed Survey Report. These documents were drafted in response to landowner requests, and the requests of their legal representation. One purpose of these documents was to direct the viewing and engineering teams to provide additional information, including costs for separable maintenance, and a redetermination of benefits and damages of the GCD #21 drainage system before factoring the proposed improvement and/or separable maintenance. Landowners requested design changes: original main channel has been requested for repair/improvement; one surface channel has been changed to two parallel subsurface tiles; Branch 3 has been requested for repair/improvement. The amended viewers' reports will propose repair costs distributed throughout the assessment district, and will restrict proposed improvement costs to their associated lateral drainage areas (04/18/24). On June 17, 2024, the board reconvened the GCD #21 hearings, taking landowner questions and comments. The hearing was recessed and reconvened July 18, 2024; the Improvement Petition, Amended Detailed Survey Report, DNR's Final Advisory Report, Viewers' Report on the Redetermination of Benefits and Damages, and Amended Viewers' Report on the Improvement and Separable Repair of Grant County Ditch #21 (GCD #21) were approved and the project was established. Closed meetings in 2024 were held pursuant to Minn. Stat. § 13D.05, subd. 3(b) – attorney-client privilege, to discuss a Notice of Appeal dated September 25, 2024 (10/17/24, 11/26/24, 12/19/24).
- **GCD #22:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #29:** Beaver dam removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #32:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **GCD #33:** Cleanout, spoil leveling. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **JD #2:** Cleanout, rock removal, culvert disposal, backslope repair.
- **JD #3:** Cleanout, riprap culverts, beaver dam removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **JD #6:** Return bond. Beaver dam removal. Easement/damages payments. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **JD #11:** Easement/damages payment. Culvert. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment. A request to resize a culvert was approved, with cost share in the amount of the difference between the cost of a 42' culvert less a 24' culvert. (04/18/24). Prior to the change, a landowner placed additional requests and an informal landowner meeting was authorized for an area of land served by JD #11 and TCD #27 (08/15/24). Landowners identified flooding at the confluence of JD #11, Lateral 4 and the upstream portion of TCD #27. The extreme low-slope of TCD #27 causes high flows to feed into JD #11. There is a need to resize culverts on JD #11, Lateral 4 to direct flows while controlling the volume delivered to the JD #11 mainstem. District Attorney Lukas Croaker presented possible proceedings, including: a transfer of a portion of TCD #27 drainage system infrastructure to JD #11; petition for improvement of JD #11, Lateral 4; and a redetermination of benefits and damages of JD #11. A petition and bond for the Improvement of JD #11, Lateral 4 was accepted, and a preliminary survey and survey report are being prepared (11/26/24).

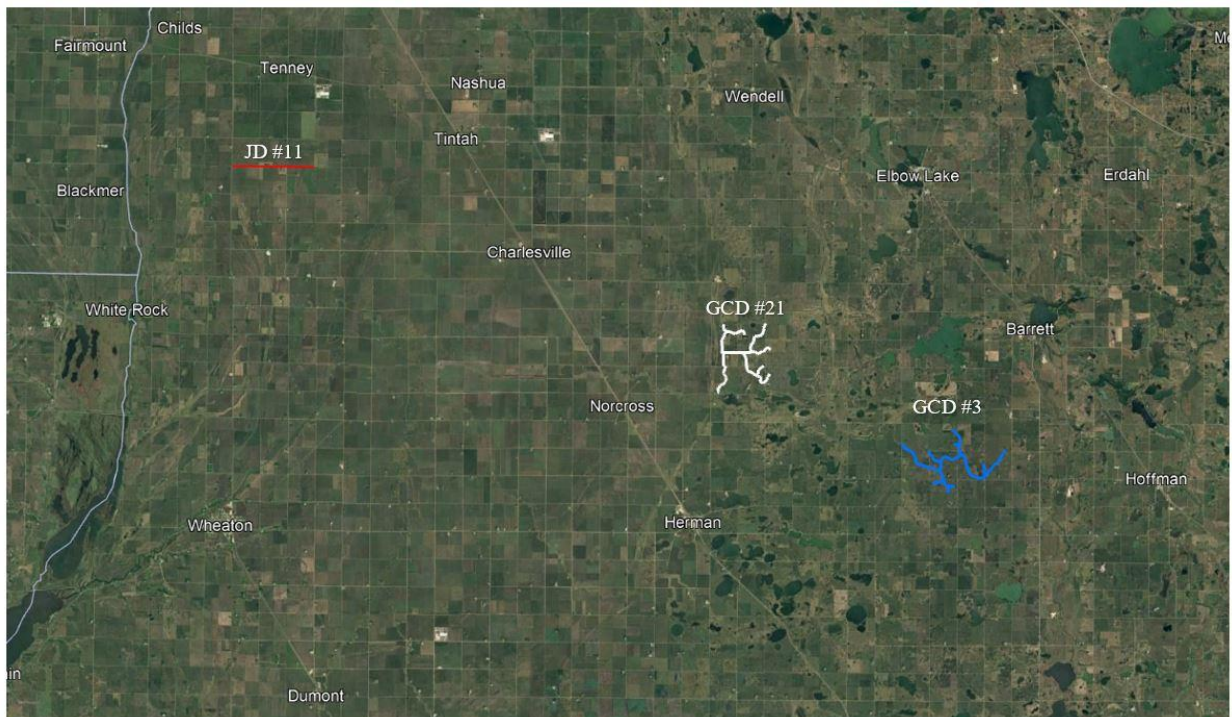
- **JD #12:** Repairs, flap gates, culverts, rip rap, cleanout.
- **JD #14:** Beaver removal, culvert, rip rap, erosion repair.
- **TCD #9:** Tree removal, erosion repair. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #10:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #11:** Beaver removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #13:** Riprap. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #22:** Beaver removal.
- **TCD #26:** Beaver removal, beaver dam removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #27:** Cleanout, erosion repair, shoulder repair, survey. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment. Public waters are overwhelming public drainage systems, and the Mustinka River is backed-up from the mouth into Lake Traverse to TCD #27 (08/15/24). Landowners identified flooding at the confluence of JD #11, Lateral 4 and the upstream portion of TCD #27 (08/15/24, 09/19/24). The extreme low-slope of TCD #27 causes high flows to feed into JD #11. Maintenance is needed on TCD #27. District Attorney Lukas Croaker presented possible proceedings to include a transfer of a portion of TCD #27 drainage system (09/19/24). A Traverse County culvert was found to be sitting at a higher elevation than the drainage system's design and needs to be reinstalled to conform to the system's approved design. The District will cost-share reinstallation of the culverts at a 50-50 rate (10/17/24).
- **TCD #28:** Tree removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #29:** Cleanout.
- **TCD #31:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #32:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #33:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #36:** Cleanout, culvert, remove rocks. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #37:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #38:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #41:** Tree removal.
- **TCD #42:** Cleanout.
- **TCD #43:** Riprap, culverts. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #44:** Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **TCD #51:** Cleanout.
- **TCD #52:** Beaver removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment. A landowner meeting was authorized to discuss culvert elevations, weir elevation, and legal gradeline (08/15/24).
- **TCD #53:** Beaver removal. Weed, brush, tree, cattail control treatment.
- **WCD #Sub-1:** The terms of a license agreement with BNSF Railroad are being drafted, for boring for two culverts that need to be replaced (03/21/24). Construction of the improvement continued (04/18/24). The Minn. Stat. § 103E.555 Final Hearing was held, and final payment to the contractor was authorized (08/15/24). District Culvert Sizing and Clean Water Cost Shares were calculated and applied; a prepayment was made on the bond (09/21/24).
- **WCD #8:** Inspection.
- **WCD #9:** Beaver dam removal, repair culvert washout.
- **WCD #18:** Cleanout, culvert, remove rock.
- **WCD #25:** Project development.
- **WCD #35:** Staff are authorized to notify the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission that the proposed Summit Solutions Carbon Pipeline footprint must be installed beyond the right-of-way of a future WCD #35 Improvement project (08/15/24).
- **WCD #39:** Channel erosion addressed with grade stabilization, flattening of side slopes, and seeding (03/21/24, 04/18/24).

Ditch Petitions

- **Added to TCD #51:** Hearing for Dan Findlay to use TCD #51 as an outlet for Parcel # 02-0168001, E1/2SE1/4 of Section 36, Range 45, Clifton Township (127), Traverse County, subject to payment of outlet

fee and hearing/admin costs (03/21/24).

- **Removed from GCD #3:** S. Anderson, Ms. Stenslie, D. and B. Olsen: Parcel # 14-0043-000, N1/2NE1/4 of Section 9, Range 42, Roseville Township (127), Grant County abandonment of the public open channel for Lateral B4 on the parcel. The removal does not impact the assessment district (04/18/24).
- **Added to TCD #51:** J. Mathias: Parcel #16-0021-000, N1/2 of Section 6, Range 44, Eldorado Township (126), Stevens County, subject to payment of outlet fee and hearing/admin costs (08/15/24).
- **Added to TCD #7:** J. Mathias: Parcel #16-0021-000, N1/2 of Section 6, Range 44, Eldorado Township (126), Stevens County, subject to payment of outlet fee and hearing/admin costs (08/15/24).
- **Added to TCD #18:** S. Lundquist: Parcel #06-0084000, NE1/4 of Section 17, Range 46, Lake Valley Township (127), Traverse County, subject to payment of outlet fee and hearing/admin costs (08/15/24).
- **Added to TCD #11:** Miller LLLP: Parcel #13-0082000, SE1/4 of Section 20, Range 45, Tintah Township (129), Traverse County, subject to payment of outlet fee and hearing/admin costs (08/15/24).
- **Petition to Improve JD #11 Lateral #4:** A petition and bond for the Improvement of JD #11 Lateral 4 was accepted, and a preliminary survey and survey report are being prepared (11/26/24).



Locations of upcoming legal drainage system projects.

SECTION FIVE – JOINT COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN GOALS

Process: One Watershed One Plan (1W1Plan)

Product: Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (JCWMP)

Effective January 27, 2021 – January 31, 2031

**Funding: BWSR Clean Water Fund Legacy Amendment Act
Watershed-Based Implementation Funds (WBIF)**

The District continued contract work with Houston Engineering, Inc. and finished development of a Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan on behalf of the District and 12 partners (Big Stone County & SWCD, Grant County & SWCD, Otter Tail County & SWCD, Stevens County & SWCD, Traverse County & SWCD, and Wilkin County & SWCD). The Board of Water and Soils Resources subsequently approved the plan by order (01/27/21).



BdSWD volunteered to serve as the Fiscal Agent for the future grant agreement, and approved the Joint Implementation Agreement (02/18/21). The One Watershed One Plan planning grant was closed-out, and a formal Reimbursement Policy was enacted for the future watershed based implementation fund grant (04/15/21); the Clean Water BWSR Watershed Based Implementation Fund grant provides \$1,064,522 to sponsor portions of eligible activities described in the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan; funds must be used on or before 12/31/2023.

The following pages detail the Bois de Sioux & Mustinka Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Goals and related 2021 - 2024 BdSWD activity progress. Short-term measurable goals describe the interim conditions to accomplish during the 10-year timeframe of this plan. Long-term measurable goals describe the desired future condition to accomplish, regardless of timeframe.

Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan District Program Activities
(2024 District Expense)

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS PROGRAM	\$89,775.48	640 th Ave Road Raise & BdSWD Ditch No. 5
	\$91,002.57	Doran Creek
	\$1,023,742.74	Drainage Systems & Right of Way Easements
	\$8,990.46	Fivemile Creek
	\$252,822.62	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project
	\$43,347.95	Lightning Lake
	\$36,976.58	Moonshine Flood Impoundment
	\$128,906.74	North Ottawa Flood Impoundment
	\$0.00	Redpath Collection Channel
	\$11,810,433.30	Redpath Flood Imp. & Mustinka River Rehab.
	\$6,078.27	Ring Dikes
	\$5,753.25	Samantha & Elbow Lake
	\$74,623.75	Twelvemile Creek & City of Dumont
	\$13,572,453.71	Total Capital Improvement Projects Program 2024
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	\$4,193.84	River Watch
	\$3,515.48	Stream Gages
	\$1,495.00	Advisory Committee
	-----	Drainage System Inspections (Reported w/Repairs)
	\$9,204.32	Total Data Collection Program 2024
EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM	\$2,071.42	Annual Report
	\$9,621.19	Advertising, Notices, Mailings, Printed Materials
	\$12,284.23	Audit & Financial Disclosures
	\$243.68	Text Notification System
	\$842.31	Website
	\$34,397.81	Workgroups, Conferences, Certifications,
	\$0.00	Public Meeting Facilitation, Education, DWG
	\$59,460.64	Total Education & Outreach Program 2024
PROJECTS AND PRACTICES PROGRAM	\$260,000.00	Clean Water Cost Share
	\$414,460.42	Culvert Sizing Cost Share
	\$6,002.92	JCWMP Implementation (Staff & Board Time)
	\$910,530.06	Red River Watershed Management Plan Projects
	\$510,494.10	Drainage System Routine Maintenance & Repairs
	\$5,000.00	SWCD Cover Crop Program
	\$23,650.00	SWCD Lined Waterway Outlet Program
	\$2,130,137.50	Total Projects and Practices Program 2024
REGULATORY PROGRAM	\$4,662	Boundary Revisions
	\$114,154.10	Buffer Program & Workshops
	-----	Drainage System Inspections (Reported w/Repairs)
	\$4,300.38	Floods/FEMA/HSEM
	\$223,486.72	Permitting
	\$3,522.50	Policy Reviews, Recodification & Retention Schedule
	\$345,825.32	Total Regulatory Program 2024

2021 - 2031: Summary of Bois de Sioux Watershed District Progress Towards Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Measurable Projects & Practices Goals

*(there are 12 other LGU partners working on the same goals;
the data below reflects only the District's accomplishments)*

2024

	Short Term	Long Term	2021 - 2031	Short Term	Long Term
	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Goal</u>	<u>Progress</u>	<u>% Done</u>	<u>% Done</u>
Reduce Sediment (tons/yr)	3,770	69,900	6,632	176%	5%
Soil Health Practices (acres)	2,321	193,200	657	28%	0%
Reduce Phosphorous (lbs/yr)	1,255	200,500	2,331	186%	1%
Stabilize River/Stream (miles)	23	465	8.3	36%	0%
Defined Flood Risk (#)	3	100%	-	0%	0%
Flood Risk Reduced (#)	2	100%	-	0%	0%
Ring Dike Protection (%)	50%	100%	-	0%	0%
Stabilized Ditches (miles)	75	581	55	73%	8%
Increased Ditch Adequacy (miles)	75	581	54	71%	8%
Storage (ac-ft)	34,505	78,903	51	0%	0%



Ditch Retrofits provide significant progress to many of the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan goals.

2021 - 2024: 1) Progress for Measurable Goal: Erosion & Sedimentation

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Long-term goal sediment load reductions are met, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Short-Term Goal: Short-term load reduction goals are met, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.

Planning Region Focus



Bois de Sioux Watershed		Mustinka Watershed		
Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux River	Rabbit River	Upper Mustinka River	Lower Mustinka and Twelvemile Creek	Fivemile & Twelvemile Creek Headwaters
Reduce by 50% or 26,800 tons/yr	Reduce by 34% or 6,000 tons/yr	Reduce by 14% or 4,400 tons/yr	Reduce by 58% or 28,400 tons/yr	Reduce by 10% or 4,300 tons/yr
Reduce by 1,125 tons/yr	Reduce by 225 tons/yr	Reduce by 345 tons/yr	Reduce by 1,175 tons/yr	Reduce by 900 tons/yr

Metric: % load reduction or mass load reduction at the end of 10-year plan. Load reduction estimates established at planning region outlets using PTMApp

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR UPON COMPLETION
Traverse County Ditch #37	TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Completed Construction	340 ✓
Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	569 ✓
Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	595 ✓
Judicial Ditch #11 Main	LT&BDS	Bois de Sioux River	Completed Construction	420 ✓
Judicial Ditch #6	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	417 ✓
Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek and Mustinka River	Completed Construction	230 ✓
Wilkin County Ditch Sub-1	LT&BDS	Bois de Sioux	Completed Construction	90 ✓
Wilkin County Ditch #35	LT&BDS	Bois de Sioux	Reestablishment of Records	260
Grant County Ditch #21	UPPER M.	Mustinka River	Improvement Development	37.5
Grant Cons. Jud. Ditch #2	RR	Ash Lake	Repair Development	TBD
BdSWD Ditch No. 5	TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Establishment Development	TBD
North Ottawa Flood Impoundment	RR	Rabbit River	Annual reduction	268✓
Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1	LT&BDS	Lake Traverse	Phase 1 Complete Phase 2 Complete Phase 3 Under Contract	Phase 1 = 750 ✓ Phase 2 = 450 ✓ Phase 3 = 2,250 ✓

Doran Creek Rehab.	LT&BDS	Doran Creek	Design	890
Redpath Phase 2A & B - Mustinka River Corridor	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Under Construction	253✓
Redpath Phase 2A & B - Flood Impoundment	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Under Construction	TBD
Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek and Mustinka River	Site Surveys and Data Collection	630
640 th Ave Road Raise	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Under construction contract	TBD
Fivemile Creek	LM&TMC	Fivemile Creek	Hydraulic Study Completed	520
Moonshine Flood Impoundment	TMC	Lannon Lake & Toqua Lake	Under Development	TBD
Redpath Collection Channel	TBD	TBD	Some Development Completed	TBD
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
Assess Rivers and Stream Channel Banks	All	NA	Program continued	NA
MDM Plan Development	All	NA	Data collection system initiated	NA
EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
River Watch Program	All	NA	Program continued	NA
Stream Gages	All	NA	Program Continued	NA
PROJECTS & PRACTICES	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
RRWMB	All	NA	Program continued	Varies
103E Drainage System Maintenance & Repair	All	NA	Program continued	Varies
SWCD Cover Crops	Wilkin Co.	NA	Program continued	Varies
SWCD Lined Waterways	Traverse Co.	NA	Program continued	Varies
REGULATORY PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
Ordinances & Permitting	All	NA	Program continued	NA
Law Requirements	All	NA	Program continued	NA
Buffer/Soil Loss	All	NA	Program continued	Varies
Snow Removal & Flood Repairs	All	NA	Repairs Constructed	Varies

2021 - 2024: 2) Progress for Measurable Goal: Soil Health

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Soil health practices are implemented on 25% of all farmed soils within the plan area, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Short-Term Goal: Soil health practices are implemented on 2,321 farmed acres to protect critical soil loss areas, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.

Planning Region Focus



Bois de Sioux Watershed		Mustinka Watershed		
Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux River	Rabbit River	Upper Mustinka River	Lower Mustinka and Twelvemile Creek	Fivemile & Twelvemile Creek Headwaters
30,800 acres	45,800 acres	21,800 acres	39,800 acres	55,000 acres
343 acres	698 acres	665 acres	238 acres	377 acres

Metric: Acres of soil health practices implemented

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	ACRES
Traverse County Ditch #37	TMC	Completed Construction	23.05✓
Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Completed Construction	51.54✓
Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Completed Construction	23.91✓
Judicial Ditch #11 Main	LT&BDS	Completed Construction	95.5✓
Wilkin County Ditch #35	LT&BDS	Reestablishment of Records	260
Judicial Ditch #6	RR	Completed Construction	44.96✓
Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TMC	Construction In Progress	9.72✓
Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1	LT&BDS	Phase 1 Easement Established and Acquired Phase 2 Easement Established and Acquired Phase 3 Easement Established and Acquired	Phase 1 = 21.31✓ Phase 2 = 6.01✓ Phase 3 = 35.37✓
Redpath Phase 2 – Mustinka River	LM&TMC	Under Construction	226 acres grasslands✓ 76 acres wetlands✓
Redpath Phase 2 – Flood Impoundment	LM&TMC	Under Construction	724 acres grasslands
Wilkin County Ditch Sub-1	LT&BDS	Completed Construction	45.33✓

Grant County Ditch #21		Improvement Development	TBD
BdSWD Ditch No. 5		Establishment Development	TBD

2021 - 2024: 3) Progress for Measurable Goal: Altered Hydrology

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: A total of **78,903 acre-feet** of additional water storage is achieved, broken out by planning region, as indicated in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Short-Term Goal: Achieve progress towards long-term goal through implementation of Redpath Controlled Flood Impoundment Project and small-scale storage to mitigate impacts of altered hydrology.

Planning Region Focus

Bois de Sioux Watershed		Mustinka Watershed		
Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux River	Rabbit River	Upper Mustinka River	Lower Mustinka and Twelvemile Creek	Fivemile & Twelvemile Creek Headwaters
1,915 acre-feet	15,422 acre-feet	917 acre-feet*	24,367 acre-feet**	36,282 acre-feet
1,237 acre-feet*	2,545 acre-feet	917 acre-feet*	24,367 acre-feet**	5,442 acre-feet

Metric: Acre-feet of storage
Goal source: * 0.1 inches additional storage across planning region; ** Redpath Controlled Flood Impoundment Project

PROJECTS & PRACTICES	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	ACRE-FEET
Ring Dike Program	All	Farmsteads and private infrastructure most at risk identified. Implemented Cost Share Program	NA
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	ACRE-FEET
Doran Creek Rehabilitation	LT&BDS	Design	TBD
Samantha & Elbow Lake Project	UM	Samantha Outlet Installed 2020; Permitting of additional drawdown in progress	51 ✓
Redpath Flood Impoundment	LM&TMC	Bid Document Prep	22,500 ac-ft; 19,000 ac-ft gated
Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	Site Investigations	TBD
Lightning Lake Outlet No. 1	UM	Under construction	Protect existing storage

Fivemile Creek	LM&TMC	Hydraulic Study Complete	TBD
EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	ACRE- FEET
Publish Article	All	1 Redpath article published	NA

REGULATORY PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
Ordinances & Permitting	All	Program continued	NA
Buffer Law Requirements	All	Program continued	NA
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	ACRE- FEET
Assess Rivers and Stream Channel Banks	All	Program continued	NA
MDM Plan Development	All	Program continued	NA
Maintain up-to-date culvert inventory	All	Ongoing	NA
Annual Dam Operation Process	All	Annual meeting requested	NA

2021 - 2024: 4) Progress for Measurable Goal: Public Flooding

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Flood risk reduction is provided against the Atlas 14 100-year, 24-hour event for all communities and against the Atlas 14 10-year, 24-hour event for all rural public infrastructure.



Short-Term Goal: The level of flood risk for unevaluated priority communities is defined and flood risk reduction against 100-year event is provided for 50% of those at-risk priority communities.

Metric: % communities, rural public infrastructure "protected" with flood risk reduction

PROJECTS & PRACTICES	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY COMMUNITY	PROGRESS
Flood Risk and Flood Risk Reduction Evaluations for 100-Year Events			Rough cost estimates collected: Dumont (\$30,000), Campbell (\$20,000) and Herman (\$10,000) (11/16/21).
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	PLANNING REGION		PROGRESS
Traverse County Ditch #37	TMC	MNDOT, Traverse County, Township Roads	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	MNDOT, Wilkin County, Township Roads	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	MNDOT, Wilkin County, Township Roads	Completed Construction
Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TMC	Township Roads	Completed Construction

Judicial Ditch #11 Main Retrofit	LT&BDS	MNDOT, Traverse County Highway, Wilkin County Highway, Township Roads	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #35 Retrofit	LT&BDS	MNDOT, Wilkin County Roads, Township Roads	Reestablishment of Records
Judicial Ditch #6 Retrofit	RR	MNDOT, Wilkin County Highways, Township Roads	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #Sub-1	LT&BDS	MNDOT, Wilkin County Highway, Township Roads, Railroad	Completed Construction
Grant County Ditch #21	UPPER M.	Mustinka River	Improvement Development
Grant County Ditch #3	UPPER M.		Repair Development
BdSWD Ditch No. 5	TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Establishment Development
Mustinka Corridor	UM	MNDOT, Grant County Highway, Township Roads	Construction Upcoming
Samantha & Elbow Lake Project	UM	Grant County Highway, Township Roads	Samantha Outlet Installed 2020; Additional Drawdown depth in permit stage
Redpath Flood Impoundment & Mustinka River Rehab.	LM&TMC	Traverse County Highway, Wilkin County Highway, MNDOT, Township Roads, Breckenridge	Phase 1 Complete Phase 2A Complete Phase 2B Under Construction
Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	MNDOT, Grant County Highway, Traverse County Highway, Township Roads	Site Investigations
Lightning Lake Outlet No. 1	UPPER M.	Upper Mustinka	Construction Completed
Doran Creek Rehabilitation	LT&BDS	Doran Creek	Under Development
Moonshine Flood Impoundment	TMC	Lannon Lake & Toqua Lake	Under Development
Fivemile Creek	LM&TMC	Fivemile Creek	Hydraulic Study Complete
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	
Identify and prioritize communities to determine risk	All	No work yet; goal is 50% protection of at-risk communities	
Hold annual meeting with road authorities to define roads are high priority based on risk of overtopping	All	2022 – Technician worked with road authorities directly	
MDM Plan Development	All	Data collection ongoing	
Maintain up-to-date culvert inventory	All	Done	

2021 - 2024: 5) Progress for Measurable Goal: Private Flooding

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Flood risk reduction is provided against the Atlas 14 100-year, 24-hour event for all rural homesteads and against the Atlas 14 10-year, 24-hour event for other private infrastructure.



Short-Term Goal: Farmsteads and private infrastructure most at risk are identified and prioritized, with 50% protected with ring dikes as needed.

Metric: Percent of homesteads and farmlands, rural infrastructure "protected" with flood risk reduction

PROJECTS & PRACTICES	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY COMMUNITY	PROGRESS
Ring Dike Program	All	NA	Farmsteads and private infrastructure most at risk identified. Implemented Cost Share Program
CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT	PLANNING REGION		PROGRESS
Traverse County Ditch #37	TMC	Benefiting Landowners	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Benefitting Landowners	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Benefitting Landowners	Completed Construction
Judicial Ditch #11 Main Retrofit	LT&BDS	Benefiting Landowners	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #35 Retrofit	LT&BDS	Benefiting Landowners	Reestablishment of Records
Judicial Ditch #6 Retrofit	RR	Benefiting Landowners	Completed Construction
Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek & Mustinka River	Completed Construction
Wilkin County Ditch #Sub-1	LT&BDS	Benefiting Landowners	Completed Construction
Grant County Ditch #21	UPPER M.	Mustinka River	Improvement Development
Grant County Ditch #3	UPPER M.		Repair Development
BdSWD Ditch No. 5	TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Establishment Development
Mustinka Corridor	UM	Benefiting Landowners	Upcoming Construction
Samantha & Elbow Lake Project	UM	Elbow/Samantha Lake Landowners	Samantha Outlet Installed 2020; Elbow Lake Design
Redpath Flood Impoundment & Mustinka River Rehab.	LM&TMC	Downstream Landowners in Mustinka and Rabbit River. Wheaton	Phase 1 Complete Phase 2A Complete Phase 2B Under Construction

Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	Landowners along TCD 8 and Twelvemile Creek	Site Investigations
Fivemile Creek	LM&TMC	Fivemile Creek	Hydraulic Study Complete
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	
Identify and prioritize farmsteads and private infrastructure to determine risk	All	Farmsteads and private infrastructure most at risk were identified and prioritized through a Ring Dike Policy that was approved October 21, 2021. A landowner contract template was approved November 18, 2021.	
Hold annual meeting with road authorities to define roads are high priority based on risk of overtopping	All	Meet annually in the spring prior to flood season	
Maintain up-to-date culvert inventory	All	Done and ongoing	
MDM Plan Development	All	Done and ongoing	

2021 - 2024: 6) Progress for Measurable Goal: Public Ditch System Instability

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: All 581 miles of public ditch systems are stable.



Short-Term Goal: 75 miles of public, unstable ditches that are eroding and silting are stabilized.

Metric: Miles of ditch stabilized

DITCH AUTHORITY	DRAINAGE DITCH SYSTEM	PLANNING REGION	RESOURCE PRIORITY	MILES
BdSWD	Traverse County Ditch #37 L1	TMC	Yes	2.5✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Yes	7.5✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Yes	13.5✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #11	LT&BDS	Yes	9✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #6	RR	Yes	8✓
BdSWD	Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TC	Yes	5✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #14 (Mustinka River Rehab)	LM&TC	Yes	Corner✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #Sub-1	LT&BDS	Yes	8✓
BdSWD	Grant County Ditch #21	TMC	Yes	TBD
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #25	RR	Yes	TBD
BdSWD	Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1: Overlaps w/TCD #52	LT&BDS	Yes	Phase 1 = 0.6✓ Phase 3 = 1✓
BdSWD	Grant County Ditch #3	UPPER M.		TBD
LGU	DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	MILES
BdSWD	Administer ordinances and permitting	All	Ongoing	NA

All	Administer Buffer Law Requirements	All	Ongoing	NA
BdSWD	Inventory and classify unstable and inadequate portions of public ditches and prioritize repairs	All	Ongoing, updated annually	NA
BdSWD	MDM Plan Development	All	Ongoing, updated annually	NA
BdSWD	Maintain up-to-date permits and records	All	Ongoing	NA

2021 - 2024: 7) Progress for Measurable Goal: Public Ditch System Inadequacy

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: All **581 miles** of public drainage systems have the capacity to convey the Atlas 14 10-year, 24-hour storm event, providing opportunity to private landowners for improved drainage.



Short-Term Goal: **75 miles** of public ditch systems are repaired/improved to reach capacity to convey the Atlas 14 10-year, 24-hour event.

Metric: Miles of ditch repaired/improved to convey 10-year, 24-hour event

DITCH AUTHORITY	DRAINAGE DITCH SYSTEM	PLANNING REGION	RESOURCE PRIORITY	MILES
BdSWD	Traverse County Ditch #37 L1	TMC	Yes	2.5✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Yes	7.5✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Yes	13.5✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #11	LT&BDS	Yes	9✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #6	RR	Yes	8✓
BdSWD	Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TC	Yes	5✓
BdSWD	Judicial Ditch #14 (Mustinka River Rehab)	LM&TC	Yes	Corner✓
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #Sub-1	LT&BDS	Yes	8✓
BdSWD	Grant County Ditch #21	TMC	Yes	TBD
BdSWD	Wilkin County Ditch #25	RR	Yes	TBD
BdSWD	Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1: Overlaps w/TCD #52	LT&BDS	Yes	Phase 2 = 0.3✓ Phase 3 = 1.2✓
BdSWD	Grant County Ditch #21	UPPER M.	Yes	TBD
LGU	DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PROGRESS	MILES
BdSWD	Administer ordinances and permitting	All	Ongoing	NA
All	Administer Buffer Law Requirements	All	Ongoing	NA
BdSWD	Inventory and classify unstable and inadequate portions of public ditches and prioritize repairs	All	Updated annually	NA
BdSWD	MDM Plan Development	All	Updated annually	NA
BdSWD	Maintain up-to-date permits and records	All	Ongoing	NA

2021 - 2024: 8) Progress for Measurable Goal: Nutrient Loading

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Planning region long-term goal total phosphorus load reductions are met, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Short-Term Goal: Planning region short-term goal total phosphorus load reductions are met, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Bois de Sioux Watershed		Mustinka Watershed		
Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux River	Rabbit River	Upper Mustinka River	Lower Mustinka and Twelvemile Creek	Fivemile & Twelvemile Creek Headwaters
Reduce by 64% or 91,900 lbs/yr	Reduce by 44% or 19,700 lbs/yr	Reduce by 57% or 10,800 lbs/yr	Reduce by 41% or 39,100 lbs/yr	Reduce by 72% or 38,400 lbs/yr
Reduce by 320 lbs/yr	Reduce by 190 lbs/yr	Reduce by 110 lbs/yr	Reduce by 375 lbs/yr	Reduce by 260 lbs/yr

Metric: Percent of load reduction/mass load reduction at the end of the 10-year plan. Load reduction estimates established at planning region outlets using PTMApp.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	LBS/YR
Traverse County Ditch #37	TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Completed Construction	85✓
Wilkin County Ditch #8	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	143✓
Wilkin County Ditch #9	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	149✓
Judicial Ditch #11 Main Retrofit	LT&BDS	Bois de Sioux River	Completed Construction	117✓
Wilkin County Ditch #35 Retrofit	LT&BDS	Doran Creek	Reestablishment of Records	170
Judicial Ditch #6 Retrofit	RR	Rabbit River	Completed Construction	384✓
Traverse County Ditch #35	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek and Mustinka River	Completed Construction; Waiting for Seeding	65✓
Wilkin County Ditch #Sub-1	LT&BDS	Lake Traverse	Design & Permitting	90✓
Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1	LT&BDS	Lake Traverse	Phase 1 Complete Phase 2 Complete Phase 3 Under Contract	188✓ 113✓ 565✓
Doran Creek Rehab	LT&BDS	Doran Creek	Design	170
Redpath Phase 2 – Mustinka River	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Bid Document Prep	72
Redpath Phase 2 - Flood Impoundment	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Phase 2A Complete Phase 2B Under Construction	TBD
Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek	Site Investigations	120

Fivemile Creek	LM&TMC	Fivemile Creek	Hydraulic Study Completed	100
Grant County Ditch #21	UPPER M.		Improvement Development	3.67
Grant Cons. Jud. Ditch #2	RR	Ash Lake	Repair Development	TBD
EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	LBS/YR
River Watch Program	All	NA	Program continued	NA
REGULATORY PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	LBS/YR
Ordinances & Permitting	All	NA	Program continued	NA
Buffer Law Requirements	All	NA	Program continued	NA
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	LBS/YR
Assess Rivers and Stream Channel Banks	All	NA	Program continued	NA
MDM Plan Development	All	NA	Data collection system initiated	NA

2021 - 2024: 9) Progress for Measurable Goal: Unstable Channels

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: All 465 miles of rivers and streams channel banks within the plan area are assessed and stabilized.



Short-Term Goal: 23 miles of priority river or stream channels are assessed and stabilized (where needed) through stream stabilization practices to decrease excessive erosion and channel sediment accumulation.

Metric: Miles of river or stream stabilized

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	MILES
Doran Creek Rehabilitation	LT&BDS	Doran Creek	Design	20
Lake Traverse Water Quality Imp. Project #1	LT&BDS	Lake Traverse	Phase 1 Complete Phase 2 Complete Phase 3 Complete	Phase 1 = Ditch Phase 2 = 0.3✓ Phase 3 = Ditch
Western 32 Flood Impoundment	RR		Cancelled – No Permissible Project	TBD
Redpath Phase 2 – Mustinka River	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Phase 2A Complete Phase 2B Under Construction	8✓
Redpath Phase 2 - Flood Impoundment	LM&TMC	Mustinka River	Phase 2A Complete Phase 2B Under Construction	TBD
Twelvemile Creek	LM&TMC	Twelvemile Creek and Mustinka River	Site Investigations	TBD

REGULATORY PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	TONS/YR
Ordinances & Permitting	All	NA	Program continued	NA
Buffer Law Requirements	All	NA	Program continued	NA
DATA COLLECTION PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCES	PROGRESS	ACRE-FEET
Assess Rivers and Stream Channel Banks	All	NA	Program continued	NA

2021 - 2024: 10) Progress for Measurable Goal: Bacteria Loading

Measurable Goals



Long-Term Goal: Planning region bacteria long-term goal is achieved, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.



Short-Term Goal: Implement projects, specifically focused on reducing bacterial loading to nearly or barely impaired priority resources, as defined in the Planning Region Focus table below.

Planning Region Focus

Bois de Sioux Watershed		Mustinka Watershed		
Lake Traverse & Bois de Sioux River	Rabbit River	Upper Mustinka River	Lower Mustinka and Twelvemile Creek	Fivemile & Twelvemile Creek Headwaters
Delist all (2)	Protection	Protection	Delist all (5)	Delist all (2)
3.4 miles fencing to restrict livestock access to riparian areas and shorelines	N/A	1,400-foot fencing to restrict livestock access to riparian areas and shorelines	N/A	N/A

Metric: Long-term: number of impaired reaches; Short-term: number of projects

EDUCATION & OUTREACH PROGRAM	PLANNING REGION	PRIORITY RESOURCE	PROGRESS	FEET
River Watch Program	All	NA	Program continued	NA

SECTION SIX - PLANS FOR THE SUCCEEDING YEAR

- The BdSWD anticipates continued development of the following for 2025:

2025 ACTIVE DEVELOPMENT & CONSTRUCTION		
	<u>103E Ditches</u>	<u>103D Watershed Projects</u>
2024 Construction Carryover		Redpath & Mustinka Ph. 2B
2025 Final Development & Construction	GCD #21 GCD #3 JD #11 Lat 4	Redpath Ph. 2C & Ph. 3A 640 th Ave Road Raise (funding only)
2025 Prelim. Development	BSCD #8	Doran Creek Restoration Moonshine Lakebed Impoundment Twelvemile Creek Flood Studies Bylaws, Rules, Permitting Update
Identified for Future	WCD #20 WCD #35 WCD #25 JD #12 TCD #8 TCD #52	Grant Cons. JD #2

- The Bois de Sioux Watershed District will conduct the necessary procedures to maintain the legal ditch systems under their jurisdiction. This includes inspections, vegetation control, repairs, accounting, reports, etc.
- The BdSWD will continue to work towards acquisition of funding partners for the purpose of finalizing the funding for the Redpath Flood Impoundment.
- The BdSWD Board and staff will continue to serve on the many boards, committees, and commissions. They will also consider serving any new capacities they are asked to participate in to further the goals of the District and Red River Basin.
- The BdSWD will continue to support the River Watch Program and encourage new schools to participate.
- The BdSWD will continue to promote education through the distribution of social media updates and periodic public informational meetings.
- The BdSWD will continue to meet with the Twelvemile, Moonshine, and North Ottawa Project Teams as necessary to continue development of the necessary summary reports and recommendations as directed by the Board of Managers.
- The BdSWD will continue to facilitate additional project teams, as needed, to work towards resolving water problems in the watershed.
- The BdSWD will continue implementation of the District's responsibilities within the Joint Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in the 2025 calendar year.
The BdSWD will continue to use a diverse set of programs and policies to reduce soil erosion through establishment of riparian buffers and/or alternative comparable conservation practices.

2025 103E DRAINAGE SYSTEM PROJECTS						
Identified Need for Future 103E Projects & Major Repairs (Retrofits)	Preliminary/Feasibility & Landowner Meetings	Active Development	In Construction	Active Minor Repairs	Completed 2017 - 2024	
JD #12	WCD #25 Outlet Repairs Rabbit River	GCD #21 Reductions TBD			TCD #37 85 LBS/YR PHOS 340 TONS/YR SED 2.5 MILES STAB/ADEQU 23.05 ACRES PE Twelvemile Creek	WCD #9 149 LBS/YR PHOS 595 TONS/YR SED 13.5 MILES STAB/ADEQU 51.54 ACRES PE Rabbit River
TCD #8	BCD #8	GCD #3 Reductions TBD			WCD #8 143 LBS/YR PHOS 569 TONS/YR SED 7.5 MILES STAB/ADEQU 23.91 ACRES PE Rabbit River	JD #6 384 LBS/YR TP 417 TONS/YR SED 8 MILES STAB/ADEQU 44.96 ACRES PE Rabbit River
WCD #35	Grant Cons. JD #2	JD #11 Lat 4 Reductions TBD			TCD #23 Field Approach Project Twelvemile Creek	JD #11 117 LBS/YR TP 569 TONS/YR SED 9 MILES STAB/ADEQU 95.5 ACRES PE Bois de Sioux River
JD #12					WCD #18 Grade Stabilization Cost Share Program Wilkin SWCD Rabbit River	JD #12 Field Side Approach Project Rabbit River
TCD #52					TCD #35 65 LBS/YR PHOS 230 TONS/YR SED 5 MILES STAB/ADEQU 9.72 ACRES PE Twelvemile Creek	WCD #Sub-1 450 LBS/YR PHOS 90 TONS/YR SED 8 MILES STAB/ADEQU 10 ACRES PE Bois de Sioux River

2025 103D WATERSHED PROJECTS						
Identified Need for Future Project	Preliminary/Feasibility & Landowner Meetings	Active Development	In Construction	Active Minor Projects	Completed 2017 – 2024	
Fivemile Creek 100 LBS/YR TP 520 TONS/YR SED	Moonshine Lakebed Impoundment	Doran Creek Restoration 170 LBS/YR TP 890 TONS/YR SED	Redpath Flood Impoundment TBD 22,500 AC-FT STORAGE	Lined Waterways Project Traverse County & Traverse SWCD	LTWQIP No. 1 Phase 1 188 LBS/YR TP 750 TONS/YR SED 0.6 MILES STAB/ADEQ 21.32 ACRES PE Lake Traverse	LTWQIP No. 1 Phase 2 113 LBS/YR TP 450 TONS/YR SED 0.3 MILES STAB 6.01 ACRES PE Lake Traverse
	Twelvemile Creek 120 LBS/YR TP 630 TONS/YR SED	Grant County Mustinka River Corridor Project	Redpath Phase 2 - Mustinka River 72 LBS/YR TP 235 TONS/YR SED 8 MILES STAB 260 ACRES PE	North Ottawa Impoundment Collection channel repairs Stop logs for bays	LTWQIP No. 1 Phase 3 565 LBS/YR TP 2250 TONS/YR SED 1 MILE STAB/ADEQ 35.37 ACRES PE Lake Traverse	2020 Grade Stabilization Cost Share Program Wilkin SWCD
		Grant County Elbow Lake Flood Control Outlet	640 th Ave Road Raise FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION		2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 Lined Waterways Project Traverse County & Traverse SWCD	2020 Buffer Seeding Cost Share Program Wilkin & Traverse SWCDs
		Big Stone County Moonshine Lakebed Project			Wilkin & Stevens SWCD Cover Crop Program 2020 – 2022	TCD #23 Lined Waterways Traverse County & Traverse SWCD Fivemile Creek
					Lightning Lake Outlet IMPROVE HYDRAULIC CAPACITY, LOWER VELOCITIES, IMPROVE FISH PASSAGE	Grant County Lake Samantha Flood Control Outlet Olson Construction Elbow Lake – 51 AC-FT

PROJECT GRANT FUNDING SOURCES AS OF 12/31/2024				
PROJECT	SOURCE	EXPIRATION	ORIG. AMOUNT	AMOUNT RECEIVED
DORAN CREEK	BdSWD Project Development/Clean Water Cost Share	GRANT CLOSED	\$100,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Base Funding Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$100,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Base Funding Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$100,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Base Funding Grant	NA	\$90,000	\$0
	NRCS National Water Quality Initiative Planning Grant	09/04/25	\$43,560	\$0
MUSTINKA RIVER RHB.	Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$2,440,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Water Quality Grant	07/31/23	\$507,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water Project	12/31/26	\$1,000,000	\$500,000.00
	LCCMR Grant	06/30/25	\$2,692,000	\$1,932,430.41
	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water Project Grant	12/31/24	\$800,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
REDPATH IMPNDMNT	Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant	07/26/25	\$800,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant	NA	\$4,400,000	\$3,197,331.28
	BWSR Water Storage Grant	12/31/25	\$1,000,000	\$900,000
	RRWMB Funding Commitment	NA	\$16,850,000	\$6,677,000 PRE-CONSTRUCTION
	*Estimated at this time that \$2,195,084.80 will be spent by BdSWD & RRWMB that can serve as match to state allocation			+ \$172,714.00 FOR PHASE 1 + \$3,636,753.92 FOR PHASE 2 + \$3,145.92 FOR PHASE 3 \$10,489,613.84 TOTAL
TWELVE MILE CREEK STUDY	HSEM – FEMA Hazard Mitigation Grant Program	TBD	\$300,750	\$62,165.96
1W1PLAN/JCWMP/WBIF #2 (2022 – 2025)	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water WBIF Grant (to disburse for eligible projects to 13 LGU's)	12/31/25	\$1,488,685	\$744,342.50
1W1PLAN/JCWMP/WBIF #3 (2024 – 2027)	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water WBIF Grant (to disburse for eligible projects to 13 LGU's)	12/31/27	\$1,594,226	\$797,113.00

PROJECTS CLOSED IN 2024 SUPPORTED BY GRANTS

PROJECT	SOURCE	EXPIRATION	ORIG. AMOUNT	AMOUNT RECEIVED
WCD-#SUB 1	BWSR MDM Grant	12/31/25	\$244,150	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Water Quality Grant	12/31/25	\$112,500	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water WBIF Gr #2**	12/31/25	\$370,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
1W1PLAN/JCWMP/WBIF #1 (2021 – 2023)	*BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water WBIF Grant (to disburse for eligible projects to 13 LGU's)	12/31/23	\$1,064,522	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
LIGHTNING LAKE OUTLET	DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$500,000	\$454,041.86
LTWQIP #1 PHASE #3	BdSWD Project Development/Clean Water Cost Share	GRANT CLOSED	\$100,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water WBIF Grant #1*	GRANT CLOSED	\$325,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	RRWMB Water Quality Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$1,200,000	\$1,091,440.67
	DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$400,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED
	BWSR Legacy Amendment Clean Water Project Grant	GRANT CLOSED	\$800,000	FULL FUNDING RECEIVED



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Bois de Sioux Watershed District

Audit Results

Year Ended December 31, 2024

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Governance Communications



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Governance Communications

Our responsibility under Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

- **Express an opinion** on the financial statements in accordance with cash basis reporting.
- Plan and perform the audit to **obtain reasonable, not absolute, assurance**
- **Evaluate internal controls** over financial reporting – no opinion on internal controls
- Utilize a **risk-based** audit approach

Planned scope and timing of the audit

- Performed the audit according to the **planned scope** previously communicated during planning discussions



Governance Communications

Other information in documents containing audited financial statements

- Financial statements may only be **used in their entirety**
- **Our approval** is required in order to use our audit reports in any client prepared documents

Significant accounting policies

- **Management is responsible** for the accounting policies
- Outlined in **Note 1** to the financial statements

Management representation letter

- Management provided a management representation letter in conjunction with the **approval of the audited financial statements**



Governance Communications

We experienced

- **No Delays** in issuing the audit
- **No issues** discussed prior to retention as independent auditors
- **No disagreements** with management regarding accounting, reporting, or auditing matters
- **No consultations** with other independent accountants

Adjusting, proposed, and passed adjusting journal entries

- **Adjusting journal entries** – To properly state cash by \$50,804, beginning fund balance/net position by \$100,804, and expenses by \$50,000.





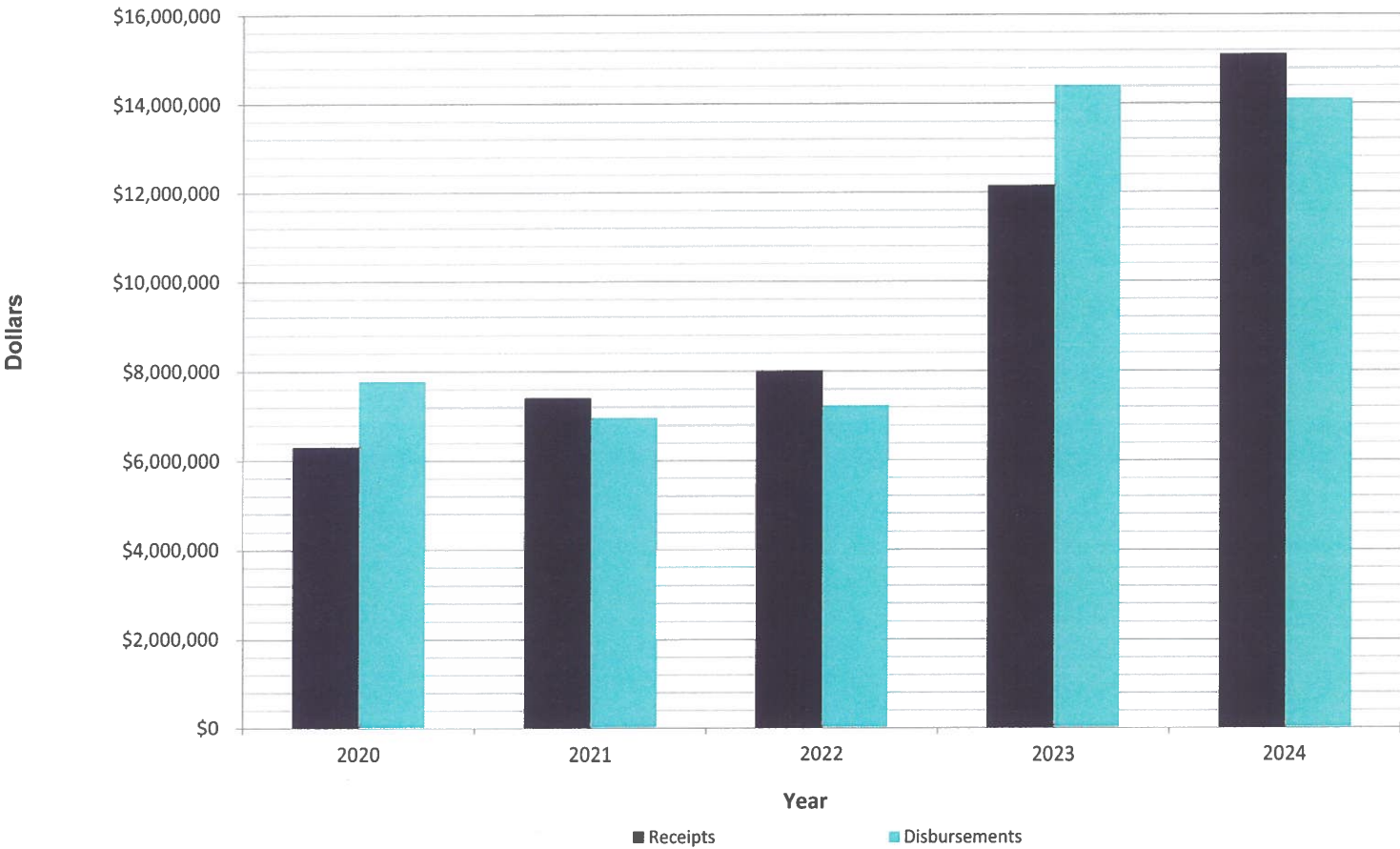
Financial Statement Highlights



Financial Statement Highlights

Total Receipts and Disbursements

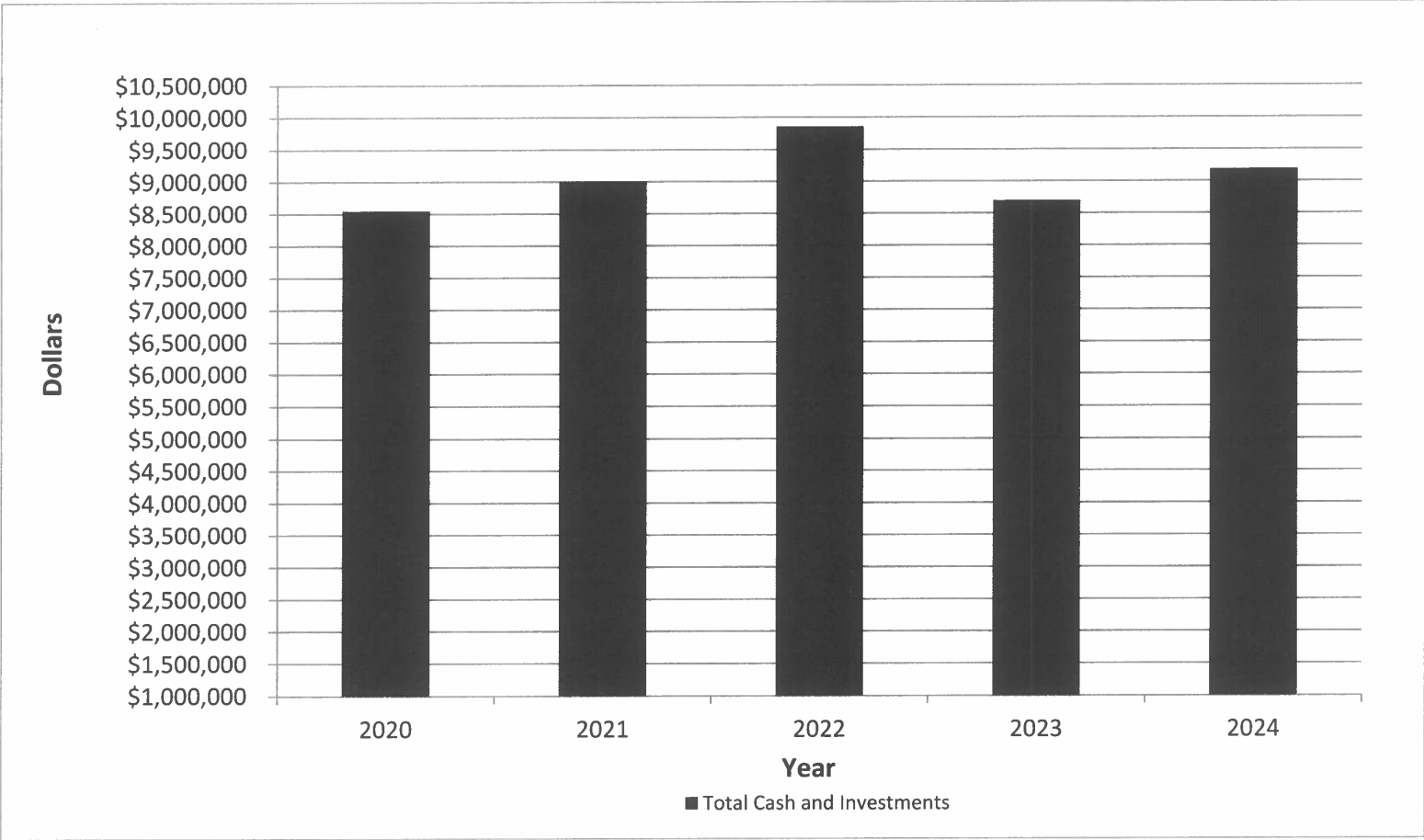
	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Receipts	\$ 6,306,683	\$ 7,404,976	\$ 7,998,548	\$ 12,152,259	\$ 15,103,068
Disbursements	7,783,695	6,968,768	7,231,635	14,406,397	14,100,546



Financial Statement Highlights

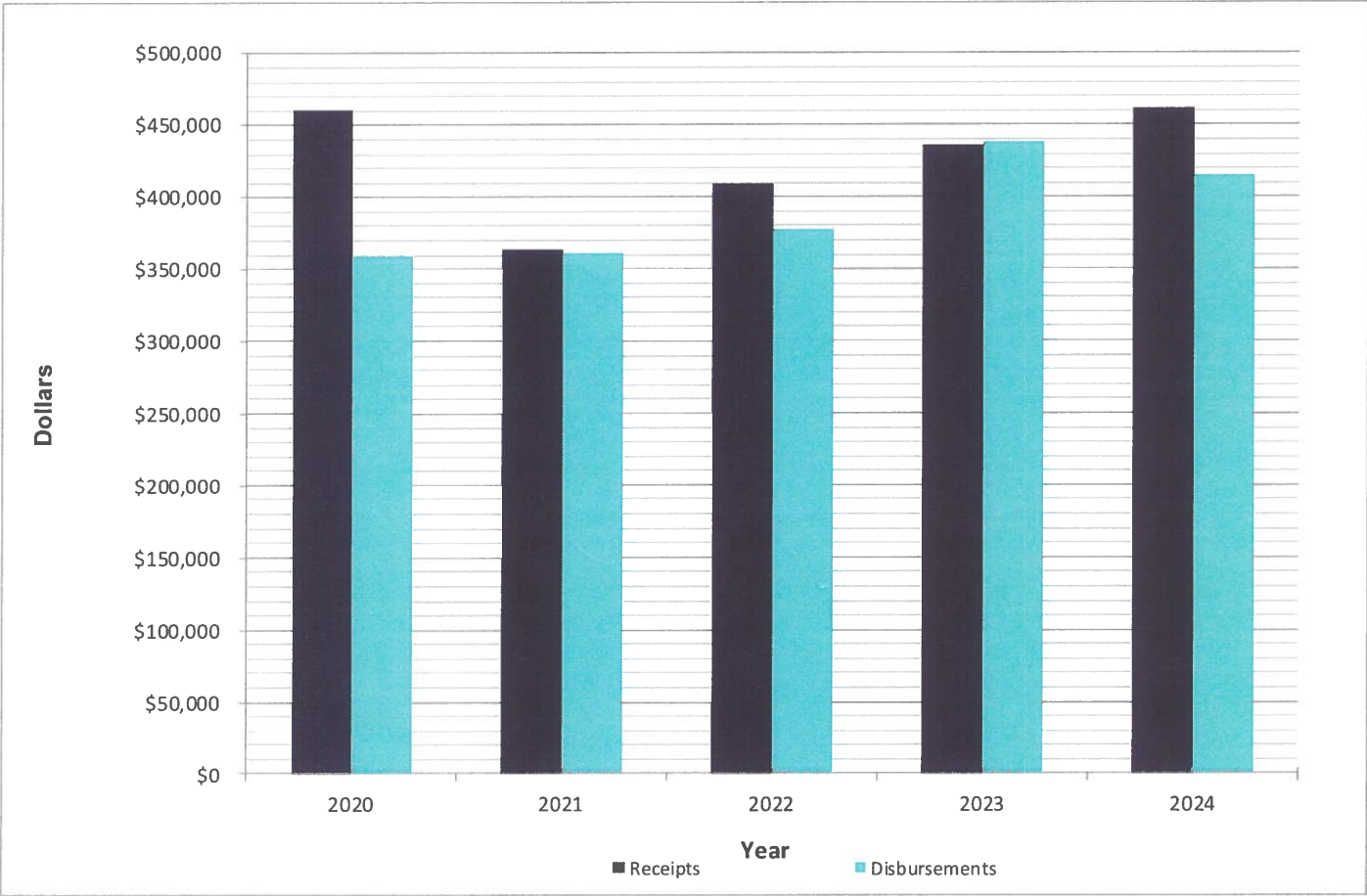
Total Cash Levels at Year-End

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Total Cash and Investments	\$ 8,543,603	\$ 8,979,811	\$ 9,851,528	\$ 8,691,976	\$ 9,182,912



Financial Statement Highlights General Fund Receipts and Disbursements

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Receipts	\$ 460,582	\$ 363,853	\$ 409,411	\$ 435,270	\$ 460,929
Disbursements	358,566	361,263	377,007	438,517	415,430





Financial Statement Internal Control and Compliance



Financial Statement Internal Control and Compliance

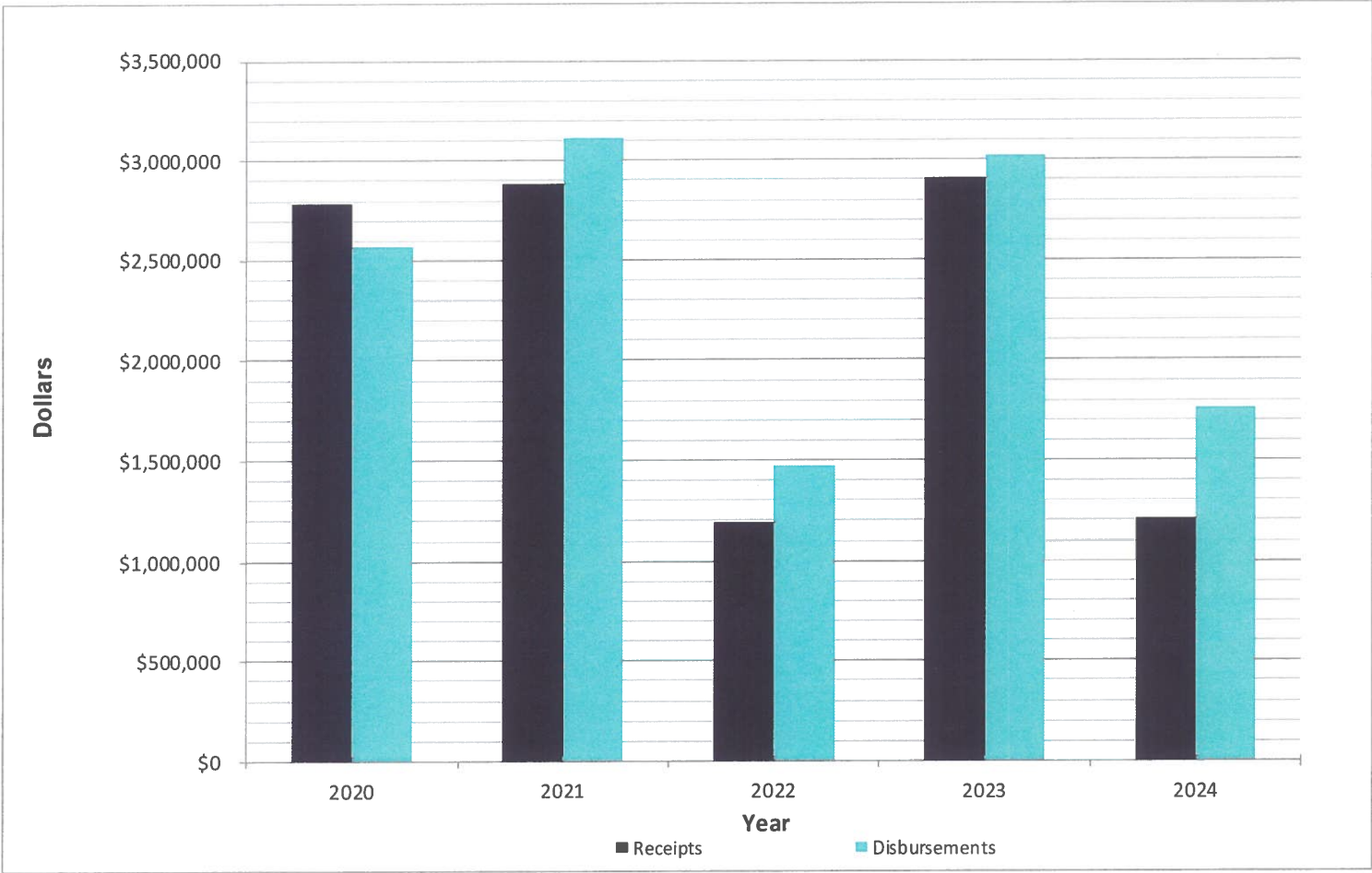
- Material Weaknesses
 - 2024-001: Financial Reporting Process
 - 2024-002: Limited Segregation of Duties
 - 2024-003: Material Audit Adjustment
- Significant Deficiency
 - None reported



Financial Statement Highlights

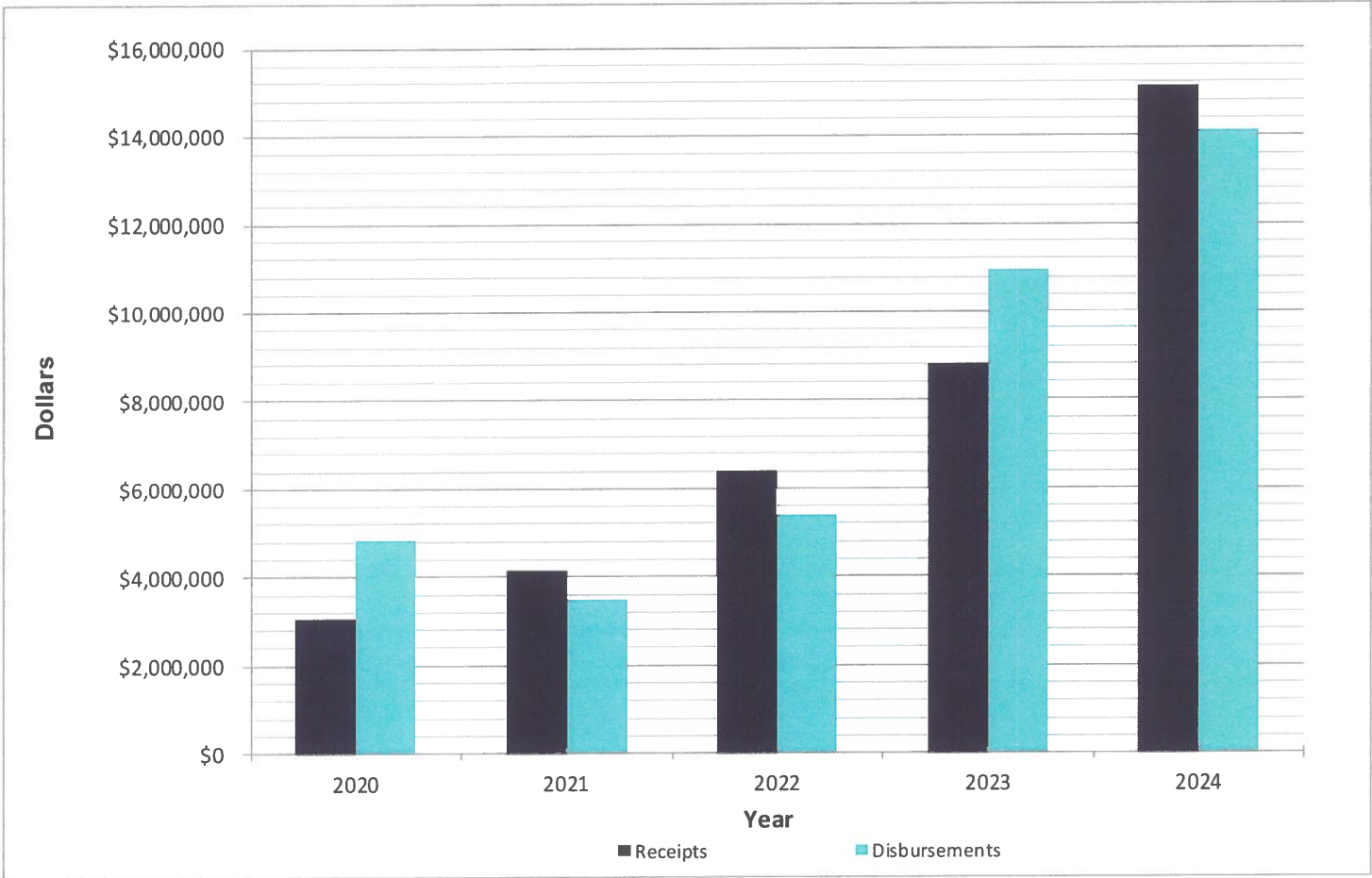
Ditch Fund Receipts and Disbursements

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Receipts	\$ 2,779,535	\$ 2,886,453	\$ 1,190,193	\$ 2,905,769	\$ 1,205,607
Disbursements	2,572,354	3,114,591	1,475,262	3,019,783	1,762,692



Financial Statement Highlights Construction Fund Receipts and Disbursements

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Receipts	\$ 3,066,566	\$ 4,154,670	\$ 6,398,944	\$ 8,811,220	\$ 15,103,068
Disbursements	4,852,775	3,492,914	5,379,366	10,948,097	14,100,546





Minnesota Legal Compliance



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Minnesota Legal Compliance

- Compliance Findings
 - None in 2024



Thank you!

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