

WATER  
QUALITY  
PROGRAM  
SUMMARY  
REPORT:  
2020 - 2023



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**APPROVAL OF REPORT:** This document was approved on March 19, 2024 at the regular meeting of the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB).

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**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS:** The RRWMB thanks its membership and consulting engineers for providing data needed to compile this report. Special thanks to Andrew Graham for his work on the Report.

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## LIST OF ACCRONYMS

BdSWD	Bois de Sioux Watershed District
DNR	Department of Natural Resources
FDR	Flood Damage Reduction
FDRWG	Flood Damage Reduction Work Group
JRWD	Joe River Watershed District
LRRWMB	Lower Red River Watershed Management Board
MSTRWD	Middle Snake Tamarac Rivers Watershed District
NRE	Natural Resources Enhancement
1W1P	One Water One Plan
RLWD	Red Lake Watershed District
RRB	Red River Basin
RRWD	Roseau River Watershed District
RRWMB	Red River Watershed Management Board
TRWD	Two Rivers Watershed District
TSS	Total Suspended Solids
USGS	United States Geological Survey
WQMAC	Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee
WRWD	Wild Rice Watershed District

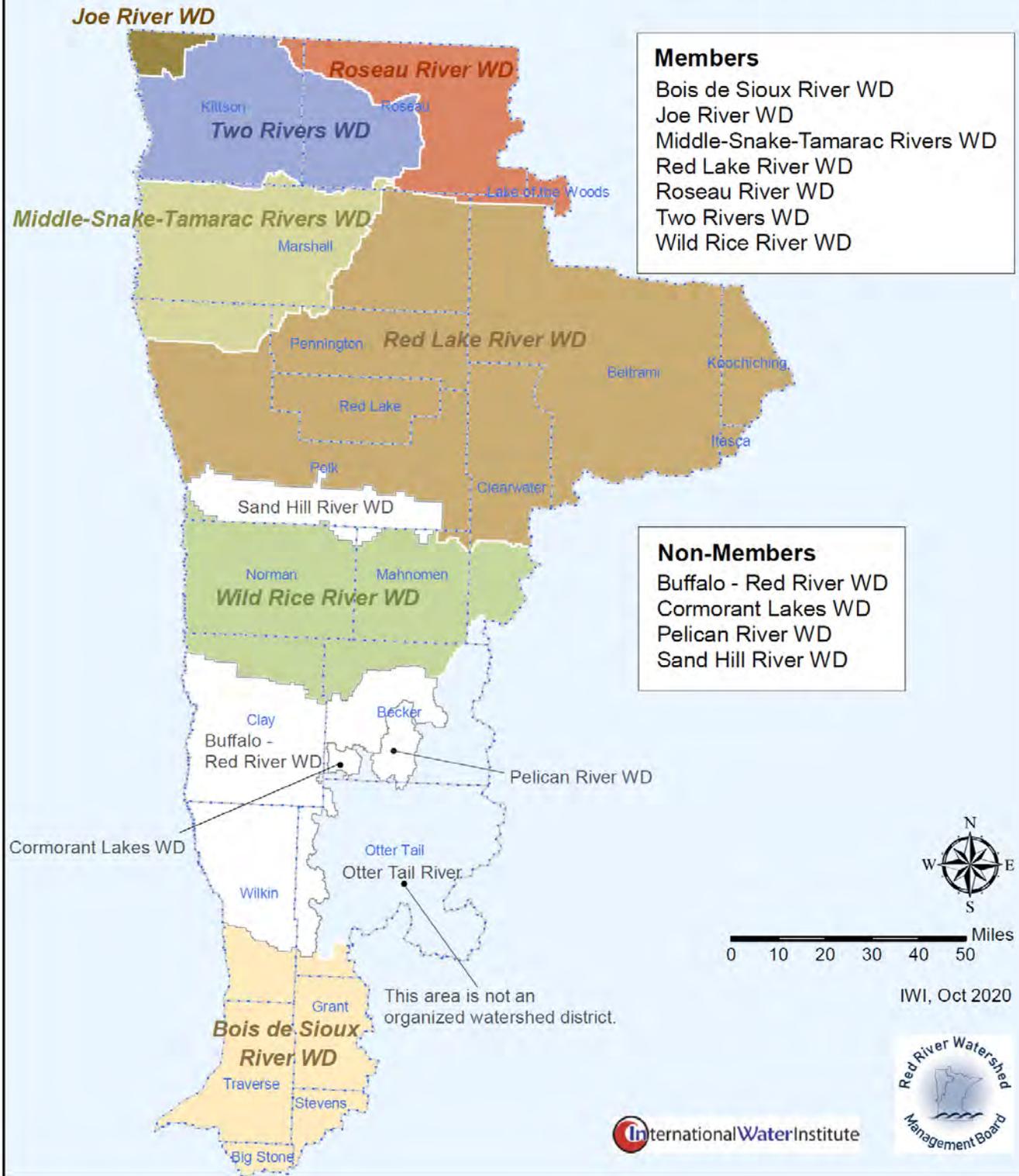
1. **BRIEF RRRWMB HISTORY:** In 1976, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation which enabled existing watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin (RRB) to partner in a common effort under a Joint Powers Agreement to form the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB). This organization was created for the purpose of instituting, coordinating, and financing projects and programs to alleviate flooding and to assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. The 1976 legislation originally gave the LRRWMB authority for "construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit" and allowed member watershed districts to levy up to two mills ad valorem tax to be utilized for flood water retention projects. One-half of the tax collected is retained by the individual member watershed district for projects within the district while the other half is transferred to the LRRWMB.
2. **RRWMB CURRENT AUTHORITY UNDER LAW:** Legislation in 1991 changed the name of the LRRWMB to the RRWMB and redefined the authority of the organization to include "development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs of benefit to the RRB." Legislation in the 1989 Special Session changed the mil levy rate to the current ad valorem tax levy limitation of 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the watershed districts that are members of the RRWMB. Map 1 on Page 2 indicates current RRWMB membership.
3. **RRWMB VISION STATEMENT:** We believe in and value a framework that works towards and achieves economic vitality, sustained economic growth for our population base, and enhanced natural resources for the future in the RRB of the North. We will: (1) Work with our members, partners, and stakeholders to implement this vision through the mission and objectives of the RRWMB as provided by enabling legislation and our strategic plan and with a basin-wide approach, and (2) Work with our members to fund and implement projects related to Flood Damage Reduction (FDR), and water quality to protect public and private investments in accordance with our governing documents, the 1998 RRB Flood Mediation Agreement, and the 20 Percent Flow Reduction Strategy.
4. **RRWMB MISSION:** To identify, coordinate, and finance projects and programs to alleviate flooding and assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries.
5. **WATER QUALITY PROGRAM BACKGROUND:** In 2016, the RRWMB began a Strategic Planning Process to structure the organization for the future, establish a public office, hire full-time staff, and to create its first ever Strategic Plan. During the development of the Strategic Plan in 2018 and 2019, input was received from RRWMB membership, non-member watershed districts, and basin-wide partners and stakeholders. The 2018 Joint Annual Conference of the RRWMB and RRB Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG) provided a primary vehicle for obtaining input for the development of the Strategic Plan. Figure 1 on Page 3 illustrates timelines associated with the RRWMB Water Quality Program.

The Strategic Plan was approved in December 2019 by the RRWMB Managers and included water quality as one of seven key areas to be focused on for the next five years. Specifically, the Water Quality Goal of the RRWMB Strategic Plan is to support local efforts as identified in local One Water One Plans (1W1P) or other local water and resource management plans that contribute to increased or enhanced water quality.

# MAP 1

## Red River Water Management Board

### Member Watershed Districts

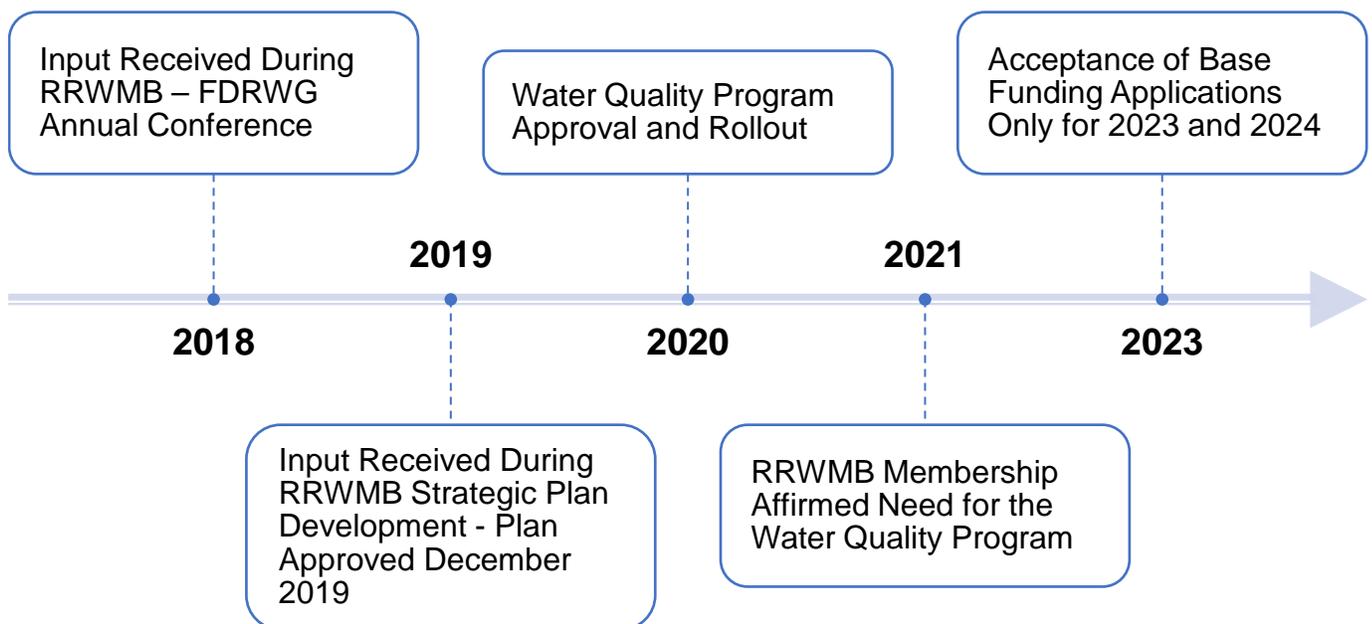


**Action Steps of the Water Quality Goal – RRWMB Strategic Plan:**

- Consider how to partner with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture on the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, which can be used to encourage increased adoption of agricultural practices upstream of FDR projects to reduce sedimentation, pollutant loading, thus potentially reducing FDR project operational, maintenance, and repair costs.
- Consider an annual allocation to member watershed districts for water quality projects, which will help members and their partners leverage additional funds at all levels.
- Consider the creation of a Natural Resources Enhancement (NRE) trading system for the Minnesota RRB and work with partners, stakeholders, and non-governmental organizations.
- Consider how to meet pollution reduction needs of cities, National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit holders, and other governmental and private entities related phosphorus, nitrogen, Total Suspended Solids (TSS), and other water quality parameters.

In 2020, the RRWMB began funding projects under a new Water Quality Program. This report summarizes activities funded by the new Program in the four years 2020 – 2023. The report is intended to provide a record of expenditures, activities, and outcomes in support of ongoing Program oversight by the RRWMB Board of Managers.

**Figure 1. RRWMB Water Quality Program Timelines**



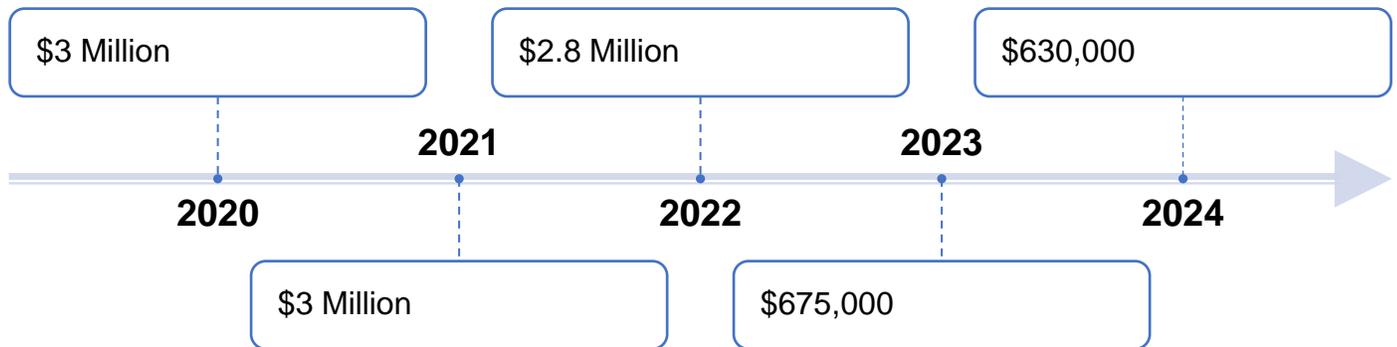
**6. WATER QUALITY PROGRAM PROCESS AND POLICIES:** To implement the Program, the RRWMB Managers directed its Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee (WQMAC) to develop a program structure and to prepare materials that member watershed districts could use in applying for Water Quality Program funds. In response, the WQMAC developed an Application Packet (Attachment A) that was approved by the RRWMB Managers in March 2020.

The Application Packet doubled as a policy document to guide the new Program. In September 2023, the RRWMB Managers approved a new policy supplementing the Application Packet (Attachment B). Including the 2023 document, Water Quality Program policies and procedures include these elements:

- Only members of the RRWMB are eligible for Water Quality Program funds, which includes the Joe River Watershed District (JRWD), Two Rivers Watershed District (TRWD), Roseau River Watershed District (RRWD), Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers Watershed District (MSTRWD), Red Lake Watershed District (RLWD), Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD), and the Bois de Sioux Watershed District (BdSWD).
- Funding decisions are case-by-case, based on the applicable policies, available funds, and RRWMB Managers judgment of how best to implement RRWMB priorities.
- There are two categories of funding awards, and watershed districts can apply for both of them:
  - **Base Funding (Non-competitive):** Each member watershed district shall be eligible to apply for up to \$100,000 for use during the RRWMB fiscal year to promote or advance priority water quality objectives as identified in a local water management plan. These funds are intended to augment and support day to day water quality activities. Watershed districts need to provide 25 percent cash match of the local share with the RRWMB providing the remaining 75 percent of the local share. A funding agreement with the RRWMB is not required.
  - **Project Funding (Competitive):** Each member watershed district is eligible to apply for funding to plan, design, permit, and/or construct, operate, and maintain projects that protect, restore, or improve surface water quality. This may also include studies or field monitoring activities supporting the mission of the RRWMB and local priorities. The Application Packet includes a set of “minimum threshold requirements” for Competitive Funding grants and provides for review of applications by the WQMAC. Receipt of the award is contingent on a signed funding agreement between the member watershed district and RRWMB.
- Starting in January 2023, RRWMB policy limits total annual awards to 15 percent of the RRWMBs annual levy revenue. The intent of this change was to ensure that FDR projects remain the organization’s highest priority for funding. If member participation in the Water Quality Program continues at a level similar to prior years, this means that Base Funding grants will typically use most or all of the available funds, and Competitive Funding grant allocations and awards will become less available. As a corollary, Base Funding awards approved in 2023 were higher than the \$100,000 figure listed above (the five Base Funding awards issued in 2023 were \$112,500 each).

Figure 2 on Page 5 illustrates the funds budgeted for the RRMB Water Quality Program from 2020 to 2023. The budgeted amount for 2024 is \$630,000 or \$90,000 per watershed district for Base Funding.

**Figure 2. RRWMB Water Quality Program Funding History**



- In September 2023, the RRWMB established a two-year expiration period on future Base Funding awards. A member watershed district’s unused funding will revert to the RRWMB general fund two years after the award has been approved unless an extension is granted.

**7. AWARDS AND EXPENDITURES 2020 – 2023:** Water Quality Program awards in the first four years are shown in the following tables, organized by year of the award and by RRWMB member watershed district. The amount spent/dispensed is through December 31, 2023 for both tables.

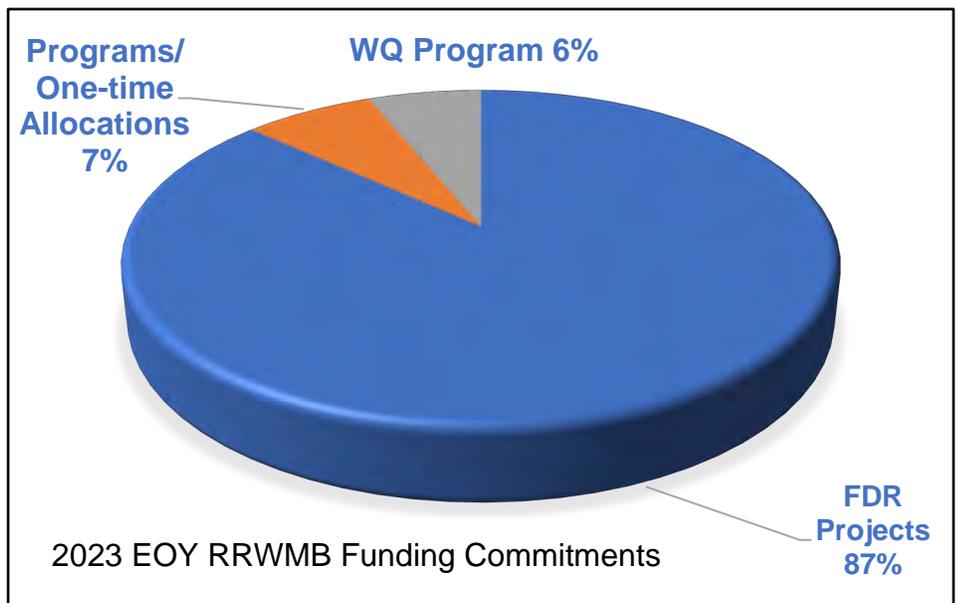
**Table 1. Awards by Year (Amount Spent/Disbursed is Through 12/31/2023)**

Year of Award	Awards		Dollar Amounts	
	Base	Competitive	Committed	Spent/Disbursed
2020	6	4	\$ 2,269,067	\$ 1,366,959
2021	3	2	\$ 1,174,765	\$ 477,973
2022	3	4	\$ 2,012,700	\$ 1,268,291
2023	5	0	\$ 562,500	\$ -
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$ 6,019,032</b>	<b>\$ 3,113,223</b>

**Table 2. Awards to Member Watershed Districts**

Member District	Awards		Dollar Amounts	
	Base	Competitive	Committed	Spent/Disbursed
JRWD	N/A	N/A	\$ -	\$ -
TRWD	2	0	\$ 212,500	\$ 41,803
RRWD	3	2	\$ 935,167	\$ 100,000
MSTRWD	3	1	\$ 519,200	\$ 406,700
RLWD	3	1	\$ 562,500	\$ 450,000
WRWD	2	2	\$ 1,019,400	\$ 542,156
BdSWD	4	4	\$ 2,770,265	\$ 1,572,564
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>\$ 6,019,032</b>	<b>\$ 3,113,223</b>

Based on these figures, approximately \$2.9 million remains to be paid out from awards granted in the first four years. However, this is reduced by grants that were closed without needing their full allotments. After accounting for those cases, at the end of 2023 approximately \$2.7 million remained to be paid out from awards made in the first four years of the program.



All RRWMB funding commitments at the end of 2023 totaled \$26,969,256 for FDR Projects, One-time Allocations, and the Water Quality Program. Funding commitments for the Water Quality Program were 6 percent of the total as indicated in the pie chart above at the end of 2023. All match funds to the Program for all 27 projects approved by the RRWMB from 2020 to 2023 totaled \$3,853,259 from member watershed districts and \$15,050,813 from cities, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and the Clean Water Fund via the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources. These match dollars coupled with RRWMB funding totaled \$24,923,104. For each \$1 dollar the RRWMB allocated to the Water Quality Program, an additional \$4 dollars in match was received from other sources.

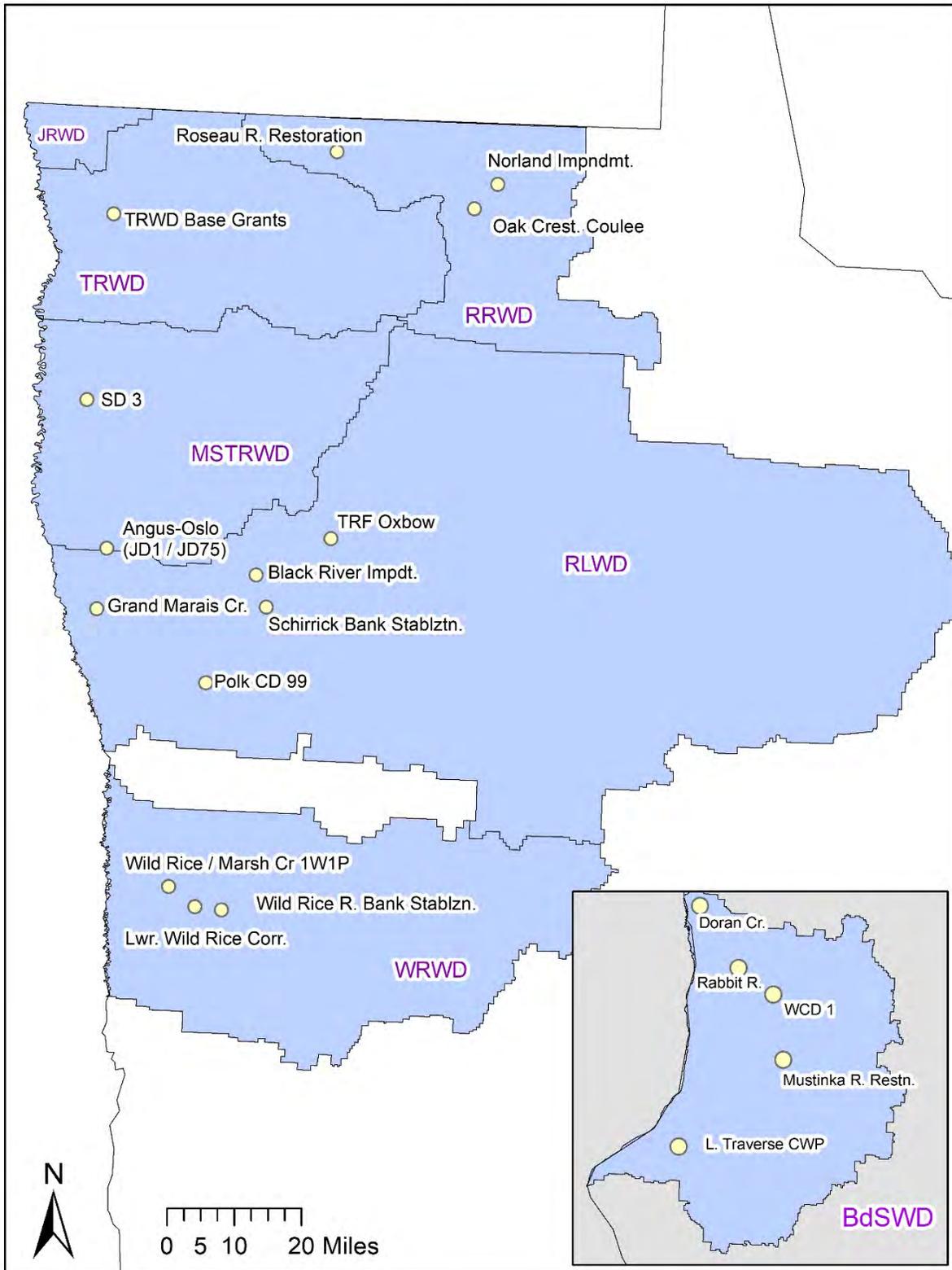
**8. OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM OUTCOMES 2020 – 2023:** This section summarizes outcomes of the funding awards reported by RRWMB member watershed districts. Primary outcomes are reductions in delivery of sediment and/or nutrients (e.g., phosphorus) to the region’s waters. Watercourses where these reductions occur include the Black River, Doran Creek, Grand Marais Creek, Hay Creek, Mustinka River, Rabbit River, Red Lake River, Red River, Roseau River, Lake Traverse, and the Wild Rice River.

In some cases, the reductions begin in local ditch systems that contribute sediment and nutrients to these watercourses. Based on estimates provided by the watershed districts receiving Water Quality Program funds and described later in this report, the overall effect of the funded projects are load reductions on the order of:

- 6,800 tons per year of sediment; and
- 1,700 pounds per year of phosphorus.

Not every watershed district has provided quantitative estimates of load reductions, so the values above may understate the total benefits generated by the projects funded. Funding provided by the RRWMB is usually combined with funding from other sources to achieve the outcomes listed here. The availability of RRWMB funding has extended the reach and scale of the water quality efforts of member watershed districts beyond what would have been possible without it. The distribution of project sites funded by the Water Quality Program across the RRWMB member watershed districts is displayed on Map 2 on the next page.

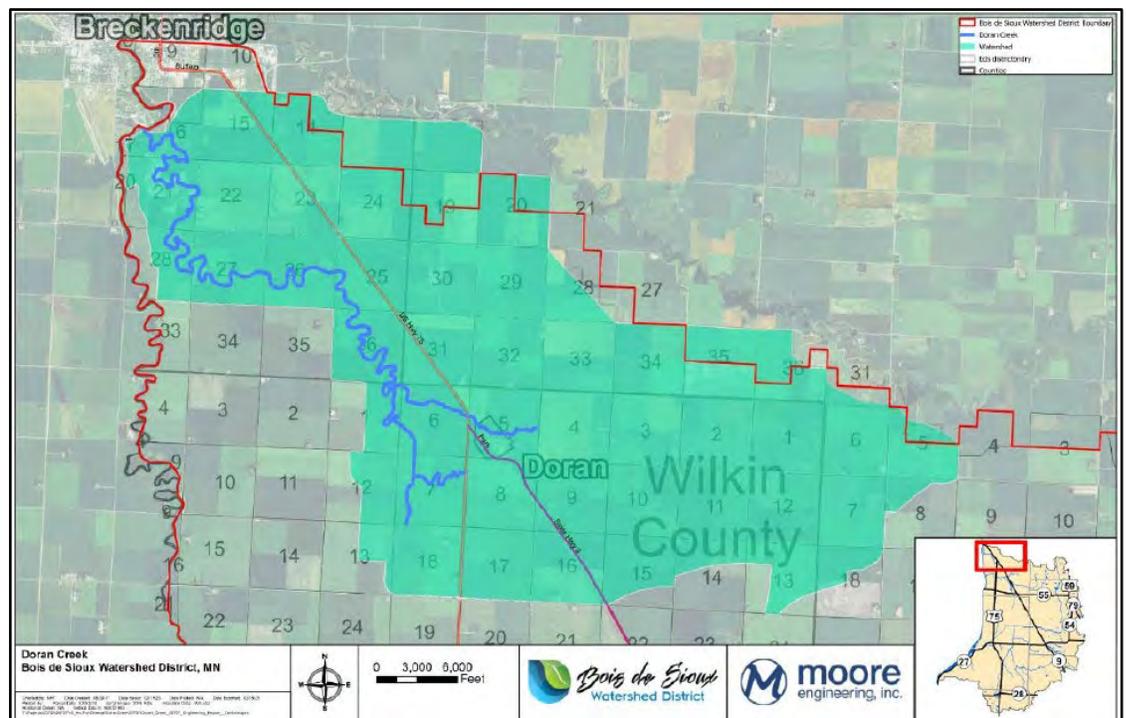
## MAP 2 Water Quality Program: Funded Sites 2020-2023



**9. FUNDING AWARDS AND OUTCOMES BY MEMBER WATERSHED DISTRICT:** This section lists the Base and Competitive Funding awards received by each member watershed district in the first four years of the Water Quality Program. Further details of each award can be found in the table in Attachment C.

**A. BdSWD:**

- **Base Funding Awards:** Base Funding awards to the BdSWD in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 total \$412,500. These funds have been used for water quality improvements at the Rabbit River/Wilkin County Ditch No. 9, Doran Creek, and Wilkin County Ditch No. 1 (in progress). Actions have included field investigations, modeling of stream channel conditions, acquisition of easements, stabilization of side slopes, adjustment of ditch grades, planting of slopes and buffers, riprapping in high-erosion areas, and installation of side-inlet culverts that reduce delivery of sediment-rich runoff from adjoining fields into ditch channels. The Base Funding grants from 2020 – 2022 have been fully utilized and closed out. The 2023 grant remains active as of January 2024. Over 40 miles of ditch channel have been stabilized and easements have been acquired in some areas. The BdSWD estimates water quality outcomes from these efforts to be:
  - **Rabbit River/Wilkin County Ditch 9:** Erosion/sediment reduction of 569 tons per year and nutrient/phosphorus reduction of 146 pounds per year.
  - **Doran Creek:** Erosion/sediment reduction of 890 tons per year and nutrient/phosphorus reduction of 170 pounds per year. Below is an illustration of the Doran Creek area.



- **Wilkin County Ditch 1 (Pending Completion):** Erosion/sediment reduction of 90 tons per year and nutrient /phosphorus reduction of 90 pounds per year.

- **Competitive Funding Awards:**

- **Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1:** The BdSWD combined RRWMB Competitive Funding grants of \$1.85 million with funding from other sources to complete all three phases of the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project No. 1 in the Traverse County Ditch No. 52 drainage system. This is the largest Project funded in the first four years of the Water Quality Program. The need for this Project was identified as far back as the 1950s, and funding from the RRWMB helped to finally enable the Project to be constructed.

The BdSWD reports outcomes of this Project include erosion/sediment reduction of 3,450 tons per year, plus nutrient /phosphorus reduction of 866 pounds per year. This project includes permanent easement of 62.7 acres and stabilization of 1.6 miles of ditch. Below is a photograph of Phase 1 of this Project.



- **Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project:** The RRWMB awarded \$507,000 to the BdSWD as a competitive grant for work on the Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project. The BdSWD estimates this Project has reduced sediment by 235 tons per year and nutrients/phosphorus by 72 pounds per year. The Project includes a permanent easement of 260 acres and stabilization of 8 miles of the Mustinka River channel. An illustration of the Project with construction timelines is included on the next page. This Project is also being constructed in conjunction with the Redpath Impoundment.

## Illustration of the Mustinka River Rehabilitation and Redpath Impoundment Projects



### B. MSTRWD:

- **Base Funding Awards:** The RRWMB granted Base Funding awards to the MSTRWD in 2020, 2021, and 2023 totaling \$312,500. The awards from the first two years were used to install grade-stabilization features in Judicial Ditch 1 and 75. Similar work is now underway in State Ditch 3 using the 2023 award. These Projects reduce channel erosion and reduce sediment deliveries to downstream watercourses including the Red River. The 2020 and 2021 grants were fully used and have been closed out. The 2023 grant remains open as of January 2024. MSTRWD reports the following outcomes:

- **Judicial Ditches 75 and 1:** Sediment reduction of 377 tons per year and phosphorus reduction of 377 pounds per year. New side water inlets and riprap installed during the 2023 Judicial Ditch #75 repair are illustrated in the photograph to the right.
- **State Ditch 3:** Stand-alone outcomes from these awards are not separable from overall outcomes of a larger effort that will occur over time using multiple funding sources. The overall goal is to reduce sediment loading by over 9,000 tons per year and phosphorus by nearly 10,000 pounds per year in State Ditch 3.



- **Competitive Funding Awards:** The MSTRWD received a competitive grant of \$206,700 in 2022 for additional work stabilizing the grade along Judicial Ditch 5. This contributed to the outcomes reported on the previous page from the Base Funding grants for that ditch system.

### Before and After Photographs of Restoration Work in Judicial Ditches 1 and 75

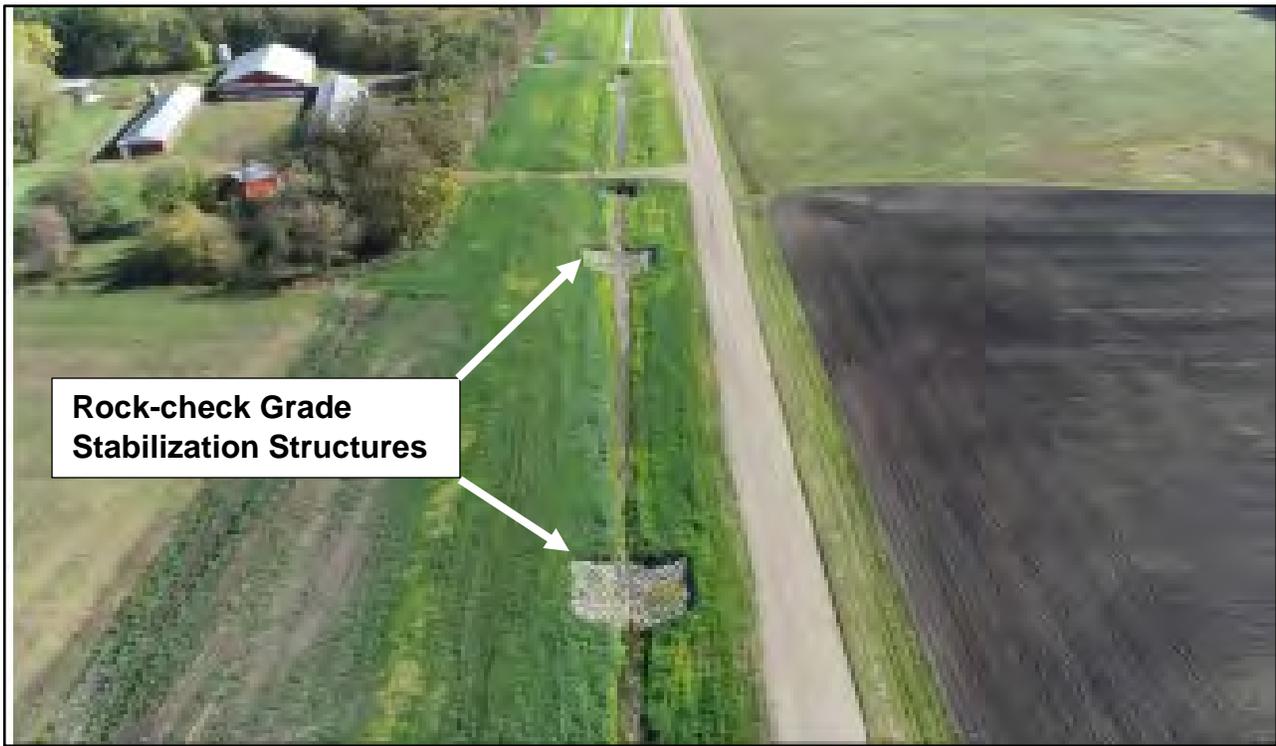


### C. RLWD:

- **Base Funding Awards:** Water Quality Program Base Funding awards were granted to the RLWD in 2020, 2022, and 2023 and these awards total \$312,500. The 2023 award remains active, while the earlier two awards have been fully used and closed out. The 2020 and 2022 Base Funding awards were used to install rock-drop structures to improve grade-control in ditches, install side-water inlets between ditches and adjoining fields, and to stabilize ditch banks. These projects were in the Black River and Grand Marais Creek Subbasins and on the Red Lake River within the City of Thief River Falls. The 2023 funding is being used to reduce erosion at the outlet of Polk County Ditch 99 to the Red Lake River. This work is being coordinated with Polk County road and ditch improvement projects. The RLWD estimates several outcomes from these projects:
  - **Black River Impoundment:** Water quality features will reduce sediment loading to the Black River from the area feeding Pennington County Ditch 25 by 115 tons per year.
  - **Black River Near Schirrick Dam:** Separately from the Black River Impoundment, bank stabilization on the Black River near Schirrick Dam will reduce sediment loading by the River by 72 tons per year.

- **Grand Marais Creek:** Sediment reduction is estimated to be 121 tons per year.
- **City of Thief River Falls:** The two projects within Thief River Falls will reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by a combined 220 tons per year.
- **Outlet of Polk County Ditch 99:** Stabilization of the outlet of Polk County Ditch 99 will reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by 702 tons per year.

**Construction of Side Water Inlets and Rock-check Grade Stabilization Structures Along the Diversion Ditches Constructed in the Black River Impoundment Drainage Area.**



**Completed and Installed Side Water Inlets on Ditch 16 in the RLWD**



- **Competitive Funding Awards:** The RRWMB contributed \$250,000 to the Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment Project, which was developed as a partnership between the City of Thief River Falls and the RLWD. This Project involved excavating accumulated sediments from an abandoned oxbow channel of the Red Lake River and installing sediment traps on land owned by the City of Thief River Falls that drains to the oxbow. This Project is estimated to reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by at least 4.4 tons per year. The photographs below illustrate the condition of the Project area both prior to and after construction.



**D. RRWD:**

- **Base Funding Awards:** Awards to the RRWD in 2020, 2021, and 2023 totaled \$312,500. The 2020 award has been fully used and closed out and the other two remain active. The 2020 award was used mainly to develop information and draft a monitoring plan for watercourses within the RRWD. Several side-water inlets were also installed. The 2022 funds were used to construct a water control structure through the Norland Forest Road to enable high flows and associated sediment to be directed into the Norland Impoundment.

The 2023 funds will be used to stabilize banks and install side water inlets in the Hay Creek drainage area and to supplement Competitive Funding grants that were awarded for Oak Crest Coulee (described below). RRWD reports that these projects have enabled the identification of priority areas for water quality improvements and improve the capability to apply successfully for state Clean Water funds. Estimated load reductions include:

- 10 percent reduction of sediment loading to Hay Creek.
- 5 percent reduction of sediment loading in other planning regions delineated in the Roseau River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

- **Competitive Funding Awards:**

- **Roseau River Restoration Project:** The RRWMB awarded a Competitive Funding grant of \$467,000 in 2020 for the Roseau River Restoration Project, which will re-connect a portion of the Roseau River to its floodplain. As of January 2024, this Project was in the permitting stage and the funding had not yet been used.
- **Oak Crest Coulee Project:** In 2022 a Competitive Funding grant of \$156,00 was awarded to construct a gated stormwater storage pond with sand filters in the Oak Crest Coulee development in the City of Roseau. This will help to control sediment and phosphorus loading from a 305-acre area that delivers runoff to the Roseau River. Facing an unfavorable bid climate in 2023, the RRWD elected to modify the design and re-bid the project in 2024.

**E. TRWD:**

- **Base Funding Awards:** The TRWD received Base Funding awards in 2020 and 2023, amounting to \$212,500. These funds have not yet been fully used (\$42,000 was paid out as of November 2023). The TRWD has used the funds to re-establish a water quality monitoring program at 10 sites, purchase a flow meter and install 8 side-water inlets along Judicial Ditch No. 3.

Planned activities include continued monitoring activities at stations formerly monitored by the TRWD and Minnesota Pollution Control Agency; continued installation of side-water inlets; installation of rock-drop structures to improve grade control on ditches, coulees, and other watercourses; identification of bank erosion sites needing treatment, and to monitor water quality conditions and trends.

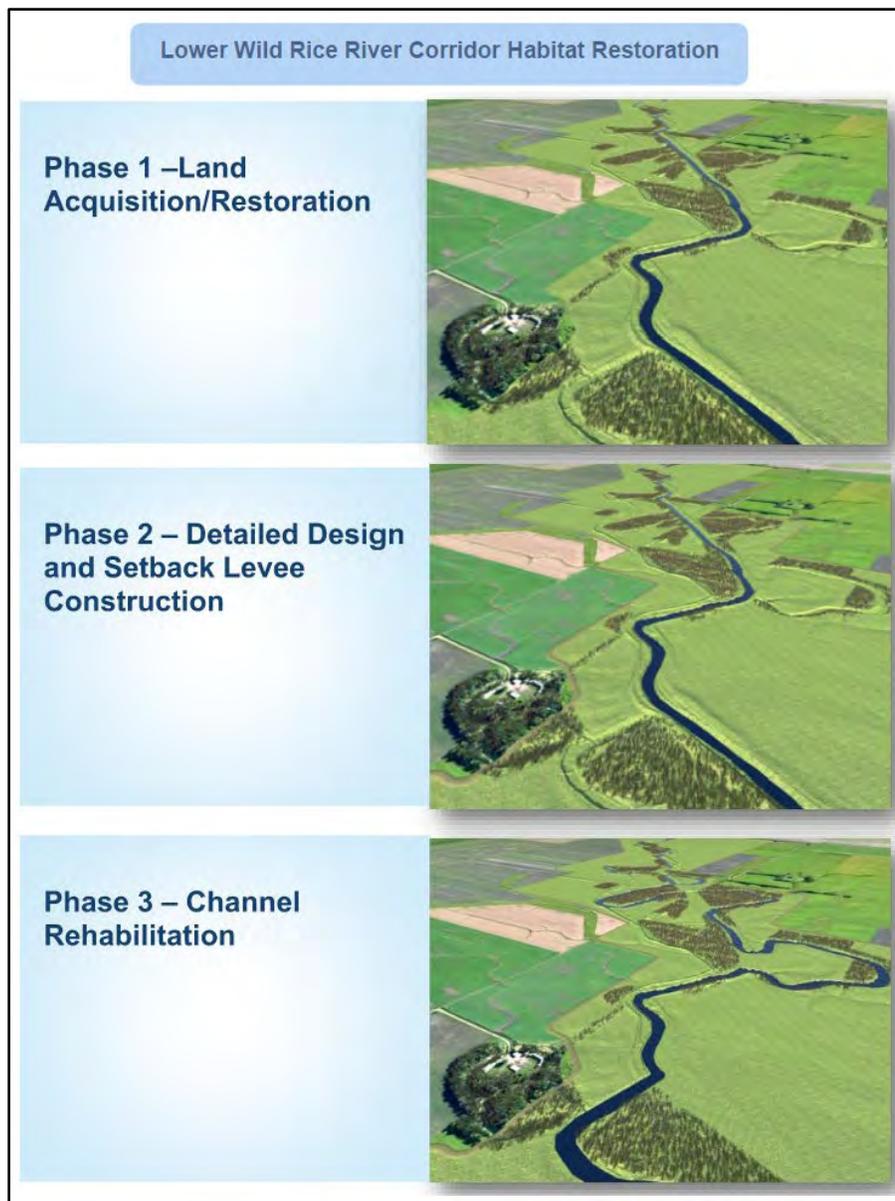
**A New Flow Monitor Purchased by the TRWD**



- **Competitive Funding Awards:** The TRWD did not request any Competitive Funding awards in 2020 – 2023.

**F. Wild Rice Watershed District (WRWD):**

- **Base Funding Awards:** The WRWD received Base Funding grants in 2020 and 2021 totaling \$200,000. These funds have been partially utilized, with \$81,000 spent as of November 2023. The WRWD has used these funds to conduct a sediment study of the Wild Rice River, in partnership with the United States Geological Survey (USGS). Data collected will be used to design channel rehabilitation projects consistent with the 1W1P for the Wild Rice watershed.
- **Competitive Funding Awards:**
  - **Lower Wild Rice Corridor Restoration Project:** In 2020 the RRWMB awarded \$669,000 for actions that are part of the Lower Wild Rice Corridor Restoration Project. Approximately half of this has been used as of November 2023 to acquire easements and to re-vegetate 5 parcels along the planned 23-mile restoration zone. An illustration of this Project is included below. The Project area is also depicted in a photograph taken in the Spring of 2022 by RRWMB staff on Page 16.



**Flooded Areas Along the Wild Rice River Near Ada, MN on May 3, 2022 – Photograph Courtesy of RRWMB**



- **McDonaldsville Township Streambank Stabilization Project:** In 2022 an additional Competitive Funding award of \$150,000 was granted for streambank stabilization in 2 areas on the Wild Rice River in Sections 13 and 14 of McDonaldsville Township in Norman County. The Project was completed in 2023. Photographs of this Project are included below and on Page 17.



## The Wild Rice Stabilization Project



**6. CONCLUSION:** With a total of 27 funding awards totaling over \$6 million in the first four years, the Water Quality Program has clearly met a significant funding need identified by RRWMB member watershed districts. During those years, members applied for both Base and Competitive Funding. As the new spending limit takes effect, funds allocated to the Program will be at a lower level, and most awards will be in the Base Funding category. Member watershed districts have successfully pooled the RRWMBs Water Quality Program funds with funding from other state and local sources to accomplish significant reductions in sediment and nutrient loading to watercourses throughout the RRB. The availability of RRWMB funding has extended the reach and scale of the water quality efforts of member watershed districts beyond what would have been possible without this program.



# **APPLICATION PACKET FOR WATER QUALITY PROGRAM**

**APPROVED MARCH 10, 2020**

**BACKGROUND:** This application packet contains materials and process information related to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB) Water Quality Program. Member watershed districts of the RRWMB are the only eligible applicants for funding of water quality projects that meet the criteria of this Program. The RRWMB approved a Strategic Plan in December 2019 that includes water quality as a priority. The RRWMB is implementing this strategic plan in accordance with enabling legislation and current authority under law as described below.

**HISTORY:** In 1976, the Minnesota legislature passed legislation which enabled existing watershed districts within the Minnesota portion of the Red River Basin (RRB) to partner in a common effort under a Joint Powers Agreement to form the Lower Red River Watershed Management Board (LRRWMB). This organization was created for the purpose of instituting, coordinating, and financing projects and programs to alleviate flooding and to assure the beneficial use of water in the watershed of the Red River of the North and its tributaries. The 1976 legislation originally gave the LRRWMB authority for "construction and maintenance of projects of common benefit" and allowed member watershed districts to levy up to two mills ad valorem tax to be utilized for flood water retention projects. One-half of the tax collected is retained by the individual member watershed district for projects within the district while the other half is transferred to the LRRWMB.

**CURRENT AUTHORITY UNDER LAW:** Legislation in 1991 changed the name of the LRRWMB to the RRWMB and redefined the authority of the Board to include "development, construction, and maintenance of projects and programs of benefit to the RRB." Legislation in the 1989 Special Session changed the mil levy rate to the current ad valorem tax levy limitation of 0.04836 percent of the taxable market value of all property within the watershed districts that are members of the RRWMB.

**OVERVIEW:** The RRWMB included \$3 million for water quality projects and initiatives in July 2019 for the 2020 operating budget. The RRWMB Managers will reassess program and budgetary needs before the annual budget and levy is set in July of each year.

**SECTION I. APPLICATION REVIEW AND APPROVAL PROCESS:** The RRWMB meets the third Tuesday of the month unless otherwise noted. To efficiently process applications, the following process will be used by the RRWMB to discuss, consider, and review information submitted by its member watershed districts. Action will not be taken by the RRWMB Managers at the same RRWMB meeting that the application is first presented. Action on applications presented may be taken after Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee (WQMAC) recommendations are submitted to the RRWMB Managers.

**A. Submittal of Application to the RRWMB:** Applications must be submitted to the RRWMB by the first Monday of the Month. Electronic submittals via e-mail are acceptable. Applications received will be considered at the next RRWMB regular meeting.

**B. Presentation to the RRWMB Managers:** The RRWMB will invite each application to be presented by the sponsoring member watershed district at a regular monthly meeting of the RRWMB. The short presentation shall describe how the water quality project will address priority water quality issues. The presentation shall include summarized information to be considered in the WQMAC review and noting how the proposed project will affect:

- The tributaries to the Red River or other streams and water bodies within a watershed district's jurisdiction; and/or,
- The Red River main stem.

The presentation shall also contain a description of the duration of the proposed activity and the total cost through completion. Cooperating participants in the funding of the proposed activity shall be identified with verification that funding will be available through completion if the RRWMB Managers determine that the project should move forward through this process.

**C. Review by the RRWMB WQMAC:** Following an applicant's presentation, if the RRWMB Managers determine the project merits consideration, it shall refer the application to the WQMAC for in-depth review. The RRWMB Managers may also defer the project to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for technical and engineering review as needed. Upon completion of this review(s), the WQMAC shall return a recommendation to the RRWMB Managers. The RRWMB Managers shall have final authority to award funds or to decline funding, and to choose the level of funding to be awarded. In reviewing applications and recommending appropriate funding levels, the WQMAC shall take the following additional points into consideration:

- The magnitude of load reduction or water quality improvement projected due to project implementation. Performance against this criterion will be enhanced if the project also demonstrates a substantial contribution towards achieving the goals or objectives of the applicable local water management plan.
- The areal or linear extent of benefits in terms of length of stream reaches or area of water bodies receiving treatment.
- Duration of the benefits provided by the project. Projects that offer strong assurance of permanent or long-term benefits are preferred.

- Whether benefits include protection or improvement of a community drinking water source (surface water or directly connected to surface water) and the number of people that obtain drinking water from that source.
- Initial project construction costs and longer-term operation and maintenance costs will be considered.
- Whether the RRWMB funding of the project will leverage other funds or resources that would not be available in the absence of the RRWMB funding contribution. Projects that include leveraging of other funds/resources are preferred.
- Whether RRWMB funding of the project will create opportunities for other types of benefits, such as flood damage reduction, or natural resource enhancements apart from water quality benefits.
- Whether the project contributes to water-quality objectives on the main stem Red River, in addition to improving water quality in tributary streams or other water bodies. Projects that demonstrate improvement of water quality both to tributaries (or other local water bodies) and to the main stem Red River are preferred over projects benefitting only tributaries.

**D. Funding Agreement For Approved Projects:** A funding agreement shall be developed between the member watershed district and the RRWMB. The RRWMB will approve funding agreements by resolution. The funding agreement will include timelines for project implementation and completion. Extensions or other modifications to the funding agreement shall be submitted to the RRWMB three months prior to expiration on a form provided by the RRWMB to allow for adequate processing time. Requests for modification must be approved by the RRWMB Managers.

**E. Documentation of Project Outcomes:** A plan for documenting project outcomes must be submitted to the RRWMB that illustrates or describes how financial investments in the project and actions taken will meet the goal(s) of the project, and outcomes will be achieved. A final report shall be submitted to the RRWMB upon completion of the project.

**SECTION II. WATER QUALITY FUNDING CATEGORIES:** The RRWMB will consider funding requests in the Base Funding and Water Quality Projects categories. Costs cannot be incurred prior to receiving funds from the RRWMB for either of these categories.

**A. Base Funding (Non-competitive):** Each RRWMB member watershed district shall be eligible to apply for up to \$100,000 for use during the RRWMB fiscal year to promote or advance priority water quality objectives as identified in a local water management plan. These funds are intended to augment and support day to day water quality activities. A description of how funds will be utilized will be submitted by the member watershed district to the RRWMB on the attached Request for Base Funding Form (Appendix A). Member watershed districts seeking base funds shall:

- Complete the Request for Base Funding Form.
- Receive approval from the RRWMB for Base Funding.

- Provide an annual progress report during the duration of the project to the RRWMB in writing and shall present progress at a regular monthly meeting or other RRWMB regular event.
- Seek reimbursement for expenditures consistent with the activities in the approved Request for Base Funding form. The RRWMB will follow financial processes in accordance with the RRWMB Internal Controls and Treasurers Policy Manual on August 21, 2018 and amended on April 16, 2019.
- Funding in the “base funding” category may be applied to activities that support the “projects” category, if consistent with the approved submittal and supporting materials.
- Provide 25 (twenty-five) percent cash match of the local share to be eligible. The RRWMB will provide up to 75 percent of the local cost-share for base funding.

**B. Water Quality Projects (Competitive):** Each RRWMB member watershed district is eligible to apply for funding to plan, design, permit, and/or construct, operate, and maintain projects that protect, restore, or improve surface water quality in its area of jurisdiction or on the main stem of the Red River of the North. This may also include studies or field monitoring activities that support the mission of the RRWMB and local priorities. This category of funding shall be subject to the minimum threshold requirements listed in the next section. The RRWMB Funding Application Form for Water Quality Projects (Appendix B) shall be completed by the applicant.

**Note:** Watershed districts can apply for both Base Funding and Water Quality Project Funding at the same time.

**SECTION III. CRITERIA FOR FUNDING WATER QUALITY PROJECTS:** A project proposed for RRWMB funding must meet the following criteria:

- A. Meeting Goals and Objectives of Locally Adopted Water Management Plan:** The applicant must demonstrate the project contributes to implementing the surface water quality actions or achieving the surface water quality goals and objectives listed in a current, locally adopted water management plan. For example, this may be a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) plan, a One-Watershed One Plan (1W1P), or other approved plan that directs local units of government to address water quality issues. The RRWMB may also consider new and emerging issues as identified by the applicant not specifically listed in an adopted water management plan.
- B. RRWMB Membership:** The applicant must be a member of the RRWMB. However, the applicant may pass funds through to a partner organization to achieve the purposes stated in the application. A description of how funds will be used by partner organizations shall be illustrated in the application and supporting materials.
- C. Effects on Flooding:** The project cannot cause, increase, or exacerbate flooding problems that would be contrary to the RRWMB mission of flood damage reduction and beneficial use of water. In connection with this requirement, for projects that include a drainage component, consistency with the Basin Technical and Scientific Advisory Committee (BTSAC) Technical Paper 3 must be demonstrated.

**SECTION IV. COST-SHARE RATES FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECTS:** The RRWMB Managers will use discretion for each project and will consider the overall benefits and merits of projects submitted for funding. The RRWMB will use the following for determining cost-share rates for Water Quality Projects:

- A. State Share – 50 (fifty) percent.
- B. Local Share – 50 (fifty) percent:
  - RRWMB: 2/3s (two-thirds) of local project costs.
  - Applicant: 1/3 (one-third) of local project costs.
- C. Applicants shall be responsible for securing funds for the remaining share of 50 (fifty) percent of overall project costs from other sources including but not limited to state and federal partners.

**SECTION V. GENERAL PROGRAM NOTES:**

- A. Variations from these requirements may be allowed for all proposals but only in accordance with the provisions set forth in the RRWMB Governing Documents.
- B. The RRWMB reserves the right to adjust this process if there are more applications than funding available for Water Quality Projects. At that time, a scoring and ranking process will be developed by the WQMAC and will be approved by the RRWMB Managers.
- C. In order to reduce paperwork, the RRWMB may accept application materials, pollution reduction calculator results, and other information the applicant has submitted to state and federal agencies.
- D. Ground water quality is currently not a goal of this funding program. However, best management practices that treat surface waters that provide secondary or incidental benefits to groundwater are eligible. For example, bioreactors or saturated buffers to treat subsurface tile water are eligible practices while the installation of subsurface tile is not an eligible expense.
- E. The use of the word “benefit” within this document relates to projects, practices, or programs that protect, enhance, or improve water quality parameters. Benefit is not intended to mean or equate to benefit cost analysis or general economic analysis.



## APPENDIX A REQUEST FOR BASE FUNDING

Member watershed districts of the RRWMB who wish to request Base Funding must complete this form. Completed forms can be submitted to the RRWMB at [rob.sip@rrwmb.org](mailto:rob.sip@rrwmb.org) or by mailing to the RRWMB office at:

11 Fifth Avenue East  
Suite B  
Ada, MN 56510

If you require additional space to complete any of the questions below, please attach additional sheets as necessary.

**Requesting Entity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Requested:** \_\_\_\_\_

1. How will this project advance priority water quality objectives as identified in a local water management plan?
2. Please cite the local water management plan(s) that your work will focus on.
3. How will Base Funding augment and support day to day water quality activities of your watershed district?
4. What are long-term goals of your Base Funding request and what outcomes will be achieved?



## APPENDIX B RRWMB FUNDING APPLICATION FORM FOR WATER QUALITY PROJECTS

Member watershed districts of the RRWMB who wish to request funding for Water Quality Projects must submit this application form in accordance with RRWMB funding processes and procedures. Completed applications can be submitted to the RRWMB at [rob.sip@rrwmb.org](mailto:rob.sip@rrwmb.org) or by mailing to the RRWMB office at:

11 Fifth Avenue East  
Suite B  
Ada, MN 56510

If you require additional space to complete any of the questions below, please attach additional sheets as necessary.

**1. Requesting Entity:** \_\_\_\_\_

**2. Program Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Project Partners:** \_\_\_\_\_

**4. Location of Project (County and Township):** \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Description of Request** (Please indicate if the Water Quality Project is new or relates to an existing Water Quality Project).

A. For New Water Quality Projects (Please describe your Water Quality project here):

B. For Existing Water Quality Projects (Please describe completed past efforts that relate to this Water Quality project):

**6. Relation to the RRWMB Vision, Mission, Principle Objective, and Supporting Objectives:** Please describe how this project contributes to water-quality objectives on the main stem Red River. How does your project reduce, mitigate, or eliminate pollutant loading to local tributaries and the Red River main stem?

**7. Relation to Local Plans:** Please describe how your project relates to or meets goals and objectives in local water management plans and how water quality will be improved in tributary streams or other water bodies.

**8. Project Area Map:** Please include a map illustrating where the project will be completed along with the areal or linear extent of benefits in terms of length of stream reaches or area of water bodies receiving benefits.

**9. Project Duration and Maintenance:** What is the life expectancy of your project and how will the project be maintained? Please explain your plan to maintain, expand, or enhance the project in the next 5 years. Include costs for operations and maintenance in addition to initial project construction.

**10. Drinking Water Benefits:** Does the proposed project include protection or improvement of a surface water used for a community drinking water source?

**11. Other Project Benefits:** Please describe if the project will create opportunities for other types of benefits, such as flood damage reduction, or natural resource enhancements apart from water quality benefits.

**12. Monitoring Plan:** Describe your plan for quantitative monitoring and documentation of project benefits.

**13. Leveraging of Funds:** Will the project leverage funds from other sources? Please list all funding sources in Table 1 Below:

**Table 1. Project Funding Sources:**

<b>Funding Source</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Comments</b>
Federal		
State		
Local		
RRWMB		
Other (NGO, Etc.)		
<b>TOTAL</b>		

**14. Project Timeline** (Please describe the proposed project timeline):

**15. Additional Information** (Please list or discuss any other information that you wish to submit as part of this application):



**SEPTEMBER 19, 2023**  
**APPROVED POLICY – WATER QUALITY PROGRAM**  
**PROJECT FUNDING AND REIMBURSEMENT PROCESS**

**Background:** The RRWMB Managers approved the Water Quality Program and application packet in March 2020 to provide Competitive and Base Funding to its membership to implement water quality projects and programs. A funding agreement template developed by RRWMB legal counsel for Competitive Funding was approved for use by the RRWMB Managers in July 2020.

**Purpose of Policy:** The policy is being implemented to ensure consistency and to provide information related to:

- How cost-share funds for the Water Quality Program are approved and allocated by the RRWMB.
- Illustrate how RRWMB funds are used to match local, state, and/or federal funds.
- Implement procedures for RRWMB staff as they process cost-share and reimbursement requests.

**1. Competitive Project Funding Agreement:** Eligibility for reimbursement starts when the RRWMB Managers accept recommendations by the Water Quality and Monitoring Advisory Committee (WQMAC) and/or the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) and formal approval is granted by the RRWMB. A funding agreement must be in place and fully executed prior to any funds being disbursed by the RRWMB for Competitive Projects. The RRWMB will not reimburse for project costs incurred prior to RRWMB Manager approval of Competitive Projects.

**2. Base Funding:** Eligibility for reimbursement starts when the RRWMB Managers approve the project. Generally, Base Funding projects are not required to be reviewed by the WQMAC or TAC unless review is requested by the RRWMB Managers. Flexibility is allowed but the application materials must clearly indicate the project area and what the funds will be used for. According to the Application Packet for Water Quality Program as approved on March 10, 2020:

- Base Funding projects shall advance priority water quality objectives as identified in a local water management plan.
- These funds are intended to augment and support day to day water quality activities.

**Note:** No funding agreement is required for Base Funding

**3. Terms of Payment or Reimbursement:** Grant funds will be distributed on a reimbursement basis and grantee must submit a letter and completed RRWMB reimbursement form requesting funds along with supporting documentation of expenses and match for the project for which it seeks reimbursement. Payment or reimbursement will be based upon:



- a. Project completion or completion of project milestones as defined in the application materials or other RRWMB requirements.
- b. Grantee's submission of a completed and summarized expenditures report.
- c. RRWMB's determination that grantee has satisfactorily fulfilled all the terms of a funding agreement.
- d. Advance payment to grantee is not allowed.
- e. If grantee does not seek reimbursement up to the amount of the total grant awarded prior to the expiration date as described in the Competitive funding agreement, the balance of unspent funds will revert to the RRWMB in its general fund unless an extension or amendment is requested and granted.
- f. For Base Funded projects, funds are available for 2 (two) years from the date of approval by the RRWMB Managers. The balance of unspent funds for Base Funded projects will revert to the RRWMB general fund unless an extension or amendment is requested and granted.
- g. RRWMB's obligation to provide funds under a funding agreement will not exceed the total grant awarded as identified in the funding agreement. Project overages will be the responsibility of the grantee to bring forth to the RRWMB Managers for consideration.
- h. The RRWMB may request additional information at any time.

**4. Determination of RRWMB Cost-share:** The RRWMB will not provide the entire RRWMB committed amount as an upfront one-time payment. Payments will be made in accordance with the current cost-share formula as indicated in the Application Packet for the Water Quality Program. The RRWMB will pay two-thirds (2/3 or 66.67 percent) of 50 percent of local project costs up to the RRWMB committed amount.

- **Example Competitive Project:** Watershed District "A" is developing a Competitive project with a total overall cost of \$500,000. According to the current cost-share formula, the RRWMB and local sponsor are responsible for 50 percent of the total project costs of the local share, up to the RRWMB committed amount. Based on this formula, the following entities are responsible for the total amounts indicated below:
  - RRWMB approved commitment of \$166,750 (2/3 or 66.7 percent).
  - Watershed district local match of \$83,250 (1/3 or 33.3 percent).
  - Remaining \$250,000 (1/2 or 50 percent) of total project costs to be funded with non-RRWMB funds, which may be state or federal funds.
- **Example Base Funding Project:** The RRWMB approved budget in 2022 included \$100,000 for each member watershed district to implement a base funding project. Watershed District "B" is developing a Base Funding project to install side water inlet controls on a public drainage ditch.



The request was for the full \$100,000 from the RRWMB and was required to be matched by the watershed district of \$33,333. Other state and/or federal funds may be included in the overall funding package for Base Funding, but the RRWMB will not increase its allocation. The Watershed District must provide 25 (twenty-five) percent cash match of the local share to be eligible. The RRWMB will provide up to 75 (seventy-five) percent of the local cost-share for Base Funding.

**5. Timelines for Payment Processing:** Reimbursement requests will be processed monthly and shall be submitted two weeks prior to any RRWMB regular monthly meeting to allow for timely processing by RRWMB staff. Requests submitted after this deadline may be processed at the next regular RRWMB monthly meeting.

**6. General Notes:**

- **Review of Policy:** The RRWMB will review this Policy annually to determine if adjustments are needed.
- **Adjustment to Cost-share Rates:** The RRWMB may adjust its cost-share rate annually.
- **Fund Availability:** The RRWMB Managers will review funding needs for the Water Quality Program annually and may allocate funds in the Operating, Program, and Project Budget.
- **Fund Eligibility:** RRWMB funds (Red River Levy) are available only to member watershed districts.
- **Funding Requirement:** Member watershed districts must participate in funding the project if RRWMB cost-share is requested.
- **Case-by-Case Basis:** All water quality project funding decisions will be made on a case-by-case basis. RRWMB funding decisions will be made based on this policy, available funds, and RRWMB judgement of how best to implement RRWMB priorities.
- **Reports:** A final report shall be submitted to the RRWMB upon completion of project in accordance with the Application Packet for Water Quality Program as approved on March 10, 2020:

**Date Policy Approved:** September 19, 2023

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Finney".

John Finney, President

## ATTACHMENT C

### Water Quality Program Funding Awards, 2020 – 2023

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2020	BdSWD	Base	Rabbit River/WCD 9 - 103E Ditch Retrofits	\$100,000	Closed	Multi-purpose drainage management practices for water quality improvements.	In 12/2023 presentation to RRWMB, the BdSWD reported: (1) Erosion/sediment reduction of 569 tons/yr.; (2) Nutrient/P reduction of 146 lbs./yr.; (3) Permanent easement of 51.5 acres; and (4) Stabilization of 13.5 miles of ditch.
2021	BdSWD	Base	Doran Creek	\$100,000	Closed	Project development: fluvial geomorphology modeling, design, partner coordination, public input processes, field investigations, and regulatory coordination.	See outcomes reported under the 2022 grant for the Doran Creek project.
2022	BdSWD	Base	Doran Creek	\$100,000	Closed	Advance the project to shovel-ready status through final design and stakeholder meetings. Will set up a Water Management District and will seek additional funding in future years.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the BdSWD reported: (1) Erosion/sediment reduction of 890 tons/yr.; (2) Nutrient/P reduction of 170 lbs./yr. (when completed); (3) Permanent easement of "TBD" acres; and (4) Stabilization of 20 miles of stream channel. Also see 2021 grant, for initiation of this project (outcomes from both phases are listed here).
2023	BdSWD	Base	Wilkin County Ditch 1	\$112,500	Active	Installation of side inlet culverts, grass buffers, riprap at high velocity areas, and flatter channel profile and side slopes. The actions will advance several long-term goals from the Bois de Sioux-Mustinka CWMP (2021-2030), which are high priorities for the Bois de Sioux & Lake Traverse Planning Region. E.g., reductions in sediment and nutrient loading; stabilization of ditches that are eroding/silting; improved capacity to convey Atlas 14 10 year, 24-hour runoff event; and associated flood damage reduction goals.	In a 12/2023 presentation to RRWMB, the BdSWD reported: (1) Erosion/sediment reduction of 90 tons/yr.; (2) Nutrient /P reduction of 90 lbs./yr.; (3) Permanent easement of "TBD"; and (4) Stabilization of 7.6 miles of ditch.

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2020	BdSWD	Competitive	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project, Phase 1	\$283,000	Closed	Stabilize slope in a 3,500' reach at the downstream end of system. Phase 1 of a 3-phase project. Collaboration with MnDOT relating to a possible future improvement of the Mn 27 ditch crossing.	See outcomes reported under the 2022 grant for the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project.
2021	BdSWD	Competitive	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project, Phase 2	\$367,765	Closed	Stabilize private ditch out-letting into TCD 52. Addition of rock riffles. This is Phase 2 of a 3-phase project.	Under budget by \$89,792 of RRWMB Commitment. See outcomes reported under the 2022 grant for the Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project.
2021	BdSWD	Competitive	Mustinka River Rehabilitation Project	\$507,000	Active	(1) Convert 5 miles of straight ditch to 8 miles of meandering, naturalistic channel. (2) Create 300-ft. wide, 260-acre floodplain corridor including natural vegetative bank stabilization and pools and rock riffles for fish migration enhancement. (3) Create 34 acres of wetlands and 226 acres of native upland vegetation.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the BdSWD reported: (1) Erosion/sediment reduction of 235 tons/yr.; (2) Nutrient /P reduction of 72 lbs./yr.; (3) Permanent easement of 260 acres; and (4) Stabilization of 8 miles of stream channel (converted from 5 miles of straight ditch present prior to the project).
2022	BdSWD	Competitive	Lake Traverse Water Quality Improvement Project, Phase 3	\$1,200,000	Active	Stabilize 1.2 miles of streambank, including boulder riffles and weirs. Final phase of a 3-phase effort. The prior two phases were also funded by the RRWMBs Water Quality Program. This Project has been discussed since the 1950's but could never get done due to funding limitations.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the BdSWD reported: (1) Erosion/sediment reduction of 3,450 tons/yr.; (2) Nutrient/P reduction of 866 lbs./yr.; (3) Permanent easement of 62.7 acres; and (4) Stabilization of 1.6 miles of ditch. Also see 2021 and 2022 grants, for Phases 1 and 2 of this Project (outcomes from all three phases are listed here).

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2020	MSTRWD	Base	Angus-Oslo Region Grade-Stabilization Projects (JD1, JD75, and Upstream Feeder Systems)	\$100,000	Closed	Offset construction and engineering costs to establish multiple grade stabilization structures at strategic locations to reduce channel erosion, stabilize channel slopes, and reduce sediment transfer downstream to the Red River.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the MSTRWD reported: (1) Sediment reduction of 377 tons per year; and (2) Phosphorus reduction of 377 lbs. per year. This is from both projects, including work done through the end of 2023 across multiple Water Quality Program grants for work in Judicial Ditches 1 and 75 from the RRWMB. The written progress report states 12 rock riffles were installed, geogrid layer installed, and turf established.
2021	MSTRWD	Base	JD 75 Grade Stabilization	\$100,000	Closed	Offset construction and engineering costs to establish multiple grade stabilization structures at strategic locations.	See outcomes reported under the 2020 base grant for the Angus-Oslo Region, including Judicial Ditches 1 and 75 combined. The MSTRWD also submitted a progress report indicating completion of engineering, surveying, easement and legal notices, and material purchases using the RRWMB award.
2023	MSTRWD	Base	State Ditch 3	\$112,500	Active	Streambank and grade stabilization projects to minimize erosion and sediment transfer in State Ditch 3 identified in the MSTRWD Ten Year Watershed Management Plan 2022. The long-term goal is to stabilize ditch banks and grades in this Snake River tributary to minimize sediment transfer downstream. This funding will aid the MSTRWD in reaching this goal. Per 1W1P, State Ditch 3 if fixed all along will reduce sediment loading by 9,075 tons/yr and phosphorus by 9,756 lbs/yr.	MSTRWD Administrator Mori Maher reported by email on 1/11/24 that the MSTRWD is using available state funds first, then will transition to using RRWMB funds. Sites may vary from those listed in the original application, as approved at the August 2023 RRWMB meeting.
2022	MSTRWD	Competitive	JD 75 Grade Stabilization	\$206,700	Closed	Grade stabilization to reduce bank cutting, downcutting and sediment loading to Red River. Continues work that began with an RRWMB Base Funding award of \$100K in 2021.	See outcomes reported under the 2020 base grant for the Angus-Oslo Region, including Judicial Ditches 1 and 75 combined.

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2020	RLWD	Base	1. Black River Impoundment 2. Grand Marais Creek	\$100,000	Closed	Rock-drop structures along ditch; side-water inlets from adjacent fields.  Improve water quality from both areas; and extend longevity of Black River Impoundment.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RLWD reported sediment load reduction of 115 tons per year to Black River from Pennington CD 25. The Black River project ended up with 52 new side-water inlets and 39 in-channel, rock-drop structures to control grade and minimize downcutting. At Grand Marais Creek (Ditch 16), the RLWD reported sediment load reduction of 121 tons per year. This resulted from the installation of 78 side-water inlets.
2022	RLWD	Base	1. Thief River Falls 2. Schirrick Dam	\$100,000	Closed	1. Thief River Falls: Streambank stabilization at the Wenzlaff site and near the Greenwood Street Bridge. Action at the two sites will reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by 82.5 tons/year and 137 tons/year, respectively.  2. Schirrick Dam: Stabilization of 273' of the east bank of the Black River near the Schirrick dam outlet. This will reduce sediment loading to the Black River by approximately 72 tons/year.	Progress report indicates: (1) Two of the 3 streambanks identified as high priority for sediment and phosphorus reduction in a 2017 Thief River Falls Water quality Study were stabilized in summer 2022. Stabilization at Wenzlaff site will reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by 82.5 tons/year. Stabilization near the Greenwood Street Bridge will reduce sediment loading to the Red Lake River by 137 tons/year.  (2) Stabilization of 273' of the east bank of the Black River near the Schirrick dam outlet will reduce sediment loading to the Black River by approximately 72 tons/year. The Project is located in Section 35 of Wylie Township. The project was completed in August 2022.

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2023	RLWD	Base	Polk County. Ditch 99 Outlet Stabilization	\$112,500	Active	Reduce erosion at outlet of Polk County Ditch 99 to Red Lake River (south of 265th St. SW) consistent with 1W1P. The preferred alternative will raise the channel along residential property and install rip-rap slope stabilization south of it. Rock chutes and side water inlets will be a part of the design. Sediment loading from the project area will be reduced by an estimated 704 tons/year. Work coordinated with a county road improvement and plans to address flooding in upstream portions of the ditch's drainage area.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RLWD reported sediment load reduction of 702 tons per year from stabilizing the outlet of Polk County Ditch 99.
2020	RLWD	Competitive	Thief River Falls Oxbow Restoration and Stormwater Treatment	\$250,000	Closed	Remove accumulated sediment; add filtration and controlled outlet structure. The original award of \$166,000 was raised to \$250,000 with RRWMB approval. Matching funds are from both the RLWD and City of Thief River Falls.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB the RLWD indicated the Project reduced sediment loading to the Red Lake River by at least 4.4 tons per year.
2020	RRWD	Base	Initiate RRWD Water Quality Program	\$100,000	Closed	Initiate monitoring program; use PTMAP to identify priority areas. Goal is to initiate monitoring & use the data acquired to conduct landowner outreach and coordination and the establish projects eligible for State Clean Water funds as well as additional RRWMB WQ funding.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RRWD reported: (1) Reviewed previous water sampling locations; (2) Updated WRAPS information and drafted a monitoring plan; and (3) Cost-shared side-water inlets with landowners.
2022	RRWD	Base	1W1P implementation and Hay Creek 319 Process	\$100,000	Active	<b>Original:</b> Implement 1W1P projects. Some funding allocated to Hay Creek sub-watershed Section 319 grant through the MPCA (Federal funds). The RRWD will work with MPCA to draft a 9 Key Elements (NKE) Plan. <b>Amendment</b> approved 9/2023 for funds to be used on the Lost River Project to install water control structures through the Norland Forest Road that will direct high flows into the former Lost River flowage and towards the NE inlet of the Norland Impoundment.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RRWD reported the funds were used to construct the water control structure as part of the Lost River Forest project. Per the 9/2023 application the water quality benefits are erosion and sediment reduction in channel, and natural attenuation of sediments by routing flood waters across the peatland.

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2023	RRWD	Base	Oak Crest Coulee/Hay Creek	\$112,500	Active	Will supplement other funding to implement projects in the Roseau River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). Some of the funding will be allocated to the following projects: Oak Crest Coulee, Hay Creek Ditch Bank Stabilization, and 29 side water inlet structures. The specific CWMP goals addressed with this funding include reduce sediment loading by 10% in Hay Creek; reduce sediment loading in other planning regions by 5%; and phosphorus reductions from sediment goal practices.	As of 12/2023, funding not yet spent.
2020	RRWD	Competitive	Roseau River Restoration	\$466,667	Active	Re-connect channel of Roseau River to floodplain. Project is expected to provide benefits for water quality, flood damage reduction, aquatic habitat, and terrestrial habitat. RRWMB approval included some requirements the project needs to fulfill.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RRWD confirmed this funding has not yet been used. The project is currently in the permitting stage. The RRWD anticipates advertising for bids in early 2025 for Phase 1.
2022	RRWD	Competitive	Oak Crest Coulee	\$156,000	Active	Construct gated stormwater storage pond with gated weir and sand filters. Will address sediment and phosphorus from a 305-acre ag/urban drainage area adjacent to the Roseau River.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the RRWD reported that design and permitting is complete. Bids received in 2023 were too high. Changes have been made and the Project will be put out for bid again in January 2024, with a goal of construction in 2024.
2020	TRWD	Base	1. Water Quality Monitoring 2. Judicial Ditch Side Water Inlets	\$100,000	Active	1. Resume monitoring at multiple locations monitored previously by TRWD and MPCA. 2. Install approximately 15 side water inlets along Judicial Ditch 3 to replace open cuts that transfer sediment to ditches.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the TRWD reported: (1) Purchased new flow meter as part of WQ monitoring program; (2) Installed 8 side-water inlets along a 1-mile reach of Judicial Ditch 3; and (3) TRWD also reports resumption of water quality monitoring at 10 sites.

Year	District	Type	Project Name	Award	Status	Proposed Actions/ Notes	Notes at completion
2023	TRWD	Base	Two Rivers Watershed District - Overall Plan; Two Rivers Plus 1W1P	\$112,500	Active	Funds will be used to monitor and assess water quality, target areas for treatment, and implement projects (side water inlets, rock drops) to reduce sediment and nutrients. (1) Monitor baseline water quality levels at 10 to 12 established locations in the watershed. (2) Annually assess water quality to determine long term trends. (3) Inventory erosion sites, plan strategies to prevent/repair them, and construct projects to control erosion. Generally, on in-stream sites like ditches, coulees and watercourses, side water inlets, and in-field erosion.	Not reported on in 12/2023 presentation. Award was only 1 month old, so no expectation of report till 2024.
2020	WRWD	Base	Wild Rice/ Marsh River 1W1P Implementation	\$100,000	Active	Sediment monitoring, priority streambank stabilization projects, and side water inlet installations per the 1W1P.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the WRWD reported: (1) Wild Rice River and South Branch Wild Rice River sediment study have collected 3 years of data. USGS is also a partner and a report is expected in 2024; and (2) Data will be used to design channel rehabilitation projects.
2021	WRWD	Base	Wild Rice - Marsh River 1W1P	\$100,000	Active	Address 1W1P goals for streambank stabilization and stream channel integrity.	Channel investigation and stabilization efforts in progress as of January 2024 (email via WRWD Administrator T. Jensen (1/12/24)).
2020	WRWD	Competitive	Lower Wild Rice Corridor Restoration	\$669,400	Active	Easement acquisitions, levee setbacks, conservation plantings, etc. RRWMB funds may be reduced if state award rises This is a phased project.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the WRWD reported permanent protection was installed on five parcels along the planned 23-mile restoration zone by acquiring easements and planting permanent vegetation on <b>XXX</b> acres.
2022	WRWD	Competitive	Wild Rice Riverbank Stabilization, McDonaldsville Twp	\$ 150,000	Closed	Streambank and channel restoration at two locations, using toe-wood sod mats.	In a 12/2023 presentation to the RRWMB, the WRWD reported completion of bank stabilization at the two areas identified. They also submitted the required RRWMB form documenting completion.



# **Red River Watershed Management Board**

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