LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Board of Managers Meeting Agenda

Wednesday - February 11th, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.

Veterans Memorial Community Center
Community Room 1
8055 Barbara Ave, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077

1. Call Meeting to Order
- 1.1 Identification of Voting Board Members
- 1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions) — Action
- 1.3 Opportunity for Public Comment (Please limit to 2 minutes per person)

2. Approve January 14th, 2026 Meeting Minutes - Chair * — Action

3. Presentation on Wetland Health Evaluation Program - Dakota County Staff — Information

4. Approve February 11th, 2026 Financial Summary & Invoice Payment and Review 2025 Year-End Budget - Treasurer * ** — Action

5. Designate Official Newspaper(s) and Financial Depository - SWCD * — Action

6. Approve Solicitation of Consultants for Legal, Engineering, and Audit - SWCD * — Action

7. Provide Direction on Preparation of 2025 Audit or Financial Statement - SWCD * — Action

8. Review FY-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Allocation and Authorize Administrator to Make WBIF Project Decisions on Behalf of the WMO - SWCD * — Action

9. Updates & Handouts
- 9.1 Goal Tracking Sheets - Barr **
- 9.2 Metro Watershed Partners 2025 Report - SWCD **
- 9.3 Adopt A Drain 2025 Report - SWCD **
- 9.4 Member City Updates

10. Adjourn - Next Meeting: March 11th, 2026 – Location TBD

* Materials included in full packet
** Materials posted separately on website
https://LMRWMO.org/about-us/meeting-information/

JOE BARTEN - LMRWMO ADMINISTRATOR
C/O DAKOTA COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
www.LMRWMO.org
4100 220TH ST. WEST SUITE 102
FARMINGTON, MN 55024

LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

Board of Managers Meeting Minutes

Wednesday - January 14th, 2026 - 3:00 p.m.
Veterans Memorial Community Center, Inver Grove Heights

Managers and Alternates in Attendance:

Sharon Lencowski (Chair) Inver Grove Heights
Steve Gebauer (Sec/Tres), Mendota Heights
Tom Sutton, Lilydale
Brian Jastram, Saint Paul
Daniel Anderson, South St. Paul
Analiese Miller (Vice-Chair), West St. Paul
Karen Reid, Saint Paul
Mary Kleinberg, Lilydale
Dan Halvorsen, Sunfish Lake

Advisors and Others in Attendance:

Krista Spreiter, Mendota Heights
Pat Murphy, Saint Paul
Chris English, Inver Grove Heights
Greg Williams, Barr Engineering
Jess Hall, West St. Paul
Greg Genz, Friend of Pool 2
Conor Resnikoff, South St. Paul
Joe Barten, Dakota County SWCD

1. Call Meeting to Order

1.1 Public Comment / Introductions
Audience members may address the Board regarding items not on the agenda.

1.2 Approval of Agenda* (Additions/Corrections/Deletions)

Motion by Gebauer to approve the meeting agenda, second by Miller; motion passed.

2. Election of Officers

Lencowski as Chair, Miller as Vice-Chair, and Gebauer as Secretary/Treasurer were all nominated by the floor by Reid. There were no further nominations.

Motion by Reid to election the Lencowski as the Board Chair, Miller as Vice-Chair, and Gebauer as Secretary/Treasurer, second by Halvorsen; motion passed.

3. Approve December 10th, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Sutton noted that his name was missing as making the motion on agenda item #5.

Motion by Reid to approve the previous meeting minutes, second by Gebauer; motion passed.

4. Approve January 14th, 2026 Financial Summary & Invoices

Lencowski asked that the check numbers be verified for future meetings as they appear to be off.

Motion by Gebauer to approve the financial summary, second by Miller; motion passed.

5. Concord Street Ravine Assessment Proposal

Barten provided a presentation on the concord street ravine, railroad culvert, and Gisch pond area in Inver Grove Heights. The City has prioritized this area for improvements given erosion and sedimentation issues and it's proximity to the Mississippi River. The Board discussed the history of issues in this area, land ownership, what a future project and grants could look like, and the impact on the Mississippi River. City of Inver Grove Heights staff, Chris English, provided additional project background on the issues in this area. The Board discussed the proposal by WSB to study the upper area of ravine erosion and incorporate that study into the Direct Drainage study as an appendix.

Motion by Sutton to approve the proposal by WSB for the ravine assessment and authorize the Board officers to execute an agreement with WSB to perform the work, second by Miller; motion passed.

Barr staff were asked to provide a scope of work for an updated assessment of the culvert under the railroad for consideration by the WMO Board at a future meeting. The last assessment was completed in 2016-2017 and new information could inform the extent of further deterioration of the culvert.

6. Member City Updates

Advisors and Members provided updates on relevant projects in their cities.

7. Adjournment & Next Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 4:30 pm. The next Board meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2026 at the Veterans Memorial Community Center in Inver Grove Heights.

LMR WMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

FINANCIAL SUMMARY
January 15, 2026 to February 11, 2026

Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Checking Account:				**$135,226.85**
Deposit	1/15/2025	*State of MN - Final reimbursement for Seidels Lake Shoreline Restoration Swift Contract #207686*	+	$16,710.69
			+	
Payments				
5046	*2/11/2026*	*Barr Engineering*	-	$1,355.00
5050	*2/11/2026*	*Metropolitan Council Environmental Services*	-	$2,125.00
5051	*2/11/2026*	*Dakota County Soil & Water*	-	$22,270.50
			-	
		Checking Ending Balance		**$126,187.04**
Beginning Balance - Gateway Bank Savings Account:				
				$269,399.97
Dep	1/31/2026	January 2026 Interest	+	$583.45
			-	
		Savings Ending Balance		**$269,983.42**
Available Total Balance at Gateway Bank				**$396,170.46**

LMRWMO 2025 Budget Review

2025 Monthly Revenue

Revenue	Budget		Dec 12 2024 - May 8 2025	May 9 - July 9 2025	July 10 - Nov 12, 2025	Nov 13 2025 - Feb 11 2026	2025 Total	Variance	Percent Received	2025 Budget Notes:
Dues from Members	**$153,725.00**			$87,861.47	$65,864.29		$153,725.76	**($0.76)**	**100%**	
Interest & LMCIT Rebate	**$3,000.00**		$1,219.10	$494.30	$1,895.63	$1,144.43	$4,753.46	**($1,753.46)**	**158%**	Update for additioinal expected interest in future years.
Grant Revenue	**$440,000.00**		$43,893.50	$283,112.21	$74,843.85		$401,849.56	**$38,150.44**	**91%**	
Subtotal Operating Revenue	**$156,725.00**		**$45,112.60**	**$371,467.98**	**$142,603.77**		**$560,328.78**			

2025 Monthly Expenses

Expenses	Budget		Dec 12 2024 - May 8 2025	May 9 - July 9 2025	July 10 - Nov 12, 2025	Nov 13 2025 - Feb 11 2026	2025 Total	Remaining Budget	Percent Expended	2025 Budget Notes:
Engineering/Technical Assistance										
Meetings	**$7,000.00**		$2,400.50	$555.00	$1,202.50	$1,628.00	$5,786.00	**$1,214.00**	**83%**	Under budget
Technical Assistance[2]	**$6,500.00**		$3,800.00	$2,435.00	$2,273.00	$2,623.00	$11,131.00	**($4,631.00)**	**171%**	**Additional for 3M Grant Applications, biennial review**
Plan Implementation / Project Mgmt.	**$5,000.00**				$4,150.00	$1,000.00	$5,150.00	**($150.00)**	**103%**	Near budget
Grant Development / Plan Review	**$3,000.00**						$0.00	**$3,000.00**	**0%**	Did not have plans to reivew
Biennial Progress Review	**$2,000.00**						$0.00	**$2,000.00**	**0%**	Wrapped into TA above
Watershed Plan Amendment	**$1,000.00**						$0.00	**$1,000.00**		No amendments needed
Project Study/Implementation										
Landscaping for Clean Water Projects	**$14,000.00**				$3,400.00	$2,550.00	$5,950.00	**$8,050.00**	**43%**	Did not use all of grants
Monitoring										
Lake and Stream Water Monitoring (CAMP) and Reports	**$14,000.00**		$2,016.50		$10,913.16	$5,589.50	$18,519.16	**($4,519.16)**	**132%**	**Aditional monitoring at Augusta, Augusta gage install**
Education										
WMO Biannual E-Newsletter	**$3,200.00**					$1,650.00	$1,650.00	**$1,550.00**	**52%**	Only did one e-newsletter
Board Tour of Projects	**$1,000.00**						$0.00	**$1,000.00**	**0%**	Had multiple tours of Interstate Valley Creek project.
Water Resources Videos Partnership Campaign	**$7,500.00**				$7,500.00		$7,500.00	**$0.00**	**100%**	At budget
Landscaping for Clean Water Classes	**$9,500.00**				$10,000.00		$10,000.00	**($500.00)**	**105%**	Near budget
MN Water Stewards Support	**$3,000.00**						$0.00	**$3,000.00**	**0%**	Did not coordinate meetings with Water Stewards
Storm Drain Stenciling Program	**$5,000.00**		$50.00				$50.00	**$4,950.00**	**1%**	Did not create new kits
Engage Residents at Public Events / WMO Tabling	**$500.00**		$300.00				$300.00	**$200.00**	**60%**	Under budget
General Education Requests & Materials	**$1,500.00**		$150.00		$300.00	$250.00	$700.00	**$800.00**	**47%**	Under budget
Metro Watershed Partners Membership & Welcome Kits	**$1,000.00**		$1,000.00				$1,000.00	**$0.00**	**100%**	At budget
Website Maintenance and Updates	**$3,000.00**		$1,550.00		$1,150.00	$800.00	$3,500.00	**($500.00)**	**117%**	Near budget, additional website updates
Board Education	**$500.00**						$0.00	**$500.00**	**0%**	Under budget
Administration										
General Administration	**$36,000.00**		$16,400.00		$12,100.00	$10,300.00	$38,800.00	**($2,800.00)**	**108%**	**Additional coord. requested for 3M Grant Applications**
Hold Annual TAC Meeting	**$1,000.00**						$0.00	**$1,000.00**	**0%**	Held under grant for modeling
Insurance	**$2,500.00**				$2,736.00		$2,736.00	**($236.00)**	**109%**	Near budget
Attorney and Audit	**$5,800.00**			$769.12	$4,400.00	$323.00	$5,492.12	**$307.88**	**95%**	Under budget
Subtotal Operating Expenses	**$167,304.00**		$31,933.50	$3,759.12	$65,894.66	$26,713.50	**$133,695.53**	**$33,608.47**	**80%**	

LMRWMO 2026 Budget & Financial Summary			2025 Budget Carryover		2026 Budget Monthly Revenue					
Revenue	**Budget**		Dec 11 2025 - Jan 14 2026	Jan 15 - Feb. 11 2026 (2025 Budget)	Future Month (2026 Budget)			2026 Budget Totals	**Variance**	**Percent Received**
Dues from Members	**$176,784.00**							$0.00	**$176,784.00**	**0%**
Interest & LMCIT Rebate	**$3,000.00**		$582.19	$583.45				$1,165.64	**$1,834.36**	**39%**
Grant Revenue (Estimated)	**$150,000.00**			$16,710.69				$16,710.69	**$133,289.31**	**11%**
Subtotal Operating Revenue	**$179,784.00**		**$582.19**	**$17,294.14**				**$17,876.33**		
			2025 Budget Carryover		**2026 Budget Monthly Expenses**					
Expenses	**Budget**		Dec 11 2025 - Jan 14 2026	Jan 15 - Feb. 11 2026 (2025 Budget)	Future Month (2026 Budget)			2026 Budget Totals	**Remaining Budget**	**Percent Expended**
Engineering/Technical Assistance										
Meetings (Barr)	**$7,000.00**		$462.50	$370.00				$0.00	**$7,000.00**	**0%**
Technical Assistance (Barr)	**$6,500.00**		$840.50	$985.00				$0.00	**$6,500.00**	**0%**
Plan Implementation / Project Mgmt. (SWCD)	**$7,500.00**			$1,000.00				$0.00	**$7,500.00**	**0%**
Review Local Water Plans (Barr)	**$3,000.00**							$0.00	**$3,000.00**	**0%**
Project Study/Implementation								$0.00		
Priority Watershed Modeling - FY-23 WBIF Match	**$12,000.00**							$0.00	**$12,000.00**	**0%**
Watershed Wide Hydrologic / Hydraulic Model - FY-25 AIG Match	**$9,800.00**							$0.00	**$9,800.00**	**0%**
Seidls Lake Carp Study	**$5,000.00**							$0.00	**$5,000.00**	**0%**
Landscaping for Clean Water Projects	**$10,000.00**			$2,550.00				$0.00	**$10,000.00**	**0%**
Monitoring								$0.00		
Water Monitoring (CAMP) and Reports, Augusta Gage	**$16,500.00**			$5,589.50				$0.00	**$16,500.00**	**0%**
Education								$0.00		
WMO Biannual E-Newsletter	**$2,700.00**			$1,650.00				$0.00	**$2,700.00**	**0%**
Landscaping for Clean Water Classes	**$10,000.00**									
Chloride Education at Libraries	**$1,500.00**							$0.00	**$1,500.00**	**0%**
Storm Drain Stenciling Program	**$3,000.00**							$0.00	**$3,000.00**	**0%**
General Education Requests, Materials, Tabling, Water Stewards	**$3,650.00**			$250.00				$0.00	**$3,650.00**	**0%**
Metro Watershed Partners Membership & Welcome Kits	**$1,000.00**		$1,000.00					$1,000.00	**$0.00**	**100%**
Website Maintenance and Updates	**$4,000.00**			$800.00				$0.00	**$4,000.00**	**0%**
Board Education	**$500.00**							$0.00	**$500.00**	**0%**
Administration								$0.00		
General Administration	**$38,000.00**			$10,300.00				$0.00	**$38,000.00**	**0%**
Grant Development / Review	**$3,000.00**							$0.00	**$3,000.00**	**0%**
Hold Annual TAC Meeting	**$1,000.00**							$0.00	**$1,000.00**	**0%**
Insurance	**$2,700.00**							$0.00	**$2,700.00**	**0%**
Attorney and Audit	**$5,800.00**		$68.00					$0.00	**$5,800.00**	**0%**
Subtotal Operating Expenses	**$154,150.00**		$2,371.00	$23,494.50				$1,000.00	**$153,150.00**	**1%**
Grant Expenses	**$400,000.00**		$1,980.50	$2,256.00				$2,256.00	**$397,744.00**	**1%**
Overall Fund Balance			**$404,626.82**	**$396,170.46**						
Total Grant Balance			**$150,421.50**	**$164,876.19**						
Operating Fund Balance			**$254,205.32**	**$231,294.27**						
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance[1]			**$214,205.32**	**$191,294.27**						

2026 Budget Notes:

1. $40,000 set aside for 2033 Watershed Plan Update, $10,000 additional annually encumbered.

General: Budget is an estimate and will vary depending on changing priorities and grant project progress.

Balances Explained:

Overall Fund Balance	Balance of all bank accounts
Total Grant Balance	Grant funds in-hand
Operating Fund Balance	WMO funds without grants
Unencumbered Operating Fund Balance	WMO funds not already dedicated to future expenses

LMRWMO 2025 Grant Budget & Financial Summary

	Budget	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 11, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 2025 - Jan 14, 2026	Jan 15 - Feb 11 2026	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
BWSR - FY 2023 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Priority Watershed Project ID & Model - Thompson, Rogers, Seidls)								
Revenue								
BWSR FY-2023 WBIF Payment	**$118,385.00**	$59,193.00				$59,193.00	**$59,192.00**	**50%**
WBIF Matching Funds (LMRWMO)	**$12,000.00**					$0.00	**$12,000.00**	**0%**
Total Revenue	**$130,385.00**	**$59,193.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$59,193.00**	**$71,192.00**	**45%**
Expenses								
Grant Administration	**$8,000.00**		$769.50	$517.00	$188.00	$1,474.50	**$6,525.50**	**18%**
Project Development	**$10,000.00**		$1,491.00	$3,713.00	$1,833.00	$7,037.00	**$2,963.00**	**70%**
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model	**$100,385.00**			$983.50		$983.50	**$99,401.50**	**1%**
Priority Watershed Project ID & Model (WMO Match)	**$12,000.00**					$0.00	**$12,000.00**	**0%**
Total Expenses	**$130,385.00**	**$0.00**	**$2,260.50**	**$5,213.50**	**$2,021.00**	**$9,495.00**	**$120,890.00**	**7%**
FY-23 WBIF Balance		**$59,193.00**	**$56,932.50**	**$51,719.00**	**$49,698.00**	**$49,698.00**		
BWSR - FY 2025 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (Ivy Falls Creek Study)								
Revenue								
BWSR FY-2025 WBIF Payment	**$102,410.00**			$51,205.00		$51,205.00	**$51,205.00**	**50%**
WBIF Matching Funds (LMRWMO)	**$10,241.00**					$0.00	**$10,241.00**	**0%**
Total Revenue	**$112,651.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$51,205.00**	**$0.00**	**$51,205.00**	**$61,446.00**	**45%**
Expenses								
Grant Administration	**$6,410.00**					$0.00	**$6,410.00**	**0%**
Project Development	**$28,000.00**				$235.00	$235.00	**$27,765.00**	**1%**
Ivy Falls Stream and Watershed Study	**$68,000.00**					$0.00	**$68,000.00**	**0%**
Ivy Falls Stream and Watershed Study (WMO Match)	**$10,241.00**					$0.00	**$10,241.00**	**0%**
Total Expenses	**$112,651.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$235.00**	**$235.00**	**$112,416.00**	**0%**
FY-25 WBIF Balance		**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$51,205.00**	**$50,970.00**	**$50,970.00**		
MN DNR - Conservation Partners Legacy Grant (Seidls Lake Shoreline Restoration)								
Revenue								
Grant Reimbursement Payments	**$382,000.00**		$70,192.78	$257,751.06	$16,710.69	$344,654.53	**$37,345.47**	**90%**
City Matching funds	**$81,000.00**						**$81,000.00**	**0%**
Total Revenue	**$463,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$70,192.78**	**$257,751.06**	**$16,710.69**	**$344,654.53**	**$118,345.47**	**74%**
Expenses								
Grant Administration/Project Mgmt	**$26,000.00**	$15,118.00	$6,171.50	$5,211.50		$26,501.00	**($501.00)**	**102%**
Construction	**$276,000.00**			$242,649.59		$242,649.59	**$33,350.41**	**88%**
Engineering	**$46,000.00**			$59,294.25		$59,294.25	**($13,294.25)**	**129%**
Engineering	**$35,000.00**			$35,209.50		$35,209.50	**($209.50)**	**101%**
Total Expenses	**$383,000.00**	**$15,118.00**	**$6,171.50**	**$307,159.84**	**$0.00**	**$363,654.34**	**$19,345.66**	**95%**
Seidls Lake Shoreline Balance		**-$15,118.00**	**$48,903.28**	**-$505.50**	**$16,205.19**	**$16,209.69**		
BWSR - FY-25 Accelerated Implementation Grant (Modeling)								
Revenue								
Grant Reimbursement Payments	**$98,000.00**			$49,000.00			**$98,000.00**	**0%**
Matching funds (LMRWMO)	**$9,800.00**						**$9,800.00**	**0%**
Total Revenue	**$107,800.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$49,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$107,800.00**	**0%**
Expenses								
Grant Administration	**$7,000.00**						**$7,000.00**	**0%**
Project Development	**$11,000.00**						**$11,000.00**	**0%**
Consultant - Develop Models	**$80,000.00**			$997.00			**$80,000.00**	**0%**
Consultant - Develop Models (WMO Match)	**$9,800.00**						**$9,800.00**	**0%**
Total Expenses	**$107,800.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$997.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$107,800.00**	**0%**
FY-25 AIG Balance		**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$48,003.00**	**$48,003.00**	**$0.00**		

	Budget	Jan 12 2023 - Jan 10 2024	Jan 11, 2024 - Jan 8 2025	Jan 9 2025 - Jan 14, 2026	Jan 15 - Feb 11 2026	Total	Variance	Percent Received/ Expended
TOTAL GRANT FUNDS RECEIVED	**$593,385.00**	**$59,193.00**	**$70,192.78**	**$357,956.06**	**$16,710.69**	**$455,052.53**	**$189,537.47**	**77%**
PASS THROUGH MATCH RECEIVED	**$81,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$93,000.00**	**0%**
LMRWMO MATCH PROVIDED	**$12,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$983.50**	**$189,537.47**	**8%**
GRANT EXPENSES (MINUS WMO MATCH)	**$413,000.00**	**$15,118.00**	**$8,432.00**	**$313,370.34**	**$2,256.00**	**$372,400.84**	**$143,009.16**	**90%**
PASS THROUGH MATCH EXPENSES	**$81,000.00**	**$0.00**	**$0.00**	**$94,503.75**	**$0.00**	**$95,487.25**	**-$14,487.25**	**118%**

NET GRANT FUNDS BALANCE (MINUS WMO MATCH)	**$44,075.00**	**$105,835.78**	**$150,421.50**	**$164,876.19**	

LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

To: LMRWMO Board of Managers

From: Joe Barten, LMRWMO Administrator

Subject: Official Newspaper and Financial Depository

Date: February 6, 2026

The LMRWMO is required annually to designate an official newspaper for posting public notices, as well as a financial depository for public funds.

The LMRWMO currently holds both the Pioneer Press and St. Paul Legal Ledger as it's official newspapers. Gateway Bank is the current financial depository.

Board Action Requested: Select official newspapers(s) and financial depository for the LMRWMO for the current year.

Attached: None

LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

To: LMRWMO Board of Managers

From: Joe Barten, LMRWMO Administrator

Subject: Solicitation for Consultants

Date: February 2, 2026

The LMRWMO is required every two years to solicit proposals for engineering, legal, and audit services.

Attached is a public notice to be published in the LMRMWO official newspapers.

Board Action Requested: Authorize Administrator to solicit proposals for consultant services via public notice and direct communication with the current consultants.

Attached: Draft public notice for consultant solicitation.

Review of Consultant Services

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to Minnesota Statues §103B.227 Subd. 5, the Board of Managers for the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Management Organization is currently conducting a review of consulting services. Any person or persons interested in serving as auditor, engineer, or legal consultant, may submit a proposal via email to joe.barten@co.dakota.mn.us or via a sealed envelope, identified on the outside as a Proposal for Consulting Services and sent or delivered to the Lower Mississippi River WMO, c/o Joe Barten, Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District, 4100 220th St. West, Suite 102, Farmington MN 55024. The proposal must be received on or before 4:30 p.m., on February 30th, 2026.

LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

To: LMRWMO Board of Managers

From: Joe Barten, LMRWMO Administrator

Subject: Lower Mississippi River WMO Financial Audit or Financial Statements

Date: February 6, 2026

The Minnesota Legislature recently changed the Audit requirements for Special Districts, including Watershed Management Organizations. Under Minnesota Statutes, special districts are now subject to auditing and reporting requirements that are tied to thresholds applicable to cities, effective August 1, 2025.

The annual audit revenue threshold was previously around $280,000 and has now increased to $1 million starting in 2025. This threshold will be adjusted annually for inflation. This means that WMOs who have less than $1M in revenue in a calendar year, do not need to perform an audit. In 2025, the LMRWMO had approximately $578,000 in revenue.

Special districts that do not have to submit audits are required to submit unaudited financial statements along with a financial reporting form. The unaudited financial statements or audit and financial reporting form are due within 180 days following the end of the fiscal year.

The LMRWMO has previously contracted with Peterson Company Ltd. to perform an audit of the organization's finances. They are willing to perform a full audit or create and submit just the financial statements. The cost differences are as follows:

- Prepare a full audit of 2025 finances for the LMRWMO - $4,500 (estimated)
- Prepare and submit 2025 financial statements - $1,400 (estimated)

Board Action Requested: Direct staff to pursue a full audit of the LMRWMO 2025 finances for approximately $4,500 or preparation of 2025 financial statements for approximately $1,400.

Attached: None

LMRWMO
LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER
WATERSHED MANAGEMENT ORGANIZATION

MEMORANDUM

To: LMRWMO Board of Managers

From: Joe Barten, LMRWMO Administrator

Subject: FY-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding

Date: February 3, 2026

The State Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) has allocated funds for the Fiscal Year - 2027 round of Metro Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF). This round includes $208,410 in funding available within the Lower Mississippi River Watershed Planning Area (WPA).

That area includes eligible organizations who can propose to implement eligible projects to improve water quality that are also specifically referenced in the LMRWMO Watershed Management Plan implementation items or the County Groundwater Plan implementation items. Those eligible organizations include Dakota County, Dakota County SWCD, Ramsey County, Cities within the LMRWMO, and the LMRWMO. Attached is background information on the WBIF program, convene process, and funding allocation.

The eligible organizations will all be invited to participate in a WBIF convene process, organized by LMRWMO staff and overseen by BWSR staff, to determine how to utilize the available funding. As in past funding rounds, BWSR staff ask that two of the seven LMRWMO member Cities volunteer and/or self-select to be the two voting City convene members. The convene group will then meet to discuss how to utilize the $208,410 in available funding.

Board Action Requested: Authorize and designate the LMRWMO Administrator to be the voting member on behalf of the LMRWMO Board regarding project selection for this and future WBIF funding rounds during the convene process.

Attached: FY-27 WBIF Information

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Metro Area Convene Process Guidance for the FY26-27 Watershed Based Implementation Funding (WBIF) Program

The purpose of WBIF is to supplement existing funding to accelerate clean water activities toward advancing Minnesota's water resources goals through prioritized and targeted cost-effective actions with measurable water quality results.

All eligible activities must have a primary benefit towards water quality. Activities that result in multiple benefits are strongly encouraged. Eligible activities must be identified in the implementation section of a state approved, locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plan developed under Minnesota statutes §103B.801, watershed management plan required under §103B.231, county groundwater plan authorized under §103B.255, or a soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan approved by the BWSR board, as authorized under §103C.331.

Metro grantees must request state funds that equal or exceed $30,000. Applications submitted that do not meet this minimum dollar amount will not be accepted.

Metro WBIF Watershed Allocation Areas

For purposes of this document, the group of participants in each watershed allocation area (see map) will be called a partnership (e.g., Rice Creek partnership or Rum River partnership). WBIF is available to all eligible partners within each watershed allocation area.

Federally Recognized Minnesota Tribal Nations are eligible if they are implementing projects or programs for the purpose of this funding that are identified in eligible plans. BWSR encourages inviting Tribal representatives into the convene process.

Refer to the WBIF Frequently Asked Questions website for more information.

Convene Meetings

The convene process allows the partnership to jointly coordinate on the development of a funding request to BWSR that is prioritized, targeted and measurable. The partnership needs to select a local government entity (or entities) to coordinate and facilitate the convene meeting(s) or request assistance from BWSR by contacting the board conservationist (BC). Each partnership will include one

decision-making representative (participant) from each watershed district and/or watershed management organization, soil and water conservation district, county with a current groundwater plan, and up to two decision-making representatives from municipalities within the allocation area.

Municipalities in each allocation area must coordinate to self-select up to two decision-making representatives. Municipal representatives are expected to communicate with other municipalities on the solicitation and selection of projects and activities during the process.

The BC and Clean Water Specialist (CWS) must be invited to convene meetings. The facilitating entity must: 1) take meeting notes that document the general discussion, decisions, and attendees, and 2) share the notes with the partnership soon after each meeting and be made available upon request.

Each partnership must meet at least one time prior to submitting a funding request. Ideally, partnerships will develop a shared understanding of proposed activities during the convene process. To improve the efficiency of the convene process, BWSR recommends the following meeting objectives:

1. Determine an overall decision-making process (e.g., majority rules, consensus, informed consent).
2. Pick one of the following methods for selecting activities:
   - Developing a list of potential activities from eligible plans,
   - Dividing funding among eligible entities in an equitable manner,
   - Selecting a few priority waterbodies (lake, streams) and/or groundwater areas to prioritize activities,
   - Using agreed upon criteria to select activities, or
   - Using a process approved by the BWSR Central Region Manager.
3. Select the highest priority, targeted, measurable, and eligible activities to be submitted to BWSR as a funding request (see submittal process below).
4. Confirm which entity will serve as grantee and/or fiscal agent for each selected activity and decide on the source(s) of the 10% required match.

Activity Eligibility

To ensure proposed activities are eligible, refer to the WBIF Grant Program Requirements. If you have questions regarding eligibility, consult with the BC as early as possible.

Preparing the Funding Request

Refer to the WBIF Funding Request and Work Plan Guidance when preparing your funding request.
NEW in FY26-27: Changes to the Proposed Measurable Outcomes and Activity Descriptions.

- Use the following generic language for the **"Proposed Measurable Outcomes" field in the funding request:**

  "Make measurable progress toward water quality goals using eligible projects, practices, and programs as described in the {Plan Name(s)}"

- Grant-specific proposed outputs/outcomes will be recorded in the **activity descriptions** of the work plan.

The partnership **must send a list of partnership-approved activities* to the BC prior to submittal of an eLINK funding request.** This list must include:

- the entity requesting funding (grantee)
- fiscal agent (if different from grantee)
- activity title
- activity explanation
- water resource(s)
- activity outcome(s)
- match
- plan reference(s)
- grant funds requested

*An activity may be a project, a practice, or a program. A template activity spreadsheet is available on the BWSR WBIF webpage under the "FY26-27 Information" tab.

Submitting the Funding Request

Once the activities have been agreed upon by the partnership and approved by the BC, each grantee must submit an eLINK funding request. Once the BC approves the eLINK funding request, each grantee is responsible for completing an eLINK work plan. See WBIF funding request and work plan guidance for:

- an overview of process steps
- more information about what must be included in work plan activity descriptions.

The BC must approve the work plan and execute the grant agreement prior to the funds being distributed.

Timeline

- BWSR will hold an informational meeting in early 2026. The recorded meeting will be available on the BWSR WBIF website
- Organizations identify a meeting coordinator/facilitator and select decision-making representatives for convene meetings
- Partnerships hold at least one convene meeting
- Partnerships send the list of partnership-approved activities to the BC (prior to the submittal of the eLINK funding request)
- Funding available on July 1, 2026
- Partnerships submit eLINK funding request between June 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027
- BWSR will process funding requests on a monthly basis
- All grant agreements must be executed by June 1, 2027
- Grant expiration date is Dec. 31, 2029

Metro WBIF Watershed Allocation Areas

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

BWSR

August 2025

Table 2. Fiscal Years 2026-2027 Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Allocations for the Seven-County Twin Cities Metropolitan Area

1W1P Planning Area #	Watershed Allocation Area (WAA) Name	FY 26-27 Allocation Amount
	Bassett Creek WAA	$ 183,255
	Black Dog WAA	$ 151,542
54	Cannon River WAA (1W1P Metro)	$ 395,359
	Capitol Region WAA	$ 176,240
	Carver County WAA	$ 461,933
	Coon Creek WAA	$ 294,099
	Eagan-Inver Grove WAA	$ 162,369
	Elm Creek WAA	$ 373,588
56	Lower Minnesota River East WAA (1W1P Metro)	$ 898,092
	Lower Minnesota River WAA	$ 135,377
	Lower Mississippi River WAA	$ 208,409
29	Lower St. Croix WAA (1W1P Metro)	$ 1,266,376
	Minnehaha Creek WAA	$ 424,533
	Mississippi WAA	$ 176,950
	Nine Mile Creek WAA	$ 195,026
	Pioneer-Sarah Creek WAA	$ 240,414
	Ramsey-Washington Metro WAA	$ 230,181
	Rice Creek WAA	$ 448,014
	Richfield-Bloomington WAA	$ 114,644
	Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WAA	$ 197,193
15	Rum River WAA (1W1P Metro)	$ 569,376
	Shingle Creek WAA	$ 191,661
13	South Fork of the Crow River WAA (1W1P Metro)	$ 259,425
	South Washington WAA	$ 228,538
	Vadnais Lake Area WAA	$ 147,921
	Vermillion River WAA	$ 717,186
	West Mississippi WAA	$ 152,299