

Lower St. Croix 1W1P
Watershed Based Implementation Funding
Work Plan

Approved by Policy Committee on January 25, 2021

Grant Activities

BWSR requires a narrative for each Grant Activity and a summary of persons conducting the work and their qualifications. The Grant Activities as identified in the Grant Work Plan are detailed in the table below. Two tables follow the Grant Activity descriptions: a budget and a table of measurable outcomes and milestones.

Activity #	Grant Activity	eLINK Activity Category
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Project Development
2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	Agricultural Practices
3	Shared Services Educator	Education/Information
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices
5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Urban Stormwater Practices
6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	Wetland Restoration/Creation
7	Internal Analyses	Planning and Assessment
8	Targeting Analyses	Planning and Assessment
9	Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance
10	Administration/Coordination	Administration/Coordination

[Activity 1: Basin Ag Outreach Program](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Project Development

Grant: \$200,000

Match: \$0

Match Source(s): N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Washington Conservation District

Staff qualifications: TBD (new hire)

Priority areas: Agronomy outreach specialist will focus on priority areas described in Structural Ag BMP Implementation and Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation

CWMP Reference: Page 61

Activity Description: Agronomy outreach specialist. (A) Shared Services: Hire or contract with an agricultural conservationist/agronomist (one individual) for basin wide assistance with agronomy, outreach, and technical assistance to agricultural producers including conservation planning and nutrient management plans. [Approximately 80% of this position's time will be directly working with agricultural producers in the LSC Watershed to identify economical farming practices with water quality benefits to make them a routine part of farm operations. A target is to interact with operators of both large and small operations with a cumulative total of at least 3,000 acres. 20% of the position will be support of implementation of BMPs led by others.]

This would allow for 1 full time agronomy outreach specialist to work basin-wide. Staff will work basin-wide and may have more than one office space. The hiring process for this position (e.g., development of the position description, posting of the position announcement, participation on the candidate interview panel, etc.) will be coordinated among multiple LSC partners. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this new staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.

[Activity 2: Structural Ag BMP Implementation](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Agricultural Practices

Grant: \$160,000

Match: \$75,000

Match Source(s): Federal NRCS programs, local funds

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas: Tier 1: Rock Lake, Rock Creek, Sunrise River, St. Croix River tribs with direct discharge to the St. Croix River. Tier 3: lakes that drain to St. Croix tribs. Projects may also occur at other priority waters in the LSC CWMP.

CWMP Reference: Page 61

Activity Description: Provide cost share for installing or implementing structural agricultural best management practices (e.g. feedlot improvements, buffers, WASCObS, diversions, lined waterways, grade stabilization structures, vegetative swales, etc.). NRCS or other BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B. The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 300 lb/yr.

[Activity 3: Basin Water Outreach Program](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Education/Information

Grant: \$125,000

Match: \$4,800

Match Source: Parties to the LSC JPC

Lead Agency(ies): Washington Conservation District

Staff qualifications: Angie Hong, Emily Johnson, new hire

Priority areas: Basin-wide

Measurable outcomes/milestones: See table below

CWMP Reference: Page 65

Activity Description: Facilitate shared education and outreach program across basin to provide education; engage residents, businesses, and local officials; and promote and market programs and practices. [80% = develop, distribute and implement outreach programs that result in behavioral changes achieving water quality benefits; 10% = AIS prevention outreach and education; 10% = solicit willing landowners to install BMPs that are goals within this plan. [0.5 FTE to expand EMWREP basin wide; \$50,000/yr or \$100,000/2 yrs]. Outreach will specifically include MIDS promotion to communities. Outreach will also include preliminary work with LGUs to set shoreline "view corridors" to 25% of lot width or maximum 35' width and maximum vegetation clearing standards or adopt innovative shoreland standards to protect buffers, native ecosystems, and habitat corridors. This work will provide water quality benefits through the protection of shoreline and streambank buffers. LSC partners will ensure duties assigned to this new staff member will be in alignment with WBIF funding intent and requirements.

Activity 4: Non-Structural Ag/Urban BMP Implementation

eLINK Activity Category: Non-Structural Management Practices

Grant: \$200,000

Match: \$0

Match Source(s): Federal NRCS programs, local funds

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas:

- **Ag:** Tier 1: Rock Lake, Rock Creek, Sunrise River, St. Croix River tribs with direct discharge. Tier 3: lakes that drain to St. Croix tribs. Projects may also occur at other priority waters in the LSC CWMP.
- **Urban:** Rush City, Harris, North Branch, Taylors Falls, Marine on the St. Croix, Stillwater, and MSCWMO cities. Projects may also occur at other priority waters in the LSC CWMP.

CWMP Reference: Pages 61 and 65

Activity Description: Provide cost share for implementing non-structural *agricultural* best management practices (e.g., soil health BMPs, reduced tillage, cover crops, nutrient management planning, forage/biomass plantings). NRCS or other BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B of CWMP.

Provide cost share for implementing non-structural *urban* best management practices (e.g., enhanced street sweeping). BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices implemented. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B of CWMP. Specific enhanced street sweeping targeting analyses will be performed for priority areas. CLFLWD's [2018 Forest Lake Enhanced Street Sweeping Study](#) may be used as an example for these studies.

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 400 lb/yr.

[Activity 5: Structural Urban BMP Implementation](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Urban Stormwater Practices

Grant: \$200,000

Match: \$50,000

Match Source(s): Local funds

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas: St. Croix River direct drainage, Sunrise River watershed, Fish Lake, Big Carnelian, Big Marine, Forest Lake. Projects may also occur at other priority waters in the LSC CWMP.

CWMP Reference: Page 65

Activity Description: Provide cost share for implementing structural urban best management practices (e.g. vegetated swales, pervious pavement, gully stabilization, rain gardens, and other urban practices). BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. Projects to be chosen through targeting and prioritization process described in Section VII.B. The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 200 lb/yr.

[Activity 6: Wetland Restoration Implementation](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Wetland Restoration/Creation

Grant: \$39,531

Match: \$0

Match Source(s): N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Priority areas: Priority wetland restorations will result in measurable improvements to rivers/streams in Table 5-2 and/or lakes in Table 5-3 of the LSC CWMP. Areas of particular concern include the St. Croix River direct drainage area, Sunrise River corridor, Rock Creek corridor and subwatersheds identified in Figure 5-5 of the LSC CWMP.

CWMP Reference: Page 70

Activity Description: This Activity will involve implementation of wetland restoration project(s) as needed to achieve a phosphorus reduction of at least 15 pounds per year for target waterbodies. The primary purpose of the wetland restoration project(s) will be for the improvement of water quality in receiving lakes/streams. Secondary benefits of wetland restoration projects will be considered as well, such as floodplain storage and habitat creation/enhancement. Wetland restorations will not be used to mitigate wetland impacts. LSC Partners will ensure proposed wetland restorations are consistent with WBIF eligibility requirements. LSC Partners will target specific restorations through utilization of existing studies and targeting analyses (e.g., drained wetland inventories, diagnostic studies, subwatershed assessments), performance of additional modeling analyses using existing data from said studies, and completion of additional targeting analyses as necessary to fill data gaps. Work pertaining to targeting strategies is included as part of other grant Activities.

At this time, three LSC Partners have identified potential wetland restoration projects:

- Anoka County: Hesse Property in Oxford Township of Isanti Co lateral ditch plug. Anoka and Isanti SWCDs are working together on this project. It is currently at the concept phase. Cost estimate: \$55,000. Planned non-State match is \$0 so far, but USFWS is a possibility.
- Chisago County: Checkerboard Park Restoration. Cost estimate: \$40,000 match to acquire the Lutz property.
- CLFLWD: The [WJD-6 Wetland Restoration Project](#) is located in the Washington Judicial Ditch 6 subwatershed draining to Forest Lake. This project may result in a phosphorus reduction of up to 96 lb/yr to the east basin of Forest Lake; Forest Lake is listed in table 5-3 of the CWMP. [Cost estimate: \\$450,000](#)

The target phosphorus load reduction for this Activity is 15 lb/yr.

[Activity 7: Internal Analyses](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Planning and Assessment

Grant: \$50,000

Match: \$0

Match Source: N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago County

Staff Qualifications: Work is likely to be performed by an outside consultant which will be vetted for staff qualifications.

Activity Description: Calculate internal loading of phosphorus on 2 lakes estimated at \$25,000 each. Two lakes will be awarded through the project evaluation process identified in the plan. The group will develop a timeline for evaluating internal load evaluation for lakes. Internal load evaluation should only occur after external loading is substantially addressed.

Potential projects identified include:

- Linwood Lake and Martin Lake Anoka. Both are priority A for internal loading analysis in LSC CWMP Table 5-4.
- Goose Lake Washington. Priority B for internal loading analysis in CWMP Table 5-4. Water monitoring indicates watershed loads are addressed. Internal load reduction is the last step to delisting from MPCA Impaired waters list.
- Priority "A" lakes with Rush (E & W) and Goose Lakes as our preferred top three.
- Several basins in VBWD will analyzed over the next 2 years. Priority A Basin listed in Table 5-4, Downs Lake will be studied.
- Wallmark, Pioneer and North Goose Lakes in Chisago all priority A

[Activity 8: Targeting Analyses](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Planning and Assessment

Grant: \$150,000

Match: \$0

Match Source: N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Washington Conservation District (subcontracts with local partners for each subwatershed project)

Staff Qualifications: This task will be completed by existing qualified staff members of LSC Partner organizations.

Activity Description: All requested waterbodies are listed in tables 5.2 and 5.3 Regionally Significant Lakes, Rivers and Streams for Pollutant Reductions (ballpark cost estimate)

- Linwood Lake Anoka County (\$10,000)
- St. Croix Direct Washington County (\$15,000)
- Desktop Analysis and Prioritized Catchments of the Sunrise River Watershed Chisago (\$10,000)
- Rock Lake Pine and St. Croix Direct Pine County (\$20,000)
- Capacity building and information exchange (\$5,000)

Targeted Street Sweeping Analysis for the following Cities with direct discharge to waterbodies listed in table 5.2. The initial estimate is this task will require approximately \$40,000 for the following communities:

- Rush City
- Taylors Falls
- Harris
- North Branch
- Marine on St. Croix
- Stillwater
- Bayport
- Lakeland
- Lake St. Croix Beach
- Afton

[Activity 9: Technical/Engineering](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Grant: \$40,000

Match: \$0

Match Source: N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD (subcontracts with local partners for specific projects)

Staff Qualifications: This task will be completed by existing qualified staff members of LSC Partner organizations.

Activity Description: This Activity will include technical site assessment, surveys, preliminary analysis and design, final design, construction supervision, installation, inspection, and completion of projects. Funds may be used to contract with a third-party consultant for technical/engineering assistance. Funding allocation will be prioritized in areas where there are not local funds to support design work.

[Activity 10: Administration/Coordination](#)

eLINK Activity Category: Administration/Coordination

Grant: \$100,000

Match: \$0

Match Source: N/A

Lead Agency(ies): Chisago SWCD, EMWREP, CLFLWD (see role assignments below)

Activity Description: This Activity will include the following tasks (performed by the organizations listed in parentheses):

- Program and work plan coordination (New hire – see Basin Ag Outreach Program Activity)
- Grant and progress reporting (Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District)
- Work plan activity subcommittee coordination – note that subcommittees will perform project ranking as described by the associated work plan Activities (East Metro Water Resources Education Program)
- Policy Committee coordination (East Metro Water Resources Education Program)
- Website upkeep (East Metro Water Resources Education Program and Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District)
- Fiscal agent administration and contract coordination (Chisago SWCD)

Budget

Activity #	Grant Activity	eLINK Activity Category	Grant Budget	Match Budget
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Project Development	\$200,000	\$0
2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	Agricultural Practices	\$160,000	\$75,000
3	Shared Services Educator	Education/Information	\$125,000	\$4,800
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	\$200,000	\$0
5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Urban Stormwater Practices	\$200,000	\$50,000
6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	Wetland Restoration/Creation	\$39,531	\$0
7	Internal Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$50,000	\$0
8	Targeting Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$150,000	\$0
9	Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	\$40,000	\$0
10	Administration/Coordination	Administration/Coordination	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL			\$1,264,531	\$129,800

Measurable Outcomes/Outputs and Milestones

Activity #	Grant Activity	Overall Measurable Outcome/Output	Year 1 (2021) Milestones	Year 2 (2022) Milestones
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Output: Engage agricultural landowners (of both large and small operations) with a cumulative total of at least 3,000 acres of land to implement structural and nonstructural BMPs as outlined in other Activities	Agronomy outreach specialist hired	
2	Structural Ag BMP Implementation	Outcome: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 300 lb/yr		Implement 20 best management practices, or enough to achieve a 300 lb/yr phosphorus reduction
3	Shared Services Educator	Output: 0.5 FTE	New education staff hired, develop basin-wide outreach	Implement basin-wide outreach plan

			plan for 2021-22	
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 400 lb/yr		Implement 2,000 acres of non-structural best management practices, or enough to achieve a 400 lb/yr phosphorus reduction
5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 200 lb/yr		Implement 20 best management practices, or enough to achieve a 200 lb/yr phosphorus reduction
6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	Outcomes: reduce phosphorus loading to target waterbodies by 15 lb/yr		Wetland restoration(s) construction
7	Internal Analyses	Outputs: Complete 2 internal loading analyses		Complete 2 internal loading analyses
8	Targeting Analyses	Outputs: Complete the following analyses <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linwood Lake Anoka County • St. Croix Direct Washington County • Desktop Analysis and Prioritized Catchments of the Sunrise River Watershed Chisago • Rock Lake Pine and St. Croix Direct Pine County • Capacity building and information exchange • Enhanced street sweeping analyses for Rush City, Taylors Falls, Harris, North Branch, Marine on St. Croix, Stillwater, Bayport, Lakeland, Lake St. Croix Beach, and Afton 		
9	Technical/Engineering			

10	Administration/ Coordination	Complete eLINK annual reporting as required	Complete annual report	Complete annual report
Sum of outcomes:		915 lb/yr TP reduction		

Implementation Category Budget Breakdown

The following text appears on [page 16](#) of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan:

In general, WBIFs are expected to be allocated across program areas with a distribution similar to:

- 70% Implementation (approximately 25% shared services + 45% BMPs & restoration/protection activities)
- 25% Prioritization and Analysis
- 5% Administration

The following tables summarize how this work plan compares to the estimated percentages in the CWMP.

Activity #	Grant Activity	eLINK Activity Category	Grant Budget	Match Budget
1	Basin Ag Outreach Program	Project Development	\$200,000	\$0
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3	Shared Services Educator	Education/Information	\$125,000	\$4,800
4	Non-Structural Ag/Urban Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	\$200,000	\$0
5	Structural Urban BMP Implementation	Urban Stormwater Practices	\$200,000	\$50,000
6	Wetland Restoration Implementation	Wetland Restoration/Creation	\$39,531	\$0
7	Internal Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$50,000	\$0
8	Targeting Analyses	Planning and Assessment	\$150,000	\$0
9	Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	\$40,000	\$0
10	Administration/Coordination	Administration/Coordination	\$100,000	\$0
TOTAL			\$1,264,531	\$129,800

	LSC CWMP (Page 16)	Work Plan (Grant Funds)
Implementation - BMPs/Restoration Activities	45%	47%
Implementation - Shared Services	25%	29%
Prioritization & Analysis	25%	16%
Administration	5%	8%
	100%	100%