



FY 20 - 21 Biennial Budget Request Blue Earth County SWCD

Total Requested Biennial State Contribution:	\$6,266,000.00	BBR ID	BBR18-7372
Total Leveraged Funds	\$1,566,500.00	Submitted Date	3/29/2018
Total Resource Project and Activities Budget	\$7,832,500.00	Staff Contact	Jerad Bach
Total BMPs	65	Board Conservationist	Chris Hughes
Total FTEs	5.5		

SWCD Program Grant Summary

Grant Source	Estimated Amount Available	Estimated Amount Budgeted
SWCD Conservation Delivery	\$37,736.00	\$620,000.00
SWCD State Cost-Share	\$34,618.00	\$280,000.00
RIM Easement Delivery	\$23,136.00	\$60,000.00

Water Resources of Concern

Primary Water Resource of Concern	Water Resource Category	Watershed	Impairments	Trend
Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water	Surface & Ground Water		Yes	N/A
Le Sueur River Watershed	Surface & Ground Water	Le Sueur River	Yes	Down

Activity Summary

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water
Activity Description	<p>This fund will be used to help pay for the base costs to keep the SWCD office doors open. This will allow the SWCD to properly deliver conservation programs to the landowners of Blue Earth County. Example activities include public outreach, initial landowner contacts, preliminary information gathering, conservation marketing, targeting, running watershed modeling tools, conservation planning and contract implementation.</p> <p>This fund includes staff time needed to implement the Buffer Law and accounts for added capacity funding for the FY20 & 21 allocations.</p>

Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	SWCD Conservation Delivery	Estimated # of FTEs	3.5
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$620,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$155,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$775,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	This funding allows us to carry out Pages 6-15 of the Comp Plan
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	The SWCD will work with local, state and federal partners to provide technical assistance, educational outreach and cost share opportunities to the landowners of Blue Earth County by seeking program fund dollars from any grant source available. We will also administer the buffer law program as well as added capacity programs from the FY20 & 21 added capacity funds.		

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water		
Activity Description	These funds will be used to increase BMPs on farmed, highly erodible and potentially highly erodible land. The demand for projects has been made known by the landowners of Blue Earth County and the Blue Earth County Water plan priority/targeting maps. These projects will be on targeted watersheds of the Middle MN and the Le Sueur River as identified in the WRAPS reports. The Watonwan and Blue Earth watersheds have a WRAPS underway and more targets will be selected in those watersheds also.		
Activity Category	Agricultural Practices	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	SWCD State Cost-Share	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$280,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	15
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$70,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$350,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Page 10, Objective #1, Action 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6, Pages 12 & 13 Objective #4, Actions 3, 4 & 5
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	SWCD staff will work with local TSA & NRCS staff to implement these conservation practices in high priority areas as defined in the Comp Plan and WRAPS documents.		

Water Resource Name	Le Sueur River Watershed		
Activity Description	This fund will implement best management practices in targeted areas of the Le Sueur River Watershed per the MPCA WRAPs document and SWCD Comp Plan. Funds will be used for the following practices: Conservation Tillage, Cover Crops, Nutrient Management, WASCOBs, Waterways, Grade Stabilization Structures, Controlled Conservation Drainage, etc.		
Activity Category	Agricultural Practices	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Projects and Practices	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$320,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	20
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$80,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$400,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Pages 11 & 12, Object #3, Actions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	This activity will be accomplished by having staff target landowners in areas identified in the MPCA WRAPs document and the SWCD Comp Plan. These funds will pay for the cost of best management practices and some staff time to design and install these practices. Many of these best management practice locations have already been identified and landowners are willing to implement practices with the assistance of cost share funding.		

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water		
Activity Description	This will cover conservation easement payments to landowners to enroll into BWSR funded conservation easements. 300 acres a year for 2 years at \$8,000/ac = \$4,800,000 600 acres at average contract of 20 acres = 30 BMPs		
Activity Category	Wetland Restoration/Creation	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	RIM - (All Sources)	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$4,800,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	30
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$1,200,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has

			adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$6,000,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Pages 10 & 11, Objective #1, Action 5 & Page 13, Objective #5, Action 1
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	<p>Staff will promote conservation easements and this fund will pay \$8,000 per acre to the landowner for the conservation easement. This is the current average payment rate for Blue Earth County.</p> <p>300 acres a year for 2 years at \$8,000/ac = \$4,800,000</p>		

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water		
Activity Description	Staff will perform RIM site inspections, conservation plan modifications and implementation of plans, answer general landowner questions and update landowner owner transfers.		
Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	RIM Easement Delivery	Estimated # of FTEs	0.5
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$60,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$15,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$75,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Pages 10 & 11, Objective #1, Action 5 & Page 13, Objective #5, Action 1
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	Staff will conduct in field site inspections, work with landowners that need conservation plans or plan modifications, assist with plan implementation and work with landowner transfers.		

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water		
Activity Description	Staff will promote new program sign-ups for conservation easements. This will include staff time related to promotion and easement sign up.		
Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	RIM Easement	Estimated # of FTEs	0.5

	Implementation		
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$60,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$15,000.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$75,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Pages 10 & 11, Objective #1, Action 5 & Page 13, Objective #5, Action 1
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	Staff will work with landowners that come into sign up for new conservation easements. This will include promotion, taking applications, processing applications, recording final easements and initial easement implementation.		

Water Resource Name	Organization Wide - Surface & Ground Water		
Activity Description	The purpose of this project is to accelerate staff capacity to deliver programs that increase grassland and wetland program enrollment for both wildlife habitat and water quality.		
Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	No
Source of State Contribution	Farm Bill Assistance	Estimated # of FTEs	1
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$126,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$31,500.00	Plan Type	SWCD Comprehensive Plan (SWCDs only; if SWCD has adopted County Comprehensive Local Water Mgmt. Plan, select that option)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$157,500.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	Pages 10 & 11, Objective #1, Action 5 & Page 13, Objective #5, Actions 1 and 2
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	A Pheasants Forever farm bill biologist will be housed at the SWCD to market and consult with farmers and landowners on conservation programs that achieve clean water, grass and wetland cover. Programs such as RIM, CREP, RIM-WRP, CRP, CCRP, WRP, WLI, WHIP, CRP Re-enrollment, MN Clean Water Funding, MN Prairie Conservation Plan, Prairie Bank, FWS Habitat Easements.		