

## Isanti SWCD Cost-Share Program Policies

The Isanti SWCD offers grants for projects that provide benefits to water quality. The following are local guidelines for the use of grant funds and are specific to Isanti Soil and Water Conservation District. These guidelines will be reviewed and edited and/or amended on an annual basis.

### Financial Assistance:

#### General Funding Information

- All funding program contracts and requests for payment require the approval of the Isanti SWCD Board of Supervisors.
- All funding programs are subject to fund availability and may be discontinued or subject to program policy revisions by the SWCD Board as it deems appropriate.
- A list of projects/interested parties will be kept on file at the District and will be reviewed, ranked, and selected on a first come first serve basis (applies to State Cost Share Only). The District Staff will prioritize projects based on local and state priorities and the potential to provide water quality benefits (See Local Priorities).

#### Cost Share Rates

Isanti SWCD will provide up to 75% cost-share to landowners for approved State practices (See [Design Standards](#)). The SWCD Board reserves the right to set a limit on funding at their discretion.

Well sealing cost-share will provide up to 50% cost-share not to exceed \$500 per well.

#### Eligible Expenses

Eligible expenses are those expenses that are eligible for grant reimbursement or, if provided by the landowner, count toward the landowner's required project contribution.

#### Materials:

- Native plants and seed (See [Project Requirements-Vegetation](#))
- Erosion control blankets and bio-logs
- Shredded Wood Mulch
- Landscaping fabric
- Stakes or anchors
- Herbicide
- Tool or machine rental
- Lawn edging
- Soil amendments
- Retaining wall block (rain gardens only)
- Drainage materials (rain gardens or other applicable infiltration practice only)
- Rock, if deemed necessary (See [Project Requirements-Hard-Armor](#))
- Others as approved by the District Board.

*In-kind Labor:* Unless specified otherwise by Minnesota prevailing wage statutes, the value of labor, equipment, materials and/or services that are proposed to be provided by the applicant to complete the project, shall be estimated at:

- General Labor rate of \$24 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
- Labor rate of \$50 per cubic yard for concrete work.
- Heavy equipment operation such as skid steers, tractors, backhoes, and scrapers (including labor) at \$60 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
- Materials: \$8 per ton for gravel, \$5 per yard for sand.
- Professional or semi-professional services, such as engineering, labor rate at \$75 per hour. (Date, times and activity must be documented)
- Others as approved by the District Board or Supervisors

NOTE: In-kind labor is non-reimbursable. This is to be used ONLY as match for the grant.

### Eligible Conservation Practices

The primary purpose of projects funded is to assist with structural, vegetative, or non-structural land management practices to correct existing water quality problems. The following elements must be met in order to be eligible for cost share.

### Design Standards

All eligible projects must be designed according to the following technical standards: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MPCA Protecting Water Quality in Urban Areas, NPDES General Stormwater Permit for Construction Activity, Minnesota Urban Small Sites BMP Manual, and applicable local, state and federal regulations. Design standards for all practices must include specifications for operation and maintenance for the effective life of the given practice, including and inspection schedule and procedure.

### Project Requirements/Eligible Practices

*Design Assistance:* Prior to offering design assistance—all heads of the household (i.e. both husband and wife or partners) must be present for the initial on-site meeting (a phone call by a head household member may substitute). Additionally, if the SWCD is using a grant to pay for design assistance, the landowner MUST agree to install the project. See Design Assistance contract (to be developed).

*Vegetation:* For certain practices including but not limited to shoreline buffers, riparian buffers and various stormwater infiltration practices where native vegetation is recommended: no exotic species or nursery-derived cultivars will be eligible for cost-share reimbursement, vegetation practices must follow BWSR Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/nativevegetation/seedingguidelines.pdf](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/nativevegetation/seedingguidelines.pdf)

*Hard-Armor:* Riprap should only be used where necessary and never to replace stable, naturally vegetated shoreline. The District will consider funding hard armoring such as rock rip-rap if it is determined by all applicable parties to be the best solution. Should riprap be approved, the site must be enhanced with a vegetative buffer.

*Violation or Permit Requirement:* Projects to repair violations or projects that are required, such as stormwater treatment required by local ordinances or repair/replacement of wetlands under the MN Wetland Conservation Act are NOT eligible.

*Contractor Work:* The applicant may be required to obtain three quotes for the proposed conservation work if the total project cost exceeds \$25,000 prior to contract approval by the board.

*Project Maintenance:* Applicants must complete a project maintenance workshop OR request a one-on-one maintenance session with the SWCD within three years of project installation.

*Lakeshore buffers:* Unless specified differently in a grant, the minimum requirement is an average of 15 feet deep. Buffers must target the treatment of stormwater runoff and reduce erosion. For State-Cost share projects the minimum recommended average is 25 feet deep and must cover 75% of the water front.

## Local Priorities

### 1. High Priority Water Quality Problems

“High Priority Water Quality” means areas where sediment, nutrients, chemicals, or other pollutants discharge to protected waters or to a sinkhole or ground water so as to impair their quality or usefulness. The Isanti SWCD most strongly favors:

- a. Projects identified in completed or underway subwatershed analyses (aka stormwater retrofit analyses),
- b. Projects beneficial to a lake, stream, or river that meet standards and/or are in satisfactory condition to the local residents and the larger population of county citizens.
- c. Projects identified in completed or underway TMDLs.

### 2. High Priority Erosion Problems

“High priority erosion problems: means areas where erosion from wind or water is one ton per acre per year or any area within 300 feet of a water course or within 1,000 feet of a water basin or wetland. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse must be classified by the Department of natural Resources as protected water.

### 3. High Priority Sedimentation Problems

“High priority sedimentation problems” means areas within 300 feet of a water course or 100 feet of a water basin or wetland where the water erosion rate exceeds 3 tons per acre per year or areas where the District can show that sediment delivery occurs from a watershed or direct conveyance structure such as a storm sewer or paved outlet channel discharging to these waters. The water basin, wetland, or watercourse must be classified by the Department of natural Resources as protected water.

### 4. High Priority Feedlot Problems

“High Priority Feedlots” means feedlots ranking highly with current NRCS farm evaluation methods/software and which are discharging pollutants to DNR protected waters or to a sinkhole or shallow soils overlaying fractured or cavernous bedrock or within 100 feet of a water well.

## Noncompliance:

At its discretion, the board may consider compliance to the terms of the previous Cost-share contract as a subsequent cost Share contract with an applicant.

## Technical Expertise

The following is a documentation of staff skills, training, credentials along with description of other means the District will use to insure projects meet the requirements of local guidelines and are installed and maintained according to standards and specifications. This document should be reviewed and updated annually.

*Ecological Practices:* The SWCD board assigned the District Manager, Tiffany Determan, Technical Approval Authority to design, install and sign off on ecological practices relating to stabilizing shoreland

on June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016 at the regular board meeting. Should TAA be required for any other practice, the staff will seek partnership with a surrounding district or provider with the appropriate experience and credentials.

**Engineering Practices:** For all practices requiring engineering, the SWCD will oversee the plans to make sure they meet local requirements and the engineer will sign off on the completed project.

Below is a listing of the credentials of the District Manager, Tiffany Determan, staff which qualify her to make recommendations, design and install and sign off on Ecological Practices as described above:

**District Manager, Tiffany Determan:**

**Shoreline Ecological Practices (TAA approved June 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016)**

- Approved by BWSR to sign off on the TAA for the Native Buffer Cost-Share program funds for Benton SWCD. This resulted in the design and installation of 9 shoreland buffers.
- Sherburne SWCD experience: Assisted with design for three shoreline buffers and made recommendations for over 20 shoreline buffers during site visits.
- Annual attendance at Shoreland Users Group: a gathering of professionals to share information and new techniques and lessons learned regarding shoreland and riparian buffers.
- Isanti SWCD: Provided TAA for 12 shoreline restorations on Long Lake and four on Green Lake. Also assisted with planning for three shoreline buffers on Blue Lake.

**Stormwater**

- Rain Garden Workshop, 2008. U of M Extension Service: details about design, construction, maintaining residential rain gardens.
- Have worked with engineer during the design and installation process of five raingardens, and the development of one alternative stormwater reduction project.
- Extensive involvement in the Metro subwatershed assessment process. This involves training and experience in visually inspecting the land and making educated recommendations for BMP placement. This work makes it necessary to stay current on new and innovative Stormwater BMPs.
- Watershed Specialist Training, University of MN, 2013. Included a special training on BMP planning and evaluation.
- On a regular basis: Lead and make recommendations on stormwater site assessments associated with Isanti County Ordinance Requirements.

**River and Stream:**

- The Fundamentals of Stream Restoration: Applied Geomorphology & Ecology Workshop, 2011.
- Diagnosing Streams: Symptoms, Underlying Causes, and Remedies, 2013.
- Have worked with engineer during the design and installation process of one streambank stabilization practice in Sherburne County and one bio-engineering (toe-wood) project in Isanti County.

The SWCD utilizes the BBR and the County Water Plan as its annual plan. See the FY18-19 BBR on the following page for more details.



## FY 18 - 19 Biennial Budget Request Isanti SWCD

Total Requested Biennial State Contribution:	<b>\$1,464,632.00</b>	BBR ID	<b>BBR16-7756</b>
Total Leveraged Funds	\$270,000.00	Submitted Date	4/4/2016
Total Resource Project and Activities Budget	\$1,734,632.00	Staff Contact	Tiffany Determan
Total BMPs	85	Board Conservationist	Jason Weinerman
Total FTEs	2.21		

### SWCD Program Grant Summary

Grant Source	Estimated Amount Available	Estimated Amount Budgeted
RIM Easement Delivery	<b>\$596.00</b>	<b>\$632.00</b>
SWCD Conservation Delivery	<b>\$40,344.00</b>	<b>\$67,000.00</b>
SWCD State Cost-Share	<b>\$12,100.00</b>	<b>\$24,000.00</b>

### Water Resources of Concern

Primary Water Resource of Concern	Water Resource Category	Watershed	Impairments	Trend
<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>	Surface & Ground Water		N/A	N/A
<b>Rum River</b>	Surface Water	Rum River	Yes	Up

### Activity Summary

Water Resource Name	<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Easement delivery funds are used to promote new easements, particularly RIM, and inspect existing easements.</b>		
Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	RIM Easement Delivery	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>0.01</b>
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$632.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$0.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local

			Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$632.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan, Implementation Objective A, action 3 - pursue easements.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	Promote new easements and inspect existing easements.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Staff time to develop relationships to pursue new projects, coordinate major projects, and write grants .</b>		
Activity Category	Project Development	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	SWCD Local Capacity Funds	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>0.5</b>
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$200,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$0.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$200,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>All priorities, all tasks in the water plan- need someone to focus on implementation.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	Staff person to be focused on the pursuit and facilitation of projects and programs as described. A staff person will need to be hired.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Conservation delivery funds used for SWCD operating expenses including board meetings, rent, utilities, salaries for district administrative tasks and equipment.</b>		
Activity Category	Administration/Coordination	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	SWCD Conservation Delivery	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>0.3</b>
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$67,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$0.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$67,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan Priority Issue II, objective A, C and many others describe SWCD roles in water quality</b>

			<b>efforts.</b>
<b>Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium</b>	Basic operations and admin. The SWCD hired a full time manager and administration time is expected to increase over the next 5 years as the staff of the SWCD is increased.		

<b>Water Resource Name</b>	<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>		
<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Financial assistance to Isanti County Residents to meet current/priority resource concerns.</b>		
<b>Activity Category</b>	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
<b>Source of State Contribution</b>	SWCD State Cost-Share	Estimated # of FTEs	
<b>Total Requested Biennial State Contribution</b>	\$24,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	<b>15</b>
<b>Estimated Leveraged Funds</b>	\$6,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
<b>Projects &amp; Activities Budget</b>	\$30,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan Priority Issue I, Objectives A &amp; B which describe need for landowner participation in conservation efforts.</b>
<b>Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium</b>	In the past the SWCD cost share has been used to cover technical assistance, with increased staff funding available and (and increased capacity of staff) additional cost share will be required. The cost share will be available county wide but focused at the resources and strategies identified as high priority in WRAPS strategies and the Water Plan.		

<b>Water Resource Name</b>	<b>Organization Wide - Surface &amp; Ground Water</b>		
<b>Activity Description</b>	<b>Water monitoring, BMP planning, public education, rules development, assisting civic groups such as lake associations and related.</b>		
<b>Activity Category</b>	Planning and Assessment	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
<b>Source of State Contribution</b>	NRBG Water Plan	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>0.2</b>
<b>Total Requested Biennial State Contribution</b>	\$18,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
<b>Estimated Leveraged Funds</b>	\$0.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
<b>Projects &amp; Activities Budget</b>	\$18,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan Appendix 5 describes task force members and function.</b>
<b>Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium</b>	SWCD staff participates in the Isanti County Water Planning task force. SWCD plans to increase activities		



accomplished in the biennium	associated with this task over the next 5 years as well as to increase the level of work done on implementation of the Rum River and Sunrise River WRAPS strategies.
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Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>There are several proactive natural resource groups in Isanti County and the SWCD wants to support building of capacity of these groups. The Isanti SWCD will support the growth of these groups by applying for Community Partners grants to work with the local groups to implement projects in high priority areas.</b>		
Activity Category	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Community Partners	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$100,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	<b>20</b>
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$25,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$125,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan, Implementation schedule, Objective A - land use practices that reduce negative impacts.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	the SWCD is already working with the Long Lake Association and will continue to do so in the future. We will let other groups know how they can take advantage of these funds in 2018-2019.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Provide cost share to farmers and producers in high priority surface or groundwater areas.</b>		
Activity Category	Agricultural Practices	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Projects and Practices	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$150,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	<b>20</b>
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$25,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$175,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Priority issue 2, Objective A task 7.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	Staff focused on agricultural practices will work in high priority areas to pursue implementation of agricultural BMPs. A staff person may need to be hired specifically for this.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Stormwater Retrofit Analyses have been completed for the Cities of Isanti and Cambridge, the Skogman-Fannie Chain of Lakes and Green Lake. Additional SRAs are being completed for tributaries to Green Lake and Blue Lake. These studies identify stormwater retrofits for reducing TP, TSS and volume to prioritize waterbodies and rank these projects by cost effectiveness. BMPs will continue to be pursued in order of cost effectiveness.</b>		
Activity Category	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Projects and Practices	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$300,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	<b>15</b>
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$75,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$375,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan, Priority 1, Objective B - Improve stormwater runoff quality.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	The Isanti SWCD will lead installation efforts for stormwater BMPs identified in Stormwater Retrofit Analysis studies.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>As identified in the Rum River WRAP (not yet complete), restore habitat and correct erosion in the riparian corridor.</b>		
Activity Category	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Projects and Practices	Estimated # of FTEs	
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$350,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	<b>15</b>
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$75,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$425,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan, Implementation schedule, Priority 2, action 5 -</b>

			support existing Rum River scenic district. Action 6 - Lake/river riparian and wetland...techniques for reducing shoreline erosion.
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	The Isanti SWCD will lead installation efforts for riparian corridor BMPs identified in the Rum River WRAP. There may be a need to further identify areas of actively eroding stream or river bank, and habitat restoration opportunities. Design and install. Added staff capacity will allow for additional projects to be accomplished.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>Provide technical assistance to the NRCS to implement practices that will improve water quality (agricultural) and certify producers for MAQWCP where appropriate.</b>		
Activity Category	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	MDA Ag Water Quality Certification Funds	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>1</b>
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$55,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	
Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$14,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$69,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Priority 2: protection and restoration of natural habitat and impaired waters: Objective A task 7, Objective B task 6.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	SWCD staff will use Rum River WRAPS to guide targeted efforts to work with farmers to implement practices to improve and protect water quality. MAWQCP will be included in this process.		

Water Resource Name	<b>Rum River</b>		
Activity Description	<b>As identified in the Rum River WRAP (not yet complete), address practices which contribute to water quality impairments. Likewise, actions aimed at protecting water quality will be pursued.</b>		
Activity Category	Non-Structural Management Practices	Capital Improvement Project?	<b>No</b>
Source of State Contribution	BWSR Clean Water Fund - Projects and Practices	Estimated # of FTEs	<b>0.2</b>
Total Requested Biennial State Contribution	\$200,000.00	Estimated Number of Practices	

Estimated Leveraged Funds	\$50,000.00	Plan Type	County Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan (non-metro counties only)
Projects & Activities Budget	\$250,000.00	Action or Objective (from plan)	<b>Isanti Co Local Water Mgmt Plan, Implementation schedule, Objective A - land use practices that reduce negative impacts.</b>
Describe how this activity could be accomplished in the biennium	The Isanti SWCD will lead installation efforts for BMPs identified in the Rum River WRAP.		