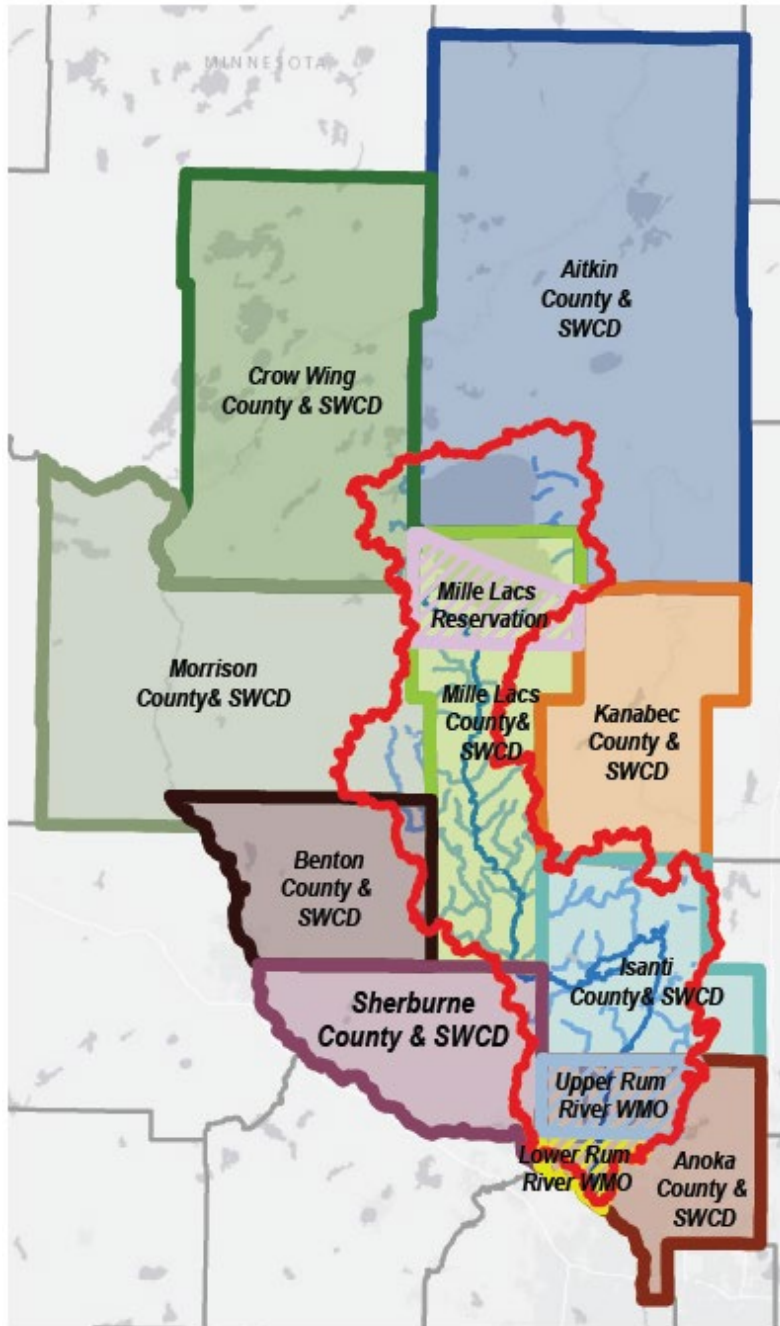


Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



2023 Annual Work Plan

Coming together to identify shared goals.

Planning together to leverage unique capacity.

Working together to achieve results.

Vision Statement

- Clean, abundant water for consumption, recreation, and habitat
- Collaborative partnership among communities, working together towards a common goal
 - Community members and decision makers understand the challenges and opportunities facing the watershed
 - Innovative strategies to meet our goals

Introduction

The 2023 Annual Work Plan describes the activities the Rum River Watershed Partnership plans to implement over the forthcoming year associated with the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

The annual plan consists of four components:

1. **Operating Budget**: This section includes cost to administer the JPE and grant funds managed by the partnership including items such as insurance, plan administration costs and legal fees (if applicable).
2. **Partnership Funded Programs**: This section includes detailed work plans describing programs to be implemented collaboratively such as Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) and other private, local, state, or federal funds administered by the partnership. Work plan details covered here generally reflect the entire grant period and will not need to be updated annually.
3. **All Funding Sources Programs**: This section includes a summary of projects and programs to be implemented individually by parties to this agreement as well as partnership funded programs used to implement the plan (i.e., all methods used to implement the plan). Section 3 provides a general overview of the level of effort and focus areas for actions being implemented to meet plan goals.
4. **Implementation Tracking**: This section includes an annual tracking of plan accomplishments to determine progress towards goals. NOTE: this component is not included in the 2023 Annual Work Plan because it is the first year of implementation. It will be included in future work plans.

This plan may be revised throughout the year as needs and projects change.

1. 2023 & 2024 Operating Budget

All operating costs will be covered by FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF). The table below covers the expenses for the entire FY23 WBIF grant period. Shifts of $\leq 10\%$ do not require board approval.

Description	Cost	Funding Source
Insurance-MCIT	\$6,000	FY23 WBIF
Attorney	\$7,350	FY23 WBIF
Audit	\$3,000	FY23 WBIF
Coordinator, Fiscal Agent, Implementation Tracking, and Communications	\$84,782.70	FY23 WBIF
TOTAL	\$101,132.70	FY23 WBIF

2. Partnership-Funded Programs

The Rum River Partnership may pursue various funding sources collaboratively or individually to expedite the plan's implementation. Funding sources managed collaboratively by the partnership are included in this section of the work plan. This section currently includes only FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) funding.

Member staff ideas and concepts for collaborative funding will be shared with the Rum River Partnership board and brought forward as opportunities become available.

a. Watershed Based Implementation Funds

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) is the primary funding source for plan implementation of water quality activities via the Rum River Partnership. WBIF grants are issued every other year and expire after three years. We anticipate the partnership will receive approximately \$1,011,327 to implement the plan biannually. An additional \$371,157 is allocated to the Metro Portion of the watershed (Anoka County) to implement the Rum River Comprehensive Plan and other state approved and locally adopted comprehensive watershed management plans in the Anoka County portion of the watershed. The metro money is not included in the WBIF Work Plan here as it is managed by the Metro partners.

In FY23 the Rum River Partnership will receive \$1,011,327, the money will expire on 12/31/2025. The Rum River Partnership Board will approve the work plan, sign the BWSR Grant agreement, guide program and project selection, and confirm expenditures.

As part of the WBIF program, a schedule of key milestones associated with the grant goals must be provided. Milestones are listed for each year of the grant and are measurable. Annual check-ins against the milestones will aid in determining progress towards grant goals.

FY23 WBIF Project Summary:

For FY23, WBIF will support Priority Level A actions, including Outreach and Education, Surface Water Restoration, and Surface Water Protection. The completed projects will achieve approximately a 22-pound reduction of total phosphorus, 10,560 linear feet of shoreline protection, 300 acres of soil health practices, 10 acres of agroforestry/silvopasture, six private forest management plans and four subwatershed assessments within target watersheds. Upon implementation, phosphorus reduction calculations will be made for each

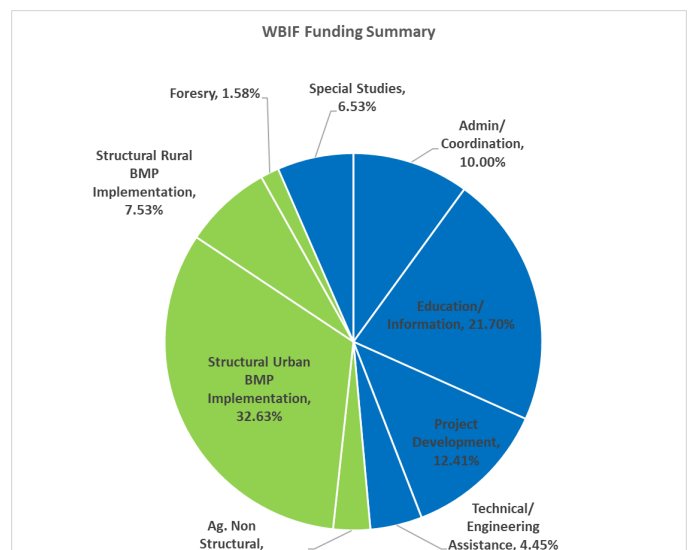


Figure 1 Approved FY23 WBIF Funding usage summary. Colors depict overall projects VS staffina expenses.

practice, where appropriate, to help determine overall progress towards restoration and protection.

Outreach and Engagement will be implemented using a well-coordinated and multi-dimensional approach. The plan focuses on using multiple outreach strategies to build a list of landowners interested in implementing projects for use in future years. Outreach Type A (raising awareness and behavioral change) will be completed cooperatively by existing outreach staff from Isanti SWCD and Anoka CD. Outreach Type B (community organizing and buy-in) will consist of a new-hire to be housed at Mille Lacs SWCD. The SWCDs hosting Type A and B outreach will work across the basin or subcontract with other parties to the Joint Powers Entity to provide outreach services. Outreach Type C (technical outreach) is included in the project development line item. An outreach and education subcommittee will develop a detailed work plan that coordinates outreach and engagement activities, based on priorities identified in this annual plan, throughout the watershed.

Surface Water Restoration and protection will focus on structural and non-structural projects targeted at Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters as described in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP). Due to the diverse nature of the watershed, an assorted set of practices will be implemented, including agricultural structural and non-structural projects, urban/residential projects, forestry practices, and soil health practices. As part of planning for future years, this work plan also includes the completion of four subwatershed assessments to identify potential future project locations and types on priority waters.

Funding for staff, due to the lack of local and state reliable funding, is also included in the work plan and is necessary for effective plan implementation. Funding for staff includes: 1) technical staff time to provide outreach leading to the development of water quality programs and implementation of projects (project development/Type C Outreach); 2) technical assistance and engineering to design and oversee project installation; and 3) administration, 10% of the funding will be used to administer the plan and grant.

The FY23 WBIF Approved Work Plan can be found in **Table 1**. Shifts of $\leq 10\%$ do not require board approval. FY23 WBIF yearly milestones can be found in **Table 2**.

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Table 1

Plan Activity #	Imp. Table Activity	Activity Category	Grant Budget	Match	Activity Description
Pg 160	Coordination	Admin/Coordination	\$ 101,132.70	\$ -	Funding for local staff time for grant and plan administration. Fiscal Agent: Lead Anoka CD. Activities may include: Fiscal Tracking, receive and issue payments, ELINK reporting, audit coordination. Coordinator: Lead ISWCD. Activities may include: Acting as point of contact, development of WBIF work plan and annual plan of work, coordination of all committee meetings, ensuring progress on work plan. Implementation Tracking: Lead Sherburne SWCD. Activities include development of process to track progress towards plan goals. Communications: Lead Mille Lacs SWCD. Activities may include meeting facilitation, note taking, and website maintenance. Legal: Lead TBD. Includes private or government council to develop subcontracts and policies for JPE. Insurance: For JPE such as MCIT. Annual fees. Audit: Annual Audit fees
Pg 69-70 & Table 4.4	Outreach	Education/Information	\$ 219,494.30	\$ -	Outreach will focus on priorities addressed in the WBIF work plan and those addressed in the annual work plan. Activities include public participation and engagement, equipment, and other activities necessary for the implementation of water quality practices and programs consistent with the purposes of these funds. "Type A" Outreach: Strategies to support raising awareness and behavioral change. Lead ACD/ISWCD- shared existing Outreach staff - Primary roles include but not limited to: developing creative, engaging programming and materials that can be distributed to all local staff involved with engagement; creating a catalog of stories sharing personal narratives about projects implemented across the watershed, promoting and hosting informational workshops, seminars, and other activities for the public to encourage behavioral change that accomplishes the plan goals, compile annual reports to assess progress. (pg. 69) 1,560 hours total or 780 hours/year. "Type B" Outreach: Strategies to support community organizing and community buy-in. Lead MLSWCD. New staff person to be hired: Forestry Coordinator/Direct Outreach coordinator. Primary roles include but not limited to: Implement the Rum River Watershed Landscape Stewardship Plan, build relationships to implement forestry actions, collaborate with planning partnership to identify priorities for each year, work with identified stakeholders to reach others in their networks, refine communications language, and identify practices they are interested in. (pg. 70) 2,500 hrs. or 1,250 per year.
Pg 69 & 70	Project Development	Project Development	\$ 125,500.00	\$ -	"Type C" Outreach: Staff who support project development. Existing staff time to provide technical outreach leading to the development of water quality programs and implementation of projects addressed in this work plan. Activity to consist of approximately 50% marketing and 50% technical education. Focus is wetland restorations, forestry, conservation easements, structural and non-structural BMPs.
Priorities within plan.	Technical Assistance and Eng.	Technical/Engineering Assistance	\$ 45,000.00	\$ -	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 pay local SWCD (with appropriate JAA) or to contract with a third-party consultant or LGU engineer for technical/engineering assistance. Projects will be designed according to the following technical standards: USDA Field Office Technical Guide, MPCA Stormwater Manual, MN Urban Small sites BMP manual, and applicable local, state and federal regulations. Design standards for all practices will include specifications for operation and maintenance for the effective life of the practices, including an inspection schedule and procedure.
SWP.3 SWR.6	Soil Health	Ag. Non Structural	\$ 32,000.00	\$ -	Funding will be targeted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters listed on page 80 and 100 of the CWMP and will be prioritized using the criteria described on page 66 of the CWMP. Initial funding will be targeted to: <u>Tier 1 Protection Waters:</u> Rum River (Princeton-Cambridge & St. Francis), Blue Lake <u>Tier 1 Restoration Waters:</u> Green and South Stanchfield Lakes Flat-rate cost share incentives will be provided to implement non-structural agricultural best management practices (include but not limited to: tillage and residue management, cover crops, and conversion to perennial crops). NRCS or other BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. A committee will establish cost share rates and policies which will be sent to BWSR for review.
SWP.10 SWR.28 SWR.34	Install BMPs from scientific and prioritizing studies	Special Projects	\$ 330,000.00	\$ 80,000	Funding will be targeted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters listed on page 80 and 100 of the CWMP and will be prioritized using the criteria described on page 66 of the CWMP. Initial funding will be targeted to: <u>Tier 1 Protection Waters:</u> Mille Lacs Lake: 2 BMPs in Wahkon Stormwater Management Plan (MLSWCD) <u>Tier 1 Restoration Water:</u> Green Lake, Skogman Lake Description: provide cost share for implementing structural urban/residential best practices (include but not limited to: rain gardens, vegetated swales, shoreline buffers, bank stabilizations, infiltration basins). BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. A committee will establish cost share rates and policies which will be sent to BWSR for review.
SWP.36 SWR.12 SWR.24 SWR.29	Install BMPs from scientific and prioritizing studies & Drainage System Management	Structural Rural BMP Implementation	\$ 76,200.00	\$ 18,000	Funding will be targeted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters listed on page 80 and 100 of the CWMP and will be prioritized using the criteria described on page 66 of the CWMP. Initial funding will be targeted to: <u>Tier 1 Protection Waters:</u> Blue Lake (ISWCD, SSWCD), Mille Lakes Lake (ASWCD) <u>Tier 1 Restoration Waters:</u> Green Lake, South Stanchfield (ISWCD) Description: provide cost share for implementing structural rural best practices (include but not limited to: ditch buffers, filter strips, Alternative Side Intakes, water and sediment control basins, grassed waterways, grade stabilization practices, livestock exclusions, feedlot improvements & wetland restorations.). BWSR approved standards will be followed for all practices installed. A committee will establish cost share rates and policies which will be sent to BWSR for review.
SWP.11 SWP.38 SP.7	management & Sustainable Agroforestry and Silvopasture	Forestry Practices	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 3,133	Funding will be targeted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters listed on page 80 and 100 of the CWMP and will be prioritized using the criteria described on page 66 of the CWMP. Initial funding will be targeted to: <u>Tier 1 Protection Waters:</u> Mille Lacs Lake, Rum River (Princeton-Cambridge) and watershed wide in priority areas for SWP.7 A committee will establish cost share rates and policies which will be sent to BWSR for review.
SWP.9 SWP.40 SWR.16 SWP.33	Scientific and Prioritizing Studies	Planning and Assessment and Special Studies	\$ 66,000.00	\$ -	Funding will be targeted to Tier 1 and Tier 2 waters listed on page 80 and 100 of the CWMP and will be prioritized using the criteria described on page 66 of the CWMP. Prioritizing studies to be completed by existing staff members or qualified consultants. Initial funding will be targeted to: <u>Tier 1 Protection Waters:</u> Mille Lacs Lake (ASWCD), Rum River (Princeton-Cambridge) MDM on one county ditch (ISWCD), Skogman Lake updated assessment (ISWCD) <u>Tier 1 Restoration Waters:</u> Bogus Brook (MLSWCD),-Phase I study to ID priority feedlots
TOTAL			\$1,011,327.00	\$101,132.70	

Table 2.

eLink Activity Category	Year 1 Milestones	Year 2 Milestones	Year 3 Milestones
Admin/ Coordination			Grant and program administration successfully accomplished.
Education/ Information	<p>Type A: communication with partners to determine needs to result in a plan of action for next two years. 2 outreach efforts such as events, publications, videos, personal communications to a target audience (geared towards adult audiences, 1 annual outreach report.</p> <p>Type B: Develop position description. Hire position. 1 new stakeholder group engaged in plan implementation. 20 personal contact hours with groups/individuals.</p>	<p>Type A: 4 outreach efforts such as events, publications, videos, personal communications to a target audience (geared towards adult audiences), 1 annual outreach report.</p> <p>Type B: 3 new stakeholder group engaged in plan implementation. 20 personal contact hours with groups/individuals.</p>	<p>Type A: 4 outreach efforts such as events, publications, videos, personal communications to a target audience (geared towards adult audiences). 20 personal contact hours with groups/individuals.</p>
Project Development	<p>5 rural landowners on list for future BMPs (forest plans, wetland restorations, conservation easements, agroforestry, structural BMPs, non-structural BMPs)</p> <p>5 residential landowners on list for future BMPs</p>	<p>5 rural landowners on list for future BMPs (forest plans, wetland restorations, conservation easements, agroforestry, structural BMPs, non-structural BMPs)</p> <p>5 residential landowners on list for future BMPs</p>	<p>5 rural landowners on list for future BMPs (forest plans, wetland restorations, conservation easements, agroforestry, structural BMPs, non-structural BMPs)</p> <p>5 residential landowners on list for future BMPs</p>
Technical/ Engineering Assistance			Technical Assistance to design and install projects provided.
Ag. Non Structural	Establish policies and incentive rates for non-structural practices.	150 acres non-structural practices installed	150 acres non-structural practices installed
Structural Urban BMP Implementation	<p>Establish policies and cost-share rates.</p> <p>2 lbs. TP reduction.</p>	5 lb. TP reduction.	5 lb. TP reduction.
Structural Rural BMP Implementation	Establish policies and cost-share rates.	5 lbs. TP reduction	5 lbs. TP reduction
Forestry Practices	Establish policies and cost share rates	<p>3 plans</p> <p>5 acres of sustainable agroforestry/silvopasture</p>	<p>3 plans</p> <p>5 acres of sustainable agroforestry/silvopasture</p>
Planning and Assessment and Special Studies		2 studies complete	2 studies complete

3. All Funding Sources Programs

The estimated cost to implement all Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan activities is \$34,947,325 over ten years; this equates to roughly \$3.5 million per year. Watershed Based Implementation Funds will not cover all costs of implementing the plan; thus, partners may also opt to individually leverage private, local, state, or federal funding to ensure progress toward plan goals.

This section of the annual work plan is meant to provide a general overview of how partners plan to use all funding sources, not just WBIF, to implement the plan in 2023. By including a section that describes all planned efforts to implement the plan, we hope to clarify the overall effort going into the plan implementation. The actions and goals are subject to change for locally managed funding based on local management decisions.

Figure 2 provides a visual overview of the effort, focus area, agency, and funding sources used to implement actions for all eight issues identified in the Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan in 2023.

For those interested in more detail, a more comprehensive table can be obtained by visiting the Rum River Watershed Partnership website at: <https://www.millelacsswcd.org/rum-river-one-watershed-one-plan/>

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Table 2

All Funding Sources Actions to Implement the RRCWMP

Watershed Wide Actions

(Targeted to Priority Waters as identified in Section 4 of the RRCWMP)

Outreach: Provide outreach and education to address watershed wide priority Issues.

Fund: SWCD Capacity, MDH, WBIF

Who: SWCDs, shared staff

Surface Water Protection (SWP): Restore wetlands and wetland banks, SSTS Fix up, Soil Health, Sustainable agroforestry and silvopasture, water quality monitoring

Fund: Metro WBIF, WBIF, State cost share, EQIP, SWCD Capacity

Who: SWCDs, NRCS

Surface Water Restoration (SWR): Build staff capacity, Wetland restoration and banks, SSTS Fix up, DNR review of river projects, SWCD/WMO Input on ditch projects, Soil Health, development standards to minimize stormwater runoff and preserve natural areas, comparison study of shoreline ordinances, water quality monitoring

Fund: Metro WBIF, WBIF, 319, EQIP, State Cost Share, Local, MAWQCP, SWCD Capacity, Local

Who: SWCDs, WMOs

Surface Water Quantity (SWQ): Restore wetlands and wetland banks, hydrology monitoring, culvert inventories, water storage BMPs

Fund: Metro WBIF, WBIF, 319, Met Council, Local

Who: SWCDs, Met Council

Ground Water Quantity (GWQ): SSTS fix up, well sealing, habitat enhancement, conservation easements

Fund: Metro WBIF, WBIF, LSOHC, State, State Cost Share, CWF

Who: SWCDs, Metro partners

Natural Resource Restore Degraded & Protect High Quality Habitat (NRU): wetland restoration and banks, conservation easements, restore shoreline areas,

Fund: Metro WBIF, WBIF, CWF, MLT, SWCD Capacity

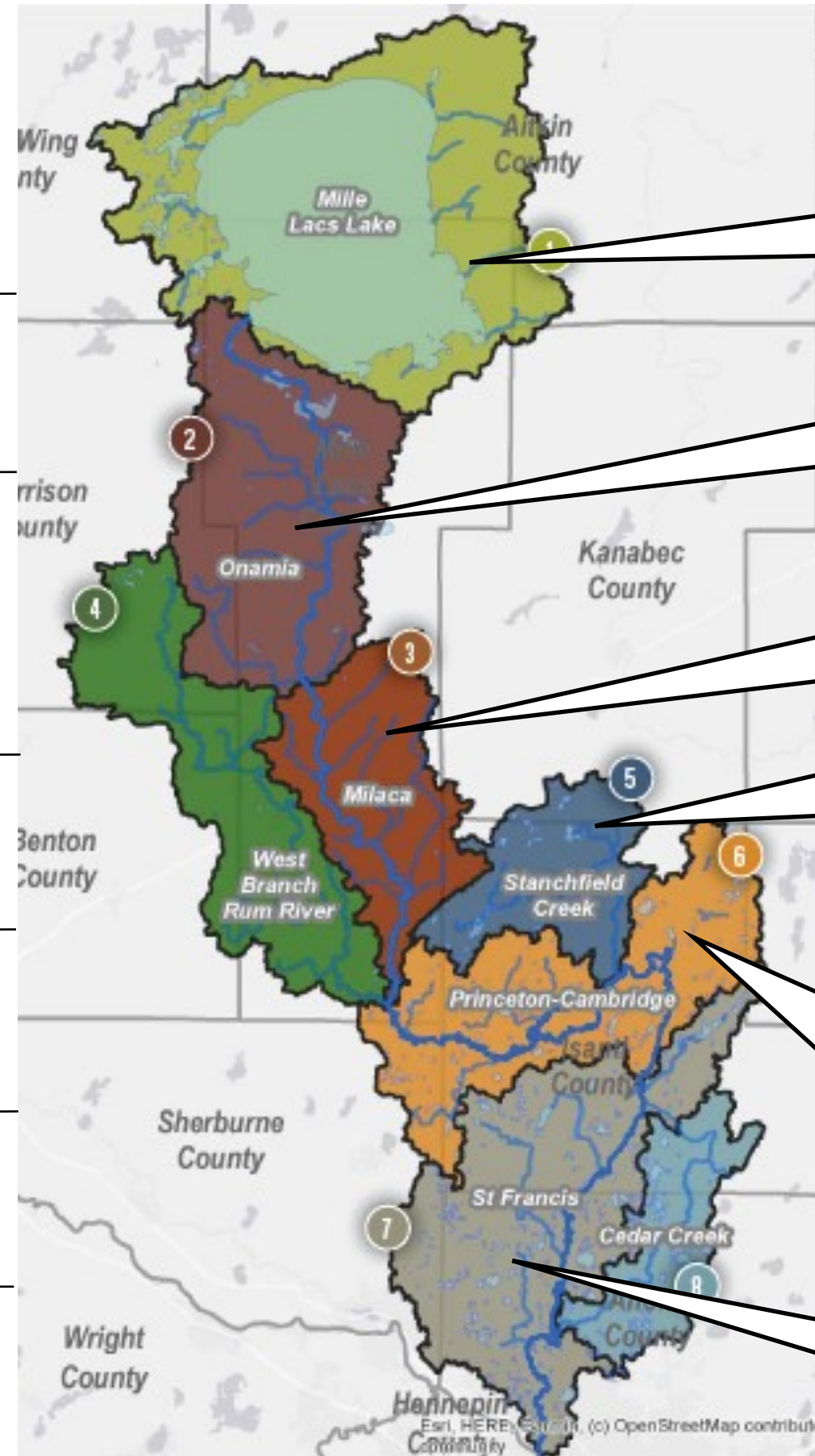
Who: SWCDs

Natural Resources and Invasive Species (NRIS):

Develop invasive species management plans

Fund: County Allocation Who: MLSWCD

Management Zone Specific Actions



SWP: Scientific and Prioritizing Study, Installation of BMPs, Private Forest Management, Drainage System Management.
Funding Sources: WBIF, SWCD Capacity, Local, Buffer Law, City
Who: ASWCD, MLSWCD

SWP: Scientific and Prioritizing Study, Installation of BMPs, Private Forest Management, Drainage System Management.
Funding Sources: WBIF, SWCD Capacity, Local, Buffer Law, City
Who: MLSWCD

SWR: Incentivize establishment of buffers, Scientific and Prioritizing Study (Bogus Brook)
Funding Sources: SWCD Capacity, WBIF
Who: MLSWCD

SWR: Install BMPs -Project Development (North and South Stanchfield Lake)
NRA: Nutrient source investigation (Stanchfield Creek)
Funding Sources: WBIF, SWCD Capacity,

SWP: Installation of BMPs, Reduce Internal Loading, Drainage System Management, Prioritize and target shoreline and lakeshore restoration areas, Scientific and Prioritizing study. (Target Blue Lake, Rum River, East Twin,
SWR: Installation of BMPs (Target Green Lake)
NRU: Conduct Inventory of lake to identify and rank for restoration (Little Stanchfield)
Funding Sources: SWCD Capacity, 319 Grant, Local, WBIF, CWF, Metro

SWR: Update Scientific and Prioritizing Study, Install BMPs (Skogman & Fannie Lake)
Funding Sources: WBIF, Local

4. Implementation Tracking

Staff will develop and at least annually populate the implementation tracking chart, or other method as identified, with accomplishments. Tracking sheet align anticipated outcomes in the annual work plan to measure progress towards planned implementation goals. A yearly assessment of progress will be made at the beginning of the annual work plan development cycle to evaluate progress and adjust as needed based on identified implementation barriers, changes in capacity, and the adoption and success of practices and projects.

Progress towards overall goal achievement will include tracking numerical goals, such as the number of septic system fixes, estimating pollution reductions using calculators, models, and tools; or verifying outcomes using evidence-based data collection.

Because this is the first year of implementation, this annual work plan does not include an implementation tracking section.