



2025 Party- Funded Work Plan

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 annually. Watershed-Based Implementation Funds (WBIF) will not cover all costs of implementing the plan; thus, partners must also opt to leverage private, local, state, or federal funding individually or as a group to ensure progress toward plan goals.

This document is part of the Annual Work Plan and is an obligation of our Joint Powers agreement and approved Bylaws. It briefly describes projects, programs, and funding sources other than watershed-based Implementation funds that members plan to utilize to meet plan goals in 2025.

2025 State-led and large-scale initiatives occurring in the watershed:

- Watershed and Forest Restoration: What a Match! This program, funded via a Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant, is led by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. The grant targets the reforestation of permanently protected land. Mille Lacs SWCD is the fiscal agent.
- Reinvest In Minnesota Conservation Easements: Several pots of money, primarily from the Clean Water Fund, are available for use in the watershed. The effort targets land protection via permanent conservation easements in target areas, including the Rum River and its tributaries.
- Intensive Watershed Monitoring: the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is leading the effort to complete monitoring to assess the condition of lakes and streams in the watershed. Monitoring occurs every ten years as part of the Watershed Restoration and Protection Process.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Irrigation management*: A federal grant partnered on by 20 SWCDs, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe (this includes the RRW) and several other organizations. This grant is designed to work directly with agricultural irrigators to implement conservation practices that protect groundwater quality and quantity, promote precision irrigation practices, build professional capacity among SWCD and NRCS technical staff, promote and organize farmer to farmer learning opportunities, enhance outreach and education about irrigation practices, and to quantify the environmental, economic, and social impacts.
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)- Soil Health*: The Soil Health Practices Grant is enabled via Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) §103F.06 to provide a financial and technical support program to produce soil health practices that achieve water quality, soil productivity, climate change resiliency, or carbon sequestration benefits. This program leverages State and Federal funds. The Board of Water and Soil Resources is leading this program, and the funds are available in portions of the watershed including Benton, Isanti, and Sherburne Counties.

*Indicates federal funding with some uncertainty

2025 Locally led Funding sources targeted to plan implementation include:

Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund	BWSR Metropolitan WBIF (Anoka County Portion)
MPCA Surface Water Assessment Grant	Outdoor Heritage Fund
MPCA Federal 319 Small Watersheds Grants	MN Department of Health Well Water Testing Grant
BWSR Clean Water Funds	United States Fish and Wildlife
MPCA Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network	MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
BWSR Soil Health Grants	Federal Environmental Quality Incentives Program
SWCD State Aid	BWSR SWCD Capacity Grants
National Wild Turkey Federation Superfund Grant	University of MN Soil Health Education Grant

