

# Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Management Plan – Implementation Planning Committee Meeting Minutes

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Date: December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2025

Time: 12:30-2:30 PM

Location: Virtual

Meeting called by: Planning Partners

Type of meeting: Workshop

Facilitator: Samrah Khan, Isanti SWCD

Note taker: Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD

## Attendees:

### *Voting members:*

Ellie Joing, Aitkin SWCD

Jamie Schurbon, Anoka CD

Tiffany Determan, Isanti SWCD

Samrah Khan, Isanti SWCD

Jaren Peplinski, Kanabec SWCD

Emily Larsen, Kanabec SWCD

Perry Bunting, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Robert Wall, Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe

Chase Murphy, Mille Lacs County

Molly Clyne, Mille Lacs SWCD

Susan Shaw, Mille Lacs SWCD

Michael McMillin, Morrison SWCD

Dan Cibulka, Sherburne SWCD

Matt Danzl, Sherburne County

### *Advisory Members:*

Zach Guttormson, BWSR

Reid Northwick, MN DNR

### *Other:*

Al Koczur, Isanti SWCD Supervisor

Jake Janski, Mille Lacs SWCD Supervisor

## Meeting Minutes

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Led by Samrah Khan, Isanti SWCD.

### 2. Planning Team Updates

- a. *Fiscal*: Schurbon shared fiscal updates for FY23 and FY25. Dividend accumulation is now around \$42,000. FY23 is fully encumbered, with approximately 73% spent and 27% remaining. For FY25, about 70% is encumbered and 4% spent. Expenditures are mostly administrative and outreach related. Partners were encouraged to look at unencumbered portions to identify opportunities for projects.
- b. *Administrative*: Determan will send an updated contact list, as there have been several staffing changes. All Q4 funding requests were recommended to move forward to the board. She also shared that BWSR hopes to feature RRW in a Snapshot article and sent her a list of questions. The Planning Team agreed to draft responses before circulating to the rest of the members.
- c. *Education and Outreach*: The team is developing projects focused on DIY shoreline work, forestry outreach, and EAB awareness. These efforts include digital content and in-person events. Clyne shared updates from the Local Forestry Team and noted that the Ag Tech Team is planning a soil health field day. Khan is gathering testimonials and success stories from partners. If anyone has good candidates—particularly early adopters—please connect them with her. Cibulka informed the group about a Small Farms event that Sherburne SWCD is planning, set for March 5<sup>th</sup> at a landowner's property in Princeton.
- d. *Implementation Tracking*: Cibulka reviewed how the Survey123 form tracks projects supporting the ten year plan. Submitted projects can be funded by WBIF but also other funding sources. He walked through how to use the form, such as naming conventions, choosing CWMP goals, project locations, and funding information. He moved onto the Activity Tracker, which shows how many activities the Partnership has completed to date (181). Cibulka will send out necessary information regarding tracking after the meeting. Partners should aim to submit their projects by February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

### 3. NR-IS Terrestrial Weed Action

- a. Susan revisited opportunities to advance NRIS Actions 1, 4, and possibly 5. These focus on terrestrial invasive species. Buckthorn emerged as a feasible starting point due to existing landowner interest and previous discussions among the group. Her proposal centers on collaboratively developing a watershed-wide buckthorn management plan. This plan could help satisfy Action 1, inform recommendations for cooperative weed management areas (Action 4), and lay groundwork for early detection and rapid response strategies (Action 5). Several partners have expressed informal interest, and Mille Lacs SWCD is willing to facilitate initial work.
- b. *Discussion:* The group discussed the status of ag inspectors, reconnaissance tools, and potential funding sources. Remote sensing options exist but are extremely expensive and still rely heavily on ground-truthing. Aitkin SWCD previously used drones for a similar project near water features, which may offer useful insights. Additional funding avenues may include ag inspector programs and cooperative weed management support. Before any applications can move forward, a broader partner discussion is needed to align on direction.

#### **4. 2026 Other Party Workplan Review**

- a. This work plan is required annually under the Joint Powers Agreement and Bylaws. It summarizes non-WBIF implementation work. To keep things simple, the work plan will remain a one-page document that aligns with the types of activities shown in the Implementation Tracker. The group voted to advance it to the board.

#### **5. FY27 Work Plan Timeline**

- a. The third round of WBIF funding becomes available in July 2026. To maintain seamless implementation, early planning is recommended. The March IPC meeting is typically in person, and if the group wants to work through proposals for projects at that meeting, members will need to get started on planning their requests soon. Determan would send out a request for project inputs in January. She also noted that the group could also move the in-person planning to June to give the group more time. The group decided that earlier is better.

#### **6. Announcements & Discussion**

- a. Mille Lacs and Isanti Counties still have funding available for well-sealing. The group discussed whether cost-share levels could become a barrier and agreed to revisit this after additional outreach. The deadline for completing sealing work is the end of 2026. The group discussed strategies to identify residents with old wells, including approaches used by Anoka CD. Reaching the right audience may require repeated mailings and direct coordination with cities or long-time residents.
- b. Outreach Office Hours will be held tomorrow morning, and partners are encouraged to attend. Khan can also support outreach materials or RRWP-related content as needed.

#### **7. Wrap-Up & Next Meetings**

- a. Partners were reminded to update the FY23 and FY25 Statements of Work (Exhibit C in the spreadsheet) ahead of the next board meeting. The board meets on December 18, 2025, with Mille Lacs SWCD presenting training on Type B and shoreline work. Light snacks and beverages will be provided. Determan will send out 2026 IPC meeting calendar invites after the meeting.