

STAFF REPORTS:

5.6. Joint Powers Entity Partnerships

RRWP Type B Outreach Molly Clyne

- Worked with Zoe on a draft informational letter for eligible but currently uninvolved partners in the Rum River Watershed Partnership. This was requested by the RRWP Board to provide updates on current activities and to communicate opportunities for involvement without directly recruiting participation. The draft was also reviewed with the Outreach Team.

6.1 Shoreland

RRWP Type B Outreach – (Civic Leadership Development)..... Molly Clyne

- Met with staff from Aitkin SWCD and Crow Wing SWCD to discuss natural shoreline restoration approaches and compare practices being implemented across the watershed. Additional conversations are planned with Anoka Conservation District staff to continue sharing information and identifying approaches to shoreline improvement work across partner organizations.
- Met internally and with Mille Lacs Lake Watershed Group staff to learn more about the Minnesota Lakes & Rivers Lake Steward program and evaluate how it may align with watershed group and our SWCD goals. Discussions are ongoing regarding how the program could strengthen outreach and connect with more lakeshore landowners through the broader MLR branding and recognition.

6.2. Stormwater

Wetland Conservation Act Siena Storm

- TEP returning to the field with veg growth.

Urban Stormwater Management Shaw

- Project development initiated and project funding request initiated for the Mille Lacs County Public Works – South Facility, Milaca

6.3. Groundwater/Drinking Water

MDH Well water testing grant FY25 Molly Clyne



Participated in the Healthy Land, Healthy Lake Expo in Wahkon. Distributed 8 well water testing kits and completed 7 nitrate tests. The event created opportunities to connect with landowners and partner organizations working toward similar goals, with possible follow-up site visits resulting from those conversations.

6.4. Agriculture/Soil Health..... Siena Storm

Nonstructural Ag

- **RRWP SOW PAS5** - Working on new cover crop contract with a farmer in Bogus Brook
- **RRWP Soil Health Promo (PD-1)**- Connecting with operators who put in cover crops last fall. As we would expect, the rye that came up in the fall and overwintered came up more robust than what was planted later and sprouted in the spring.
- **MAWQCP** - Working with a farmer on a potential MAWQCP application and an MDA grant for pasture and hay establishment.

RRWP Structural Ag (SOW Rural BMP)

- Gully erosion TSA engineers are working on design, expected to finish this month
- Schafer project under construction

SRWPP Ag Outreach/project development (SRWPP WBIF FY24)

- Waste pit project is waiting on bids from contractors

County Public Ditch System inspection

- Responding to calls from landowners and working with engineers to address issues with beavers, potential blockages, and tile repair
- Meeting with county department leads who have roles with the public ditch system, agreement that transparency is needed between departments and more consistent maintenance to avoid large, expensive issues is necessary.

6.5.1. Forestry Coordination Work..... Molly Clyne

- Coordinated with Minnesota Department of Natural Resources forestry technicians regarding use of Rum River WBIF forestry funding for cost-share projects in Mille Lacs County. Discussions focused on a collaborative approach where DNR staff lead woodland planning and technical recommendations while RRWP supports cost-share implementation.
 - Our tree planter continues to see use, with four rentals so far. The three-point planter has also been acquired. Next steps include preparing equipment for use through painting, inspections, and maintenance checks.
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