

Approved X/XX/XXXX

## Rum River Watershed Partnership FY27 (2027-20228) Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) Work Plan



What are Watershed Based Implementation Funds (WBIF)?

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 funds come from the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment and must have a primary goal of water quality (surface or groundwater) restoration and protection. WBIF grants are issued every other year and expire after three years.

In FY23 the Rum River Partnership received \$1,011,327 and was awarded an additional \$268,721 of FY23 Supplemental funding. The money will expire on 12/31/2026. The approved work plan for FY23 can be found on the [Rum River Watershed Partnership website](#).

In FY25 the Rum River Partnership received \$1,331,559, the money will expire on 12/31/2027. The approved work plan for FY23 can be found on the [Rum River Watershed Partnership website](#).

In FY27 the Rum River Watershed Partnership is eligible to receive \$1,339,969. the money will expire on 12/31/2029. The grant must be matched with non-state funding by 10%. The Rum River Partnership Board will approve the work plan, sign the BWSR Grant agreement, guide program and project selection, and confirm expenditures.

Progress made with these grants can be viewed on our [project tracker](#) located on our website.

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FY27 WBIF Work Plan Summary:

This work plan and budget were developed with direct input from RRWP's 15 members. Non-voting State and Federal agencies provided guidance in the planning process.

A 10% non-state match is required and will come primarily from project cost sharing as described in the RRWP Project Policies.

For FY27, \$1,339,969 of WBIF funding will primarily support the following Priority Issues within the Rum River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan:

Priority Level	Priority Issue	Example Actions
Level A	Outreach & Engagement	Type A Outreach: App. 670 hours of staff time to lead campaigns to support raising awareness and behavioral change.  Type B Outreach: 1 FTE of staff time to lead Strategies to support community organizing and community buy-in.
Level A	Surface Water Restoration	Completion of Studies to prioritize projects or to produce regulatory comparison studies across the watershed, implementation of projects identified in prioritized studies (residential, urban, agricultural and livestock waste management), enhanced buffers of public and private ditches, soil health and forest management practices.
Level A	Surface Water Protection	Funding support for existing staff for Project Development (up to 1,800 hours) and Technical Assistance (.75 FTE approximately 3,120 hours) to lead land protection efforts leading to implementation of conservation easements and forest management as well as funding for staff time (app. 960 hours) for technical assistance or contracted assistance for project design.
Level B	Groundwater & Drinking Water Quality	Well Sealing
Level C	Groundwater Knowledge and Data	Well location mapping in preparation for Mille Lacs County Geologic Atlas (excluding land in Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reservation boundaries).

Approximately 36% of the FY27 WBIF grant is allocated towards projects to meet the goals above.

Projects will be prioritized and funded based on the most recent version of the Rum River Watershed Partnerships WBIF [Project Policies](#). Actions that obtain multiple benefits to Level A, B and C priority issues will be given priority.

Overall Work Plan Goals: The completed work plan will result in the installation of an estimated

- 18 Best Management Practices (Residential, urban, agricultural, livestock waste management);
- 2 of wetland restorations;
- 150 acres of soil health practices;
- 2 sealed wells;
- 5 acres of forestry practices;
- 2 plans consisting of a combination of subwatershed assessments or regulatory comparison studies;
- ten conservation easements completed or in-progress and
- data collection needed to complete a Geologic Atlas for Mille Lacs County (excluding land area within the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe reservation boundaries).

Upon implementation, phosphorus reduction calculations will be made for each practice, where appropriate, to help determine overall progress toward restoration and protection.

Funding for staff:

Due to the lack of reliable local and state funding, funding for staff is also included in the work plan and is necessary for effective plan implementation.

Grant Administration (9%): This funding will be used to administer the plan and grant (~1,300 hours). This includes funding for staff to act as the fiscal agent (Anoka CD), coordinator (Isanti SWCD), communications/note taking (Mille Lacs SWCD), and Implementation Tracking (Sherburne SWCD). Contracted services include legal, insurance, and auditing.

Outreach and Engagement (19%): This action is identified as the key to the success of the entire Rum River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (RRWCMP). Specifically, the RRWCMP calls for hiring and maintaining the positions detailed in the outreach plan as follows:

- 1) continuing funding to coordinate watershed-wide **Type A outreach**, raising awareness and behavioral change. Type A outreach will be completed by existing outreach staff from Isanti SWCD (~670 hours).
- 2) continuing efforts for **Type-B outreach**, community organizing, and buy-in by continuing to fund the Full-time Watershed Organizer employed by Mille Lacs SWCD. The SWCDs hosting Type A and B outreach will work across the basin with other parties to the Joint Powers Entity to provide outreach services (~4,160 hours). The project development line item includes outreach Type C (technical outreach). 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.

Project Development (11%): Technical staff (~1,800 hours) time to provide outreach leading to the development of water quality programs and implementation of projects (Project Development/Type C Outreach);

Technical assistance and engineering (26%):

1. Technical staff time (~960 hours) for site assessment, surveys, preliminary analysis, and design construction supervision, installation, and inspection and completion of projects and oversee project installation. Funds may be used to pay local SWCD (with appropriate JAA) or to contract with a third-party consultant or LGU engineer for technical/engineering assistance.
2. Funding to support .75 FTE (~3,120 hours) position employed by the Isanti SWCD to implement portions of the plan targeted to implement conservation easements and forest management. This position was hired using FY23 WBIF Supplemental funding works primarily in the Isanti and Mille Lacs portions of the watershed. Easement secured are funded primarily with BWSR Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) program funding.

The FY27 WBIF Work Plan can be found in **Table 1**. Shifts of  $\leq 10\%$  of the grant do not require board approval.

The charts below, which show the FY23 WBIF work plan VS the FY 25 WBIF are included below as a reference only.

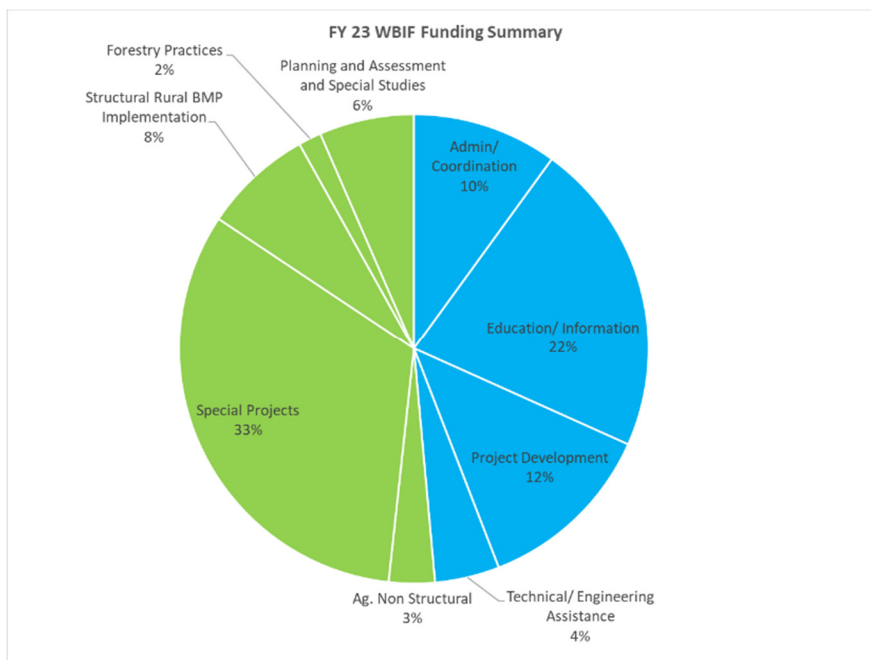


Figure 1. FY23 WBIF Funding. The Green color depicts Projects/programs & blue staffing expenses.

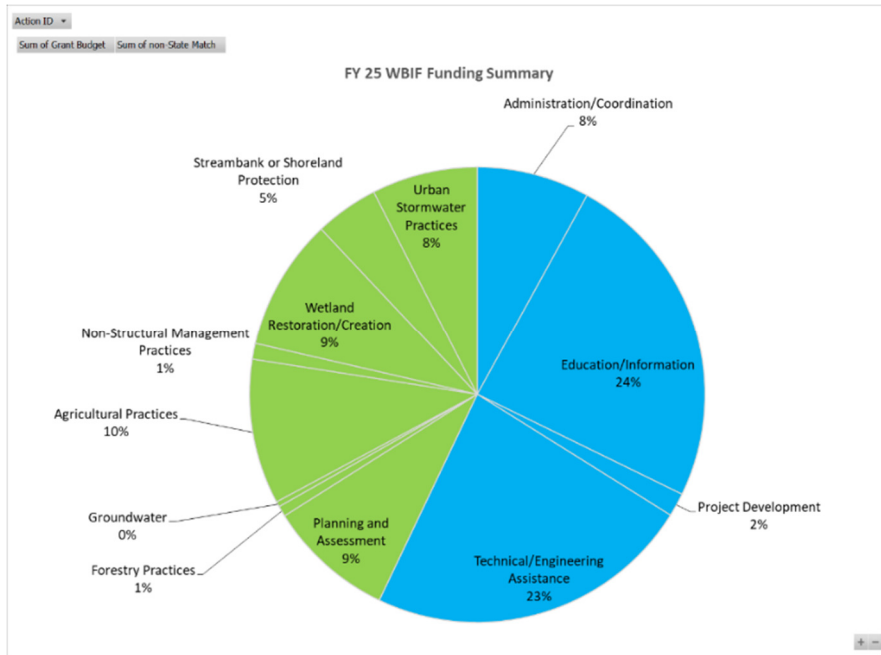


Figure 2. FY25 WBIF Funding. The Green color depicts Projects/programs & blue staffing expenses.

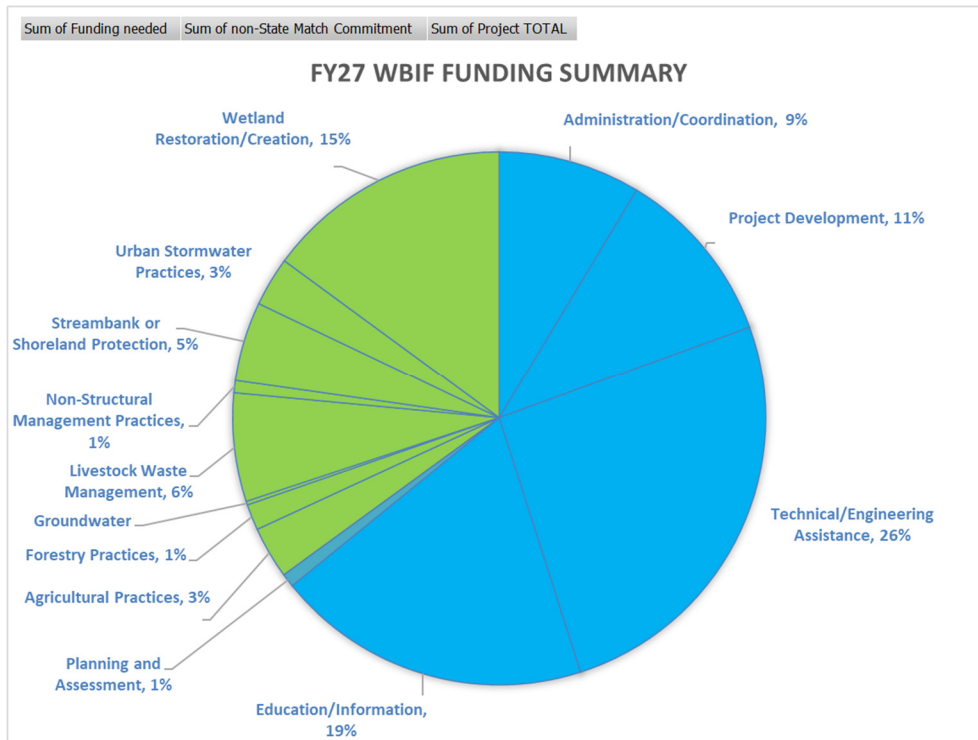


Figure 3FY27 WBIF Funding Summary. Green color depicts Projects/Programs & blue staffing expenses.