Policy Committee Meeting **North Fork Crow River Collaborative** **November 4, 2026** 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. Central **Facilitator:** T. Ostendorf **Wifi Information** **Guest Wifi:** meekerguest **Password:** publi3guest	**Location:** *Members may participate remotely by interactive technology* **In-person:** 114 N Holcombe Ave Litchfield, Minnesota 55355 Suite 200 **Virtual: Microsoft Teams** Join the meeting Meeting ID: 229 528 226 247 Passcode: 7Lq9iR3L **Dial in by phone** +1 701-552-6286,,627985606# United States, Fargo Find a local number
Invitees: Policy Committee Members (all meetings are open to the public).	
Meeting Packet Materials: 1. Meeting Presentation 2. Previous PC Meeting Minutes 3. FY2024 Workplan Adjustment Summary 4. Integrated Fund Balance Review NFCRWC WBIF – Interest Earned 5. HEI Plan Renewal Update – Flowing Forward Event Summary 6. Proposal for Community Engagement Approach for NFCRWC Plan Renewal	

AGENDA

TOPIC	TYPE	PRESENTER	TIME ALLOTTED
A. Welcome	Information	T. Ostendorf	1 min
B. Review Agenda and Previous Meeting Notes	Information	T. Ostendorf	5 mins
C. Overview of existing grants	Information	T. Ostendorf	10 mins
D. Update on grant tracking tool	Information	T. Ostendorf	5 mins
E. FY24 Workplan amendment approval	Information	T. Ostendorf	5 mins
F. Integrated fund balance review	Information	T. Ostendorf	5 mins
G. PC Membership changes/backfill discussion - Recruiting process for board membership *(continue to next page)*	Discussion	J. Weinerman	2 mins

- Question on holding a PC New Member Orientation			
H. Calendar of Events 2027	Discussion	T. Ostendorf	5 mins
I. Stalloch Project	Information	Stearns SCD	10 mins
J. HEI Plan Renewal Update - Community Engagement Update	Information	R. Olm	30 mins

Current Officers

Tina Diedrick, Wright County - Chair
Bob Brauchler, NFCRWD – Vice-Chair

FUTURE MEETINGS

POLICY COMMITTEE	TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Policy committee meetings will be held quarterly or as directed, typically the first Wednesday of the Month. Meetings will be canceled if no discussion/decisions are needed.	Standing meetings will be scheduled for the 3rd Thursday of the month, from 9 am-12 pm. Meetings will be cancelled if no discussion/decisions are needed.
• November 4, 2026	• November 19, 2026 • December 17, 2026

Policy Committee Meeting **North Fork Crow River Collaborative** **June 3, 2026** 9:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M. Central **Facilitators:** T. Ostendorf/L. Johnson	**Location:** *Members may participate remotely by interactive technology* **In-person:** 114 N Holcombe Ave Litchfield, Minnesota 55355 Suite 200 **Virtual: Microsoft Teams**

Meeting Materials:

1. Previous PC Meeting Minutes
    - 20260304 - PC Meeting Notes.docx
2. Presentation Handouts
    - Wright 1W1P FY22-24 (2025 Projects)
    - MFCR_CD47 Restoration.pdf
    - Staloch Project Update

Attendees:

Policy Committee Members: Tina Diedrick, Steve Notch, Jeff Martinka, Arlyn Lawrenz, Bob Brauchler, Roger Imdieke, Randy Peterson, Kris Olson, John Haffley, Darren Sombke, Jeff Gerten
Staff: Tara Ostendorf, Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Greg Berg, Ryan Peterson, Alicia O'Hare, Dan Nadeau, Luke Johnson, Andy Johnson, Colton Henjum, Emily Forbord, Jason Weinerman

AGENDA & NOTES

TOPIC
Welcome
Review Agenda and Meeting Notes - Meeting agenda and March 4th, 2026, meeting notes approved without changes.
Officer Elections - Tina Diedrick was elected as Chair. - Bob Brauchler was elected as Vice Chair.
Partner Contact Updates - Attendees were reminded to update the standing contact list for PC, TAC, and advisory committee members to ensure accurate communication and meeting invitations.
Mid-Point Grant Additional Funds Request - The committee, with input from Jason Weinerman, discussed and confirmed the approval of an additional $75,000 in grant funds from BWSR to support the plan renewal process and related information requests, with Wright SWCD as the grant recipient.

Project Updates

- Greg Berg from Stearns CD provided a comprehensive update on the Staloch project, detailing the causes of slope failure, recommended stabilization methods, drainage issues, and the status of project design and implementation, with questions addressed from committee members regarding funding responsibilities and enforcement.
- Andy Johnson from the Middle Fork Crow River Watershed District presented a summary of a multi-site erosion control project along Meeker County Ditch 47, describing the history, technical interventions, funding sources, and expected sediment and phosphorus reductions, with follow-up questions on project jurisdiction and location.
- Dan Nadeau from Wright SWCD provided updates on several recent projects, including ditch repairs, water and sediment control basins, stormwater management, and cover crop initiatives, highlighting funding structures and the economic impact on local contractors.

Additional Items

- None

Planning Consultant Presentation and Q&A

- The committee conducted interviews with Moore Engineering and Houston Engineering, with both teams presenting their approaches to the plan renewal process, including team roles, experience, public engagement strategies, and methods for prioritizing and streamlining plan goals.

Selection of Consultant for Plan Renewal

- Discussion was held, with positive remarks for both firms and their presentations. Decision to advise Wright SWCD, as the plan coordinator, to hire Houston Engineering, Inc as the plan renewal services consultant and to proceed with the plan renewal process. Funding for the plan renewal will come from the BWSR FY26 Mid-Point grant and the Collaborative's integrated fund.

North Fork Crow River Collaborative

Policy Committee Meeting

November 4, 2026

North Fork Crow River
WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE

Today's Agenda

- Overview of existing grants
- Update on grant tracking tool
- FY24 Workplan amendment approval
- Integrated fund balance review
- PC Membership changes/backfill discussion
- Question on holding a PC New Member Orientation
- Calendar of Events
- Stalloch Project Updated
- HEI Plan Renewal Update

Overview of existing grants

North Fork Crow River
WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE

WATERSHED BASED IMPLEMENTATION FUNDS

Budget & Expense Summary Report

This budget & expense report reflects the requests for reimbursements that have been submitted and/or processed through the fiscal agent (Table 1). Allocatd funds are based on project approvasl (screening tool) and TAC recommendations.

FY2022

Grant ID: C23-1997

Grant Start Date: 2/3/2023

Grant Expiration Date: 5/31/2027

Workbook Update: 10/13/2026

TABLE 1: Budgets, Payment Requests & Actual Expenses

WBIF GRANT ACTIVITY	SOURCE	GRANT BUDGET	ALLOCATED & ENCUMBERED FUNDS	ENCUMBERED BUDGET REMAINING	PERCENT ALLOCATED	ACTUAL EXPENDITURES TO DATE	ACTUAL BUDGET REMAINING	PERCENT SPENT
Grant Administration & Plan Coordination	WBIF State Grant	$ 219,865.00	$ 219,865.00	$ -	100%	$ 219,200.13	$ 664.87	100%
Agricultural Structural Practices, Conservation Drainage, Wetland Creation	WBIF State Grant	$ 385,000.00	$ 386,282.94	$ (1,282.94)	100%	$ 328,766.51	$ 56,233.49	85%
Soil Health Education and Outreach	WBIF State Grant	$ 21,000.00	$ 15,725.17	$ 5,274.83	75%	$ 15,089.60	$ 5,910.40	72%
Groundwater Practices	WBIF State Grant	$ 30,000.00	$ 29,869.70	$ 130.30	100%	$ 18,954.50	$ 11,045.50	63%
Agricultural NS Management Practices	WBIF State Grant	$ 230,000.00	$ 228,284.00	$ 1,716.00	99%	$ 126,749.64	$ 103,250.36	55%
Project Development, Planning & Assessment	WBIF State Grant	$ 255,000.00	$ 263,048.46	$ (8,048.46)	103%	$ 228,411.39	$ 26,588.61	90%
Riparian or Shoreland Protection	WBIF State Grant	$ 160,000.00	$ 162,517.53	$ (2,517.53)	102%	$ 86,242.53	$ 73,757.47	54%
Urban Stormwater	WBIF State Grant	$ -	$ -	$ -		$ -	$ -	
Technical and Engineering Assistance	WBIF State Grant	$ 220,000.00	$ 215,839.58	$ 4,160.42	98%	$ 105,981.57	$ 114,018.43	48%
TOTAL		$ 1,520,865.00	$ 1,521,432.38	$ (567.38)	100%	$ 1,129,395.87	$ 391,469.13	74%

Activity Objective	Grant Budget	Total WBIF Approved (CS/ & TE)	Unallocated Funds	% Allocated	Sum of Actual Expenses	Allocated Amount Remaining	% Spent
Objective 2024-01: Ag Nonstructural Management Practices	$ 72,307.50	$ 68,587.00	$ 3,720.50	95%	$ 39,920.00	$ 28,667.00	58%
Objective 2024-02: Ag Structural Practices and Conservation Drainage	$ 432,300.00	$ 431,809.54	$ 490.46	100%	$ 162,872.66	$ 268,936.88	38%
Objective 2024-03: Wetland Restoration	$ 80,000.00	$ 61,242.00	$ 18,758.00	77%	$ -	$ 61,242.00	0%
Objective 2024-04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices	$ 120,000.00	$ 118,387.50	$ 1,612.50	99%	$ 78,507.00	$ 39,880.50	66%
Objective 2024-05: Stormwater Improvement Practices	$ 14,242.50	$ 14,242.50	$ -	100%	$ 14,242.50	$ -	100%
Objective 2024-06: Groundwater Protection	$ 3,000.00	$ 4,250.00	$ (1,250.00)	142%	$ 500.00	$ 3,750.00	12%
Objective 2024-07: Technical Assistance and Engineering	$ 205,000.00	$ 233,623.57	$ (28,623.57)	114%	$ 72,036.54	$ 161,587.03	31%
Objective 2024-08: Project Development	$ 105,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ 5,000.00	95%	$ 49,880.28	$ 50,119.72	50%
Objective 2024-09: Project Studies and Feasibility Analysis	$ 268,150.00	$ 288,150.00	$ (20,000.00)	107%	$ 220,724.91	$ 67,425.09	77%
Objective 2024-10: Education and Outreach	$ 25,000.00	$ 15,521.83	$ 9,478.17	62%	$ 8,027.24	$ 7,494.59	52%
Objective 2024-11: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination	$ 193,486.00	$ 193,486.00	$ -	100%	$ 96,671.37	$ 96,814.63	50%
Total	**$ 1,518,486.00**	**$ 1,529,299.94**	**$ (10,813.94)**	**101%**	**$ 743,382.50**	**$ 785,917.44**	**49%**

Activity Objective	Grant Budget	Total WBIF Approved (CS/ & TE)	Unallocated Funds	% Allocated	Sum of Actual Expenses	Allocated Amount Remaining	% Spent
Objective 2026-01: Subwatershed Assessment Implementation	$ 125,000.00	$ 125,000.00	$ -	100%	$ -	$ 125,000.00	0%
Objective 2026-02: Ag Structural Practices	$ 404,005.00	$ 399,372.63	$ 4,632.37	99%	$ -	$ 399,372.63	0%
Objective 2026-03: Wetland Restoration	$ 30,000.00	$ 0.01	$ 29,999.99	0%	$ -	$ 0.01	0%
Objective 2026-04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices	$ 285,000.00	$ 225,000.00	$ 60,000.00	79%	$ -	$ 225,000.00	0%
Objective 2026-05: Stormwater Improvement Practices	$ 175,000.00	$ 175,000.00	$ -	100%	$ -	$ 175,000.00	0%
Objective 2026-06: Groundwater Protection	$ 30,000.00	$ 2,500.00	$ 27,500.00	8%	$ -	$ 2,500.00	0%
Objective 2026-07: Technical Assistance and Engineering	$ 155,000.00	$ 108,000.00	$ 47,000.00	70%	$ 990.00	$ 107,010.00	1%
Objective 2026-08: Project Development	$ 105,000.00	$ 105,000.00	$ -	100%	$ 15,886.73	$ 89,113.27	15%
Objective 2026-09: Watershed and Nutrient Management Planning	$ 105,000.00	$ 73,000.00	$ 32,000.00	70%	$ 14,600.93	$ 58,399.07	20%
Objective 2026-10: Education and Outreach	$ 15,000.00	$ 10,000.01	$ 4,999.99	67%	$ -	$ 10,000.01	0%
Objective 2026-11: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination	$ 100,000.00	$ 100,000.00	$ -	100%	$ -	$ 100,000.00	0%
Total	**$ 1,529,005.00**	**$ 1,322,872.65**	**$ 206,132.35**	**87%**	**$ 31,477.66**	**$1,291,394.99**	**2%**

WBIF Grant Funds and Remaining Funds Available

Grant	Grant Budget	Allocated %	Remaining Funds Available
WBIF FY22	$1,520,865	100	$391,469.13
WBIF FY24	$1,518,486	101	$785,917.44
WBIF FY26	$1,529,005	87	$1,291,394.99

Update on grant tracking tool

Grant Tracking Tool Goals

- Transparency for Partners
- Secure project tracking for fiscal agent
- Real time information

Grant Tracking Tool
FY24 & FY26

This dashboard allows you to see fund balances for activities, objectives or FY Grant sources. Just choose from any of the dropdown selections in the grey boxes. (NOTE: Grant Source, Objective and Activity columns are not dependent on each other)

Grant Source	Objective	Activity
FY24 WBIF	Objective 2024-02: Ag Structural Practices and Conservation Drainage	TA/E General Assistance (Shared) (2024)

Budget	Budget	Budget
$ 1,518,486.00	$ 432,300.00	$ 100,000.00

Grant Allocated Amount		Objective Allocated Amount		Activity Allocated Amount	
$ 1,599,421.67	105%	$ 431,809.54	100%	$ 134,533.21	135%

Unallocated Funds Available		Unallocated Funds Available		Unallocated Funds Available	
$ (10,813.94)	-5%	$ 490.46	0%	$ (28,623.57)	-35%

Total Expenses	Total Expenses	Total Expenses
$ 743,382.50	$ 162,872.66	$ 63,776.79

Reconciled Funds	Reconciled Funds	Reconciled Funds
-$ 70,121.73	-$ 56,100.09	-$ 5,909.64

FY26andFY24_GrantTrackingTool_v7_10022026.xlsx

FY24 Workplan amendment approval

Activity Objective	Original Grant Budget	Current Grant Budget	Net Change (+ / -)	Total Adjustments (SubObj)
Objective 2024-01: Ag Nonstructural Management Practices Total	$90,000	$ 72,307.50	$ 17,692.50	$ 17,692.50
Objective 2024-02: Ag Structural Practices and Conservation Drain	400000	$ 432,300.00	$ (32,300.00)	$ 32,300.00
Objective 2024-03: Wetland Restoration Total	$80,000	$ 80,000.00	$ -	$ 122,484.00
Objective 2024-04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices Total	$125,000	$ 120,000.00	$ 5,000.00	$ 5,000.00
Objective 2024-05: Stormwater Improvement Practices Total	$35,000	$ 14,242.50	$ 20,757.50	$ 20,757.50
Objective 2024-06: Groundwater Protection Total	$25,000	$ 3,000.00	$ 22,000.00	$ 22,000.00
Objective 2024-07: Technical Assistance and Engineering Total	$205,000	$ 205,000.00	$ -	$ -
Objective 2024-08: Project Development Total	$105,000	$ 105,000.00	$ -	$ -
Objective 2024-09: Project Studies and Feasibility Analysis Total	$235,000	$ 268,150.00	$ (33,150.00)	$ 113,150.00
Objective 2024-10: Education and Outreach Total	$25,000	$ 25,000.00	$ -	$ 2,500.00
Objective 2024-11: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination Tot	$193,486	$ 193,486.00	$ -	$ -
Grand Total	$ 1,518,486.00	$ 1,518,486.00	$ -	$ 335,884.00

Integrated fund balance review

See packet handout

Integrated fund balance review

Year	Date	Wright SWCD & NFCR Total Interest	Money Market Ending Balance	Interest %	NFCR WBIF's Grant Balance	NFCR Integrated Fund Balance	NFCR WBIF Interest Earned
	01/31/2026	$8,645.64	$ 3,149,882.19	0.2745%	$ 722,516.01	$ 101,651.52	$2,262.13
	02/28/2026	$8,500.08	$ 3,005,132.27	0.2829%	$ 689,601.92	$ 103,913.66	$2,244.48
	03/31/2026	$9,093.72	$ 2,988,685.04	0.3043%	$ 661,704.92	$ 106,158.14	$2,336.39
	04/30/2026	$10,313.43	$ 3,924,482.17	0.2628%	$ 1,410,507.67	$ 108,494.53	$3,991.90
	05/31/2026	$11,820.21	$ 4,320,856.09	0.2736%	$ 1,324,385.47	$ 112,486.43	$3,930.73
	06/30/2026	$12,250.22	$ 4,124,538.34	0.2970%	$ 1,239,287.19	$ 116,417.16	$4,026.55
	07/31/2026	$12,801.16	$ 4,321,067.12	0.2962%	$ 1,228,280.76	$ 120,443.72	$3,995.60
	08/31/2026	$13,050.57	$ 4,234,039.43	0.3082%	$ 1,115,924.36	$ 124,439.31	$3,823.17
	09/30/2026	$12,500.18	$ 4,064,816.11	0.3075%	$ 1,098,793.86	$ 128,262.48	$3,773.46
		$98,975.21					**$30,384.41**
						Total Interest Earned	**$107,035.93**

North Fork Crow River WBIF
Interest Earnings

Type	Date	Total Interest	MM Ending Balance	Interest %	WBIF Balance	Local WBIF	WBIF Interest Earned
2020							
	11/30/2020	$0.00	$ 560,239.00	0.0000%	$ 560,239.00		$0.00
	12/31/2020	$0.00	$ 560,239.00	0.0000%	$ 560,239.00		$0.00
		$0.00					**$0.00**
2021							
	01/31/2021	$0.00	$ 560,239.00	0.0000%	$ 560,239.00	$ 25,000.00	$0.00
	02/28/2021	$0.00	$ 560,239.00	0.0000%	$ 560,239.00	$ 25,000.00	$0.00
	03/31/2021	$77.55	$ 1,493,820.06	0.0052%	$ 560,239.00	$ 25,000.00	$30.38
	04/30/2021	$122.77	$ 1,493,942.83	0.0082%	$ 560,239.00	$ 25,030.38	$48.10
	05/31/2021	$126.88	$ 1,494,069.71	0.0085%	$ 551,034.00	$ 25,078.48	$48.92
	06/30/2021	$122.79	$ 1,494,192.50	0.0082%	$ 546,874.00	$ 25,127.40	$47.01
	07/31/2021	$126.90	$ 1,494,319.40	0.0085%	$ 543,049.00	$ 25,174.41	$48.25
	08/31/2021	$126.91	$ 1,494,446.31	0.0085%	$ 540,329.00	$ 25,222.66	$48.03
	09/30/2021	$122.83	$ 1,494,569.14	0.0082%	$ 539,099.00	$ 25,270.69	$46.38
	10/31/2021	$126.93	$ 1,494,696.07	0.0085%	$ 534,716.80	$ 25,317.07	$47.56
	11/30/2021	$122.85	$ 1,494,818.92	0.0082%	$ 502,827.45	$ 25,364.63	$43.41
	12/31/2021	$125.31	$ 1,194,944.23	0.0105%	$ 162,722.83	$ 25,408.04	$19.73
		$1,201.72					**$427.77**
2022							
	01/31/2022	$88.80	$ 1,005,033.03	0.0088%	$ 161,791.33	$ 25,427.77	$16.54
	02/28/2022	$74.03	$ 925,107.06	0.0080%	$ 149,854.49	$ 25,444.31	$14.03
	03/31/2022	$74.84	$ 845,181.90	0.0089%	$ 143,206.99	$ 25,458.34	$14.94
	04/30/2022	$65.30	$ 765,247.20	0.0085%	$ 138,626.99	$ 25,473.27	$14.00
	05/31/2022	$60.06	$ 645,307.26	0.0093%	$ 129,391.50	$ 25,487.28	$14.41
	06/30/2022	$90.10	$ 1,255,397.36	0.0072%	$ 129,391.50	$ 25,501.69	$11.12
	07/31/2022	$103.77	$ 1,175,501.13	0.0088%	$ 90,506.12	$ 25,512.81	$10.24
	08/31/2022	$96.33	$ 1,095,597.46	0.0088%	$ 66,939.68	$ 25,523.05	$8.13
	09/30/2022	$86.10	$ 1,015,683.56	0.0085%	$ 59,655.93	$ 25,531.18	$7.22
	10/31/2022	$81.66	$ 935,765.22	0.0087%	$ 442,373.43	$ 25,538.40	$40.83
	11/30/2022	$101.78	$ 1,315,867.00	0.0077%	$ 383,262.78	$ 25,579.23	$31.62
	12/30/2022	$107.07	$ 1,085,974.07	0.0099%	$ 235,144.60	$ 25,610.86	$25.71
		$1,029.84					**$208.80**
2023							
	01/31/2023	$88.94	$ 1,006,063.01	0.0088%	$ 234,994.60	$ 25,636.57	$23.04
	02/28/2023	$591.98	$ 961,654.99	0.0616%	$ 742,183.99	$ 25,659.61	$472.67
	03/31/2023	$4,558.26	$ 1,886,213.25	0.2417%	$ 730,940.02	$ 26,132.28	$1,829.56
	04/30/2023	$4,368.77	$ 1,810,582.02	0.2413%	$ 728,462.02	$ 27,961.84	$1,825.18
	05/31/2023	$4,306.93	$ 1,694,888.95	0.2541%	$ 718,674.50	$ 29,787.02	$1,901.94
	06/30/2023	$3,969.95	$ 1,618,858.90	0.2452%	$ 710,381.92	$ 31,688.95	$1,819.79
	07/31/2023	$3,898.28	$ 1,542,757.18	0.2527%	$ 665,656.44	$ 33,508.74	$1,766.67
	08/31/2023	$3,691.77	$ 1,466,448.95	0.2517%	$ 656,061.34	$ 35,275.41	$1,740.43
	09/30/2023	$3,374.60	$ 1,389,823.55	0.2428%	$ 647,096.34	$ 37,015.85	$1,661.08
	10/31/2023	$3,280.13	$ 1,273,103.68	0.2576%	$ 516,799.81	$ 38,676.92	$1,431.18
	11/30/2023	$3,034.52	$ 1,276,138.20	0.2378%	$ 495,788.62	$ 40,108.10	$1,274.31
	12/31/2023	$3,143.14	$ 1,279,281.34	0.2457%	$ 325,648.21	$ 41,382.41	$901.78
		$38,307.27					**$16,647.62**

North Fork Crow River WBIF
Interest Earnings

Type	Date	Total Interest	MM Ending Balance	Interest %	WBIF Balance	Local WBIF	WBIF Interest Earned
2024							
	01/31/2024	$3,142.28	$ 1,282,423.62	0.2450%	$ 238,835.26	$ 42,284.19	$688.82
	02/28/2024	$2,946.77	$ 1,285,370.39	0.2293%	$ 138,429.62	$ 42,973.00	$415.87
	03/31/2024	$3,157.23	$ 1,288,527.62	0.2450%	$ 891,323.22	$ 43,388.88	$2,290.29
	04/30/2024	$4,251.41	$ 2,292,779.03	0.1854%	$ 1,090,029.72	$ 45,679.17	$2,105.90
	05/31/2024	$6,384.44	$ 2,799,163.47	0.2281%	$ 1,082,655.53	$ 47,785.07	$2,578.35
	06/30/2024	$6,871.64	$ 3,056,035.11	0.2249%	$ 1,185,393.02	$ 50,363.42	$2,778.66
	07/31/2024	$7,391.59	$ 3,013,426.70	0.2453%	$ 1,178,021.52	$ 53,142.08	$3,019.90
	08/31/2024	$7,401.83	$ 3,020,828.53	0.2450%	$ 1,152,389.51	$ 56,161.98	$2,961.27
	09/30/2024	$6,739.08	$ 3,027,567.61	0.2226%	$ 1,135,987.58	$ 59,123.25	$2,660.20
	10/31/2024	$6,474.44	$ 2,879,042.05	0.2249%	$ 1,102,081.45	$ 61,783.45	$2,617.32
	11/30/2024	$5,918.55	$ 2,884,960.60	0.2052%	$ 1,095,353.32	$ 64,400.77	$2,379.26
	12/31/2024	$5,043.95	$ 2,265,004.55	0.2227%	$ 781,341.89	$ 66,780.03	$1,888.69
		$65,723.21					**$26,384.53**
2025							
	01/31/2025	$4,424.51	$ 2,269,429.06	0.1950%	$ 777,549.14	$ 68,668.72	$1,649.80
	02/28/2025	$4,596.94	$ 2,701,642.56	0.1702%	$ 701,460.37	$ 70,318.52	$1,313.21
	03/31/2025	$5,277.45	$ 2,706,920.01	0.1950%	$ 701,460.37	$ 71,631.73	$1,507.23
	04/30/2025	$5,117.18	$ 2,712,037.19	0.1887%	$ 698,787.27	$ 73,138.96	$1,456.50
	05/31/2025	$5,467.27	$ 2,704,604.46	0.2021%	$ 591,610.45	$ 74,595.46	$1,346.71
	06/30/2025	$8,094.74	$ 3,032,699.20	0.2669%	$ 1,162,519.95	$ 75,942.17	$3,305.65
	07/31/2025	$11,300.56	$ 3,178,999.76	0.3555%	$ 1,109,500.40	$ 79,247.82	$4,225.71
	08/31/2025	$11,614.55	$ 3,273,088.05	0.3548%	$ 1,095,371.18	$ 83,473.53	$4,183.13
	09/30/2025	$11,051.71	$ 3,219,139.76	0.3433%	$ 1,059,038.55	$ 87,656.66	$3,936.75
	10/31/2025	$10,910.32	$ 3,123,750.08	0.3493%	$ 999,875.96	$ 91,593.41	$3,812.17
	11/30/2025	$9,573.97	$ 2,871,397.99	0.3334%	$ 929,755.76	$ 95,405.58	$3,418.15
	12/31/2025	$8,477.87	$ 2,462,416.24	0.3443%	$ 722,516.01	$ 98,823.73	$2,827.80
		$95,907.07					**$32,982.80**
2026							
	01/31/2026	$8,645.64	$ 3,149,882.19	0.2745%	$ 722,516.01	$ 101,651.52	$2,262.13
	02/28/2026	$8,500.08	$ 3,005,132.27	0.2829%	$ 689,601.92	$ 103,913.66	$2,244.48
	03/31/2026	$9,093.72	$ 2,988,685.04	0.3043%	$ 661,704.92	$ 106,158.14	$2,336.39
	04/30/2026	$10,313.43	$ 3,924,482.17	0.2628%	$ 1,410,507.67	$ 108,494.53	$3,991.90
	05/31/2026	$11,820.21	$ 4,320,856.09	0.2736%	$ 1,324,385.47	$ 112,486.43	$3,930.73
	06/30/2026	$12,250.22	$ 4,124,538.34	0.2970%	$ 1,239,287.19	$ 116,417.16	$4,026.55
	07/31/2026	$12,801.16	$ 4,321,067.12	0.2962%	$ 1,228,280.76	$ 120,443.72	$3,995.60
	08/31/2026	$13,050.57	$ 4,234,039.43	0.3082%	$ 1,115,924.36	$ 124,439.31	$3,823.17
	09/30/2026	$12,500.18	$ 4,064,816.11	0.3075%	$ 1,098,793.86	$ 128,262.48	$3,773.46
		$98,975.21					**$30,384.41**
						Grand Total	**$107,035.93**

PC Membership changes/backfill discussion

PC Membership changes and Backfill discussion

Recruiting process for board membership

PC New Member Orientation Discussion

- What could be improved in the process?
- Would you have benefited from a more comprehensive orientation?
  - Collaborative function
  - Bylaws and operating agreements
  - Plan orientation
  - Other?

Calendar of Events

Proposed Calendar of Events

2027 Policy Committee Meetings

- March 3, 2027
- June 2, 2027
- September 1 or 8, 2027 (special meeting to review release)
- November 3, 2027

Stalloch Project Update

HEI Plan Renewal Update

See Flowing Forward Event Summary Handout

FLOWING FORWARD: EVENT SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

The “Flowing Forward: A Watershed Dinner and Discussion” community meeting was held on September 22, 2026 in Litchfield, Minnesota to kick off the North Fork Crow River Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan renewal. Intended outcomes of the event included meeting statutory requirements of a One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P), sharing information about the planning process and plan renewal with community members, and receiving feedback from the community about what’s been working well and what could be improved in the next ten years of implementation efforts.

There were 39 attendees and 13 plan development staff in attendance. Participants recorded an organization they represented, if appliable. Participants represented lake associations, local townships and cities, watershed district (WD) boards, soil and water conservation district (SWCD) boards, and county boards. Staff included representatives from Middle Fork WD, SWCDs, Counties, BWSR, and engineering firms.

Attendees were served a meal and provided with an orientation to the NFCR Watershed, resources and resource conditions, implementation success over the past 10 years, and the plan renewal process. Then, attendees were separated into four facilitated discussion groups to receive local input for the plan.



Participants discuss natural resources

RESOURCE STATIONS

Attendees were separated into four groups for small group discussions at "Resource Stations" representing natural resource categories within the watershed. Resource categories include:

- Surface Water
- Groundwater
- Landscape
- Open Discussion

At each station, attendees learned about and provided input on issues and resource conditions pertaining to each station. Discussion points were:



Responses to these prompts were recorded on posters and are compiled in Attachment A, along with summarized key discussion themes. Table recorded responses were transcribed as written from posters, including abbreviations. All responses are included and since participants moved around the room in stations, there are some that make repetitive points. A question mark indicates unclear handwriting.

CARRYING FEEDBACK INTO THE PLAN

Feedback received during the event will be considered for informing priority issues, goals, and actions in the plan. Planning partners acknowledge not all the issues or preferred actions discussed are under the purview of local staff implementing the plan, or are emerging concerns that may be addressed during implementation.

ATTACHMENT A

SURFACE WATER

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- Small projects, easements, **soil health practices**, and urban stormwater management have been successful and will continue to be a focus in the watershed.
- **Nutrient loading and declining water quality** remain concerns in several lakes, with specific resources of concern named as Minne Belle, Calhoun, Rice, Dead, and Diamond Lakes.
- **Changes in land use and hydrology** are affecting surface waters, including increased tile drainage, lake-area development, and loss of small farms. Projects that store water are important to mitigate altered hydrology.

TABLE RECORDED RESPONSES

WHAT WORKED?

- Small projects
- DU + PF Easements

WHAT DIDN'T WORK

- Minne- Belle -> DNR road projects
    - Lots of N and P
    - LO feels not a priority and there are projects to be done
- Shorelands near Calhoun
- PNZ involvement
- Easements on shoreline properties
- Rice Lakes has gone backwards (nutrients)
- Dead – Future recreational lake
- Diamond Lake

WHAT CHANGED?

- Improvements in 2026
- Diamond lake worse with Schultz Hubbard chain
- Cleaner near Regal -> more cover crops – Minne Belle
- Less trees
- Lake Jennie: less algal blooms, increased clarity
- Wright delistings
- WQ increasing in Calhoun -> wetland restoration

- Warm early then drought -> surface vegetation increased
- Wright WASCOBS near Waverly
- Rice Lake -> 2005 10-12 days to rise. 2026 5-7 days
- Less small farms
- Increase in tile
- Development around lakes

WHAT'S NEXT?

- More education to producers on BMP benefits to lakes and economic benefits
    - Municipalities
- Soil health practices
- Urban stormwater practices
    - Non-MS4 cities
- Wetland restorations
- WASCOBs

GROUNDWATER

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- **Awareness of groundwater issues has increased**, driven by concern about drinking water quality and success of well screening clinics.
- **Groundwater management challenges remain**, including contamination concerns, unsealed wells, insufficient enforcement, aging tech or infrastructure, and gaps in groundwater monitoring data.
- Upcoming needs are identified as **greater understanding of private wells, septic systems, and regional groundwater data.**
- Residents want to know what to do / **what can be done about contaminated drinking water.**
- **Emerging concerns regarding groundwater** include impacts of data centers, drought, and data gaps in groundwater quality and quantity.

TABLE RECORDED RESPONSES

WHAT CHANGED?

- More irrigation and pattern tiling
- Concerns for private well quality
- Greater awareness of impacts to groundwater
- More well testing / Increased awareness

WHAT WORKED?

- Well screening clinics led to awareness
- Well clinics have worked well - potentially test for more contaminants
- L.A. funded septic pumping
- Well testing clinics have been utilized
- Stormwater reuse
- Regional septic system has improved lake water quality
- Improved stormwater planning

WHAT DIDN'T?

- County enforcement lacking
- Abandoned wells unsealed
- Public outreach materials- localized to specific areas
- G.W. quality issues
- More education and outreach needed in some areas

- Irrigation systems not updated to new tech
- Lack of urban stormwater project maintenance

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Flyover for septic issues
- Newsletter articles for lake associations on G.W. issues
- What do I do when I have a well sample come in too high
- Want testing results shared
- What can be done to correct contaminated G.W.?
- New well failed N test - how to change that experience
- Are there enough wells to test aquifer levels and quality?
- Interest to see what G.W. quality is locally
- Well education needed
- Long-term drought concerns
- Data gaps on groundwater quality
- Concern for G.W. quantity due to data center usage
- Private well inventory needed
- Education for ramifications of contamination

LANDSCAPE

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- **Land use and development pressures are increasing**, with more irrigation, tiling, shoreline and urban development, and declining trees, habitat, and small farms.
- **Local partnerships and stable funding** have supported successful projects and initiatives.
- Agency coordination, regulatory challenges, and finding willing landowner partners remain **barriers.**
- **Education and collaboration continue to be key priorities**, with participants emphasizing the need for ongoing community outreach, stronger coordination among agencies, and clear communication about conservation practices and project opportunities.
- **There are many priorities for future landscape work,** including expanding and improving education efforts, long-term planning with a focus on efficiency, and implementation of projects for improved runoff control.

TABLE RECORDED RESPONSES

WHAT CHANGED

- Lake level changes quicker on Rice Lake
- Maintaining a more consistent lake level on Rice Lake
- Amount of CRP
- Funding
- PFAS regulations
- Lake shoreline development
- Development
- Buffer & buffer laws
- Acreage /farmland
- Cutting tree wind rows
- Buffer zones
- More irrigation & tiling
- More solar farms
- Worse runoff
- More loss of natural spaces
- More tillage
- Treeline removal
- Shelter belts

- Development boom

WHAT WORKED

- Better funding and more consistent funding
- Education is more thorough
- Shoreline restoration in Stearns County
- Funding consistency
- Good relationships
- Shoreline restoration programming
- Partnerships with agencies
- SWCD & DNR services
- TSA services
- Relationships with agencies
- Rock Arch Rapids
- Road ditch stabilization
- Smaller projects
- Projects driven by LA
- Funding
- SWCD projects, large/small scale
- SWCD & schools partner for projects
- Buckthorn projects

WHAT DIDN'T WORK?

- Agency roles need to be clearer
- Agency permitting with tiling
- Regulatory rolling back
- Partnerships with agencies (wetlands)
- Restrictive rules that prevent plans & projects
- Relationships between agencies
- Permitting & funding issues- efficiency & speed
- Timeframe
- Still very difficult to find and engage willing landowners in projects
    - Needs to be strengthened

WHAT'S NEXT

- Further education
- Community education to be consistent
- Look for other solutions, not regulation
- Coordination with agencies on shared goals & funds

- Choice of vendor (reimbursement & equal treatment)
- Need for better buffer/filtration strips
- Group “Waters Are” overseeing water-related agencies
- Maximize dollars
- Improve efficiency
- 10+ year project upkeep
- Clarity on rock rip-rap
- Retention ponds & runoff control → filter
- Bioreactors
- Long process for project implementation
- Long-term development planning prioritizing conservation practices

OPEN DISCUSSION

KEY POINTS OF DISCUSSION

- **Lake conditions have declined** in many resources, due to challenges posed by AIS, algae blooms, fish and plant community changes, lakeshore development, and wake boat recreation.
- **Agricultural outreach programs have been successful,** as management of runoff, implementation of farmed wetlands, and nitrate loading have improved.
- **Water quality will remain a top consideration** as local staff manage changes in development.
- There has been increased **local support for resource improvement** and a greater understanding of water quality issues.

TABLE RECORDED RESPONSES

WHAT CHANGED

- New infestations (AIS):
    - Rice/ Koronis
    - Curly-leaf pondweed/starry stonewort,
    - Zebra mussels,
    - Carp
- Declining water quality;
    - Clarity, algae blooms, duration
- Increasing clarity on lakes;
    - Zebra mussels?
    - Increased algae,
    - Increased plant growth (native/non-invasive);
- Changing plant communities
    - Changed lake use
- Fish community / fishing recreation
- Attitude towards lake changing due to vegetation
- Manure management-effective?
    - Regulations and processes
- Increasing lakeshore density (homes)
- Increasing aquatic vegetation
- Changes in lake recreation and equipment
    - Wake boats, jet skis, pontoons

    - Increase in lake structures related to equipment
- Homestyle changing -> increasing variances and relaxing of regulation
    - Increasing requests for variances
        - Commissioners giving more greenlight to zoning changes
    - Inconsistent across counties / different mindset / focus of elective representative
- Need more understanding of recreation use impact on lakes
- Wake boats
- Buffers
- Increasing cover crops
- Increasing shoreline restorations
- Increasing solar farms / changing groundcover
- Increase Pattern tiling
- Fluctuating water levels
- Reduced wetlands / increased wetland drainage
- County-level engagement in resource management is decreased
    - Lack of regulatory solutions to resource concerns
    - Flooding concerns on lakes
    - Management of shorelines
- Increasing Emphasis on water quality and local partnerships in local concerns
- Less CRP/conversion to crop
- Lake itch / algae concern for recreation
- Decreased coordination with federal agencies (NRCS, USDA)
- Property values/economic change?
    - Decreased altering use of the lakes in the watershed

WHAT WORKED?

- Runoff reduction projects to lakes have been implemented
    - Additional funding / technical support
- Farm ownership transition
    - Small to large = pattern tiling /management
    - Increased drainage
- Decrease in Wetlands
    - Farmed wetlands increasing
- Increased partnerships
    - WDs, LAs = inlets (alternative intakes)
- Regulatory roles undefined / difficult ownership patterns
- More education on nitrate awareness

WHAT NEXT?

- Lakes not impacted by BG algae
- Updated farming practices (tillage, soil health)
- Lake / stream delisting
- Continued / sustained focus on water quality
- Real data = real outcomes
- Sediment ponds
- Increased awareness / value placed on area lakes / water resources
- Increased Education to targeted areas/resource concerns
- Changing norms of what water resources are
    - Local economic impact
- Statewide RFP for standardized pricing for lab testing/monitoring list for testing
    - List like MN stormwater manual
        - Lab costs
        - Veg monitoring
        - Core samples
        - Alum dosing
        - Veg studies
        - Handling B/G algae noticing
- Increased Incentives to enroll land in conservation
- Want to see better water quality at the outlet to Mississippi
- Want to see significant delisting
- Better community understanding
- Recognize success
- Decision makers (elected) better informed
    - Conservation minded -> (?) and empower lake associations

WORKED WELL

- Increased funding for projects
- Alternative tile intakes
- State/local partnerships for projects
    - Increased funding
- Local awareness of funding impacts
    - More political engagement
    - Increased frustration on local/ state / fed resource allocation

WORD CLOUD

All table notes were condensed into a word or two, and fed into a word cloud generator for a visual showing what issues, priorities, resources came up the most at the event. Water quality was the top phrase used, followed by groundwater, lakes, education, partnerships, and development.



Proposal for Community Engagement Approach for NFCRWC CWMP Renewal

Overview

As part of the NFCRWC CWMP Renewal, the Public Communications Subcommittee proposes a structured community engagement strategy designed to gather meaningful, representative input that will strengthen the final Plan. This proposal outlines why community engagement is essential, how it will be conducted, and what elected officials can expect throughout the process.

Purpose of Community Engagement

Community engagement is a critical component of One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) program. For the NFCRWC, engagement will help ensure the Plan reflects local values, identifies the most relevant land and water issues, and earns broad support during implementation. Engagement efforts will focus on gathering information that informs key planning decisions, including goals, priorities, and implementation actions.

Why It Matters to Policy Committee Members

- Engagement strengthens public trust and transparency.
- Input helps ensure the Plan is realistic, cost-effective, and in alignment with community expectations.
- Early involvement reduces conflict during plan adoption and implementation.
- Broad geographic and stakeholder representation supports equitable decision-making across jurisdictions.

Engagement Goals

The engagement framework is designed to:

- Broaden participation across diverse communities and land uses within the watershed.
- Understand geographic differences in concerns, opportunities, and priorities.
- Identify barriers to conservation implementation from those who have and have not participated in programs.
- Gather deeper insight into issues surfaced during the Flowing Forward Kickoff event.
- Validate and refine plan concepts as they are developed.

Proposal for Community Engagement Approach for NFCRWC CWMP Renewal

Who Will Be Engaged

Key stakeholder groups include agricultural producers, landowners, well owners, lake residents and associations, cities and townships, elected leaders, and both early and late adopters of conservation practices. Special attention will be given to reaching those who typically do not attend public meetings.

Proposed Engagement Methods

A combination of approaches is recommended to ensure broad and balanced input:

1. **Online Survey**
    - Low-barrier, widely accessible format for general feedback.
    - Allows geographic data collection (e.g., ZIP code, township) to identify regional patterns.
2. **Focus Groups / Small-Group Discussions**
    - Targeted sessions to explore issues, barriers, and opportunities in more depth.
    - May include neutral facilitation for sensitive topics.
3. **One-on-One Interviews**
    - Particularly useful for agricultural producers and others less likely to attend public meetings.
4. **Community Advisory Committee (CAC)**
    - Scheduled at key planning milestones to share emerging concepts and gather reactions.
    - Benefits include relationship-building and continued dialogue over time.

Proposed Engagement Timeline

- **Fall/Winter:** Broad online survey.
- **Winter:** Targeted focus groups, small-group discussions, and interviews informed by survey results.
- **Winter/Spring:** Community Advisory Committee sessions. Anticipate 3-5 sessions

Proposal for Community Engagement Approach for NFCRWC CWMP Renewal

What We Are Asking of the Policy Committee

- Support in promoting survey participation and engagement opportunities within your jurisdictions.
- Guidance on which stakeholder groups may need more focused outreach.
- Ongoing review of engagement findings as they relate to plan content recommendations and decisions.

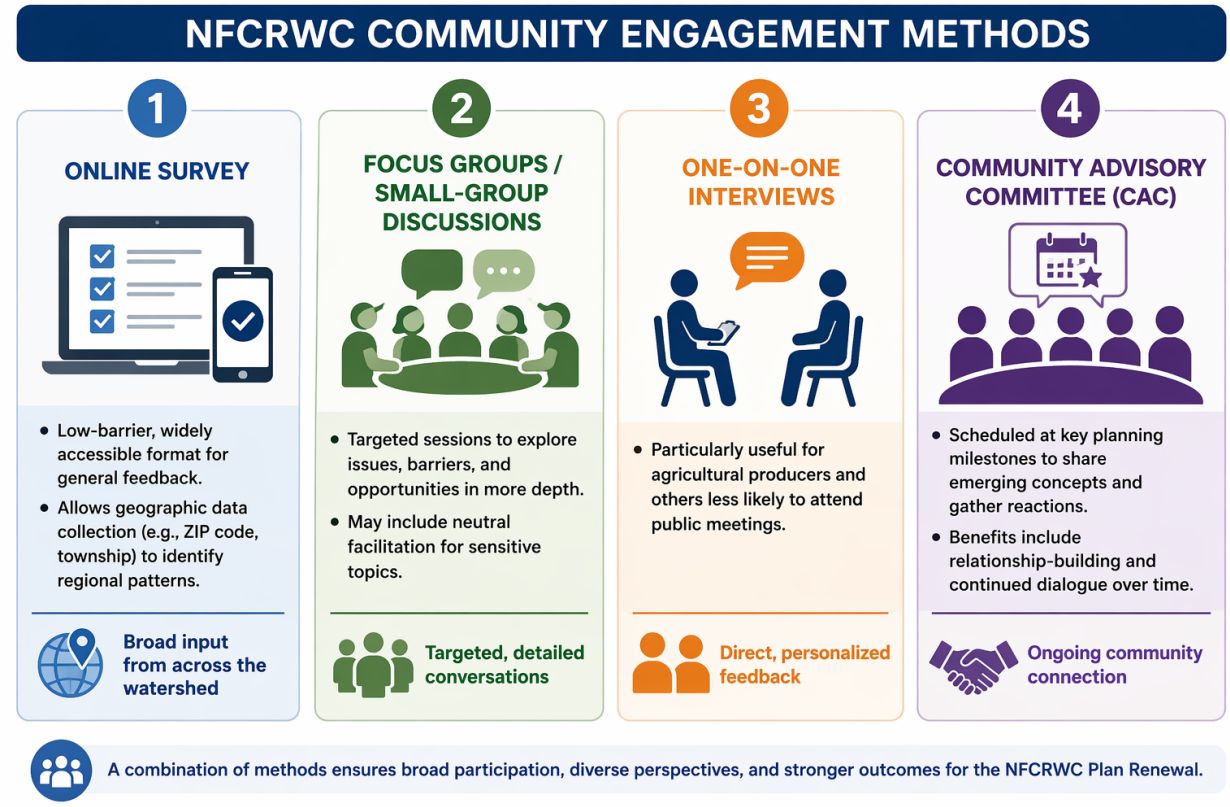
Benefits of This Approach

- Ensures community perspectives are incorporated into major planning decisions.
- Provides elected officials with clearer insight into constituent priorities.
- Supports a more widely accepted and implementable watershed plan.

Staff Resources

- Public Communications Subcommittee members:
    - Lead: Stephanie Hatzenbihler, Stearns CD
    - Support: Lauren Weller, Moore Engineering
    - Ellie Faber, Kandiyohi SWCD
    - Luke Johnson, Wright SWCD
    - Dan Nadeau, Wright SWCD
    - Whitney Peterson, Wright SWCD
    - Erin Vruwink, MFCRWD
    - Abbie Meyer, Stearns CD
    - Katie Disrud, Pope SWCD
    - Jason Weinerman, BWSR (ad hoc)
- HEI Consultant – Rachel Olm
- Planning Committee and Technical Advisory Committee

Proposal for Community Engagement Approach for NFCRWC CWMP Renewal



Thank you!

North Fork Crow River
WATERSHED COLLABORATIVE