



# Grant Work Plan

## Watershed Based Implementation 2026

**Grant Title:** North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

**Grant ID:** C26-0090

**Grant Award (\$):** \$1,529,005.00

**Grant Execution Date:**

**Grantee:** Wright SWCD

**Required Match (%):** 10

**Grant End Date:** 12/31/2028

**Fiscal Agent:** Wright SWCD

**Required Match (\$):** \$152,900.50

**Grant Day-to-Day Contact:** Luke Johnson

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$1,529,005.00	\$0.00	\$1,529,005.00
Match Funds	\$152,900.50	\$0.00	\$152,900.50
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$1,681,905.50</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$1,681,905.50</b>

\*Grant balance remaining is the difference between the Awarded Amount and the Spent Amount. Other values compare budgeted and spent amounts.

<b>Project Abstract</b>	<p>The North Fork Crow River Partnership seeks FY2026 WBIF funds to implement priority activities identified in the 2018 CWMP and updated in the 2023 Plan Amendment. Funding will support agricultural structural practices such as WASCObS, grade stabilization, and grassed waterways; shoreline and riparian restoration on priority lakes; and groundwater protection practices, including well sealing in DWSMAs and high-risk nitrate areas, irrigation management improvements, and development of nutrient management plans. Funds will also advance Subwatershed Assessment (SWA) implementation, including feasibility studies, site analysis, and design work for future projects. Stormwater-related SWA implementation will focus on Wright County cities with identified retrofit opportunities.</p> <p>The request includes support for education and outreach, with 5–7 planned workshops or field events to promote soil health, groundwater protection, stormwater management, and conservation practices. Funding will also provide technical assistance for</p>
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project design, landowner engagement, screening, and verification of eligible practices. Collectively, these activities will reduce nutrient and sediment loading, improve hydrologic and riparian function, protect vulnerable groundwater areas, and build local capacity to advance long-term watershed resilience.

**Proposed Measurable Outcomes**

Make measurable progress toward water quality goals using eligible projects, practices, and programs as described in the North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.

**Budget Details**

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Source Type</i>	<i>Source Description</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>Match Fund?</i>
Objective 11: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00	N
Objective 02: Ag Structural Practices	Agricultural Practices	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$404,005.00		\$404,005.00	N
Objective 10: Education and Outreach	Education/Information	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	N
Objective 06: Groundwater Protection	Groundwater	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	N
Objective 01: Subwatershed Assessment Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$125,000.00		\$125,000.00	N
Objective 09: Watershed and	Planning and Assessment	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation	\$105,000.00		\$105,000.00	N

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Source Type</i>	<i>Source Description</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>Match Fund?</i>
Nutrient Management Planning			Funding				
Objective 08: Project Development	Project Development	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$105,000.00		\$105,000.00	N
Objective 04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$285,000.00		\$285,000.00	N
Objective 07: Technical Assistance and Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$155,000.00		\$155,000.00	N
Objective 05: Stormwater Improvement Practices	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$175,000.00		\$175,000.00	N
Objective 03: Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration/Creation	Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00	N
Objective 02: Ag Structural Practices	Agricultural Practices	Federal Funds	Federal Funds	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	Y
Objective 06: Groundwater Protection	Groundwater	Federal Funds	Federal Funds	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Y
Objective 02: Ag Structural Practices	Agricultural Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$22,900.50		\$22,900.50	Y
Objective 06:	Groundwater	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Y

<i>Activity Name</i>	<i>Category</i>	<i>Source Type</i>	<i>Source Description</i>	<i>Budgeted</i>	<i>Spent</i>	<i>Balance Remaining</i>	<i>Match Fund?</i>
Groundwater Protection							
Objective 01: Subwatershed Assessment Implementation	Non-Structural Management Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	Y
Objective 04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00	Y
Objective 05: Stormwater Improvement Practices	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	Y
Objective 03: Wetland Restoration	Wetland Restoration/Creation	Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00	Y

**Grant Activities**

**Activity Name: Objective 01: Subwatershed Assessment Implementation**

**Activity Category:** Non-Structural Management Practices **Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding will prioritize practices in the Wright County Twelve Lake Implementation areas, with eligibility also available in other watershed regions that have completed SWAS (see NFCR CWMP 2018, Section 4.2). These efforts aim to address critical source areas, reduce nutrient loading, and improve long-term watershed outcomes (refer to 2023 Amendment, Section 2.1). Practices will focus on in-lake management practices in targeted resources such as Lake Martha, Dean Lake and Beebe Lake which can include alum treatment with native vegetation re-establishment or carp removal as appropriate and approved by BWSR policy. Additional practices may include non-structural agricultural management practices, such as cover crops and no-till or strip-till.

**Budget Details**

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$125,000.00		\$125,000.00		N
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		Y

## Activity Name: Objective 02: Ag Structural Practices

**Activity Category:** Agricultural Practices

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding will support implementation of agricultural structural best management practices (BMPs) in targeted priority areas of the watershed, consistent with the North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (CWMP, 2018) and its 2023 Amendment. Eligible practices include, but are not limited to, grassed waterways, grade stabilization structures, water and sediment control basins (WASCOBs), and other PTMApp-identified BMPs selected based on planning region priorities and approved through the project screening process. Practices will be prioritized in the North Fork Crow River planning region, specifically the Wright County Twelve Lake Implementation Areas and French Lake subwatershed, with eligibility also available in the identified targeted areas within each planning region.

These practices are designed to deliver measurable outcomes tied to specific plan goals:

Install 5–15 structural BMPs per funding cycle, leading to annual reductions of 20–100 lbs of phosphorus, directly supporting nutrient load reduction goals for lakes and streams (Section 3.4).

Treat 20–60 acres of drainage area, helping reduce watershed runoff depth by up to 0.75 inches (Section 3.4.2).

Stabilize 200–500 feet of eroding channels, contributing to improved stream condition and reduced sediment delivery (Section 3.4.3).

Add 5–15 acre-feet of new hydrologic storage, advancing regional water storage and flood-reduction objectives.

All estimated outcomes are guided by PTMApp modeling and align with implementation priorities outlined in the 2018 Plan and 2023 Amendment. Additional outputs may include development of 1–3 engineered designs and provision of cost-share assistance to approximately 5–10 landowners per cycle.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Federal Funds	Federal Funds	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00		Y
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$22,900.50		\$22,900.50		Y
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$404,005.00		\$404,005.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 03: Wetland Restoration

**Activity Category:** Wetland Restoration/Creation

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funds will be allocated for wetland restoration, enhancement, or creation projects, with a focus on targeted areas and waterbodies within the Lake Koronis-NF, Washington Creek, Big Swan Lake, and North Fork Crow River planning regions; however, projects are not restricted solely to these locations. The North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan (2018) identifies wetlands as a priority concern throughout all planning regions. The plan specifically calls for the protection of existing wetlands and an increase in large wetland blocks, recommending no net loss of wetland acreage and the maintenance or expansion of wetland complexes of roughly four square miles with approximately 15% wetland cover (Section 3.4.6, pp. 3-27 to 3-28).

Proposed efforts will include restoring drained wetland basins, expanding degraded areas, or enhancing hydrology in select locations. Each project is expected to add about 5 to 20 acres of restored or enhanced wetlands, depending on site conditions. These activities will help move the watershed toward its goals by cumulatively increasing wetland acreage and improving the composition of wetland blocks across the landscape. Additionally, these outcomes are anticipated to deliver measurable benefits, such as improved pollutant reduction, greater water storage capacity, and enhanced habitat connectivity. All efforts will be guided by plan recommendations and available targeting tools to ensure progress toward the wetland protection objectives for the North Fork watershed, aligning with the anticipated increase in project spending and priorities set out in current and future funding cycles.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00		N
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$5,000.00		\$5,000.00		Y

## Activity Name: Objective 04: Shoreland and Riparian Practices

**Activity Category:** Streambank or Shoreline Protection

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding is intended as cost-share support for structural practices that protect or restore riparian areas on priority resource lakes, with all projects adhering to the FOTG or other approved design standards and focused within targeted areas named in the amended Plan. Assurance measures will be followed for TAC-approved projects, consistent with BWSR grant policies. In Stearns County, projects using cost-share funds must comply with County policy requiring perpetual easements. The 2018 CWMP identifies shoreline and riparian corridors as priority concerns, establishing measurable goals to reduce sediment delivery, enhance geomorphic stability, protect aquatic habitat, and safeguard high-priority lakes (2018 CWMP, Sections 3.4.3 & 3.4.4, pp. 3-18–3-22). The plan calls for implementing structural practices—such as bank stabilization, vegetative buffers, and floodplain connectivity—within riparian zones to address erosion and habitat loss, as outlined in Table 4-4 and regional implementation profiles. The 2023 Plan Amendment strengthens these objectives by updating regional priorities and specifying measurable outputs for riparian and shoreline BMPs, including stabilization projects on priority lakes and corridors (2023 Amendment: Streams & Rivers and Lake Shoreland/Riparian Actions, pp. 23–34). Anticipated measurable outcomes per funding cycle include stabilizing 200–400 feet of vulnerable shoreline or riparian corridor, protecting 3–8 acres of adjacent habitat, and reducing sediment loading by up to 5–20 tons annually, depending on site and practice type. These outputs directly advance the CWMP’s goals to reduce erosion, improve water quality, and maintain resilient riparian ecosystems, as directed by the 2018 Plan and 2023 Amendment.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00		Y
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$285,000.00		\$285,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 05: Stormwater Improvement Practices

**Activity Category:** Urban Stormwater Management Practices

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** The 2018 North Fork CWMP identifies urban stormwater and surface runoff as priority concerns with measurable goals to reduce nutrient and sediment loading, increase stormwater treatment capacity, and address untreated runoff in priority communities (2018 CWMP: Priority Concerns Table 2-1; Sections 3.4.2 and 3.4.4). Regional implementation profiles highlight cities—especially within Wright County—as key locations for stormwater retrofits and water quality BMPs (Section 4.6; Table 4-5). The 2023 Plan Amendment reaffirms these regional priorities by updating implementation actions to include stormwater retrofit studies and measurable outputs for improving stormwater quality and stabilizing altered hydrology (2023 Amendment, pp. 23–34).

Estimated measurable progress includes installing 1–3 stormwater retrofit practices, treating 5–20 acres of contributing drainage area, reducing phosphorus loading by 5–30 lbs/year, and capturing or infiltrating 0.5–2 acre-feet of stormwater annually. These outcomes and outputs are best estimates based on typical retrofit performance and directly support CWMP goals to improve water quality in priority lakes and streams, address regional stormwater concerns, and advance long-term watershed resilience.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		Y
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$175,000.00		\$175,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 06: Groundwater Protection

**Activity Category:** Groundwater

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding will be allocated to seal old and abandoned wells and promote irrigation management practices—such as variable rate irrigation and low-flow drip nozzles—to protect groundwater and drinking water in areas with elevated sensitivity, including DWSMAs and regions like Bonanza Valley GWMA. The 2018 North Fork CWMP (Section 3.4.1, pp. 3-8 to 3-11) and the 2023 Amendment (Goal 2, pp. 1–3, 23) both identify groundwater protection as a top priority, establishing measurable goals to reduce nitrate loading and safeguard aquifers. Funding will follow NFCRWPP cost-share rates: 75% up to \$500 per well in non-priority areas, and 100% up to \$2,500 per well in priority areas, in accordance with plan guidance. Implementation will be targeted using local groundwater vulnerability assessments, technical assistance and partner JAA documentation will be provided as needed.

Measurable outcomes include sealing 5–15 wells per funding cycle, directly eliminating contamination pathways and/or completing 2–5 irrigation efficiency upgrades with estimated groundwater withdrawal reductions of 5–15% per system; decreasing nitrogen leaching risk on 20–50 treated acres. These outputs support the plan’s goals for drinking water protection, nitrate reduction, and aquifer sustainability, aligning with the directives and measurable targets set in both the 2018 Plan and its 2023 Amendment.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Landowner Fund	Landowner Fund	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		Y
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$30,000.00		\$30,000.00		N
Federal Funds	Federal Funds	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		Y

## Activity Name: Objective 07: Technical Assistance and Engineering

**Activity Category:** Technical/Engineering Assistance

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Technical and engineering assistance includes staff time and consult engineering expenses not limited to field survey, plan design & drafting, modeling, and construction observation from a licensed professional engineer or staff with appropriate NRCS Job Approval Authority for the specific practice. Funding may be used to hire additional, or supplement, staff or consultant to assist with survey and design work. Efforts will primarily focus on original CWMP and plan amendment priorities, with the latitude to address additional BMPs not specifically included as plan priorities. Practices will be designed according to the NRCS FOTG, MN Stormwater Manual, BlueThumb Guide, or other professional engineering standards. Efforts will primarily focus on original CWMP and plan amendment priorities, with the latitude to address additional BMPs not specifically included as plan priorities. Funding can also be used for consultant services for technical and planning coordination to advance objectives.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed- Based Implementation Funding	\$155,000.00		\$155,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 08: Project Development

**Activity Category:** Project Development

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Project development will include staff time for activities such as, but not limited to, conducting site visits and investigations and other activities to advance project implementation in local priority areas. Funding can also be used for consultant services for technical and planning coordination to advance objectives.

Project development activities (site visits, feasibility checks, and landowner coordination) align with the North Fork Crow River Watershed Plan Amendment (June 2023). The plan anticipates these preparatory steps as part of implementation and they are identified in the regional implementation tables include actions beyond construction, requiring investigation, assessment, and coordination. Outcomes will consist of completing site assessments for an estimated 40 potential project locations and developing preliminary designs and securing landowner agreements for approximately 10 priority projects, or an equivalent combination of the above.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$105,000.00		\$105,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 09: Watershed and Nutrient Management Planning

**Activity Category:** Planning and Assessment

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding will be used to advance high-priority groundwater and drinking water protection goals outlined in the 2018 North Fork Crow River Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan and its 2023 Amendment. Specifically, funds will support feasibility studies, subwatershed assessments, and land-use management plans to identify and prioritize future groundwater and stormwater protection projects. This includes covering staff or consultant time for targeted assessments, data modeling, and site analysis, as well as developing 2–3 comprehensive nutrient management plans to strengthen soil health and reduce nitrate leaching risk. Funding also enables stormwater retrofit studies or subwatershed assessments in up to two cities, with a focus on Waverly, Buffalo, Howard Lake, or Cokato, while allowing flexibility for other communities based on need. All activities must comply with eligibility criteria in the Grants Administration Manual and FY26 WBIF Policy, with oversight and assurance measures from BWSR. Anticipated outcomes include completing 2–4 targeted assessments per funding cycle, identifying 3–6 potential protection projects, and preparing 2–3 nutrient management plans. Collectively, these investments will help reduce nitrate loading, improve groundwater sustainability, and enhance local decision-making tools, directly supporting the CWMP’s measurable goals for groundwater protection and sustainable water management (2018 CWMP, Section 3.4.1; pp. 3-8–3-11; 2023 Amendment, Goal 2; pp. 1–3, 23).

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$105,000.00		\$105,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 10: Education and Outreach

**Activity Category:** Education/Information

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Funding will be used for outreach and education in priority areas, supporting activities such as distributing event invitations, organizing and implementing field days, coordinating BMP tours, and producing outreach materials to promote BMP adoption among landowners. Funds cover personnel costs for planning and executing events, preparing promotional materials, managing logistics, providing meals, speaker fees, direct outreach like mailings to targeted landowners and stakeholders, and any other eligible event costs.

Workshops and events will focus on topics including groundwater protection, nitrate reduction, soil health, private well screening, irrigation management in sensitive regions, lake management, conservation easements, and stormwater initiatives like Adopt-A-Drain. These initiatives directly support the CWMP's measurable goals by increasing landowner knowledge, encouraging groundwater-protective practices, and reducing nitrate and contaminant pathways into aquifers.

Anticipated outputs per grant cycle include hosting 5–7 workshops, reaching 100–200 landowners, generating 10–20 follow-up BMP inquiries or site visits, and achieving 2–5 new BMP implementations. These outcomes are based on previous participation and align with the plan's focus on education-driven behavior change for groundwater protection, ensuring measurable progress toward reducing nitrate loading and safeguarding aquifer sustainability (2018 CWMP, Section 3.4.1; 2023 Amendment, Goal 2).

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00		N

## Activity Name: Objective 11: Grant Administration and Plan Coordination

Activity Category: Administration/Coordination

Staff time?: No

**Description:** The Wright SWCD has been appointed by the Policy Committee to act as the fiscal agent and plan coordinator on behalf of the Partners. Funding will be utilized to meet FY26 WBIF Policy and other requirements of the BWSR Grants Administration Manual (GAM). Fiscal agent activities include, but are not limited to, tracking grant expenditures, processing payments on behalf of partners, assisting with grant reporting and other financial responsibilities. Coordination activities include, but are not limited to, organizing work group and committee meetings, policy committee meetings, developing agendas, completing required reporting and other tasks associated for the implementation of grant activities as assigned in the approved operating agreement. Wright SWCD plans to hire a consultant to assist with coordination duties.

### Budget Details

<u>Source Type</u>	<u>Source Description</u>	<u>Budgeted</u>	<u>Spent</u>	<u>Balance Remaining</u>	<u>Last Transaction Date</u>	<u>Match Fund?</u>
Current State Grant	North Fork Crow River FY2026 Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	\$100,000.00		\$100,000.00		N