SECTION 7. PLAN ADMINISTRATION AND COORDINATION

Plan Administration and Coordination describes how the plan will be implemented, how the partnerships will work together, how the funding will move between them, and who will handle the administrative duties. The Red Lake River Watershed CWMP will be implemented through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), found in **Appendix A**, between the following entities:

- Pennington County and SWCD
- Polk County and East and West Polk SWCDs
- Red Lake County and SWCD
- Red Lake Watershed District

The entities implementing the plan will collectively be referred to as the Red Lake River Planning Group (Planning Group).

Decision-Making and Staffing

Implementation of the Red Lake River CWMP will require maintaining or increasing current levels of capacity, funding, and coordination that have been established since the original plan was adopted in 2017. Successful implementation will depend on continuing and building on partnerships in the watershed with landowners, planning partners, state agencies, and organizations.

Three committees will serve this plan during implementation:

- **Policy Committee:** Comprised of elected and appointed board members (one County Commissioner and one SWCD Board Supervisor appointed from each of the participating Counties and SWCDs in the watershed, and one manager from the RLWD).
- **Advisory Committee:** Comprised of Red Lake River Planning Work Group and Advisory Committee members (local stakeholders including state agencies). Each LGU can appoint Advisory Committee members based on current MOA.
- **Planning Work Group:** Comprised of RLWD, SWCD, County staff and the BWSR Board Conservationist.

Table 7-1 outlines the probable roles and functions of these committees during implementation. The Fiscal Agent and Plan Coordinator roles are assigned to a member LGU by Policy Committee appointment as outlined in the formal agreement. Changes to the Fiscal Agent and Plan Coordinator roles and responsibilities may be considered by the Policy Committee but would required a change to the MOA.

Table 7-1: Anticipated roles for Red Lake River CWMP implementation

Committee Name	Primary Implementation Roles/Functions
Policy Committee	• Meet quarterly or as needed • Review the implementation funds from plan participants • Approve the annual work plan • Approve financial reports • Approve annual reports submitted to BWSR • Annual review and confirmation of Advisory Committee priority issue recommendations • Direction to Advisory Committee on addressing emerging issues • Approve plan amendments • Implement county ordinances and state statutory responsibilities separately from plan implementation • Approve grant applications • Approve annual assessment
Advisory Committee	• Meet annually or as needed • Review and provide input for the annual work plan • Review and identify collaborative funding opportunities • Recommendations to the Red Lake River Planning Work Group on program adjustments • Assist with the execution of the targeted implementation schedule
Planning Work Group	• Meet monthly or as needed • Review the status of available implementation funds from plan participants • Review opportunities for collaborative grants • Review fiscal reports • Prepare the annual work plan • Review annual reports submitted to BWSR • Biennial review and confirmation of priority issues • Evaluate and recommend response to emerging issues • Prepare plan amendments • Implement the targeted implementation schedule
Fiscal Agent and Plan Coordinator	• Convene committee meetings • Prepare and submit grant applications/funding requests • Complete grant reporting • Compile annual results for annual assessment

Collaboration

Collaboration Between Planning Partners

The benefits of successful collaboration between planning partners include consistent implementation of actions watershed-wide, increased likelihood of funding, and resource efficiencies gained. The Planning Group will pursue opportunities for collaboration with fellow planning partners to gain administrative and program efficiencies, pursue collaborative grants, and provide technical assistance.

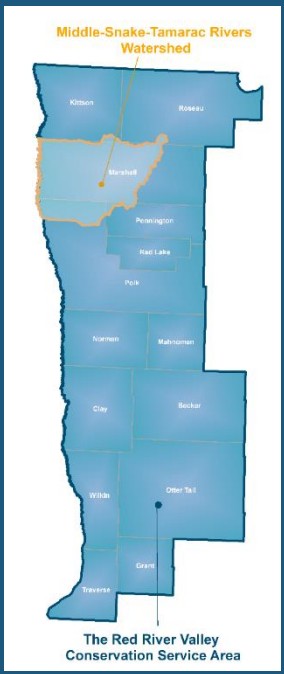
Planning partners in the Red Lake River Watershed have an established history of collaboration for technical services in the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA). This history is summarized below. In addition, the Red Lake County SWCD employees a Soil Health Outreach Technician which provides shared soil health outreach assistance to the nine northern districts in the RRVCSA area (North Pod). The Pennington SWCD employees an engineer and two technicians to provide engineering services to 9 SWCDs known as the North Pod. In addition, the Thief River Falls Field Office houses a Pheasants Forever Farm Bill Biologist whose primary role is CRP planning in Pennington, Marshall, and West Polk.

Collaboration with Other Units of Government

The Planning Group will continue coordination with other governmental units. This cooperation and coordination occur both at the local level and at the state/federal level. At the state/federal level, coordination between the Planning Group and agencies such as BWSR, US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), DNR, MDH, and the MPCA occur through legislative and permit requirements. Local coordination between the Planning Group and comparable units of government such as municipalities, city councils, township boards, county boards, and the RLWD Board are a practical necessity to facilitate watershed-wide activities. Examples of collaborative programs in the watershed include Environmental Quality Incentive Program (NRCS), CRP (FSA), Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification (MDA), Farm Bill Biologist (MDA), Wellhead Protection for city DWSMAs (Minnesota Rural Water Association [MRWA] and MDH), and WRAPS (MPCA). Collaboration with Tribal Nations can occur on projects, monitoring, and outreach. Any potential project collaborations would be subject to Tribal Council approval.

Intergovernmental coordination and cooperation are essential for the Planning Group to perform its required functions. The Red River Basin already has a high level of collaboration on a basin-wide scale as outlined below. The Planning Group will continue to foster an environment that enhances coordination and cooperation to the maximum extent possible throughout the implementation of this plan.

Collaboration in the Red River Valley Conservation Service Area



Purpose:
To provide engineering assistance to private landowners via SWCDs, for a variety of non-point water quality management practices.

Program Description:
This program was established in 1994 in conjunction with the Agricultural BMPs and Clean Water Partnership Loan Programs and established an engineering assistance program for SWCDs to provide engineering assistance to landowners for conservation practices. Eleven joint powers groups of SWCDs were created statewide in early 1995 to employ professional engineer and technician teams to provide technical assistance in cooperation with member SWCDs. In 2009, the eleven joint powers boards and corresponding boundaries were reduced to eight. The associated joint powers boards are composed of a supervisor from each of the member SWCDs and one of the member SWCDs serves as the host district.

The Red River Valley Conservation Service Area (RRVCSA) transitioned at the beginning of 2023 to have staff employed by member SWCDs instead of the RRVCSA itself. The Pennington SWCD employs engineering staff for the nine northern SWCDs (North Pod) and the Becker SWCD employees GIS staff that covers the entire RRVCSA.

Non-point Engineering Assistance teams provide technical assistance through member SWCDs and in cooperation with the NRCS and other local, state, and federal agencies. BWSR provides policy, training, administrative, and technical consultation to the joint powers boards and associated staff.

Collaboration with Others

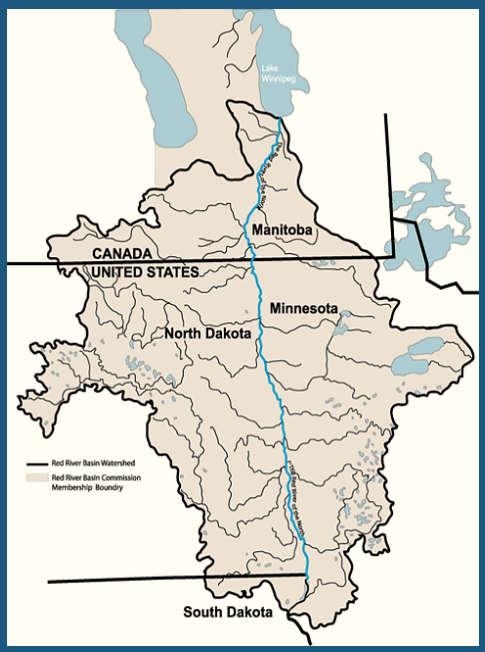
Local support and partnerships will drive the success of implementing this plan. Because this plan's focus is largely on voluntary implementation, collaborations with landowners in the watershed is of utmost importance. There are many actions in the plan that describe working with individual landowners on providing cost share and technical assistance for implementing agricultural conservation and land stewardship practices.

The Planning Group also expects to continue to build on existing collaboration with others, including non-governmental organizations, while implementing this plan. Many of these existing collaborations are aimed at increasing habitat and recreational opportunities within the plan area while providing education and outreach opportunities. Partners for these collaborations include, but are not limited to, the IWI, The Nature Conservancy, Ducks Unlimited, MN Deer Hunters Association, Pheasants Forever,

Sportsman's Clubs, National Wild Turkey Federation, local co-ops, University of Minnesota Extension, civic groups, private businesses, individuals, and foundations.

Collaboration within the Red River Basin

Due to the long history of flooding in the Red River Basin, there has been a significant effort to collaborate basin-wide on projects, including studies, flood damage reduction, retention, and administration. This collaboration crosses state lines with North Dakota and International borders with Canada.



Red River Basin Commission (RRBC)
The RRBC is a charitable, not-for-profit organization designed to help facilitate a cooperative approach to water management within the Basin and is a well-established forum for identifying, developing, and implementing solutions to cross-boundary issues. The RRBC is comprised of local, state, provincial, and First Nation government representation, the environmental community, and at-large members.

Red River Water Management Board (RRWMB)
The RRWMB's jurisdiction and authority encompasses the area managed by the individual watershed districts that have membership on the board. The RLWD is a member of the RRWMB.

Red River Retention Authority (RRRA)
The RRRA is comprised of members of the Red River Joint Water Resource District, a North Dakota political subdivision, and the Red River Watershed Management Board, a Minnesota political subdivision. The primary objective of the RRRA is to ensure joint, comprehensive, and strategic coordination of retention projects in the Red River of the North watershed and facilitation implementation and construction of retention in the Red River Valley.

Flood Damage Reduction Work Group (FDRWG)

The FDRWG is a collaboration between the DNR, RRWMB, watershed districts, and USACE. The work group meets to provide guidance and funding to watershed districts for flood resiliency projects in Minnesota's portion of the Red River Basin.

International Water Institute (IWI)
The IWI is a non-profit organization that works with basin partners on research, monitoring, and outreach.

Funding

This section describes how the plan will be funded and how that funding will be used. As introduced in **Section 5-Targeted Implementation**, most of the plan funds (64%) will be used for implementing projects on the landscape through the Projects and Practices Program and the Capital Improvements Program. These two programs also include the technical assistance and administration required to implement them.

Level 1 funding is based on the estimated annual revenue and expenditures for plan participants combined and allocated to the plan area based on the percentage of participants' land area in the Red Lake River Watershed. Level 1 funding includes local, state, and federal funding, as explained in the following sections.

Level 2 funding is Level 1 funding plus the Watershed-Based Implementation Funding available for implementing this plan.

Level 3 funding summarizes projects that help make progress to plan goals, but that are not administered by planning partners. Level 3 includes partner funding through programs such as CRP, RIM, NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), 319 Grants, and the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) funds.

Figure 7-1 below shows how implementation programs are funded within this plan under Funding Level 1 and Level 2. Planning partners elected to keep the largest proportion of additional WBIF in implementation of new projects and practices, with 18% of funding going toward Capital Improvement Projects. This plan recognizes the overlap between these two critical programs, where projects (such as side water inlets) are commonly implemented to support larger Capital Improvement Projects.

Figure 7-1: Annual Funding levels for implementation programs

Annual Funding Estimates Red Lake River CWMP	Baseline Level 1	WBIF Level 2	Total Baseline + WBIF
Projects & Practices	$1,100,000	$550,000	$1,650,000
Operations & Maintenance (e.g. Ditch Repair)	$550,000	$0	$550,000
Data Collection & Monitoring	$200,000	$0	$200,000
Education & Outreach	$100,000	$50,000	$150,000
Regulatory (Statutory/Ordinances)	$400,000	$0	$400,000
Capital Projects (e.g. Flood Control; Stream Restoration)	$400,000	$250,000	$650,000
Total	**$2,750,000**	**$850,000**	**$3,600,000**
WBIF Level 2 annual funding based on $1.7 million for 2-year grant **Level 3 Funding Total: $75,275,866**			

** Operations & Maintenance and Plan Administration are included in this summary as they are important administrative and local costs for planning partners, but are not implementation programs and therefore do not have corresponding Action Tables*

Local Funding

Local revenue is defined as money derived from either the local property tax base or in-kind services of any personnel funded from the local tax base. Examples include local levy, county allocations, and local match dollars (see Local Funding Authorities in **Appendix H**).

Local funds will be used for locally focused programs where opportunities for state and federal funding are lacking because of misalignment of a program's purpose with state or federal objectives. These funds will also be used for matching grants.

Water Management Districts

The water management district (WMD) funding option can only be used to collect charges to pay costs for projects initiated under MS 103D.701 or 103D.730. To use this funding method, Minnesota law (MS 103D.729) requires that the WMD includes an identification of the area, the amount to be charged, the methods used to determine the charges, and the length of time the WMD is expected to remain in force.

Three previously established WMDs exist in the Red Lake River Watershed and are continued through this plan. These are the Thief River Falls Flood Damage Reduction Project WMD, the Thief River Falls Westside Flood Damage Reduction Project WMD, and the Black River Impoundment Project WMD. Information on these WMDs is included in **Appendix N**.

Description of WMDs and Annual Charge Amount

In addition, this plan establishes the four planning regions WMDs. The RLWD may create different WMDs under future amendments.

- Upper Red Lake River
- Middle Red Lake River
- Lower Red Lake River
- Grand Marias Creek

The maximum WMD revenue limit within each WMD is based on 0.10% of the taxable market value within each planning region. This value will change each year as property values increase or decrease over time.

Method to Determine Charges

The methods proposed to establish the charges will be based upon the proportion of the total annual runoff volume and/or solids load contributed by a parcel or may be based on the drainage area of the parcel within a WMD.

Option 1: The runoff volume method will:

- Use soils and land use data to determine the existing curve number for each parcel within a WMD;
- Use the curve number and annual average precipitation depth to compute the annual runoff volume for each parcel;
- Sum the annual average runoff volumes for all parcels within a WMD to determine the total annual runoff volume; and
- Compute the percentage of the annual runoff volume from each parcel as the ratio of the annual average runoff volume from the parcel and the total annual average runoff volume for the WMD (i.e., the "runoff ratio").

Option 2: The solids load contribution method will:

- Use the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation and a sediment delivery ratio that represents the solids and sediment reaching a watercourse to compute the annual average sediment and solids load for each parcel;
- Sum the annual average solids and sediment loads for all parcels within a WMD to determine the total annual average sediment and solids load; and
- Compute the percentage of the annual average sediment and soils load from each parcel as the ratio of the annual average sediment and solids load from the parcel and the total annual average sediment and soils load for the WMD (i.e., the "sediment ratio").

Option 3: The combination runoff volume and solids load method will:

- Consider both runoff volume and solids load contribution and would follow the methodologies listed above for both solids contribution and runoff volume;
- Add the runoff ratio and/or the sediment ratio to compute the charge ratio for each parcel within the WMD. The amount charged to a specific parcel is the sum of the runoff ratio and sediment ratio for the parcel divided by the sum of the runoff ratio and sediment ratio for all parcels within the WMD; and
- Apply the charge ratio to the total amount of revenue needed for the WMD to carry out the stormwater related projects, programs, and activities described by the plan to achieve the stormwater related goals within that WMD.

Option 4: The drainage area method will:

- Determine the drainage area of each parcel of land within the WMD;
- Compute the charge based on the charge ratio which is determined by taking the drainage area of that parcel within the WMD divided by the total area of the WMD; and
- Apply the charge ratio to the total amount of revenue needed for the WMD to carry out the stormwater related projects and programs described by the plan to achieve the stormwater related goals within that WMD.

Selecting the process of determining charges will be established and further refined in Step 4 of the process described in the '**Process to Create Water Management Districts**' section below.

Duration for Existence of Water Management Districts

The Policy Committee anticipates that the WMDs will provide funding to assist with implementing a variety of projects. The WMDs will exist in perpetuity. Annual assessment of charges could vary from no charges to the maximum WMD revenue limit.

Use of Funds

The primary use of the funds collected from charges within WMDs will support runoff and water quality projects that help achieve the goals of the WMD, which benefit residents within a WMD.

Process to Create Water Management Districts

BWSR has provided guidance as to the process of creating a WMD. The process involves eight steps (**Figure 7-2**). The first two steps are addressed through this CWMP. Steps 3 through 8 must be completed prior to any collection of charges in any WMD.

Step 1. Amend CWMP to create a WMD

Amendment must include:

- Description of area to be in the WMD
- The amount to be raised by charges (total amount is necessary if fixed time for WMD to be in force, otherwise annual maximum (cap) amount)
- The method that will be used to determine the charges
- The length of time the WMD will be in force (perpetuity is acceptable)

Step 2. Approval of plan amendment under M.S. § 103D.411 or as part of a revised plan under M.S. § 103D.405

- Revised plan, or petition and amendment, sent to BWSR
- BWSR gives legal notice, and holds hearing if requested
- BWSR orders approval or prescribes plan or amendment
- BWSR notifies Watershed District managers, counties, cities, SWCDs

Step 3. Watershed District establishes project(s) in the WMD

- Project(s) implemented must be ordered by the WD managers
- Order for project(s) must specify funding method(s)
- WD must notify counties, cities, and townships within the affected area at least 10 days prior to hearing or decision on projects(s) implemented under this section of statute

Step 4. Watershed District refines methodology for computing charges based on final project scope

Step 5. Watershed District determines and sets charges for all properties within the WMD after identifying scope of project and deciding method(s) of funding

Step 6. Watershed District develops collection mechanisms

- Request county or counties to collect,
- Contract with a private vendor (e.g. electric cooperative), or
- Billing and collection by WD

Step 7. Watershed District establishes a separate fund for proceeds collected from the fee or stormwater utility charges

Step 8. Resolution of Disputes

Local governments may request BWSR to resolve disputes pursuant to M.S. § 103D.729, Subd. 4, except a local appeal process must be completed first for disputes involving WMDs established in perpetuity

Local Appeal

Because WMDs established under this plan are proposed to be perpetual, the following local appeal procedure is established from the resolution adopting the plan establishing a WMD:

1. Upon receipt of the BWSR order approving the plan establishing a WMD, the WD will publish notice of its resolution adopting the plan in a newspaper in general circulation in the Red Lake River CWMP area.
2. Any landowner affected by the WMD may, within 30 days of the notice of the resolution, appeal the establishment of the WMD to the WD by filing a letter stating the basis for the appeal.
3. Within 30 days of receiving a letter of appeal, the WD shall hold a hearing on the appeal, giving the appellant an opportunity to be heard and to present evidence why the WMD should not be established. The hearing shall be noticed as required for a special meeting under MS 103D.
4. The hearing shall be recorded in order to preserve a record for further review. The record of the appeal shall include the recording, any documentary evidence provided by the appellant, and all records related to the establishment of the WMD.
5. Within 30 days of the hearing, the WD shall adopt and mail findings and an order on the appeal to the appellant and the BWSR.
6. Further appeal, if any, shall be as provided in MS 103D and existing authorities and procedures of the BWSR Board.

State Funding

State funding includes all funds derived from the State tax base. Examples of state funding include conservation delivery, conservation contracts, Natural Resources Block Grants, Clean Water Funds (CWF), and SWCD Aid.

The Planning Group will apply through the designated fiscal agent for collaborative grants, which may be competitive or non-competitive. The assumption is that base support for implementation will continue to be provided to the Red Lake River Watershed as non-competitive WBIF grants (Level 2). Where the purpose of an implementation program aligns with the objectives of various state, local, non-profit, or private programs, these dollars will be used to help fund the implementation programs described by this plan.

Federal Funding

Federal funding includes all funds derived from the Federal tax base. For example, this includes programs such as EQIP, CRP, and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP).

Partnerships with federal agencies are an important resource for ensuring implementation success. An opportunity may exist to leverage state dollars through some form of federal cost-share program. Where the purpose of an implementation program aligns with the objectives of various federal agencies, federal dollars will be used to help fund the implementation programs described by this plan. For example, NRCS will likely provide support for agricultural conservation practices, while the FSA may provide land-retirement program funds such as CRP (**Table 7-3**).

Additional Funding Sources

Current programs and funding (Level 2) will not be enough to implement the full targeted implementation schedule. As such, the success of implementing the plan will depend on collaboratively sought competitive state, federal, and private grant dollars, and increased capacity.

Plan participants may pursue grant opportunities collaboratively or individually to fund the implementation of the targeted implementation schedule. Within the targeted implementation schedule, actions are assigned implementation programs. **Table 7-3** shows the most used state and federal grants for executing the actions described by this plan cross-referenced to plan implementation programs, thereby showing potential sources of revenue for implementation.

Several non-governmental funding sources may also provide technical assistance and fiscal resources to implement the targeted implementation schedule. This plan should be provided to all non-governmental organizations as a means of exploring opportunities to fund specific aspects of the targeted implementation schedule.

Private sector companies, including those specifically engaged in agribusiness, are often overlooked as a potential source of funding for implementation. Some agribusiness companies are providing technical or financial implementation support because they are interested in agricultural sustainability. This plan could be used to

explore whether the resource benefits arising from implementation have monetary value and therefore, provide access to funding from the private sector.

Table 7-2: Implementation programs and related funding sources for the Red Lake River Watershed. Note: List is not all-inclusive.

Program / Grant		Primary Assistance Type	Projects & Practices	Capital Improvement Projects	Data Collection & Monitoring	Outreach
Federal Programs / Grants						
NRCS	Conservation Innovation Grant (CIG)	Financial	●			
	Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)	Financial	●			
	Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)	Financial	●			
	Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)	Easement	●			
FSA	Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)	Easement	●	●		
	Farmable Wetlands Program (FWP)	Easement	●			
	Grasslands Reserve Program (GRP)	Easement	●			
	Wetland Reserve Program (WRP)	Easement	●	●		
FSA/ USDA/ NRWA	Source Water Protection Program (SWPP)	Technical				●
USFWS	Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program	Financial/Technical	●			
FEMA	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	Financial	●	●		
	Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM)	Financial	●	●		
	Flood Mitigation Assistance (FMA)	Financial	●	●		
	Risk Mapping, Assessment, and Planning	Technical	●	●		
EPA	Water Pollution Control Program Grants (Section 106)	Financial				●
	State Revolving Fund (SRF)	Loan	●			
	Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF)	Loan	●			
	Section 319 Grant Program	Financial	●		●	●
State Programs / Grants						
LSOHF	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF)	Financial	●	●	●	●
DNR	Aquatic Invasive Species Control Grant Program	Financial/Technical	●			●
	Conservation Partners Legacy Grant Program	Financial	●	●		

Program / Grant		Primary Assistance Type	Projects & Practices	Capital Improvement Projects	Data Collection & Monitoring	Outreach
	Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant Assistance	Financial	●	●	●	●
	Forest Stewardship Program	Technical	●			
	Wetland Tax Exemption Program	Financial	●			
BWSR	Clean Water Fund Grants	Financial	●	●		●
	Conservation Contracts Program	Financial	●			
	SWCD Conservation Delivery	Financial	●		●	●
	Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG)	Financial	●			●
	Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM)	Financial	●	●		●
MPCA	Surface Water Assessment Grants (SWAG)	Financial			●	●
	Clean Water Partnership	Loan	●			
MDH	Source Water Protection Grant Program	Financial	●	●	●	●
	Public and Private Well Sealing Grant Program	Financial	●		●	
MDA	Agriculture BMP Loan Program	Financial	●			
	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	Financial	●			●
PFA	Public Facilities Authority (PFA) Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program	Financial	●	●		
Other Funding Sources						
Red River Watershed Management Board		Financial/Technical	●	●	●	●
Pheasants Forever		Financial/Technical	●	●	●	●
Ducks Unlimited		Financial/Technical	●	●	●	●
The Nature Conservancy		Financial	●	●	●	●
Minnesota Land Trust		Financial	●	●	●	●

Work Planning

Local Work Plan

Annual work planning is envisioned to align the priority issues, availability of funds, and roles and responsibilities for implementation. An annual work plan, or BWSR Grant workplan, will be developed by the Planning Work Group based on the targeted implementation schedule and any adjustments made through self-assessments. The work plan will then be presented to the Policy Committee, who will ultimately be responsible for approval. The intent of these work plans will be to maintain collaborative progress toward completing the targeted implementation schedule.

State Funding Request

The Planning Work Group will collaboratively develop, review, and submit a watershed-based implementation funding request from this plan to BWSR. This request will be submitted to and ultimately approved by the Policy Committee before submitting to BWSR. The request will be developed based on the targeted implementation schedule and any adjustments made through self-assessments.

Assessment, Evaluation, and Reporting

Accomplishment Assessment

The Planning Work Group will provide the Policy Committee with an annual update on the progress of the plan's implementation, with input from the Advisory Committee. For example, any new projects will be tracked against their goal metrics such as tons of sediment reduced, linear feet of streambank stabilized, and number of bacteria reduction projects. A tracking system will be used to measure progress and will serve as a platform for plan constituents. Tracking these metrics will also make them available for supporting future work plan development, progress evaluation, and reporting.

Partnership Assessment

Biennially, the Planning Work Group will review the Red Lake River CWMP goals and progress toward implementation, including fulfillment of committee purposes and roles, efficiencies in service delivery, collaboration with other units of government, and success in securing funding. During this review process, feedback will be solicited from the Advisory Committee. This feedback will be presented to the Policy Committee to set the coming biennium's priorities for achieving the plan's goals and to decide on the direction for grant submittals. Also, this feedback will be documented and incorporated into the 5-year evaluation.

Midpoint Evaluation

This plan has a ten-year life cycle beginning in 2025. To meet statutory requirements, this plan will be updated and/or revised every 10 years. Over the course of the plan life cycle, progress towards reaching goals and completing actions may vary. In addition, new issues may emerge and/or new monitoring data, models, or research may become

available. As such, in 2030-31 and at every midpoint of a plan life cycle, an evaluation will be undertaken to determine if the current course of action is sufficient to reach the goals of the plan or if a change in course of actions is necessary.

Reporting

LGUs have several annual reporting requirements. A number of these reporting requirements will remain a responsibility of the LGUs**.** However, reporting related to grants and programs developed collaboratively and administered under this plan will be reported by the Plan Coordinator, with the assistance of the Planning Work Group. In addition to annual reports, the Planning Work Group, with input from the Advisory Committee, may also develop a State of the Watershed Report. This report would document progress toward reaching goals and completing the targeted implementation schedule and will describe any new emerging issues or priorities. The information needed to annually update the State of the Watershed Report will be developed through the annual evaluation process.

The fiscal agent is responsible for submitting all required reports and completing annual reporting requirements for this plan as required by state law and policy. The Planning Work Group will assist in developing the required reports as defined in the MOA.

Plan Amendments

The Red Lake River CWMP is effective through 2035. Revision of the plan may be needed through an amendment prior to the plan expiration if significant changes emerge in the priorities, goals, policies, administrative procedures, or plan implementation programs. Revisions may also be needed if issues emerge that are not addressed in the plan.

Plan amendments may be proposed by any agency, person, city, county, SWCD, WD, or Tribal Nation, but only the Policy Committee can initiate the amendment process. All recommended plan amendments must be submitted to the Policy Committee along with a statement of the problem and need, the rationale for the amendment, and an estimate of the cost to complete the amendment. However, the existing authorities of each LGU within the Red Lake River Watershed is still maintained. As such, CIPs need only be approved by a local board to be amended to the plan if the local board funds the CIP's implementation, with notification to the Policy Committee. CIPs implemented with funding from the plan must follow the means and methods for funding new capital improvements as developed by members of the Policy Committee or the individual and representative Boards. Further, the creation of new WMDs only need to be approved by the WD to be amended into the plan if the WD utilizes the procedure outlined under Minn. Stat. §103D.729.

Formal Agreements

The Red Lake River CWMP will be implemented by the Red Lake River Planning Group, which is a coalition of the following partners:

- Pennington County and SWCD
- Polk County and East and West Polk SWCDs
- Red Lake County and SWCD
- Red Lake Watershed District

The Planning Group entities, with the exception of East Polk SWCD, previously entered into a formal agreement through a MOA in 2014 for planning the initial Red Lake River CWMP. The same entities entered into an amended MOA in 2017 to implement the plan and have been operating under that agreement since. East Polk SWCD became a member of the Planning Group in 2024 and participated in the plan amendment process. The Planning Group will review the implementation MOA after BWSR approval of the plan amendment and revise if necessary. The Policy Committee of the Planning Group oversees plan implementation with the advice and consent of the individual county, SWCD, and WD boards under the umbrella of the implementation MOA.