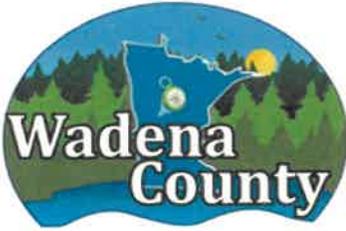


Wadena County, MN Board Action Form



Action Requested	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Action/Motion <input type="checkbox"/> Discussion <input type="checkbox"/> Information Item <input type="checkbox"/> Consent Agenda Item	<input type="checkbox"/> Report <input type="checkbox"/> Resolution <input type="checkbox"/> Other

Date of Meeting: 01-13-2026	Total time requested: 10 min
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Department Requesting Action: Planning & Zoning/SWCD
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Presenting Board Action/Discussion at Meeting: Deana Malone

Background <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Documentation enclosed
--

Proposed Amended Agreement

This is an agreement for the biennial funding made available to Wadena County to assist with supporting the County's administration of the SSTS program, Shoreland Ordinance, Local Water Management & the Wetland Conservation Act, as well as the SSTS Fix-it Grant funding program for the County. This is a standard agreement which requires Board approval and which the Director for the SWCD will sign, if approved.

Options <input type="checkbox"/> Supporting Documentation enclosed

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Recommendation <input type="checkbox"/> The Wadena County Board of Commissioners approves the following by Motion:

Approve the Grant Agreement with the Board of Soil and Water Resources and the Department of Natural Resources

Financial Implications: None	Comments
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Funding Source:

Budgeted: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
--

Action	Voting in Favor	Voting Against
Motion:	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon	<input type="checkbox"/> Noon
Second:	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels	<input type="checkbox"/> Winkels
<input type="checkbox"/> Passed	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns	<input type="checkbox"/> Stearns
<input type="checkbox"/> Failed	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau	<input type="checkbox"/> Kreklau
<input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas	<input type="checkbox"/> Kangas

Signatures

STATE OF MINNESOTA}
 COUNTY OF Wadena}
 I, Heather Olson, County Auditor/Treasurer, Wadena County, Minnesota hereby certify that I have compared the foregoing copy of the proceedings of the County Board of said County with the original record thereof on file in the Administration Office of Wadena County in Wadena, Minnesota as stated in the minutes of the proceedings of said board and that the same is a true and correct copy of said original record and of the whole thereof, and that said motion was duly passed by said board at said meeting. Witness my hand and seal:



**FY 2026 and 2027 STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER and SOIL RESOURCES
NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
GRANT AGREEMENT**

Vendor:	0000197364
PO#:	3000019622

This Grant Agreement is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) and Wadena County, 415 S Jefferson St, Wadena MN 56482 (Grantee).

Grant ID	Grant Title	Awarded Amt
P26-0470	2026 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$15,390.00
P26-0557	2026 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$19,909.00
P26-0642	2026 - Shoreland-NRBG (Wadena County)	\$3,084.00
P26-0728	2026 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$21,200.00
P26-0783	2026 - Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$27,633.00
P27-0080	2027 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$15,390.00
P27-0167	2027 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Wadena County)	\$19,909.00
P27-0252	2027 - Shoreland-NRBG (Wadena County)	\$3,084.00

Total Grant Awarded: \$125,599.00

Recitals

1. This Grant Agreement is for the FY 2026 and 2027 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shoreland, Local Water Management (LWM), Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), and FY 2026 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program Grants.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2025, First Special Session, Chapter 1, Article 1, Section 4(h) appropriated funds to the Board for the FY 2026 and 2027 DNR Shoreland, LWM, and WCA grants.
3. The Board adopted Board Order #25-39 to authorize and allocate funds for the FY 2026 and 2027 DNR Shoreland, LWM, WCA, and MPCA SSTS grants.
4. The MPCA transferred to BWSR funds for their Fiscal Year 2026 SSTS Grant Programs to be allocated with this Grant Agreement.
5. The Grantee has met the criteria established by statute, the Board, the DNR, and the MPCA, and is eligible to receive NRBG grant funds.
6. The Grantee represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to perform all services described in this Grant Agreement to the satisfaction of the Board.
7. As a condition of the grant, Grantee agrees to minimize administration costs.

Authorized Representative

The State's Authorized Representative is Adam Beilke, Land and Water Programs Supervisor, BWSR, 2118 Campus Drive SE, Suite 100, Rochester, MN 55904, (507) 766-9820, or his successor, and has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee's performance and the authority to accept the services and performance provided under this Grant Agreement.

The Grantee's Authorized Representative is:

TITLE SWCD Director
ADDRESS 411 Alfred St NE
CITY Wadena MN 56482
TELEPHONE NUMBER (218) 632-4201

If the Grantee's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this Grant Agreement, the Grantee must immediately notify the Board.

Grant Agreement

1. Terms of the Grant Agreement.

- 1.1. **Effective date:** The date the Board obtains all required signatures under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 5. **The Board will notify the Grantee when this Grant Agreement has been executed. The Grantee must not begin work under this Grant Agreement until it is executed.**
- 1.2. **Expiration date:** December 31, 2028 or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever comes first.
- 1.3. **Survival of Terms:** The following clauses survive the expiration date or cancellation of this Grant Agreement: 9. Liability; 10. State Audits; 11. Government Data Practices; 14. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; 16. Data Disclosure; and 19. Intellectual Property Rights.

2. Grantee's Duties.

The Grantee will comply with required grants management policies and procedures set forth through Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, Subd. 4(a)(1). The Grantee is responsible for the specific duties for the Program as follows:

- 2.1. **Implementation:** The Grantee will implement their duties according to the Program Requirements outlined in Exhibit A, which is attached and incorporated into this Grant Agreement.
- 2.2. **Reporting:** All data and information provided in a Grantee's report shall be considered public.
 - 2.2.1. The Grantee will submit an annual progress report to the Board by February 1 of each year on the status of Program implementation by the Grantee. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board.
 - 2.2.2. All individual grants over \$500,000 require a reporting expenditure by July 15 of each year.
 - 2.2.3. Final Progress Report: The Grantee will submit a final progress report to the Board by February 1, 2029, or within 30 days of fully expending funds, whichever occurs sooner. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board.
 - 2.2.4. The Grantee will prominently display on its website the Clean Water Legacy Logo and a link to the Legislative Coordinating Commission website.
- 2.3. **Compliance:** The Grantee will comply with Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.3361 through 103B.3369 (LWP), Minnesota Rules Chapter 8420 (WCA); Minnesota Statutes Section 103F.201 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6120 (Shoreland) and have a DNR approved shoreland ordinance; Minnesota Rules Chapter 7082.0040 through 7082.0700 (SSTS); and amendments thereto, for Local Water Management, Wetland Conservation Act, Shoreland Management, and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems.
- 2.4. **Wetland Conservation Act Funds Transfer:** As required by the Board, the Grantees' participation in the NRBG is conditioned upon a transfer of funds to the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for Wetland Conservation Act activities, or such greater amount as agreed upon by the county and SWCD. This transfer must occur within 120 days of receipt of NRBG funds by the Grantee. This amount is listed on the BWSR website.
- 2.5. **Website:** The Grantee must clearly post on the Grantee's website the names of, and contact information for, the Grantee's leadership and the employee or other person who directly manages and oversees this Grant Contract Agreement on behalf of the Grantee.

3. Time.

The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this Grant Agreement. In the performance of this Grant Agreement, time is of the essence.

4. Terms of Payment.

- 4.1. All FY 2026 Grant funds will be distributed in one installment promptly after the execution of the Grant Agreement. FY 2027 grant funds will be distributed as soon as is practicable after the start of fiscal year 2027. FY 2027 grant funds may not be spent before they are received.
- 4.2. All costs must be incurred within the grant period. All incurred costs should be calculated or determined before the final report is completed or returning funds.
- 4.3. Unspent grant funds must be returned within 30 days of the expiration date of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.4. Once final reporting has been completed funds may not be re-requested as funds may not be available.
- 4.5. The obligation of the State under this Grant Agreement will not exceed the amount listed above.
- 4.6. This grant is an advance payment. Advance payments allow the Grantee to have adequate operating capital for start-up costs, ensure their financial commitment to landowners and contractors, and to better schedule work into the future.

5. Conditions of Payment.

All services provided by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement must be performed to the Board's satisfaction, as set forth in this Grant Agreement. Compliance will be determined at the sole discretion of the Board's Authorized Representative and in accordance with all applicable federal, State, Board, and local laws, policies, procedures, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment, may be required to repay grant funds, or may have future payments withheld if work is found by the Board to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, State, or local law. Costs charged to the grant must be direct and necessary to produce the outcomes funded by the grant. Charges to the grant must be itemized and documented. Grantee administrative costs must be necessary and reasonable. Grantee is required to account for staff time charged to BWSR grants in order to track the expenditure of grant funds and match to ensure the use of the funds is consistent with applicable State and BWSR requirements.

6. Contracting and Bidding Requirements.

6.1. **Municipalities**, as defined in [Subd. 1](#) of Minnesota Statutes § 471.345, are required to comply with [Minnesota Statutes § 471.345, Uniform Municipal Contracting Law](#) and the following sub-clauses:

- 6.1.1. The Grantee and any subrecipients must comply with prevailing wage rules per [Minnesota Statutes §§ 177.41 through 177.50](#), as applicable.
- 6.1.2. The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government: [Suspended and Debarred Vendors, Minnesota Office of State Procurement](#).
- 6.1.3. The Grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.

6.2. **Non-governmental organizations**, those that do not meet the definition of municipality in 6.1, are required to comply with the contracting and bidding requirements in the following sub-clauses:

- 6.2.1. Any services and/or materials that are expected to cost \$100,000 or more must undergo a formal notice and bidding process.
- 6.2.2. Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between \$25,000 and \$99,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of three (3) verbal quotes or bids or awarded to a targeted vendor.
- 6.2.3. Services and/or materials that are expected to cost between \$10,000 and \$24,999 must be competitively awarded based on a minimum of two (2) verbal quotes or bids or awarded to a targeted vendor.
- 6.2.4. The Grantee must take all necessary affirmative steps to assure that targeted vendors from businesses with active certifications through these entities are used when possible:
 - 6.2.4.1. [State Department of Administration's Certified Targeted Group, Economically Disadvantaged and Veteran-Owned Vendor List](#)
 - 6.2.4.2. [Metropolitan Council Underutilized Business Program](#)
 - 6.2.4.3. Small Business Certification Program through Hennepin County, Ramsey County, and City of St. Paul: [Central Certification Directory](#)
- 6.2.5. The Grantee must maintain written standards of conduct covering conflicts of interest and governing the actions of its employees engaged in the selection, award and administration of contracts.
- 6.2.6. The Grantee must maintain support documentation of the purchasing or bidding process used to contract services in their financial records, including support documentation justifying a single source bid, if applicable.
- 6.2.7. Notwithstanding 6.2.1. – 6.2.4. above, the State may waive bidding process requirements when:
 - 6.2.7.1. Vendors included in response to competitive grant request for proposal process were approved and incorporated as an approved work plan for the grant; or
 - 6.2.7.2. It is determined there is only one reasonably able and available source for such materials or services and that grantee has established a fair and reasonable price.
- 6.2.8. The Grantee and any subrecipients must comply with prevailing wage rules per [Minnesota Statutes §§ 177.41 through 177.50](#), as applicable.
- 6.2.9. The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government: [Suspended and Debarred Vendors, Minnesota Office of State Procurement](#).

7. Assignment, Amendments, Work Plan Revisions, Waiver, and Contract Complete.

7.1. **Assignment.** The Grantee may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Grant Agreement without the prior consent of the Board and a fully executed Assignment Agreement, executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved this Grant Agreement, or their successors in office.

7.2. **Amendments and Work Plan Revisions.** Any amendments to this Grant Agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until approved and executed by the same parties who approved and executed the original Grant Agreement, or their successors in office. Amendments must be executed prior to the expiration of the original Grant Agreement or any

amendments thereto. All work plan revisions must be documented. The Board reserves the right to require a work plan revision or grant agreement amendment for changes in the scope of the grant.

- 7.3. **Waiver.** If the Board fails to enforce any provision of this Grant Agreement, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to enforce it.
- 7.4. **Contract Complete.** This Grant Contract Agreement contains all negotiations and agreements between the Board and the Grantee. No other understanding regarding this Grant Contract Agreement, whether written or oral, may be used to bind either party.

8. Subcontracting and Subcontract Payment.

- 8.1. A subrecipient is a person or entity that has been awarded a portion of the work authorized by this Grant Contract Agreement by Grantee. The Grantee must document any subaward through a formal legal agreement. The Grantee must provide timely notice to the State of any subrecipient(s) prior to the subrecipient(s) performing work under this Grant Contract Agreement.
- 8.2. Activities identified in the sub-agreement must fit within the scope of the agreement between the Board and the recipient and include shared responsibilities for liability, fund distribution, implementation, and reporting.
- 8.3. The Grantee must monitor the activities of the subrecipient(s) to ensure the subaward is used for authorized purposes; is in compliance with the terms and conditions of the subaward, [Minnesota Statutes § 16B.97, Subd.4 \(a\) \(1\)](#) and other relevant statutes and regulations; and that subaward performance goals are achieved.
- 8.4. During this Grant Contract Agreement, if a subrecipient is determined to be performing unsatisfactorily by the State's Authorized Representative, the Grantee will receive written notification that the subrecipient can no longer be used for this Grant Contract Agreement.
- 8.5. No sub-agreement shall serve to terminate or in any way affect the primary legal responsibility of the Grantee for timely and satisfactory performances of the obligations contemplated by the Grant Contract Agreement.
- 8.6. The Grantee must pay any subrecipient in accordance with [Minnesota Statutes § 16A.1245](#).
- 8.7. The Grantee and any subrecipients must not contract with vendors who are suspended or debarred by the State of Minnesota or the federal government.

9. Liability.

The Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from the performance of this Grant Agreement by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this Grant Agreement.

10. State Audits.

Under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 8, the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee or other party relevant to this Grant Agreement or transaction are subject to examination by the Board and/or the State Auditor, the Attorney General, or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this Grant Agreement, receipt and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all State and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

- 10.1. The books, records, documents, accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee and its designated local units of government and contractors relevant to this grant, may be examined at any time by the Board or Board's designee and are subject to verification. The Grantee or delegated local unit of government will maintain records relating to the receipt and expenditure of grant funds.

11. Government Data Practices.

The Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as it applies to all data provided by the State under this Grant Agreement, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Grantee or the State.

12. Workers' Compensation.

The Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 176.181, Subd. 2, pertaining to workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Grantee's employees and agents will not be considered State employees. Any claims that may arise under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act on behalf of these employees and any claims made by any third party as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of these employees are in no way the State's obligation or responsibility.

13. Publicity and Endorsement.

13.1. Publicity. Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this Grant Agreement must identify the Board as the sponsoring agency. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the Program, publications, or services provided resulting from this Grant Agreement.

13.2. Endorsement. The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

14. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue.

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs this Grant Agreement. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this Grant Agreement, or its breach, must be in the appropriate State or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

15. Termination.

15.1. The Board may cancel this Grant Agreement at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

15.2. The Board may immediately terminate this Grant Agreement if the Board finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this Grant Agreement, that reasonable progress has not been made or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The Board may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already disbursed.

15.3. The Commissioner of Administration may immediately and unilaterally terminate this Grant Contract Agreement if further performance under the agreement would not serve agency purposes or performance under the Grant Contract Agreement is not in the best interest of the State.

15.4. The Board may immediately terminate this Grant Contract Agreement if it does not obtain funding from the Minnesota Legislature, or other funding source; or if funding cannot be continued at a level sufficient to allow for the payment of the services addressed within this Grant Contract Agreement. Termination must be by written notice to the Grantee. The Board is not obligated to pay for any services that are provided after notice and effective date of termination. However, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed to the extent that dedicated funds are available.

In the event of temporary lack of funding or appropriation, the Board may pause its obligations under this Grant Contract Agreement without terminating it. This pause will be for the duration of the lack of funding or appropriation and shall not be considered a termination of the Grant Contract Agreement. The Grantee will be notified in writing of the temporary pause, and the Grantee's ability to provide services may be temporarily suspended during this period. The Board will provide reasonable notice to the Grantee of the lack of funding or appropriation and shall notify the Grantee once funding is restored or appropriated, at which point the provision of services under the Grant Contract Agreement may resume. The Board will not be assessed any penalty if the Grant Contract Agreement is terminated due to insufficient funding. The Board must provide the Grantee notice of the lack of funding within a reasonable time of the Board's receiving notice.

16. Data Disclosure.

Under Minn. Stat. § 270C.65, Subd. 3, and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and State tax agencies and State personnel involved in the payment of State obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and State tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file State tax returns and pay delinquent State tax liabilities, if any.

17. Constitutional and Statutory Compliance.

It is the responsibility of the Grantee to comply with requirements of the Minnesota Constitution and state statute regarding the use of Clean Water Funds to supplement traditional sources of funding. Grantee must meet Clean Water Fund expenditure and accountability requirements as defined in [Subd.4 of Minnesota Statute § 114D.50](#).

18. Signage.

It is the responsibility of the Grantee to comply with requirements for project signage as provided in Minnesota Laws 2010, Chapter 361, Article 3, Section 5(b) for Clean Water Fund projects.

19. Intellectual Property Rights.

The State owns all rights, title, and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks in the Works and Documents *created and paid for under this grant*. Works means all inventions, improvements, discoveries, (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by the Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this grant. Work includes "Documents." Documents are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks, or other materials, whether in tangible or electronic forms, prepared by the Grantee, its employees, agents or subcontractors, in the performance of this grant. The Documents will be the exclusive property of the State and all such Documents must be immediately returned to the State by the Grantee upon completion or cancellation of this grant at the State's request. To the extent possible, those Works eligible for copyright protection under the United State Copyright Act will be deemed to be "works made for hire." The Grantee assigns all right, title, and interest it may have in the Works and the Documents to the State. The Grantee must, at the request of the State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to transfer or record the State's ownership interest in the Works and Documents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Grant Agreement to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

Approved:

Wadena County

Board of Water and Soil Resources

By: _____

By: _____

(signature)

(signature)

Title: _____

Title: _____

Date: _____

Date: _____

**Grant Program Requirements:
FY26-27 Natural Resources Block Grants**

1. Match

No match is required.

2. Grant Work Plan

A work plan is not required.

3. Eligible Activities

Grant funds are to be used for the local administration and implementation of the Local Water Management, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems, Shoreland, and Wetland Conservation Act programs. Eligible activities include:

- Administration, coordination, and implementation of local programs
- Education, outreach, and other project support activities
- Supplies and equipment necessary for program implementation
- Financial assistance provided for practice implementation
- Technical assistance for practice or program implementation

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems Upgrade grants

Grant funds are to be used for upgrading eligible subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) and must meet the following criteria for specific projects:

- Fix SSTS that have been deemed Failing to Protect Groundwater or an Imminent Threat to Public Health or Safety (must have been issued a Notice of Noncompliance)
- Funding can only be used for homesteaded single-family homes or duplexes
- Homeowner must be low-income

Grantees may use a portion of the grant funds for work directly related to, and necessary for, administering the grants as approved in the grant award. This amount must not exceed the lesser of \$4,000 or 10% of the distribution received.

4. Flexible Program Spending

Grantees have the flexibility to determine the amount of grant to allocate for program administration of the Local Water Management, Wetland Conservation Act, and Shoreland programs. Grantees can use their base allocation(s) from any or all three of these programs as necessary. Each of the programs must still be implemented in accordance with statute, rule or policy. The flexible spending option does not apply to the SSTS grant programs.

5. Native Vegetation

Projects that involve vegetation restoration or establishment must use native vegetation and seed and plant sources consistent with BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, with the exceptions listed below. Use of plant species on the Minnesota [Noxious Weed List](#) is prohibited for all projects. Non-native species used for projects must not pose a risk to native plant communities. The maximum distance for sources of herbaceous species seed and plants is 200 miles; and for tree and shrubs seed and plants the distance is 300 miles.

Exceptions

- Non-native, non-invasive perennial crops, hay crops or forage crops may be used:
 - As part of a drinking water protection strategy in a vulnerable or highly vulnerable DWSMA as designated by the Department of Health or in a Township Well Testing high-priority area as determined by the Department of Agriculture;
 - In buffers, borders, grass waterways or other areas likely to be exposed to pesticides or part of agricultural production;
 - For soil stabilization, erosion prevention and carbon sequestration in an agricultural production setting;
 - On fields that will be hayed, grazed or harvested.
- For the exceptions above, if the project area is under 20 acres in size, the exception may be approved by local conservation staff. If the project area is 20 acres or larger, or for any exceptions not listed here, grantees must request approval from the BWSR Grant Manager.
- Cover crops used to improve soil health and/or water quality are allowed without a maximum acreage limit.
- Temporary cover is allowed without a maximum acreage limit when needed to stabilize project sites prior to the construction of structural conservation practices.
- Cultivars of native species may be used in urban stormwater plantings if they accomplish similar or greater ecological functions, help achieve aesthetic goals and do not pose an invasive or other environmental risk.

6. Allowable and Unallowable Costs

Allowable costs are costs solely incurred through project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the work plan. Grantee is required to account for the staff time charged to BWSR grants in order to track the expenditure of grant funds and match to ensure the use of the funds is consistent with applicable State and BWSR requirements.

Unallowable costs include but are not limited to:

- Bad debts, monetary settlements and judgements, late payment fees, and investment management fees
- Donations, fundraising, sponsorships, and acknowledgements
- Entertainment, gifts, prizes, and decorations
- Alcohol
- Interest on loans not authorized under state statute
- Loans of BWSR grant funds
- Lobbying, lobbyists, and political contributions
- Merit awards and bonuses

7. Technical Quality Assurance

Practices and projects must meet the following requirements to ensure long-term public benefit:

- **Technical Assistance Provider.** The recipient must designate technical assistance provider(s) that have appropriate credentials for investigation, design, and construction.
- **Practice Standards.** Practices and projects must use appropriate standards for design, construction, effective life, operation, and maintenance.
- **Practice Certification.** Technical assistance provider(s) must certify that the practice or project was installed or constructed in accordance with the applicable plans and specifications, including approved modifications, prior to authorization for payment.

- **Operation and Maintenance.** Technical Assistance Provider(s) must prepare an operation and maintenance (O&M) plan specific to the site and practice(s) implemented.
- **Periodic Practice/Project Inspection.** Inspections shall confirm that the operation and maintenance plan is being followed and the project has not been altered or removed.

8. Project and Practice Assurances

A written agreement is required to ensure program requirements are met when installing projects and practices or providing financial assistance to a land occupier. Project and Practice Assurances must include technical and financial obligations and requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice or project, including a plan for failures or noncompliance.

9. Providing Financial Assistance to Land Occupiers

All BWSR funds used by a recipient to provide financial assistance to a landowner or land occupier requires adequate project assurances.

Project Application and Agreements

Work completed prior to the signing of the agreement is not eligible.

Conservation Practice Contract Noncompliance

Failure to complete, maintain, or repair a conservation practice or unauthorized alteration is considered non-compliance with an executed conservation practice agreement. If the organization discovers noncompliance, they must take action to resolve and notify BWSR.

10. Grant Management and Reporting

Eligible activities include grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant. Grantee is required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments.