

THE RIM RUNDOWN

January 2025

PRIVATE LANDS PARTNERSHIP MEETING

BWSR, Pheasants Forever, and USFWS are partnering to host the 2025 Private Lands Partnership Meeting on Friday, January 17 at the Willmar Convention Center in Willmar, MN. The meeting will run 9:00 AM to 2:45 PM. Registration is \$30 to Pheasants Forever. The meeting will focus on technical topics including grassland management and enhancement, with time for networking as well. Participants can register [here](#).

Contact Kevin Roth (kevin.roth@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

PROGRAM FUNDING AVAILABILITY

CREP

CREP signups will depend on the timing of FSA CRP signups. Stay tuned...

Contact Dusty VanThuyne (dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us), Easements Programs Coordinator, with questions.

RIM Wetlands

After reviewing applications from the November 2024 batching period, a small amount of funds remain. These funds may need to be reserved to cover costs associated with application acreage changes, so if another batching period occurs it will be relatively small. This batching period would occur in February 2025. We anticipate additional funds will be appropriated in July 2025.

Contact John Voz (john.voz@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

RIM 1W1P

RIM 1W1P is out of funding until July 01, 2025, when we anticipate \$2.6 million to be appropriated. The next opportunity to submit applications will be June 2025. There is a strong chance funding will be used up within that batching period. Please advise landowners appropriately.

Contact Kevin Roth (kevin.roth@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration

Approximately \$5.4 million is available for the January 2025 batching period. We anticipate additional funds to be appropriated in July 2025.

Contact Dusty VanThuyne (dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.



UPDATED FORMS – PIRF, PIRR, CONSERVATION PLAN WORKBOOK

PIRF – Practice Implementation Request for Funding

This form replaces the *Practice Implementation/Amendment Request Form*. This form should be used to **request additional funding** for conservation practice implementation. Common scenarios requiring a PIRF would be for enhancement funding, anticipated costs above the maximum conservation plan funding for the practice, and/or practice re-installation. Landowner signatures are no longer required on the PIRF, but they are required on amended Conservation Plans when applicable. PIRF guidance can be found [here](#).

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

PIRR – Practice Implementation Reimbursement Request

This form replaces the *Cost-Share Voucher*. This form should be used to **request reimbursement** for landowner conservation practice implementation costs. PIRR guidance can be found [here](#).

Contact Alan Ritchie (alan.ritchie@state.mn.us), Assistant Program Analyst, with questions.

Conservation Plan Workbook

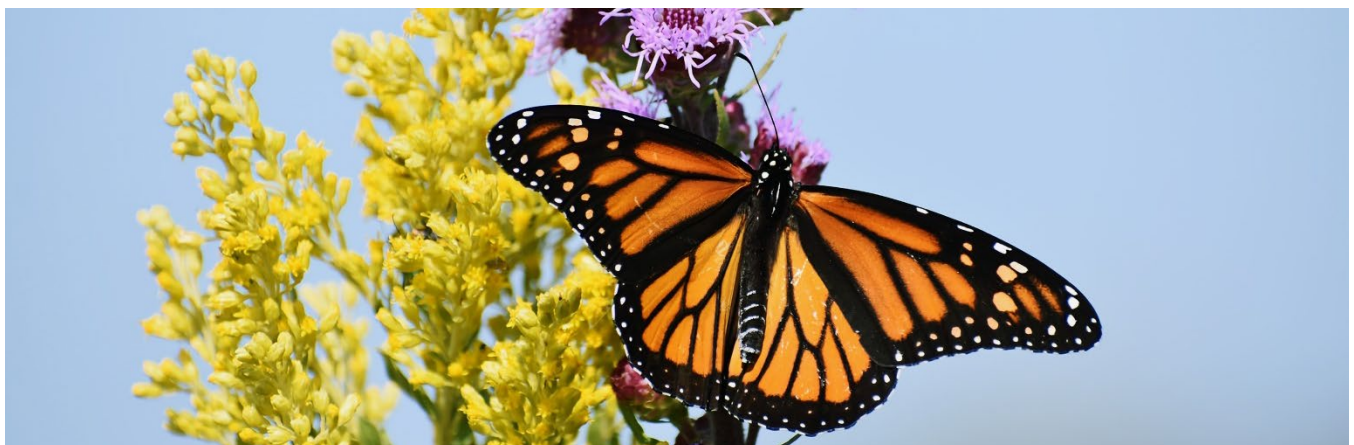
The Conservation Plan Workbook has been updated to improve general functionality, correct updated cost-share rates, add a place identifying whether the plan is an amendment to an existing plan, add a text box to describe amendment requests, and to add a signature block for BWSR Technical Approval.

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, or Karli Swenson (karli.swenson@state.mn.us), Conservation Easement Specialist, with questions.

RIM Handbook

The current version of the RIM Handbook has been modified to replace the outdated content and links resulting from the above listed changes. The RIM Handbook update is a continued work in progress and there will be additional changes coming over the next year.

A recording of the November 26, 2024 meeting discussing these updates can be found [here](#).





FOOD PLOT REQUIREMENTS

As noted in the October 2024 RIM Rundown, starting in 2025 BWSR will require landowners who maintain food plots (RR-FP) on their RIM easements to provide proof that the seed planted in food plots is insecticide-free. This includes neonicotinoid seed coatings and foliar applications. Landowners can submit their seed tags to the SWCD after the food plot has been planted. SWCDs will keep record of this within the in-house easement folder. This will be required to be completed annually.

In the coming months, SWCDs will receive an email from BWSR with a county-wide list of all RIM easements that have RR-FP listed in their Conservation Plan. SWCDs can then reach out to the appropriate landowners to notify them of this requirement. A template letter will also be provided for SWCDs to use, if desired.

Please note: if changes have been made to a Conservation Plan without BWSR approval, there may be easements that have food plots but are not in our database. SWCDs should inventory in-house Conservation Plans to identify existing Food Plots that are not found in the provided county-wide list. These updated and signed Conservation Plan Workbooks and Conservation Plan Maps should be sent to BWSR for approval.

This requirement is a result of a request from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, which funds RIM programs such as CREP, RIM Wetlands, RIM Grasslands, RIM Riparian and Floodplain Restoration, and RIM 1W1P through the Outdoor Heritage Fund.

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.

RIM PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

Easement Enhancement Program

In 2023, BWSR received \$4 million from the General Fund for enhancing existing RIM easements. Enhancements are for the purpose of climate resiliency, adaptation, and carbon sequestration and include but are not limited to increasing biodiversity and mitigating the effects of rainfall and runoff events. These funds will be divided between Wetland and Vegetation Enhancements. This funding is linked to Minnesota's Climate Action Framework. Funding is available until spent or June 30, 2029.

Vegetation Enhancement funds will prioritize projects where the landowner is willing to purchase a custom seed mix, did not receive any portion of the original easement payment, and are willing to provide an elected cost match. All RIM easements are eligible. SWCDs with interested landowners can find guidance and application materials [here](#).

Wetland Enhancement funds are for existing wetland restorations. Enhancements include, but are not limited to, creating more water storage, increasing water quality, and utilizing climate resilient structures. Ideal enhancements include sites that previously had partial restorations but now can increase wetland area, modifications that decrease long-term maintenance costs, and sites that can be modified to reduce downstream flooding. Staff with potential sites can submit the [Survey 123](#) form.

Contact Sara Reagan (sara.reagan@state.mn.us), Easement Programs Coordinator, with questions.



BWSR EASEMENT STAFF CONTACTS

If you have a general question and aren't sure who to ask, please send it to the general RIM inbox (bwsr.rim@state.mn.us).

Topic	Current BWSR Contact(s)	
General Easement Processing	Lucy Dahl	651-358-8676 lucy.dahl@state.mn.us
Easement Application Submittal and Landowner Eligibility (Non-CREP Programs)	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
	Peter Jordet	651-539-2580 peter.jordet@state.mn.us
General Payment Questions	Kristina Geiger	651-539-2531 kristina.geiger@state.mn.us
Electronic Payments	Sumbal Rana	651-539-2592 sumbal.rana@state.mn.us
General CREP Questions	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us
CREP Module Questions	Pat Sherman	651-539-2570 pat.sherman@state.mn.us
Site Inspections/Boundary Issues	Peter Jordet	651-539-2580 peter.jordet@state.mn.us
Easement Compliance/Violations	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Easement Alteration Questions	Karli Swenson	651-440-2456 karli.swenson@state.mn.us
Conservation Plan Amendments & Practice Implementation Request for Funding (PIRF)	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	Continue to send PIRFs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us	
Practice Implementation Reimbursement Request (PIRR)	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
	Continue to send PIRRs to bwsr.rim@state.mn.us	
Work Orders	Alan Ritchie	651-539-2562 alan.ritchie@state.mn.us
Wetland Bank Easements	Brittany Polzin	651-539-2564 brittany.polzin@state.mn.us
Questions on Specific Easement Programs	Contact appropriate BWSR Program Manager (see Program pages)	
	Bill Penning	651-262-6403 bill.penning@state.mn.us
	Sara Reagan	651-539-2533 sara.reagan@state.mn.us
	Kevin Roth	651-539-2521 kevin.roth@state.mn.us
	John Voz	218-850-4283 john.voz@state.mn.us
	Dusty VanThuyne	651-539-2573 dusty.vanthuyne@state.mn.us

