



Grant Progress Report

Watershed Based Implementation 2026

Grant Title: Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26

Grant Award (\$): \$521,896.00

Grant Execution Date: 01/12/2026

Grant ID: C26-0117

Required Match (%): 10

Grant End Date: 12/31/2028

Grantee: Lake of the Woods SWCD

Required Match (\$): \$52,189.60

Fiscal Agent: Lake of the Woods SWCD

Grant Day-to-Day Contact: Corryn Trask

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$521,896.00	\$0.00	\$521,896.00
Match Funds	\$52,600.00	\$0.00	\$52,600.00
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$574,496.00	\$0.00	\$574,496.00

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

Project Abstract	The Rainy-Rapid Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan area is located in north-central Minnesota. It encompasses the eastern half of Lake of the Woods county with a small portion extending into Koochiching and Beltrami counties. The watershed is unique in that a large portion of the watershed (approximately 81%) is in public ownership. The plan reflects the resource diversity of the watershed itself, and includes restoration and protection of water quality, environmental degradation, water related infrastructure and education. Actions proposed in the work plan will address the diversity of resources, high level of non-private lands, and a dual approach of restoration and protection measures.
Proposed Measurable Outcomes	Make measurable progress toward water quality goals using eligible projects, practices, and programs as described in the Rainy-Rapid 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>
Nonstructural Management Practices	Non-Structural Management Practices	Local Fund		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	Y
Streambank and Shoreland Projects	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Local Fund		\$47,000.00		\$47,000.00	Y
Technical and Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Local Fund		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00	Y
Admin and Coordination	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	N
Nonstructural Management Practices	Non-Structural Management Practices	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	N
Forest Stewardship Management	Planning and Assessment	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00	N
Streambank and Shoreland Projects	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$380,896.00		\$380,896.00	N
ISTS upgrades	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$60,000.00		\$60,000.00	N
Technical and Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00	N
Forest Stewardship Management	Planning and Assessment	Landowner Fund		\$1,600.00		\$1,600.00	Y

Grant Activities

Activity Name: Admin and Coordination

Activity Category: Administration/Coordination

Staff time?: Yes

Description: Perform actions essential for the coordination and implementation of the One Watershed One Plan.

Lake of the Woods SWCD will serve as the plan coordinator and fiscal agent for the grant. Duties will include:

- *Coordinate and participate in project team meetings for the purpose of administering the plan.
- *Complete BWSR reporting requirements for the implementation of the funds.
- *Maintain communication and build relationships with agency partners to further implement and document accomplishment towards goals of the plan.
- *Track and measure progress towards goals and milestones.
- *Manage the accounting system to track funds and activity balances,
- *Review and process all requests for payment on a monthly basis
- *Provide quarterly financial reports to the Implementation Committee,
- *Oversee expenditures of grants according to BWSR policy and document match requirements.

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	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		N

Activity Name: Forest Stewardship Management

Activity Category: Planning and Assessment

Staff time?: No

Description: Implement a cost share program for forest management plans on private lands (Measurable Goal: Protect, Manage and Improve Habitat, pg 46). It is estimated that an additional 360 acres of new protection will be added, and 240 acres of protection will be maintained. The Plan goal is 1,255 acres protected and 7,040 acres managed.

Targeted areas will include privately owned forests >40 acres in size not currently enrolled in the Sustainable Forestry Incentives Act. The goal is to provide forest management plans that include actions to protect water quality or sensitive habitat areas, along with providing further guidance on how to enroll in the SFIA easement program. The SWCD has worked with the Area GIS specialist to develop a targeting strategy for projects based on RAQ scoring and priorities within the plan. A cost share rate and policy has been adopted. This cost share rate is based on the MN DNR's fee for plan writing.

This activity is located in page 48 of the Implementation Section of the Rainy-Rapid Watershed Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. An example of the targeting map and methodology is on page 47, Figure 4.7.

Budget Details

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Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$16,000.00		\$16,000.00		N
Landowner Fund		\$1,600.00		\$1,600.00		Y

Activity Name: ISTS upgrades

Activity Category: Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems

Staff time?: No

Description: Funding to cost share the upgrade of non-compliant individual sewage treatment systems. This activity will address the goal of Protecting Surface Water from Contaminants (pg 41) by reducing bacteria and nutrient runoff. These practices will accomplish measurable progress towards the goal of reducing pounds of phosphorus reaching Lake of the Woods. Lake of the Woods is impaired for excess nutrients (phosphorus).

This activity is identified on page 45 of the plan "Assist landowners in upgrading noncompliant SSTS." It is estimated that three systems will be installed through this initiative.

This program will be implemented watershed-wide within Lake of the Woods County. Approximately three individual sewage treatment systems will be installed utilizing this funding.

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Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$60,000.00		\$60,000.00		N

Activity Name: Nonstructural Management Practices

Activity Category: Non-Structural Management Practices

Staff time?: No

Description: Implement a non-structural ag cost share program to address the sediment reduction goal identified in the watershed plan. Practices include things such as cover crops, and reduced tillage or no tillage strategies. This activity will address the Measurable Goal "Protect Surface Water from Contaminants" located on page 41 of the plan.

Implementation of non-structural management practices is listed in the Implementation Section on page 44 of the plan. The 10-year goal is 1,853 acres or 227 lbs/year of phosphorus reduction. It is estimated that 200 acres per year will be addressed with this funding.

Agricultural fields which annually tilled will be targeted for cost share funding. The funding rates, eligibility criteria and implementation requirements will follow the current local cost share program policy and the USDA NRCS practice standards.

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Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00		N
Local Fund		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00		Y

Activity Name: Streambank and Shoreland Projects

Activity Category: Streambank or Shoreline Protection

Staff time?: No

Description: Complete streambank and shoreline stabilization practices in the watershed to prevent erosion and sedimentation, protect infrastructure and repair areas which have experienced damage due to high water events. This activity will address the goal of stabilizing streambanks, ditches and riparian lands on page 50 of the plan.

A specific action which will be addressed is to stabilize approximately a 1.5 mile section of drainage ditch which flows directly into Silver Creek, a tributary of the Rainy River. This project area is identified in the plan on figure 4.9 (page 52). This project will accomplish 1.5 miles of the overall 10-year goal of 10 miles. This project is shovel-ready and the engineering design was completed with prior WBIF funds.

Additional projects will include Rainy River shoreline protection and stabilization projects. Actions taken will address the plan goal of 500 linear feet of stabilization projects on the Rainy River. The LOW SWCD will utilize the existing cost share program policy to implement the practices. No specific practices are identified at this time. A ranking system is utilized to determine eligibility for cost share and prioritize practices for funding.

These actions are identified on page 53 in the Implementation Section for this goal.

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Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$380,896.00		\$380,896.00		N
Local Fund		\$47,000.00		\$47,000.00		Y

Activity Name: Technical and Engineering

Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Staff time?: Yes

Description: This activity will address planning and design needs for projects and practices which are identified in the plan. SWCD staff with the appropriate expertise, and under supervision of a licensed engineer when required, will perform practice investigations, surveys and construction inspections. Grant funding will be also be used to hire licensed consultants to provide technical and engineering assistance as needed. Credential information is available upon requests from participating SWCD and County offices.

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Current State Grant	Rainy-Rapid Watershed Based Implementation Funds FY26	\$20,000.00		\$20,000.00		N
Local Fund		\$2,000.00		\$2,000.00		Y