



Implementation of 2023 Laws

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Minnesota's evolving conservation approach



Transitioning to a long-term approach

2023: An exciting year for conservation delivery and more



Transitioning to a long-term approach

Former approach

- Districts pursue competitive grants to fund one-time projects
- Responsive approach



Transitioning to a long-term approach

New approach

- Partnerships put WBIF funding toward highest-priority needs within watershed
- Strategic approach: prioritized, targeted and measurable



Transitioning to a long-term approach

Former approach

- Local collaboration
- Two-year grant cycles



Transitioning to a long-term approach

New approach

- Local and regional collaboration
- Four-year cycles for certain grants



Scope of SWCD work is expanding



Soil health



Water storage



Pollinator habitat

Unprecedented funding for this expanded scope

New funding allocated in 2023 for...

Soil health

- \$12 million (Clean Water Fund)
- \$21 million (General Fund)
- \$25 million (NRCS RCPP)
- \$15 million (federal climate smart funding)



BWSR Soil Health funding: Soil Health Staffing Grants

RFP opened Nov. 15; closed Feb. 8

- Support additional local capacity
- Funding specifically for staffing and increasing soil health-related expertise for SWCDs



BWSR Soil Health funding: Soil Health Delivery Grants

Funds slated to be allocated Winter-Spring 2024

- Grants can be used for staffing, practices, and outreach
- Minimum \$4 million will be awarded



BWSR Soil Health funding: Soil Health Practices Grants

Funds slated to be allocated Spring-Summer 2024

- Focus on practice implementation and landowner incentives
- Funding comes from \$25 million RCPP grant from NRCS



BWSR Soil Health funding: Alliance to Advance Climate-Smart Agriculture

RFP opened December 2023 for 8-10 SWCDs

\$2.5 million available to prepare SWCDs to help landowners with incentive payments

\$13 million available in the future for direct payments to landowners. \$100 per acre or animal unit.



Unprecedented funding for this expanded scope

New funding allocated in 2023 for...

Water storage

- \$17 million (general fund)
- Water Quality and Storage Grant application recently opened



Water Quality and Storage Program

Focus on climate resiliency

Goals

- Increase water storage capacity
- Control water rates
- Protect infrastructure



Unprecedented funding for this expanded scope

New funding allocated in 2023 for...

Pollinator habitat

- \$4 million for Lawns to Legumes (general fund)
- \$1 million for Habitat Friendly Utilities Program (general fund)
- \$4 million for Habitat Enhancement Landscape Program (general fund)

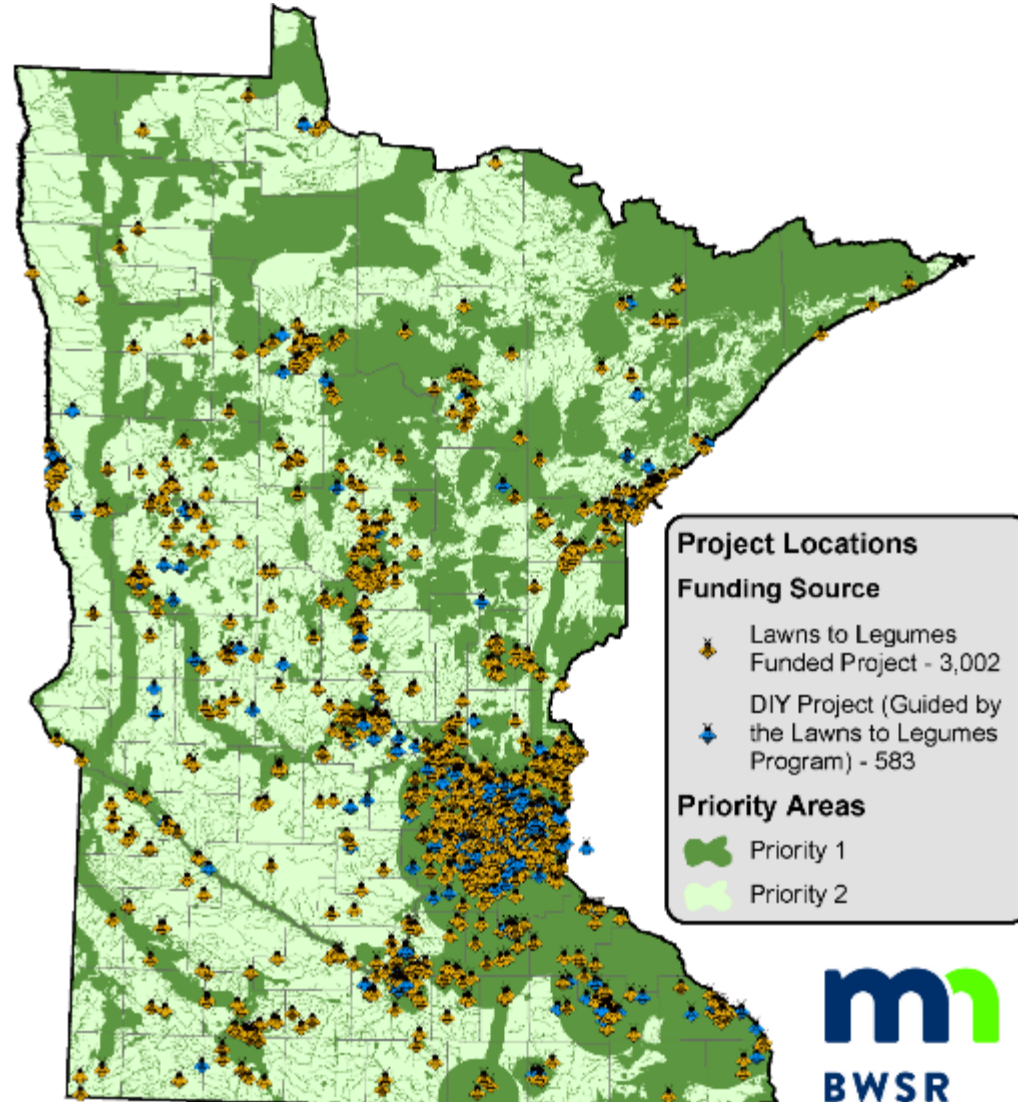


BWSR Pollinator Habitat Funding: Lawns to Legumes

**More than 5,000 projects
installed across the state**

**Projects funded in all 87
counties**

**32 demonstration
neighborhood grants
awarded to build
pollinator pathways**



BWSR Pollinator Habitat Funding: HELP Program

Provides financial and technical assistance to establish habitat on existing conservation lands, such as easements



BWSR Pollinator Habitat Funding: Habitat Friendly Utilities

Provides financial and technical assistance to establish habitat within solar, wind, pipeline and electrical transmission corridors



Minnesota's Watershed-Based Approach

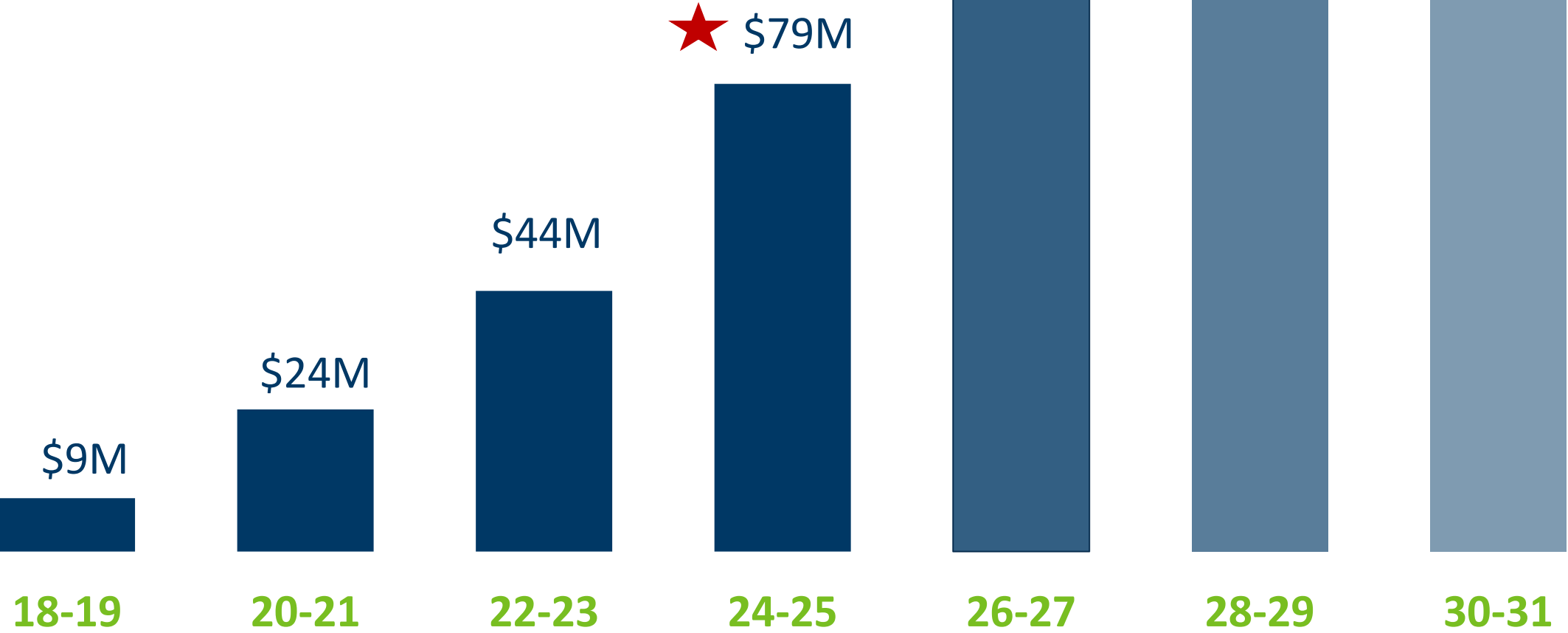




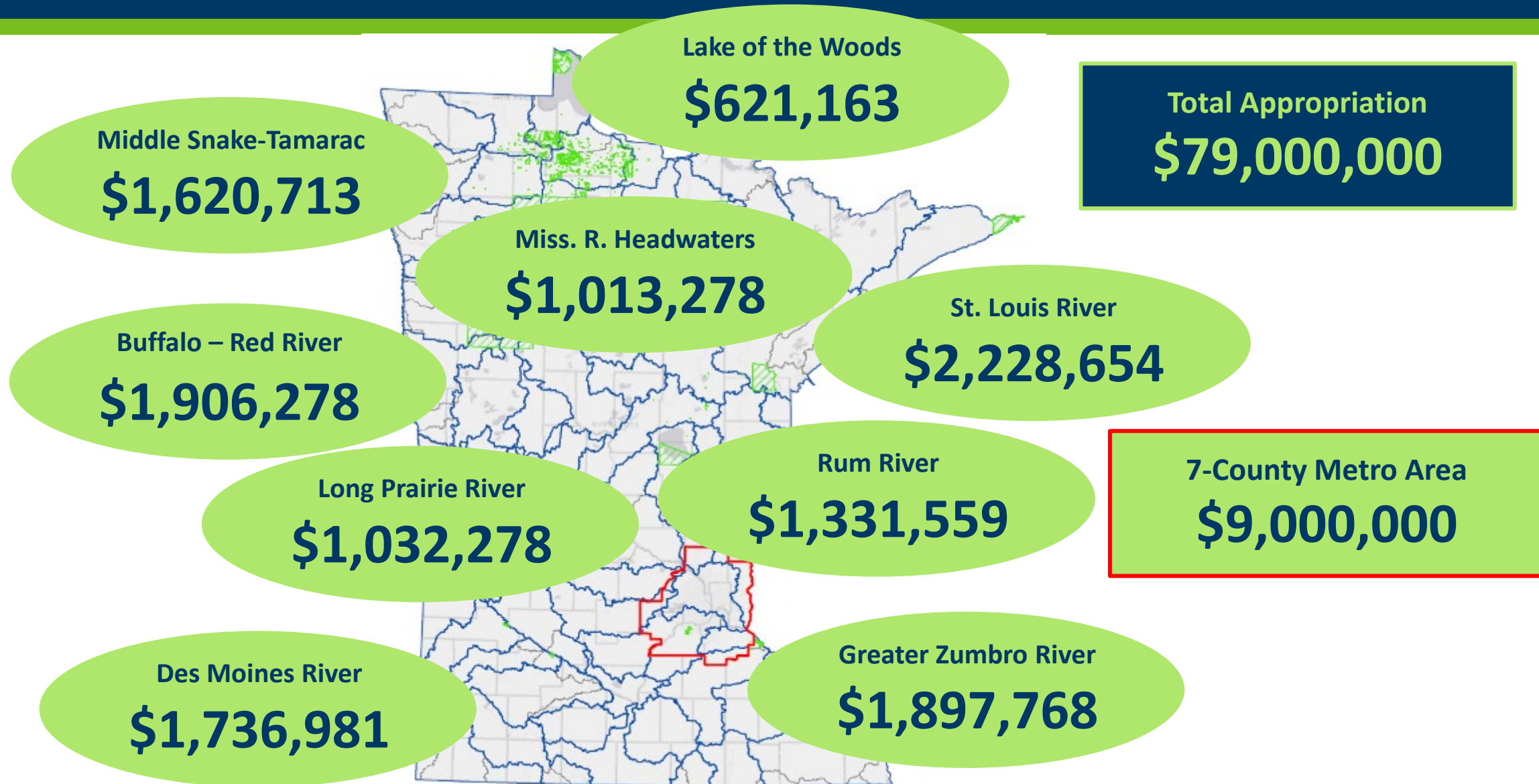
Clean Water Fund transition to

Watershed-Based Implementation Funding

2018-2031



Selected Funding Amounts – FY24-25



Thank you

An aerial photograph of a river flowing through a lush green landscape. The river is on the left, and the land on the right is divided into green fields and patches of trees. The sky is overcast.

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