

Blue Earth County

2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Report



**Board of Water and Soil Resources
2015 NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT
Blue Earth County Annual Report**

The Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) is an annual non-competitive base grant that partially funds programs in the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department. The State legislature appropriates NRBG funds to two State agencies, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), for distribution to local governments. Local governments are required to contribute cash or in-kind match to the NRBG.

Minnesota Law requires local governments to display reports on their website by March 15 each year showing how State appropriations of NRBG and local match funds were used in the previous calendar year. The County is also required to submit reports to the BWSR using the BWSR online reporting program, eLINK. The eLINK report pages are at the end of the report.

The total 2015 NRBG was \$96,657, and the required local match contribution was \$65,412. Local match funds are generated locally with permit fees and property taxes. There are five NRBG program areas that generally align with programs in the Environmental Services Department where five staff positions are dedicated to this work and several more staff positions are partially dedicated to the programs where the NRBG is used. The County's actual costs for all five NRBG program areas greatly exceed the grant funded program costs required for the NRBG and are not shown in this report. An NRBG program summary is displayed in the following table.

2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Summary

Program	2015 NRBG	Required Minimum Local Match	Total NRBG Program
Water Management Plan	\$10,023	\$21,467	\$31,490
Wetland Conservation Act Administration	\$18,178	\$18,178	\$36,356
Shoreland Ordinance Administration	\$3,243	\$3,243	\$6,486
Delegated Feedlot Program	\$36,613	\$22,524	\$59,137
SSTS	\$18,600	None	\$18,600
SSTS Incentive	\$10,000	None	\$10,000
Total	\$96,657	\$65,412	\$162,069

The 2015 NRBG is higher than previous years because the MPCA feedlot grant was increased and the MPCA added a \$10,000 SSTS grant. A summary of the total NRBG in recent years is as follows.

2009 NRBG: \$88,975
2010 NRBG: \$82,176
2011 NRBG: \$79,269
2012 NRBG: \$82,265
2013 NRBG: \$82,265
2014 NRBG: \$82,221
2015 NRBG: \$96,657

A more detailed summary of the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department programs partially funded by the NRBG are described in this report followed by the BWSR eLINK reports.

LOCAL WATER MANAGEMENT

2015 NRBG: \$10,023

Required Local Match: \$21,467

The local water management grant is for coordination the preparation and implementation of the *Blue Earth County Comprehensive Water Management Plan*. The local water management NRBG contributes little to the actual cost of water management planning and implementation in the county or to the local staff dedicated to this purpose.

The water plan contains objectives and actions intended to be practical, measurable and achievable in the planning period. Although there are many partners, implementation of the current plan is mainly the responsibility of the County and the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). The foundation of the current water plan is maintaining ongoing programs.

The NRBG was reduced in 2011 compared to previous years. The greatest reduction in the NRBG programs was to the Local Water Management program. This is the only NRBG program that has not been restored to previous levels. The following is summary of the local water management NRBG.

2009 Water Management NRBG: \$13,197

2010 Water Management NRBG: \$13,725

2011 Water Management NRBG: \$ 9,855

2012 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

2013 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

2014 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

2015 Water Management NRBG: \$10,023

Even though the NRBG does not contribute significantly to a full time staff person, the following is a summary of some of the water management plan related activities in 2015.

Administration and Training

Staff prepared eLINK reports for all 2014 NRBG programs in January 2015 and prepared and posted the 2014 website report in March 2015.

BWSR Grant Verification and Time Tracking

Blue Earth County experienced its first BWSR grant verification audit in 2014. The BWSR found the County to be in compliance with State requirements for grant management.

Since the grant verification in 2014, the BWSR officially revised its grant policies that will require all BWSR grant recipients to track 100% of their staff time. Blue Earth County is required to start this detailed time tracking in 2016. In 2015, county staff set up a time tracking system to start January 1, 2016.

Aquatic Invasive Species

County staff completed an Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Prevention Plan and Funding Guidelines and 2016 Action Plan for using state AIS funds. No AIS grant funds are used for any local staff time.

Comprehensive Water Management Plan

The County requested from the BWSR a one year extension of the effective dates of the water plan to December 31, 2016. County staff attended the BWSR Southern Regional Committee meeting in November 2015 to explain the reasons for the request and answer questions. The BWSR Board approved the extension at their December 2015 meeting.

Comprehensive Water Management Plan Update

In July 2015, the County Board of Commissioners approved a resolution to update the water plan.

Priority Concerns Scoping Document

As required by Minnesota Statutes 103B.313, the County sent notification of the plan update and invitation to submit priority concerns to the following:

- Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD)
- All 34 local government units in the county, including 11 municipalities and 23 townships
- All nine adjacent counties
- The five state review agencies, including the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), the Department of Agriculture (MDA), the Department of Health (MDH), the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), and the Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

All five state review agencies submitted priority concerns. One local government in the county, the City of Mankato Public Works Director, submitted priority concerns related to drinking water and groundwater. County staff from two adjacent counties, Nicollet and Waseca, submitted priority concerns.

List of Priority Concerns Recommended:

- Drinking water and groundwater protection
- Mankato shallow groundwater
- Altered hydrology
- Drainage
- Stormwater management
- Wetlands and water storage
- Excess nutrients
- Soil erosion
- Soil health
- Aquatic invasive species
- Structure setbacks from rivers

Water Plan Survey

To help determine citizens' priority concerns to be addressed in the water plan update, the county prepared and administered an 11-question online survey using Survey Monkey in September and October 2015. The survey was promoted using the county website, press releases and emails to township and city officials. There were 123 survey respondents. Half of the respondents indicated they live "in Lake Crystal" or "in Madison Lake."

Most of the respondents (79%) think the quality of groundwater is good or very good."

Most of the respondents (83%) think the water quality of lakes is "poor" or "very poor."

Most of the respondents (72%) think the water quality of rivers and streams is "poor" or "very poor."

Survey respondents were asked to rank the importance of four water management concerns. The following is list of concerns in priority order as ranked by survey respondents:

1. Drinking water or groundwater quality
2. Water quality of lakes
3. Water quality of rivers
4. Flooding

A Water Plan Task Force will assist staff preparing the Priority Concerns Scoping Document and water plan update in 2016.

Shoreland Buffer Initiative and Governor Buffer Law

County staff worked with the SWCD on an application to BWSR in March 2015 to continue the Shoreland Buffer Initiative partnership. All of this was negated with passage of the Governor's buffer law in 2015. Later in 2015 Blue Earth County staff met with the SWCD to discuss the Governor Buffer Law and how to coordinate activities and shift responsibilities from the County to the SWCD.

Blue Earth County continues to review and require compliance with the Agricultural Use Standards in the County Shoreland Ordinance when parcels are developed requiring any type of construction permit in areas defined as shoreland.

Watershed Management

Blue Earth County is located in four major watersheds. The following shows the percentage of land in the county in those watersheds as well as the percent of the watershed in the county.

Comparison of Watersheds in Blue Earth County

Watershed	Percent Land Coverage in County	Percent of Watershed in County
Le Sueur River	48.1 %	34.1 %
Middle Minnesota River	23.3 %	12.8 %
Watonwan River	12.2 %	10.9 %
Blue Earth River	16.2 %	10.2 %
Cannon River	0.2 %	0.01 %

Le Sueur River Watershed

Blue Earth County staff coordinated a meeting with county and SWCD staff in the Le Sueur River watershed to discuss data and targeting needs in the watershed and potential for a Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant in anticipation of One Watershed One Plan. Blue Earth, Faribault and Waseca counties' staff attended the meeting. Freeborn and Steele counties' staff was invited but was unable to attend. The group agreed to work together on a CWF AIG for DEM conditioning and use of the BWSR PTMapp. Blue Earth County staff assisted Faribault County staff with the CWF grant application which was submitted by GBERBA.

Looking ahead to the One Watershed One Plan, there is concern about planning fatigue. With the MPCA WRAPS and the Le Sueur River network and civic engagement activities and recent and upcoming local comprehensive water management plan updates underway in all the counties, some staff was concerned the staff and elected officials may be hesitant to support another planning effort.

County staff attended one MSU-Mankato Le Sueur River Network meeting featuring guest speaker Dr. Patrick Belmont, a professor at Utah State University.

Greater Blue Earth River Collaborative for Sediment Source Reduction (CSSR)

The CSSR is conducted by the National Center for Earth Surface Dynamics with funding from the MPCA, MDA and the Minnesota Agriculture Water Resources Center. County staff is a member of the technical committee that started meeting in 2013. There were two meetings in 2015; both were attended by Blue Earth County staff.

MPCA Intensive Watershed Monitoring - Impaired Waters/Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)

The MPCA is using a ten year cycle to assess major watersheds in the state. The MPCA's schedule for monitoring the four watersheds where Blue Earth County is located is shown in the following table.

**MPCA Intensive Monitoring Schedule
Comparison of Watersheds in Blue Earth County**

Year Starting	Watershed	Percent Land Coverage in county	Percent of Watershed in county
2008	Le Sueur River	48.1 %	34.1 %
2013	Middle Minnesota River	23.3 %	12.8 %
2013	Watowan River	12,2 %	10.9 %
2017	Blue Earth River	16.2 %	10.2 %
2011	Cannon River	0.2 %	0.01 %

The MPCA has identified water quality impairments in every watershed and nearly every recreational lake in Blue Earth County. The MPCA will prepare monitoring reports and Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for each watershed. The MPCA will also be conducting civic engagement activities in the watersheds.

Status of Watowan River

The MPCA has not involved local staff in the Watowan River WRAPS or their civic engagement process.

Status of Middle Minnesota

In 2015, the MPCA worked with SWCD and county staff in the Middle Minnesota River watershed to plan civic engagement activities in the watershed. Blue Earth and Le Sueur County staff to work on civic engagement activities in the Middle Minnesota River watershed in 2016 with a focus on the lakes in these counties. Blue Earth County will be the fiscal agent for the project.

Status of Le Sueur River

The MPCA WRAPS was finalized in 2015.

Other non-NRBG activities – Wetland Protection and Management Plan

With a Clean Water Fund grant from BWSR, County staff is working on a Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan. A separate progress report for this work is displayed on the County website. NRBG grant funded staff time is not reported as match for this CWF grant.

For more information about Blue Earth County’s Water Management Plan, contact Julie Conrad, 507-304-4381.

WETLAND CONSERVATION ACT

2015 NRBG: \$18,178
Less transfer to SWCD: - \$5,000
Total to County: \$13,178
Required Local Match: \$18,178

Prior to passage of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) of 1991 more than fifty percent of the County's pre-settlement wetlands were lost due to agricultural drainage, community development and transportation. The purpose of the Wetland Conservation Act, Minnesota Statutes, Chapter 8420.0100, is to:

- A. Achieve no net loss in the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's existing wetlands;
- B. Increase the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of Minnesota's wetlands by restoring or enhancing diminished or drained wetlands;
- C. Avoid direct or indirect impacts from activities that destroy or diminish the quantity, quality, and biological diversity of wetlands; and replace wetland values where avoidance to activity is not feasible or prudent.

Implementation of the WCA is the responsibility of both State and local government units (LGU). Local governments are required to administer the Wetland Conservation Act in accordance with State Rules. A Technical Evaluation Panel (TEP) assists the LGU by providing regulatory and technical opinions to the LGU. The TEP consists of the Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) manager, the Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) in Shoreland areas. Ultimately, the LGU is responsible for making all of the regulatory decisions for the program.

Administration of the WCA requires coordination with numerous local, State, and Federal agencies. The BWSR promulgates administrative rules for the program, participates on the TEP, and assures proper implementation by LGUs. The DNR conservation officers issue enforcement orders including cease-and-desist orders (CDO's) & restoration / replacement orders. CDO's and restoration / replacement orders are not criminal charges; however, violation of a CDO or restoration / replacement order is a misdemeanor.

WCA Local Government Units

Within Blue Earth County, three LGUs administer WCA. The City of Mankato administers the WCA within the city limits, the County Public Works Department administers the WCA for County transportation projects, and the County Environmental Services Department administers the WCA in the remainder of the County, including municipalities.

Only the Blue Earth County Environmental Services Department WCA LGU receives the WCA NRBG, with \$5,000 of the NRBG transferred to the SWCD as required by the BWSR.

2015 WCA Activities Report

The County Environmental Services Department has two staff positions which are certified to review / delineate wetlands. Part of their time is devoted to the administration of the WCA. In 2015 a total of 40 hours were spent fulfilling the training requirements to remain certified to review / delineate wetlands.

In 2015 County staff provided 544 wetland-related technical assistance contacts. Technical assistance includes answering relatively simple questions about the WCA as well as more complicated review of aerial photos.

The County worked with the SWCD on restoration orders, and the SWCD spent a significant amount of time on WCA restoration projects.

The following tables summarize the County's 2015 WCA report to the BWSR. This report does not include WCA administration in the City of Mankato nor Blue Earth County Highway Department because they do not receive NRBG funds and report activities to BWSR separately.

**Blue Earth County Report – 2015
Wetland Conservation Act Administration**

Number and Type of Applications

Type of Application	Number Approved	Number Denied	Number Withdrawn
Replacement Plan	3	0	0
Sequencing	3	0	0
Exemption	5	0	0
No-Loss	3	0	0
Boundary or Type	18	1	1
Total	32	1	1

Technical Assistance

Number of landowners for which wetland related technical assistance was provided: 544

Violations

Number of potential violations investigated: 5

Number of enforcement actions taken under local ordinance and/or did not result in DNR cease and desist, restoration or replacement orders: 2

**Blue Earth County Report – 2015
Wetland Conservation Act Administration - Exemptions**

Number and Type of Exemptions

Type of Exemption	Number Approved	Number of Square Feet Impacted Permanently
Agriculture	3	0
Drainage	0	0
Wildlife habitat	0	0
Utilities	0	0
Federal Activities	0	0
Forestry	0	0
De minimus	2	160.50
Total	5	160.50

Blue Earth County Report – 2015
Wetland Conservation Act Administration - Replacement Plans

Number of Replacement Plans and Replacement Methods

Method	Number Approved	Number of Square Feet Impacted Via Replacement Plan
Wetland Banking	3	21,800
Project Specific Replacement	0	0
Combination	0	0
Total	3	21,800

Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan

County WCA staff participated in six Comprehensive Wetland Protection and Management Plan technical committee meetings in 2015. The wetland plan is being prepared with a BWSR CWF grant. Neither the BWSR CWF grant nor the CWF grant local match requirements involve any WCA NRBG funded staff.

For more information concerning Blue Earth County's administration of the Wetland Conservation Act, contact Mike Schulte, 507-304-4381.

SHORELAND ORDINANCE

2015 NRBG: \$3,243

Required Local Match: \$3,243

The Shoreland NRBG contributes very little to the actual cost of administering the Shoreland Ordinance. Shoreland is generally defined as the land area within 1,000 feet of lakes and 300 feet from rivers. Counties are required by Minnesota Rule to adopt shoreland ordinances consistent with State Rules. Counties receiving the Shoreland NRBG are required to submit an annual report on Shoreland Ordinance administration activities to the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

The annual Shoreland NRBG grant amount has remained fairly constant.

2009 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,695

2010 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,695

2011 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,189

2012 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2013 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2014 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2015 Shoreland NRBG: \$3,243

2015 Shoreland Activities Report to DNR

The County Zoning Administrator completed the 2015 Shoreland Ordinance Administrative Activities Report in January 2016. Permits issued in 2015 were: 23 permits for redevelopment and 12 permits for new construction. The Board of Adjustment approved two variances from the OHWL setback and one bluff setback. The County Board approved two subdivision plats.

Bluff Impact Zone – Riverine Erosion and Landslides

The Army Corps of Engineers Silver Jackets team notified the County in December 2013 that Blue Earth County was chosen as a pilot project area for developing tools to assist local government with increasing structure setbacks in shoreland areas. There were no updates from the Silver Jackets in 2015.

Agricultural Use Standards – Shoreland Buffer Initiative and Governor Buffer Law

Blue Earth County staff met with the SWCD to discuss the Governor Buffer Law and how to coordinate activities and shift responsibilities from the County to the SWCD. Blue Earth County continues to review and require compliance when parcels are developed requiring any type of construction permit in areas defined as shoreland in the Blue Earth County Shoreland Ordinance.

For more information about the Blue Earth County Shoreland Ordinance and Shoreland Administration Report, contact George Leary, 507-304-4381.

MPCA DELEGATED FEEDLOT PROGRAM

2015 NRBG: \$36,613

Required Local Match: \$22,524

Blue Earth County's feedlot program is a State-delegated program for feedlots under 1,000 animal units. Large feedlots with 1,000 or more animal units require federal, Nonpoint Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits administered by the MPCA. Under the State delegation agreement, the County is responsible for implementation of feedlot rules and regulations, including registration, permitting, inspections, education and assistance, and complaint follow-up. The County receives MPCA grants to administer the delegation agreement and is required to submit annual reports and work plans for review and approval by the MPCA as well as the BWSR.

The State legislature appropriated funds to the MPCA to be distributed to delegated counties using a three part formula, including:

Number of feedlots registered in the county.

Minimum program requirements. (1) Inspect at least 7% of the total number of registered feedlots; and (2) meet minimum program requirements identified in the county feedlot workplan form.

Performance credits. The amount is determined by the number of performance credits a county accumulates during the year.

There are 424 registered feedlots in Blue Earth County in 2015. Blue Earth County has one feedlot officer working in the Environmental Services Department. The feedlot officer completed the 2015 Annual CFO Annual Report in January 2016.

Feedlots in the county are inspected by the feedlot officer at least every four years. In 2015 the feedlot officer conducted 139 site inspections including both non-NPDES and NPDES sites, 50 Level 1 land application inspections and 16 Level 2 or 3 land application inspections. The County feedlot officer prepared staff reports and recommendations for feedlot Conditional Use Permits presented to the Planning Commission and County Board for review and approval.

Blue Earth County worked other counties in the area to conduct a multi-county workshop in Mankato in 2015. The workshop was attended by 52 feedlot owners or operators from area counties.

For more information about Blue Earth County's Feedlot program, contact George Leary, 507-304-4381.

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (SSTS)

2015 NRBG: \$18,600

Required Local Match: None required

The SSTS NRBG contributes little to the actual cost of administering the local program. The SSTS NRBG is the only NRBG program that has increased significantly since 2011. The following is a summary list of the SSTS NRBG.

2009 SSTS NRBG: \$10,000

2010 SSTS NRBG: \$ 9,931

2011 SSTS NRBG: \$ 9,931

2012 SSTS NRBG: \$18,941

2013 SSTS NRBG: \$18,941

2014 SSTS NRBG: \$18,600

2015 SSTS NRBG: \$18,600

In the Environmental Services Department, two staff positions are certified SSTS inspectors whose time is partially devoted to administering the SSTS program.

Counties are required to submit to the MPCA a construction report showing the number and type of systems installed and a tank report of number of septic tanks each contractor installs. The Minnesota Legislature passed a law in 2003 requiring SSTS installers to submit a fee of \$25 to the MPCA for each septic tank. In order to verify that each installer submits the correct fees to the MPCA, the MPCA also requires counties keep records of all the tanks installed by each SSTS installer and submit a tank report to the MPCA. County staff submitted the 2015 annual report to the MPCA in January 2016.

2015 SSTS Annual Report Summary

The following table summarizes SSTS construction between 2008 and 2015 as reported to the MPCA by the County.

**2008-2015 Summary
Subsurface Sewage Treatment System
Report to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency**

Year	Replacement Residential	New Residential	Other	Total
2008	94	45	4	143
2009	71	35	6	112
2010	83	28	5	116
2011	97	18	14	129
2012	98	37	15	150
2013	112	27	12	151
2014	87	23	7	117
2015	87	27	7	121

For more information about Blue Earth County's SSTS program, contact Jesse Anderson or Tim Grant, 507-304-4381.

SUBSURFACE SEWAGE TREATMENT SYSTEMS (SSTS) INCENTIVE GRANT

2015 INCENTIVE GRANT: \$10,000

Required Local Match: None required

The MPCA now offers non-competitive SSTS Incentive Grants to counties. In 2015 the County received two \$5,000 SSTS incentive grants for SSTS compliance inspection triggers in the county ordinance.

MPCA STSS Incentive Grant 1: \$5,000

Any county that has a county-wide property transfer inspection trigger in their ordinance qualified for \$5,000. Blue Earth County Code has required compliance inspections at the time of property transfer since 1996.

MPCA Incentive Grant 2: \$5,000

Any county that requires a SSTS compliance inspection when the homeowner receives a building or land use permit qualified for \$5,000. Blue Earth County has had this compliance trigger in the County Code since 2010.

Compliance Inspections

Both of these compliance triggers were in place prior to the MPCA incentive grants. Local data shows both of these triggers increased SSTS compliance in the county.

There were 150 compliance inspections in 2015. All but 11 compliance inspections were required by County Ordinance. Compliance inspections are conducted by MPCA licensed contractors. The cost of compliance inspections is paid by the property owner.

Compliance Inspections

A Certificate of Compliance is issued to the owner when:

- A newly-constructed SSTS is determined to have been built correctly in accordance with modern, applicable rules and the design plan.
OR
- An existing system is inspected and determined to meet minimum compliance criteria that ensure the SSTS will not cause human health or environmental problems. A Certificate of Compliance for a new system is valid for five years. A Certificate of Compliance for an existing system is valid for three years.

A Notice of Noncompliance is issued for a non-compliant existing SSTS.

The Notice of Noncompliance documents the compliance criteria the system fails to meet.

Noncompliance falls into two categories:

- ***Imminent threat to public health*** (ITPH) – the system has a sewage discharge to surface water; sewage discharge to ground surface; sewage backup; or any other situation with the potential to immediately and adversely affect or threaten public health or safety.
- ***Failing to protect groundwater*** – the bottom of the system does not have the required separation to groundwater or bedrock.

For more information about Blue Earth County's SSTS program, contact Jesse Anderson or Tim Grant, 507-304-4381.

OTHER STATE GRANTS

Blue Earth County has received other grant and loan funds related to water management. Some of the Environmental Services Department staff partially funded by the NRBG are working on these projects. NRBG funds are not used to meet the match requirements for these projects. Reports are available on the County website.

Fiscal Year 2012 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant - Greenprint

Clean Water Fund Grant: \$108,000

Local Match: \$30,000

Blue Earth County is working with partners to develop a plan for protecting, restoring and enhancing wetlands throughout the county. Most of the plan development took place in 2015. No NRBG funds are used as match for this grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

For more information contact Julie Conrad in the Environmental Services Department, 507-304-4381.

Fiscal Year 2014 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant Blue Earth County / SWCD Watershed Implementation Targeting

2014 Clean Water Fund Grant: \$69,000

Local Match: \$25,000

Blue Earth County and SWCD worked with consultants to use sophisticated GIS analysis techniques to determine areas of high importance for BMP implementation. Most of the work was done in 2014. In 2015 the County and SWCD partners worked to review the results. No NRBG funds are used to match this grant or for any staff working on this grant. Progress reports on this grant-funded project are available in a separate report on the County website.

For more information contact Scott Salsbury in the Environmental Services Department, 507-304-4381.



Grant All-Detail Report

LWM-NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-4083

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$10,023.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$0.00	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	0%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$10,023.00	\$10,023.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$19,023.00	\$19,023.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$29,046.00	\$29,046.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Water management staff	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$10,023.00	\$10,023.00	12/31/2015	N
Water management staff	Administration /Coordination	Local Fund		\$19,023.00	\$19,023.00	12/31/2015	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Water management staff			
Description	Water management staff in calendar year 2015.		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>Annual eLINK reports were completed in January and the website report was posted in February. There were numerous Middle Minnesota River watershed meetings with the MPCA. A civic engagement contract was negotiated with MPCA and Le Sueur County for the Middle Minnesota River watershed lakes region. Attended meetings with Crystal Waters Project. An Aquatic Invasive Species Aid Plan was completed and submitted to the DNR. Staff attended Minnesota River Congress and Le Sueur River citizen network events. Construction Stormwater NPDES permit requirements were evaluated for several building projects. A DNR well sealing grant work plan was prepared in cooperation with the City of Mankato. Continued participation in the three year Greater Blue Earth River Collaborative Sediment Source Reduction planning project. Worked with SWCD to prepare a successful BWSR buffer compliance grant application but was later cancelled. Coordinated meeting county and SWCD staff in the Le Sueur River watershed and BWSR staff to begin preparing for One Watershed One Plan, and subsequently assisted Faribault County SWCD with preparing a successful DEM conditioning CWF AIG application for the Le Sueur River and Blue Earth River watersheds submitted through GBERBA. Attended Houston Engineering webinars about PTMapp. Several meetings with SWCD manager to discuss water management plan update. Conducted online water plan survey. Requested and received priority concerns from LGUs and state agencies. Requested one year water plan extension and attended regional BWSR Board meeting to explain request.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 LWM Financial Report	Grant	2015 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Blue Earth County)
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/27/2016
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015



Grant All-Detail Report WCA-NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Wetland Conseration Act - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-6706

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$18,178.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$18,178.00	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	100%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$36,356.00	\$36,356.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
WCA Training	Education/Information	Current State Grant	2015 - Wetland Conseration Act - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$1,610.00	\$1,610.00	12/31/2015	N
WCA program administration	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Wetland Conseration Act - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$11,568.00	\$11,568.00	12/31/2015	N
WCA program administration	Administration /Coordination	Local Fund	All County funds	\$18,178.00	\$18,178.00	12/31/2015	Y

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
WCA transfer to SWCD	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Wetland Conseration Act - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	1/30/2015	N

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - WCA Training	
Description	WCA Training
Category	EDUCATION/INFORMATION
Start Date	End Date
Has Rates and Hours?	No
Actual Results	County WCA staff attended 5 training courses. MN Wetland Conference, WCA Administration training, Basic Plant ID, BWSR Wetland Delineation Review, 5-day Wetland Delineation course.

Grant Activity - WCA program administration

Description	WCA program administration in calendar year 2015.		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>WCA staff resigned and new WCA staff hired in 2015. 2014 annual report was submitted to BWSR in January 2015. WCA activity in 2015:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 544 landowner contacts in which wetland related technical assistance was provided • 34 applications • 5 Exemptions - 160.5 square feet • 3 Replacement plans • 5 Potential WCA violations investigated • 2 enforcement actions taken under local ordinances and/or that did not result in DNR-issued cease and desist, restoration, or replacement orders (including informal resolution of violations) • Staff attended 40 hours of training 		

Grant Activity - WCA transfer to SWCD

Description	WCA transfer to SWCD		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date		End Date	
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	\$5,000 was transferred to the SWCD to participate in the WCA TEP.		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 WCA Annual Report	Grant	2015 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Blue Earth County)
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/27/2016

Document Name	Document Type	Description
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015



Grant All-Detail Report

Shoreland-NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Shoreland-NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-1271

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$3,243.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$3,243.00	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	100%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$6,486.00	\$6,486.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Shoreland Ordinance administration	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Shoreland-NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	12/31/2015	N
Shoreland Ordinance administration	Administration /Coordination	Local Fund		\$3,243.00	\$3,243.00	12/31/2015	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Shoreland Ordinance administration

Description	Shoreland Ordinance administration in calendar year 2015.		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>Blue Earth County administered the shoreland ordinance and submitted the 2015 annual report to the DNR on January 27, 2016.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 12 construction permits issued on undeveloped lots • 23 permits issued for redevelopment projects. • grading and filling permits. • variances approved: 2 from the ordinary high water level and one bluff setback. • 2 plats approved in shoreland. <p>Concerns and questions about the shoreland and riparian buffer law were submitted with the annual report.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 DNR Shoreland Report	Grant	2015 - Shoreland-NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 DNR Shoreland Report	Grant	2015 - Shoreland-NRBG (Blue Earth County)
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 Shoreland Financial Report	Grant	2015 - Shoreland-NRBG (Blue Earth County)
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/27/2016
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015



Grant All-Detail Report Feedlot-NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Feedlot Program - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-9740

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$36,613.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$25,629.10	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	70%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$36,613.00	\$36,613.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount	\$25,629.00	\$25,629.00	\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$62,242.00	\$62,242.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
Permitting	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Current State Grant	2015 - Feedlot Program - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$36,613.00	\$36,613.00	12/31/2015	N
Permitting	Regulations/Ordinances/Enforcement	Local Fund		\$25,629.00	\$25,629.00	12/31/2015	Y

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - Permitting			
Description	County feedlot program administration in calendar year 2015.		
Category	REGULATIONS/ORDINANCES/ENFORCEMENT		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>Blue Earth County has one full-time County Feedlot Officer. In 2015 there was turnover of the feedlot position. The cost of the county program exceeds the NRBG feedlot grant and required local match amount. The County Feedlot Officer administered MPCA delegated feedlot program and local feedlot program. The feedlot officer submitted the annual report to MPCA for their review and approval in January 2016. As shown in the attached annual report, there are 424 feedlots in the county. Feedlots are inspected every four years or sooner if needed.</p> <p>The following are some of the 2015 feedlot program highlights shown in the 2015 annual report being reviewed by MPCA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 139 feedlot inspections (compliance and construction of Non-NPDES/SDS sites and NPDES/SDS sites) • 16 Level 2 or 3 land application inspections • 50 Level 1 land application inspections 		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 MPCA Feedlot Report	Grant	2015 - Feedlot Program - NRBG (Blue Earth County)
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 03/14/2016
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/29/2016

Document Name	Document Type	Description
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 02/19/2016
Feedlot NRBG Financial Report	Grant	2015 - Feedlot Program - NRBG (Blue Earth County)



Grant All-Detail Report SSTS-NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-5886

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$18,600.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$0.00	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	0%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$18,600.00	\$18,600.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount			\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$18,600.00	\$18,600.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
SSTS program Administration	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Blue Earth County)	\$18,600.00	\$18,600.00	12/31/2015	N

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - SSTS program Administration			
Description	SSTS program administration in calendar year 2015.		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>County staff prepared and submitted the 2015 annual SSTS and tank reports to the MCPA and attached in eLINK. As described in the annual report, County staff conducted inspections and issued 121 permits for SSTS construction permits issued in 2015.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 27 new residential • 2 new establishment • 87 replacement residential • 5 replacement- other establishment <p>County staff worked on permitting and inspecting a large cluster system constructed to serve parts of the Village of Rapidan.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 MPCA SSTS Annual Report	Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Blue Earth County)
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 SSTS Financial Report	Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Blue Earth County)
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/27/2016
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015



Grant All-Detail Report

Septic Treatment Systems Incentive - NRBG 2015

Grant Title - 2015 - Septic Treatment Systems Incentive - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Grant ID - P15-5052

Organization - Blue Earth County

Grant Awarded Amount	\$10,000.00	Grant Execution Date	
Required Match Amount	\$0.00	Grant End Date	12/31/2016
Required Match %	0%	Grant Day To Day Contact	Julie Conrad

Budget Summary

	Budgeted	Spent	Balance Remaining*
Total Grant Amount	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Total Match Amount			\$0.00
Total Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	\$0.00

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

Budget Details

Activity Name	Activity Category	Source Type	Source Description	Budgeted	Spent	Last Transaction Date	Matching Fund
SSTS program administration	Administration /Coordination	Current State Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems Incentive - NRBG (Blue Earth..	\$10,000.00	\$10,000.00	12/31/2015	N

Activity Details Summary

Activity Details	Total Action Count	Total Activity Mapped	Proposed Size / Unit	Actual Size / Unit
------------------	--------------------	-----------------------	----------------------	--------------------

Proposed Activity Indicators

Activity Name	Indicator Name	Value & Units	Waterbody	Calculation Tool	Comments
---------------	----------------	---------------	-----------	------------------	----------

Final Indicators Summary

Indicator Name	Total Value	Unit
----------------	-------------	------

Grant Activity

Grant Activity - SSTS program administration			
Description	SSTS program administration in calendar year 2015.		
Category	ADMINISTRATION/COORDINATION		
Start Date	1-Jan-15	End Date	31-Dec-15
Has Rates and Hours?	No		
Actual Results	<p>Blue Earth County applied for two of the four available MPCA SSTS Incentive Grants. Each of the two incentive grants are paid to counties as an incentive to adopt with County ordinances that require compliance inspections. The grant application is attached in eLINK.</p> <p>MPCA SSTS Incentive Grant 1: Compliance inspection required at time of property transfer: “Any county that has a countywide Property Transfer inspection trigger in their ordinance at the time the grant application period closes on August 12 will qualify for up to \$5,000 – award amounts will be determined based on the number of counties that qualify.” Blue Earth County ordinance has required compliance inspections at time of property transfer for 20 years.</p> <p>MPCA SSTS Incentive Grant 2: Compliance inspection required for all building or land use permits sought at the county level: “Any county that requires an SSTS inspection when the homeowner seeks a building or land use permit. The ‘all permit’ trigger must be in the county ordinance by the time the grant application period closes on August 12 to qualify for up to \$5,000 – award amounts will be determined based on the number of counties that qualify.” Blue Earth County ordinance has required compliance inspections for building and land use permits for more than five years.</p> <p>There were 150 compliance inspections in 2015. All but 11 compliance inspections were required by county ordinance.</p>		

Grant Attachments

Document Name	Document Type	Description
2015 NRBG Addendum	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 NRBG Addendum executed	Grant Agreement	2015 Natural Resources Block Grant Addendum - Blue Earth County
2015 SSTS Financial Report	Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems Incentive - NRBG (Blue Earth County)

Document Name	Document Type	Description
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 01/27/2016
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/16/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 04/22/2015
All Details Report	Workflow Generated	Workflow Generated - All Details Report - 02/19/2016
SSTS Incentive Grant Application	Grant	2015 - Septic Treatment Systems Incentive - NRBG (Blue Earth County)