



Grant Progress Report

Projects and Practices Drinking Water 2024

Grant Title: Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships

Grant ID: C24-0063

Grant Award (\$): \$180,000.00

Grant Execution Date: 02/22/2024

Grantee: Sherburne SWCD

Required Match (%): 10

Grant End Date: 12/31/2026

Fiscal Agent: Sherburne SWCD

Required Match (\$): \$18,000.00

Grant Day-to-Day Contact: Francine Larson

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$180,000.00	\$114,993.06	\$65,006.94
Match Funds	\$31,437.72	\$262,333.16	(\$230,895.44)
Other Funds	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total	\$211,437.72	\$377,326.22	(\$165,888.50)

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

Project Abstract	<p>The goal of the project is the reduction of nitrates and a decrease in the use of groundwater by promoting and implementing best management practices in both urban and rural landscapes. Private well testing was conducted and analyzed in 6 townships: Clear Lake, Haven, Palmer, Santiago, Becker, and Big Lake Townships. In Clear Lake and Haven, 11.3% and 13.8% of the wells tested were above the health limit of 10 mg/L respectively. Palmer, Santiago, Becker, and Big Lake Townships ranged from 2.1%-8.6% above the health limit. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) has also identified Wellhead Protection Areas and Drinking Water Management Areas for the cities of Clear Lake, Becker, and Big Lake which are the focus of the project area. District Staff will plan to host at least 6 events throughout the grant period to highlight best management practices to reduce water use and nitrates in both urban and rural settings. Outreach will include turf best management practices, irrigation water management and nitrate clinics.</p> <p>This grant will be carried out in conjunction with Minnesota Rural Water Association, the cities of Big Lake, Becker and Clear</p>
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Proposed Measurable Outcomes	Lake.
	The amount of engagement at events and number of nitrate samples; 6 education events, 3 nitrate clinics, 90 samples. Our goal will be 300 acres per year of new BMPs implemented on agricultural lands, and an acre of turf BMPs.

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>
Program Development	Project Development	Local Fund	Partner In-Kind	\$12,500.00		\$12,500.00	Y
Grant Administration	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$2,000.00	\$1,968.24	\$31.76	N
BMP Implementation - Agriculture	Agricultural Practices	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$48,000.00	\$13,304.46	\$34,695.54	N
Outreach and Education	Education/Information	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$13,000.00	\$12,892.61	\$107.39	N
BMP Implementation - Well Decommissioning	Groundwater	Current State Grant	BMP Implementation	\$5,000.00	\$650.00	\$4,350.00	N
BMP Implementation - Irrigation	Groundwater	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$60,000.00	\$59,090.30	\$909.70	N
Program Development	Project Development	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$6,000.00	\$3,692.24	\$2,307.76	N
Technical Engineering & Assistance	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs	\$26,000.00	\$22,241.53	\$3,758.47	N

<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>
			and Townships				
BMP Implementation - Urban	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$20,000.00	\$1,153.68	\$18,846.32	N
BMP Implementation - Agriculture	Agricultural Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Inkind	\$9,000.00	\$46,056.00	(\$37,056.00)	Y
BMP Implementation - Irrigation	Groundwater	Landowner Fund	Landowner Inkind	\$9,000.00	\$215,339.44	(\$206,339.44)	Y
BMP Implementation - Urban	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Landowner Fund	Match	\$937.72	\$937.72	\$0.00	Y

Indicator Summary

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Proposed Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Nutrients (Nitrate)	125	Lbs/Yr

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Final Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Pollution Prevention	Prevention	1	Count
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Nitrogen	67.699	Lbs/Yr
Wind Erosion (Reduction Estimates)	Soil (Est. Savings)	301	Tons/Yr
Pollution Prevention	Prevention	2	Count
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Nitrogen	0.1	Lbs/Yr

Grant Activities

Activity Name: BMP Implementation - Agriculture

Activity Category: Agricultural Practices **Staff time?:** No

Description: Best management practices for agricultural landscapes. Practices will include but are not limited to: perennial cover, cover crops, reduce tillage, prairie restoration. Reductions will be calculated using MDA's nitrogen reduction tool as well as WEPS. Effective life of practices will be in accordance to EFOTG. Hoping to impact 500 acres.

Sherburne SWCD Conservation Contracts Policy is reviewed and adopted annually, this policy includes local guidelines as well as BWSR cost share and CWF policies.

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>
Landowner Fund	Landowner Inkind	\$9,000.00	\$46,056.00	(\$37,056.00)	12/19/2024	Y
Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$48,000.00	\$13,304.46	\$34,695.54	11/13/2025	N

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Working closely with landowners, federal partners and vendors for 2024/2025 projects. One cover crop planting was completed in 2024. Additional assistance was provided for projects planned for 2025.	1/21/2025 1:40:58 PM
Working closely with landowners, federal partners and vendors for 2025 projects. Two cover crop projects have been completed with two more planned for fall 2025.	9/11/2025 2:27:50 PM

Final Indicators

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Prevention	1	Count
Soil (Est. Savings)	301	Tons/Yr
Nitrogen	67.699	Lbs/Yr

Activity Action Name:	#DW-FY24-01 - Del Hayes & Sons	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type:	340 - Cover Crop	Size/Units: 35 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA:	SWCD	Lifespan: 1 Year
Practice Description:	Multi-species cover planted after early reds, as part of a 3 year demo plot.	Install Date: 09/06/2024
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Nitrogen	Lbs/Yr	63.85	Other	Mississippi River
Soil (Est. Savings)	Tons/Yr	105	Literature Value	Mississippi River

Activity Action Name:	#DW-FY24-02 - Eiler Bros Farms	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type:	533 - Pumping Plant	Size/Units: 1 - Count
TA Provider/JAA:	NRCS	Lifespan: 15 Years
Practice Description:	Irrigation system upgrade to variable rate zone with variable frequency drive.	Install Date: 12/01/2024
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Prevention	Count	1	Other	Groundwater

Activity Action Name:	#DW-FY24-05 - Golly	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type:	340 - Cover Crop	Size/Units: 65 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA:	SWCD	Lifespan: 1 Year
Practice Description:	Multi species cover crop, interseeded into corn	Install Date: 06/11/2025
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Soil (Est. Savings)	Tons/Yr	195	Literature Value	Miss River
Nitrogen	Lbs/Yr	3.849	Other	Miss River

Activity Action Name:	#DW-FY14-13 - Sunrise Ridge	Activity Count: 3
Practice Type:	329 - Residue & Tillage Management (no/strip-till)	Size/Units: 18 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA:	SWCD	Lifespan: 1 Year
Practice Description:	Operator changed from conventional tillage to no-till for spring and fall, soybeans were planted into corn residue	Install Date: 05/26/2025
		Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Soil (Est. Savings)	Tons/Yr	1	Rusle2 (Updated)	Elk River

Activity Name: BMP Implementation - Irrigation

Activity Category: Groundwater

Staff time?: No

Description: Best management practices for both agricultural and urban landscapes. Practices will include but are not limited to: irrigation water management, irrigation system upgrades, irrigation sprinkler upgrades, variable rate irrigation, soil moisture sensors. Reductions will be calculated using MDA's nitrogen reduction tool as well as WEPS. Effective life of practices will be in accordance to EFOTG. Hoping to influence 250 acres of irrigated crop land.

Sherburne SWCD Conservation Contracts Policy is reviewed and adopted annually, this policy includes local guidelines as well as BWSR cost share and CWF policies.

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>
Landowner Fund	Landowner Inkind	\$9,000.00	\$215,339.44	(\$206,339.44)	09/18/2025	Y
Current State Grant	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$60,000.00	\$59,090.30	\$909.70	09/18/2025	N

Actual Results

Results

Date Added

Working closely with landowners, federal partners and vendors for 2024/2025 projects. One irrigation system upgrade was completed in 2024. Additional assistance was provided for projects planned for 2025.

1/22/2025 11:32:53 AM

Working closely with landowners, federal partners and vendors for 2025 projects. Three pivots were upgraded with plans for four more, throughout the priority areas.

9/11/2025 2:28:18 PM

Final Indicators

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Prevention	2	Count

Activity Action Name: #DW-FY24-03 - Imholte Bros LLC	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type: 449 - Irrigation Water Management	Size/Units: 138 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA: SWCD	Lifespan: 15 Years
Practice Description: New center pivot with Variable Rate Irrigation (VRI) Zone sprinkling system package. Partnership with NRCS.	Install Date: 03/28/2025
	Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Prevention	Count	1	Other	Groundwater

Activity Action Name: #DW-FY24-12 -Dennis Lietha				Activity Count: 2
Practice Type: 449 - Irrigation Water Management				Size/Units: 95 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA: SWCD				Lifespan: 15 Years
Practice Description: Upgrade sprinkler system for greater efficiency				Install Date: 07/16/2025
				Mapped: Yes
Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Prevention	Count	1	Other	Groundwater

Activity Name: BMP Implementation - Urban

Activity Category: Urban Stormwater Management Practices **Staff time?:** No

Description: Best management practices for urban landscapes. Practices will include but are not limited to: turf conversion, perennial cover, prairie restoration. Reductions will be calculated using MDA's nitrogen reduction tool as well as WEPS. Effective life of practices will be in accordance to EFOTG. Hoping to provide turf management on 36000 sq ft of turf.

Sherburne SWCD Conservation Contracts Policy is reviewed and adopted annually, this policy includes local guidelines as well as BWSR cost share and CWF policies.

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	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$20,000.00	\$1,153.68	\$18,846.32	07/10/2025	N
Landowner Fund	Match	\$937.72	\$937.72	\$0.00	07/10/2025	Y

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
No Activity CY24	1/22/2025 11:25:44 AM

Results

Date Added

One well sealing project was complete in 2025.

9/11/2025 2:28:45 PM

Final Indicators

<u>Indicator</u>	<u>Total Value</u>	<u>Unit</u>
Nitrogen	0.1	Lbs/Yr

Activity Action Name: #DW-FY24-08 - Ronsen	Activity Count: 1
Practice Type: 327 - Conservation Cover	Size/Units: 0.03 - Acres
TA Provider/JAA: SWCD	Lifespan: 10 Years
Practice Description: Lawn conversion to a diverse mix of native plants to reduce the need for fertilizer and watering.	Install Date: 06/14/2025
	Mapped: Yes

Indicator Name	Units	Value	Calculation Tool	Waterbody
Nitrogen	Lbs/Yr	0.1	Other	Groundwater

Activity Name: BMP Implementation - Well Decommissioning

Activity Category: Groundwater

Staff time?: No

Description: Best management practices for agricultural landscapes. Practices will include but are not limited to: well sealing. Hoping to seal 10 wells.

Sherburne SWCD Conservation Contracts Policy is reviewed and adopted annually, this policy includes local guidelines as well as BWSR cost share and CWF policies.

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	BMP Implementation	\$5,000.00	\$650.00	\$4,350.00	05/08/2025	N

Actual Results	
<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
No activity CY24	1/22/2025 11:26:08 AM

Activity Name: Grant Administration

Activity Category: Administration/Coordination **Staff time?:** Yes

Description: Grant oversight, E-Link entry and reporting.

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	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$2,000.00	\$1,968.24	\$31.76	01/17/2026	N

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Funds spent on grant administration	1/22/2025 11:34:02 AM
Funds spent on grant administration	9/11/2025 2:29:09 PM
Funds spent on grant administration	1/24/2026 12:50:35 PM

Activity Name: Outreach and Education

Activity Category: Education/Information

Staff time?: Yes

Description: SWCD to host 3 agriculture and 3 urban education events for best management practices in order to promote the reduction of nitrates and water use. Funds will be used for staff time as well as promotional materials and educational event expenses. this will include Nitrate Clinics (3 per year) Nitrate samples will be tested utilizing MDA equipment housed in our office.

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	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$13,000.00	\$12,892.61	\$107.39	10/08/2025	N

Actual Results

Results

Date Added

Time was spent planning several events, including the Women in Ag event and the 2025 Lunch and Learn while also publishing the 2025 Ag Newsletter. Staff also hosted a native planting open house in the City of Becker to promote urban programs.

1/21/2025 1:42:53 PM

Staff time was spent hosting an informational booth at Corner Coffee in Big Lake, Lupulin Brewing in Big Lake, and Freedom Days in Becker. Staff also hosted a Lunch and Learn in conjunction with MDA focusing on water quality practices. The District also mailed three issues of Operator Opportunities to local operators, approximately 50 farms reached quarterly. Staff hosted a Nitrate Clinic in Big Lake, educating 15 landowners about drinking water quality.

9/11/2025 2:29:34 PM

Activity Name: Program Development

Activity Category: Project Development

Staff time?: Yes

Description: Sherburne SWCD Ag Conservationist, Urban Conservationist and Administrative Assistant will dedicate staff time to project oversight, developing cost share programming, and coordinating with partnering agencies. Staff will continue to work with MN Rural Waters, City of Big Lake, City of Becker, City of Clear Lake and Priority Townships. The District will partner with NRCS and U of M Extension on cost share and technical assistance when applicable. District staff will meet with partners at least quarterly to review project goals and outcomes.

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	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$6,000.00	\$3,692.24	\$2,307.76	01/03/2026	N
Local Fund	Partner In-Kind	\$12,500.00		\$12,500.00		Y

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Time was spent collecting information from demo plots that will lead to further implantation in the priority areas: lysimeter sampling and soil health quality sampling. Staff conducted 15 site visits in the priority areas. Communication with City of Becker and MN Rural Water Association.	1/21/2025 1:30:12 PM
Time was spent collecting information from demo plots that will lead to further implementation in the priority areas: lysimeter sampling and soil health quality sampling. ET crop information was collected to send to local irrigators to assist in informed irrigation water management. Staff made contact with three new operators implementing or planning soil health and irrigation practices while maintaining relationships to implement further conservation.	9/11/2025 2:30:03 PM

Activity Name: Technical Engineering & Assistance

Activity Category: Technical/Engineering Assistance

Staff time?: Yes

Description: Funds will be used for Technical Engineering and Assistance to implement best management practices for both agricultural and urban landscapes. Projects needing JAA will be designed by District staff with applicable JAA or Metro TSA Engineering staff with JAA or TAA. All practices will follow EFOTG or recommendations by the UofM Extension Turf Sciences.

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	Nitrate and Water Use Reduction in Targeted Sherburne County DWSMAs and Townships	\$26,000.00	\$22,241.53	\$3,758.47	11/22/2025	N

Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
Funds used towards Technical Engineering and Assistance to implement best management practices for both agricultural and urban landscapes.	1/22/2025 11:35:02 AM
Funds used towards Technical Engineering and Assistance to implement best management practices for both agricultural and urban landscapes.	9/11/2025 2:30:29 PM