



**FY 2024 and 2025 STATE OF MINNESOTA
BOARD OF WATER and SOIL RESOURCES
NATURAL RESOURCES BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
GRANT AGREEMENT**

Vendor:	0000197299
PO#:	3000016644

This Grant Agreement is between the State of Minnesota, acting through its Board of Water and Soil Resources (Board) and Le Sueur County, 88 South Park Avenue, LeCenter MN 56057 (Grantee).

Grant ID	Grant Title	Awarded Amt
P24-0351	2024 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$18,431.00
P24-0438	2024 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$22,453.00
P24-0524	2024 - Shoreland-NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$6,714.00
P24-0610	2024 - Septic Treatment Systems - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$21,200.00
P24-0683	2024 - Septic Treatment Systems Upgrade - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$21,883.00
P25-0220	2025 - Local Water Management - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$18,431.00
P25-0307	2025 - Wetland Conservation Act - NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$22,453.00
P25-0393	2025 - Shoreland-NRBG (Le Sueur County)	\$6,714.00

Total Grant Awarded: \$138,279.00

Recitals

1. This Grant Agreement is for the FY 2024 and 2025 Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Shoreland, Local Water Management (LWM), Wetland Conservation Act (WCA), and FY 2024 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program Grants.
2. The Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 60 Article 1, Section 4 (q) appropriated funds to the Board for the FY 2024 and 2025 DNR Shoreland, LWM, and WCA grants.
3. The Board adopted Board Order #23-41 to authorize and allocate funds for the FY 2024 and 2025 DNR Shoreland, LWM, WCA, and MPCA SSTS grants.
4. The MPCA transferred to BWSR funds for their Fiscal Year 2024 SSTS Grant Programs to be allocated with this Grant Agreement.
5. The Grantee has met the criteria established by statute, the Board, the DNR, and the MPCA, and is eligible to receive NRBG grant funds.
6. The Grantee represents that it is duly qualified and agrees to perform all services described in this Grant Agreement to the satisfaction of the Board.
7. As a condition of the grant, Grantee agrees to minimize administration costs.

Authorized Representative

The State's Authorized Representative is Marcey Westrick, Central Region Manager, BWSR, 520 Lafayette Road North, Saint Paul, MN 55155, (651) 284-4153, or her successor, and has the responsibility to monitor the Grantee's performance and the authority to accept the services and performance provided under this Grant Agreement.

The Grantee's Authorized Representative is:

TITLE Planning and Zoning Administrator
ADDRESS 88 South Park Avenue
CITY Le Center
TELEPHONE NUMBER 507-357-8538

If the Grantee's Authorized Representative changes at any time during this Grant Agreement, the Grantee must immediately notify the Board.

Grant Agreement

1. Terms of the Grant Agreement.

- 1.1. **Effective date:** The date the Board obtains all required signatures under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 5. **The Board will notify the Grantee when this Grant Agreement has been executed. The Grantee must not begin work under this Grant Agreement until it is executed.**
- 1.2. **Expiration date:** FY 2024 and 2025 DNR Shoreland, LWM, and WCA grants expire **December 31, 2025** or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever comes first. FY 2024 MPCA SSTS grants expire **December 31, 2027** or until all obligations have been satisfactorily fulfilled, whichever comes first.
- 1.3. **Survival of Terms:** The following clauses survive the expiration date or cancellation of this Grant Agreement: 7. Liability; 8. State Audits; 9. Government Data Practices; 12. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue; 14. Data Disclosure; and 17. Intellectual Property Rights.

2. Grantee's Duties.

The Grantee will comply with required grants management policies and procedures set forth through Minn. Stat. § 16B.97, Subd. 4(a)(1). The Grantee is responsible for the specific duties for the Program as follows:

- 2.1. **Implementation:** The Grantee will implement their work plan, which is incorporated into this Grant Agreement by reference.
- 2.2. **Reporting:** All data and information provided in a Grantee's report shall be considered public.
 - 2.2.1. The Grantee will submit an annual progress report to the Board by February 1 of each year on the status of Program implementation by the Grantee. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board.
 - 2.2.2. Final Progress Report: The Grantee will submit a final progress report to the Board for FY 2024 and 2025 DNR Shoreland, LWM, and WCA grants by February 1, **2026**, or within 30 days of completion of the project, whichever occurs sooner. The Grantee will submit a final progress report to the Board for FY 2024 MPCA SSTS grants by February 1, **2028**, or within 30 days of completion of the project, whichever occurs sooner. Information provided must conform to the requirements and formats set by the Board. All individual grants over \$500,000 will also require a reporting expenditure by June 30 of each year.
- 2.3. **Compliance:** The Grantee will comply with Minnesota Statutes Section 103B.3361 through 103B.3369 (LWP), Minnesota Rules Chapter 8420 (WCA); Minnesota Statutes Section 103F.201 and Minnesota Rules Chapter 6120 (Shoreland) and have a DNR approved shoreland ordinance; Minnesota Rules Chapter 7082.0040 through 7082.0700 (SSTS); and amendments thereto, for Local Water Management, Wetland Conservation Act, Shoreland Management, and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems.
- 2.4. **Wetland Conservation Act Funds Transfer:** As required by the Board, the Grantees' participation in the NRBG is conditioned upon a transfer of funds to the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for Wetland Conservation Act activities, or such greater amount as agreed upon by the county and SWCD. This transfer must occur within 120 days of receipt of NRBG funds by the Grantee. This amount is listed on the BWSR website.

3. Time.

The Grantee must comply with all the time requirements described in this Grant Agreement. In the performance of this Grant Agreement, time is of the essence.

4. Terms of Payment.

- 4.1. All grant funds will be distributed in one installment promptly after the execution of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.2. All costs must be incurred within the grant period and all incurred costs must be paid before the amount of unspent grant funds is determined.
- 4.3. Unspent grant funds must be returned within 30 days of the expiration date of the Grant Agreement.
- 4.4. The obligation of the State under this Grant Agreement will not exceed the amount listed above.
- 4.5. This grant is an advance payment. Advance payments allow the Grantee to have adequate operating capital for start-up costs, ensure their financial commitment to landowners and contractors, and to better schedule work into the future.

5. Conditions of Payment.

- 5.1 All services provided by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement must be performed to the Board's satisfaction, as set forth in this Grant Agreement. Compliance will be determined at the sole discretion of the Board's Authorized Representative

and in accordance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations. The Grantee will not receive payment, may be required to repay grant funds, or may have future payments withheld if work is found by the Board to be unsatisfactory or performed in violation of federal, State, or local law.

5.2 For the LWM, WCA and DNR Shoreland Programs, Grantees have the flexibility of determining the amount of grant funds to expend on each of these three Programs locally. This is to provide needed spending flexibility for yearly fluctuations in workload and program activity in counties and SWCDs.

6. Assignment, Amendments, and Waiver.

6.1. **Assignment.** The Grantee may neither assign nor transfer any rights or obligations under this Grant Agreement without the prior consent of the Board and a fully executed Assignment Agreement, executed and approved by the same parties who executed and approved this Grant Agreement, or their successors in office.

6.2. **Amendments.** Any amendments to this Grant Agreement must be in writing and will not be effective until approved and executed by the same parties who approved and executed the original Grant Agreement, or their successors in office. Amendments must be executed prior to the expiration of the original Grant Agreement or any amendments thereto.

6.3. **Waiver.** If the Board fails to enforce any provision of this Grant Agreement, that failure does not waive the provision or its right to enforce it.

7. Liability.

The Grantee must indemnify, save, and hold the State, its agents, and employees harmless from any claims or causes of action, including attorney's fees incurred by the State, arising from the performance of this Grant Agreement by the Grantee or the Grantee's agents or employees. This clause will not be construed to bar any legal remedies the Grantee may have for the State's failure to fulfill its obligations under this Grant Agreement.

8. State Audits.

Under Minn. Stat. § 16B.98, Subd. 8, the Grantee's books, records, documents, and accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee or other party relevant to this Grant Agreement or transaction are subject to examination by the Board and/or the State Auditor or Legislative Auditor, as appropriate, for a minimum of six years from the end of this Grant Agreement, receipt and approval of all final reports, or the required period of time to satisfy all State and program retention requirements, whichever is later.

8.1. The books, records, documents, accounting procedures and practices of the Grantee and its designated local units of government and contractors relevant to this grant, may be examined at any time by the Board or Board's designee and are subject to verification. The Grantee or delegated local unit of government will maintain records relating to the receipt and expenditure of grant funds.

9. Government Data Practices.

The Grantee and State must comply with the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act, Minn. Stat. Ch. 13, as it applies to all data provided by the State under this Grant Agreement, and as it applies to all data created, collected, received, stored, used, maintained, or disseminated by the Grantee under this Grant Agreement. The civil remedies of Minn. Stat. § 13.08 apply to the release of the data referred to in this clause by either the Grantee or the State.

10. Workers' Compensation.

The Grantee certifies that it is in compliance with Minn. Stat. § 176.181, Subd. 2, pertaining to workers' compensation insurance coverage. The Grantee's employees and agents will not be considered State employees. Any claims that may arise under the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Act on behalf of these employees and any claims made by any third party as a consequence of any act or omission on the part of these employees are in no way the State's obligation or responsibility.

11. Publicity and Endorsement.

11.1. **Publicity.** Any publicity regarding the subject matter of this Grant Agreement must identify the Board as the sponsoring agency. For purposes of this provision, publicity includes notices, informational pamphlets, press releases, research, reports, signs, and similar public notices prepared by or for the Grantee individually or jointly with others, or any subcontractors, with respect to the Program, publications, or services provided resulting from this Grant Agreement.

11.2. **Endorsement.** The Grantee must not claim that the State endorses its products or services.

12. Governing Law, Jurisdiction, and Venue.

Minnesota law, without regard to its choice-of-law provisions, governs this Grant Agreement. Venue for all legal proceedings out of this Grant Agreement, or its breach, must be in the appropriate State or federal court with competent jurisdiction in Ramsey County, Minnesota.

13. Termination.

13.1. The Board may cancel this Grant Agreement at any time, with or without cause, upon 30 days' written notice to the Grantee. Upon termination, the Grantee will be entitled to payment, determined on a pro rata basis, for services satisfactorily performed.

13.2. The Board may immediately terminate this Grant Agreement if the Board finds that there has been a failure to comply with the provisions of this Grant Agreement, that reasonable progress has not been made or that the purposes for which the funds were granted have not been or will not be fulfilled. The Board may take action to protect the interests of the State of Minnesota, including the refusal to disburse additional funds and requiring the return of all or part of the funds already disbursed.

14. Data Disclosure.

Under Minn. Stat. § 270C.65, Subd. 3, and other applicable law, the Grantee consents to disclosure of its social security number, federal employer tax identification number, and/or Minnesota tax identification number, already provided to the State, to federal and State tax agencies and State personnel involved in the payment of State obligations. These identification numbers may be used in the enforcement of federal and State tax laws which could result in action requiring the Grantee to file State tax returns and pay delinquent State tax liabilities, if any.

15. Prevailing Wage.

It is the responsibility of the Grantee or contractor to pay prevailing wage for projects that include construction work of \$25,000 or more, prevailing wage rules apply per Minn. Stat. §§ 177.41 through 177.44. All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with these State funds shall be paid wages at a rate not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Bid requests must state the project is subject to prevailing wage.

16. Municipal Contracting Law.

Per Minn. Stat. § 471.345, grantees that are municipalities as defined in Subd. 1 of this statute must follow the Uniform Municipal Contracting Law. Supporting documentation of the bidding process utilized to contract services must be included in the Grantee's financial records, including support documentation justifying a single/sole source bid, if applicable.

17. Intellectual Property Rights.

The State owns all rights, title, and interest in all of the intellectual property rights, including copyrights, patents, trade secrets, trademarks, and service marks in the Works and Documents *created and paid for under this grant*. Works means all inventions, improvements, discoveries, (whether or not patentable), databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, and disks conceived, reduced to practice, created or originated by the Grantee, its employees, agents, and subcontractors, either individually or jointly with others in the performance of this grant. Work includes "Documents." Documents are the originals of any databases, computer programs, reports, notes, studies, photographs, negatives, designs, drawings, specifications, materials, tapes, disks, or other materials, whether in tangible or electronic forms, prepared by the Grantee, its employees, agents or subcontractors, in the performance of this grant. The Documents will be the exclusive property of the State and all such Documents must be immediately returned to the State by the Grantee upon completion or cancellation of this grant at the State's request. To the extent possible, those Works eligible for copyright protection under the United State Copyright Act will be deemed to be "works made for hire." The Grantee assigns all right, title, and interest it may have in the Works and the Documents to the State. The Grantee must, at the request of the State, execute all papers and perform all other acts necessary to transfer or record the State's ownership interest in the Works and Documents.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Grant Agreement to be duly executed intending to be bound thereby.

Approved:

Le Sueur County

John King

By: _____
DocuSigned by:

8498C3908CA24BB...

(signature)

Board of Water and Soil Resources

Justin Hanson

By: _____
DocuSigned by:

B8F02A4BB01B4DA...

(signature)

Board Chair

Title: _____

10/27/2023

Date: _____

Assistant Director for Regional Operations

Title: _____

10/30/2023

Date: _____