

Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources  
**Wetland Conservation Act 2025 Annual Reporting Form**  
 For reporting WCA activities during calendar year 2025

Use the tab key to navigate between fields.

<b>Local Government Unit (LGU):</b> Koochiching County	<b>Organization Type:</b> County	<b>County (or Counties)</b> Koochiching
<b>Name of Person Completing Report:</b> Whitney Sims	<b>Job Title:</b> Environmental Specialist	<b>Contact Phone #:</b> 218-283-1157
<b>Your Employer Name</b> (if submitting report on behalf of an LGU): e.g. name of consulting firm		

**Does your LGU receive WCA funding from the Natural Resources Block Grant?** Yes, directly from BWSR

- Completion of this report is required for all WCA LGUs (8420.0200, Subp. 2, Item I) regardless of grant funding.
- Reporting deadline is on or before **Feb. 1, 2026**.
- Send completed report via email in MS Word format to the BWSR Wetland Specialist assigned to the County where you are located (see attached *Appendix*). A saved pdf version of the form is *not* acceptable because it is not compatible with our data collation software.
- For LGUs that are located in more than one County (e.g. some watershed districts) send to the BWSR Wetland Specialist assigned to the County that occupies the majority of your jurisdiction.
- If you are representing more than one LGU, then you must complete a separate form for each LGU you represent unless you work out a different arrangement with the applicable BWSR Wetland Specialist.
- If you are the LGU for only part of a City/County, report only for the portion you serve as LGU and coordinate with the other LGU to ensure that all activity is reported and there is no duplication. Example: City where a watershed district is the LGU for one portion of the City.

1. Number of landowner contacts in which wetland-related technical assistance was provided during the calendar year: 442

**Guidance:** *Provide your best estimate. Multiple contacts with the same landowner on separate occasions should be treated as separate contacts. This question is to gauge overall activity related to WCA regardless of the number of applications and decisions.*

2. Number of applications/requests that were:

<b>Type of Application:</b>	<b># Approved</b>	<b># Denied</b>	<b># Withdrawn</b>
A. Boundary or Type	2	0	0
B. No-Loss	1	0	0
C. Exemption	2	0	0
D. Sequencing	0	0	0
E. Replacement Plan*	2	0	0

**Guidance:** *The total number of approved exemptions in row C should match the total number of approved exemptions as detailed in the following question #3. The total number of approved replacement plans in row E should match the total number of approved replacement plans as detailed in the following question #4.*

*Do not include local road authority notifications for projects that qualify for replacement under the BWSR Local Government Roads Wetland Replacement Program according to MN Rule 8420.0544. Delineation approvals associated with these projects should be reported if a decision is made by the LGU.*

3. Number of exemptions approved and square feet of permanent wetland impact (not replaced) for each category from MN Rule 8420.0420 (provide best estimate for impacts that are not easily quantified):

<b>Type of Exemption:</b>	<b>Number of Approved Exemptions</b>	<b>Sq. Ft. of Wetland Permanently Impacted</b>
Subp. 2. Agricultural Activities	0	0.00
Subp. 3. Drainage	0	0.00
Subp. 4. Federal approvals	0	0.00
Subp. 5. Restored wetlands	0	0.00
Subp. 6. Utilities	0	0.00
Subp. 7. Forestry	0	0.00
Subp. 8. De minimis	2	21,673
Subp. 9. Wildlife habitat	0	0.00

  

		<b>Sq. Ft. of Wetland Replaced</b>
Subp. 2g. Agricultural wetland bank exemption	0	0.00

**Guidance:** *The agricultural activities, drainage, and utilities exemption provisions changed on August 1, 2024, such that reporting for these exemption decisions are different before and after the changes as explained below.*

*Wetlands affected by exempt drainage maintenance activities should not be included in the square feet of wetland permanently impacted total. Reporting temporary impacts each time a ditch or tile is maintained can lead to multiple reporting of impacts to the same square feet over time, which is misleading and skews the resulting data. However, exempt wetland impacts due to new ditches or tile lines, existing drainage that has been improved, or deposition of spoil in wetland areas beyond the existing square feet of deposition must be reported.*

*Subp.2. Agricultural Activities – Prior to August 1, 2024, this exemption included provisions that resulted in permanent wetland impacts that should be reported. After 8/1/24 this exemption primarily applies to drainage maintenance activities which should not be reported as permanent wetland impacts. The only permanent impacts to report under this exemption after 8/1/24 would be impacts to wetlands on prior converted cropland (PC label) that were not associated with drainage maintenance (i.e. fill or new drainage) and impacts related to conservation projects, wheeled booms, aquaculture, and wild rice production per Items C, D, E, and F in the current rule (which remain relatively unchanged after 8/1/24).*

*Subp. 3 Drainage - Prior to August 1, 2024, this exemption included provisions in Item C that are not associated with drainage maintenance and therefore should be reported as permanent wetland impacts. After 8/1/24 this exemption only applies to drainage maintenance activities and there should be no reported permanent wetland impacts for approvals after this date.*

*Subp. 6 Utilities - After August 1, 2024, the first and main provision of the utilities exemption (Item A (1) in Subpart 6 of the current WCA rule) now requires that wetland impacts be authorized by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). Corps authorization may include mitigation and therefore may not result in a net loss of wetlands. Because it is not always clear if Corps authorization under this exemption involves mitigation specific to WCA wetland impacts, we are asking that LGUs not report any permanent impacts associated with this provision of the exemption for approvals after 8/1/24. Permanent wetland impacts associated with updating sewage treatment systems (Item A (2) in current WCA rule and only slightly modified in statute revision) should still be reported.*

*Subp. 2g. Agricultural Wetland Bank Exemption - Reporting for this is separate from the agricultural activities exemption because impacts are being replaced and are not permanently lost.*

4. Number of approved replacement plans that replace impacts by the following methods:

A.	Using Wetland Bank Credits:	<b>1</b>
B.	Using Project-Specific Replacement:	<b>0</b>
C.	Using Wetland Bank Credits and Project-Specific Replacement:	<b>0</b>

**Guidance:** *The sum of A+B+C should equal the number of approved replacement plans in question #2 E.*

5. Square feet of wetland to be **impacted** via approved replacement plans: **20,037.6 sq ft**

**Guidance:** *Enter the sum of all wetland area impacted under approved replacement plans.*

6. For approved replacement plans using project-specific replacement only, enter total area and corresponding credit amounts for each action eligible for credit from MN Rule 8420.0526:

<b>Action Eligible for Credit:</b>	<b>Square Feet</b>	<b># of Credits</b>
Subp. 2. Upland buffer areas.	0	0.00
Subp. 3. Restoration of completely drained or filled wetland areas.	0	0.00
Subp. 4. Restoration of partially drained or filled wetland areas.	0	0.00
Subp. 5. Vegetative restoration of farmed wetlands.	0	0.00
Subp. 6. Protection of wetlands previously restored via conservation easements.	0	0.00
Subp. 7. Wetland creations.	0	0.00
Subp. 8. Restoration and protection of exceptional natural resource value.	0	0.00
Subp. 9. Preservation of wetlands	0	0.00

**Guidance:** *Enter the sum of all areas and associated credits for approved project-specific replacement.*

7. For project-specific replacement wetlands, enter the number of each completed or received:

A. Construction Sites Inspected	B. Corrective Actions Ordered	C. Monitoring Reports Received	D. Findings of Satisfactory Replacement
0	0	0	0

8. Number of **potential WCA violation sites** investigated: **3**

**Guidance:** *Enter the sum of all site inspections associated with a potential, ongoing, or resolved WCA violations.*

9. Number of WCA-related **enforcement actions** that were 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): **3**

**Guidance:** *This refers to WCA violations where the LGU/TEP has resolved or is attempting to resolve without the issuance of a DNR enforcement order. Violations associated with a DNR enforcement order are tracked separately by DNR.*

10. Number of **local WCA appeals** heard: **0**

**Guidance:** *Do not include appeals to BWSR. An LGU must have a local WCA appeals process in place to hear local appeals.*

11. **Optional:** Please provide information regarding unusual circumstances, time spent on enforcement or major violations, banking application reviews, known exempt activity for which a formal decision was not made, additional detail or clarification of above data, or any other information or comments you would like to share. Enter text here (2,500 character max)

## Wetland Conservation Act 2025 Annual Reporting - Appendix

County	Email Address to Send	County	Email Address to Send
Atkin	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Martin	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Anoka	<a href="mailto:ben.meyer@state.mn.us">ben.meyer@state.mn.us</a>	McLeod	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Becker	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>	Meeker	<a href="mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us">cade.steffenson@state.mn.us</a>
Beltrami	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Mille Lacs	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>
Benton	<a href="mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us">cade.steffenson@state.mn.us</a>	Morrison	<a href="mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us">cade.steffenson@state.mn.us</a>
Big Stone	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>	Mower	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>
Blue Earth	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>	Murray	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Brown	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Nicollet	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Carlton	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Nobles	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Carver	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>	Norman	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Cass	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Olmsted	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>
Chippewa	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>	Otter Tail	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Chisago	<a href="mailto:ben.meyer@state.mn.us">ben.meyer@state.mn.us</a>	Pennington	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>
Clay	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>	Pine	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>
Clearwater	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Pipestone	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Cook	<a href="mailto:david.demmer@state.mn.us">david.demmer@state.mn.us</a>	Polk	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Cottonwood	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Pope	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Crow Wing	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Ramsey	<a href="mailto:ben.meyer@state.mn.us">ben.meyer@state.mn.us</a>
Dakota	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>	Red Lake	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>
Dodge	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>	Redwood	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Douglas	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>	Renville	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Faribault	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Rice	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>
Filmore	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>	Rock	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Freeborn	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>	Roseau	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>
Goodhue	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>	Scott	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>
Grant	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>	Sherburne	<a href="mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us">cade.steffenson@state.mn.us</a>
Hennepin	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>	Sibley	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Houston	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>	St. Louis	<a href="mailto:david.demmer@state.mn.us">david.demmer@state.mn.us</a>
Hubbard	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Stearns	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Isanti	<a href="mailto:ben.meyer@state.mn.us">ben.meyer@state.mn.us</a>	Steele	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>
Itasca	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Stevens	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Jackson	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Swift	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Kanabec	<a href="mailto:matthew.johnson@state.mn.us">matthew.johnson@state.mn.us</a>	Todd	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>
Kandiyohi	<a href="mailto:dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us">dilan.t.christiansen@state.mn.us</a>	Traverse	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Kittson	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Wabasha	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>
Koochiching	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Wadena	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>
Lac Qui Parle	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Waseca	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>
Lake	<a href="mailto:david.demmer@state.mn.us">david.demmer@state.mn.us</a>	Washington	<a href="mailto:ben.meyer@state.mn.us">ben.meyer@state.mn.us</a>
Lake of the Woods	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Watsonwan	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Le Sueur	<a href="mailto:alyssa.core@state.mn.us">alyssa.core@state.mn.us</a>	Wilkin	<a href="mailto:steve.hofstad@state.mn.us">steve.hofstad@state.mn.us</a>
Lincoln	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Winona	<a href="mailto:jed.chesnut@state.mn.us">jed.chesnut@state.mn.us</a>
Lyon	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>	Wright	<a href="mailto:cade.steffenson@state.mn.us">cade.steffenson@state.mn.us</a>
Mahnomen	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>	Yellow Medicine	<a href="mailto:devin.ryan@state.mn.us">devin.ryan@state.mn.us</a>
Marshall	<a href="mailto:lynda.ponting@state.mn.us">lynda.ponting@state.mn.us</a>		

**Contact your [BWSR Wetland Specialist](#) with any questions regarding completion of the reporting form.**