



# Grant Progress Report

## Watershed Based Implementation 2025

**Grant Title:** 2025 RR-RL WBIF

**Grant ID:** C25-0336

**Grantee:** Koochiching SWCD

**Fiscal Agent:** Koochiching SWCD

**Grant Day-to-Day Contact:** Pam Tomevi

**Grant Award (\$):** \$558,419.00

**Required Match (%):** 10

**Required Match (\$):** \$55,841.90

**Grant Execution Date:** 05/13/2025

**Grant End Date:** 12/31/2027

	Total Budgeted	Total Spent	Balance Remaining*
Grant Funds	\$558,419.00	<b>\$51,452.52</b>	\$506,966.48
Match Funds	\$55,842.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$55,842.00
Other Funds	\$0.00	<b>\$0.00</b>	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>	\$614,261.00	<b>\$51,452.52</b>	\$562,808.48

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

<b>Project Abstract</b>	The Rainy River – Rainy Lake (RRRL) Watershed is located on Minnesota’s northern border and defined largely by the Rainy River and Rainy Lake, two significant water bodies shared with Canada. The RRRL contains a large portion of Minnesota’s only National Park, Voyageurs National Park (VNP), which attracts visitors from across the state, country, and abroad. The RRRL’s approximately 629,000 acres are mostly within Koochiching County, with only 16% of acreage in east neighbor St. Louis County and less than 1% of acreage in western neighbor Lake of the Woods County. International Falls and Ranier are communities with the most concentrated development. Most of the remaining developed areas within the watershed are concentrated along river and lake shorelines including islands.
<b>Proposed Measurable Outcomes</b>	Write forest stewardship plans for 400 acres and assist with enrollment in SFIA; implement non-structural land management practices on 200 acres; stabilize 300’ of ravine adjacent to the Rainy River; stabilize 40 acres of erosion susceptible riparian areas; implement 20 acres of forestry BMPs; replaces two septic systems, restore 8,000 sq ft of shoreline and install 3 rain

gardens; seal 5 unused wells; conduct 5 outreach events/workshops; seal 5 unused/abandoned wells; conduct 2 well testing clinics.

### 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>
Education & Outreach	Education/Information	Local Fund	SWCD inkind and/or local funds	\$3,342.00		\$3,342.00	Y
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Local Fund	City of Int'l Falls Match	\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00	Y
Administration & Coordination	Administration/Coordination	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$55,842.00	\$1,832.28	\$54,009.72	N
Education & Outreach	Education/Information	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$42,000.00	\$6,432.66	\$35,567.34	N
Forestry Practices	Forestry Practices	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$11,577.00		\$11,577.00	N
Groundwater	Groundwater	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	N
Inventory & Mapping	Inventory/Mapping	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00	N
Non-Structural Land Management	Non-Structural Management Practices	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	N
Planning and Assessment	Planning and Assessment	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00	N
Project Development	Project Development	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$109,500.00	\$598.60	\$108,901.40	N
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$75,500.00		\$75,500.00	N
SSTS	Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00	N
Supplies/Equipment	Supplies/Equipment	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$45,000.00	\$39,799.36	\$5,200.64	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>
Technical/Engineering	Technical/Engineering Assistance	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$109,500.00	\$2,789.62	\$106,710.38	N
Urban Stormwater	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00	N
Forestry Practices	Forestry Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00	Y
Groundwater	Groundwater	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Y
Non-Structural Land Management	Non-Structural Management Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00	Y
Planning and Assessment	Planning and Assessment	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00	Y
Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Streambank or Shoreline Protection	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Y
Urban Stormwater	Urban Stormwater Management Practices	Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00	Y

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Proposed Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	14.917	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	6.3	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution	Sediment (Tss)	0.035	Tons/Yr

<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Final Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
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<i>Indicator Category</i>	<i>Proposed Indicator</i>	<i>Total Value</i>	<i>Unit</i>
(Reduction Estimates)			
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Sediment (Tss)	13.87	Tons/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	BOD 5	123.9	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Nitrogen	255.99	Lbs/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Pathogens (E. Coli)	4.221	Cfu
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Soil (Est. Savings)	13.87	Tons/Yr
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Total Suspended Solids (TSS)	28.245	Mg/L
Water Pollution (Reduction Estimates)	Phosphorus (Est. Reduction)	15.95	Lbs/Yr

**Grant Activities**

<b>Activity Name: Administration &amp; Coordination</b>						
<b>Activity Category:</b> Administration/Coordination					<b>Staff time?:</b> Yes	
<b>Description:</b> Perform administrative and coordinator tasks necessary to implement the Rainy River-Rainy Lake Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan including expenses associated with financial management and auditing services.						
<b>Budget Details</b>						
<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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$55,842.00	\$1,832.28	\$54,009.72	12/31/2025	N
<b>Actual Results</b>						
<u>Results</u>					<u>Date Added</u>	
2025 funds used to fund staff salary to administer programming, create a separate bank account, order checks, and enter eLINK.					1/22/2026 4:14:24 PM	

<b>Activity Name: Education &amp; Outreach</b>						
<b>Activity Category:</b> Education/Information					<b>Staff time?:</b> Yes	
<b>Description:</b> Hold 1 well testing clinic each year and provide cost-share to 200 landowners; Host educational events/workshops throughout the watershed on various environmental topics and voluntary programs available to private landowners as well as produce and distribute outreach materials to community members and businesses; Contract for the development of a Shoreline Owners Stewardship Guide; Hire a summer intern/student to conduct watershed outreach activities and distribute materials over 2 years (8-Section 4; 23-Section 4; 15-Section 4; 27-Section 4; 18-Section 4)						
<b>Budget Details</b>						
<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>
Local Fund	SWCD inkind and/or local funds	\$3,342.00		\$3,342.00		Y
Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$42,000.00	\$6,432.66	\$35,567.34	12/31/2025	N

## Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
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Held 1 well testing clinic reaching 22 participants for nutrients testing, 14 participants for arsenic testing, and 4 extensive lab tests through Pace Analytical. Followed up with participants regarding limits and what to do if they had tests which were too high. Worked to plan future events such as Keep It Clean. These objectives were completed in January 2026.

1/23/2026 8:37:31 AM

## Activity Name: Forestry Practices

Activity Category: Forestry Practices

Staff time?: No

Description: Provide cost share and coordinate implementation of forestry BMP's; Provide cost-share for vegetative management in priority areas that may affect water quality (27-Section 4 )

### 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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$11,577.00		\$11,577.00		N
Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$6,000.00		\$6,000.00		Y

## Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
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No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.

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## Activity Name: Groundwater

Activity Category: Groundwater

Staff time?: No

Description: Seal and permanently close 5 unused wells within the watershed; Hold 1 well testing clinic each year and provide cost-share to 200 landowners (23-Section 4)

### 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 Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		Y
Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		N
<b>Actual Results</b>						
<u>Results</u>						<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.						1/22/2026 3:53:50 PM

<b>Activity Name: Inventory &amp; Mapping</b>						
<b>Activity Category:</b> Inventory/Mapping					<b>Staff time?:</b> Yes	
<b>Description:</b> Evaluate data on 10+ miles of shoreline to establish erosion baseline (15-Section 4)						
<b>Budget Details</b>						
<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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$10,000.00		\$10,000.00		N
<b>Actual Results</b>						
<u>Results</u>						<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.						1/22/2026 3:54:10 PM

<b>Activity Name: Non-Structural Land Management</b>						
<b>Activity Category:</b> Non-Structural Management Practices					<b>Staff time?:</b> No	
<b>Description:</b> Cost share for 200 acres of non-structural land management practices to reduce sediment loading to the Rainy River. Anticipated practices include but are not limited to aerial seeding and vegetation management in priority areas identified in the Plan (8-Section 4)						
<b>Budget Details</b>						

<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 Match	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00		Y
Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$15,000.00		\$15,000.00		N
<b>Actual Results</b>						
<u>Results</u>						<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.						1/22/2026 3:54:30 PM

<b>Activity Name: Planning and Assessment</b>						
<b>Activity Category:</b> Planning and Assessment					<b>Staff time?:</b> No	
<b>Description:</b> Provide cost share for forest stewardship plans in priority areas (27-Section 4 );						
<b>Budget Details</b>						
<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 Match	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00		Y
Current State Grant	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$7,000.00		\$7,000.00		N
<b>Actual Results</b>						
<u>Results</u>						<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.						1/22/2026 3:54:50 PM

## Activity Name: Project Development

Activity Category: Project Development

Staff time?: Yes

**Description:** Partner staff will work with private landowners/partners to discuss priority resource concerns, gather relevant data, and develop projects throughout the watershed. Programs and projects include but are not limited to planning and practices related to forestry, agricultural, stormwater management, shoreline and streambank restoration and protection, groundwater, and subsurface treatment systems.

### 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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$109,500.00	\$598.60	\$108,901.40	12/31/2025	N

### Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
2025 funds used to fund planning for comprehensive watershed projects such as educational events and coordination with other agencies.	1/22/2026 3:55:27 PM
2025 funds used for staff salary in coordinating with other SWCD staff and partnering agencies to plan upcoming work.	1/23/2026 8:56:53 AM

## Activity Name: SSTS

Activity Category: Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems

Staff time?: No

**Description:** Replace and/or upgrade failing SSTS systems for low-income landowners (11-Section 4).

### 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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$50,000.00		\$50,000.00		N

### Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.	1/22/2026 3:57:20 PM

## Activity Name: Streambank or Shoreline Protection

Activity Category: Streambank or Shoreline Protection

Staff time?: No

Description: Stabilize 300ft of degraded ravine along the Rainy River; Cost-share for 8000 sq ft of shoreline plantings along the river/lakeshore (15-Section 4)

### 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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$75,500.00		\$75,500.00		N
Local Fund	City of Int'l Falls Match	\$17,000.00		\$17,000.00		Y
Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		Y

### Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.	1/22/2026 3:57:37 PM

## Activity Name: Supplies/Equipment

Activity Category: Supplies/Equipment

Staff time?: No

Description: Purchase of an agricultural drone system to assist with implementation of non-structural management practices, specifically areas difficult to treat due to saturated soil conditions and/or containing rocky field cover.

### 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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$45,000.00	\$39,799.36	\$5,200.64	11/30/2025	N

### Actual Results

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
2025 funds used to purchase drones, a trailer for the larger drone and other supplies needed for trailer and drone, and Ag Drone trailer	1/23/2026 8:59:49 AM

**Results**

**Date Added**

registration/title.

**Activity Name: Technical/Engineering**

**Activity Category:** Technical/Engineering Assistance

**Staff time?:** Yes

**Description:** Engineering and Technical expenses include but are not limited to engaging potential project partners, surveying, site investigation, designing of plans, project inspection, and/or certification to achieve RRRL CWMP goals and objectives. Credential information is available upon request from each partner's office(s).

**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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$109,500.00	\$2,789.62	\$106,710.38	12/31/2025	N

**Actual Results**

**Results**

**Date Added**

2025 funds paid for salary of staff to obtain and work with drone imaging software (Pix4D), fly over Rainy River, create a landowner list of that area and process images from that area, Design, site investigation and project inspection of buckthorn removal project. 1/23/2026 9:05:03 AM

**Activity Name: Urban Stormwater**

**Activity Category:** Urban Stormwater Management Practices

**Staff time?:** No

**Description:** Implement up to 10 non-municipal stormwater BMPs including but not limited to rain gardens (8-Section 4)

**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	2025 RR-RL WBIF	\$25,000.00		\$25,000.00		N
Landowner Fund	Landowner Match	\$2,500.00		\$2,500.00		Y

**Actual Results**

<u>Results</u>	<u>Date Added</u>
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No funds spent as of 12/31/2025.	1/22/2026 3:58:13 PM
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