LITTLE FORK RIVER WATERSHED

ONE WATERSHED, ONE PLAN

POLICY COMMITTEE MEETING

JUNE 25TH, 2026

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

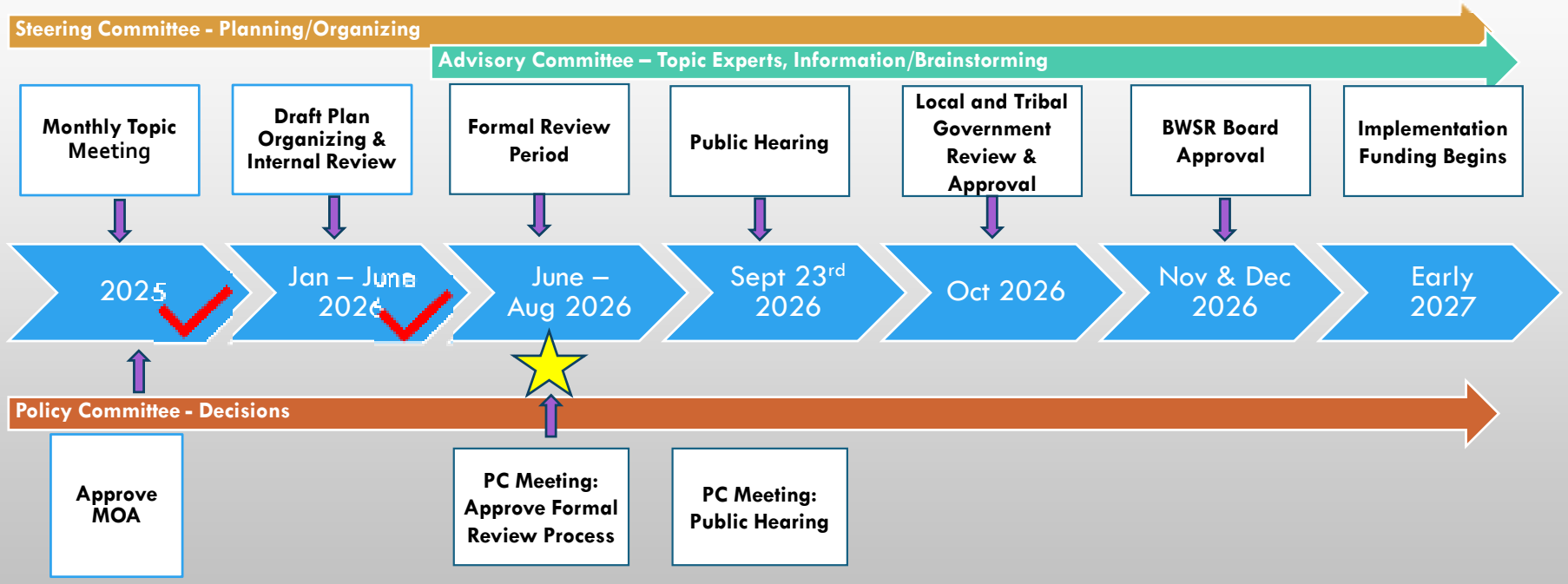
JUNE 25, 2026

OVERVIEW:

- 1W1P TIMELINE & BUDGET UPDATE
- DRAFT PLAN OVERVIEW & INTERNAL COMMENTS
  - *SUPPORT CURRENT DRAFT WATERSHED PLAN
- FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS OVERVIEW & NOTICES
  - *INITIATE FORMAL COMMENT REVIEW PROCESS
- PUBLIC HEARING OVERVIEW
- WRAP UP- NEXT PC MEETINGS SCHEDULED:
  - SEPT 24TH – OFFICIAL PUBLIC HEARING
    - COOK, MN 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

* FOR POLICY COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF APPROVAL

Draft Little Fork River 1W1P Planning Schedule



Final Approval and Adoption of Plan - 2026

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

TIMELINE & BUDGET

POLICY COMMITTEE TIMELINE

- **TODAY: SUPPORT CURRENT DRAFT PLAN FOR FORMAL REVIEW**
- **SEPTEMBER 24TH:** FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING- NEED A QUORUM

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER: LOCAL BOARD APPROVAL OF WATERSHED PLAN

NOVEMBER 4TH: NORTHERN BWSR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

DECEMBER 17TH: STATE BWSR BOARD APPROVAL OF PLAN

EARLY 2027: RECEIVE FIRST ROUND OF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

TIMELINE & BUDGET

POLICY COMMITTEE TIMELINE

IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING BEGINS IN EARLY 2027:

- WILL BRING "IMPLEMENTATION MOA" TO LOCAL BOARDS FOR SUPPORT AND APPROVAL
  - LIKELY CHANGES WORDS "PLANNING" TO "IMPLEMENTING", OTHERWISE VERY SIMILAR TO CURRENT PLANNING MOA
- WILL HAVE "NEW" POLICY COMMITTEE AND BYLAWS
  - OFTEN THE SAME REPRESENTATIVES AND BYLAWS AS CURRENT PC
- WILL HAVE SUB-CONTRACT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN GRANT FISCAL AGENT AND THE GOVERNMENTS CARRYING OUT IMPLEMENTATION

LITTLE FORK RIVER WATERSHED 1W1P BUDGET UPDATE

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

TIMELINE & BUDGET

Category	Allocated	Spent	Remaining	% Remaining
Plan Development	$ 205,000	$ 114,018	$ 90,982	44%
Administratration	$ 23,000	$ 17,502	$ 5,498	24%
Contingency	$ 22,800	$ -	$ 22,800	100%
Total	$ 250,800	$ 131,520	$ 119,280	48%

On Track and On Time!!!

- Planning partners are looking into potential options to utilize remaining planning funds
- Things that will help inform or setup future projects
- Will bring list for PC support at September PC meeting

BIG FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

TIMELINE &
BUDGET

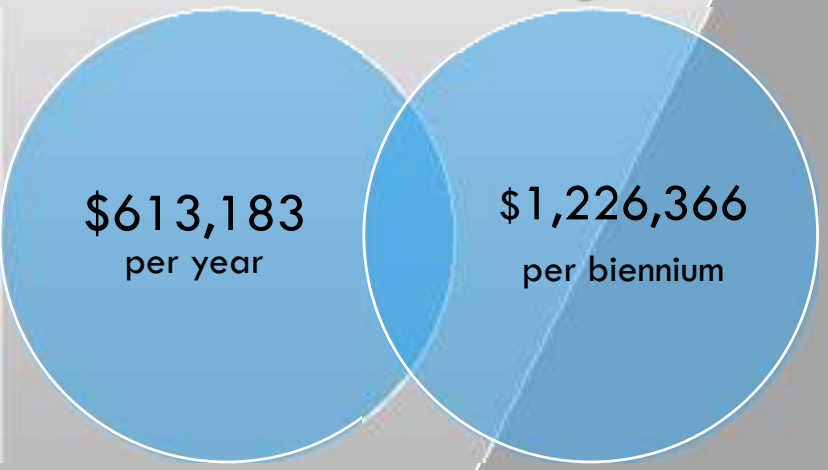
TIMELINE OR BUDGET QUESTIONS?

BIG FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

PLAN PROGRAMS & FUNDING

PLAN PROGRAMS



Baseline Budget $500,000

Funding more than doubles!

Base + WBIF $1,113,183

Other/Partners

- Other Funding (i.e. Lessard Sams, DNR, NRCS,SFIA, USFS, USFWS, LSOHF, MPCA, etc.)

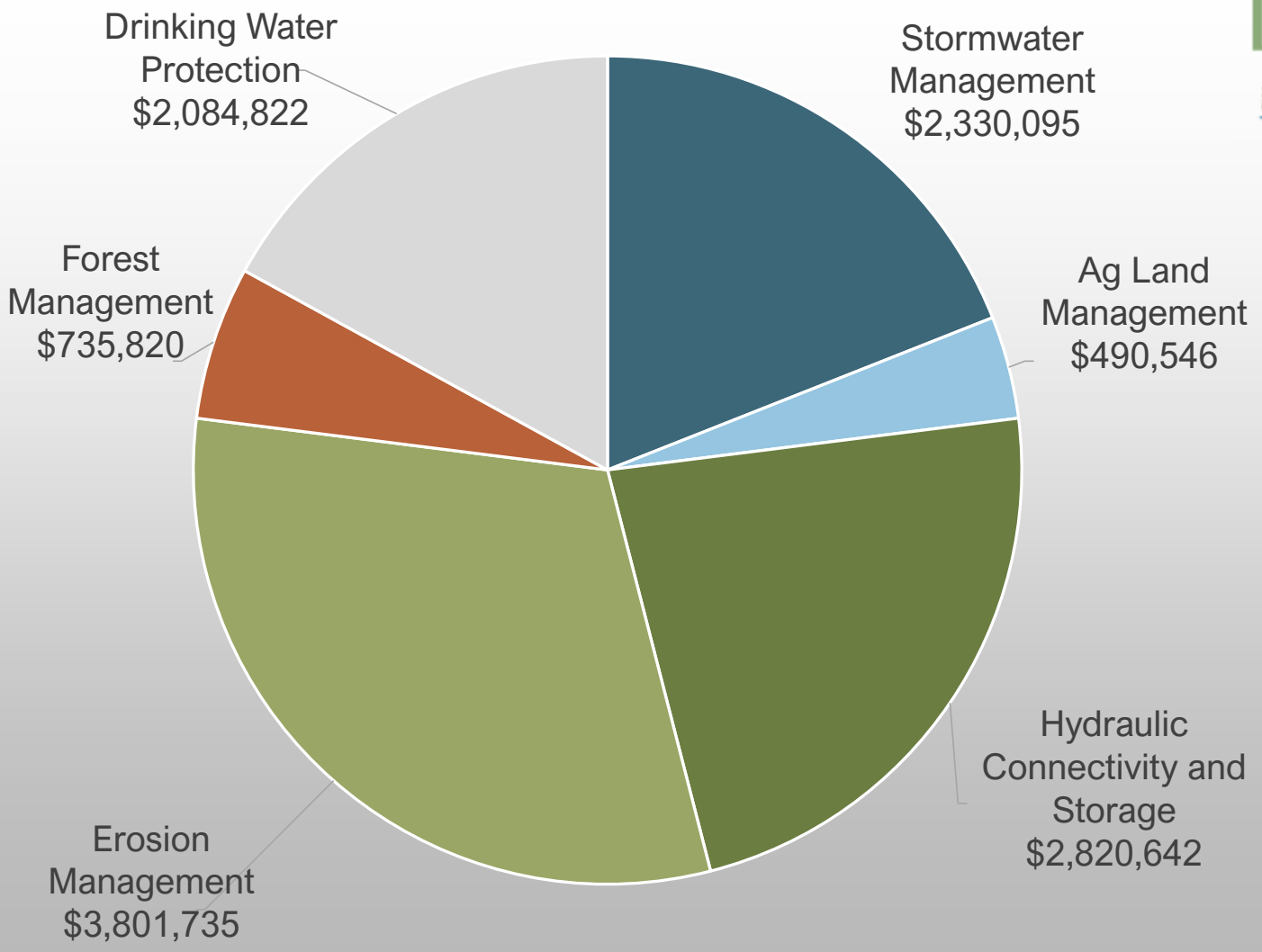
IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

Funding Levels	Abbreviations	Description	10-Year Total
Baseline Funding	Base	• Current Baseline Funding	$5,000,000
Funding Needed to Fully Implement This Plan	Base + WBIF + Additional Funding	• Current Baseline Funding & • 2025-2026 WBIF Allocation & • *An additional funding of $275,000/year needed*	$13,900,000
Other	Other	• Other Funding (i.e. Lessard Sams, DNR, NRCS, SFIA, USFS, USFWS, LSOHF, MPCA, etc.)	$7,237,268

To successfully implement the actions in this plan, time and expenses will be incurred for plan administration and for technical and engineering assistance which is not included within the action tables in Section 4. Because of this, it is anticipated that an additional $275,000 will be needed per year beyond base, WBIF, and other dollars to implement actions in the plan.

**Plan goals can only be met to the extent that funding is available in the future.*

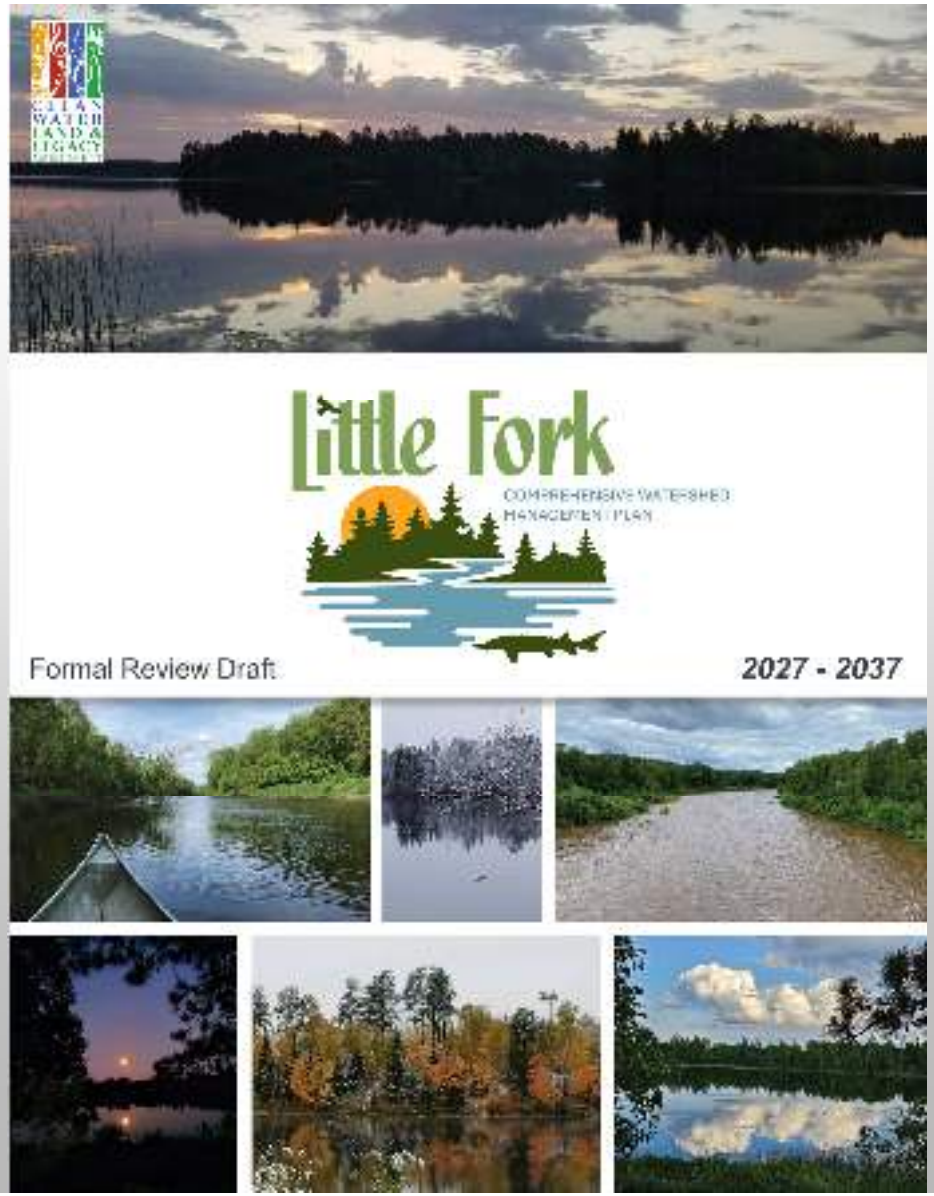
BASE+ WBIF 10-YEAR TOTALS



LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN



LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN

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LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN

DRAFT PLAN

- 10-YEAR WATERSHED PLAN FOR VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PRACTICES
- THIS IS A "DRAFT" DOCUMENT WITH ROOM TO APPROVE EDITS UNTIL IT'S FINAL APPROVAL BY THE FULL BOARDS AND COUNCILS OF THIS POLICY COMMITTEE AND BY BWSR (WHO OVERSEES THE FUNDING)
  - NOTE: WBIF/IMPLEMENTATION GRANT FUNDS ARE FUNDED THROUGH THE CLEAN WATER FUND. THOSE PROJECTS NEED TO HAVE A WATER QUALITY BENEFIT.

Short-term goals are the aim of the ***10-year implementation period****.*
Long-term goals refer to an ideal long-term condition for the watershed and ***will take longer than the 10-year implementation period.***

DRAFT PLAN GOALS:

Goal Name	Issues Addressed	Short-Term Goal	Long-Term Goal
Agricultural Land Management	Nutrients, Agricultural Runoff	• 830 acres of agricultural BMPs (5% of all crop and pasture acres in the watershed)	• 1,653 acres of agricultural BMPs (10% of all crop and pasture acres in the watershed)
Hydraulic Connectivity & Storage	Flooding, Wetland and Peatland Health, Altered Hydrology	• 6 projects to enhance stream connectivity • Maintain wetlands and peatlands	• No net change in discharge
Erosion Management	Lakeshore Alteration, Eroding Gullies and Streambanks	• 1 feasibility study for sediment reduction & • 2,000 feet of shoreline stabilization	• Understand and prioritize projects
Forest Management	Forest Health, Forest and Recreation Infrastructure	• Protect 1,000 acres (5%) & 10,000 acres in plans (10% of LSP long-term goals)	• Protect 19,692 acres & 99,391 acres in plans (100% of LSP long-term goals)
Drinking Water Protection	Groundwater	• 10 wells sealed • 100 septic systems replaced	• All priority wells sealed • All failing septic systems replaced
Stormwater Management	Stormwater Runoff, Nutrients	• Cook and Littlefork stormwater plans • 4 stormwater projects	• All communities have stormwater management plans and prioritized project list

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN

DRAFT PLAN

- **APPENDIX-** ALL THE THINGS THAT HELPED INFORM THE PLAN

- THE DETAILS AND RESULTS FROM EACH OF THE KICKOFF AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE PLANNING MEETINGS (PROVIDES TRANSPARENCY OF THE PROCESS)
- RESEARCH AND REFERENCES THAT WERE USED TO CREATE GOALS, IDENTIFY ISSUES, ETC.
- MAPS THAT WERE USED HELP DETERMINE PRIORITY AREAS

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN

DRAFT PLAN

- INTERNAL REVIEW COMMENTS
  - TWO ROUNDS OF REVIEW FROM STEERING COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE
- MOSTLY GRAMMATICAL CORRECTIONS
- SOME CLARIFICATION CORRECTIONS
- ALL NOTED IN COMMENT SPREADSHEET AND IF ACTION WAS TAKEN

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

DRAFT PLAN

DRAFT PLAN

- DOES POLICY COMMITTEE HAVE ANY EDITS TO RECOMMEND FOR INCLUSION IN THIS DRAFT PLAN?
- **CONSIDER APPROVAL OF CURRENT DRAFT PLAN AS PRESENTED**

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

FORMAL REVIEW

FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS - OVERVIEW

- 60-DAY STATE AGENCY REVIEW TIMELINE
  - JUNE 25 – AUG 25 (*EXTENDED 1 DAY TO ALLOW FOR PARTIAL DAY NOTICE ON JUNE 25*)
- 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW TIMELINE
  - JULY 1ST – AUG 14TH (MORE THAN 30 DAYS, BUT THAT'S OK)
- WILL NOTIFY IN ALL NEWSPAPERS, EMAIL, SOCIAL MEDIA, ETC.
- WILL TRY TO GET THE WORD OUT AS BEST WE CAN
- COMMENTS CAN BE MAILED, EMAILED, AND ***POSSIBLY SUBMITTED VIA COMMENT BOX ON KOOCHICHING SWCD WEBSITE (WILL CONNECT WITH ITASCA FOR INFO)***

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

FORMAL REVIEW

FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS - OVERVIEW

- 60-DAY STATE AGENCY REVIEW TIMELINE
  - JUNE 25 – AUG 24
- 30-DAY PUBLIC REVIEW TIMELINE
  - JULY 1ST – AUG 14TH (MORE THAN 30 DAYS, BUT THAT'S OK)
- COMMENTS WILL BE REVIEWED BY ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SEPT 3RD
- RESULTS WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE POLICY COMMITTEE AT THE PUBLIC HEARING ON SEPT 24TH
  - SAME PROCESS AS INTERNAL COMMENT REVIEW EARLIER TODAY

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

FORMAL REVIEW

FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS – OVERVIEW

- **CONSIDER MOTION TO PROCEED WITH 60-DAY FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS USING CURRENT DRAFT COMPREHENSIVE WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN; JUNE 25 – AUGUST 25**

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

WRAP UP

WRAP UP

- **TODAY: BEGIN FORMAL REVIEW PROCESS**

- **SEPTEMBER 24TH, 10AM: FORMAL PUBLIC HEARING**
  - QUORUM REQUIRED
  - COOK COMMUNITY CENTER

SEPTEMBER – OCTOBER: LOCAL BOARD APPROVAL OF WATERSHED PLAN

NOVEMBER 4TH: NORTHERN BWSR COMMITTEE APPROVAL

DECEMBER 17TH: STATE BWSR BOARD APPROVAL OF PLAN

EARLY 2027: RECEIVE FIRST ROUND OF IMPLEMENTATION FUNDING

LITTLE FORK RIVER 1W1P

POLICY COMMITTEE

JUNE 25, 2026

THANK YOU!