



DRAFT

**2014/2015 Natural Resources Block Grant**

**Fillmore County, MN**

**Natural Resources Block Grant Awarded for FY 2014 & 2015**

Local Water Management	\$14,278
Wetland Conservation Act	\$ 8,778
DNR Shoreland Admin. Grant	\$ 2,692
SSTS (Septic System Program)	\$18,600
Feedlot Base Grant	\$77,836
<b>TOTAL /year</b>	<b>\$122,184</b>

**Grant Period (including extensions)**

From: November 20, 2013  
To: December 31, 2016

**Funds Returned to State**

Type: \$319.42 WCA Administration Grant  
Date Fund Returned: 2/16/17

The Natural Resources Block Grant combines five base grants into one agreement between the County and the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). All of the grants help to carry out the goals of the Fillmore County Local Water Management Plan.

The DNR Shoreland Program, MPCA Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Program, and the MPCA Feedlot Program Base Grant are all administered by the Fillmore County Zoning Office. The administration of the Local Water Management Plan and the Wetland Conservation Act has been delegated by the County to the Fillmore Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The Natural Resources Block Grant is a non-competitive grant awarded to all counties with a Local Water Management Plan that has been locally adopted and BWSR approved. The amount awarded to each county varies based on tax base or workload for a particular program. There are required cash and/or in-kind matches for all the grants except the SSTS grant.

**Natural Resources Block Grant Expenditures as of December 31, 2016**

GRANT PROGRAM		GRANT EXPENDITURE	CASH MATCH	LOCAL IN-KIND MATCH
Local Water Management	FY14 GRANT	\$ 5,766.29		—
	FY15 GRANT	\$ 14,278.00	\$ 6,862.00	
Wetland Conservation Act Administration	FY14 GRANT	\$ 8,644.54		\$ 3,337.95
	FY15 GRANT	\$ 8,386.58	\$ 4,389.00	\$ 4,392.18
DNR Shoreland Ordinance Administration	FY15 GRANT	\$ 2,692.00	—	\$ 2,692.00
SSTS (Septic System Program Administration)	FY15 GRANT	\$ 18,600.00	—	
Feedlot Program Base Grant	FY15 GRANT	\$ 74,366.00		\$ 53,035.20
<b>Total Expenditures</b>	<b>FY14 GRANT</b>	<b>\$ 14,410.83</b>		<b>\$ 3,337.95</b>
	<b>FY15 GRANT</b>	<b>\$ 107,583.96</b>	<b>\$ 8,108.18</b>	<b>\$ 59,347.10</b>

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The Fillmore County Local Water Management Plan for 2006-2015 was reviewed after five years of implementation and amended in 2010. The amendment was approved by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources on December 15, 2010 and adopted by the Fillmore County Board of Commissioners on February 1, 2011, as authorized under MN Statutes Chapter 103B.301. Fillmore County is among the 13 LGUs that signed a Memorandum of Agreement to transition from county-based water management to watershed-based water management by participating in the Root River One Watershed, One Plan Pilot Project. The water plan was extended to December 31, 2016, to allow completion of 1W1P.

*Prepared by Fillmore SWCD for BWSR Website Reporting Requirements*



## 2014/15 Natural Resources Block Grant

### Natural Resources Block Grant Activities as reported in eLINK

**Local Water Management Base Grant:** Activities for 2015 include: Two meetings completed with the LWM Technical Committee (1/27/15) and Citizen Committee (4/1/15). Four nitrate drinking water clinics held in: Preston (2/4/15), Harmony (2/11/15), National Trout Center (2/21/15) & Spring Valley (3/4/15). Five rounds of sampling for the Upper Iowa River watershed in partnership with Iowa DNR. Attendance at meetings throughout the year: SEMWRB, BALMM, two water quality conferences, County and BWSR meetings, MDA Nutrient Fertilizer Plan. Assisted WCA as ongoing TEP member.

2015 Bacteria Lab provided the following services: completed incubation/analysis on 125 presence/absence well water samples for Total coliform and E. coli bacteria and 95 incubation/analysis surface water samples for colony counts of E. coli bacteria. The lab completed annual certification, semi-annual proficiency testing, ongoing QA/QC monitoring and all necessary purchasing of supplies.

2016 Activities: mailed newsletters and assisted with Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Recognition Event on 3/29/16; Held public nitrate drinking water clinics on: 2/20/16 (National Trout Center), 3/22/16 (Public Health) and 3/29/16 (Harmony); attended special drinking water meeting on 1/5/16; WRAC meeting on 1/6/16, Upper Iowa sampling on 4/12/16 (96.7 hrs @\$50.08/hr. for Jan1-April 30 2016).

**Wetland Conservation Act Administration:** 2015: A total of 73 landowner contacts were made in 2015. One violation required a significant number of hours (49 of the 73 contacts) to reach a resolution by installing a designed waterway to meet the ag exemption. The case involved numerous emails, phone calls, and consultations with the landowner, BWSR, SWCD and NRCS staff, TEP meetings and documentation from January to December. The WCA Administrator participated in the Ecological Restoration online course provided by the University of Minnesota. A low ford restoration order was completed. Multiple consultations with landowners on waterway cleanouts. Consultation on wetland replacement. Concurrence with a county bridge replacement project. A canoe launch no-loss application is in progress. The Water Management Coordinator provided training and assistance with several cases due to past experience as the WCA Administrator.

2016: In 2016 we had a No-Loss application that was approved with no wetland impacts. A potential violation site that was found to be in compliance. US Fish and Wildlife also took interest in this site as it would have affected one of their Conservation Easements. USFWS concurred there was no violation taking place. Also, we had 26 MPARS water permits submitted by MN DNR, along with consultations on waterway cleanouts, proposed tiling reviews and site visits. There were also local road authority projects submitted by the county for our review. Held 1 TEP meeting with our Senior Wetland Specialist in June where we visited 2 different sites that day. Fillmore's LGU member attended 4 meetings concerning a WCA shared services position between 3 counties.

Following BWSR policy, WCA flex funds are being used for staff time for LWM/1W1P watershed planning activities not paid from the 1W1P pilot project grant. Staff time for coordination and administration (including presentations for the BWSR Board and Clean Water Council, eLINK reporting, invoices and budgets) exceeded the budgeted amount for the period from 9/20/16 to 12/15/16, the date of the last invoice approved by the Root River 1W1P Policy Committee; Water Management Coordinator 15.25 hrs + SWCD Administrator 5.75 hrs. Additional staff hours for administration and coordination from 12/16/16 to 12/31/16 were needed for the Policy Committee meeting on 12/19/16, getting the plan printed, preparing the final JPA and resolutions for LGU adoption, and getting the final plan and appendices on the website; Water Management Coordinator 17 hrs for a total of 32.25 hrs x \$50.08/hr + SWCD Administrator 21.75 hrs for a total of 27.5 hrs x \$55.62/hr.

**DNR Shoreland Administration:** See reports submitted by Fillmore County Zoning Office

**MPCA SSTS Program Administration:** See reports submitted by Fillmore County Zoning Office

**MPCA Feedlot Program Base Grant:** 2 complaints resulting in return to compliance on one and engineer working on the other. Conducted Compliance inspection in shoreland and permitting and OLA,s. maintained documentation and correspondence and notified producers of the results of inspection. Assisted owners in compliance goals, conducted producer meetings on CAWT and Phosphorus management. Permitted 9 sites for new or expansion, MMP, record keeping and making sure they are in compliance with State Feedlot Rules. Conducted over 200 registrations.