

Diana Griffith

From: Haga, Celi (BWSR) <celi.haga@state.mn.us>
Sent: Monday, September 25, 2017 3:38 PM
To: Michael McDonough
Cc: Michael Varien; Diana Griffith; Jaschke, John (BWSR); BeckerKudelka, Angie (BWSR); Rickert, Dave (BWSR); Penning, Bill (BWSR)
Subject: BWSR LCCMR follow-up

Michael:

Following up on the last LCCMR meeting and questions about the MN CREP, here are answers:

CREP Sign-up

- Sign-up began in late May and through August 15, BWSR has received 60 applications representing 1,500 acres of permanently protected environmentally sensitive land. BWSR staff are pleased with progress to date and look forward to increasing landowner outreach thanks to support from the LCCMR.

CREP Comparisons

- The focus of the MN CREP is water quality and habitat on the 54-county area in Southern and Western Minnesota. Each CREP is unrelated to previous ones, as each one requires a stand-alone and detailed proposal and negotiation process with the federal government. The previous CREPs also were stand-alone efforts and those focused on habitat.

CREP funding

- BWSR currently has \$116.291 million in appropriated funding for MN CREP, from the Clean Water Fund, Outdoor Heritage Fund, LCCMR, and bonding. Given the uncertainty of federal funding, and that federal funds aren't allocated without matching state funds, the state match remains an important appropriations goal.

Wellhead easements

- The MN CREP will protect 60,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land, 3,000 – 5,000 of which are estimated to be wellhead protection acres. There is flexibility built into the agreement in terms of acres per practice, so BWSR will continue to reassess and if demand for wellhead easement increases those numbers can be adjusted upward.
- Wellhead easements have identical restrictions to other conservation easements we acquire. In general, the State's easements for this program do not allow structures to be placed on an easement area (which would include solar panels, wind turbines, cabins, etc.).
- BWSR is currently evaluating the wellhead easement program to determine if changes can be made to increase interest in and demand for these easements.

Best,
Celi

Celi Haga | Legislative Coordinator

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