



2023 Minnesota Watershed Program of the Year

Bois de Sioux Watershed District Multipurpose Drainage Management Program

In the Bois de Sioux Watershed District, landowners lead projects – and one of the clearest priorities for their landowners is modernization of legal drainage systems. These projects become a gateway to add Clean Water features on the landscape. Since 2017, they have implemented a rolling three-year program, under which the District continually plans, develops, and constructs an annual drainage system repair or improvement that includes significant water quality enhancements.

These projects represent a collaboration with landowners, township officials, county commissioners, soil and water conservation districts, road authorities including MnDOT, utilities and railroads. These projects demand close attention to Minnesota drainage law statutes, including multiple legal notices and hearings.

Project costs are dependent upon size, and have ranged from \$600,000 to \$3.6 million. Landowners provide the majority of project funding through repayment of county bonds, but funding partnerships are also critical to project success. Clean Water elements of the projects receive significant funding through partnerships with the Red River Watershed Management Board, BWSR (through the Legacy Act Clean Water Fund), and their own Culvert Sizing and Clean Water grants. Project activities supported by clean water funds include installation of side inlet culverts, berm construction and vegetation/seeding, resulting in significant sediment transport and phosphorous reductions.

Through implementation of their rolling phased program, the Bois de Sioux Watershed District has modernized seven public systems over the past seven years. [Click here to learn more about this program.](#)

