



The FY2016-17 Biennial Budget Request

January 2014

In 2012, BWSR implemented the initial Biennial Budget Request (BBR) to collect information on local government conservation and water management resource needs for FY2014-15 BWSR grant programs. The information gathered in this process included details on projects and activities found in existing state approved, locally adopted water management plans, or an approved total maximum daily load study, surface water intake plan or wellhead management plan. The information provided through the FY2014-15 BBR was utilized by BWSR staff, the Clean Water Council, the Legislature, and the Governor's Office in developing BWSR's FY 2014-15 biennial budget. The data collection/analysis that resulted from the BBR process was valuable and BWSR is planning to implement the second generation BBR for FY 2016-2017 in spring 2014.

Why do the BBR?

Similar to 2012, there are a variety of reasons for doing the BBR in 2014, these include:

- Collecting information on local government projects and programs to maintain or improve water quality that will be used to inform the State budget and appropriations processes.
- Increasing the efficiency of BWSR and other State grant programs, for State agencies and grantees.
- Improving the connections among all State funds appropriated for local government land and water management programs.
- Providing more effective support to the implementation of local water management plans.
- Encouraging earlier project identification to address the expectation that Constitutional Clean Water Funds are used for prioritized and targeted projects and activities that will result in measurable outcomes.

What was the response to the FY2014-15 BBR?

Local governments throughout the State provided a significant response to the initial BBR. More than 260 local governments documented approximately \$416 million in eligible and effective projects and activities. These budget requests are as follows:

	Natural Resources Block Grant	Soil and Water Conservation Districts	Competitive Conservation Projects
State Contribution Request	\$13.6M	\$9.0M	\$243M
Match/Leverage Proposed	\$19.6M	\$21.1M	\$110M
FY14-15 Total Proposed	\$33.2M	\$30.1M	\$353M

Detailed summaries of the response to the FY2014-15 BBR are available on the BWSR website:

<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/bbr/index.html>.

What did BWSR do with this Information?

This information generated through the BBR has never before been available to water management policy makers in Minnesota and served several critical purposes. Prior to the submission of the FY2014-15, BWSR stated the following intended purposes or outcomes of the BBR. Below is a brief discussion on what really happened.

What we said: Local water management plans and priorities should be known and considered at the beginning of the State budget process.

- *What really happened?* The Information was used by BWSR in preparing its FY2014-15 budget request to the Governor's Office and to the Clean Water Council.

What we said: This information will also be used to respond to legislative requests.

- *What really happened?* The information generated by the BBR proved to be essential in educating legislators and interest groups on the water management capabilities of BWSR's local government partners. In addition, the BBR data was critical to achieving favorable adjustments to the Clean Water Accountability Act and in providing the rationale for minimizing Clean Water Fund Budget reductions that were being considered for local government projects and programs.

What we said: This information will be used in the development and implementation of the FY2014-15 grant processes.

- *What really happened?* Local governments that submitted a FY2014-15 BBR received 5 points during the scoring of the FY2014 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants.

What we said: Most grants will be issued biennially.

- *What really happened?* For FY2014, many, but not all, BWSR grants are being issued on a two-year basis. A single grant agreement is being used for the FY2014-15 Program and Operations Grants (NRBG, Conservation Delivery, etc.). This approach will simplify grant processing and speed up payments in the second year of the biennium. Also, the FY2014 Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation – Shared Services Grants will be issued on a biennial basis.

What we said: The BBR will replace the SWCD annual plan and Natural Resources Block Grant (NRBG) Allocation and Contribution Statement.

- *What really happened?* BWSR staff are not requiring either of these documents for the FY2014 Program and Operations Grants (NRBG, Conservation Delivery, etc.).

FY2016-17 BBR Schedule

Date	Description/Decision
January – March 2014	BBR Communications, Outreach and Training to LGUs.
March 17, 2014 – May 2, 2014	Biennial Budget Request open.
May – June 2014	Post-BBR Communications to LGUs.
June – September 2014	FY2016-17 Biennial Budget Development, Clean Water Council and Administration.

What can you do now?

You can review your water management plan and related plans and begin considering the priorities you might include in your BBR.

What's next?

Watch for additional details in your email inbox in the coming weeks and months. BWSR will be providing additional information and details on the FY2016-17 BBR.