

Fact Sheet

Non-Point Engineering Assistance Program

This program's purpose is to provide engineering assistance to private landowners, via soil and water conservation districts, for non-point water quality management practices.

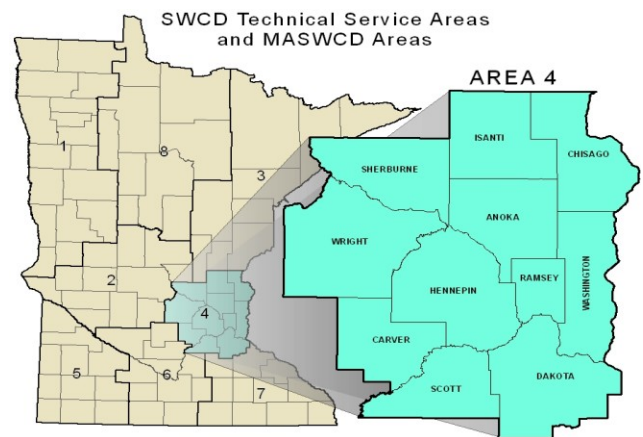
This program was established in 1994 in conjunction with the Agricultural Best Management Practices (Ag BMP) and Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Loan Programs, which receive funding from the State Revolving Fund (SRF).

- This loan program is a statewide initiative that provides low-interest loans and engineering assistance for non-point source pollution projects in Minnesota. The loan portion of the program is handled by counties, soil and water conservation districts and the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. The SRF Joint Powers Areas through contractual arrangements provide engineering for the program.
- This loan program provides 3-percent interest loans to farmers and rural landowners in Scott County to bring their livestock-holding facilities and septic systems into conformance with water quality standards and also to help implement other stormwater control practices such as those needed to protect streambank, lakeshore, roadside and agricultural land from erosion. Interested individuals should contact the Scott Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) for loan application packets. Applicants will need to provide information about the proposed projects to be funded and the desired loan amounts.

Program organization

Eleven joint powers groups of SWCDs were created statewide in 1995 to provide professional engineering and technician assistance to each member SWCD (reduced to 8 groups in 2008). The associated joint powers boards (JPBs) include a supervisor from each member SWCD. One member SWCD serves as the host district and manager for the JPB. The same, or another member SWCD, serves as the JPB fiscal agent. These SRF area offices are located throughout Minnesota (*see map*).

The Scott SWCD is located in **SRF Joint Powers Area 4**. The SRF Joint Powers Area 4 consists of these 11 metro counties: Anoka, Carver, Chisago, Dakota, Hennepin, Isanti, Ramsey, Scott, Sherburne, Washington and Wright. The Scott Soil and Water Conservation District is the host district and fiscal agent for the SRF Joint Powers Area 4.



Program procedure

The SRF Joint Powers Area 4 members may apply for engineering assistance for non-point source pollution practices. The JPB reviews, prioritizes and approves or denies the applications based on rank and funding. If approved, member districts contract for engineering assistance with the selected consultative engineer. Reimbursement to the engineer is made by the host district once the engineering service has been satisfactorily completed and certified by the member district as meeting the contract. The Board of Water and Soil Resources provides policy, training, administrative and technical consultation to JPBs and their staffs. Base grants for engineering/technician assistance are allocated and reconciled annually. Challenge grants for more engineering or technical assistance in high workload areas are provided based on funding. SRF Joint Powers Areas utilize current electronic surveying, design and drafting technology. The total annual funding is approximately \$100,000.

For more information, contact:

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