BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

BWSR/NRCS Soil Health Programming

October 8, 2024

Jill Sackett Eberhart - BWSR Board Conservationist

NASCA - Duluth, MN

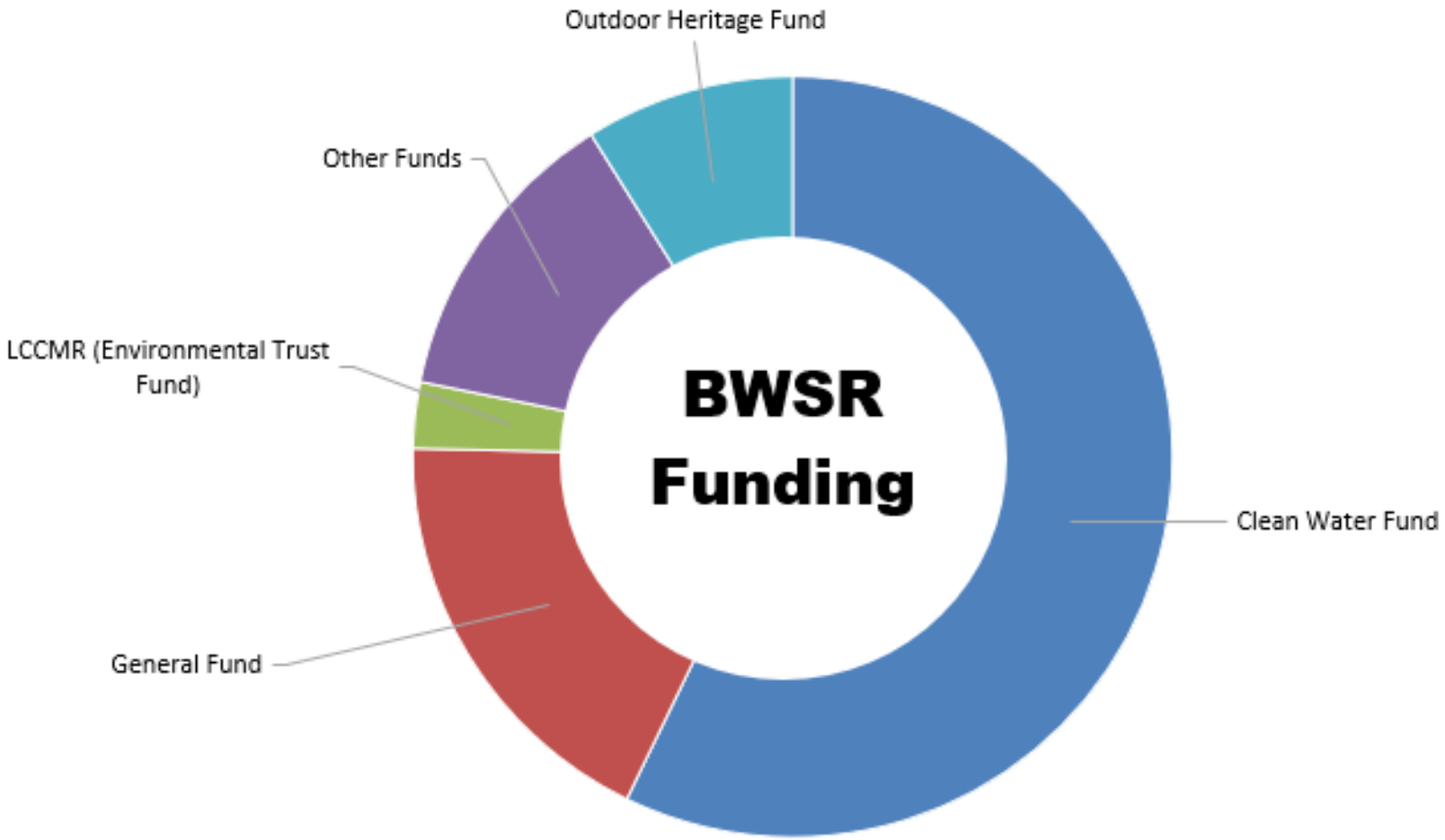
BWSR's mission



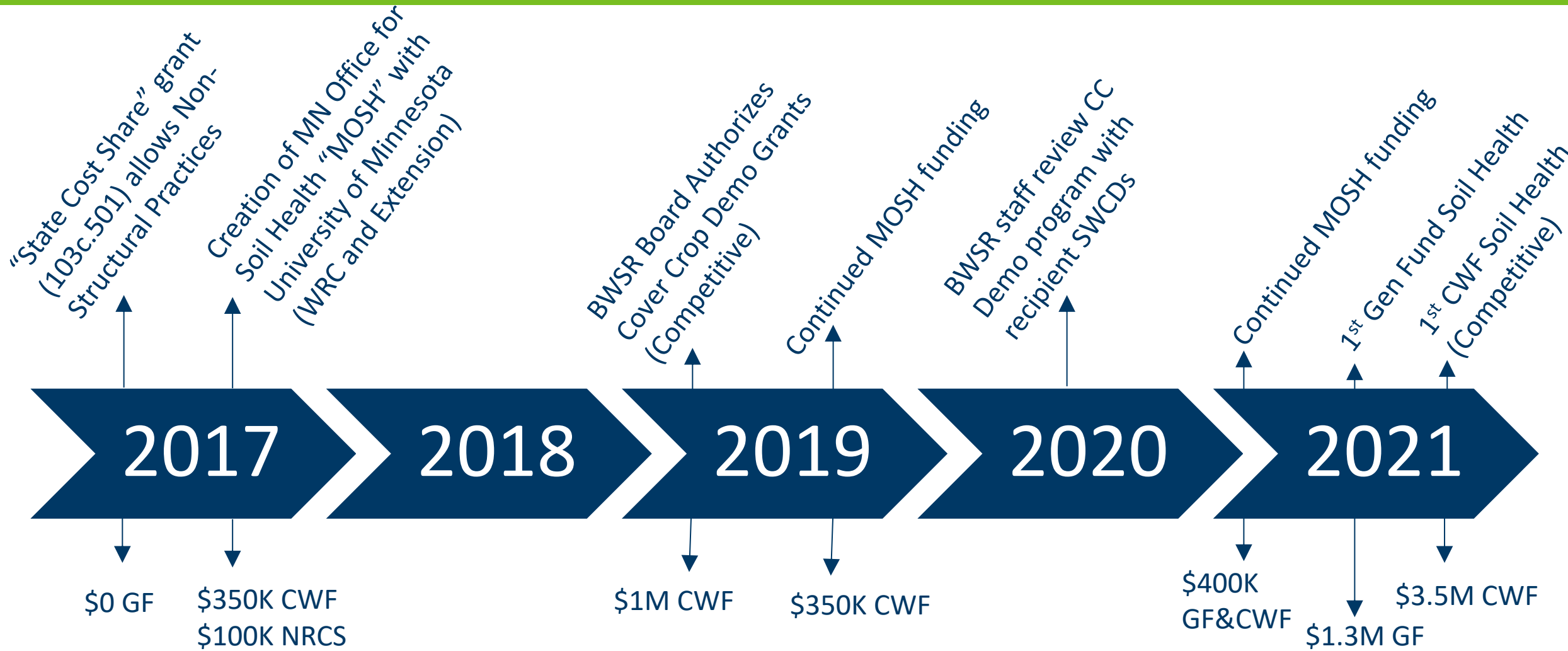
Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

BWSR Funding – FY22/23 Biennium

- General Fund: 18%
- Clean Water Fund (CW, L&L Amend.): 57%
- Outdoor Heritage Fund (CW, L&L Amend): 9%
- LCCMR (Enviro Trust Fund): 3%
- Other: 13%



How did we (BWSR) get here . . .



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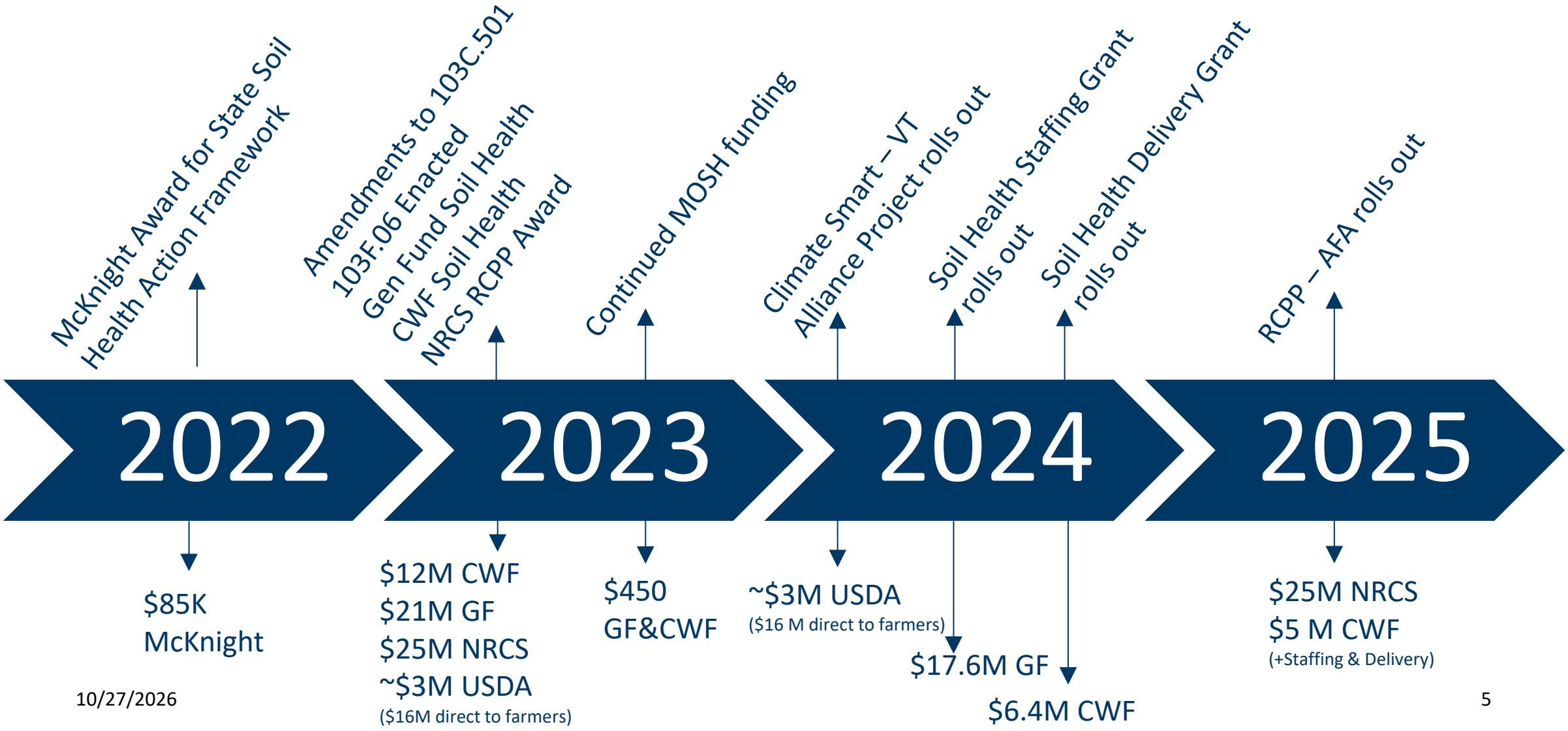
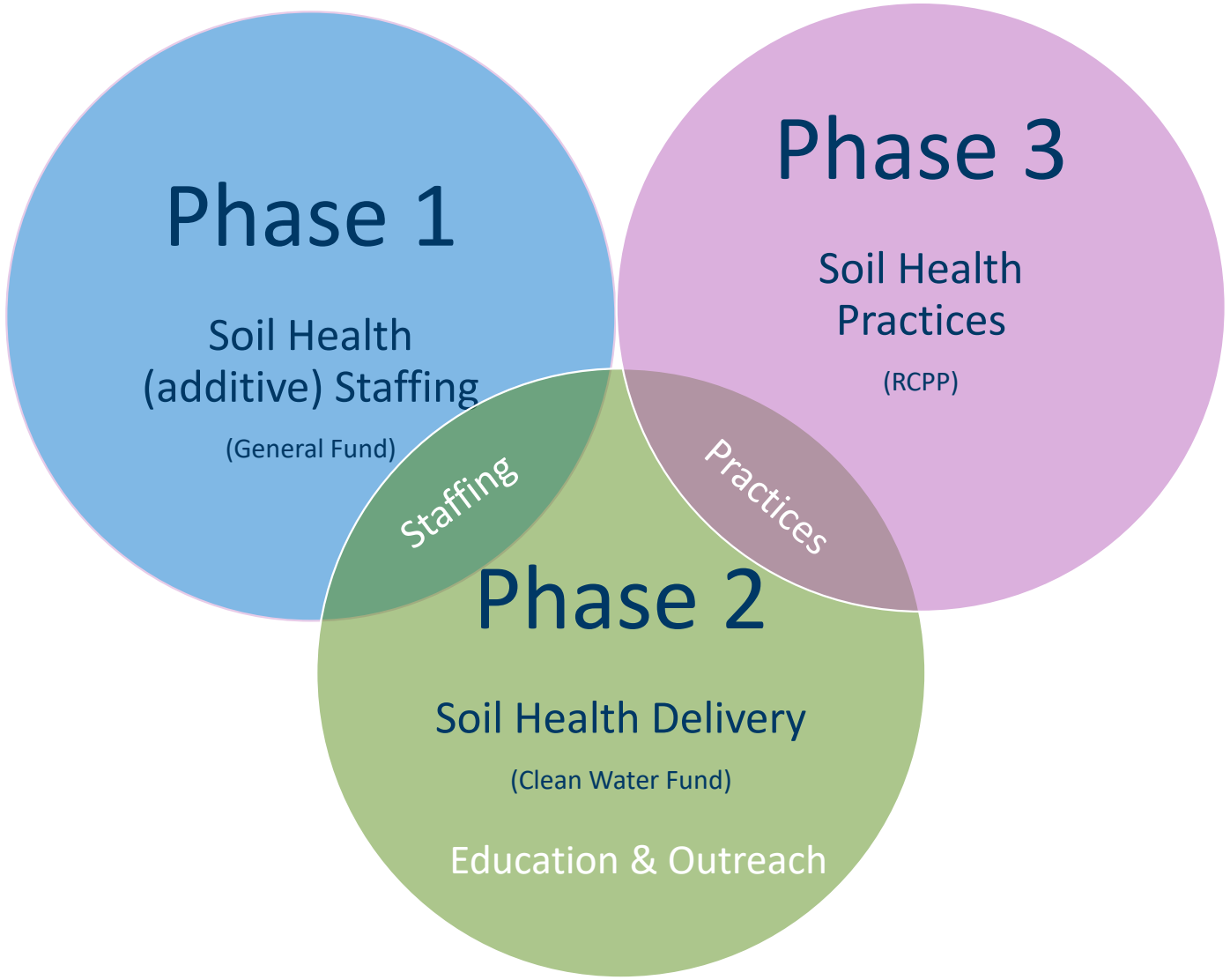


How New funding fits together



State Funds – Soil Health Staffing

Soil Health Supplemental Staffing Grant (Phase 1)

- To create additional local points of contact to work with landowners on increasing utilization of soil health practices and systems that advance the principles of soil health
- Competitive (SWCDs), statewide RFP (~$17.6M GF)
- Increase
  - Trusted local expertise (Staff/assistance capacity)
  - Partnerships
  - Mentorship and farmer-to-farmer learning support



State Funds – Soil Health

Delivery Grant (Phase 2)

- Soil Health implementation (financial assistance), education/outreach, staff time
- Non-competitive (RFI), statewide, formula based
  - Rolled out Summer 2024
  - $6.4 Million awarded
  - Local policy driven

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

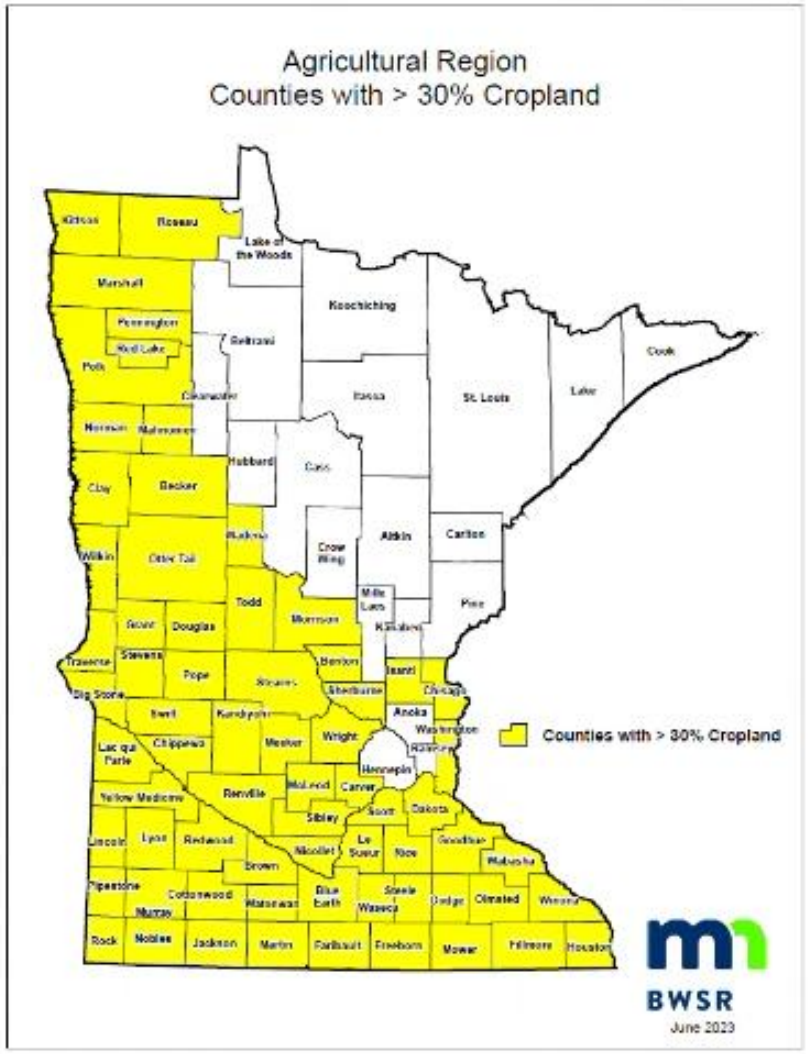




Federal Funds – RCPP

Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

- Advancing Soil Health in Minnesota Agriculture
  - Soil health practice implementation
- Total Funding Request: $25 Million
  - Match ($17.6M GF; $6.4M CWF; $5 CWF T/E)
- Alternative Funding Agreement (AFA)
- Counties with greater than 30% agriculture
- Still under negotiation



USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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