

Goodhue County Board of
Commissioners
COW Meeting
Tuesday April 7th 2026

Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District
Discussion on General Updates and Outreach

Goodhue County Well Inventory

Joint Effort Across County Departments

- GIS Dept.
- Land Use Dept.
- HHS
- Goodhue SWCD*
- Mn Dept. Health Funding Initiative
- about 6,000 wells to review
- 1,370 letters sent out so far



Dear Landowner,

The Minnesota Well Index (MWI), maintained by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the University of Minnesota, plays an important role in protecting public health and groundwater resources. The MWI documents the location, construction details, and geology of more than 599,000 wells across the state.

The Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), in partnership with Goodhue County, is working to identify all private wells that supply drinking water to homes within the county. This information helps identify potential contamination sources, ensure safe drinking water, guide land use decisions, and support long-term groundwater management. This project is being funded by the Minnesota Department of Health.

To participate:

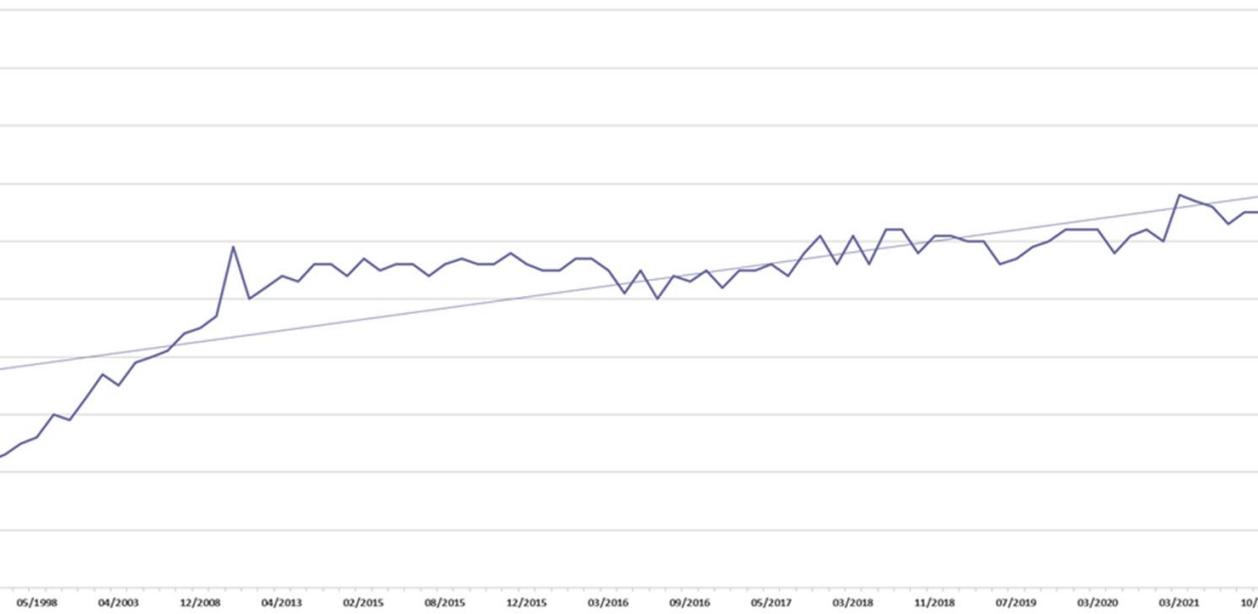
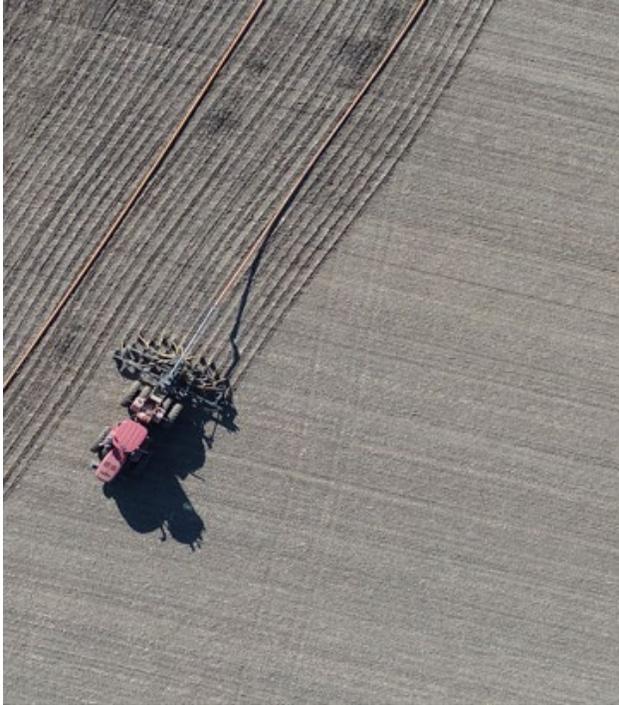
Scan the QR code or use this link, <https://arco.is/e0T5S2>, to fill out your well information. Be sure to move the blue marker to the location of your well on the map.



Please call the Goodhue SWCD if you have any questions 651-923-5286 x4.

Thank you for your time,

Goodhue Soil and Water Conservation District
Goodhue County



Goodhue Drinking Water Supply Management Area

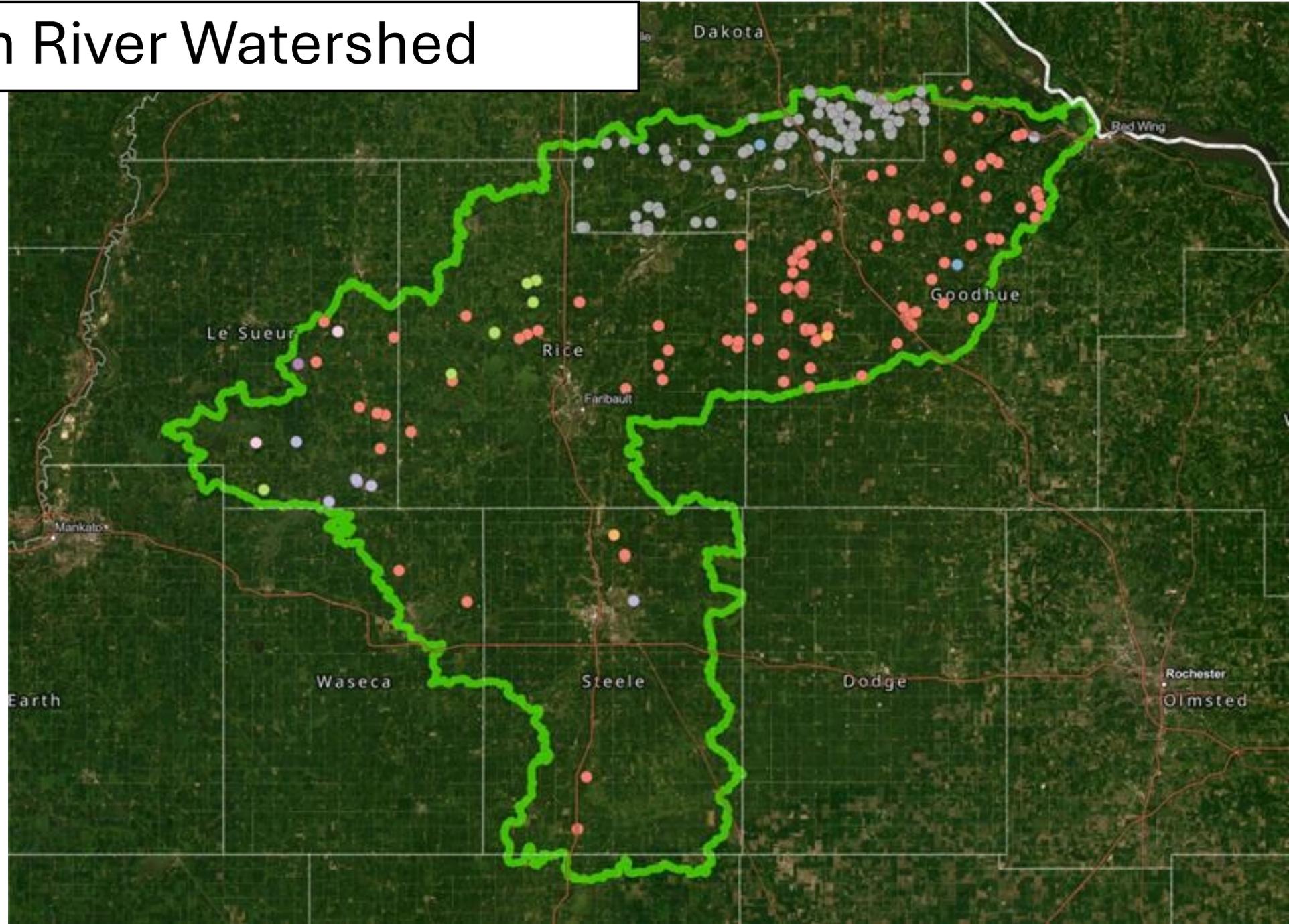
- City's Nitrates are around 7.0mg/L and climbing. The 2,500-acre DWSMA is largely in row-crop agriculture with roughly 2,200 animal units of hogs & cattle being raised within. A simple, one size fits all approach, does not work for improving soil health and reducing Nitrate leaching



Cannon River Watershed

2020-2025

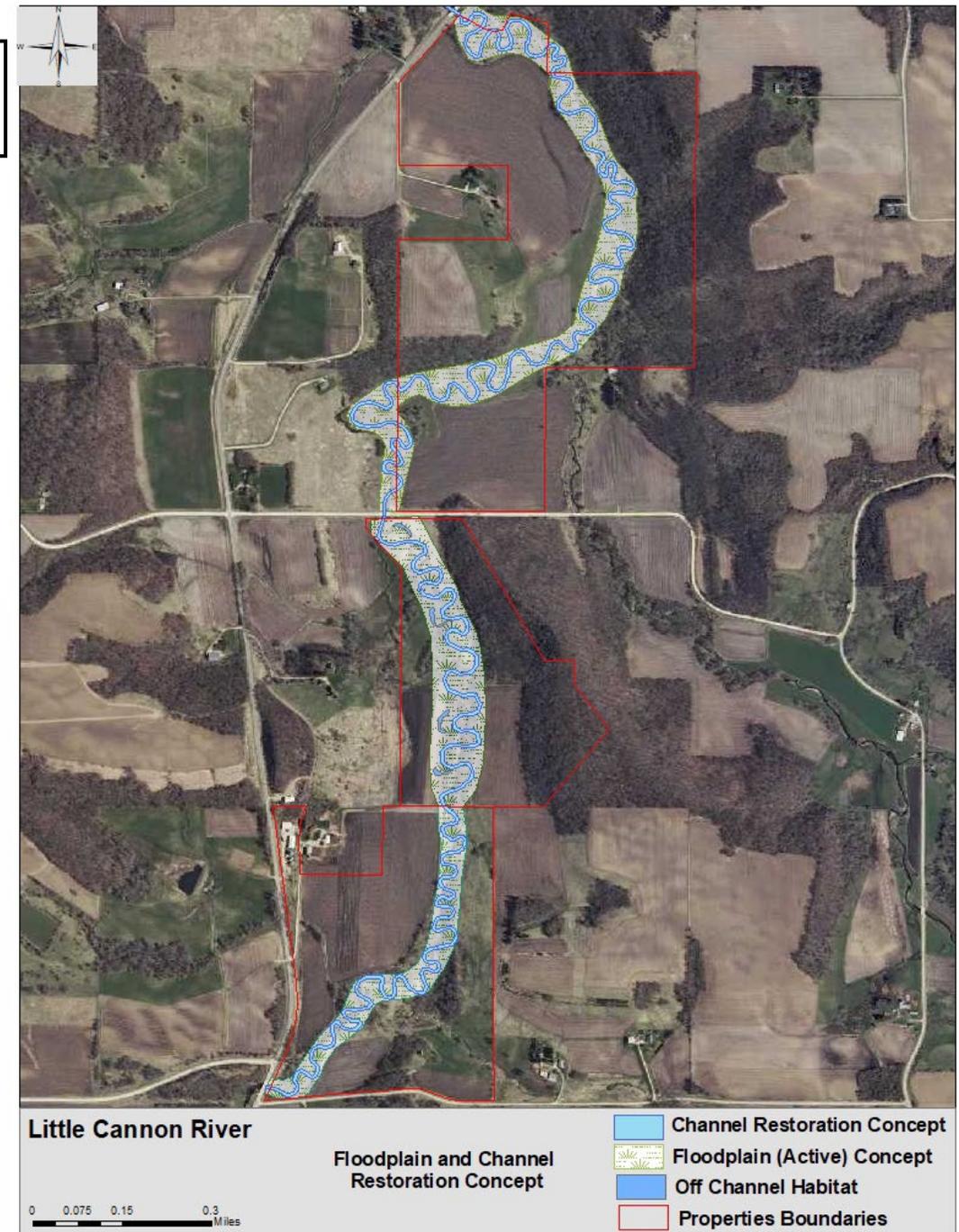
- 72 Dams/Sediment Basins
- Feedlot fix
- Grazing Plan
- 1,500 acres of Cover Crop
- Shoreland Projects (Lakes)
- Well Sealings





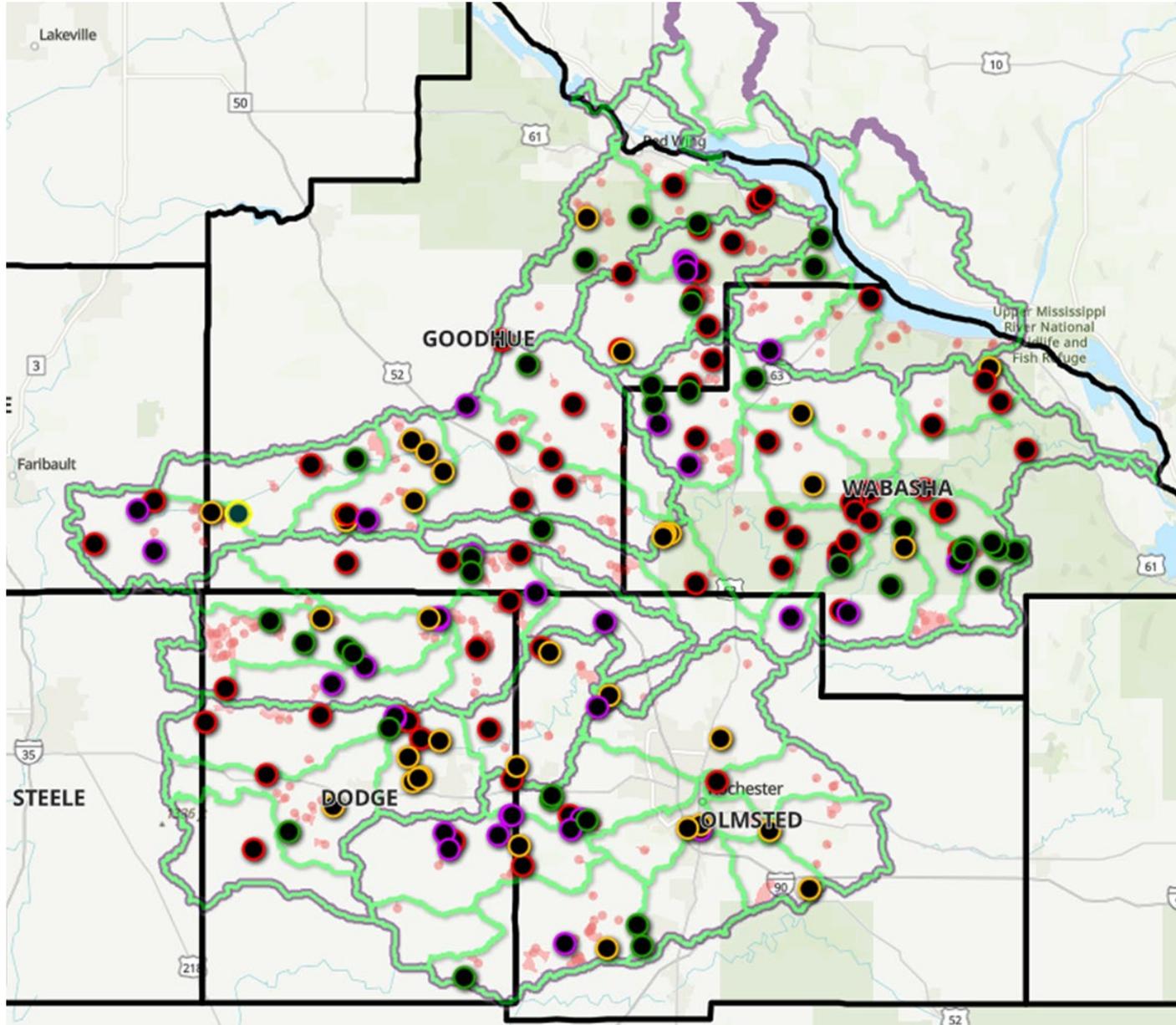
Cannon River Watershed

- Little Cannon River Restoration Project
 - 5 Voluntary Landowners
 - DNR Fishing Easements in Place
 - In Play – State + Federal Funding for Construction
 - Nearly 5 Miles of Restored Stream Length
 - 2028?





Greater Zumbro River Watershed



2022-2025 Conservation Practices

	<p>Cover Crops 4,967 acres Planted by 38 Producers in Dodge, Goodhue & Wabasha Counties</p>
	<p>Grassed Waterways 7,295 acres treated 40 projects funded</p>
	<p>Water & Sediment Control Treating over 223 acres of cropland 32 projects funded</p>
	<p>Grade Stabilization Structure Treating over 990 acres 30 Projects funded</p>
	<p>Waste Storage Facilities 8.7 million gallons of storage 3 Projects funded</p>
	<p>Well Sealing 27 Wells Sealed</p>
	<p>Prescribed Grazing Plans 57.7 acres of cropland converted</p>
	<p>Urban Stormwater & Forestry 100 rainbarrels 2 Forest Stewardship Plans - 199 acres</p>

Baker Grade Stabilization Structure

\$57,600
Total Project Cost

\$7,833 Zumbro Cost-Share

\$44,071 Federal Cost-Share

\$5,696 Landowner Cost

Survey/Design by:
Goodhue SWCD & NRCS
Engineer



Ryan Feedlot Project

\$582,500
Total Project Cost

\$300,000 State Funding

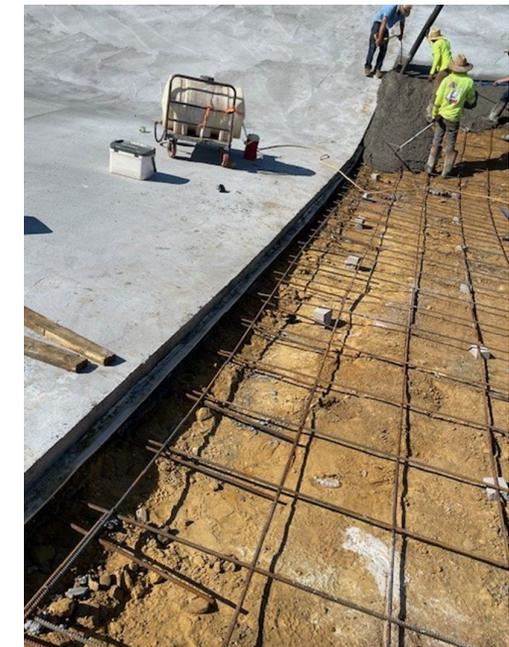
\$40,000 Federal Funding

\$242,000 Landowner

<https://youtu.be/Sl7l2F4WOzo>



WATERSHED ALLIANCE FOR
THE GREATER ZUMBRO RIVER





Greater Zumbro River Watershed

WATERSHED ALLIANCE FOR
THE GREATER ZUMBRO RIVER

Zumbro Regional Water Trail Update

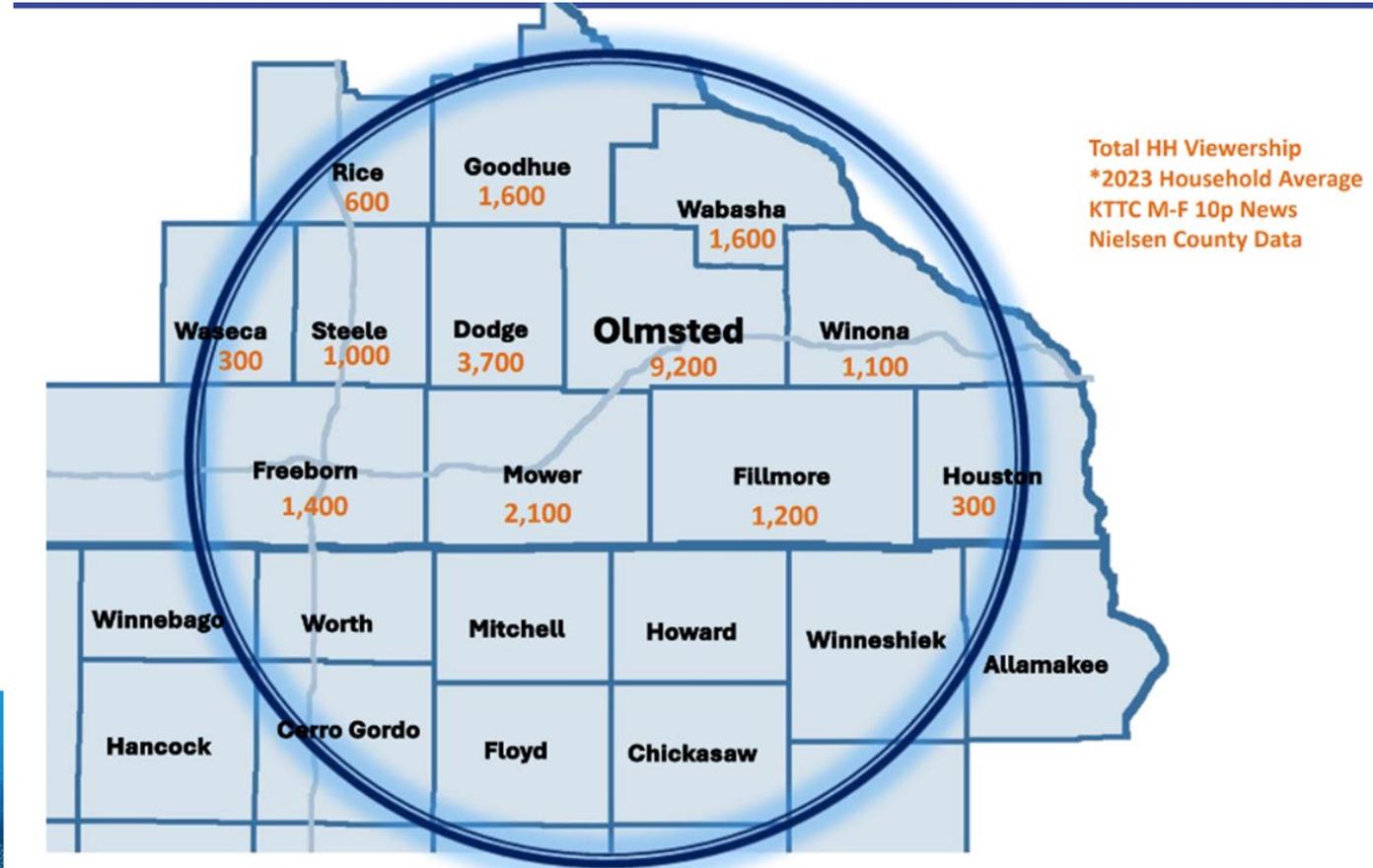
Leveraging Funds through State Trails Commission

- A. Covered Bridge Access – Zumbrota
- B. Walking Bridge Park Access – Mazeppa
- C. Wabasha Co. Bridge Access – Millville
- D. Zwart Park Access – Pine Island
- E. Oronoco Park Access – Oronoco
- F. W. River Road Access – Rochester



Media-Outreach

- Broadcast-TV: Available to ~500,000 viewers in our market
- Select Program to best fit our message and audience
 - *Sports Events*



Closing Comments

- The Watershed Approach to Conservation has led to more private land projects, funding to assist those projects and advance the protection of our soil and water resources.
- Your Local Support has allowed Goodhue to become a leader in the SE leveraging outside funding sources and implementing conservation practices.
- Your funding stays local
 - (our landowners, our contractors, our business owners, our water)
- Partner on Outreach Campaigns
- Project Tours and the County Fair

Cannon Full Length We All Live Downstream:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bN3cySslciU>

Zumbro Full Length Landowner Stories:

https://youtu.be/0h9Wkbi0rUM?si=KaazwjWuKNREn_Zg

Septic System Maintenance:

[Maintain Your Septic System – Keep Minnesota Waters Clean](#)

Football:

<https://youtu.be/hBiXFlv1Wq0>

Manure:

https://youtu.be/CMi2_hp-XLw

Lyle:

<https://youtu.be/OqUzTd9qwGA>



Sen. Lieske - March 18th 2026