



Hawk Creek Watershed Project

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Dean Dambrotten – Planner/Field Technician
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Hawk Creek, Renville County

HCWP

- **28 years**
- **Joint powers agreement between Chippewa, Kandiyohi, and Renville Counties**
- **Board - one County Commissioner from each county:**
 - Chippewa – Kurt Strandberg**
 - Kandiyohi – Corky Berg**
 - Renville – David Hamre**
- **Purpose:**
 - **a local voice**
 - **local control of water quality efforts**
 - **work on a watershed scale to address water quality problems**

Funding Sources



- **Environmental Protection Agency Federal 319 grant funds**
 - **Section 319 of the Clean Water Act**
 - **Federal dollars HCWP brings in to our local economies**
- **Clean Water Fund grants**
 - **State funds**
- **Miscellaneous contracts**
 - **Minnesota Department of Agriculture**
 - **Discovery Farms – Minnesota**
 - **Central Minnesota River Watershed Partnership**

History of Funding



- Brought in \$17,640,000 to our local area:
 - \$9,840,000 in grant funds
 - \$7,800,000 in septic loan funds

Future Funding

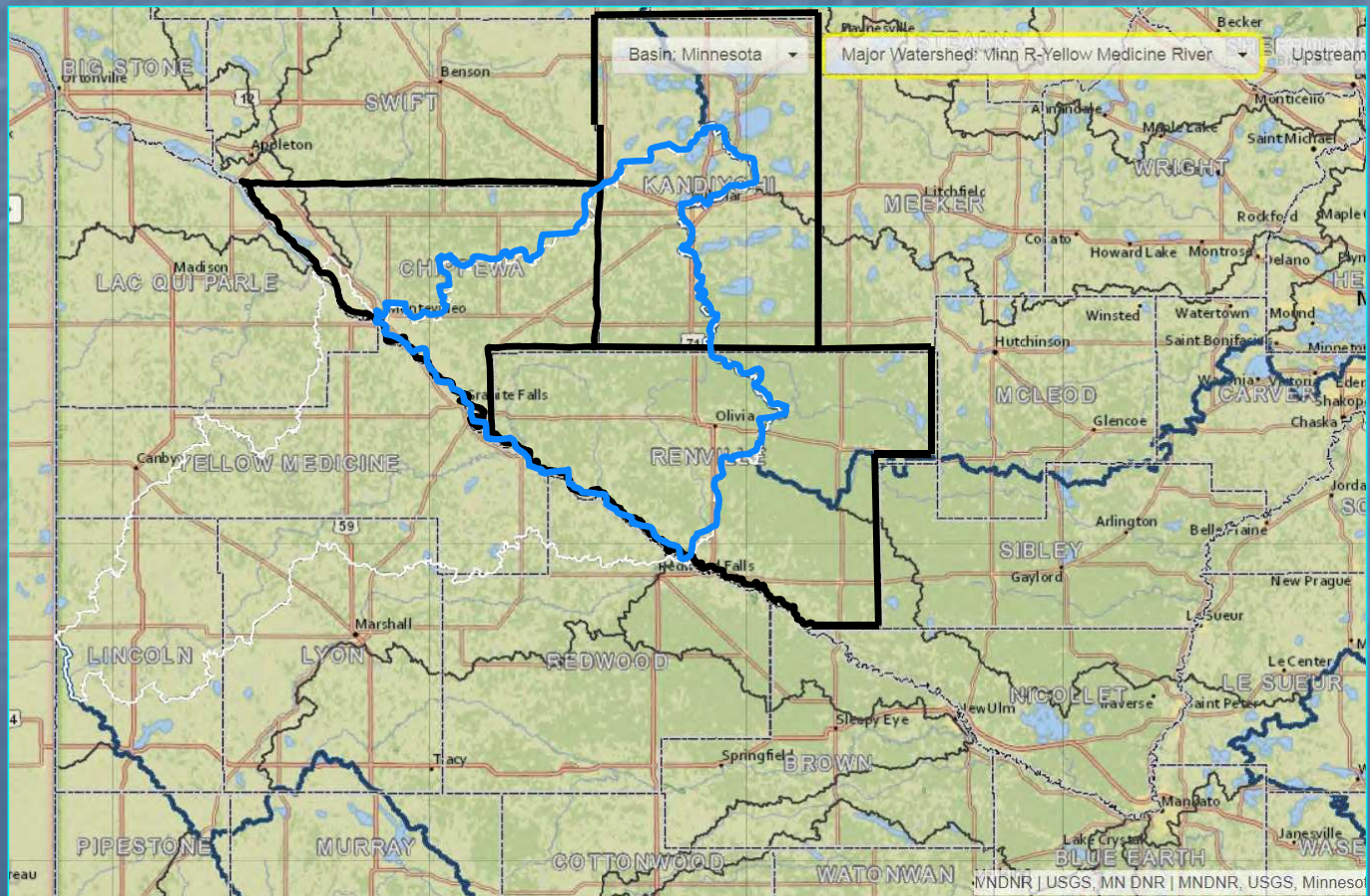


- Encumbered over \$1.5M in future funding
- Four consecutive four-year Federal 319 grants
- Monitoring funds

HCWP Boundaries

Hawk Creek Watershed:

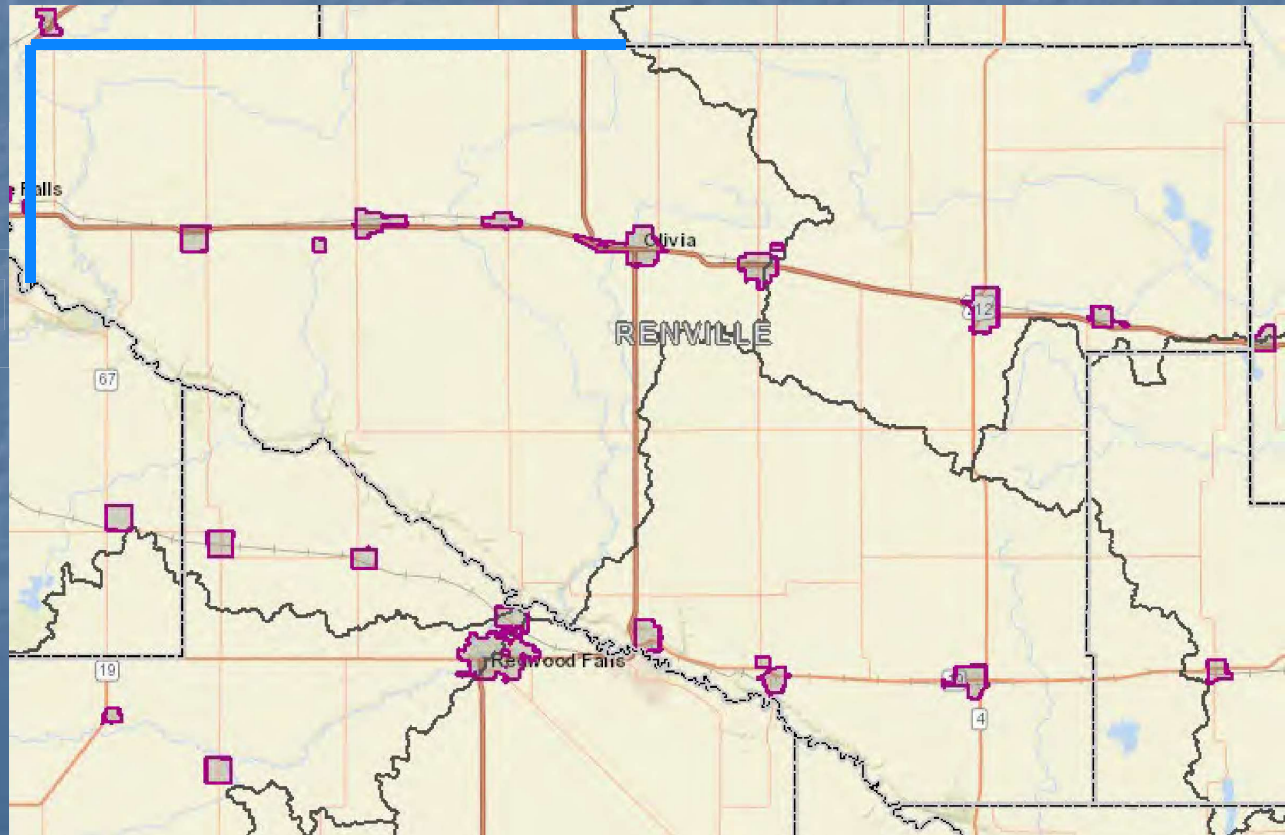
Chippewa 27%
Kandiyohi 26%
Renville 47%



HCWP Boundaries

Renville County:

**45% Hawk Creek Watershed
largest watershed in Renville
County**



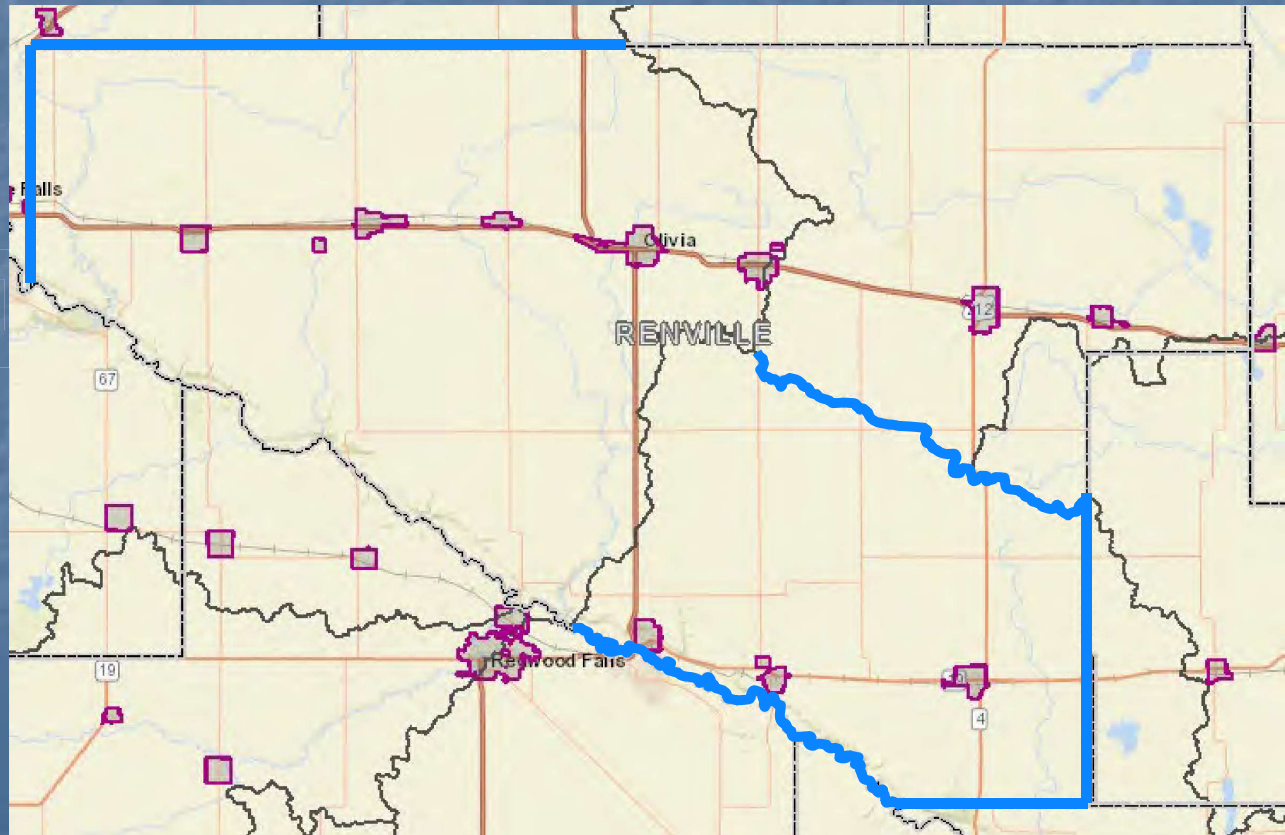
HCWP Boundaries

Renville County:

45% Hawk Creek Watershed
largest watershed in Renville County

25% Mid-MN Watershed

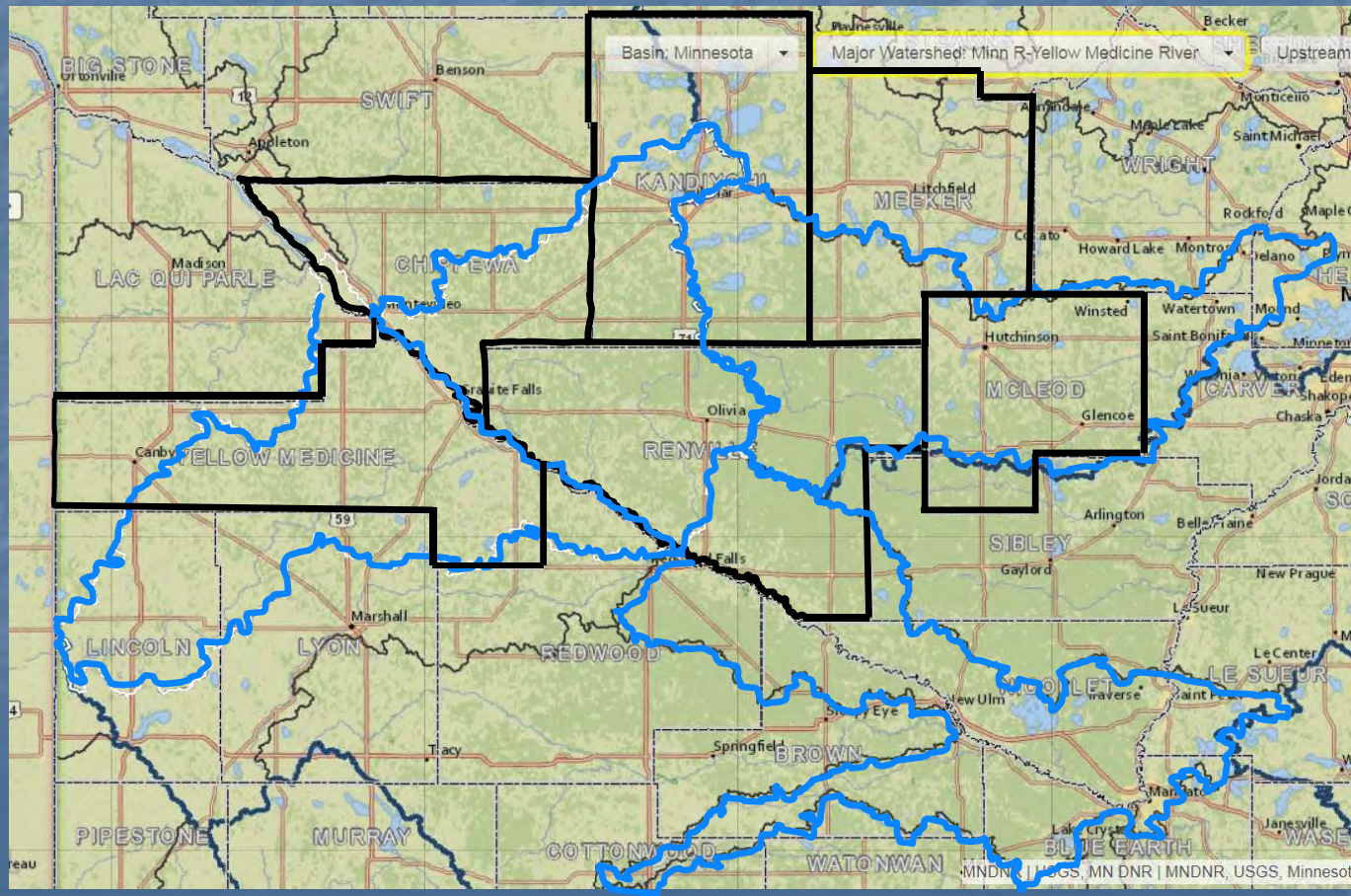
70%



HCWP Work Area

4 Watershed

6 Counties



3 Main Components of What HCWP Does:



1) Water Quality Monitoring

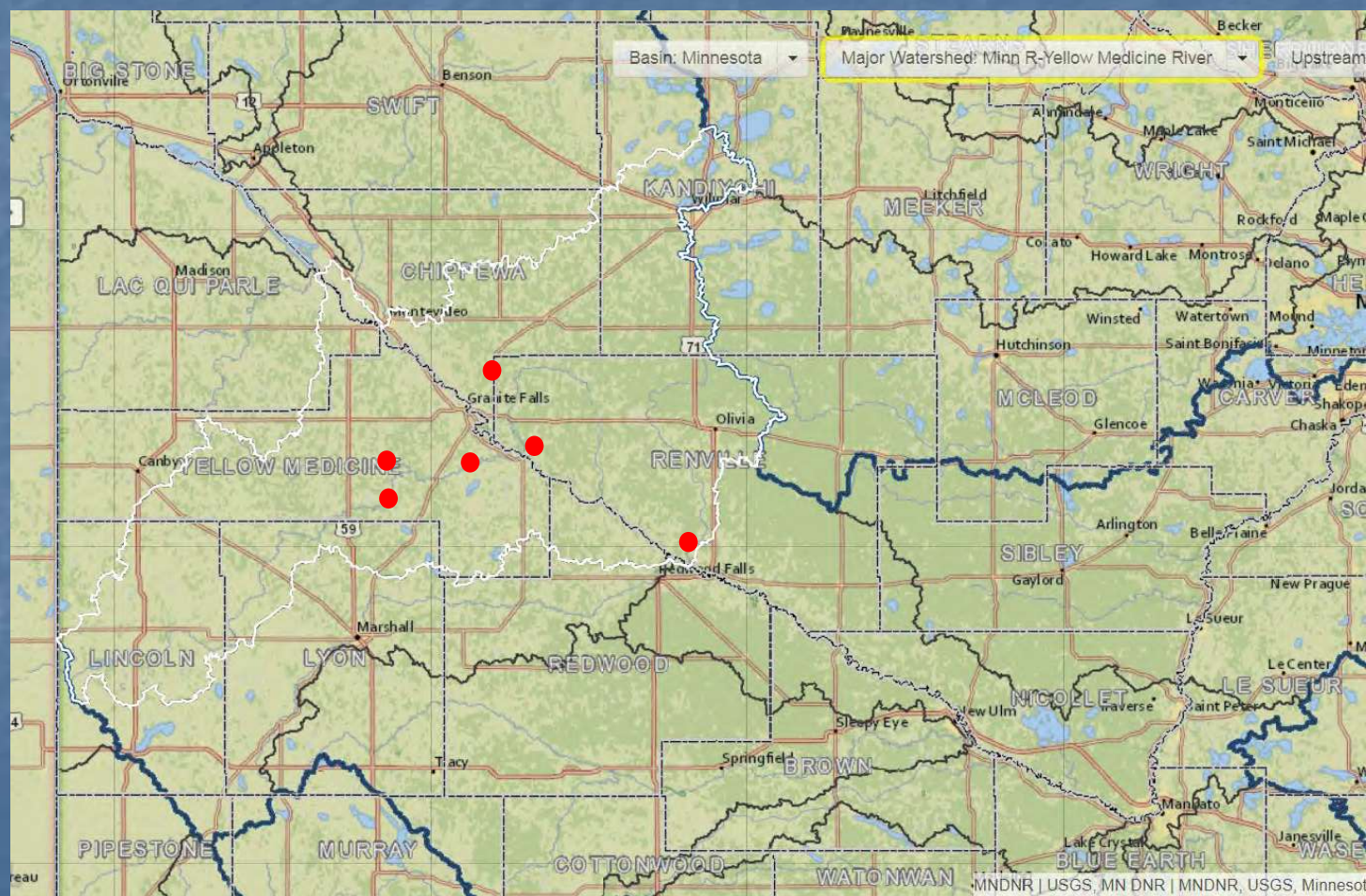
2) Projects (Best Management Practices)

3) Education/Outreach

Water Quality Monitoring

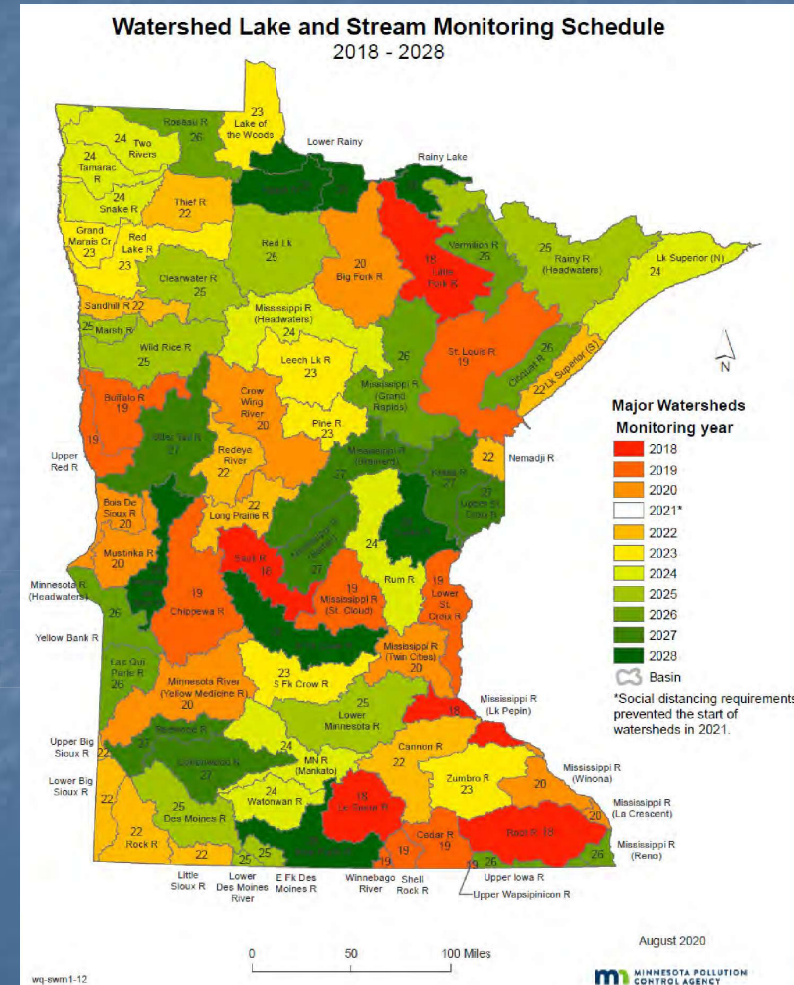
MPCA Pollutant Load Monitoring

6 sites



Water Quality Monitoring

- **WRAPS = Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies**
- **HCWP is local lead for WRAPS**
- **Every watershed in MN is assessed every 10 years by MPCA and local leads**
- **data from WRAPS used in 1W1Ps, local water plans, apply for grant funds**

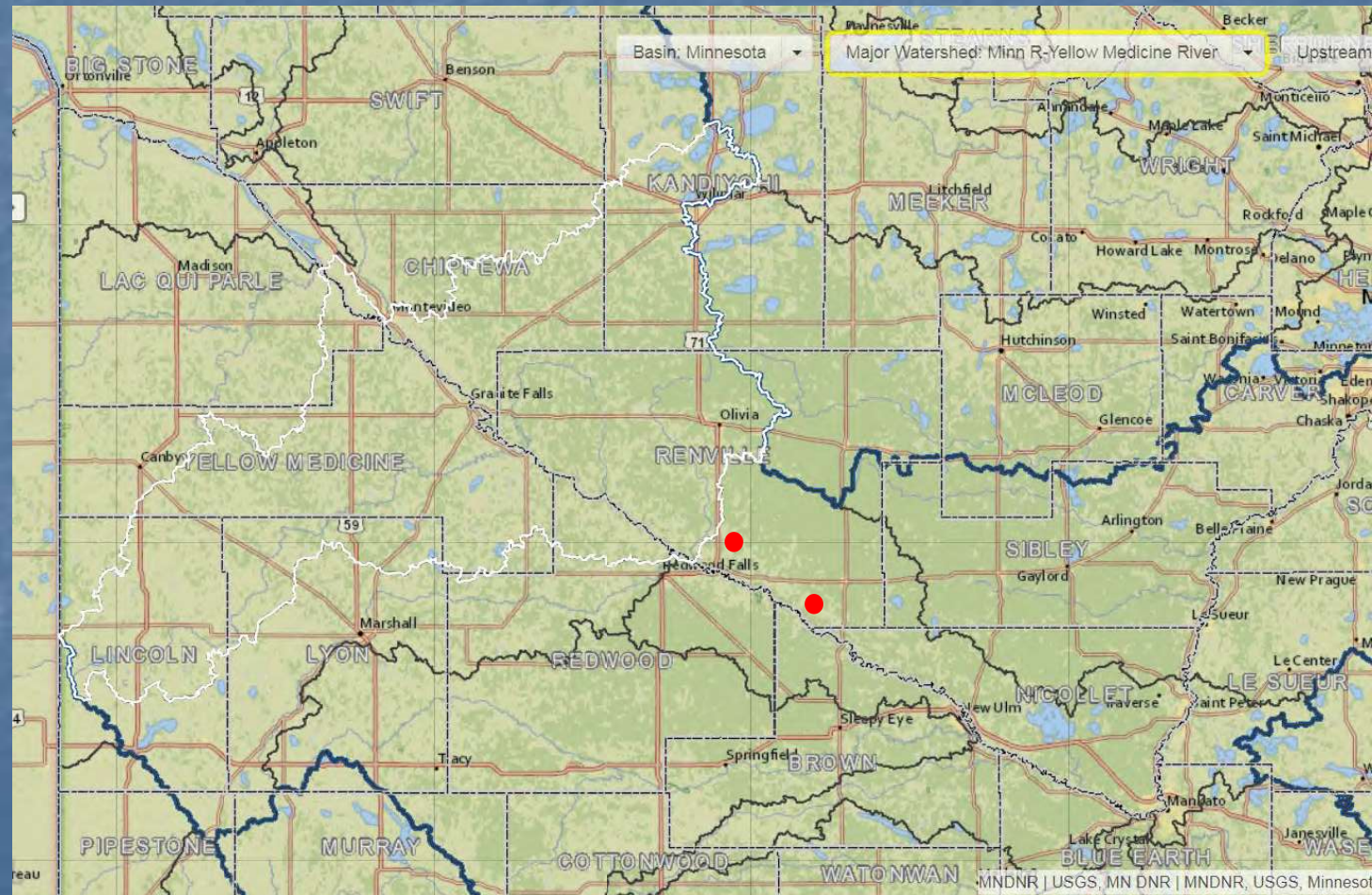


Water Quality Monitoring

**MPCA 2024-2025
WRAPS Monitoring**

**Mid-MN River
Watershed**

2 sites



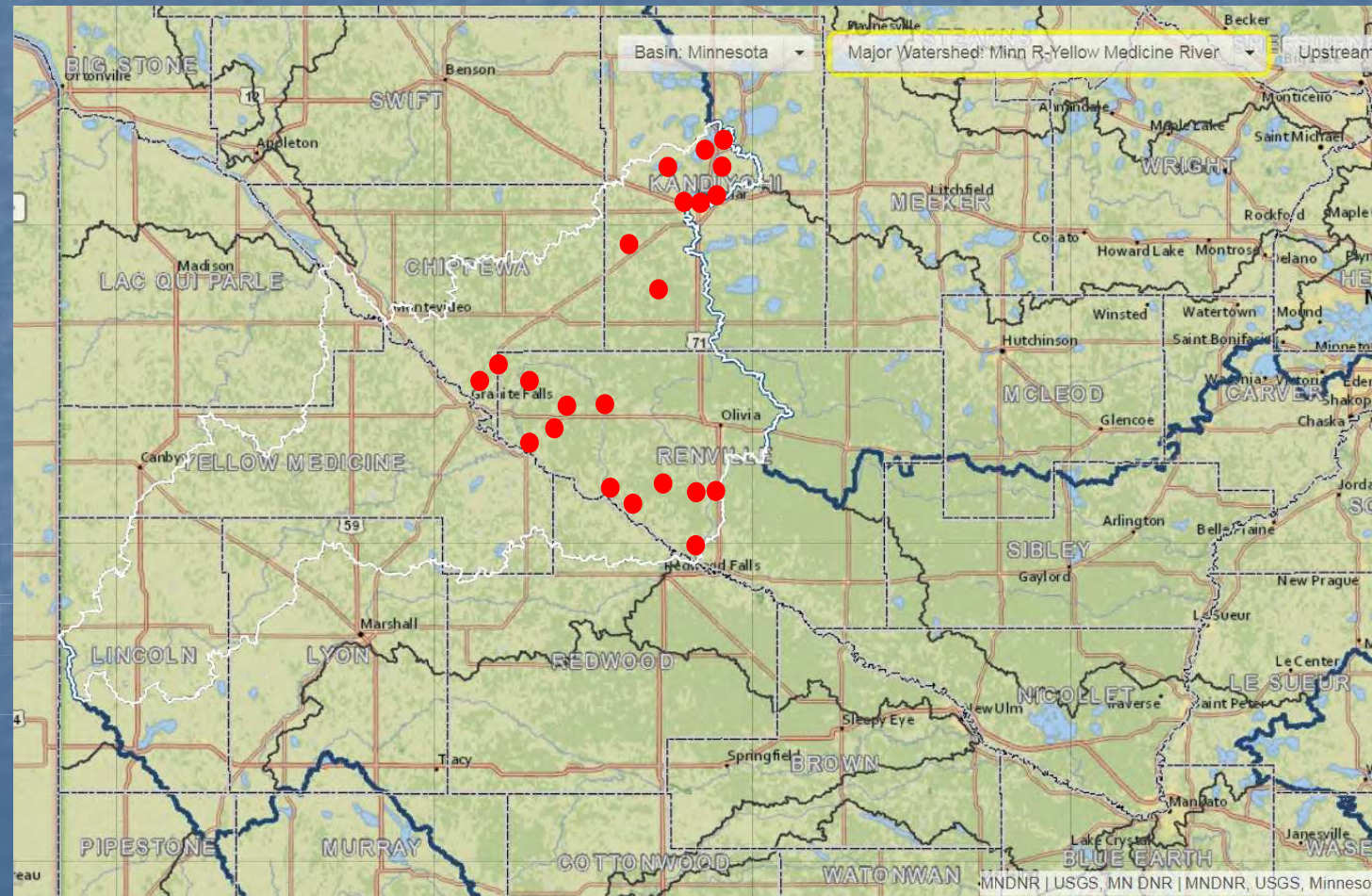
Water Quality Monitoring

MPCA 2020-2021 WRAPS Monitoring

Hawk Creek Watershed

22 sites:

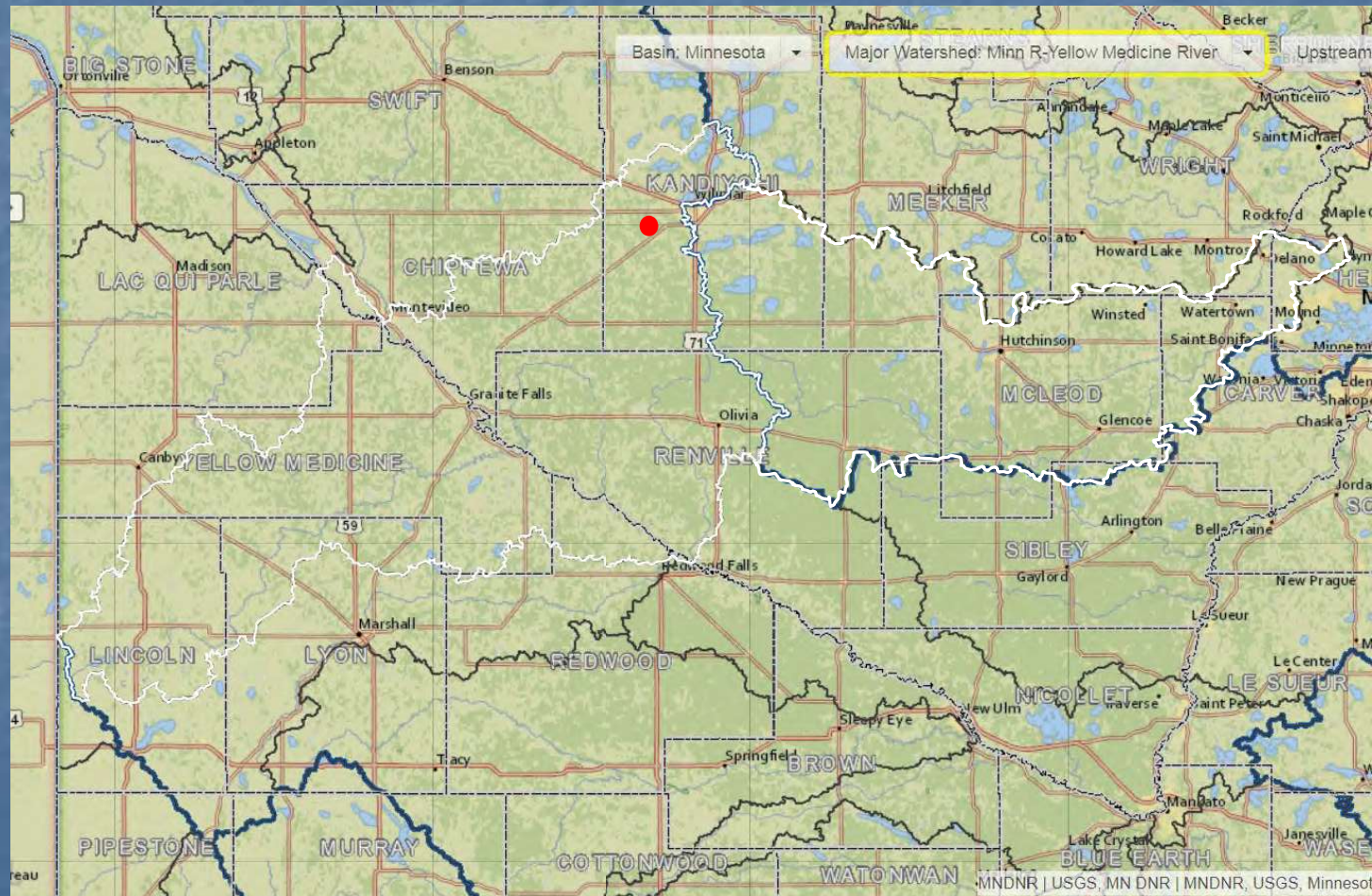
- 7 lakes: Henderson, Eagle, Willmar (main bay), Willmar (south bay), Foot, Long, East Solomon
- 15 streams



Water Quality Monitoring

EPA

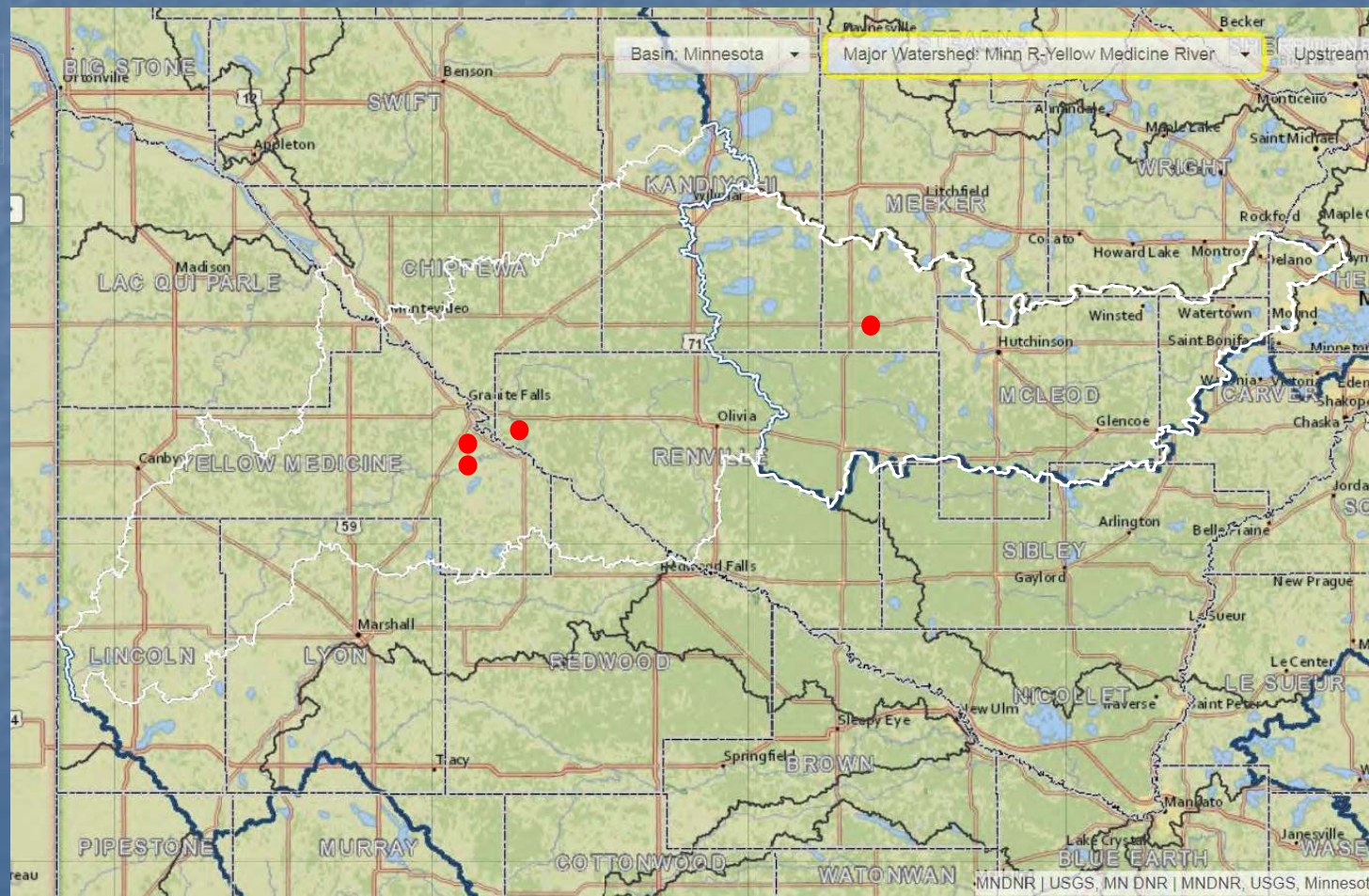
1 site



Water Quality Monitoring

MN Dept of Ag
Pesticide Monitoring

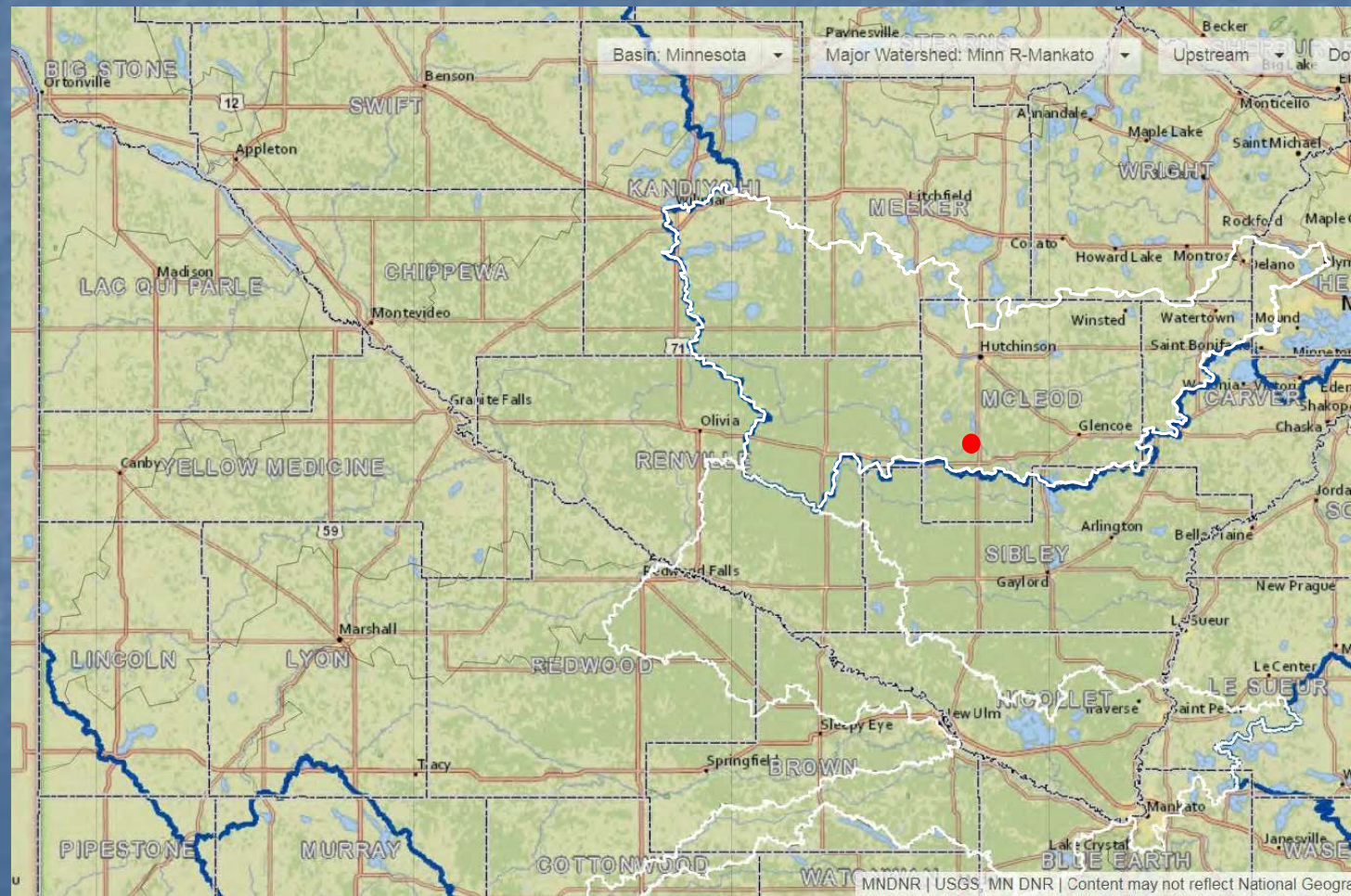
4 sites



Water Quality Monitoring

Discovery Farms - Minnesota

1 site



Water Quality Monitoring

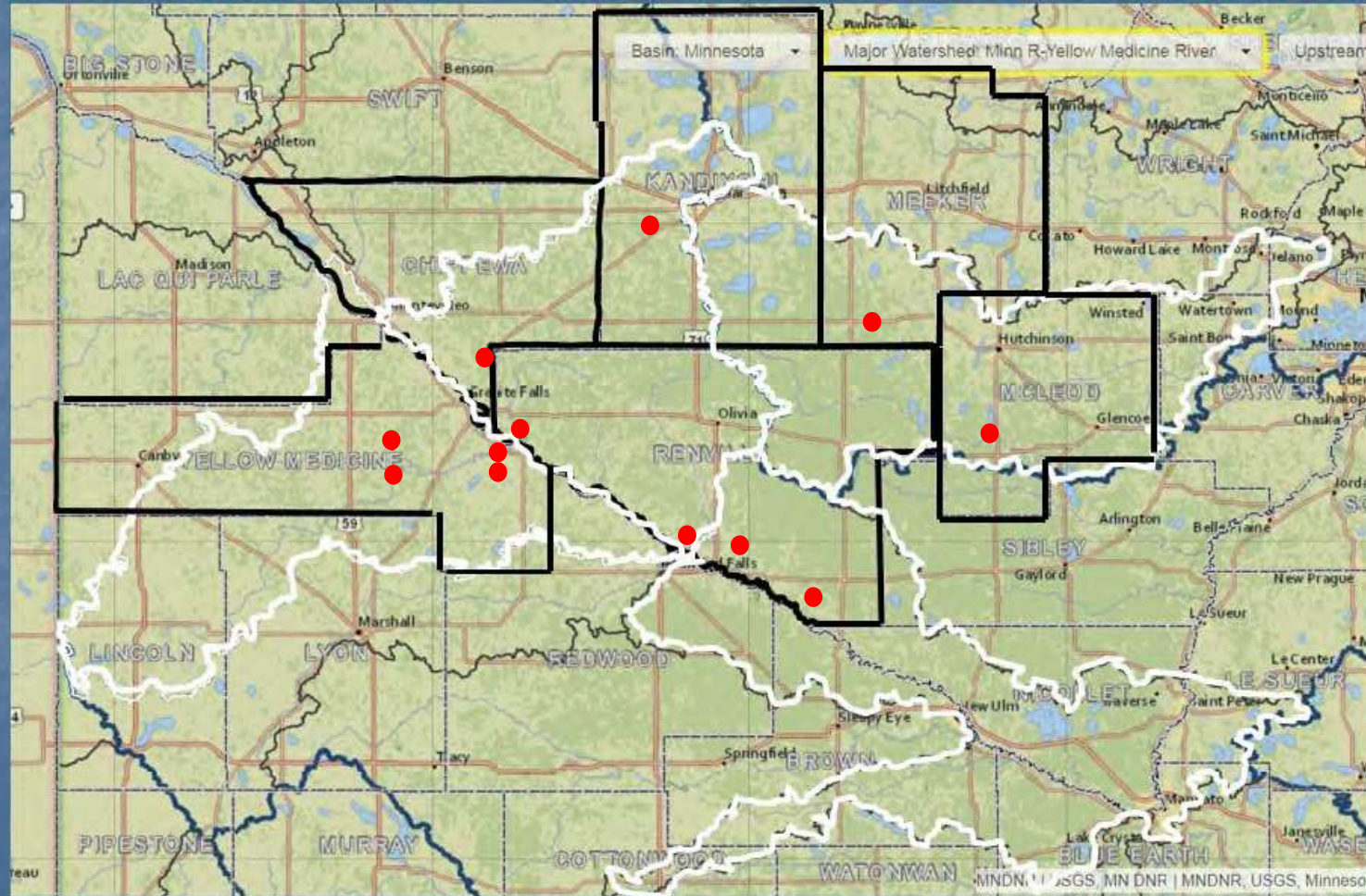
2025

12 sites

4 watersheds

6 counties

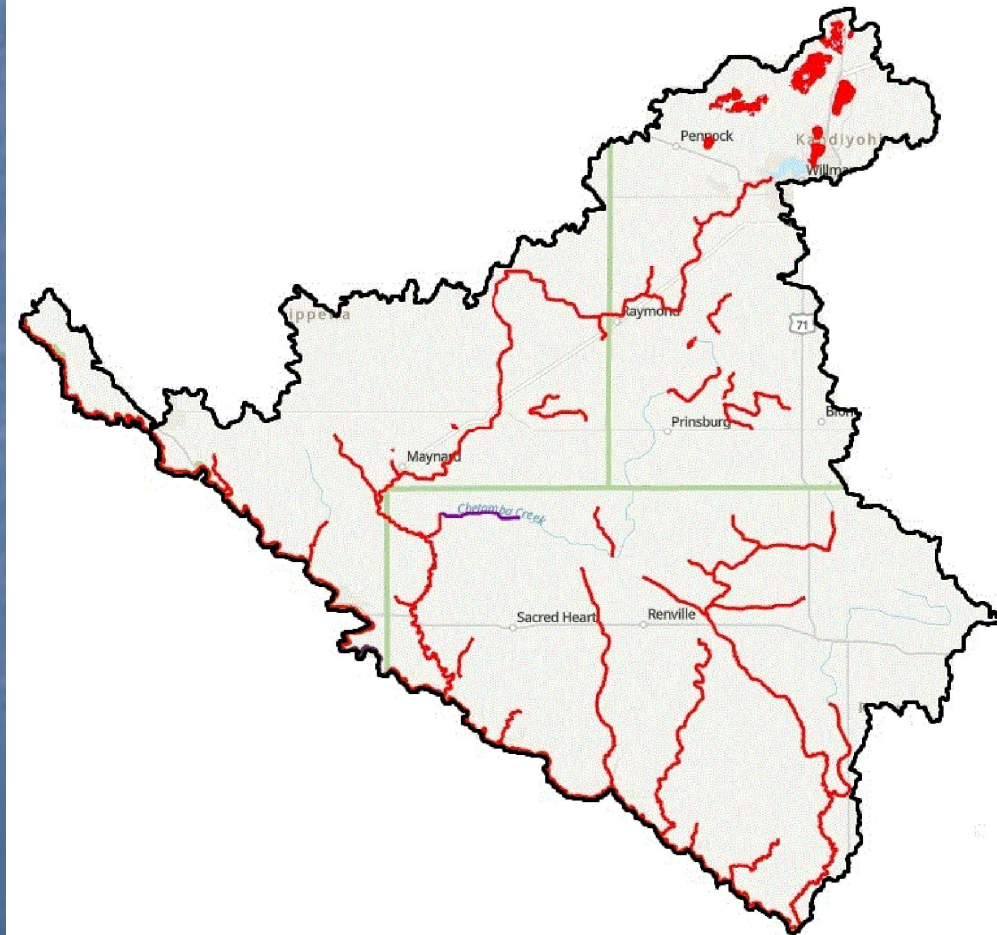
4 entities



Minnesota's 2024 Impaired Waters List

Area	# Impairments	# Waterbodies
Minnesota	6,338	2,208
Hawk Creek Watershed	119	45
Renville County portion of Hawk Creek Watershed	71	19

Main Impairments:
biology, mercury, bacteria, nutrients, sediment



Water Quality Monitoring

- Long history of extensive monitoring throughout multiple watersheds
- Data is necessary:
 - to identify impairments
 - for multiple entities to get grant money

3 Main Components of What HCWP Does:

1) **Water Quality Monitoring**



2) **Projects (Best Management Practices)**

3) **Education/Outreach**

BMP Cost-Share

- **Financial:** Use grant funds to help the landowner with the cost of their project
- **Technical:** help the landowner with the design and construction of their project



BMPs Installed

- **1,873 projects* with 1,358 landowners**
- **61,653 pounds of phosphorus saved**
- **19,390 tons of soil saved**

* some projects done in partnership with Chippewa, Kandiyohi, and Renville County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Drainage Authorities, and Environmental Offices, and NRCS

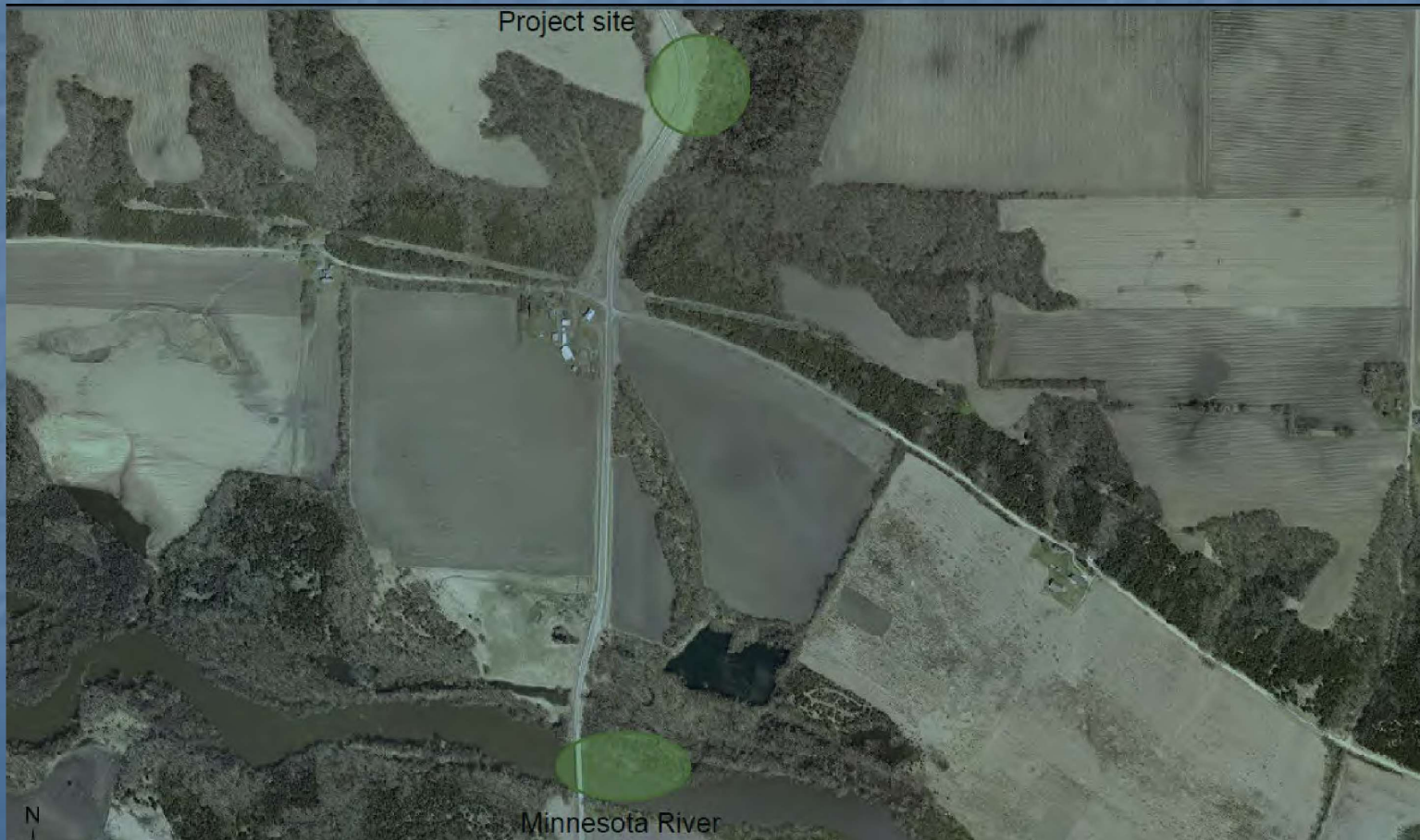
Renville County Projects

849 projects

634 landowners (including Renville County)

Renville County Projects

Grade Stabilization



Renville County Projects

Grade Stabilization

Before



After



Renville County Projects

Stream Barbs



Renville County Projects

Channel Stabilization



Renville County Projects

Cover Crops and Reduced Tillage



Renville County Projects

Ag Waste Project

Before



After



Renville County Projects

Streambank Stabilization



3 Main Components of What HCWP Does:

1) Water Quality Monitoring

2) Projects (Best Management Practices)



3) Education/Outreach

Education/Outreach

Meetings

please join us for the 23rd annual

HAWK CREEK WATERSHED PROJECT INFORMATION AND APPRECIATION MEETING

Wednesday, February 19, 2025

(inclement weather date February 26)

Renville Community Center, 221 N Main St

RSVP by February 11

to jordan@hawkcreekwatershed.org or (320) 523-3666

to reserve your seat and lunch

- 9:00 Registration and Refreshments
- 9:30 Healthy Soil, Healthy Life - Dr. Kami D. Anez (President, Anez Consulting, Inc. of Willmar)
- 10:45 Forever Chemicals: The Effects of PFAS - Dr. Matt Simcik (University of MN School of Public Health, Division of Environmental Health Sciences)
- 11:45 Hawk Creek Watershed Project Update - Heidi Rauenhorst (Hawk Creek Watershed Project)
- 12:30 Lunch (remember to RSVP by February 11!)

for inclement weather updates: HAWKCREEKWATERSHED.ORG / 320.523.3666

Earn Soil and Water CECs!

Education/Outreach

Field Days



Education/Outreach

Youth Events



Education/Outreach

Newsletters:

Hawk Creek Headlines

Soil Health

Citizen Monitors Network


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Forever	A	Get to	From	Have You	Water or
Chemicals	Passing	Know Your	Dean's	Considered	Erosion
	Grade	HCWP	Desk	A Donation?	Problems?

Hawk Creek Headlines

Hawk Creek Watershed Project

Summer 2024



2024 Impaired Waters List

Impairments Found Throughout the Hawk Creek Watershed


The latest impaired waters list is out and the Hawk Creek Watershed has 119 impairments in 41 water bodies.

Every two years, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is required by the Federal Clean Water Act to produce a list of impaired waters within the State. If a body of water fails to meet water quality standards, it is considered impaired. The latest impaired waters list was approved in April 2024 and lists 6,338 impairments in 2,208 water bodies throughout Minnesota, with most impairments due to nutrients, bacteria, mercury, and fish, macroinvertebrate, and plant bioassessments. The same water body can have multiple impairments. The 2024 list includes a total of 119 impairments on 30 streams/ditches and 11 lakes in the Hawk Creek Watershed for 11 types of pollutants/stressors (see Page 2 for details).

The last list published in 2022 included a total of 109 impairments on 29 streams/ditches and 11 lakes in the Hawk Creek Watershed for 12 types of pollutants/stressors. Eleven new impairments in the Hawk Creek Watershed were added to the list in 2024. There was one delisting in 2024 in the Hawk Creek Watershed: Chetomba Creek for chlorpyrifos (an organophosphate insecticide). Chlorpyrifos was added as an impairment to Chetomba Creek in 2018. But Chetomba Creek remains on the list for *E. coli*, fish, macroinvertebrate, and turbidity impairments, with some impairments dating back to 2004.

To view the 2024 impaired waters list, search for "MPCA Impaired Waters List" through an internet search engine or visit the MPCA's website <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/minnesotas-impaired-waters-list>.

Algae and pollutants in Chetomba Creek on September 3, 2021



Impaired Waters Continued on Page 2

hawkcreekwatershed.org

Education/Outreach

Citizen Monitoring Network

Citizens throughout the watershed collect data on:

- precipitation
- stream clarity
- lake clarity



Education/Outreach

- **Renville County Parks Outdoor Education Day**
- **Renville, Kandiyohi, and Chippewa County Fairs**
- **Renville County Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force**
- **Podcasts, Radio**
- **Healthy Earth, Healthy Kids - YMCA**
- **Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center - Earth Day**
- **Willmar Community Education - Watershed Exploration Class**
- **City of Willmar - Grass Clippings Flyer**
- **Willmar Stingers - Nature Night**

Partners

- **Landowners/Homeowners/Watershed Residents**
- **Citizen Monitors**
- **Counties**
- **County Public Works**
- **County Ditch Authorities**
- **County Environmental Offices**
- **Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)**
- **Cities**
- **Townships**
- **Willmar Area Lake Association**
- **Eagle Lake Association**
- **Long and Ringo Lake Association**

Partners

- **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)**
- **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**
- **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)**
- **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)**
- **Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)**
- **Minnesota State Climatology Office**
- **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)**
- **U.S. Geological Survey (USGS)**
- **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)**
- **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**
- **USDA Farm Service Agency**

Partners

- **Discovery Farms – Minnesota**
- **Minnesota Agricultural Water Resources Center**
- **Minnesota Office of Soil Health**
- **Minnesota Soil Health Coalition**
- **U of MN, U of MN Extension**
- **Ridgewater College**
- **Local Schools**
- **Youth Organizations**
- **YMCA**
- **Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center**
- **Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative**

Partners

- **Farmward, local co-ops**
- **Willmar Community Education**
- **Willmar Area Symphonic Orchestra**
- **Renville, Kandiyohi, and Chippewa County Fairs**
- **Willmar Utilities**
- **Willmar Stingers**
- **Local Businesses**
- **Nonprofit Organizations**
- **Churches**
- **Historical Societies**

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forest with autumn foliage. The river is calm, reflecting the blue sky and the surrounding trees. The banks are covered with dense vegetation, including trees with yellow and orange leaves. The sky is clear with a few wispy clouds.

Thank you
Questions?