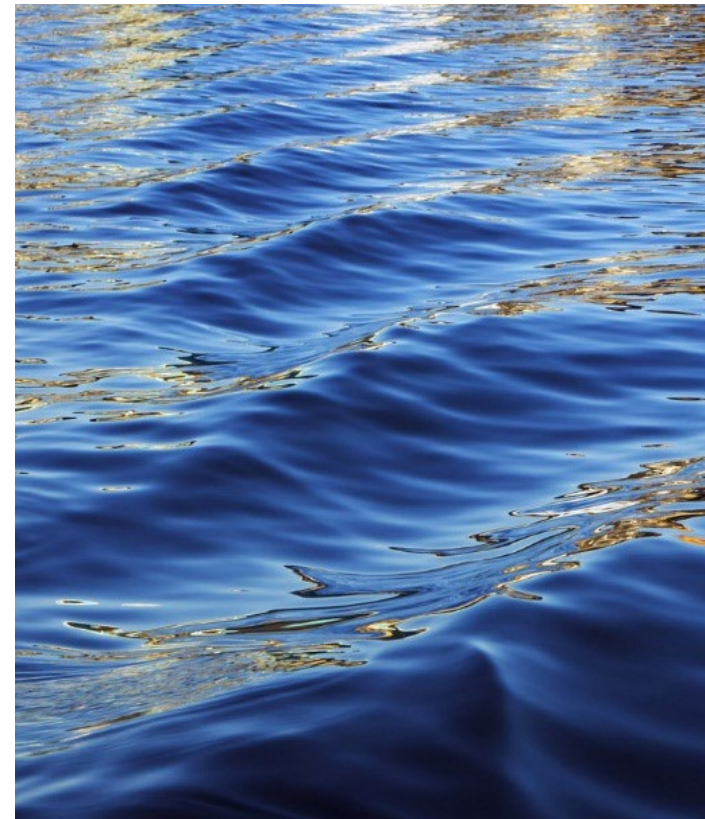




Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

2024 Annual Report



Board of Managers

Bill Briggs

Position: President - Yellow Medicine County
Term: Ending December 2024
Appointing Authority: Yellow Medicine County
Phone: 507-829-6210
Email Address: williambriggs0847@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 2141 Hwy 68, Canby, MN 56220

Primary on the YMIWIP

Faith Olsen

Position: Secretary - Lincoln County
Term: Ending August 2024
Appointing Authority: Lincoln County
Phone: 605-690-8393
Email Address: crazyfateranch@gmail.com
Mailing Address: 1937 Co. Hwy 18, Canby, MN 56220

Alternate for the YMIWIP

Darwyn Bach

Position: Public Relations - Yellow Medicine County
Term: Ending November 2027
Appointing Authority: Yellow Medicine County
Phone: 507-829-1222
Email Address: dlbach@mvtvwireless.com
Mailing Address: 3035 250th Ave. Boyd, MN 56218

Tim Buysse

Position: Vice President - Lyon County
Term: Ending December 2024
Appointing Authority: Lyon County
Phone: 507-828-1781
Email Address: buytim@hotmail.com
Mailing Address: 2092 Co. Rd. 10, Cottonwood, MN 56229

Randy Kamrath

Position: Treasurer - Lincoln County
Term: Ending October 2025
Appointing Authority: Lincoln County
Phone: 507-530-4417
Email Address: kamfam@itctel.com
Mailing Address: 2234 390th St. Porter, MN 56280

Staff

Michelle Overholser

Position: District Administrator

Phone: 507-872-6720 office, 507-828-1358 cell

Email Address: michelle.overholser@ymrwd.com

Jeremiah Timm

Position: District Technician

Phone: 507-872-6720 office, 507-828-0532 cell

Email Address: Jeremiah.timm@ymrwd.com

John A. Engels, Attorney at Law

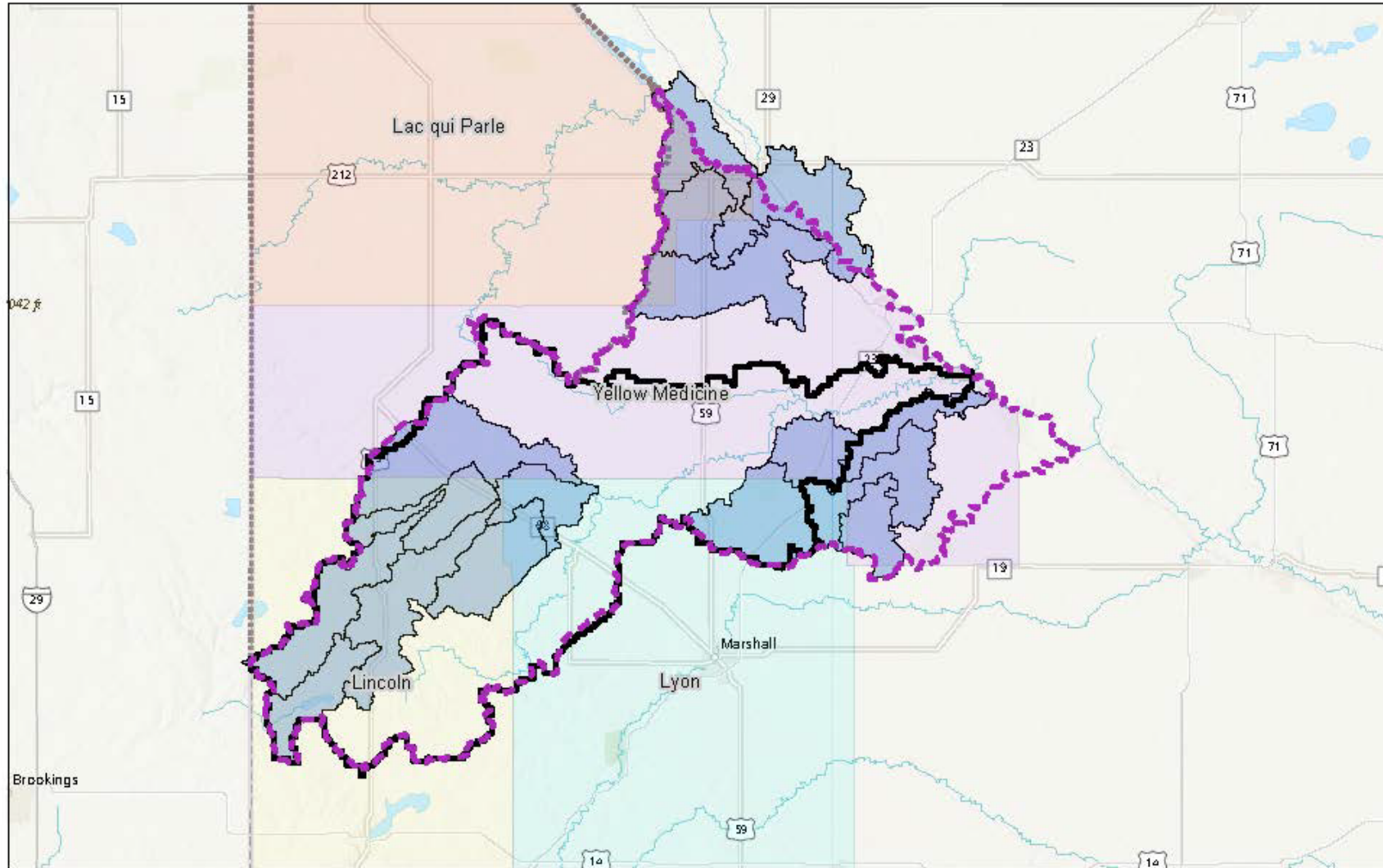
Position: Watershed District Attorney

Phone: (507) 872-6234

Email Address: John@JohnEngelslaw.com

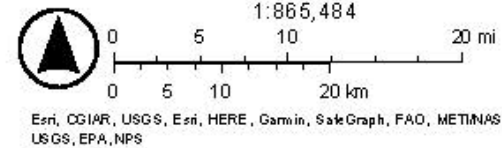
Mailing Address: 124 North Jefferson Street, P.O. Box 477,
Minnesota, MN 56264

Yellow Medicine River Watershed



5/25/2023

- 1 Watershed 1 Plan Boundary
- Yellow Medicine WD Boundary
- Countries
 - Lyon
 - Lac qui Parle
 - Lincoln
 - Yellow Medicine
 - 1W1P Priority Watersheds



Yellow Medicine River Watershed District

Mission

The mission of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (YMRWD) is to provide an organized means for proper management and protection of the water resources in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed. The YMRWD has three core functions outside of administration: (1) Serve as the drainage authority for systems under its jurisdiction, (2) Provide a regulatory framework that permits a variety of activities that complement the flood reduction and water quality goals of the district, and (3) carry out activities of the watershed management plan.

History of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed

The Yellow Medicine River Watershed District (YMRWD) is a local unit of government established on August 27, 1971, through a petition of its residents to the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources. The jurisdiction of the organization covers 685 square miles in southwestern Minnesota that drain to the Yellow Medicine River in Lincoln (39%), Lyon (23%), and Yellow Medicine (38%) counties. County Commissioners appoint representatives to a 5-member board of managers that direct and oversee activities of the District. The southeast portion of the Coteau des Prairies, partially located in the southwest of the Yellow Medicine Watershed, comprises one of the distinct regions in Minnesota, known as the Buffalo Ridge. From the Coteau region, the watershed drains to the northeast with 1,125 feet of elevation change to the lower region, called the Flatland region. The Transitional region in between these two regions is where the elevation changes are the greatest, at approximately 45 feet per mile.

Budgets

- In 2023, the Minnesota Legislature passed a bill that increased the levy cap for Watershed Districts to \$500,000. A hearing for the 2024 proposed operation budget took place on August 16, discussion, during the regular board meeting. The Administrator presented a variety of budget options from no levy increase to a \$100,000/year increase. After discussion, the board moved to increase the levy by \$20,000 to \$260,000.
- 2024 has a budgeted income of \$380,650.00 with expenses of the same amount.
- The District held a public Budget Hearing on September 21, 2024, at 9:00 a.m. With the \$20,000 levy increase for 2024, the administrator recommended no increase for 2025. After discussion and looking at the projected budget, the board moved to set the levy at \$260,000. The same as 2024.
- 2025 has a budgetd income of \$357,717.36 with expenses of the same amount.

Drainage Authority Work

- The YMRWD has 9 drainage systems under its jurisdiction consisting of both tile and open ditch.
- Watershed Ditches 1, 4, 7, and 16 were inspected in 2024.
- During the inspection of WD 4 construction materials including cardboard boxes, polystyrene and other various plastics were removed. Approximately 6 12-gallon garbage bags were filled with debris, that had either been dumped in the ditch or had blown into the ditch.
- Maintenance on WD 16 for sediment removal, tree removal, tile outlet repairs and culvert repairs have been scheduled for Spring of 2025 by K & K Tiling. WD cleanout will be the first excavation project on the list.
- Maintenance is scheduled to be performed in 2025 by Groundworks Drainage for WD 7 and WD 17 for culvert and tile outlet repairs.
- Beaver damage to nearby trees adjacent to WD 17 were noted but no beavers were seen.

Regulatory Program: Permitting

The district continued its permitting program which requires that all non-maintenance drainage projects obtain a permit from the watershed district. In 2024, 128 permit applications were submitted, of which 99 were approved, 28 are currently incomplete and 1 was denied.

- Types of permits granted:
 - 44 permits approved for seepage lines only
 - 29 permits approved for new mains with seepages lines
 - 7 permits approved for new mains only
 - 7 permits approved for WASCObS
 - 6 permits approved for culvert repairs
 - 2 permits approved for Waterway restoration or creation
 - 1 permit approved for grade stabilization
 - 1 permit approved for filling a stock pond
 - 1 permit approved for Wetland restoration
 - 1 permit approved for 2 new lift pumps

In 2022 110 tiling and drainage permits were approved

In 2023 59 tiling and drainage permits were approved

Nuisance Beaver Program

- There was \$8,000 budgeted for the Beaver Bounty in 2024
- In 2024 we paid out \$13,145.99 with 263 Beavers being collected
- In 2023 there was \$3,000 budgeted for the Bounty program
- The District paid out \$4,647
- The District budgeted \$7,500 for the Bounty Program in 2025



One Watershed One Plan

One Watershed One Plan

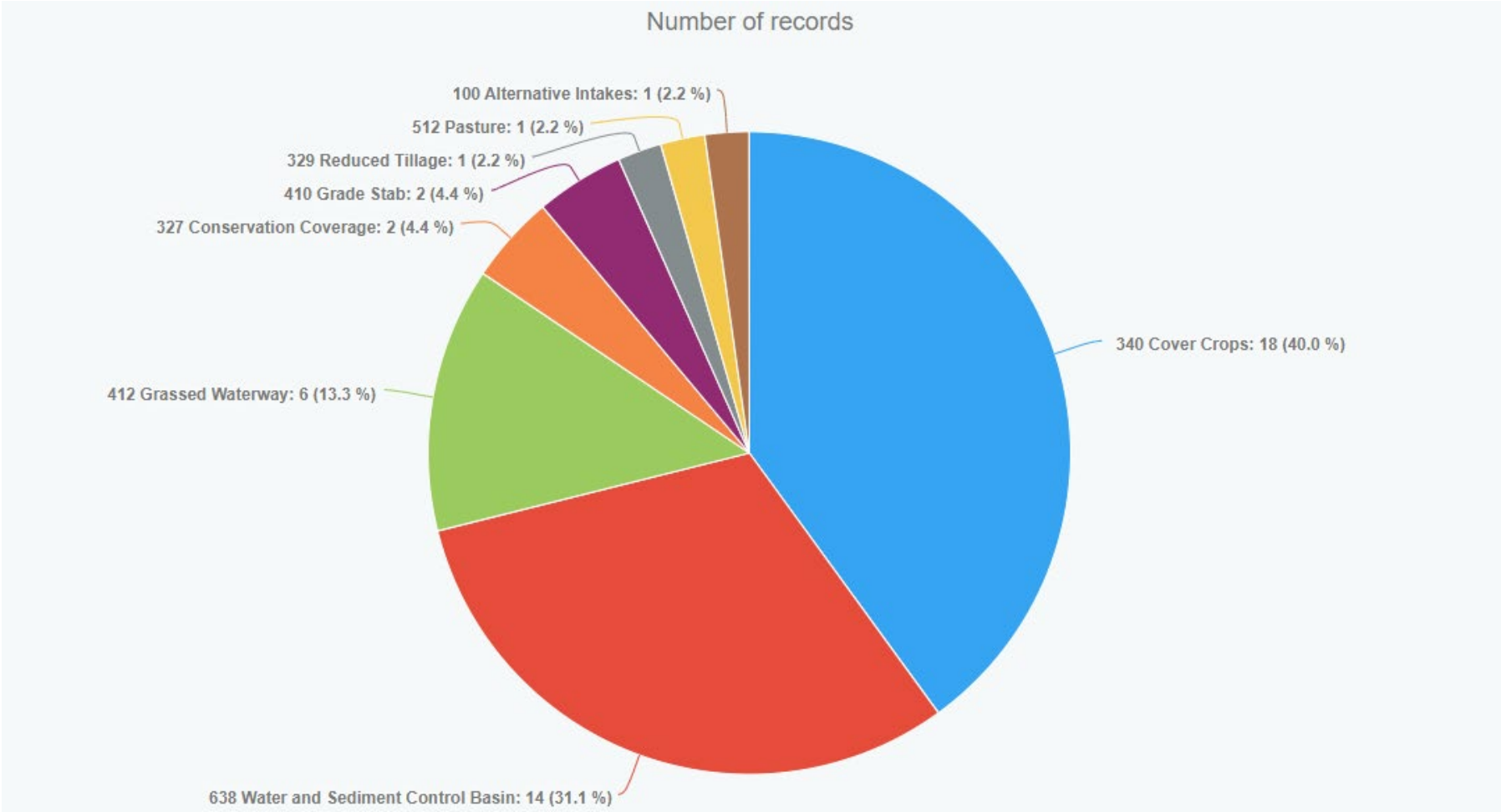
The YMRWD has adopted the Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan as the Districts comprehensive water plan. The Yellow Medicine One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) project began in 2014 as one of five pilot projects across Minnesota that set out to align watershed planning along watershed boundaries and move away from county planning boundaries. The plan was completed and approved by the MN Board of Water and Soil Resources on December 14, 2016.

Since plan implementation began in 2018, the YM River Watershed District has acted as the fiscal agent and the plan coordinator, and daily contact for the YM1W1P.

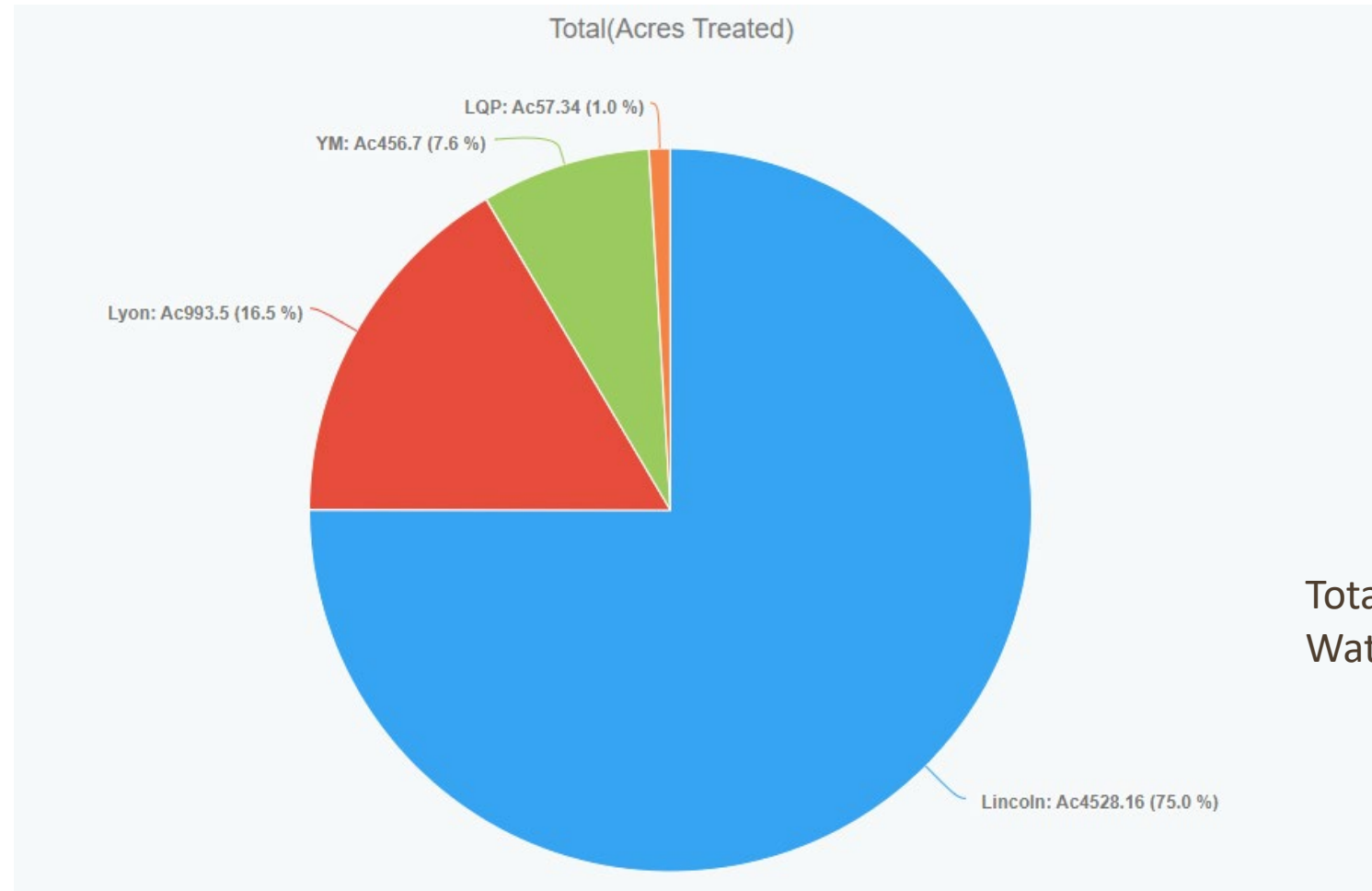
In 2024 the Partnership was approved for and received the 24/25 WBIF grant of just over 1.3 million.

In 2024, the district continued to lead the 1W1P implementation efforts, working closely with the SWCDs to increase conservation BMPs across the watershed. In the upcoming year, the district aims to continue its efforts to increase the capacity and capabilities of the office and staff to better serve the community.

One Watershed One Plan Projects



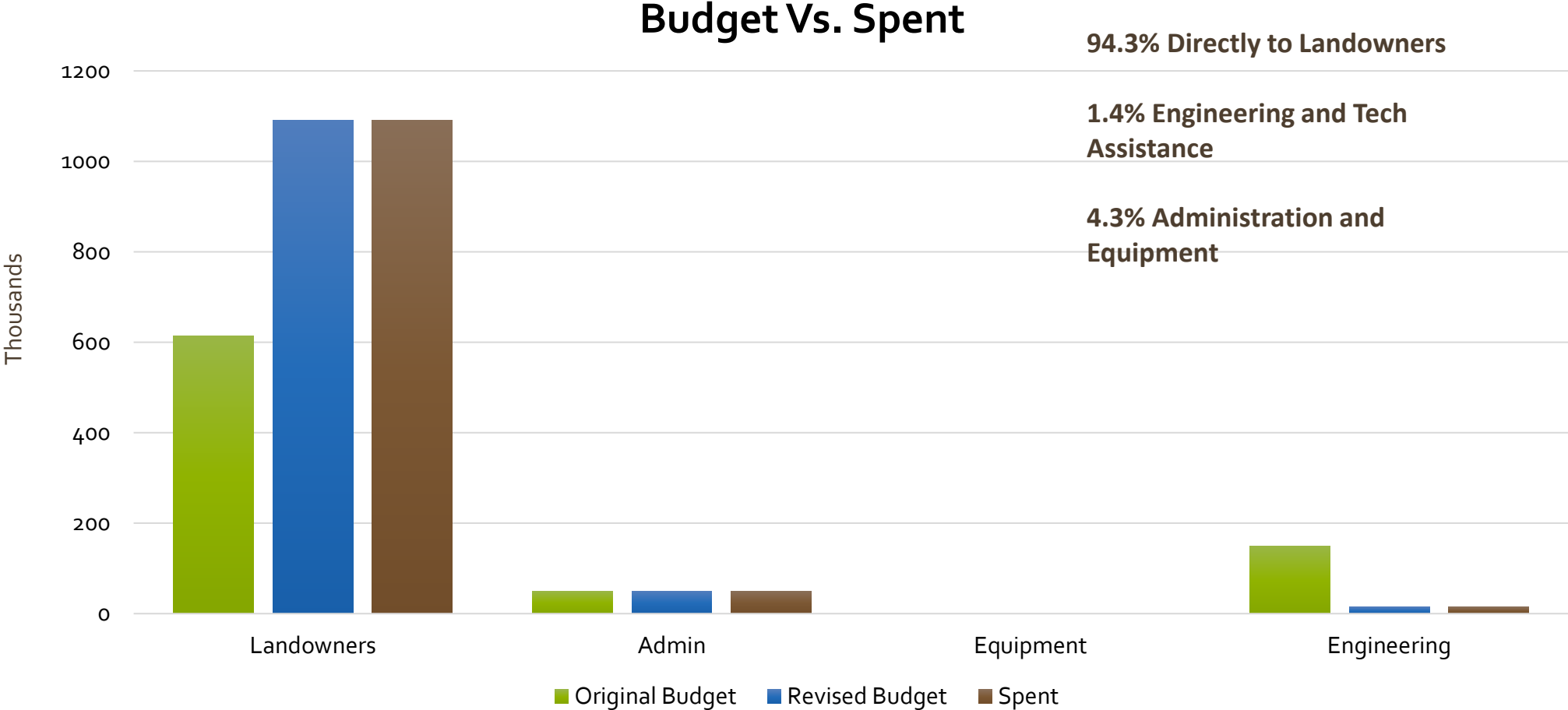
Acres Treated in 2024



Total Treated Acres in the Watershed – 6036

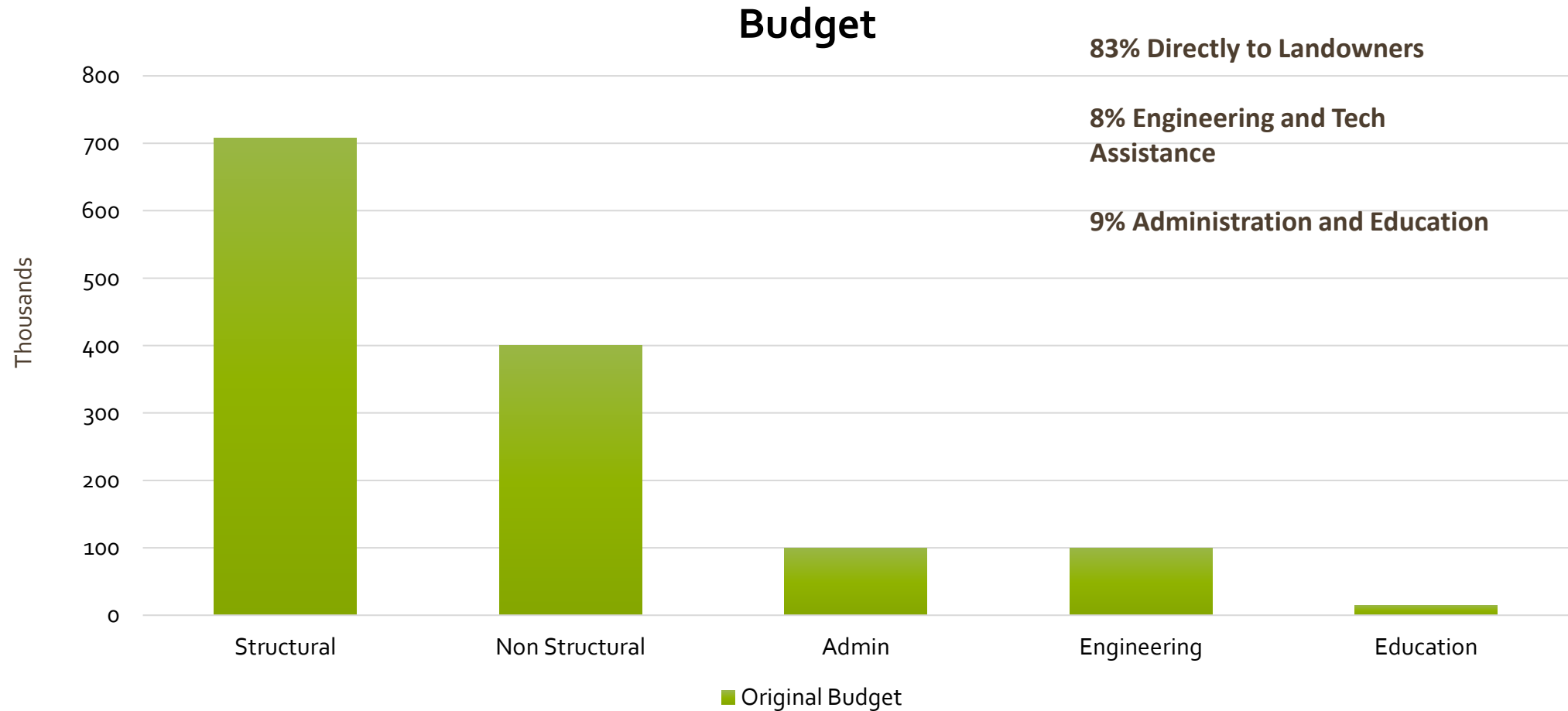
2022/2023 Watershed Based Funding Grant

\$814,603 Original Budget - \$1,156,688 Amended



2024/2025 Watershed Based Funding Grant

\$1,323,460

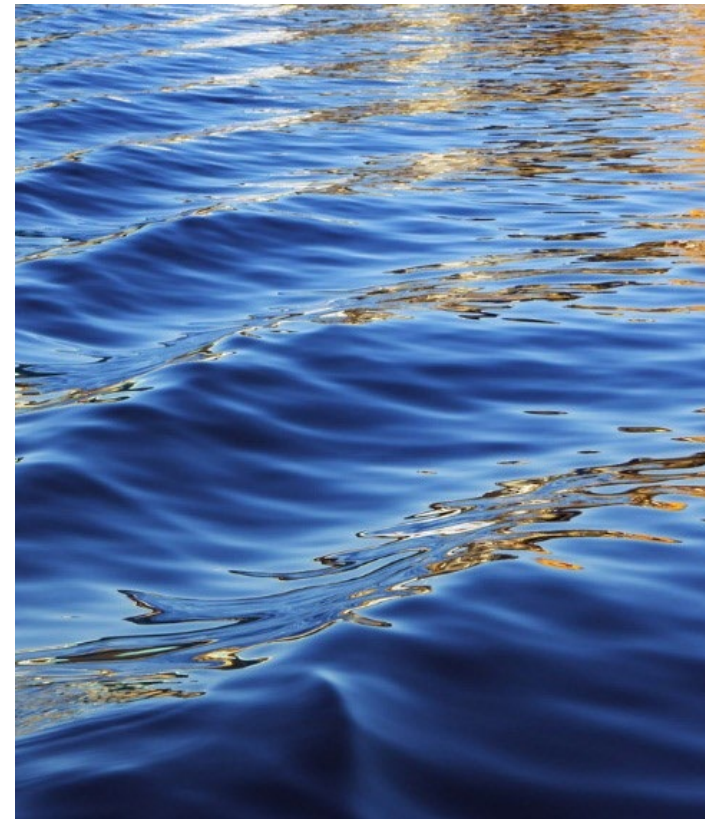


Funding

- \$3,846,463 Clean Water Funds
 - \$551,712 – 2018/2019 Grant
 - \$814,603 – 2020/2021 Grant
 - \$814,603 – 2022/2023 Grant
 - \$342,085 – 2022/2023 Supplemental funds
 - \$1,323,460 – 2024/2025 Grant
- \$106,000 – 319 Federal Grant in Lincoln Co.
- \$124,000+ USDA in Cottonwood Lake
- \$643,488 USDA in Priority Areas
- \$345,810.00 2024 RCPP
- **\$5,065,761+ into the watershed in 6 years!**



Future Focus 2025



2025 Focus

- Continuing the permitting program
- Work on preparing to change over our GIS systems
- Develop a better way to track permitting dates and status.
- Preparing, planning and working on the 2026 Updated Comprehensive Water Plan.
 - Collecting and compiling the data
 - Looking at current priority areas, achievements and accessing new areas of concern
 - Going through current plan and identifying any problem areas or items to be addressed or changed for the new plan.
 - Other thoughts, Steps

Appreciation

This concludes the 2024 annual report of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed District. The Yellow Medicine River Watershed District Board of Managers and staff would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the support given to our organization, by the various county offices and personnel, as well as the Commissioners of Lyon, Lincoln, and Yellow Medicine Counties. We appreciate the opportunity to work with each of you, in meeting the goals of the Watershed District, in our efforts to successfully manage and monitor the waters of the Yellow Medicine River Watershed.



Thank You for
Attending

