

The background features a botanical illustration of various plants, including a large seed head on the left, several green stems with leaves, and a yellow wheat-like grain in the center. A dark grey rectangular box is overlaid on the center, containing the title and author information. To the right of the title box is a smaller dark grey box containing a map of Minnesota with a specific watershed area highlighted in a darker shade of green.

Watershed-scale Conservation Planning

Mary Jo Youngbauer

Lower St. Croix Watershed Conservation Planner

Conservation Plan

A record of decisions and supporting information for treatment of a unit of land meeting planning criteria for one or more identified natural resource concerns as a result of the planning process

Simply put...

- Site visit to discuss concerns with landowner
- Identification of resource concerns
- Options for addressing resource concerns
- Technical assistance

The image shows the cover page of a 'Conservation Plan' form. At the top left is the USDA logo (United States Department of Agriculture). The title 'Conservation Plan' is prominently displayed in large, bold, black font. Below the title is a large rectangular box with a blue border, containing the handwritten text 'Your Name Here' in red. The form features decorative horizontal stripes in blue and green. At the bottom, it identifies the 'Natural Resources Conservation Service'.

A Conservation Plan IS NOT...



Regulatory Authority

You won't get in trouble for having the planner out to the farm while being in violation.



Contract

You are not required to implement your plan. We hope you do, but we can't make you.



Free Money

A plan is needed for most cost share programs, but it is not a guarantee for funding.

Conservation Planning Process



Site Visit

Identify problems
Determine objectives



Inventory

Inventory resources
Analyze resource
data



Practices

Formulate alternatives
Evaluate alternatives



Design

Make decisions
Investigate funding



Construction

Implement the plan
Evaluate the plan

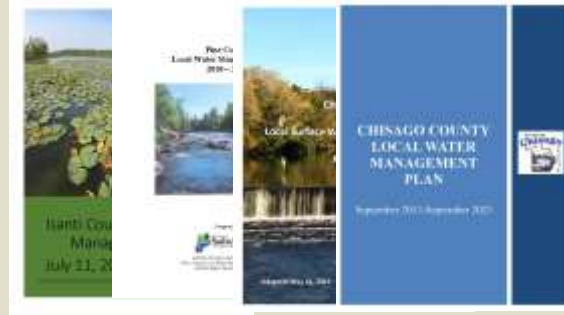
Conventional Planning

- **Political Boundaries**

- State, County, City, Township

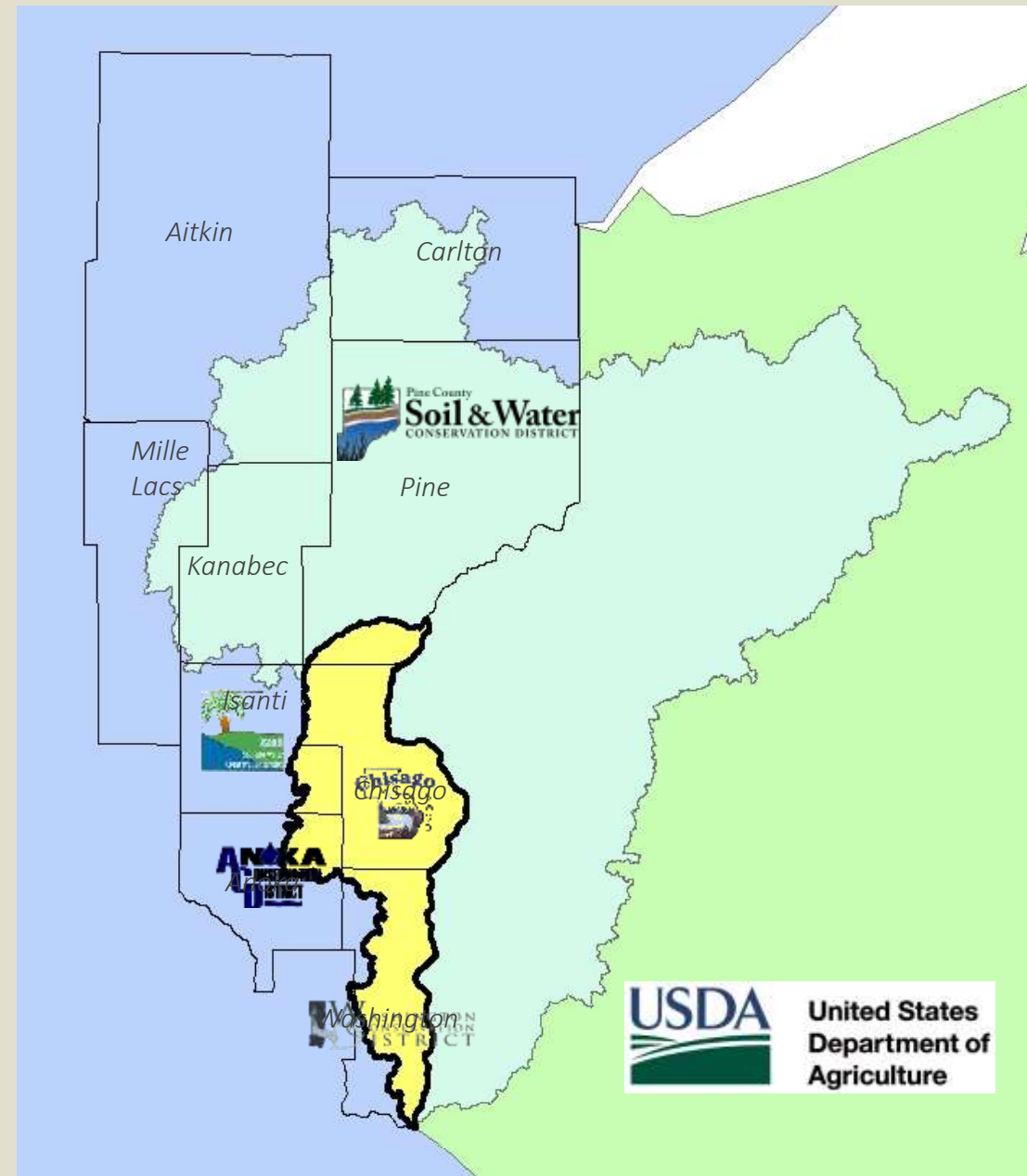
- **Multiple Agencies/Plans**

- County Water Plan
- Friends Groups
- TMDLs/WRAPs
- MN DNR
- USDA NRCS
- SWCDs
- NPS

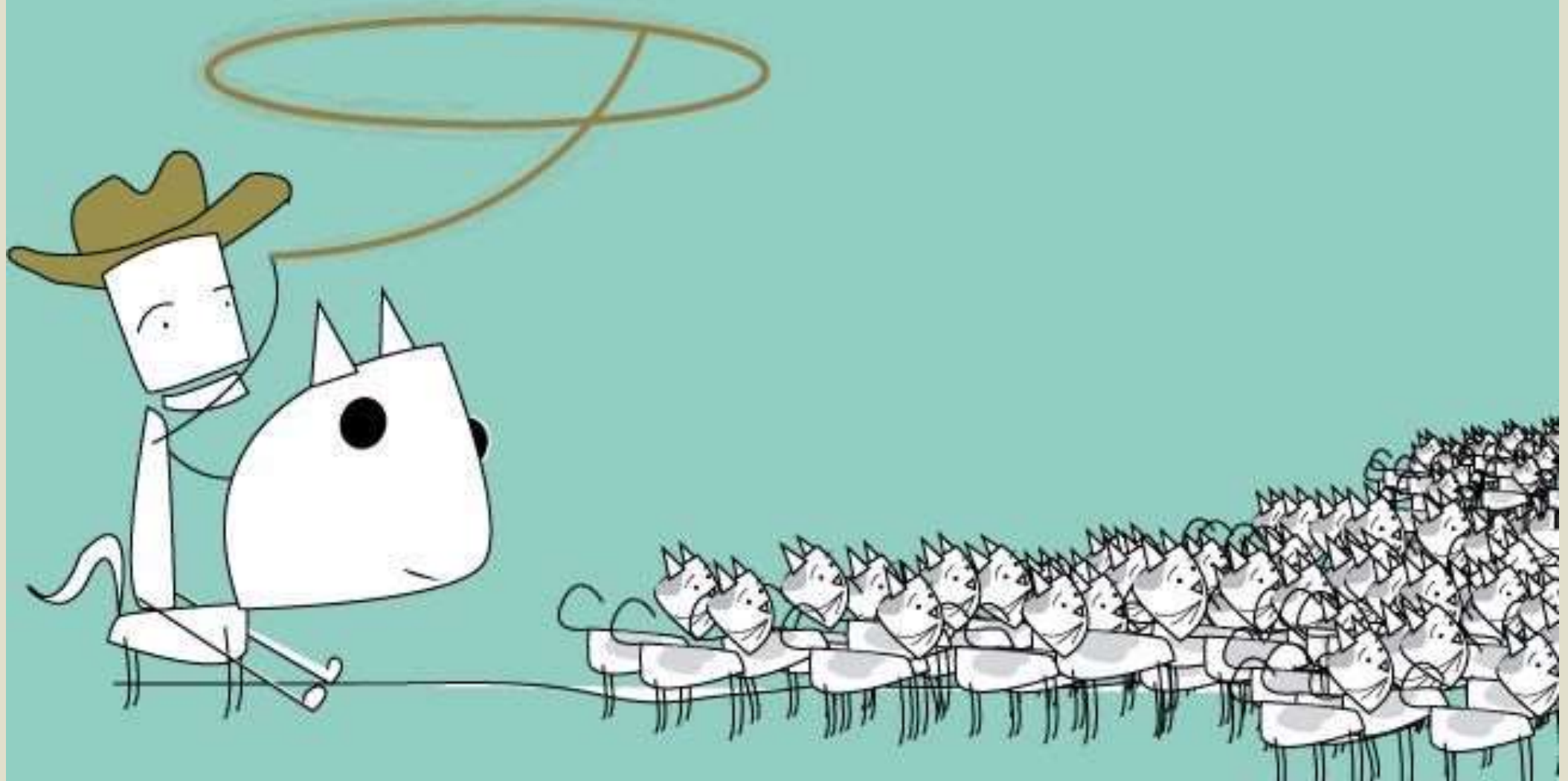


- **Confusion for Clients**

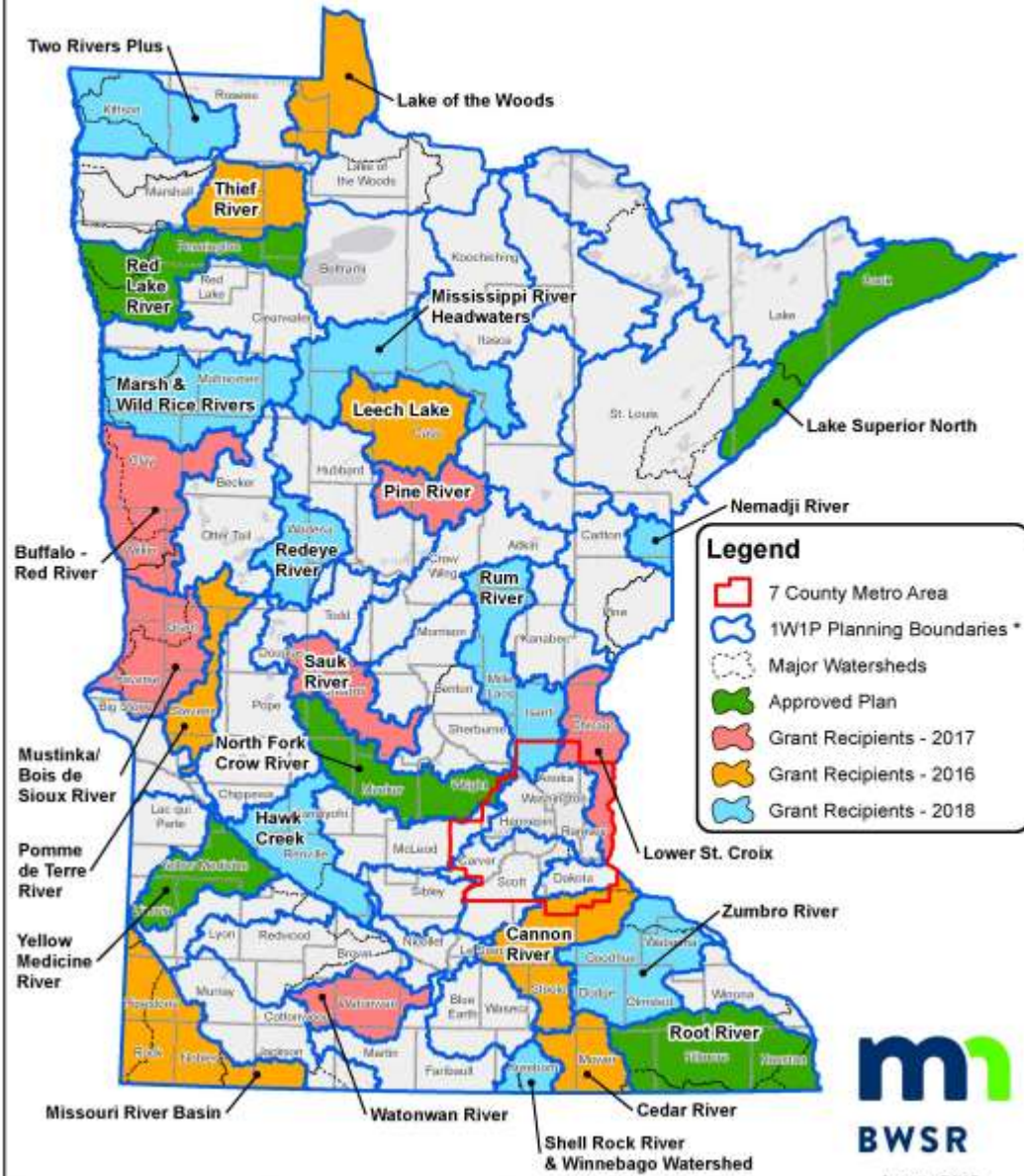
- Who do I go to?



it's like herding cats.



One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds



*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only. August 2018

Watershed-scale Planning



One Plan

All partners come together to create one cohesive plan.

Conservation Planner

Employee dedicated to the watershed.

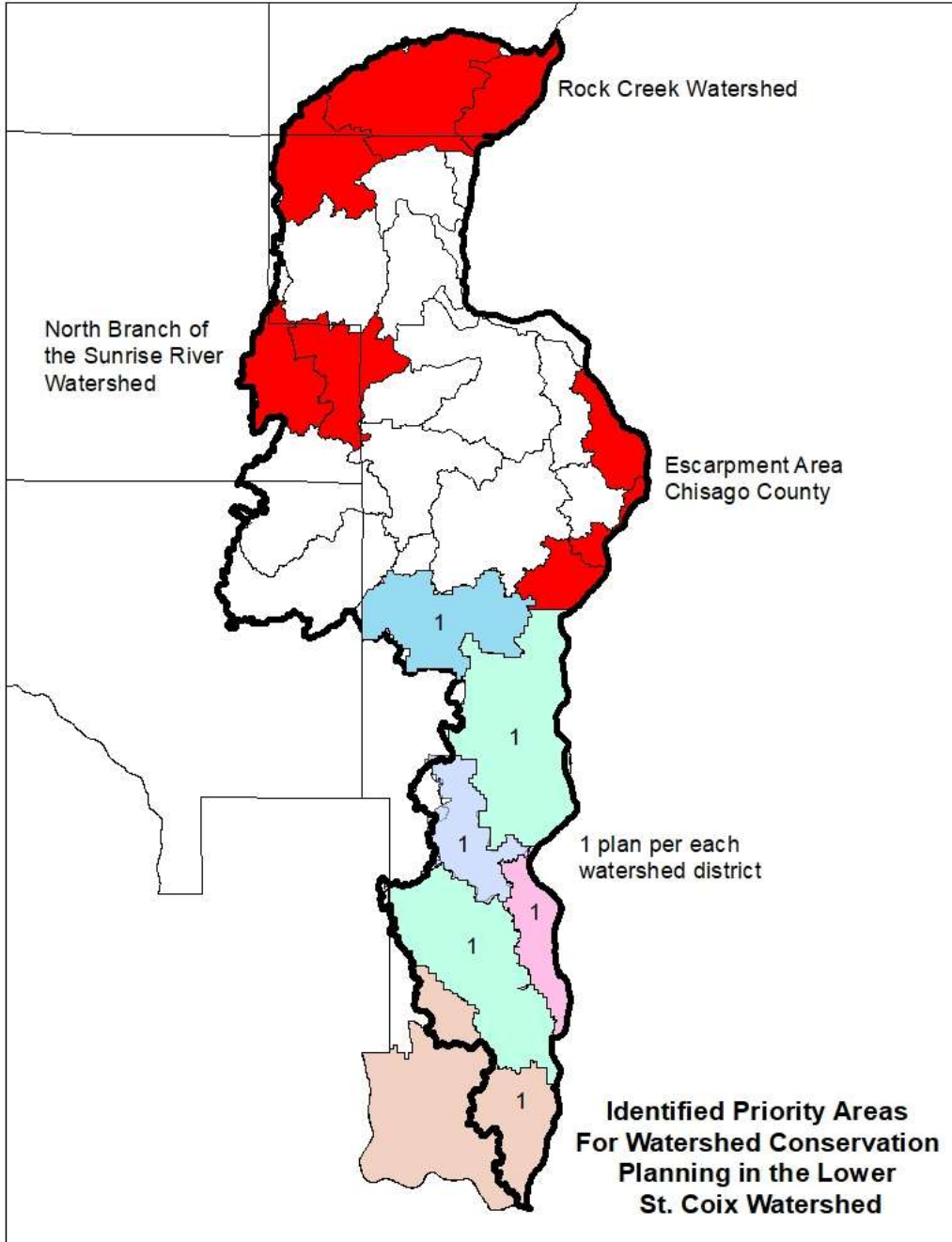


The Future

Working across boundaries.

Prioritization within the LSC

- Rock Creek Sub-Watershed
- North Branch of the Sunrise River Sub-Watershed
- Escarpment area of Chisago County
- Watershed districts-at least one plan per district



Thank you!

Lower St. Croix River Watershed Conservation Planning

Mary Jo Youngbauer • Watershed Conservation Planner

mary.youngbauer@mn.nacdnet.net
(651) 674-2333 or direct at (651) 674-3329

38814 Third Avenue
North Branch, MN 55056

LOWER ST. CROIX RIVER WATERSHED CONSERVATION PLANNING PARTNERS



FUNDING PROVIDED BY



USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer

