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Conservation Marketplace Midwest Status/Updates

Conservation Marketplace Midwest (CMM) is currently working on several initiatives to develop evaluation methods for ecosystem services providing ecological uplift, including temporary water storage, pollinator habitat establishment, reducing nutrient loads in water runoff, and support sustainable farming practices. Members of CMM are leveraging existing programs to quantify ecological uplift benefits of conservation practices. Currently CMM is collaborating with Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District, Environmental Initiative (EI), McKnight Foundation, Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) to foster farmer-company partnerships that protect water quality in a company's backyard. CMM has initiated discussions with Minnesota state officials to build an ecosystem service market framework to provide a simple, low-cost program encouraging cross-sector collaboration for shovel-ready implementation, necessary site-assessments, environmental credit valuation, record keeping, and reporting for buyers and sellers.

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