

Project Name | Groundwater Monitoring Program**Date** | 05/06/2025**To / Contact info** | BCWD Board of Managers**Cc / Contact info** | Karen Kill, District Administrator**From / Contact info** | Stu Grubb, PG and Camilla Correll, PE**Regarding** | 2026 Groundwater Monitoring and Coordination Scope of Work

Background

Since 2012, the BCWD has operated a groundwater level monitoring network spanning 15 residential wells and 4 golf course wells across the district. This monitoring program delivers significant long-term value at minimal cost to the District. Annual monitoring expenditures are modest, yet the data being accumulated is not easily or cheaply replaceable: it represents more than a decade of continuous, consistent groundwater elevation records across multiple aquifers and geographic areas of the district which results in a dataset that grows more valuable with each passing year.

What makes this dataset irreplaceable is precisely what makes it worth protecting: its consistency and its duration. Groundwater systems respond slowly, and detecting meaningful trends requires years, on the order of decades, of uninterrupted data collection. If the District discontinues this program, that continuity is permanently lost. No future investment can recover the data gap, and the District would lose its ability to make science-based decisions about its highly valued groundwater-dependent resources at a time when those resources face increasing pressure.

Scope of Services

This scope of services includes both the work related to monitoring groundwater elevations as well as the activities related to management of the District's groundwater resources.

Groundwater Monitoring

It is recommended that the BCWD continue to implement the groundwater monitoring program in 2026. EOR and Washington Conservation District staff will continue to work together on the monitoring and reporting of water levels from the current network. Project costs presented in the table below represent only EOR staff time and do not include Washington Conservation District staff time.

Expanding the Well Network

In 2025, The BCWD Board of Managers approved the expansion of the well network to include other areas in the district where groundwater data will likely be important in the future. BCWD mailed letters to well owners asking if they would consider being part of the monitoring network. EOR will follow up on the letters and work with the willing well owners to get the necessary information and agreements in place so we can begin collecting data on the four to five additional wells. This work will be completed under the previously approved budget.

Groundwater Management

In 2025, The BCWD Board of Managers approved a budget for EOR staff to attend meetings and participate in regional groundwater management activities on behalf of the watershed district. Most of these activities have not yet been scheduled and are often quickly organized to address new groundwater issues that arise throughout the year. Examples of past BCWD groundwater management activities include:

- Participation in meetings for the North and East Metro Groundwater Management Area sponsored by DNR.
- Contributions to development of the Metro Model groundwater model developed by the Metropolitan Council. This includes gathering information about infiltration and aquifer recharge rates in the watershed. The model is also being used to research the effects of climate change on groundwater resources.
- Engagement with Washington County programs such as the Water Consortium and the Individual Septic Treatment System regulatory program.
- Working with DNR to expand their observation well network in BCWD.
- Scheduling a water quality testing clinic in collaboration with the Minnesota Well Owners Organization.

EOR has not used all the budget approved for this task in 2025, so we will continue to work in 2026 under the previously approved budget.

The following table summarizes the cost for EOR to perform these tasks in 2026.

Task	Hours	Cost
Monitoring the existing well network, including coordination with landowners and the WCD and producing a final report	20	\$4,160
Expanding the well network to include 4-5 additional wells, including coordination with landowners and the WCD	4	\$1,175*
Groundwater management	24	\$5,091*

* Remaining budget amount approved previously.

Requested Action

Approve this scope of services for the 2026 Groundwater Monitoring and Coordination in the amount of \$4,160 from account number 942-0004.