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GRID DRILLING PROGRAM REPORT

per

**The 1995 Minnesota Laws, Chapter 220,
Section 5, Subdivision 3**

**Report to the Minnesota Legislative Water Commission
by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources,
Division of Waters**

January 25, 1996

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Grid Drilling Program

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The 1995 Legislature funded this program to contract with water well drillers for exploratory drilling to characterize the geologic and hydrologic conditions in southwestern Minnesota where water supplies are difficult to locate. The Minnesota Water Well Contractors Association initiated the proposal for this funding with the objective of drilling to find any buried sand and gravel or Cretaceous bedrock aquifers that could provide long term, high capacity, high quality water for domestic use, municipal use, and economic development.

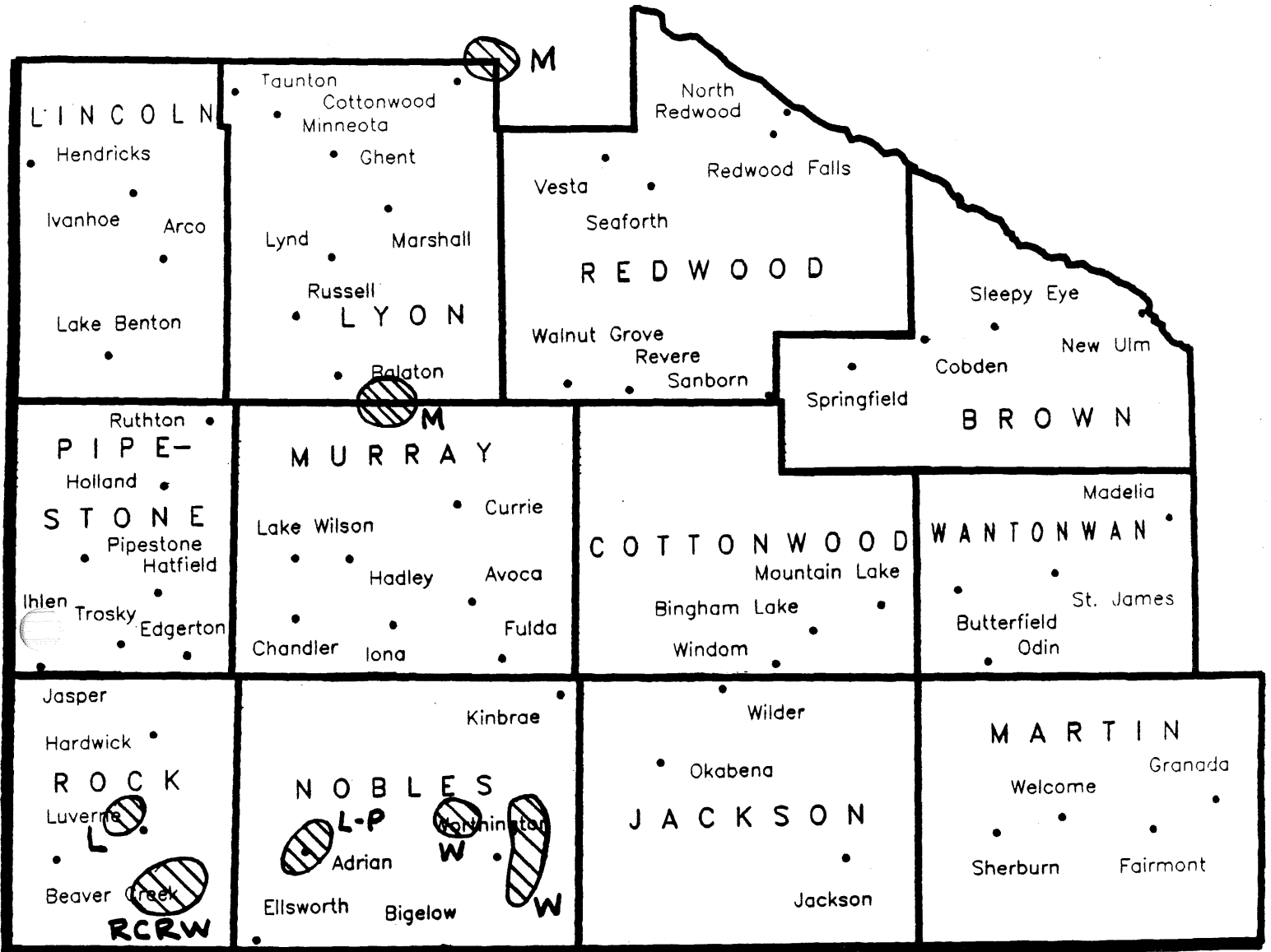
An amount of \$50,000 was appropriated from the General Fund to the DNR Division of Waters to be matched by an equal amount of money from non-state sources for a total program budget of \$100,000 for the biennium. The average test hole would probably be 500' in depth and cost about \$10 per foot to drill. At that price it is estimated that up to 20 test holes could be drilled at a cost of \$5,000 per hole (price includes the proper sealing of test holes afterwards). The test holes would be advanced through the glacial drift and sedimentary bedrock material to the underlying crystalline bedrock, with geologic sampling through the entire section.

Several meetings have been held with local interests, the Minnesota Geological Survey, and the U.S. Geological Survey to seek contributors to the drilling program and to determine the best areas to concentrate drilling. In October 1995 a meeting was held at the DNR offices in New Ulm where target drilling sites were selected (see map), and five local interests verbally agreed to contribute \$10,000 each to match the state's \$50,000. These local interests are: Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water, Rock County Rural Water, the City of Luverne, the City of Worthington, and the City of Marshall. A Memorandum of Agreement is currently being reviewed by the Attorney General's office and once finalized will be sent to these entities for signature to formalize

their contributions. The Department of Administration is assisting in setting up an M-contract for exploratory drilling in this portion of the state.

All available subsurface information for these targeted drilling areas is currently being collected. It is anticipated that drilling can begin when road restrictions are over this coming spring. Prior to beginning drilling, Division staff will meet with local contributors to agree on specific sites for drilling, time schedules for completion of work, etc. It is anticipated that the local contributors will assist with access, right-of-way, and underground utility clearance issues. Upon conclusion of the drilling, Division staff will prepare a summary report describing any potential aquifers located.

GRID DRILLING TARGET AREAS



LEGEND:

Hatched enclosures indicate areas of interest for locating Grid Drilling test holes. Each target area is identified according to the cooperating entity as follows: **M**, City of Marshall; **L**, City of Luverne; **W**, City of Worthington; **L-P**, Lincoln-Pipestone Rural Water; and, **RCRW**, Rock County Rural Water.

