Item 5E.
BCWMC 7-20-17

FY 2018 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Request for Proposal (RFP)

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RFP General Information

The Clean Water Fund was established in Minnesota Statute 114D.50 to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting ground water and drinking water sources from degradation. These funds must supplement traditional sources of funding and may not be used as a substitute to fund activities or programs.

The appropriation language governing the use of these funds is in Laws of Minnesota 2017, 1st Special Session, House File 707, 4th Engrossment, Article 2, Section 7. Table 1 lists the Clean Water Fund (CWF) programs available to BWSR and other executive branch agencies. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available.

Table 1: FY 2018 Competitive Clean Water Grant Funding Available

Agency Fund	Funding Amount	Governmental Units Eligible for Funding	Required Match
BWSR Projects and Practices	$6,000,000[1]	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities[2], and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management	$675,000[1]	Partnership of a Chapter 103E Drainage Authority[3] and Soil and Water Conservation District(s)	25%
MDA AgBMP Loans	$5,000,000	Any LGU may apply, but awards will be coordinated through existing contract holders.	Not required
Total	**$11,675,000**		

[1] Amounts shown are estimates, actual amounts will be determined prior to the end of the application period.

[2] Cities must have a state approved local water management plan. BWSR recognizes the 7-county metropolitan area city water plans approved by a Watershed District or a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) as a State approved plan.

[3] County, Joint County Board, or Watershed District

MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loans*	$11,000,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities[2], and JPBs of these organizations	Not Required

*Clean Water Partnership Loan request will go through a separate award process through MPCA

What's New for 2018?

1. Accelerated Implementation, Community Partners, and Minnesota Department of Health Well Sealing grants are not available for FY2018
2. The deadline for submitting grant applications has changed to August 9, 2017. (pg. 6)
3. The deadlines for submitting work plans and executing grant agreements have changed. (pg. 6)
4. In-lake Management Activities such as using alum or rough fish management must have a completed feasibility study prior to application to be deemed eligible.
5. The Ranking Criteria for Projects and Practices and Multipurpose Drainage Management have changed. (pgs. 11 and 14).
6. The CWF Policy has change regarding incentive payments.

Application Guidelines

- Applications will be submitted via eLINK. Eligible applicants without a current eLINK user account must submit a request to establish an eLINK account ***no later than 7 days prior to the application*** deadline. As part of the application, eLINK will require applicants to map the location of the proposed project area.
- Proposals may include one image file (.jpg, .tiff, .png) as an application image within eLINK. General attachments will not show up as a part of the application report in eLINK.
- Proposals should demonstrate significant, measureable project outputs and outcomes targeted to critical pollution source areas that will help achieve water quality objectives for the water resource of concern; consistent with a watershed management plan that has been state approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan.
- As appropriate, outputs should include scientifically credible estimates of pollutant reductions expected as a result of the project, as well as other measures such as acres of wetlands/forest, miles of riparian buffer or stream bank restored, acres treated by stormwater BMPs, or acres of specific agricultural conservation practices implemented including acres treated by the installation of the practice. ***Unrealistic pollution reduction estimates will not be considered***.
- Proposals submitted under the Clean Water Fund must request state funds that equal or exceed $30,000 for Projects and Practices and Multipurpose Drainage Management Grants. Applications submitted that do not meet this minimum dollar amount will not be accepted. Actual awards may be less than this minimum when applications receive partial funding.
- Proposals for projects meeting a waste load allocation and located on publicly owned land and exceeding $750,000 should first consult with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority before applying for BWSR Clean Water Funds.
- Projects and practices must be of long-lasting public benefit. LGUs must provide assurances that the landowner or land occupier will keep the project in place for the effective life of the project. Such assurances may include easements, enforceable contracts, and termination or performance penalties. BWSR reserves the right to review and approve an applicant's project assurances.
- Effective life is the length of time that a project or practice provides the anticipated environmental benefits for which it was designed and the length of time that it is intended to remain in place. Periodic routine maintenance activities may be required to preserve treatment capacity for the life of the project or practice. Information defining expected life not provided in the application must be defined in the work plan.
- Structural BMPs must be designed and maintained for a minimum effective life of 10 years and Capital Improvement Projects must be designed and maintained for a minimum effective life of 25 years. The

effective life for in-lake or in-channel treatments such as alum treatments must be assessed and determined as part of the required feasibility study prior to applying for funding.

- Proposals must have plans for long-term maintenance and inspection monitoring for the duration of the project's effective life. Work plans developed for funded applications will rely on this information for operation, maintenance and inspection requirements.
- For projects that are proposing to infiltrate stormwater, the following guidance should be taken into consideration: http://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/images/3/3a/Evaluating_Proposed_Stormwater_Infiltration_Projects_in_Vulnerable_Wellhead_Protection_Areas.pdf
- Projects related to groundwater or drinking water will be more competitive when located within MDH Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA) or Wellhead Protection Areas (WHPA). DWSMA, WHPA and vulnerability information can be found at: http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/maps/index.htm
- Applications may receive partial funding for the following reasons: 1) an absence of or limited identification of specific project locations, 2) budgeted items that were not discussed in the application or have no connection to the central purpose of the application were included by an applicant; 3) to address budget categories out of balance with the project scope and 4) insufficient funds remaining in a grant category to fully fund a project. Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request.
- Proposals from applicants that were previously awarded Clean Water Funds will be considered during the review process for applications submitted in response to this RFP. However, applicants that have expended less than 50% of previous award(s) at the time of this application will need to demonstrate organizational capacity to finalize current projects and complete new projects concurrently.

Applicant Eligibility

- As defined in the FY 2018 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Policy, eligible applicants include local governments units (counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts, and seven-county metro cities) or local government joint power boards working under a current State approved and locally adopted local water management plan or soil and water conservation district (SWCD) comprehensive plan. Counties in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have adopted a county groundwater plan or county comprehensive plan that has been approved by the Metropolitan Council under Minn. Stat. Chapter 473. Cities in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have a water plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minn. Stat. 103B.235. Cities, including those outside of the seven-county metropolitan area, are encouraged to work with another eligible local government if interested in receiving grant funds.
- Partner organizations such as non-profits, watershed groups, school districts or lake associations are not directly eligible to apply and must work in conjunction with eligible applicants as defined above.
- LGUs are eligible to receive grant funds if they are working under a current water management plan that has been **state approved and locally adopted** when the BWSR Board authorizes the grant awards.

Match

All BWSR CWF grants require a minimum non-state match equal to at least 25% of the amount of Clean Water Funds requested and/or received. The match must be cash or in-kind cash value of goods, materials, and services directly attributed to project accomplishments.

Application Deadline and Timeline

No late submissions or incomplete applications will be considered for funding.

- July 5, 2017 — Application period begins
- August 9, 2017 — Application deadline at 4:30 PM*
- December 20, 2017 — BWSR Board authorizes grant awards (proposed)
- January 2018 — BWSR grant agreements sent to recipients (proposed)
- March 12, 2018 — Work plan submittal deadline
- April 9, 2018 — Grant execution deadline

*The application must be submitted by 4:30 PM. Late responses will not be considered. The burden of proving timely receipt is upon the grant applicant.

Eligible Activities

The primary purpose of activities funded with grants associated with the Clean Water Fund is to restore, protect, and enhance water quality. Eligible activities must be consistent with a watershed management plan that has been state approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan. Local governments may include programs and projects in their grant application that are derived from an eligible plan of another local government. BWSR may request documentation outlining the cooperation between the local government submitting the grant application and the local government that has adopted the plan.

Eligible activities can consist of structural practices and projects, non-structural practices and measures, project support, and grant management and reporting. Technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement these activities are considered essential and are to be included in the total project or practice cost. See FY 2018 Clean Water Fund Policy for more detail.

Project Period

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds and cannot be used as match. All grants must be completed by December 31, 2020.

If a project receives federal funds, the period of the grant agreement may be extended to equal the length of time that the federal funds are available subject to limitation. Applicants using federal funds are encouraged to contact BWSR soon after award of funds to ensure the grant agreement can be developed appropriately.

Payment Schedule

Grant payments will be distributed in three installments to the grantee. The first payment of 50% of the grant amount will be paid after work plan approval and execution of the grant agreement provided the grant applicant is in compliance with all BWSR website and eLINK reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants. The second payment of 40% of the grant amount will be paid once the grantee has provided BWSR with notification and BWSR has reconciled expenditures of the initial payment. The last 10% will be paid after all final reporting requirements are met, the grantee has provided BWSR with a final financial report, and BWSR has reconciled these expenditures.

Permitting

If applicable, successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary federal, state and local permits and meets all water quality rules, including those that apply to the utilization of an existing water body as a water quality treatment device. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate regulatory agencies early in the application development process to ensure potential projects can meet all applicable regulatory requirements.

For information regarding MPCA storm water permitting requirements, please go to:

Construction stormwater permit overview
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=7386

Common Plan of Development
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=7396

Untreated Stormwater Runoff to Lakes, Streams, and Wetlands
http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=11864

For specific questions related to NPDES permits or the utilization of a water body for water quality treatment, please contact **Ryan Anderson** at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) at 651-757-2222.

Native Vegetation

Vegetative practices must follow the Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines found at http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/native_vegetation/seeding_guidelines.pdf

Minnesota Session Law 114, Article 4, Section 12 (b) requires that any prairie planting conducted with state funding include pollinator habitat through the growing season. For information regarding pollinators, see information at:
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/practices/pollinator/index.html

Incomplete Applications

Applications that do not comply with all application requirements will not be considered for funding, as provided below.

- Components of the application are incomplete or missing including information on pollution reduction estimates where applicable;
- Any required documentation is missing;
- The match amount does not meet grant requirements; and
- The minimum grant dollar amount is not met.

CWF Project Reporting and Administration Requirements

- All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. Outputs will serve as surrogates for outcomes and will be reported as estimated pollutant reductions and progress toward goal based on the best available information.
- All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan and budget, including detail relating to the outcome(s) of the proposed project. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. Grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing this activity. For more information go to http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html.
- BWSR Clean Water Funds will be administered via a standard grant agreement. BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient.
- When practicable, grant recipients shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (http://legacy.leg.mn) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes.
- When practicable, grant recipients must display a sign with the Legacy Logo at the project site or other public location identifying the project was built with assistance from Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. When practicable, grant recipients must display the Legacy Logo on printed and other media funded with money from the Clean Water Fund. The logo and specifications can be found at http://www.legacy.leg.mn/legacy-logo.
- All grantees receiving funds for BWSR programs must follow the BWSR Grants Administration Manual, which can be found at BWSR - Grants Administration Manual

Habitat Restoration Evaluations

All Clean Water Fund restoration projects with habitat restoration benefits may be subject to an evaluation in accordance with Minn. Stat. 114D.50 Subd. 6. Primary goals of the restoration evaluation program are to evaluate the projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan and to improve future habitat restorations by creating a feedback loop from lessons learned in the field.

Grants and Public Information

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to an RFP are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

Prevailing Wage

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with state funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality. Additional information on prevailing wage requirements is available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website:

http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PrevWage.asp . Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091.

Conflict of Interest

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see http://www.admin.state.mn.us/ogm_policies_and_statute.html) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making, also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

1. A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice due to competing duties or loyalties,
2. A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties, or
3. A grantee or potential grantee has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.

Minimum Browser Requirements

The applicant must use Microsoft (MS) Internet Explorer 9 and above or Mozilla Firefox.

Questions

This RFP and the 2018 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants Policy adopted by the BWSR provide the framework for funding and administration of the 2018 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program (www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/apply/index.html).

Questions regarding grant applications should be directed to your area Board Conservationist or Clean Water Specialist; a map of work areas and contact information is available at www.bwsr.state.mn.us/contact/BC_areas.pdf. Questions may also be submitted by email to cwfquestions@state.mn.us. Responses will be posted on the BWSR website as a "Frequently Asked Questions" (FAQ) document and updated weekly throughout the RFP. The final update will be posted on August 1, 2017.

Questions about the MDA AgBMP Loan Program and requesting funds through this application can be answered by calling Dwight Wilcox (651) 201-6618 or emailing AgBMP.Loans@state.mn.us.

Questions about the MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loan Program can be answered by calling Peter Fastner at 651-757-2349.

BWSR Projects and Practices Grants

This grant makes an investment in on-the-ground projects and practices that will protect or restore water quality in lakes, rivers or streams, or will protect groundwater or drinking water. Examples include stormwater practices, agricultural conservation practices, livestock waste management, lakeshore and stream bank stabilization, stream restoration, and SSTS upgrades.

Specific Requirements – Projects and Practices

- Through the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan, the following three high-level state priorities have been established for Clean Water Fund nonpoint implementation:
    1. Restore those waters that are closest to meeting state water quality standards
    2. Protect those high-quality unimpaired waters at greatest risk of becoming impaired
    3. Restore and protect water resources for public use and public health, including drinking water.
- Proposals must include a measureable goal that the activities are trying to achieve. For projects proposed to help meet a Total Maximum Daily Load, measurable goals need to be quantified as the needed annual pollution load reduction.
- SSTS project landowners must meet low income thresholds. Applicants are strongly encouraged to use existing income guidelines from U.S. Rural Development as the basis for their definition of low income.
- Feedlot Practices must follow the MN NRCS practice docket, which is found on the NRCS website: http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/mn/programs/financial/eqip/?cid=nrcs142p2_023513.
- In-lake management activities must have a completed feasibility study prior to grant application submittal to be deemed eligible. The feasibility study must include projected effective life.

Ineligible Use of Grant Funds – Projects and Practices

Projects or practices that address the following will not be considered:

- Land acquisition or easement payments with the exception of community wastewater systems;
- Stormwater conveyances that collect and move runoff but do not provide water quality treatment;
- Municipal or industrial wastewater treatment or drinking water supply facilities;
- Routine maintenance activities within the effective life of an existing practice;
- Projects with a primary purpose of water quality monitoring or assessment;
- Community wastewater treatment systems serving over 10,000 gallons per day with a soil treatment system; and
- A community wastewater treatment system that discharges treated sewage effluent directly to surface water without land treatment.
- Buffers that are required by law (including Drainage Law and Buffer Law)

Ranking Criteria – Projects and Practices

BWSR staff initially review all applications for eligibility. Eligible applications are further screened and forwarded to an interagency work team (BWSR, MPCA, MDA, MDH and DNR) that will review and rank Projects and Practices applications in order to make a funding recommendation to the BWSR.

Table 1: Projects and Practices Ranking Criteria	
Ranking Criteria	**Maximum Points Possible**
Project Description: The project description succinctly describes what results the applicant is trying to achieve and how they intend to achieve those results.	5
Prioritization: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions listed in or derived from an approved local water management plan.	15
Targeting: The proposed project addresses identified critical pollution sources or risks impacting the water resource identified in the application.	25
Measurable Outcomes: The proposed project has a quantifiable reduction in pollution and directly addresses the water quality concern identified in the application.	30
Project Readiness: The application has a set of specific activities that can be implemented soon after grant award.	10
Cost Effectiveness: The application identifies a cost effective solution to address the non-point pollution concern(s).	15
Total Points Available	**100**

BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management (MDM) Grants

The purpose of this program is to facilitate multipurpose drainage management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems. Practices include eligible on-field, on-farm, and on-drainage system practices within the watershed of a priority Chapter 103E drainage system.

These grants can be an "external source of funding" for water quality improvements, wetland restoration or flood control purposes, in accordance with:

1. Section 103E.011, Subd. 5. *Use of external sources of funding*;
2. the multipurpose water management provisions in Section 103E.015 *Considerations before drainage work is done;* and/or
3. Other applicable provisions of Chapter 103E.

MDM Eligibility

Applicant

This grant program requires a Chapter 103E drainage authority (County, Joint County Board, or Watershed District) and Soil and Water Conservation District(s) to establish or define a partnership to apply for and use these grant funds.

- One SWCD or drainage authority partner is eligible to apply on behalf of a partnership, but must verify in the application that all the partner(s) are committed to the project.
- The drainage authority involved in an application must have submitted its current Annual Ditch Buffer Strip Report, in accordance with Section 103E.067.

Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System

A "Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System" is an existing system that has priority sediment and/or water quality concerns documented in an analysis, study, strategy, plan, or engineer's repair report, or in an engineer's preliminary survey report for a drainage project.

Eligible Activities

Proposed activities/practices must be conducted adjacent to, on, or within the watershed of, a Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System(s). Ranking criteria include points for projects proposing a combination of eligible activities that increase the overall effectiveness of the implemented practices/activities. Following is a list of eligible conservation practices and activities.

1. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Code 410 Grade Stabilization Structure: Adjacent to a Chapter 103E drainage ditch or within the watershed of the drainage system to reduce erosion and provide temporary detention to trap sediment and nutrients, reduce peak flows, improve water quality and maintain the efficiency of the drainage system. When proposing side inlet structures, drop inlet type structures with temporary detention are preferred. ***When proposing side inlet structures in combination with a continuous berm along a Chapter 103E drainage ditch, eligibility is limited to the side inlet pipes and construction of an average 3 ft. high (above existing ground) berm.***
2. CPS Code 412 *Grassed Waterway*: To convey concentrated runoff without causing erosion or flooding, prevent or reduce gully erosion, and improve water quality.
3. CPS Code 638 *Water and Sediment Control Basin*: To prevent or reduce gully erosion, trap sediment and nutrients, reduce and manage onsite and downstream runoff, improve downstream water quality, and improve farmability of sloping land.

4. *Open tile inlet replacement:* Replacement of existing open tile inlets with water quality improvement inlets (e.g. perforated riser, dense pattern tile, or gravel inlet) in accordance with NRCS CPS Code 606 *Subsurface Drain*, as applicable, to reduce sediment entering a Chapter 103E drainage system via subsurface drainage tile.
5. *Storage and Treatment Wetland Restoration:* A wetland restoration having a primary focus on storage and treatment of surface and subsurface drainage water to reduce peak flows, erosion, and nutrient and sediment transport to receiving waters. This activity requires a perpetual flowage and conservation easement to be held by the Chapter 103E drainage system.

   Easements held by any other entity are not eligible for this program. The perpetual flowage and conservation easement must be approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for entire contiguous storage and treatment wetland restoration(s) on, or within the watershed of, a Chapter 103E drainage system. Total payment rates, including match shall not exceed Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) rates. The perpetual flowage and conservation easement must include an upland buffer of perennial native vegetation around the wetland area having a minimum width of 30 feet and average width of 50 feet, except where the wetland boundary is adjacent to a road right-of-way or property boundary, as approved by BWSR. The maximum upland buffer to increase multipurpose benefits or square off the easement area is limited to a 1:1 upland to wetland area ratio for each wetland, as approved by BWSR. Payable non-cropland buffer acres are limited to 20% of the total buffer acres. Design and construction components necessary for wetland and upland buffer restoration are eligible.
6. NRCS Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 130 *Drainage Water Management Plan*: To reduce and treat nutrient loss and improve downstream water quality. The CAP 130 can include controlled subsurface drainage, denitrifying bioreactor, and saturated buffer components. The plan must be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) certified in the NRCS TechReg for CAP 130.
7. CPS Code 587 *Structure for Water Control*: For use on existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality by managing tile water levels using controlled subsurface drainage to reduce tile flow and nutrient transport, in accordance with an associated CAP 130.
8. CPS Code 554 *Drainage Water Management, Implementation/Operation*: A CAP 130 is required. For areas where controlled subsurface drainage structures have been installed to manage water levels, $5.90 per acre per year for the first three (3) years of implementation / operation, up to a maximum of 300 acres per cooperator.
9. CPS Code 604 *Saturated Buffer*: For existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality primarily by reducing the nitrate content of subsurface drainage water treated by the saturated buffer.
10. CPS Code 605 *Denitrifying Bioreactor*: For existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality primarily by reducing the nitrate content of subsurface drainage water treated by the denitrifying bioreactor.

Ineligible Activities

- Tile, except for tile outlets required for water and sediment control basins, tile required to make eligible drainage water management practices function, and dense pattern tile to replace open tile inlet(s);
- Ditching not associated with a storage and treatment wetland restoration;
- Grade stabilization structure(s) in and along the centerline of a Chapter 103E drainage system;
- Back-flow preventing flap gates on side inlet structure pipes;
- Bridges or culverts through roads;
- Water quality monitoring;
- Buffers that are required by law (including Drainage Law and Buffer Law), incremental buffer strips under Section 103E.021, Subd. 6, or buffer establishment for a saturated buffer.

Match

The 25% required match may be provided by a combination of sources including, but not limited to, the applicable Chapter 103E drainage system, cooperating landowners, federal grant funds, or LGU(s).

Budget

The applicant **must** provide a separate total budget amount for each type of activity/practice proposed. These costs shall include all costs related to the design and construction of the activity/practice. A spreadsheet listing practice type and technical assistance cost, construction cost and total cost must be attached to the application. This budget spreadsheet can be found on the Apply for Grants webpage at http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/apply/index.html. **Applications submitted without this spreadsheet will not be considered.**

Table 2: Multipurpose Drainage Management Ranking Criteria

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
Project Description: The project description succinctly describes what results the applicant is trying to achieve and how they intend to achieve those results.	5
Prioritization: The proposal is based on priority protection or restoration actions associated with a "Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System" (as defined in this RFP) and is consistent with a watershed management plan that has been state approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan.	15
Targeting: The proposed project addresses identified critical pollution sources or risks impacting the water resource identified in the application.	20
Measurable Outcomes: The proposed project has a quantifiable reduction in pollution and directly addresses the water quality concern identified in the application.	25
Project Readiness: The application has a set of specific activities that can be implemented soon after grant award.	5
Cost Effectiveness: The application identifies a cost effective solution to address the non-point pollution concern(s).	20
Effective Combination of Practices: Use of a combination of eligible activities that increase the overall effectiveness of the implemented practices/activities.	10
Total Points Available	**100**

Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) AgBMP Loan Program

The AgBMP Loan Program is established in all areas of the state providing loan funds since 1996. Requests from watershed organizations, drainage authorities, cities, townships and other RFP applicants will be coordinated through existing contracts with the local AgBMP administrator. Local AgBMP administrators can be found at https://app.gisdata.mn.gov/mda-agbmploan/.

The AgBMP Loan Program provides low interest loans to landowners to solve virtually any water quality problem. The program encourages implementation of best management practices that prevent, reduce, or eliminate pollution. Examples include runoff from feedlots; farm nutrient management and conservation tillage equipment; erosion and drainage; noncompliant septic systems and wells; and many other practices. For more information on program eligibilities, please contact the Dwight Wilcox or Richard Gruenes (mailto:AgBMP.Loans@state.mn.usor 651-201-6618) or go to the MDA website at: http://www.mda.state.mn.us/agbmploans.

New this year:

- The AgBMP Loan Program can be used to repair or replace private wells that do not comply with drinking water standards. With this change, applicants can coordinate grants and loans to eliminate sources of contamination and address non-compliant drinking water wells.
- The AgBMP Loan Program can work with local governments that have special assessment authority, such as counties, townships, drainage authorities, watershed districts, and municipalities, to implement components of the buffer law, septic systems, and resolve many other pollution issues.

General Requirements

- AgBMP loans can be issued to rural landowners, farmers, and farm supply businesses; however, in some cases, urban landowners may also be eligible; please contact the program to verify borrower eligibility for AgBMP loans.
- The maximum loan amount for an individual person receiving a loan is $200,000. Terms include 3% interest and a maximum maturity of 10 years. Please contact the program to verify limits if the proposed project involves multiple individuals.
- The MDA will provide requested AgBMP Loan components for all successful grant applications that receive grant funding through this RFP, subject to available funds in the AgBMP revolving loan pool and number of other successful grant applicants.
- AgBMP Loan awards are ONLY for implementation of proven BMPs. Education, research and demonstration projects are not eligible components of an AgBMP Loan request.
- AgBMP Loans can be considered MATCH funds provided by the landowner for all state and federal grant programs.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Clean Water Partnership Loan Program

The BWSR and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) have preliminarily agreed to coordinate the Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program and the Clean Water Partnership Loan Program. Approved FY2016 and potential FY2017 Clean Water Partnership Loans for nonpoint source pollution projects could be used as cash match for BWSR Clean Water Fund grants. Local governments interested in incorporating CWP loans should indicate this as part of the application process. Clean Water Partnership Loan requests will go through a separate award process through the MPCA.

FY 2018 CWF Projects & Practices Application Questions (Answers to each question are limited to 2000 characters.)
Project Abstract: Project Abstract: Succinctly describe what you are trying to achieve and how you intend to achieve those results, including the type and quantity of projects and/or practices included in the application budget and anticipated outcomes.
Does your organization have any active CWF grants? If so, specify FY and percentage spent. Also, explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional Clean Water Fund grant dollars.
Water Resource: Identify the water resource the application is targeting for water quality protection or restoration.
Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Succinctly describe the proposed measurable outcomes of this grant application.
Overall Project Description 1. (5 points) A) What nonpoint pollution concerns will be the focus of this application and how do you intend to address those concerns? **B)** Describe how the resource of concern aligns with at least one of the statewide priorities referenced in the "Projects and Practices" section of the RFP. **C)** Describe the public benefits resulting from this proposal from both a local and state perspective.
Relationship to Plan: 2a. (15 points) Describe why the water resource was identified in the plan as a priority resource. For the proposed project, identify the specific water management plan reference by plan organization plan title, section, and page number. In addition to the plan citation, provide a brief narrative description that explains whether this application fully or partially accomplishes the referenced activity.
Relationship to Plan: 2b. Provide web links to all referenced plans.
Targeting Procedure: 3. (15 points) Describe the methods used to identify, inventory, and target the most critical pollution sources or threats (root cause) and describe any additional efforts that will be completed prior to installing the projects or practices identified in this proposal.
Targeting: 4. (10 points) A) How does this proposal make progress toward an overall groundwater, watershed protection, and/or restoration strategy being implemented by your organization and your partners? Listing an activity in a plan does not necessarily constitute an overall strategy. **B)** Describe activities other than those in this proposal that you and other partners have or will implement that affect the same water resource including but not limited to: other financial assistance or incentive programs, easements, regulatory enforcement, or community engagement activities that are indirectly related to this proposal.
Measureable Outcomes: 5. (10 points) A) What pollutant(s) (For groundwater: bacteria, untreated sewage, nitrate, pesticides, etc.; For surface water: dissolved phosphorus, nitrogen, sediment, etc.) does this application specifically address? **B)** Has there been a pollutant reduction goal set (via TMDL or other study) in relation to that pollutant or the water resource that is the subject of this application? **C)** If so, please state that goal (as both an annual pollution reduction AND overall percentage reduction, not as an in-stream or in-lake concentration number). If no pollutant reduction goal has been set, describe the water quality trends associated with the water resource or other management goals that have been established. **D)** For protection projects, indicate measurable outputs such as acres of protected land, number of potential contaminant sources removed or managed, etc.

Measureable Outcomes: 6. (10 points) A) Describe the effects this proposed project will have on the root cause of the most critical pollution problems or threats. **B)** Please quantify the water quality benefits that would result from this proposal. Where applicable, identify the annual reduction in pollutant(s) that will be achieved or avoided for the water resource after this project is completed.
Measureable Outcomes: 7. (10 points) Will the overall project have additional specific secondary benefits, including but not limited to measured or estimated hydrologic benefits, enhancement of aquatic and terrestrial wildlife species, drinking water protection, enhancement of pollinator populations, or protection of rare and/or native species? If so, specifically describe, (quantify if possible), what those benefits will be.
Cost Effectiveness: 8. (15 points) Describe why the proposed project(s) in this application are considered to be the most cost effective and reasonable means to attain water quality improvement or protection benefits within the proposed project area. Has any analysis been conducted to help substantiate this determination? Factors to consider include, but are not limited to: BMP effectiveness, timing, site feasibility, practicality, and public acceptance. If your application is proposing to use incentives, please include incentive rates and the rationale why this approach is seen to have a high cost-benefit.
Project Readiness: 9. (8 points) Describe steps and actions already taken to ensure that project implementation can begin soon after grant award. This may include: preliminary discussions with permitting authorities (if applicable) and the status of any state, federal or local permits that may be required for the project (Conditional use, NPDES, WCA, EAW, USACE, Public Waters, archeological surveys, etc.). Also, describe any preliminary discussions with landowners/occupiers, status of agreements/contracts, contingency plans, and other project development activities to date that will ensure a smooth start to the project and minimize administrative or other critical delays.
Project Readiness: 10. (2 points) Newsletters, signs and press releases are standard communication tools. In addition to these basics, describe additional project activities that would be added to the grant work plan aimed at engaging your local community on the need, benefits, and long term impacts of this project.
The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding must not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding.

FY 2018 CWF Multipurpose Drainage Management Competitive Grants

(Answers to each question are limited to 2000 characters.)

Project Abstract: Project Abstract: Succinctly describe what you are trying to achieve and how you intend to achieve those results, including the type and quantity of projects and/or practices included in the application budget and anticipated outcomes.

Does your organization have any active CWF grants? If so, specify FY and percentage spent. Also, explain your organization's capacity (including available FTEs or contracted resources) to effectively implement additional Clean Water Fund grant dollars.

Partnership

List drainage authority and SWCD partners for this grant.

Note: Stop here if the required partnership of a 103E drainage authority and SWCD is not proposed.

Water Resource: Identify the water resource the application is targeting for water quality protection or restoration.

Proposed Measurable Outcomes: Succinctly describe the proposed measurable outcomes of this grant application.

Project Description 1. (5 points) Please describe the proposed project, including: 1) the water resource(s) of concern , 2) the sediment and/or other water quality problem(s), 3) the eligible activities that would be implemented (include the activity number from the RFP and proposed number of each to be installed), and 4) the public benefits of the project**.**

Prioritization 2. **(15 points)** This grant program requires the identification of a "Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System" (as defined in the RFP). What is/are the identified Chapter 103E drainage system(s) and the documented sediment and/or water quality concerns that define the drainage system(s) as a priority for this program? Include identification of the applicable documented analysis, study, strategy, plan or report.

2a.For the proposed project, what is/are the specific, applicable state approved and locally adopted water management plan reference(s) by plan organization, plan title, section and page number?

2b. Provide web links to all referenced plans.

Targeting: 3. (20 points) How does the proposed project address identified critical pollution sources or risks impacting the water resource(s) of concern identified in the application?

Measureable Outcomes: 4. (25 points) What is the estimated annual reduction in pollutant(s) being delivered to the water resource(s) of concern by this project? If there have been specific pollutant reduction goals set for the pollutant(s) and resource(s) of concern, please indicate the goals and the process used to set them. If the project will have additional specific secondary benefits such as hydrologic benefits, enhancement of aquatic or terrestrial habitat, lake improvement benefits, or others, please briefly describe the anticipated benefits.

Project Readiness: 5. (5 points) What steps and actions have been taken to ensure that project implementation can begin soon after grant award, such as partner coordination, preliminary identification of potential conservation practice/activity locations, coordination with landowners, preliminary discussions with permitting authorities (if applicable), etc.?

Cost Effectiveness: 6. (20 points) What alternatives were considered to achieve the same type and amount of benefit outlined in the proposed project? Describe why the proposed practices/eligible activities are considered to be the most cost effective and reasonable means to attain water quality improvement or protection benefits. Consider factors such as, but not limited to, BMP effectiveness, timing, site feasibility, practicality, and public acceptance.
Effective Combination of Practices 7. (10 points) Does the proposed project use a combination of eligible activities to increase the overall effectiveness of the implemented practices/activities? Explain how the proposed combination of activities will increase the effectiveness of the proposed project.
Budget 8. To be eligible each application to the Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Program must include a budget worksheet as defined in the RFP and which is found in the BWSR website on the Apply for Grants webpage. Have you attached your worksheet?
The Constitutional Amendment requires that Amendment funding must not substitute traditional state funding. Briefly describe how this project will provide water quality benefits to the State of Minnesota without substituting existing funding.