



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: March 20, 2023
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Residential Cost-Share Program Framework



District Wide

Background/Discussion

At the March 9th regular meeting of the Board of Managers staff presented a series of proposed revisions to the District's non-point source residential pollution reduction program. Following this presentation, the Board was solicited for comments, questions, and recommendations for the proposed program revision. The received comments have been reviewed and addressed below and have been incorporated into the attached proposed policy revision as appropriate.

Summary of comments (responses in italics):

Non-substantial edits were made throughout the document to improve grammar and clarity.

Section A – General comments and minor revisions / suggestions

- 1 Program concept looks good as well as the increase in available grant dollars to the public.
 - *A recurring theme from residents and the CAC has been that larger grant dollar amounts are a necessary part of the comprehensive shoreline program.*
- 2 The technical assistance will be valuable in lowering the barriers to behavior change and practice implementation for residents.
- 3 The difference between the two grant types needs to be made clearer. Mini-Grant vs Community Water Grant need further distinction.
 - *Additional clarifying language was added emphasizing the appropriateness of the Mini-Grant for simple projects, and the Community Water Grant for larger projects. Examples were also added to the Mini-Grant language.*
- 4 For the shoreline requirements under the Community Water Cost-Share, a summary of the District Rules should be provided. These rules are complicated and may keep interested applicants from applying.
 - *The rules will be more effectively described in outreach materials rather than in the policy materials.*



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- *A table providing each lakes management type will be provided in the document for reference.*
- 5 The flow charts on program eligibility should be incorporated into the document.
 - *They will be incorporated into the document as an appendix, and an improved version will be provided in outreach materials.*
- 6 Forms and applications should be hosted online and ideally will be available to be filled out and submitted digitally in addition to be printable.
 - *Previous grant materials have been accessible digitally on the CLFLWD website but have not been available to submit digitally. Staff will explore the possibility of allowing digital applications as it will increase accessibility and potentially reduce staff time processing applications.*
- 7 An effort needs to be made to remove or define jargon, and make the document more understandable to the public. The naming of the document could also be made more clear / descriptive. Considering the document is for internal use, if the public may need to engage with it user friendliness should be a priority.
 - *A glossary of terms will be added to define essential technical terms. Continuing efforts will be made to ensure the document is accessible and comprehensible to the public.*
 - *Revisions were made to remove non-essential jargon terms and to clarify existing language as necessary. It should also be noted that this document, while made publicly available, is intended for use as an internal guidance document for the residential program. The internal policy nature of the document will tend towards more technical language. The District's education and outreach staff will draft outreach materials suitable for engaging the desired audience once the program framework is approved. Outreach materials will include promotional flyers, explanatory information sheets, and application materials that provide more details to interested residents.*

Section B – Specific program questions and comments

- 8 The 25ft buffer required on a general development lake will present a challenge in program uptake.
 - *The rationale for the inclusion of the buffer requirement is to maximize the cost-effectiveness of a shoreline project over the course of its lifespan. The buffer width that is required is an average width, with a minimum of 50% of the width and maximum of 200%. There is also provision for water access, not to exceed 30 ft, or 50% of the lot width. As this program is a voluntary conservation program, these requirements are important to maintain the effectiveness of any restoration, and further play the role of increasing the visibility of effective lakeshore buffers.*



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- 9 How are the projects being maintained and inspected? Would a 50% cost-share for maintenance be effective, or a guaranteed enrollment in the legacy program so long as the project is maintained?
- The policy as written is intended to maximize the staff and funding resources of the District. The intention with projects is to inspect as needed throughout their lifespan. For residents enrolled in the Legacy program, they will receive annual self-assessments with in-person inspections occurring as needed. Further funding for maintenance is not recommended at this time as maintenance is already an eligible expense under the Mini Grant. Any cost-share recipient can enroll in the full Legacy payments program at any time, so long as they meet the criteria of the program.*
- 10 What is the average cost of a successful project, and how does this measure against the cost of continued inspection of a property? Could a 100% Legacy payment be continued so long as a practice is maintained, and potentially increased annually?
- The cost of shoreline project varies widely and is highly dependent on the amount of grading required. We have examples in the District of restorations costing less than \$1000 for 120' of shoreline, and highly eroded shorelines costing more than \$20k. The obstacle to annual inspection will likely be staff availability rather than funding. An annual inspection and associated administration will likely require 1-2 hours, meaning 10-20 hours of staff time over the course of a 10 year lifespan. A recommended inspection schedule would be in years 1, 5, and 9 costing 3-6 hours of staff time over the ten year lifespan.*
 - An annually increasing payment amount is something that could be implemented, but it should not be written in as policy. Payment amounts will be set by the Board of Managers, and will likely be determined by the funding available and program uptake.*
- 11 Previous studies were conducted on Forest Lake to identify shoreline projects. Can these opportunities be pursued using this funding?
- In the case that uptake of this program is low, previously identified projects can certainly be used to target funding.*
- 12 The idea of a pilot should increase public input as the program is rolled out.
- The District's adaptive management approach will be used with this program, and adjustments will be made as necessary. Cost-share participants will be surveyed to gauge their experiences and recommendations as the program develops. Where the program is successful, sources of non-levy funding will be pursued.*



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- 13 For the Community Water Cost-Share, contractors will not appreciate delayed payments. We should also have a list of reliable contractors that we can pass the grant information along to so they can promote the programs to their, and the District's, benefit.
- *Language was added clarifying that direct payments from the District will be provided within 30 days of inspection by staff. Outreach materials, applications, and grant recipient contracts will emphasize that it is the responsibility of the grant recipient to contact the District for project closeout and timely payment of all receipts and invoices.*
 - *The District currently maintains a list of local service providers and vendors that is provided to residents. Depending on the funding for this program in the future, engagement with local vendors and service providers could be an important outreach component.*

Section C – Comments and questions on central program structure and implementation

- 14 The names of the individual programs as well as the document title should be more descriptive and should indicate availability to the broader applicant pool besides residential homeowners.
- *Staff are generally open to name suggestions for individual programs, although the Mini Grant name has broader use in our area so there may be a benefit for the sake of consistency. The "residential" element of the program is more administrative than descriptive. Funding for this program comes from the 3004B: Residential Landowner Grant budget item, rather than the 3004D: Commercial/Community Grant budget item. In the future these programs could be separated but for the pilot year 2023 the recommendation is to administer the whole of these grants in the residential program with a broader applicant pool.*
- 15 Separate grants should be created for residents and community organizations.
- *It is the opinion of staff that separate programs be developed depending on the results of the pilot year 2023. For the purposes of the pilot year, this framework includes broader eligibility including both residents and community organizations. In future years it would make sense to develop a unique cost-share program for non-residential properties. It is anticipated that the Mini Grant continue to be offered for all residents including commercial and community partners.*
- 16 Residential grants should be separated into shoreline and non-shoreline property subcategories.
- *Early in the planning process for this program it was determined that an effort should be made to create a competitive cost-share opportunity that could be used for a broad range of projects, not just shoreline projects. With a sufficiently robust ranking criteria, the Community Water Cost-Share*



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allows the District to consider a broad range of projects in order to award dollars to those that maximize benefits. In recent years the majority of requests for technical assistance have been to shoreline residents, and it is the expectation of staff that the majority of applications for funding will similarly be for shoreline projects. The benefit of a single program is that it simplifies administration, and ensures the opportunity is more broadly available to District residents.

- 17 The Watershed Legacy Payments Program needs further discussion and development before being implemented. Improper implementation could result in financial harm, and harm to public perception of the District and the Board of Managers.
 - *Due diligence has been performed by staff in exploring how to implement this program. Staff are certainly open to further discussion but feel that this program is ready to implement as a pilot in 2023. As a principle of adaptive management, a pilot of this program will enable any adjustments and changes to be made as this effort continues to develop.*

- 18 The final program framework needs to be publicly vetted prior to being launched. Vetting should include public meetings where the concept and structure are thoroughly presented for public discussion.
 - *For a program of this size, staff do not feel a more thorough public vetting process is needed. The Mini Grant program, for example, is primarily a modification of an already existing grant program and should not require an additional public meeting. While the Community Water Cost-Share and the Legacy Payments program are both novel, it would be the recommendation of staff to allow implementation in 2023 as a pilot before soliciting further public comment.*

Recommended Motion

Manager _____ moves to approve the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District Residential Cost-Share Program Policy as revised and directs the Administrator to distribute this information to the lake associations and begin implementation.

Attached

Residential Cost-Share Program Policy

Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District Residential Cost-Share Program Policy

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PROGRAM BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY

Comfort Lake–Forest Lake Watershed District (CLFLWD) provides a cost-share program to address nonpoint sources of residential pollution, as outlined in the ten-year watershed management plan¹. In previous years, this program has consisted of a \$500 reimbursable grant for native plant materials, and technical assistance provided by CLFLWD and Conservation District staff.

In 2023, the District will revise its existing residential programs and add additional cost-share programs and technical services. The new residential programs will better address the needs of District residents and will direct more resources towards meeting the goals of the ten-year watershed management plan.

The revised residential cost-share program consists of a traditional cost-share grant, a mini-grant, technical services and assistance, and a watershed stewards program. These program elements are described further in the following sections.



[Picture]

¹ Program description and goals can be found beginning on page 87 of the Watershed Management Plan

COST-SHARE PROGRAMS

Cost-share programs provide an incentive for land owners² to adopt best management practices (BMPs) that improve water quality and the health of the watershed. The two cost-share programs available are a mini-grant, and a Community Water Cost-Share grant.

MINI-GRANT

The CLFLWD Mini-Grant replaces the “Plant Grant” from previous years. This grant is a reimbursement grant for eligible land occupiers to offset some of the cost of simple projects that enhance water quality in the District such as native plantings, rain barrels, shoreline buffers, etc. The Mini-Grant provides a maximum reimbursement up to \$500. Grants are awarded on a first come-first serve basis to eligible applicants. An approved project must be started within one calendar year and completed, and receipts submitted within two calendar years of the application being approved. This grant can be extended by agreement of both parties.

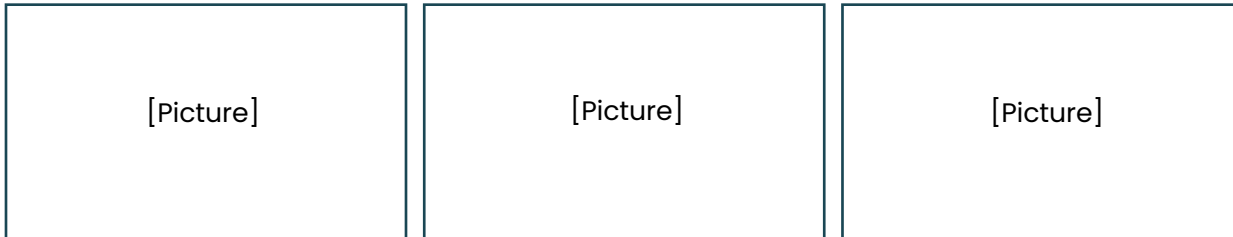
Applicant Eligibility

All land occupiers of CLFLWD are eligible for this grant. This includes residents, homeowners associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses. Those renting or leasing the property where the project will be installed are required to secure the consent of the landowner when applying. Applicants who have received mini-grant funds within the past three years will not be considered until June 1st of each year.

Project and Expense Eligibility

Eligible projects for the mini-grant must improve water quality within the watershed, either directly or through targeted education and outreach. Labor and time are not eligible expenses for reimbursement, except for native planting maintenance provided by an approved contractor.

² In addition to land owners, land occupiers (those holding rental or lease agreements to the property) are eligible to apply but must secure the permission of the land owner in advance.



Projects can include:

- Native plantings
- Buffers and filter strips
- Waterspout diversions and rain barrels
- No-mow/low-mow turf replacement
- Storm drain stenciling
- Native planting maintenance
- Other projects as determined by District staff

Projects may not include:

- Decorative Landscaping
- Riprap installation

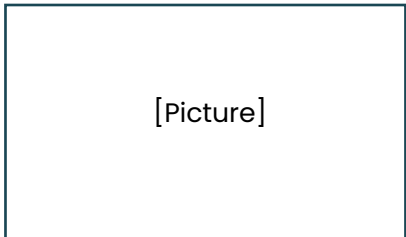
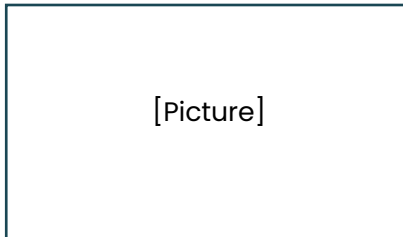
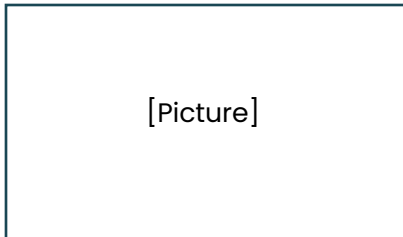
Project Review, Approval, Closeout, and Payment

Staff will review complete and eligible applications as they are received. Proposed projects will be reviewed by staff to determine if there will be a water quality benefit to the District, and will be recommended for approval by the Administrator. If a proposed project is approved, the applicant will receive notification from CLFLWD staff. Upon receiving notification of approval, the applicant may then make purchases and proceed with the approved project.

Once a project has been completed, CLFLWD staff must be contacted to closeout the grant. The closeout process will include the collection of receipts and descriptive invoices for eligible expenses, gathering photos of the completed project, and documenting the results of the project. The reimbursement payment will be approved by the Administrator and may be made as a direct payment, a property tax payment, or another method as appropriate.

Project maintenance and lifespan

Projects other than education and outreach must be maintained for at least five years. The applicant must follow the operations and maintenance plan provided by CLFLWD staff during the maintenance period. Grant recipients may be required to have their projects used in the District's education, outreach, and demonstration programs during the maintenance period. Possible activities include photos of projects being used in presentations or promotional materials, articles on the project or recipient, and/or inclusion in a project tour. District staff will get permission from the recipient before including a project in a tour or revealing any personal or identifying information. Participation does not require personal or identifying information to be revealed.



COMMUNITY WATER COST-SHARE

The Community Water Cost-Share grant provides financial assistance to land occupiers for the installation of larger projects and practices that improve water quality within the Comfort Lake – Forest Lake Watershed District. Funding for projects will be determined using the cost-share ranking criteria included in appendix B. This grant provides funding of up to 50% of approved projects, with a maximum of \$5,000. Highly ranked projects may be eligible for funding up to 75% of approved costs, with a maximum of \$7,500. This is a competitive grant, with grants awarded twice a year in a spring and fall window. Projects must be started within one calendar year of funds being approved.

Applicant Eligibility

All land occupiers of CLFLWD are eligible for this grant. This includes residents, homeowners associations, schools, non-profits, and businesses. Those renting or leasing the property where the project will be installed are required to secure the consent of the landowner when applying. Applicants are unable to receive Community Water Cost-Share funds in consecutive years.

Project and Expense Eligibility

Eligible projects for this program must improve water quality in the watershed district. Examples of eligible projects include shoreline restoration, wetland restoration, and raingardens. Labor and time is an eligible expense only when provided by an approved contractor. All approved expenses must be incurred after the approval of the project.

Project Review, Approval, and Closeout

When a completed application is received, it will be reviewed by staff and ranked using the CLFLWD's residential cost-share ranking formula. Projects meeting the 50% ranking threshold will be recommended to the Board of Managers for funding in order of their ranking. Projects meeting the 70% ranking threshold may be eligible for up to 75% funding. Grants will be awarded in two windows each year, spring and fall. The application window for spring will run from September 1st until January 31st, with grants being awarded by March 1st. The application window for fall will run from February 1st until July 30th, with grants being awarded by August 31st. Outside of the regular application and approval windows, staff may recommend applications to the Board of Managers that require expedited approval, so long as the project meets ranking criteria.

If a proposed project is approved, the applicant will be notified by District Staff of the approval and the amount funded. Following approval, the project can proceed.

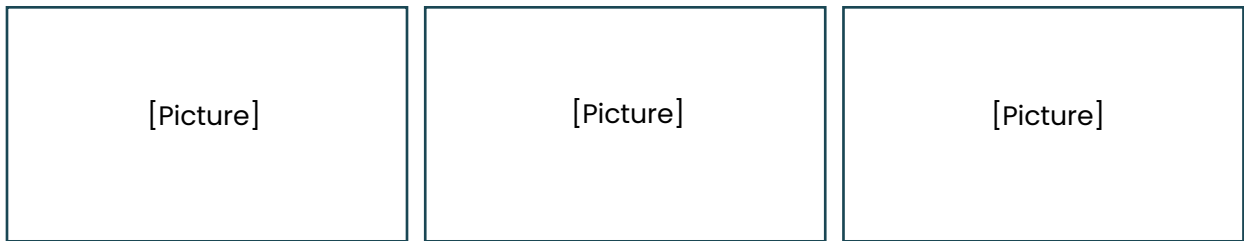
The grant recipient must contact the District to begin the closeout process once the project is complete. Project closeout will include the inspection and documentation of the project, collection of receipts and descriptive invoices, and the review of maintenance plans. For eligible expenses, approved amounts of submitted receipts will be reimbursed to the grant recipient, while approved amounts from invoices will be paid directly to the contractor or supplier. Payments will be made within 30 days of staff inspection and documentation of the completed project.

Additional requirements for Shoreline projects

All shoreline alteration projects must follow the District’s shoreline rules³. Additionally, due to the influence of upland management on the long-term success of shoreline restorations, all shoreline projects must have perennial buffers that comply with the District’s buffer requirements⁴. The costs of compliance with these requirements are eligible expenses for the cost-share program.

Project Maintenance and Lifespan

All projects must be maintained for a minimum of ten years, during which time the operations and maintenance plan provided by the District must be followed. Some projects may also require easements or deed restrictions that run beyond the ten-year lifespan.



³ District Rules: Section 5, Shoreline & Streambank Alterations

⁴ District Rules: Section 4, Lake, Stream, and Wetland Buffer Requirements

WATERSHED LEGACY PAYMENT PROGRAM

Most of the land in the watershed district is held in private ownership⁵. As such, the health of the watershed relies on individuals making choices that protect and improve the natural resources on private lands. To incentivize continuing positive land management, the District provides a Watershed Legacy Payment Program. This program offers property tax payments to landowners that meet the program criteria.

PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Residential landowners that meet the program criteria are eligible for the Watershed Legacy Payment Program. Non-residential landowners are currently excluded from this program. Program criteria are designed by District staff and approved by the Board of Managers. Additionally, residents that installed water quality projects using Community Water Cost-Share funds receive automatic eligibility for three years. Payments for cost-share recipients are described further below.

Criteria for this program include:

- Property must be in compliance with all District rules, local ordinances, and state laws.
- No active erosion or other resource concerns present.
- Natural resources onsite must be of a high quality or improving towards a high quality condition.
- Stormwater runoff must be minimal.
- Properties with shoreline or streambanks must have perennial buffers.
- Other criteria as determined by District staff.

PROGRAM APPLICATION AND APPROVAL

Residential landowners may submit an application for the Watershed Legacy Program to District staff, who will then schedule a site visit with the landowner. The initial site visit will determine whether the property meets the program criteria. In the case that the property does not meet program criteria, District staff will identify necessary improvements and provide recommendations for meeting the criteria. Once improvements have been made, the applicant will contact staff for a follow-up inspection.

⁵ Details on land use can be found on page 16 of the 2022–2031 Watershed Management Plan.

Once a property has been determined to meet the program criteria, it will be enrolled in the program if funding is available. Program approval will require documentation of site conditions including photos.

PAYMENTS

Payments for this program will be in the form of a property tax payment and will be made directly to the respective county. Alternative forms of payment may be made available as determined by staff. Payment amounts will be set by the Board of Managers on the recommendation of staff. Payments will be made annually as long as the property remains enrolled in the program, and funding is available. In 2023 the payment amount will be \$300.

Payment Tiers

Properties scoring 50% of the program criteria will be eligible for 50% of the payment amount. Properties scoring 70% of the program criteria will be eligible for 100% of the payment amount.

Payments for Cost-Share Participants

Community Water Cost-Share participants are automatically eligible for three years following installation of their projects. In year one, they will receive 100% of the payment amount. In year two they will receive 66% of the payment amount, and 33% in year three. At any time, the cost-share participant may request a reevaluation of their property to determine if they meet program criteria for a higher payment amount.

REPORTING, INSPECTIONS, AND CORRECTIONS

Once enrolled in the program, landowners are required to maintain the property so it meets the program criteria. The property will be inspected by District staff in the year following program approval, and every three years thereafter. Program participants will be required to submit a property self-assessment annually, which may result in a site inspection from District staff. If at the time of inspection the property is found to not meet program criteria, staff will provide a list of corrective actions required to meet program requirements. The landowner will have 90 days to make the necessary corrections. If corrections are not made within the 90-day period, the landowner will be unenrolled from the program. The correction period can be extended beyond 90 days at the discretion of staff. Landowners may not receive property tax payments while the property does not meet program criteria.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND SERVICES

Providing information to stakeholders based on current science is a core part of the District's mission. The District provides technical assistance and services to all residents of the watershed district. These services include resource concern identification and assessment⁶, project design and support, ongoing maintenance questions, and soil testing for eligible residents.

SITE VISITS

All residents may request a site visit from District staff for assistance in identifying and dealing with resource concerns, project planning and design, or other natural resource questions. Priority will be given to residents based on the severity of any resource concerns present.

PROJECT DESIGN & SUPPORT

Where CLFLWD or Conservation District staff determine a resource concern should be addressed with a project, technical assistance may be provided for project design and support. Site plans for projects may be produced by CLFLWD staff, Conservation District staff, or a consultant as appropriate. Support for planning and project support from Conservation District partners is outlined in their respective cooperative service agreements.

Additional project support will include the District maintaining a list of local service providers, assistance in navigating permitting requirements, and review of contractor estimates and plans.

SOIL TESTING

The health of the watershed is intrinsically reliant on the health of the soil. Access to soil health information and data is essential in making informed management decisions to improve soil health. In an effort to improve soil health and water quality, all residents are eligible for soil testing provided by the District. Residents are not eligible for soil testing if they have received a test from the District within the past two years. Staff have discretion to determine sites that are suitable for testing, as well as the testing methodology. Priority for this service will be granted based on the severity of any resource concerns present, and on the funding available for this program. District staff will provide an interpretive summary and management

⁶ Resource concern is defined by the NRCS as "expected degradation of the soil, water, air, plant, or animal resource base to an extent the sustainability or intended use of the resource is impaired. See the Field Office Technical Guide for more details.

recommendations along with soil test results. Cropland and pastureland are not eligible for soil testing under the residential program.

District staff may choose to offer additional testing for soil health indicators such as compaction and infiltration capacity on a case-by-case basis.

CONCLUSION

The new residential programs will better address the needs of District residents and will direct more resources toward meeting the goals of the ten-year watershed management plan. CLFLWD's revised residential cost-share program consists of a traditional cost-share grant, a mini-grant, technical services and assistance, and a legacy payment program. Expanding the program to include additional cost-share funding, technical services, and a property tax payment program, will encourage residents to consider best management practices (BMPs) that are beneficial to the health of local water bodies. Recognizing newly installed projects as critical to our goals but also recognizing previous projects and properties that continue to be managed for water quality benefits, ensures that projects installed with our cost-share funding will be maintained for the benefit of the community for years to come.

REFERENCES

- CLFLWD (2022, January 1). 2022-2031 CLFLWD Watershed Management Plan. Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District. https://www.cflwd.org/document/2022-2031cflwdwatershedmanagementplan_full/
- CLFLWD (2018, February 22). *Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Rules*. Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District. https://www.cflwd.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/12/CLFLWDRules_2-22-18.pdf
- US Department of Agriculture (2002, May 1). *Field Office Technical Guide MN*. Field Office Technical Guide. <https://efotg.sc.egov.usda.gov/#/state/MN/documents>

APPENDIX A: APPLICATION MATERIALS

- Cost-share Application
- Watershed Legacy Application

CLFLWD COST-SHARE APPLICATION FORM

Section I. Applicant Information (to be completed by landowner)

Landowner Name	Address	City/State	Zip Code
Email		Phone	
Project Address (if different)		City/State	Zip Code
Nearest waterbody to project site:		Is the property sewered or unsewered?	
Check appropriate box: <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Grant Application		<input type="checkbox"/> Community Water Cost-share Application	

Section II. Proposal Information

Project Type (e.g. raingarden, shoreline buffer):	
Give a 2-3 sentence summary of funding request. If there are additional funding sources you are seeking or have acquired, please note that here:	
Estimated project start and end dates:	
Total project cost:	Grant request:

Section III. Project Narrative

Briefly describe the current condition of the property and any previous site management as it relates to your proposed project. Please include project goals, and expected outcomes. How does this project align with CLFLWD’s long term water quality goals? **Please attach project plans.**

Watershed Legacy Payment Program Application

Section I. Applicant Information

Landowner Name	Address	City/State	Zip Code
Email		Phone	
Property Address (if different)		City/State	Zip Code

Section II. Property Information

Describe how you manage your property in a way that benefits our natural resources:

Based on the program criteria (attached), what improvements would you be willing to make to your property?

APPENDIX B: RANKING CRITERIA

- Cost-share Ranking Criteria
- Watershed Legacy Program Criteria

Cost-Share Project Ranking Sheet

CRITERIA	Max. Points Allowed	Actual Points	DISCUSSION
Water Quality Impact			
Project addresses an erosion issue	10		<p>Major Erosion, 6-10: Gully erosion, soil loss exceeding 150% of the T factor, rapidly eroding or undercut shoreline</p> <p>Minor Erosion, 1-5: Soil loss up to 150% of the T factor, vulnerable shoreline</p>
Project addresses stormwater runoff	10		Priority lake, river, or stream: 6-10. Non-priority surface water, 1-5. Range depends on distance to surface water.
Project reduces impervious surfaces	10		Points based on % reduction of impervious surfaces.
Runoff from outside property treated	5		Points based on proportion of runoff treated
Project Planning Criteria			
Readiness	10		Concept plans, cost estimates, agreements/easements are complete and thorough. Plans are consistent with generally accepted scientific and ecological practices.
Urgency & Opportunity	5		Project is contingent on securing funding now, or the opportunity would be lost if not funded and implemented now.

Cost Effectiveness	10		Level of cost benefit when compared to all similar projects
Natural Resource and Additional Criteria (maximum of 45 points allowed)			
Habitat	5		Project increases or improves habitat for native species of concern.
Community support	5		Project is supported by a local community group or organization such as a homeowners or lake association.
Supporting Practices	5		Additional supporting practices will be implemented that will extend the lifespan or enhance the effectiveness of the project.
Demonstration/Educational Site	5		Project will provide opportunity as a demonstration or educational site.
Easements or deed restrictions	20		Project will be on land under a deed restriction or easement.
Repair of violations and projects required by permit are not eligible for cost share dollars			
TOTAL:	100		

Legacy Payment Program Criteria

CRITERIA	Max.Points Allowed	Actual Points	DISCUSSION
Impervious Surfaces	10		If more than 25%, runoff can be captured / treated to meet this requirement.
Tree Canopy	10		10 points for 75% of the lot, 5 points for 50%, 2 points for 25% or scattered trees
Ground Cover	10		10 points if 75% of the lot is unmowed plants, 5 points for 50 %, 2 points for 25%
Upland Management			
Turf management	10		5 points for a diverse lawn mix including at least one legume. 5 points for turf that is left at least 3 inches tall
Swale, ditch, or drainage way	10		10 points if drainage way is natural vegetation. 2 points if drainage way is unmowed
Pollinator Habitat	10		A diverse blend of native plants are present that provide food and habitat to species of concern year round.
Woody Habitat	10		Coarse woody debris such as brush piles, deadfall, or wildlife trees are present
Stormwater			
Treatment/storage	20		20 points – runoff from 75% of impervious surfaces is treated or stored onsite 10 points – runoff from 50% 5 points – runoff from 25%
Rain gutters	10		5 points if gutters are installed 5 points if downspouts are diverted
Shoreline*			

Shoreline Buffer	10		10 points for a native perennial buffer meeting buffer distance guidelines 5 points for unmowed vegetation meeting buffer distance guidelines
Emergent Vegetation	10		Emergent vegetation has not been cleared beyond that necessary for boat access
Aquatic Vegetation	10		Aquatic vegetation has not been disturbed
Shoreline Trees/shrubs	10		10 points- Woody vegetation is present on 75% 5 points- Woody vegetation is present on 50% 2 points- Woody vegetation is present on 25%
Woody Habitat	10		5 points each for downed and overhanging woody vegetation
Natural Resources			
TOTAL:	100		
SHORELINE ADDENDUM:	50		

APPENDIX C: PROGRAM CONTRACTS