



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: August 3, 2023  
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers  
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
Subject: FY24 Clean Water Fund Grant Applications



**District Wide**

### Background/Discussion

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is now seeking applications for its Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grants program. The application period closes August 24, 2023. Up to \$6.9 million in grants is available for FY2024 through the Projects and Practices program to fund local projects to improve and protect water quality in lakes and rivers throughout Minnesota. Staff and engineers propose submitting the following applications. One new aspect of the grant program is that the minimum required match has been lowered from 25% to 10% of the grant amount.

### July Avenue Projects

The proposed project will entail implementation of two best management practices (BMPs) located on a tributary of the Bone-Birch-School-Little Comfort (BBSLC) tributary channel, near July Avenue in Chisago County: 1) non-structural agricultural BMPs on priority ag fields to address phosphorus/sediment loading and 2) structural improvements to the cattle yard including gutters and manure treatment / storage to reduce nutrient runoff. This tributary contributes excess sediment and nutrients downstream to the BBSLC channel and School Lake. The upslope fields are in an annual row crop rotation using a chisel plow regimen, resulting in excessive soil loss. Additional agricultural BMPs will focus on reducing soil disturbance and increasing soil cover in order to reduce erosion, as well as reduce flow into the cattle yard. The cattle yard houses cow-calf pairs and steers, with a year-round animal unit density of 7-12 animal units per acre. Improving the cattle yard, as well as improving grazing management, will reduce sediment and nutrient flows to the adjacent tributary. The estimated phosphorus load reduction for School Lake is 30+ pounds per year. Field transect surveys, RUSLE2 modeling, MinnFARM modeling, and diagnostic monitoring were used to target this tributary for implementation.

- Estimated CWF Grant Request: TBD
- Estimated Match: TBD (10% of grant request)
- Estimated Total Project Cost: TBD



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### Comfort Lake Shoreline Restoration

This is a high priority shoreline restoration project for Comfort Lake. The homeowners recently purchased the property and would like to work with the District to do a restoration project. The site has turf grass mowed to the shoreline and a significant amount of concrete in the form of a small private boat launch. The proposed project would entail removal of the concrete and restoration of a natural shoreline buffer. Due to the significant cost involved in the concrete removal, this project's budget is much higher than a regular residential shoreline buffer. As such, staff proposes to apply to the Clean Water Fund for additional funding rather than funding solely through the District's residential cost-share program (i.e., the District levy). Staff have already discussed this project with BWSR staff, and we feel confident that this proposal will rank highly in the grant program.

- Estimated CWF Grant Request: TBD
- Estimated Match: TBD (10% of grant request)
- Estimated Total Project Cost: TBD

### Recommended Action

Proposed Motion: Manager \_\_\_\_\_ moves to direct the District Administrator to work with staff and coordinate with the District Engineer and others to develop and submit Clean Water Fund grant applications for 2024 that will benefit water resources within the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District. Motion seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.