



## MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: February 1, 2024  
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers  
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator  
Subject: Clean Water Fund Grant Agreement



Little Comfort Lake  
Management District

### Background/Discussion

The Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District was awarded a FY24 Clean Water Fund grant for the July Avenue Feedlot Project in the amount of \$90,000. Staff are in the process of drafting the work plan to be approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR). Once the work plan is approved, BWSR will execute the agreement and issue an initial payment of 50% of the grant award (\$45,000). The minimum required non-state match is \$9,000 (10% of the grant amount).

This project will implement cover crops and livestock waste management practices on a farm/feedlot in southern Chisago County. Proposed practices include: cover crops, roof runoff management, clean water diversion, waste management system, and vegetated treatment area. The proposed project is estimated to reduce approximately 61 lb/yr of watershed phosphorus loading to School Lake, which discharges through a stream to Little Comfort Lake. The District performed diagnostic monitoring to target this phosphorus loading hotspot which includes a cattle feedlot at the headwaters of this tributary. The CLFLWD received a letter of support from the landowner for this project. Additional project outcomes include implementation of cover crops on 60 acres of cropland, saving 88.8 tons of soil per year at edge-of-field and achieving 184 lbs./yr. of nitrogen removal.

The 2024 budget included a placeholder for this project, pending grant approval, under line item 5224A (School) Agricultural BMP Implementation. Staff recommends a budget transfer in order to account for the full grant spend and local spend (10% non-state match) associated with this grant. This means a grant spend of \$90,000 and a local spend of \$9,000. A budget amendment of this magnitude will allow staff to proceed with the entirety of the work in 2024, if possible. We anticipate being able to complete the cover crops in 2024, at the least. The livestock waste management work may roll over into 2025/2026, but the full budget amendment will allow us to proceed if we are able to align everything in time for 2024 implementation. The grant expiration date is December 31, 2026.

On a related note, elsewhere in the Little Comfort Lake Management District, the 2024 budget contains \$325,000 under line item 5225C (Little Comfort) Infiltration Basin (Heath Ave Subwatershed). Several projects were evaluated in order to achieve the objective of this



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implementation item (East Wetland Impoundment, Gravel Pit, Heath Ave Iron Enhanced Sand Filter (IESF)). The FY21 Clean Water Fund grant for this project has since expired, and the budgeted revenues are no longer available. Staff is working on the land acquisition and grant research for the Heath Ave IESF. This item is further discussed in the next agenda item.

### **Recommended Motion**

Proposed Motion #1: Manager \_\_\_\_\_ moves to amend the 2024 budget for account 5-224-A School Lake Agricultural BMPs to \$99,000 and to transfer \$99,000 from account 000-2900 Reserve Fund to account 5-224-A. Seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.

Proposed Motion #2: Manager \_\_\_\_\_ moves to adopt resolution 24-02-01. Seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_.

**Attached:** Resolution 24-02-01

**COMFORT LAKE-FOREST LAKE WATERSHED DISTRICT  
BOARD OF MANAGERS**

**RESOLUTION 24-02-01**

**AUTHORIZING EXECUTION of GRANT AGREEMENT for FY24 CLEAN WATER  
FUND PROJECT: JULY AVENUE FEEDLOT**

Manager \_\_\_\_\_ offered the following resolution and moved its adoption, seconded by Manager \_\_\_\_\_:

**WHEREAS** the District has adopted a watershed management plan (WMP) in accordance with Minnesota Statutes §103B.231 that identifies and programs capital improvement projects and related actions for the purpose of protecting and enhancing water quality within the watershed;

**WHEREAS** pursuant to WMP implementation category 5224A, the District has identified the need to implement agricultural best management practices to reduce nutrient loading from the agricultural area around July Avenue in the School Lake subwatershed;

**WHEREAS** the District staff has advised that this project is feasible and offers an opportunity for substantial water quality benefits for Forest Lake, and the District applied for and has been awarded a grant under the Clean Water Fund, Competitive Grants program, for this project totaling \$90,000;

**WHEREAS** the District's legal counsel has reviewed the grant agreement and finds it acceptable, and the Board will budget over the subsequent fiscal years of the grant period, as necessary, for required local cost share and other associated costs of this project for which the District is responsible;

**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board President is authorized to sign the grant agreement, on advice of counsel; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the District Administrator is to establish one or more separate project funds for receipt and proper management of grant funds.

The question was on the adoption of the above resolution and there were \_ ayes and \_ nays as follows:

<b>Manager</b>	<b>Aye</b>	<b>Nay</b>	<b>Absent</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Stephen Schmaltz				
Christopher Loth				
Dave Bakke				
Jackie Anderson				
Doug Toavs				

The President declared the resolution adopted.

Dated: February 8, 2024

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Dave Bakke, Secretary

\* \* \* \* \*

I, Dave Bakke, Secretary of the Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District Board of Managers, do hereby certify that the above resolution is a true and correct transcription of an action of the Board taken on the date above indicated.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this \_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 2024.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Dave Bakke, Secretary