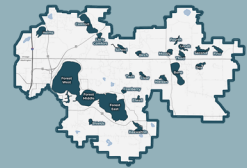




MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: February 1, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Lower St. Croix Supplemental Grant Funds Awarded



District Wide

Lower St. Croix Supplemental Grant Funds

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider approving an amendment to the Lower St. Croix (LSC) Watershed Based Implementation Fund (WBIF) grant work plan to incorporate additional funds received from the State. The enclosed memo provided to the LSC Policy Committee on January 18th provides additional information. Additionally, the Board may consider authorizing the District Administrator to submit a request for these grant funds.

CLFLWD staff participated in the preparation of this supplemental funding request along with a handful of other LSC partners. This does not guarantee any of the partners any amount of grant funding. All partners must still go through the standard project request process in order to request any WBIF funding. The following is a description of the staff's recommended grant request.

CLFLWD Request for Funding

Staff recommends a phased approach to grant funding for the Heath Avenue Iron Enhanced Sand Filter Project. We recommend submitting an LSC WBIF grant request of \$49,000 for the *feasibility study*. Since the District plans to purchase the underlying land for the project, we must complete the feasibility study and order the project before closing on the property. Then we propose to apply in fall 2024 for a FY25 Clean Water Fund competitive grant to *construct* the project. The deadline for the LSC WBIF grant request is February 14th, and the request will be considered at the February 28th Steering Committee meeting. If approved, the District could theoretically begin work on the feasibility study in March. If an ultimate Clean Water Fund competitive grant is awarded, construction could begin as soon as spring 2025.

Recommended Motion

Proposed Motion #1: Manager _____ moves to approve an amendment to the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Fund work plan to include \$167,615 in supplemental grant funds and authorize the LSC Steering Committee to direct these supplemental funds toward activity(s) that most effectively meet goals of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. Seconded by Manager _____.



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Proposed Motion #2: Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to submit an application for the Heath Ave IESF Feasibility Study to the LSC WBIF grant program and execute the grant sub-agreement, if awarded. Seconded by Manager _____.

Hyperlinks

- [Lower St. Croix WBIF Project Request Calendar](#)
- [Lower St. Croix WBIF Project Evaluation and Approval Process](#)

Attached

- Memo to Lower St. Croix Partnership Policy Committee



LOWER ST. CROIX WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

TO: Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Policy Committee

FROM: Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership Steering Committee

DATE: January 18, 2024

RE: FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds Supplemental Funds Request

On October 3, 2023, we were notified that \$7,750,000 in additional FY22-23 Watershed Based Implementation Funds were available for local partners to request for continued implementation of their Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan. All partnerships with a current WBIF grant were encouraged to submit a request for supplemental funds if they are spending previous allocations on plan priorities in a timely way.

During the October 23 Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership (LSC) Policy Committee meeting, the Policy Committee directed the Steering Committee to develop and submit a request to MN BWSR to utilize a portion of these supplemental grant funds.

On January 3, 2024, the Steering Committee submitted a request to BWSR for \$2,132,700 in supplemental grant funds. On January 17, BWSR notified us that our partnership is approved to receive \$167,615. If we accept these funds, they will be added to our existing FY22-23 WBIF grant to be used for plan implementation.

Recommend Policy Committee Action

Recommend that the Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership local boards approve an amendment to the FY23 Watershed Based Implementation Fund work plan to include \$167,615 in supplemental grant funds. Authorize the LSC Steering Committee to direct these supplemental funds toward Activity(s) that most effectively meet goals of the Lower St. Croix Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan.