



MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: May 2, 2024
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Application



Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda is to consider authorizing the District Administrator to submit a grant application to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund (LSOHF) and to execute the grant agreement, if awarded. The District applied to and was awarded a LSOHF grant in 2025 for the acquisition of the property, aka Phase 1. The proposed Phase 2 entails restoration of the wetland and/or prairie habitat upland on the site after acquisition.

The Bone Lake South Property is identified as a priority implementation area in the CLFLWD 10-Year Watershed Management Plan due to its multiple overlapping benefits including wetland habitat, native plant communities connected to groundwater, high groundwater pollution sensitivity, and effect on Bone Lake’s water quality. The Bone Lake Diagnostic Study identified a 75 lb/yr phosphorus load from this tributary. Restoration of this property would help achieve multiple District goals.

Staff are still in communication with the landowner regarding selling price for the property. The LSOHF grant has strict requirements for closing price and process, which we are making sure to navigate. We are hopeful that there is a path forward to closing on the property and ensuring preservation of the natural resources that are present.

The minimum grant request for the LSOHF is \$500,000. Emmons & Olivier Resources prepared general cost estimates for potential restoration activities on this site. Staff will use this information to prepare a proposed “Phase 2” grant application. The application deadline is May 24. If awarded, funds would become available in July 2025.

Recommended Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to submit an application to the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund Grant Program and execute the grant agreement, if awarded. Seconded by Manager _____.