

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Coon Creek Watershed District Office – Conference Room

Monday, February 24, 2025

5:30 p.m.

Board of Managers:

Jim Hafner, President; Erin Lind, Vice President; Jason Lund, Secretary; Mary Campbell, Treasurer; Dwight McCullough, Member at Large

Note: Individuals with items on the agenda or who wish to speak to the Board are encouraged to be in attendance when the meeting is called to order.

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Approval of the Agenda** (*Additions/Corrections/Deletions*)
- 3. Announcements**
- 4. Open Mic/Public Comment**

*Members of the public at this time may address the Board, for **up to three minutes**, on a matter not on the Agenda. Individuals wishing to be heard must sign in with their name and address at the door. Additional comments may be accepted in writing. Board action or discussion should **not** be expected during the presentation of public comment/open mic. Board members may direct staff to research the matter further or take the matter under advisement for consideration at a future Board meeting.*

CONSENT ITEMS

The consent agenda is considered as one item of business. It consists of routine administrative items or items not requiring discussion. Items can be removed from the consent agenda at the request of a Board member, staff member or a member of the audience.

- 5. Approval of Minutes - February 10, 2025**
- 6. Bills/Accounts Payable**

POLICY ITEMS

- 7. 2025 Water Quality Cost Share Awards**

PERMIT ITEMS

None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- 8. Initiate Boundary Correction**
- 9. Legislative Update (ABM)**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

ADJOURN

**COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
BOARD OF MANAGERS' MEETING**

The Board of Managers of the Coon Creek Watershed District held their regular meeting on Monday, February 10, 2025, at the Coon Creek Watershed District Office.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 PM

Board Members Present: Mary Campbell, Jim Hafner, Erin Lind, Jason Lund, and Dwight McCullough.

Staff Present: Tim Kelly, Jessica Lindemyer, Erin Margl, Jon Janke (remote), and Michelle Ulrich

Other: Adam Ginkel (Plowe Engineering – PAN P-25-001)

2. Approval of the Agenda

Administrator Kelly noted a small error on the agenda which incorrectly listed the year for the January 27th minutes as 2023 instead of 2025.

Board Member Lund moved to add permit item 10, to the Consent Items. Seconded by Board Member Campbell. The motion carried with five (5) yeas (Board Members Campbell, Hafner, Lind, Lund, and McCullough) and no nays.

Board Member Campbell moved to approve the amended agenda adding item 10 to the Consent Items. Seconded by Board Member Lind. The motion carried with five (5) yeas (Board Members Campbell, Hafner, Lind, Lund, and McCullough) and no nays.

3. Announcements

4. Open Mic/Public Comment

No one was present for comment.

CONSENT ITEMS

5. Approval of Minutes of January 27, 2025

6. Administrator's Report

7. Advisory Committee Report

8. Approval of Bills for Payment

Claims totaling \$500,110.08 on the following disbursement(s) lists were issued.

Vendor	Amount
V0008--US BANK	11,046.10
V0010--A1 FLOOR AND CARPET CARE INC	1,119.30
V0054--MICHELLE J ULRICH PA	6,791.25
V0071--SUNRAM CONSTRUCTION INC	274,089.38
V0104--MINNESOTA PIPELINE COMPANY	2,077.86
V0111--WELL GROOMED LAWNS INC	445.00
V0221--ABDO LLP	5,466.67
V0242--METRO I NET	6,753.00
V0266--THOMPSON, TYLER	64.90
V0268--ANOKA COUNTY PARKS	162,132.96
V0300--HASBROOK, KAILEE	100.80
V0348--BLUE CROSS BLUE SHIELD OF MN	20,335.92
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	232.50
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	778.06
V0353--PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	7,356.38
V0363--MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1,320.00
	500,110.08

The following Permit item was moved to the Consent Agenda.

10. Goddard School Expansion (PAN P-25-001)

The purpose of this project is the construction of a new addition to the Goddard School with associated stormwater treatment. This project is located on Central Avenue in Blaine.

As outlined in the complete review report before the Board, staff recommends approval of the Permit Application Number (PAN) P-25-001 Goddard School Expansion with the following three (3) Conditions and three (3) Stipulations:

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Rule 2.7 – Procedural Requirements

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of \$2,380.00.

Rule 3 – Stormwater Management

2. Provide proof of recording of a fully executed Operations and Maintenance Agreement for the perpetual inspection and maintenance of all proposed stormwater management practices after review and approval by the District.

Rule 4.0 – Soils and Erosion Control

3. Update the erosion and sediment control plan to includes a note to stabilize soil and soil stockpiles within 7 days of inactivity.

Stipulations: The permit will be issued with the following stipulations as conditions of the permit. By accepting the permit, the applicant agrees to these stipulations:

1. Submittal of as-builts for the stormwater management practices and associated structures listed in Table 2, including volume, critical elevations and proof of installation for hydrodynamic separators.
2. Completion of a post construction infiltration test on the Infiltration Basin by filling the basin to a minimum depth of 6 inches with water and monitoring the time necessary to drain, or multiple double ring infiltration tests to ASTM standards. The Coon Creek Watershed District shall be notified prior to the test to witness the results.
3. If dewatering is required, provide DNR dewatering permit prior to construction. If a DNR permit is not required, provide well-field location, rates, discharge location, schedule and quantities prior to construction.

Board Member Campbell moved to approve the Consent agenda. Seconded by Board Member Lund. The motion carried with five (5) yeas (Board Members Campbell, Hafner, Lind, Lund, and McCullough) and no nays.

PERMIT ITEMS

9. Northgate Replacement (PAN P-25-003)

The purpose of this project is the in-kind replacement of 24-inch diameter steel natural gas transmission pipeline. This project is located on the East side of BNSF railroad south of Osborne Rd in Fridley.

As outlined in the complete review report before the Board, staff recommends approval of the Permit Application Number (PAN) P-25-003 Northgate Replacement with the following Condition:

Conditions to be Met Before Permit Issuance:

Rule 2.7 – Procedural Requirements

1. Submittal of a performance escrow in the amount of \$2,535.00.

Stipulations:

None.

Board Member Lind inquired about the erosion control methods for the temporary disturbance of the waterbody in question. Watershed Development Coordinator, Erin Margl, confirmed that given the relatively small scale of the disturbance to the stormwater pond, bio rolls would be used to control erosion. Administrator Kelly added that for projects with larger disturbances a floating silt curtain is often used in conjunction with bio rolls and/or silt fencing.

Board Member Lind moved to approve Permit P-25-003 as presented with conditions. Seconded by Board Member Campbell. The motion carried with five (5) yeas (Board Members Campbell, Hafner, Lind, Lund, and McCullough) and no nays

10. Goddard School Expansion (PAN P-25-001)– *(moved to Consent Agenda)*

POLICY ITEMS

11. Draft personnel Guidance Manual

Administrator Kelly reminded Board Members to submit their comments on the draft manual to CCWD Administrative Service Coordinator by Tuesday, February 11th. Board Member Campbell commented on the repetition of state law within the manual stating that it may make more work for the District if and when state law changes.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

12. Minnesota Watershed's Legislative Briefing

Administrator Kelly provided a summary of the Minnesota Watershed Legislative Briefing event and asked that any Board Member interested in attending the Legislative Briefing should reach out to District Staff to arrange registration.

These was general discussion about potential legislation relating to the permitting process for various state agencies.

ADJOURN

Board Member Campbell moved to adjourn at 6:02 pm. Seconded by Board Member Lund. The motion carried with five (5) yeas (Board Members Lind, Lund, McCullough, Hafner, and Campbell) and no nays.

President

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 6
ITEM: Bills to Be Paid

FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted
POLICY IMPACT: Policy

REQUEST
 Approve bills

BACKGROUND

Claims totaling \$49,069.38 on the following disbursement list will be issued and released upon Board approval.

Vendor	Amount
V0015--ANOKA COUNTY MN	9,227.06
V0112--ELFELT, CORINNE K	61.34
V0137--HAUGO GEOTECHNICAL SVCS LLC	10,180.00
V0197--VANDERBILT, CHASE	67.20
V0221--ABDO LLP	66.25
V0242--METRO I NET	199.00
V0242--METRO I NET	3,367.06
V0247--POOP 911 OF MPLS STP LLC	1,181.40
V0281--UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION	10,000.00
V0350--FIRST UNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	1,062.78
V0351--DELTA DENTAL OF MN	1,668.24
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	26.75
V0352--HEALTH EQUITY INC	778.06
V0362--PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	7,356.36
V0363--MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1,320.00
V0364--KUEPERS INC	519.89
V0365--FLINT HILLS RESOURCES	1,920.79
V0366--KRAUSE, EMMA	67.20
	49,069.38

Item 6: Bills to be Paid Page 2 of 2

Company name:	Coon Creek Watershed District									
Created on:	2/19/2025									
Vendor name	Bill number	Date	Fund name	Department name	Account	Capital Project ID	Grant ID	Theraction amount	Memo	
0973569-001MAR										
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	21050			340.28	MAR2025 LTD INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	21050			55.67	MAR2025 LIFE INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60715			33.66	MAR2025 LIFE ADD INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	60715			30.46	MAR2025 LIFE ADD INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Watershed Development	60715			16.79	MAR2025 LIFE ADD INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	21050			444.75	MAR2025 STD INS	
FRSTUNUM LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY	0973569-001MAR	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	60715			141.17	MAR2025 LIFE ADD INS	
Sum for 0973569-001MAR								1,062.78		
1053-166981										
POOP911 OFMPLSSTPLLC	1053-166981	2/1/2025	General Fund	Administration	61549	FRQJ23-602	G22-001	608.60	4 WEBS CLEAN UP SERVICE FEB25	
POOP911 OFMPLSSTPLLC	1053-166981	2/1/2025	General Fund	Public & Governmental Affairs	61549	FRQJ24-619		358.00	4 WEBS CLEAN UP SERVICE FEB25	
POOP911 OFMPLSSTPLLC	1053-166981	2/1/2025	General Fund	Public & Governmental Affairs	61549	FRQJ23-602		214.80	4 WEBS CLEAN UP SERVICE FEB25	
Sum for 1053-166981								1,181.40		
1268669516										
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Public & Governmental Affairs	60718			25.00	PGR02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Administration	60718			575.00	ADM02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Watershed Development	60718			60.00	WQ02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Planning	60718			200.00	PLAN02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60718			100.00	OM02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
MINNESOTA STATE RETIREMENT SYSTEM	1268669516	2/19/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	60718			360.00	WQ02142025 MSRS PAYROLL	
Sum for 1268669516								1,320.00		
14759										
HAJCO GEOTECHNICAL SVCS LLC	14759	1/30/2025	General Fund	Planning	63246	FRQJ24-302		10,180.00	24-0572 D39 STORMWATER	
Sum for 14759								10,180.00		
2478										
METRO I NET	2478	9/19/2024	General Fund	Administration	61575			3,367.06	31002 A3 EMAIL SUPPORT MICROSOFT	
Sum for 2478								3,367.06		
2484										
METRO I NET	2484	7/9/2024	General Fund	Administration	61575			199.00	31008 S02 MOBILITY SERVICES MICROSOFT	
Sum for 2484								199.00		
25 CCWD CONTR										
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA FOUNDATION	25 CCWD CONTR	2/17/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	61557			10,000.00	2025 CONTRIBUTION URBAN STORMWATER RESEARCH	
Sum for 25 CCWD CONTR								10,000.00		
501646										
ABDO LLP	501646	1/31/2025	General Fund	Administration	63052			66.25	ACCT 300036SI CONSULT TICKET JAN 25	
Sum for 501646								66.25		
A7D4C87										
HEALTH EQUITY INC	A7D4C87	2/18/2025	General Fund	Administration	60713			26.75	FEB 2025 FEES	
Sum for A7D4C87								26.75		
BNFOUCM										
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Public & Governmental Affairs	60713			69.00	PGR FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	60713			136.53	WQ FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60713			136.53	OM FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Planning	60713			136.00	PLAN FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Watershed Development	60713			75.00	WQ FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
HEALTH EQUITY INC	BNFOUCM	2/18/2025	General Fund	Administration	60713			225.00	ADM FEB 14 HSAEE DEDUCTIONS	
Sum for BNFOUCM								778.06		
CCWD-0125										
ANOKA COUNTY MN	CCWD-0125	2/13/2025	General Fund	Administration	60713			5,927.06	HRA BENEFIT EXP-DEC 2024	
ANOKA COUNTY MN	CCWD-0125	2/13/2025	General Fund	Administration	60713			3,300.00	HRA BENEFIT EXP-2025 PREP	
Sum for CCWD-0125								9,227.06		
CNS0001773593										
DELTA DENTAL OF MN	CNS0001773593	2/21/2025	General Fund	Administration	21050			1,668.24	TD4578.0227 MAR2025 DENTAL INS	
Sum for CNS0001773593								1,668.24		
EMP REIMB FEB 25										
ELFELT, CORINNE K	EMP REIMB FEB 25	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	61477			61.34	EMP REIMB FEB 25 STAFF TREATS ANNIV	
KRAUSE, EMMA	EMP REIMB FEB 25	2/24/2025	General Fund	Administration	61575			67.20	EMP REIMB MILEAGE FEB 25	
VANDERBILT, CHASE	EMP REIMB FEB 25	2/24/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	61575			67.20	EMP REIMB MILEAGE FEB 25	
Sum for EMP REIMB FEB 25								195.74		
PAN20-016										
FLINT HILLS RESOURCES	PAN20-016	2/24/2025	Escrow Fund	Administration	24210			1,920.79	ESCROW REF-SIDE STOPPLE TREE PROJECT	
Sum for PAN20-016								1,920.79		
PAN21-018										
KJEFFERS INC	PAN21-018	2/24/2025	Escrow Fund	Administration	24210			519.89	ESCROW REF-GLENFIELD ESTATES	
Sum for PAN21-018								519.89		
SOMPER00787190										
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Water Quality	60717			500.03	WQ 02142025 PERA PYRL	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Watershed Development	60717			719.68	WQ 02142025 PERA PYRL	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Public & Governmental Affairs	60717			271.80	PGR02142025 PERA PYRL	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Administration	21050			3,940.91	02142025 PERA PYRL PORTION	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Planning	60717			271.81	PLAN 02142025 PERA PYRL	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Operations & Maintenance	60717			665.44	OM 02142025 PERA PYRL	
PUBLIC EMPLOYEES RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION	SOMPER00787190	2/18/2025	General Fund	Administration	60717			986.69	ADM 02142025 PERA PYRL	
Sum for SOMPER00787190								7,366.38		
Sum total								49,069.38		

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: February 24, 2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 07
ITEM: 2025 Q1 Water Quality Cost Share Awards

AGENDA: Policy

ACTION REQUESTED

Award cost-share funds to identified projects in accordance with Staff recommendations.

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE ITEM

To ensure progress towards achieving required pollutant reductions and addressing identified stressors to aquatic life by administering cost share program for water quality improvement and protection projects.

Specifically addresses applications submitted as part of 2025 Q1 request for proposals.

BACKGROUND

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify waters that do not meet water quality standards in support of designated beneficial uses. Coon, Sand, Pleasure, and Springbrook Creeks were listed as impaired for both aquatic life and recreation in 2006 and 2014, respectively. The Coon Creek Watershed TMDL and WRAPS, approved in 2016, established pollutant load allocations and implementation strategies to reduce total suspended sediments, total phosphorus, and *E. coli* and to address non-pollutant stressors in all impaired streams. As part of the 2016 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL study, Sand, Pleasure, and Springbrook Creeks were designated at high risk for chloride impairment; Pleasure and Springbrook Creeks were formally listed as impaired for chlorides in 2024. All MS4s within the District including CCWD, Andover, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Spring Lake Park, Anoka County, and MnDOT are jointly responsible for meeting required pollutant loading allocations by the target date of 2045.

COORDINATION

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participated in initial program development and provides feedback on any proposed revisions to program guidelines. Applicants often request pre-application meetings to discuss identified projects. Pre-application meetings were held for one of the four proposals received this round and for two other proposals that were not formally submitted.

FACTS

In 2018, the Board approved establishment of a CCWD Water Quality Cost Share Program in the amount of \$100,000 and issuance of the first annual RFP for 2019.

In 2019-2024, \$868,246 in requests were received and the Board awarded \$609,699 to twenty-five water quality improvement projects by seven different applicants.

In 2024, continuation and expansion of the program was approved for 2025 totaling \$290,000 in available cost share funds under three categories: General Water Quality Improvement Projects and Practices (\$125,000), Enhanced Street Sweeping (\$150,000) and Water Quality Improvement Planning/Feasibility (\$15,000).

During the 2025 Q1 RFP, the following applications were received totaling \$53,837.50:

Title (Applicant)	Request	Description
General Projects & Practices		
Joma plow blades (Andover)	\$5,737.50	Adding Joma blades (rubber-edge, articulating) to 2 new plow trucks and 3 existing trucks for use within CCWD. These blades mechanically remove more snow/ice, allowing for reduced use of de-icers, less wear and tear on the roadway, and improved public safety.
Goose Management (Coon Rapids)	\$10,000	Contracted goose management services by APHIS for 2025 and 2026 within CCWD. Locations dependent on inspection results, but all drain to streams and rivers impaired for excess E. coli and phosphorus.
Private Sanitary I&I investigation/mitigation (Coon Rapids)	\$26,100	Following successful pilot in 2024, the City proposes to televise and clean private sanitary laterals in 2025-26 (n=261) for neighborhoods planned for street reconstruction in 2026-28 to reduce leaks (I&I) and identify repair needs (City incentive identified needed repair work by allowing repair costs to be added to road project assessments).
<i>Sum</i>	<i>\$41,873.50 (\$125,000 available)</i>	
Street Sweeping Enhancements		
<i>N/A</i>		
<i>Sum</i>	<i>\$0 (\$150,000 available)</i>	
WQ Improvement Planning		
2026 Street Project Rain Garden Analysis (Fridley)	\$12,000	A cost-benefit assessment of reconstructing existing rain gardens (n=6) and constructing new rain gardens (n=3) in the Melody Manor neighborhood of the Oak Glen Creek subwatershed. The existing rain gardens were constructed in ~2006 and have reached their end of life, so there is an opportunity to revitalize or add additional treatment as part of planned 2026 road reconstruction work in this area.
<i>Sum</i>	<i>\$12,000 (\$15,000 available)</i>	
TOTAL	\$53,837.50 (\$290,000 available)	

SCORING RESULTS & AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The District Engineer and Staff determined eligibility and scored all proposals. Funding recommendations are listed below:

Title (Applicant)	Eligible?	Average Score (out of 30)	Water Quality Benefits & Notes	Funding Recommendation (of requested amount)
General Projects & Practices				
Private Sanitary I&I investigation/mitigation (Coon Rapids)	Y	22.3	-E. coli and TP load reductions in Coon and Sand Cr (Categorical TMDL Wasteloads) -Mississippi Rv drinking source water protection -Applied for \$15K planning funds in 2024	\$26,100 (of \$26,100)
Joma plow blades (Andover)	Y	20.4	-Reduced Cl and TSS loading to Coon Cr to address aquatic life impairments -Salt use per event has declined with adoption of Joma blades (and other smart salting practices) per J. Baumunk -Applied for 2 sets Joma blades in 2022	\$5,737.50 (of \$5,737.50)
Goose Management (Coon Rapids)	Y	17	-E. coli and TP load reduction to Coon Cr, Springbrook Cr, and the Mississippi River. -Applied for \$3K in 2019 & 2021	\$10,000 (of \$10,000)
Street Sweeping Enhancements				
N/A				
WQ Improvement Planning				
2026 Street Project Rain Garden Analysis (Fridley)	Y	21.3	-Future volume (and TSS/TP) reduction to Oak Glen Cr and Mississippi River. See OGC SRA study for modeled estimates depending on location/landowner interest -No required stormwater treatment is anticipated as part of road recon work, so all benefits would be considered above-and-beyond	\$12,000 (of \$12,000)
TOTAL Recommended Awards				\$53,837.50

ISSUES/CONCERNS

There are two issues and concerns:

Eligibility

Three of the four proposals submitted this round are repeated proposals that were funded in past years or build upon past work. These include Joma blades by Andover and Goose Management by Coon Rapids as well as expanding private sanitary I&I work to additional properties in new neighborhoods in Coon Rapids. To ensure District cost share funds are being used to supplement versus supplant municipal funding, the program guidance was updated in 2022 to put a maximum cap on award totals for repeat applications (\$75,000 cumulative) as well as a waiting period of 18 months between duplicate awards. All repeat proposals comply with program guidance.

Cost Share Demand

There was much lower demand for this initial RFP for 2025 compared to past years where requests have exceeded available funds. If the \$53,837.50 in cost share awards recommended by Staff are approved, there would be \$236,162.50 in budgeted funds remaining for 2025, with the next RFP scheduled to close in July.

There were pre-application meetings held for two additional proposals that were not submitted for consideration: enhanced sweeping of Anoka County facilities and sweeper and plow truck retrofits with GPS technology by City of Ham Lake. Staff will follow up with these entities and encourage proposals for July if applicable.

PRIOR DECISIONS

1. September 9, 2024: Approval of the 2025 budget including \$290,000 to implement the cost share program to support water quality improvement projects

OPTIONS

1. Award cost-share funds to identified project in accordance with Staff recommendations.
2. Award cost-share funds to projects in accordance with amended recommendations.
3. Do not award cost-share funds to identified project with explanation and direction for refinement of qualification and/or allocation criteria.

RECOMMENDATION

Award cost-share funds to identified projects in accordance with Staff recommendations.

IMPLICATIONS

If the \$53,837.50 in cost share awards recommended by Staff are approved, there would be \$236,162.50 in budgeted funds remaining for 2025. The second RFP is scheduled to close on July 25, 2025.

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: 2/24/2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 8
ITEM: SRWMO Boundary Petition Initiation – Continued

AGENDA: Discussion

ACTION REQUESTED

Direct staff to draft a boundary petition to amend the boundary change with the Sunrise River Water Management Organization (SRWMO) completed in December 2023.

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF ITEM

To amend the 2023 SRWMO boundary change to include parcels that were mistakenly not included in the full list of parcels that were changing WMO jurisdictions.

BACKGROUND

- In 2023, Ham Lake requested a boundary change to update the legal boundary between CCWD and SRWMO to better match the hydrologic boundary.
- BWSR approved this boundary petition in December 2023.
- The boundary petition contained a table of each parcel impacted and which WMO they were switching to.
- In early 2024, a few parcels were found that switched from CCWD to SRWMO jurisdiction but were not included in the table of impacted parcels in the 2023 boundary petition and should have been.
- BWSR staff instructed CCWD staff that a new boundary petition was necessary to include the few parcels affected by the 2023 boundary change not originally listed in the impacted parcels table.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN RELATIONSHIP

This boundary petition will ensure the hydrologic and jurisdictional boundaries of the District match as closely as possible.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

- Ham Lake wants to ensure the list of parcels impacted by the 2023 SRWMO boundary change is complete and accurate.
- The most likely explanation for the few parcels that were “missed” is an error in digitizing the initial CCWD district boundary in the 1990’s.

IMPLICATIONS FOR RESOURCE/ORGANIZATION

This boundary petition will ensure that each parcel impacted by the 2023 SRWMO boundary change is in the correct WMO jurisdiction.

RECOMMENDATION

Staff requests the Board direct staff to draft a new boundary petition to amend the 2023 boundary change with SRWMO to include the few parcels missed in that petition.



MINNESOTA WATERSHEDS

Connecting People. Protecting Water.

2025 TALKING POINTS – TOP TWO LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

DEVELOP LEGISLATION TO IMPLEMENT A 60-DAY PERMIT REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY

- As political subdivisions of the State of Minnesota, watershed organizations are required to have a state-approved Watershed Management Plans (WMP). The plans are reviewed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), and other state agencies. Comments from state agencies on the plans are addressed in the WMP approval process.
- Projects identified in WMPs are eligible for grant funds and bonding dollars.
- Many watershed organizations have permitting authority with a statutory responsibility to issue permits to landowners, contractors, and developers. Those permits must be issued within a 60-day timeframe.
- Minnesota Statute § 15.992 requires that state agencies have a 60-day deadline to take final action on a written permit request, except the statute excludes an application requiring one or more hearings on an Environmental Impact Statement or Environmental Assessment Worksheet.
- Watershed organizations are experiencing considerable delays in the permit approval process, well in excess of the 60-day statutory requirement, which creates cost overruns, project delays, wasting taxpayer funds, and in some cases loss of state and federal grant funds.
- Watershed organizations are concerned about the unpredictability of, lack of transparency in, and inconsistency of not just the DNR permitting process, but also that of the MPCA.
- Minnesota Watersheds supports a framework, not just in the isolated case of Minnesota Statute § 15.99, but that requires all state agencies to conduct permit reviews in a predictable, transparent, and consistent manner.

DEVELOP REGULATORY APPROACHES TO REDUCE CHLORIDE CONTAMINATION

- There is no easy way to remove chloride from our lakes, rivers, and wetlands once it gets there. Prevention is our best and really our only option for limiting the negative impacts of excess chloride in our waters.
- For several years, Minnesota Watersheds and others have pursued an incentive-based approach to reducing chloride use by supporting legislation that would provide a liability limitation for those who are certified by the MPCA.
- During the 2024 session, Minnesota Watersheds worked with several metro-area watersheds to secure the endorsement of the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Freshwater Society, Minnesota Association for Justice (which represents trial lawyers), and Stop Over Salting on a legislative approach that provided owners and applicators with protection to the extent of negligence. In 2025, [SF492](#) was introduced with bipartisan coauthors.
- The Minnesota Nursery and Landscape Association, which represents property-maintenance providers, would not join the coalition, arguing for a bill that provided more extensive liability protection, less frequent training and certification, and looser trainer controls.
- The trial lawyers' lobbyist has indicated they would strongly oppose the more extensive liability protection; in addition, allowing for protection when a provider is in fact negligent is contrary to sound public policy.
- Minnesota Watersheds supports working with the state, counties, cities, and watershed organizations to develop a regulatory approach to reducing chloride contamination.

OTHER 2025 LEGISLATIVE EFFORTS TO SUPPORT

SUPPORT CLEAN WATER LAND AND LEGACY FUNDING

- Minnesota Watersheds supports water quality improvement and natural resources protection projects recommended by the Clean Water Council, Lessard Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund.

SUPPORT THE DRAINAGE WORK GROUP

- Minnesota Watersheds supports the Drainage Work Group consensus process to work cooperatively with drainage stakeholders and state agencies to address state policy issues related to M.S. Chapter 103E drainage.

SUPPORT LEGISLATION TO CLARIFY DNR AND DRAINAGE AUTHORITIES' ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES IN PUBLIC DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE AND REPAIRS

- The public waters inventory was never intended to restrict the right to maintain existing drainage systems. The legislature specifically exempted repairs from DNR permitting, gave the DNR a mechanism to ensure proposed work was repair; and directed the DNR to provide for the lawful function of public drainage systems that affected public waters.
- The DNR adopted a rule exempting repairs from permitting and announced a policy in 1980 that stated repair of public drainage systems should be allowed without permits.
- More recent DNR practices have departed from the 1980 policy and clear language in both statute and rule.
- The DNR issued a new guidance document in February of 2018 that was intended to provide clarity for both DNR staff and drainage authorities on the role of the DNR regarding public drainage activities. The guidance has had the opposite effect.
- There is a lack of clarity and consistency in DNR's role on public drainage system repairs across the state.
- Clarifying legislation is needed to reinforce existing law regarding the DNR and the drainage authorities' roles and responsibilities when maintaining public drainage systems and reduce the unnecessary expenditure of dollars by the drainage authority and DNR.

SUPPORT 2025 BONDING REQUESTS AND STABLE FUNDING FOR MULTIPURPOSE FLOOD MITIGATION AND WATER STORAGE PROJECTS

- Inconsistent and inadequate Flood Hazard Mitigation Program (FHMP) funding affects timing and coordination of local, state, and federal funds to construct multipurpose flood mitigation and water storage projects, as well as placing increased pressure on local government to fund projects through local taxes.
- Flooding and climate-related impacts are not going away. Magnitude, frequency, and intensity of rainfall events are increasing. Continued deferred FHMP funding reduces local government's ability to meet climate resiliency goals and reduce downstream impacts.
- Frequent flooding greatly diminishes and severely erodes equity, financial resources, and capital acquired over decades by farmers and landowners in rural areas. Consistent and adequate FHMP funding is needed for the future of Minnesota to remain strong.

SUPPORT STREAMLINING THE FLOOD HAZARD MITIGATION PROGRAM

- The FHMP is a primary funding source for multipurpose flood mitigation and water storage projects statewide.
- The FHMP needs to be modernized and applications should be scored, ranked, and prioritized adequately by the DNR. Applicants do not have knowledge of the scoring, ranking, and prioritization process.
- Minnesota Watersheds supports action requiring the DNR to establish transparent scoring, ranking, and funding criteria for the FHMP and asks the Minnesota Legislature to fully fund the state's share of eligible projects that are on the DNR's project list within each two-year bonding cycling.

Please use these talking points to guide your conversations with legislators, not as a handout!