

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.