

BWSR UPDATE

July 16, 2018

Clean Water Fund Competitive Grants

The Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant application period is now open. The deadline to submit grant proposals is August 31, 2018.

Table 1 lists the Clean Water Fund (CWF) programs available to BWSR and other executive branch agencies. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available.

Agency Fund	Funding Amount	Governmental Units Eligible for Funding	Required Match
BWSR Projects and Practices	\$11,600,000 ¹	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities ² , and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Accelerated Implementation	\$1,400,000 ¹	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities ² , and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management	\$610,000 ¹	Partnership of a Chapter 103E Drainage Authority ³ and Soil and Water Conservation District(s)	25%
MDH Well Sealing Grants	\$250,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities ² , and JPBs of these organizations	100%
MDA AgBMP Loans	\$5,000,000	Any LGU may apply, but awards will be coordinated through existing contract holders.	Not Required
MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loans	Up to \$15,000,000	Local governmental units with the ability to generate revenue or a group with an eligible sponsor of an LGU with revenue generating authority	Not Required
Total	Up to \$33,860,000		
<p>¹ Amounts shown are estimates, actual amounts will be determined prior to the end of the application period.</p> <p>² Cities must have a state approved local water management plan. BWSR recognizes the 7-county metropolitan area city water plans approved by a Watershed District or a Watershed Management Organization (WMO) as a State approved plan.</p> <p>³ County, Joint County Board, or Watershed District</p>			

What is New for 2019

1. Accelerated Implementation and Minnesota Department of Health Well Sealing grants are available for FY2019.
2. The MPCA Clean Water Partnership Loan Program will directly award loan funds to successful applicants that indicated loan funding as part of their budget.
3. The deadline for submitting grant applications has changed to August 31, 2018. (see Grant RFPpg. 6)
4. The deadlines for submitting work plans and executing grant agreements have changed. (see Grant RFP,pg. 6)
5. The Ranking Criteria for Projects and Practices and Multipurpose Drainage Management have changed. (see Grant RFP, pgs. 11 and 17).

The Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Request for Proposals is available on the BWSR Website.

Metro Watershed Based Funding

BWSR will be initiating a process to develop a long-term approach for watershed based funding in the metro. BWSR is partnering with Metropolitan Council on this process. Metropolitan Council will serve as a facilitator of this process. The effort will include a survey being sent to all local units of government to gain feedback on the Watershed-based Funding Pilot Program. Following the survey, BWSR and Met. Council will host focus group meetings for each LGU type (watershed districts, WMOs, counties, SWCDs, cities/townships). Following these focus group meetings, we will host a forum bringing representatives from each LGU type together to discuss input received from the surveys and the ideas from the focus group meetings. The goal for this process is to develop a recommendation or recommendations for the long-term approach for watershed-based funding in the metro. The plan is to have a recommendation(s) to bring to BWSR committees for consideration by January 1, 2019. In the coming days, an e-mail will be sent to staff with an invitation to participate in the survey. If you have questions, you can contact Kevin Bigalke.