

MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

To: Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney
Subject: FY22 Clean Water Fund Grant Awards

Date: December 2, 2021

Informational Update

The District is being recommended by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) grants committee to receive two Clean Water Fund grants totaling \$625,500 in fiscal year 2022. The BWSR Board will meet in December to consider approving the recommended awards. Based on past experience, District staff does not anticipate the BWSR Board to make any changes to the recommended awards.

The first grant, which scored the highest and was ranked #1 out of 53 proposals received, is for the Washington Judicial Ditch 6 Wetland Restoration Project. This project, recommended to receive \$386,000 in grant funds, will restore 1.5 acres of wetland resulting in a phosphorus load reduction of approximately 38 pounds per year to Forest Lake (4% of total reduction goal). The second grant, ranked #16 of proposals received, is for Moody Lake Capstone Projects. These projects will address remaining phosphorus loading hotspots around Moody Lake for an estimated 45 lb/yr phosphorus reduction (final 5% of total reduction goal), ensuring Moody Lake meets long-term water quality goals and maintains its clear water state. Excess phosphorus promotes algae growth in lakes. Both of these projects will result in clearer water and less algae in Forest Lake and Moody Lake, as well as downstream waterbodies.

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District has an excellent track record of obtaining Clean Water Fund grants to implement lake improvement projects. Since 2014, the Watershed District has been awarded a cumulative total of over \$4.5 million in Clean Water Fund grant dollars over the years, making it the #1 cumulative grant winner in the Projects and Practices category for the most recent 9-year period.

	Organization	Total Projects and Practices Grants Awarded (FY 2014-2022)
1	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District	\$ 4,533,734
2	Benton Soil and Water Conservation District	\$ 3,658,210
3	Becker Soil and Water Conservation District	\$ 3,633,710
4	Stearns Soil and Water Conservation District	\$ 2,369,737
5	Vermillion River Joint Powers Organization	\$ 2,366,950
6	Crow Wing Soil and Water Conservation District	\$ 2,360,000
7	Bois de Sioux Watershed District	\$ 2,355,010
8	Chisago Soil and Water Conservation District	\$ 2,202,500
9	Anoka Conservation District	\$ 2,177,325
10	Shingle Creek Watershed Management Commission	\$ 2,057,550

In order to tell the District's story and share this news, staff will submit a press release to local newspapers (Chisago County Press, Forest Lake Times, Forest Lake Lowdown, Country Messenger), and post on this topic on the District website homepage.