



# Program Update: Grant Research

## *September 11, 2025 Regular Board Meeting*





# Three Major Sources of Funding & Financing in Recent Years



## Levy (Taxes)

- CLFLWD Board can choose the amount
- Dependable cash flow
- Conscious of public priorities



## CWP Loan

- Clean Water Partnership (CWP) = low interest or no interest
- Reimbursement basis
- Clean water activities only
- Debt must be repaid



## Grants

- Multiple sources
- Awards are uncertain
- Must complete work according to contract
- Most grants prioritize projects w/ measurable outcomes

Other potential funding/financing sources include partner contributions, permit fees, stormwater impact fund, interest, bonds, bank loans, special assessments, water management charges, emergency projects, sales tax.





# Grants Overview

- Grants = contracts to complete work on behalf of granting agency or entity
  - Must complete your work within the confines of the grant agreement
- Most grant programs prioritize on-the-ground implementation (projects)
  - Most won't fund regulatory requirements, water monitoring, project maintenance, general administration/operations etc.
  - Some foundations offer unrestricted funding, but it is geared more toward non-profits rather than government entities with taxing authority
- Match/in-kind requirements
  - Almost all grants require a minimum match – can't get the grant funds without providing the match
  - In-kind is a common type of match → staff time
    - Staff billing rates determined by BWSR Calculator, which factors in overhead/administration – this is a widely accepted billing rate method
  - Possible to cover match with another grant, with certain restrictions (state grant match can't be covered by another state grant)
    - Example: Sunrise River/Highway 61 Wetland Enhancement (3 grants)





## Grant Awards Highlights

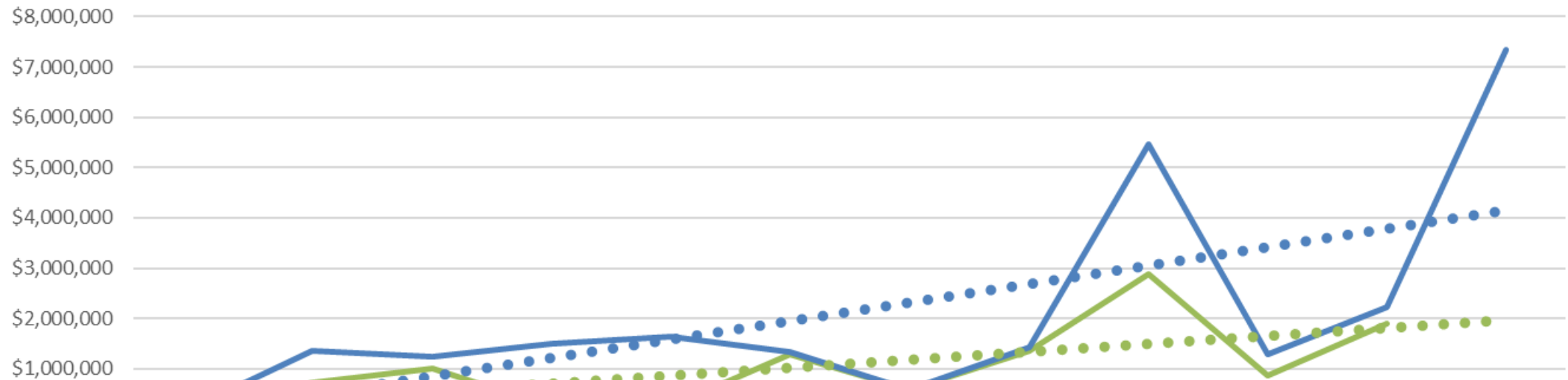
- **The CLFLWD has been awarded \$12.3 million in grants from 2010-2025,**
- Over the last five years, the District has averaged almost \$1 in grant awards for every \$1 of taxes levied.
- Grant-funded projects have resulted in 3,200 lb/yr P reduction plus sediment reductions, wetland restoration, flood storage creation, groundwater protection, and wildlife habitat improvement (e.g., pollinator friendly native plants).
- The CLFLWD is the largest cumulative awardee of Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices grant awards state-wide from 2014-2025 (\$6.7 million). The CLFLWD received 6% of Projects & Practices funding since 2014. The CLFLWD comprises 0.06% of the state's area.
- The State is shifting funds away from competitive programs like Projects & Practices and toward cooperative programs like Watershed Based Implementation Funding through local One Watershed One Plan. Going from a statewide pool to a smaller local pool.





# Grant Seeking History

Grant Requests and Grant Awards



	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 YTD	2026 Est.
Grant Awards	\$157,170	\$719,011	\$1,012,374	\$238,260	\$248,260	\$1,299,068	\$573,400	\$1,355,919	\$2,886,003	\$876,692	\$1,897,684	TBD
Grant Requests	\$231,534	\$1,358,617	\$1,233,748	\$1,502,110	\$1,635,008	\$1,340,105	\$585,800	\$1,420,919	\$5,462,733	\$1,288,000	\$2,232,800	\$7,344,884

Grant Awards Grant Requests Trend Line (Grant Awards) Trend Line (Grant Requests)





## Grant Awards History

The CLFLWD has received grants from a variety of programs including

BWSR CWF Projects & Practices	BWSR CWF Accelerated Implementation Grant	BWSR CWF Watershed Based Implementation Fund	BWSR CWF Conservation Corps Crews and Individual Placement	BWSR Performance Review and Assistance Program	BWSR Green Infrastructure Grant	County Aquatic Invasive Species Prevention Aid
DNR Expedited Conservation Projects	DNR AIS Control Projects	DNR Behavior Change Grant Program	DNR Public Awareness Projects	DNR Watercraft Inspections Hours and Funding Programs	DNR Conservation Partners Legacy Traditional/ Metro	Esri Conservation GIS Program
LCCMR Environment & Natural Resources Trust Fund	Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund	Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership Conservation Grants	PCA Small Watersheds Focus Grants	PCA Clean Water Partnership & Section 319 Grants	PCA GreenCorps Individual Placement	PCA Local Climate Action Grants

BWSR: Board of Water and Soil Resources | CWF: Clean Water Fund | DNR: Department of Natural Resources |  
LCCMR: Legislative-Citizen Commission on MN Resources | PCA: Pollution Control Agency





## 2026 Planning & Project Development: Grants Secured

- Sunrise River Headwaters Project Targeting and Development
  - Clean Water Fund Accelerated Implementation Grant (AIG)
  - Multi-year project, 2025-2026
  - 2026 spend = \$59,000
  - 10% match (staff time accounts for entirety of match)
  - Identify projects to protect water quality
- Shoreline Projects & Outreach
  - Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
  - 2026 spend = \$13,500
  - 1:1 grant:match (staff time accounts for entirety of match)
- Shoreline Sustainability Public Relations
  - MPCA Local Climate Action Grant
  - Mostly completed & spend \$35,000 grant in 2025
  - 5% match (staff time accounts for entirety of match)
  - PR work with Moore Engineering







## 2026 Grant-Funded Projects: Funds Secured

- School Lake Ag BMPs
  - Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices
  - 2026 spend = \$77,000
  - 10% match (staff time accounts for part of match)
  - 61 lb/yr phosphorus reduction
  - 184 lb/yr nitrogen removal
  - 89 ton/yr soil saved from erosion
- Heath Iron Enhanced Sand Filter
  - Clean Water Fund Projects & Practices grant secured
  - 319 Small Watersheds Focus grant pending
  - 2026 spend = \$1.4 million
  - 10% match (staff time accounts for part of match)
  - 79 lb/yr phosphorus reduction
  - Property purchased in 2025, construction in 2026

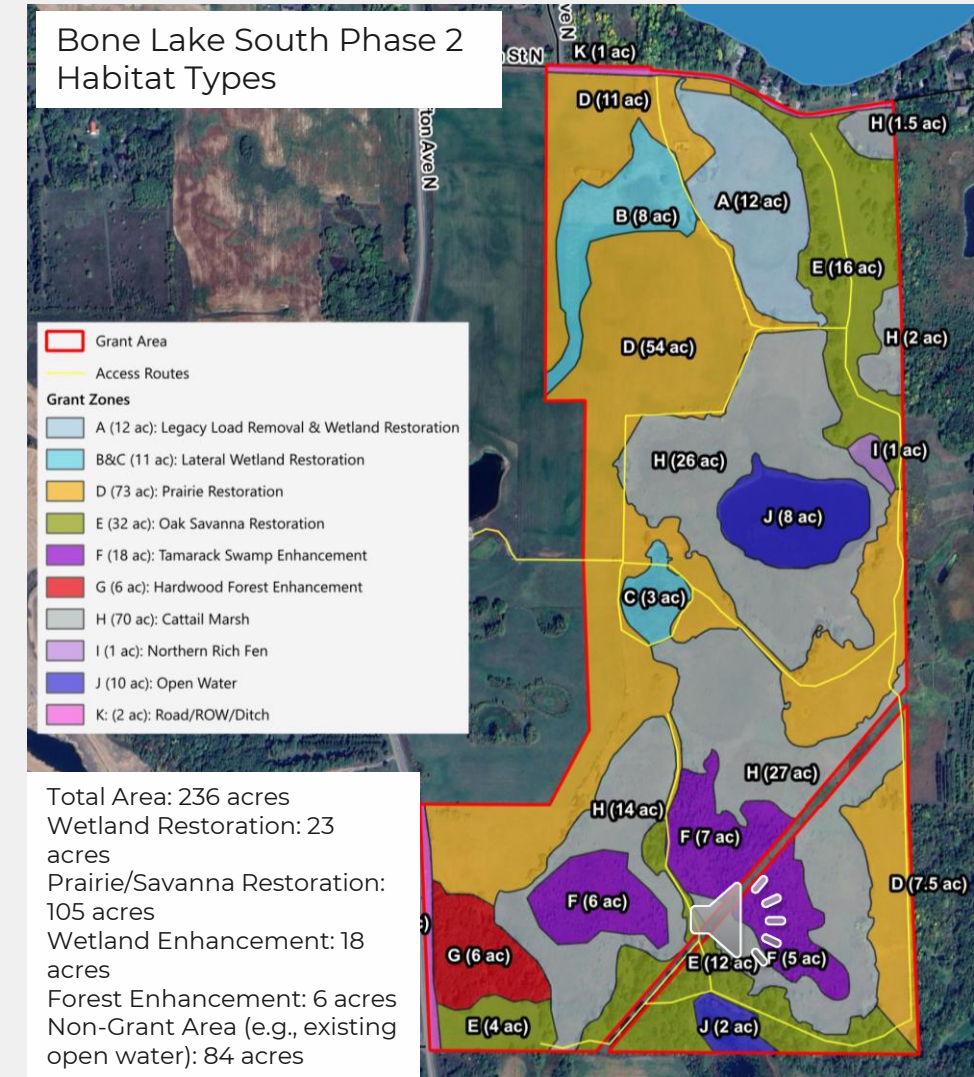






## 2026 Grant-Funded Projects: Funds Secured

- Goodwin Ave Stormwater Wetland
  - BWSR Green Infrastructure grant
  - 2026 spend: \$153,000 (10% match covered by staff)
- Bone Lake South Acquisition & Restoration
  - Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant and Conservation Partners Legacy Grant
  - Aim to close on property before end of 2025
  - \$121,000 remaining grant funds after acquisition
  - Obtained work plan revision from MnDNR to apply remaining CPL grant funds toward site prep for habitat restoration projects
  - 2026 spend = \$121,000
  - 90% grant, 10% match (staff time accounts for most of match)
  - Applied for FY2026 Lessard-Sams grant for full restoration and enhancement work (\$1.6 million grant request with staff time providing all match funds)





## 2026 Grant-Dependent Projects: Funds Pending

Amend budget once grants are secured

- Bone Lake South Phase 2: Restore and enhance various habitat types onsite
  - Grant application submitted = \$1.6 million; staff time accounts for 10% match
- Greenbelt Phase 1: Obtain conservation easements and land acquisitions
  - Grant application submitted = \$3.3 million; staff time accounts for 5% match
- Farmer-led Council Expansion & Ag BMPs
  - Grant application submitted = \$80,000; staff time accounts for 1:1 match
- Conservation Corps Crew and Individual Placement
  - Grant applications submitted = 1 crew for 400 hours (approved) and 1 individual placement for 6 months (still pending); no match
- Wyoming Enhanced Street Sweeping Incentives – LSC WBIF
  - \$5,000 incentive funding from Lower St. Croix Watershed Partnership to City of Wyoming
  - Implement enhanced street sweeping plan
  - Scandia street sweeping through Washington County, Forest Lake operates sweeper purchased through Clean Water Fund competitive grant





## 2026 Grant-Dependent Projects: Funds Pending, Cont'd

- Bush Foundation: Shoreline Resilience Mindset Change
  - Grant application to be submitted = \$2.3 million; no match required
- Floodplain Resilience Project Modeling & Concept Development
  - Grant application in late 2025 ~\$100,000; staff time to account for 10% match
  - Apply for project implementation grants from a variety of sources once project modeling and concept designs are completed
- Midwest Glacial Lakes Partnership
  - Grant application in late 2025 ~\$60,000; staff time to account for 1:1 match
  - Apply for Phase 2 of Shoreline Program funding
- Aquatic Invasive Species Grants
  - County AIS Prevention Aid TBD
  - Department of Natural Resources TBD
  - New federal AIS grants TBD







## Next Steps in Grant Seeking

- **Summer/Fall 2025:** Share draft Floodplain Resilience Action Plan w/ partners and hold partner meetings
- **Fall/Winter 2025:** Apply for BWSR Water Quality & Storage grant for Flood Project Modeling and Concept Design; apply for MGLP grant for shoreline program
- **Fall/Winter 2025/2026:** Hold joint board/council meetings with cities of Forest Lake & Wyoming
- **Winter/Spring 2026:** Apply for PCA Local Climate Action grant for Flood Project Modeling and Concept Design, if needed
- **Spring/Summer 2026:** Using partner feedback and grant funds if awarded, perform additional modeling and project concept design for top mitigation projects identified in Floodplain Resilience Action Plan
- **Summer/Fall 2026:** Using project concept designs and cost estimates, apply for other grant programs for project implementation; Lessard-Sams grant(s) available if awarded
- **Fall 2026:** In parallel, use information gathered from Sunrise River Headwaters AIG grant initiative to apply for CWF Projects & Practices grant for water quality improvement project(s)
- **Throughout:** Continue to apply to other grant programs (e.g., federal/state/local grants, foundations) for program implementation