



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: October 23, 2025
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Resiliency Project Development Grant Applications



District Wide

Background/Discussion

The purpose of this agenda item is to consider authorizing District staff to submit grant applications to two resiliency grant programs and to execute the grant agreements, if awarded. Both grant programs fund similar work, and the grant applications would be similar to each other. If one grant isn't awarded, the other grant may be awarded.

This grant funding would allow the District to work with Emmons & Olivier Resources to continue project development work needed under the Floodplain Resilience Action Plan. While the Action Plan identifies potential projects, it does not include project cost estimates or concept designs. Grant funding would allow us to complete additional modeling, site evaluation, partner coordination, concept design, and cost estimates. This is a key stepping stone that would lead to applying for project implementation grants. We estimate each grant application would be approximately \$100,000.

MN Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Planning Grants for SWC Resilience

The MPCA offers multiple grant programs for climate resiliency planning and implementation. Currently, it is offering the program: "Planning Grants for Stormwater, Wastewater, and Community (SWC) Resilience." The District applied for MPCA's Planning Grants for SWC Resilience in 2022 and 2023 but was not successful.

The MPCA offers other grants that fund planning efforts including Resiliency Planning Grants for Small Communities (for which the District is not eligible) and Local Climate Action Planning Grants. The District has been successful with the Local Climate Action Planning Grants program, and has received two grants through this program so far: Floodplain Vulnerability Assessment (\$40,000) and Shoreline Resiliency Plan (\$35,000). District staff spoke with MPCA staff earlier this year, and we expect MPCA to release the next round of Local Climate Action Planning Grants very soon. However, the Local Climate Action Grants are capped at \$50,000, which may not be enough to fund all of the proposed work.

Planning Grants for SWC Resilience put slightly more emphasis on Environmental Justice (EJ) Areas of Concern and slightly less emphasis on usage of climate data, compared to Local Climate Action Planning Grants. The CLFLWD does not contain any EJ Areas of Concern, as



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mapped by the State. This may be a factor in why we've been successful with Local Climate Action Grants, but not with Planning Grants for SWC Resilience.

The District may still try to apply for a Planning Grant for SWC Resilience this fall. The application deadline is December 11th.

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Water Quality & Storage Grants

In addition to the MPCA grants discussed above, the District is eligible for BWSR's Water Quality & Storage Grants Program, which also funds resiliency planning work. The District applied once to this grant program in the past and was unsuccessful. However, District staff spoke with BWSR staff recently and received some constructive advice on how to improve the District's next application. The Water Quality & Storage Program's source of funding for future rounds is yet uncertain, and BWSR may remove the "planning grants" component of the program and start only funding project implementation. We hope to be successful in this round of funding, which will be critical to the project development work the District needs to do. The grant application deadline is December 23rd.

Recommended Motion

Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to submit grant applications to the Planning Grants for SWC Resilience and Water Quality & Storage grant programs and to execute the grant agreements, if awarded. Seconded by Manager _____.