



MEMORANDUM
Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: March 5, 2026
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: FY27 Clean Water Fund Grant Applications



Background/Discussion

The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is now seeking applications for its Clean Water Fund (CWF) Competitive Grants program. The purpose of this agenda item is to consider authorizing staff to submit grant applications, which are described on page 2 of this memo.

In past years, this program was offered annually, and grant applications were due in August. Last year, the program switched to a biennial cycle, and FY26 competitive grants were not offered. This program will begin with the State’s fiscal year 2027 (beginning July 1, 2026). Applications are due March 25, 2026. District staff and EOR were originally anticipating an August 2026 application deadline and were developing projects with that timeline in mind.

Another difference this round is the amount of funding available. No funding is being offered for the Accelerated Implementation Grants (AIG) program, which is for pre-project development work. This means that all grant proposals must include construction/implementation with no grants available for project development only. Up to \$3.35 million is available for FY27 through the Projects and Practices program. For comparison, \$5.1 million was available in FY25, and \$6.9 million was available in FY24. This round has significantly less funding available than in past years, especially when considering another round will not be offered until two years from now.

These changes are consistent with the State’s overall shift in the Clean Water Fund program away from competitive grants and toward cooperative One Watershed One Plan efforts (i.e., Watershed Based Implementation Funding). Since 2014, the CLFLWD has been awarded \$6.8 million in competitive grants from the Clean Water Fund (i.e., Projects & Practices and Accelerated Implementation Grants), which have been crucial to the water quality improvements achieved on District lakes. With these changes being made to the Clean Water Fund, the District is seeking out multiple other grant sources to continue leveraging funds for programs and projects.

Recommended Action

Proposed Motion: Manager _____ moves to authorize the District Administrator to submit grant applications to the FY27 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Program and to execute the grant agreement, if awarded. Motion seconded by Manager _____.



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Proposed Projects & Practices Competitive Grant Applications

Staff are coordinating with EOR and partners to develop these proposals. Some information is yet to be determined and will be completed prior to the grant deadline. Staff may be able to present more details during the board meeting on March 12th.

1. Bone Lake Northeast Ag Practices

- a. Description: Spread wetland soils and implement agricultural best management practices on an agricultural field located just northeast of Bone Lake. The District has worked with the landowner of this agricultural field in years past. The District will utilize excavated, nutrient-rich wetland soils from the Bone Lake South property as part of the proposed project. The wetland restoration work is funded by a pending Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund grant. Note that LSOHF and CWF are both state grants and cannot be used as match for each other. The District is proposing to cover the match with staff time, and/or leverage the pending federal Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus grant.
- b. Estimated Nutrient Reductions: 5-10 lbs/yr phosphorus reduction
- c. Estimated CWF Grant Request: \$30,000
- d. Estimated Match: \$3,000 (10% of grant request, staff in-kind time which may be covered by Section 319 federal grant, depending on timing)
- e. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$TBD

2. Broadway Iron Enhanced Sand Filter

- a. ***This project depends on partnership with the City of Forest Lake, and associated communications are ongoing. City staff has indicated support for this project.***
- b. Description: Replace iron-sand media in this existing project. This project has exceeded its 10-year designed lifespan and is therefore eligible for grant funding (i.e., this project does not count as maintenance). This project was installed in the early years of iron enhanced sand filter technology under a design that is no longer used today. The project will be replaced with an iron enhanced sand filter that is up to modern standards.
- c. Estimated Nutrient Reductions: 27-29 lb./yr phosphorus reduction. This will return the project to fully functioning status and improve project design, resulting in an additional 9-27 pounds greater removal than the original project design and 2014 data.
- d. Estimated CWF Grant Request: ~\$600,000-\$700,000
- e. Estimated Match: \$60,000-\$70,000 (10% of grant request, staff in-kind time which may be covered by Section 319 federal grant, depending on timing)
- f. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$660,000-\$770,000



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

3. Forest Lake Dead End Street Projects

- a. ***This project depends on partnership with the City of Forest Lake, and associated communications are ongoing. This grant application may not move forward, as the City wishes to have more discussion and coordination before applying for funding.***
- b. Description: Implement stormwater retrofits on city-owned property at dead end streets around Forest Lake. Much of the stormwater runoff currently passing through these sites goes untreated. This project would entail working closely with the City of Forest Lake to prioritize implementation sites (out of over 30 dead end streets around the lake) and implement stormwater best management practices such as sump manhole structures.
- c. Estimated Nutrient Reductions: 5-10 lb./yr phosphorus reduction
- d. Estimated CWF Grant Request: \$100,000-\$200,000
- e. Estimated Match: \$10,000-\$20,000 (10% of grant request, staff in-kind time which may be covered by Section 319 federal grant, depending on timing)
- f. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$110,000-\$220,000