



MEMORANDUM

Comfort Lake-Forest Lake Watershed District

Date: October 21, 2026
To: CLFLWD Board of Managers
From: Mike Kinney, District Administrator
Subject: Section 319 Grant Funds



District Wide

Background/Discussion:

The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board about this ongoing grant program and to consider authorizing the District Administrator to execute the grant agreement for planned Section 319 grant funds and to apply for additional Section 319 grant funds.

Planned Section 319 Grant:

In 2021 the District was selected to be part of [MPCA's Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus Grant Program](#), as part of Group C. This program provides stable grant funding for water quality improvement work over four installments lasting four years each. The District received its first installment in 2022 in the amount of \$291,965 and immediately put the funds toward the County Road 50 Iron Enhanced Sand Filter and Sunrise River Wetland Restoration projects.

The District is due for its second installment, and District staff provided updates on this program in the April and May Administrator's Reports, and within the monthly grants summary table. The District will soon receive its second installment of funds in the amount of \$279,583, and MPCA recently indicated their contracting department will soon send out grant agreements. So while the Board approved the original grant request, staff are bringing this back to keep the Board informed of this particular grant since it covers sixteen years. Staff recommend the Board authorize the District Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute this grant agreement.

Additional Section 319 Grant Funds:

Additionally, MPCA recently informed District staff that there are additional Section 319 grant funds leftover from the first installment from other Group C participants. These organizations were unable to spend their allotted funds on time, and MPCA is soliciting interest from other organizations to utilize the funds before they expire on August 31, 2027. The CLFLWD has demonstrated a strong track record of implementing water quality projects and expending grant funds in a timely manner. As such, the CLFLWD is a top candidate to potentially receive extra funding. District staff are working with MPCA to identify potential projects and a path forward to utilizing those funds. At this time, we estimate the District could obtain and expend an additional \$50,000-\$100,000 between January-August 2027.



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Recommended Actions:

Proposed Motion #1: Manager _____ moves to authorize the Administrator, on advice of counsel, to execute the Section 319 Small Watersheds Focus grant agreement. Seconded by Manager _____.

Proposed Motion #2: Manager _____ moves to authorize the Administrator to submit a grant application to the MPCA Section 319 program for additional funds and to execute the grant agreement, on advice of counsel, if awarded. Seconded by Manager _____.