



2017 Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program

Overview

The Lower Minnesota River Watershed District ("LMRWD") values and supports efforts made by residents to help achieve the goals of the LMRWD. Through the Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Program (the "Program"), the LMRWD hopes to engage citizens in community actions that protect local lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and fens.

This Program implements Policy 2.2 of the District's Third Generation Watershed Management Plan (the "Plan") which is to prevent further degradation of water quality and Strategy 2.2.3 which is to provide educational, technical and financial assistance to landowners; to implement projects that have water quality, water quantity, channel maintenance, trout stream, fen or wetland restoration or aquatic habitat benefit within the District; and to help achieve the goals of the Plan.

Purpose

Cost Share funds are available to public or private landowners within the LMRWD to carry out projects that support one or more of the following goals:

1. Improve, protect or restore water quality of lakes, rivers, streams, wetlands and fens
2. Increase the capacity of the watershed to store water
3. Reduce bluff, streambank, or mainstem erosion
4. Protect or restore groundwater resources
5. Enhance navigation on the Minnesota River, excluding dredging projects.
6. Reduce the impact of invasive species on lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and fens
7. Preserve, protect or restore native plant and wildlife habitats with emphasis on lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands and fen.
8. Provide public education benefits and engage the public in stewardship

Available Funds

The LMRWD has allocated \$20,000 for the Program in 2017. The minimum grant amount is \$500. The maximum levels of cost share funding are: \$2,500 per single family residential project, \$7,500 per neighborhood, townhome, condominium or lake association project, and \$20,000 per commercial/industrial or municipal project.

Eligibility within LMRWD

- Residents
- Non-profit and religious organizations
- Local government units
- Public and private schools
- Businesses and corporations

Eligible Expenses

It is the primary intent of the program to reimburse the cost of materials. Labor and volunteer time will be considered an in-kind contribution from the recipient. Grants will be awarded for up to 50% of the eligible expenses. Projects that are completed or in progress prior to application are not eligible for funding. Eligible Best Management Practices (BMPs) could include:

- Buffer strips
- Rain gardens
- Shoreline, streambank, or riverbank restoration
- Pervious pavers and porous concrete or asphalt
- Unique solutions for soil erosion and sediment control practices
- Native habitat restoration with priority given to waterways, lakes, buffers and ponds
- Volume reduction and runoff treatments practices (Infiltration basins & trenches, cisterns, green roofs & bio-filtration)
- Any other innovative stormwater runoff treatment or volume reduction management practice

Eligible studies/investigations could include:

- Water quality management and restoration
- Water quantity management and restoration
- Groundwater management and restoration
- Unique resource (fen, trout stream) management and restoration
- BMP feasibility and restoration

Application Submittal and Approval

The LMRWD will accept new applications until May 15, 2017 (or until available funds are used) and must include all information requested. Applications will be reviewed after that date by a selection committee consisting of the Administrator and a Manager of the LMRWD. Funds will be considered when received and reviewed by the LMRWD Board of Managers at their monthly meetings, scheduled for the third Wednesday of each month. Once available funding has been consumed applications will no longer be reviewed and applicants will be informed of the situation. Applicants are required to submit a grant application that includes the following:

1. Application Form
2. Narrative of proposed project
3. Work plan with timeline
4. Map with sketch of project
5. Budget

6. Plant list (if available)
7. technical design plan (if applicable)

The application must be signed and dated. Applications can be submitted electronically. If submitting electronically, submit as one complete document, with the work plan, budget and supporting materials integrated into the document.

Application can be sent via e-mail to: linda@watersheddistrict.org

Applications can be sent via US Mail to: Linda Loomis
Lower Minnesota River Watershed District
112 E. 5th Street #102
Chaska, MN 55318

Funding Agreement

Each applicant selected is required to enter into a Cost Share Grant and Maintenance Agreement with the LMRWD defining the obligations of the applicant and the LMRWD. This includes, but is not limited to, such items as promoting and acknowledging LMRWD sponsorship, reporting, payment schedule, terms of the agreement and use of funds, cost overruns and cancellation. The agreement also allows the LMRWD access to the project area for evaluation and promotion of the project. The applicant is responsible securing all permits necessary for the work. For projects receiving \$10,000 or more, the LMRWD may require an agreement for maintenance of the project up to ten (10) years.

Reporting requirements

Within 30 days of the completion, a summary report must be submitted with paid receipts before final reimbursement can be dispersed. Grantees will be required to include original receipts of the expenses, digital or hard copy photos of events, and electronic copies of all education materials produced.

For More information

You can contact the Lower Minnesota River Watershed District with questions by e-mail at linda@watersheddistrict.org or by telephone at 763-545-4659.

Evaluation Criteria

The selection committee will determine the eligibility of a BMP or study based upon an established set of criteria using a scaled point system. Criteria considered include: Project Type, Water Quality Improvement, Surface Water Rate and Volume Control, Erosion Control, Commercial and Recreational Navigation, Public Outreach. A BMP or study must score at least 30 points to be considered eligible for the Cost Share Program.

Project Type

What type of project? **BMP (10 pts.):** **Investigation (5 pts.)**

Subwatershed

1. Is the project tributary to an MPCA-listed impaired water (excluding mercury), trout stream or fen?
YES, direct connection (10 pts.): **YES, within subwatershed (5 pts.):** **NO (0 pts.)**
2. If NO, is the project tributary to a lake, stream, ditch, fen, or DNR-Protected Water Wetland?
YES, direct connection (10 pts.): **YES, within subwatershed (5 pts.):** **NO (0 pts.)**

Water Quality Improvement

Improves and protects water quality through BMP implementation or potentially improves and protects water quality through investigation. **Score 0 – 10**

Unique Resources Protection and Improvement

Implements controls intended for protection of and/or improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and/or outdoor recreational opportunities of the District's Unique Resources. Or for studies thereof.
Score 0 – 10

Surface Water Rate and Volume Control

Implements controls intended for reduction and/or minimization of the rate and volume of water that drains off the property/study area. Or studies thereof. **Score 0 – 10**

Erosion Control

Implements controls intended for minimization of erosion and/or sedimentation to downstream waters. Or studies thereof. **Score 0 – 10**

Commercial and Recreational Navigation

Project or study enhances navigation on the Minnesota River. **Score 0 – 10**

Public Outreach

Willingness of applicant to allow signage, tours and public site visits. Publically visible site; Diversity of practices; Potential educational opportunity. **Score 0 – 10**