

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: March 9, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 10
ITEM: FY27 Clean Water Fund Competitive Grant Application

AGENDA: Policy

REQUEST

Authorize staff to apply for FY27 BWSR Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Grant Funding

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The MN Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) is currently accepting applications for fiscal year 2027 competitive Clean Water Fund grants. Staff are seeking authorization to submit a proposal for a planned water quality improvement project identified as part of subwatershed planning efforts.

BACKGROUND

Each biennium, BWSR releases a request for proposals for competitive Clean Water Fund projects and practices grants. \$3,350,000 is available to fund targeted water quality improvement projects with a required non-state 10% match. Applications are due on March 25, 2026 with awards announced in June 2026 for projects to be implemented starting as early as fall 2026 with final completion by December 31, 2029. The District has been successful at applying for this grant program in the past, securing \$3.1 million worth of CWF Projects and Practices grants since 2017.

Several water quality improvement projects included in the CCWD Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan meet the eligibility criteria for funding support under this grant program. Projects planned for 2027-2028 construction include the top-ranking projects identified as part of recently completed and ongoing subwatershed planning efforts. Staff have identified two specific projects that are far enough along in the design process to submit a competitive proposal by the application deadline later this month (i.e., construction of new regional storm ponds in Little League Park and Happy Acres Park in Blaine, MN to treat urban runoff from residential areas draining to Sand Creek that are currently untreated or undertreated). Staff are proposing to submit a grant application for construction of one of these projects, with the other site identified as an alternate location in case of unforeseen permitting hurdles, public pushback, and/or site constraints.

COORDINATION

Projects funded under this grant program must be included in comprehensive watershed management plans or other local water plans, all of which were developed with significant public, partner, and agency participation. District staff have a successful track record of working cooperatively with local partners on implementation of projects funded by Clean Water Fund grants.

City of Blaine staff actively participate in subwatershed planning efforts and are supportive of implementation of both proposed pond construction projects. Funding has

been identified as a constraint to achieving the current implementation schedule, with a shortfall of approximately \$500,000 per year without external competitive grant funding.

ISSUES/CONCERNS

Budget Implications

A 10% non-state match would be required if awarded funding under this grant program, equating to \$50,000 in local funds for a \$500,000 award. This match would be proposed as part of the District's 2027 budget.

Project Readiness/competitiveness

The pond construction projects being proposed are currently at the conceptual design level.

OPTIONS

1. Authorize staff to apply for FY27 BWSR Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Grant Funding
2. Do not authorize staff to apply.

RECOMMENDATION

Authorize staff to apply for FY27 BWSR Clean Water Fund Projects and Practices Grant Funding