

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: August 24, 2026
AGENDA NUMBER: 12
ITEM: Water Education Grant – Smart Salting

POLICY IMPACT: Policy
FISCAL IMPACT: Budgeted

REQUEST

Review Water Education grant application 26-02 and award grant of \$2,000 for the costs associated with hosting a county-wide Smart Salting Operator Training.

BACKGROUND

In fall of 2025 the Board budgeted \$4,000 for water education grants in 2026. In May of this year the Board approved Water Education Grant 26-01 to Springbrook Nature Center in the amount of \$1,000 for the costs associated with implementing a PreK-12 pond exploration program. The remaining fund balance for the 2026 Water Education Grant Program is \$3,000.

On August 19th, Rebecca Haug, Project Manager with Anoka County Department of Transportation, applied for a \$2,000 Water Education Grant to help cover the cost of hosting an MPCA Smart Salting training for operators within Anoka County.

Rebecca Haug states in her grant application that the Smart Salting training will be offered to cities, counties, and other organizations to improve operator effectiveness and reduce chloride pollution by learning best practices, while keeping roads, parking lots, and sidewalks safe. This training has helped organizations reduce their salt use by 30-70%, reducing costs for product and minimizing infrastructure damage. These reductions have been shown to reduce chloride contamination in lakes, rivers and streams.

Additionally, Rebecca Haug states that a water education grant from Coon Creek Watershed District (CCWD) would allow the County to offer the Smart Salting training free of charge. She states that free attendance provides an incentive for communities with limited budgets to allow staff to be trained.

This is the second Water Education Grant Application CCWD has received from Anoka County. Rebecca Haug applied for and received grant funds in 2025 for the same Smart Salting Training. The 2025 training was attended by 86 individuals representing Anoka County, local municipalities, and private operators.

ISSUES/CONCERNS:

Available Funds	\$3,000	
Request	\$2,000	Balance = \$1,000
Eligibility	Government agency.	Yes, Anoka County
Eligible Expenses	The project is eligible.	
Evaluation Criteria	Priority will be given to proposals which: 1. Information to the public and decision-makers regarding water resources 2. Opportunities for the public to participate or volunteer in water quality activities 3. Educational opportunities for K-12 children concerning water quality	1. Yes; municipal staff and equipment operators 2. Yes; after initial registration by municipal audiences, registration will be opened to private residents and businesses operating within the county 3. No; this training is geared toward professionals currently working in winter maintenance roles

RECOMMENDATION

Approve Water Education grant application of \$2,000 for the costs associated with hosting a Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Smart Salting training for winter maintenance operators within Anoka County.