

The Clean Water Fund was established to implement the Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage, and Natural Areas Constitutional Amendment (House File 1231, Session Law Chapter 172) which has the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation. Table 1 lists the various programs available to BWSR and other executive branch agencies from the Clean Water Fund. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available.



**Table 1: FY2010 Competitive Clean Water Grants**

Agency Fund	FY10 Amount	Governmental Units Eligible for Funding*	Required Local Match**
BWSR Runoff Reduction Grants	\$2,460,000	Watershed Districts and Watershed Management Organizations (WMOs)	25%
BWSR Clean Water Assistance Grants	\$2,650,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs and Counties, and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Feedlot Water Quality Management Grant	\$2,500,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities, and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Shoreland Improvement Grants	\$1,400,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, Cities, and JPBs of these organizations	25%
BWSR Conservation Drainage Advancement Grants	\$200,000	SWCDs, Watershed Districts, WMOs, Counties, and JPBs of these organizations	25%
MPCA SSTS Inventory Grants	\$350,000	Counties	50%
BWSR SSTS Imminent Health Threat Abatement	\$800,000	Cities and Counties	Not required
BWSR SSTS Program Enhancement Grants	\$870,000	Counties	Not required
MDA Clean Water Ag BMP	\$1,800,000	Eligible AgBMP Loan authorities	Not required
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$13,030,000</b>		

\* All applicants must have an approved TMDL Implementation Plan, a current watershed management plan, county comprehensive local water management plan, local surface water management plan, metro groundwater plan, surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan that has been state approved and locally adopted.

\*\* Local Match = Non-state or non-federal cash or in-kind cash value contribution

## Application Deadline and Timeline for FY2010 Appropriation

- October 15, 2009                      Application period begins
- **December 1, 2009**                      **Application deadline at 4:30 PM**
- January 27, 2010                      BWSR Board authorizes awards (proposed)
- February-March 2010                      Award notices sent out to applicants
- March-April 2010                      BWSR grant agreements sent out to recipients

## Program Funding Eligibility Requirements

- All applications submitted under the Clean Water Fund must request state funds to be equal to or exceed \$30,000. Applications submitted that do not meet this minimum dollar amount requirement will not be accepted.
  - BWSR Clean Water Fund grants provide a maximum rate of 75 % of the eligible costs. Applicants are responsible for providing 25% of the cost with either local (non-state, non-federal) or in-kind cash value.
  - Practices must be of long-lasting public benefit with a minimum 10 years effective life.
  - To the extent possible, applicable projects must have vegetation planted or seed sown only of ecotypes native to Minnesota, and preferably of the local ecotype, using a high diversity of species originating from as close to the site as possible, and protect existing native prairies from genetic contamination.
1. **BWSR Runoff Reduction Grants.** Only Watershed Districts (WDs) and Water Management Organization (WMOs) are eligible to apply for these funds. Funds are to be used for structural & vegetative practices to reduce stormwater runoff and retain water on the land to reduce the movement of sediment, nutrients and pollutants. Practices should accomplish restoration, protection or enhancement of water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and/or protect groundwater and drinking water. Projects must be identified in a TMDL implementation plan or be a priority in a local water management plan.
  2. **BWSR Clean Water Assistance Grants:** WDs, WMOs, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Counties are eligible to apply for these funds. Funds are to be used to keep water on the land, and to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water. Projects must be identified in a TMDL implementation plan or be a priority in a local water management plan, groundwater plan, well head protection plan or surface water intake plan.
  3. **BWSR Feedlot Water Quality Management Grants:** These funds may be used to provide financial assistance to fix existing feedlot pollution problems from feedlot operations less than 300 animal units in size and located in a riparian area or impaired watershed. New feedlot projects are not eligible for funding. Riparian lands are defined as areas within:
    - 1,000 feet from a lake
    - 300 feet from a stream
    - 100-year floodplain
    - Defined sinkhole catchment area
    - Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA) defined by the Minnesota Department of Health

- 300 feet of an open tile intake where the sub-surface drainage system discharges directly into public waters
- 300 feet of a public or private drainage ditch that discharges directly into public waters
- 300 feet of a public waters wetland

Please note that the Minnesota Feedlot Annualized Runoff Model (MinnFARM) must be used to determine the feedlot runoff compliance status, prioritization MinnFARM index value, and annual pollutant load reductions. The feedlot must have a pollution problem stemming from feedlot runoff, milk house waste, or another feedlot water quality parameter in order to be eligible for grant funds.

4. **BWSR Shoreland Improvement Grants.** These funds are to be used to implement streambank, stream channel and shoreline protection and restoration grants for water quality. Projects must be identified in a TMDL implementation plan or be a priority in a local water management plan.
5. **BWSR Conservation Drainage Advancement Grants.** These funds are for pilot projects to retrofit existing drainage systems with water quality improvement practices, evaluate outcomes and provide outreach to landowners, public drainage authorities, drainage engineers, contractors and others.
6. **BWSR Imminent Health Threat Abatement.** These funds are to be used to address imminent health threat and failing SSTS systems for low income homeowners. It is strongly suggested that applicants use existing income guidelines from the US Rural Development as the basis for their definition of low income. Applicants should identify their income guideline requirements in their application.
7. **BWSR SSTS Program Enhancement Grants.** These funds are to be used by Counties to implement SSTS programs including inventories, enforcement, databases and systems to insure SSTS maintenance reporting programs. Counties must abide by MS 115.55 Sec2.
8. **MPCA SSTS Inventory Grants.** These funds are to be used by Counties for direct inspections to determine the number of SSTS systems that are failing or posing an imminent health threat in riparian lands. Counties must have a countywide ordinance in compliance with MR 7082 adopted by February 4, 2010. Riparian lands are defined previously under #3, Feedlot Water Quality Management Grants.
9. **MDA Clean Water Ag BMP.** Approximately \$2.0 million in loan funds will be available for activities identified in eligible TMDL Implementation Plans. Funding through the AgBMP Loan Program will be coordinated with successful CWF applications through the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Pollution Control Agency (MPCA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), or any other state agency receiving CWF appropriations when an applicant requests AgBMP funds. This coordination will be initiated by the applicant indicating in the grant application that there is a loan component in the proposal and the amount they are requesting for loans. No additional details of the loan component will be required in the grant application; however, the applicant must fully respond to all grant project description requests.

### **Eligible Costs**

- Expenditures incurred during the effective dates of the grant agreement or after the date of grant agreement execution, whichever is later;
- Salary, equipment, supplies and materials directly incurred through project activities that are solely related to and necessary for producing the products described in the approved work plan. These expenses must be specified in the application.
- Up to 5% of the total project cost may be used for grant administration and must be specified in the application.

### **CWF Project Reporting Requirements**

- CW Funds administered by BWSR will be administered via a standard grant agreement.
- All BWSR funded projects will be required to develop a work plan including detail relating to the outcome(s) of the proposed project. All activities will be reported via the eLINK reporting system. For more information on eLINK go to:  
<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/outreach/eLINK/index.html>.
- Grant recipients must display on their website the previous calendar year's detailed information on the expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes as a result of the expenditure of funds according to the format specified by the BWSR, by June 30 of each year.

### **Grants and Public Information**

Under Minnesota Statute 13.599, responses to a RFP are nonpublic until the application deadline is reached. At that time, the name and address of the grantee, and the amount requested becomes public. All other data is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee is completed. After the application evaluation process is completed, all data (except trade secret data) becomes public. Data created during the evaluation process is nonpublic until the negotiation of the grant agreement with the selected grantee(s) is completed.

### **Prevailing Wage**

It is the responsibility of the grant recipient or contractor to pay prevailing wages on construction projects to which state prevailing wage laws apply (Minn. Stat. 177.42 – 177.44). All laborers and mechanics employed by grant recipients and subcontractors funded in whole or in part with state funds included in this RFP shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality.

Additional information on prevailing wage requirements is available on the Department of Labor and Industry (DOLI) website: <http://www.dli.mn.gov/LS/PrevWage.asp>. Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091. The Grant recipient is solely responsible for payment of all required prevailing wage rates.

### **Questions**

Questions regarding grant applications should be directed to the BWSR Clean Water Specialist or your area Board Conservationist (<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/contact/index.html>).

### Ranking Criteria for 2010 CW Fund Projects

An interagency work team (BWSR, MPCA, MDA, MDH and DNR) will be reviewing and ranking all CW Fund applications. Applications should focus on prioritization of BMPs identified in the TMDL implementation plan and/or local water management plan, and the outcomes achieved by installation of the projects.

Ranking Criteria	Maximum Points Possible
The proposed project demonstrates a high potential of success based on project organization and management structure, and a broad coalition of community support and public involvement within the project area. The project has the potential to provide multi-benefits in areas such as pollution reduction, hydrologic management, and habitat improvement.	10
The anticipated outcomes resulting from completion of the project initiatives on the water resources identified or the pollutant reduction required in the TMDL.	25
The application has a set of initiatives that anticipates beginning implementation soon after grant award and has a relatively detailed inventory of implementation locations or activities.	10
The level of funding that can be documented from other sources including Federal and state to augment CW Funding above the required minimum local match requirements.	10
Priorities listed are derived from a TMDL Implementation Plan or Comprehensive Local Water Management Plan.	30
The application identifies the life expectancy of the project and proposes a plan for the short and long-term operation and maintenance of the project.	10
The application documents that proposed activities are consistent with existing Ground Water Plans, Wellhead Protection Plans or Source Water Protection Plans with respect to prioritization, location or focus.	5
<b>Total Points Available</b>	<b>100</b>

*\*For projects that have previously received Clean Water Legacy funds, the amount of funding that has been spent and encumbered accomplishing project activities to date will be considered.*