



Multipurpose Drainage
Management Grants
Request for Proposal (RFP)



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PURPOSE

The purpose of this program is to facilitate multipurpose drainage management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems¹.

These grants can be used as an “external source of funding” for water quality improvements in accordance with:

1. Section 103E.011, Subd. 5. Use of external sources of funding.
2. The multipurpose water management provisions in MN Statute Section 103E.015 *Considerations before drainage work is done*; and/or
3. Other applicable provisions of Chapter 103E (See [BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Fact Sheet](#))

WHAT IS NEW FOR 2024

1. This RFP will remain open as long as funds are available and will include quarterly “Batching periods” until funding is expended (See Deadlines and Timeline section below for details)
2. Proposal responses and scoring criteria will include minimum requirements. If a proposal does not meet all the minimum requirements in the scoring criteria, then it will not be eligible for funding.
3. This RFP and the Grants Administration Manual provide the framework for this program and there is no additional program policy.

TIMELINE

No late submissions or incomplete proposals will be considered for funding. Applications must be submitted by 4:30 PM. Late responses will not be considered. The grant applicant is responsible for proving timely submittal.

Grant Cycle	Grant Cycle Dates
Application period open	November 1, 2023 and will remain open continuously
Application batching period dates	First Business day of March, June, September and December
BWSR authorizes grant awards	Approximately 30 days of application period closes
BWSR sends grant agreements to recipients	Approximately 30-45 days of grant award
Work plan submittal deadline and Grant execution deadlines will be provided promptly after awards announcements	

¹ A priority Chapter 103E drainage system is an established system that has priority sediment and/or water quality concerns documented in an analysis, study, strategy, plan, a repair report, or in an engineer’s preliminary survey report for a drainage project.

GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

This grant program strongly encourages a Chapter 103E drainage authority (County, Joint County Board, or Watershed District) and Soil and Water Conservation District(s) to establish or define a partnership to apply for and use these grant funds. One SWCD or drainage authority partner is eligible to apply on behalf of a partnership, but must verify in the proposal that all the partner(s) are committed to the project. The following entities are eligible:

- Drainage authorities as defined by Minn. Stat. Chapter 103E
- Local governments (counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and soil and water conservation districts or local government joint power boards) working under a current State approved and locally adopted local water management plan, comprehensive watershed management plan or soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan.
- Municipalities are eligible if they: 1) have a water plan that has been approved by a watershed district or a watershed management organization as provided under Minn. Stat. 103B.235; or 2) adopted an approved comprehensive watershed management plan developed under Minn. Stat. 103B.801
- Counties in the seven-county metropolitan area are eligible if they have adopted a county groundwater plan under Minn Stat. 103B.255 or county comprehensive plan that has been approved by the Metropolitan Council under Minn. Stat. Chapter 473. Applicants who have previously received a grant from BWSR must be in compliance with BWSR requirements for grantee website and eLINK reporting before grant execution and payment.

Applicable plans must be current when the Board approves awards to be eligible to receive grant funds as defined under the Board’s Local Water Plan Status and Grant Eligibility Policy. Applicants must also be in compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

FUNDING AVAILABLE AND MATCH

The appropriation language governing the use of these funds is in Laws of Minnesota 2023, Regular Session, Chapter 40, Article 2, Section 6(J). Table 1 lists the Clean Water Fund (CWF) available for this proposal process. Final funding decisions will be dependent on the actual funds available.

All BWSR CWF competitive grants require a minimum non-state match. All BWSR grant programs have a match requirement that is up to 10% of the amount of Clean Water Funds requested or received. The match must be cash or in-kind cash value of goods, materials, and services directly attributed to project accomplishments.

Table 1: FY 2024 Competitive Clean Water Grant Funding Available¹

Agency Fund	Funding Amount	Governmental Units Eligible for Funding	Required Match
BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management	Up to \$950,000 Each for FY 24 & 25	Partnership of a Chapter 103E Drainage Authority and Soil and Water Conservation District(s)	10%

The Clean Water Fund was established in Minnesota Statute 114D.50 to implement part of Article XI, Section 15, of the Minnesota Constitution, with the purpose of protecting, enhancing, and restoring water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams in addition to protecting ground water and drinking water sources from degradation. These funds must supplement traditional sources of funding and may not be used as a substitute to fund activities or programs.

ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

Eligible activities can consist of structural practices and projects; non-structural practices and measures, project support, grant management and reporting. Technical and engineering assistance necessary to implement these activities are considered essential and are to be included in the total project or practice cost.

TECHNICAL AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES

Clean Water Funds may be used for actual technical and administrative expenses to advance project implementation. Eligible expenses include the following activities: grant administration, site investigations and assessments, design and cost estimates, construction supervision, and construction inspections.

PROJECT SUPPORT

Eligible activities include public participation and engagement, equipment, and other activities necessary for the implementation of water quality practices consistent with the purposes of these funds. Refer to the Grants Administration Manual for Capital Equipment Purchases.

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. The grant funds may be used for local grant management and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity. Applicants who have previously received a grant from BWSR must be in compliance with BWSR requirements for grantee website and eLINK reporting before grant execution and payment.

PRACTICES

Practices must have a primary purpose of water quality improvement and be conducted on, adjacent to, or within the contributing watershed of, a Priority Chapter 103E Drainage System(s). Structural projects and practices must be of long-lasting public benefit. LGUs must provide assurances that the landowner or land occupier will keep the project in place for the effective life of the project. The following is a list of the only eligible conservation practices and activities for this program.

1. NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (CPS) Code 410 Grade Stabilization Structure: Adjacent to a Chapter 103E drainage ditch or within the watershed of the drainage system to reduce erosion and provide temporary detention to trap sediment and nutrients, reduce peak flows, improve water quality and maintain the efficiency of the drainage system. When proposing side inlet structures, drop inlet type structures with temporary detention are preferred. When proposing side inlet structures in combination with a continuous berm along a Chapter 103E drainage ditch, eligibility is limited to the side inlet pipes and construction of an average 3 ft. high (above existing ground) berm.
2. CPS Code 412 Grassed Waterway: To convey concentrated runoff without causing erosion or flooding, prevent or reduce gully erosion, and improve water quality.
3. CPS Code 638 Water and Sediment Control Basin: To prevent or reduce gully erosion, trap sediment and nutrients, reduce and manage onsite and downstream runoff, improve downstream water quality, and improve farmability of sloping land.

4. Open tile inlet replacement: Replacement of existing open tile inlets with water quality improvement inlets (e.g. perforated riser, dense pattern tile, or gravel inlet) in accordance with NRCS CPS Code 606 Subsurface Drain, as applicable, to reduce sediment entering a Chapter 103E drainage system via subsurface drainage tile.
5. CPS Code 658 Wetland Creation or CPS Code 657 Wetland Restorations
 - a) CPS Code 658 Wetland Creation: To improve water quality of storm water runoff or other water flows. The constructed wetland shall be designed to reduce nutrient and sediment loading and provide other water quality benefits. Project location must be identified at time of proposal.
 - b) CPS Code 657 Wetland Restoration: To provide storage and treatment of surface and subsurface drainage water to reduce peak flows, erosion, and nutrient and sediment transport to receiving waters. To be an eligible wetland restoration under this program the applicant must demonstrate that the proposed activity includes an area which was historically a wetland. The design shall be consistent with the BWSR MN Wetland Restoration Guide or the USDA-NRCS Field Office Technical Guide. Project location must be identified at time of proposal.

Wetland Creations or Wetland Restorations require a perpetual easement to be held by the Chapter 103E drainage authority. Easements held by any other entity are not eligible for this program. The perpetual easement must be approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) for locations within the watershed of a Chapter 103E drainage system. Total state contribution to easement payment rates shall not exceed current standard Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) rates. Lands eligible for the RIM crop rate must have annually planted crop 2 of the last 5 years or meet other requirements as listed in MN Rules Section 8400.3030. The perpetual easement must include an upland buffer of perennial native vegetation around the wetland area having a minimum width of 30 feet and average width of 50 feet, except where the wetland boundary is adjacent to a road right-of-way or property boundary. Design and construction cost components necessary for wetland and upland buffer restoration are eligible.

6. NRCS Conservation Activity Plan (CAP) 130 Drainage Water Management Plan: To reduce and treat nutrient loss and improve downstream water quality. The CAP 130 can include controlled subsurface drainage, denitrifying bioreactor, and saturated buffer components. The plan must be developed by a Technical Service Provider (TSP) certified in the NRCS Tech Reg for CAP 130.
7. CPS Code 587 Structure for Water Control: For use on existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality by managing soil profile water levels using controlled subsurface drainage to reduce tile flow and nutrient transport, in accordance with an associated CAP 130.
8. CPS 554 Drainage Water Management, Implementation/Operation: A CAP 130 is required. For areas where controlled subsurface drainage structures have been installed to manage soil profile water levels, payments must follow EQIP rate schedule.
9. CPS Code 604 Saturated Buffer: For existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality primarily by reducing the nitrate content of subsurface drainage water treated by the saturated buffer.
10. CPS Code 605 Denitrifying Bioreactor: For existing or new tile drainage systems to improve downstream water quality primarily by reducing the nitrate content of subsurface drainage water treated by the denitrifying bioreactor.

INELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES

The following activities are ineligible for these funds:

- Tile not needed to support establishment of a conservation practice listed in the eligible practice list above;
- Ditching not associated with a wetland restoration or construction, including two-stage ditches;
- Grade stabilization structure(s) on the centerline of a Chapter 103E drainage system;
- Flap gates that prevent back-flow into side inlet structure pipes;
- Bridges or culverts through roads;
- Water quality monitoring;
- Buffers that are required by law (including Drainage Law and Buffer Law), incremental buffer strips under Section 103E.021, Subd. 6, or buffer establishment for a saturated buffer.
- Components required by 103E Drainage Law.

MDM APPLICATION CRITERIA AND RESPONSES

To be eligible, the submitted application must meet the minimum on all of the following applicable criteria. If more funding is requested than is available proposals will be ranked based on the associated scores for each question. If multiple proposals have equal scores, funds will be awarded on a first come first serve basis.

Answers to each question are limited to 2000 characters. The following questions need to be answered in eLINK. The character limit in eLINK is NOT the same as Microsoft Word.

1. Describe the proposed grant-funded activities eligible under this RFP.
2. Have you uploaded the map (under Attachments) with the drainage system clearly identified?
3. Identify the entity who will be responsible for holding the easement or responsible for operation and maintenance (O&M) of the proposed grant-funded activities.
4. Identify the priority 103E drainage system for this proposal and rationale for its selection including the water quality resource concern.
5. Describe efforts to coordinate with partnering organizations including reference to applicable agreements or resolutions supporting the proposal.
6. Please describe the expected water quality outcomes proposed.
7. Please describe any multipurpose drainage management benefits beyond water quality proposed.
8. What steps and actions have been taken to ensure that project implementation can begin soon after grant award, such as partner coordination, preliminary identification of potential conservation practice/activity locations, coordination with landowners, preliminary discussions with permitting authorities (if applicable), alignment with requests for external sources of funding per Section 103E.015, Subd 1a., etc.?
9. Please describe how the proposed project goes above and beyond the requirements of 103E if applicable for the following;
 - a) Please describe how the proposed project goes above and beyond the requirements of 103E if applicable for the following: the proposed CWF \$ is not needed to meet a cost benefit consideration for a “drainage project” as defined in 103E.
 - b) Please demonstrate CWF Activities are not needed to provide for an adequate outlet as defined prescribed in 103E.261.
 - c) Please provide written confirmation that the proposed Clean Water Funded activities are not being used to mitigate environmental or regulatory impacts of this or other projects.
10. You will need to submit an MDM Project Budget Worksheet (required). The worksheet can be found on the Apply for BWSR Grants webpage (<http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/apply/index.html>). Applications submitted without this worksheet will not be considered. Have you uploaded the budget worksheet (under Attachments)?

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Program		
Scoring Criteria	Minimum Eligibility Criteria (if any one of these criteria is not met, the application will be considered ineligible)	Maximum Points Possible
<u>Activity Eligibility</u> : The proposed grant-funded activities are eligible under this RFP.	All requested activities are eligible	YES
<u>Project Map</u> : Map provided by the applicant clearly identifies the drainage system.	Map included that shows the drainage system where activities are proposed	10
<u>Operations and Maintenance(O&M)</u> : Applicants have identified who will be responsible for holding the easement or responsible for operations and maintenance of the proposed grant funded activities.	Landowners identified as the party responsible for O&M	10
<u>Priority System</u> : Applicants have identified the priority 103E system for the proposed activities and the rationale for its selection including the water resource of concern.	A single system is identified in a repair report or engineers preliminary survey report	20
<u>Partnering Efforts</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with partnering organizations including reference to applicable agreements or resolutions supporting the proposal.	Written documentation of coordination from the respective organizations of intent to partner	10
<u>Landowner Coordination</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with participating landowners.	Written documentation of coordination with participating landowners	10
<u>Water Quality Outcomes</u> : Clear demonstration of water quality outcomes proposed by the activity.	Outcomes provided	20
<u>Multipurpose Benefits</u> : Clear demonstration of the multipurpose benefits proposed by the activity.	Description of different benefits provided	20
<u>Cost Benefits</u> : If the activity is associated with a MS 103E.005 defined Drainage Project, a clear description of how the proposed activities are supplemental and not needed to ensure the Cost Benefits considerations.	The proposed activities are NOT associated with a 103E Drainage Project OR The applicant has documented that the 103E Drainage Project stands on its own merits and the proposed grant activities are supplemental.	YES
<u>Outlet Adequacy</u> : If the activity is associated with a MS 103E.005 defined Drainage Project, a clear description of how the proposed activities are not needed to ensure the proposed project outlet is adequate.	The proposed activities are NOT associated with a 103E Drainage Project OR The applicant has documented that the 103E Drainage Project stands on its own	YES

	merits and the proposed grant activities are supplemental.	
<u>Environmental or regulatory impacts:</u> The proposed grant funded activities are not being used to offset other environmental or regulatory impacts for this or another project.	Written confirmation provided by the applicant.	N/A
	TOTAL	100

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

HOW TO SUBMIT A QUESTION

Questions regarding grant applications should be directed to your area Board Conservationist; a map of work areas and contact information is available at [BWSR Maps and Apps Gallery](#). Questions may also be submitted by email to cwfquestions@state.mn.us. Responses may be posted on the BWSR website as a “Frequently Asked Questions” (FAQ) document and updated weekly throughout the RFP.

HOW TO APPLY USING ELINK

1. Set up your eLINK user account.

Proposals need to be submitted via [eLINK](#). Eligible applicants without a current eLINK user account must register for an account at <https://elink.bwsr.state.mn.us> no later than seven days prior to the proposal deadline. For eLINK related questions, first visit the eLINK section of the [Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#) page. If your question is not addressed here, please contact elinksupport@state.mn.us.

2. Complete your funding request (proposal)

See the “[Completing a Funding Request in eLINK](#)” under the “eLINK Training Videos” tab on the eLINK webpage to view a 11-minute online module describing how to complete a Funding Request within eLINK.

- As part of the proposal, eLINK will require applicants to map the location of the proposed project area.
- Answers to each question is limited to 2,000 characters. Due to differences in how programs are encoded, be aware that the character limit in eLINK is not the same as Microsoft Word or other text editors.
- Proposals may include only one image to be submitted within their eLINK application. Only .jpg, .tiff, or .png file types are allowed.

Applicants must provide answers to the following questions as part of their proposal submitted in eLINK. The questions are related to the ranking criteria categories, which determine how proposals are scored by reviewers. The ranking criteria can be found in the “Application Review” section of this RFP.

APPLICATION GUIDELINES

- Proposals submitted under the BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant categories must request state funds that equal or exceed \$30,000. Proposals submitted that do not fall within this dollar range will not be accepted.
- Proposals may receive partial funding based on eligibility or availability of funds. Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request. Actual awards may be less than this minimum if proposals receive partial funding. Applications may receive partial funding for the following reasons: 1) an absence of or limited identification of specific project locations, 2) budgeted items that were not discussed in the application or have no connection to the central purpose of the application were included by an applicant; 3) to address budget categories out of balance with the project scope; 4) application contains ineligible components; and 5) insufficient funds remaining in a grant category to fully fund a project. Prior to final selection, the Board may engage applicants to resolve questions or to discuss modifications to the project or funding request.
- Proposals that do not comply with all proposal requirements will not be considered for funding, as provided below:
 - Components of the proposal are incomplete or missing;
 - The match amount does not meet grant requirements; or
 - The minimum grant dollar amount is not met, or the maximum amount is exceeded.
- Proposals should clearly articulate what water resource is being targeted in the application. Proposals should demonstrate significant, measurable project outputs and outcomes targeted to critical pollution source areas that will help achieve water quality objectives for the water resource of concern; be consistent with a watershed management plan that has been state approved and locally adopted or an approved total maximum daily load study (TMDL), Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS), Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategy (GRAPS), surface water intake plan, or well head protection plan.
- Proposals should ensure they are citing the current, state approved and locally adopted plan for the project area. For example, once a Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan is adopted for an area, the County Water Plan or SWCD Comprehensive Plan can no longer be referenced since it is no longer the applicable plan in the project area, even if it continues to be used elsewhere in the county where a CWMP has not yet been developed and adopted. Improper plan references will negatively affect the prioritization score.
- As appropriate, outputs should include scientifically credible estimates of pollutant reductions expected as a result of the project, as well as other measures such as acres of wetlands/forest, miles of riparian buffer or stream bank restored, acres treated by stormwater BMPs, or acres of specific agricultural conservation practices implemented including acres treated by the installation of the practice. ***Applications with unrealistic pollution reduction estimates will not be considered.***
- Proposals must have plans for long-term maintenance and inspection monitoring for the duration of the life of a project as part of their project files. Work plans developed for funded applications will rely on this information for operation, maintenance and inspection requirements after the project is completed.
- Applicants should evaluate the impacts that climate change (such as fluctuating precipitation patterns and drought) may have on the ability of the proposed project to meet objectives and whether the proposed project increases landscape resiliency.
- Proposals from applicants that were previously awarded Clean Water Funds will be considered during the review process for applications submitted in response to this RFP. However, applicants that have expended less than 50% of previous award(s) at the time of this application will need to demonstrate organizational capacity to finalize current projects and to complete new projects concurrently.

APPLICATION REVIEW

BWSR staff initially review all applications for eligibility. Eligible applications will be reviewed and ranked based on the criteria by the Program Manager, Chief Engineer and Clean Water Specialist or their assignees.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST

State Grant Policy 08-01, (see <https://mn.gov/admin/government/grants/policies-statutes-forms/>) Conflict of Interest for State Grant-Making, also applies to BWSR grantees. Grantees' conflicts of interest are generally considered organizational conflicts of interest. Organizational conflicts of interest occur when:

- A grantee is unable or potentially unable to render impartial assistance or advice due to competing duties or loyalties,
- A grantee's objectivity in carrying out the grant is or might be otherwise impaired due to competing duties or loyalties, or
- A grantee or potential grantee has an unfair competitive advantage through being furnished unauthorized proprietary information or source selection information that is not available to all competitors.

PRIVACY NOTICE

Under Minnesota Statutes Section 13.599, responses to an 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.

GRANT RECIPIENT INFORMATION

PROJECT PERIOD

Notification of grant award will be in the form of an automated notification from the BWSR eLINK system or an email from BWSR Grants staff to the grantee. Notifications are sent to the Day-to-Day Contact(s) identified by the organization within the eLINK system. This notification includes instructions for further processing of the grant agreement and may also contain grant-specific information such as requirements for completing work plans, disbursement terms, or additional required documentation for processing the grant. Read these instructions carefully as requirements can vary by grant and fiscal year.

BWSR will use grant agreements, and an associated work plan, as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules, and established policies. BWSR reserves the right to require a work plan revision or grant agreement amendment for changes in scope. Willful or negligent disregard of relevant statutes, rules and policies may lead to imposition of financial penalties on the grant recipient. Upon receiving the notification of grant award, which indicates approval of an application, and prior to beginning work on the grant project(s) and receiving grant funds, the applicant is required to do the following:

1. Complete an IRS W-9 form or register as a vendor in SWIFT, the state's accounting system, and submit other required documentation within 30 days of award notification.
2. Sign a grant contract agreement indicating their intention to complete the project(s) contained in the application. The agreement also authorizes BWSR to monitor progress of the grant. The grant contract agreement must be signed within 30 days of being sent to the grantee.

The project period starts when the grant agreement is executed, meaning all required signatures have been obtained. Work that occurs before this date is not eligible for reimbursement with grant funds and cannot be used as match.

Grant contract agreement templates can be reviewed on the [Office of Grants Management Forms and FAQs website](#).

All grants must be completed by December 31, 2026 for grants awarded in FY 24 and by December 31, 2027 for grants awarded in FY 25. If a project receives federal funds, the period of the grant agreement may be extended to equal the length of time that the federal funds are available, subject to limitation. Applicants using federal funds are encouraged to contact BWSR soon after the award of funds to ensure the grant agreement can be developed appropriately.

If a project receives federal funds, the period of the grant agreement may be extended to equal the length of time that the federal funds are available subject to limitation. Applicants using federal funds are encouraged to contact BWSR soon after the award of funds to ensure the grant agreement can be developed appropriately.

PAYMENT SCHEDULE

Grant payments will be distributed in three installments to the grantee. The first payment of 50% of the grant amount will be paid after work plan approval and execution of the grant agreement provided the grant applicant is in compliance with eLINK reporting requirements for previously awarded BWSR grants. The second payment of 40% of the grant amount will be paid once the grantee has provided BWSR with notification and BWSR has reconciled expenditures of the initial payment. The last 10% of reimbursement grants will be paid after the grant project is finished, all final reporting requirements are met, and the grantee has provided BWSR with a documentation of final expenditures.

REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- All grantees receiving funds for BWSR programs must follow the BWSR Grants Administration Manual, which can be found at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/>
- All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of Clean Water Fund grants. Outputs will serve as surrogates for outcomes and will be reported as estimated pollutant reductions and progress towards goals based on the best available information.
- All BWSR funded grants are managed through eLINK. All proposals will be submitted electronically through eLINK. Successful applicants will be required to complete a work plan in eLINK. All required reporting will be completed through eLINK. For more information go to <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink>.
- BWSR will use grant agreements as contracts for assurance of deliverables and compliance with appropriate statutes, rules and established policies.
- In the event there is a violation of the terms of the grant agreement, BWSR will enforce the grant agreement and evaluate appropriate actions, up to and including repayment of grant funds at a rate up to 100% of the grant agreement.
- When practicable, grant recipients shall prominently display on their website the legacy logo. Grant recipients must display on their website either a link to their project from the Legislative Coordinating Commission Legacy Site (<http://legacy.leg.mn>) or a clean water project summary that includes a description of the grant activities, including expenditure of grant funds and measurable outcomes.
- When practicable, grant recipients must display a sign with the Legacy Logo at the project site or other public location identifying the project was built with assistance from Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. When practicable, grant recipients must display the Legacy Logo on printed and other media funded with money from the Clean Water Fund. The logo and specifications can be found at <http://www.legacy.leg.mn/legacy-logo>.

- Funds repaid to a grantee from a landowner or other land occupier who has failed to maintain a practice for its effective life, but outside of the grant agreement, must be reallocated to a local cost share program or project account consistent with MN Statutes Chapter 114D.50, less the administrative cost of the grantee.
- The grantee board is the authority and has the responsibility to approve the expenditure of funds within their own organization. The approval or denial of expenditures of funds must be documented in the Grantee Board's meeting minutes.
- Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grant recipient.
- BWSR recommends all contracts be reviewed by the grant recipient's legal counsel.

RESTORATION EVALUATION PROGRAM

All restoration projects with restoration benefits funded via the Clean Water Fund may be subject to an evaluation in accordance with Minn. Stat. 114D.50 Subd. 6. Primary goals of the restoration evaluation program are to evaluate the projects relative to the law, current science, and the stated goals and standards in the restoration plan and to improve future habitat restorations by creating a feedback loop from lessons learned in the field.

Key recommendations that applicants should follow are:

1. Improved Project Planning - Thorough project planning will enable project managers to make informed decisions and improve capacity to achieve desired outcomes
2. Improved Vegetation for Stream Projects - Well established vegetation is critical for the long-term success of stream projects. Establishing native vegetation takes planning and diligent maintenance.
3. Improved Project Teams - Bringing more sets of expertise to the table will ideally: minimize instances of non-native plant use, identify plan components with high risk of limited success, help plan contingencies for potential challenges, and broaden project goals.
4. Improved Documentation - Documentation is critical for understanding, tracking, and achieving successful restorations.

For more information regarding the Restoration Evaluation Program visit the follow website:

<https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html>

Questions about the Restoration Evaluation Program can be directed to: Wade Johnson, MN DNR,
wade.a.johnson@state.mn.us or 651-259-5057.

PERMITTING

The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all permits necessary to execute the project. If applicable, successful applicants will be required to provide sufficient documentation prior to work plan approval that the project expects to receive or has received all necessary federal, state and local permits and meets all water quality rules, including those that apply to the utilization of an existing water body as a water quality treatment device. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate regulatory agencies early in the grant proposal development process to ensure potential projects can meet all applicable regulatory requirements.

NATIVE VEGETATION

All projects that involve vegetation restoration or establishment are subject to BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines found at: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/2019->

[07/Updated%20guidelines%20Final%2007-01-19.pdf](#). Key requirements within the Guidelines include the use of native vegetation, providing pollinator habitat, and incorporating high diversity levels.
