



FY 2026 & 2027

Multipurpose Drainage Management
Grants

Request for Proposals (RFP)

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GRANT OVERVIEW

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](#))

The appropriation language governing the use of these funds is in Laws of Minnesota 2025, Regular Session, Chapter 36, Article 2, Section 6(J).

EQUITY PRIORITIES

It is the policy of the State of Minnesota to ensure fairness, precision, equity and consistency in competitive grant awards. This includes implementing diversity and inclusion in grant-making.

Multiple DEI approaches will be included in this grant process including:

- Resources for applicants: One-on-one application support sessions
- Resources for applicants: Resources can be made available in alternate, accessible formats

FUNDING AVAILABLE AND MATCH

This BWSR grant program has a match requirement of 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.

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.

Table 1: FY 2026 and FY 2027 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 26 & 27	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.

TIMELINE

Applications must be submitted by 4:30 PM CT/CST on the respective batching period deadlines. Late submissions or incomplete applications will not be considered for funding. The grant applicant is responsible for proving timely submittal.

Grant Cycle	Grant Cycle Dates
Application period open	October 6, 2025
Application batching period dates	See Calendar provided on MDM Program Page found here
Anticipated awards	Approximately 30 days after batching period closes
Anticipated grant agreements sent to recipients	Approximately 30-45 days after grant awards.
Work plan submittal deadline and Grant execution deadlines will be provided promptly after awards announcements	

GRANT ELIGIBILITY AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

- a) Eligible applicants for competitive grants include: Political subdivisions/Local governments
- Counties
 - Soil and water conservation districts
 - Watershed districts

Applicants must operate in Minnesota and conduct grant activities that benefit the resources of Minnesota. Applicants must have state or federal recognition as a formal organization or entity, such as a Minnesota Tax ID or Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number. Organizations or groups that do not have state or federal recognition must apply with a fiscal

agent. Applicants that are debarred or suspended by the State of Minnesota or the Federal Government are not eligible. Applicants must be in compliance with all applicable federal, State, and local laws, policies, ordinances, rules, and regulations.

COLLABORATION

Multipurpose Drainage Management 2026 & 2027; This grant program strongly encourages a Chapter 103E drainage authority (County, 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.

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.

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.

ALLOWABLE AND UNALLOWABLE COSTS

Allowable costs are those costs solely incurred through project activities that are directly related to and necessary for producing the project outcomes described in the proposal. Grant recipients are required to account for the staff time charged to BWSR grants in order to track the expenditure of grant funds and match to ensure the use of the funds is consistent with applicable State and BWSR requirements. Unallowable costs to be charged to BWSR grants include but are not limited to:

- Bad debts, monetary settlements and judgements, late payment fees, and investment management fees
- Donations, fundraising, sponsorships, and acknowledgements
- Entertainment, gifts, prizes, and decorations
- Alcohol
- Interest on loans not authorized under state statute
- Loans of BWSR grant funds
- Lobbying, lobbyists, and political contributions
- Merit awards and bonuses

GRANT MANAGEMENT AND REPORTING

Eligible activities include local grant administration, management, and reporting that are directly related to and necessary for implementing the project or activity associated with the grant. Grantee is required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments. 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.

APPLYING FOR A GRANT

PRE-AWARD REVIEW

Applicants will be required to comply with [OGM Policy 08-06](#), and may be asked to submit documents relevant to their entity type; nonprofit organizations, for-profit businesses, political sub-divisions.

Political sub-divisions

All political sub-divisions selected for a grant award must undergo a financial review prior to receiving a grant award. Applicants may be asked to submit additional information once the application period closes.

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. For questions regarding this Grant Program and RFP, contact Tom Gile at tom.gile@state.mn.us.

For questions regarding the eLINK grants management system, email elinksupport@state.mn.us. Please review the eLINK-related topics below and on BWSR’s eLINK webpage before contacting eLINK support.

HOW TO APPLY USING ELINK

1. Set up your eLINK user account
Proposals need to be submitted via <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/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 in eLink as well as attaching a proposal map.
 - 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 Application 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 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.

- 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.
- *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 for projects meeting a waste load allocation and located on publicly owned land and exceeding \$750,000 should first consult with the Minnesota Public Facilities Authority before applying for BWSR Clean Water Funds.*
- *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.*
- *For projects that are proposing to infiltrate stormwater, the following guidance should be taken into consideration: https://stormwater.pca.state.mn.us/images/3/3a/Evaluating_Proposed_Stormwater_Infiltration_Projects_in_Vulnerable_Wellhead_Protection_Areas.pdf*
- *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 QUESTIONS

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)?

APPLICATION REVIEW

Applications/responses in each batching period will be assessed against the minimum scoring criteria and ranking system below by BWSR staff typically within 30 days of the close. Responses which do not meet the minimum eligibility criteria will result in an application being ineligible. Remaining applications will be funding in rank order based on available funds.

SELECTION AND RANKING CRITERIA

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	5
<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.	The appropriate party(ies) is 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	25
<u>Partnering Efforts</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with partnering organizations including reference to applicable agreements or resolutions supporting the proposal.	Documentation of coordination from the respective organizations of intent to partner	5
<u>Landowner Coordination</u> : Clear description of efforts to coordinate with participating landowners.	Documentation of coordination with participating landowners	5
<u>Water Quality Outcomes</u> : Clear demonstration of water quality outcomes proposed by the activity.	Outcomes provided	30
<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 merits and the proposed grant activities are supplemental.	YES
<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

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 Statute 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

GRANT AGREEMENT AND 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 has 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, 2028 for grants awarded in FY 26 and by December 31, 2029 for grants awarded in FY 27.

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 all BWSR website and 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 reviewed and approved the eLINK reporting, and possibly completes a grant reconciliation of the initial payment. The last 10% will be paid after all final reporting requirements are met, and BWSR has reconciled these expenditures.

REPORTING AND ADMINISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- All grant recipients are required to report on the outcomes, activities, and accomplishments of the grant.
- *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.*
- *When practicable, grant recipients shall prominently display the legacy logo on their website. 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>.*
- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's [Providing Financial Assistance to Land Occupiers](#)
- BWSR recommends all agreements be reviewed by the grant recipient's legal counsel.
- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's [Grant Monitoring and Financial Reconciliation Procedure](#)
- All grant recipients are subject to BWSR's [Grant Noncompliance Policy](#)
- 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.
- Grant reporting, fiscal management, and administration requirements are the responsibility of the grant recipient.
- Additional information regarding BWSR grant reporting and administration can be found in the Grants Administration Manual (<https://bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/manual/>)

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). When prevailing wage requirements apply, 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 <https://www.dli.mn.gov/business/employment-practices/prevailing-wage-information>. Questions about the application of prevailing wage rates should be directed to DOLI at 651-284-5091.

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. For more information regarding the Restoration Evaluation Program visit the follow website: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/legacy/restoration-evaluation.html>.

Key recommendations that applicants should follow are:

1. **Improved training** - Continued development and implementation of training is essential to promote science-based practices
2. **Improved Project Planning** - Thorough project planning will enable project managers to make informed decisions and improve capacity to achieve desired outcomes.
3. **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.
4. **Improved use of minimum design criteria for lakeshore projects** – Projects that mimic the shoreline's natural structure and vegetation have achieved greater ecological benefits.
5. **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.
6. **Improved Documentation** - Documentation is critical for understanding, tracking, and achieving successful restorations.

NATIVE VEGETATION

Projects that involve vegetation restoration or establishment must use native vegetation and seed and plant sources consistent with BWSR's Native Vegetation Establishment and Enhancement Guidelines, with the exceptions listed below. Use of plant species on the Minnesota Noxious Weed List is prohibited for all projects. Non-native species used for projects must not pose a risk to native plant communities. The maximum distance for sources of herbaceous species seed and plants is 200 miles; and for tree and shrubs seed and plants the distance is 300 miles.

Exceptions

- Non-native, non-invasive perennial crops, hay crops or forage crops may be used:
 - As part of a drinking water protection strategy in a vulnerable or highly vulnerable DWSMA as designated by the Department of Health or in a Township Well Testing high-priority area as determined by the Department of Agriculture;
 - In buffers, borders, grass waterways or other areas likely to be exposed to pesticides or part of agricultural production;
 - For soil stabilization, erosion prevention and carbon sequestration in an agricultural production setting;
 - On fields that will be hayed, grazed or harvested.
- For the exceptions above, if the project area is under 20 acres in size, the exception may be approved by local conservation staff. If the project area is 20 acres or larger, or for any exceptions not listed here, grantees must request approval from the BWSR Grant Manager.
- Cover crops used to improve soil health and/or water quality are allowed without a maximum acreage limit.
- Temporary cover is allowed without a maximum acreage limit when needed to stabilize project sites prior to the construction of structural conservation practices.

Cultivars of native species may be used in urban stormwater plantings if they accomplish similar or greater ecological functions, help achieve aesthetic goals and do not pose an invasive or other environmental risk

PERMITTING

The applicant is responsible for obtaining and complying with all permits necessary to execute the project. Applicants are strongly encouraged to contact the appropriate regulatory agencies early in the grant application development process to ensure potential projects can meet all applicable regulatory requirements.

SUBAGREEMENTS

Funds may be distributed to partner(s) through the use of sub-agreements. Activities identified in the sub-agreement must fit within the scope of the agreement between BWSR and the recipient and include requirements for fund distribution, implementation, and reporting.

TECHNICAL QUALITY ASSURANCE

Practices and projects must meet the following requirements to ensure long-term public benefit:

- **Technical Assistance Provider.** The recipient must designate technical assistance provider(s) that have appropriate credentials for investigation, design, and construction.
- **Practice Standards.** Practices and projects must use appropriate standards for design, construction, effective life, operation, and maintenance.

- **Practice Certification.** Technical assistance provider(s) must certify that the practice or project was installed or constructed in accordance with the applicable plans and specifications, including approved modifications, prior to authorization for payment.
- **Operation and Maintenance.** Technical Assistance Provider(s) must prepare an operation and maintenance (O&M) plan specific to the site and practice(s) implemented.
- **Periodic Practice/Project Inspection.** Inspections shall confirm that the operation and maintenance plan is being followed and the project has not been altered or removed.

BWSR may review the qualifications of all persons providing technical assistance and review the technical project design if a recognized standard is not available.

PRACTICE OR PROJECT CONSTRUCTION AND SIGN-OFF

Grant recipients shall verify that the practice or project was properly installed and completed according to the plans and specifications, including technically approved modifications, prior to authorization for payment.

PROJECT AND PRACTICE ASSURANCES

A written agreement is required to ensure program requirements are met when installing projects and practices or providing financial assistance to a land occupier. Project and Practice Assurances must include technical and financial obligations and requirements for the installation, operation, and maintenance of the practice or project, including a plan for failures or noncompliance.

PROVIDING FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO LAND OCCUPIERS

All BWSR funds used by a recipient to provide financial assistance to a landowner or land occupier requires adequate project assurances.

Project Application and Agreements

Work completed prior to the signing of the agreement is not eligible.

Conservation Practice Contract Noncompliance

Failure to complete, maintain, or repair a conservation practice or unauthorized alteration is considered non-compliance with an executed conservation practice agreement. If the organization discovers noncompliance, they must take action to resolve and notify BWSR.