

Carver County Board of Commissioners
June 19, 2018
Regular Session
County Board Room
Carver County Government Center
Human Services Building
Chaska, Minnesota

Agenda Amendment

Add to Consent:

5.17 BWSR Clean Water Fund Allocation Proposal



Carver County Water Management Organization

Planning and Water Mgmt Dept
Public Services Division
Government Center - Administration Building
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Memo

To: County Commissioners, David Hemze
From: Carver County Water Management
Date: 06/15/18
Re: **BWSR Clean Water Fund Allocation**
CC: Tom Vellenga, Assistant County Administrator
Mike Wanous, Carver SWCD Manager

Enclosures: none

The following is a summary of how Clean water Funds will be distributed to watershed organizations in the metro area in FY19-20.

Background

The state Board of Water & Soil Resources (BWSR) is changing the way they are distributing State Clean Water Legacy (CWL) funds to the Carver County Water Management Organization (CCWMO) and other watershed districts for the FY19-20 period. Previously, the CCWMO would compete with all other watersheds in the state for annual CWL grants. For the next fiscal cycle, BWSR is allocating funds directly to the County watersheds to implement eligible projects. This is part of the State's One Watershed One Plan Pilot Program. Attached is a description sheet of the program from BWSR.

The One Watershed One Plan Pilot Program allocated a set fund amount to each metro county and will rely on a county collaborative group to determine which projects are funded by the allocation. Carver County was allocated \$749,200 for FY 2019 – 2020.

Process

Staff members representing the 3 WD's (Minnehaha Creek, Riley Purgatory Bluff Creek, and the Lower MN), the CCWMO, and the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) met twice in January to begin discussions on allocating and implementing the funds designated for Carver County. The group recognized the importance of the "fund the plan" message that the legislature intended with the appropriation language, and quickly recommended that the funds be used to implement projects identified in current water management plans. The group recommended that funds be split 50/50 based on geographic area and tax base (see table below).

CCWMO	\$517,979
RILEY PURG BLUFF CREEK	\$111,870
LOWER MN RIVER	\$25,472
MINNEHAHA CREEK	\$93,879
Total	\$749,200

Each WD and the CCWMO worked with their respective cities to identify potential projects that could be implemented within the grant timeframe. A meeting was held on February 23 with the cities to get input on the recommended approach to allocating the funds. City representatives approved of this

approach. A final follow-up meeting with the city representatives was held on April 26. The project spreadsheet was reviewed and the full group recommended submitting the project list to BWSR as the Carver County collaborative implementation plan.

The recommended projects list summary is attached.

Next steps:

- 1) SWCD sends the final list to BWSR (June 30)
- 2) BWSR determines if the projects are eligible per state policy and appropriate inclusion in adopted watershed plans. BWSR approves projects list (July-Aug).
- 3) Grant agreements developed and submitted to governing boards (County Board for CCWMO) for approval (Sept.).

Conclusion: At the staff level, we believe that this new process is a significant improvement. It will result in greater and more reliable state funding for projects in the County.

DRAFT

Carver County Collaborative Project List

Responsible Party/Agency	Name of Activity/Project/Program	Description of Activity/Project/Program	Grant funds requested
CCWMO	Lake Waconia Stormwater Main Retrofits	Stormwater main retrofits in downtown Waconia that ultimately outlet directly to Lake Waconia.	\$90,000.00
CCWMO	Grace Chain of Lakes Subwatershed Analysis Implementation	Fund a total of 11 specific BMPs, including 8 SAFL Baffles, 3 pond modifications - 2 with iron enhanced sand filters which will treat runoff discharging to the Chain of Lakes in Chaska.	\$150,000.00
CCWMO	West Chaska Creek Restoration Re-Meander	The project will re-meander approximately 1,100 linear feet of a ditched segment of West Chaska Creek in the City of Chaska	\$150,000.00
CCWMO	Lake Bavaria South Shore BMP Retrofits	Lake Bavaria five potential BMP retrofits that include new sumps with SAFL Baffles and biofiltration basins in Laketown Township.	\$47,979.00
CCWMO	Lake Bavaria Stormwater Pond Retrofits	Retrofits of a series of two stormwater ponds (City of Victoria) that outlet directly to Lake Bavaria.	\$80,000.00
MCWD	Wassermann West Restoration	Treat a 6 acre pond adjacent to Lake Wasserman on a property owned by the District, through alum treatment, as well as ravine stabilization south of property in a degraded channel.	\$93,879.00
LMRWD	East Chaska Creek Restoration Project	Channel Stabilizations/Constructed wetland along Chaska Blvd in the City of Chaska	\$25,472.00
RPBCWD	Wetland restoration and Flood Mitigation Project	Restore 7 acres of wetlands and enhance remainder of wetland in the City of Chanhassen.	\$111,870.00
			\$749,200.00

Watershed-based Funding: Pilot program

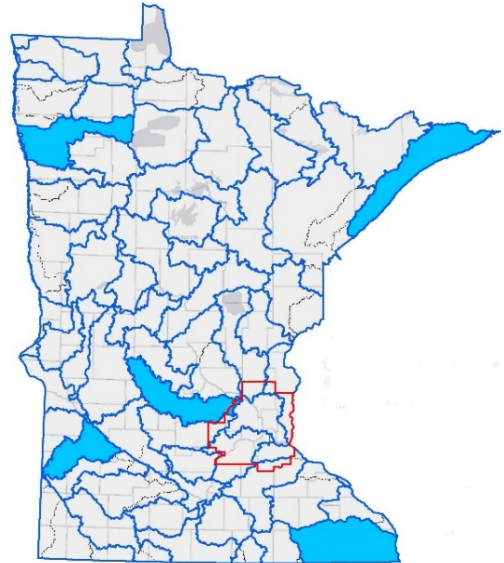
Background



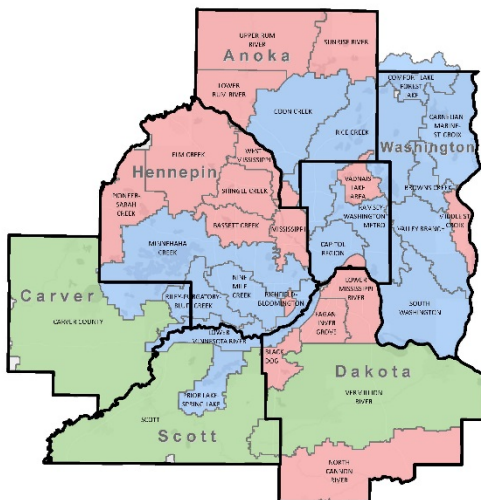
In 2017, the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), in partnership with the Local Government Water Round Table, began working with local governments across the state to develop a watershed-based funding pilot program.

In this pilot phase, funding is being distributed to watershed areas that have completed watershed management plans under the One Watershed, One Plan Program, the Metropolitan Surface Water Management Act or the Metropolitan Groundwater Management Act to implement activities identified in these plans.

The pilot areas include: Yellow Medicine, Root River, Red Lake River, Lake Superior North, the North Fork Crow River and the Seven County Metropolitan Area.



Watershed-based funding pilot area in blue. metro area in red.



Metro water management authorities.

For this program to be successful, both the state and local governments must be proactive in ensuring that watershed-based pilot funding is used as effectively and efficiently as possible to achieve measurable outcomes identified in watershed management plans.

Assurance measures

A component of the pilot program is evaluating a set of preliminary assurance measures in partnership with participating local governments to understand the results of watershed-based funding.

The information gathered through the pilot will be used by BWSR to further define how assurance measures will be applied in future program decisions.

What's next?

The pilot program started December 2017 and will continue through December 2021. During this time BWSR will work closely with the local government units participating in the pilot program to develop a long term coordinated funding approach and address challenges with preliminary assurance measures.

What will we measure?

- Did the effort leverage outside funds?
- Is the grant work plan being implemented as written?
- Are priority programs being implemented?
- Are practices being implemented in the priority areas identified in the plan?
- Are watershed goals and outcomes being achieved?

If you have questions about how watershed-based funding affects your organization, please contact

Marcey Westrick at marcey.westrick@state.mn.us or (651) 284-4153