

Carver County WMO Cost Share Program

Overview:

Carver County WMO is funding a low-cost cost-share program to promote citizens' use of innovative Best Management Practices (BMP) to protect and restore the quality of water within Carver County.

Purpose:

BMP Cost Share funds can be used by public or private landowners within Carver County to implement projects that assist in one or all of the following:

- 1) Protect or restore quality of lakes and rivers
- 2) Protect or restore groundwater resources
- 3) Protect or restore ecological function of native plant communities
- 4) Innovative approaches to treat stormwater at the source

Funding:

Funding is a 75% match of eligible expenses with a maximum level of \$5,000 per project. Cost share funding is a reimbursement. After all program requirements have been met, approved of, and the project is completed, funds will be disbursed to program participant(s). Completion of project MUST be within one (1) year of approved and signed agreement, unless a written extension has been granted by Carver County. Labor done by the applicant will be reimbursed at a rate of \$12.00 per hour with a signed form of completed work. In-kind labor costs cannot exceed the cost of materials of the project.

Eligibility within Carver County Water Resource Management Area:

There will be A five year waiting period from the previous grant if the County share is between \$2,500 and \$5,000. For projects that are between \$500 and \$2,500, a three-year waiting period from the previous grant. For any grants less than \$500, there will be no waiting period. If a resident that has had a successful grant moves to a new location or if a new resident moves to a location that has had a cost share project, then this requirement is waived. Below is a list of who is eligible for this program:

- Landowners
- Not-for-profit and religious organizations
- Local government agencies
- Public and private schools
- Private Businesses

Eligible Expenses

Carver County may fund partial or full amounts of the requested cost share amount. Any project costs that are decorative or excessive will not be matched. Any project that is under construction or completed at the time of approval is not eligible. All matching funds will be awarded to projects that are above and beyond Carver County Watershed Management Plan requirements. Partial list of eligible projects are below:

- Raingardens
- Shoreline restoration
- Native planting restoration
- Native buffers
- Water reuse projects

Evaluation Criteria:

Carver County Staff will determine the eligibility of a project based upon an established set of criteria. The following are the priorities that are within the criteria and are based upon Carver County's Water Management Plan, in no particular order:

- Location
- Water Quality Impact
- Ecological Improvement
- Public Benefit
- Collaboration

Submittal Requirements:

Cost share applications will have the following to be considered a complete application. Applications are accepted year-round. A signed application form, sketch of onsite location of the project, sketch of project, line item budget including type of materials to used, and if going to bid, three separate bids from contractors, unless approved by CCWMO or Carver SWCD Staff. Additional information, if needed, will be requested by Carver County Staff.

Selection Process:

Staff will receive an application from an eligible applicant to start the selection process. A site visit will occur by either/both staff from CCWMO and Carver SWCD. The application will be ranked based upon the most recently approved ranking criteria, with the score included into the application packet for the CCWMO Advisory Committee to review. For a project to be considered for review, it must score a minimum of 20 points on the approved ranking criteria.

For projects that are requesting a cost share match of less than \$2,500, approval will be Administrative by CCWMO Staff. For projects that are requesting a cost share match of \$2,500 to \$5,000, the application will be submitted to the CCWMO Advisory Committee for review, recommendation, and award the cost share grant. The Carver County Cost Share Program is a competitive grant process; therefore, some projects may not be funded. Incomplete applications will not be reviewed by CCWMO Staff or presented to the Advisory Committee.

Cost Share Grant Agreement:

Applicants that are awarded funding will enter into an agreement with Carver County. This agreement will stipulate the responsibilities and obligations of both the grant applicant and Carver County.

Reporting Requirements:

In addition to a cost share agreement, an operation and maintenance plan will be required that stipulates responsibilities of the applicant for maintenance of the project for a period of five (5) years. To assist Carver County Staff in determining this agreement is followed, yearly reporting that consists of photo documentation will be submitted to Carver County by August 1st of each year.

Application Procedures:

Applicants are encouraged to contact either Carver County WMO or Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District to discuss the potential project as the first step. Applicants that fill out the cost share application need to send it to Carver County Planning and Water Management Department, c/o Tim Sundby at 600 E 4th Street, Chaska, MN (tsundby@co.carver.mn.us). Staff will contact the applicant

to review the application, with the potential for a site visit. During the site visit, project location will be further evaluated to determine consistency with evaluation criteria. Based upon requested cost share funds, Carver County Staff will either review and approve the project or make a recommendation to the Carver County WMO Advisory Committee.

Staff will contact the applicant on the approval status of the application once a decision has been reached. If the application is approved, a meeting will be scheduled to review responsibilities and sign appropriate agreements. Notification of the start date of the construction and of new major tasks is required to Carver County Staff. Upon completion of the project, the applicant must notify Carver County Staff for End of Project Review. Release of funds to the applicant will be awarded after this review.

Carver County Cost Share Application

Contact Information

Name		
Address		
City	State MN	Zip Code
Project Location (If different than above)		
Nearest Lake or Stream		
Home Phone	Work or Cell Phone	
Email Address	Other Contact Info	

Project Information (use additional sheets as necessary)

Project Description

Water Quality Issues the Project will address		
Contributing Drainage Area	Maximum Size of Practice	Landuse in Drainage Area

Cost-Share Request

Total Project Cost (Attach itemized list – required for cost share)	Cost Share Request (Max of 75%)
Collaborators (List partners and contributing funds, if applicable)	

I certify to the best of my knowledge that the information included in this application is true, complete, and accurate.

Signature	Date
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Office Use Only:

Approval: _____ Date: _____

Carver County Cost Share Criteria

Criteria	Max Points Allowed	Actual Points	Discussion
Project Site Location			
Waterbody Priority 1	5		Waterbody Priority based upon Water Plan Determination
Waterbody Priority 2	3		
Waterbody Priority 3	1		
Direct Drainage to Waterbody	10		BMP treats stormwater just prior to draining to the priority waterbody.
Water Quality Impact Criteria			
Phosphorus Loading	6		Best Management Practices types have been determined if they reduce phosphorus, fecal, and/or sediment. The score is the full amount.
Fecal (<i>E. coli</i>) Bacteria Loading	3		
Sedimentation Loading	6		
Volume Control	5 - 10		Get 5 points, with an additional 1 point per 20% reduction.
Ecological Function Improvement Criteria			
Plant Diversity and Richness	5		+1 over 10 species
			+2 over 15 species
			+3 over 20 species
			+4 over 25 species
			+5 over 30 species
Stewardship Level	4		+2 for establishment plan
			+2 for detailed maintenance plan for life of project
Site Prep	3		+1 One treatment with herbicide or turf removal
			+2 Two well timed treatments or turf removal with one treatment
			+3 One year of treatment with herbicide or organic technique
Additional Criteria			
Data collection site	3		Determined by CCWMO Staff if the site will be actively monitored within the first year of completion.
Landowner Contribution			
Demonstration Site - New to WMO/New to local LGU	3		Brand new BMP that either hasn't been done in Carver County or in a City/Town.
Educational Site - Public Access/Visibility	3		Can the public have access to the project/can they view the project from public land with educational signage.
Community Support			
2+ adjoining neighbors	3		Collaboration between neighbors on a project
Other Contributions (other than Landowner)	5		Financial or in-kind help from more than one party
Violation or Permit Requirement	0	0	Projects to repair violations or projects that are required by permit are not eligible
TOTAL:			