

COON CREEK WATERSHED DISTRICT
Request for Board Action

MEETING DATE: June 9, 2025
AGENDA NUMBER: 12
ITEM: June 2025 Water Quality Cost Share Awards

AGENDA: Policy

ACTION REQUESTED

Award cost-share funds to identified projects in accordance with Staff recommendations.

PURPOSE & SCOPE OF THE ITEM

To ensure progress towards achieving required pollutant reductions and addressing identified stressors to aquatic life by administering cost share program for water quality improvement and protection projects.

This item specifically addresses time-sensitive applications submitted as part of the open 2025 request for proposals.

BACKGROUND

Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act requires states to identify waters that do not meet water quality standards in support of designated beneficial uses. Coon, Sand, Pleasure, and Springbrook Creeks were listed as impaired for both aquatic life and recreation in 2006 and 2014, respectively. The Coon Creek Watershed TMDL and WRAPS, approved in 2016, established pollutant load allocations and implementation strategies to reduce total suspended sediments, total phosphorus, and *E. coli* and to address non-pollutant stressors in all impaired streams. As part of the 2016 Twin Cities Metropolitan Area Chloride TMDL study, Sand, Pleasure, and Springbrook Creeks were designated at high risk for chloride impairment; Pleasure and Springbrook Creeks were formally listed as impaired for chlorides in 2024. All MS4s within the District including CCWD, Andover, Blaine, Coon Rapids, Fridley, Ham Lake, Spring Lake Park, Anoka County, and MnDOT are jointly responsible for meeting required pollutant loading allocations by the target date of 2045.

COORDINATION

The Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) participated in initial program development and provides feedback on any proposed revisions to program guidelines. Applicants often request pre-application meetings to discuss identified projects. Pre-application meetings were held for both of the proposals received to evaluate whether they met the criteria for submitting time-sensitive proposals between established application deadlines.

FACTS

In 2018, the Board approved establishment of a CCWD Water Quality Cost Share Program in the amount of \$100,000 and issuance of the first annual RFP for 2019.

In 2019-2024, \$868,246 in requests were received and the Board awarded \$609,699 to twenty-five water quality improvement projects by seven different applicants.

In 2024, continuation and expansion of the program was approved for 2025 totaling \$290,000 in available cost share funds under three categories: Water Quality Improvement Projects and Practices (\$125,000), Enhanced Street Sweeping (\$150,000) and Water Quality Improvement Planning/Feasibility (\$15,000).

During the 2025 Q1 RFP, four applications were awarded totaling \$53,837.50. Given that \$236,162.50 in budgeted funds remained after the initial round of awards, the 2025 RFP was re-opened with a second application deadline of July 25 and for consideration of time-sensitive projects on a case-by-case basis between subsequent funding rounds.

Two applications were received in May 2025 for time-sensitive proposals:

Title (Applicant)	Request	Description
General Projects & Practices		
Private Sanitary I&I investigation/mitigation + CCTV truck (Coon Rapids)	\$48,900	<p>Expansion of the City's pilot program to investigate and mitigate leaky private sanitary infrastructure to include purchase of a CCTV truck and accessories.</p> <p>The City has encountered issues securing access for televising private infrastructure (lack of response or denial rate of ~80%) in the areas planned for street reconstruction over the next 3 years. To supplement the contracted televising services being offered from inside homes partially funded by District cost share, the City is seeking to purchase a CCTV truck that could evaluate this infrastructure from public-private connection points. The city secured \$225,000 in State grant funding towards this \$350,000 truck and are seeking an additional \$48,900 in CCWD cost share funds towards this purchase which would max out their 2025 request to \$75,000 total towards sanitary I&I efforts this year.</p> <p>This truck would also be used to inspect City-owned infrastructure which would grow internal capacity by an estimated 50% compared to the current program which relies on a less efficient jetter truck or contracted televising. This proposal is time-sensitive to align with State grant fund timeline and quoted equipment pricing given anticipated increases.</p>
Street Sweeping Enhancements		
<i>WBIF grant match for 2025-27 enhanced sweeping pilot</i>	\$69,100	<p>A 3-year pilot study implementing the "Plus 1 Sweeper Districtwide" scenario from CCWD enhanced sweeping study: Sweeping priority zones 7x/yr vs 5x, increasing total sweeping effort by 323 lane miles.</p> <p>CR will hire contractor for additional sweeping, but will manage the sweepings in-house requiring additional staff time, equipment, and disposal costs. They will also improve record keeping by tracking volume by route (GPS) and weighing representative loads to allow for volume to mass conversions to maximize eligible credits towards joint TMDL Wasteload Allocation compliance.</p> <p>The TAC voted unanimously to allocate WBIF grant funding towards this effort in the amount of \$76,734 to cover a portion of the costs (53%) and is requesting the remainder in District Cost Share (47% of total costs). This project is time-sensitive to enable 2 extra sweeps in priority zones during the rest of the 2025 season.</p>
TOTAL	\$118,000 requested of \$236,162.50 available	

SCORING RESULTS & AWARD RECOMMENDATIONS

The District Engineer and Staff determined eligibility and scored all proposals. Funding recommendations are listed below:

Title (Applicant)	Eligible?	Average Score (out of 30)	Water Quality Benefits & Notes	Funding Recommendation (requested amount)
General Projects & Practices				
Private Sanitary I&I investigation/mitigation (Coon Rapids)	Y	22.6	-E. coli and TP load reductions in Coon and Sand Cr (Categorical TMDL Wasteloads) -Mississippi Rv drinking source water protection -February 2025 award of \$26,100	\$48,900 (of \$48,900)
Street Sweeping Enhancements				
<i>WBIF grant match for 2025-27 enhanced sweeping pilot</i>	Y	25.2	-TP and TSS load reductions in Coon, Sand, Pleasure, Springbrook Creeks (Categorical TMDL Wasteloads): 99 lbs TP, 8 tons TSS -Mississippi Rv drinking source water protection	\$69,100 (of \$69,100)
WQ Improvement Planning				
N/A				
TOTAL Recommended Awards				\$118,000

ISSUES/CONCERNS

There are two issues and concerns:

Eligibility

One of the proposals submitted this round is related work funded earlier this year (private sanitary investigation and mitigation). To ensure District cost share funds are being used to supplement versus supplant municipal funding, the program guidance was updated in 2022 to put a maximum cap on award totals for repeat applications (\$75,000 cumulative) as well as a waiting period of 18 months between duplicate awards. The current proposal is considered an expansion of the February 2025 award, not a duplicate application, but was still subject to a \$75,000 cap per project or cumulative repeated proposals and thus deemed eligible.

Cost Share Demand

There was much lower demand for the initial RFP for 2025 compared to past years where requests have exceeded available funds. \$236,162.50 of the \$290,000 available remained after awarding four proposals with the next application deadline scheduled for July 25th. This is the first time the District has received a request to consider time-sensitive proposals between application deadlines, and if awarded, would still have \$118,162.50 available for the July RFP.

PRIOR DECISIONS

1. September 9, 2024: Approval of the 2025 budget including \$290,000 to implement the cost share program to support water quality improvement projects
2. February 24, 2025: Approval of the 2025 Q1 cost share awards totaling \$55,837.50

OPTIONS

1. Award cost-share funds to identified project in accordance with Staff recommendations.
2. Award cost-share funds to projects in accordance with amended recommendations.
3. Do not award cost-share funds to identified project with explanation and direction for refinement of qualification and/or allocation criteria.

RECOMMENDATION

Award cost-share funds to identified projects in accordance with Staff recommendations.

IMPLICATIONS

If the \$118,000 in cost share awards recommended by Staff are approved, there would be \$118,162.50 in budgeted funds remaining for 2025. The second RFP is scheduled to close on July 25, 2025.