



MEMORANDUM

To: MCWD Investment Task Force
From: James Wisker
Date: July 28, 2016
Re: Planning for the Increased Use of Outside Funds
CC: President Sherry White, Lars Erdahl

Purpose:

To frame a plan to increase the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District's (MCWD) use of outside funds to complement activities historically funded by tax levy.

The first step is to establish a clarity between the Board and staff on:

- Short- and long-term priorities for increased acquisition of outside funds, and next steps
- Outside funding sources, their uses, limitations, and the benefit and cost to the District in securing these funds
- Evaluative criteria that guide the prioritization of specific funding sources, matched to specific District uses

Background:

Over the last several years the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District (MCWD) Board of Managers has undertaken an assessment of the strategies and tactics used to achieve the organizational goal of improving watershed health at a landscape scale. This self-assessment redefined the Vision, Mission, Goals, and Guiding Principles for the organization, and transformed the District's approach to capital project planning and implementation.

Fundamentally this shift recognizes the organizational benefits of increased focus and prioritization. Accordingly, the Focal Track of the Two-Track Approach – the MCWD's approach to capital project planning, implementation, and programming – prioritizes resources and actions on a geographic basis. By sustaining focus on a certain area public and private partnerships are strengthened, leveraging the efficiencies of collaborative planning and implementation to integrate natural and man-made systems, increasing measurable progress towards the District's goals.

While the Board of Managers has championed the value of operating in this manner, it has also identified the limitations of the District's tax levy in funding this larger landscape scale of implementation and has called for a clear and concerted effort to increase the District's acquisition of outside funding.

To assist in this planning effort the Board appointed the Investment Task Force – Managers Bill Becker and Brian Shekleton – to support staff in developing a strategic plan for securing outside funds which complements the organization’s implementation priorities.

Outside Funding Framework Goals:

During initial discussions with the Investment Task Force it was agreed that a comprehensive funding framework, with the goal of increasing the amount of outside funding the District receives, must address three basic sub-goals:

- Obtain ongoing supplemental funding (larger than one-time project specific grants) to implement landscape scale restoration and implementation objectives identified within priority focal subwatershed plans, such as Six Mile Creek-Halsted Bay.
- Increase one-time funding for specific capital improvements identified through responsive track planning.
- Obtain one-time or ongoing supplemental funding for MCWD programs, historically funded through levy resources (land management, data collection, education and communications, permitting, operations, etc.)

However, given current staff utilization not all of these goals can be addressed simultaneously. Nor would it be strategic or feasible for the District to apply for every eligible grant opportunity available, despite the need for increased funding.

Additionally, the District’s pursuit of outside funding has historically been determined at a tactical level – on a project-by-project or individual initiative basis – unsupported by strategic plan focusing Board and staff efforts to secure outside funds. This approach, and an increasing emphasis on securing grants, *has* resulted in the increased acquisition of external funding over the last several years. However, this approach will not support the scale of implementation the MCWD is currently planning for. Therefore, planning for and achieving these goals must be prioritized.

Recommended Prioritization of Outside Funding Goals:

The District is currently engaging Carver County, Hennepin County, Victoria, Minnetrista, St. Bonifacius, Laketown Township, Carver County Soil and Water Conservation District, and Three Rivers Park District in regional planning focused on watershed restoration and protection in the 27 square miles of the Six Mile-Halsted Bay subwatershed.

Based on a cursory exploration of opportunities (land acquisition and capital improvements) within this geography, it is clear that the implementation ambitions of the Six Mile Partnership will require more investment than the MCWD capital levy or one-time project specific funding can sustain.

To augment the purchasing power of the District’s levy the Board of Managers has directed staff to explore the potential for the use of short and long term financing for Six Mile-Halsted Bay implementation activities. However, there remains a need to identify and target additional funding sources for this area that have not traditionally or reliably been sought by MCWD.

The formal Six Mile-Halsted Bay planning process will conclude during the first quarter of 2017. Given this timeline, external expectations of partners and the obvious funding needs, the Investment Task Force recommends that staff and the Board prioritize the targeting and acquisition of ongoing supplemental funding for the Six Mile-Halsted Bay program.

This recommendation is not intended to deprioritize staff's ongoing efforts to identify and target one-time project specific supplemental funding for priorities such as the demolition and pre-development activities at 325 Blake Road or other District initiatives. However, organizational focus and alignment of effort is required to achieve the scale and diversity of funding needed to support Six Mile-Halsted Bay implementation.

Six Mile-Halsted Bay Outside Funding Strategy:

As mentioned previously, MCWD's outside funding efforts have historically focused largely on one-time grant funds for specific capital project initiatives. While there have been notable exceptions, such as the Chain of Lakes initiative and the Minnehaha Gorge Partnership, Six Mile-Halsted Bay represents a much larger and diverse scale of implementation, which is known to require land acquisition.

Therefore, to access larger federal, state and regional funding sources on a reliable ongoing basis, a clear strategy must be employed. The Investment Task Force recommends a two-pronged approach:

1. Group potential individual projects and land acquisitions within the Six Mile-Halsted Bay geography into implementation categories that can be effectively "branded" and "marketed" as larger scale "programs" to specific funding sources.
2. Develop strategic partnerships with specific third parties that increase eligibility for programmatic funding identified above. This action is focused on funds available beginning in the 2018 state and federal fiscal years.

For example, a grouping of Six Mile-Halsted Bay stream and wetland restoration initiatives may be directly eligible to USACE Section 2016 Habitat Restoration funds, whereas a single wetland project would not. In this instance projects would need to be aggregated and evaluated in a way that meets the specific federal Section 206 evaluation criteria.

In seeking state bonding the District may need to group and integrate natural resource projects with community development objectives, coalesce the Six Mile-Halsted Bay regional partnership, and market the project as the "west metro chain of lakes" or "Lake Minnetonka improvement" initiative.

Or the District may need to partner with a third party like Ducks Unlimited, who consider themselves the world's leader in wetland and waterfowl conservation, and the Mississippi Flyway Council to market a program of large-scale wetland restorations to secure United States Fish and Wildlife funding for waterfowl habitat. Developing this partnership should be integrated into MCWD strategic planning process so as to develop third party ownership of grant efforts.

Next Steps in Planning and Deliverables:

Should the Board of Managers agree with the aforementioned recommendations, the Investment Task Force recommends that staff be directed to develop a project management action plan, complete with schedule, identification of deliverables, and a delineation of roles and responsibilities for the Board and staff in pursuing funding for the Six Mile-Halsted Bay program.

This is envisioned, at a minimum, to include:

- Preliminary identification and recommended potential grouping of project categories for the Six Mile-Halsted Bay program.
- Identification of specific funding source categories and uses, and federal, state, regional designations, and scheduled cycles/deadlines for each.
- Evaluation and prioritization of specific funding source categories based “fit”, “risk” and “capacity” criteria.
- Recommended short-term targets for outside funding, and delineation of planned approach to secure funds, including:
 - 2-3 year listing of macro-tasks on a quarterly basis beginning third quarter of 2016
 - Estimated roles, responsibilities and time commitment of staff
 - Marketing approach and identification of desired third party partners
 - Resource needs including engineering, marketing, lobbying, local match, etc.

Attached to this memorandum (Attachment A) is preliminary information that has begun to be compiled to support the recommendations outlined above. This currently includes a map of outside funding opportunities and preliminary criteria to guide the evaluation and prioritization of outside funding opportunities.

The recommendations contained within this memo and the attached information will be outlined for discussion by staff and the Investment Task Force at the July 28, 2016 Board Meeting.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact James Wisker at Jwisker@MinnehahaCreek or 952.641.4509

ATTACHMENT A

Preliminary Information for Outside Funding Framework:

The following sections outline information that has already begun to be compiled to support the recommendations outlined in the July 28, 2016 Memorandum *Planning for the Increased Use of Outside Funds*. This currently includes a map of outside funding opportunities and preliminary criteria to guide the evaluation and prioritization of outside funding opportunities.

While the immediate short-term focus is recommended to be the Six Mile – Halsted Bay program, this information will support a more cohesive approach to all of the District’s ongoing efforts to secure outside one-time funding for other projects and programs.

Outside Funding Opportunities

Attached (Attachment B) is a table of known funding opportunities. This table will be incrementally updated. Once the next update is complete, staff will be able to sort the list of funding sources by project type/funding use, award amount, required match, application cycle, and many other parameters.

Criteria for Pursuing Funds

In order to effectively assess whether or not a particular funding source is worth pursuing, key criteria must be identified and weighed. The criteria below begin to map a method of pairing funding sources with capital improvement projects. Through the development of this framework, these criteria can be modified for use in evaluating funding for program activities as well.

These criteria guide value judgements of whether or not pursuing a particular funding opportunity is worthwhile, not if pursuing a project is worthwhile. As the District’s organizational effort on prioritization evolved, projects will be prioritized using the “prioritization framework” recently discussed by the Planning and Policy Committee, with funding opportunities fit as applicable using the guidance outlined below.

There are currently three main categories of criteria for the Outside Funding Framework. The first category, “Fit,” is a quantitative evaluation, meant to identify which funding sources a project could technically be paired with. In future, all projects (once selected and prioritized) should be compared to the table of known funding opportunities as a matter of process. Even when fully funded by levy or debt, projects which “fit” certain funding sources are opportunities to subsidize District funds, and application for outside funds should be considered.

The second and third categories (“Risk” and “Capacity,” respectively) contain criteria for a qualitative evaluation to prioritize funding sources for a certain project. “Risk” criteria are meant to help guide value-based judgements of the worth of applying for and using a given funding source given potential risks and rewards. “Capacity” criteria are used for comparing the time and resources needed to apply for and utilize the funds against the District’s available staff time and resources.

FIT – *which sources could the project receive funding from?*

- Availability – is the District a viable applicant?**
 - Is one of the District’s partners a viable applicant?
- Type – what kinds of projects are awarded funds from this source?**
 - (Eg: wetland restoration; stream restoration; stormwater facility installation; regional vs. local project area; demolition; remediation / reclamation; etc.)
 - By aligning the project with the funding source’s conditions, is the integrity of the project compromised concerning the District’s objectives?
- Staging – does the funding source cover construction costs? Design? Planning?**
- Timing – does the funding source cycle and window (time between award and use) fit the project?**
- Level – federal, state, regional, local, etc.**
- Funding**
 - Is the potential funding award enough to cover the bulk of project costs?
 - Is the potential funding award enough to complement other secured funds?

RISK – *which of the funding sources are worth pursuing?*

- “Edge” – does the District have a heightened chance of being awarded funds?**
 - Does the District have a good relationship with the organization that disperses the funding?
 - Has the District had a history of being awarded funds from this source or by this organization?
 - Mitigates risk
- Payoff – are the funds worth applying for?**
 - If the District pursues and receives funding...
 - Is the District now more able or less able to receive the funds on the next cycle?
 - Are the funds awarded on a rotating political or geographical basis?
 - Has the District taken on any liabilities?
 - Is the District subject to a federal audit?
 - Is the District responsible for new real estate?
 - If the District pursues and does not receive funding...
 - Sunk time – what potential District action does not happen while applying?
 - Brand – is the project married to the identity given to it during the application process?
 - If so, can that brand of project apply for similar funding opportunities?
 - If not, can the project be repackaged with a new identity and paired with a different funding source?
 - Can the project move forward without outside funding? If not...
 - Can the project be funded by other means?
 - Can the project be postponed until the next round of relevant funding awards?

CAPACITY – does the District have the staff time, funding, and program support to apply for and utilize a given funding source?

- Application**
 - **Time**
 - Time needed to apply (can we make the deadline?)
 - Available staff time
 - **Resources**
 - Do staff need to gather additional information to apply?
 - Water quality data, ecological profiles, etc.
 - Should any lobbying be done? By Board? Staff?
 - Does the application warrant coordination with external partners or District staff from other departments?
- Award**
 - **Upfront costs**
 - Time
 - Reporting
 - Coordinating disbursement, etc.
 - Resources
 - Dollar match? In-kind?
 - **Lingering costs**
 - Time
 - Reporting / follow-up publications
 - Resources
 - Dollar match? In-kind?
 - Maintenance? Monitoring?

“Fitting” funding sources that are deemed worth pursuing yet too burdensome (given available staff time and resources) may merit comparison against other District activities using the Prioritization Framework. Depending on the priority level of the project and the identified funding opportunities, pursuing outside funds may – on occasion – prove a higher priority than performing other staff responsibilities.

Grant Title/Type	Focus Areas	Available Funds	Application Period	Match Required (Y/N and %)	Additional Information
Clean Water Fund	BMPs, CIPs, Livestock Waste Management, Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems, Conservation Drainage, Accelerated Implementation, etc.	Variable. Generally total around \$20 million	Generally begins early August and ends mid September	Yes: minimum 25% cash or in-kind	http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/index.html
Targeted Watershed	Focuses funding on watersheds where actions needed for water quality improvement are known and can be achieved in a four year window of time	Variable. Generally total around \$1 million	FY16-17 begins Feb. 1	unknown	http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/news/announcements/FY2015_CWF_Targeted_Watershed_Demonstration_Program_Response.pdf
Natural Resources Block Grant	A composite of base grants available to counties to implement programs. Grants include: CLWM, WCA, DNR Shoreland, MPCA SSTS, MPCA Feedlot	Variable	Begins in November (on an annual basis)	Yes: amount unknown	http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/grants/NRBG/index.html
Conservation Corps Crew Labor	Crew labor on projects that protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams or protect groundwater and drinking water sources from degradation.	\$500,000 in labor only	Closes Dec. 15	Yes: 25% match with local, federal or in-kind cash value	http://www.conservationcorps.org/clean-water-funding/
Clean Water Partnership	Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Projects	None for 2016-17	Generally begins late October and ends late December	Yes: minimum 50% cash or in-kind	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/water-nonpoint-source-issues/clean-water-partnership/financial-assistance-for-nonpoint-source-water-pollution-projects-clean-water-partnership-and-section-319-programs.html#applying
Clean Water Revolving Loan Fund	Build or upgrade of wastewater treatment plants. Allowable costs include site preparation, construction, engineering, equipment, machinery, bond issuance	\$11 million for 2016-17	Accepted continually while funds remain	No, but 2% interest rate	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/clean-water-revolving-fund.html
Clean Water Act Section 319	Nonpoint Source Water Pollution Projects focused on DER and TMDL implementation. <u>Only</u> TMDL and WRAPS implementation projects will be funded. Needs to have significant, measurable load reduction.	\$2.5 million	End of February for 2016	Yes, 40%	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/water-nonpoint-source-issues/clean-water-partnership/financial-assistance-for-nonpoint-source-water-pollution-projects-clean-water-partnership-and-section-319-programs.html#applying
Environmental Assistance Time Sensitive Grant Program	Grants for projects working to adapt to climate change including planting to manage heat island effects or flooding.	\$8,000 per project or 75% of the project cost, whichever is less	15-Apr-15	Yes: 25% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/about-mPCA/assistance/financial-assistance/financial-assistance-grants-and-loans.html#environmental-assistance
Small Business Environmental Improvement Loan	Investigations, cleanup, capital equipment purchase to reduce/prevent pollution/waste for businesses with a net worth of less than \$1 million	\$1,000-\$50,000 Loans	Applications are accepted at any time	Collateral is required as well as demonstrated ability to repay the loan	Mike Nelson 651-757-2121 michael.nelson@state.mn.us http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/topics/small-business-environmental-assistance-program/small-business-ombudsman/small-business-environmental-improvement-loan-program.html

Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG)	Monitoring surface water parameters (physical, chemical and/or bacteriological)	\$1.5 million	Begins in the fall	unknown	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/surface-water-assessment-grants.html?menuid=&redirect=1&expandable=0
Watershed Project Funding	Funding opportunities for watershed projects around the state are available through federal and state funds	Funding comes from a variety of other grant programs (Clean Water Act, Clean Water Partnership etc)	Applications are accepted on a two year rotation. Contact MPCA	unknown	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/minnesota-watershed-project-funding-system.html
Point Source Implementation Grants	Grants to units of local government to assist with the cost of wastewater treatment or stormwater projects to meet TMDL requirements	Up to \$3 Million	In July	Yes: 50% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/wastewater/wastewater-financial-assistance/wastewater-and-stormwater-financial-assistance.html#point-source-implementation-grants
Conservation Partners Legacy (L-SOHC)	To enhance, restore, or protect the forests, wetlands, prairies, and habitat for fish, game, or wildlife	Roughly \$5 million	Generally two rounds. First round mid August. Second round mid December.	Yes: 10%-15% dependent upon awarded amount. Up to 1/3 may be in-kind	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/cpl/index.html
Outdoor Recreation Grant Program	Acquisition of land for future development of outdoor recreational facilities. Development, redevelopment, or rehab of outdoor recreation facilities on land owned by the applicant. Eligible facilities include: boat/canoe access points, campgrounds, fishing piers, nature study/observation areas, picnic shelters, trails (non-motorized internal park trails).	Up to 50% of project cost Max \$100,000	31-Mar-15	Yes: 50% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	Joe Hiller 651-259-5538 joe.hiller@state.mn.us http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/outdoor_rec.html
Aquatic Invasive Species	Multiple grant areas including, but not limited to: DNR Signage, public awareness, watercraft inspections, early detection, control, etc.	Variable based on grant project and type	Various grants available throughout the year	unknown	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/aquatic_invasive/index.html Additional Grant opportunities include: Clean Vessel Act Grants: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/clean_vessel.html County Boat and Water Safety: http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/county_boatsafety.html
Water Recreation Cooperative Development and Acquisition	Acquisition, development and improvement of public boat accesses, parking lots, docks, and boat launching ramps, campsites, rest areas and portages. Engineering and design assistance is available.	Variable based on project	No application- contact local DNR Parks Director	unknown	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/water_rec.html
Streambank Maintenance Program	Assistance with the removal of brush, dead or downed trees and other debris such as concrete, asphalt or scrap material from stream channels and flood plains	Awards range from \$5,000 to \$15,000	No application- contact DNR	Yes: 25% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	Note: There is no funding currently available for stream bank maintenance grants. However, the program remains in place in the event that there is funding available in the future. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/water/stream_bank.html

Flood Hazard Mitigation Grant	Technical and financial assistance to local governmental units for conducting flood damage reduction studies and for planning and implementing flood damage reduction measures	Typically up to 50% of project costs with a maximum of \$150,000	June 1 (contact DNR for application)	Yes: 50% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/water/flood_hazard.html
Regional Park Grant	Grants to local units of government to support parks of regional or statewide significance. Funding for this grant program is from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	About \$300,000 annually (awards begin at \$20,000)	No application- contact DNR	Yes: 40% or more depending on project qualifications and costs	Note: There is no funding currently available for stream bank maintenance grants. However, the program remains in place in the event that there is funding available in the future. http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/recreation/parkgrants.html
Natural and Scenic Area Grants	Grants to local governments, including school districts, to increase, protect and enhance natural and scenic areas statewide.	A maximum of \$500,000	No application- contact DNR	Yes: 50%	Note: There is no funding currently available for natural and scenic area grants. However, the program remains in place in the event that there is funding available in the future http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/land/nsa/index.html
Shoreland and Aquatic Habitat Program	Expand the diversity and abundance of native aquatic and shoreland plants; improve and protect the quality of aquatic habitat; enhance and protect water quality; raise awareness of the value of native shoreline and aquatic vegetation.	\$325,000	Deadline generally late October	Yes: minimum 3:1 (DNR: project partner)	http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/grants/habitat/shoreland.html
Specify within search	Specify within search	n/a	n/a	n/a	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/
Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration (CAP Section 206)	Aquatic ecosystem restoration projects that will improve the quality of the environment, are in the public interest, and are cost-effective.	TBD	TBA	Yes: generally 50%	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=104
Bring Back the Natives (BBN)	Efforts to restore native aquatic species to their historic range.	\$1.2 million (estimate)	Pre-proposals due in January	Yes: 2:1 non-federal	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=2
Community-based Habitat Restoration Partnership	Funds for small-scale, locally driven habitat restoration projects that foster natural resource stewardship within communities.	TBD (\$6.3 million previously)	Every three years. 2012 applications (late summer) for FY 2013.	Typically 1:1	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=17
Emergency Watershed Protection Program	Helps protect lives and property threatened by natural disasters such as floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts, and wildfires	TBD	Issued on emergency basis	Yes: Typically 25%	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=92
Five-Star Restoration Program	On-the-ground habitat restoration component that provides long-term ecological, educational, and/or socioeconomic benefits to the people and their community.	TBD (typically around \$300,000)	Deadline generally February	Not applicable	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=29
Flood Mitigation Assistance Program	Cost-effective measures taken to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage to buildings, manufactured homes, and other structures insured under the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	TBD (typically around \$30 million)	Variable	Yes: 75% Federal; 25% Non-Federal	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=31

Land and Water Conservation Fund (Outdoor Recreation, Acquisition, Development and Planning Grants)	For the preparation of Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plans (SCORPs) and acquisition and development of outdoor recreation areas and facilities for the general public, to meet current and future needs.	TBD (typically around \$30 million)	Varies by state	Yes: minimum 50% non-federal	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=39
Native Plant Conservation Initiative	On-the-ground conservation projects that protect, enhance, and/or restore native plant communities on public and private land.	TBD (typically around \$450,000)	Deadline generally June	Yes: minimum 50% non-federal	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=86
North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants Program	Carry out wetlands and associated uplands conservation projects including habitat protection, restoration, and enhancement.	\$40 million (estimate)	March, June and August dependent on grant type	Typically 1:1	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=45
Urban Waters Small Grants Program	Projects that address urban runoff pollution through diverse partnerships that produce multiple community benefits, with emphasis on underserved communities.	~\$1.6 million annually (individual awards up to \$60K)	Sept.-Nov.		https://www.epa.gov/urbanwaters/urban-waters-small-grants
Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program	Projects related to watershed protection, flood mitigation, water supply, water quality, erosion and sediment control, wetland creation and restoration, fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, agricultural water conservation, and public recreation.	TBD	Eligible project sponsors may submit formal requests for assistance to the NRCS state conservationists in each state at any time.	Yes: Approximately 75%	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=64
Watershed Rehabilitation Program	Rehabilitation to extend the service life of dams and bring them into compliance with applicable safety and performance standards or to decommission the dams so they no longer pose a threat to life and property.	TBD	May submit applications any time during the year.	Yes: Typically 35%	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=75
Wetlands Program Development Grants	Encourage comprehensive wetlands program development by promoting the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys, and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction, and elimination of water pollution.	TBD (typically around \$16 million)	Vary by region	Yes: 25%	http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/program.cfm?prog_num=65
Community Forest Program	Establishing community forests by protecting forest land	\$1.7 million in 2015	16-Jan-15	Yes: 50%	Community Forest Program webpage
TBRA- TOD	Cleanup of contaminated soil, groundwater, soil vapor or asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint for development near transit lines and LRT stations	\$2 million	May 1, 2015: Project concept plans due July 1, 2015: Full Applications Due	unknown	Marcus Martin 651-602-1054 marcus.martin@metc.state.mn.us http://www.metrocouncil.org/Communities/Services/Livable-Communities-Grants/Tax-Base-Revitalization-Account-(TBRA).aspx

Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund	Funding recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature for special environment and natural resources projects	Up to 5.5% per year of the existing value of the Minnesota Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (typically up to \$5 Million)	January application due in early May. Award July	No: grants can range from full to partial funding	http://www.lccmr.leg.mn/
Redevelopment Grant Program	Land acquisition, stabilizing soils demolition, infrastructure improvements and ponding or other environmental infrastructure and costs necessary for adaptive reuse of buildings.	Up to 50% of project costs	2 Rounds: February 2015 & August 2015	Yes: At least 50% of project cost	http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/redevelopmentgrantprogram.jsp
Small Cities Development Grant Program	Grant that addresses public facility needs including stormwater and waste water systems, principally benefiting low to moderate income households.	Maximum of \$600,000 per project	February 26, 2015.	unknown	Tom Gast 651-259-7425 Tom.Gast@state.mn.us http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/community-funding/
Contamination Investigation and RAP Development	The Contamination Cleanup and Investigation Grant Program helps communities pay for assessing and cleaning up contaminated sites (soil or groundwater) for private or public redevelopment.	Up to 75% of project's cost. Max \$50,000	November 1 and May 1	Yes: At least 25% of project cost	http://mn.gov/deed/government/financial-assistance/cleanup/contamination.jsp
AG BMP Loan					
Source Water Protection Plan Implementation Grant	Funding to support the implementation of source water protection plans. Source water protection plans are either 1) wellhead protection plans that have been approved by the Minnesota Department of Health or 2) surface water intake protection plans	\$125,000 (grants of \$1,000 to \$10,000 for individual projects)	31-Mar-15	No	http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/grants/implementation.html
Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)	Construction of infrastructure for bicycle and pedestrian facilities, Safe Routes to School Infrastructure, scenic and environmental improvements, and streetscape enhancements for projects implemented 2017/18	\$6 million total	Oct. 31, 2014 – Letter of Intent deadline Jan. 9, 2015 – Full grant application deadline	Yes: 20% state or local match	Heidi Schallberg 651-602-1721 heidi.schallberg@metc.state.mn.us http://www.dot.state.mn.us/map-21/tap.html
Tax Base Revitalization Account (TBRA)	Phase 1 and 2, RAP development, demolition and site prep, soil/ groundwater remediation, soil vapor mitigation, asbestos abatement, LBP removal	\$5 million (including up to \$250,000 for site investigation)	May 1, 2015: Spring applications due November 2, 2015: Fall applications due	unknown	Marcus Martin 651-602-1054 marcus.martin@metc.state.mn.us
Stormwater Grant Program	Stormwater mgmt practices. Considers innovation, demonstration, ease of replication, educational value, multiple benefits.	\$200-\$200,000 per grant	11-May-16	25%	New in 2016. Only available to WMOs/WDs. Educational signage required. http://www.metrocouncil.org/Wastewater-Water/Funding-Finance/Finance-Pubs/Stormwater-Grant-Application-2016.aspx

State Cost Share Program	Funding to assist land occupiers in offsetting the costs of installing conservation practices where the primary purpose is the control of soil erosion or sedimentation, or protection and improvement of water quality.	Variable based on project	Contact Carver County SWCD	Yes: At least 25% of project cost	http://www.co.carver.mn.us/departments/LWS/CostShare.asp
NRICH	To implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) that preserve and/or restore critical habitats, reduce erosion, and protect and improve water quality	Good Steward Grants: \$5,000 to \$25,000, Opportunity Grants: \$25,000 to \$100,000	Good Steward Grants: Fall, Opportunity Grants: applications accepted at any time	Yes: 25%	http://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-funding
Hennepin County TOD	Demonstrate a public purpose--includes public infrastructure, ped and bike facilities for housing development along transit lines	\$2 million per year (individual awards range from \$25,000 to \$1,000,000)	February 26, 2015. Not expecting a Fall Round in 2015. Will depend on how funds in Spring Round are allocated.	unknown	Thatcher Imboden 612-348-4191 thacher.imboden@hennepin.us http://www.hennepin.us/business/work-with-henn-co/transit-oriented-development
Environmental Response Fund	Assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites	\$1-2 million	Due early May for spring grant round and early November for the fall round	No: However matching is strongly encouraged and will be considered in the selection process	Environmental Response Fund
State Cost Share Program	Financial and technical assistance to landowners who implement conservation practices that reduce soil erosion and/or sedimentation in order to improve water quality	Variable based on project	Contact Hennepin County	Yes: At least 25% of project cost	http://www.hennepin.us/residents/environment/natural-resources-funding
Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (EPA-funded)	Loan program for assessment and cleanup of contaminated sites	\$1 million	Applications are accepted at any time	No: Loan program	Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund
New Initiative Grants	Grants are intended to spur innovation in the parks and recreation field starting at the local, regional and state level which might ultimately impact the future of recreation services throughout the state of Minnesota. Past projects include pollination education and county-wide	Typically \$1,500	Due October 17	unknown	http://www.mnrpa.org/mrpf/
Outdoor Heritage Fund	Restoration, protection, and enhancement of wetlands, prairies, forests, and habitat for fish, game, and wildlife, and that prevent forest fragmentation, encourage forest consolidation, and expand restored native prairie.	Approximately \$100 million anticipated for FY2016. (The Outdoor Heritage Fund receives one-third of the money raised by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy	RFP open from April to June	unknown	http://www.lsohc.leg.mn/
Minnesota Green Roofs Grants (Mini, Planning, and Action)	Build community understanding, knowledge, and initiative related to water and natural resource issues and solutions	\$250,000 available in three types: Mini grant- \$2,000; Planning grant- \$10,000; Action grant- \$50,000	First of the month in February, June and October depending on grant type	unknown	http://www.mngreenroofs.org/?p=75

Sustainable Regional Development Grant	We foster integrative planning and development that is economically efficient, environmentally sound, and socially equitable. Implement balanced development that integrates systems of transit, open spaces, parks, housing, and job density to connect people and places to possibilities.	Variable based on project	Quarterly: October 15, January 15, April 15 and July 15	unknown	Note: For government bodies, typically projects have to be unique (standard government projects do not qualify). Interested candidates should work with staff to see if the project would qualify. https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/region-and-communities/program-guidelines
Mississippi River Program	The goal of our Mississippi River program is to restore the water quality and resilience of the Mississippi River. Grants cover 3 areas: 1. Protection of floodplains and wetlands, 2. Reducing agricultural pollution, 3. Interagency coordination across all 10 states in the River Corridor.	Variable based on project	Quarterly: November 1, February 1, May 1, August 1	unknown	Note: For government bodies, typically projects have to be unique (standard government projects do not qualify). Interested candidates should work with staff to see if the project would qualify. https://www.mcknight.org/grant-programs/mississippi-river/program-guidelines
WedgeShare Program	Funding for organizations that are working to create a sustainable future through environmental quality, health and wellness, organic agriculture, community involvement and co-op related activities	Up to \$10,000	May deadline, winners announced in October	No	http://www.wedge.coop/community/wedgeshare