

Appendix L: Cost Share Incentive and Water Quality Restoration Programs Criteria



2011 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Cost Share Incentive Program

Overview

The LMRWD Cost Share Incentive Program offers financial assistance to promote public and private entities within LMRWD to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) or carry out studies to protect and improve natural resources within the LMRWD.

Purpose

Cost Share assistance may be used by public or private landowners within the LMRWD to carry out investigations or implement projects that assist in one or all of the following:

1. Protect or restore quality of lakes, streams, wetlands, fens or the Minnesota River
2. Reduce the risk of downstream flooding
3. Reduce bluff, streambank, or mainstem erosion
4. Protect or restore groundwater resources
5. Enhance commercial or recreational navigation on the Minnesota River
6. Provide public education benefits

Available Funds

The LMRWD has allocated \$60,000 for the Cost Share Incentive Program for 2012. LMRWD will accept new applications year round until funds are depleted for the calendar year. Eligible expenses will have up to a 50% match. The maximum levels of cost share funding are: \$1,000 per single family residence project, \$2,500 per neighborhood project, and \$20,000 per commercial/industrial or municipal project.

Eligibility within LMRWD

- Residents of the LMRWD
- Non-profit and religious organizations serving the LMRWD
- Local government units serving the LMRWD
- Public and private schools located within the LMRWD
- Businesses and corporations located within the LMRWD

Eligible Expenses

The LMRWD may fund all, or a portion of, the requested cost share amount. Projects that are completed or in progress prior to application are not eligible for funding. Eligible BMPs could include:

- Buffer strips
- Rain gardens
- Shoreline, stream bank, or river bank restoration
- Rain barrels
- Porous pavers
- Porous concrete and asphalt
- Infiltration basins



Eligible studies/investigations could include:

- Water quality management and restoration
- Water quantity management and restoration
- Groundwater management and restoration
- Unique resource (fen, trout stream) management and restoration
- BMP feasibility and restoration

Evaluation Criteria

LMRWD staff and board members will determine the eligibility of a BMP or investigation based upon an established set of criteria using point system (0 points = low, 10 points = high). Those criteria are: Project Type, Water Quality Improvement, Surface Water Rate and Volume Control, Erosion Control, Commercial and Recreational Navigation, Public Outreach. The minimum eligibility is 30 points.

Project Type

1. What type of project?
BMP (5 pts.) Investigation (3 pts.)

Water Quality Improvement

2. Improves and protects water quality through BMP implementation or potentially improves and protects water quality through investigation.
Score 0 – 10

Surface Water Rate and Volume Control

3. Implements controls intended for or studies reduction and/or minimization of the rate and volume of water that drains off the property/study area.
Score 0 – 10

Erosion Control

4. Implements controls intended for or studies minimization of erosion and/or sedimentation to downstream waters.
Score 0 – 10

Commercial and Recreational Navigation

5. Project or study enhances commercial or recreational navigation on the Minnesota River.
Score 0 – 10



Public Outreach

6. Willingness of applicant to allow signage, tours and site visits. Publically visible site. Diversity of practices.

Score 0 – 10



2011 Lower Minnesota River Watershed District (LMRWD) Water Quality Restoration Program

Overview

The LMRWD Water Quality Restoration Program offers financial assistance to promote public entities within LMRWD to implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) or carry out studies to protect and improve water resources within the LMRWD. This Program implements Strategy 2.2 of the District's 3rd Generation Watershed Management Plan which is to prevent further degradation of water quality.

Purpose

Program assistance may be used by public landowners within the LMRWD to carry out investigations or implement projects that assist in one or all of the following:

7. Protect or restore quality of lakes, streams, wetlands fens or the Minnesota River
8. Reduce the risk of downstream flooding
9. Reduce bluff, streambank, or mainstem erosion
10. Protect or restore groundwater resources
11. Enhance commercial or recreational navigation on the Minnesota River
12. Provide public education benefits

Available Funds

The LMRWD has allocated \$60,000 for the Water Quality Restoration Program for 2012. LMRWD will accept new applications year round until funds are depleted for the calendar year. Eligible expenses will have up to a 50% match. The maximum level of funding is \$20,000 per project.

Eligibility within LMRWD

- Non-profit and religious organizations serving the LMRWD
- Local government units serving the LMRWD

Eligible Expenses

The LMRWD may fund all, or a portion of, the requested amount. Projects that are completed or in progress prior to application are not eligible for funding. Eligible BMPs could include:

- Buffer strips
- Rain gardens
- Shoreline, stream bank, or river bank restoration
- Rain barrels
- Porous pavers
- Porous concrete and asphalt
- Infiltration basins



Eligible studies/investigations could include:

- Water quality management and restoration
- Water quantity management and restoration
- Groundwater management and restoration
- Unique resource (fen, trout stream) management and restoration
- BMP feasibility

Evaluation Criteria

LMRWD staff and board members will determine the eligibility of the project based upon an established set of criteria using point system (0 points = low, 10 points = high). Those criteria are: Project Type, Subwatershed, Water Quality Improvement, Surface Water Rate and Volume Control, Erosion Control, Commercial and Recreational Navigation, Public Outreach. The minimum eligibility is 40 points.

Project Type

7. What type of project?
BMP (5 pts.) Investigation (3 pts.)

Subwatershed

8. Is the project tributary to an MPCA-listed impaired water (excluding mercury), trout stream or fen?
NO (0 pts.) YES, within subwatershed (5 pts.) YES, direct connection (10 pts.)
9. If NO, is the project tributary to a lake, stream, ditch, fen, DNR-Protected Water Wetland?
NO (0 pts.) YES, within subwatershed (3 pts.) YES, direct connection (6 pts.)

Water Quality Improvement

10. Improves and protects water quality through BMP implementation or potentially improves and protects water quality through investigation.
Score 0 – 10

Surface Water Rate and Volume Control

11. Implements controls intended for or studies reduction and/or minimization of the rate and volume of water that drains off the property/study area.
Score 0 – 10



Erosion Control

12. Implements controls intended for or studies minimization of erosion and/or sedimentation to downstream waters.

Score 0 – 10

Commercial and Recreational Navigation

13. Project or study enhances commercial or recreational navigation on the Minnesota River.

Score 0 – 10

Public Outreach

14. Willingness of applicant to allow signage, tours and site visits. Publically visible site. Diversity of practices.

Score 0 – 10