

| Grant ID | Title of Proposal | Applicant | County | Request (\$) | Recommended (\$) | Abstract |
|----------|--|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|--|
| C23-9360 | Blackduck and Cormorant River Watershed Cattle Access Pilot | Red Lake Nation | Beltrami | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | The Red Lake Department of Natural Resources (Red Lake DNR) is creating a pilot initiative to improve water resources in the Blackduck and Cormorant Watersheds, which have anthropogenic stressors, including pasturing cattle in riparian areas. The Red Lake DNR and its partners recognize the importance of managing these sensitive sources through a changing climate by improving drought resilience, improving water quality, and restore/protect spawning habitats. In particular, Lake sturgeon, a culturally significant species to the Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians, was extirpated in the mid-1900s and have been reintroduced over the past 16 years by the Red Lake DNR. It is anticipated that the sturgeon will use the Blackduck and Cormorant Rivers for spawning; however, a continued threat of sedimentation exists to these systems from current landscape use. The Red Lake DNR and Beltrami SWCD will advance existing landscape conservation plans by partnering with federal, state, and local stakeholders, including the NRCS, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Cattlemen's Association, Minnesota Grazing Lands Conservation Association, and the Blackduck Co-op. This will result in implementing voluntary large-scale, on-the-ground conservation activities, build local capacity, improve community engagement, improve tribal and local government cooperation, and lead to lake sturgeon spawning habitat enhancement. Our pilot initiative has the following goals: protecting/revegetating 3.75 miles of stream bank, installing 200 acres of prescribed grazing systems, and engaging the public by hosting 15 meetings in select neighborhoods, with 30% of attendees enrolling in the cost-share program. |
| C23-6013 | Stony Point shoreline property riparian restoration and protection | Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe | Cass | \$30,000 | \$30,000 | The Water Resource program is applying for funding to restore a shoreline property on Stony Point in Cass Lake. Vegetation, trees and topsoil have been cleared on the site. There is an immediate risk for erosion and runoff of sediments from this site into Cass Lake. With assistance from the DRM plants department we are proposing to revegetate this site with a native seed mix and planting of native shrubs and plants to establish a healthy shoreline and riparian zone, provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators, prevent erosion and runoff into Cass Lake, and prevent invasive and nuisance plants from taking hold on the site. If awarded funds for this grant, WRP would work with land department and propose to protect this site from development through a Tribal conservation easement with the permission of Tribal leadership. Shoreline development is one of the biggest threats to water quality and aquatic resources. This could serve as a great demonstration project that could be used on a larger Reservation wide scale to protect and restore additional shoreline habitat and water quality. |
| C23-3738 | Steambank Restoration Project | Upper Sioux Community | Yellow Medicine | \$250,000 | \$250,000 | The Upper Sioux Community (USC) seeks funding to continue our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) in the design and construction of a streambank restoration project. Tribal lands adjacent to the Minnesota River in Yellow Medicine County have been lost over the last several decades due to erosion of the riverbank, and the canopy of vegetation which shades and cools the river has been lost. Continued erosion threatens to further erode the streambank, and potentially create a new river channel which will bifurcate tribal lands. The ACOE has completed a draft feasibility study and integrated environmental assessment. This project will be planned out in two primary activities. 1) Design of the proposed project by the Army Corps. 2) Construction of proposed project by a qualified contractor. Primary outcome of this proposal is to stabilize the right descending bank of Minnesota River on USC Reservation to reduce land erosion and protect against river bifurcation. |
| C23-0771 | Growing and connecting farmer networks to protect and restore waters in the Cannon River Watershed | Clean River Partners | Dakota, Goodhue, Rice, Steele | \$128,519 | \$128,519 | This project builds a network of farmers practicing conservation in SE MN by providing cover crop incentives, recruiting conventional farmers into the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), and educating new and small-scale farmers about the Agroforestry Poultry System. By joining farmers of different backgrounds with each other and with conservation practices that benefit them and their land, Clean River Partners will help steward a farming community whose actions provide economic and ecological benefits to regional watersheds. This proposal improves water quality by implementing agroforestry and cover crops, two well-established BMPs, in six Cannon River subwatersheds. We will build on recent successes with our partners: an established cover crop project that has reduced nitrate in a self-sustaining trout stream, the establishment of the Cannon River Agricultural Collaborative (CRAC) which is a watershed-wide effort to introduce farmers MAWQCP, and previous partnerships with an established regenerative poultry farm that's ready to expand its system. |
| C23-7512 | Upper Red Lake Keep It Clean Partnership | Upper Red Lake Area Association | Beltrami | \$92,600 | \$92,600 | The Upper Red Lake Keep It Clean Partnership aims to reduce the amount of human waste pollution on Upper Red Lake, an economically and culturally important resource to Beltrami County, the Red Lake Watershed District, the Red Lake Nation, and Minnesota. This project proposes to capture over ten tons of human waste over the grant period through a collaborative waste collection program and additional education and outreach. Waste reduction practices include establishing at least four human waste collection sites and investigating sites with the potential to provide wheelhouse septic system dump stations at winter access sites to Upper Red Lake. This project will also have a public education component, with the development and distribution of a multifaceted outreach campaign to inform anglers about proper waste disposal practices, including roadside signage, point-of-sale media, and social media. The partnership will also include the local community in the development of the program by hosting ice business workshops and a shoreline/ditch cleanup at the end of the winter season. |
| C23-2704 | Spark-Y Urban Water Protection: Youth Empowerment and Community Engagement | Spark-Y: Youth Action Labs | Hennepin | \$249,965 | \$249,965 | Spark-Y in collaboration with its partners are planning to execute three River First projects that advance urban stormwater remediation goals while empowering youth, advancing workforce development, and drawing community attention through interactive art. In all cases project, partners have already signed on with a commitment to excellence in project function and aesthetics, including renowned water artist Besty Damon. Our community partners will engage in a collaborative process with each project seeing youth engaged from start to finish. Youth "brainstormed" features will finalize the design, function, and experienced professional subcontractors assist in the completion of the install to best in class status. Long term, the sites will be used for engagement, tours and a unique scavenger hunt type engagement to "trace" water pathways. A grand opening event will celebrate the youth achievements, highlight its environmental benefits, and garner continued support for the additional retrofitting possibility in urban water control and design. Afterward, field trips, interactive art components, and educational engagement of the installations will be ongoing. 275 youth will be directly involved and 100+ community members, with continued engagement of at least 100 youth per year beyond the term of the grant. |
| C23-7261 | Upper Briggs Chain Internal Phosphorus Load Diagnostic / Feasibility Study | Briggs Lake Chain Association | Sherburne | \$55,290 | \$55,290 | The proposed project for the Upper Briggs Chain Lakes is a diagnostic / feasibility study to quantify the magnitude of internal phosphorus release from the bottom sediments. This is an essential step to take if internal phosphorus release mitigation is ever to occur for these lakes. Whereas estimates of internal sediment phosphorus loading were made previously in TMDL studies, this effort would directly measure the sediment release and evaluate its contribution relative to other sources. The resulting report would detail the exact approach necessary to mitigate internal sources of phosphorus in the Upper Briggs Chain Lakes. The report would also describe the water quality improvements in these lakes as well as downstream waterbodies including Elk Lake, the Elk River, and Lake Orono. |

TOTAL \$1,056,374