

## Amendments for Grants Expiring December 31, 2019

Are you on track to complete projects and close out grants that will expire at the end of this year? Fall is a good time to be working on or be finalizing assessment of progress on any grants expiring at the end of 2019. Conversations within your organization and with your Board Conservationist (BC) about whether an amendment, including an extension may be needed should be wrapping up around this time. Documentation for the amendment request should be sent to your BC to ensure approved amendments are executed prior to grant expiration. The deadline for having signed amendments sent in to BWSR is December 16th; any amendments received after that date may not be executed, dependent on staff availability.

The **Grant Agreement Amendments and Work Plan Revisions** chapter of the BWSR Grants Administration Manual establishes the procedures for requesting an amendment.

Grant amendments are part of eLINK workflow, and the process is nearly identical to accessing grant agreements. Your grant day-to-day contact will receive notification when an amendment is available in eLINK, and the document will be accessible through the Attachments tab of the grant as well as the Document Library. The signed amendment will need to be returned to: BWSR, Attn: Kari Keating, 520 Lafayette Road North, St. Paul, MN 55155 or **BWSR.Grants@state.mn.us**. You will receive a notification once the amendment is executed. *Do not send the document to your Board Conservationist or any other individual, as doing so will cause delays in execution.*

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### Important Upcoming Dates

- **Oct 24:** Cover Crop RFP Closes
- **Oct 29 - 31:** BWSR Academy
- **Nov:** FY20 Lawns to Legumes RFP Opens
- **Dec 16:** Deadline for signed & submitted grant amendments to BWSR
- **Jan 22:** BWSR Board authorizes CWF Competitive Grant awards (proposed)

### Tip of the Quarter:

SWCDs may receive dividends related to previous payments for health insurance of MCIT insurance premiums. These dividends are typically an immaterial amount; therefore, there is no need to reduce the insurance costs included in the billing rate calculations.

## Fiscal Year 2020 Clean Water Fund Request for Proposal Results

The fiscal year 2020 RFP for competitive Clean Water Fund grants was open from July 1-September 9th. This year's grant programs include; Multipurpose Drainage Management and Projects & Practices. New this year, the Projects & Practices allocation has a carve out for drinking water specific projects. The legislature called for up to 20% of the total amount available from this appropriation, or \$2.7M out of the \$13.5M appropriated.

BWSR received 101 applications, totaling over \$30 million dollars in requests, across the three programs. There were nearly double the grant dollars requested as funds available for these programs. The interagency grant ranking and scoring team has a difficult job ahead of them over the coming months!



## Cover Crop Request for Proposal Update

The Cover Crop Demonstration grant RFP opened on September 26, 2019 and closes on October 24, 2019. On June 26, 2019, the BWSR Board authorized staff to develop a Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide resources to implement cover crops based on a competitive RFP process, utilizing up to \$1 million dollars of Clean Water Funds.

Priority for these demonstration grants will be given to new adoption and understanding of cover crops and related tillage practices, through identification and addressing of local hurdles to implementation, through the following key efforts:

- Building local knowledge;
- Facilitating partnerships;
- Demonstrating clean water benefits;
- Identifying methods to increase long term implementation and sustainability; and
- Scope and scale of adoption in targeted areas

BWSR intends to use the feedback from the RFP and implementation of this demonstration program to help better understand the ways local governments are breaking down hurdles to new adoption of cover crops and increasing knowledge at the local level, in order to improve BWSR programs.

FY20 CWF Competitive Grants Applications	Total \$ Amount Available	Total \$ Amount Requested	Number of Applications Submitted
Multipurpose Drainage Management	\$700,000	\$1,114,266	4
Projects and Practices	\$13,500,000	\$24,678,858	82
Projects and Practices—Drinking Water	\$2,700,000	\$4,352,815	15

## Watershed Based Implementation Funding

On September 25, 2019 BWSR approved the Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF) watershed allocations and program policy, making \$24 million from Minnesota's Clean Water Fund available to implement local clean water priorities. Planning partnerships with approved comprehensive watershed management plans are eligible to receive funding and begin working on their budget request in early-mid October. Grant agreements will expire December 31, 2022.

Additional recipients of FY16 and FY17 1W1P planning grants will be eligible to receive WBIF funding once plans have been approved by BWSR and locally adopted. FY18 1W1P planning grant recipients will be eligible to receive WBIF funding once plans have been approved by BWSR and locally adopted, if funds are available. BWSR will be batching these remaining grants quarterly.

## Technical Training Module eLINK Updates

The Technical Training Individual Development Plan (IDP) Tool with eLINK launched in September. Following the October 11th deadline for entering training needs, Technical Training and Certification Program (TTCP) staff will use the data that has been entered to plan training for the upcoming year.

This tool is available to SWCD, TSA, and NRCS staff, and your IDP may be updated throughout the year with training history, non-JAA or other certifications, or new training needs. Any TTCP trainings you participate in will be updated by TTCP staff. You can learn more about using the tool and how the data will be used at <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/individual-development-plan-tool>.



Currently Approved One Watershed, One Plan	Allocation
Lake Superior North	\$599,767
North Fork Crow River	\$1,120,477
Root River	\$1,469,595
Red Lake River	\$1,071,149
Yellow Medicine River	\$814,603
Leech Lake River	\$598,115

## Cooperative Weed Management Area grant RFP Update

The fiscal year 2020 Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) RFP opened on September 2nd and closed October 7th. This year, \$200,000 in grant funds are available for newly forming and existing CWMAs to work collaboratively toward the efficient control of invasive species and protection of conservation lands and natural areas across geographic boundaries.

This year we received 23 applications, totaling over \$350,000 in funding requested. Once the ranking and scoring is completed it is anticipated that the Board will act on funding recommendations in December, with grant agreements sent out to recipients in January.

## Grants Administration Manual Update

Recent updates were made to the [Requesting a Reimbursement or Payment](#) chapter of the Grants Administration Manual. The previous version of the chapter lacked information on the process for requesting reimbursement for grants that are 100% reimbursable. There was no change made to the original content, simply the addition of new information to fully cover the spectrum of all of BWSR grant programs.