

Oconto County Healthy Waters Cost Share Program

Purpose: The purpose of this funding program is to provide financial assistance to communities to enhance, protect and restore water quality, fish and wildlife habitat, tourism and recreational values.

Authority: The Land & Water Conservation Committee has authority for the management of this program. Any changes or updates to this program made by the Land & Water Conservation Committee will be brought to the attention of the Oconto County Finance/Insurance Committee.

Roles and Responsibilities: The Land & Water Conservation Department staff will be responsible for all notifications, publications and maintenance of records, all financial oversight and grant closeout procedures. The Land & Water Conservation Department will accept, review and process all qualifying applications and refer those applications to the Land & Water Conservation Committee, who will be responsible for selecting applications to be awarded funds and for deciding the amount of the cost share funds to be awarded within the limits of this program.

Eligibility: Cities, towns, villages, Public Inland Lake Protection & Rehabilitation Districts, sanitary districts, lake associations, river associations, conservation organizations, and fish and sportsman clubs. In *areas* where no organized water protection entity exists, a local unit of government may act as applicant for a qualifying project. Other entities, not listed in this paragraph, may apply with the approval of the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

All projects must be on property or water that has public access and provides a benefit to the general public.

Projects that recur on a periodic bases will only be eligible to apply for funds for one occurrence.

Control project applications require consultation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Eligible Projects:

Aquatic Invasive Species – NR 198 Wis. Admin Code

Education, Prevention and Planning Projects

Early Detection and Response Projects

Established Population Projects

Maintenance and Containment Projects

Research and Demonstration Projects

Lake Management Planning – NR 190 Wis. Admin. Code

Lake Protection – NR 191 Wis. Admin. Code

Wetland and Shoreline Habitat Restoration

Lake Plan implementation

River Protection – NR 195 Wis. Admin. Code

River Planning

River Management

If an application for a project not listed above is received, eligibility for that project shall be determined by the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

Cost Share: Successful applicants will be eligible for funds up to 10% of the total project cost if applicant is receiving other state or federal grants, or up to 50% if the applicant is not receiving state or federal grants. A maximum cost share cap will be 10%/50% or \$7,000, limited to whichever cap is reached first. The annual funding pool will be set at \$35,000 unless otherwise approved by the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

Time Line: Applications will be accepted from January 2nd to September 15th of each year. The Land Conservation Committee will make final awards by November 30th of that year.

All awarded grants will be eligible for 2 years unless an extension is granted by the Land & Water Conservation Committee.

In the case of a Rapid Response grant (NR 198), the applicant will be allowed to apply after the fact; if the application is selected for funding, the applicant may be paid for eligible costs which were incurred prior to the application being selected. The nature of the rapid response project must be confirmed by Wisconsin DNR.

Requirements: Grant recipients will be responsible to submit copies of all eligible project receipts. Grant recipients will be responsible to submit paid receipts for their portion of the eligible project costs before grant proceeds will be awarded.