

Wetlands, Wildlife Habitat, and Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin

Promoting Collaboration to Restore Wetlands and Floodplains and Mitigate Flood Hazards in the Rock River Basin A 4-Part Webinar Series for Busy Professionals¹

Resource Brief - Funding Opportunities for Collaborative Projects

Given tight budgets, organizations must look for ways to stretch scarce resources. By combining resources, organizations can sometimes achieve together what neither could accomplish alone. Grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources may provide opportunities to fund projects that yield multiple benefits.

- ***State Wetland Program Development Grants – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency***

The Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs), initiated in FY90, provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote 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. While WPDGs can continue to be used by recipients to build and refine any element of a comprehensive wetland program, priority will be given to funding projects that address the three priority areas identified by EPA: Developing a comprehensive monitoring and assessment program; improving the effectiveness of compensatory mitigation; and refining the protection of vulnerable wetlands and aquatic resources. States, Tribes, local governments (S/T/LGs), interstate associations, intertribal consortia, and national non-profit, non-governmental organizations are eligible to apply. *See* http://water.epa.gov/grants_funding/wetlands/grantguidelines/index.cfm.

- ***Lake Protection Grants – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

Several types of Lake Grants administered by Wisconsin DNR can help pay for wetland education, planning and restoration, provided that the work enhances the health of lake water quality or habitat. All the grant types discussed below are funded by the state motor boat fuel tax, and are open to application by qualified lake associations, nonprofit organizations, local governmental units, sanitary districts, and tribes. Funds are limited, so all the grants are competitive, and only the most beneficial applications are funded (see ranking questions on pages 49-61 of the Guidelines and Instructions document available at <http://dnr.wi.gov/Aid/LakeClassificationProtection.html>).

Lake Planning Grants are reimbursement grants that cover 67% state share (33% local share required), with funds up to \$25,000 per grant. Successful projects feature wetland planning and/or education as an integrated component of a lake plan. These grants can include wetland mapping, assessment, classification, restoration planning and education. Small educational grants are also available for \$3,000 (also cover 67% state share), and these proposals must also be closely tied to lake benefits. The two application deadlines for these grants are February 1st and August 1st.

¹ See www.eli.org/pdf/wetlandsguidebook.pdf for more information on this webinar series.

Lake Protection Grants (wetland restoration category) are reimbursement grants that cover 75% state share (25% local share), with funds of up to \$100,000 per grant. The grantee must have control of the restoration site through fee simple ownership or a conservation easement in perpetuity in order to apply for funding. Eligible costs are those related directly to the planning and restoration of a wetland. Wetland incentive grants for \$10,000 (no local share required) can be obtained if the project is identified in the sponsor's comprehensive land use plan. (The sponsor cannot be a non-profit.) The single application deadline each year is May 1st. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/grants/>.

- ***River Protection Grants – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

River planning grants assist in the formation of a qualified river management organization or in strengthening an existing organization; protection or improvement of rivers and their ecosystems; river improvement education projects, and; assessments and plan development. River management grants are available for purchasing land or conservation easements; local ordinance development; installation of nonpoint source pollution control practices, and; river restoration activities. They may also be used for education, planning and design activities necessary for completion of a management project. Counties, cities, towns, villages, tribes, other local governmental units, qualified river management organizations, and qualified nonprofit conservation organizations are eligible to apply. In order for nonprofit conservation organizations and lake associations to apply, they must be a qualified organization. Review the qualification requirements or check with your DNR regional environmental grants specialist.

Eligible planning projects include organizational development for existing river protection/improvement organizations; assistance with the formation of a qualified river management organization; public education projects, and; planning and assessment projects (including development of management strategies, plans, and special project designs to identify appropriate river protection projects; collection and assessment of water quality, water quantity, and biological/environmental data; collection of sociological data necessary for the development of a river management plan; description and mapping of existing and potential land and water resource conditions; development of local ordinances to control activities that may impact the riverine ecosystems; and dissemination of information obtained during the project). Eligible management projects include purchase of land or conservation easements; development of local regulations or ordinances to protect or improve water quality; installation of practices to control nonpoint source pollution; restoration projects including instream or shoreland habitat and protection; DNR approved activities needed to implement planning recommendations, and; education, planning, and design activities necessary for the implementation of a management project. Ineligible projects include capital improvement projects; dam repair and operation; purchase of property on which a dam is located (unless for the purpose of facilitating dam removal); dredging, and design, installation, operation, or maintenance of sanitary sewers, treatment plants, or onsite sewerage systems. Applications are reviewed and ranked by regional staff and ranked according to statewide priorities. Additional information can be found on the DNR's website: <http://dnr.wi.gov/org/water/rivers/grants/>.

- ***Floodplain Management Grants – Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources***

The WDNR provides engineering review, ordinance administration assistance and FEMA liaison duties to over 540 Wisconsin communities that participate in the NFIP. We review and approve all ordinance amendments, do technical workshops on the permitting process, flood insurance, mitigation and engineering studies/Letters of Map Change, produce a newsletter and maintain a floodplain management website. We also audit community floodplain management programs and attend FEMA conferences as needed. Grant opportunities for local communities include the Municipal Flood Control Grant Program, Flood Mitigation Assistance Grants, and Hazard Mitigation Grants. See <http://dnr.wi.gov/topic/floodplains/communities.html>.