

Crow Wing Environment Protection Fund Grant Guidelines

The Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised Fund (CWEPA Fund), administered by the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA), makes grants to support projects, programs and activities that lead to protection, restoration and preservation of natural resources and environmental assets within the boundaries of Crow Wing County, Minnesota.

Eligible Applicants must be 501(c)(3) nonprofits or a local unit of government that serves the people in Crow Wing County. *Funding requests for projects outside of this area will not be considered. Individuals are ineligible to apply for funds.*

Awards are made for the following purposes:

- Building the capacity of lake associations or other nonprofits working in natural resource protection in Crow Wing County. Examples could include skills training, leadership development, membership recruitment, and educational projects which result in measurable changes in behavior;
- Supporting site specific projects which protect or restore natural resources. Examples could include lakescaping or native buffer enhancement projects, fisheries or wildlife habitat protection or restoration, or educational programs to prevent aquatic invasive species spread or introduction;
- Implementation of projects which address causes (rather than treating symptoms) and promote action. For example, LARA would not support aquatic vegetation control for nuisance management or aesthetic reasons, but would be open to a project which mitigates nutrient inputs which exacerbate aquatic vegetation growth.

LARA will fund no more than fifty percent (50%) of the project budget for any project, and in addition to your own organization's funds, we encourage you to seek cash matches from nonprofits, individuals, and units of government.

INELIGIBLE EXPENSES

- Capital expenses (e.g., buildings, signs, vehicles, etc.)
- Equipment other than what is necessary to accomplish one of the purposes above
- Expenses incurred prior to receipt of grant award
- Routine water quality monitoring programs (which should be the responsibility of local lake associations and/or local governments)
- Any programs or projects that DO NOT directly benefit residents of LARA's service area
- Replacement of government or other funding
- Endowments and local fund drives
- Grants, loans or reimbursements to individuals and businesses
- Religious activities
- Lobbying or campaigning for a candidate, issue or referendum vote
- Development or purchase of school curriculum
- In-kind labor as a match to grant funds.

The Crow Wing Environment Protection Advised Fund, administered by the Crow Wing County LARA, is a component fund of the Initiative Foundation, a regional community foundation based in Little Falls, MN.

CWEPA Fund Grant Application
(application deadline – September 30)

Complete and include the following:

- *Grant Application Cover Sheet
- *Project Narrative (see page 3)
- *A copy of your 501(c)(3) IRS determination letter

Mail completed application to:
Ann Beaver, CWEPA Fund Com.
26834 Pine Acres Rd.
Nisswa, MN 56468

GRANT APPLICATION COVER SHEET

(Please review the grant guidelines on the previous page before completing this.)
(Print or type only.)

Date of application: _____

Organization Information

Name of 501(c)(3) organization or public agency Employer Identification Number (EIN)

Address (include P.O. Box and physical address if applicable) City, State, Zip

Phone Email Web site

Name of contact person Title Phone Email
regarding this application

Is your organization a current paid member of the Crow Wing County Lakes and Rivers Alliance (LARA)?

YES _____ NO _____

Proposal Information

Project title: _____

Geographic area served by this project: _____

Please give a 2-3 sentence summary of the project:

Project start date: _____ Project end date: _____

Project Budget

Total project budget: \$ _____

Project budget details -- provide a breakdown of budget items and their cost. (Use a separate sheet of paper, if needed.)

Dollar amount requested from the CWEPA Fund: \$ _____

Please provide a breakdown of how the grant money will be used within the total project budget.

Authorization

Name and title of board-authorized signatory: _____

Signature (must be original): _____

Project Narrative

Please provide a brief history of your organization and its mission.

What is your proposed project and what is its primary goal?

Who will carry out this project?

How does this project fit the purposes of the grant as stated in the Grant Guidelines?

What are the specific, measurable outcomes of this project?

How will the grant funds be used? What other funds will be used to support your project?