



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

2026 Request for Proposal

General Information

Proposal ID: 2026-156

Proposal Title: Invasive Weed Control on Cedar Lake, Scott County

Project Manager Information

Name: LARRY VOLLMAR

Organization: Cedar Lake Improvement District

Office Telephone: (612) 402-0380

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Project Basic Information

Project Summary: Our organization is seeking to purchase a Mechanical Weed Harvester to supplement our herbicide treatment of the invasive Curly leaf Pondweed currently threatening Cedar Lake, Scott County.

ENRTF Funds Requested: \$102,000

Proposed Project Completion: December 31, 2035

LCCMR Funding Category: Small Projects (G)

Secondary Category: Water (B)

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Region(s): Central

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Region(s): Central

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Narrative

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Cedar Lake (DOW #70009100) is a shallow water lake in Scott County. It is approximately 793 acres with a maximum depth of 11-13 feet. According to lake management surveys, the lake is completely infested with Curly Leaf Pondweed. Our recent efforts have been full lake "Fluridone" treatment to try to control the invasive weeds. Weather, Wind and application success all limit the effectiveness of the herbicide treatment. DNR Invasive Weed Specialists have recommended a combination of chemical treatment and mechanical harvesting as the best practice to control invasive weeds and remove the weed biomass to help reduce the phosphorus load and improve water quality. We are seeking to purchase the most current technology in weed harvesting, an ECO-Harvester which pulls weeds rather than cutting them. By pulling the weeds, you remove the invasive weed root system, remove the weed biomass from the lake, and promote the growth of native species.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

Mechanical harvesting of invasive weeds supplements chemical treatment. The ECO Harvester can remove between 1-2 acres of weed biomass per hour depending on weather conditions and off load site distance. The mechanical harvester can also remove floating weeds, algae blooms, and weed mats. The unit can be operated by one person, so minimal volunteer labor will be required to complete the targeted harvesting.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Cedar Lake currently has a DNR Lake health score of 40 (out of 100) and a lake health grade of "D+". By combining Mechanical harvesting with chemical treatment, the overall health of the lake can be improved. The lake is used for recreation, fishing and a variety of watersports. The DNR reports that issues of Turbidity, Mercury, Total Phosphorus, and low dissolved Oxygen can all be greatly improved with the removal of the invasive weed biomass.

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Purchase ECO Harvester, Model SM301 with transport trailer.

Activity Budget: \$102,000

Activity Description:

We have a pro-forma invoice from Weeders Digest LLC for the purchase of the ECO Harvester unit and trailer. A lead time for manufacturing is expected to be 60-90 days. Once funds are approved, we will place an order for the unit.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Place order for new ECO Harvester machine after receipt of grant funds	March 31, 2026
Complete operational training for new machine at manufacturers office in Plymouth, MN.	April 30, 2026
Utilize new harvester for Spring 2026 invasive weed removal.	May 31, 2026

Project Partners and Collaborators

Name	Organization	Role	Receiving Funds
Paul Hoyt	Cedar Lake Improvement District	Board of Directors President	No
Scott Sousek	Cedar Lake Improvement District	Board of Directors Secretary	No
Ted Schnaare	Cedar Lake Improvement District	Board of Directors Member	No
Dave Skogland	Cedar Lake Improvement District	Treasurer	No

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

After the initial purchase of the mechanical harvester, ongoing expenses for operating, maintenance, storage and weed disposal will be supported by the general fund income from the Cedar Lake Improvement District levy income and various grants through Scott County Water Management and DNR.

Project Manager and Organization Qualifications

Project Manager Name: LARRY VOLLMAR

Job Title: Board Member

Provide description of the project manager's qualifications to manage the proposed project.

I am a retired Field / Sales Engineer, and current member of the board of Directors for the Cedar Lake Improvement District. I worked in the Power Transmission Industry managing projects and personnel to complete large scale industrial upgrades and equipment modifications. I have worked with local, national and international projects for large US companies.

Organization: Cedar Lake Improvement District

Organization Description:

The Cedar Lake Improvement District was established in 1981 by the Scott County Board of Commissioners at the urging of residents within the Cedar Lake area. the CLID consists of 7 volunteer board directors and includes properties in both Cedar Lake and Helena Townships. The mission and focus of the CLID is to undertake and manage activities to improve the water quality in Cedar Lake. Over the years, the CLID has successfully initiated several projects, including the Cedar Lake Area Sanitary Sewer Project and improvements to the major water inlet located at the south end of the lake. Since 2012, the CLID board has been actively engaged with the Scott County Watershed Management Organization and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources to implement a multi-year effort to reduce Curly leaf Pondweed.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount
Personnel								
							Sub Total	-
Contracts and Services								
							Sub Total	-
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies								
							Sub Total	-
Capital Expenditures								
		ECO Harvester, Model SM301	Mechanical weed harvester used for removal of invasive lake weeds	X				\$80,000
		Transport Trailer, with electric brakes and 2-inch ball hitch	The trailer is used to transport the Weed Harvester to various removal sites around Cedar Lake.	X				\$9,000
		Sales Tax (Manufacturing location is in Wisconsin)	Sales tax required for purchase.	X				\$11,000
		Shipping Fee	The transport fee is based on 291 miles to New Prague, at a rate of \$3.00/per mile and includes (2) hours of product training.	X				\$1,000
		Operator solar cover	Protect operators from sun exposure while operating the weed harvester	X				\$1,000
							Sub Total	\$102,000
Acquisitions and Stewardship								
							Sub Total	-
Travel In Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-

Travel Outside Minnesota								
							Sub Total	-
Printing and Publication								
							Sub Total	-
Other Expenses								
							Sub Total	-
							Grand Total	\$102,000

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
Capital Expenditures		ECO Harvester, Model SM301	We are not seeking any ineligible expenses Additional Explanation : The unit has an expected service life of 10-20 years and will be used throughout the summer months each year to harvest invasive weeds in Cedar Lake. The optimal time for invasive weed harvest is from ice-out to mid-June before native plants emerge.
Capital Expenditures		Transport Trailer, with electric brakes and 2-inch ball hitch	No ineligible expenses are requested. Additional Explanation : The trailer has an expected service life of 10-20 years. The Harvester will be stored in an in-door space when not in use, so no major maintenance is anticipated.
Capital Expenditures		Sales Tax (Manufacturing location is in Wisconsin)	This is not an ineligible expense Additional Explanation : This is a one-time expenditure for the purchase of the ECO Harvester.
Capital Expenditures		Shipping Fee	This is not an ineligible expense Additional Explanation : This is a one-time purchase to get the unit delivered to our location.
Capital Expenditures		Operator solar cover	This is not considered an ineligible expense Additional Explanation : The solar cover will provide sun protection to operators throughout the service life of the weed harvester.

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	Amount
State				
			State Sub Total	-
Non-State				
Cash	Our organization has committed 25% of the cost from our organization cash reserves.	The Cedar Lake Improvement District Board of Directors has agreed to provide the 25% contributed funds to secure the requested funds for the purchase of the ECO Harvester.	Secured	\$25,000
			Non State Sub Total	\$25,000
			Funds Total	\$25,000

Total Project Cost: \$127,000

This amount accurately reflects total project cost?

Yes

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [76656887-1d3.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

ECO Harvester brochure showing photos of the actual machine, and its operation in a shallow water lake harvesting invasive weeds....

Financial Capacity

Title	File
CLID Financial Capacity Jan 31 2025	4770188c-24a.pdf
Secretary of State Letter	91607c93-f2e.pdf

Board Resolution or Letter

Title	File
CLID Board Resolution Letter	cfa4d043-2d4.docx

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Cedar Lake Improvement District Bylaws	55a62f77-4a5.pdf

Administrative Use

Does your project include restoration or acquisition of land rights?

No

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

Yes, Paul Hoyt

Does your project include the pre-design, design, construction, or renovation of a building, trail, campground, or other fixed capital asset costing \$10,000 or more or large-scale stream or wetland restoration?

No

Do you propose using an appropriation from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund to conduct a project that provides children's services (as defined in Minnesota Statutes section 299C.61 Subd.7 as "the provision of care, treatment, education, training, instruction, or recreation to children")?

No

Provide the name(s) and organization(s) of additional individuals assisting in the completion of this proposal:

Paul Hoyt, Ted Schnaare, Dave Skogland, Scott Sousek

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

N/A