

October 18, 2023

Dear Governor's Council on Minnesota's Coastal Program,

I love autumn!

There's just something about the season – brilliantly colored leaves, crisp air, cozy sweaters, and lots of good eats (can you say caramel apples... yum!)

It's also special because it's the time of year when I get together with my Great Lakes and national colleagues at two meetings: the Great Lakes Regional Meeting of Coastal Management Programs and Reserves and the Coastal States Organization in-state meeting. The learning and networking opportunities are exceptional. Both truly fill my soul and reinvigorate me for the year ahead.

There's also a chance at the meetings to tout the program's successes over the year. I could have gone on and on, but had to limit myself this year to the following:

Our work to create healthy coastal ecosystems that anyone can use and enjoy.

- We are working with DNR Fisheries on their existing and planned benthic habitat data collection and management. With NOAA Office for Coast Survey coming to the area, it's the perfect time to ensure knowledge sharing on everything from data formats and collection to documentation and methodologies.
- New 3DEP (3D Elevation Program) lidar is available for the Coastal Program area. It was the subject of three recent trainings hosted by the Coastal Program.
- The St. Louis River now has a national water trail, complete with maps and an advisory council.
- The Duluth Urban Watershed Area Committee kicked off work to identify options for updating local codes and ordinances affecting water resources and their ecosystems.
- With Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, the Coastal Program is designing living shorelines at a wayside rest, public water access site and a state park.
- The City of Grand Marais has a new public water access thanks to contributions from federal, state, and local sources.

Our work to ensure coastal communities can adapt to change and bounce back better when disaster strikes.

- We used the 2019 Great Lakes Hardened Shoreline Classification scheme to map hardened shorelines along the entire 189 miles of Minnesota's coast.
- Draft updated coastal erosion hazard maps are available for the 10 communities that make up the North Shore Management Board.
- We hosted one tailored training on risk communication.

- We are coordinating the Minnesota Point Floodplain Challenge team for the Strengthening Coastal Community Resilience in the Great Lakes project. Our thanks to ASFPM (Association of State Floodplain Managers) and their partners for selecting us to be one of four sites.
- Silver Bay has a new stormwater management plan.
- We are working with four counties, three Tribes and one local planning agency on efforts to build resilience capacity across the region.

Again, this is only a sampling of what we accomplished through our technical assistance and pass-through grants. I hope you feel as proud as I do of what this program accomplishes!

Now, we're getting ready for a new year and new accomplishments. We're in some unfamiliar territory though as we teeter around meeting quorum. To ensure we're not in the same position as we were this month, **I'm asking each of you to get out your calendars and put a hold on January 18 (whole day)**. This is our next scheduled meeting. At that meeting, we will discuss the March meeting, tentatively set for March 27. Given the responses to the survey, it sounds like the group prefers Thursdays. Let's look at changing if it helps ensure we have a healthy attendance.

I also invite you to reach out with suggestions for meeting formats and length. If you think it's better to have two, two-hour meetings instead of one four hour one, tell us. If multiple repeated opportunities for virtual discussion makes more sense to you, let us know. There are lots of possibilities! Just because we've done it one way doesn't mean we have to always do it that way. It might be time to get creative.

Great things happen when we come together! Here's to many more opportunities, and the tremendous things that come out of it!

Best,
Amber Westerbur
Program Manager, Minnesota's Lake Superior Coastal Program

Coastal Program Grant Report

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources; Minnesota’s Lake Superior Coastal Program
October 6, 2023; Presented by: Cynthia Poyhonen, grants specialist

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Current Funding Opportunities

- **Capacity Grants for Coastal Management:** posted, open through June 30, 2024
- <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/lakesuperior/grants.html>

Federal Award and Grant Funds Awarded

The table below shows the total federal award and amount of Annual and STAR grants awarded to date for the three open NOAA Office of Coastal Management awards.

Federal Fiscal Year and Award	Total NOAA Award	Award Expiration	Annual Grants Awarded	Small Grants Awarded	Total Funds Awarded to Date
2021; NA21NOS4190083	1,122,000	06/30/2024	501,620	69,544	571,164
2022; NA22NOS4190054	1,128,000	06/30/2025	466,378	73,271	539,649
2023; NA23NOS4190213	1,158,000	12/31/2024	453,096		457,596
Total	\$3,408,000		\$1,421,094	\$102,137	\$1,568,409

*Three STAR grant projects are currently with NOAA for review: \$14,515 for NA21 (two projects to start January 1, 2024); \$10,000 for NA22 (to start on July 1, 2024).

Small Grant Funds Allocated

The Coastal Program includes what the Council designates for STAR funds as well as any unallocated dollars in the Cooperative Agreement. Additional small grant funds come from other grants or projects completed under budget.

Federal Award	Designated Funds	Additional Funds	STAR Awarded	Capacity Awarded	Balance
NA21NOS4190083	54,500	26,262	34,463	35,081	\$11,218
NA22NOS4190054	75,500		67,674	5,597	\$2,771
NA23NOS4190054	10,000				\$10,000
	\$140,000	\$26,262	\$102,137	\$40,678	\$23,989

NA20NOS4190088

The 2020 Federal Award (NA20NOS4190088) expired June 30, 2023. The final financial reports are due to NOAA January 2024. We will provide a complete summary after the report is complete.

Coastal Program Applications – Received and Funded

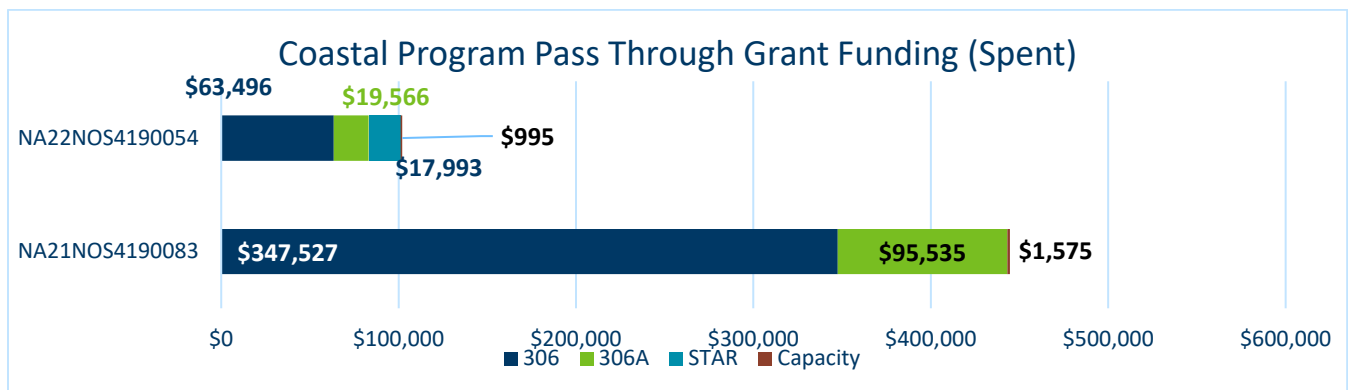
The table below shows the applications received by the Coastal Program between July 1, 2019 and October 1, 2023.

- Annual Applications are funded in federal fiscal year (i.e., 2023 funded with the NA23 award, starts July 1, 2023).
- STAR and Capacity applications are received during federal fiscal year (i.e., 2023 applications are received between July 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024); and funded with available funds.

Funding	Federal Fiscal Year	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	Total
Annual	Applications Received	10	3	12	9	6	2	42
Annual	Applications Funded	9	2	6	7	6		30
STAR	Applications Received	18	12	14	10			54
STAR	Applications Funded	17	10	8	10			45
Capacity	Applications Received	4	4	5	5	7		25
Capacity	Applications Funded	4	4	5	5	7		25

Grants Reimbursed

The State has reimbursed grantees for project expenses (projects completed/in process), as in chart below. Low-cost construction and land acquisition projects are listed as '306A'.



Recently Completed Projects

Annual Grants

Assessment of Bacterial Hazards in North Shore Streams and Beaches

Project Number: 21-306-11

Grantee: Regents of the University of Minnesota

Final Cost: \$162,358.04 (Grant: \$81,179)

Project Start: 11/24/2021

Project End: 05/31/2023

- Researchers from the University and citizen scientists (volunteers) collected 144 stream samples from locations in Duluth and Two Harbors for water quality analysis. The researchers analyzed the samples and submitted the data to the MPCA via EQUIS. The data is available on the [MPCA surface water data page](#). The PI has compiled results from the research and citizen science project in a [presentation](#).

STAR Grants

Training for New Farmers-Preventing Agricultural Pollution

Project Number: 20-

306-08I

Grantee: Friends of the Finland Community

Final Cost: \$1,224 (Grant: \$984)

Project Start: 07/06/2022

Project End: 05/31/2023

- The Finland Food Chain wants to educate new farmers to succeed while preventing eutrophication and farm nutrient pollution. With the expertise of three farmers in the northeast region of Minnesota, as well as internet and print sources, they designed a workshop to discuss the issue and learn best management practices to prevent it. They developed a curriculum outline for a two-day workshop, as well as a one-page summary of best management practices to prevent nutrient pollution.

Restoring Jolicoeur Creek Connectivity – Engineering Designs

Project Number: 20-

306-08L

Grantee: Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa

Final Cost: \$12,885.46 (Grant: \$10,000)

Project Start: 10/17/2022

Project End: 06/30/2023

- The Environmental Program, Office of Water Protection, at Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa is undergoing a large-scale project to restore Jolicoeur Creek. This grant covered a portion of Phase 1 engineering design plans, specifically the initial survey work and [geomorphological assessment](#) (available online), to eventually remove two fish passage barriers and restore the 2,000 ft stream channel and floodplain following Natural Channel Design techniques.

Identifying Potential Green Infrastructure Sites

Project Number: 22-306-06A

Grantee: St. Louis County

Final Cost: \$11,542.41 (Grant: \$10,000)

Project Start: 01/24/2023

Project End: 06/30/2023

- St. Louis County, and a contracted engineer, identified potential locations for installing green stormwater infrastructure treatment practices along St. Louis County roads, trails, and parcels to protect water quality in the Lake Superior drainage basin. The project used a combination of geographic information systems, professional expertise, and site visits to identify and begin to assess and prioritize specific locations and pair those locations with potential site-appropriate stormwater best management practices.

Amity Creek Park Land Appraisal

Project Number: 22-306-06C

Grantee: City of Rice Lake

Final Cost: \$10,394.85 (Grant: \$8,500)

Project Start: 01/25/2023

Project End: 06/30/2023

- Within the City limits, there is a large undeveloped property with Amity Creek flowing through it. The City of Rice Lake wants to preserve the undeveloped features of the land and allow access for outdoor education and recreation opportunities. The City is in discussions to acquire the land from the property owner and completed an appraisal on the 101-acre parcel.

Coastal Program Grant Funded Projects, Updated 10/06/2023

Status	Federal Award	Project	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
Awarded	NA22	STAR	22-306-08B	Grand Marais Stormwater Model Update	City of Grand Marais	04/06/2023	09/30/2023	\$9,174
Awarded	NA21	306	21-306-12	Demonstration of a Mobile Stormwater Lab	Regents of the University of Minnesota, NRRI	11/24/2021	11/30/2023	\$86,435
Awarded	NA22	306	22-306-07	Didymo Impacts on Coaster Brook Trout	Science Museum of Minnesota	09/07/2022	11/30/2023	\$99,349
Awarded	NA22	306	22-306-08	Mycorrhizal Fungi and Tree Seedling Success	Regents of the University of Minnesota	10/24/2022	11/30/2023	\$71,224
Awarded	NA22	306	22-306-09	Silver Bay Public Access Boat Cleaning Station	Lake County SWCD	09/07/2022	11/30/2023	\$20,868
Awarded	NA22	306	22-306-10	Nearshore and Devils Track Watershed Water Monitoring	Cook County SWCD	09/01/2022	11/30/2023	\$28,542
Awarded	NA22	306	22-306-11	Identifying Drowning Hotspots in the St. Louis River Estuary	Regents of the University of Minnesota	11/22/2022	11/30/2023	\$51,395
Awarded	NA22	306A	22-306A-01	Miller Creek: Restoration of a Ditched Trout Stream	South St. Louis SWCD	09/07/2022	11/30/2023	\$95,000
Awarded	NA21	306	21-306-09	Coastal Erosion Hazard Map Update - Phase 3	ARDC	09/23/2021	12/31/2023	\$47,200
Awarded	NA21	STAR	21-306-08A	Nagaajiwanaang: Where the Water Stops	Hamline University (Center for Global Environmental Education)	08/02/2023	12/31/2023	\$9,948
Awarded	NA22	STAR	22-306-06D	Stormwater Planning for Knife River, MN	Lake County SWCD	08/03/2023	12/31/2023	\$10,000
Awarded	NA22	STAR	22-306-06E	1st Ave Stormwater Pond Feasibility Study	City of Grand Marais	07/26/2023	12/31/2023	\$10,000
Awarded	NA22	STAR	22-306-06F	Culvert Assessment in the Duluth Urban Watershed	South St. Louis SWCD	07/25/2023	12/31/2023	\$10,000
Awarded	NA21	STAR	21-306-06C	Superior Hiking Trail Master Plan: Informing the Future of Minnesota's Premier Footpath	Superior Hiking Trail Association	10/01/2023	03/31/2024	\$10,000
Awarded	NA23	306	23-306-10	Documentary: A Sea Change for Lake Superior	Hamline University (Center for Global Environmental Education)	09/04/2023	11/30/2024	\$98,727
Awarded	NA23	306	23-306-11	North Shore Management Plan Update	ARDC	09/12/2023	11/30/2024	\$14,238
Awarded	NA23	306	23-306-12	Low-Cost Buoys for Smart Coastal Monitoring	Regents of the University of Minnesota	09/20/2023	11/30/2024	\$94,747
Awarded	NA23	306A	23-306A-01	Forest Hill Acquisition	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	11/30/2024	\$100,000
Awarded	NA23	306A	23-306A-02	Native Plant Restoration along Agate Bay Shoreline	Lake County SWCD	09/08/2023	11/30/2024	\$37,384

Status	Federal Award	Project	Project Number	Project Name	Grantee	Start Date	Expiration	Grant
Awarded	NA23	306A	23-306A-03	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration - Phase 2	City of Duluth	09/22/2023	11/30/2024	\$108,000
Awarded	NA22	306A	22-306A-02	Minnesota Point Boardwalk and Dune Restoration	City of Duluth	10/11/2022	12/31/2024	\$108,182
Awarded	IIJA	IIJA	Task3	Coordinate the Lake Superior Headwaters Sustainability Partnership	Minnesota Land Trust	06/05/2023	11/30/2025	\$46,288
Awarded	NA23	C-Haz	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Poplar River Flood Damage Scoping and Mitigation Plan	Cook SWCD	10/06/2023	03/31/2024	\$18,300
Pending	NA23	C-Haz	23-306-09	Mitigating Coastal Hazards: Stormwater Modeling, Knife River & Two Harbors	Lake County		11/30/2024	\$18,300
25								\$1,203,301

Capacity Grants; Approved between 06/01/2023 and 10/04/2023

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
NA21NOS4190083	Lake County	\$3,583	Technology Upgrade: Lake County Environmental Services Department will purchase septic system compliance supplies, train on their use, and inspect ten systems in the Coastal Area.
NA21NOS4190083	University of Minnesota	\$3,328	Workshop: The University, through Minnesota Sea Grant, will host the Lake Superior Cooperative Science and Monitoring Initiative Reporting Workshop in Duluth on October 24 and 25, 2023.
NA21NOS4190083	City of Duluth	\$4,500	Technology Upgrade: The Duluth Fire Department will purchase and install four automated rip current warning system units on Minnesota Point.
NA21NOS4190083	City of Beaver Bay	\$4,500	Technology Upgrade: The City will acquire a cloud-based GIS system, migrate existing GIS data into the platform and create maps and apps to allow staff to manage utility information (water/sanitary sewer/stormwater) collaboratively and from the field, as well as provide an internal and public city GIS portal to publicly advertise information, such as city zoning.
NA21NOS4190083	Pike Lake Area Wastewater Collection System	\$4,500	Technology Upgrade: PLAWCS will upgrade their ArcGIS Online account from a basic mapping system to system of operations and asset management by adding workflows, layers, and applications to allow for maintenance and inspection records to be captured and documented from any device.
NA21NOS4190083	Independent School District #94	\$2,500	Youth Education: High School students at Cloquet Area Alternative Education Program (CAAEP) will participate in an active field research-based Ecology class. The students will be making observations, collecting data, and reflecting on past and future impacts throughout the St. Louis River Watershed and how those impacts effect the environment and the people living in it.
NA21NOS4190083	University of Minnesota	\$4,435	Workshop: Minnesota Sea Grant (MNSG), in partnership with Wisconsin Sea Grant (WISG) and the Dredging Subcommittee of the Harbor Technical Advisory Committee (HTAC), will plan and implement a regional workshop to identify and prioritize beneficial uses for dredged material in the Port of Duluth-Superior for the next ten years. This workshop will be held in December 2023.

Federal Award	Grantee	Grant	Description
NA21NOS4190083	University of Minnesota	\$4,500	Workshop: The University will host AIS Detector training in the Duluth area. Community members will learn aquatic invasive species (AIS) identification, regulations, reporting, and monitoring to become more active in detection, education, outreach, and management. Participants will complete online modules and attend an in-person workshop in June 2024. The training also offers a professional development opportunity for resource managers interested in aquatic invasive species issues.
NA22 and NA21	Department of Natural Resources	\$2,475	Conference: Ten employees (from EWR, Fisheries, and PAT) working in the Coastal Area will attend the Midwest Climate Resilience Conference in October. The Coastal Program covered the registration fees.