

Erosion Engineerig

August 2026 Community Impact Grant Cycle

Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District

Al Brown
PO Box 293
Colfax, WI 54730

bilse@tainterlakedistrict.org
O: 715-308-1828
M: 715-577-0913

Mr Tom Bilse

PO Box 293
Colfax, WI 54730

bilse@tainterlakedistrict.org
O: 715-308-1828
M: 715-308-1828

Application Form

Instructions

INSTRUCTIONS

Complete the grant application by responding to the fields below. Note that any fields with an asterisk are required fields and must be completed prior to submitting an application.

As you complete the form, the system will auto-save every 100 characters typed or every time you click out of a field. You may collapse question groups as you go, as an indicator to yourself that you've completed that section and to reduce scrolling.

The system also allows you to Save an application and come back to it before submitting. There is also a Collaborator feature that allows applicants to work together on a single request. https://docs.google.com/document/d/15NsdFgi3lBmBu0_pp1zj2HZ51l4mx8Wryjrx4FYOmdg/edit?usp=sharing Click here to learn about the collaborator feature. Contact the Community Foundation at (715) 232-8019 if you have any questions or problems with the form.

Request Overview

Project Title*

Please provide a descriptive Name/Title for this grant request.

Erosion Engineerig

Amount Requested*

Typical grant amounts range from \$500 to \$5,000 or more.

\$3,000.00

Program Area*

Please check the program area that best categorizes this grant request.

Environment

Geographic Area Served*

Please select which geographic area is primarily being served by this request.

Dunn County wide

Does your organization function within Dunn County?*

Yes

Population Served*

Please select the specific population being served by this request. You can select age and income level in the next section. If the population this grant targets is not listed, please choose "General".

General

Age Group Served*

Please select the specific age group served by this grant request.

All ages

Income Level Served*

Please select the income level of the target population being served by this request.

All income levels

Non Discrimination Policy*

In accordance with federal regulations, the Community Foundation of Dunn County does not discriminate based on race, color, creed, sex, religion, age, disability, sexual orientation, marital status or national origin. Do the applicant organization's employment and service practices comply with this policy?

Yes

About Your Organization

1. Organization Overview*

Please provide a brief background about your organization, including a short summary of the organization's history, mission, goals, accomplishments, and challenges.

The Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District (TLRD) was formed in 2023. The formation of the TLRD was completed in accordance with State of WI regulations, where every Elector (landowner, renter etc.) was contacted individually to determine their interest in developing a lake district. In order to move forward, 51% of electors must sign their petition approving of a lake district structure, which was achieved quickly. At this point the future of the Lake District was subject to county scrutiny, and the Dunn County Supervisors approved our petition. We have been active in working toward our mission to "Revitalize and Protect Tainter Lake" since that day. Our challenges are many but include financial, regulatory, and lack of community understanding of the complexity of the problems we face. Our accomplishments to date include; hosting 3 past annual meetings, attendance in many clean water events, membership in environmental groups to learn

and connect with other like-minded individuals, and speaking opportunities to service, environmental, and outdoor activity groups. The mission of the TLRD is to "Revitalize and Protect Tainter Lake". Our mission ties in with our lofty goal of make our lake cleaner, safer, and a healthier body of water.

2. Current Initiatives*

Please describe your current programs, activities, community impact and the community's involvement or support of your organization.

Our accomplishments today include; the development of 5 committees, state approval and implementation of a slow no wake ordinance, aquatic vegetation harvesting to improve water flow, carp abatement and study projects, partnering with Dunn County to improve boat landing (for removal of invasive plants and aquatic creatures), fundraising events, community involvement through monthly newsletters, and speaking events at other civic organizations, and studies on lake users. Our Lake District "Electors" (people that live and/or own property on the lake) support our efforts. The Electors also understand that cleaning up our lake is a tall order and have been supportive by joining our different committees to work side by side with the commissioners. The Electors attend meetings, or watch them recorded and posted on our website.

3. Organizational Structure*

Describe the current structure of your organization, including how the organization functions on a daily basis. (CEO, staff, volunteers, etc.)

In Wisconsin, a lake district can have a 5 or 7 member commission, and they can be paid. The TLRD is made up of a 7 member commission of volunteers. We have felt since our very first day that a volunteer commission best served the lake. The TLRD's is lead by a Chairman. Our Chair has many years as an educator and school superintendent, so he is well-versed in leadership, organization, and over-seeing board activities. Our Vice Chair of the board holds a leadership position within the Menomonie Fire Dept. and as such is an expert in teamwork coordination, is an excellent communicator and committee chairman. Our Treasurer is an experienced accountant who is currently working in the industry, and expertly reports and tracks all things financial. Our secretary is an experienced leader in the transportation industry. Our 3 remaining commissioners all have many years of experience working as a small business owner, manager of a large retail operation, county board member and videographer. We contract locally for legal work, financial oversight, and audit activities. Our committees are lead by Commissioners, but many Electors hold key roles and share their expertise and assist with the work. Electors are involved because they believe in the cause and want to help.

About the Grant

What is the community need that this request addresses?*

This small request for funds will help jumpstart THE key project in our lake clean-up efforts. If successful we will add this grant money to the funds the TLRD has set aside to initiate engineering plans on two large erosion sites on the Red Cedar River. These two erosion sites contribute enormous amounts of sand and phosphorous to the river, which is carried into Tainter causing a huge sedimentation problem. The sedimentation is the root cause for many problems on the lake including; Blocking passage for most boats into the Red Cedar River because the water has become so shallow. Homeowners cannot access their lake frontage because the water is so shallow.

Vegetation has grown out of the eroded material separating lake property from the water. Homeowners cannot use their boat, dock, and boat lift because they cannot access the water. The shallow water is easily warmed causing more algae and cyanobacteria growth. The sand originating at these erosion sites carry phosphorous which leads to more algae and cyanobacteria growth. The requested funds will jumpstart our project and help alleviate these problems in the lake and communities downstream. This project will serve thousands in our community.

Project Goals and Activities*

Describe the specific goals and activities of your project and how they will be carried out or accomplished.

The ultimate goal of the TLRD with regards to this project is to dredge the delta area of Lake Tainter and the Red Cedar River. Completion of this project will help correct the sedimentation problems as listed above. Completion of this project will help make our lake safer and more usable.

The process we will use to reach our goal will take multiple steps.

1. Request shovel-ready engineering estimates for the two projects.
2. Obtain financing to pay for the engineering study.
3. Obtain financing to pay for the construction work detailed in the engineering study.
- 4.. Choose a contractor for construction duties.
5. While construction on the erosion sites is taking place we will get estimates from engineers on the cost and scope of the needed dredging.
6. Obtain financing for the dredging work.
7. Choose a contractor to complete the dredging work.

This is the process that we will use for project completion assuming we have approval from regulatory agencies and the Lake District Electors.

Project Outcomes*

Describe the anticipated outcomes resulting from this grant project, its impact and how the community will be better served.

The immediate goal is to initiate engineering so we can take the first steps in bringing cleaner and safer water to Dunn County.

The long-range outcome will be to complete dredging on the delta, allowing recreational and residential users access to the lake. Additionally cleaner water on Lake Tainter will impact our downstream neighbors positively, by granting them access to cleaner and safer water. Residential users will be able to access their lakefront property as intended, and recreational users will have the pleasure to use the Red Cedar River.

Anticipated Challenges*

Describe any anticipated challenges and how you will meet them.

Any project of this size and scope will be met by a few who don't understand the complexity and scope of this undertaking. The TLRD believes the relationships we have developed with a number of groups and the Lake District Electors, will help alleviate some of the uncertainty people may have. Another challenge will be

convincing our elected officials of the need to complete this project. Once again the TLRD feels we have developed good relationships with local and state agencies so we can sell the project with a return on investment approach. As always the largest challenge we face will be the price tag. This project is overdue by decades and it won't be any cheaper to complete it down the road. Our state representative has agreed to plead our case with the legislature to obtain funding for completion of the project.

Sustainability*

Please describe how you will fund and continue to sustain these activities beyond the grant period.

Following approval from our Electors, the TLRD can provide some of the project funding. The TLRD will host fundraising events, and speak to local civic organizations seeking their generosity for our efforts. .

The two landowners will be asked to provide some funding.

We will continue to seek available grants through state and federal agencies. (Surface Water Grants through the DNR and 319 money from the Federal Government)

Our representative has offered his help to seek funds through the state legislature.

Staff - Project Summary*

The Erosion Engineering Project addresses erosion at two sites on the Red Cedar River that deposit sand and phosphorous into Tainter Lake. The project involves engineering costs (~\$70,000), erosion control construction (several hundred thousand dollars), and dredging (few million dollars). Funding sources include \$3,000 each from TLRD and CF grant, \$60,000 from WI DNR's Surface Water Grant, and 319 federal funds through WI DNR for future phases, with support from three local state representatives.

Grant Project Budget

Anticipated Project Income*

Please list out all anticipated sources of income for this specific grant project with amounts and whether the funding is approved or pending.

Ex: Dunn Energy Cooperative: \$1,000 - Approved

\$3,000 from the TLRD

\$3,000 from the CF grant

\$60,000 Surface Water Grant from the DNR. This will get us through the engineering stage.

Beyond the first step we will seek 319 funds through the WI DNR. The DNR administers the federal 319 money.

There are 3 local state representatives who will speak on our behalf at the legislative level to fund construction.

Total Project Expenses*

What are the total expenses for this particular grant project? This may be more than your grant request amount and helps us to understand if the Foundation is funding a portion of the project or the full cost of the project.

\$70,000.00

Project Expenses Description*

Please itemize the expenses for this grant project, including a short description of each item and the anticipated cost. (Personnel, Materials and Supplies, etc.) If this grant is to cover a portion of the project, please list all expenses of the project and then specify which expenses you anticipate being supported by this CFDC grant.

The only expense at this initial stage are for engineering, which will be about \$70,000.

Further expenses on the erosion control construction phase will be several hundred thousand dollars or more.

Expenses on the dredging portion of the project will cost a few million dollars, depending on the chosen project scope.

Project Budget Upload

(Optional) You may upload a separate file of your own, representing this grant request's Project Budget. For help creating the document, you can click [here](#) to download our Grant Project Budget template.

Grant-Project-Budget-Template.doc

Letter of Support

(Optional) Letters of Support are optional, unless another organization or individual is integral to the purchase or use of the program and/or is a fiscal sponsor. Then it is required.

Additional Supporting Documents

(Optional) You may upload additional supporting documents to your request. If this grant request is to purchase a specific item or equipment, please upload a financial quote or spec sheet about the item [here](#).

Additional Supporting Documents

(Optional) You may upload additional supporting documents to your request. If this grant request is to purchase a specific item or equipment, please upload a financial quote or spec sheet about the item [here](#).

Staff - Project Budget Summary*

Brief sentence about how the grant budget is broken down by item.

3K would go towards the 70K engineering costs.

Required Organization Financials

Current Board of Directors*

Please upload a list of your organization's current Board of Directors.

Commissioners.docx

Organizational Budget*

Please upload your organization's most recent Operating Budget with projected revenues and expenses.

27budg single page.docx

Audited Financials

Please upload a copy of your organization's current Audited Financial Statement, if you are required to file.

audit.zip

Audit Opt-Out

Under Wis. Stat. § 202.12 | a charitable organization with annual contributions over \$500,000 must file an audited financial statement and include the opinion of an independent CPA. A charitable organization with annual contributions less than \$500,000 and over \$300,000 must file a financial statement reviewed by an independent CPA. If you do not upload an audit or financial statement, please verify that your organization is not required to based on this state statute.

Proof of 990 Filing*

Please upload proof of current IRS 990 Filing. You may upload the first page only; the full 990 document is not required.

990 replacement.docx

Authorization

Applicant Agreement*

As the applicant submitting this request on behalf of the organization, you certify that:

- The information provided in this application is complete and accurate to the best of your knowledge.
- Falsification of information will result in termination of any award granted.
- You have discussed this project and grant request with the necessary authorized representatives at your organization. They support this request and the proposed allocation of funding.

If awarded a grant, the organization will:

- **Carry out the activities and expend grant funds as described in the proposal, to the best of their ability.**
- **Submit significant changes in the scope or budget of the project to the Foundation for approval.**
- **Complete and submit written reports as required no later than 12 months from the date the grant is awarded.**
- **Acknowledge the role of the Community Foundation of Dunn County in supporting the organization in communications with their board and the public.**
- **Provide copies of all publicity, press releases or promotional materials. If available, provide photos in digital format.**

I agree

File Attachment Summary

Applicant File Uploads

- Grant-Project-Budget-Template.doc
- Commissioners.docx
- 27budg single page.docx
- audit.zip
- 990 replacement.docx



Grant Project Budget

This form is optional and may be used to help you upload a Project Budget to your grant application.

Project Income:

Please list all sources of income for this specific project request and amounts, including whether the status is approved, pending or declined.

Income Source	Amount	Status
TLRD contribution	\$3,000	Approved
Community Foundation	\$3,000	Pending
DNR Surface Water Grant	\$60,000	Pending
	\$	

Anticipated Expenses:

Please itemize/detail all expense items related to this grant project.

Item/Description	Amount
Engineering costs estimate	\$70,000
	\$
	\$
	\$
Total Project Expense:	\$70,000

Current Commissioners of the Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District

Al Brown	Board Chairman
Adam Mucks	Vice-Chairman and Chair of Aquatic Vegetation Committee
Jackie Kunkel	Treasurer and Co-Chair of Fundraising/Community Connections
Tom Bilse	Secretary and Chair of the Erosion/Sedimentation Committee
Jim Zons	Chair of the Boating and Safety Committee
Chuck Tack	Chair of the Water Quality Committee
Grant Peissig	Co-Chair of the Fundraising/Community Connections Committee

June 26, 2026

RE: Budget (Single Page)

Tainter Lake Rehabilitation District					
		Aug 24 -Dec 25	2026	2026	2027
		<i>Actual</i>	<i>Jan-Jun Actual</i>	<i>Jan-Dec Estimated</i>	<i>Proposed Budget</i>
Revenues					
	Tax Levy	\$ 65,399	\$ 44,840	\$ 66,343	\$ 67,872
	Dunn County Lottery Tax	\$ -	\$ 1,630	\$ 1,630	\$ -
	Grant Reimbursements	\$ 3,468	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Donations	\$ 15,848	\$ 5,244	\$ 5,244	\$ 6,000
	Fundraising Activities	\$ 7,788	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 8,000
	Dividends	\$ 84	\$ 54	\$ 129	\$ 150
	Insurance Reimbursement	\$ 317	\$ 290	\$ 290	\$ -
	Cash Balance carryover (tax)	\$ 9,908	\$ 16,786	\$ 16,786	\$ 8,874
	Cash Balance carryover(donations)	\$ -	\$ 21,943	\$ 21,943	\$ 27,187
Total Revenues		\$ 102,813	\$ 90,787	\$ 112,366	\$ 118,083
Expenditures					
	Communications	\$ 4,187	\$ 1,146	\$ 2,961	\$ 2,900
	Educational Conferences	\$ 581	\$ 288	\$ 388	\$ 1,640
	Fees	\$ 311	\$ 825	\$ 9,895	\$ 926
	Total Legal/Audit/Insurance	\$ 4,958	\$ 1,013	\$ 3,813	\$ 5,000
	Dunn County Intern	\$ -	\$ 250	\$ 250	\$ 300
	Boating and Safety	\$ -	\$ 964	\$ 4,164	\$ 4,470
	Grant Expenditures	\$ 3,996	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Fundraiser Expenditures	\$ 1,726	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
Total Operations		\$ 15,759	\$ 4,486	\$ 21,470	\$ 15,236
	Buoy Removal	\$ 4,514	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -
	Weed Harvesting (Aquatic Plant Management)	\$ 38,700		\$ 39,000	\$ 39,000
	Carp Bounty	\$ 636	\$ 95	\$ 600	\$ 2,000
	Carp Solutions	\$ 179	\$ -	\$ 7,235	\$ -
	Musky Stocking	\$ 4,000	\$ -	\$ 5,000	\$ -
	Economic Impact of Tainter	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000
	Erosion Intervention	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 3,000	\$ -
	Lake Management Plan (Vriebicher)	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ 9,702
Total Projects		\$ 48,326	\$ 95	\$ 54,835	\$ 53,702
Total Expenditures		\$ 64,085	\$ 4,581	\$ 76,305	\$ 68,938
Balance					
		\$ 38,728	\$ 86,206	\$ 36,061	\$ 49,145

July 21, 2026

The Tainter Lake Rehabilitation does not have a Form 990 on file because we do not fit the criteria. Organizations must file a Form 990 if they have gross receipts of at least \$200,000, or total assets of over \$500,000. The TLRD does not meet these thresholds.