



Minnesota  
Pollution  
Control  
Agency

### Clean Water Fund

The new Clean Water Fund was created after Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Wildlife, Cultural Heritage and Natural Areas Amendment on Nov. 4, 2008. The Amendment was created to: *protect drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.*

The Amendment increases the sales and use tax rate by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales, starting July 1, 2009, continuing through 2034. Of those funds, 33 percent is to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and ground water, with at least five percent of the fund targeted to protect drinking water sources. Total funding for the FY2010-2011 biennium is approximately \$150.8M.

# MPCA Clean Water Fund activities

## Protecting and restoring Minnesota's water quality

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In the 2009 Legislative session, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) received \$51.16M from the newly-created Clean Water Fund. The Legislature expects the MPCA to meet the requirements of the state 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA). Additionally, the Legislature required very specific projects that go above and beyond the CWLA requirements.

Over the FY2010-2011 biennium, this funding will be used for:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment: \$16.74M,
- Water quality study development (TMDLs): \$18.5M,
- Protection and restoration: \$8.67M
- Groundwater assessment and drinking water protection: \$7.25M.

These resources will allow the MPCA to continue the accelerated assessment and TMDL development efforts from previous CWLA one-time funding and to more fully integrate MPCA water resource management efforts in cooperation with local governments and stakeholders.

### MPCA water programs

The MPCA helps protect the state's waters by monitoring their quality, setting standards, and controlling pollution entering them, as required by the CWA. The Act requires states to:

- Assess their waters to identify water quality impairments,
- List those waters that do not meet standards,
- Identify pollutant sources and reductions needed (TMDLs), and

- Implement restoration and protection activities.

The MPCA works with a number of local partners to accomplish these actions. Additionally, the MPCA works closely with six partner agencies. The agencies include: Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources, Minnesota Public Facilities Authority and the Metropolitan Council.

Each agency's budget includes details for how the Clean Water Fund will be allocated to specific programs, initiatives or activities.

### The Watershed Approach

To improve effectiveness and efficiency, the MPCA and its partner agencies will use a statewide **watershed approach** to prioritize and integrate monitoring and assessment, TMDL plans, and restoration and protection activities.

The watershed approach is a 10-year rotation for assessing waters of the state on the level of Minnesota's major watersheds. The primary feature of the watershed approach is a unified focus on the water resource as a starting point for water quality assessment, planning, and results measure. This approach may be modified to meet local conditions, based on factors such as watershed size, landscape diversity and geographic complexity (e.g., Twin Cities metro area).

A preliminary schedule has been developed for monitoring the key lakes and streams in each of the state's 81 major watersheds on a 10-year cycle (see figure 1). Monitoring has

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been initiated or completed in 18 of the watersheds. Monitoring in the major watersheds will be coordinated with previous data collection and analysis to direct current and future protection and restoration activities.

## Partners

In every step of the watershed approach, the MPCA depends on its external partners. From monitoring and assessment to planning to implementation, protecting and restoring water quality necessitates coordination between federal, state and local efforts.

In its 2008 Report to the Legislature, the Clean Water Council endorsed the watershed approach as part of its Recommendation #1: *Develop a statewide watershed approach to prioritize and integrate monitoring and assessment, TMDL, and restoration and protection activities.* Among other benefits, the Council concluded that this approach would effectively engage the public and stakeholders in watershed planning and implementation activities. The Clean Water Council's 2008 Legislative Report can be found at:

[www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cleanwatercouncil/index.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cleanwatercouncil/index.html).

## Contact information

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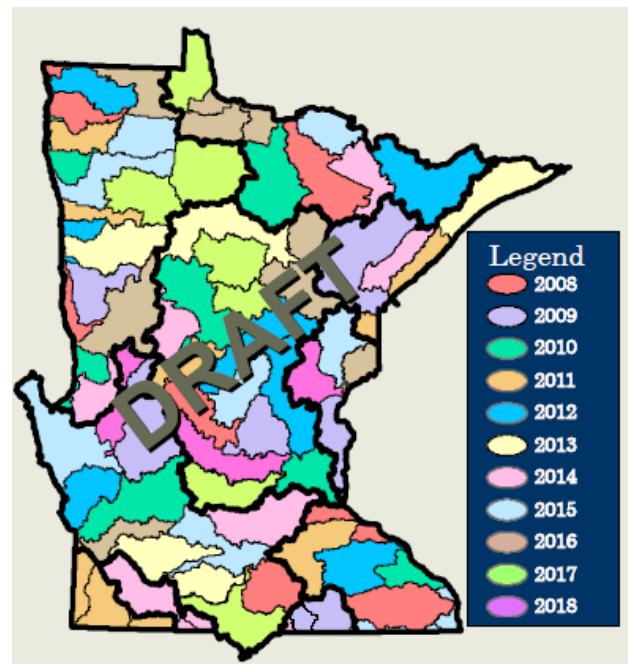


Fig. 1: Current monitoring schedule