



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

MPCA Clean Water Fund activities

Special projects funded by the Legislature

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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.

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.

Special projects include:

Endocrine disruptor monitoring and analysis: \$375k. Funds will be used for two projects: continuation of a statewide endocrine disruptor compound study; and to study emerging contaminants in shallow groundwater. Project partners are United States Geological Survey (USGS) and St. Cloud State University; MPCA project managers: Mark Ferrey, (651) 757-2355 and Sharon Kroening (651) 757-2507.

Wastewater treatment monitoring (endocrine disruptor monitoring): \$896k. Funding will be used to monitor and identify contributions of selected endocrine active chemicals and pharmaceuticals from wastewater treatment plant effluent and other sources to Minnesota surface waters, and to identify implications for aquatic communities. Project partners are United States Geological Survey (USGS) and St. Cloud State University; MPCA project managers: Mark Ferrey, (651) 757-2355.

Red River Watch: \$346k. Pass-through funding for grants to the Red River Watershed Management Board (RRWMB)

to enhance and expand river watch activities in the Red River of the North. Project partner is RRWMB; MPCA project manager: Dana Vanderbosch, (651) 757-2793.

St. Croix Watershed Monitoring: \$500k. Funding will be used for the implementation of the comprehensive water quality monitoring and phosphorus reduction activities in the Lake St. Croix portion of the St. Croix River. Project partner is St. Croix River Association; MPCA project manager: Denise Leezer, (651) 757-2523.

Minnesota River water quality effectiveness monitoring: \$348k. Funding will be used to repeat the biological condition monitoring of the lower Minnesota River and its tributaries as previously assessed from 1976 to 1992 under the Minnesota River Assessment Project. Assessment will include fish species sampling at 116 locations and macro invertebrate sampling at 41 locations and analysis will include findings and factors that limit aquatic life in the Minnesota River. MPCA project manager: Dan Helwig, (651) 757-2422.

Buffalo River watershed pilot project: \$250k. Funding will be used to develop a Buffalo River watershed TMDL in order to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams. Project partner is Buffalo-Red River Watershed District (BRRWD) and MPCA project manager is Jack Frederick, (218) 846-8110.

Database development: \$500k. Funding will be used to continue development of a

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comprehensive database to manage and track all aspects of the restoration and protection process for impaired and unimpaired waters. MPCA project managers are Glenn Skuta (651) 757-2730 and Shannon Lotthammer (651) 757-2537.

Civic engagement / TMDL development: \$250k.

Funding will be used to implement civic engagement activities into TMDL development. MPCA project managers: Lynn Kolze (651) 757-2501 and Cindy Hilmoe (651) 757-2437.

St. Louis River restoration: \$750k. Funding will be used to assess sediment and benthic community health in critical locations of the area of concern, to remediate and restore habitat impairments and to clean-up contaminated hotspots within the lower estuary. Project partner is the U.S. Corps of Engineers, who will provide \$2 for every \$1 from the Clean Water Fund, for a total project cost of \$2.25M. MPCA project manager: Marc Hershfield, (218) 302-6633.

Coal tar stormwater best management practices:

\$500k. Funding will be used to provide notification of potential coal tar contamination, to establish a stormwater pond inventory schedule, and to develop BMPs for treating and cleaning up contaminated sediments. FY2011 funding will be used to develop a model ordinance for the restricted use of undiluted coal tar sealcoats and to provide grants to local units of government for up to 50 percent of the costs to implement BMPs to treat or clean-up contaminated sediments in stormwater ponds and other waters. MPCA project manager: Dale Thompson (651) 757-2667.

Contact information

For more information about MPCA's activities under the Clean Water Fund, please contact Assistant Commissioner Rebecca Flood, (651) 757-2022 or rebecca.flood@state.mn.us