Constitutional Legacy Funding for clean water activities
Fiscal years 2012 - 2013

The Legislature appropriated $179.43M of Clean Water Funds for water activities during fiscal years 2012-2013. These activities include a continuation of previous clean water efforts funded in the first biennium, plus some new water management efforts. The activities include:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment: $23.4M
- Water quality study development (TMDLs): $34.86M
- Protection and restoration activities: $104.14M, and
- Drinking water protection: $17M.

Clean Water Funds primarily expand ongoing programs managed by agencies. The following information gives details about each agency’s Clean Water Fund budget and its specific programs, initiatives or activities.

Pollution Control Agency

MPCA will receive approximately $47.77M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment, including a wild rice standards study: $16.5M,
- Water quality study development (Total Maximum Daily Loads) and tool development: $21.9M,
- Water quality protection and restoration efforts, including St. Louis River restoration: $5.1M, and
- Groundwater assessment and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems: $4.27M.

These resources will allow the MPCA to complete 20 percent of needed statewide surface water quality assessments, 20 percent of TMDLs on the impaired waters list, continue development of a statewide water quality database, and integrate MPCA water resource management efforts in cooperation with local governments and stakeholders. For more information, contact Assistant Commissioner Rebecca Flood, (651) 757-2022 or rebecca.flood@state.mn.us.

Department of Natural Resources

DNR will receive approximately $20.72M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment: $6.21M,
- Water quality study development (TMDLs): $3.46M,
- Tool development, including web-based water appropriation permitting and LiDAR:$7.05M, and
- Drinking water protection: $4.0M.

These resources will allow the DNR to enhance stream flow monitoring, biological assessments, and technical assistance for TMDL development. Additional efforts are being directed toward drinking water protection. For more information contact Mary McConnell, Asst. Commissioner of Operations at (651) 259-5033 or mary.mcconnell@dnr.state.mn.us.

Department of Agriculture

MDA will receive approximately $15.4M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for:

- AgBMP loans to local governments: $9M,
- Research, pilot projects and technical assistance on proper implementation of best management practices: $1.55M,
• Research to quantify agricultural contributions to impaired waters, BMP research and evaluation, and research inventory database: $2.45M,
• Groundwater and drinking water protection, activities that identify potential contamination sources and implement practices to reduce nitrates in groundwater: $1.7M, and
• Increased pesticide monitoring and assessment: $700,000.

MDA is using Clean Water Funds to facilitate the implementation of agricultural Best Management Practices (BMPs), support research and demonstration projects, and to enhance efforts for groundwater and drinking water protection and pesticide monitoring. For more details, contact Director of Government Relations, Greta Gauthier, at 651-201-6180 or Greta.Gauthier@state.mn.us.

Department of Health

MDH will receive approximately $6.04M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for:
• Accelerated wellhead protection plan development and implementation: $2.83M,
• Evaluation of toxicity and exposure information for contaminants of emerging concern and development of health guidelines as appropriate: $2.04M,
• Sealing unused (abandoned) wells and borings: $500K, and
• County Well Index enhancement: $668K.

These additional resources support MDH’s goals of full participation in public wellhead protection planning by 2020, increased public health protection for Minnesotans who drink water from private wells, and proactive assessment of contaminants of emerging concern from a Minnesota-relevant perspective. For more information, contact Environmental Health Division Director Linda Bruemmer, (651) 201-4739 or linda.bruemmer@state.mn.us.

Board of Water and Soil Resources

BWSR will receive approximately $55.07M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for nonpoint source protection, restoration and preservation. BWSR implements non-point restoration and protection efforts by funding projects and initiatives:
• Identified by communities as priorities,
• For state and proposed federal funding above local contributions.

For more information, contact Assistant Director Julie Blackburn, (651) 297-5617 or julie.blackburn@state.mn.us.

Public Facilities Authority

PFA will receive approximately $33.42M from the Clean Water Fund to be used for:
• TMDL grants program, providing grants to assist municipalities to implement wastewater and stormwater projects to comply with wasteload reductions needed to meet TMDL requirements: $22.37M,
• Phosphorus reduction grants program, providing grants to assist municipalities to meet additional capital costs to reduce discharge of total phosphorus to 1 milligram per liter or less: $8.55M, and
• Small community wastewater treatment program, providing loans and grants to assist small communities to replace non complying septic systems with new individual and cluster subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS) that are publicly owned and operated: $2.5M.

For more information contact Terry Kuhlman, PFA Executive Director at (651) 259-7468 or terry.kuhlman@state.mn.us.

Metropolitan Council

Over the FY2012-13 biennium, approximately $1M will be allocated to the Met Council to continue development of the Twin Cities master water supply plan. For more information contact Lanya Ross, Water Supply Planning, at (651) 602-1803 or lanya.ross@metc.state.mn.us.

Other Clean Water Fund appropriation

The Minnesota Legislature will receive $13K for the Legacy website: www.cdf.leg.mn. On this site, the public can:
• View information on all projects and programs receiving funding,
• Learn how to apply for funds.

For more information, contact Sally Olson, Legislative Coordinating Commission, at (651) 296-9002 or sally.olson@lcc.leg.mn.