

In the 2011 Legislative session, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) received \$47.77M for the FY12-13 biennium from the Clean Water Fund. The MPCA will use these funds to meet the requirements of the state 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) and the federal Clean Water Act (CWA).



Over the FY2012-2013 biennium, this funding will be used for:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment: \$16.5M,
- Water quality study (TMDLs) and tool development: \$21.9M,
- Water quality protection and restoration efforts, including St. Louis River restoration: \$5.1M, and
- Groundwater assessment and SSTs: \$4.27M.

Protecting and restoring Minnesota's water quality

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, including: Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, Department of Health, Board of Water and Soil Resources, Public Facilities Authority and the Metropolitan Council.

Since 2006, the MPCA and its partner agencies have used a statewide watershed approach to prioritize and integrate monitoring and assessment, TMDL plans, and restoration and protection activities. The agencies collaborate on their individual Clean Water Fund programmatic activities to ensure these programs complement one another, and to avoid duplication.

The following lays out the MPCA's specific Clean Water Fund activities.

Water quality monitoring and assessment

The MPCA received \$16.5M for water quality monitoring and assessment activities from the Clean Water Fund for FY12-13. Of this amount, \$14.8M will be used to complete 20 percent of the needed statewide assessments of surface water quality and trends. Following the watershed approach, monitoring in more than 62 percent of the state's watersheds will be completed or underway following the 2013 field season.

Other monitoring and assessment funds will be used for:

- \$200k for grants to the Red River Watershed Management Board to enhance and expand the existing water quality and watershed monitoring river watch activities in the schools in the Red River of the North.
- \$1.5M to fund a wild rice standards study. The scientific information developed will be used by the MPCA in its decision as to whether or not a change to the existing standard is necessary.

Water quality study and tool development

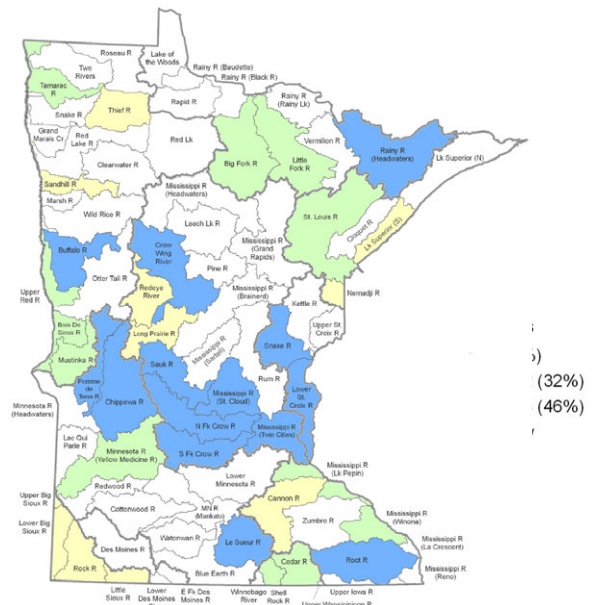
The MPCA received \$21.9M for water quality study and tool development activities from the Clean Water Fund for FY12-13. Of this amount, \$18.8M will be used to develop 20 percent of TMDLs, protection strategies, and implementation plans for waters listed on the U.S. EPA approved impaired waters list. In past years, the agency addressed these impairments waterbody by waterbody through TMDL projects.

Now, the MPCA is addressing impairments by using the watershed approach to develop watershed-wide restoration and protection strategies. As of August 2011, 14 major watershed strategies have been developed or are underway, including a metropolitan project. This is more than 17 percent of the state's watersheds. The FY12-13 funding will enable the MPCA to stay on track with its goal of completing strategy development in 10 percent of the state's watersheds per year.

Other tool development funds will be used for:

- \$2.3M for the second phase of TMDL research and database development.
- \$800k for stormwater research and guidance.

Watershed restoration and protection strategies



Restoration and protection efforts

The MPCA received \$5.1M for restoration and protection activities from the Clean Water Fund for FY12-13. Of this amount, \$2M will be used to administer the Clean Water Partnership grant program. Local units of government will be able to apply for grants to protect and improve the basins and watersheds of the state, and to provide financial and technical assistance to study waters with nonpoint source pollution problems. Priority will be given to projects preventing impairments and degradation of lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Other restoration and protection funds will be used for:

- \$1.5M to be used on the St. Louis River restoration project. The project will assess sediment and benthic community health in critical locations of the area of concern, remediate and restore habitat impairments and clean-up contaminated hotspots within the lower estuary. This appropriation must be matched at a rate of 65 percent nonstate money to 35 percent state money.
- \$1.6M will be used for wastewater and stormwater implementation efforts.

Groundwater assessment and SSTs

The MPCA received \$4.27M for groundwater assessment and Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTs) activities from the Clean Water Fund for FY12-13. Of this funding, \$2.25M will be used for groundwater assessment, including enhancing the ambient monitoring network, modeling, and continuing to assess contaminants of emerging concern.

Other groundwater funds will be used for:

- \$450k to be transferred to the Environmental Quality Review Board in cooperation with the United States Geological Survey to characterize groundwater flow and aquifer properties in the I-94 corridor in cooperation with local units of government.
- \$1.570M to be used for groundwater protection or prevention of groundwater degradation activities through enhancing the county-level delivery systems for subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTs).

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