

# Clean Water Council

Advising the Legislature and the Governor on state programs to restore and protect Minnesota's waters.

2011-2012

## Council Members:

Marilyn Bernhardson

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Pamela Blixt

Watershed districts

Warren Formo

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Environmental organizations

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Sandy Rummel

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Lakes and streams nonprofit organizations

Deborah Swackhamer

State higher education system

Vacant

Business organizations

Vacant

Fishing organizations

## State Legislators

Rep. Paul Torkelson

Rep. Kent Eken

Senator John C. Pederson

Senator Dan Sparks

## Agency Representatives

Dave Leuthe

Department of Natural Resources

Linda Bruemmer

Department of Health

Rob Sip

Department of Agriculture

Gaylen Reetz

Pollution Control Agency

Steve Woods

Board of Water and Soil Resources

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Mark Dayton

Governor, State of Minnesota

130 State Capitol Building

75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.

St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Dear Governor Dayton:

According to the Minnesota Department of Management and Budget's (MMB) updated Legacy fund balance statement, \$9.1 million is projected to be in the Clean Water Fund as of June 30, 2012.

To address that balance, the Clean Water Council is pleased to provide you with a Clean Water Fund recommendation for your consideration during the 2012 Legislative Session.

**Of the projected \$9.1 million available, the Council recommends that \$6 million is appropriated in 2012 for nonpoint source protection and restoration implementation through the Clean Water Fund Assistance Program.**

As you know, one of the Council's biggest priorities is on-the-ground implementation for non-point and point source best management practices. In the Board of Water and Soil Resources' 2011 request for proposals, \$39.6 million was requested, while only \$12.6 million was available in the Clean Water Fund Assistance Program. The Council recognizes that funding requests will always exceed the amount of money available, though this level of funding disparity is a common occurrence. Our recommendation will allow for additional resources to address the vast needs for nonpoint source protection, restoration and preservation activities. It will also leverage additional funding from local and federal entities, as the grant program requires a local match.

The Council is also aware there is growing public interest and concern around aquatic invasive species (AIS). In the event you may be considering a Clean Water Fund appropriation to address AIS issues, **the Council advises of the \$6 million recommendation:**

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

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- **No more than \$1.2 million** appropriated for researching AIS as it relates to water quality impacts. This is a one-time funding recommendation.
- **No more than \$600,000** appropriated for educating and engaging citizens on preventing the spread of AIS, as it relates to water quality impacts. This is a one-time funding recommendation.

We hope you find this helpful during your deliberations over the 2012 legislative session, and we welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendation with you. Please don't hesitate to contact any of us if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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