

Clean Water Council

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

2011-2012

Council Members:

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Pamela Blixt
Watershed districts

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Department of Natural Resources

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Steve Woods
Board of Water and Soil Resources

February 28, 2012

The Honorable Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Environment and Natural
Resources Committee
Room 303 State Capitol
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.
Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Linda Higgins
Environment and Natural
Resources Committee
Room 27 State Office Building
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The Honorable Denny McNamara
Chair, Environment, Energy and
Natural Committee
375 State Office Building
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Dear Committee Chairs and Minority Leads:

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

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The Honorable Dean Urdahl
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The Honorable David Dill
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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 the Legislature is considering a Clean Water Fund appropriation to address AIS issues, **the Council advises of the \$6 million recommendation:**

- **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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