

Clean Water Council
FINAL 2013 - 2014 Work Plan

| Quarter | Topic cluster |
|-----------------------|---|
| Q1 (remainder) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>Aquatic Invasive Species</u> · <u>Supplement vs. Substitute</u> · <u>Conflict of Interest</u> |
| Q2 (Apr, May, Jun) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>Contaminants of Emerging Concern</u> · <u>Future Contaminants</u> · <u>Messaging</u> · <u>Measurable Outcomes</u> · <u>Long Term Vision</u> |
| Q3 (Jul, Aug, Sep) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>Water Appropriations/Water Balance</u> · <u>Lake Levels/Groundwater Use</u> · <u>Drinking Water</u> |
| Q4 (Oct, Nov, Dec) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>Agricultural Drainage</u> · <u>Agricultural Practices</u> · <u>Water and Sediment Retention</u> · <u>Agriculture & Water Runoff</u> · <u>Civic Engagement</u> |
| 2014 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · <u>Wetlands</u> · <u>Climate change</u> · <u>External Drivers</u> · <u>Integrate Water and Land Use Planning</u> · <u>Align Water, Energy, Land, Transportation Policies for Sustainability</u> · <u>Collaboration with the LSOHC and LCCMR</u> · <u>Innovative Approaches</u> · <u>Implementation Activities</u> · <u>Comply with Water Quality Standards</u> · <u>Impaired Waters</u> · <u>Watershed Approach</u> |

Note: for all work plan items listed below, typical questions for the Clean Water Council (CWC) to discuss are:

- What is the CWC's role, if any?
- Should the CWC develop policy recommendations?
- Should some aspect of the issue be included in the next funding recommendation report?

Aquatic Invasive Species

Objectives:

- Identify the subset of aquatic invasive species that impact water quality and habitat and how water quality is affected.
- Examine the mix of prevention, eradication, and containment strategies available.

Supplement vs. Substitute

Objectives:

- Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) reviews existing guidance of other entities (e.g., Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Office of Legislative Auditor).
- Discuss guidance that the BOC develops and decide whether to adopt a position.

Conflict of Interest

Objectives:

- Obtain advice from Department of Administration and/or the Attorney General on conflict of interest issues.
- Discuss whether the CWC's conflict of interest policy should be updated.

Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) & Future Contaminants

Objectives:

- Define CECs and future contaminants. Review mechanisms by which CECs could have an impact on water quality and fish communities.
- Examine knowledge gaps and potential short-term and long-term changes to agency programs for addressing CECs as identified in the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* (C.1.a, C.2.a).
- Evaluate a measureable outcome for CECs which is directly related to Clean Water funding.

Messaging

Objectives:

- Better understand the public information being provided by Clean Water Fund (CWF) Agencies and what is required by Statute.
- Discuss what the CWC's role (e.g., identifying needs, communicating, suggesting improvements) should be in providing public information about the results of CWF expenditures and/or CWC budget and policy recommendations, particularly to audiences not already being reached.

Measurable Outcomes

Objectives:

- Review the current status and deliverables that have been developed for measures and outcomes by the CWF Agencies.
- Discuss how the CWC provides input on the *CWF Performance Report* and if we are measuring the right indicators at the right scale and time period.
- Identify which CWF programs have water quality outcomes, how these are being tracked, and if the CWC has the correct balance between funding effectiveness monitoring and implementation projects.

Long Term Vision

Objectives:

- Review the CWC’s vision, mission, authority, and guiding principles and consider revising this document (last updated in 2007).
- Work with the CWF Agencies to consider creating a benchmarking effort for clean water in Minnesota.
- Review intent of constitutional amendment language as it relates to the balance of funding between groundwater and surface water.

Water Appropriations/Water Balance & Lake Levels/Groundwater Use

Objectives:

- Better understand water quantity flux (including groundwater and surface water interactions) in Minnesota, water appropriation permitting and other large factors, and water balance knowledge gaps.
- Examine current water quantity and conservation issues (e.g., White Bear Lake), and the current management system (roles and methods).

Drinking Water

Objectives:

- Better understand roles and management system for drinking water source protection.

Agricultural Drainage, Water Runoff, Practices, & Water and Sediment Retention

Objectives:

- Understand the landscape changes and water quality impacts from converting historic land uses to agricultural land uses. Discuss the current trends and drivers (e.g., economic) behind these trends.
- Recognize the most effective implementation strategies for retaining water and sediment on the land and reducing pollutant runoff.
- Discuss statewide agricultural initiatives (e.g., Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program).

Civic Engagement

Objectives:

- Understand civic engagement activities completed, planned, or underway for CWF programs and how these activities are tracked for each project over time.
- Examine case studies indicative of how the State and local entities can best engage their stakeholders.

Wetlands

Objectives:

- Review the progress and challenges in meeting Minnesota’s 1991 goal of “no net loss” of wetlands and how this fits into the requirements of the Clean Water Legacy Act.

Climate change

Objectives:

- Examine how upper Midwest states are altering management strategies to respond to changes in precipitation and temperature.
- Discuss how management of water quality standards, assessments, and implementation actions could evolve over time due to climate changes.

External Drivers & Integrate Water and Land Use Planning & Align Water, Energy, Land, Transportation Policies for Sustainability

Objectives:

- Discuss how sociological, economic, and other drivers create challenges for achieving clean water and how to incorporate these issues into planning.

- Discuss the concept of integrating water sustainability principles through statutes, rules, permitting, and compliance as identified in the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* (D.1.a).
- Explore how to best align all state policies (e.g., energy, transportation, building codes) with water sustainability goals as identified in the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* (J.1.a).

Collaboration with the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council (LSOHC) and the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

Objectives:

- Explore opportunities for the CWC to collaborate with the LSOHC and the LCCMR to leverage CWF dollars for a broader return on investment.

Innovative Approaches

Objectives:

- Discuss how the CWC can encourage and drive innovative approaches for clean water in the short-term through financial incentives without creating long-term financial dependence.

Implementation Activities

Objectives:

- Identify the mix of implementation activities needed to achieve maximum improvements in clean water and how the CWC can encourage these actions.
- Discuss how to best prioritize implementation.
- Discuss how to decide on the right balance between protection and restoration activities.

Comply with Water Quality Standards & Impaired Waters & Watershed Approach

Objectives:

- Consider what progress we really anticipate in the next twenty years.
- Get an update on the evolving 10-yr watershed cycle.
- Get an update on how unconventional parameters (e.g., mercury) are being addressed.
- Explore recommendations (e.g. complying with water quality standards through implementation plans for reducing pollutants and brining farmers to the table to be a part of this solution) for meeting Clean Water Act requirements as identified in the *Minnesota Water Sustainability Framework* (B.1.a and B.2.a).

The CWC will also seek advice in 2013-2014 from the legislature and the Governor's office on the content of the Council's Biennial Report to see if we are providing the right information at the right level of detail.

Note: This work plan is considered guidance for the CWC Steering Team in developing CWC meeting topics, presentations, and potential policy and funding recommendations. It may not be possible for the CWC to address all of these topics in 2013-2014.