

Support ongoing water-quality monitoring

Funding the MPCA's water monitoring and assessment efforts will help achieve the state's clean water goals.

Challenge

The MPCA monitors and assesses Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams in cooperation with other local, state, and federal agencies. The work identifies waters that don't meet water quality standards and those in good condition that need protection from potential pollution. Ongoing, long-term monitoring demonstrates the progress of restoration and protection work, the effects of climate change on lakes and ecosystems, and long-term trends in water quality.

The work has evolved in recent years to include monitoring prioritized by local watersheds, tracking additional pollutants, and more planning and logistics.

These changes and increased costs for staffing, data management, contractors, and equipment have left the MPCA's water monitoring program stretched thin. The agency has had to reduce the scope of monitoring by staff and local partners to stay within budgets. As a result, MPCA programs don't have all the data needed to cost-efficiently target restoration and protection work and gauge progress toward Minnesota's clean water goals.

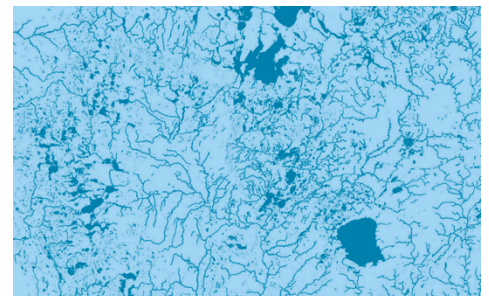


Proposal

Governor Walz is seeking an \$18.1 million appropriation from the Clean Water Fund for FY2024-FY2025. The funds will support the MPCA's water quality monitoring and assessment work in lakes, rivers, and streams and advance the goals of the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. In addition, the MPCA will use the funds to monitor for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in watersheds around the state, and further our knowledge of the scope and sources of PFAS contamination.

Why it's important

The MPCA's water monitoring and assessment work is foundational to protecting and restoring Minnesota's water quality, targeting protection and restoration projects for maximum benefit, detecting emerging contaminants, determining if water quality goals are being met, and more. To reach our clean water goals, we must have monitoring and assessment data that show the condition of the state's water resources, the most pressing threats to water quality, options for addressing those threats, and the effectiveness of protection and restoration efforts.



Minnesota has 92,000 miles of streams and more than 14,000 lakes.

For more information

Tom Johnson

Government Relations Director

tom.e.johnson@state.mn.us

651-338-8955

Alexis Donath

Legislative Coordinator

alexis.donath@state.mn.us

651-373-9277

