

FY28-29 CWF Program Proposals Summary
Organized by proposers

Program	Proposer	Brief Description	Which meeting packet
Surface and Drinking Water Protection Restoration (Projects and Practices)	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This project-specific competitive grant program provides Clean Water Funds to local governments to support the implementation of high priority surface and groundwater projects derived from state approved, locally adopted water management plans.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Accelerated Implementation	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This program is used to enhance the capacity of local governments to accelerate implementation of projects and activities that supplement or exceed current state standards for protection, enhancement, and restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. Activities include 1) increasing technical assistance through regional technical service areas (TSAs), 2) technical training and certification, 3) inventories of potential restoration or protection sites, and 4) developing and using analytical infrastructure of the agency such as the targeting tool Prioritize, Target, and Measure Application (PTMApp) and eLINK as well as funding to local governments to support staff participation in training and increased capacity to deliver priority water quality projects.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Conservation Drainage (Multipurpose Drainage Management)	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This program provides financial and technical assistance to Minnesota's Public Drainage Authorities and Soil and Water Conservation Districts to facilitate planning, design, and installation of conservation practices on drainage systems that will result in water quality improvements. These practices promote retention of rainfall and runoff on the land, soil erosion reduction, and water quality improvement in drainage systems and receiving waters while maintaining agricultural production. The program is implemented through partnering with the state's public drainage system authorities, principally counties and watershed districts. The state's investment leverages local investment as the grants require a 10% local match.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Legacy Partners	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The Clean Water Legacy Partners program funds implementation of high-priority projects that protect, enhance, and restore Minnesota's lakes, rivers, streams, groundwater, and drinking water sources. By advancing actions identified in state, local, and Tribal water management plans, the program delivers measurable water quality improvements in impaired and vulnerable waters. The program serves Tribal nations, nonprofits, community-based organizations, and local partners, expanding implementation capacity, strengthening collaboration, and ensuring Clean Water Fund investments reach diverse communities and priority waters statewide.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Measures, Results, and Accountability	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This funding provides the required oversight and accountability for the Clean Water Funds that MN Board of Water & Soil Resources administers to measure, track, and communicate the results of projects, ensuring effective and high-quality investments of funds with measurable water quality results. Central to these efforts is eLINK, the agency's grant management system, which features grants tracking from application to reporting, contract management, and tracking of outcomes, including pollution reduction estimates. BWSR also administers a grant reconciliation process, through which staff conduct field visits with grant recipients to ensure compliance with state policies, guidance and fiscal best management practices.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting

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Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for DW & GW Protection	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This program provides an opportunity for a large acre and participant increase in cover crop and soil health practice adoption. To reduce nitrate from leaching into our groundwater and running off into our surface waters, a shift in the cropping system is required. One component of this shift is the recommended use of cover crops to scavenge excess nitrogen from the soil. Cover crop adoption improves groundwater and surface water quality and benefits drinking water supply areas. Clean Water Funds will be made available to plant cover crops, provide payments to reduce risk, and purchase specialized interseeding equipment in one or two targeted areas within the state. This initiative can leverage existing NRCS financial assistance programs and will be implemented by SWCDs with partnership opportunities for Tribal governments.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Critical Shoreland Easements	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The program goal is to protect lands adjacent to public waters with good water quality but threatened with degradation. Using the RIM program, conservation easements are acquired to protect existing high quality shoreland areas. The highest priority areas are targeted through science-based conservation methods.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Wetland Restoration Easements	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This program restores and permanently protects previously drained wetlands and adjacent uplands via RIM easements on private lands across the state for water quality and habitat benefits. The program utilizes a ranking and selection process and is locally implemented by SWCD staff. Restored wetlands benefit society by storing floodwaters, filtering pollutants, serving as a carbon sink, and providing habitat.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Working Lands and Floodplain Easements	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The program goal is to restore and protect riparian and floodplain areas across the state to improve and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat through limited term and perpetual easements with private landowners. The land targeted for this program is existing row crop agriculture within a riparian area or a mapped floodplain. Landowners have options to restore the easement to native vegetation or continue to generate income through uses that do not include row crop agriculture, with payment structure based on the proposed easement length and use.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The program goal is to ensure that the land use within a DWSMA is conducive to protecting or improving the drinking water that is impacted by the land use in areas that are vulnerable to contamination and protect the land via RIM easements or agreements with local units of government for fee title acquisitions.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
One Watershed, One Plan	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The program funds evaluations and amendments of comprehensive watershed management plans developed through the One Watershed, One Plan program. The program supports voluntary, multi-jurisdictional partnerships among local and tribal governments to develop and implement prioritized, targeted, and measurable actions that protect and restore quality surface and groundwater. Plans guide use of state funds to high priority areas based on available data. By FY28-29, all initial 10-year plans will be complete. Maintaining plans through evaluation and amendments ensures plans stay relevant and useful, reflect new data, and engage local partners who were not part of the original planning process.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Watershed Based Implementation Funds	Board of Water and Soil Resources	WBIF accelerates progress toward Minnesota's clean water goals by funding actions prioritized through local watershed and groundwater plans. This approach provides a dependable, equitable funding source that enables local and Tribal governments to target measurable outcomes and implement high-impact projects efficiently. By integrating local expertise with statewide data, WBIF increases consistency, reduces administrative burden, and ensures resources are used where they achieve the most benefit. Funded activities protect and restore surface waters, safeguard groundwater and drinking water sources, and improve water quality outcomes across diverse Minnesota watersheds.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting

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Riparian Protection and Soil Loss Assistance	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This program supports soil and water conservation districts in providing technical assistance to landowners, conducting ongoing monitoring and compliance tracking, and assisting with local enforcement of the Minnesota buffer law. This work is the foundation of ongoing compliance with the buffer law and needed to fund the SWCD efforts prior to any handoff for potential enforcement by a county or watershed district (enforcement entities receive Riparian Aid not CWF dollars).	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Technical Evaluations	Board of Water and Soil Resources	State law requires evaluations be conducted on restoration projects completed with funds from the Clean Water Fund (M.S. 114D.50). As provided by law, BWSR is the responsible agency for Clean Water Fund restoration evaluations. This proposal is a continuation of the required restoration evaluations that were initiated in 2012. These evaluations assess project performance to ensure and improve conservation outcomes across the state. DNR and BWSR elected to combine administration and reporting for three statutory requirements in a single Legacy Fund Restoration Evaluation program.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Great Lakes Restoration	Board of Water and Soil Resources	This grant funding provides support to SWCDs in the Lake Superior Basin to leverage Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) or other federal Great Lakes funding to implement prioritized projects consistent with the GLRI's Action Plan, already identified through WRAPS, and Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans developed through 1W1P.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Conservation Corps of MN and IA	Board of Water and Soil Resources	Since 2012, BWSR has contracted with CCMI for delivery of services (restoration, maintenance, training, and other activities) to provide additional capacity to Minnesota's local governments. This funding request also includes delivery of service to provide additional capacity to Tribal nations. Prior to FY26-27, the funding was legislatively directed in appropriation language and previously used Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants or Accelerated Implementation funding sources.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Tillage and Erosion Transects	Board of Water and Soil Resources	The Tillage and Erosion Transects survey is a comprehensive, long-term program to systematically collect data on high residue cropping systems and cover crop adoption to produce county, watershed, and statewide estimates of soil erosion caused by water and wind. This valuable information can then be used by local and Tribal government staff to help them reach their water quality goals by using the information to both identify critical areas, and to select and prioritize potential projects based on a more accurate estimate of projected impacts.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Culvert Replacement Incentive Program	Department of Natural Resources	The program helps Minnesota communities modernize the state's more than 65,000 road-stream crossings by providing design expertise and funding natural channel and floodplain designs using the geomorphic approach. The program delivers three primary benefits. It ensures cleaner water by reducing soil erosion and allowing natural areas to filter pollutants. It supports healthier ecosystems by restoring fish passage and habitat. It also strengthens infrastructure, lowering maintenance costs and reducing the risk of washouts during floods. Ultimately, the program encourages local governments to adopt these high-performing designs as the standard for all future road projects.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Nonpoint Restoration and Protection	Department of Natural Resources	This program supports the protection and restoration of water quality in streams and lakes through direct technical assistance, training, and tools to help local water managers prioritize, target, scope, design, construct or adopt recommended approaches, and quantify the anticipated and actual outcomes - from sediment and nutrient load reductions to multiple co-benefits. In partnership with other agencies and organizations, DNR Nonpoint staff work directly with local governments, local conservation groups, and landowners to help them compare implementation options and better understand approaches that address the root causes of water quality problems and improve watershed health.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting

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Native Mussel Restoration	Department of Natural Resources	Native freshwater mussels play a key role in contributing to clean waters in Minnesota. However, many mussel species are no longer present in sufficient numbers to repopulate rivers and streams. The DNR will use its expertise to propagate (grow) mussels and restore populations in Minnesota rivers. We propose to improve techniques and scale up production of mussel species and place them into their natural habitats. Funding will support collection, rearing, distribution, monitoring costs, and identification of new species and locations for restoration. These efforts will benefit Minnesotans by contributing to fishable and swimmable waters across the state.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
WRAPS	Department of Natural Resources	This program adds geomorphology, hydrology, and connectivity data to the WRAPS process and supports the Watershed Health Assessment Framework (WHAF), supplementing MPCA's biomonitoring and water chemistry data to promote robust watershed health assessments and bridge gaps in watershed science. MPCA and local water managers use DNR data to help identify root causes of water quality problems, compare restoration and protection strategies, and implement resilient, multiple-benefit solutions. The WHAF encourages resource managers, scientists, landowners, and others to explore extensive spatial data at nested watershed scales, without using desktop GIS. Users can save and share custom views, ecological health scores, and more.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
County Geologic Atlas Part B	Department of Natural Resources	County Geologic Atlases provide information about the region's geology and groundwater: location and depth of aquifers, direction of water flow, pollution sensitivity, connections to surface waters, and other characteristics like natural quality and age of groundwater. This information is essential for local planning and environmental protection efforts. Water supply planning, source water protection, and well sealing programs are examples of local programs that need geologic and groundwater information. Other typical uses include providing information for permit applications, resource management, monitoring needs, and emergency response to contaminant releases.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning	Department of Natural Resources	The Minnesota DNR's groundwater monitoring program collects long-term aquifer level data through a statewide network of 1,257 observation wells. This program provides essential information on groundwater trends, sustainability, and groundwater-surface water interactions to protect drinking water, water supplies, and groundwater dependent ecosystems. By analyzing water level changes alongside climate, land use and water demand, the program supports planning that prevents water shortages and protects lakes, streams, wetlands, trout streams, and calcareous fens. The program serves state and local water managers, communities and resource professionals by supplying reliable data, modeling and shared tools for sustainable groundwater management.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Fish Contamination Assessment	Department of Natural Resources	The program analyzes fish tissue to detect mercury and other contaminants. The information collected is then used by the MPCA to determine whether lakes are impaired for these contaminants, and by MDH in establishing fish consumption advisories. Fish consumption advisories are for the Minnesota public to determine how much wild caught fish can be safely eaten from Minnesota waters.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Lake Biological Monitoring and Assessment (formerly Lake IBI)	Department of Natural Resources	The program supports MPCA and Federal Clean Water Act evaluations by conducting biological surveys and aquatic life assessments for lakes. Fish-based Indices of Biological Integrity were developed and used to evaluate fish communities in 1,056 lakes within 47 watersheds to identify impairments, stressors and exceptionally healthy lakes. Monitoring has expanded to 13 northwestern watersheds. Standards to assess coldwater fish habitat in over 500 lakes have been developed, with assessments beginning once rules are promulgated. The program serves Minnesotans by informing watershed protection and restoration efforts, and by monitoring conditions and trends statewide.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting

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Forestry BMP Evaluation and Lidar Hydrography Tools	Department of Natural Resources	The Guideline Monitoring Program monitors the implementation of forest management guidelines (FMGs) and Best Management Practices (BMPs) at logging sites across Minnesota's forested watersheds. We analyze data on FMG/BMP implementation to identify risks to water quality and provide training and advising for forest managers and loggers to implement sustainable forestry practices. The Lidar Hydrography Program generates Minnesota's official statewide elevation data through lidar technology, enabling precise mapping of the state's landscape features that influence surface water movement and infiltration to groundwater. Specializing in 3D data collection and terrain analysis, the team develops authoritative digital contours, elevation models, hydrography, and watershed boundaries.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Stream Flow Monitoring	Department of Natural Resources	Stream flow information is essential for understanding the state of Minnesota's waters. Clean Water funding has allowed the DNR to expand the network of stream gages that support planning and implementation for clean water protection and restoration. Specifically, stream flow data are needed to calculate pollution loads for Total Maximum Daily Load studies and pollution reduction plans. Through the Legacy Amendment the DNR will continue to maintain at least one stream gage in each of the 81 major watersheds to provide water quantity information in support of the State's long term water quality trend monitoring efforts.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Natural Shorelines for Clean Water	Department of Natural Resources	We are proposing an integrated system to address the mounting challenges on Minnesota's most heavily used lakes. About half of Minnesota's natural shorelines have been altered or degraded, diminishing ecological function and lake water quality, as lawn-down-to-the-lake shorelines allow 7-9 times more pollutants to enter a lake than naturally vegetated shoreline. These pollutants accumulate in lakes, creating serious water quality problems. This proposal includes a Lake Steward program administered by Minnesota Lakes and Rivers and a lakeshore conservation easement program managed by Minnesota Land Trust for permanent protection of critical shoreland on popular lakes at risk for land use change. Another element of this overall effort will be submitted to the LCCMR to support a program to develop a certification and extension program for protection and restoration of natural shorelines.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
River Watch in the Minnesota Valley	Friends of the Minnesota Valley	River Watch is a hands-on learning program operated by Friends of the Minnesota Valley for students in 28 high schools and in some middle schools during the 2025-2026 school year. Beginning with an in-classroom lesson aligned with state Science standards, students make 2 trips per semester to a river or stream to conduct water quality monitoring using a multi-function electronic probe and other tools. Macroinvertebrate surveys are conducted during the stream visits. Data is reported through the MPCA Citizen Science Portal. Most work is in the Minnesota River Basin, two High Schools serving Latino and Indigenous students in Minneapolis participate.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
LCC Website	Legislative Coordinating Commission	The LCC has been tasked with developing and maintaining a website that shows how revenues generated by the Legacy Amendment and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund are utilized. It is required by law.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
MN Ag Water Quality Certification Program	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	MAWQCP is a first-of-its-kind, voluntary initiative that supports the adoption of conservation practices on a field-by-field and whole-farm basis, whether the land is owned or rented. The program uses a comprehensive risk assessment process that evaluates every parcel and cropping scenario to identify and mitigate potential impacts to water quality. Producers work one-on-one with local agronomic and conservation professionals to assess risks and implement proven practices that protect water quality. This level of individualized, whole-farm evaluation and direct technical support is unmatched by any other program in the nation and provides a uniquely effective approach to protecting Minnesota's water resources.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting

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Conservation Equipment Assistance	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	This program supports MDA's Soil Health Financial Assistance Program (SHFAP), which provides grants to producers, producer groups, and local governments to purchase or retrofit equipment that promotes soil health practices. By expanding access to equipment for cover cropping, reduced tillage, managed grazing, and similar practices, the program improves soil structure, increases infiltration, and limits disturbance. These improvements directly protect water quality by reducing erosion and curbing sediment and nutrient runoff into Minnesota's waterways.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
AgBMP Loan Program	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	This program provides low-interest loans (<3%) to farmers, rural landowners, and agriculture supply businesses to implement BMPs that prevent, reduce, or eliminate a water pollution problem. The program is administered by local governments and has very low transaction costs; revolving loan repayments fund additional projects. Demand for AgBMP loans greatly exceeds available resources and additional funding would allow for expanded projects and practices that help protect and restore water quality.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Technical Assistance	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	The program helps to ensure accurate, scientific information is available to address water quality concerns in agricultural areas. Funding is used to evaluate conservation practices, demonstrate practices that protect water, share information about research and new technologies, and enhance outreach and education to the agricultural community and local partners. Technical assistance activities fill an important need for field demonstration and validation of practices to protect water quality. The MDA uses on-farm, edge-of-field monitoring to assess sediment and nutrient loss at the field scale and evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices. These activities generate high-quality data and practical insights that inform WRAPS, 1W1P, as well as statewide models and decision-support tools.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Irrigation Water Quality Protection	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Funding supports an irrigation water quality specialist through a contract with the University of Minnesota Extension to address water quantity and water quality issues in Minnesota's irrigated regions. The specialist conducts applied research, develops technical guidance and publications, provides education and outreach on irrigation and nitrogen BMPs, and contributes to the development of irrigation scheduling tools for Minnesota irrigators. Farmers, crop advisers, and SWCD staff benefit from expanded education, training, and direct technical support, and the practices help reduce nitrate leaching losses from irrigated crop production to groundwater.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Nitrate in Groundwater	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	The MDA leads nitrate monitoring and reduction activities across Minnesota, with emphasis on areas with vulnerable groundwater. This work is done in partnership with the agricultural community and local governments. Funding supports activities that identify sources of nitrate contamination and evaluate and implement practices at the local level to reduce nitrate in groundwater. In addition to promoting, demonstrating, and encouraging adoption of fertilizer BMPs, the program engages in strategic efforts to increase vegetative cover in vulnerable areas; works with farmers and crop advisors in local advisory teams; conducts computer modeling to evaluate practices; monitors groundwater, provides technical support, and supports on-farm demonstration projects.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
MnWRL	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	The Minnesota Water Research Digital Library (MnWRL) is a user-friendly, searchable inventory of water research relevant to Minnesota. It provides access to peer-reviewed articles, technical reports, and CWF-supported documents, including MPCA WRAPS, and BWSR 1W1P reports. MnWRL enables water managers, researchers, and residents to easily find and share research information that informs science-based decisions to protect, conserve, and restore Minnesota's water resources. By centralizing thousands of publications, MnWRL improves transparency, reduces duplication, and accelerates adoption of BMPs statewide.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting

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Forever Green Initiative	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	The Forever Green Initiative (FGI) develops Minnesota-specific winter annual and perennial crops that provide continuous living cover to protect and restore surface and groundwater quality. Through integrated research, farmer adoption support, and market-building efforts, the program accelerates adoption of cropping systems that reduce nutrient loss, enhance soil health, and support farm profitability. Clean Water Fund support advances research, implementation, and partnerships that expand these crops across Minnesota's agricultural landscape. The program serves farmers, rural communities, and the public by promoting agricultural systems that deliver durable environmental and economic benefits.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Manure and Water Quality Specialist	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Funding will support a manure land application and water quality specialist to develop and promote BMPs and update guidance, with a focus on regions at elevated environmental risk, including SE and Central Minnesota. Data from the USDA and MDA indicate that nutrients from manure are frequently under credited when farmers calculate the total amount of nitrogen applied to the crop, resulting in overapplication of commercial fertilizer. Improving manure crediting accuracy--and ensuring manure is applied at the right time, in the right place, in the right amount, and from the right source--will reduce nitrate leaching from manured fields to groundwater and decrease manure related runoff to surface water. The UMN's current manure program would benefit from additional staff capacity dedicated to land application technologies, producer support, and technical assistance. The position will strengthen statewide efforts to improve nutrient management, protect vulnerable water resources, and support farmers in implementing practical, science-based BMPs.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	Funding supports the purchase and maintenance of laboratory instruments that provide greater capacity for pesticide monitoring throughout the state. Clean Water funding allowed the MDA to increase the number of detectable pesticides, increase the sensitivity of detection of certain pesticides, and increase the overall number of samples analyzed on an annual basis. This expansion allowed the MDA to test additional public water supply wells, lakes, rivers, streams, and wetlands, including samples collected on Tribal lands. Data generated support pesticide management decisions to ensure groundwater, surface water, and drinking water resources are protected.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Pesticide Testing of Private Wells	Minnesota Department of Agriculture	This program provides homeowners and the public with information about pesticide occurrence in private drinking water wells located in geologically vulnerable areas. Earlier phases of the program analyzed up to 133 pesticide compounds in private wells across agricultural areas with vulnerable groundwater. Those results identified the herbicides cyanazine and atrazine--and their degradates--represent the greatest pesticide-related risks to private well users. Building on these findings, upcoming sampling will prioritize these compounds, along with nitrate and select neonicotinoid insecticides and fungicides in vulnerable aquifers, to ensure continued monitoring of contaminants most likely to affect groundwater quality.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Private Well Initiative	Minnesota Department of Health	The Private Well Initiative proposes a comprehensive approach to ensuring safe drinking water for the more than 1.1M Minnesotans who rely on private wells. Building on the work of existing state and local programs, the initiative improves understanding of contaminant occurrence in private wells; expands education, outreach, and technical assistance for well users; and strengthens partnerships with partners. The program increases public access to private well water quality data, develops model policies to better protect well users, is establishing a statewide well testing program, and supports targeted efforts to address nitrate contamination in southeast Minnesota.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting

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GRAPS	Minnesota Department of Health	GRAPS serve an important purpose in the Water Management Framework aggregating existing state information and data to characterize groundwater and drinking water at a watershed scale. The information sharing begins with the generation of a GRAPS report providing the foundation of what is known regarding potential risks, monitoring data, along with the identification of strategies for LGUs to adopt to protect and restore groundwater and drinking water resources. Prior to the GRAPS initiative it was difficult for LGUs to obtain state agency data resulting in limited protection across the state.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Source Water Protection	Minnesota Department of Health	Source water protection planning and implementation supports the efforts of local public water systems to identify issues that threaten their source of drinking water as well as opportunities and activities that help to protect it. Implementation of priority activities are supported with financial and technical assistance. Emerging water quality threats are identified through ambient monitoring of drinking water sources and finished water.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Beach Portal	Minnesota Department of Health	<p>Beach monitoring determines if beach water is safe for recreational activities and minimizes the risk of waterborne illnesses. Funding from the 2024-2025 CWFs established Minnesota Beach Portal (launching summer 2026), the first centralized source for statewide beach monitoring results and trends.</p> <p>This proposal will optimize the portal through evaluating and expanding its functionality, ensuring Minnesotans can access beach alerts for anywhere in the state.</p> <p>This proposal aligns with the vision of the Clean Water Council that Minnesota will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state. Furthermore, it makes Minnesota aware of crucial issues impacting water quality.</p>	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Future of Drinking Water	Minnesota Department of Health	This initiative arose from a 2016 Clean Water Council policy recommendation and companion appropriation. While the federal Safe Drinking Water Act provides a basic level of protection for customers of public water systems, this activity engaged local and national experts to develop an action plan that goes beyond current regulatory requirements to address emerging threats and ensure long-term safe public and private drinking water in Minnesota. With the release for the Minnesota Drinking Water Action Plan in 2025, the initiative now focuses on implementing the Plan and providing regular updates on progress and where there are key risks to address.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern	Minnesota Department of Health	MDH advances science-based public health responses to contaminants of emerging concern by strengthening health-based guidance development, water analysis, and laboratory quality assurance. Health Risk Assessment develops drinking water guidance, conducts risk assessments, engages stakeholders, and collaborates with state and federal partners. The Public Health Laboratory develops analytical methods and improves detection at lower concentrations. The Minnesota Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program ensures that accredited laboratories performing analytical water testing are accountable to standards that support defensible and accurate data. Clean Water Funds protect human and ecological health amid evolving contaminant risks.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting

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Water Efficiency Grant	Metropolitan Council	The program provides grants to assist municipalities in the 7 county Twin Cities metro area as they implement water demand reduction and water efficiency measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies and support resiliency of water suppliers. This program provides funding to residents in the region that currently get their drinking water from a municipality to purchase water efficient appliances which reduces the demand on ground and surface water sources. It also provides funds to communities that supply water to improve the efficiencies of their systems and facilities, also reducing water use and demand on our valued water resources.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Water Sustainability Support Program	Metropolitan Council	The Twin Cities metro region's steady population growth, increased groundwater pumping, changing land use, and variable climate is challenging our ability to meet demands for current and future water supply. This program supports efforts and programs to: ensure supplies of potable water are adequate for the region's current and future population, protect and enhance surface water quality, ensure uninterrupted economic growth and prosperity, avoid conflict over water sustainability, foster collaboration to address regional water challenges and limitations, conduct investigations into groundwater and surface water interaction, looks at ways to minimize impacts from this on both our drinking water and surface waters, and support the residents of the metropolitan area.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Enhanced SSTS Program Support	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	This is critical funding that supports SSTS programs at the state and county levels. State staff provide technical assistance to counties and support compliance for some of the most difficult enforcement cases that counties ask the MPCA to take over. Base funding is provided to support County implementation of their local SSTS program requirements (M.S. 115.55) including issuing permits, conducting inspections, identifying, and resolving non-compliant SSTS, and revising and maintaining SSTS ordinances. Additional funding is made available to counties for grants to homeowners to repair or replace noncompliant SSTS (septic systems).	March 23, 2026 Council meeting
Chloride Reduction Program	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	The MPCA Chloride Reduction program provides assistance, grants, training, and education & outreach to communities, permittees, and partner organizations to help reduce chloride at its source and protect water quality. Chloride is a permanent pollutant—it does not break down over time—so preventing it from entering the environment is the most effective and cost-efficient strategy for protecting both surface water and groundwater from chloride contamination.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
WRAPS	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	WRAPS Updates provide the scientific basis to LGUs for prioritizing and targeting watershed planning and implementation via 1W1P. WRAPS Updates can include, but are not limited to, stressor identification reports, TMDL reports, in-depth water body characterization, modeling, and enhanced studies, like lake protection reports. WRAPS Updates contain pollutant reduction and waterbody protection goals to guide the creation of a comprehensive watershed management plan and resulting protection and restoration implementation activities. WRAPS scientifically inform water quality permit programs to assist with appropriate level of regulation. Beyond the work the program does, MPCA's Watershed Program carries We Are Water for the CWC/CWF.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
CWC Administration	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	This program funds the operation of the Clean Water Council and related expenses, including reimbursements, per diem, communications and engagement expenses, overhead, and staff.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting

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Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL Implementation	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Funding for these program areas advances point source water pollution reductions by supporting point source implementation work, notably 1) integrating the watershed approach and pollutant restrictions into point source stormwater and wastewater discharge permits; 2) incorporating stormwater and wastewater point source discharges into TMDL projects and watershed restoration and protection strategy (WRAPS) reports; 3) supporting technical assistance for wastewater and stormwater permittees in achieving pollutant reductions; and 4) creating more opportunity for water quality pollutant trades.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	Minnesota monitors and assesses surface waters to meet Clean Water Act requirements and support water protection and restoration. The state evaluates water quality every two years, identifies impaired waters, and reports results to the U.S. EPA. Monitoring includes intensive watershed studies, trend and pollutant monitoring, and 10-year lake and stream assessments using physical, chemical, and biological data. The program coordinates partners, supports volunteer monitoring, manages and shares data, tracks long-term and climate trends, and produces reports and analyses to inform water quality management and policy.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Groundwater Assessment	Minnesota Pollution Control Agency	<p>Most Minnesota residents receive drinking water from groundwater. Protecting and restoring groundwater quality requires reliable data on Minnesota's groundwater resources. Groundwater monitoring and assessment helps the MPCA, and its local and state partners, understand groundwater quality and investigate potential sources of contamination.</p> <p>The groundwater assessment program is responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Monitoring and evaluating the presence and concentrations of non-agricultural pollutants, including contaminants of emerging concern; - Modeling the interaction between groundwater and surface water; - Operating a nine well Sentinel Lakes groundwater monitoring network, focused on the four lakes enrolled in the Department of Natural Resources' Sustaining Lakes in a Changing Environment program. 	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
Southeast Groundwater Protection and Soil Health Initiative	Olmsted County	This program will collaboratively address rising nitrate trends in groundwater on a regional scale by working with farmers to implement soil health practices on private land in SE MN where karst geology is prevalent and groundwater is susceptible to contamination. Protecting groundwater is imperative because it serves as our drinking water supply and sustains local industries and communities. Research confirms that converting traditional row crops to small grains, cover crops, and perennial hay and grazing systems reduces nitrate leaching, retains nitrogen, and limits erosion. The program could also be expanded statewide.	February 23, 2026 Council meeting
Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program*	Minnesota Public Facilities Authority	Through the Clean Water Council and the Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team (ICT) framework, specific impaired and threatened water bodies are identified where pollutant reductions are needed to meet water quality standards. Watershed restoration and protection strategies are developed to guide implementation activities. The PSIG program provides grants to help municipalities construct wastewater, stormwater, and drinking water treatment projects when the Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) determines that higher levels of treatment are necessary to meet water quality goals. These include projects to meet Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) requirements and water-quality-based effluent limits for phosphorus, chlorides, and other pollutants.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting

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Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program*	Minnesota Public Facilities Authority	Minnesota has many areas with significant numbers of noncomplying septic systems in close proximity that are polluting surface waters and groundwater. Local governments interested in community solutions submit projects to MPCA for ranking on the Project Priority List based on the density and condition of existing systems. The program provides technical assistance grants to help communities evaluate potential alternatives and prepare a community assessment report which is submitted for review to MPCA, and construction financing (loans and grants) for projects when they are ready to proceed.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
River Watch and River of Dreams	Red River Board	The Red River Basin River Watch (RW) and River of Dreams (ROD) programs provide hands-on watershed education for K-12 students across the Red River of the North Basin. The programs connect youth to local rivers through field-based learning, water quality monitoring, and creative exploration. Their purpose is to build environmental literacy and stewardship by increasing understanding of non-point source pollution, its impacts, and key watershed health concepts. By engaging students, educators, and communities, the programs support improved water quality awareness, long-term protection of MN's waters, and development of the next generation of informed watershed stewards.	May 18, 2026 Council meeting
County Geologic Atlas Part A	University of Minnesota	<p>The distribution of geologic materials defines the location natural resources including aquifer boundaries and the connection of aquifers to the land surface and to surface water. Geologic atlases provide maps and databases that are essential for improved ground and surface water management.</p> <p>This foundational data supports drinking water management, domestic and industrial supply, irrigation, and aquatic habitats. Atlases enhance education, provide technical assistance for management and regulation, and facilitate wise use of natural resources. They support permitting, land-use planning, wellhead protection, remediation, nutrient management, monitoring, modeling, and well construction. Atlas information is used by citizens and government agencies.</p>	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Stormwater Research Program	University of Minnesota	The program will lead to the development of new and revised stormwater practices and management techniques that are used on both public and private properties to prevent, minimize and mitigate the impacts of runoff to Minnesota's water resources. The program accomplishes this by investing the majority of the funds (~70%) into research through competitive or direct pass-through processes. Research is and will be conducted by a variety of Minnesota's academic institutions, public agencies, and private industry and by collaborations of all three. The program also provides technology transfer; training, outreach, and Extension education to Minnesota professionals, practitioners, and policy leaders.	April 20, 2026 Council meeting
Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project - National Park Water Quality Protection Program	Voyageurs National Park Clean Water JPB	These projects protect and restore water quality at the primary public access points to Minnesota's only national park and the nation's only water-based national park. FY28-29 funding of \$7,400,000 will support implementation of sanitary sewer system expansions, system upgrades and planning efforts, and related water quality protection infrastructure in remaining high-risk areas adjacent to Voyageurs National Park and downstream waters connected to the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness. The proposed projects reduce nutrient loading, pathogen contamination, and groundwater degradation while protecting drinking water, recreational waters, and nationally significant aquatic resources.	March 23, 2026 Council meeting