

Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, August 15, 2022

9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

IN PERSON with Webex Available (Hybrid Meeting)

9:00 Regular Clean Water Council Business

- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Introductions
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Agenda - comments/additions and approve agenda
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Meeting Minutes - comments/additions and approve meeting minutes
- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Chair and Council Staff update
 - **Policy & Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates**
 - **Staff update**
 - **Conflict of interest reminder**

9:15 Local Government Input on Clean Water Fund Implementation

- LeAnn Buck, Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Emily Javens, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts
- Brian Martinson, Association of Minnesota Counties
- Elizabeth Wefel, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities

10:15 BREAK

10:30 Summary of Written Comments on Draft CWF Recommendations

10:45 Public Input

- Anyone wishing to speak to the Council should identify themselves to paul.gardner@state.mn.us so that you get in the queue. Written testimony is greatly appreciated.

11:45 LUNCH

12:15 Discuss Scenarios/Process for Modifying CWF Recommendations Due to November Forecast [if time allows]

1:00 Adjourn

Summary of Public Comment to Clean Water Council Proposals to the Clean Water Fund

As of 15 August 2022

Entity	Program #	Agency	Program Name	Comments
City of Randall		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Brooten		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Ellendale		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Mahanomen		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Baudette		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Glenwood		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Moorhead		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Fairmont		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Mankato		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Halstad		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
Empire Township, Dakota County		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Upsala		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
Marshall & Polk Rural Water System		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Dassel		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Princeton		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Rochester		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
Curtis Flats (non-public water supply in Champlin)		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Walker		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Roscoe		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Bovey		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
Rock Co Rural Water		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
City of Edgerton		MDH	Source Water Protection	Support
Lois Brink, Oakdale resident		MPCA	Does not believe that PFAS is getting enough attention	Concern

League of Mn Cities		MPCA	MPCA staff increase for facilitating water quality trading (CWF supports this with NPDES wastewater/stormwater TMDL implementation program)	Support
City of Rochester		MPCA	Chloride Reduction Program	Support
City of Rochester		MPCA	NPDES wastewater/stormwater TMDL implementation	Support
City of Rochester		MPCA	Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program	Support
University of MN Water Resources Center		UMN	Stormwater research program (four-page annual report highlights in packet)	Support
Minnesota Corn Growers Association		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
NorthHarvest Bean Growers Association		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Sunflower Council		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Wheat Research & Promotion Council		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Association of Wheat Growers		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
Schlichting Farms		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Corn Growers		BWSR	Working Lands Floodplain Easements	Support
MN Corn Growers		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Corn Growers		MDA	Conservation Equipment Assistance	Support
MN Corn Growers		MDA	Technical Assistance	Support
MN Corn Growers		BWSR	Conservation Drainage Management Grants	Support
MN Corn Growers		MDA	AgBMP Loan Program	Support
MN Corn Growers		BWSR	Enhancing Soil Health and Landowner Adoption of Cover Crops for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection	Support
MN Corn Growers		BWSR	Buffer Law Implementation	Support
MN Crop Production Retailers		MDA	Technical Assistance	Support
MN Crop Production Retailers		MDA	Expand Ag Weather Station Network	Support
MN Crop Production Retailers		MDA	Conservation Equipment Assistance	Support

MN Crop Production Retailers		MDA	AgBMP Loan Program	Support
Kabetogama Township		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
St. Louis County Plng		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
St. Louis County Board		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
Koochiching EDA		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
Michael & Wendy Pedginski		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
Koochiching County Board		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
National Park Service		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
Arne & Gina Wuorinen, cabin owners		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
Koochiching County Environmental Services		MPCA	National Park WQ Protection Program/Voyageurs National Park	Support
City of North St. Paul		MC	Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program & water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program	Support
White Bear Township		MC	Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program & water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program	
Conservation Minnesota		MDH	Future of Drinking Water	Support lead service line inventorying
Conservation Minnesota		BWSR	Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity Funding	Oppose; CWC should propose alternative funding
MN Environmental Science and Economic Review Board		MPCA	Chloride Reduction Program	Support; water softener focus
MN Environmental Science and Economic Review Board		PFA	Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program	Support
MN Environmental Science and Economic Review Board		MPCA	Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL Implementation	Support

Assn of MN Counties		BWSR	Watershed-Based Implementation Funding	Support
Assn of MN Counties		BWSR	One Watershed One Plan	Support
Assn of MN Counties		MPCA	Enhanced SSTS Compliance	Support
Assn of MN Counties		PFA	Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program	Support
Assn of MN Counties		BWSR	Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance	Support
Assn of MN Counties		UMN	County Geologic Atlas Part A	Support
Assn of MN Counties		DNR	County Geologic Atlas Part B	Support
Assn of MN Counties		MDA	Ag BMP Loan Program	Support
Freshwater			General: Avoid using CWF when other state funding sources would suffice (bonding, general fund surplus)	
Freshwater			General: Avoid over-reliance on CWF for basic programs (and SWCD funding) as we approach 2034 expiration	
Freshwater			General: Nonpoint Source Protection Plan may need to include climate, equity, local capacity, research, monitoring, analysis	
Freshwater			Water storage	Support more water storage
Freshwater			CWC should update program and eligibility criteria to make sure that projects result in clean water outcomes	
Nature Conservancy		BWSR	Wetland Restoration Easements	Support
Nature Conservancy		BWSR	Working Land and Floodplain Easements	Support
Nature Conservancy		BWSR	Critical Shoreland Easements	Support; increase to \$6 million
Nature Conservancy			Wild Rice Reinvest in MN (RIM) Easements (for future consideration)	Support
Nature Conservancy		DNR	Mussel Restoration Pilot Program	Support
Nature Conservancy		DNR	Culvert Replacement Incentive Program	Support
Nature Conservancy		DNR	Water Storage	Support
Nature Conservancy		MDA	Conservation Equipment Assistance	Support
Nature Conservancy		MDA	AgBMP Loan Program	Support
Nature Conservancy		MDA	Technical Assistance	Support
Nature Conservancy		MDH	Private Well Initiative	Support
Nature Conservancy		MDH	Future of Drinking Water	Support; increase to \$4 million to support

				lead service line inventory
Nature Conservancy		BWSR	Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity Funding	Oppose; CWC should recommend alternative funding
Nature Conservancy			Council should require reports on measurable outcomes and accomplishments	



NORTHARVEST BEAN GROWERS ASSOCIATION

Supplying the World With Dry Beans.

August 3, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) Expansion for Minnesota.

Dear Mr. Paul Gardner,

On behalf of the Northharvest Bean Growers Association I am writing in support of the expansion of the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN) into Minnesota. Northharvest Bean Growers Association represents 2400 Dry Bean farming families from across Minnesota and North Dakota. Northharvest farmers located in North Dakota have afforded the opportunity to benefit directly from the information that NDAWN and Daryl Ritchison's team provided the farming community for 30+ years.

NDAWN provides farmers valuable information like growing degree days by commodity by region, disease risk maps, soil conditioning maps, insect movement projections, herbicide application timing data, irrigation scheduler by crop, and estimated crop water use which prove to be vital intelligence for our farmers. Producers are experiencing more volatile weather patterns and this tool will help prepare them to successfully navigate a growing season.

We would encourage funding support from Clean Water Funds to assist in building out precision opportunities for the farming community today. We hope to see NDAWN grow across the Midwest region to the success of the farming community.

Northharvest supports this proposal.

Sincerely,

Eric Samuelson
Northharvest Bean Growers Association
President

City of Randall

525 Pacific Avenue/P.O. Box 229

Randall, Minnesota 56475

320-749-2159 320-749-2605(fax)

E-mail: randallcity@brainerd.net

Web: www.randall.govoffice2.com

Matt Pantzke
City Manager

August 3, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

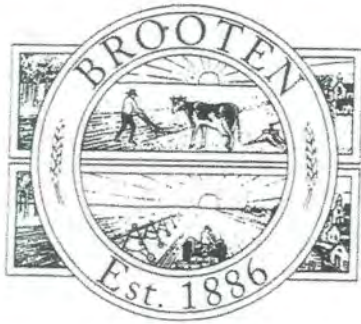
We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work in the City of Randall to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we recommend that it continue to be our shared priority of protecting the drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

The City of Randall began working on our Wellhead Protection Plan with MDH in 2015. Shortly after work began on our plan one of our two municipal wells exceeded the safe limit for nitrates. The city along with MDH temporarily suspended our plan and started the search for a safe source of water for our community. The geology in Randall is challenging due to nearly half of the city having bedrock at less than 50 feet below the surface. After much searching a suitable aquifer was found and a well and water treatment plant were constructed. We have resumed our Wellhead protection plan and are planning on finalizing it in the very near future. The City of Randall has fully realized that our most precious resource is vulnerable, and we need to take steps to protect our DWSMA. With the Source Water Protection Program and your support of the program the City of Randall can continue to prioritize threats and implement strategies to protect the community's drinking water source. Maintaining these high standards ensures the public's confidence that the City of Randall is doing everything we can to provide safe, clean drinking water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt Pantzke
City Manager



CITY OF BROOTEN

BOX 81

BROOTEN, MN 56316

PHONE (320) 346-2524 • FAX (320) 346-2779

The City of Brooten is an Equal Opportunity Provider

August 2, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the City of Brooten to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

The City of Brooten has had an approved Wellhead Protection Plan for almost 8 years. Over the past 8 years the city has provided residents with articles which discussed the importance of wellhead protection, provide information to well owners on the proper management of wells, and worked with Pope County on possible land use changes.

The city is also a part of the Bonanza Valley Regional Groundwater Management Plan. In the years to come, we will continue to participate in any monitoring or other needed activities to help the DNR better understand groundwater in our area.

Since our plan was approved we have been awarded Source Water Protection grants. The first grant we received was to install valves in one portion of the city to assist in isolating the city's water system. Without these valves the city wasn't able to isolate certain areas during maintenance or a water main break, causing some of our residents to be without water when an issue arose. Now, if an issue arises we are able isolate the issue and still be able to provide water to the rest of our residents.

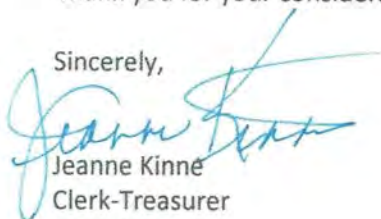
Recently the city received a Source Water Protection grant to drill a test well. The city's primary well was drilled in 1924 and we have begun to have issues with it. The city drilled a test well and we have located an area where we can construct another drinking water well. The city plans to apply for another Source Water Protection grant in September to assist in the costs of constructing a new well for drinking water purposes.

In addition to the funds we have received, the assistance from Minnesota Rural Water Association has been much appreciated. They assisted us with the development of our wellhead protection plan, worked with us on implementation activities specified in our wellhead protection plan and provided assistance through the grant process.

Without funding and technical assistance like this it would be very difficult for our community to be able to complete projects like these so we can continue to protect our source of drinking water and provide a safe and reliable source of drinking water to our residents.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Kinne
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Brooten



CITY OF
ELLENDALE
106 6th Ave. W, PO Box 385 Ellendale, MN 56026
www.ellendalemn.com P:507.684.2681 F:507.684.9467

August 2, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the City of Ellendale to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Our original wellhead protection plan was completed in June of 2021 with Scott Hanson of MNRWA providing many hours of guidance. We are considered to have a low risk to our drinking water supply based upon our well construction and local geology. As a result of this low vulnerability the main focus of our wellhead plan is sealing old wells which could contaminate our public water supply wells and aquifer. Measures were included in the wellhead plan to identify old unused wells, prioritize the sealing of, and seek financial assistance to assist in sealing these wells.

The city of Ellendale applied for and secured a grant to seal an old well on a farmstead located on city property that is in the process of being converted to a residential multi-housing property. The grant not only covered the cost of the sealing but accelerated the process of the land use changes. The amount of the grant awarded was \$3,148. This grant was under the Minnesota Department of Health Implementation Grant Program. This grant opportunity provided savings to our city of 667 residents as well as eliminating a potential threat to our drinking water supply and regional aquifer.

We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Engel".

Steve Engel
Deputy Clerk/Treasurer
City of Ellendale



August 1, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
paul.gardner@state.mn.us

Subject: Clean Water Council Recommendation

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the City of Mahnomens to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

The City of Mahnomens has worked with Source Water Protection staff at the Minnesota Department of Health to develop and amend a wellhead protection plan. As part of the implementation of this plan, the city obtained funding in 2020 through a source water protection competitive grant to seal an old municipal well that was identified as a risk as a conduit for contaminants reaching the aquifer that our residents, visitors, and businesses rely on for a safe drinking water supply.

Also in 2020, funding was obtained through this program to install submersible lever transmitters into the city's primary wells to allow us to monitor water levels in the water supply aquifer. This allows the city to be more responsive in water conservation controls to ensure that our community has an adequate supply for critical needs when drought or interference conditions are present.

The City of Mahnomens has limited resources and the financial and technical assistance provided by the Source Water Protection Program at the Minnesota Department of Health is essential for our drinking water protection efforts. Please consider this letter our support for continued funding of the staffing, program development and grant administration in Minnesota through the Minnesota Department of Health.

Sincerely,

Karie Kirschbaum
City Administrator
City of Mahnomens
218-935-2573
www.mahnomensmn.org



Office of the Clerk-Treasurer

106 Main Street West – P.O. Box 548 – Baudette, Minnesota 56623
Phone (218) 634-1850 Fax (218) 634-2942

August 2, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the city of Baudette to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

The city of Baudette has had an approved Wellhead Protection Plan since June of 2020. Since that time the city has worked to educate our residents about the importance of wellhead protection and provide information to well owners on the proper management of wells. Recently the city received a Source Water Protection grant to install a new control panel for the city wells. This has been a very important grant for us both financially and in regards to being able to provide drinking water to our residents without disruptions.

As we move forward with implementing our wellhead protection plan we will be completing additional projects like: Working with the County on land use requests in the drinking water supply management area, improve security around our wells, additional education with our residents and sealing unused wells.

In addition to the funds we have received, the assistance from Minnesota Rural Water Association has been much appreciated. They have assisted us with the development of our wellhead protection plan, implementation activities specified in our plan and assistance through the grant process.

Without opportunities like this it would be difficult for our community to be able to fund various projects like these to continue to protect our source of drinking water. We are very thankful for the grant that we have received and hope additional funding is available for us and other communities in Minnesota.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Tina Rennemo
Clerk/Treasurer



Kabetogama Township
9707 Gamma Rd.
Kabetogama, MN 56669
www.kabtowship.com

Mr. John Barten
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

July 26, 2022

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members,

I write to you on behalf of Kabetogama Township in support of the 6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park.

The Kabetogama Community includes nearly 200 shoreland properties of which 20 are resorts. We have long recognized the need to replace the many failing and non-compliant individual sewer treatment systems (77% - 2010 VNPCWJPB Comprehensive Plan). Because of limitations such as lot size, soils and depth to the water table or rock, it was recognized that the construction of managed community systems was the only viable option to provide a solution to our long-term sewer infrastructure needs. Under the comprehensive umbrella of the VNPCWJPB and significant funding from the Clean Water Council, we completed our first community sewer project serving 8 resorts and 11 private residences in 2017. In 2020, we formed 5 more subordinate service districts and with funding from the Clean Water Council in 2022, we started work on Facility Plans for 2 more community sewer projects which will serve 8 resorts and 100 private residences.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue our efforts to protect the waters of Voyageurs National PARK. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further our efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the VNPCWJPB will allow the Voyageurs National Park communities of Ash River, Crane Lake, Island View and Kabetogama to continue with their efforts to build the sewer infrastructure necessary to improve the water quality in the park.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Kabetogama Township
John Stegmeir, Supervisor

Phone/Fax...218.875.2082



Saint Louis County

Planning and Community Development Department
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Matthew E. Johnson
Director

July 15, 2022

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner, and Clean Water Council Members:

I write to you on behalf of the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This Board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The Board has had great success establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts. Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageurs National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. Let us protect these treasured waters together.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Johnson
Director
Planning & Community Development

Duluth Office, Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street, Suite 301, Duluth, MN 55802
Main Phone: (218) 725-5000
Toll Free in MN: 1-800-450-9777
On-Site Wastewater: (218) 725-5200
Fax: (218) 725-5029

Virginia Office, Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, MN 55792
Main Phone: (218) 749-7103
Toll Free in MN: 1-800-450-9777
On-Site Wastewater: (218) 749-0625
Fax: (218) 749-7194



Saint Louis County

Planning and Community Development Department
www.stlouiscountymn.gov

Matthew E. Johnson
Director

July 15, 2022

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us



Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner, and Clean Water Council Members:

I write to you on behalf of the St. Louis County Planning and Community Development Department in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This Board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The Board has had great success establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts. Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageurs National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. Let us protect these treasured waters together.

Sincerely,

Matthew E. Johnson
Director
Planning & Community Development

Duluth Office, Government Services Center
320 West 2nd Street, Suite 301, Duluth, MN 55802
Main Phone: (218) 725-5000
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Virginia Office, Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, MN 55792
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Toll Free in MN: 1-800-450-9777
On-Site Wastewater: (218) 749-0625
Fax: (218) 749-7194

August 1, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
paul.gardner@state.mn.us

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The Source Water Protection grant program through the Minnesota Department of Health has allowed the City of Glenwood to install security items at our wells, purchase a GPS unit for accurately locating wells and septic systems and Nitrate testing equipment, all action items in our Wellhead Plan. Without this grant funding we may not be able to fulfill our wellhead needs.

The work and assistance MDH give small cities is a great benefit to our communities, sampling and testing, all of the part 1 of the Wellhead Plan and advice for items like Manganese limits and control.

Glenwood supports MDH and the Grant Program for all their work. Please continue funding and state support of this program.

Public Works Director, Glenwood

Dave Perryman



Saint Louis County

Fourth District County Commissioner • 320 Miners Drive East • Ely, MN 55731
Phone: (218)365-8200 • Fax: (218)365-8205 • mcdonaldp@stlouiscountymn.gov

Paul McDonald
County Commissioner

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

SENT VIA E-MAIL

July 11th, 2022

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members,

I write to you on behalf of the St. Louis County Board of Commissioners in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

As you are no doubt aware, Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The board has had great success, establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Let us protect these treasured waters, together.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul McDonald". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and "M".

Paul McDonald

St. Louis County Commissioner

Chair, St. Louis County Board

Member, Voyageur National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board

CC: State Senator Tom Bakk
State Representative Rob Ecklund
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board



Koochiching Economic Development Authority

July 11, 2022

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner, and Clean Water Council Members:

On behalf of the Koochiching Economic Development Authority (KEDA) Board of Directors, I'm writing in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding request will further complement the previous work of the VNPCWJPB in its efforts to protect the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the adjoining watersheds.

Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's only National Park. Voyageurs is unique in that it is the nation's only water-based national park. Encompassing over 218,000 acres, it is acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and formed the VNPCWJPB. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The board has had great success, establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked in conjunction with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the VNPCWJPB would allow this important project to continue.

Thank you for your past support and consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Paul Nevanen, Director
Koochiching Economic Development Authority

Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: Michael and Wendy P <p4264@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, July 18, 2022 9:29 AM
To: Barten, John; Gardner, Paul (MPCA)
Cc: Jeff Anderson; Michael and Wendy P
Subject: Voyageurs Park Clean Water Project

This message may be from an external email source.

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Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
jbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

July 18, 2022

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members,

We write to you, on behalf of Michael and Wendy Pedginski (home owners), in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Voyageurs National Park is Minnesota's *only* National Park. It is the nation's solitary water based national park and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the park waters at the four main public access points to the park.

The board has had great success establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you, in advance, for your consideration and support.

Working together can provide protection efforts for our precious stunning water resource.

Sincerely,

Michael and Wendy Pedginski

**KOOCHICHING
COUNTY**



**KOOCHICHING COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
COURTHOUSE
715 4th Street
INTERNATIONAL FALLS, MN 56649**

Minnesota Clean Water Council Chair John Barten
Minnesota Clean Water Council Vice Chair Jen Kader
The Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

**District 1
Wade Pavleck
P.O. Box 1253
Intl Falls, MN 56649
218-286-5273**

May 2, 2022

**District 2
Kevin Adee
3176 Co. Rd. 24
Intl Falls, MN 56649
218-283-2035**

Dear Chair Barten, Vice Chair Kader, Executive Director Gardner, and Clean Water Council Members:

I write to you on behalf of the Koochiching County Board of Commissioners in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from St. Louis County and the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). Your past support of this project has had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness (BWCAW).

**District 3
Terry Murray
707 16th St. East
Intl Falls, MN 56649
218-324-1012**

As you are no doubt aware, Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than twelve years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

**District 4
Jason Sjoblom
115 Park Avenue
Intl Falls, MN 56649
218-283-5729**

The board has had great success, establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the Park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

**District 5
Wayne Skoe
11966 Highway 1
Northome, MN 56661
218-244-5748**

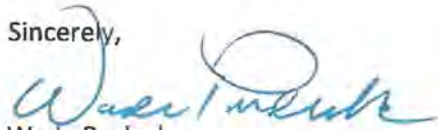
The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Let us protect these treasured waters, together.

Sincerely,



Wade Pavleck
Koochiching County Board Chair

CC: State Senator Thomas Bakk
State Representative Rob Ecklund
VNPCWJPB



2401 46th Ave SE, Suite 206
Mandan, ND 58554
Ph: 701-328-5138

Aug 3, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St Paul , Mn 66155

RE: Clean Water funding request to use weather forecasting tools for soil and water quality improvements

Dear Paul Gardner

I appreciated the opportunity to have had a discussion with you about the opportunity to leverage existing IT infrastructure and tap into a well-established and widely trusted source for accurate, detailed local weather data. Having more detailed local weather data is paramount to advance sustainability efforts across Minnesota's robust and diverse crop production sector.

The Minnesota Sunflower Council (MSC) would like to request the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) pursue a funding recommendation to the Clean Water Council to expand the network of local weather stations connected to the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). MSC represents Minnesota sunflower farmers who contribute to the sunflower checkoff program.

Specifically, we would request MDA consider a Clean Water Fund recommendation to install and maintain approximately 120 additional weather stations to be connected to NDAWN. It is not only sunflower farmers who could benefit from this expansion, but detailed local weather data will also be useful for all other oilseeds, cereal grains, feed grains and produce grown in Minnesota. It can also have the ability to help forecast floods because of the extensive monitoring system that can be added to the stations.

There are many opportunities that could be realized for Minnesota by expanding the use of these weather stations to aid in farmer's sustainability efforts to improve water and soil quality. Let us highlight a few as you consider this request for Clean Water Funding.

1. Establishing weather stations within 20 miles of any location across all agricultural land will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding planting dates, crop protection timing, and more. This detailed local information will

create opportunities to reduce chemical applications. More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area. Additional, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means less applications.

2. Saving money on the farm by reducing runoff or leaching from unusable product applications has the added benefit to reduce environmental concerns and protect water quality. The inversion alert will help private and commercial pesticide applicators respond quickly to changing local conditions and minimize risk of spraying in adverse weather conditions. The data at existing stations has provided historical data measured at five-minute intervals which be relied upon to settle disputes regarding chemical drift. It has proved very effective in fungicide applications.
3. Evapotranspiration data is vital to determining crop water needs and reducing irrigation applications. Thus possibly using less water or limiting run off from over application.
4. Endless opportunities to tap into the NDAWN data for future MN projects. For example, a disease alert system for sunflower for Phomopsis Stem Canker and or Sclerotinia could be developed like North Dakota's, Sclerotinia Risk in Canola Forecast Program.
5. There are also many uses beyond the agricultural community such as municipalities using winter precipitation data to better predict spring flood conditions.

As this request moves forward, updated costs will need to be determined. The last set of stations installed each cost approximately \$30,000 with an option to add a precipitation package which added \$10,000 to the cost for a total of \$40,000. It is estimated \$3,000 per station is needed for annual maintenance. We believe the additional \$10,000 per station is a good value for the Minnesota public. It can reduce the costs for flood protection buy having complete data on moisture in water shed.

We are excited by the opportunity to expand a reliable, widely known, and trusted source for accurate and detailed local weather data to help meet a range of environmental, water and soil quality goals for Minnesota across several different types of agricultural crops. We strongly urge MDA to pursue a funding request using Clean Water Funds through the Clean Water Council.

We would welcome further discussions on this opportunity and thank you for interest in this project. We look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,

John Swanson
Chairman
Minnesota Sunflower Council



500 Center Avenue
P.O. Box 779
Moorhead, MN 56561-0779
Phone: 218.477.8000
Fax: 218.477.8020
www.mpsutility.com

August 5, 2022

VIA E-MAIL AND REGULAR U.S. MAIL

Mr. Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner:

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at Moorhead Public Service (MPS) to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota now and for future generations.

Source Water Protection

MPS has successfully utilized grants available through the Source Water Protection Program for a variety of projects aimed at improving infrastructure and ensuring the success of our mission to supply high quality drinking water to the cities of Moorhead and Dilworth. The projects have included new Source Water Assessments and both competitive and implementation style grants. Grant projects have been diverse, ranging from Wellhead Protection Plan implementation and updating, installation of oil-in-water sensors on our surface water intake, to security updates for well houses and portable generator docking stations, well televising, and full water supply well rehabilitation. Without the opportunity to pursue grant funding, some of these needed items would have been delayed at MPS.

With the help of the Source Water Protection Program, MPS was able to accelerate our scheduled rehabilitation program for all seven (7) groundwater supply wells. Without this program's support, MPS would have likely still been in the process of well televising and rehabilitation in 2021. Throughout 2021, MPS was heavily reliant on these freshly-rehabilitated groundwater supply wells due to the drought conditions throughout Minnesota. The support received from the Source Water Protection Program ensured the utility's water supply resiliency and redundancy was maintained.

Source Water Protection staff have been instrumental in the ongoing direct protection of source water bodies. For example, a series of parcels very near to MPS' Wellhead Protection Plan - Drinking Water Supply Management Area boundary had been at risk for rezoning multiple times in recent years, posing a

Paul Gardner
August 5, 2022
Page 2

direct risk to the main groundwater supply source used by MPS. Source Water Protection staff took the time to dial into the public hearings to speak on behalf of protecting the source water, stressing how important it is to take into consideration the essential aspect high quality drinking water in the economic vitality and success of a region being sustained by it. This kind of effort, complimented by the access and opportunity for grant funded projects, are instrumental to the ongoing success and stewardship of the State's valuable water resources.

Working with the Source Water Protection Program has allowed MPS to target and prioritize needed items that ensure our water utility's resilience and redundancy is maintained as we strive to be the best possible stewards of our state's water resources. Staff is very appreciative for the opportunity to access and receive guidance, planning assistance, and grant funding to assist in accomplishing these very important projects and objectives. They not only represent assistance in planning and day-to-day operations, but also prove critical to bolstering the resilience of utilities, providing direct benefit to the communities we serve.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Marc Pritchard
Water Plant Supervisor
Moorhead Public Service
PO Box 779
500 Center Avenue
Moorhead, MN 56561-0779

MP/mbs



Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers

2600 Wheat Drive • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

Phone: 218-253-4311 • mnwheat.org

Aug 5, 2022

Paul Gardner

Clean Water Council Administrator

RE: Clean Water funding request to use weather forecasting tools for soil and water quality improvements

Dear Paul Gardner

I appreciated the opportunity to have a discussion with you about the opportunity to leverage existing IT infrastructure and tap into a well-established and widely trusted source for accurate, detailed local weather data. Having more detailed local weather data is paramount to advance sustainability efforts across Minnesota's robust and diverse crop production sector.

The Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers (MAWG) would like to request the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) pursue a funding recommendation to the Clean Water Council to expand the network of local weather stations connected to the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). MAWG represents over 900 Minnesota wheat farmer members.

Specifically, we would request MDA consider a Clean Water Fund recommendation to install and maintain approximately 120 additional weather stations to be connected to NDAWN. It is not only sunflower farmers who could benefit from this expansion, but detailed local weather data will also be useful for all other oilseeds, cereal grains, feed grains and produce grown in Minnesota. It can also help forecast floods because of the extensive monitoring system that can be added to the stations.

There are many opportunities that could be realized for Minnesota by expanding the use of these weather stations to aid in farmer's sustainability efforts to improve water and soil quality. Let us highlight a few as you consider this request for Clean Water Funding.

1. Establishing weather stations within 20 miles of any location across all agricultural land will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding planting dates, crop protection timing, and more. This detailed local information will create opportunities to reduce chemical applications. More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area. Additional, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means less applications.
2. Saving money on the farm by reducing runoff or leaching from unusable product applications has the added benefit to reduce environmental concerns and protect water quality. The inversion alert will help private and commercial pesticide applicators respond quickly to changing local conditions and minimize risk of spraying in adverse weather conditions. The data at existing stations has provided historical data measured at five-minute intervals which be relied upon to settle disputes regarding chemical drift. It has proved very effective in fungicide applications.



Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers

2600 Wheat Drive • Red Lake Falls, MN 56750

Phone: 218-253-4311 • mnwheat.org

3. Evapotranspiration data is vital to determining crop water needs and reducing irrigation applications. Thus, possibly using less water or limiting run off from over application.
4. Endless opportunities to tap into the NDAWN data for future MN projects. For example, a disease alert system for sunflower for Phomopsis Stem Canker and or Sclerotinia could be developed like North Dakota's, Sclerotinia Risk in Canola Forecast Program.
5. There are also many uses beyond the agricultural community such as municipalities using winter precipitation data to better predict spring flood conditions.

As this request moves forward, updated costs will need to be determined. The last set of stations installed each cost approximately

\$30,000 with an option to add a precipitation package which added \$10,000 to the cost for a total of \$40,000. It is estimated \$3,000 per station is needed for annual maintenance. We believe the additional \$10,000 per station is a good value for the Minnesota public. It can reduce the costs for flood protection buy having complete data on moisture in water shed.

We are excited by the opportunity to expand a reliable, widely known, and trusted source for accurate and detailed local weather data to help meet a range of environmental, water and soil quality goals for Minnesota across several different types of agricultural crops. We strongly urge MDA to pursue a funding request using Clean Water Funds through the Clean Water Council.

We would welcome further discussions on this opportunity and thank you for interest in this project. We look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,

Charlie Vogel
CEO
Minnesota Association of Wheat Growers



MINNESOTA WHEAT

RESEARCH & PROMOTION COUNCIL

August 5, 2022

RE: Clean Water funding request to use weather forecasting tools for soil and water quality improvements

Dear Paul Gardner

I appreciated the opportunity to have a discussion with you about the opportunity to leverage existing IT infrastructure and tap into a well-established and widely trusted source for accurate, detailed local weather data. Having more detailed local weather data is paramount to advance sustainability efforts across Minnesota's robust and diverse crop production sector.

The Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council (MWRPC) would like to request the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) pursue a funding recommendation to the Clean Water Council to expand the network of local weather stations connected to the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). MWRPC represents Minnesota wheat farmers who contribute to the wheat checkoff program.

Specifically, we would request MDA consider a Clean Water Fund recommendation to install and maintain approximately 120 additional weather stations to be connected to NDAWN. It is not only sunflower farmers who could benefit from this expansion, but detailed local weather data will also be useful for all other oilseeds, cereal grains, feed grains and produce grown in Minnesota. It can also can help forecast floods because of the extensive monitoring system that can be added to the stations.

There are many opportunities that could be realized for Minnesota by expanding the use of these weather stations to aid in farmer's sustainability efforts to improve water and soil quality. Let us highlight a few as you consider this request for Clean Water Funding.

1. Establishing weather stations within 20 miles of any location across all agricultural land will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding planting dates, crop protection timing, and more. This detailed local information will create opportunities to reduce chemical applications. More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area. Additional, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means fewer, more effective applications.
2. Saving money on the farm by reducing runoff or leaching from unusable product applications has the added benefit to reduce environmental concerns and protect water quality. The inversion alert will help private and commercial pesticide applicators respond quickly to

changing local conditions and minimize risk of spraying in adverse weather conditions. The data at existing stations has provided historical data measured at five-minute intervals which be relied upon to settle disputes regarding chemical drift. It has proved very effective in fungicide applications.

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4. Endless opportunities to tap into the NDAWN data for future MN projects. For example, a disease alert system for sunflower for Phomopsis Stem Canker and or Sclerotinia could be developed like North Dakota's, Sclerotinia Risk in Canola Forecast Program.
5. There are also many uses beyond the agricultural community such as municipalities using winter precipitation data to better predict spring flood conditions.

As this request moves forward, updated costs will need to be determined. The last set of stations installed each cost approximately \$30,000 with an option to add a precipitation package which added \$10,000 to the cost for a total of \$40,000. It is estimated \$3,000 per station is needed for annual maintenance. We believe the additional \$10,000 per station is a good value for the Minnesota public. It can reduce the costs for flood protection buy having complete data on moisture in water shed.

We are excited by the opportunity to expand a reliable, widely known, and trusted source for accurate and detailed local weather data to help meet a range of environmental, water and soil quality goals for Minnesota across several different types of agricultural crops. We strongly urge MDA to pursue a funding request using Clean Water Funds through the Clean Water Council.

We would welcome further discussions on this opportunity and thank you for interest in this project. We look forward to working with you on this.

Sincerely,



Charlie Vogel
Executive Director
Minnesota Wheat Research and Promotion Council



Benton Soil & Water Conservation District

Benton SWCD
14 W. 2nd Ave.
Foley, MN 56329

Tel. (320)968-5300

e-mail Gerry.Maciej@mn.nacdnet.net
web: www.soilandwater.org

August 5, 2022

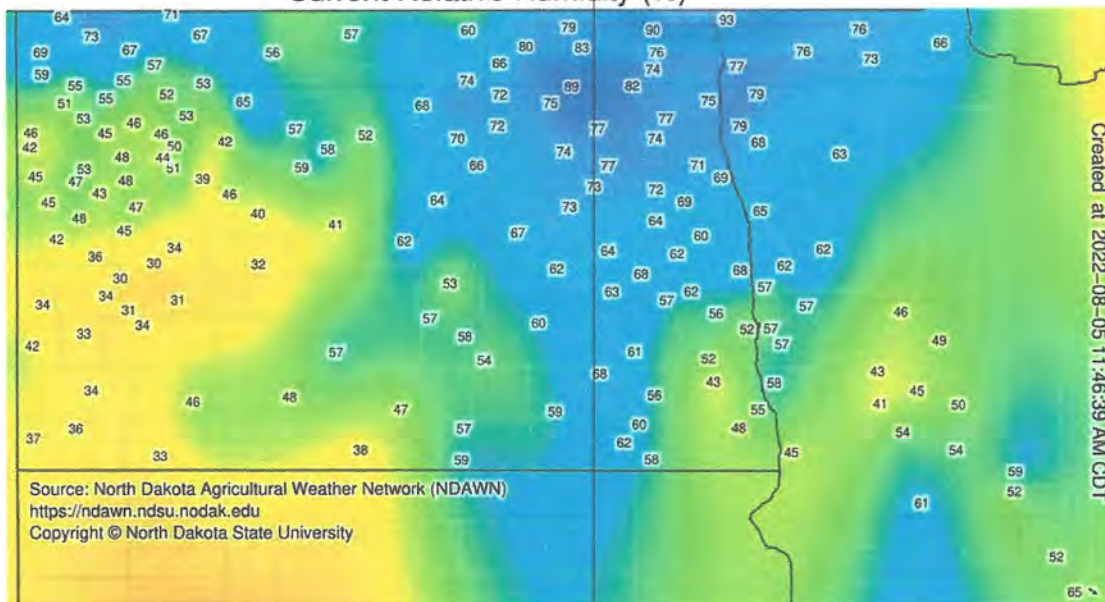
Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 66155

Dear Mr. Gardner,

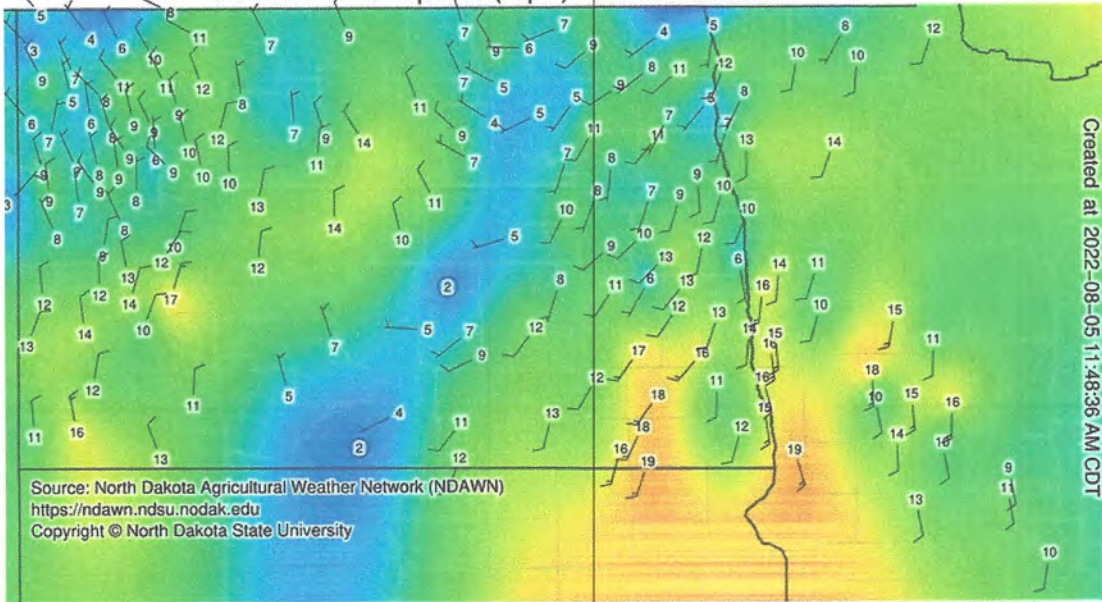
I am writing to express my support of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture pursuit of Clean Water Funds to expand the weather station network.

Applying current agricultural best management practices (BMP) require much more accurate and real time data than in the past. This is especially true for irrigation BMPs. Knowing when and how much to irrigate requires information about the previous and current crop water use and soil evaporation. This is determined by weather station measurements such as humidity, wind speed, solar radiation, and air temperature. These all can vary by location. The maps below were generated from the NDAWN website using the existing weather stations.

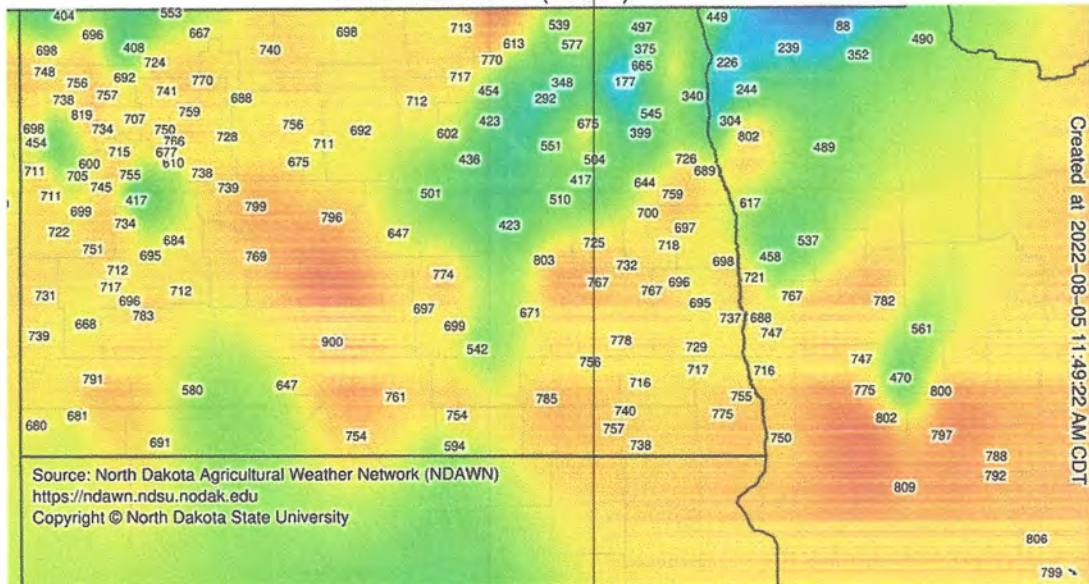
Current Relative Humidity (%)



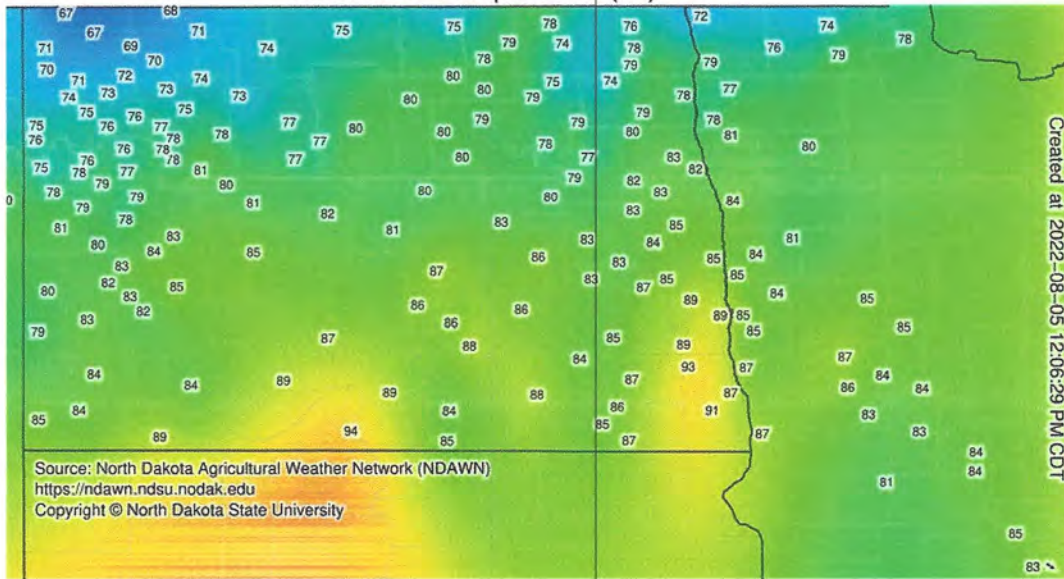
Current Wind Speed (mph) and Direction



Solar Radiation (W/m²)



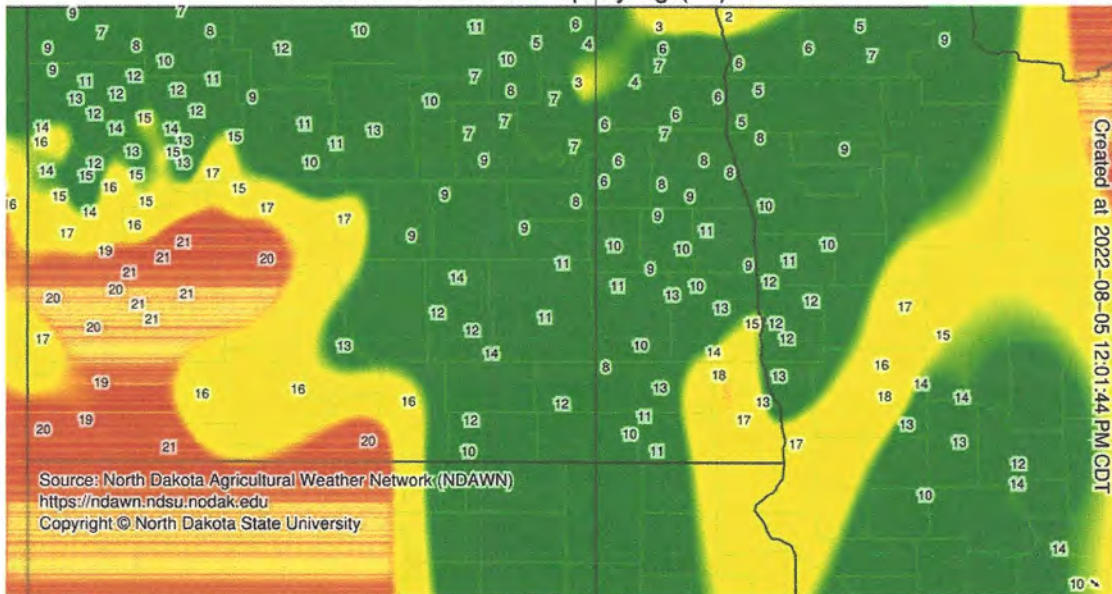
Current Air Temperature (°F)



As you can see, there may or may not be a lot of variability in the data that are used to estimate when and how much to irrigate. Having this information is critical in following irrigation BMPs.

Some farm chemicals have the potential to drift away from the intended field during what is called a temperature inversion. It can be difficult to predict a temperature inversion. The weather stations make this information readily available, as shown below.

Estimated Delta T for Spraying (°F)



There are other conservation related uses for high quality readily available weather data. The Benton SWCD encourages you to support this effort.

If you have any questions about this letter, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Gerry Maciej
District Manager, Benton SWCD



August 10th 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The Minnesota Corn Growers Association (MCGA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the Clean Water Council (CWC) project recommendations and funding from the Clean Water Fund (CWF). MCGA represents nearly 6,500 corn farmer-members and works closely with the Minnesota Corn Research and Promotion Council and all of Minnesota's 24,000 corn farmers to implement best management practices for water quality and soil health.

In past comment letters, MCGA has strongly encouraged the CWC to find ways to increase the number of dollars targeted toward on the ground projects. We are happy to see a few of the programs listed below being recommended in the draft budget that will allow Minnesota farmers to implement soil health practices that work best for their farm and we strongly encourage robust funding. This increased focus for on the ground projects is consistent with the strategic plan for the Clean Water Council. Previous focus on CWF recommended projects devoted a disproportionate share to water plan development, data, monitoring, and analysis which has resulted in nearly 300 state FTEs being supported by the CWF, over a third at the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency alone. We would encourage the CWC to find ways to reduce state agency FTEs in their recommendations in the future. The number of FTEs being funded out of the CWF is hindering the CWF's ability to maximize on the ground projects.

As the Council considers funding recommendations for the FY 24-25 biennium, MCGA would support prioritization, and in some cases expansion, of the following projects because of the focus on implementation and are consistent with the CWC strategic plan priorities.

Conservation Equipment Assistance (MDA)- We are excited to see a grant program proposed that would help farmers purchase equipment as they look at ways to improve soil health practices on their farm. The upfront cost of retrofitting or buying new equipment is often the biggest barrier to farmers as they look at ways to implement different tillage or cover cropping systems on their farms as well as the broader suite of practices that can enhance soil health and improve water quality. We strongly support the funding recommendation.

Expanding the Ag Weather Station Network (MDA)- Establishing these weather stations will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding

planting dates, crop protection timing, and more. This detailed local information will create opportunities to reduce chemical applications. More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area. Additionally, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means less unusable applications which has a benefit for water quality in Minnesota. We strongly support the funding recommendation.

AgBMP Loan Program (MDA)- Expanding the AgBMP Loan Program complements the Conservation Equipment Assistance Program as well as multiple other cost-share programs and the recently passed Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program that will allow Minnesota Farmers to take advantage of low interest loans and begin to implement soil health practices and other conservation measures to benefit clean water. MCGA has several members who have taken advantage of the AgBMP Loan Program to make conservation improvements to their own operations. We are pleased to see a robust funding recommendation for this program.

Technical Assistance (MDA)- We appreciate the Council's continued support for on-farm demonstrations like Discovery Farms that increases education and promotion of best management practices on the farm. MDA technical assistance funds help to support on-farm demonstrations in agricultural production areas to evaluate various conservation practices, implement edge-of-field monitoring and build peer-to-peer learning among farmer, local governments and private service providers.

Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance (BWSR) – We are pleased to see a recommended increase for this project compared to previous appropriations. MCGA regularly attends the Drainage Work Group and drainage authorities have identified this program as a priority to implement innovative drainage projects. Drainage authorities have previously indicated there is always more demand for projects than funding available. These grants are directed toward drainage authorities in partnership to target critical pollution source areas to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance.

Enhancing Soil Health and Landowner Adoption of Cover Crops for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection (BWSR)- Cover crops are one tool Minnesota farmers have in the toolbox to manage water and soil resources and could be implemented where it makes sense based on local conditions. MCGA invested in third party research at the University of Minnesota that found cover crops can be an effective management strategy to reduce nitrate losses in tile drainage water. This third party research is complemented by practical on-farm implementation of cover crops through MCGA's Innovation Grant Program, which provides small grants to farmers to test innovative ideas on a limited scale for workability and potential to help other farmers address identical challenges in their operations. MCGA supported this program during the 2021 session and were happy to see the legislature include it in the final bill. There are a number of soil health practices that farmers can do to help increase water quality, including cover crops. We would encourage the Council to take an all of the above strategy when it comes to these practices and would recommend the Council look at the Soil Health Financial Assistance Pilot Program

that was passed by the legislature during the 2022 session as a potential program to fund all practices that can benefit clean water and enhance soil health.

There are a few programs under consideration where we have some concerns.

Buffer Law implementation (BWSR)- According to BWSR, we are at 99 percent compliance with the MN Buffer Law on public waters and public ditches, yet we are still considering another \$4 million for compliance and enforcement activities. While ensuring compliance with the law is necessary, continuing to fund this program at elevated levels is unnecessary. It also must be noted, that although we have achieved near universal compliance with the law, many farmers are still assessed property taxes on those acres as if they were still in production. MCGA has been working at the State legislature for 5 years to correct this issue and would welcome the support of the Clean Water Council to support a buffer property tax exemption for acres in compliance but still taxed at ag land property tax rates.

Working Lands Floodplain Easements (BWSR)- We appreciate that this program has been tweaked to include non-permanent easements, but we do note that permanent easements are still one of the options. MCGA has concerns with permanently setting aside land and does not support permanent conservation easements. We prefer approaches that offer less permanent options but still encourage perennial vegetation or groundcover in larger floodplains such as reforestation, cover crops, haying and grazing. We appreciate that some of these other approaches are included in the proposed program for FY 24-25.

Thank you for considering our input on the Clean Water Fund project recommendations and funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bryan Biegler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Bryan Biegler
President
Minnesota Corn Growers Association



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Voyageurs National Park
360 Highway 11 East
International Falls, MN 56649



IN REPLY REFER TO:
7.C (3 yrs)

August 8, 2022

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
paul.gardner@state.mn.us

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members:

I am writing in support of the funding request submitted by the Voyageurs National Park Clean Waters Joint Powers Board. Over the years this project has had a positive impact by aiding the small rural communities adjacent to the Park with implementing wastewater management infrastructure that assures the overall quality and clean waters of the neighboring lakes of the Voyageurs National Park that the residents and the visitors to the communities depend upon.

Considering the overall size of the communities, projects like this would not be possible if it weren't for assistance from the Clean Water Council and other willing partners. The funding request submitted this year will assist in continuing to move the project forward assuring the ongoing protection of the lakes of northern Minnesota.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board would allow them to continue this project.

Thank you for considering this funding request to allow the communities to continue implementation of this vital infrastructure.

Sincerely,

Bob Degross
Superintendent

August 5, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St Paul , Mn 66155

RE: Clean Water funding request to use weather forecasting tools for soil and water quality improvements

Dear Paul Gardner,

The Minnesota Area II Potato Growers Association would like to request the Minnesota Department of Agriculture pursue a funding recommendation to the Clean Water Council to expand the network of local weather stations connected to the North Dakota Agricultural Weather Network (NDAWN). Specifically, we would request MDA consider a Clean Water Fund recommendation to install and maintain approximately 120 additional weather stations to be connected to NDAWN.

Most of the few existing NDAWN stations in Minnesota are in regions where potatoes are grown. The timely and detailed data provided by each station paired with the easy to use dashboard and apps already developed have become a pivotal decision making tool that has been relied upon in some of the potato growing regions of Minnesota for years. We highly recommend tapping in to this existing proven infrastructure and expanding the NDAWN weather station network across agricultural land in Minnesota to give all farmers access to this information to aid in sustainability efforts both environmental and economic on the farm.

There are many opportunities that could be realized for Minnesota by expanding the use of these weather stations to aid in farmer's sustainability efforts to improve water and soil quality. Let us highlight a few as you consider this request for Clean Water Funding.

- 1) Establishing weather stations within 20 miles of any location across all agricultural land, resulting in approximately 120 additional stations, will give farmers the local information they need to make the best possible agronomic decisions regarding planting dates, crop protection timing, and more.
 - a) This detailed local information will create opportunities to reduce chemical applications.
 - b) More precise information on disease risk due to weather conditions means farmers can delay disease prevention applications until risk is high in their area.
 - c) Additional, information on when weather conditions are favorable for effective crop protectant application means less unusable applications.
- 2) Saving money on the farm by reducing runoff or leaching from unusable product applications has the added benefit to reduce environmental concerns and protect water quality.
 - a) The inversion alert will help private and commercial pesticide applicators respond quickly to changing local conditions and minimize risk of spraying in adverse weather conditions.
 - b) The data at existing stations has provided historical data measured at five minute intervals which be relied upon to settle disputes regarding chemical drift.

- 3) The evapotranspiration data collected is vital to determining crop water needs and reducing irrigation applications and maintaining sustainable water use.
- 4) The existing NDAWN data infrastructure was costly and time consuming to build. Starting from scratch would delay farmer and community access to this data for years. The opportunity to tap in to the existing infrastructure means that by adding weather stations we can add value to Minnesota Farms and local communities as soon as the weather stations are installed.
- 5) There are endless opportunities to tap into the NDAWN data and infrastructure for future Minnesota projects.
 - a) For example, an irrigation scheduler similar to North Dakota's, expanded disease alerts like the late blight "Blightline" alert.
- 6) There are also many uses beyond the agricultural community such as municipalities using winter precipitation data to better predict spring flood conditions.

We are excited at the prospect of expanding this already trusted source for accurate and detailed local weather data to a broader user group. This project will help Minnesota's farmers meet a range of environmental, water and soil quality, economic and community goals. We strongly urge MDA to pursue a funding request using Clean Water Funds through the Clean Water Council.

Please feel free to contact me for further discussion. Thank you for interest in this project!

Sincerely,

Paul N. Gray

Paul N. Gray
Executive Secretary,
Minnesota Area II Potato Research and Promotion Council



8/5/2022

CITY OF FAIRMONT – 100 Downtown Plaza – Fairmont

Phone (507) 238-9461

www.fairmont.org

Paul Gardner

Clean Water Council Administrator

520 Lafayette Road North

St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We would like to submit comments to the Clean Water Council as they consider future funding recommendations. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) supports our work at the City of Fairmont to protect and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that their priority in funding recommendations reflect our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

The City of Fairmont utilizes a surface water intake from the Fairmont chain of lakes. Dutch Creek is a major contributor to the chain of lakes that Fairmont takes drinking water from.

We have applied for multiple Source Water Protection Competitive Grants for real time monitoring of turbidity and for nitrate monitoring. We also installed multiple solar surface mixers to aid in algae reduction. Fairmont acquired grant funds from the Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Fund and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund for creation of a temperature-moderated bio filtration wetland. The goal is to investigate nitrate removal through passive heating of the source water to promote and enhance biological denitrification at Dutch Creek.

We have worked closely with the MDH Source Water Protection program on the recent adoption of our Surface Water Intake Protection Plan. We look forward to being able to apply for the Minnesota Department of Health implementation grants program as an important tool for implementing the intake protection plan.

Sincerely,

Brady Powers

Water & Wastewater Superintendent

City of Fairmont

Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: ARNE WUORINEN <dive4boat@aol.com>
Sent: Monday, August 8, 2022 10:24 AM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA); Barten, John
Subject: Ash River Trail Sanitary Sewer Funding

This message may be from an external email source.

Do not select links or open attachments unless verified. Report all suspicious emails to Minnesota IT Services Security Operations Center.

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

August 8, 2022

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members,

I write to you as cabin owner in the Ash River Trail Sanitary Sewer District in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyager's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The board has had great success, establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

With the recent flooding and many overwhelmed individual sewer systems, this project is needed more than ever.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support. Being in an "unorganized township" it will not happen without your support.

Let us protect these treasured waters, together.

Arne and Gina Wuorinen
10348 Ash River Trail
Orr, MN



PHONE: 218-456-2128

FAX: 218-456-2018

405 2nd Avenue West

Halstad, MN 56548

August 2, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the City of Halstad to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its prioritized in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

The City of Halstad's Wellhead Protection Plan was approved in April of 2021, and we have already been able to receive a Sourcewater Protection Grant. The grant we received is to replace three private sewer connections that were recently found to be collapsed. These service laterals are within 200 feet of the city well and we feel replacing them will assist us in protecting our source of drinking water. These funds are very important for our community, and we are thankful for the opportunity to apply for them. Halstad is working diligently with contractors to complete the work this fall with hopes additional funds will be available in the future for additional sourcewater projects. The projects we have in mind at this time are: additional sewer line replacement, sealing of unused wells and educating the public about the importance of protecting drinking water.

We are also thankful for the assistance that has been provided by MDH and Minnesota Rural Water Association with the development of our Wellhead Protection Plan and working with the grants process.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lucas Spaeth
Superintendent of Utilities
City of Halstad

RECEIVED
MPCA

AUG 08 2022

Commissioners
Office



8/4/2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at Empire Township to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

The Empire Township Public Water System has worked with the Source Water Protection Program since we began preparing our first Wellhead Protection Plan in 2009.

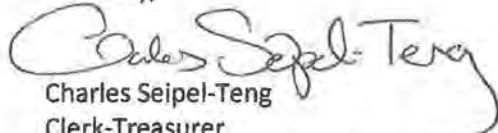
Empire Township has greatly benefited from the Source Water Protection Program through direct assistance from knowledgeable staff from the Minnesota Rural Water Association (MRWA) in developing its Wellhead Protection Plan and evaluating outcomes.

Because of our small staff and lack of expertise in creating and updating a wellhead protection plan, it would have been impossible for Empire Township to have the plan in place and ensure compliance with goals of the plan without the help of MRWA staff.

Working with the Source Water Protection program has allowed us to target and prioritize threats to our drinking water source. Through the grants program, it has also created funding opportunities for us to partner with local organizations on projects that benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Charles Seipel-Teng
Clerk-Treasurer
Empire Township, Dakota County, MN

RECEIVED
MPCA

AUG 08 2022

Commissioners
Office



105 South Main Street
PO Box 159
Upsala, MN 56384

320-573-4950
cityofup@surfsota.com

August 3, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at City of Upsala to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Thanks to Source Water Protection, we were able to create our Wellhead Protection Plan. This has been a huge benefit for our small community. Our highest priority is finding a new well location. We are also in the process of purchasing a generator to help run the water plant when there is a power outage.

Working with the Source Water Protection program has allowed us to target and prioritize threats to our drinking water source. Through the grants program, it has also created funding opportunities for us to partner with local organizations on projects that benefit our community:

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rollie Johnson
Mayor
City of Upsala

RECEIVED
MPCA

AUG 08 2022

Commissioners
Office

Mayor Rollie Johnson
Council Members Lana Bartells, Crystal Benson, Wendy Rene, and Mitch Lange
An Equal Opportunity Employer



Marshall and Polk Rural Water System

401 NORTH MAIN STREET
WARREN, MINNESOTA 56762
218-745-5471
800-569-1367

August 1, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
paul.gardner@state.mn.us

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The Source Water Protection Program at the Minnesota Department of Health supports our work at Marshall & Polk Rural Water System to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Marshall & Polk Rural Water System has an approved Wellhead Protection Plan that has been amended and is currently going through a process of plan extension. Although this extension process includes administrative program assessments and submittals, it is a process that provides regulatory relief and has become an easy process through the continued program development and technical assistance available to us through the Minnesota Department of Health.

Our water system relies on the Minnesota Department of Health for technical assistance as well as for the navigation through complex regulatory requirements. We assume that many neighboring systems in the northwest area of the state are even more dependent on the continued support of drinking water protection provided through the Minnesota Department of Health. Please continue funding and supporting the Source Water Protection program at the Minnesota Department of Health.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Jason Hillman
Marshall & Polk Rural Water System

401 North Main Street
Warren, MN 56762
Office # (218)-745-5471
Cell # (218) 201-0068

RECEIVED
MPCA

AUG 08 2022

Commissioners
Office





CITY OF DASSEL

August 2, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The City of Dassel appreciates the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Clean Water Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports work in the City of Dassel to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources. Dassel city staff and city council strongly recommend that it continue to be a shared priority to protect the drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

It took the City of Dassel three years to develop and begin to implement its Wellhead Protection Plan. During that process, Dassel's city staff and council developed goals, objectives, and strategies to protect the residents' drinking water supply. Dassel city staff and council began this process in 2016, and remains dedicated to scheduling and implementing those goals.

The initial goal was to update Dassel's Water Ordinance - which was the first project we tackled with the help of a grant through this program. The city was also able to install a generator at the plant as part of the water plant rehab project.

After the ordinance was adopted, and through continued public education, Dassel started working on its next goal - hazardous spill training for the city's volunteer firefighters. Dassel has a small department of dedicated individuals who needed training for potential highway and railway spills. The major US Highway that runs through Dassel is within 50-feet of two of our three city wells. Both the railway and the highway are within our DWSMA. Without the grant Dassel received for training and the purchase of sorbent materials, Dassel would not have been able to reach this goal.

As part of Dassel's continuing commitment to safe drinking water, the city replaced all of the old, outdated water meters. City staff are now able to monitor each meter for leaks and potential bursts. Staff can also notify customers of water issues fast, so they can get leaks repaired quickly, thereby saving precious water resources.

Dassel city staff met with representatives from the MN Department of Health and MN Rural Water Association last week to begin working on the next water protection goal - sealing abandoned wells. City staff plans to apply for a grant to assist with digging and sealing these abandoned wells located in the DWSMA.

The city is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

460 3rd Street • PO Box 391 • Dassel, MN 55325
Phone 320.275.2454 • Fax 320.275.2713
www.ci.dassel.mn.us

With the Source Water Protection Program, and your support of the program, the City of Dassel can continue to prioritize threats, and implement strategies to protect the community's drinking water source. Maintaining these high standards ensures the public's confidence that the City of Dassel is doing everything it can to provide safe, clean, drinking water.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Terri Boese
City Clerk/Treasurer

RECEIVED
MICA

AUG 08 2022

Commissioners
Office

8/8/2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Clean Water Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) supports our work at the City of Mankato to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that their priority in funding recommendations reflect our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Those managing the Source Water Protection program have done a great job in assisting in the work of outlining the issues in Mankato's watershed, pointing out programs where we can take advantage of funding resources, and have been a great resource in trying to manage the individual source water plans. Mankato has secured multiple grants to protect the source water where Amanda has been instrumental in reviewing the application prior to submittal to verify that all the required points have been met ensuring the funds will be utilized properly. Amanda has set up multiple meeting in trying to bring awareness to the Minnesota River Watershed and how it impacts Mankato's source water.

The City of Mankato utilizes both groundwater wells and wells under the direct influence of surface water (Ranney wells). Mankato strives to offer the highest quality drinking water and meet the community's expanding water needs in the most environmentally sensitive, cost-effective way for residents.

We have applied for multiple Source Water Protection Grants and have used them to obtain laboratory accreditation for nitrate analysis, develop a nitrate monitoring program, and to seal numerous wells. We also received a grant to conduct a pilot test to utilize biological removal of nitrates on Ranney well water. Unfortunately the costs for the pilot came back much higher and we are not able to move the project forward at this time. Our work to seal very deep and old municipal wells (up to \$80,000 for one well) and our work to stabilize 1500' of riverbank around the Ranney well cost roughly \$2.5 million which goes well beyond what the current grants can offer. We have a critical need for resources to address the drinking water issues our community faces. Any reduction in grant funding would limit important drinking water protection projects for not only our community but others around the state.

We have worked closely with the Source Water Protection program on the adoption and implementation of our Wellhead Protection Plan. We are currently relying on MDH to write our Source Water Assessment for our Ranney wells and create a Surface Water Intake Protection

Plan. Which we would not have time or the resources to complete ourselves. Funding for initiatives will be limited due to the reach of the Minnesota River Basin, which is why the grant programs are so imperative. We are sealing wells within our DWSMA, but outside City limits. The Minnesota Department of Health grants program is an important tool for implementing these plans. Without the state programs we would not be able to complete some of the work we have done in the past years.

Sincerely,

Kyle Hinrichs
Superintendent
City of Mankato



PRINCETON PUBLIC UTILITIES

Electricity — Water

907 FIRST STREET / PRINCETON, MN 55371-1559
TEL: 763-389-2252 / FAX: 763-389-2273

LETTER OF SUPPORT

August 8th, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at Princeton Public Utilities (PPU) to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

PPU has worked with the Source Water Protection Program (Program) since we began working on Wellhead Protection in 2002. The Program was a valuable resource back then and has been very important to us during our plan updates in 2011 and again in 2021-2022. Over the course of the last twenty years, PPU, with help and guidance from the Program, has helped educate our customers, neighboring landowners, and students on the importance of clean ground water. Together we have been able to advocate for this valuable resource.

With ongoing assistance from the Program, as well various grant opportunities, PPU has been able to partner with local organizations on projects that benefit our local community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith R. Butcher
General Manager
Princeton Public Utilities

August 8, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at Rochester Public Utilities to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) has worked with the MN Department of Health (MDH) Source Water Protection (SWP) program since the development of RPU's Wellhead Protection Plan starting in the 1990's. Working with, Jennifer Ronnenberg, MDH's SWP SE Planner has helped assist RPU with the application and implementation of several Source Water Protection Plan Implementation Grants.

Locating and properly sealing old municipal wells in Rochester has been a top priority since the inception of RPU's Wellhead Protection plan in 2001. RPU with assistance from the MDH's SWP SE planer has helped us secure several implementation grants to seal old municipal wells. To date RPU has located and sealed nine old municipal wells. Also in 2020, RPU received a grant that allowed us to perform water quality testing on all municipal wells as part of Olmsted County's long-term groundwater monitoring network. This long-term monitoring program started in 1990 and with the assistance of the SWP program RPU was able to secure a grant to offset the cost for analysis.

Working with MDH's SWP SE Planner has allowed RPU to focus and prioritize threats to our drinking water source. The grants program has provided funding opportunities for us to collaborate with local organization on projects that benefit our community. We hope and support funding for this program to continue in the future.

Sincerely,



Todd Osweiler
Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Coordinator
Rochester Public Utilities

Curtis Ventures, LLC

August 8, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

I appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supported our work at Curtis Flats to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Curtis Flat is a small non-municipal public water system servicing an 18-unit apartment building in Champlin, MN. Curtis Flats received a Source Water Protection Grant in 2022, and technical assistance with Wellhead Plan development and Plan implementation from MDH (Brian Noma) and MRWA staff over the years.

The Source Water Protection Grant we received allowed us to make critical improvements to the system. The existing well casing was extended to 18 inches above ground and provided with an approved well cover. The pump was replaced with an appropriately sized motor and equipped with a variable frequency drive to increase the functionality and efficiency of the water utility. The pressure tank was relocated to the utility room and the water service line was appropriately sized for this drinking water supply system.

Robyn Hoerr from MN Rural Water Association and Brian Noma from MDH were instrumental in helping us draft the Wellhead Protection Plan (2021). The outcome of this report was numerous opportunities to update the well for increase security and dependability. Robyn and Brian also helped us draft the SWP Implementation Grant Application by the required deadlines. Brian was present during the implementation of the approved upgrades ensuring the new well system was delivered to exact specifications and in accordance with MN code.

Both Robyn and Brian are unsung heroes for the residents of this community, all of whom benefit from the clean drinking water these plans and improvements provided. Please find before and after photos of our work in the attached Exhibit. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Lucas Wiborg | Chief Financial Officer
Curtis Ventures, LLC

EXHIBIT

Before SWP Grant:



After SWP Grant:



-
-
-
-
- 07/30/2022
-

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

- Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

- Dear Mr. Gardner,

- We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at the City of Roscoe, MN to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

- **Source Water Protection**

- Roscoe Public Water System has worked with the Source Water Protection Program since we began preparing our first Wellhead Protection Plan in 2016. We have implemented 80% of the activities in our plan and have partnered with city staff and our local SWCD on different activities. These include sealing many wells in our DWSMA, providing a new well in a deep, protected aquifer, and partnering on a nitrate testing clinic and outreach with landowners.

- This program has enabled the City of Roscoe to be able to close existing wells and has been beneficial in helping us find resources to locate and fund a new well that our city desperately needs. Our existing well is high in nitrates and borderline drinkable.

- Working with the Source Water Protection program has allowed us to target and prioritize threats to our drinking water source. Through the grants program, it has also created funding opportunities for us to partner with local organizations on projects that benefit our community, while also providing assistance with questions and direction.]

- Thank you for your consideration.

- Sincerely,

- Donald Albrecht
• Mayor of Roscoe
• City of Roscoe



August 8th, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The City of Walker is located in Cass County on the shores of Leech Lake. Our population is about 980, and our economic well-being is tied to the City's ability to provide clean drinking water to our residents and visitors. This letter is intended to describe the importance of the Clean Water Fund to the City's ability to continue providing drinking water protection in a highly vulnerable setting.

The City of Walker has been implementing their MDH-approved Wellhead Protection (WHP) Plan since 2004. City staff applied for and received a total of 4 MDH Source Water Protection (SWP) grants in 2011, 2014, 2017, and 2019 for security upgrades, generator and wiring for a sewage lift station within the Inner Well Management Zone (IWMZ), and a modem to measure effluent inflow within the IWMZ. City staff recognized the risks posed to their drinking water source, and prioritized WHP Plan actions and committed staffing resources to address potential contaminants and security issues. Partnerships with MDH, City Councilmembers, and private landowners were accelerated and strengthened as a result of the City's WHP Plan implementation.

The City of Walker participated in MDH's Virus Study (now the Pathogen Project), learned more about the risks to their drinking water supply, and subsequent SWP grant activities attempted to address those risks. City staff, council members and private landowners gained education on the importance of risk management, and the impact on the community's future growth.

The City's highly vulnerable wells are immediately down-gradient of sloping paved streets where outflow is in very close proximity to the City's production wells. City staff recognized the drinking water risks associated with stormwater influence and initiated a stormwater assessment which resulted in the construction of two upgradient stormwater retention basins.

205 Minnesota Avenue West | P.O. Box 207 | Walker, Minnesota 56484
P: 218-547-5503 | F: 218-547-5513 | info@ci.walker.mn.us
www.ci.walker.mn.us

The City of Walker has greatly appreciated the financial assistance of the Clean Water Fund as it is used via the MDH SWP program. These funds have accelerated drinking water protection to the benefit of our community and Minnesota's residents and visitors.

Sincerely,



Hope Fairchild
Administrator/Clerk-Treasurer
City of Walker
205 Minnesota Avenue West
P.O. Box 207
Walker, MN 56484
Phone: 218-547-5501
Fax: 218-547-5513
hfairchild@ci.walker.mn.us

August 09, 2022

John Barten, Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Metropolitan Council's 2023-2024 Clean Water Fund Request

Dear Mr. Barten and Members of the Clean Water Council,

Water is fundamental to the prosperity and quality of life of our Twin Cities region. Every sector of our community's development relies on water – commerce, manufacturing, construction, health care, recreation, and agriculture.

Over the past twelve years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from the Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

1. Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program
2. Water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program

Through these two programs, the Clean Water Fund supports communities to implement projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats. The programs provide cost-effective regional solutions and tools, leverage inter-jurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and help prevent degradation of groundwater resources in the region.

These programs have fostered partnerships between and within organizations and shed additional light on greater water resource issues. Working together, Metropolitan Council and metro area cities are moving toward meeting our long-term goal of sustainable water supplies for current and future generations.

In 2019, the City of North Saint Paul received \$19,000 from the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Program. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 3,200,00 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities have benefitted from these programs. We will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 23-24 funding request.

Sincerely,

Ron Ritchie

2303 North Saint Paul Drive
North Saint Paul, MN 55109

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning, Metropolitan Council



715 4th Street
International Falls, MN 56649
Phone (218) 283-1157
Fax (218) 283-1159

Koochiching County Environmental Services

Mr. John Barten, Clean Water Council Chair
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
bbarten79@gmail.com

Honorable Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us

August 8, 2022

Dear Chair Barten, Executive Director Gardner and Clean Water Council Members,

I write to you on behalf of Koochiching County in support of the \$6.2 million dollar funding request from the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board (VNPCWJPB). This funding and project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Minnesota has only one National Park, Voyageurs National Park. It is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 11 years ago, counties, townships, and unorganized areas adjacent to the park came together and locally formed Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Project Joint Powers Board. This board has directed efforts to develop a comprehensive plan to clean up and protect the waters of the park at the four main public access points to the park.

The board has had great success, establishing sanitary sewer districts and projects in three of the four main entrances to the park. They have worked with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Public Facilities Authority, U.S. Department of Agriculture, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, the Minnesota Clean Water Council, and many others to bring funding to this effort.

The Clean Water Council has been an important partner in providing the necessary funding to continue these efforts to protect the park. Your funding has helped leverage millions of dollars in other funding to further these efforts.

Your support in approving the \$6.2 million request from the Voyageur's National Park Joint Powers Board would allow us to continue this project.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

Let us protect these treasured waters, together.

Sincerely,

Matthew P. Gouin
Environmental Services Director



City of Bovey
P.O. Box 399
Bovey, MN 55709
Phone: 218-245-1633

August 8, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Dear Mr. Gardner,

The City of Bovey is located in Itasca County and has a population of 804. We have made good use of the financial assistance available from the Clean Water Fund via MDH's Source Water Protection grants to advance drinking water protection in our community.

The city successfully obtained and executed implementation grants in 2012 and 2015 to investigate and remediate city well casing concerns. The source of the well drawdown was investigated, the well casing was televised, and the grant was satisfactorily completed. The city worked cooperatively with MDH, Their Well, and another contractor to complete the project to protect the city's drinking water supply.

In 2014, the city obtained and executed a second implementation grant to investigate the alleged location and presence of Underground Storage Tanks (UST). The city opted to use ground-penetrating radar rather than the conventional excavation approach, which increased drinking water protection. The city was able to confirm that USTs were not in the area around the post office and fire station.

A third implementation grant was received and executed in 2019 to remove three unused USTs. City staff recognized the risk associated with the multiple USTs that required management and set an aggressive schedule to address them in cooperation with the MPCA, Itasca County, and MDH. These three inactive USTs were prioritized for remediation. The project was on tax-forfeited county-owned land. The city effectively coordinated with Itasca County, MPCA, MDH, and the contractor to complete this drinking water protection project in a timely manner.

The City of Bovey has benefitted from the financial assistance of the Clean Water Fund as it is used via the MDH SWP program. These funds have accelerated drinking water protection to the benefit of our community and visitors, and our accomplishments would not have been nearly as robust without them.

Sincerely,

Kevin Odden
Public Works Supervisor
City of Bovey
(218) 256-1555

8/9/2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following program supports our work at Rock County Rural Water to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that its priority in funding recommendations reflects our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Rock County Rural Water has utilized the source water protection grants and they have had a major impact on helping organizations like ours implement projects that may not have been feasible due to financial restraints. We have used these funds for BMP's implemented in our wellhead area. We have also utilized these funds for updated nitrate testing equipment and to install new wells.

Rock County Rural Water found another water source in the form of different aquifer in our existing wellhead. These funds were used to install test wells to monitor the aquifer which helped us decide if the aquifer would be sustainable.

Working with the Source Water Protection program has allowed us to target and prioritize threats to our drinking water source. Through the grants program, it has also created funding opportunities for us to partner with local organizations on projects that benefit our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ryan Holtz
Director
Rock County Rural Water

Minnesota Stormwater Research Council

in partnership with the

Minnesota Stormwater Research Program

2022 HIGHLIGHTS



18 research projects
COMPLETED
since 2017

4 ON-GOING
research
projects

7 NEW research
projects
beginning
2022

also...

- *Prioritizing Urban Stormwater Pond Research*
- *Requesting Research Funds*
- *Seeking MSRC Advisory Board Member Nominations*

Advancing science, technology and management of stormwater in Minnesota by investing in and facilitating research to prevent, minimize, and mitigate the impacts of runoff from the built environment.

wrc.umn.edu/stormwater

The Stormwater Research Council in partnership with the Minnesota Stormwater Research Program

This collaboration pools financial resources to support research, shares research outcomes and engages stakeholders to determine research needs.

Learn more about the council, view the advisory board, and subscribe to our mailing list visit wrc.umn.edu/msrc



ON-GOING STORMWATER RESEARCH PROJECTS

BIOFILTRATION

How can soil mixes in biofiltration practices impact phosphorus capture and release and plant growth?



At what level are gross organic solids contributing to stormwater pollutant loading?



GROSS ORGANIC SOLIDS

BIOCHAR

Will the addition of biochar help filter practices remove bacteria and dissolved contaminants?



Can we combine stormwater monitoring data from various cities, watersheds and agencies to more specifically characterize urban runoff quantity and quality?



MONITORING

NEW 2022 RESEARCH PROJECTS

Rapid Response Projects

- 1 Assessment of Urban Stormwater Chloride and its Impact on Surface Water Trends**
Led by Ben Janke and Jacques Finlay (Univ. of Minnesota), and Brooke Asleson (MN PCA)
- 2 Plants for Stormwater Design and creating an Interactive Selection Tool for Stormwater Professionals and the Public**
Led by John Bly and Rich Harrison (Metro Blooms) and Dan Shaw (Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources)
- 3 Evaluation of Media Effectiveness for Removal of Phosphorus and Other Pollutants in High-Volume Stormwater Filtration BMPs**
Led by Randy Anhorn (Nine Mile Creek Watershed District), Andy McCabe and Keith Pilgrim (Barr Engineering)

Discovery Projects

- 4 Iron Enhanced Sand Filters Performance and Maintenance Meta-Analysis**
Led by John Gulliver and Andy Erickson (Univ. of Minnesota), Peter Weiss (Valparaiso University), and Mike Trojan (MPCA)
- 5 Performance evaluation for a stormwater treatment train incorporating sedimentation and geomedia-augmented biofiltration**
Led by Bridget Ulrich, Christopher Filstrip, and Chan Lan Chun (Natural Resources Research Institute)
- 6 Capturing Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) with Biofiltration**
Led by Andy Erickson and John Gulliver (Univ. of Minnesota), Richard Kiesling and Sarah Elliott (Upper Midwest Water Science Center, US Geological Survey)
- 7 Stormwater reduction and pollutant sourcing from urban trees**
Led by Xue Feng, Diana Karwan, and Lucy Rose (Univ. of Minnesota)

Prioritizing Urban Stormwater Pond Research

1. Developed a short term research strategy
2. Completed a comprehensive literature review of past research on ponds - more than 600 published reports were reviewed
3. Established a fund dedicated to pond research
4. Preparing for a pond-only competitive research proposal process in 2022

For more information, please visit our website.



FINANCIAL SUMMARY AND 2022 REQUEST FOR RESEARCH FUNDS

Financial support for the Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program is provided by the Clean Water Fund from the State of Minnesota's Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. Additional support comes from the Minnesota Stormwater Research Council and its member cities, watersheds, private businesses, the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center, Minnesota Sea Grant, the College of Food, Agriculture, and Natural Resource Sciences, and the National Institutes for Water Resources funded by the US Geological Survey.



JOIN US as a financial partner to achieve or surpass this year's goal

2022 GOAL

\$150K



Read more about the 2022 request and respond with your organization's commitment on the website at wrc.umn.edu/msrc

THANK YOU to the following cities, watershed districts and organizations, and private sector businesses that provided financial support in 2021:

- Barr Engineering Company
- Capitol Region Watershed District
- City of Bloomington
- City of Edina
- City of Minnetonka
- Mississippi Watershed Management Organization
- Nine Mile Creek Watershed District
- Ramsey-Washington Metro Watershed District
- South Washington Watershed District
- Stantec
- Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection Project
- Valley Branch Watershed District

Nominate someone for a seat on the advisory board

The Minnesota Stormwater Research Council is seeking new advisory board members starting January 2023. Review the Council Guiding Framework and nomination process on the website wrc.umn.edu/msrc

Contact:

John Bilotta
Senior Research and Extension Coordinator
jbilotta@umn.edu, 1.612.624.7708
wrc.umn.edu/projects/stormwater



Water Resources Center
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA
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August 9, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
Mn Pollution Control Agency

Dear Paul:

The League of Minnesota Cities has been a longtime supporter of efforts to craft and implement successful and sustainable pollutant trading programs around water quality in Minnesota. The work that the state has done with stakeholders over recent years is finally making headway on this difficult issue and we support the increase of resources from the Clean Water Fund suggested by the administration that includes additional staffing for WQ pollutant trading.

Working out the details of trading agreements is complex and needs to be done in ways that are workable, enforceable, and affordable for the parties involved. It also needs demonstrate that the load reductions are being done in locations that are suitable to where the point-source discharge would have been. All of these details, along with ongoing contract management and enforcement, will require additional effort from the state.

Since this program is still in its early stages and ongoing program needs are not yet known, we feel it is appropriate for the Clean Water Fund to be tapped for some of this work. If it shows to be a widely replicable and useful tool in achieving pollutant load reductions, it should then become part of the state's ongoing environmental base budget.

Please forward this information to the members of the Clean Water Council as they consider the Clean Water Fund next funding package. Feel free to contact me at cjohnson@lmc.org or at 651-470-1825 if there are any questions or if further information is needed. Thanks, and good luck wrapping up the next biennium's CWF budget!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Craig A. Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Craig A. Johnson
Intergovernmental Relations Representative
League of Minnesota Cities



City of Rochester
Development Services and Infrastructure Center
4001 West River Parkway NW, STE 100
Rochester, MN 55901-7090

Phone 507-328-2400
Fax 507-328-2401

August 9, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road N
St. Paul, MN 55155-4194

Re: Support for Clean Water Fund proposals

Dear Mr. Gardner:

As the Deputy Public Works Director of Environmental Services for the City of Rochester (City) I write to express my support for the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Chloride Reduction Grant and Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL implement proposals; as well as the Public Facilities Authority Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program proposal. Achieving local and state clean water goals requires the ability to strategically invest in pollution reduction activities that will achieve the greatest benefit in a fiscally responsible manner. The aforementioned proposed activities all provide resources that promote innovation, flexibility, and financial support to ensure goals can be met in a collaborative manner.

The City is currently planning a \$72 million dollar upgrade at our Water Reclamation Plant to meet a more stringent phosphorus limitation, replace aging equipment, and reduce our energy and chemical demands. We are working to reduce chloride levels throughout the City through smart salting and water softener education programs. And are actively seeking water quality trade opportunities under our state MS4 and wastewater discharge permits to best position the City for future limitations and improve the water quality in the South Fork of the Zumbro River and its tributaries as it enters and flows through the City.

My Team and I take pride in collecting and treating the City's wastewater and in implementing the City's MS4 program to ensure the ongoing protection of public health and the environment. The three proposed activities are all part of a larger vision to ensure that we not only meet today's challenges but also future challenges. These short and long term efforts alongside with seeking innovative solutions will allow us to collectively meet our local and statewide goals and be responsible stewards of rate/tax payer dollars.

If you have any follow up questions, please do not hesitate to contact myself at aluckstein@rochestermn.gov or 507-328-2648.



Sincerely,



Aaron Luckstein
Deputy Public Works Director of Environmental Services
301 37th Street NW
Rochester, MN 55901
Office: 507-328-2648
aluckstein@rocehstermn.gov



Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: Lois Brink <lbrink6587@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, August 5, 2022 12:30 PM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

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Paul

I live in Oakdale and am very concerned about our drinking water quality. As I read through the large amount of information in this email, it seems like the issue of PFAS is not getting enough attention. It has been studied for 3 years and at this point we should have some answers. Plus the fact that 3M put these chemicals quite near my house means I have been dealing with this for anywhere from 20 to 40 years. This needs to be a priority. These chemicals, once they enter the body, do not leave. 3M finally paid for this to be taken care of, but my fear is that a lot of this money is not being used right here in my community.

I would appreciate hearing from you about this.

Thank you

Lois Brink



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MINNESOTA

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SCOTT E. MCCUNE

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WHITE BEAR TOWNSHIP, MN 55110

651-747-2750
FAX 651-426-2258
Email: wbt@whitebeartownship.org

August 15, 2022

John Barten, Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Support for Metropolitan Council's 2023-2024 Clean Water Fund Request

Dear Mr. Barten and Members of the Clean Water Council,

Water is fundamental to the prosperity and quality of life of our Twin Cities region. Every sector of our community's development relies on water – commerce, manufacturing, construction, health care, recreation, and agriculture.

Over the past twelve years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from the Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

1. Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program
2. Water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program

Through these two programs, the Clean Water Fund supports communities to implement projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats. The programs provide cost-effective regional solutions and tools, leverage inter-jurisdictional coordination, support local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and help prevent degradation of groundwater resources in the region.

These programs have fostered partnerships between and within organizations and shed additional light on greater water resource issues. Working together, Metropolitan Council and metro area cities/towns are moving toward meeting our long-term goal of sustainable water supplies for current and future generations.

In 2020, the White Bear Township received \$44,300 from the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program. This program exists to increase water efficiency by enabling White Bear Township to provide a Water Efficiency Rebate to current water customers who replace existing devices with specified water efficient products. Without the grant support, the Town



recycled paper

would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 2,069,000 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities have benefitted from these programs. We will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 23-24 funding request.

Sincerely,

Patrick Christopherson
White Bear Township
1281 Hammond Road
White Bear Township, MN 55110

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Ali Elhassan, Manager, Water Supply Planning, Metropolitan Council



PO Box 145 • 801 1st Ave W • Edgerton, MN 56128
Phone: (507) 442-7891 • Fax: (507) 442-3567

August 8, 2022

Paul Gardner
Clean Water Council Administrator
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Subject: Clean Water Council Draft Recommendations

Dear Mr. Gardner,

We appreciate the opportunity to provide stakeholder comments while the Council considers proposals for funding recommendations. The following programs support our work at the City of Edgerton to preserve and improve the quality of drinking water resources, and we suggest that their priority in funding recommendations reflect our shared priority of protecting drinking water in Minnesota for future generations.

Source Water Protection

Since our Wellhead Protection Plan was first approved in 1999, Edgerton Public Water System has worked closely with the Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources, Minnesota Rural Water Association, the University of Minnesota, and Pipestone County Soil and Water Conservation District to address nitrate levels in the drinking water. We take our responsibility for safe drinking water seriously, and each of these entities has provided invaluable advice, support and resources to support our efforts. We applied for multiple Source Water Protection Grants and have planted Kernza (a nitrogen scavenger) and rye in our highly vulnerable wellhead protection area. We are also working to keep land in the conservation reserve program. Without these financial incentives it would be more profitable for farmers to put the land into row crop farming.

Working with the Source Water Protection program has allowed us to pursue initiatives to reduce the nitrates that impact our drinking water. The Minnesota Department of Health grants program has been an important tool for our small but growing rural community to be able to protect a valuable natural resource in order to deliver safe drinking water to our families.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Doug Brands

Doug Brands, Water Supervisor
City of Edgerton



August 10, 2022

Re: County Comments on Clean Water Fund FY2024-2025 Appropriations

Dear Council Chair Barten:

Counties play an important role in water planning and management while serving as partners to implement several Clean Water Council goals. The Association of Minnesota Counties (AMC) is a voluntary association representing all 87 counties and we appreciate the opportunity to share our support of several items in the current FY2024-2025 Clean Water Fund budget recommendations.

The Clean Water Fund provides counties with resources to protect and restore Minnesota's waters throughout our diverse state now and for generations to come. No program more fully encompasses this mission than **Watershed-based Implementation Funding (WBIF)** for approved comprehensive watershed plans. **AMC is very supportive of the current funding recommendation of \$79 million for WBIF.** As more plans continue to come on-board, the need is growing for meaningful funding that leverages additional resources and pulls in both public and private partners to see that projects are completed. The WBIF program will result in improved waters resources through strategic efforts in every corner of the state.

Counties are nearing our goal of statewide coverage of One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P), but these efforts take a great deal of time and energy to develop. The **Water Management Transition** planning grants support the collaborative work of state and local stakeholders to create their plans which address the unique needs in the watershed.

Counties continue to work with residents to replace failing septic systems, therefore protecting ground and surface water in the process. **AMC encourages your support of the proposed \$7.5 million for Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Grants.** These resources help low-income homeowners with the significant expense of a septic system replacement, which provides both environmental and human health benefits.

Some small communities facing shared wastewater challenges could more efficiently address their issues by acting collectively rather than through individual system replacements. AMC supports investment in the **Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program** to provide support to these communities in evaluating and implementing wastewater solutions.

Counties serve as drainage authorities and are responsible for the management of these infrastructure systems around the state. Investment in the **Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance (\$2.5 million)** provides opportunities to incorporate additional water quality projects in a system. This infrastructure can at times be leveraged for conservation benefits that would not be part of regular system repairs or improvements.

The **County Geologic Atlases** provide important land and water resource information for countless public and private entities, which allows for more accurate understanding of project impacts and decision-making. AMC supports Clean Water Fund support to enhance the data collection and analysis for developing these water protection tools.

The **Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) Loan Program** has been a significant success, but demand for this revolving loan program continues to outpace the funds available. These loans help foster the investments of local dollars in water quality improvements across the rural landscape. The \$15 million in the current proposed budget will growth the corpus of this fund to better meet the demands of this program.

The AMC Legislative Platform supports efforts to protect and improve the quality of ground and surface water in Minnesota. It also specifically addresses clean water investments that are made through the initiatives mentioned above. **We appreciate the work of the Clean Water Council and value the Clean Water Fund.** Minnesota is fortunate that our citizens prioritize clean water and dedicated resources for that purpose. Counties share this mission and with the support of clean water funds, we will continue to invest local resources and energy toward these endeavors.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Brian Martinson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Brian Martinson
Environment and Natural Resources Policy Analyst
Association of Minnesota Counties



RE: Clean Water Council Recommendations

August 10, 2022

To: Chair Barten and Members of the Clean Water Council:

On behalf of the members of Conservation Minnesota located in all of Minnesota's 87 counties, we write to offer our input on the proposed budget for the Clean Water Fund in Fiscal Years 2024 and 2025. We greatly appreciate the time and the effort that the Council puts into its recommendations alongside the Interagency Coordination Team, and we look forward to supporting the passage of Clean Water Fund appropriations in the upcoming legislative session.

We are largely supportive of the Council's initial recommendations, particularly on issues such as soil health, PFAS, and watershed restoration. However, in addition, we'd like to share brief thoughts on two important areas that deserve continued exploration in the Clean Water Fund's budget process:

Lead Service Line Inventorying

Lead exposure from drinking water is a major threat for Minnesota families, causing devastating and permanent health, developmental, and behavioral problems – especially in young children. In 2017, the Clean Water Council helped fund a Department of Health report which estimated that our state still contains upwards of 100,000 toxic lead service lines. In 2021, the EPA announced improvements to the Lead and Copper Rule aimed at curbing lead exposure, requiring an accurate inventory of these lead service lines by October 2024.

Through the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund, the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act provides Minnesota with \$43 million per year over five years for lead service line replacement. However, without accurate inventories from local water systems, the State will be unable to effectively utilize federal funding. After unsuccessful attempts to pass inventory funding in the Legislature last session, the State will have to rely on setting aside a portion of replacement funds to complete inventories.

We commend the inclusion of the Department of Health's "Future of Drinking Water" program to support analysis on lead exposure in Minnesota. However, we urge the Council and the Interagency Coordination Team to explore the inclusion of additional funds for the necessary inventory of lead service lines. Local communities need state assistance for inventorying that doesn't require limiting replacement capacity. The CWF may provide a more reliable pathway to passage than previous efforts.

Soil and Water Conservation District Aid

SWCDs remain a vital tool for water stewardship across Minnesota's private lands. But SWCD capacity funding remains a source of uncertainty, consistently threatening districts with significant budget shortfalls. We believe that SWCDs deserve an ongoing funding solution outside of the Clean Water Fund. That being said, in the face of legislative conflict, the Fund has proven to be a somewhat reliable "Plan B" for temporarily alleviating shortfalls.

We support the Interagency Coordination Team's prioritization of a non-CWF solution for SWCD funding. However, we believe that the Clean Water Council can add a level of certainty to SWCD budgeting by preparing alternative CWF recommendations that include SWCD capacity funding. If the CWF is to be used as a potential off-ramp for SWCD budgets, there should be a formal and transparent "backup" plan to do so.

Especially in a scenario in which SWCD capacity funding is once again included in the CWF, it's important that the Council continues to create accountability with transparent reporting and measurability for all funded programs. The CWF plays a key role in guiding our knowledge and policy on water issues, and we support efforts to improve the effectiveness and the learning potential of the Fund.

--

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Council's budget process. Please feel free to contact us with any questions/comments/concerns related to our input. We look forward to supporting a transparent, accountable, and effective Clean Water Fund into the future.

Sincerely,

Nels Paulsen, Policy Director (608) 469-5299 nels@conservationminnesota.org
David Pelikan, Policy Associate (262) 685-7265 david@conservationminnesota.org

FRESHWATER

2550 University Ave Suite 212N | St. Paul, MN 55114 | 651.313.5800 | freshwater.org

Freshwater Society is a nonprofit organization working to inspire and empower people to value and preserve our freshwater resources.

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August 10, 2022

John Barten, Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Input into Clean Water Council recommendations process

Dear Mr. Barten,

Thank you for the opportunity to once again provide comment on proposals as the Clean Water Council prepares draft recommendations.

First, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge the amount of work that has gone into improving the recommendations process over the last few cycles. In many ways, the 2016 and 2018 cycles are unrecognizable in comparison. Since then, you have adopted a strategic plan developed with stakeholder input, increased the involvement of stakeholders in the budgeting process, improved communications showing the impact Clean Water Funds are having across the state, increased accessibility of information about the Clean Water Fund (we love the two-page major changes document!) and you're engaging in conversations about ensuring the greatest impact for Clean Water Fund dollars. And more. All of these are important as you seek to continue to build trust and enhance outcomes. Thank you for your work in making these changes, and the work you're already planning to do to improve upon them.

With these more procedural changes in the works or completed, a more concerted substantive effort is now needed to ensure that we are maximizing the water-related benefits derived from Clean Water Fund investments by:

- addressing and advancing systems change, and
- focusing efforts on practices and locations we know are going to make the biggest difference.

As a state, we've done the studies and the monitoring, and we know for the most part what and where the challenges are. That's not completely true, and there is still some more work that is needed (especially for groundwater), but we support the Council in taking on the difficult discussions that will lead to drawing a firmer, more focused line for what is funded, and what is not. Either in this cycle, or the next.

Rather than speaking to the proposals directly, we want to focus our comments on high level considerations we hope are being kept in mind as recommendations are being set. We are taking this approach because, while we acknowledge the value of most of the programs, we do question whether the Clean Water Fund is the appropriate source.

While the General Fund surplus and one-time funding is available this year can build increased support for clean water outcomes, we are concerned with the outsized reliance on the Clean



Water Fund to support executive branch department, agency and board programs—existing and new. We appreciate that with ever-shrinking appropriations for environmental programs from the General Fund, the executive branch understandably has no confidence in sustained legislative appropriations from the General Fund for those activities. For years, Freshwater has recommended moving long-term programs that MUST exist after 2034 to similarly long-term funding sources. If however, neither the flexibility nor appetite to move programs to other funding sources can be mustered, then Minnesotans will continue to find less-than-satisfactory clean water results.

We are concerned that this slow progress toward clean water results will lead to strained conversations about clean water policy and funding as we approach the expiration of the Clean Water Fund (and other legacy funds) in 2034. This is true for the ongoing discussion about funding Soil and Water Conservation Districts, long-term monitoring and cyclical diagnostic studies, as well as a number of other programs. Again, these are programs we absolutely support, but believe would be more appropriately funded elsewhere. This tension and over-emphasis on the Clean Water Fund only limits the amount of funding that can go to the capacity building for local clean water leadership and implementation efforts we know are needed to meet even the State's modest clean water goals.

Finally, we encourage the Council to continue their discussions about how best to prioritize programs seeking Clean Water Funds. While we are supportive of the Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan (NPPF) framework, we more strongly want to emphasize the following considerations for prioritization:

- Systemic problems require systemic solutions and a long term perspective to help build the path from where we are to where we want to be.
- Increasing the resilience of infrastructure and ecosystems to the impacts of climate change.
- Advancing water equity (safe, affordable, accessible) for under-resourced and marginalized communities, urban and rural.
- Investing in local leaders and trained staff for local government organizations to build and support the capacity needed for effective and durable implementation for clean water results
- Ensuring sufficient research, monitoring, and analysis to identify problems, opportunities, and progress so future management and funding decisions can be made with the best data available

We know we can't BMP our way to clean water, but the current breakdown of funding in many ways is addressing the symptoms, and not the central problems. For instance, understanding areas where there is low field residue is not as important as identifying priority sites for water storage. We know now that the majority of sediment in our rivers now is not derived from fields but from near-channel sources. We know that the altered hydrology of agricultural lands is improved through water storage and increasing evapotranspiration through perennial plants. Projects like wetland restoration also reduce nitrogen loading, and provides the greatest benefit for reducing erosive flows and removing excess nutrients. We need to direct our limited resources to restoration efforts with stacked benefits. We are excited to see that the DNR is requesting funding for a pilot effort and future site identification on state lands, but ultimately we'd like to see considerably more funding going to water storage in the future.

While we know that the level of determination around actual projects and locations belongs with staff managing these programs, we would encourage the Council to use their position to update eligibility and program criteria to make sure that projects result in clean water outcomes.

Thank you for all of your work in these deliberations, and the thoughtfulness and seriousness with which you take your roles. We look forward to continuing to work with you for clean and plentiful water.

Sincerely,

Dr. Carrie Jennings, research and policy director

John Linc Stine, executive director

From: [Gardner, Paul \(MPCA\)](#)
To: [Frisch, Brianna \(MPCA\)](#)
Subject: Fwd: Clean Water Council - Public Comments from MN Crop Production Retailers & MN 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council
Date: Thursday, August 11, 2022 7:44:20 AM
Attachments: [image002.png](#)

From: Patrick Murray <Patrick@mcpr-cca.org>
Sent: Wednesday, August 10, 2022 4:51 PM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA) <Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us>
Subject: Clean Water Council - Public Comments from MN Crop Production Retailers & MN 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council

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Hi Paul –

My name is Patrick Murray and I am the Executive Director for the Minnesota Crop Production Retailers (MCPR) and the Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council (MNSC). I have worked in and around the State Capitol for some time now and recall your time in the legislature when I worked for a different organization. I did also spend some time as legislative staff prior to that, so I hope this message finds you well.

On behalf of MCPR and MNSC, I wanted to share with you the following public comments regarding the upcoming Clean Water Fund for FY24-25.

- For background, MCPR is the trade association for agricultural retailers, nutrient service providers, and crop input manufacturers across the state. Our organization exists to promote the proper use, storage, and application of crop production inputs in an environmentally safe and agronomically sound manner.
- MCPR is the administrator for the [Minnesota 4R Nutrient Stewardship Council](#). The council was launched in 2020 and includes members from agricultural business and industry, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture, the University of Minnesota Extension, the MN Agriculture Water Resource Center, the Nature Conservancy, the Minnesota Corn Growers, and several others. These representatives and their organizations collectively support a voluntary 4R nutrient stewardship certification program for agricultural retailers and nutrient service providers throughout Minnesota. Similar 4R programs exist in several other states, among them are Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, New York, and Florida.
- We would like to indicate in our public comments that Minnesota's 4R program has achieved success in certifying two agricultural retail facilities with a goal to expand the program in the

coming years. Funding sources to support this endeavor include contributions from our members and other stakeholders, as well as a recent contact that was entered into with the Minnesota Department of Agriculture with the intent of helping to scale up the program with some state assistance. We believe additional funding support for this program through the Clean Water Council would fall into the category “Nonpoint Source Implementation” under the Technical Assistance activity within the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

- Technical Assistance: Technical assistance helps ensure accurate scientific information is available and used to address water quality concerns from agricultural practices. Funding is used to evaluate the effectiveness of conservation practices, support on-farm demonstrations and enhance outreach and education to the agricultural community and local government partners. Includes activities such as Discovery Farms MN, Root River Field to Stream Partnership, and support for agricultural retailers working with the 4R Nutrient Stewardship Certification program.
- In addition, other funding request areas that MCPR is supportive of include expansion of the Ag Weather Station Network. MCPR has had conversations with MDA’s Pesticide Fertilizer Management Division about this network that features partnerships between MDA and local partners to operate the current 13 stations in the Minnesota Ag Weather Network. Additional funding for the network would assist in providing a more holistic and complete ag report in various parts of the state as it relates to precipitation, temperature, wind speed, humidity, and dew point.
- In addition, MCPR supports additional Conservation Equipment Assistance also under MDA. This program provides funding assistance to both SWCDs and farmers to purchase equipment or items to retrofit existing equipment that has climate and water quality benefits including conservation tillage equipment and cover crop seeding equipment. This proposal would complement soil health cost-share programs by providing the equipment needed to implement practices.
- Lastly, MCPR supports the AgBMP program facilitated by MDA. This program provides revolving low interest loans for eligible activities that reduce or eliminate water pollution. The program is administered by local governments, has very low transaction costs, and repayments fund additional projects.

In closing, MCPR and MNSC thanks you for your and the CWC’s consideration of these comments and looks forward to the deliberations ensue as it relates to the approval of the Clean Water Fund for FY24-25. If I can be of further assistance or provide any other information, please do not hesitate to let me know. Thanks again and I hope all is well.

Patrick

Patrick Murray

Executive Director

Minnesota Crop Production Retailers

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MESERB

Minnesota Environmental Science
and Economic Review Board

Using science and economics to improve environmental regulations

August 10, 2022

VIA EMAIL

Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator
Clean Water Council Members
c/o Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Dear Mr. Gardner, Chair Barten, Chair Kader, and members of the Clean Water Council,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Clean Water Council's Clean Water Fund Proposals. The Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board ("MESERB") is a municipal joint powers organization with more than 50 member cities, sanitary districts, and public utilities commissions in Greater Minnesota that own and operate wastewater treatment plants ("WWTPs") and hold National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System/State Disposal System ("NPDES/SDS") permits. MESERB's mission is to work to protect our state's water resources by ensuring water quality regulations that impact our communities are scientifically based, have reasonable and cost-effective implementation strategies, and produce meaningful benefits to water quality.

As operators of WWTPs, we stand on the front lines of protecting and enhancing Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams. Since the Clean Water Fund was adopted, we have seen tangible impacts and improvements on the waters that discharge to our facilities. Although our members are not directly eligible, the Clean Water Fund underwrites programs that bolster our members' efforts. Therefore, we urge that you include a number of requests from the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) in your recommendations, as explained below.

CHLORIDE REDUCTION EFFORTS

Excess chloride is toxic to many species of aquatic plants and animals, and an increasing number of Minnesota waters are becoming impaired with chloride. The challenge for wastewater operators is that removing chloride at our facilities is not feasible nor environmentally responsible. The reverse osmosis systems required to remove chloride are prohibitively expensive and energy intensive. The salty brine that remains after the process is difficult to dispose of in an environmentally responsible manner. Therefore, we need to focus on source-reduction to tackle this growing chloride problem. That means reducing chloride discharge from softeners, primarily through replacement with high-efficiency models.

The MPCA has begun working with our members and other communities on this issue and created a program to help with grants to accomplish these goals. With increasing numbers of local governments seeking to offer rebates, the need for this funding has increased. Therefore, we believe it is critical that you not only fund the chloride reduction program but increase the funding level to \$1.3 million.

This program will have an immediate impact on our waters by reducing the chloride that is discharged. Providing a higher level of funding will allow more communities to kick-start their rebate programs now, rather than waiting years as they raise funds to attempt it on their own. We respectfully request that you fully fund this proposal.

POINT SOURCE IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

WWTPs in Minnesota play a vital role in enhancing and protecting Minnesota's waters by removing an increasing array of pollutants, including phosphorus, nitrogen, mercury, and others. However, upgrading these facilities is expensive, and without assistance, many of our members and other local governments may have to delay projects or scale back their facilities' functions. The Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) program has played an essential role for my city and many others in paying for projects that directly impact water quality.

The Clean Water Fund has helped underwrite the PSIG and its predecessor programs since its inception. That assistance is needed now more than ever as costs rise and the Legislature failed to pass a bonding bill. Because of the tangible impact this program has on improving Minnesota's water quality, we urge you to fully fund the Public Facilities Authority's PSIG program request for \$18 million.

WASTEWATER/STORMWATER TMDL IMPLEMENTATION

WWTPs are inarguably crucial to protecting and enhancing Minnesota's waters. However, with the increasing number of pollutants and extreme weather events, it is essential that our facilities and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency take more innovative, flexible, and cost-effective approaches to addressing water quality rather than relying solely on expensive facility upgrades. Tactics such as water quality trading that involve stormwater and wastewater will play a crucial role in our clean water future.

Still, to accomplish this goal, our communities need technical assistance tools and support staff from the agency. Funding the MPCA's request of \$3 million for the wastewater and stormwater TMDL implementation will help accelerate our progress in this area.

All three of these programs play a vital role in ensuring that local governments can take the steps necessary to enhance and protect our waters. Fully funding these programs will provide direct, tangible impacts on water quality. We urge you to provide your full support for these requests.

Thank you for your time and consideration. If you have questions about our comments, please contact me at jgad@mankatomn.gov.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE AND ECONOMIC REVIEW BOARD



Josh Gad
MESERB president
WRRF Superintendent, City of Mankato

cc: Asst. Commissioner Dana Vanderbosch, MPCA
Jeff Freeman, Public Facilities Authority

Nicole Blasing, MPCA
Joel Peck, MPCA



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August 10, 2022

John Barten, Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Paul Gardner, Council Administrator
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

Re: Clean Water Council Recommendations

Dear Chair Barten and Council Administrator Gardner:

We appreciate the opportunity for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide input as the Clean Water Council develops a final set of recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature after hearing from each agency on their FY24-FY25 recommendations and how those recommendations contribute to Council priorities and strategic plan that was developed with significant stakeholder input. We submit the following feedback on draft recommendations that reflect our multiple benefits analysis and clean water priorities for Minnesota:

Increased Investment in Proven Programs: With the expected increase of available Clean Water Funds the next biennium, now is a good time to increase investments in those programs that protect and restore healthy waters with proven, lasting results. There are several existing programs included in the recommendations worthy of increased funding. Specific programs that are in response to identified need and result in lasting tangible clean water outcomes include:

- BWSR Wetland Restoration Easements - \$10 million
- BWSR Working Land and Floodplain Easements - \$6 million
- BWSR Critical Shoreland Easements - \$3 million (TNC recommends \$6 million)

In future years we would like BWSR and the Clean Water Council to consider Wild Rice Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) easements as a component of Clean Water Fund recommendations due to the aquatic habitat benefits from wild rice.

New Programs: We commend the Clean Water Council and agencies for adapting to the needs identified throughout the state and the new programs recommended to conserve freshwater systems and aquatic life. There are several especially valuable activities included in the list of new programs, that we are supportive of investment, including:

- DNR Mussel Restoration Pilot Program- \$600,000
- DNR Culvert Replacement Incentive Program - \$3 million



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- DNR Water Storage - \$1 million

These new programs have significant potential to make a lasting impact on Minnesota waters. If the initial phase of these programs is successful, we recommend the Council continue to increase support. Additionally, we commend DNR for considering water storage opportunities on state lands and recommend water storage for the benefit of downstream aquatic habitat be considered an area of growth for future Clean Water Fund investments.

Soil Health: Several programs recommended for funding are in response to the growing need to increase the pace and scale of soil health practices that hold water, improve nutrient efficiency, and build climate and productivity resilience within agricultural watersheds and the complementary programs that also support nutrient use efficiency. To support increased soil health adoption, we support Clean Water Funding for:

- MDA Conservation Equipment Assistance - \$4 million
- MDA AgBMP Loan Program - \$15 million
- MDA Technical Assistance - \$3 million

Drinking Water: In addition to the programs above that protect and restore surface and groundwater, it is imperative that Minnesota works toward providing safe and reliable drinking water for all. To this end, we support MN Department of Health efforts to test, educate and improve drinking water for public and private water users, specifically:

- MDH Private Well Initiative - \$3 million
- MDH Future of Drinking Water -TNC recommends expansion of this program to include completing a statewide lead service line inventory to fully understand the need to replace lead service lines and fully leverage available federal funding. To accomplish this, we recommend Clean Water Fund investment of \$4 million.

SWCDs: The challenge of permanent and reliable Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) capacity funding continues to be a concern. We generally oppose the use of Clean Water Funds for this purpose, as SWCDs are long-established local government entities who should have stable funding outside of the Clean Water Fund. We also recognize the direct and necessary role of SWCDs in implementing many of the programs funded with Clean Water Funds. We suggest the Council consider an alternative set of recommendations so in the event that the legislature chooses to fund SWCD capacity in this biennium through the Clean Water Fund, the Council will have had the opportunity to suggest ways to do so that will have the least impact on the critical programs in your recommendations.

It is worth noting that all programs and projects receiving Clean Water Funding shall meet or exceed the constitutional requirements to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to



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protect groundwater and drinking water from degradation. All projects and programs should include measurable outcomes and report back on their accomplishments (per Minnesota Statutes 114D.50).

In closing, though The Nature Conservancy remains concerned about the rate of progress toward state water priorities since the Clean Water Fund was first created, we see the list of highlighted programs above as a significant step toward advancing the pace and scale of the beneficial impact Clean Water Funds can have. While the Council faces difficult decisions in packaging final recommendations, the urgency and opportunity to invest in implementation is clear.

Thank you again for considering our input. Please let us know if you would like more information on why The Nature Conservancy feels strongly that these programs advance clean water for Minnesota. We look forward to continuing to work with the Council in your recommendation development process and beyond.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ann Mulholland".

Ann Mulholland, Chapter Director

The Nature Conservancy, MN-ND-SD