

Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 26, 2023

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

9:30 Introduction to New Members

10:00 Legislative Summary

- Legacy Finance
- Agriculture Finance
- Environment & Natural Resources Finance
- Tax bill

10:30 Water Legacy Partners (small grants) Update

- Shaina Keseley, BWSR

10:45 BREAK

11:00 Strategic Planning

- Feedback on New Draft of Groundwater Strategies Goal

11:45 Referral for NGO Letter on MN Agricultural Water Quality Program (MAWQCP)

12:00 LUNCH

12:30 New Fish Kill Minimization Campaign in Minnesota

- Glenn Skuta, MPCA

1:15 Introductory Presentation for New Members on the Clean Water Fund

- Paul Gardner, Administrator

2:00 Adjourn

Immediately after: Steering Committee

July Meeting is CANCELLED

Clean Water Council
April 17, 2023, Meeting Summary

Members present: John Barten (Chair), Steven Besser, Richard Biske, Richard Brainerd, Tannie Eshenaur, Warren Formo, Justin Hanson, Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Frank Jewell, Jen Kader (Vice Chair), Peder Kjeseth, Holly Kovarik, Jason Moeckel, Jeff Peterson, Raj Rajan, Victoria Reinhardt, Peter Schwagerl, Patrick Shea, Glenn Skuta, and Marcie Weinandt.

Members absent: Gary Burdorf, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Sen. Jennifer McEwen, Rep. Kristi Pursell, Todd Renville, Sen. Carrie Ruud, and Jordan Vandal.

To watch the Webex video recording of this meeting, please go to <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/clean-water-council/meetings>, or contact [Brianna Frisch](#).

Regular Clean Water Council Business

- Introductions
- Approval of the April 17th meeting agenda and March 20th meeting summary, motion by Dick Brainerd, and seconded by Rich Biske. Motion carries.
- Chair and Council Staff update
 - Policy & Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates
 - Staff update: Appointments are set for June. We are looking at a new member orientation meeting (July or August). Alternatively, the University of Minnesota Forever Green folks have invited the Council to check out their work again (either May or June).

Legislative Summary (Webex 00:17:00)

There is a handout of this summary in the meeting packet.

- Legacy Finance Bill
 - For the first time ever, all the Clean Water Fund (CWF) dollar recommendations were adopted by both the House and Senate. Every year the Riverwatch program usually gets some funding from the MPCA monitoring budget, so we are watching that. The per-and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) monitoring efforts would need to be trimmed if the Riverwatch program is included.
 - Additional items: The House bill requires that all waters achieve designated uses by 2040. Starting in FY26, the House would require annual instead of biennial CWC recommendations, that recommendations go just to the Legislature and not the Governor, and that the CWC would prepare the appropriations bill language. With the annual funding, it would provide less predictability for projects. The Council may want to provide some feedback here. Non-legislative members on CWC would receive \$125 per day for per diem up from \$55. Also, this bill would extend availability of two Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) appropriations from prior years on private wells and water reuse.
- *Questions/Comments:*
 - Jen Kader: It would be good for the Council to have an opinion on record. Also, I would resist moving to annual recommendations.
 - John Barten: I am opposed to moving to annual recommendations. This is the first time the Council's recommendations have not been adjusted. We work out the disagreements on the Council, negotiating it out, and provide good recommendations. I think it would be hard to do that on an annual basis.
 - Holly Kovarik: I echo the same. Annual would possibly double administrative costs and slow down projects if they have to rely on annual funding. We spend a lot of time on these recommendations, and logistically it would present challenges for the Council and the Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC). This is not the first-time outsiders have tried to align the Council with other groups. It is okay for us to be different. The process is working well for how we go about our recommendations.
 - Frank Jewell: I would second what Holly just said. There is a dramatic difference between LSOHF and the CWC. It does take about a year and a half for those recommendations. In the past, I may have agreed, but now with the process we have set, I do not.
 - Dick Brainerd: How do we convey this information? What is the plan? *Answer from Paul Gardner:* Can you approve some basic position and I can transmit to legislators in the most prudent way.

- John Barten: A motion for Paul Gardner to draft some communication reflecting the intent of the Council's preference to stick with the biennial recommendation timeline, sending the recommendations to both the Legislature and Governor. In addition, to continue the goals of the designated use of all waters be tied to the One Watershed One Plan (1W1P) timelines as opposed to an arbitrary date.
 - Motion by Frank Jewell, seconded by Victoria Reinhardt, with an amendment to take watershed plans as opposed to limiting it to 1W1P.
 - Victoria Reinhardt: Our thoughts on this is to share for their consideration. It is to help build the relationship, rather than being confrontational. To share what is preferred, and the reasons why.
 - Paul will consult the Council's leadership team on communications.
- Environment & Natural Resources Finance
 - There are some items in both the House and Senate bills. Chloride reduction training at the MPCA could charge a fee to provide the training more. There are a lot of PFAS product bans and provide funding for regulation. There is also funding for a 50-year Clean Water Plan Scope of Work report. There is also a push to develop fish kill reporting protocols. There is a lot in this bill.
- Agriculture Finance
 - Items to note include items to establish a soil health financial assistance program (differencing funding between House and Senate). There is also a Forever Green program item to watch.
- Tax bill
 - We will keep a watch on the potential Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) capacity funding from some property taxes.

Water Legacy Partners (Small Grants) Update, by Justin Hanson and Annie Felix-Gerth, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) (*Webex 01:07:00*)

- The request for proposal (RFP) was for \$500,000 set aside for Tribal Governments, and the other half for non-government organizations (NGOs).
- The Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) had their technical review panel review all the applications. There were 3 Tribal Governments, and 22 NGOs that had applied (4 moving forward).

Recognition of Outgoing Members (*Webex 01:15:30*)

The Council recognized the members who are leaving the Council: Jen Kader, Holly Kovarik, Frank Jewell, Raj Rajan, Todd Renville, Pat Shea, Phil Sterner, Sen. Carrie Ruud, and Jordan Vandal.

Vice Chair Vacancy (*Webex 01:34:30*)

There was one nomination for Rich Biske to replace Jen Kader as Vice Chair of the Council. Open for further nominations. Three calls for nominations, with no other members moving forward. Move to close nomination by Steve Besser, seconded by Kelly Gribauval-Hite. Motion approved unanimously.

Strategic Planning (*Webex 01:37:30*)

Paul updated the first goal (Drinking Water) based on feedback from previous sessions.

- Feedback on Revised Drinking Water & Groundwater Strategies:
 - Good feedback was provided by the MDH on specific items and measures. What was a goal in now a vision, providing a larger perspective. The strategies are in red. Actions are in blue. The initial reactions have been generally positive.

Discussion:

- Victoria Reinhardt: I think it looks fantastic. I like the level of detail. It is set up the way that makes sense.
- Kelly Gribauval-Hite: I agree. This is done well, even thinking about someone who not familiar with water. They could follow and understand this document.
- Jen Kader: This lets us dig into the details, to look at where the missing pieces are, or where encouragements can be provided. It equips members with information they need to be more engaged and involved and making sure we are moving in the right direction.
- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: I wonder if this document when finished, would be helpful with the deadline of 2034. It is a plan with goals that are achievable.

- Jim Stark: The level of private well testing is a hot topic right now. There are organizations that have different views on it. Testing and screening are two important words to include there.
- John Barten: How much does it cost to complete all the five well tests? *Answer:* On average, about \$150.
- Steve Besser: If there is a lender involved (all levels), they require well testing be done by the buyer before a mortgage is allowed. Regarding, 2.2, this is an outline, a framework, rather than a narrative. It plays into what we have been talking about.
- Steve Besser: Regarding excluding soybeans. Soybeans, corn, sugar beets, and edible beans are the row crops in Minnesota. *Answer:* We defined row crops in the Nitrogen Rule, in a way that intended it to be broad. Non row crops might include forest land and vegetative cover crops. Small grains would be included.
- Holly Kovarik: It would be good to centralize information about well testing opportunities and well test data.
- Jason Moeckel, DNR: The revised structure looks good.
- Jen Kader: I appreciate how the conversation is demonstrating how this is structured. Capturing some of those questions and hanging onto them. Looking at what it means for investments, and other strategic conversations we have all been leaning towards.
- Frank Jewell: I really appreciate this clarity of what we are going to do, and what we are going to measure. Let's also include something on educating the public. This is a great way to tell people the story of what is being worked on. I don't think the public understands what we are doing.
- Dick Brainerd: This structure is good and provides a good base for moving forward. Specifically, I wanted to talk about available funds. Looking at this document, we have items due by a certain date. Would we be doing a lot more if we had more funding?
- Rich Biske: I like the way this is laid out. I like how concise it is. However, as we go through more of the goals, we will have a long list of actions and measurements, and they will not be consistent. Therefore, making them "smart" will be helpful for the future.
- Jen Kader: Something not mentioned yet, are how do those principles play into this criterion. Perhaps it does not live within the same document but should be documented somewhere.
- Frank Jewell: I'm always worried when we expand the language. They need to be short. They need to speak to those of us doing a lot of the work. There is another piece part of our job, is telling a story about what they mean. As far as our work plan and strategic plan, there is a piece that is education, which must be included.
- Steve Besser: I wordsmith every day in my job. Perhaps we should say "test for major contaminants". There may need to have an explanation "major contaminants defined by the Minnesota Department of Health" in a glossary or other page, so they can understand it. Then, we still have a good working document, and we know where we are going.

Strategic Planning Discussion Continued (Webex 02:23:30)

- This is continuing the discussion. There has been feedback on what direction the Council should go between now and 2034. There are many topics listed as well, and it would be useful to get those ideas out for further follow up. Topics included in this meeting:
 - Grant funding formulas
 - Protection versus restoration
 - Concern about good water quality becoming impaired (i.e., development)
 - Figuring out the balance of the nearly/barely impairment waters, and how that impacts the Council's decisions
 - Equity/environmental justice as prioritization factor
 - Grant funding formulas
 - Each watershed is unique and is in different stages of planning
 - What is innovation
 - Drainage
 - Finding opportunities to bring water quality into drainage improvement process
 - Balancing drainage benefits versus downstream impacts
 - Aligning Nonpoint Priority Funding Plan
 - Elevating hydrology in programs due to influence on multiple issues
 - How will major restoration projects impact waters (i.e., dam/lock removals)
 - What are we learning from groundwater monitoring wells?

- Water storage
 - Soil health
 - Floodplains (looking if state is losing or gaining)
 - Groundwater recharge
- Drinking water resilience/storage with drought/flood – the infrastructure needs
- Communicating outcomes and educating the public
 - Feature one part of the work at a time
 - UMN – how the public sees water (Dr. Mae Davenport)
 - We Are Water program work – showing the public how they can be involved.
- Funding:
 - Show context of CWFs with other founding sources (OHF, farm bills, infrastructure law, and Inflation Reduction Act, etc.)
 - Emphasize leverage versus “frosting on the cake”
 - Gather the numbers to see what it reveals
- Outcomes
 - Lots of BMP funding to rural areas, but more impairments coming off from metro
 - Should we include stormwater ponds
 - De-listings
 - Value of prevention
 - Examine experience to see where more funding would make a difference, and not just incremental bump
 - Durability of impact (e.g., upstream work avoids more downstream work like alum treatments)
 - Focus on things we have control over or can influence
 - What’s our scale? Interested in HUC-8? Basin? How to communicate success times eighty watersheds instead of just one state?
 - Root River model – expensive; saturated buffers have data; learning to target ideas that work
 - Let’s not have desire for “better numbers” (e.g., the number of impairments) drive funding decisions
 - Durability of behavior change needs to be considered
- Monitoring
 - Innovation: next generation observation tools; drones, satellites, small environmental sensors, University of Minnesota (UMN) and other universities (Jeff Peterson has speaker suggestions)
 - Next generation tools would be helpful for Ag producers; hard to get data back in timely ways to improve performance
 - What’s the best way to monitor to show progress to the public; pilot sub-watershed examples; we spent this much funding and revealed these results
 - Communicate that we are evaluating performance and real outcomes
 - Show how monitoring is connected to results
- Water reclamation
 - Should we be looking at it
 - White Bear Lake example
 - Wastewater reuse

Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- Jason Moeckel, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR): There has been a concern about water levels, given the drought. Can we rely on the Mississippi River? Two years ago, when the river level was low, they were about three days away from informing the Governor that he would need to call an emergency. Then, there was rain. The Saint Paul Regional Water Services has a tremendous amount of capacity (goes through a chain of lakes) and can get through a drought time period because they have about a three months of water supply in their system. However, the City of Minneapolis has only three days. There is plenty of water flowing through the Mississippi River, but how we use this water during extreme drought is important, so there needs to be something to store some water to help in this area. There is a lot of opportunity but will require careful planning and an investment in infrastructure.

- Frank Jewell: There is a definite need for education. It is important to make sure the public knows what the CWFs are doing. Each year, if we take one piece of the work being done, would help to highlight it. Additionally, the work at the University of Minnesota (Dr. Mae Davenport), on the social science work. This could really help support the Council, especially by sharing what is missing in this area.
- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: It would be good to take some time to look at the sources of implementation money are relative to CWFs. This would help provide context. For example, the farm bill, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds, to help provide a perspective. Looking at what we can do with the flexibility the CWFs have. We have mentioned it previously but have not looked at it more. I think it is important for context to make decisions on using CWFs. Additionally, there are some very large federal bills that have recently passed. Therefore, it would be good to know what the baseline is and how big will those items grow. To help provide an idea of where the CWFs are sitting in the big picture. It would help for our big-ticket items, to see where they sit (so the list is not too exhaustive).
- John Barten: Looking at the Mississippi River protection restoration work, in terms of funding. Should we look at it on a project by project, or more of a watershed approach? What do we focus on? They are different approaches. There is an awful lot of funds, so what is the best use of these funds? There are different approaches in measurement as well.
- Justin Hanson, BWSR: Education and outcomes should be talked about together. The outcomes do not become real unless people have a connection. This is where the communication is so important. Following up on Glenn's comment, it is important to identify the resources today and what they might be down the road. It fits into the innovation category too. It is so much different than what we have been doing in the past.
- Rich Biske: Thinking about other funding sources, this helps us think about the potential impact of the CWFs. It helps reveal what that niche could be. Protecting waters today saves money in the future. We might be in the early stages of implementation, but what have we learned that tells us by celebrating it, or having more resources, will have a different outcome. Having a place for that in the plan would be good.
- Jeff Peterson, UMN: I'm not sure where monitoring shows up in this part of the plan. Something on my mind is there could be an opportunity to explore some innovation in that monitoring space. If innovation is happening with next generation observation technologies (i.e., satellite imaging, drones, other environment sensors, etc.). A lot of this data is being collected already. A lot is happening in this area, and I think there are speakers that could be suggested for the Council. There is potential to compliment this area.
- Paul Gardner: Minnesota has more impaired waters than everyone else, but we measure more than everyone else. So, using the number of de-listings as percentage of impairments as a measure requires context. Some of the formulas for implementation funding may change and have repercussions. This may also focus where the funding is going moving forward as well. Therefore, what defines success when we are done on the implementation side? How is the formula going to move? There are repercussions that could happen.
- Peter Schwagerl: As we are trying to figure out the best way to target funds in the Ag sector. It is difficult to get data back on how we are impacting items (i.e., water storage). It is critical to figure out that piece.
- Jen Kader: Looking at durability, the conversation around the risk of the changes in funding to practices and behaviors is important to highlight. Also, thinking about climate resilience (e.g., will this practice be good to use in the future as well). Protecting what is good, addressing the nearly/barely impairments, are important, but looking at those severely impaired waters is too.
- Holly Kovarik: Activities to address the impairments can be different for each watershed, so there is a need to keep that in mind. They are at different stages. There will need to have time. Additionally, each watershed is unique. They are locally driven plans, based on the science. So, this is a reminder that these plans are still being developed. It will be a little while before we can reflect more completely on what has been done.
- Rich Biske: What's our scale at (HUC-8 or HUC-12, or basin)? Additionally, a nonpoint reduction is impacted by behavior change. Looking at how we balance this out would be good to do.
- Victoria Reinhardt: Monitoring is getting a bad rap; it is evaluating performance. Somehow, the word monitoring does not sum up what is being done here.
- Paul has plenty of feedback to proceed currently.

Adjournment (*Webex 03:22:51*)

Clean Water Council Member Biographies

Minnesota Statutes 114D Subdivision 2 specifies the composition of the Clean Water Council

(a) The commissioners of natural resources, agriculture, health, and the Pollution Control Agency, the executive director of the Board of Water and Soil Resources, the Board of Regents of the University of Minnesota, and the Metropolitan Council shall each appoint one person from their respective entity to serve as a nonvoting member of the council. Two members of the house of representatives, including one member from the majority party and one member from the minority party, appointed by the speaker and two senators, including one member from the majority party and one member from the minority party, appointed according to the rules of the senate shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing authority as nonvoting members of the council. Members appointed under this paragraph serve as nonvoting members of the council.

(b) Seventeen voting members of the council shall be appointed by the governor as follows:

- (1) two members representing statewide farm organizations;
- (2) two members representing business organizations;
- (3) two members representing environmental organizations;
- (4) one member representing soil and water conservation districts;
- (5) one member representing watershed districts;
- (6) one member representing nonprofit organizations focused on improvement of Minnesota lakes or streams;
- (7) two members representing organizations of county governments, one member representing the interests of rural counties and one member representing the interests of counties in the seven-county metropolitan area;
- (8) two members representing organizations of city governments;
- (9) one member representing township officers;
- (10) one member representing the interests of tribal governments;
- (11) one member representing statewide hunting organizations; and
- (12) one member representing statewide fishing organizations.

Council Members Appointed by the Governor (Voting Members)

John Barten (Chair): Barten represents **nonprofit organizations focused on the improvement of Minnesota lakes and streams** on the Council. Barten, of Delano, has worked as a natural resources manager in Minnesota for over 35 years. Barten's focus has been on lake water quality. For the past 26 years, Barten worked for the Three Rivers Park District and retired as the Director of Natural Resources. His responsibilities included the management of 20 lakes, 9 swimming beaches, 56 potable water wells, thousands of wetlands, and over 10 miles of streams. Barten has worked as a limnologist for the city of Waseca and served as a Water Quality Specialist for the Dakota County Soil and Water Conservation District in Farmington. Through his leadership and collaboration with municipalities and watershed management organizations, he assisted in the adoption of statewide phosphorus fertilizer legislation. Term ends January 2027.

Steven Besser (Vice-Chair, Budget and Outcomes Committee): Besser represents **statewide fishing organizations** on the Council. Besser, of Litchfield, is by vocation, an attorney licensed in the State and Federal Courts of both Minnesota and North Dakota, practicing with the law firm of Dolan, Besser & Geffre; and, by avocation, an environmentalist, and angler pursuing both

warm water and cold-water fishes. He is currently a member of the Minnesota DNR's Esocid (North Pike/Muskellunge) Fish Workgroup and a life member of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, an organization dedicated to serving as the voice for wild public lands, waters and wildlife. He describes himself as a "biologist gone bad" after abandoning science for the law. He received a Bachelor of Arts Cum Laude in Biology (emphasis in limnology) from Bemidji State University and attended graduate school at North Dakota State University (Zoology Department) where he studied water chemistry and nutrient cycling from the shallow impoundments in the Arrowwood Wildlife Refuge south through the Jamestown Reservoir (James River system), contrasting these measurements with those entering the nearby Lake Ashtabula Reservoir (Sheyenne River system). He received his Juris Doctorate with Distinction from the University of North Dakota. He is passionate about water quality and the conservation ("wise use") of Minnesota's aquatic resources, and believes in simplifying the science in order to make it easily accessible to the public. Term ends January 2024.

Rich Biske (Vice-Chair; Chair of Policy Committee): Rich Biske represents **environmental organizations** on the Council. He is the Waters & Protection Director for The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota, North Dakota, and South Dakota. Rich leads the Conservancy's freshwater policy development, conservation strategy, watershed protection and builds capacity of partner organizations. Biske collaborates with public and private sector leaders to advance freshwater, forest and grassland protection for people and nature. He leads a team of talented scientists, regional program managers and project managers that implement conservation action throughout the 3-state chapter. Rich also leads the Chapter's Providing Food and Water Strategy and Mississippi Headwaters Fund. Term ends January 2024.

Richard Brainerd: Richard "Dick" Brainerd represents **city organizations** on the Council. Brainerd is the mayor of the City of Mahtomedi in Washington County, and has been a consultant in human resources and a former human resources executive and educator. His volunteer affiliations include Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota; Minnesota & Dakotas Regions American Red Cross; League of Minnesota Cities; and past board member of Conservation Minnesota and The Nature Conservancy of Minnesota and the Dakotas, and past President of the Century College Foundation. Term ends January 2024.

Gary Burdorf: Burdorf represents **township officers** on the Council. Burdorf, of Arlington, is the District 4 Director of the Minnesota Association of Townships and Township Supervisor for the Green Isle Township in Sibley County, MN. He became President of the Minnesota Association of Townships in 2018. In the spring of 2015, he was elected to the Board of Directors for the McLeod Coop Electric. He is a beef and grain farmer in Green Isle Township. He was President of the Board of Directors for a Farm Mutual Insurance Co. for 15 years, Loss Control Inspector for Farm Mutual Insurance Co. for 10 years, Past President of Minnesota Farm Mutual Inspector Association, and a Family Farm Owner/Operator for 35 years. He has long been interested and concerned about our clean water supply. Term ends January 2027.

Steven Christenson: Steve Christenson represents **business organizations** on the Council. He is the recently retired Senior Vice President for Global Regulatory Affairs and Associate General Counsel for Ecolab, Inc. He initiated Ecolab's sustainability programs and Cleaner, Safer, Healthier tagline that became a core business strategy. He is currently on the board of The

Nature Conservancy's Minnesota and Dakotas Chapter and served earlier on the Minnesota Advisory Board for Trust for Public Land. He holds a B.S. from Iowa State University and a J.D. from the University of Iowa. Steve has an agricultural background, growing up on a farm in Iowa.

Warren Formo: Formo represents **statewide farm organizations** on the Council. Formo, of Eagan, serves as Executive Director of the Minnesota Agricultural Water Resource Center (MAWRC), an educational organization providing research-based information on agricultural production and environmental management, promoting the long-term economic viability of Minnesota farms. Prior to the formation of the MAWRC, he served as Assistant Executive Director of the Minnesota Corn Growers Association. Term ends January 2027.

Brad Gausman: Brad Gausman represents **hunting organizations** on the Council. Since 2020, he has served as the Executive Director of the Minnesota Conservation Federation, which has a long history of advocating for both clean water and the diverse hunting communities found across Minnesota. Term ends January 2027.

Kelly Gribauval-Hite: Gribauval-Hite represents **business organizations** on the Council. Term ends January 2021. She has been the CEO of Mercury Technologies of Minnesota, Inc. in Pine City since 2007. She has an interest in safe drinking water for private wells. Gribauval-Hite also worked as an environmental consultant in Paris, an Agroforestry Extension Agent for the Peace Corps in Mauritania, and agricultural advisor for the Minnesota Department of Agriculture. She is also a public member of the state's Advisory Council on Wells and Borings that advises the Minnesota Department of Health on technical matters related to the construction, repair, and sealing of wells and borings and the licensure of well and boring contractors. Term ends January 2024.

Holly Hatlewick: Holly Hatlewick represents **soil and water conservation districts** on the Council. She is the District Administrator for the Renville Soil and Water Conservation District in Olivia. She manages, coordinates, and facilitates all components of operations for the district, and develops policies and programs to work towards local and state water quality goals. She previously worked as District Conservationist and Soil Conservationist for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) from 2002 to 2016. Hatlewick is a Certified Conservation Planner and co-organizer of the Minnesota Soil Health Coalition. Term ends January 2027.

Annie Knight: Annie Knight works with Northern Waters Land Trust (NWLTL), a regional environmental organization in northern Minnesota working to preserve land to protect water. This is done through fee title acquisitions, conservation easements, and community outreach. She leads the organization in community engagement with local stakeholder groups (i.e. Landowners, lake associations, Tribal Nations, SWCDs, Counties, State and Federal agencies, NGO partners, etc.). She also manages NWLTL's numerous local, State, and Federal grants and ensures all the grant objectives are being met. Annie has a degree in Environmental Studies and Psychology from the College of Saint Benedict, where she had the opportunity to conduct conservation biology research in Chile and delve into the psychological benefits of spending time in nature. Annie is grateful for the opportunity to serve on the Clean Water Council.

Victoria Reinhardt (Vice-Chair, Policy Committee): Reinhardt represents **metro area counties** on the Council. Reinhardt, of White Bear Lake, is a member of the Ramsey County Board of Commissioners, representing Maplewood, North St. Paul, White Bear Lake, and the Hillcrest area of St. Paul. She is currently a member of the Association of Minnesota Counties' Environment and Natural Resources Committee, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Local Government Advisory Committee, and Vice Chair of the Environment, Energy and Land Use Committee for the National Association of Counties. Reinhardt is also Vice-chair of the Ramsey/Washington Recycling and Energy Board, and a member of the Partnership on Waste and Energy. Term ends January 2024.

Peter Schwagerl: Peter Schwagerl represents **farm organizations** on the Council. Peter and his wife Anne operate Prairie Point Farm in Browns Valley in Big Stone County. He is a member of the Minnesota Farmer's Union (MFU) and serves as MFU Big Stone County President and on the MFU State Board of Governors. He is also co-chair of the Western Chapter of the Sustainable Farming Association. Schwagerl holds a B.A. from Gustavus Adolphus College and a Master of Science from Kansas State University. Term ends January 2024.

Dan Sparks: Dan Sparks represents **rural counties** on the Council. He is a county commissioner in Mower County, but also served as a state senator from 2003 to 2020. Sparks received the legislator of the year award from the Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, served on the Legislative Energy Commission, and the Minnesota Clean Water Council from 2011 to 2013. Term ends January 2027.

Marcie Weinandt: Marcie Weinandt represents **watershed districts** on the Council. She serves on the board of managers for the Rice Creek Watershed District. Before retirement, Weinandt worked at the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) as operations coordinator. She served as CEO of the Midwest Assistance Program in New Prague, Director of Constituent Relations for the Rural Policy Research Institute in Washington, DC, Executive Director of Minnesota Rural Partners in Redwood Falls, and as Renville County Commissioner. Term ends January 2024.

Council Members Appointed Directly by Their Respective Authorities (Non-Voting Members)

Appointed by the House and Senate (Terms End January 2025)

State Rep. John Heintzeman: Rep. Heintzeman (R-House District 10A) was appointed by the **Minnesota House of Representatives** to the Council. He represents much of Crow Wing County, including the cities of Brainerd and Baxter. Heintzeman, who is from Nisswa and owns a small business, is in his fifth term in the House. He is the minority lead on the Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, and serves on the House Legacy Finance Division and Ways and Means Committee.

State Sen. Nicole Mitchell: Sen. Mitchell (DFL-Senate District 47) was appointed by the **Minnesota Senate** to the Council. A meteorologist, attorney, and Commander in the Minnesota

Air National Guard, she is serving her first term. She represents Woodbury in Washington County and part of Maplewood in Ramsey County. Mitchell is Vice-Chair of the State and Local Government and Veterans Committee, and member of the Elections Committee, Energy, Utilities, Environment, and Climate Committee, and Human Services Committee.

State Rep. Kristi Pursell: Rep. Pursell (DFL-House District 58A) was appointed by the **Minnesota House of Representatives** to the Council. She serves the people of Northfield, Dundas, Lonsdale, Webster, and part of New Prague in the Minnesota House of Representatives and is in her first term. Prior to serving in the Legislature, she was the executive director of Cannon River Watershed Partnership, now called Clean Water Partners, in Northfield. She is the Vice-Chair of the House Agriculture Finance and Policy Committee, and a member of the Elections Finance and Policy Committee, Environment and Natural Resources Finance and Policy Committee, and the Education Finance Committee. Rep. Pursell holds a B.A. from St. Olaf College.

State Sen. Nathan Wesenberg: Sen. Wesenberg (R-Senate District 10A) was appointed by the Minnesota Senate to the Council. A biologist from Little Falls, he represents parts of or all of Aitkin, Mille Lacs, Benton, Morrison, Kanabec, and Isanti Counties. He serves on the Education Policy Committee, Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committees, and Labor Committees.

Appointed by State Agencies and the University of Minnesota (Terms End January 2027)

Gail Cederberg, Ph.D.: Dr. Gail Cederberg represents the **Metropolitan Council**. She is a retired water resources and environmental engineer with more than 30 years experience. Gail was appointed by the Governor to serve as the District 11 Member of the Metropolitan Council and sits on the Environmental and Management Committees. She has led the soil and groundwater remediation and reclamation of brownfields and Superfund sites in Minnesota and throughout the United States and developed regional and local groundwater models and coupled groundwater flow and chemical transport models. Gail's experience also includes developing sustainability programs, facilitating stakeholders through complex issues, and integrating inclusion and equity throughout projects and organizations. Cederberg serves on the board of directors for Environmental Initiative, is an alumnus of the U of MN HHH Public Policy Fellow program, and mentors students and emerging professionals entering STEM fields. Gail was born and raised in Minnesota and resides in Mahtomedi, MN. She is rehabbing an old cabin, restoring the shoreland, and volunteers on other shoreland restoration projects.

Tannie Eshenaur: Eshenaur represents the **Minnesota Department of Health (MDH)** on the Council. Eshenaur, of New Brighton, is the Planning Director for Drinking Water Protection at MDH. She provides high-level planning expertise for the coordination and integration of MDH drinking water protection activities to protect or improve the quality of surface water and groundwater resources. Previously, she served as a state specialist for health education, community involvement and risk communication activities related to hazardous waste sites and toxic chemical releases. For thirteen years, Eshenaur served as a public health specialist in Ethiopia, working in water supply and sanitation, evaluation, cultural orientation and language acquisition. Eshenaur received her B.A. in International Relations from Bethel University and

her M.P.H. in Community Health Education from the University of Minnesota's School of Public Health.

Justin Hanson: Justin Hanson is the Assistant Director for Field Operations for the **Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)**. Hanson was the manager of the Mower County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and the Cedar River Watershed District from 2015 to 2022. In 2017, CRWD was honored with the Watershed District of the Year Award by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources. In 2021, Mower SWCD was chosen as SWCD of the Year by the Minnesota Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts. He previously served as Mower SWCD's resource specialist from 2004 to 2015, having started his role right after the Austin area experienced its worst-known flooding.

Peder Kjeseth: Peder Kjeseth serves as Assistant Commissioner at the **Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA)**. He has been at the MDA since 2019 in the role of Director of Legislative Affairs. As Assistant Commissioner, Kjeseth oversees the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division, the Plant Protection Division, and Laboratory Services. Prior to coming to the MDA in 2019, Kjeseth worked for eight years on staff for Governor Tim Walz in both his prior congressional and current gubernatorial offices.

Jason Moeckel: Moeckel represents the **Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR)**. Moeckel, of St. Paul, is currently the Manager for the Inventory, Monitoring, and Analysis Section in the Division of Ecological and Water Resources at DNR. This section is responsible for collecting and analyzing information about Minnesota's water and biological resources to inform management decisions. Jason has worked for the DNR since 1998. Before joining Minnesota DNR, he worked for the U.S. Forest Service in Wyoming and with California State Parks. Jason has a Master of Science Degree in Resource Conservation from the University of Montana and a Bachelor of Science Degree in Environmental Studies from San Jose State University.

Jeffrey M. Peterson: Peterson represents the **University of Minnesota (UMN)** on the Council. Peterson, of Falcon Heights, is the Director of the UMN Water Resources Center, housed jointly in University of Minnesota Extension and the College of Food, Agricultural, and Natural Resource Sciences. As Director, he provides overall leadership for the Center, which supports Extension, teaching, and research activities across the University. He is also a professor in the Department of Applied Economics. He was elected president of the National Institutes for Water Resources (2023-24) and to the Board of Directors of the Universities Council on Water Resources (2020-2026). He earned his Ph.D. from Cornell University in agricultural and resource economics. Prior to coming to Minnesota, he held a faculty position in the Department of Agricultural Economics at Kansas State University and a visiting faculty appointment at Oregon State University. His research has focused on environmental policy analysis, primarily as related to water use and water quality impacts from agriculture. He has received national awards for his research, including from the Agricultural and Applied Economics Association.

Glenn Skuta: Skuta represents the **Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)** on the Council. Skuta, of Oakdale, is the Watershed Division Director at the MPCA. His Division is responsible for developing Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies based on watershed science to

help target implementation activities in local water plans. Skuta has worked for the MPCA in various roles since 1990. Originally from Cleveland, Ohio, Skuta came to Minnesota to attend St. John's University where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Biology and Philosophy. He received a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from St. Catherine University in 2020. Skuta is also a graduate of the State of Minnesota's Senior Leadership Program at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Clean Water Council staff

Paul Gardner has held the position of **Administrator** since January of 2019. He spent 20 years in the recycling and solid waste industry, including as Executive Director of the Recycling Association of Minnesota (RAM). Gardner served in the Minnesota House of Representatives from 2007 to 2010, representing part or all of six communities in Ramsey and Anoka Counties. Originally from the Virginia suburbs of Washington, DC, Gardner has lived in Shoreview since 1997. He holds a B.A. from Grinnell College in Iowa and an M.P.A. from the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota. Gardner is a volunteer Master Water Steward and Water Conservation Advisor in his community through a program developed by Freshwater.

Clean Water Council Legislative Summary 2023

Legacy Finance Bill ([2023 Session Laws, Chapter 40](#))

- Adopts the Clean Water Council's recommendations for the Clean Water Fund, with a few changes:
 - Appropriates \$326,000 for the River Watch program in the Red River Valley as part of the **MPCA's monitoring program**.
 - Appropriates funds for the **Contaminants of Emerging Concern** program but for the purpose of developing health risk limits rather than health-based guidance values.
 - Requires Met Council program for **Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Support** to look at radium, manganese, and selenium contamination of drinking water sources in addition to PFAS. [Seems to be based on report about pollution from an oil refinery: [Minnesota's Flint Hills refinery is one of the largest polluters of a toxic metal, according to new report - Minnesota Reformer.](#)]
 - Sets a goal of 2050 for waters to meet all their designated uses.
 - Increases per diem for Clean Water Council members to \$125/day.
 - Requires the Clean Water Council to submit recommendation bill language direct to the Legislature rather than through MMB.
 - Requires assessment in recommendations on how Clean Water Fund projects involve diverse and/or low-income communities and encourages diversity of students entering the environmental field.

Environment & Natural Resources Finance Bill ([2023 Session Law, Chapter 60](#))

- **PFAS**
 - \$4,140,000 for carrying out the PFAS Blueprint
 - \$25,000,000 in one-time funding to help public water suppliers dealing with PFAS
 - Bans intentionally added PFAS from the following eleven types of consumer products by January 2025: carpets or rugs; cleaning products; cookware; cosmetics; dental floss; fabric treatments; juvenile products; menstruation products; textile furnishings; ski wax; or upholstered furniture.
 - Bans intentionally added PFAS from all products in Minnesota by January 1, 2032
 - \$4,420,000 for PFAS prevention and reduction activities
 - Requires that the MN Department of Health create or adjust health risk limits for certain PFAS compounds and that the MPCA create water quality standards for certain PFAS compounds
- **Soil Health and Other Land Use with Water Quality Implications, etc.**
 - \$21,114,000 for the creation of a Soil Health Practices Program
 - Establishes Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) Working Lands program
 - Requires the Drainage Work Group to report on outlet adequacy and public notice requirements proposals
 - \$17,000,000 for water storage projects

Clean Water Council Legislative Summary 2023

- \$3,000,000 in one-time support for the Conservation Reserve Program (to make up for lower federal payment rates)
- Substantial funding for peatlands, wetlands, and grasslands easements
- **Common Carp Management**
 - Funding for the MN Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center to implement a watershed-scale carp management plan
 - Allows for "wanton waste" of carp
- **Pesticides**
 - Prohibits use of neonicotinoid pesticides on certain types of state land
 - Restricts use and disposal of neonicotinoid treated seed
- **Groundwater Management**
 - \$2,000,000 for a comprehensive water plan for White Bear Lake
 - Creates a more precise definition of sustainable groundwater diversion limit
 - Increases fine for exceeding sustainable groundwater diversion limit, and increases fees for the highest groundwater users
- **Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund**
 - Approves the annual recommendations of the Legislative Citizens Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) for the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund, which include numerous water-related projects
 - Tweaks the membership of the LCCMR
- **Miscellaneous**
 - Makes grants for metro inflow and infiltration
 - Allows the MPCA to charge a fee up to \$350 for its chloride reduction training
 - Prohibits storing or leaving garbage or other waste on ice
 - \$500,000 for microplastics monitoring
 - \$477,000 to implement new fish kill response protocol and related policy
 - \$200,000 for the University of Minnesota to complete a 50-year clean water plan

Agricultural Finance and Policy Bill ([2023 Session Law, Chapter 43](#))

- Appropriates \$1.25 million for soil health equipment grants
- Appropriates \$1.604 million to the **Forever Green Initiative**.
- Appropriates \$500,000 for Continuous Living Cover (CLC) value chain development grants.
- Allows Department of Agriculture to set fees on fertilizer instead of the Legislature, with a minimum and maximum amount listed in the bill.

Clean Water Council Legislative Summary 2023

Lead Service Lines ([2023 Session Law, Chapter 39](#))

- Will infuse \$240 million into replacing lead service lines in public water systems. It also sets a goal of removing all lead service lines by 2033.

Omnibus Tax Bill ([2023 Session Law, Chapter 64](#))

- Provides \$30 million for FY24-25 for **Soil and Water Conservation Districts** (SWCDs). In FY26-27, support drops to \$24 million, or \$12 million per year. SWCDs have advocated for \$44 million every biennium going forward. (The Legislature had appropriated \$18 to \$24 million to SWCDs from the Clean Water Fund for several biennia. This new appropriation will avoid cuts to Clean Water Fund appropriations.)

Capital Investment ([2023 Session Law, Chapters \[71\]\(#\) and \[72\]\(#\)](#))

- Appropriates \$120,402,000 from the General Fund for the **Public Facilities Authority** from one bill and \$61,770,000 in another bill for water treatment projects at numerous specified locations
- Appropriates \$319,310,000 from bonding proceeds for the **Public Facilities Authority** for water-related infrastructure, including \$800 million for the **Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG)** program.
- Appropriates \$10,700,000 in bonding for **Reinvest in Minnesota** (RIM) Reserve program, which is the last remaining state match required to receive all available federal funds for the **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program** (CREP).
- Provides \$12 million for inflow and infiltration grants to cities through the Met Council.



Clean Water Legacy Partners Pilot Program

Clean Water Council

06/26/23



Grant Purpose

Clean Water Fund:

In 2021, the Minnesota legislature appropriated \$1 million from the Clean Water Fund:

“...for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water.”



Clean Water Legacy Partners program purpose:

To provide new funding opportunities to expand partnerships to protect and restore Minnesota's water resources.



Applicant Eligibility



Non-Governmental Organizations



Tribal Governments of Minnesota

Results of the RFP

22 Applications

- NGO: 19
- Tribal Governments: 3

Total request: \$3,077,136

- NGO: \$2,547,136
- Tribal Governments: \$530,000

Awardees:

NGOs

1. Clean River Partners
2. Upper Red Lake Area Association
3. Spark-Y: Youth Action Labs
4. Briggs Lake Chain Association

Tribal Nations

1. Red Lake Nation
2. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
3. Upper Sioux Community

NGO Grant Activities

1. Clean River Partners:

Activities will build a network of farmers in SE MN within six subwatersheds of the Cannon River by providing cover crop incentives, recruiting conventional farmers into the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), and educating new and small-scale farmers about the Agroforestry Poultry System.

2. Upper Red Lake Area Association:

The Upper Red Lake Keep It Clean Partnership aims to reduce the amount of human waste pollution on Upper Red Lake by capturing over ten tons of human waste through a collaborative waste collection program and additional education and outreach.

3. Spark-Y

The Spark-Y Urban Water Protection Youth Empowerment and Engagement will implement three River First projects that advance urban stormwater remediation goals while empowering youth, advancing workforce development, and drawing community attention through interactive art.

4. Briggs Lake Chain Association

The Briggs Lake Chain Association will conduct a diagnostic/feasibility study to quantify the magnitude of internal phosphorus release from the bottom sediments in the Upper Briggs Lake Chain. The resulting report would detail the exact approach necessary to mitigate internal sources of phosphorus and describe the water quality improvements in these lakes as well as downstream waterbodies.

Tribal Nation Grant Activities

1. Red Lake Nation:

The Red Lake DNR is creating a cattle access pilot initiative to improve water resources in the Blackduck and Cormorant subwatersheds, which have anthropogenic stressors, including pasturing cattle in riparian areas. These two subwatersheds are important for reintroduced sturgeon spawning, however the threat of sedimentation currently exists and impacts spawning potential. Red Lake DNR will work closely with the Beltrami SWCD to advance existing landscape conservation plans by partnering with federal, state, and local stakeholders.

2. Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe:

This project will restore and protect riparian area on Stony Point in Cass Lake by revegetating a site that was cleared down to topsoil after removal of a structure. They will use a native seed mix and planting of native shrubs and plants to establish a healthy shoreline and riparian zone, provide habitat for wildlife and pollinators, prevent erosion and runoff into Cass Lake, and prevent invasive and nuisance plants from taking hold on the site.

3. Upper Sioux Community:

This project is funding a portion of a larger US Army Corps of Engineers Section 203 Tribal Partnership Program to restore streambank on the Minnesota River that falls in tribal land. Tribal lands adjacent to the Minnesota River in Yellow Medicine County have been lost over the last several decades due to erosion of the riverbank. Continued erosion threatens to cut off a portion of tribal land that is used for culturally significant events.

- Currently, BWSR is working with awardees on work planning
- Deadline of September 30th for work to begin
- Assessment of pilot before next round
 - \$1M in FY24/25 appropriation



Thank You



Draft Revision to Clean Water Council Strategic Planning on Drinking Water

26 June 2023

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

Ensure that users of public water systems have safe, sufficient, and equitable drinking water

- **Strategy 1.1: Identify sources of risks to public drinking water sources.**
 - **Action 1.1.1. Delineate Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs)**
 - Performance Measure: All DWSMA delineation complete.
 - **Action 1.1.2. Coordinate among agencies to identify threats using geologic and groundwater atlases, groundwater assessments, etc.**
 - Performance Measure: Ongoing?
- **Strategy 1.2: Reduce risks to drinking water sources by investing in technical training, planning, coordination, and source water protection grants.**
 - **Action 1.2.1. Assist public water suppliers in completing Drinking Water Source Protection Plans and supporting implementation projects listed in the plans.**
 - Performance Measure: All first-generation DWSP plans for the 500 vulnerable systems are complete. Fifty plans will be updated annually.
 - Performance Measure: For 420 non-vulnerable systems, 306 first-generation plans are complete with 114 remaining.
 - Performance Measure: Eight source water assessments out of 23 surface water systems should be revised by 2023, with all completed by 2027.
 - Performance Measure: Five source water intake protection plans out of 23 surface water systems should be complete by mid-2023, with the remaining 18 complete by 2029.
 - Performance Measure: Complete pilot source water protection planning for non-community public water systems.
 - Performance Measure: MDH plans to fund half of budget requests for DWSP grants.
 - **Action 1.2.2. Integrate drinking water source protection with surface water planning**
 - Performance Measure: Complete a statewide drinking water plan by INSERT YEAR.
 - Performance Measure: Include drinking water source protection as part of all comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan)

- **Strategy 1.3: Prioritize implementation funding that supports the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).**
 - **Action 1.3.1 Fully implement actions to reduce nitrate in DWSMAs that are Level 1 and Level 2 under the GPR**
 - Performance Measure: Agricultural practices in DWSMAs that are Level 2 under the GPR are assessed, local advisory teams formed, and recommended practices are published. (There are 21 Level 2 DWSMAs currently. Level 2 indicates nitrate-nitrogen levels >8 mg/L at any time in last ten years or projected to exceed 10 mg/L in next ten years.)
 - Performance Measure: In Level 2 DWSMAs, MDA recommended practices or approved alternative practices are adopted on 80 percent of row crop acres, excluding soybean, or regulatory actions are taken.
 - Performance Measure: Agricultural practices in DWSMAs that are Level 1 under the GPR are assessed, local advisory teams formed, and recommended practices are published. (There are eight Level 1 DWSMAs currently. Level 1 indicates nitrate-nitrogen levels between 5.4 and 8 mg/L.)
 - Performance Measure: In Level 1 DWSMAs, MDA recommended practices or approved alternative practices are adopted on 80% of row crop acres excluding soybean.
 - Performance Measure: No additional existing municipal water supply wells exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate.
- **Strategy 1.4: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.**
 - **Action 1.4.1. Fund protective actions.**
 - Performance Measure: Protect approximately 400,000 acres of vulnerable land surrounding drinking water wellhead areas statewide by 2034.
 - Performance Measure: Increase landowner adoption of soil health practices for drinking water protection through technical assistance, conservation equipment support, financial assistance, easements, drinking water protection/restoration grants, targeted wellhead protection grants, continuous living cover, soil health grants, etc.
- **Strategy 1.5: Support prevention and management of newly identified contaminant risks.**
 - **Action 1.5.1. Fund Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CEC) program.**
 - Performance Measure: The CEC program will screen at least 20 chemicals each biennium to determine if they are an exposure of actual or potential concern to Minnesotans
 - **Action 1.5.2. Fund adequate monitoring and assessment activities to examine emerging risks.**
 - Performance Measure: Support river and lake monitoring assessment, ambient groundwater monitoring, and ambient drinking water monitoring, with enough contingency for rapid response.
- **Strategy 1.6: Identify policy options that will accelerate progress to achieving federal safe drinking water standards.**
 - **Action 1.6.1. Clean Water Council Policy Committee will make annual policy recommendations.**

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells

Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable drinking water.

- **Strategy 2.1 Identify risks to private well users.**
 - **Action 2.1.1. Identify naturally occurring contaminants and provide notification to private well users.**
 - Performance Measure: Complete geologic and groundwater atlases for all counties by 2034.

- Performance Measure: Support adequate groundwater monitoring through ambient groundwater wells. [How many/year?]
 - Performance Measure: Support outreach to private well users through private well initiative. [MDH looking at how to measure]
 - Action 2.1.2. Detect, analyze, and assess risk from pesticides that can appear in private wells.
 - Performance Measure: Support research lab and staff capacity to detect and analyze pesticides and their degradates at 650 samples/year.
 - Action 2.1.3. Update science needed to understand impacts of nitrogen application.
 - Performance Measure: Support an update to state manure crediting guidelines through the University of Minnesota.
 - Performance Measure: Support updates to University of Minnesota nitrogen application guidelines.
 - Performance Measure: Support research, evaluation, and demonstration of perennial crops, cover crops, and other protective vegetative cover practices.
- Strategy 2.2: Fund testing of private well water by well users.
 - Action 2.2.1. Support free well testing in the most vulnerable areas of the state for nitrates and pesticides.
 - Performance Measure: Township testing has tested 77,000 private wells for nitrate; 6,100 have been tested so far for pesticides. [Testing continues to evaluate potential impacts from pesticides. Nitrate is also tested.]
 - Action 2.2.2. Fund a ten-year effort to give every private well user the opportunity to test for five major contaminants.
 - Performance Measure: Beginning in 2024 and ending in 2033, MDH will provide private well testing opportunities for 10 percent of private well users each year.
- Strategy 2.3: Encourage mitigation activities, including funding for low-income households.
 - Action 2.3.1. Provide assistance to qualifying low-income households to replace individual subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS).
 - Performance Measure: MPCA currently supports XXXX systems per year and has a goal of XXXX systems.
 - Action 2.3.2. Provide assistance to qualifying low-income households to replace private wells or install water treatment system
 - Performance Measure: Develop a proposal for future CWF recommendations to meet the need.
- Strategy 2.4: Implement the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan (MFMP) in townships with vulnerable groundwater.
 - Action 2.4.1. Implement the NFMP in priority townships with vulnerable groundwater. (Currently there are 44 townships in which ten percent or more of tested wells exceed 100 mg/L for nitrate.)
 - Performance Measure: Agricultural practices in townships are assessed, local advisory teams formed, and recommended practices are published.
 - Performance Measure: MDA recommended practices or approved alternative practices are adopted on 80% of row crop acres excluding soybean.
 - Action 2.4.2. Implement the NFMP in all remaining townships with vulnerable groundwater.
 - Performance Measure: Agricultural practices in townships are assessed, local advisory teams formed, and recommended practices are published.
 - Performance Measure: MDA recommended practices or approved alternative practices are adopted on 80% of row crop acres excluding soybean.

- Action 2.4.3. Promote recommended BMPs, soil health practices, and vegetative cover in all areas with vulnerable groundwater across Minnesota.
 - Performance Measure: Outreach and demonstration projects
 - Performance Measure: Nutrient Management Initiative (NMI) demonstration sites
 - Performance Measure: Other demonstration sites and actions
- Strategy 2.5: Identify policy options that will accelerate the reduction in the number of unsafe private wells.
 - Action 2.5.1. Clean Water Council Policy Committee will make annual policy recommendations.

Draft Revision to Clean Water Council Strategic Planning on Groundwater

26 June 2023

Groundwater Vision

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Protect groundwater from degradation and support effective measures to restore degraded groundwater

- **Strategy 1.1: Reduce risk of groundwater contamination from bacteria.**
 - **Action 1.1.1: Enhance county-level compliance of subsurface septic treatment systems (SSTs).**
 - Performance Measure: Maintain a compliance rate for subsurface septic treatment (SSTS) systems at a minimum of 80 percent, and to attain a goal of 90 percent annually, through enhanced county-level inspection.
 - **Action 1.1.2: Provide financial assistance for low-income households to replace and repair individual SSTs.**
 - Performance Measure: Meet X% of demand for assistance for qualified households annually through the MPCA.
 - Performance Measure: Meet X% of demand for low-interest loans for SSTS replacement annually through MDA.
 - **Action 1.1.3: Reduce number of under-sewered or unsewered small communities.**
 - Performance Measure: Meet demand for technical assistance and construction financing to help small communities replace failing septic systems with community subsurface systems.
 - **Action 1.1.4: Reduce infiltration of livestock manure into groundwater.**
 - Performance Measure: Reduction in bacterial measurement in private wells by XX%
 - Performance Measure: Reduce rate of over-application of manure on row crops.
 - Performance Measure: Support the MPCA's implementation of new large feedlot permit program.
- **Strategy 1.2: Reduce risk of groundwater contamination from abandoned wells.**
 - **Action 1.2.1: Identify the abandoned wells that pose the highest risk to aquifers.**
 - Performance Measure: Maintain up-to-date well index.
 - **Action 1.2.2: Prioritize the sealing of unused groundwater wells that present a risk to drinking water aquifers.**
 - Performance Measure: All known abandoned wells in DWSMAs, GWMA's sealed by 2034, with grants meeting X% of financial needs.
- **Strategy 1.3: Develop baseline data on Minnesota's groundwater quality.**
 - **Action 1.3.1: Complete groundwater atlases for all Minnesota counties.**

- Performance Measure: All Part B atlases complete by 2038.
 - Action 1.3.2: Monitor ambient groundwater quality throughout the state.
 - Performance Measure: Maintain XXX ambient groundwater quality wells through MPCA Groundwater Monitoring Program.
 - Action 1.3.3: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.
 - Performance Measure: Complete Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS) for all 80 major watersheds by 20XX.
 - Performance Measure: Provide financial support for X% of strategies in each GRAPS by 2034.
- Strategy 1.4: Reduce risk of groundwater contamination from urban stormwater.
 - Action 1.4.1: Support stormwater research at University of Minnesota.
 - Performance Measure: Recommend funding for Stormwater Research Council that is protective of groundwater.
 - Action 1.4.2: Support enhanced compliance for Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) permits.
 - Performance Measure: All MS4 permittees are in compliance with permits.
 - Performance Measure: Support enhanced compliance funding for MPCA NPDES/MS4 staff.
- Strategy 1.5: Reduce risk of groundwater contamination from irrigation.
 - Action 1.5.1: Support University of Minnesota Extension in chemigation outreach to producers
 - Performance Measure: need some help here from MDA

Goal 2: Ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoid adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use

- Strategy 2.1: Support ongoing monitoring of groundwater quantity.
 - Action 2.1.1: Monitor groundwater levels throughout the state.
 - Performance Measure: Achieve a goal of 1,600 state-owned and managed long-term groundwater monitoring wells statewide by 2034.
- Strategy 2.2: Support planning and best management practices to achieve sustainability standard for groundwater.
 - Action 2.2.1. Analyze the cumulative impacts in areas of high water use intensity or low aquifer availability.
 - Performance Measure: Groundwater use does not adversely impact groundwater dependent natural features and biological communities.
 - Action 2.2.2. Implement water efficiency BMPs, water use reduction, and irrigation water management in areas of high water use intensity by agricultural irrigators, highly sensitive areas, Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs), and highly vulnerable Drinking Water Source Management Areas (DWSMAs).
 - Performance Measure: Dashboard?
- Strategy 2.3: Protect aquifers from water use conflicts and well interferences.

- Action 2.3.1: Evaluate and predict water level trends caused by cumulative use.
 - Performance Measure: Number of water use conflicts and well interferences.
- Strategy 2.4: Prepare for possible groundwater recharge in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area to ensure continuous orderly and economic development.
 - Action 2.4.1: Identify significantly contributing groundwater recharge areas to the aquifers in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area.
 - Performance Measure: Map of potential recharge areas by 2025.
 - Action 2.4.2: Develop protection and management strategies for these aquifers.
 - Performance Measure: Strategies approved by 2034.

07B Cover memo for MAWQCP letter

To: Clean Water Council Members

From: Paul Gardner, Administrator

Date: June 26, 2023

Re: Letter on Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)

Lori Cox of Roots Return Heritage Farm sent me the attached letter for distribution to the Council. It is from Roots Return Heritage Farm, Land Stewardship Project, Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, Just Food and Water, and the Minnesota Well Owners Association.

The letter makes recommendations on the MAWQCP, which will receive \$7 million for FY24-25 from the Clean Water Fund.

I would like to propose that you refer this letter to the Budget & Outcomes Committee for a more thorough discussion on the MAWQCP. The letter was also addressed to the Commissioner of Agriculture, the Deputy Commissioner who sits on the Council, and the director of MAWQCP.

The MAWQCP does have an advisory committee of its own.

Paul Gardner

May 26, 2023

**TO: Thom Peterson, MDA Commissioner of Agriculture
Peder Kjeseth, MDA Assistant Commissioner of Agriculture
Brad Redlin, Program Manager, MDA Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality
Certification Program (MAWQCP)
MPCA Clean Water Council [Membership](#)**

**SUBJECT: Recommendations to the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality
Certification Program [MAWQCP](#) (v2.0)**

Please find the following recommendations building upon MDAs current water quality program with expanded funding, policy, outreach, resource, and certification criteria. The recommendations ensures producers have assistance needed to implement truly sustainable practices which in turn provide measured water quality improvement outcomes across Minnesota. Measured water quality outcomes have not been regularly reviewed within the program, but estimated outcomes from the certification tool have. Actual water quality data, measurements, and results are monitored, reported, and published regularly by MDA as well as other state agencies (MPCA, BWSR, DNR, MDH). Collaboration for improved water quality outcomes and additional agency initiatives have changed since the program's inception 10 years ago. Connection into state agency initiatives for improved water quality, health, and climate outcomes should be integrated into, and be a result of, this program. As the funding vehicle, MPCAs Clean Water Council must recommend methods of ensuring that awards from the Clean Water Fund specify outcomes to be achieved as a result of the funding, and specify standards to hold the recipient accountable for achieving said outcomes.

Criteria: Currently, MDAs certification tool provides differing weights and scores for different farming and conservation practices. To ensure practices provide measurable outcomes and ROI, some practices should be removed, some carry less weight, and some garner more. 'Impact' = measurable reduction and removal of agricultural pollution from Minnesota water bodies, surface water, groundwater, and soils.

- **Per NRCS:** Conservation Practice Standards include [physical effects](#) of how the application of that practice will affect the resources (soil, water, air, plants, animals, energy, human) and the resource concerns associated with each... Tools should provide the best estimate of the effects, either positive or negative, of that practice on resource concerns. MDA needs to ensure actual improvements on the ground are due to new or changed practices implemented.

§ Practices with Highest Impact: Managed rotational grazing, agroforestry, silvopasture, no-till cover cropping with crimper/roller/mow termination, organic, perennial native plantings between fields or crop types, perennial pasture, land set aside for conservation via CRP, RIM, CREP, etc.

§ Practices with Medium Impact: Perennial cropping, no-till with chemical termination, cover cropping 3+ species.

§ Practices with Low Impact: Low-till (strip-till, ridge-till), cover cropping single species, more than one species on the same field in the same growing season.

§ Practices to Omit: Spreading more manure than prescriptive local or surrounding landscapes can hold - within watersheds or water bodies already impaired with E.coli, bacteria, etc., tiling, tillage, 'precision' agriculture, confined livestock operations, annual 2-crop (corn/soy) rotations.

- **Tracking Impact**: Require randomized annual soil and water testing for improvement outcomes of various implemented practices. Producer knows at application they may be chosen for random tracking during agreement term.
 - Delineate tracking by soil types, and practices implemented. Minimum of 3 results per year for sandy soils, clay soils, medium loam soils both in-field and edge of field during certification periods.
 - Soil types confirmed through NRCS Web Soil Survey (WSS): [Web Soil Survey \(usda.gov\)](http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/soil)
 - Organic matter (OM) testing at enrollment, and at year 5.
 - Tile line testing where infrastructure currently exists.
 - Producer well testing for nitrate and pesticides in groundwater / drinking water during certification period.
 - Review all agricultural water pollution sources and data collected from MDA (and partner agencies) yearly with MAWQCP advisory board. Target priority need areas by setting a minimum # of practices implemented. Review results in following years.
 - Work towards water quality improvements within MPCA [Impaired Waters](#) list and other monitoring sources by focusing

on reported data regionally, by watershed, basin, water body, etc.

- DWSMAs: Prioritize outreach and implementation and develop a secondary certification for lands within protected areas. No provisions of 10 yr certification assurance.
 - Compare per practice efficacy with U of MN plots testing the same practices producers are implementing. Review results and assess high, medium, low priority.
- **Funding:** Increase overall directed funding for the program consistent with the acreage needed to mitigate and build resiliency from climate change at the rate scientists recommend.
 - Prioritize high impact practices first (receives the greatest funding) and measurable outcomes (from agency statistics & reports) for a given biennium recommendation.
 - Provide motivating cost-share funding to assist producers in adopting the highest impact practices, per acre, when qualifying for certification. Consider perennial plantings receiving perennial payments as long as the producer stays in compliance for the term of the agreement.
 - Provide grants to certified producers based on practices added after certification is obtained. Graduated incentive % for highest impact practices implemented.
 - Consider providing additional grants when improvement metrics rise within their watershed or other agency-measured water quality metrics displaying overall reductions of agricultural pollutants. Producer has to continue the same practices for the term of the agreement.
 - **Outreach:** Expand MDA's MAWQCP capacity (i.e. funding for staffing) to grow outreach efforts.
 - Provide referral stipends to farmers who assist other farmers in completing applications and are enrolled for 10 years in the program. Provide half of stipend at enrollment completion, half in 5 years.

- **Advisory Committee:** Members of the advisory board are farmers or ranchers who have obtained MN Ag Water Quality Certification.
 - Excludes agricultural, or agribusiness organizational representatives not themselves certified. If by the next renewal period to serve on the advisory board they are not certified, they yield their seat to an incoming advisory board member currently certified.
 - Exclude expired certified producers. Members must be currently certified while serving on the advisory board (active/in good standing).
 - Due to no current requirements, include a minimum of 1 advisory board seat for a Sustainable Agriculture or Environmental Sustainability non-profit member.
 - Provide transparency regarding governance, processes, and requirements for advisory board member choices.

We, along with individual stakeholder and organizational input from across Minnesota, support these recommendations to ensure a stronger MAWQCP for producers and ensure improved water quality outcomes for all Minnesotans.

Land Stewardship Project ([LSP](#))
Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy ([MCEA](#))
[Just Food and Water](#)
[MN Well Owners Organization \(MNWOO\)](#)
[Roots Return Heritage Farm LLC](#)

References:

[Minnesota Water Management Framework \(state.mn.us\)](#), [Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Sec. 17.9891 MN Statutes](#), and [Agricultural Chemical Monitoring and Assessment | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#), and [Vulnerable Groundwater Area Map | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Sec. 18B.045 MN Statutes](#), and [Sec. 18B.10 MN Statutes](#)

[Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment | Minnesota Department of Agriculture \(state.mn.us\)](#), and [Sec. 114D.30 MN Statutes](#)

[River and stream water quality | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#), [Watershed approach to water quality | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#), [Water quality initiatives | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[Stressors Candidate Causes \(state.mn.us\)](#), [Agricultural Lands | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources \(state.mn.us\)](#), [Drain Tiles and Groundwater Resources: Understanding the Relations \(mgwa.org\)](#), [GW3_Final_HiRes.pdf \(freshwater.org\)](#), [Watershed Health Assessment Framework | Minnesota DNR \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[FY 2024/25 Biennial Budget: Climate Adaptation and Mitigation \(state.mn.us\)](#)

[2022 Clean Water Fund Performance Report - Report Card \(state.mn.us\)](#)

Minimizing fish kills campaign

- This is one element from the minimizing fish kills campaign.
- This was a collaborative effort with MNDNR and MDA.
- Started in SE Minnesota

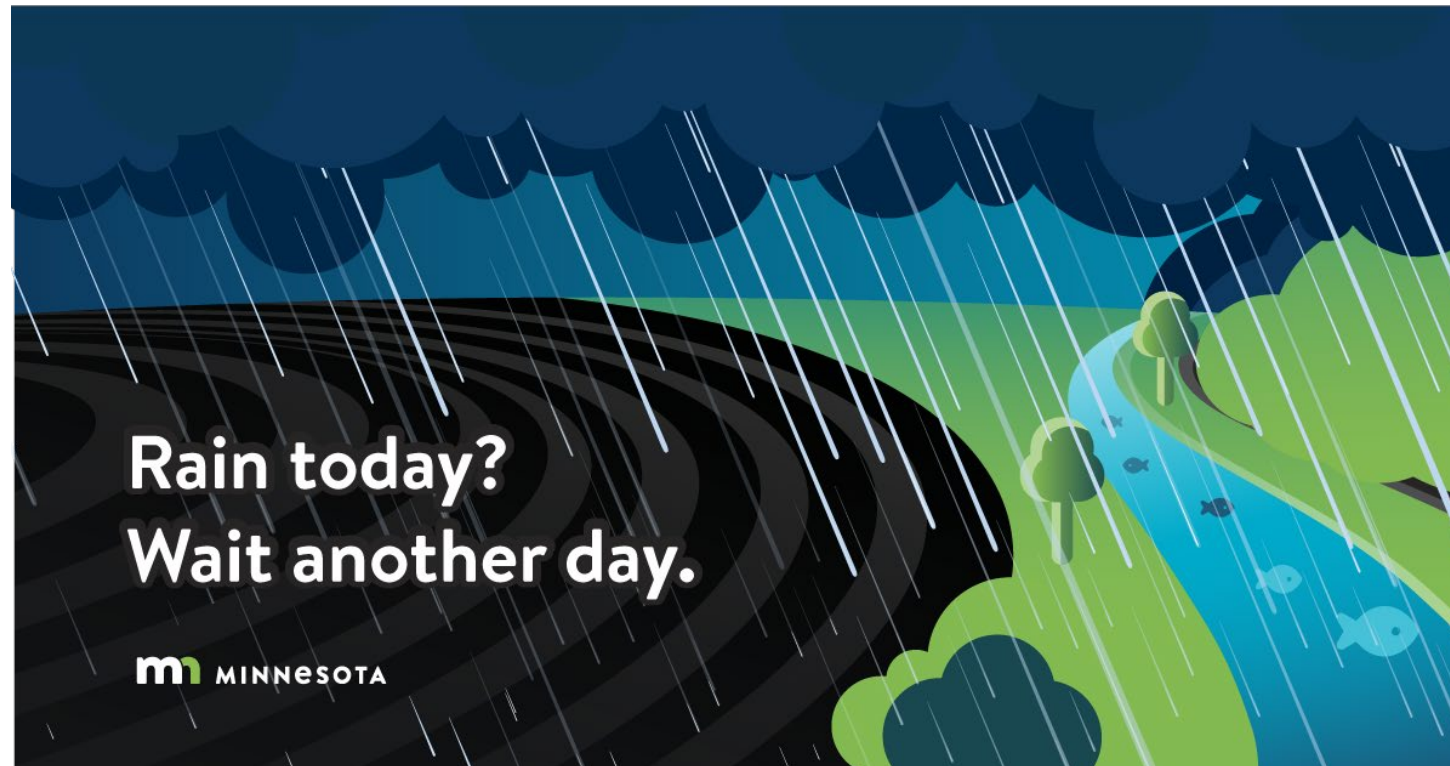


Communications tactics

- Postcards
- Digital ads
- Radio ads
- Posters
- Toolkit
- Sample stories



The forecast ahead





Minnesota
Duty Officer
1-800-422-0798

Thank you!

Glenn Skuta

How the State Deploys the Clean Water Fund



Paul Gardner, Administrator
651-757-2384
Paul.Gardner@state.mn.us
February 23, 2023
Clean Water Council Meeting





**CLEAN
WATER
LAND &
LEGACY
AMENDMENT**

Clean Water Fund

- ~\$3 billion to be spent by 2034
- “May be spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, to protect groundwater from degradation, and to protect drinking water sources.”
- “At least five percent of the clean water fund must be spent only to protect drinking water sources.”
- As of today, the Legacy Amendment expires in

11 years, 4 days

- 2030 Legislative Election (for the people who decide 2032 ballot issues for FY25 budget) is in

7 years, 4 months, 9 days

Permitted Purposes in Statute (Minn. Stat. 114D.50)

- Testing waters, identifying impaired waters, establishing total maximum daily loads (TMDL), implementing restoration plans, and evaluation
- Prevent surface water from being impaired (“protection strategies”)
- Wastewater and stormwater grants and loans
- Prevent degradation of groundwater
- Support for agencies to do the above, including enhanced compliance and enforcement
- Clean Water Fund must SUPPLEMENT not SUPPLANT existing funding

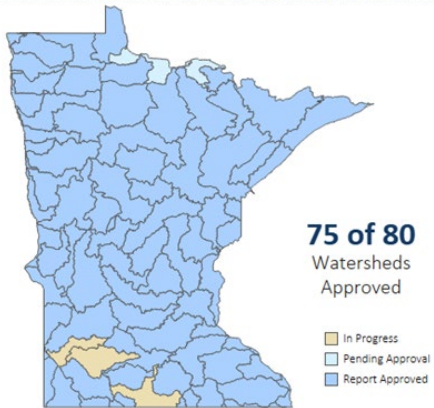
Agencies Involved

- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Metropolitan Council
- MN Department of Agriculture
- MN Department of Health
- MN Department of Natural Resources
- MN Pollution Control Agency
- MN Public Facilities Authority
- University of Minnesota

Agencies meet regularly as Interagency Coordination Team (ICT)

Agencies send 2/3 of the Clean Water Fund outside state government

>50% of state FTEs are in Greater MN providing direct assistance to communities and landowners



CWF Strategy The Watershed Approach

- **Test waters for impairments**
- **Find source of problem** (Monitoring, assessment & characterization)
- **Make a plan to protect it or fix it** (Watershed/Groundwater Restoration & Protection Strategies-WRAPS/GRAPS; One Watershed One Plan)
- **Fund the fix** (Implementation: Technical assistance, protection strategies, restoration projects, other)
- **Measure to see if the fix worked**

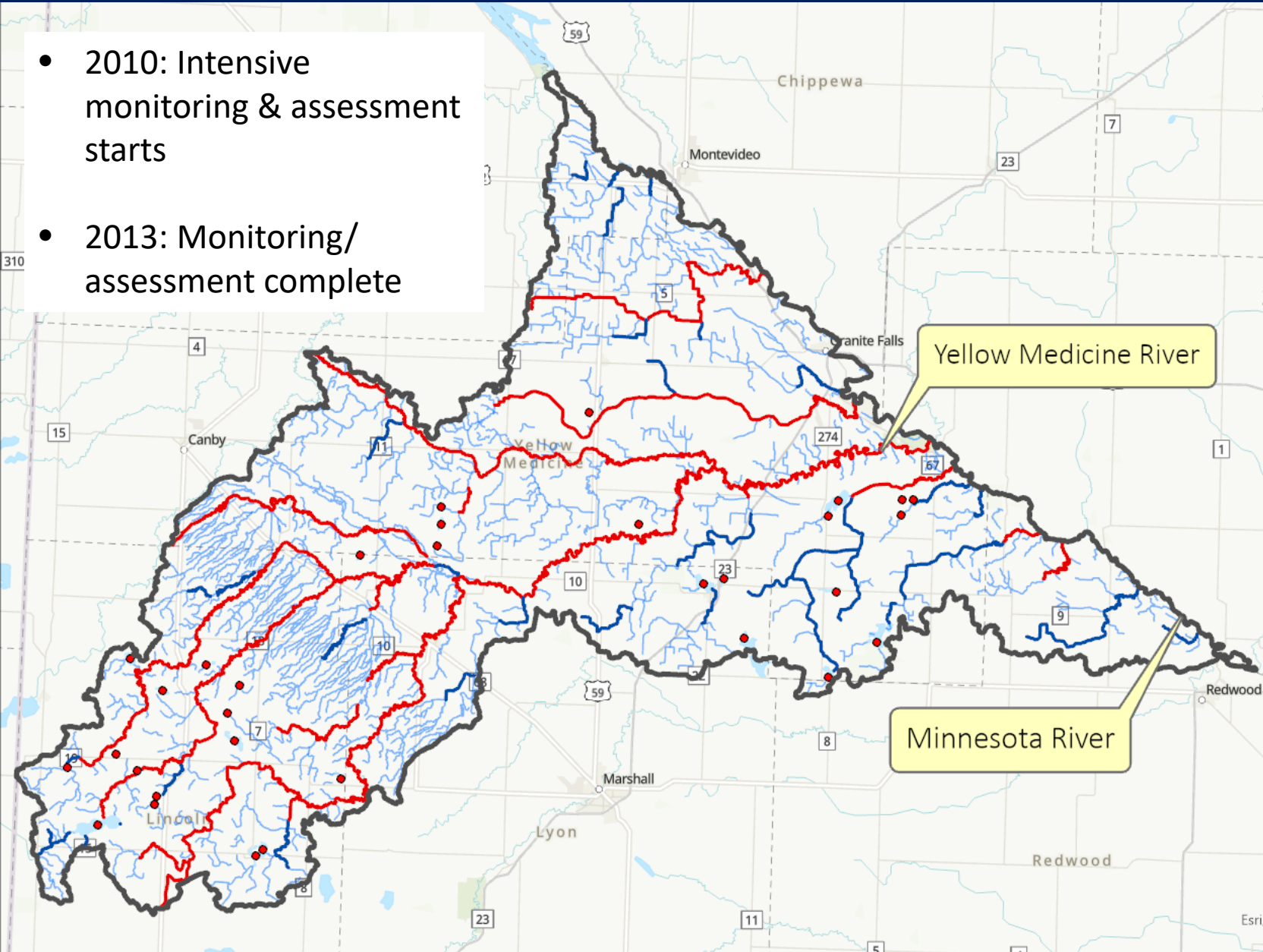
THIS TAKES A DECADE OR MORE ON A WATERSHED SCALE

We call it the Water Management Framework

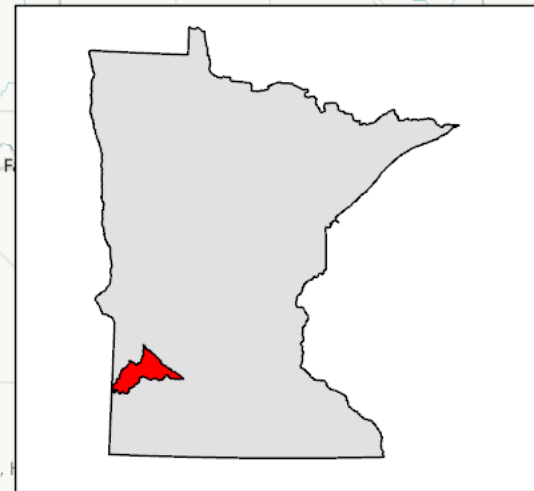


Example: Impaired waters in the Yellow Medicine River Watershed

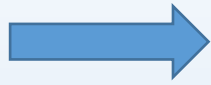
- 2010: Intensive monitoring & assessment starts
- 2013: Monitoring/assessment complete



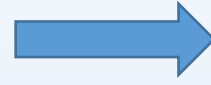
Pollutant or stressor	
Benthic macroinvertebrates bioassessments	34
Chlorpyrifos	1
Dissolved oxygen	1
Escherichia coli (E. coli)	21
Fecal coliform	10
Fish bioassessments	21
Mercury in fish tissue	18
Nutrients	10
PCBs in fish tissue	3
Total suspended solids (TSS)	1
Turbidity	12
	132



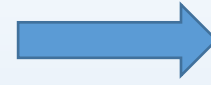
DO THESE PROJECTS



By YEAR



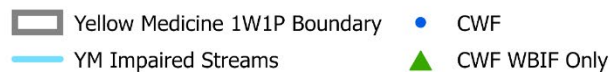
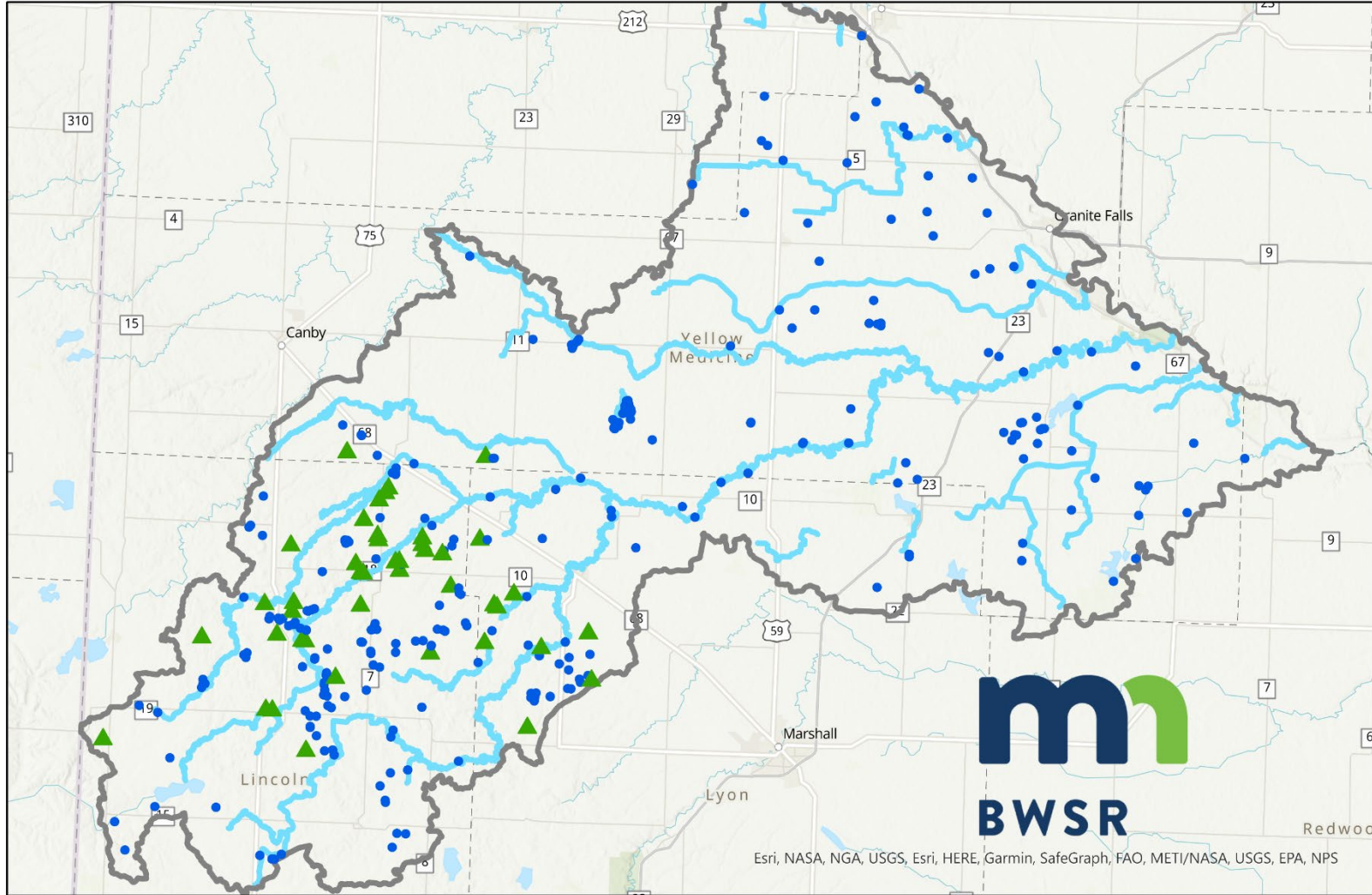
AND YOU GET THESE REDUCTIONS



AND IT WILL COST

Drainage	Treatment Group Type & Number of BMPs	Cost	Issue	Unit	Existing Conditions	Quantitative Measurable Goal				PTMApp Scenario Reduction	5 year Load Reduction Goal	10 year Load Reduction Goal	10 yr. Progress towards Measurable Goal (%)
						Metric	Amount (%)*	Target Load Reduction	Year				
Drainage to Mississippi River	Storage (244) Filtration (78) Infiltration (3) Source Reduction (812)	\$6,437,605	Sediment	tons/yr	116,416	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	52,387	2025	14,488	7,244	14,488	28
			Nutrients: Total Nitrogen	lbs/yr	10,848	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	4,882	2040	112	56	112	2
			Nutrients: Total Phosphorus	lbs/yr	134	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	60	2025	12	6	12	20
			Excess Runoff: 2 Year	acre feet	71,177	2-Yr. Runoff Volume	25	17,794	2030	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Excess Runoff: 10 Year	acre feet	167,868	2-Yr. Runoff Volume	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Drainage to Upper Iowa River	Storage (44) Filtration (15) Source Reduction (268)	\$1,410,038	Sediment	tons/yr	112,249	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	50,512	2025	27,776	13,888	27,776	55
			Nutrients: Total Nitrogen	lbs/yr	32,828	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	14,773	2040	3,285	1,642	3,285	22
			Nutrients: Total Phosphorus	lbs/yr	2,024	Annual Load (mass/yr.)	45	911	2025	360	180	360	40
			Excess Runoff: 2 Year	acre feet	7,781	2-Yr. Runoff Volume	25	1,945	2030	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
			Excess Runoff: 10 Year	acre feet	17,036	2-Yr. Runoff Volume	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Yellow Medicine River Watershed Planning Area Clean Water Funded Best Management Practices

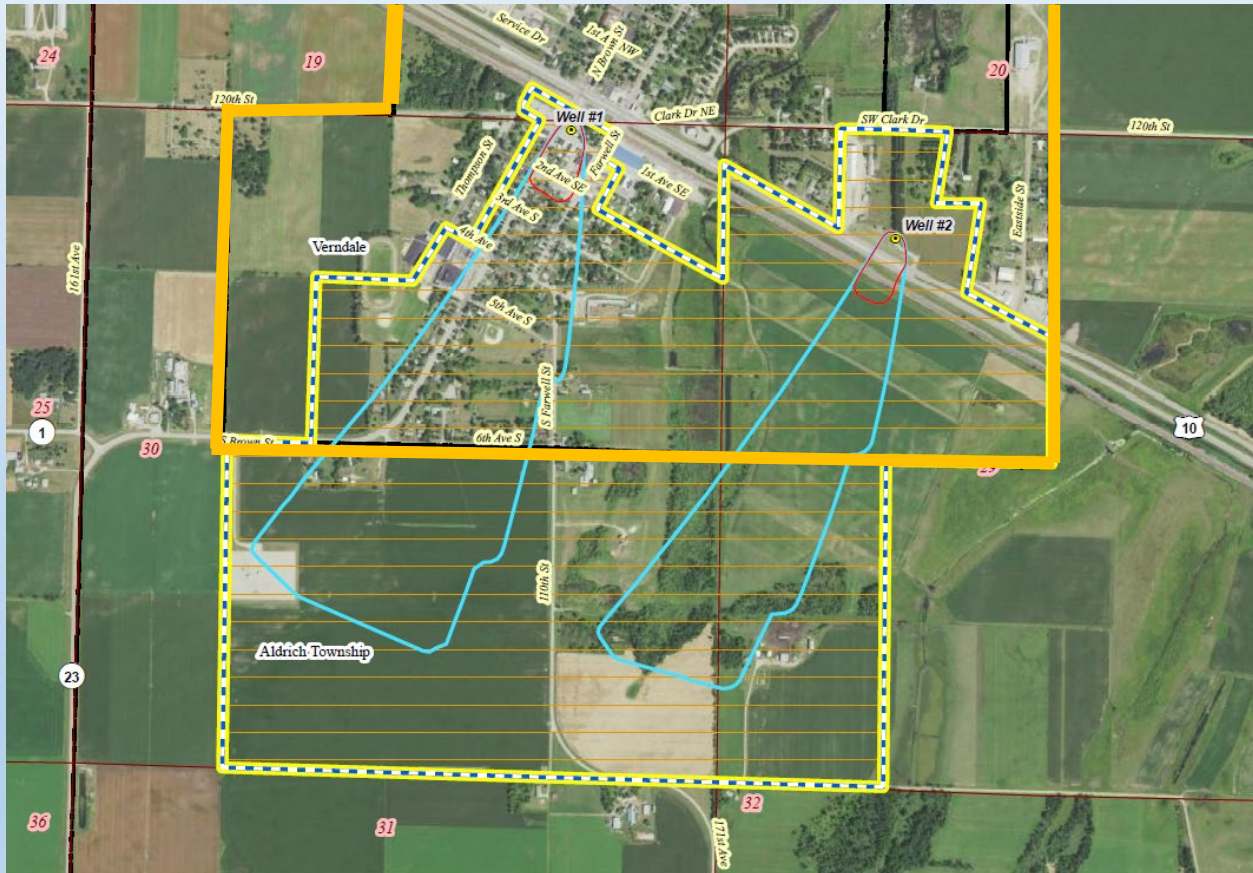


Practice Type	Total Number of Activities*
Septic System Improvement	8
Alternative Tile Intake - Dense Pattern Tiling	33
Alternative Tile Intake - Gravel Inlet	76
Alternative Tile Intake - Other Blind Intake	5
Critical Area Planting	2
Well Decommissioning	57
Diversion	1
Filter Strip	45
Grade Stabilization Structure	2
Grassed Waterway and Swales	17
Streambank and Shoreline Protection	1
Structure for Water Control	1
Denitrifying Bioreactor	1
Water and Sediment Control Basin	69
Wetland Restoration	1
Wetland Creation	1
Grand Total	320

*Note: Number of practices maybe greater as treatment trains of BMPs grouped together

- 2017: One Watershed One Plan Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan Complete

Verndale (Wadena Co) Drinking Water Supply Management Area (DWSMA)



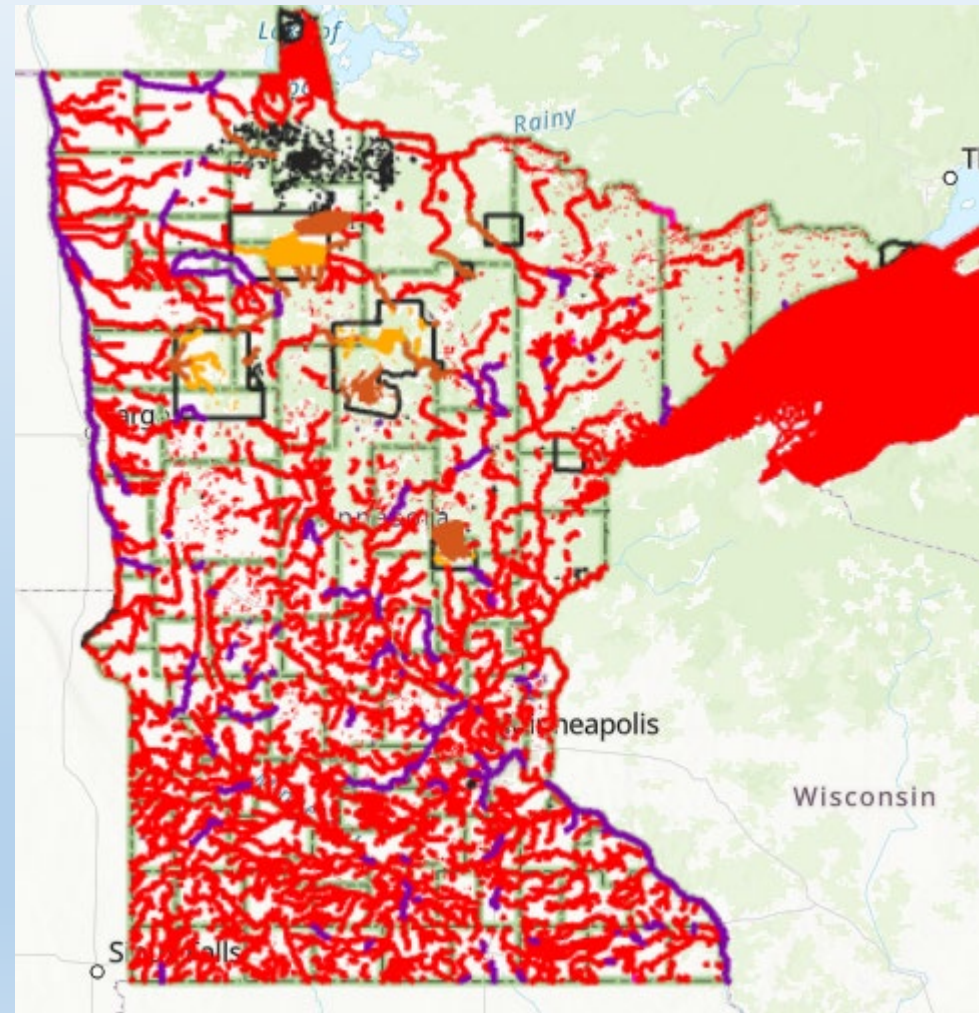
10 year time of travel

-  Emergency Response Area
-  Wellhead Protection Area
-  DWSMA
-  High Risk

Impairments as a Measure of Success?

Yes, there is a lot of red, BUT...

- Minnesota has 4x the impairments as next closest neighbor (WI) but...
- States vary in water quality standards and their monitoring methodology
- We monitor in more places for more contaminants often with more protective standards than other states
- More impairments don't mean a state is worse off



Impairments as a Measure of Success?

Examples:

Mercury/Aquatic Consumption (FISHABLE)

- MN assesses >3x more streams than WI
- Water quality standard is more protective
- All IA lakes have Hg but not listed impaired
- WI waters only called impaired if Hg level is above general consumption advice

Examples:

Bacteria/Aquatic Recreation (SWIMMABLE)

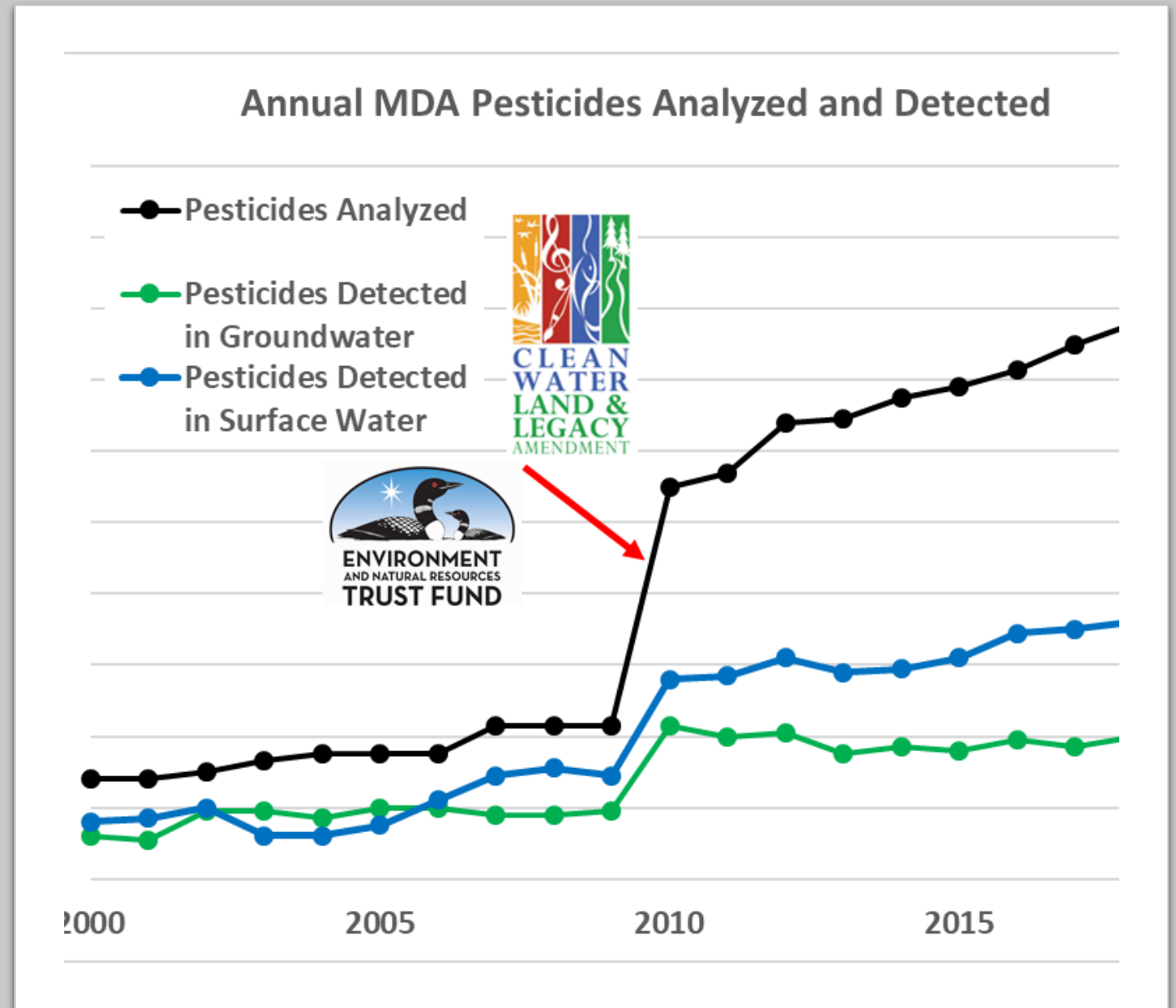
- MN assesses 2x to 15x more stream miles
- MN has more good quality streams among assessed streams
- IA's assessed streams ~50% more likely to be impaired than MN
- WI assesses very few streams for bacteria

The Clean Water Fund & Equity

- Protection activities that keep water service affordable (MDH)
- Planning support for under-sewered communities (Public Facilities Authority)
- Water Legacy Partner Grants open to tribal governments and NGOs (BWSR)
- Coordination with tribal governments on surface water monitoring
- Leak detection & toilet/fixture replacement in designated areas of concentrated poverty (ACP) in St. Paul (Met Council)
- Assistance to low-income households to replace septic system (MPCA)
- Free private well test for five contaminants over 10 years & low-income mitigation (MDH)

Value of the Clean Water Fund

- Fulfill federal requirements (Total Maximum Daily Loads-TMDL)
- Accurate data supports more precise permitting requirements
- More expertise
- Enhanced compliance
- Protect waters that are of high quality before there is a problem



Value of the Clean Water Fund

- More projects become “shovel-ready” more quickly, get more state and federal funds than other states
 - Great Lakes Restoration Initiative
 - Tech assistance to farmers
 - Permanent conservation easements—CREP
 - Voyageurs National Park
- Every \$1 in CWF leverages >\$1



\$315 million in recommendations

Highlights of FY24-25 DRAFT Recommendations

Expand What Works for Bigger Impact



- More “shovel-ready” projects (BWSR)
- 50% increase for perennials (MDA)
- More chloride reduction grants (MPCA)
- More low-income grants to replace septic systems (MPCA)
- Increased water storage (DNR, BWSR)
- More farm acreage w/soil health (MDA, BWSR)

Highlights of FY24-25 DRAFT Recommendations

Increase Capacity to Assess Threats to Groundwater, Drinking Water, and Aquatic Life



- Free well testing for five contaminants for 10% of MN annually for ten years
- Additional PFAS monitoring/assessment
- Culvert cost-share
- Mussel restoration
- Statewide beach health portal

Big Strategic Questions for CWF

What's the best use of the next available dollar?

Should funding be spread evenly across the state or spent on high statewide priorities?

Should we pivot to new and emerging issues, or “stick to the plan”, or try to do both?

Should we move some spending out of the CWF before expiration of the Legacy Amendment?

Is the CWF too reliable and does it keep us from doing the harder thing (policy, general fund, etc.)



Thank you!

