

Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 15, 2024

9:00 a.m. to 2:00 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, Committee, and Council Staff update
 - Policy & Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates
 - Staff update

To the public: If you would like to speak to the Council, please let staff know ASAP at paul.gardner@state.mn.us. We may expand the public input time in response to demand.

9:30 Review of Revised Timeline and Process for Public Input and FY26-27 Recommendations

10:30 BREAK

11:00 Report from Budget & Outcomes Committee on July 12th Discussions

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Discussion on Input to Interagency Coordination Team

1:30 Review of Written Public Input and Any In Person Input

2:00 Adjourn

Steering Committee Meets Directly After Adjournment

Clean Water Council Meeting Summary

June 17, 2024, 9:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Members present: John Barten (Chair), Steve Besser, Rich Biske (Vice Chair), Dick Brainerd, Gary Burdorf, Gail Cederberg, Steve Christenson, Tannie Eshenaur, Warren Formo, Brad Gausman, Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Justin Hanson, Holly Hatlewick, Rep. Josh Heintzeman, Trista Martinson, Sen. Nicole Mitchell, Jason Moeckel, Ole Olmanson, Jeff Peterson, Peter Schwagerl, Glenn Skuta, Marcie Weinandt, Jessica Wilson,

Members absent: Peter Kjeseth, Annie Knight, Sen. Nicole Mitchell, Rep. Kristi Pursell, and Sen. Nathan Wesenberg.

Others present: Annie Felix-Gerth (BWSR), Jim Stark (LCC/SWMP), Trisha Robinson (MDH), John Bilotta (UMN), Lucas Sjostrom (MN Milk Producers), Dan Engelhorn (Easy Automation Inc.), Maya Engelhorn (Easy Automation Inc.), Mark Gaalswyck (Easy Automation Inc.), Jen Kader (Met Council), Margaret Wagner (MDA), Alex Trunnell (MN Corn Growers), Trevor Russell (Friends of the Mississippi River), Chris O'Brien (Freshwater), Molly Jansen (Red River Watershed Management Board), Julie Westerlund (BWSR), Anne Nelson (MDH), Jan Voit (MN Watersheds), Judy Sventek (Met Council)

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

- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Introductions
 - Glenn Skuta – The general feedlot permit reissuance will be going on public notice 6/24/24. There are pretty significant changes to the permit.
 - Gail Cederberg – The Water Policy Plan is soon to be released from Met Council. Please look and comment.
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Agenda - comments/additions and approve agenda (Webex 6:15)
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Meeting Minutes - comments/additions and approve meeting minutes (Webex 7:00)
- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Chair and Council Staff update
 - Policy and Budget and Outcomes Committee Updates –
 - Steve Besser – BOC Update (Webex 7:04)
 - The June 7th was great a meeting with final presentations from the agencies. Two notable presentations. Glenn Skuta brought up that the WRAPS budget has held steady for many years but will need to start going up again. We've got the 10-year cycle, they have held the line but will be looking for an increase. There is no federal funding for Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern, so we are the sole source of funding.
 - Steve Christianson prepared a spreadsheet for us and so we can look to see what the budget had been in years past. We could probably circulate that at the next council meeting and at the next BOC meeting. We are in a hold waiting to see what the agencies can do.
 - Glenn Skuta- For clarification on WRAPS: The allocation has dropped from a high of over \$20 million to under \$13 per biennium. We are eliminating two FTEs in the process.
 - Policy Update – The committee did not meet in May. (Webex 10:09)
 - Staff update

Agency Presentations for FY26-27 Clean Water Fund Recommendations

- Agricultural Research and Evaluation (MDA) (Webex 1:44:47)
 - John Barten (Webex 1:49:48) – When the application recommendations are made for manure, traditionally those have been predicated on the nitrogen. The requirement of the soil and crop

and has sometimes led to over application of phosphorus. Has that issue been addressed in the current recommendations?

- Margaret Wagner– Yes, that is considered in manure management plans as a way to balance those nutrients and is part of the recommendation.
- Recreational Water Quality Online Portal (MDH) (Webex 29:03)
- Stormwater BMP Performance Evaluation and Technology Transfer (UMN) (Webex 41:49)
 - Can you talk a little bit about how researchers in the private sector have been involved in some of the storm water projects? (Webex 57:04)
 - John Bilotta – The stormwater research program here is housed at the Water Resources Center at the U of M. It is not a U of M centric program. Our research projects are being done by some U of M researchers but also by many other academic institutions and professions, like St. Cloud State, Bahr, Stantech, and EOR. Many projects are collaborative teams of all those entities. There is a lot of collaboration between researchers, practitioners like city public works, watershed district people, SWCD people and private engineers that are working with these organizations. A lot of our research teams have technical advisory panel that makes sure the research activities are in line with what is needed at the local scale. (Webex 57:24)
- Tillage, Cover Crop, and Erosion Evaluation (BWSR) (Webex 1:01:29)
 - Dick Brainerd - What does ground truth data mean?
 - Annie Felix-Gerth - After imagery is taken by planes and photos collected, staff would go out and make sure that what we're seeing in the photo is actually what is on the ground. Then there is analysis on the imagery to help understand what the photo really shows.
- Technical Evaluation [restoration evaluation] (BWSR/DNR) (Webex 01:24:58)
 - Wade Johnson would be a good contact for any questions regarding this program. (Webex 1:32:00)
 - The technical evaluation panel conducts ten restoration evaluations according to statute. How far are you into conducting those 10 evaluations. Are you done or are we just expanding the program.
 - Annie Felix-Gerth This is a partnership and some of the projects they evaluate are Clean Water Fund projects funded through BWSR appropriations. Some are watershed-based funding projects and other various projects. It is an ongoing program and it's been built over the course of time since the Clean Water Fund has been established.
- Tool Development and Evaluation [formerly Applied Research and Tools] (DNR) (Webex 02:04:54)
- Clean Water Council budget (MPCA) (Webex 2:24:00)
 - (Webex 2:26:00)
- Legislative Citizen Commission (LCC) website maintenance (Webex 2:24:15)

General Discussion about CWF Programs, Recommendations Process, and Plan for Public Comment (Webex 2:29:16)

The Council discussed the need for more time for public input so that it would not be limited to the July 15th meeting. Council members also expressed the need for more authentic and long-term input and consultation with stakeholders who are not the usual organizations who comment to the Council. Council members preferred that the recommendations process calendar be shifted so that initial recommendations receive approval at the August meeting, not July. Suggestions were made on an outreach strategy and Paul Gardner will follow-up.

Public Comments: None

Adjourn and Lunch (Webex 12:02)

Field Trip to Health Department Public Health Lab & Department of Agriculture Lab

- 625 North Robert Street, St. Paul, MN

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL		revised 26 June 2024
2024 Clean Water Fund Proposal Schedules at Clean Water Council for FY26-27		
Blue items denote non-Council actions that affect timing of Council actions		
Scoping process with stakeholders (including agencies & legislators) begins	1-Nov-23	Review strategic plan, get high-level input
State revenue forecast released	4-Dec-23	Approximate
Scoping process with stakeholders ends	31-Jan-24	
CWC provides strategic direction/priorities to agencies	2-Feb-24	BOC meeting date
State revenue forecast released	29-Feb-24	
Agencies & BOC discuss strategic direction/priorities	1-Mar-24	BOC meeting date
Brief overview of 1st set of proposals at full Council	18-Mar-24	Full Council meeting date
BOC discusses 1st set of proposals	5-Apr-24	BOC meeting date
Brief overview of 2nd set of proposals at full Council	15-Apr-24	Full Council meeting date
BOC discusses 2nd set of proposals	3-May-24	BOC meeting date
Brief overview of 3rd set of proposals at full Council	20-May-24	Full Council meeting date
Brief overview of 4th set of proposals at full Council	3-Jun-24	EXTRA Full Council meeting date
BOC discusses 3rd & 4th set of proposals	7-Jun-24	BOC meeting date
Brief overview of 5th set of proposals	17-Jun-24	Full Council meeting date
Draft BOC advice reviewed, discussed; final input provided to ICT	12-Jul-24	BOC meeting date; moved due to 7/4 holiday
Public meeting for stakeholder input; deliberate proposals	15-Jul-24	Full Council meeting date
ICT budget numbers sent to BOC	19-Jul-24	
Final BOC recommendations approved	2-Aug-24	BOC meeting date
Public meeting for stakeholder input; deliberate proposals	19-Aug-24	Full Council meeting date
CW Council submits non-agency requests to MPCA/Agencies send budget	31-Aug-24	not sure if this step will be needed?
Full CW Council approval	16-Sep-24	Full Council meeting date
Final deadline to send agency budgets to Governor's office????	15-Oct-24	date used in past years is 10/15 (not sure if this step will be needed?)
General Election	5-Nov-24	
November state revenue forecast released	25-Nov-24	Approximate
Council adjusts recommendations in light of November forecast	16-Dec-24	Full Council meeting date
New Legislature meets	7-Jan-25	
Final Council Recommendations to Legislature	15-Jan-25	
February state revenue forecast released, leads to final CWF budget target	24-Feb-25	Approximate
New Legislature adjourns	19-May-25	
FY26 fiscal year begins	1-Jul-25	

Summary of Unspent Clean Water Funds through FY23 as of 17 June 2024				
			Pre FY24-25	Agency
Program Name (in accounting system)	Program Name (as described in CWC Recommendations)	Notes	Funds Available	Totals
NOTE: These programs are in the same order as legislative appropriations in various Legacy Finance bills				
MDA				
Pesticide Monitoring Lab	Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater		-	
Nitrate in Groundwater	Nitrate in Groundwater		641,482	
AgBMP Loan Program Admin	AgBMP Loan Program		-	
Technical Assistance	Technical Assistance		207,644	
MN Water Res Digital Library	MN Water Research Digital Library [aka Research Inventory Database]		-	
MN Ag Water Qual Cert-MAWQCP	MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program		681,476	
Irrigation Water Quality Spec	Irrigation Water Quality Protection		-	
Forever Green Initiative	Forever Green Agricultural Initiative (U of MN)		-	
Private Well Pesticide Testing	Pesticide Testing in Private Wells		318,360	
Conservation Equip Assistance	Conservation Equipment Assistance		-	
Exp Weather Station Network	Expand MN Ag Weather Station Network		-	
Grants for Research	Agricultural Research/Evaluation		-	
Total MDA				\$ 1,848,963
MPCA				
Accelerated Implementation	NPDES wastewater/stormwater point-source implementation (combined from 2 previous programs)		57,214	
WQ Assessment	River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment		670,621	
TMDL Development	Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (includes TMDL development)		1,090,687	
Drinking Water Protection	Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment?	FY20-23--renamed Groundwater Assessment?	278,257	
Groundwater Assessment	Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment		-	
St. Louis Harbor Restoration	St. Louis River AOC		988,285	
NPDES Waste/Stormwater TMDL	NPDES wastewater/stormwater point-source implementation (combined from 2 previous programs)		85,978	
Drinking/Ground Water-SSTS	Enhanced County inspections/SSTS corrective actions		75,849	
Chloride Reduction Efforts	Chloride Reduction		40,735	

Clean Water Council	Clean Water Council	\$30K just encumbered for comms plan	54,542	
Voyageurs National Park	National Park Water Quality Protection Program		-	
N/A	Nitrate Sensors	FY24-25 appropriation	-	
N/A	River Watch for Friends of the MN Valley	FY24-25 appropriation	-	
				\$ 3,342,169
DNR				
StreamFlowMonitor	Stream Flow Monitoring Program		30,936	
Lake IBI Aessmnt	Lake Index of Biological Integrity		67.64	
Mercury Contam	Fish Contamination Assessment		-	
Wtrshd Restor Strat	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies-DNR Portion		40,382	
Aquifer Monitoring	Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning		104,343	
Nonpoint Source	Non-point Source Restoration and Implementation		30,260	
Applied ResrchTools	Tool Development and Evaluation [Formerly Applied Research and Tools]		77,306	
Buffer Map Maintenance	Buffer Map Maintenance		25,000	
	County Geologic Atlas Part B		-	
Native Mussel Prod	Freshwater Mussel Restoration		-	
Water Storage	Water Storage		-	
Modern Culverts	Culvert Replacement Cost Share		-	
				\$ 308,294
BWSR				
CWF Watershed Base Implementat	Watershed Based Implementation Funding		55	
CWF Projects and Practices	Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants		148,623	
CWF Accelerated Implementation	Accelerated Implementation		3,481,693	
CWF Administration	Not sure--Measures, Results and Accountability??		65,911	
CWF Assistance	Not sure--Measures, Results and Accountability??		1,324,003	
CWF Oversight	Not sure--Measures, Results and Accountability??		132,165	
CWF Riparian Buffer Compliance	Buffer Law Implementation		175,057	
CWF Working Lands Floodplain	Working Lands Floodplain Easements		3,748,128	
CWF Wellhead Protection	Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection		6,381,486	
CWF Restoration TEP	Technical Evaluation [restoration evaluation]		95	
CWF One Watershed One Plan	One Watershed One Plan		1,432,708	

CWF Conservation Drainage Prog	Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance		517,810	
CWF Threatened Shorelands	Critical Shoreland Protection-Permanent Conservation Easements		2,571,414	
CWF Erosion Transects	Tillage, Cover Crop and Erosion Evaluation		78,218	
CWF Water Legacy Program	Watershed Partners Legacy Grants		-	
CWF Conservation Partners	N/A	FY14-15 version of Watershed Partners Legacy	86,440	
CWF Protect/Restore Wetlands	Wetland Restoration Easements		1,453,667	
CWF Enhance Adopt Cover Crops	Enhancing Soil Health and Landowner Adoption of Cover Crops for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection		197,551	
CWF Admin Easements	Not sure what kind of easements these are?		657,779	
CWF Buffer Easements	N/A	Now Working Lands Floodplain Easements	8,214,477	
CWF CREP Easements	N/A	CREP no longer funded by CWF	6,472,497	
CWF Performance Base Watershed	N/A	FY20-21	85,361	
CWF Selected Sub Watersheds	N/A	FY16-17 appropriation	291,405	
CWF SWCD Capacity	N/A	SWCD capacity no longer funded by CWF	154,598	
				\$37,671,141
MDH				
Contaminants of Concern	Contaminants of Emerging Concern		22,615	
Private Wells	Private Well Initiative		58,288	
Drinking Water Sources	Source Water Protection		120,917	
Groundwater Restoration	Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies		93,882	
Future of Drinking Water	Future of Drinking Water (formerly Drinking Water Protection)		-	
Safe Drinking Water	Future of Drinking Water (formerly Drinking Water Protection)		251,299	
Recreational Water Portal	Recreational Water Portal	FY24-25 appropriation	-	
Source Water Protection	Nitrate response in SE Minnesota	FY24-25 appropriation	-	
Water Reuse	N/A		22,107	
				\$ 569,107
Met Council				
Clean Water Supply	Metropolitan Area Water Sustainability Support Program		-	
Clean Water Demand Reduction	Water Demand Reduction- Efficiency - Grant Program		-	
				\$ -

University of Minnesota				
County Geologic Atlas	County Geologic Atlas Part A		-	
Stormwater BMP Performance Eva	Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program		-	
				\$ -
Legislative Coordinating Commission				
Clean Water Website	Legislative Coordinating Commission Website		11,344	
				\$ 11,344
Public Facilities Authority				
CWL PSIG	Point Source Implementation Grant		-	
CWL SCWW	Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program		235,747	
				\$ 235,747
TOTAL				\$43,986,765

Clean Water Fund Appropriations

as of 7/10/2024

leg	#	Agency	Title	Request	FY26-27	FY24-25 supple- mental	FY24-25	FY22-23	FY20-21	FY18-19	FY16-17	FY14-15	FY12-13	FY10-11
1	4	MDA	Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater	same			700	700	700	700	700	700	700	675
2	15	MDA	Nitrate in Groundwater	up		1,000	6,000	5,170	5,170	4,171	5,171	5,000	1,700	1,125
3	34	MDA	AgBMP Loan Program	up		3,402	9,598	150	150	150	150	400	9,000	4,500
4	32	MDA	Technical Assistance	same			3,000	3,000	3,000	2,250	2,250	3,000	1,550	2,665
5	56	MDA	MN Water Research Digital Library [aka Research Inventory Database]	same			80	80	100	100	100	250	350	-
6	33	MDA	MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	same			7,000	6,000	6,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	-	-
7	17	MDA	Irrigation Water Quality Protection	same			300	270	300	220	220	220		
8	81	MDA	Forever Green Agricultural Initiative (U of MN)	same			6,000	4,000	4,300	1,500	1,000	-	-	-
9	307	MDA	Pesticide Testing in Private Wells	same			1,000	870	2,000	2,000	-	-	-	-
10	NEW	MDA	Conservation Equipment Assistance	up			3,500	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
11	NEW	MDA	Expand MN Ag Weather Station Network	down			3,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
12	56	MDA	Agricultural Research/Evaluation	down			1,500	-	-	1,325	1,575	2,100	2,100	-
13	10	MPCA	River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment	same		326	18,100	14,832	16,300	16,550	16,700	15,200	15,000	15,000
14	9	MPCA	Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (includes TMDL development)	same			12,700	13,451	15,100	19,000	20,200	18,800	18,800	18,000
15	11	MPCA	Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment	same			2,000	1,900	2,364	2,363	2,364	2,250	2,250	2,250
16		MPCA	St. Louis River AOC	down			1,500							
17	37	MPCA	NPDES wastewater/stormwater point-source implementation (combined from 2 previous programs)	same			3,000	2,200	2,200	2,250	2,350	1,800	-	-
18	43	MPCA	Enhanced County inspections/SSTS corrective actions	same		1,950	7,100	5,824	6,750	6,870	7,245	6,900	-	-
19	38	MPCA	Chloride Reduction	same		1,000	1,300	520	500	-	-	-	-	-
20	62	MPCA	Clean Water Council	same			675	600	220	100	100	73	-	-
21	92A	MPCA	National Park Water Quality Protection Program	same			2,000	1,400	1,550	2,000	-	3,500	-	-
22	NEW	MPCA	Nitrate Sensors			2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
23		MPCA	River Watch for Friends of the MN Valley			50	-							
24	5	DNR	Stream Flow Monitoring Program	same			5,100	4,000	4,000	3,900	4,000	4,000	3,700	1,500
25	6	DNR	Lake Index of Biological Integrity	same			2,900	2,000	2,500	2,500	2,600	2,600	2,300	1,320
26	6	DNR	Fish Contamination Assessment	up		90	910	350	270	270	270	270	270	270
27	10	DNR	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies-DNR Portion	same			4,300	3,800	3,800	3,772	3,880	3,700	3,500	2,100
28	18	DNR	Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning	same			4,000	3,700	4,150	2,750	2,750	2,750	3,000	1,100

Clean Water Fund Appropriations

as of 7/10/2024

29	34	DNR	Non-point Source Restoration and Implementation	same			3,200	2,500	2,000	1,900	2,000	2,000	2,400	500
30	57	DNR	Tool Development and Evaluation [Formerly Applied Research and Tools]	same			1,300	1,065	1,400	1,350	1,350	1,350	790	550
31	76	DNR	Buffer Map Maintenance	same			50	50	200	200	650	-	-	-
32	59	DNR	County Geologic Atlas Part B	same			200	-	300	250	500	1,200	-	1,000
33	NEW	DNR	Freshwater Mussel Restoration	same			600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
34	NEW	DNR	Water Storage	?			1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	NEW	DNR	Culvert Replacement Cost Share	up			2,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
36	17	BWSR	Grants to Watersheds with Approved Comprehensive Watershed Plans (Watershed-based Implementation Funding)	up			79,000	43,564	26,966	9,750	-	-	-	-
37	26	BWSR	Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants: (Projects and Practices)	same			17,000	22,266	32,000	19,500	20,380	21,400	29,100	6,000
38	18	BWSR	Accelerated Implementation	up			11,000	9,682	8,000	7,600	12,000	8,000	6,600	-
39	23	BWSR	Measures, Results and Accountability	same			2,500	2,500	2,000	1,900	1,900	1,900	2,100	590
40	24	BWSR	Buffer Law Implementation	same			4,000	3,872	5,000	5,000	5,000	-	-	-
41	25	BWSR	Working Lands Floodplain Easements [formerly Riparian Buffer-Permanent Conservation Easements]	up		3,434	5,000	3,872	9,500	9,750	9,750	13,000	12,000	6,900
42	37	BWSR	Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection	up		1,000	5,000	5,000	4,000	3,500	3,500	2,600	3,600	2,300
43	43	BWSR	Technical Evaluation [restoration evaluation]	same			200	84	168	168	168	168	168	-
44	16	BWSR	Watershed Management Transition (One Watershed, One Plan)	down			3,500	5,808	4,000	3,990	4,200	900	-	-
45	19	BWSR	Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance	same			2,000	1,700	1,700	1,500	1,500	-	-	-
46	21	BWSR	Critical Shoreland Protection-Permanent Conservation Easements	same		4,000	3,000	2,468	2,550	2,000	2,000	-	-	-
47	80	BWSR	Tillage, Cover Crop and Erosion Evaluation	same			850	723	850	850	1,000			
48	27	BWSR	Watershed Partners Legacy (WPL) Grants	up		2,000	1,000	1,000	-	-	1,500	3,000	3,000	-
49	NEW	BWSR	Wetland Restoration Easements	up			10,000	5,660	-	-	-	-	-	-
50	28	BWSR	Enhancing Soil Health and Landowner Adoption of Cover Crops for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection	up			12,077	4,200	-	-	-	-	-	-
51	NEW	BWSR	Great Lakes Restoration LAMP	same		1,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
52	23	MDH	Contaminants of Emerging Concern	up		384	10,100	2,400	3,400	2,200	2,200	2,300	2,040	1,300
53	9	MDH	Private Well Initiative	up			3,000	-	1,500	800	650	650	-	-
54	24	MDH	Source Water Protection	same			7,500	7,884	5,494	5,470	3,800	3,230	2,830	2,400
55	74	MDH	Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies	up			1,500	1,126	1,100	400	250	300	-	-
56	40	MDH	Future of Drinking Water (formerly Drinking Water Protection)	same			500	500	500	300	-	-	-	-

Clean Water Fund Appropriations

as of 7/10/2024

57	NEW	MDH	Recreational Water Portal	same			600	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
58	new	MDH	Nitrate response in SE Minnesota**	moving		2,790	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
59	42	MC	Metropolitan Area Water Sustainability Support Program	up			2,250	1,838	2,000	1,900	1,950	2,000	1,000	800
60	35	MC	Water Demand Reduction- Efficiency - Grant Program	same			1,500	1,250	750	-	500	-	-	-
61	61	UMN	County Geologic Atlas Part A	same			1,000	900	500	250	-	1,230	-	305
62	82B	UMN	Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program	same		1,000	2,000	1,500	1,500	1,500	550	-	-	-
63	63	LCC	Legislative Coordinating Commission Website	same			6	8	9	15	-	30	13	25
64	7	PFA	Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program	up			16,500	15,936	18,000	15,750	18,000	18,000	30,920	30,200
65	41	PFA	Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program	same			200	200	250	250	500	4,000	2,500	2,500

\$25,426 \$318,396

FY24-25 base budget	\$ 318,396
plus supplemental FY24-25 that has tails (in red above)	\$ 4,590
minus completed St. Louis River AOC (in blue above)	\$ (1,500)
FY24-25 base budget (revised)	\$ 321,486
MMB revenue estimate for FY26-27	\$ 307,422
Difference between FY24-25 revised base and FY26-27 estimate	\$ 14,064

4.4%

* in 1st column = order of programs in appropriations bills

** SE MN Nitrate Response to be combined in FY26-27 with Private Well Initiative

July 9, 2024

Steve Besser, Chair
Budget Outcomes Committee
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 Funding Recommendations

Dear Chair Besser and Council Administrator Gardner:

We appreciate the opportunity for The Nature Conservancy (TNC) to provide input as the Clean Water Council Budget Outcomes Committee begins to develop recommendations to the Clean Water Council after hearing from each agency on their FY26-FY27 recommendations. This year marks 15 years of the Clean Water, Land and Legacy amendment; because of this milestone and with roughly 10 years remaining of this dedicated fund, TNC encourages the Council to prioritize recommendations for existing and new programs that have demonstrated durable outcomes for protecting, restoring and enhancing clean water for people and nature. We further encourage the Council to consider programs and policy that ensure safe and reliable drinking water sources for all Minnesotans and prioritize timely water-related public health outcomes, even if it requires a change in focus from programs funded to-date, or reducing or eliminating those that are less effective at producing safe drinking water. Programs should measurably contribute to Council priorities and advancing the strategic plan that was developed with significant stakeholder input.

We submit the following feedback on critical programs that reflect TNC priorities for freshwater resilience as well as clean water priorities for Minnesota:

Board of Water and Soil Resources:

- **Working Lands Floodplain Easements:** While still a relatively new program, these easements give landowners in sensitive areas like floodplains, and who may be opposed to land retirement, an option to ensure land uses that are compatible with water resource protection. This program has great potential in areas of Minnesota like the southeast, where there are serious resource concerns and where protection potential has not been included in previous Reinvest in Minnesota (RIM) programs. Because areas like southeastern Minnesota have not had RIM support, it will take time to build momentum.
- **Critical Shoreland Protection Easements:** This proven program is worthy of continued investment. It is unique among easement programs for the precision protection it provides, in addition to many benefits including protecting drinking water, habitat, carbon sequestration in

critical watersheds at risk of degradation, and ultimately preventing costlier cleanup if these waters were to become impaired. This program has a good return on investment for the Clean Water Fund.

- **Watershed Partners Legacy Grant Program:** As a pilot program to foster community-driven innovation for clean water outcomes, this has shown great promise, and the applications in the pilot have also demonstrated a high need. We recommend significantly increasing support for this program to continue to foster innovation and engagement in new communities. We also recommend the Clean Water Council and BWSR increase outreach and engagement efforts to Tribal Nations to encourage and support their participation in the program.

Department of Natural Resources:

- Water Storage
- Culvert Replacement
- Mussel Restoration
- Non-point Source Restoration and Implementation

With the exception of Non-point Source Restoration and Implementation, these DNR programs were new when included in the FY24-25 biennial recommendations from the Council. We commend the Council for including these previously to help get these programs off the ground, and the DNR for considering water storage opportunities on state lands. We recommend these programs be further considered for additional investment so they can continue to expand as these programs have multiple benefits for downstream aquatic habitat, water quality, and flood mitigation.

Pollution Control Agency:

- **Chloride Reduction:** Chloride is an increasing and irreversible threat to water and aquatic systems. This program has demonstrated results through innovation and adaptation to protect and restore surface and groundwater. The efficacy of the program is commendable and makes an outsized impact.
- **Clean Water Council Communication and Engagement Capacity:** The Clean Water Council is better served when interested parties and rights holders are informed of Clean Water Fund supported efforts and participate in the process and ensure the outcomes from CWF investments that Minnesotans expect. We support funding an additional staff person to focus on communication and community engagement to allow current staff to focus on council and council committee administration.

We offer additional reflections to inform Council deliberation on all programs being considered: In addition to emphasizing the importance of strong funding in the above programs, we also hope the



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recommendation process will result in continued conversation about the outcomes for all Clean Water Fund investments, especially the important work that happens in Watershed Based Implementation. We also encourage the Council and agency partners to seek to understand and determine efficiencies within and between programs, limiting duplication.

All programs and projects receiving Clean Water Funding should meet or exceed the constitutional requirements to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water from degradation. To demonstrate this, projects and programs should include measurable outcomes, beyond the stated activities, and report back to the Council on those accomplishments (per Minnesota Statutes 114D.50).

The Nature Conservancy continues to remain concerned about the rate of progress toward state water priorities since the Clean Water Fund was first created; however, the above-mentioned programs are a meaningful step toward advancing the pace and scale of the beneficial impact Clean Water Funds can have. While the Council faces difficult decisions in arriving at final recommendations this year, 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 dark ink, appearing to read "Ann Mulholland".

Ann Mulholland, Chapter Director

The Nature Conservancy, MN-ND-SD

Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: Axtell, Kyle <kyle.axtell@woodburymn.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 3, 2024 1:51 PM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA)
Subject: Input on Clean Water Council FY26-27 Funding Recommendation

You don't often get email from kyle.axtell@woodburymn.gov. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Greetings Paul,

As a new member of the MN Stormwater Research Council (MSRC) Advisory Board, I encourage the Clean Water Council to continue its strong financial support for the important work of the MSRC by maintaining or increasing existing funding levels. Research funded by the MSRC has helped to position Minnesota as a national leader in stormwater quality and quantity management while providing meaningful research to improve the effectiveness of practices and programs used by partners every year across the state. Funding allocations to MSRC have been effectively and efficiently managed by UMN Water Resources Center staff with direction from the Advisory Board – composed of a diverse team of researchers and practitioners from across the stormwater management industry, both private and public sector. State funding allocations to the MSRC also help to leverage continued contributions from local agencies and other partners to add value to the State's investment in stormwater research.

Continuing to support the research and technology transfer initiatives of the MSRC should be one of the easiest decisions the Clean Water Council can make. I look forward to serving on the MSRC Advisory Board in the future and helping to provide guidance as we support stormwater management and water resource improvement efforts on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

Thank you for your time,

Kyle Axtell

Watershed Project Manager

South Washington Watershed District

2302 Tower Drive, Woodbury MN 55125

(651) 714-3718

www.swwdmn.org



SOUTH WASHINGTON
WATERSHED DISTRICT

Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: Kathy <simpleharvestfarmorganics@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:50 AM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA)
Cc: Kathy
Subject: Input for MN Clean Water Council

You don't often get email from simpleharvestfarmorganics@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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Paul - thanks for asking for input - I do have some.

My background: I am a former supervisor for the Rice County SWCD Board; and a farmer of all HE land, which is all in pasture to prevent soil & water erosion, so I graze livestock. Because of the way I solved my land's erosion problems that previous land owners created, I automatically received 3 of 4 endorsements in MDA's Ag Water Quality Certification program, without any tax incentives to accomplish that.

What I see missing from all the money being invested in commodity farmers to get them to reduce their water & soil problems, is any follow up to measure the efficacy of the public investment. While on the SWCD Board, I asked how many farmers continued to plant cover crops after their 3-year grant was over; in other words, did the grant money develop a behavior change in those farmers so they continued the cover crop practice after the grant money ran out. The answer: no one had any idea - because there was zero follow up.

As a MAWQCP farm, there were no measurements taken on my farm to assess the water entering my farm, nor exiting my farm; no measurements of soil erosion; no benchmark values to be able to compare with future tests. This year, I was "re-certified" by a phone call, but again, no measurements taken for water quality or soil erosion. I do hear of reports about the benefits of the MAWQCP program - but I am unsure if those benefits are based on actual tests / measurements, or extrapolations of a theoretical model, because as a MAWQCP farm - no measurements happened here.

My recommendation to the Council would be to invest in some continuous benchmark testing and then after-action investigation / testing to assess if the money being invested is actually truly accomplishing anything. And when water tests are done, to include testing for antibiotics in heavy livestock areas, and chemicals / pesticides in non-organic areas, plus generic e coli (using the FSMA PSR protocol). Just testing for N and sometimes P is inadequate.

Thanks for listening; hope this helps.

Always pastured, always organic.

Kathy Zeman
She, her, hers
Simple Harvest Farm Organics
9800 155th Street East
Nerstrand MN 55053
(507) 664-9446
simpleharvestfarmorganics@gmail.com

Gardner, Paul (MPCA)

From: David Craig <dcraig13322@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 9:50 AM
To: Gardner, Paul (MPCA)
Subject: clean water

You don't often get email from dcraig13322@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

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I think all lakes should be tested for chemicals and contaminants. Those should then be removed. Also, testing along different points of rivers and streams should be done and hunt down where chemicals and contaminants are getting into the water. Then the sources of those should be stopped and fined. I think I've suggested this before and I was told this was up to the DNR, which sounds stupid. Agencies should work together on this.

I think it would be good if a business was giving state help to dispose of harmful chemicals paid for by tax payers if they don't make more than a million dollars in profit a year.

Thanks,
David Craig

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

July X, 2024

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

I write to you on behalf of Ash River Sewer District in support of the National Park Water Quality Protection Program and the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board's (VNPCWJPB) \$4 million dollar funding request within that program. This program and past funding to the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water 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, Voyageurs National Park is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 13 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. In coordination with the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, U.S. National Park Service, St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, and the Minnesota Clean Water Council, 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 \$4 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, 

Name Debra Sanders

Title 1st Chair ARSD

CC: State Senator Grant Hauschild
State Representative Roger Skraba
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board
Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Katrina Kessler



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

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

July 25, 2024

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

I write to you on behalf of Kabetogama Township in support of the National Park Water Quality Protection Program and the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board's (VNPCWJPB) \$4 million dollar funding request within that program. This program and past funding to the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

Kabetogama Township is a recreation-based community with over 200 shoreland properties including 24 resorts, the Kabetogama Voyageurs National Park Visitor Center and Woodenfrog State Forest Campground. The waters of Voyageurs National Park are among our most prized resources, both economically and existentially. As a community, we recognized the need to replace the many failing and non-compliant individual sewer treatment systems on our lakeshore properties. Because of limitations such as lot size, soil and depth to the water table or rock, maintaining or constructing new individual treatment systems which meet county requirements is problematic or impossible for most shoreline property owners. The Township recognized that the development of community sewer systems was the only viable option to provide a solution to our long-term sewer infrastructure needs. Shoreland property owners have organized and petitioned The Township Board to form subordinate service districts for the purpose of constructing and managing community sewer systems. 70% said yes to clean water. Kabetogama Township's objective is to have the majority of our 9 miles of developed shoreline served by managed community sewer systems. Our goal is to do our part in enhancing and preserving our clean water legacy.

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 2020-22, we formed 2 more subordinate service districts and with funding from the Clean Water Council in 2022, we completed work on



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

Facility Plans and started design work for 2 more community sewer projects which will serve 8 resorts and 140 private residences.

The Joint Powers 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 \$4 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,

John Stegmeir
Representative of the Kabetogama Township Board

CC: State Senator Grant Hauschild
State Representative Roger Skraba
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board
Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Katrina Kessler

Senator Grant Hauschild

Senate District 3

Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave West
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

Phone: 651-296-1789

Email: sen.grant.hauschild@senate.mn



Senate

State of Minnesota

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

July 1st, 2024

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

I write to you in support of the Minnesota Clean Water Council's National Park Water Quality Protection Program and the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board's (VNPCWJPB) \$4 million dollar funding request within that program. This program and past funding to the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness in my Legislative District in Northern Minnesota.

As you are no doubt aware, Voyageurs National Park is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 13 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. In coordination with the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, U.S. National Park Service, St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, and the Minnesota Clean Water Council, 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 \$4 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 'Grant Hauschild', written in a cursive style.

Grant Hauschild
Senator – District 3

CC: Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board
Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Katrina Kessler

CRANE LAKE WATER & SANITARY DISTRICT
P.O. BOX 306
CRANE LAKE, MN 55725
Phone: 218/993-1303 Email: info@clwsd.org

Robert Scott, Chair
Bonnie Caughey, Vice-Chair

Mark Anderson, Manager
Deena Congdon, Manager
Darrell Scott, Manager

July 8, 2024

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 Crane Lake Water & Sanitary District in support of the National Park Water Quality Protection Program and the Voyageur's National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board's (VNPCWJPB) \$4 million dollar funding request within that program. This program and past funding to the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water 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, Voyageurs National Park is the nation's only water based national park, and it is proudly acclaimed for its beauty and pristine nature. More than 13 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. In coordination with the State of Minnesota, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, U.S. National Park Service, St. Louis and Koochiching Counties, and the Minnesota Clean Water Council, 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 \$4 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,

Robert Scott,
Chairman

CC: State Senator Grant Hauschild
State Representative Roger Skraba
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board
Governor Tim Walz
Commissioner Katrina Kessler

SENATOR JENNIFER A. MCEWEN
SENATE LABOR CHAIR
DULUTH, District 08



June 2, 2024

Chair **John Barten**,
Clean Water Council
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,

I write to you in support of the Minnesota Clean Water Council's National Park Water Quality Protection Program and the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board's (VNPCWJPB) \$4 million dollar funding request within that program. This program and past funding to the Voyageurs National Park Clean Water project have had a very positive impact on the waters of Voyageurs National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness.

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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 \$4 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,



Senator Jennifer A. McEwen
Chair, Labor Committee
Senate District 08—Duluth

CC:

Voyageurs National Park Clean Water Joint Powers Board
St. Louis County Board
Koochiching County Board
Commissioner Katrina Kessler
Governor Tim Walz