Clean Water Council Meeting Agenda
Monday, December 15, 2025
9:00 a.m. to 2 p.m.

IN PERSON at MPCA offices in St. Paul with Webex Available (Hybrid Meeting)

9:00 Regular Clean Water Council Business

- **(INFORMATION ITEM)** Introductions—please declare any perceived or actual conflict of interest
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Agenda - comments/additions and approve agenda
- **(ACTION ITEM)** Meeting Minutes - comments/additions and approve November minutes
- **(INFORMATION ITEM**) Chair, Committee, and Council Staff update

9:45 Public comment

Any member of the public wishing to address the Council regarding something not on the agenda is invited to do so as a part of this agenda item.

10:00 (DISCUSSION ITEM) November Forecast

The November Forecast for the State's budget was released on December 4th. It shows good news for the Clean Water Fund—both in terms of having up to $7.1M funding available in this biennium should the Council choose to make recommendations, and up to $336M for FY28-29 if not. Details are in the memo in the packet.

10:30 Break

10:45 Clean Water Legacy Partners Program Update

- Melissa Sjolund (She/Her) NGO/Tribal Grants Specialist BWSR
- Ara Charles Gallo (He/Him) NGO/Tribal Grants Specialist BWSR
- Jennifer Tonko (She/Her) Executive Director Clean River Partners

Melissa Sjolund and Ara Gallo are Grants Staff with BWSR. Together, they are leading BWSR's grant work with Tribal Nations, and Non-Government Organizations that are delivering the work of Clean Water Council and the fund. They will be providing a program update on the Clean Water Legacy Partners Program. The presentation will include a partner, with a summary of projects, and what we've learned and opportunities going forward.

12:00 Lunch

12:30 (DISCUSSION ITEM) KPI Dashboard discussion

Staff from across several agencies have been working with Council members through the Budget and Outcomes Committee to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the Clean Water Fund. It is still in draft stage, at roughly 80% complete. The BOC is seeking Council feedback at this time on the full package in order to ensure that further work on this is in line with full Council preferences.

1:30 (INFORMATION ITEM) Clean Water Council Year in Review

As 2025 and this "Strategy Year" come to a close, this will be an opportunity to look back, celebrate the work done, and note the needs going forward.

1:45 Farewell to Council members

2:00 Adjourn

Steering Committee meets directly after adjournment

Clean Water Council
November 17, 2025, Meeting Summary

Members present: John Barten (Chair), Steve Besser, Rich Biske (Vice Chair), Dick Brainerd, Gail Cederberg, Steve Christenson, Tannie Eshenaur, Brad Gausman, Kelly Gribauval-Hite, Justin Hanson, Holly Hatlewick, Peter Kjeseth, Chris Meyer, Fran Miron, Jason Moeckel, Ole Olmanson, Jeff Peterson, Peter Schwagerl, Glenn Skuta, Marcie Weinandt, and Jessica Wilson.
Members absent: Annie Knight, Warren Formo, Rep. Steve Jacob, Sen. John Hoffman, and Rep. Kristi Pursell.

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
- Motion to approve the November 17th meeting agenda by Steve Christenson, seconded by Dick Brainerd. Motion carries unanimously.
- Staff Update:
  - Representative Pursell's term dates had not been updated on the website. She is still a current member of the Council, and the dates have been updated.
  - Jen Kader presented at the Minnesota Environmental Partnerships water cluster. This is a number of different environmental organizations that are associated with water. In the past, they have had strong concerns about the Council's recommendations. They will be following the Council and are excited with the work the Council is doing right now.
  - The Council's rubric and proposal form have been finalized and will be posted on our webpage. There will also be a FAQ to add.
  - We Are Water are in the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) lobby setting up today. Please meander up there sometime to check it out. The Council is also looking into developing a Clean Water Funds specific panel, so it can be a part of the exhibit. It can reveal the role the Council has played. This could also lead into what can be created to provide at different conferences or exhibits, where the Council can be represented to engage with the public. The Council had a first go with the Water Resources Conference, and this is continuing to build on it and develop it moving forward.
  - Connect with Jen Kader if you need any items to bring with the conferences to pass out for the Council.
  - Minnesota Management and Business (MMB) will have the budget forecast out by December 6th. The Council's Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) meeting is December 5th. We hope to have some information to share at that meeting, to start discussions.
- Committees:
  - The Policy Committee is working on the large volume water user's policy. There has been a lot of good feedback and assistance for this policy. It will be reviewed again by the Policy Committee at their upcoming meeting. They will also review an update to the Chloride statement.
  - BOC: They provided feedback on the KPI performance dashboard. They are working on selecting the measures that demonstrate the key areas of the Council's Strat Plan and statutory charge.

No public comments provided at this meeting.

2026 Meeting Calendar *(Webex 00:37:30)*

- The meeting dates follow the usual meetings but have been adjusted for the new budget process. They are also trying to avoid major holidays. The BOC meetings will shift more to the second Friday of the month, to give enough time to complete the rubric process. There are also proposed extensions to the full Council meetings, where Council members would have an extra hour added to the regular meeting times. This is only during the budget process. The BOC meetings are also adjusted to 9:00 to 2:00 during the budget process.

Discussion:

- Dick Brainerd: Perhaps it is easier if the meetings are all starting at the same time. You can make them all the same start.

- John Barten: Does anyone have any issues with starting at 9:30?
  - Gail Cederberg: I would prefer an earlier start for Policy Committee.
  - Jessica Wilson: Moving the Policy Committee up would have a conflict for school start.
  - Gail Cederberg: It is fine to leave it at 9:30.
  - John Barten: Let's let the committee chairs decide.
- Margret Wagner (MDA): Once this is approved, will you send out the calendar invites? *Answer:* Yes.
- Motion to adopt the meeting dates by Steve Christenson, seconded by Dick Brainerd. One oppose, by Steve Besser. Motion carries.
- The 2026 meeting dates will be included in the upcoming newsletter.

New Microsoft Teams for Clean Water Council activities *(Webex 00:45:00)*

- The Council has had conversations about moving Council documents into a Microsoft Teams. All of the current Council members should be on a Teams site. If there are additional state agency staff that would find it helpful to have access, please connect with Jen Kader. This is not a space for Council members discussion, due to open meeting laws. It would be a place to access relevant documents (onboarding materials, the calendar, overview of agenda items by calendar date, Strategic Plan, Engagement Plan, etc.). The meeting information would also be included, so folks can access them before and after meetings. It is more access to information and increase efficiency to information. As we move forward in the budget process, members would have all that information at their fingertips as well.
- Jen Kader provided a demonstration of accessing the files already set up at this time.

Reactions/Questions:

- Dick Brainerd: I am concerned about access, because Teams has a lot of updates. It seems to be the most difficult for me. Response: The tech staff at the MPCA can assist if any Council member is having an issue. We can work with you on it.
- Chris Meyer: I am wondering about public versus private data. Public data documents would still be provided on our webpage, correct?
  - *Answer:* Yes.
  - *Margaret Wagner:* You may want to follow up on it. I believe it is limited access. Like everything the state has, it can be discoverable. Only people with access would be able to get into the document/folder. However, if you put something on the Teams folder, it becomes public data.
  - *Jen Kader:* Access would not be open to everyone. Only folks invited to join. However, yes, anything included is considered public, just not with open public access.
- John Barten: It would be helpful to have a tutorial document, so we have directions to navigate to the Teams folder. *Answer:* Yes. Additionally, we can include the access limitations for navigating. Like no more than a quorum engaged in a working team, to follow open meeting laws.
- Margret Wagner: The new Council logo files would be good to include as well, so folks can have direct access to them. *Answer:* Yes, and the branding requirements. We can have that under the general category.
- Steve Christenson: Please provide access to the expense reimbursement form too.
- Steve Besser: We may need a better reminder about the open meeting laws. *Answer:* In the chats we can include reminders to make sure conversations do not hit quorum. Also, be mindful of the number of people making comments on documents.
- Brad Gausman: Can we just turn off the chat feature? *Answer:* We can check.
- Brad Gausman: What are quorum numbers? *Answer:* Fifty percent, plus one of voting members. That is nine on the full Council, five on the subcommittees.
- Jen Kader will start placing files in the Teams account. The December meeting will be a trial run for members to access the documents for the December meeting. Then, Council members can figure out any access issues before the budget process starts in 2026. If any Council member would like a paper copy of the budget proposals, we can provide that as well. Please reach out with that request, so we can prepare one for you.

Clean Water Council Survey *(Webex 01:07:00)*

The Clean Water Council survey was open for approximately two months. In that time, 159 people responded, representing each constituent group on the Council and each region of the state. This is still in early days of survey analysis. A deeper analysis will be in the works as well.

- Overview of respondents: 159 total responses. Every CWC constituency was represented. The highest response rates were coming from Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, and environmental organizations. No constituency had fewer than six respondents. There was a high degree of familiarity with the Clean Water Council and Clean Water Funds (CWFs).
- Overarching takeaways:
  - There is a strong affinity and love for Minnesota's waters, and people place a high value on clean water.
  - We've made a lot of progress as a result of the CWFs.
  - People are very proud of what we've done so far.
  - There are some things that could be given more attention.
  - We still have a way to go.
  - Southeast and Southwest Minnesota feel we've made less progress.
- What comes to mind: Abundant water, clean water, concerns, drinking water, economy, gratitude, recreation, stewardship, waters and watersheds.
- Concerns included a lot of things like: agricultural runoff, urban runoff, nitrates, septic systems, lead, algae, erosion and sediment, PFAS, invasive species, sulfate, flooding, infrastructure failures, overuse of water (supply), overuse and misuse of water bodies (recreation), chloride, microplastics, climate change, damage to wild rice and other traditional foods and medicines.
- Degree of agreement takeaways:
  - Folks largely agree: We better understand current conditions; we better understand challenges; we are seeing improvements to lakes and streams; people are more aware of challenges and needs.
  - Most disagreement is for drinking water and groundwater improvements.
- Folks would point to success connecting to the water management framework. Each part can be connected. The systematic approach as well was also pointed to as being something successful. Other items connecting to the success mentioned included: collaboration, education and engagement, funding, staff capacity, science-based approach, and water quality improvements.
- What could have been different? Items mentioned included: awareness, capacity, which contaminants or challenges, drinking water, focus, funding mechanisms, groundwater, holistic approach, locally led, political will, protection, and scale.
- What are we celebrating in 2034? Items mentioned included: Continued commitment and amendment renewal, water quality outcomes, resilience and responsiveness, changes on the landscape, shifted norms, collaboration and partnership, responsible use of water, durability of investments, holistic approaches, accountability, and local leadership.
- There will be additional analysis of these survey results.
- *Discussion/Comments/Questions: What are you noticing? What does this mean for the Council? What next steps do you think make sense?*
- John Barten: That is a lot of survey results. It is good to see the interest in water, even if many of the people are involved in water. Additionally, there were some mixed messages too - either locally led or have someone else make the decision. Hearing the different priorities was good.
- Marcie Weinandt: This survey came out of the ad hoc committee. This was more information that we first thought we would get. I would like to hear from those folks who helped put this in motion.
- Steve Christenson: My reaction is support for many of the things we are doing in terms of our budgetary choices. Our number one area that we fund is towards watershed-based implementation funding, which aligns with comments about local empowerment and local decision-making. Second, I noticed surface waters lakes and rivers, which the CWFs also support a lot. However, drinking water came up a lot in this, but it is rather low in our budgetary choices historically. I am not sure what to do with that, but it nags at me. In terms of our budgetary choices the answer is little.
- Brad Gausman: I would like to have more information on who all was represented here. If there is a way to gather more analysis on it.

- Tannie Eshenaur, MDH: I didn't take the survey, but I am surprised to see there are thirteen people from MDH who did. I would be curious to see what the difference is, if you take the state agency folks out. I would like to know what the non-agency folks view.
- Justin Hanson, BWSR: We did not do a big push with this with BWSR either.
- Rich Biske: It would be good to hear the non-agency perspective. There would be value in that. What I see is a lot of uncertainty. There is an acknowledgement of progress, which is good. I think the Council and the agencies should be proud of the progress. We are still picking up a lot of uncertainty about the next ten years looks like, especially around groundwater. There is a role for the Legislature, a role for the agencies, and a role for the Council members. What can we expect from our piece of this? It is banking on the Legislature shows up in the way we would like them to. For this body, the Council, what can we commit to accomplishing, with some certainty, moving towards 2034.
- Next Steps:
    - Keep going with a deeper analysis:
        - Look at how responses change based on geography (will add agency versus non-agency)
        - Dig into tensions
        - Compare answers with Council member discussion from June
        - Isolate key takeaways
        - Draft summary report
        - Share with interested parties

Safe Drinking Water for All: A Study of Minnesota private well owners *(Webex 02:20:30)*

- Mae Davenport (she/her), Professor, Department of Forest Resources; Director, Center for Changing Landscapes; Chair, University of Minnesota Water Council
- Amit Pradhananga (he/him), Research Associate, Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota
- Emily Kreiter (she/her), Staff Researcher, Center for Changing Landscapes, University of Minnesota

Over the past two years, researchers from the Center for Changing Landscapes at the University of Minnesota have surveyed more than 1000 private well owners across the state about their beliefs, concerns, and water testing behaviors. The team also conducted six focus groups with water professionals across the state to gather input on how to translate survey results into strategic actions in their region. This presentation will present results from both stages of the project with the intention of informing and gathering feedback via discussion.

- Across many different studies and different social groups, the survey results reveal that clean and safe drinking water is a top priority for Minnesota. Through the social science, the water ethic is about equitable access to clean and safe drinking water, and for future generations as well. Our relationships vary with the water we come in contact with as well (i.e., home, work, with travel, etc.).
- We have been focusing on inclusive social science research methods. The differences in how to do the surveys matter. A mail survey revealed a sample of respondents the were mostly white, male, older, who did not rent (rather had a home). This was during Covid-19, our 2022 mail survey. We could not get out to survey people in person. In 2023 we were able to do onsite survey, where we were out in the community events and cultural events. We can see a huge difference in who was represented. The survey revealed BIPOC identifying, female identifying, younger folks who rented their homes. These differences are important, because many times people are left out of the representations. So, the inclusiveness is important. Otherwise, you lose the diversity, perspectives, and narratives that are so important to the way in which people connect with water. In this study, they were able to ask about people's drinking tap water. We learned there are great disparities in access to safe drinking water:
    - Trust that their tap water is safe to drink: 49 percent of BIPOC versus 77 percent of white respondents. This was 52 percent of renters versus 65 percent of homeowners.
    - Worry about the safety of their drinking water: 46 percent of BIPOC versus 19 percent of white respondents. This was 44 percent of renters versus 32 percent of homeowners.
    - These observations reveal who people trust, and the information about water, is important.
- Why social science? To better represent all Minnesotans. The goal is to represent communities and influencing water policy, programming, and investments for water.
- Safe Drinking Water for All: A Study of Minnesota Private Well Owners
    - Project background:

        - There are 1.2 million (21 percent) Minnesotans who drink from private wells.
        - Contaminants like bacteria, nitrates, arsenic, lead, manganese, and organic compounds in drinking water systems can pose serious health risks.
        - The MDH and UMN partnership to assess Minnesotas' relationship with their private wells.
- Study Overview:
    - Survey mailed to 4000 private well owners across the state (in five regions of Minnesota), with 1016 responses received.
    - They conducted focus groups with water partners throughout the state to provide input on survey results and prioritize action.
    - Data synthesis, reporting, and outreach
- Survey of Private Well Owners:
    - Respondents: male identifying (54 percent), white (99 percent), median age at 64, median household income at $100,000 to $149,000, and 72 percent held an associate's degree or higher.
    - Property characteristics: own and manage their own land/property (96 percent), years living at current address (average of 23 years), number of adults in each household (median of 2), and households with one or more children (about 22 percent).
    - Where do respondents primarily get their household drinking water? Results revealed 86 percent from their private well, 15 percent from purchased water, and about 5 percent said another source (public water supplier – and these folks were removed form the survey).
    - How do respondents treat their water? Results revealed about 50 percent always filter or treat their drinking water, about 23 percent said they sometimes filter or treat their water, and 24 percent revealed they never filter or treat their water.
    - Of those that treat their water, what kind of treatment is used? Results revealed about half had a whole house water treatment system (like a water softener), followed by a refrigerator filter, single faucet treatment (like a reverses osmosis system), pitcher water filter. In this area, folks were able to select more than one option.
    - How often is your water tested for contaminants?
        - About 5 percent of people test every year, 13 percent test every two to four years, 20 percent test every five years or more, 16 percent have only tested once when the well was installed, 10 percent have tested only once after the well was serviced, about 24 percent have not had the well tested, and 12 percent do not know.
        - There were 34 percent of respondents who plan to have their water tested within the next year.
        - The big question is how we can close the gap between the 5 percent that are testing every year, the 34 percent that plan to have their water tested, to the rest of the folks who don't plan to test.
        - We asked about perceived barriers to testing, to better understand why people are not getting their water tested. A lot was about financial and time or effort. The top barrier was the concern about the cost of treating contaminated well water (39 percent). Next, was the time or effort it takes to get their water tested (27 percent). Also, the cost of water testing was a barrier (26 percent).
        - They also found that well owners were more likely to have their water tested if there was a free well water test program offered in their area (89 percent), if a well water testing kit was delivered to their home (89 percent), or if they could drop off their water sample at a local office or building to have it tested (83 percent).
        - They found that if well owners learned their well water was contaminated, 85 percent would change how their household gets drinking water. That if the well water was contaminated, 75 percent believe it would have severe impacts on the health or their family's health. Additionally, about 50 percent worry about pollution affecting their family's health. So, although there are barriers, more people are concerned about the health risk. Well owners were more likely to have their water tested if: they received a contamination notice (90 percent); they noticed a change in their water (e.g., taste, smell, color (91 percent); their health professional recommended to have it tested (85 percent); or they hear or read about a water quality problem in their area (84 percent).
    - Source of drinking water information: respondents are most often going to media (e.g., newspaper, television, internet, radio) for their drinking water information.

- Do people know where to go for information: About 48 percent know where to go to have their well water tested. About 35 percent know where to go to find information to help manage the safety and quality of their well water.
- Believing the support needed is there: About 18 percent believe government is providing adequate support for them to have safe water. About 22 percent believe Minnesota has the right level of support (educational materials and financial assistance) for private well owners. Additionally, results revealed there is a high level of support for clean and safe well water policy.

Questions/Comments:

- Steve Christenson: When I look at this data, I view it differently. It reveals a fourth of the people outright oppose spending tax dollars on private well testing, along with less than half support it. I'm not saying those are my views, but I am saying the data is softer on support for private well testing and treatment, than I would have expected.
- Joel Larson, UMN: We already started looking at ways we can incorporate this information into implementation. So, we have a private well education program, which is funded through CWFs through MDH. Our goal is to help reach private well users who are getting their water from private wells (own or rent). It is focusing on two main areas. First, providing information and resources directly to private well users (i.e., testing clinics). They would provide opportunities to distribute those samples at a centralized collection point and have a workshop, to work with them on the results and what it means for treatment options. Another way to reach is through peer-to-peer networks. This is using volunteers to be trusted advisors and community members. They are working with Freshwater society in this first round of the program to help leverage the connections and relationships. Additionally, working with local government staff who have private wells or groundwater as part of their portfolio to build up their expertise around those issues, along with building networks. They are working to expand with what they learn.
- Dick Brainerd: Does any county require testing the private well at point of sale?
  - *Answer:* Only Dakota County.
  - *Chris Meyer:* I tried to get it passed in Winona County. However, staff shared that all the lenders required it on transfer of property. So, I was told it does not need to be regulated. They also told us we are unaware of rural rental properties, so there is no way to figure out the implementation of it. There are barriers to overcome achieving it as well.
  - *Tannie Eshenaur, MDH:* We have a lot of work to do to create this sustainable system that will move us into the future. We also need to know there is public support for our work. We are working on cost-benefit analysis as well. Therefore, if we have more funding, we can provide support for decisions. We are working on the Southeast Minnesota 8-county area, but will want to shift to the rest of the state as well.

Continued Presentation:

- Focus groups with water professionals: There were 66 participants across six focus groups across the state.
  - The focus groups saw a preliminary analysis of survey results and in small groups brainstormed strategic actions for ensuring clean and safe drinking water for all Minnesotans.
  - Each group shared their ideas and prioritized actions using stickers (on posterboards).
  - From the focus groups they had over a hundred ideas.
  - Pre-survey results: they focused on how important these different strategies in terms of helping Minnesota get to clean water, along with how effective we are at them. They asked about importance and effectiveness to help identify strategies. This leads to action steps.
  - Six strategies for action planning:
    - Health education: partner with doctors and health organizations to raise awareness.
    - Integrating well water testing into the real estate transaction; provide well info for new homeowners and renters
    - Support for water treatment
    - Follow-up on what residents should do if contamination is found, encouraging annual testing.
    - Community ambassador/steward/advocate program in smaller communities.
    - A central message or campaign for statewide well education – more visible (billboards, radio, ads, etc.)
- Clean and safe drinking water is universally important to Minnesotans. There are a lot of strategies needed, and a lot of engagement. There is a lot of enthusiasm. There is also a connection to the Clean Water Council,

specifically in the Council's Strategic Plan. They are continuing to do the work to connect all these social networks that are critical, to move this work forward, to keep working together.

- What are the next steps?
  - Project outcomes will inform MDH's proposal for CWFs and private well priority actions for 2027-2029.
  - The UMN team is planning the conduct a similar workshop with state water agency representative and the Clean Water Council.
  - What would you like to see from us? Some possibilities: Continuing to engage in working groups? Reports/presentations to other groups? Community-engaged water social science in other communities on other topics? Other ideas?

Further Discussion/Questions/Comments:

- John Barten: Do you have any recommendation for a funding mechanism? *Answer:* I think we must investigate it more. More information is coming forward, that could help support funding. The larger social cost benefit analysis can help reveal this as well. Previously, when the report about the lead pipes came out, it helped push legislation to help replace the lead pipes.
- Tannie Eshenaur, MDH: For the first time we have funds to provide well repair and well replacement through the MDA, through a committee at the Legislature. It was not a lot of funding, but they did it.
- Rich Biske: Back to the survey results, this is a good example of the incredible progress the CWFs have provided, and the amount of momentum happening here. It seems like a durable outcome, looking at the possibilities of the possible that we could commit to achieving by the end of 2034 that could live on past the funding itself. We should build from it something that is durable.
- Jen Kader: The workshop with the Council would need to be fewer than quorum, unless it is part of a larger meeting. The six working groups and worksheets developed, the Council would like to see as well. *Answer:* Yes, we would be interested as well.

Adjournment *(Webex 03:50:37)*

November budget forecast

Explanatory memo for Clean Water Council members

December 9, 2025

The November Budget forecast was released on Thursday, December 4th, officially kicking off the start to our "Budget Year". This memo includes a high-level summary of what the forecast shows for the Clean Water Fund, provides a bit of background on the budget forecasts and how we use them, and briefly touches on our next steps and some considerations for us at this time.

The good news!

Sales tax revenue continues to increase year over year. While growth is slower than previously forecasted, it is still increasing. That provides two bits of good news regarding the Clean Water Fund:

1) We potentially have $7.1M in additional funding available for the current biennium, if we choose to make recommendations to appropriate that funding in a supplemental budget.
2) The forecast for FY28-29 shows the potential for approximately $336M available. This is roughly a 10% increase over the FY26-27 budget, though that was constrained to the $304M that was appropriated in part due to an accounting error. (If we do a supplemental budget, however, that number will decrease accordingly.)

Background

Forecasts at this point are for planning purposes. These numbers are expected to change as we move forward, with the February forecast being the one that will be used for budget decisions impacting the current biennium. Beginning discussions now makes it easier to respond quickly when the February forecast is issued, as the changes over the next three months are not typically as dramatic as they can be between February and November. By February, we will have this quarter's sales tax receipts and more realized investment income informing the forecast.

We will also use the February forecast for FY28-29 as the baseline for the preliminary budget recommendations we submit to the Governor's office in September 2026. We know from this forecast what the general picture looks like, and can plan at this time to make recommendations for a larger budget amount, regardless of whether we recommend appropriating additional funds in a supplemental budget for FY26-27. That said, the $336M is a very preliminary number, and it can be very different by the time the November forecast comes out due to a variety of factors. To that end, September-November is when we consider what we will do if there is more funding forecasted, and what we will do if there is less. As cuts are challenging to make at any time, the Clean Water Council has used more conservative budget estimates in the past to reduce the likelihood of needing to make significant changes to the preliminary budget recommendations.

What this means for us right now

At present, the Budget and Outcomes Committee does not want to commit to doing a supplemental budget until the numbers are a little more firm and would like to wait until after the February forecast is published. That said, they intend to use the January BOC meeting to explore possible options for a supplemental budget, considering the following:

1) Under what conditions would the Council like to develop a supplemental budget, rather than hold the funding over until FY28-29?
2) If the Council were to develop a supplemental budget, would we want to make recommendations for the full amount? (For instance, we could choose to just make recommendations for the extra funding available in FY26, which is $5.8M, and leave the FY27 extra funding as buffer for the FY28-29 budget.)
3) If the Council were to develop a supplemental budget, what would be included?
    a. Things that had to be cut or trimmed for the FY26-27 budget?
    b. Programs that are primed for (or would like to) use an increase in funding?
    c. Programs from past appropriations that could use more time through an extension of funding?
    d. New things that have come up but perhaps haven't been discussed yet?
    e. Some combination of the above?

The remainder of this attachment includes Clean Water Fund budget information from MMB, as well as information from the FY26-27 budget discussions showing where cuts were made.

Clean Water (2302)

($ in thousands)	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Biennium 2022-23	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Biennium 2024-25	NOV 25 Fcst 2026	NOV 25 Fcst 2027	Biennium 2026-27	NOV 25 Fcst 2028	NOV 25 Fcst 2029	Biennium 2028-29
ACTUAL & ESTIMATED RESOURCES												
Balance Forward From Prior Year	73,820	84,420	73,820	123,138	132,837	123,138	102,542	13,322	102,542	14,858	178,106	14,858
Prior Period Adjustment	12,739	22,374	35,113	17,975	8,694	26,669	0	0	0	0	0	0
Adjusted Balance Forward	**86,560**	**106,793**	**108,934**	**141,113**	**141,531**	**149,807**	**102,542**	**13,322**	**102,542**	**14,858**	**178,106**	**14,858**
Revenues												
Sales-Use Taxes	129,234	145,295	274,529	146,088	144,074	290,162	150,231	154,976	305,207	157,481	160,545	318,026
Taxes	**129,234**	**145,295**	**274,529**	**146,088**	**144,074**	**290,162**	**150,231**	**154,976**	**305,207**	**157,481**	**160,545**	**318,026**
Statewide Investment Income	600	5,487	6,088	10,405	9,827	20,232	7,355	5,859	13,214	5,765	5,765	11,530
Investment Income	**600**	**5,487**	**6,088**	**10,405**	**9,827**	**20,232**	**7,355**	**5,859**	**13,214**	**5,765**	**5,765**	**11,530**
Internal Reimbursement	16	0	16	8	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Revenue	1	0	1	0	5	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cost Recovery/Reimbursement	1	1	2	2	2	4	2	2	4	2	2	4
All Other Revenue	**18**	**1**	**19**	**10**	**8**	**18**	**2**	**2**	**4**	**2**	**2**	**4**
Total Revenues	**129,853**	**150,783**	**280,636**	**156,504**	**153,909**	**310,412**	**157,588**	**160,837**	**318,425**	**163,248**	**166,312**	**329,560**
Total Resources Available	**216,413**	**257,577**	**389,570**	**297,616**	**295,440**	**460,220**	**260,130**	**174,159**	**420,967**	**178,106**	**344,418**	**344,418**
ACTUAL & ESTIMATED USES												
Expenditures by Bill Area and Agency												
University Of Minnesota	2,673	1,295	3,968	1,500	2,500	4,000	1,000	1,400	2,400	0	0	0
Higher Education	**2,673**	**1,295**	**3,968**	**1,500**	**2,500**	**4,000**	**1,000**	**1,400**	**2,400**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Health	6,416	7,550	13,966	9,508	11,737	21,245	25,217	15,845	41,062	0	0	0
Health and Human Services	**6,416**	**7,550**	**13,966**	**9,508**	**11,737**	**21,245**	**25,217**	**15,845**	**41,062**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Pollution Control	22,420	22,506	44,926	24,005	29,443	53,448	32,758	24,702	57,460	0	0	0
Natural Resources	9,032	8,903	17,935	11,963	11,927	23,890	18,886	14,650	33,536	0	0	0
Water and Soil Resources, Board of	57,898	70,578	128,476	75,614	96,255	171,869	126,177	75,004	201,181	0	0	0
Metropolitan Council - Environment	1,544	1,544	3,088	1,875	1,875	3,750	2,025	2,125	4,150	0	0	0
Environment and Energy	**90,894**	**103,531**	**194,425**	**113,457**	**139,500**	**252,957**	**179,846**	**116,481**	**296,327**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Agriculture	15,205	16,370	31,575	22,467	25,383	47,850	20,034	15,350	35,384	0	0	0
Public Facilities Authority	15,683	5,646	21,329	12,597	5,639	18,236	18,769	8,300	27,069	0	0	0
Jobs, Commerce, Ag and Housing	**30,888**	**22,016**	**52,904**	**35,064**	**31,022**	**66,086**	**38,803**	**23,650**	**62,453**	**0**	**0**	**0**

Clean Water (2302)

($ in thousands)	Actual 2022	Actual 2023	Biennium 2022-23	Actual 2024	Actual 2025	Biennium 2024-25	NOV 25 Fcst 2026	NOV 25 Fcst 2027	Biennium 2026-27	NOV 25 Fcst 2028	NOV 25 Fcst 2029	Biennium 2028-29
Legislature	9	1	10	4	1	5	17	0	17	0	0	0
State Government and Veterans	**9**	**1**	**10**	**4**	**1**	**5**	**17**	**0**	**17**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Expenditures	**130,881**	**134,392**	**265,273**	**159,533**	**184,760**	**344,292**	**244,883**	**157,376**	**402,259**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Transfers To Other Funds:												
Transfer Out to Special Revenue	1,113	47	1,159	5,247	8,138	13,385	1,925	1,925	3,850	0	0	0
Total Transfers to Other Funds	**1,113**	**47**	**1,159**	**5,247**	**8,138**	**13,385**	**1,925**	**1,925**	**3,850**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Total Uses	**131,993**	**134,439**	**266,432**	**164,780**	**192,897**	**357,677**	**246,808**	**159,301**	**406,109**	**0**	**0**	**0**
Balance Before Reserves	**84,420**	**123,138**	**123,138**	**132,837**	**102,542**	**102,542**	**13,322**	**14,858**	**14,858**	**178,106**	**344,418**	**344,418**
Budgetary Balance	**84,420**	**123,138**	**123,138**	**132,837**	**102,542**	**102,542**	**13,322**	**14,858**	**14,858**	**178,106**	**344,418**	**344,418**

Clean Water Fund Availability - November 2025 Forecast

Minnesota Management and Budget

12/4/2025

($ thousands)

	November 2025		
	FY26	**FY27**	
Unobligated Carry Forward from Prior Year	360	7,512	
Obligated Carryforward from Prior Year	102,182	-	
Sales Tax Receipt Forecast	150,231	154,976	
Investment Income & Other Revenue	7,355	5,859	
Other Revenue	2	2	
Total Resources	*260,131*	*168,348*	
Total Uses	*246,807*	*159,301*	
Budgetary Balance	13,324	9,047	
Required 5% Reserve	(7,512)	(7,749)	**Biennium**
Amount Available to Appropriate	**5,812**	**1,299**	**7,111**

EOS 2025 to November 2025 Forecast Changes

November Forecast FY26/27 Available	7,111
EOS Forecast FY26/27 Available	1,417
Change	**5,694**

	EOS Forecast			November Forecast			*Change*		
	FY25	**FY26**	**FY27**	**FY25**	**FY26**	**FY27**	***FY25***	***FY26***	***FY27***
Reserve Carryforward			7,625			7,512	*-*	*-*	*(113)*
Prior Period Adjustment	(10,475)	-	-	8,694	-	-	*19,169*	*-*	*-*
Sales Use Taxes	145,824	152,500	158,808	144,074	150,231	154,976	*(1,750)*	*(2,269)*	*(3,832)*
Interest Earnings	7,439	2,367	1,804	9,827	7,355	5,859	*2,388*	*4,988*	*4,055*
All Other Revenue	2	2	2	8	2	2	*6*	*-*	*-*
Net Loan Activity*	(5)	-	-	-	-	-	*5*	*-*	*-*
All Uses	277,821	144,625	159,301	192,897	246,807	159,301	*(84,924)*	*102,182*	*-*
5% Reserve		(7,625)	(7,940)		(7,512)	(7,749)	*-*	*113*	*192*
Total Change Per Fiscal Year							***104,742***	***(99,349)***	***301***
Total Availability Change									***5,694***

*Not normally on fund statement; was expected in FY25 but never occurred per SWIFT data, so was removed.

Clean Water Legacy Partners Program Review

Presented to the Clean Water Council

December 15, 2025

Saint Paul, Minnesota

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Introductions

Ara Gallo
Tribal/NGO Grants Specialist (BWSR)

Melissa Sjolund
Tribal/NGO Grants Specialist (BWSR)

Jennifer Tonko
Executive Director, Clean River Partners

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

CLEAN RIVER PARTNERS

Agenda

1. Program history
2. Progress to date
3. Benefits of expanding partnerships
4. Partner highlight: Clean River Partners
5. The future of Clean Water Legacy Partners

Program History

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.

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

Applicant Eligibility

shutterstock.com (1247512159)

Non-Governmental Organizations

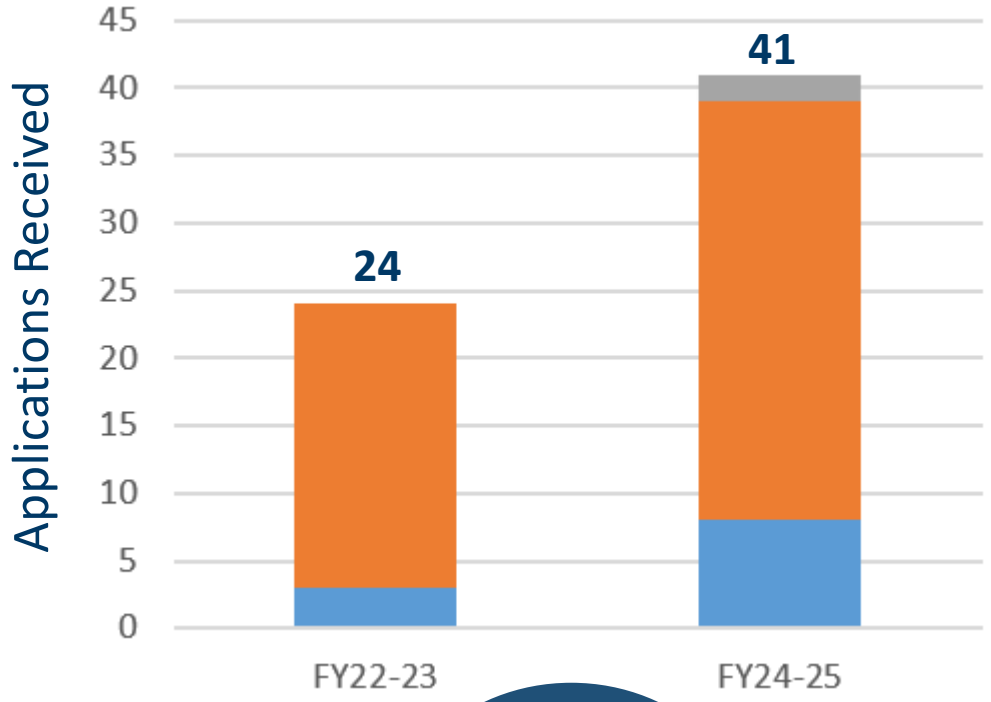
Tribal Governments and Organizations

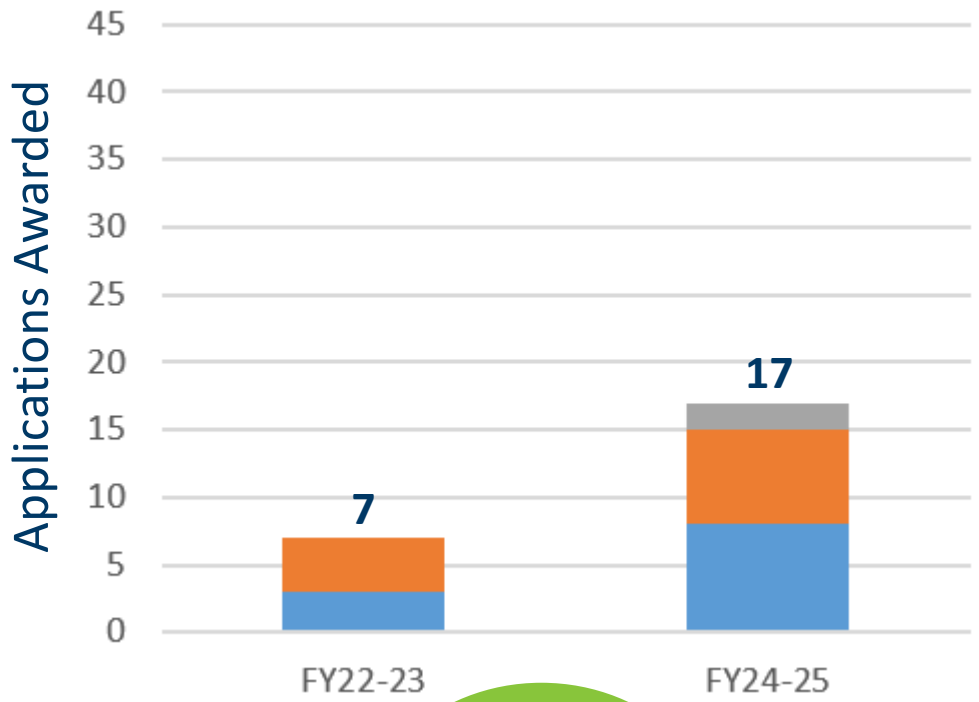
Grant Funds Available

Appropriation Year	Tribal	NGO	Watershed Districts	Total
FY 22/23	$500,000	$500,000	0	$1,000,000
FY 24/25	$1,125,000	$1,125,000	$450,000	$2,700,000
FY 26/27*	$400,000	$400,000	0	$800,000
Totals	**$2,025,000**	**$2,025,000**	**$450,000**	**$4,500,000**

* FY26/27 RFP anticipated launch in February 2026

Applications and Awards to Date





65
Applications

Tribal 11 awards

NGO 11 awards

WD* 2 awards

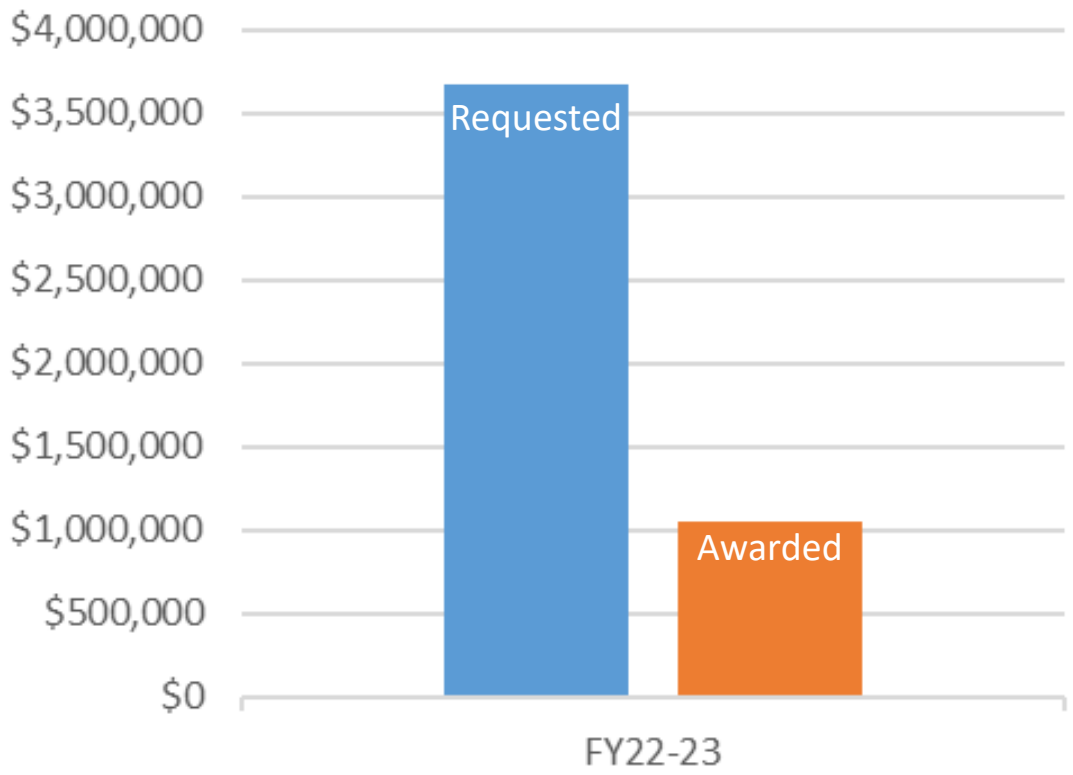
24
Awards

*Watershed Districts were only eligible in FY 24/25

FY2022-23 Awards

24 applications, 7 awards

Grant Type	Grantee	Grant Award
NGO	Clean River Partners	$128,519
NGO	Spark-Y: Youth Action Labs	$249,965
NGO	Upper Red Lake Area Association	$92,600
NGO	Briggs Lake Chain Association	$55,290
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$30,000
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	$250,000
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	$250,000
	Total Requested	**$3,667,243**
	Total Awarded	**$1,056,374 ***



* An additional $56,374 in returned grant funds was authorized to completely fund projects

FY2024-25 Awards

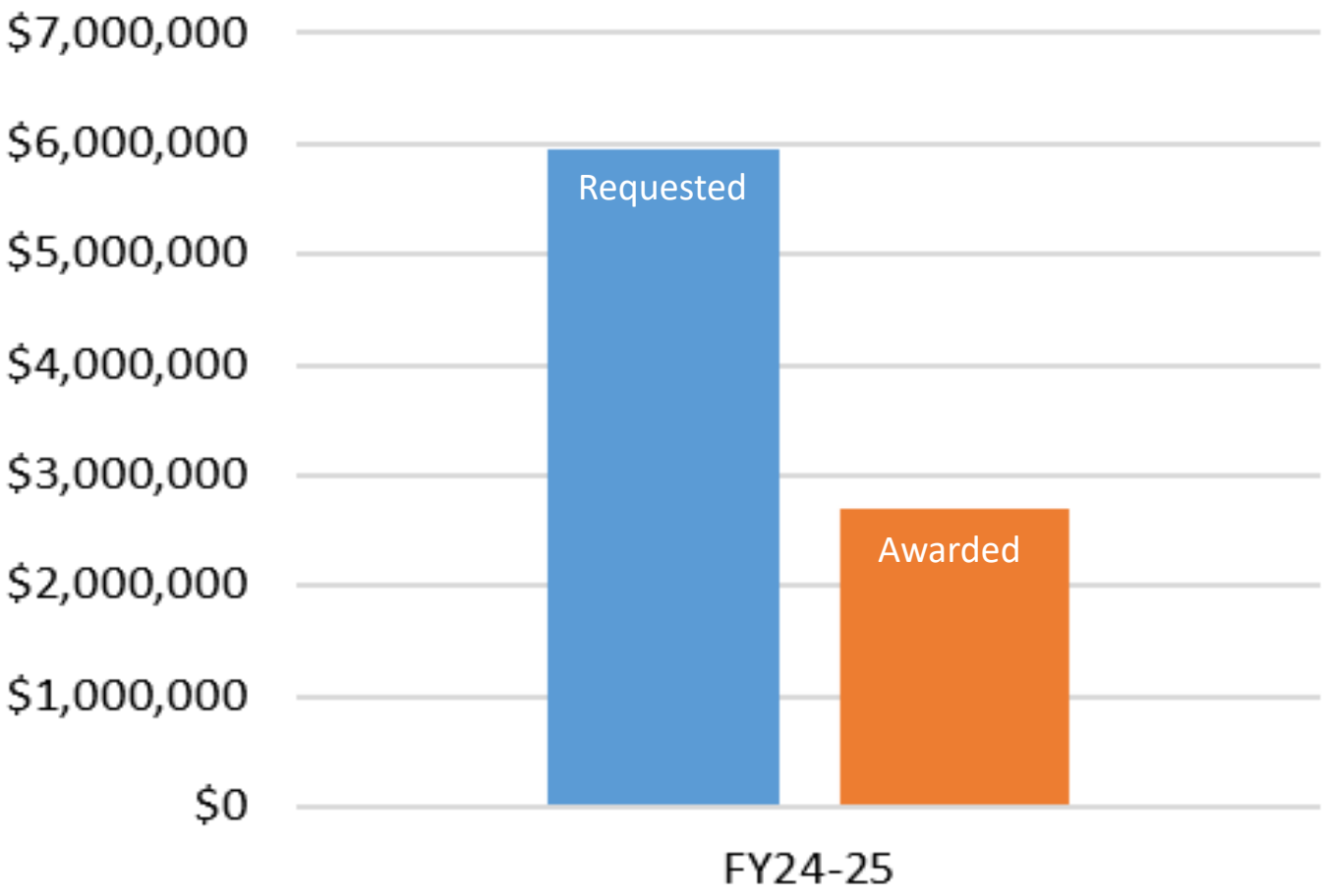
41 applications, 17 awards

Grant Type	Grantee	Grant Award
NGO	City of Lakes Community Land Trust	$193,525
NGO	More than Monarchs for Minnesota	$121,500
NGO	Clean River Partners	$250,000
NGO	East Phillips Neighborhood Institute	$218,000
NGO	Lida Lake Property Owners Assoc.	$57,000
NGO	Lower Phalen Creek	$250,000
NGO	Upper Red Lake Area Association	$75,000

Grant Type	Grantee	Grant Award
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$53,727
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$50,000
Tribal	Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe	$90,000
Tribal	Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa	$240,000
Tribal	Upper Sioux Community	$139,150
Tribal	Red Lake Nation	$250,000
WD	Comfort Lake-Forest Lake WD	$225,800
WD	South Washington WD	$250,000

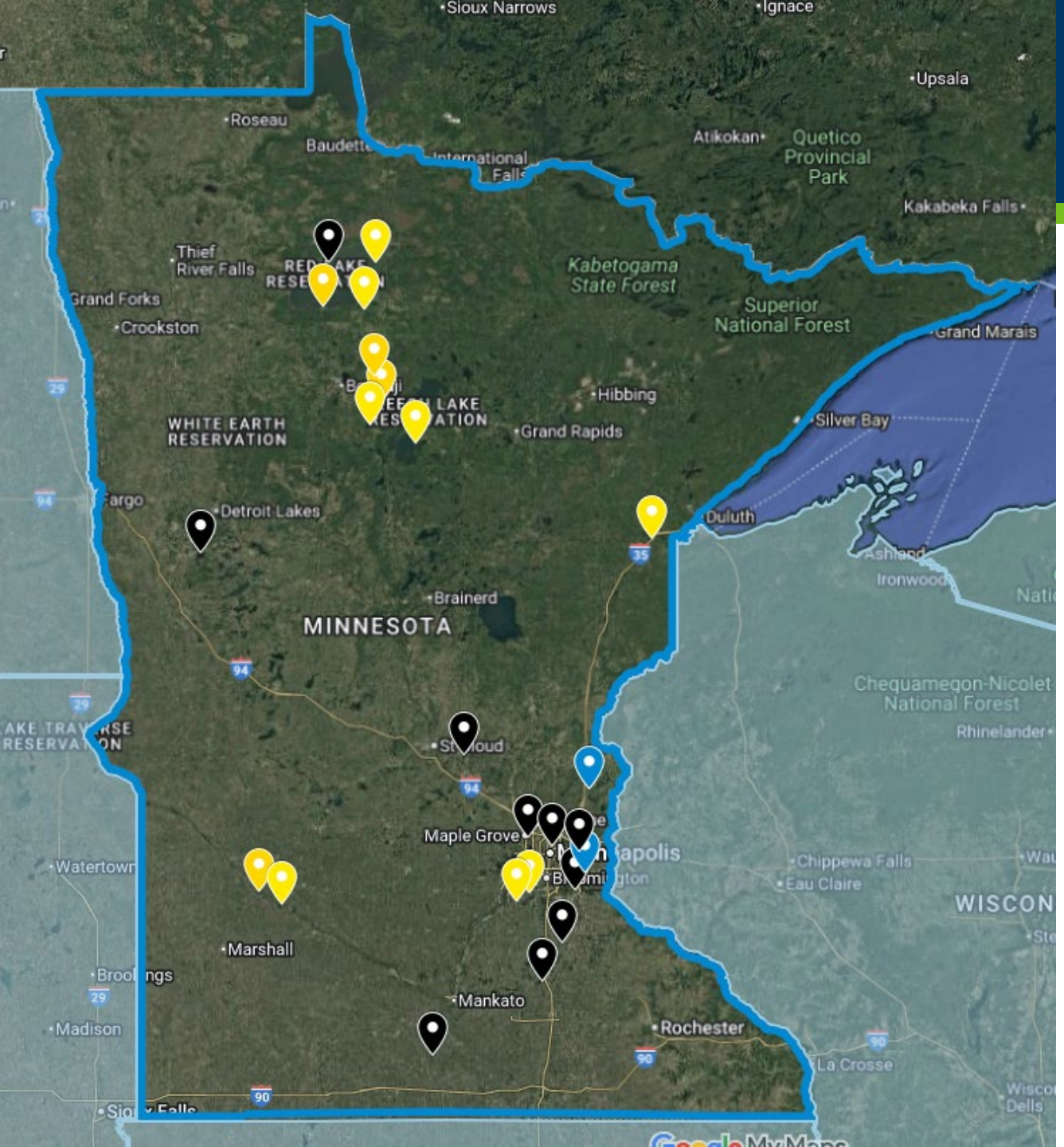
FY2024-25 Awards

41 applications, 17 awards



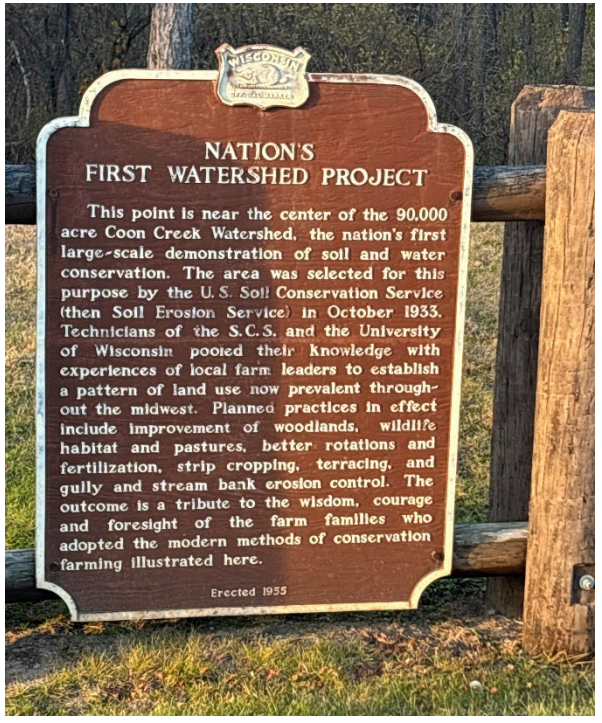
Total Requested	$5,960,196
Total Awarded	$2,700,000

Funded
Clean Water Legacy Partners
Projects



Legend

- Tribal
- NGOs
- Watershed Districts



Types of Projects Funded

- Green infrastructure/Stormwater BMPs (6)
- Keep it Clean (2)
- Lakes and streams (restoration & protection) (6)
- Agriculture conservation (agroforestry/cover crops/prescribed grazing) (3)
- Nutrient reduction study (3)
- Restoration engineering design (1)
- Street sweeping (2)
- Carp Removal (1)

24

Clean Water Legacy Partners Projects (2023-2025)

Spark-Y: Youth Action Labs

Rain Garden Installation & Youth Outreach

Award Amount: $249,965 (FY22-23)
Project Location: Northeast Minneapolis
Water Resource: Mississippi River

- Urban stormwater practices (rain garden, cistern, swale)
- Youth workforce development (Design, installation, maintenance)
- Interactive/educational art

Upper Red Lake Area Association

Keep it Clean

Award Amounts: $92,600 (FY22-23)
$75,000 (FY24-25)

Project Location: Beltrami County

Water Resource: Red Lake

- Waste collection
- Workshops
- Outreach campaign
- Shoreline cleanup

City of Lakes Community Land Trust
Residential Tree and Rain Garden Installations

Award Amount: $193,525
Project Location: North Minneapolis
Water Resource: Bassett Creek, Mississippi River

- Install rain gardens and other BMPs
- Plant pollinator habitat and trees
- Resident workshops (rain garden maintenance, smart salting, etc.)

Lida Lake Property Owners Association
Comprehensive Lakeshed Assessment

Award Amount: $57,000 (FY24-25)
Project Location: Otter Tail County
Water Resource: Lake Lida

- Comprehensive lakeshed assessment
- Phosphorus budget and lake response model
- Target sites for future project implementation (agricultural practices, septic improvements, shoreline stabilization)

Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community
Street Sweeper and Pike Lake Restoration Design

Award Amounts: $85,000 (Pike Lake, FY24-25)
$183,150 (Sweeper, FY24-25)

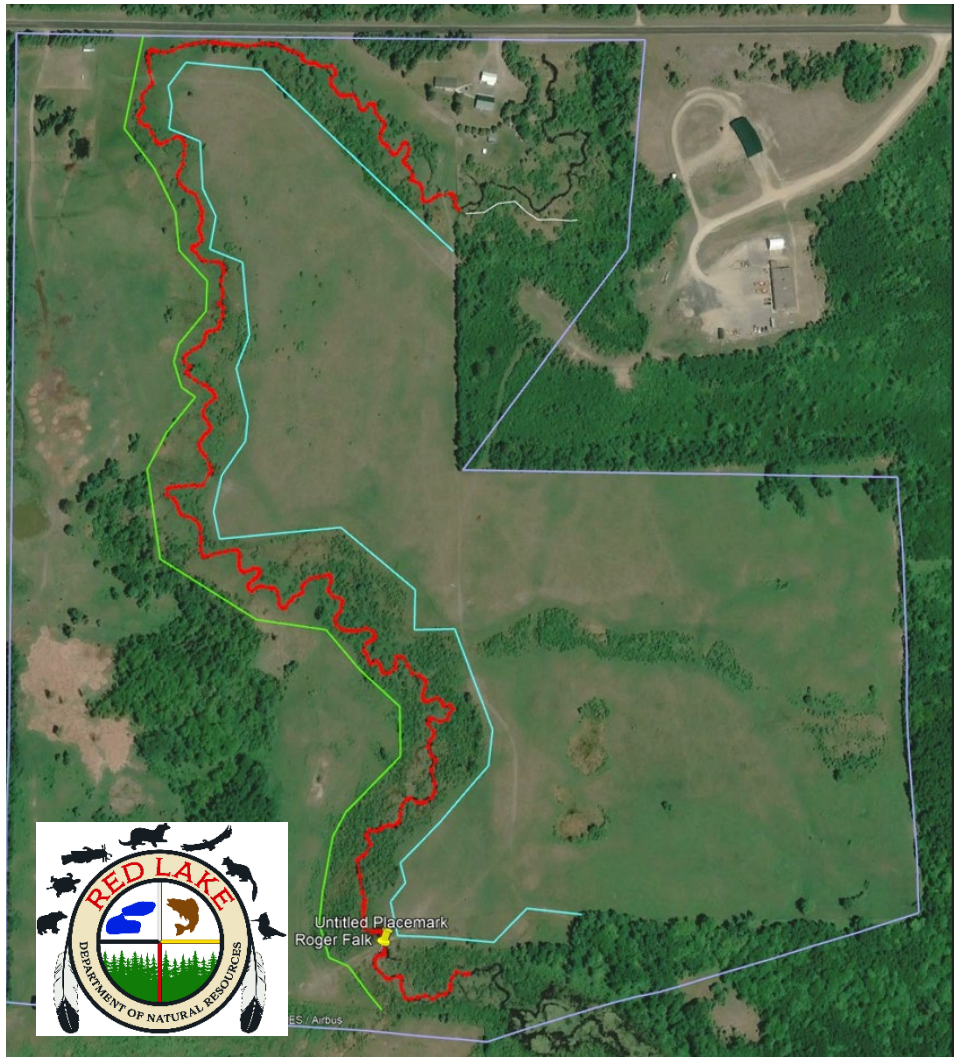
Project Location: Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community

Water Resources: Minnesota River, Prior Lake, Lower Sand Creek, Pike Lake, local groundwater/wetlands

- Develop engineering design to improve hydrology/circulation in East Pike Lake
- Street sweeper purchase (remove road salts, sediment, organics, and vehicle pollutants)
- Protect Psin (wild rice) from chloride

Red Lake Nation in partnership with Beltrami Co. SWCD

Blackduck & Cormorant River Watershed Cattle Access Pilot



Award Amount:
$250,000
Project Location:
Beltrami County
Water Resource:
Blackduck and Cormorant Rivers

- Reduce sedimentation
- Protect/revegetate streambanks
- Install prescribed grazing systems
- Public outreach and cost share programs
- Protect sturgeon spawning habitat

Expanding Partnerships for Clean Water

What makes CWLP unique?

- Makes Clean Water Funds accessible to organizations who traditionally were not eligible for other BWSR programs
- Able to directly support small scale, local projects
- One of the few BWSR programs available to both Tribal Organizations and NGOs
- Provides a high level of grantee relationship building and support throughout the entire process (with dedicated BWSR NGO/Tribal Grant Specialists!)

CLEAN WATER LAND & LEGACY AMENDMENT

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

NGO/Tribal Grants Specialists

New BWSR positions provide:

- ✓ Program management
- ✓ Program growth
- ✓ Communications planning
- ✓ Goal setting
- ✓ Relationship building
- ✓ Outreach and support
- ✓ Help making CWLP and other BWSR programs accessible to Tribes/NGOs

Benefits of Tribal and NGO Partnerships

- Expand the impacts of the Clean Water Fund across Minnesota
- Accelerate progress towards water quality goals
- Local economic impact
- Support Clean Water Council's Strategic Plan Vision: ***All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it***
    - Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources
    - Support local efforts to engage farmers in water quality efforts
    - Support local efforts to engage lakeshore property owners and private landowners

Benefits of Tribal and NGO Partnerships

- Added capacity for clean water work
- Local and traditional expertise
- Innovative partnerships
- Community trust and engagement
- Long-term stewardship and support
- Reach new communities

CLEAN RIVER PARTNERS

Growing and Connecting Farmer Networks

Jennifer Tonko | Executive Director

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Who is Clean River Partners

- Focused on the Cannon River Watershed
- Our members donate to fuel our mission and define our strategic priorities
- Our major program areas are habitat protection and restoration, conservation agriculture adoption, and community engagement

Projects Overview

- Purpose: Protect priority subwatersheds by supporting conservation agriculture that reduces nutrient load and improves water quality
- Method: Build relationships with key farmer constituencies and connect them to a full suite of practice supports—education, technical assistance, cost sharing, peer leadership, and certification pathways
- Award Budgets:

  FY2023 = $128,519

  FY2025 = $250,000

What are we doing?

Our projects address water-quality challenges by accelerating conservation practice adoption and strengthening farmer networks

- Support cover crops key subwatersheds
- Recruit farmers into the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program
- Educate new and small-scale farmers about the Agroforestry Poultry System
- Connect farmers to each other

Outcomes to Date

- 900+ acres of cover crops in 2024, 1300+ acres in 2025
- 22+ farmers applied to MAWQCP
- Educated 94 new and small-scale farmers about the Agroforestry Poultry System
- 39 farmers connected at Growing Resilience capstone event

Why this project and this program?

- CRP is working to build the capacity of our watershed's agricultural sector to adopt conservation practices that address nitrate, sediment, and climate risks
- Our work begins with farmer priorities and insights, allowing us to tailor outreach and supports in ways that increase adoption
- This program structure encourages aligned planning between nonprofits, SWCDs, and BWSR—ensuring that activities complement rather than duplicate other efforts.
- This program allows partners to implement the full behavior-change pathway: outreach→relationship-building→education→practice adoption→long-term stewardship

Why nonprofits?

- Nonprofits like CRP engage farmers, small-scale growers, community members, and emerging leaders who may not be reached through traditional SWCD or agency channels
- We also have ongoing programmatic partnerships with LGUs
- Our mission allows us to bridge watershed protection, community engagement, and climate resilience—supporting activities that are outside the statutory scope of LGUs but essential for durable outcomes

Why nonprofits?

- We can be nimble, integrating new activities into our workplans quickly, when those activities are supported
- Because we are rooted in ongoing community programs, we maintain relationships before, during, and after project funding—critical for long-term adoption

What makes this program work for nonprofits?

- It's flexible—a broad spectrum of activities are supported which allows partnerships at different points to apply for funding
- It's fast—timing from application to disbursement is about six months
- Payments up front make the program more accessible to a broader segment of the nonprofit landscape
- Strong and timely support from BWSR programmatic and financial oversight staff

Upcoming FY2027 Request for Proposal

Timing

- RFP in February 2026
- Award in early FY27

1) 90-day RFP
2) Multi-ag
3) Appli wed for eligib
4) Eligib ommended
5) Risk A
6) Finan
7) Work
8) Grant agreement executed
9) Project implementation

Informational webinar

Application assistance

New grantee webinar

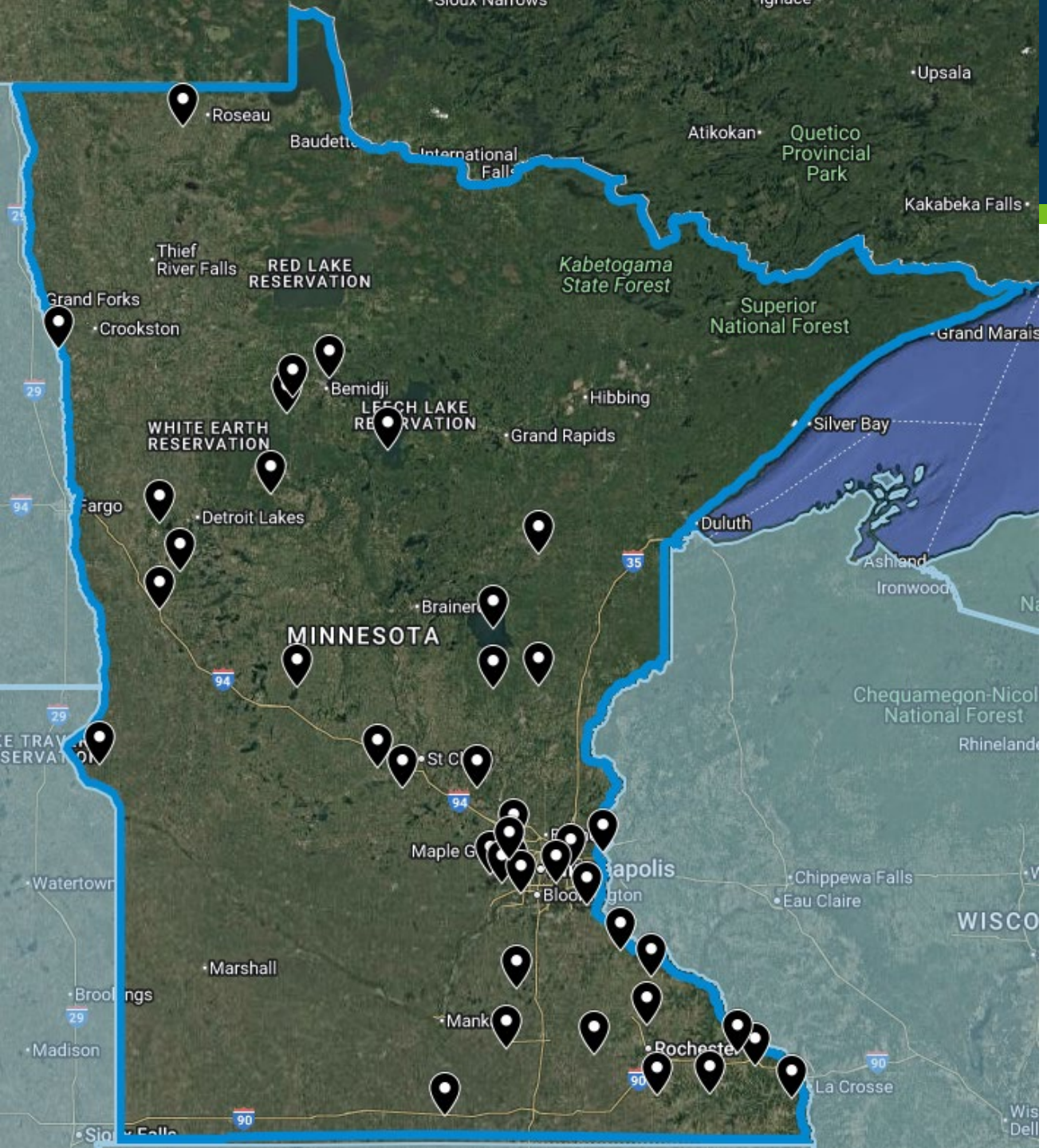
1-on-1 grant setup support (in person, with GCS)

Reporting webinar

The Future of Clean Water Legacy Partners

There are clear opportunities to further expand partnerships with both NGOs and Tribal Organizations.

- **41** NGO applications totaling **$5.9M** could not be funded in prior RFPs.
- **5** of **13** eligible Tribal Organizations have received CWLP funding; Tribal interest is growing, and we anticipate it will outpace available funds.



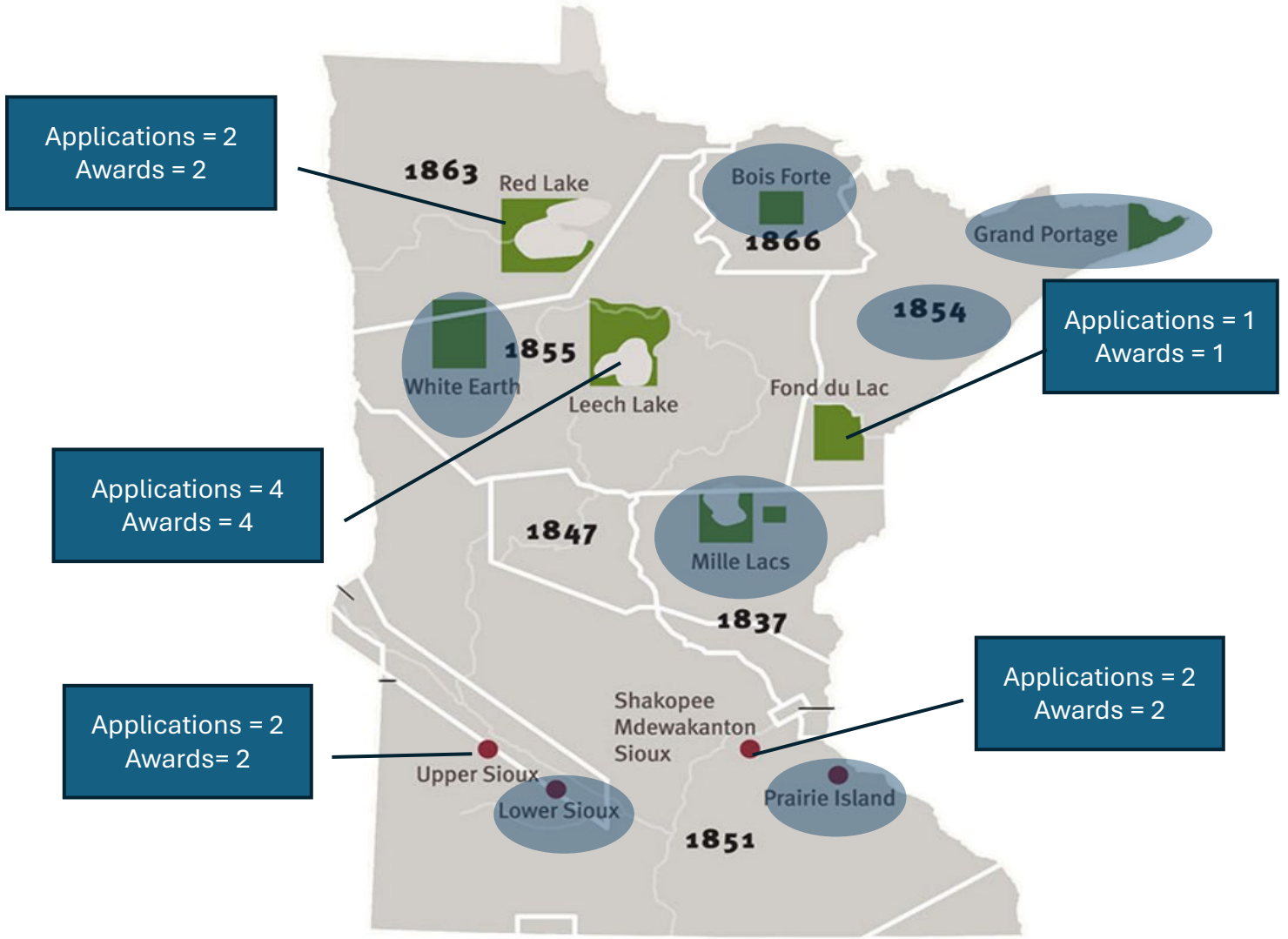
Locations of NGO Projects Not Funded

41
Applications
Not Funded

$5.9M
Remaining
Need

Otter Tail County-Otter Tail and Pelican Rivers	$250,000
Kanabec County-Ann Lake	$229,750
Faribault County-Bass Lake	$175,000
Mille Lacs County-Mississippi River	$239,602
Traverse County-Lake Traverse	$245,000
Sherburne County-Eagle Lake	$46,395
Ottertail County-Lida Lake	$91,760
Douglas County-Lake Osakis	$250,000
Roseau County-Roseau Lake	$149,500
Houston County-Mississippi River	$136,500
Goodhue County-Lake Pepin	$44,500
Hennepin County-Purgatory Creek	$219,631
Fillmore County-Root River	$211,900
Hennepin County-Harrison Bay	$117,000
Hennepin County-Sussex Pond	$35,000
Becker County-Shell River	$150,000
Beltrami County-Mississippi River	$125,720
Rice County-Hunt Lake	$23,200
Aitkin County-Sandy River	$25,000
Wabasha County-Mississippi River	$110,000

Tribal CWLP Grant Distribution



Opportunities for Growth: NGOs

Further program support for NGO partnerships will:

- ✓ Reach communities and water resources in all regions of the state
- ✓ Allow more Minnesotans to participate in clean water initiatives
- ✓ Support local economies
- ✓ Leverage new sources of funding

Opportunities for Growth: Tribal Organizations

Further program support for Tribal Partnerships will:

- ✓ Promote projects aligned with Tribal priorities
- ✓ Foster collaboration between Tribal governments and local government units
- ✓ Support Tribal capacity for water quality planning, project development, and implementation
- ✓ Create opportunities for Tribal grants by request

Thank you for your continued support!

- **65** Applications
- **5** Tribal Partners
- **10** NGO Partners
- **2** WD Partners
- **24** Projects funded totaling **$3,788,256**

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Questions?

Ara Gallo
NGO/Tribal Grants Specialist
ara.gallo@state.mn.us

Melissa Sjolund
NGO/Tribal Grants Specialist
melissa.sjolund@state.mn.us

Jennifer Tonko
Executive Director, Clean River Partners
Jennifer@cleanriverpartners.org

BWSR FY26/27 Grant Appropriation-$157,400,000

Tribal Entities are eligible for ten BWSR grant programs

Clean Water Legacy Fund share-0.76% (Approximately)

Number of Awards FY23/26	Amount Awarded	Average Award	Cost Differential	Approx Average Project Cost FY27
24	$3,788,256	$157,844	20%	$189,412

Tribal Request-Thirteen Tribal entities

- Average project cost $200,000
    - Allows for higher cost
    - Request for RFI (non-competitive)
    - Allows more time for Tribal entities to implement projects
    - Funds thirteen projects every biennium
- Total amount for thirteen projects at average project cost-**$2,600,000**

NGO Request

- Average Project Cost $200,000
    - Allows for four projects per biennium at average project cost
    - Could fund additional projects if eligible applicants did not request average project cost
    - NGO's have dedicated grant funds for higher cost projects
- Total amount for four awards per biennium at average project cost-**$800,000**

Total-$3,400,000

BWSR Administration (10%)-$340,000

Total for FY27/28

$3,740,000

Total-$3,740,000

$3,740,000 is 2.3% of BWSR Grant Allocation

Homework: KPI Dashboard Review

Prep work for the December 15, 2025 Clean Water Council Meeting

Staff from across several agencies have been working with Council members through the Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) to develop Key Performance Indicators (KPI) for the Clean Water Fund. These indicators would be available as a quick reference for Council members to use, providing a snapshot of current conditions and progress to date towards Strategic Plan goals. These are also intended for public use on the Council website.

With 92 measures in the Strategic Plan, agency staff and Council members have worked to whittle down to a smaller number while adding in some content not in the Strategic Plan that would provide helpful insights. This is not meant to replace the Clean Water Fund Performance Report. A number of the indicators do come from there, but many do not. This is intended as a companion that can offer a quick glimpse when needed.

The slide deck is divided into Outcomes and Outputs, and organized by the four pillars of the Strategic Plan. You will note the pillar as the slide title as well as a trend arrow and status indicator at the top of the slide. The first blue box in the body of the slide includes the question we are trying to better understand. The lower blue box includes explanatory information for the image on the right, which can be a map, chart, or otherwise. Links for further information are at the bottom.

In the December Clean Water Council Meeting, we will not have time to look at each of the slides individually. Conversation will focus on whether the selected indicators provide sufficient information to serve as that quick glimpse. In order to keep conversation focused and out of the weeds in the Council meeting, **members are requested to review the slides in advance, responding to the following prompts**:

- What is resonating with you? What are you finding helpful?
- What changes or improvements would you encourage?
- Are there specific resources you would want a link to on any of the slides?

Please keep in mind that these indicators are still being developed. We are in a draft stage and these are not final products. Full Council feedback at this time allows us to make sure that any additional work is done with Council preferences in mind.

Please email your feedback to Jen Kader for consolidation by EOD Wednesday, December 17. Responses will then be summarized and shared with both the Budget and Outcomes Committee as well as the staff working to develop the indicators.

Outcomes KPIs

Status box

KL0

Status

- Water quality is high – we are on track to meet long-term water resource needs and citizen expectations
- Water quality needs improvement or it is too early to assess – it is unclear if we will meet long-term water resource needs and citizen expectations; and/or water quality varies greatly between regions
- Water quality is under intense pressure – long-term water resource needs and/ or citizen expectations exceed current efforts to meet them

Trend

- Improving
- Stable
- Degrading

Slide 2

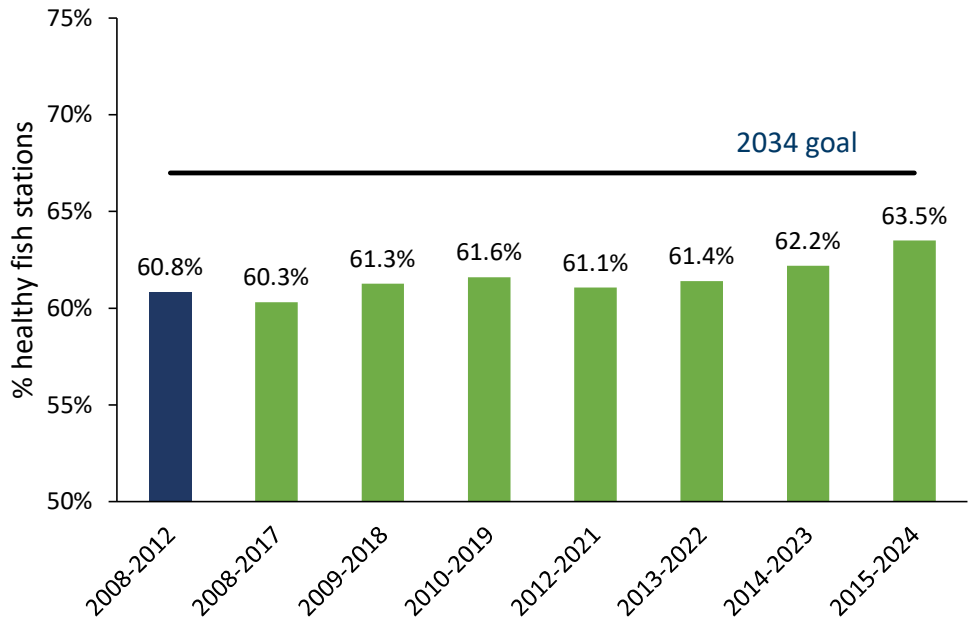
KL0 How does this sound for status and trend? These are pulled from the performance report.
Laing, Kimberly (She/Her/Hers) , 2025-12-01T16:13:13.362

SK0

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable?

Percentage of rivers and streams meeting healthy fish community values reach 67 percent by 2034.



For further information: *LINK*

Slide 3

SK0 For now, I think this is OK. I realize that additional explanatory text will be required when it comes time to publish.

Consider adding a note explaining the justification for the goal of 67%. Why not a goal of 100%? Seems like a question people might have.

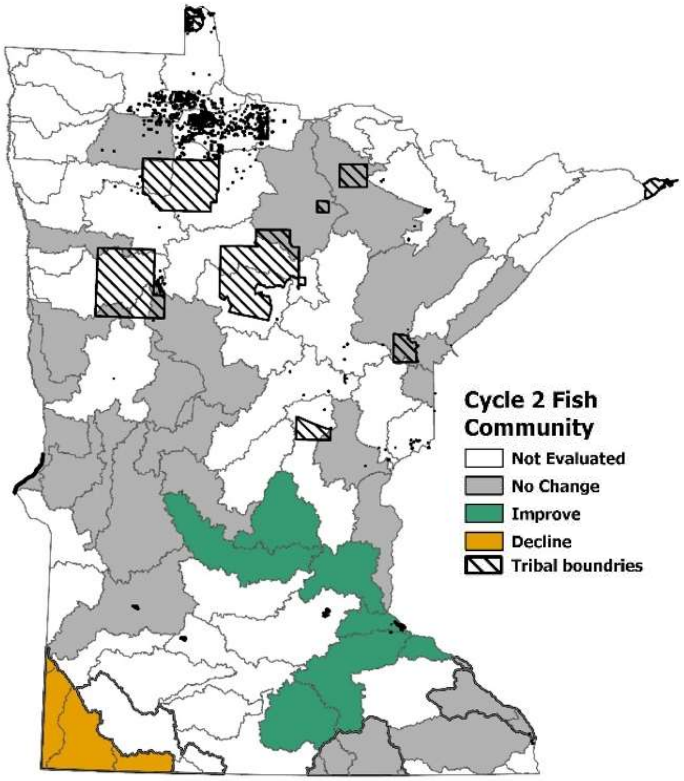
Kloiber, Steve, 2025-12-01T16:16:28.886

SKO

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable?

Fish IBI scores were compared at 702 monitoring stations across 37 major watersheds. On average, F-IBI scores increased by 1.5 (0-100 scale). These results are statistically significant and are indicative of improving ecological condition of Minnesota's rivers and streams



For further information: *LINK*

Slide 4

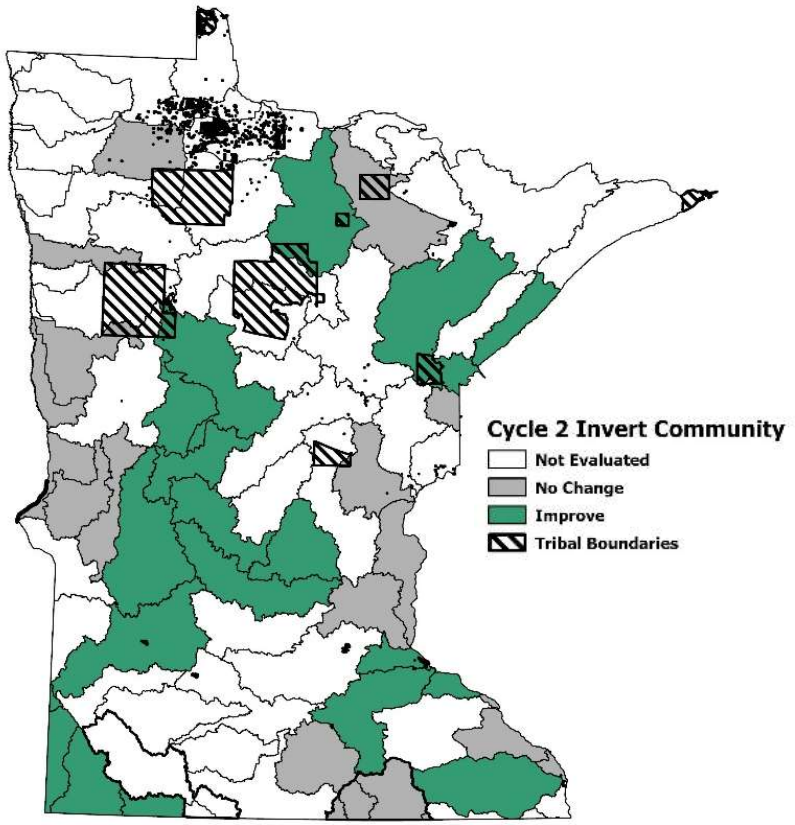
SK0 The text on this slide refers to both the fish and the macroinvert IBI, but the data for the M-IBI is on the next slide. This is fine for discussion of the concepts, but when it comes to actual presentation, it would probably be better to combine these into one page/slide.

Kloiber, Steve, 2025-12-01T16:20:04.572

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable?

Macroinvertebrate scores (M-IBI) was compared at 676 stations across 37 major watersheds. On average, M-IBI scores increased by 6.3 points(0-100 scale). These results are statistically significant and are indicative of improving ecological condition of Minnesota's rivers and streams

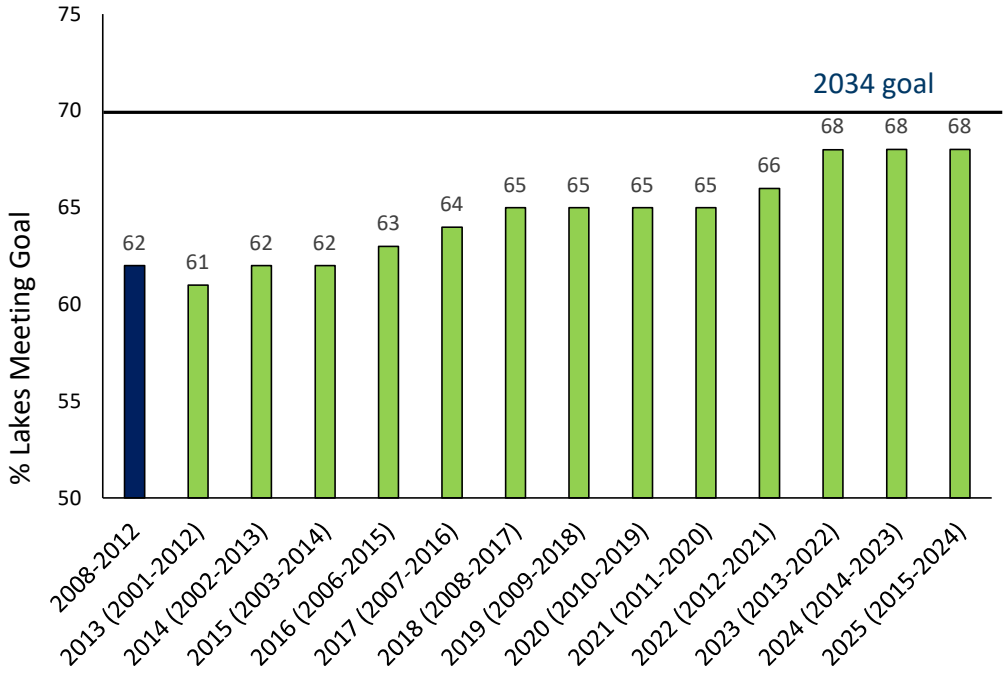


For further information: *LINK*

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters swimmable?

Percentage of lakes meeting goal for recreation activities reaches 70 percent by 2034.



For further information: *LINK*

SK0

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

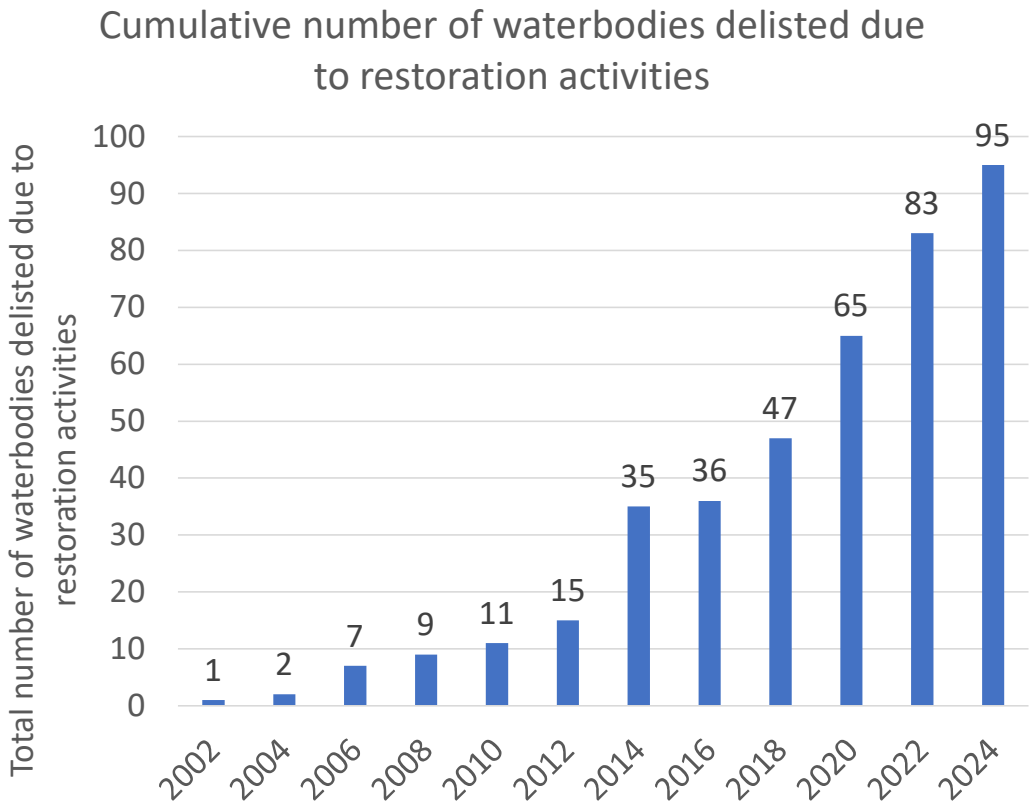
Are MN waters improving?

95 waterbodies

now meeting standards for one or more impairments due to restoration

47 waterbodies

completely restored – no longer impaired for any parameter



For further information: *LINK*

Slide 7

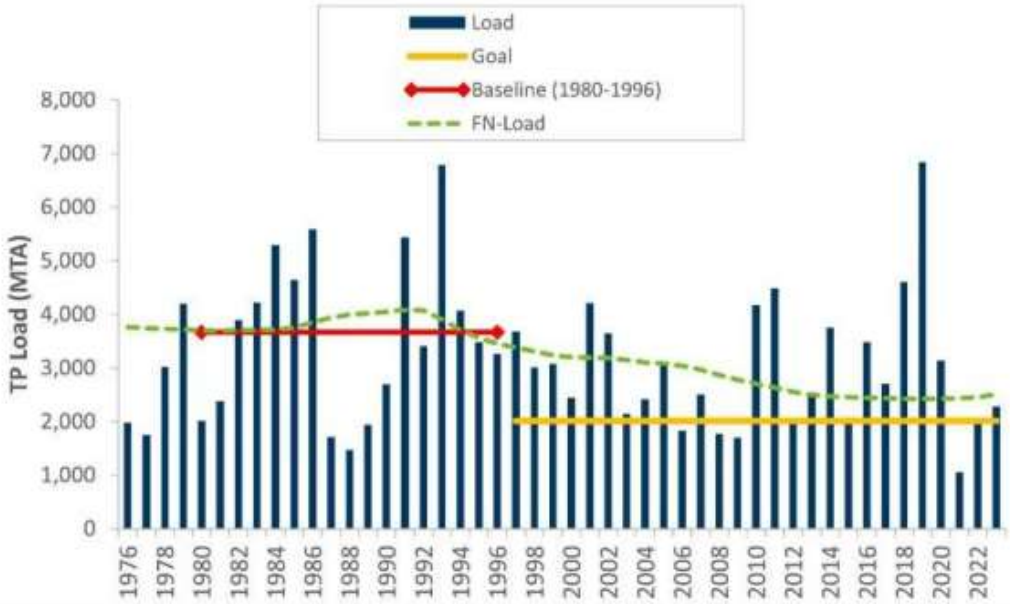
SK0 Fine for a discussion of the concepts. For publication, this would benefit from a little context. We might want to consider noting the total number of impairments. What percentage of the total number is this? I realize this could be a sticky problem.

Kloiber, Steve, 2025-12-01T16:24:46.671

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters improving?

Total Phosphorus annual loads (dark blue bars) and FN-loads (green dashed line) at Red Wing (1976–2023), showing a 32% reduction since the 1980–1996 baseline

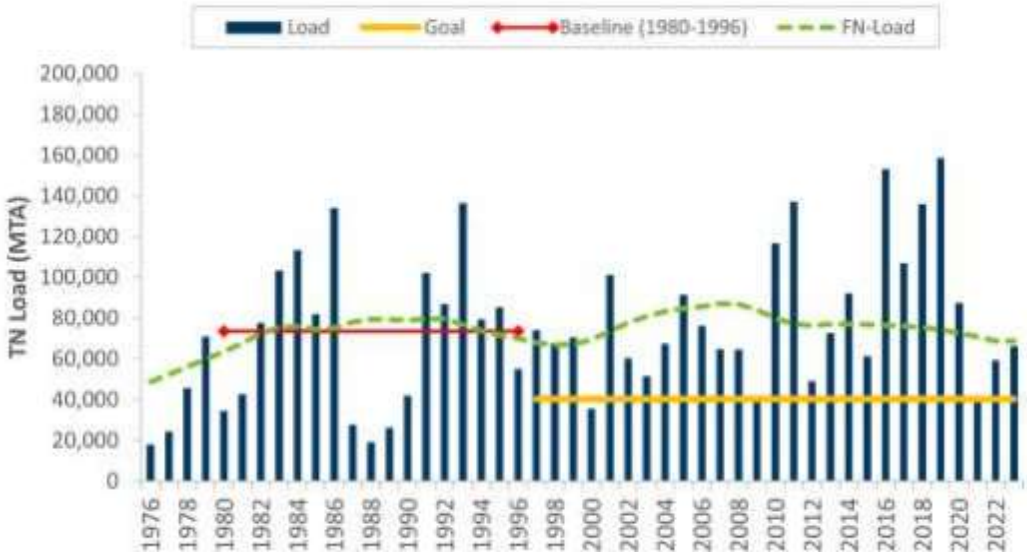


For further information: *LINK*

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters improving?

Mississippi River Total Nitrogen annual loads (dark blue bars) and FN-load trend line (green dashed line) at Lock and Dam 3 (Red Wing), 1976–2023. Mississippi River TN annual loads vary greatly from year to year as precipitation and river flows increase and decrease. Except for two low-flow years (2000 and 2009), the TN loads have remained above the goal in the Mississippi River.



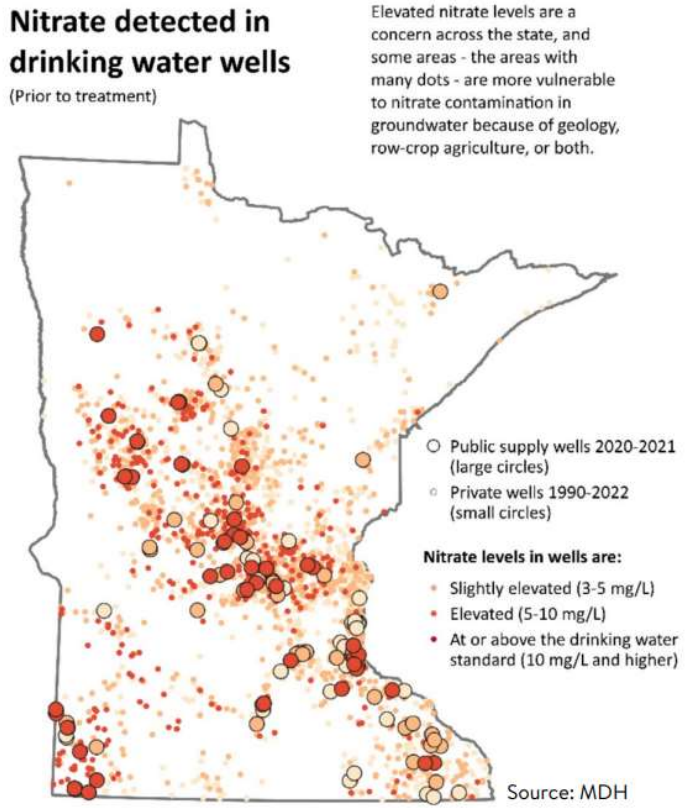
For further information: [Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]

SJ0

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

MAP: Nitrate detected in private drinking water wells. Concentration, trend?



For further information:
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/contaminants/nitrate.html

Slide 10

SJ0 MDA's volunteer private well networks could be used to show N trends. They are long-term and funded by CWF but they are regional (SE & Central Sands). This work is tracked in our "Nitrate monitoring and reduction by local partners" measure. But our program reports show the data/trends.
https://www.mda.state.mn.us/characterizing-nitrate-private-drinking-water-wells
Schaust, Jen (MDA), 2025-12-01T18:00:15.516

ET0 0 I would prefer to use MDA's volunteer network as that better represents what people are drinking. The new well construction data, when used alone, does not show nitrate in pre-code wells.
Eshenaur, Tannie (MDH), 2025-12-02T22:49:34.749

AO0 1 Frieda agreed with Tannie that this is not a good indicator of change in nitrate concentration or impact of CWF dollars. She suggested these from the CWC strategic plan:
- Public water suppliers at Level 1 or Level 2 under the GPR do not exceed the drinking water standard for nitrate by 2034
- Nitrate levels declining in 100% of public water wells by 2030. (not sure how feasible this one is)
- Nitrate levels declining in private well testing by 2034. I assume the NVMN and Central Sands network could be proxies for this?

Or from the Drinking Water Action Plan: 1.1e: Implement the Groundwater Protection Rule in DWSMAs with nitrate concentrations above defined thresholds.
Overbo, Alycia (She/Her/Hers) (, 2025-12-03T15:29:59.571

KL0 2 I appreciate your information and expertise in this. Can you all make the changes that you recommend?
Laing, Kimberly (She/Her/Hers) , 2025-12-04T16:32:25.091

AO0 3 It looks like Jen is out today - I added a slide below with the trend graphs from the link she highlighted. Not sure if we should hide it so Jen can see it before we share with the BOC? Not sure what she and Margaret decided about this measure.
Overbo, Alycia (She/Her/Hers) (, 2025-12-04T17:04:58.449

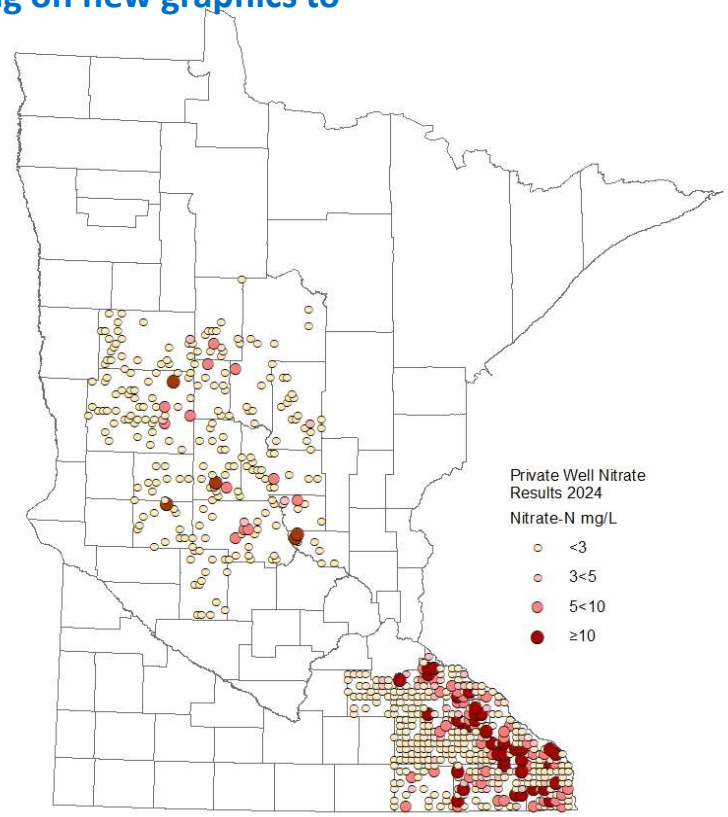
SJ0 4 Thanks Alycia! We may have graphs that go to 2018 I can add. Also a quick state map to show the regions. Do we still have time to make edits?
Schaust, Jen (MDA), 2025-12-04T18:40:12.278

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

MDA's long-term volunteer private well monitoring networks showing the 2024 nitrate-nitrogen results in the southeast and Central Sands regions.

Staff are working on new graphics to share this data.



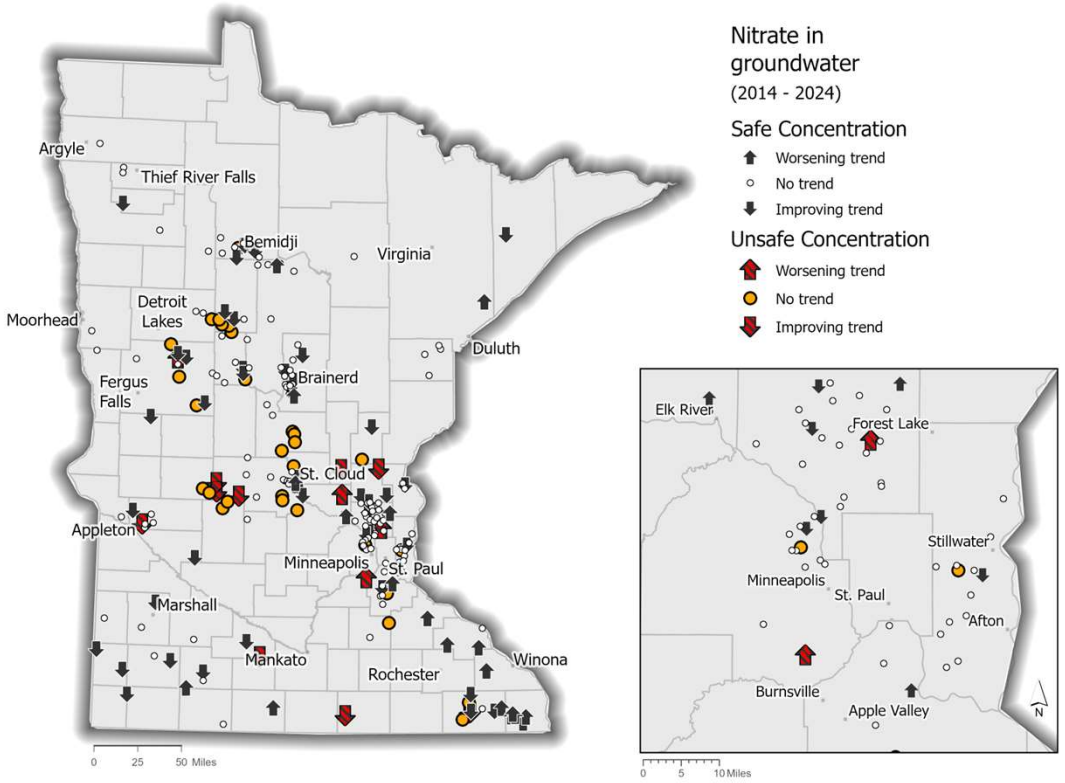
For further information:
https://www.mda.state.mn.us/characterizing-nitrate-private-drinking-water-wells

SK0

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean?

MAP: Nitrate Concentration, trend?



For further information: [The Condition of Minnesota's Groundwater Quality, 2018-2023]

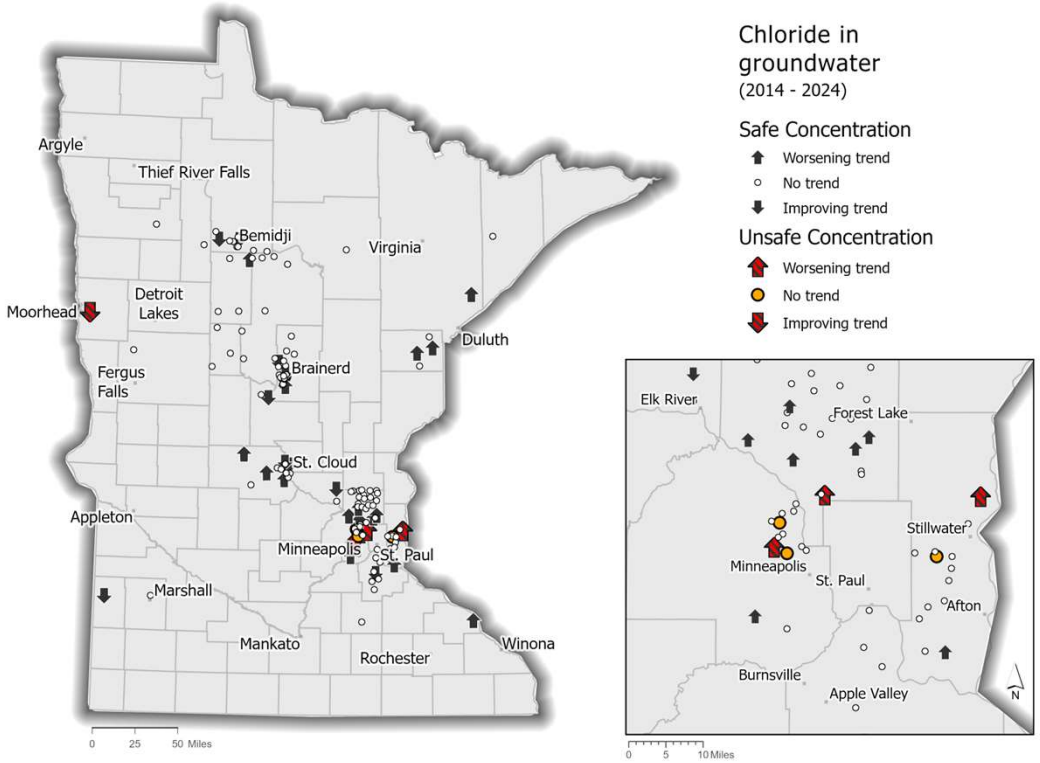
Slide 12

SK0 The nitrate concentration data on this slide and the previous slide are not trend data. I think it's fine to include them, but we might want to consider a different symbol for status metrics like these.
Kloiber, Steve, 2025-12-01T16:39:08.744

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean?

Chloride



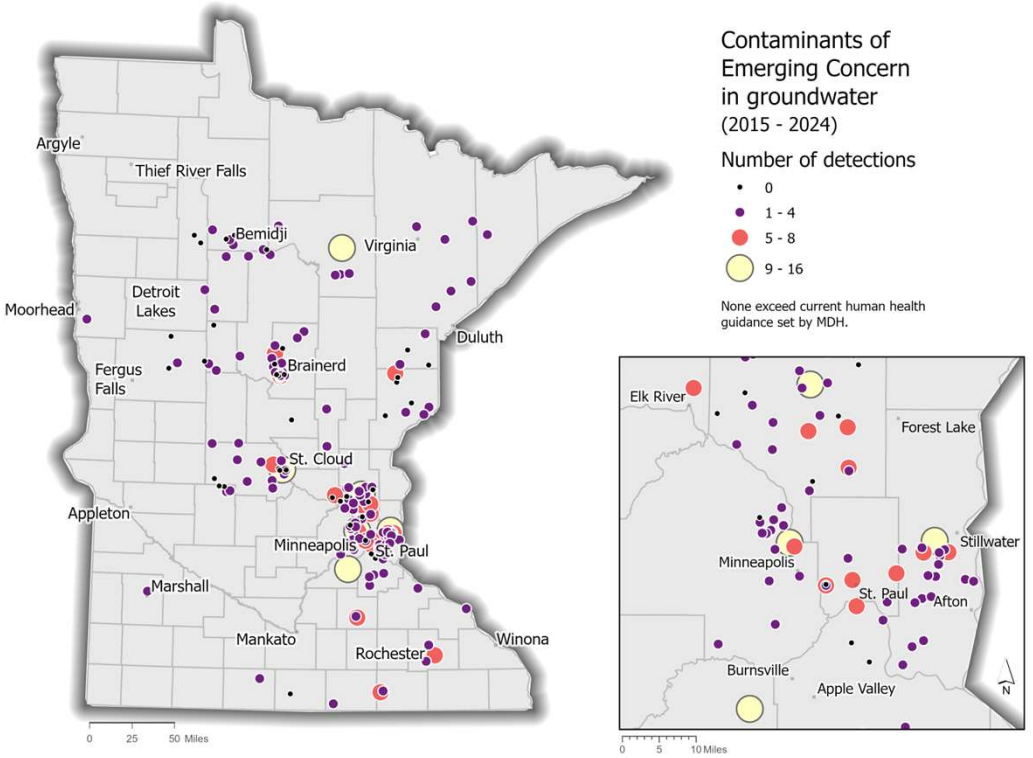
For further information: [The Condition of Minnesota's Groundwater Quality, 2018-2023]

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean?

MAP: CEC Concentration, trend?

Over 60 different chemicals were detected



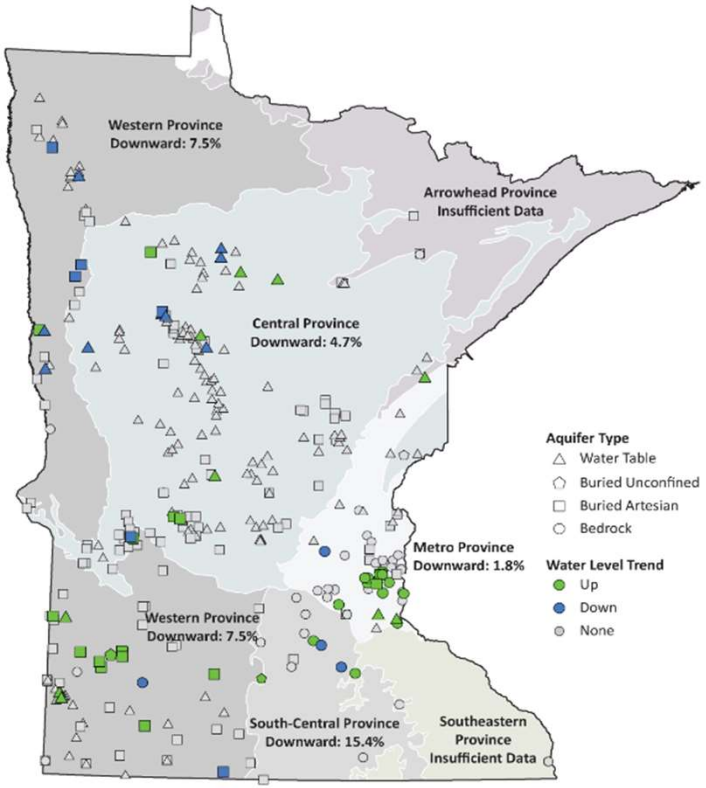
For further information: [The Condition of Minnesota's Groundwater Quality, 2018-2023]

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater available?

MAP: Monitoring wells have upward trend or no change in all six groundwater provinces.

- present in bar graph? By GW Provinces



For further information: *LINK*

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Do Minnesotan's value water?

Evaluation of We Are Water exhibit and its outreach.

We Are Water MN Survey Results

Awareness of water issues response options	% of respondents
I learned something new about our water resources	78%
I increased awareness regarding threats to our water resources	88%
I was exposed to a perspective different from my own regarding water resources	85%

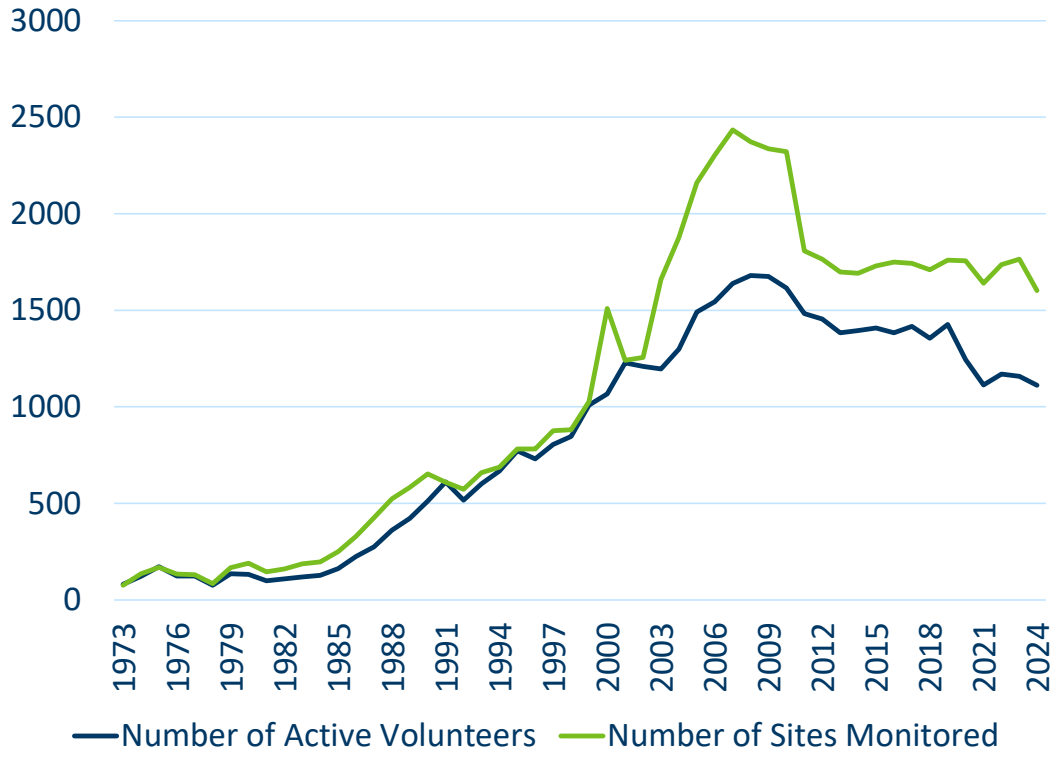
Willingness to adopt pro-environmental behaviors	% of respondents
I will change how I personally use water	80%
I will share what I learned with others	77%
I will get involved with local organizations working to protect water resources	47%

For further information: [We Are Water MN - Minnesota Humanities Center]

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Do Minnesotans value water?

MPCA Volunteer water monitoring program participation (using Secchi tube/disk) overtime.

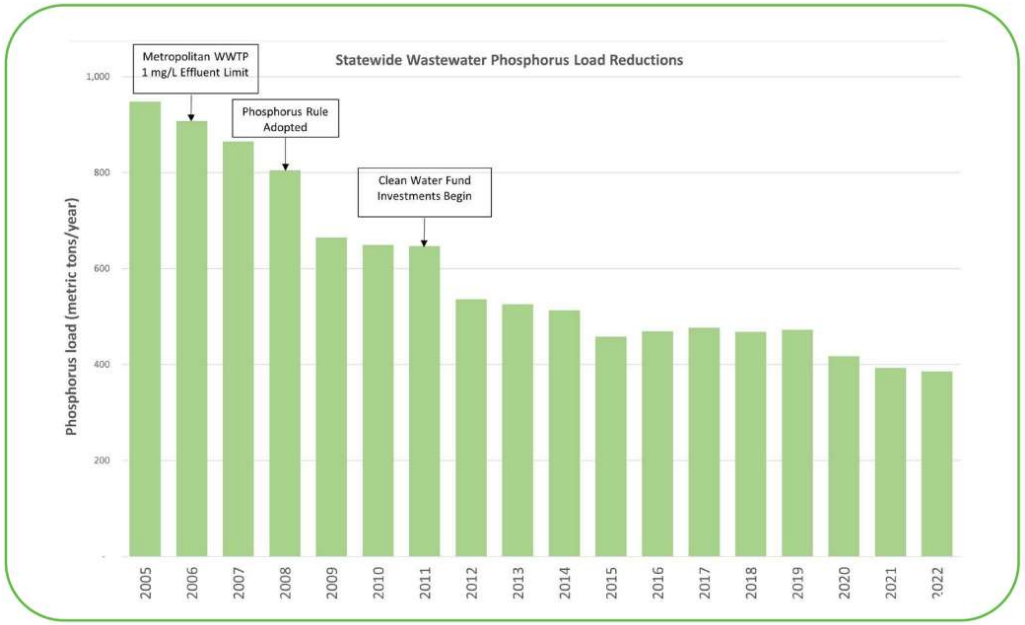


For further information: [Volunteer water monitoring | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Are Minnesotans taking action to protect water?

Reported statewide effluent phosphorus loads from wastewater sources since the year 2005. The reductions in phosphorus discharged to Minnesota waters reflect the cumulative effect of permitting policies, implementation of TMDLs, Clean Water Fund investments, and local efforts and investments for the protection and restoration of Minnesota's water resources.

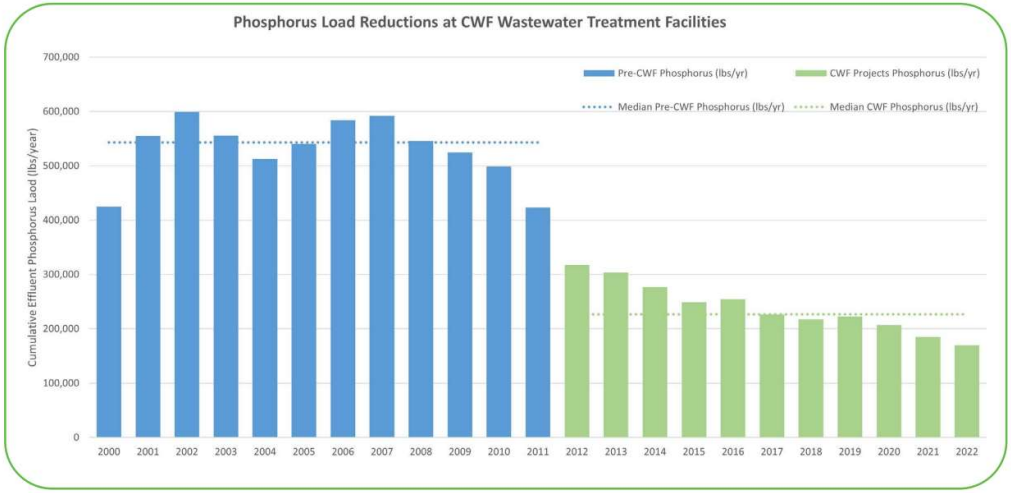


For further information: [Phosphorus in wastewater | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Are Minnesotans taking action to protect water?

Phosphorus load reductions at Clean Water Funded wastewater treatment facilities, pre-CWF and post-CWF.



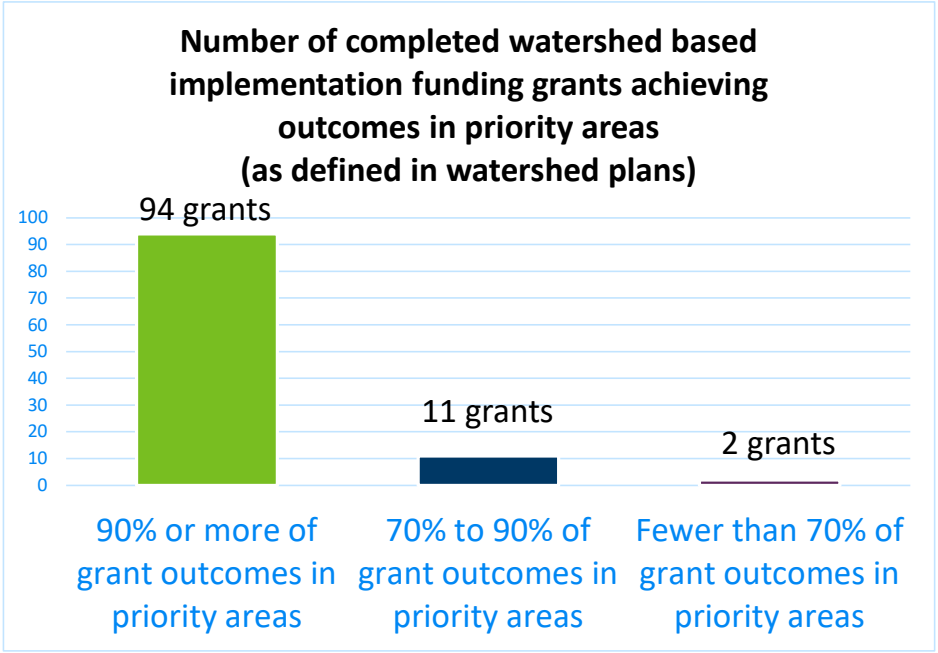
For further information: [Phosphorus in wastewater | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Is WBIF being used in priority areas?

BWSR's assurance measures process analyzes WBIF grants to ensure funds are being spent consistent with watershed plans developed based on science and public input.

This measure reflects the extent of implementation being done in priority areas as defined as defined in watershed plans.



For further information: [Assurance Measures for Watershed Based Implementation Funding | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources]

Outputs KPIs

Status box

Status

- We are making good progress/ meeting the target
- We anticipate difficulty; it is too early to assess; or there is too much variability across regions to assess
- Progress is slow/we are not meeting the target; or the activity or target is not commensurate with the scope of the problems

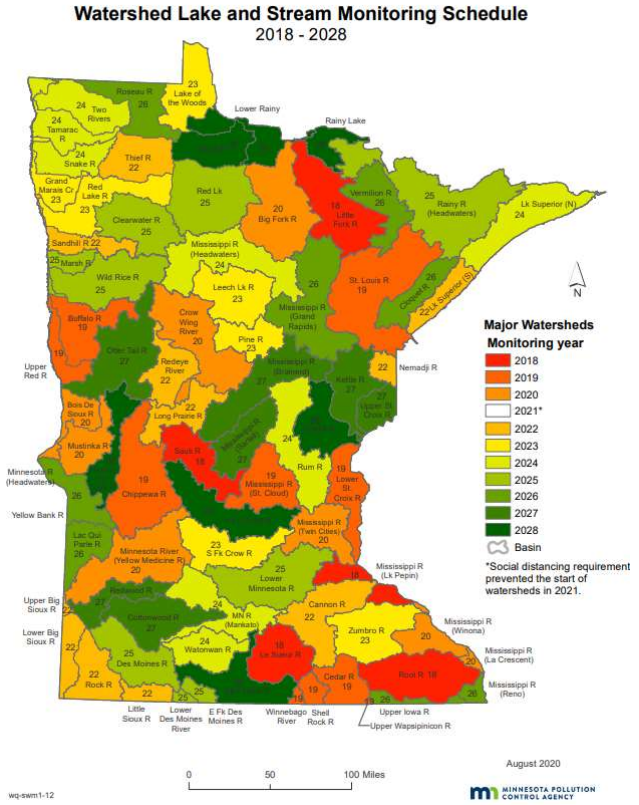
Trend

- Improving
- Stable
- Degrading

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable and swimmable?

Completion of second monitoring and assessment cycle.

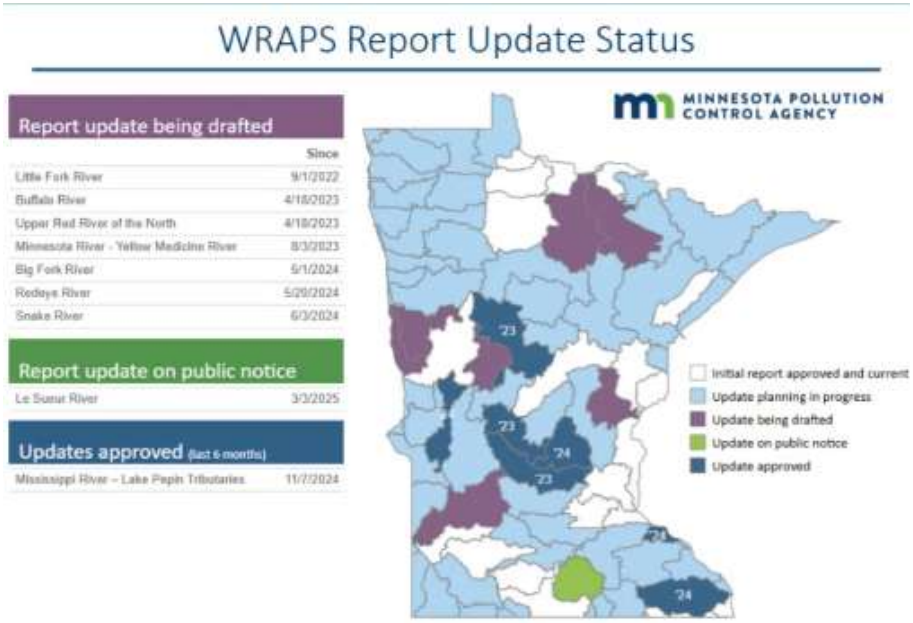


For further information: [Watershed information | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]
[Workbook: Water quality assessment results]

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable and swimmable?

Completion of second generation of WRAPS.

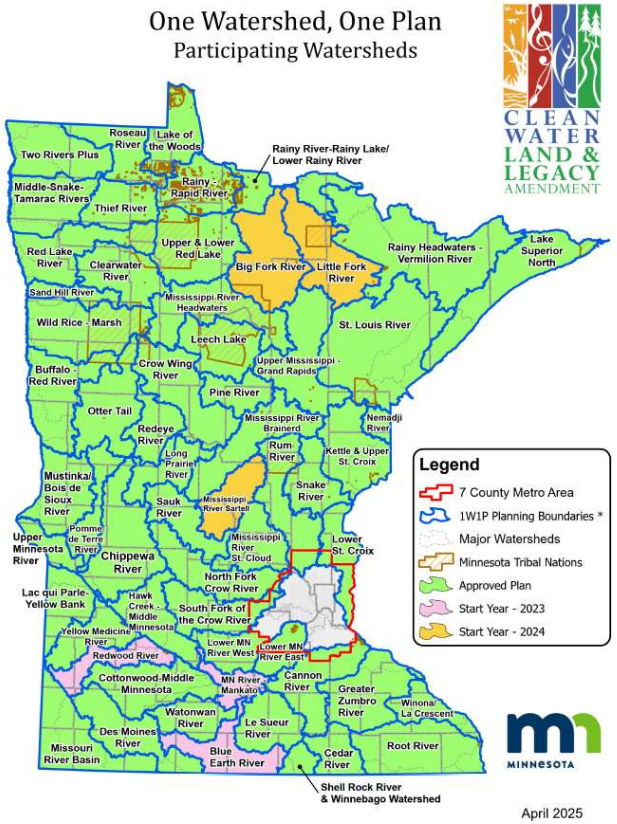


For further information: [Healthier watersheds: Tracking the actions taken | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency]
[Workbook: Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy status]

Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Are MN waters fishable and swimmable?

Completion of 1W1P

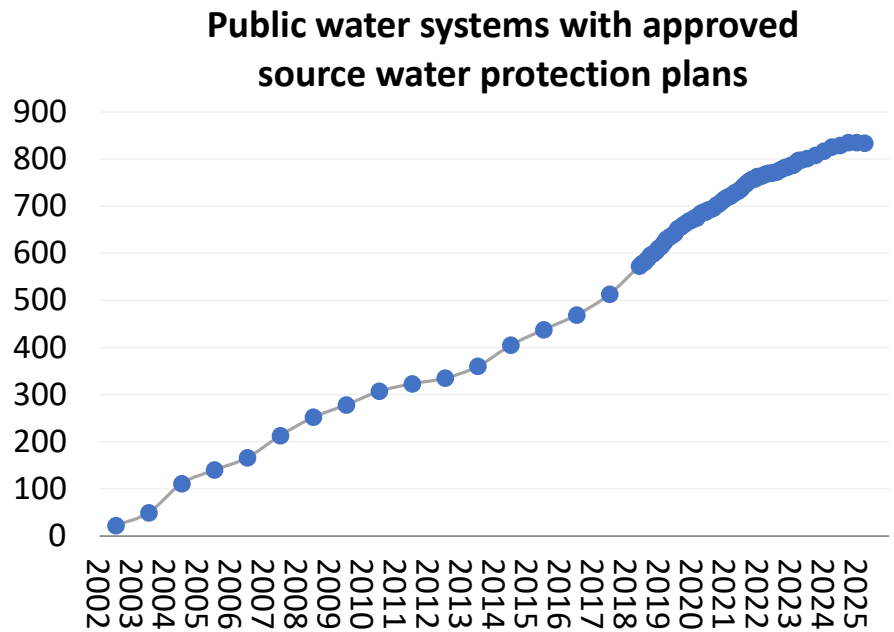


For further information: https://bwsr.state.mn.us/one-watershed-one-plan-participating-watersheds

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

Goal: All 900+ groundwater public water systems have completed source water protection plans.

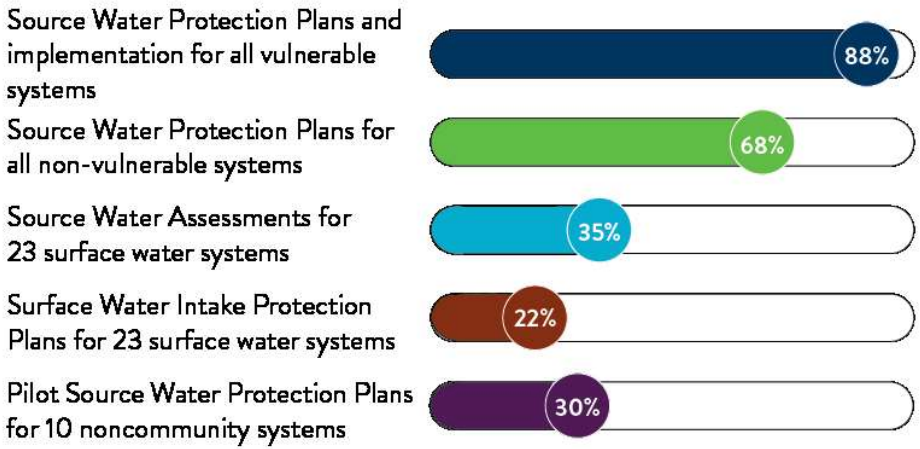


For further information:
Source Water Protection - MN Dept. of Health

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

Source water protection planning goals at right

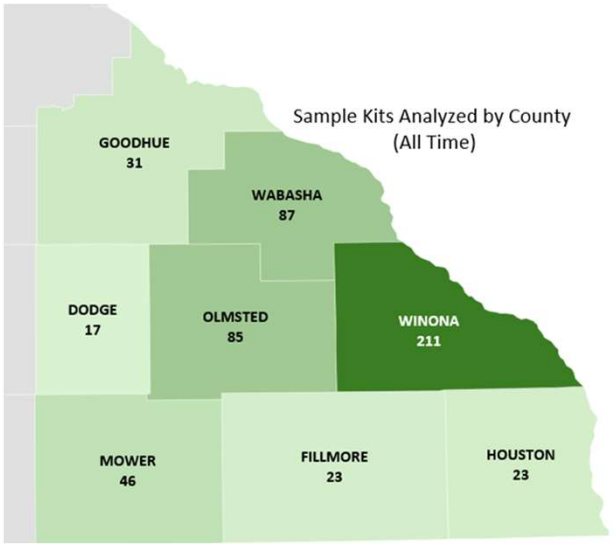


For further information:
[Source Water Protection - MN Dept. of Health]

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

Goal: Private well testing offered for 10 percent of private well users each year for 10 years.



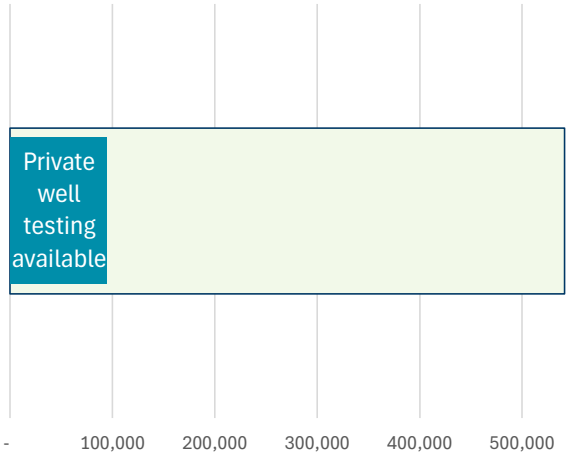
For further information:
https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/wells/waterquality/nitratesemn.html

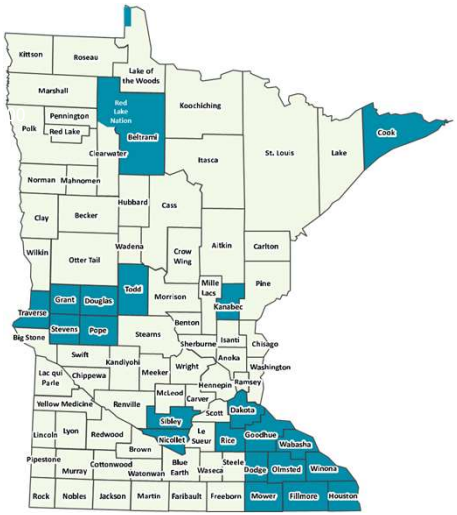
Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Does MN have safe drinking water sources?

Goal: Free private well water testing for the basic 5 offered for 10 percent of private well users each year for 10 years.

About **19% of private well users** live in a jurisdiction that has Clean Water Funded private well testing available



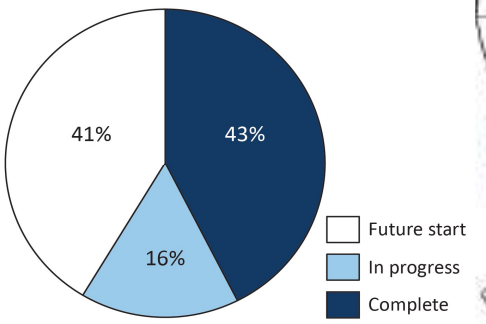


For further information:
Response to Nitrate in Southeast Minnesota - MN Dept. of Health

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean and available?

All Part B atlases completed by 2038.

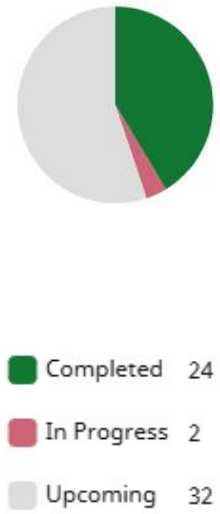


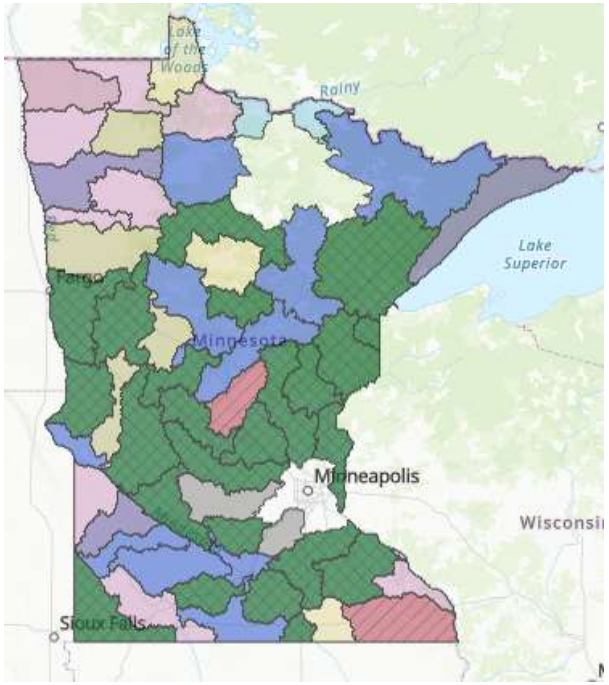
For further information: LINK

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean and available?

Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS) completed for all 60 One Watershed One Plan boundaries.





For further information:
[Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (GRAPS) - MN Dept. of Health]

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Is groundwater clean and available?

80 percent compliance rate maintained for subsurface septic treatment (SSTS) systems with a stretch goal of 90 percent.

SSTS inspection compliance goal	80%
SSTS inspection compliance rate (actual 2023)	82%

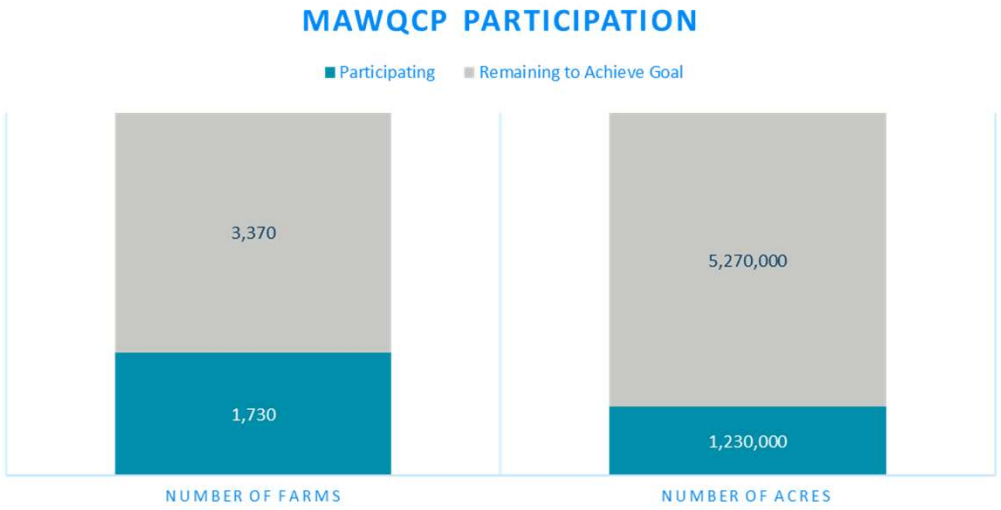
For further information: LINK

SJ0

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Are Minnesotans taking action to protect water?

Number of farmers and acres enrolled in Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program, with a target of 5,100 farms and 6.5 million acres by 2030



90% of MAWQCP-certified farms surveyed recommend certification to other farmers.

For further information:

Slide 33

SJ0 MAWQCP uses life of the program numbers, not current acres in their reporting. They do this because it aligns when reporting in relation to total funds appropriated.

As of 11/24/2025 the numbers are:
1,730 farms
1,230,000 acres
Schaust, Jen (MDA), 2025-12-01T16:18:33.314

SJ0 0 Brad Jordahl Redlin said there is a ~50,000 acre difference between the two
Schaust, Jen (MDA), 2025-12-03T16:49:57.849

SJ0 1 Added table with most recent numbers
Schaust, Jen (MDA), 2025-12-03T16:52:30.774

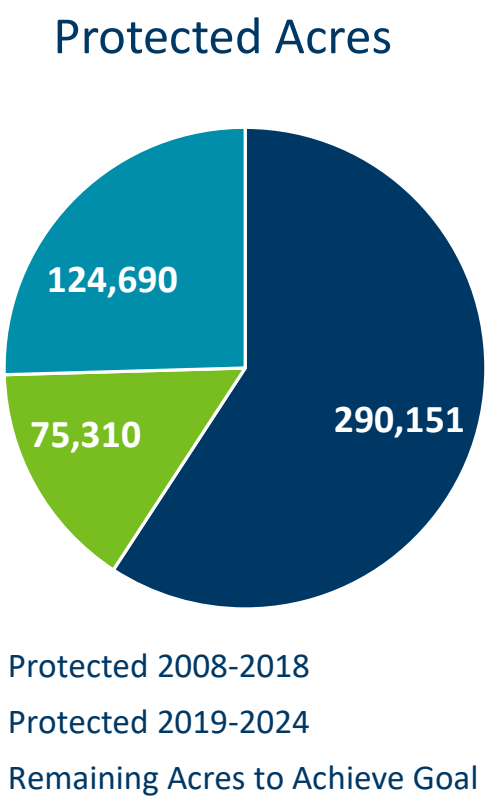
All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Are Minnesotans taking action to protect water?

Support local efforts to engage lakeshore property owners and private landowners

In addition to 290,151 acres protected during 2008-2018, with partners, protect and restore 200,000 acres in the Upper Mississippi River headwaters basin during 2019-2034.

12+Million acres

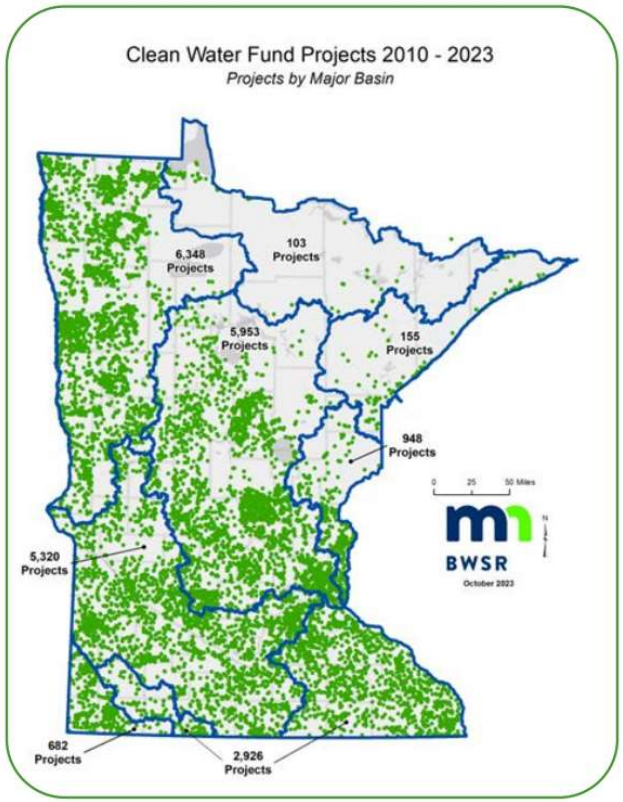


For further information:
https://www.arcgis.com/apps/dashboards/5f208b8d926943eb8d62ac67f7fc52d9

All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Are Minnesotans taking action to protect water?

Local governments are leading both cleanup and protection efforts across the state. They are working directly with communities, individual landowners, and various nonprofit organizations to implement best management practices (reducing polluted runoff from city streets, agricultural fields, and feedlots; stabilizing stream channels; and upgrading septic systems).



For further information: https://bwsr.state.mn.us/your-clean-water-funds-work-0