Clean Water Council
Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) Meeting Agenda
Friday, April 5, 2024 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

IN PERSON with Webex Available (Hybrid Meeting)

2023 BOC Members: Steve Besser (BOC Chair), Dick Brainerd (BOC Vice-Chair), Gary Burdorf, Steve Christensen, Warren Formo, Brad Gausman, Holly Hatlewick, Annie Knight

9:30 Regular Business

- Introductions
- Approve agenda & most recent minutes
- Chair and Staff update

9:45 Questions, Comments, Conversation about March 18th Full Council presentations

- **NOTE: This will not include presenting slides again. Agencies will be asked to re-state the function of the program before the Council and agencies discuss the program.**
- Watershed Based Implementation Funding (BWSR)
- Surface & Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants (BWSR)

10:30 BREAK

10:45 Questions, Comments, Conversation about March 18th Full Council presentations

- Accelerated Implementation (BWSR)
- Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance (BWSR)
- Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for DW & GW Protection (BWSR)
- Watershed Legacy Partners Grants (BWSR)
- Measures, Results, and Accountability (BWSR)
- Water Demand Reduction Grant Program (Metropolitan Council)
- ~~Culvert Replacement Incentive Program (DNR)~~ [Moving to May]
- Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)(MDA)

11:45 Public Comment

12:00 Adjourn

Budget and Outcomes Committee Meeting Summary
Clean Water Council (Council)
February 2, 2024, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Steve Besser (Committee Chair), Dick Brainerd (Committee Vice Chair), Gary Burdorf, Steve Christenson, Warren Formo, Holly Hatlewick, and Annie Knight.
Members absent: Gary Burdorf and Brad Gausman.
Others present: Jen Kader (Metropolitan Council), Annie Felix-Gerth (BWSR), Glenn Skuta (MPCA), Tannie Eshenaur (MDH), Frieda VanQualen (MDH), Margaret Wagner (MDA), Mark Johnson (Outdoor Heritage Council), Jason Moeckel (DNR), Wade Johnson (DNR), Justin Hanson (BWSR), Carli Wagner (DNR), Ryan Merz (MMB), Paul Pestano (MPCA), Alycia Overbo (MDH), Todd Biewen (MPCA)

To watch the WebEx video recording of this meeting, please go to https://www.pca.state.mn.us/clean-water-council/policy-ad-hoc-committee, or contact Brianna Frisch.

Regular Business
- Introductions
- Approval of the February 2nd agenda and January 5th meeting summary, moved by Dick Brainerd, seconded by Annie Knight. Motion carries.
- Chair and Staff update
  - A cover letter, along with the Council's supplemental budget recommendations, was sent to the Legislature on February 1. Some Legislative staff have followed up asking some questions about certain programs, and the state agencies have helped provide answers.

Suggested Presentation Schedule for Clean Water Funds (CWF) Proposals *(Webex 00:15:00)*
- The presentation schedule for CWF proposals was reviewed by the Steering Committee. Typically, the full Council hears presentations at four different meetings of the proposals for CWFs for the next biennium. There is usually some discussion of outcomes achieved in current biennium. At the following Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) meeting, there is a deeper dive into those programs. It is not a re-do of the presentations already provided, rather additional questions to answer. Some programs reviewed have very few questions, while others may have many. Note, the June BOC meeting will cover the June 3 and June 17 full Council meetings. Amounts asked for from the programs are often left blank at this time, because the state agencies still need approval for their requests from their commissioners. Previous spending is provided, along with expectation of future funding. However, the agencies also respond to requests from the Council.
- Numbers from the state agencies will come forward by July. The budget recommendations are put together in August and would be brought forward to the full Council on August 19.
- At this time, it is not entirely known how the Council may interact with the Governor's budget process. There have been changes in state law that say the Council sends legislative language direct to the Legislature.
- Elections and a revenue forecast will happen in November. In December, the recommendations are often adjusted based on the budget forecast. Final recommendations are sent to the Legislature by January 15, 2025. There is a February budget forecast in 2025, which locks in the numbers. The Council may provide an adjustment then, and items are passed at the Legislature in May.
- At this time, feedback is requested on time allotted for different programs. Council members should speak up for the topics they would like to make sure are covered. We would recommend less time on smaller budget items.

Comments/Questions:
- Dick Brainerd: Have the state agencies reviewed the suggested time for the programs? *Answer:* This document was provided to Dana Vanderbosch, the Chair of the ICT, to pass along to state agencies. The times would reflect what the Council is interested in.
- Annie Knight: Do Council member receive a scoring matrix that is filled out? Is there a way to score things as we are listening to proposals.

- *Answer:* The Council has used a more ad hoc method. After hearing the funds, the Council has asked the state agencies where the trajectory is on these items (i.e., steady level of effort for steady funding, increase in funding, or decrease in funding). This has been one approach. Another approach from the past has been for the Council to indicate high priority, medium priority, and low priority of funding for programs. However, many programs are interwoven. If one of them is changed, it may throw off another. So, changing some of the monitoring programs may have an impact on implementation of other programs. You could decide on a scoring system. The Council does follow open meeting laws, so the process is public. The Legislature is also public. The state agencies are not, except when talking with us at our Council meetings. They share what they can. There have been cases where the Council and BOC have shared a strong opinion about something (i.e., contaminants of emergent concern (CECs)), which resulted in the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) requesting more funding for that program. Regarding the nitrate situation, there may be a similar response. The Council's input is valuable.
- *Glenn Skuta, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA):* The state agencies bring forward a budget packet of their requests to fit the budget, so it is not as much of a competitive process. The Council may ask for a change, and we work with that change.
- *Steve Besser:* That is why it is so important that the voting members speak out for the groups we represent. We bring information from the public in general. I talk to many people about Minnesota waters, not just the fishing folks.

- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: The ICT had a little concern about the schedule. July 15 is the public meeting with stakeholder input is set, with four days later being the date the ICT sends the actual budget numbers to the BOC. That is not a lot of time to make course corrections based on what happens at the public meeting. Is it possible to change that date to July 31st? The next BOC meeting would be August 2. The ICT is looking for some space there. *Answer:* I am not sure why July 19 was selected. That sounds like a rational request if the subcommittee agrees. July 26th would be a Friday, and that would work.

Restoration Evaluations, Wade Johnson, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) *(Webex 00:42:00)*

- After the approval of the Legacy Amendment, the Legislature recognized that there was a need for restoration work and directed the DNR and Board of Soil and Water Resources (BWSR) to have an independent process of experts to evaluate that work. It is a great opportunity to learn and improve on the work. The Clean Water Funds (CWFs), Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Funds, and Parks and Trail fund are mandated to check on the projects stated goals, check on their utilization of current science, identify problems with implementation, and improve future projects.
- From 2012-2022, there have been 247 project sites visited for restoration evaluations. They are visiting forests, streams, wetlands, prairies across the state. They complete third party assessments, where they gather projects backgrounds, conduct site visits, complete project evaluations, and convene panel discussion. The panel is composed of diverse affiliations and expertise. From the panel meetings, they have opportunities to make improvements. They distill it down to an annual report. Some recommendations are ongoing: planning for stream projects, vegetation for stream projects, project teams, design criteria for lakeshore projects, documentation, and restoration training.
- There are some new recommendations to improve restorations to highlight: improved project review by technical experts, phased approach for buckthorn management, improved seed selection and implementation, and climate change contingency planning. In 2019, there was a particular interest in focusing on streams, so a special report was done looking more into it. The take-aways they would share are that stream projects are just as successful as other projects, consequences of failure can be more significant, maintenance and repair is less certain for stream projects, and stream findings continue to underscore the value of standing panel recommendations. This year, they have an evaluation focus on in-lake restorations (alum treatments and carp removal).
- Looking at the restoration evaluations, they are working towards continuous improvement. Practitioners will work best with comprehensive training of current science-based restoration practices, challenges, and successes.

Questions:

- Dick Brainerd: Regarding buckthorn, it will be cleared, and it will free up space cleared, and other invasive species grows. How does that impact the environment and water quality? Can you plan for that? *Answer:* It is one of the topics that water management organizations grapple with at the tension point between deciding if it is a water quality issue or something else altogether. If you are just removing buckthorn, you will probably get more buckthorn. Other invasive species are a big issue. One of the big aspects of this recommendation, is to leverage what has been learned from the University of Minnesota, because they are planting different species after buckthorn to see what is going to come back in after buckthorn is removed. It is well known that treating buckthorn and walking away, without a more phased sequential approach hitting it a few times, and then seeding to help with that issue. I have seen different sites managed for buckthorn, and over the years, it is just not as successful. However, if you replant and reseed, it can be more successful. Through mowing and strategic seeding, they can setback the buckthorn. The long-term investment is impacted, so it is important to pay attention. You need to manage it for several years.
- Steve Besser: Where is the funding for the floodplain restoration? *Answer:* BWSR does have floodplain easements, and other projects help floodplains.
- Paul Gardner: Everything from foundational data to technical assistance, to capacity building, and comprehensive planning, are all designed to measure twice and cut once to increase the success of these programs. We fund the DNR for a nonpoint source implementation funding to assist with some of these projects each year. The likelihood of success depends on good data, capacity building, and training. Is that correct? *Answer:* Yes, that is a good way to describe it. Regarding the number of projects that DNR gets involved in, as the CWFs have developed over the years, the DNR has been asked to be a part of more projects over time.

Biennial Clean Water Fund Performance Report, by Kim Laing, MPCA *(Webex 01:21:00)*

- This report tracks the investments of the CWFs. It is now the seventh edition of the Clean Water Fund Performance Report in development. It involves six different state agencies (MPCA, DNR, MDA, MDH, BWSR, and Minnesota Public Facilities Authority (PFA) as well as the Metropolitan Council). The Clean Water Fund investments are an important part of water resource management in Minnesota, but they also rely on the dedication and partnership of citizens, communities, and businesses to implement strategies that improve water quality.
- The goal of the Clean Water Performance Report is to clarify the connections between the Clean Water Fund investments, actions taken, and outcomes achieved in Minnesota's water resources. There are external drivers (land use, demographic and climatic factors that influence all of it).
- The performance report measure is either an action or outcome. There are also trend indicators. Each report card gives and overview of the status and trend of each measure. The report also provides a few pages about each measure.
- Highlights to mention:
  - They have awarded more than 4,271 grants to protect and restore Minnesota's water resources.
  - They have issued more than 2,253 loans to prevent nonpoint source water pollution or solve existing water quality problems.
  - Examples: BWSR supported the rock riffle project on the Sand Hill River,
- Regarding protection:
  - They have secured more than 941 easements that will permanently protect approximately 31,164 acres along riparian corridors and within wellhead protection areas, of which 23,830 acres were protected using CWFs.
  - There are 800 out of the approximately 970 community water systems plans developed to protect drinking water sources.
  - Unused, unsealed wells can be a source of groundwater contamination and can also pose physical hazards. 95 unused public water supply wells and 1,370 private wells were sealed with CWFs since 2010. Continued effort is needed to address the estimated 250,000 to 500,000 unused unsealed wells remaining. While the legislative appropriation for well sealing has ended, this activity continues to be funded through the Clean Water Fund programs.
- Regarding source water quality for community water systems:

  - The MDH sampled about 100 community water systems for CECs. Very few samples exceeded health guidance an only a fraction of CECs were detected. The Drinking Water Ambient Monitoring Program at the MDH will continue CEC sampling.
- In 2023, Minnesota completed a major milestone with the completion of the final Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS). The WRAPS resembles a "to-do list" or blueprint for activities that must happen for waters in a major watershed to meet water quality standards.
- Many lakes are improving on water clarity (533). Lake water clarity must change more than half a foot per detected to be considered a detectable change. A majority are in no change detected. About 9 percent have some declining clarity.
- Nearly all locations are seeing a long-term increasing concentration trend in chloride. Chloride reduction grant and Clean Water Partnership loans to fund chloride reductions.
- Regarding lake and stream water quality, the water quality varies greatly by region. Over fifty percent of streams have no trend detected. Total phosphorus and Total Suspended Solids are generally decreasing or have not trend detected. Nitrate trends are generally showing no tread of increasing throughout the state.
- Reducing pollutants and documenting successes:
  - Delisting 81 lakes and streams from Minnesota's impaired waters list.
  - Upgraded 52 municipal wastewater treatment facilities, which reduced phosphorus discharged by over 316,000 pounds per year via municipal wastewater treatment upgrades. This restored 881 imminent health threat subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTSs).
  - The CWFs supported pilot projects to two groups of rural counties to offer free private well testing, one for nitrate and one for arsenic, and options for alternative water for income-qualified households. These pilots form a basis for the state's upcoming response to recent federal requirements to support drinking water needs for private well users with high nitrate levels in southeastern Minnesota.
  - Added pesticide water quality monitoring for approximately 140 additional pesticide compounds in vulnerable groundwater and surface water resources statewide.
- Regarding the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP), they have certified over 1,000,0000 acres of Minnesota farmland across more than 1,400 farms through the state's Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program. An independent analysis from Minnesota State Agricultural Centers of Excellence show MAWQCP-certified farms also average twenty percent higher net profit than non-certified farms.

Questions:

- Steve Christenson: The report has a brief commentary on matching federal funds. Are we maximizing this leverage of federal funds? *Answer from Alycia Overbo, MDH:* Speaking about the drinking water investments from the infrastructure and jobs act, many are going to the drinking water revolving fund. They are focusing on getting those dollars out, prioritizing it for the lead service line replacement program. They are going to help the MDH deal with the CECs (i.e., manganese in the state, PFAS. etc.). They can leverage some of the treatment funds with federal funds. Their focus has been on the lead infrastructure and evaluating the needs on the revolving funds side. They could highlight this work in the report more. There is a reference to these other funds because we do want to leverage, but the report is about the CWFs. These federal leverage funds are also still rolling out too. They do work hard to try to leverage funds anytime they come forward, to see if Minnesota can receive these funds.

No Public Comments (*Webex 02:18:00)*

Adjournment *(Webex 02:19:40)*

Comment Sheet

for Clean Water Fund Requests

April 5, 2024

Agencies: These are comments from Clean Water Council members from the March 18th full Council meeting. Please review to prepare for follow-up at the April 5th BOC meeting.

Watershed Based Implementation Funding (BWSR)

1. Looks like a lot of ag practices, especially cover crops and soil health. Will BWIF continue to fund soil health given the $60 million in state and federal funds?
2. Does SWCD general fund money offset administration and coordination costs?
3. What's the contribution toward storage goals?
4. What is the durability of practices funded?
5. How are funds directed toward nearly/barely impaired waters?
6. Could you be more specific on groundwater/drinking water/private well protection activities. It was said that they are two out of 10 actions—could you say what those actions are?
7. Statewide, how many pounds of N and P have been reduced by WBIF funding?
8. Slide 9: How many of the projects are permanent? Ag practices seem to be temporary or at least can be undone or need maintenance.
9. Always good to see the progression of watershed planning. It won't go backward—the thinking on actions have changed!
10. Can you separate out ag practices into on-field practices vs. structural practices?
11. Glad to see urban stormwater management is so high among practices funded.
12. Stress how WBIF gets money out the door for shovel-ready projects. Compare to the pokey way we use to do it or to federal funding.
13. No leverage indicated in proposal, though leverage was referenced in presentation. Can you clarify?
14. Do we know how many local FTEs are supported by this program?
15. One of the strategic priorities is to "build capacity of local communities to project & sustain water resources." Can you explain what kind of tools and resources you provide these watersheds for successful implementation?
16. After these projects are completed, how do you support the watersheds in communicating their stories to the greater community?
17. If the grant funding is not used by grant deadline, I assume this $ is recycled back into the WBIF overall account and reallocated accordingly. Can the Council get annual updates on this rollback? As I assume this will affect the projected continued investment.
18. Would be great for the BWSR website (or a set of BWSR Snapshots) to include the stats from these handouts on an annual basis.
19. This process seems very logical and successful, but how would we answer this basic question: "Is WBIF making a dent in the problem? How much? Does it vary by watershed?" How can we visualize the progress against targets in WRAPS? Not in dollars spent but outcomes achieved.

Surface & Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants (BWSR)

1. How are funds directed toward nearly/barely impaired waters?
2. How well do these fit with Nonpoint Funding Priority Plan?
3. How do BWSR programs contribute and measure against the Nutrient Reduction Strategy?
4. Will requests decrease as WBIF funds increase?
5. Are DWSMA activities spread statewide or concentrated in SW MN?
6. Seems like the projects and practices barely make a dent in the nitrate problem. Recent information indicates that farmers are over-applying 200,000,000 pounds of nitrate annually. At $300-700/ton that a loss of $30-70 million.
7. How does this money flow? BWSR board determines who gets these grants?
8. Logo not on main web page, though is in footer. Clean Water Fund described in text.

Accelerated Implementation (BWSR)

1. How much of the SWCD general fund money is used for similar purposes?
2. Looks like SWCDs are the main audience. Could you also include drainage authorities since they are not as familiar with the watershed-based approach as they are with drainage law?
3. Are any of these funds used for actual implementation or is it all training?
4. Do we have a way to show how qualified our local and state workforce is? Clearly, we have a lot of talent and skills in more places than other states. Do people get a certification of some kind?
5. Does this fund BWSR Academy?
6. How much more is needed to do the job?
7. On the webpage, it says, “The Technical Training Acceleration Grant is short-term pilot to accelerate delivery of locally identified training priorities.” According to the proposal, this program has been receiving funding since 2012. It seems that the beginning of this program was temporary, though there is clearly a need for this. What is the long-term vision? Are their other ways to fund professional development? There was no leverage indicated in the proposal.
8. The webpage for some of these BWSR programs are dated and sometimes the descriptions and program titles don’t match up with the proposals. Could use an update to avoid confusion.

Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance (BWSR)

1. Is additional training required for county commissioners and drainage engineers?
2. Have any of the funded projects facilitated additional tile drainage in adjacent cropland?
3. How does this fit with private pattern tile drainage. What the benefits vs. contraindication?
4. Logo not on main web page, though is in footer. Clean Water Fund described in text.

Watershed Legacy Partners Grants (BWSR)

1. Why does it take so long to issue RFPs?
2. Can more assistance be offered to tribal applicants?
3. May increase for this coming year.
4. Do you need guidance from the Council on how to connect these projects with WRAPS, 1W1P and how to determine outcomes? We want this program to support what is in the plans and not just be a chance for non-state entities to get funding for a local project that may not help with the big picture.
5. According to the proposal, this program has received $9.5M and started in FY12. My understanding is that this has received $2M to date as a pilot program. Can you explain?

6. Is there required leverage? If so, why leave the "non-CWC Funding" section blank in the proposal.
7. Logo not on main webpage, though is in footer. Clean Water Fund described in text.

Measures, Results, and Accountability (BWSR)

1. Include WBIF proposals on BWSR website.
2. The public can see all proposals submitted to LCCMR on-line. We should be able to do the same with CWF grants.
3. Show analysis of number of practices and funds spent on nearly/barely watersheds and how much directed at watershed severely impaired.
4. How are programs/practices contributing toward de-listing and prevention?
5. Includes Snapshots? Could you list any other work products?
6. Would like an update on tracking tools at the watershed level. They might be locally-led projects, but they are state funding.

Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for DW & GW Protection (BWSR)

1. Do participating landowners indicate a strong interest in maintain practices beyond the contract period?
2. Why is this a separate program? We have a lot of programs that seem like their overlap with this like projects and practices. It is confusing.
3. Can you break down what is funded with this grant? Seed? Classes? Capacity? Cost-share? Other?
4. Goodhue example: What are acres in green? If someone is "enrolling" their acres for soil health, how many principles of soil health are they using? How permanent will these changes be?
5. What's the overall goal here? Do you have an acreage goal?

Water Demand Reduction Grant Program (Metropolitan Council)

1. Is there a way to use funds to eliminate lawn irrigation during rain events?
2. State statutes say that irrigation systems installed after 2002 or something like that have to use a moisture sensor. Cities (or maybe the state) require households to not send sump pump water into the home drain, and my city came to everyone's house to check. We ought to move toward requiring the pre-2002 systems to do the moisture sensor in the same way and not subsidize big suburban homes.
3. Establish criteria so that funding for this program is targeted to people for which the cost of implementing new appliances is a barrier. We should not be cost sharing irrigation controllers for people wealthy enough to sprinkle their lawn. Locals could give information on selecting a Water Sense certified product but not pay for it with Clean Water Funds. We should fund projects like the St. Paul toilet conversion project.

Culvert Replacement Incentive Program (DNR)

1. Would additional funds and an increase in cost share help to increase the number of projects and does DNR have capacity to do this?
2. This program is really a pilot. How many projects could get funded by 2034?

3. Would we have way more impact if the state required the use of these techniques when roads, bridges, overpasses are replaced? Seems like we can only impact a handful of projects!
4. Are you working with drainage authorities?
5. Can you distinguish what the rationale is for using the Clean Water Fund here? DNR keeps mentioning fish passage and habitat, which is not necessarily our focus. Maybe it was stated but it could be clearer.
6. Logo not on webpage at all, but Clean Water Fund described in text.

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)(MDA)

1. Have practices been evaluated to determine impact to surface and groundwater?
2. Could you clarify what a "whole-farm" assessment means? This program means that farmers have to excel in ALL parts of a farm's operation to get certified, and that those achievements are better than most conventional practices, right? We need to stress how certification tells us that a farm is performing higher than their neighbors and if everyone did it, we would know that we're doing just about everything we can.
3. What do you need to provide outreach to renters? We are leaving half the crop acres on the table without having a way to reach them systematically.
4. Can you do a drainage endorsement or do you have enough standards already in the program? I'm thinking side inlets, controlled tile drainage, etc.
5. Starting year was 2014. With the 10-year contracts, what % of the contracts have stayed intact? Is there a penalty for severing the contract?

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Grants to Watersheds with Approved Comprehensive Watershed Plans (Watershed-based Implementation Funding)

BWSR	Program Number: 17
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: Annie Felix-Gerth	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Purpose

Provides non-competitive funding to local government partnerships to implement prioritized and targeted activities identified in plans that will yield the highest return on investment for cleaner water.

Webpage

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grant Program | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is a non-competitive, performance-based grants program for local government units to implement projects on a watershed scale that protect, enhance, and restore surface water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, protect groundwater from degradation, and protect drinking water sources. Projects must be identified in a water or comprehensive watershed plan developed by local governments and approved by the Board of Water and Soil Resources. This may include those under the One Watershed, One Plan or under the Metropolitan Surface Water Management frameworks and county groundwater plans.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	$0
FY14-15	$0
FY16-17	$0
FY18-19	$9,750,000
FY20-21	$26,966,000
FY22-23	$43,564,000
FY24-25	$79,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$159,280,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

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

- Strategy: Develop a cumulative impact assessment and support planning efforts to achieve a sustainability standard for groundwater.
- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

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

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Implementation of high priority action items identified in Comprehensive Watershed Management Plans.

See attached WBIF Outcomes Summary (2018-2024)

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

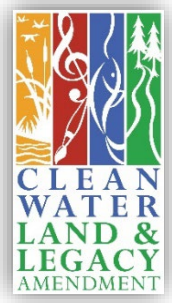
Please see attached "WBIF Funding Summary (2018-2024)."

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	4.4
FY20-21	5.4
FY22-23	8
FY24-25	4.2 (To date, not final)

FY26-27	NA



BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants
Funds Granted, March 2024

Non-Metro

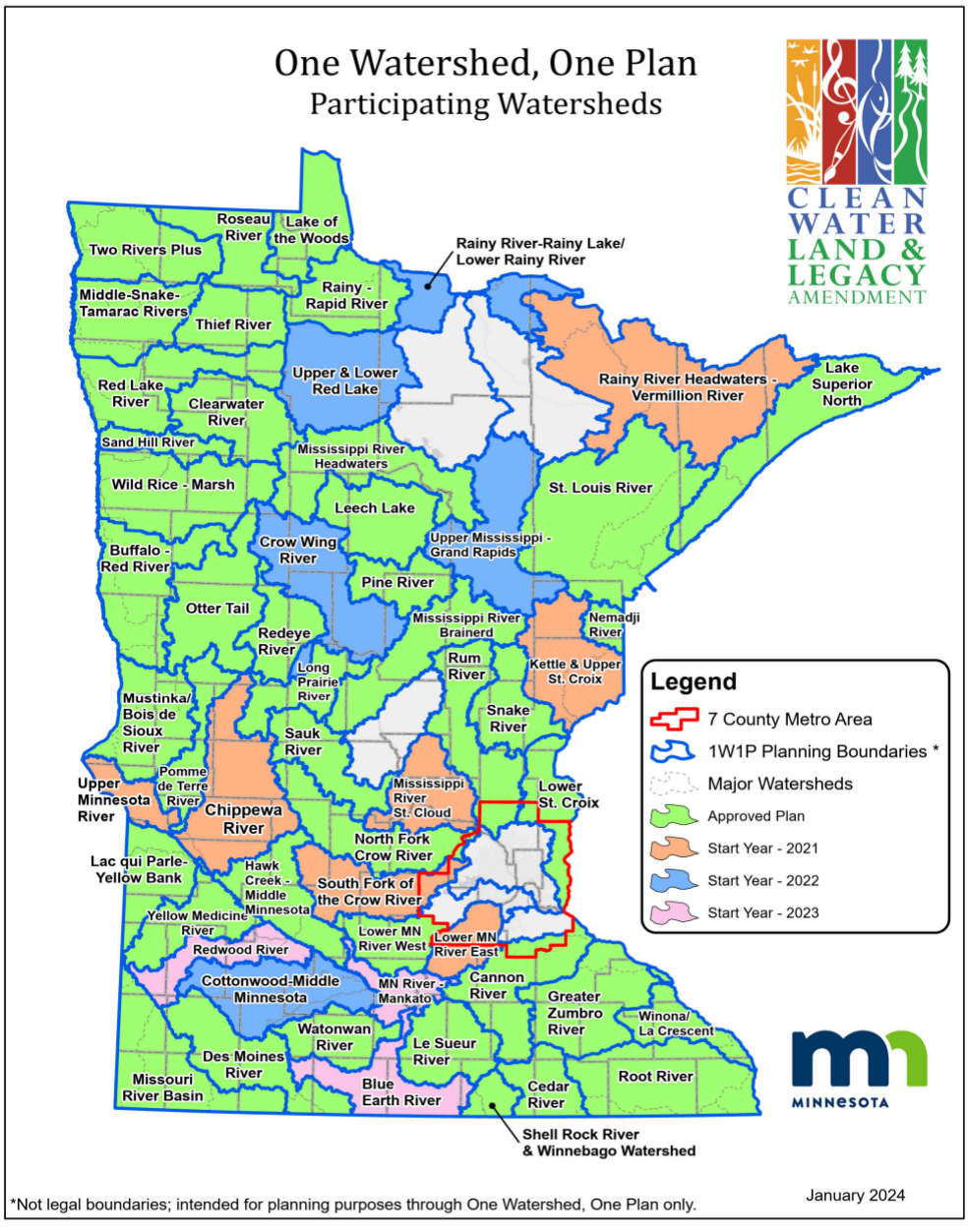
For more informaiton:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

**Grants are to partnerships with approved comprehensive watershed management plans developed under the One Watershed, One Plan program. See reverse side for a map of watershed areas.*

Watershed/Partnership	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Red River of the North					
Bois de Sioux / Mustinka		$ 1,064,522	$ 1,064,522		$ 2,129,044
Buffalo-Red River		$ 1,296,838	$ 1,296,838	$1,906,278	$ 4,499,954
Clearwater River			$ 974,726		$ 974,726
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers			$ 1,530,682		$ 1,530,682
Otter Tail			$ 1,660,617		$ 1,660,617
Red Lake River	$ 677,551	$ 1,071,149	$ 1,528,658	$1,700,439	$ 4,977,797
Roseau River			$ 752,928		$ 752,928
Thief River		$ 529,892	$ 529,892		$ 1,059,784
Two Rivers Plus			$ 1,117,273	$1,662,685	$ 2,779,958
Wild Rice - Marsh River		$ 1,371,259	$ 1,371,259		$ 2,742,518
Rainy River					
Lake of the Woods		$ 621,173	$ 621,173	$621,173	$ 1,863,519
Rainy - Rapid River				$520,667	$ 520,667
Lake Superior					
Lake Superior North	$ 387,059	$ 599,767	$ 599,767		$ 1,586,593
Nemadji		$ 250,000	$ 250,000		$ 500,000
St. Louis River				$2,228,654	$ 2,228,654
St. Croix River					
Lower St. Croix River (non-metro)		$ 471,070	$ 471,070		$ 942,140
Snake River				$1,024,471	$ 1,024,471
Upper Mississippi River					
Leech Lake River		$ 598,115	$ 675,115		$ 1,273,230
Long Prairie River			$ 714,854		$ 714,854
Mississippi River Headwaters			$ 861,581		$ 861,581
North Fork Crow River	$ 642,377	$ 1,120,477	$ 1,120,477	$1,518,486	$ 4,401,817
Pine River		$ 482,000	$ 604,421	$634,381	$ 1,720,802
Redeye River		$ 706,488	$ 706,488		$ 1,412,976
Rum River (non-metro)			$ 1,280,048		$ 1,280,048
Sauk River			$ 832,550		$ 832,550
Minnesota River					
Central MN River Watershed Paternship (Hawk Creek MM)			$ 942,433	$1,504,444	$ 2,446,877
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank			$ 623,429		$ 623,429
Le Sueur River				$1,355,872	$ 1,355,872
Lower Minnesota River West			$ 596,617		$ 596,617
Pomme de Terre River		$ 717,428	$ 955,939		$ 1,673,367
Watonwan River		$ 700,477		$1,136,479	$ 1,836,956
Yellow Medicine River	$ 551,712	$ 814,603	$ 814,603		$ 2,180,918

Watershed/Partnership	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Missouri River Basin/Des Moines River					
Des Moines River			$ 1,414,031		$ 1,414,031
Missouri River Basin		$ 1,320,445	$ 1,908,031	$2,096,184	$ 5,324,660
Lower Mississippi River and Cedar River					
Cannon River (non-metro)		$ 1,028,658	$ 1,328,658		$ 2,357,316
Cedar - Wapsipinicon River		$ 593,987	$ 593,987		$ 1,187,974
Greater Zumbro River			$ 1,216,243	$1,897,768	$ 3,114,011
Root River	$ 851,301	$ 1,469,595	$ 1,469,595		$ 3,790,491
Shell Rock River/Winnebago Watershed			$ 322,128		$ 322,128
Winona La Crescent			$ 577,696		$ 577,696
Totals	**$ 3,110,000**	**$ 16,827,943**	**$ 33,328,329**	**$ 19,807,981**	**$ 73,074,253**

Shading indicates that the amount includes increases relative to board order 21-49 associated with re-allocation of funds remaining after the FY22-23 deadline to claim funds (some groups for whom funding was allocated did not have an approved plan or work plan before the biennial funding period ended). BWSR is in the procces of re-distributing $7.77M from FY22-23 to 23 partnerships that requested additonal funds.



Metro

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

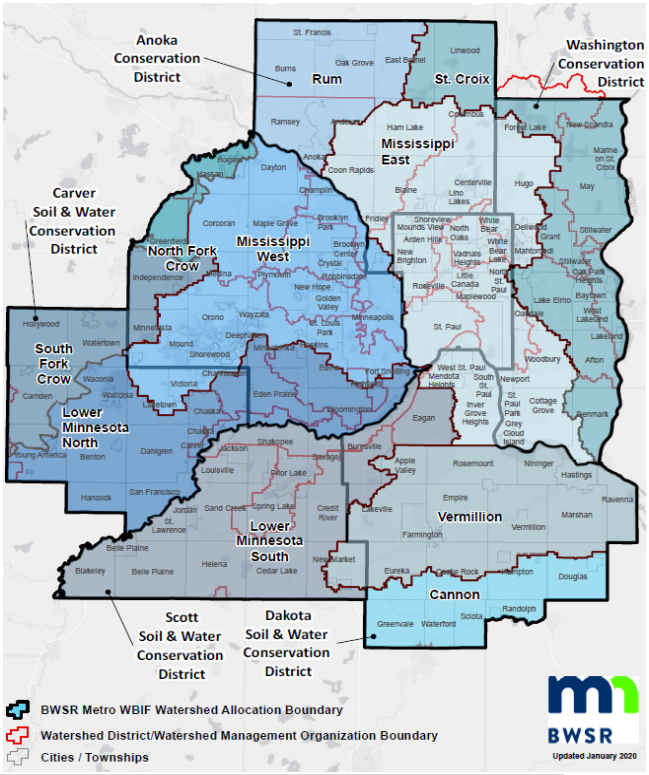
Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants

For more informaiton:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

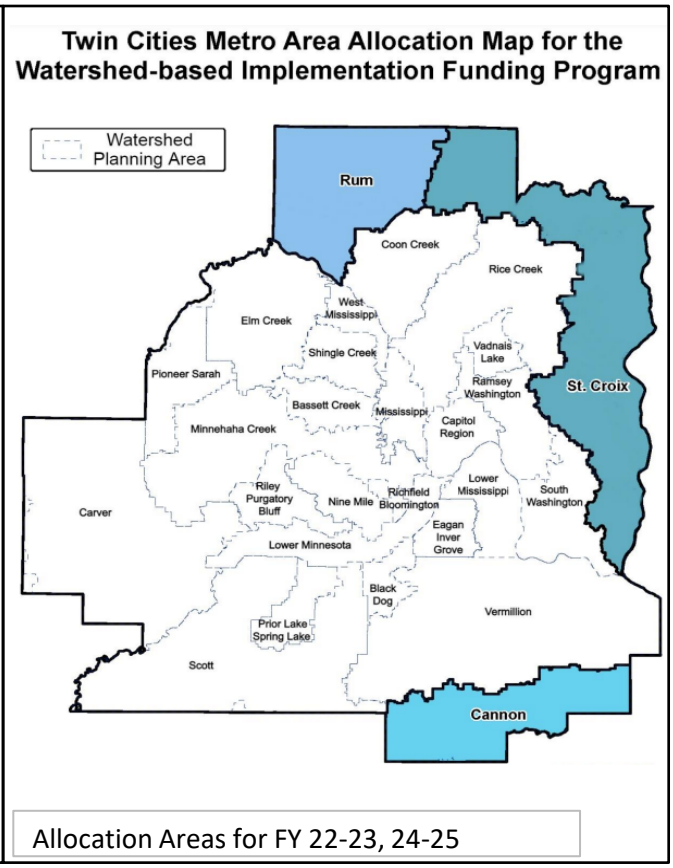
Funds Allocated by Board Orders 17-96, 19-54, 21-49, and 23-55.
Allocation geography varied by biennia. See reverse side for maps of allocation areas.

Allocation Area	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Anoka County	$ 826,000				$ 826,000
Carver County	$ 749,200				$ 749,200
Dakota County	$ 1,018,000				$ 1,018,000
Hennepin County	$ 1,018,000				$ 1,018,000
Ramsey County	$ 442,000				$ 442,000
Scott County	$ 749,200				$ 749,200
Washington County	$ 787,600				$ 787,600
Mississippi East		$1,085,485			$ 1,085,485
Mississippi West		$874,153			$ 874,153
Rum River		$366,982			$ 366,982
Lower St. Croix River		$793,461			$ 793,461
Cannon River		$305,293			$ 305,293
Lower Minnesota North		$673,699			$ 673,699
Lower Minnesota South		$829,075			$ 829,075
Vermillion		$650,684			$ 650,684
North Fork Crow River		$91,105			$ 91,105
South Fork Crow River		$330,063			$ 330,063
Bassett Creek WPA			$87,887	$ 183,256	$ 271,143
Black Dog WPA			$75,000	$ 151,542	$ 226,542
Cannon River (Metro)			$304,886	$ 395,361	$ 700,247
Capitol Region WPA			$77,618	$ 176,241	$ 253,859
Carver County WPA			$691,991	$ 721,325	$ 1,413,316
Coon Creek WPA			$216,377	$ 294,100	$ 510,477
Eagan-Inver Grove WPA			$75,000	$ 162,370	$ 237,370
Elm Creek WPA			$297,774	$ 373,590	$ 671,364
Lower Minnesota River WPA			$127,068	$ 217,485	$ 344,553
Lower Mississippi River WPA			$118,385	$ 208,410	$ 326,795
Lower St. Croix River (Metro)			$807,509	$ 1,266,380	$ 2,073,889
Minnehaha Creek WPA			$418,140	$ 424,534	$ 842,674
Mississippi WPA			$75,504	$ 176,951	$ 252,455
Nine Mile Creek WPA			$101,582	$ 195,026	$ 296,608
Pioneer-Sarah Creek WPA			$159,223	$ 240,415	$ 399,638
Prior Lake-Spring WPA			$82,806	$ 169,935	$ 252,741
Ramsey-Washington Metro WPA			$140,295	$ 230,182	$ 370,477
Rice Creek WPA			$407,796	$ 448,016	$ 855,812
Richfield-Bloomington WPA			$75,000	$ 114,644	$ 189,644
Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek WPA			$104,576	$ 197,194	$ 301,770

Allocation Area	FY 18-19	FY 20-21	FY 22-23	FY 24-25	Total
Rum River (Metro)			$371,157	$ 569,378	$ 940,535
Scott County WPA			$601,647	$ 646,054	$ 1,247,701
Shingle Creek WPA			$95,501	$ 191,662	$ 287,163
South Washington WPA			$163,947	$ 228,539	$ 392,486
Vadnais Lake Area WPA			$75,000	$ 147,921	$ 222,921
Vermillion River WPA			$673,331	$ 717,191	$ 1,390,522
West Mississippi WPA			$75,000	$ 152,299	$ 227,299
Totals	**$ 5,590,000**	**$ 6,000,000**	**$ 6,500,000**	**$ 9,000,000**	**$ 27,090,000**



Allocation Areas for FY 20-21



Allocation Areas for FY 22-23, 24-25

BOARD OF WATER AND SOIL RESOURCES

Watershed Based Implementation Funding Grants

Outcomes reported to eLINK, BWSR's grants management system.
Closed and open grants, 2018 - March, 2024
See footnote for more information about column headings.

For more information:
Annie Felix-Gerth
annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
651-238-0677

Watershed/Partnership	Nitrogen (lbs/y)	Phosphorus (lbs/year)	Sediment (tons/year)	Wells sealed (#)	Forestry (ac.)	Cover crops (ac.)	Structural BMPs (#)
Red River of the North							
Bois de Sioux / Mustinka	1,530	881	1,623	2	450	2,009	81
Buffalo-Red River		1,186	1,760		472	609	31
Clearwater River	594	162	376			205	45
Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers			145	8			83
Otter Tail		57	136	4		83	7
Red Lake River		808	2,325				139
Roseau River		14	9				1
Thief River		4	1,219				15
Two Rivers Plus	1,884	234	348		566	2,921	1
Wild Rice - Marsh River		5,676	2,382			412	103
Basin Total	**4,008**	**9,023**	**10,323**	**14**	**1,488**	**6,239**	**506**
Rainy River							
Lake of the Woods	1,443	603	458			370	14
Rainy - Rapid River							
Lake Superior							
Lake Superior North	77	38	5,816				5
Nemadji	26	26				170	2
St. Louis River							
Basin Total	**103**	**64**	**5,816**	**-**	**-**	**170**	**7**
St. Croix River							
Lower St. Croix R (non-metro & metro)		2,090	859	37		1,449	63
Snake River							
Upper Mississippi River							
Leech Lake River	20	533	4,296		5,484	518	9
Long Prairie River	586	27	219	1			1
Mississippi River Headwaters		14	14		1,862	60	2
North Fork Crow River	7,862	3,984	5,548	11		2,049	160
Pine River		26	25		945		1
Redeye River	577	44	39	1	2,051		1
Rum River (non-metro)	256	98	63			171	18
Sauk River	40	95	103				3
Basin Total	**9,340**	**4,820**	**10,307**	**13**	**10,342**	**2,798**	**195**

Watershed/Partnership	Nitrogen (lbs/y)	Phosphorus (lbs/year)	Sediment (tons/year)	Wells sealed (#)	Forestry (ac.)	Cover crops (ac.)	Structural BMPs (#)
Minnesota River							
Central MN R W'shed (Hawk Creek)	205	50	26				5
Lac qui Parle-Yellow Bank	1,658	84	439				2
Le Sueur River							
Lower Minnesota River West	267	193	58			2,172	7
Pomme de Terre River		343	489			104	31
Watonwan River	8,055	444	670	16		563	19
Yellow Medicine River	5,823	1,132	745			2,615	215
Basin Total	**16,008**	**2,248**	**2,426**	**16**	**-**	**5,453**	**279**
Missouri River Basin/Des Moines River							
Des Moines River	11,334	565	2,980			1,091	6
Missouri River Basin	20,159	966	2,102			2,243	210
Basin Total	**31,493**	**1,531**	**5,082**	**-**	**-**	**3,334**	**216**
Lower Mississippi River and Cedar River							
Cannon River (non-metro)	422	1,130	2,515			1,352	70
Cedar - Wapsipinicon River	58	2,180	1,272	16		1,590	23
Greater Zumbro River	4,699	1,286	1,029	10		652	57
Root River	3,788	7,444	7,321	4		1,220	296
Shell Rock River/Winnebago W'shed	6,322	3,119	1,633	4		485	
Winona La Crescent							
Basin Total	**15,288**	**15,159**	**13,770**	**34**	**-**	**5,298**	**446**
Metro*							
Metro* Total	2,065	4,510	7,465	77		1,905	211
Totals	**79,749**	**40,048**	**56,506**	**191**	**11,830**	**27,016**	**1,937**

Nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment (total suspended solids) *reductions are from all reported practices, including cover crops, structural BMPs, and other practices (e.g., street sweeping).*

Cover crops *includes nonstructural practices such as critical area plantings, filter strips, residue and tillage management, nutrient management, and pasture management.*

Structural Best Management Practices *includes agricultural and urban stormwater management practices including sediment basins, grade control structures, raingardens, grassed waterways, wetland restoration, stream and shoreline stabilization, septic system improvement, and more.*

Forestry *is forest management on private lands, mainly forest stewardship planning and some tree and shrub planting. Most acres with forest stewardship plans are enrolled in long-term land protection programs.*

****Metro values*** *exclude the Lower St. Croix watershed; they inclue the metro portions of the Cannon and Rum rivers (see map on funding handout).*

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Surface & Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants

(Projects & Practices Competitive Grants)

BWSR	Program Number: 26
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: Annie Felix-Gerth	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Purpose

Increase implementation of voluntary conservation across MN

Webpage

Grant Profile: Projects and Practices | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Clean Water Fund Grant Recipients | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is a competitive grant program and incentive funding to protect, enhance and restore water quality in lakes, rivers and streams and to protect groundwater and drinking water by implementing priority actions in local water management plans. Up to 20% of funds dedicated to drinking water protection activities.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$6,000,000
FY12-13	$29,100,000
FY14-15	$21,400,000
FY16-17	$20,380,000
FY18-19	$19,500,000
FY20-21	$32,000,000
FY22-23	$22,266,000
FY24-25	$17,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$167,646,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Same

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

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

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Implementation of high priority conservation and urban best management practices

BWSR has summarized the nitrogen, phosphorus, and sediment reductions for projects completed between 2014-2023 on slides in presentation.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Click the link for a list of awards made in FY24-25

Clean Water Fund Grant Recipients | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	3.9
FY12-13	6.5
FY14-15	8.0

FY16-17	7.9
FY18-19	3.7
FY20-21	11.2
FY22-23	9
FY24-25	15
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Accelerated Implementation	
BWSR	Program Number: 18
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone: **651-238-0677**
Person filling out form e-mail address **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

Enhance the capacity of local governments to accelerate implementation of projects and activities that supplement or exceed current state standards for protection, enhancement, and restoration of water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater.

Webpage

Grant Profile: Technical Training Acceleration | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Technical Service Areas (TSAs) | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Water Quality Tools and Models | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

1) Increases technical assistance through regional technical service areas (TSAs)

2) provides technical training and certification to local conservation partners

3) develop inventories of potential restoration or protection sites

4) developing and using analytical targeting tools like PTMApp that fill an identified gap.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	6,600,000
FY14-15	8,000,000
FY16-17	12,000,000
FY18-19	7,600,000
FY20-21	8,000,000
FY22-23	9,682,000
FY24-25	$11,000,000

TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$62,882,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

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

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increased capacity of local governments

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

The Accelerated Implementation Grants were offered from 2012-2017. See awards links below.

Web Version FY2012 Accelerated Implementation Grant Recommendations.pdf (state.mn.us)

FY CWF 2013 AIG Awardees.pdf (state.mn.us)

FY2014_AIG.pdf (state.mn.us)

AIG_FY2015.pdf (state.mn.us)

AIG_BOARD(1).pdf (state.mn.us)

2017 Accelerated Implementation Recommendations.pdf (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0

FY12-13	0.90
FY14-15	2.50
FY16-17	4.60
FY18-19	7.40
FY20-21	3.00
FY22-23	7.4
FY24-25	3.9 (to date, not final)
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance

(Accelerated Implementation)

BWSR	Program Number: 19
Program Contact Name **Tom Gile**	Phone **507-206-2894**
Contact E-mail Address: **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The purpose of this program is to facilitate multipurpose drainage management practices to reduce erosion and sedimentation, reduce peak flows and flooding, and improve water quality, while protecting drainage system efficiency and reducing drainage system maintenance for priority Chapter 103E drainage systems.

1) These grants can be used as an "external source of funding" for water quality improvements in accordance with: Section 103E.011, Subd. 5. Use of external sources of funding.

2) The multipurpose water management provisions in MN Statute Section 103E.015 Considerations before drainage work is done; and/or

3) Other applicable provisions of Chapter 103E (See BWSR Multipurpose Drainage Management Fact Sheet)

Webpage

Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant Profile | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Multipurpose Drainage Management | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Implementation of a conservation drainage/multipurpose drainage water management program in consultation with the Drainage Work Group to improve surface water management by providing funding under the provisions of 103E.015.

From a Single Primary Purpose…
Much of Minnesota's farmland was originally too wet to farm. Surface ditches and subsurface tile have been installed since the time of statehood to drain agricultural lands; remove stagnant

water, insects and disease; and to facilitate transportation and commerce. Minnesota has approximately 19,150 miles of drainage ditches and extensive untallied miles of subsurface tile installed and maintained under what currently is Minn. Stat. Chapter 103E Drainage law. Much of this drainage occurred during the late 1800's, early and middle 1900's. These systems are owned by the benefited property owners and administered by a county, joint county or watershed district drainage authority. Private drainage ditches and patterned tile are also extensive in the primary agricultural lands of Minnesota.

…To Multiple Purposes

Drainage remains very important for agricultural production on much of Minnesota's cropland. However, drainage impacts hydrology, stream stability, water quality and aquatic habitat. Because so much of Minnesota's agricultural land includes drainage systems, multipurpose drainage management is critical for addressing altered hydrology, erosion and sedimentation, water quality, and habitat. Multipurpose Drainage Management of fields and drainage infrastructure can provide adequate drainage capacity, while reducing downstream peak flows and flooding, reducing erosion and sedimentation, improving water quality and improving aquatic habitat. These are important considerations for drainage projects in Section of 103E.015 of Minnesota drainage law. A number of resources are available to help identify, design and implement best management practices for Multipurpose Drainage Management.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	$1,500,000
FY18-19	$1,500,000
FY20-21	$1,700,000
FY22-23	$1,700,000
FY24-25	$2,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$8,400,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) iii updated every ten years.

Strategy: Support competitive grants for protection and restoration activities.

Strategy: Identify policy options that will accelerate the protection and restoration of surface waters.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increase in implementation of conservation practices such as side water inlets, grassed waterways and storage and treatment wetlands in high priority drainage systems

Nitrogen - Lbs/Yr	7,810.73
Nutrients (Nitrate) - Lbs/Yr	443.75
Phosphorus Total (Est. Reduction) - Lbs/Yr	5,981.25
Sediment (Tss) - Tons/Yr	9,393.74
Soil (Est. Savings) - Tons/Yr	3,024.11
Volume Reduced (Acre-Feet/Year) - Acre-Feet/Yr	16.90

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Program funding doesn't often have external funding, but many projects are able to bring significant local match due to the types of projects being completed and the association with other larger scale landscape work.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

C16-0788	Stearns County Ditch 26 Drainage Managment	Sauk River WD
C16-1476	JD 15 BMP Inventory - Implementation (MDM Grant)	Wright SWCD
C16-5522	Traverse County Ditch 17	Bois de Sioux WD
C16-6387	2016 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C16-6758	2016 CD8 Erosion and Pollution reduction	Freeborn SWCD
C16-9453	Ripley Nitrogen Reduction Implementation	Dodge SWCD
C17-2876	County Ditch #6 BMPs	Carver SWCD
C17-3197	2017 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C17-3714	Multipurpose Drainage Management - Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance
C17-5923	Pope County Ditch 6 Drainage Management	Sauk River WD
C17-7810	103E Legal Ditch BMPs	Bois de Sioux WD
C17-9776	Polk County Ditch No 80	Sand Hill River WD
C18-0167	CD #175 Improvement	Middle-Snake-Tamarac Rivers WD
C18-0653	Wilkin County Ditch 8 Multipurpose Drainage Management	Wilkin SWCD
C18-4782	CD 10 BMP Inventory - Implementation	Wright SWCD
C18-5308	2018 Marshall County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Marshall SWCD
C18-8114	Roseau River Sediment Control project	Roseau River WD
C19-1880	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation	McLeod SWCD
C19-1900	2019 - CWF MDM County Ditch 68	Freeborn SWCD
C19-2122	South Heron Lake TMDL Implementation: Phase 2	Heron Lake WD
C19-2515	Wilkin County Ditch 9 & 10 Multipurpose Drainage Management	Wilkin SWCD
C20-4073	Le Sueur County CD61 Storage & Treatment Wetland	Le Sueur County SWCD
C20-5533	CD64 (Brush Creek) Sediment Reduction Strategy	Faribault County SWCD
C20-6058	South Heron Lake TMDL Implementation: Phase 3	Heron Lake WD

C20-6174	SD 51 & CD 16 Water Quality Improvement project	Roseau River WD
C20-7182	Judicial Ditch 11 Restoration and Drainage Management	Bois de Sioux WD
C21-0361	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 63 Conservation Implementation	McLeod SWCD
C21-2566	CD 10 BMP Inventory - Implementation #2	Wright SWCD
C21-4946	Judicial Ditch 6 Water Quality Ditch Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD
C22-0827	McLeod County Drainage Ditch 11 Conservation Implementation Phase 2	McLeod SWCD
C22-1803	2022 Wright County WASCOBs on Joint Ditch #15	Wright County
C22-2270	2022 Red Lake County Multipurpose Drainage Management Grant	Red Lake SWCD
C22-6082	Redpath Phase 1 - TCD 35 Water Quality Improvements	Bois de Sioux WD
C23-3377	WCD Sub-1 Water Quality Retrofit	Bois de Sioux WD
C23-6275	Improving Water Quality for Beaver Creek	Renville SWCD
C23-6703	Le Sueur County CD23 Side Inlet Project	Le Sueur County SWCD
C23-8237	Judicial Ditch 15 BMPs	Lyon County
C23-9708	Loon Lake Improvement - Jackson County Judicial Ditch 8	Jackson County
C24-0110	2024 Wright County Ditch 19 Grade Stabilization Structures	Wright SWCD

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.10
FY12-13	0.70
FY14-15	0.70
FY16-17	0.70
FY18-19	1.20
FY20-21	0.30
FY22-23	0.30
FY24-25	0.50*
FY26-27	

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Watershed Legacy Partners Grants

BWSR	Program Number: 27
Program Contact Name **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone **651-238-0677**
Contact E-mail Address: **annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Annie Felix-Gerth**	Phone:
Person filling out form e-mail address	

Webpage

Clean Water Legacy Partners Grant Program (Pilot) | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources

Purpose

Increase implementation of voluntary conservation across MN through new partners.

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

This is based on CWC interest and request. Included in CWC Strategic Plan. This program is intended to expand partnerships to protect and restore Minnesota's water resources. The Legislature appropriated $400,000 in fiscal year 2022 and $600,000 in fiscal year 2023 from the Clean Water Fund "for developing and implementing a water legacy grant program to expand partnerships for clean water."

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$0
FY12-13	$3,000,000
FY14-15	$3,000,000
FY16-17	$1,500,000
FY18-19	$0
FY20-21	$0
FY22-23	$1,000,000
FY24-25	$1,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$9,500,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Increase

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Groundwater Vision: Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that will protect and restore groundwater statewide.

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

- Strategy: Develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use

Drinking Water Source Protection Vision: Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

Goal 1: Public Water Systems

- Strategy: Support the Ground Water Protection Rule (GPR).
- Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Goal 2: Private Water Supply Wells—Ensure that private well users have safe, sufficient, and equitable access to drinking water.

- Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision: Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

Goal 2: Protect and restore surface waters to achieve 70% swimmable and 67% fishable waters by 2034ii via by prioritizing and targeting resources by major watershed.

- Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans)iii updated every ten years.

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

Goal 1: Build capacity of local communities to protect and sustain water resources.

- Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increases in water quality improvement projects.

BWSR didn't require any modeling results for the proposals. We can share the proposed outcomes if there is interest.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Click on the link for a ranking of applications in FY22-23.

FY22_23 CleanWaterLegacy Application Ranking.xlsx (state.mn.us)

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.7
FY14-15	0.7
FY16-17	0.7
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0

FY22-23	0.3
FY24-25	0
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Measures, Results and Accountability

BWSR	Program Number: 28
Program Contact Name **Marcey Westrick**	Phone **651-284-4153**
Contact E-mail Address: **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

To provide state oversight and accountability, evaluate and communicate results, support program and outcomes development, provide reporting tools, and measure conservation program implementation of local governments support programs and measure the value of conservation program implementation by local governments, including submission to the legislature a report from the board.

Webpage https://bwsr.state.mn.us/cwf_programs

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

Provide state oversight and accountability for grants to local government, support program and outcomes reporting, evaluate results and measure the value of conservation program and project implementation by local governments.

On average, BWSR processes approximately 245 Clean Water Fund grants annually across the state. As part of this grant oversight, BWSR must report all proposed and final outcomes along with other reporting requirements to the Legacy Website (https://www.legacy.mn.gov/clean-water-fund). Grant reporting is conducted through BWSR's grant management system, eLINK https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	$590,000
FY12-13	$2,100,000
FY14-15	$1,900,000
FY16-17	$1,900,000
FY18-19	$1,900,000
FY20-21	2,000,000
FY22-23	$2,500,000
FY24-25	$2,500,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$15,390,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
		Same

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Legislative reports and public communications. Oversight and accountability of grant and easement programs.

BWSR staff produce a Biennial Clean Water Fund Report to the Legislature, assist in the development of the Clean Water Fund Performance Report and create stories and videos highlighting projects to restore and protect lakes, rivers, wetlands and drinking water sources. In addition, BWSR staff provide oversight for Clean Water Fund grants administered by the agency. Grants Administration Manual | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Stay the same.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.1
FY12-13	4.1
FY14-15	4.1
FY16-17	5.1
FY18-19	9.8
FY20-21	9.8
FY22-23	8.2
FY24-25	5.7
FY26-27	NA

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Enhancing Landowner Adoption of Soil Health Practices for Drinking Water and Groundwater

aka Soil Health Grants

BWSR	Program Number: 28
Program Contact Name **Tom Gile**	Phone **507-206-2894**
Contact E-mail Address: **Tom.Gile@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Marcey Westrick**	Phone: **651-284-4153**
Person filling out form e-mail address **marcey.westrick@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The program provides both applied research by the Minnesota Office for Soil Health and implementation of conservation cover practices and reduced tillage to reduce nutrient loss.

Webpage

Grant Profile: CWF Soil Health | MN Board of Water, Soil Resources (state.mn.us)

MOSH - Minnesota Office for Soil Health (umn.edu)

Modifications to the Soil Health Pages and programing will be going on in the next year with the influx of funding and programing.

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

The CWF dollars are being bundled with a General Fund appropriation to kick start a comprehensive package of soil health programing in Minnesota which has also successfully leveraged an additional $25M in Federal dollars.

While near-channel erosion is the largest source of sediment to the Minnesota and Mississippi Rivers, upland erosion on tilled fields is the second largest source of sediment and is a source which has increased substantially since major changes to vegetation and land cover were made many decades ago.

The Minnesota Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Sediment Reduction Strategy and Climate Action Framework identify a suite of soil health related activities that need to see significantly increased adoption rates in order to make tangible progress towards our water quality and climate goals.

This proposal integrates sediment retention and climate related objectives with a goal of restoring and maintaining soil health.

Practices to improve water quality, climate and soil health are interrelated to farm sustainability; and while water quality and climate impacts generally show up off of the farm, soil health is more directly related to the sustained productivity of the soil on the farm itself. Integrating soil health systems adds increased on-farm value to many of the practices used to mitigate nutrient loading. National initiatives are increasingly emphasizing the importance of soil health. Decisions that are made at the individual farm scale will be most successful when programs support and provide locally led assistance that helps motivate the needed changes.

Phase 1 is to create additional local points of contact to work with landowners on increasing utilization of soil health practices and systems that advance the principles of soil health.

1. **Trusted Local Expertise.** Among the common themes that emerged in stakeholder discussions for the state soil health action framework are the challenges of building expertise in soil health practices and meeting demands for that expertise, across both the public and private sectors. This grant program is designed to direct state resources toward staffing that can help meet these needs at the local level.
2. **Expand public-private partnerships across multiple sectors and activities.** Public agencies, NGOs, and private companies share many goals for improving soil health across the agricultural sector. In addition to supporting new staff positions, partnerships can expand and enhance collaboration in the areas of research and market and supply chain development.
3. Support and increase **mentorship and peer-to-peer learning support** through positions and people who can facilitate connections and farmer-driven learning opportunities.

Phase 2 consists of development and administration of a Soil Health Practices Program established via Minnesota Statutes (M.S.) §103F.06 to provide a financial and technical support program to produce soil health practices that achieve water quality, soil productivity, climate change resiliency, or carbon sequestration benefits or reduce pesticide and fertilizer use.[1] Soil Health Practices Program funds are to be implemented in a manner consistent with M.S. §103F.06 and the cost-sharing provisions of M.S. §103C.501.

Lastly Phase 3 which is the leveraging of an additional $25 Million in federal NRCS funding awarded via a Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant awarded to BWSR which will go exclusively for Soil health practice implementation within the Counties in MN which have greater than 30% ag lands.

Principles for building soil health

- Keep the soil covered.
- Minimize disturbance.
- Keep living roots in the ground.
- Diversify rotations.
- Integrate livestock.

Adopting these five principles will build soil by protecting it from erosion and providing a constant food source to the underground food web. The constant food source is important because microbes feed on residues and living root exudates, and in turn feed larger soil organisms. Microbes and roots also excrete organic matter which binds soil particles into stable soil aggregates. That's why feeding the food web

leads to porous soil which allows water to infiltrate and remain in the soil for longer. (Soil organic matter and soil water fact sheet)

Producers apply these principles in many different ways. For Minnesota row crop farmers, it commonly means reducing tillage and incorporating a winter cover crop.

Through the FY 22-23 appropriation we learned that being hyper specific to DWSMA work can be an impediment at this stage of programing. With many goals for Soil Health related adoption indicating needs for "millions of acres" we need to see landowners succeed in incorporating the principles of soil health at a broad scale. Within that broader effort we are communicating to SWCDs and local implementors to be very aware of the importance of prioritization of producers who are working on ground within sensitive groundwater areas which include high/very-highly susceptible ground water areas, public water supplies and Drinking Water Supply Management areas. Ensuring programing includes strong incentives and increased communications is an important factor in making progress in these critical areas as well as seeing success across the landscape.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	$4,200,000
FY24-25	$12,077,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$16,277,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

Strategy: Support prevention efforts to protect groundwater in DWSMAs.

Strategy: Support selected mitigation activities for private well users.

Strategy: Prioritize waters for protection and restoration using comprehensive watershed management plans (One Watershed One Plan or other approved plans) iii updated every ten years.

Strategy: Support competitive grants for protection and restoration activities.

Strategy: Maintain and increase capacity of Minnesotans to improve water quality.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

Increase in the statewide total of Soil Health practices and systems across the state including practices such as Cover Crops, No-Till, Strip-Till and other BMPs which advance the principles of soil health.

To date an estimated 22,000 acres have been implemented with funding at least in part from the dollars identified in these appropriations.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Increase.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

As noted previously this program is being delivered locally through a bundled approach with recent new, one-time General Fund appropriations of approximately $21 Million. That bundling of programing and the framework proposed helped us successfully leverage an additional $25 Million in federal RCPP funds specifically for in the ground practices.

Supplement vs. supplant

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Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Soil Health for Water Quality Protection	Traverse SWCD
Chisago SWCDFY22 LCS Coil Health Grant	Chisago SWCD
GBERBA Soil Health Implementation Grant	Greater Blue Earth River Basin (GBERBA)
2022 Clean Water Soil Health Grant	Wilkin SWCD

Southwest Minnesota Wellhead Soil Health	Pipestone SWCD
The Future of Farming in Becker County - Phase II	Becker SWCD
Soil Health Practices to Protect Drinking Water in Mississippi River Sartell	Stearns SWCD
Goodhue DWSMA-Nitrate Protection Initiative	Goodhue SWCD
Using Soil Health to Protect Drinking Water in Two Rural Minnesota Communities	Swift
Vulnerable Non-Community Public Water Supply Protection in Mississippi Outwash Plains Using Cover Crops	Morrison SWCD

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.0
FY14-15	0.0
FY16-17	0.0
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0
FY22-23	0.0
FY24-25	0.0
FY26-27	0.0

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Water Demand Reduction/Efficiency Grant Program

Met Council	Program Number: 35
Program Contact Name: Henry McCarthy	Phone: 651-602-1946
Contact E-mail Address: Henry.McCarthy@metc.state.mn.us	
Person filling out form: Judy Sventek	Phone: 651-602-1156
Person filling out form e-mail address: Judy.sventek@metc.state.mn.us	

Purpose

The program provides grants to assist municipalities in the metro area as they implement water demand reduction and water efficiency measures to ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies and support resiliency of water suppliers.

Webpage

Water Efficiency Grant Program - Metropolitan Council (metrocouncil.org)

Rationale/Background

Please describe how this program will protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources.

State regulators require water suppliers to reduce water use and increase water conservation and efficiency. This requirement preserves limited groundwater, allows adjacent users to better share aquifer resources, and maximizes the value of existing infrastructure investments.

Funding for this requirement has not been provided through other means. By providing financial assistance to incentivize communities to implement water demand reduction measures in municipalities, the program reduces reliance on groundwater which will help in preventing groundwater degradation in locations around the region, will ensure the reliability and protection of drinking water supplies, and will support resiliency of water suppliers.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	$500,000
FY18-19	$0
FY20-21	$750,000
FY22-23	$1,250,000
FY24-25	$1,500,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$4,000,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
TBD	TBD	TBD

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

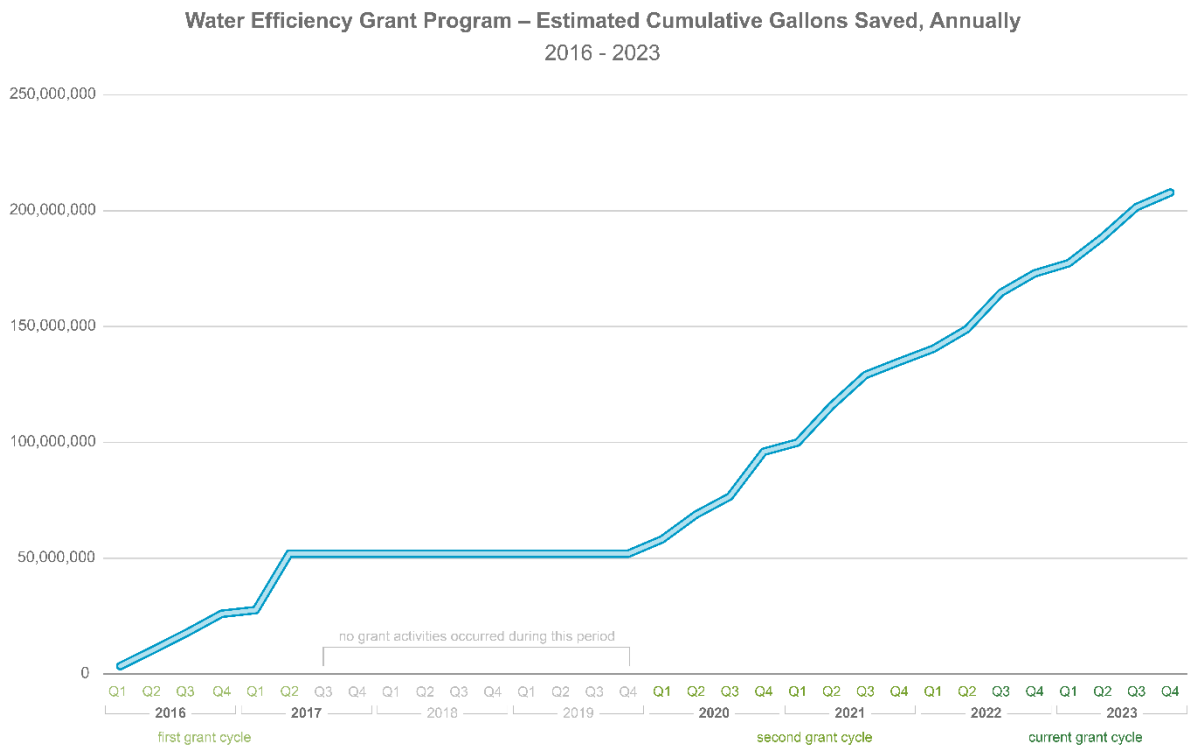
This program is most applicable to helping to implement the Clean Water Council Groundwater Vision that groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota. It also supports the Clean Water Council's Groundwater Goal #2 to ensure groundwater use is sustainable and avoids adverse impacts to surface water features due to groundwater use. Finally, it supports Strategy 3 under Goal #2, to develop and carry out strategies that promote sustainability of groundwater use and the action associated with this strategy to implement water efficiency BMPs, was use reduction, and irrigation water management in areas of high water use.

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

In FY16-17, Metropolitan Council awarded grants to nineteen communities in the metro area to implement water demand reduction measures that increase water efficiency, both indoors and outdoors. Estimated water saved from the first cycle of the program is 52 million gallons annually, water enough to supply around 1,700 persons for a year. In FY20-21, the number of communities participating in the grant program doubled, and award requests exceeded the available fund. Water savings for the second cycle of the grant program were expected to be more than 55 million gallons annually. Water savings for the second cycle of the grant program exceeded expectations, with an estimated 96 million gallons being saved annually. The third cycle of the grant program is ongoing. As of 12/31/2023, the estimated water savings from the third cycle is 59 million gallons annually. We expect this number to increase once we have all the final numbers for this cycle.

The program continues to increase awareness about water efficiency and support water efficiency goals set by communities.



Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

> Steady for FY 26/27. We will reevaluate the need after that. We may want to increase the request in FY28/29 based on the evaluation of need at that time.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

> This grant program uses matching funds from local water suppliers to incentivize wise use of our precious water resources.

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

> **Supplement**

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

Community	**Funds Expended for 2016-2017**	**Funds Expended for 2020-2022**	**Funds Expended for 2022-2024** ***THRU Q4 2023***
Apple Valley	-	$25,625.29	$27,164.74
Bayport	-	-	$8,000.00
Bloomington	-	$21,000.00	$14,160.00
Brooklyn Center	-	$1,108.94	-
Brooklyn Park	$5,681.25	$10,272.07	$10,303.56
Chanhassen	$13,965.10	$19,300.00	$7,640.00
Chaska	-	$14,000.00	-
Circle Pines	$4,605.75	-	$8,100.12
Coon Rapids	-	-	$25,910.34
Cottage Grove	$5,677.46	$27,300.00	$42,754.53
Dayton	-	$ 289.50	-
Eagan	$40,174.84	$13,927.50	$32,696.00
Eden Prairie	$37,499.99	$39,065.37	$22,002.09
Farmington	-	$10,393.40	$11,000.00
Forest Lake	$7,762.50	$2,550.00	$8,200.00
Fridley	$6,912.70	$23,898.06	$7,540.42
Hopkins	-	$19,000.00	-
Hugo	$71,509.86	$29,565.00	$36,000.00
Lake Elmo	-	$15,394.77	$11,726.84
Lakeville	-	$29,456.15	$23,886.80
Lino Lakes	-	-	$7,079.43
Mahtomedi	$3,225.00	$2,437.50	-
Maple Grove	-	-	$14,543.37
Minnetonka	-	$13,052.05	$9,418.16
New Brighton	$49,999.97	$14,625.00	$24,160.00
Newport	$525.00	-	-
North St Paul	-	$20,229.22	$21,728.96
Oakdale	-	$1,315.63	-
Plymouth	$25,250.00	$33,300.00	$33,641.63
Prior Lake	-	$4,037.17	$9,600.00
Ramsey	-	$26,124.19	$15,195.85
Robbinsdale	-	$5,900.80	$3,600.00
Rosemount	$12,541.25	$11,300.00	$22,876.78
Roseville	-	$2,819.88	$13,215.21

Savage	-	$11,000.00	$16,761.62
Shakopee Public Utilities Commission	$12,903.86	$19,915.35	$27,262.33
Shoreview	-	$9,360.33	$3,779.57
Shorewood	-	$9,372.07	$3,783.20
St Louis Park	-	$23,000.00	$24,970.77
Stillwater	-	-	$23,756.78
Victoria	$9,000.00	$11,578.85	$3,106.60
White Bear Lake	$63,731.03	$33,791.43	$3,561.67
White Bear Township	$41,500.00	$43,785.66	$29,411.63
Woodbury	$49,777.92	$50,300.00	$42,946.67

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	0.0
FY12-13	0.0
FY14-15	0.0
FY16-17	0.0
FY18-19	0.0
FY20-21	0.0
FY22-23	0.0
FY24-25	0.0
FY26-27	0.0

No Water Efficiency/Water Demand Grant funds are used to support staff to administer this grant program.

March 21, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2022, the City of Bayport received $8,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through the purchase of SMART irrigation controllers. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 1,000,000 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities in the east Metro have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Matt Kline
City Administrator
294 3rd St No
Bayport MN 55003

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

March 29, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2022, the City of Chanhassen received $34,440 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency by creating an incentive for residents to seek out and purchase devices that are either Water Sense Certified or Energy Star Certified. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 1,067,700 gallons saved so far through the program.

Many communities, including Chanhassen, have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Jamie Marsh
7700 Market Blvd.
Chanhassen, MN 55317

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

March 26, 2024

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

EDEN PRAIRIE
LIVE • WORK • DREAM

OFC 952 949 8300
TDD 952 949 8399

8080 Mitchell Road
Eden Prairie, MN
55344-4485

edenprairie.org

RE: Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2022, the City of Eden Prairie received $44,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through smart irrigation practices. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 2 million gallons saved through the program.

Many communities, including ours, have benefitted from these programs. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Fierce

Jennifer Fierce
Sustainability Coordinator

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

March 26, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2022, the City of Lake Elmo received $50,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency in our city to conserve precious ground water. Due to the White Bear Lake lawsuit and PFAS contamination, we need to conserve every drop of clean water we have. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 1,000,000 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities, including Lake Elmo, have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Clark Schroeder, Interim City Administrator.
City of Lake Elmo MN.
Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency, Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

CITY OF MINNETONKA
14600 Minnetonka Blvd. | Minnetonka, MN 55345 | 952-939-8200 | minnetonkamn.gov

March 25, 2024

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

RE: Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

Since 2012 the city of Minnetonka's population has increased by 3,850 residents (7.5%) while total annual water use has declined by 400 million gallons (-14.5%). The reduction in per-capita water use is the result of the programs and activities made possible by Clean Water Funds.

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

In 2019 and 2022, the City of Minnetonka received a total of $52,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through replacement of broken or inefficient water devices with new WaterSense certified devices.

Many communities, including Minnetonka, have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Will Manchester
Public Works Director
City of Minnetonka
11522 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Mike Kuno
Utility Operations Engineer
City of Minnetonka
11522 Minnetonka Blvd
Minnetonka, MN 55305

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

NEW BRIGHTON
building tomorrow today

Support for Metropolitan Council's
2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request

March 22, 2024
John Barten, Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
St. Paul, MN 55155

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2016, the City of New Brighton received $50,000 from the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program. The program allowed us to replace 202 inefficient toilets with US EPA Water Sense Compliant units and minor faucet repairs in naturally occurring affordable multi-family rental properties. In 2022, the City of New Brighton received $28,000 from the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program allowing us to replace an additional 90 toilets. The water savings has been tremendous. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of an estimated **40,720,470** gallons saved through the program.

Many communities including New Brighton have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Craig Schlichting
Director of Community Assets and Development
651.638.2056

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

March 21, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2023 the City of North St. Paul received $27,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency rebates for toilets, dishwashers and wash machines. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 366,075 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities, including North St. Paul have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,Barb Huelsman

City of North St. Paul, Utility Billing Coordinator
2400 Margaret St. No
North St. Paul, MN 55109

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

17073 Adelman Street SE
Prior Lake, MN 55372

March 21, 2024

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

RE: Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request

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

Water is fundamental to the prosperity and quality of life of our Twin Cities region. Every sector of our regional community relies on water—commerce, manufacturing, construction, health care, recreation, and agriculture. Over the past 14 years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

- Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program
- Water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program

Through these two programs, the Clean Water Fund supports communities in implementing projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats, providing cost-effective regional solutions and tools, leveraging inter-jurisdictional coordination, supporting local implementation of water supply reliability projects, and preventing degradation of groundwater resources in the region. These programs have fostered partnerships between and within organizations and shed additional light on greater water resource issues. Working together, the Metropolitan Council and metro area cities are moving toward meeting our long-term goal of sustainable water supplies for current and future generations.

Over the past two years, the City of Prior Lake was awarded $19,600 from the Metropolitan Council's Water Efficiency Grant Program. This program exists to increase water efficiency by encouraging residents to replace old, inefficient appliances with more efficient models. Without the grant support, the city would not be able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 500,000+ gallons that may be saved through the program.

Many communities in the metro area have benefited from these programs and will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the

region. The City of Prior Lake recommends the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Andrew J. Brotzler, PE
Director of Public Works/City Engineer

cc:
Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

City of Robbinsdale
4100 Lakeview Avenue North
Robbinsdale Minnesota • 55422-2280
Phone: (763) 537-4534
Fax: (763) 537-7344
Website www.robbinsdalemn.com

March 28, 2024

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

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

The City of Robbinsdale has participated in two rounds of the Water Efficiency Grant Program, receiving a total of $15,520.00 in grant funds.

Within our City, these grant funds have leveraged a total of $ 70,200 expenditure to date of eligible improved efficiency fixtures by our water utility customers and has achieved estimated water savings of over 750,000 gallons per year.

Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate this achievement.

Continued …/2

Many communities, including ours, have benefitted from these programs, and will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

If you have any questions, please contact me at ☎ 763-531-1260 or by email at rmccoy@ci.robbinsdale.mn.us

Yours sincerely,

Richard McCoy, P.E.
Public Works Director / City Engineer

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

4600 Victoria Street North
Shoreview, Minnesota 55126
651.490.4600 | shoreviewmn.gov

March 29, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

In 2020, the City of Shoreview awarded approximately $10,000 in rebates to residents from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through upgrading irrigation systems to use a smart controller. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 1.5 million gallons per year saved through the program.

Many communities, including ours, have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Tom Wesolowski
Public Works Director
4600 Victoria St N
Shoreview, MN 55126

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

St. Louis Park
MINNESOTA

Experience LIFE in the Park

March 21, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

- Metropolitan area water supply sustainability support program
- Water demand reduction (efficiency) grant program

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

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

In 2022, the City of St Louis Park received $35,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation program. This program exists to increase water efficiency through funding utility credit rebates for qualified WaterSense and Energy Star products. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of the estimated 500,000 gallons saved through the program.

Many communities including ours have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Jay Hall

Jay Hall
7305 Oxford Street
St. Louis Park, MN 55426

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control AgencyJudy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

CITY OF Woodbury

8301 Valley Creek Road • Woodbury, MN 55125-3330 • woodburymn.gov
651-714-3500 • TYY 651-714-3568 • FAX 651-714-3501

March 21st, 2024

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

RE: **Support for Metropolitan Council's 2026-2027 Clean Water Fund Request**

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

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

Over the past fourteen (14) years, the Metropolitan Council has received funding from Clean Water Fund (CWF) to support two programs that target water supply sustainability in the Twin Cities metro area:

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

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

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

The City of Woodbury has been a recipient of the Metropolitan Council Water Efficiency Grant for the last three grant cycles. In the 2020 and 2022 grant cycles, the City of Woodbury received $50,300 and $60,000 from the Metropolitan Council's water demand reduction grant program to expand the city's water conservation programming. This program exists to increase water efficiency through replacing old toilets with EPA WaterSesne low-flow toilets. Without the grant support, the city would not have been able to accelerate the achievement of an estimated 11.6 million gallons of water saved annually through the program.

Many communities, including the City of Woodbury, have benefitted from these programs. And we will continue to benefit from the expansion of these programs, as we strive to use water more efficiently in the region. I respectfully request that the Clean Water Council fully support the Metropolitan Council's FY 26-27 funding request.

Sincerely,

Chris Hartzell, PE
Engineering Director, City of Woodbury

Cc: Paul Gardner, Clean Water Council Administrator, MN Pollution Control Agency
Judy Sventek, Manager, Water Resources, Metropolitan Council

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP)	
MDA	Program Number: 33
Program Contact Name: **Brad Jordahl Redlin**	Phone: **651-201-6489**
Contact E-mail Address: **brad.jordahlredlin@state.mn.us**	
Person filling out form: **Margaret Wagner**	Phone: **651-201-6488**
Person filling out form e-mail address **Margaret.wagner@state.mn.us**	

Purpose

The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a first of its kind partnership between federal and state government and private industry. This innovative and nationally recognized voluntary program targets water quality protection on a field by field, whole farm basis. The MAWQCP gives farmers and agricultural landowners the opportunity to take the lead in implementing conservation practices that protect our water. Those who implement and maintain approved farm management practices will be certified and in turn obtain regulatory certainty for a period of ten years.

Webpage

Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program | Minnesota Department of Agriculture (state.mn.us)

Rationale/Background

The MAWQCP comprehensively identifies and mitigates agricultural risks to water quality and protects and restores water resources, improves and expands soil health, and builds and quantifies climate resiliency in Minnesota agriculture. Producers work one-on-one with local agronomic and conservation professionals to identify risks and implement practices that protect water quality across their operation.

The MAWQCP was developed for the purpose of aligning federal agencies (USDA and EPA) with relevant cohort state agencies (MDA, MPCA, DNR, BWSR) and local service providers (SWCDs) to provide a coordinated and unified effort for addressing agricultural operations' risks to water quality. Housed at MDA, the MAWQCP operates as a risk assessment process, assessing every parcel and every cropping scenario (or pasture management, etc.) in the entire farming operation—whether owned or rented—to identify and mitigate risks posed to water quality. Any identified risk on any parcel at any point in the crop rotation that is not mitigated prevents the entire from receiving MAWQCP-certification. The comprehensive, direct intervention, on an acre by acre whole-farm scale is unique in the nation for addressing all issues on an agricultural operation.

This structure ensures that any and all conservation practice interventions can and are deployed on a site-specific manner to address whatever form of risk exists. As a result, practices implemented through MAWQCP include all established conservation interventions in agriculture (for a list, see USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service conservation practice standards). Further, the comprehensive and personalized process is cited by growers as primary reason for participating in MAWQCP. They approach operating their farm as a comprehensive and extremely complex yet cohesive enterprise, and integrating conservation in that same context is what has been consistently cited in MAWQCP grower surveys as key for program appeal and usefulness.

Additionally, MAWQCP's whole-farm risk assessment process requires Certifying Agents to access details and records (i.e. all fertilizer applications, all pesticide uses, all implements used, presence of drainage or irrigation or existing conservation practices, the physical characteristics of each parcel, etc.) to obtain a complete record of operation management. In turn, this provides a further opportunity for specialized actions that have been captured in the MAWQCP endorsement process. Program staff recognized the opportunity to introduce enhanced efforts into the certification process for maximizing conservation performance in support of or even beyond water quality. MAWQCP now has voluntary endorsements for farms to add further specialized practice implementation for Soil Health, Integrated Pest Management, Wildlife, Climate Smart, and Irrigation Water management. To date, 479 total endorsements have been earned by MAWQCP-certified farms.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	$3,000,000
FY16-17	$5,000,000
FY18-19	$5,000,000
FY20-21	$6,000,000
FY22-23	$6,000,000
FY24-25	$7,000,000
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	**$32,000,000**

FY26 Request	FY27 Request	FY26-27 TOTAL REQUEST
STEADY	STEADY	STEADY

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

Please indicate which strategy in the Clean Water Council's most recent Strategic Plan applies to this proposal.

MAWQCP addresses 2024 CWC Strategic Plan in:

Groundwater Vision

- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Actions 2, 3, 4
- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Drinking Water Source Protection

- Goal 1; Strategy 2; Action 1; Strategy 5; Action 1
- Goal 2; Strategy 3; Action 1

Surface Water Protection and Restoration Vision

- Goal 2; Strategy 2; Actions 1, 3, 4
- Goal 3; Strategy 1; Action 1; Strategy 3; Action 1

Vision: All Minnesotans…

- Goal 1; Strategy 1; Actions 1, 6, 7

Outcomes

Describe the likely measurable outcomes of this proposal. (If this program has been funded previously by the Clean Water Fund, please describe the measurable outcomes, outputs, or results achieved to date and how close the program is to a goal, when applicable.)

As of March 8, 2024, the MAWQCP has certified 1,460 producers and 1,040,260 acres with 2,844 new practices implemented, resulting in:

- 47,835 tons of sediment prevented per year
- 142,806 tons of soil saved per year
- 59,691 lbs. of phosphorous loss prevented per year
- 51,746 C02-equivalent metric tons of GHG emissions reductions per year
- Up to 49% reduction in nitrogen losses

Additionally, the Farm Business Management Program of Minnesota State Colleges and AgCentric have collected financial outcomes of all program participants for crop years 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2022 (with 2023 due next month), comparing MAWQCP-certified farms to non-certified farms, and have found that the MAWQCP-certified farms out-performed the non-certified every year. Looking at four years of data, the average income for MAWQCP farms was $16,000 - $40,000 higher. Other key financial metrics are also better for those enrolled in the MAWQCP, such as debt-to-asset ratios and operating expense ratios.

Since the introduction of earned-performance MAWQCP endorsements in late 2019, 479 have been awarded for additional practice implementation in support of select topic areas:

- 135 Soil Health Endorsements
- 101 Integrated Pest Management Endorsements
- 80 Wildlife Endorsements
- 159 Climate Smart Endorsements

- 4 Irrigation Water Management endorsements (achieved with UofM Extension Irrigation Management course completion and practice adoption)

Status quo performance (zero growth rate in annual participation) through FY30 would anticipate approximately 2,000,000 certified acres on 2,250 farms, or a doubling of totals through FY23. While a 100% increase in the time period is significant, it would lag our previous target totals. To increase the growth rate over status quo, we believe key components will be coordinated multiple agency inclusion and prioritization of MAWQCP in all watershed programs (as ordered of MPCA, DNR and BWSR in Executive Order 19-12), continued expansion of private sector promotion to and recruitment of clientele, and potential for policy incentives such as dedicated points awarded for MAWQCP-certified or MAWQCP-applicant farms within all agricultural grant-making by all public entities in MInnesota (to leverage comprehensive conservation performance across whole farms, rather than limited to select practices/initiatives), or other potential public incentives as sought by agricultural sector, among other strategies.

Long-term funding vision

If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future requests to increase, decrease, stay about the same, or not be needed? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)

Same, with potential increase longer term.

Non-CWF Funding

Will this program receive or request other funding from non-CWF sources, or eventually leverage non-CWF sources? If so, please describe. If not, leave blank.

Yes, the MAWQCP has leveraged over $22 million of additional investment in conservation in Minnesota. The public and private funds leveraged are detailed below.

Other Funds Leveraged:

McKnight Foundation

2013: $50,000 grant to MDA-MAWQCP to support development of farm risk assessment process

2022: $100,000 grant to MDA-MAWQCP to fund $1,000 incentive payments to MAWQCP-certified farms that further earned the MAWQCP Climate Smart Farm endorsement thru implementing Climate Change mitigating practices and management

USDA-NRCS

2014 & 2015: $1,501,256 annually from dedicated Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funding to implement conservation practices to earn MAWQCP certification

2016 thru 2024: $1,800,000 annually from Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) agreements to implement conservation practices to earn MAWQCP certification (2 consecutive 5-year, $9 million awards)

NOTE 1: Federal Program conservation practice implementation is contracted directly between the producer and USDA-NRCS, no funds entered MAWQCP budget, and MAWQCP unfortunately cannot

know/capture the producer-paid portion to include in leveraged total. Typical federal funding formulas range from 50% to 10% (for historically underserved producers) producer-paid portion of practice implementation.)

NOTE 2: The federal funding sources (EQIP and RCPP) are provided thru USDA-NRCS and will be spent nationally every year. Due to MAWQCP seeking and earning those funds, they are being brought to implement practices in Minnesota that otherwise would never receive the funds which would instead then be used in other states.

MAWQCP

2017 ongoing: In 2017 program staff developed an internal MAWQCP Financial Assistance Grant program from existing annual appropriation as a maximum $5,000 reimbursement grant and minimum 25% producer-paid portion of practice implementation.

NOTE: MAWQCP does know/capture the producer-paid portion being that the grants agreements are made between the producer and MAWQCP, with growers always required to pay a minimum of 25% of implementation costs, ranging up to tens of thousands of dollars for project costs that far exceed the $5,000 maximum reimbursement amount.

	CWF	leveraged	total	**LEVERAGED breakdown**: McKnight	MAWQCP FA-grant producer provided portion	USDA-NRCS practice implementation funding
2012	$173,380		$173,380			
2013	$132,830	$50,000	$182,830	$50K McKnight		
2014	$1,500,000	$1,501,256	$3,001,256			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS
2015	$1,500,000	$1,501,256	$3,001,256			$1.5M+ USDA-NRCS
2016	$2,500,000	$1,800,000	$4,300,000			$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2017	$2,500,000	$1,982,129	$4,482,129		$182,129.53	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2018	$2,000,000	$2,075,639	$4,075,639		$275,639.78	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2019	$3,000,000	$2,235,825	$5,235,825		$435,825.88	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2020	$3,000,000	$2,173,216	$5,173,216		$373,216.92	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2021	$3,000,000	$2,322,916	$5,322,916		$522,916.51	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2022	$3,000,000	$2,804,342	$5,804,342	$100K McKnight	$904,342.18	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
2023	$3,000,000	$3,652,457	$6,652,457		$1,852,457.72	$1.8M USDA-NRCS
TOTAL	$25,306,210	$22,099,040	$47,405,250			

Supplement vs. supplant

Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3 requires that "any state agency or organization requesting a direct appropriation from the clean water fund must inform the Clean Water Council and the house of

representatives and senate committees having jurisdiction over the clean water fund, at the time the request for funding is made, whether the request is supplanting or is a substitution for any previous funding that was not from a legacy fund and was used for the same purpose." **Indicate if this proposal will supplement or supplant previous funding.**

Supplement

Past Funding Recipients

If this funding will be disbursed through competitive grants, loans, or contracts, or if recipients are not yet known, please list what entities have received this funding in previous fiscal years and how much.

In FY14-FY23, 55% was passed through in grants and contracts. Recipients include SWCDs, project partners, and participating farms.

SWCDs have received $9,292,091 through FY23 for serving as fiscal agents, staffing MAWQCP Area Certification Specialists, and in payment of certification services provided by SWCD employees.

Professional service contracts for software development and maintenance, technology, and other services totaled $425,633 through FY23.

The MAWQCP Financial Assistance grant is available to applicant and current MAWQCP-certified farms. Maximum grant amount is $5000 and maximum 75% of project cost. (Note: following data is through calendar year 2023)

Total grants funded:

FY	Total $$ Grant	# of Grants
2017	106,502.83	30
2018	214,763.23	52
2019	318,126.75	79
2020	276,166.66	74
2021	439,057.60	110
2022	433,207.64	109
2023	453,362.32	104
2024*	278,205.37	73
	2,519,392.40	631

Practices implemented with MAWQCP FA-grants:

Conservation Practice	Total $$ Grant
Access Control	29,237.37
Alternative Drain Tile Intakes	104,227.04
Conservation Cover	4,310.86
Cover Crop	846,369.98
Critical Area Planting	5,793.52

Diversion	14,463.00
Drainage Water Management	8,026.38
Feedlot/Wastewater Filter Strip	18,564.88
Fence	212,075.16
Field Border	7,552.00
Field Windbreak	6,491.15
Filter Strip	15,000.00
Forage & Biomass Planting	48,712.47
Grade Stabilization Structure	71,976.50
Grassed Waterway	154,807.29
Heavy Use Area Protection	45,000.00
Integrated Pest Management	1,327.00
Integrated Pest Management Plan Development	1,500.00
Irrigation System	5,000.00
Irrigation System, Sprinkler	60,059.52
Irrigation Water Management	61,382.75
Irrigation Water Management - Soil Moisture Sensors	48,425.75
Livestock Shelter Structures	5,000.00
Mulching	15,000.00
Nutrient Management Plan Development	5,000.00
Nutrient Management	7,611.00
Open Channel	2,417.63
Pasture & Hay Planting	10,699.06
Pipeline	59,683.35
Prescribed Grazing	138,881.36
Pumping Plant	8,000.00
Residue & Tillage Management - No-Till/Strip Till/Direct Seed	47,495.65
Residue & Tillage Mgmt - No Till/Strip Till	16,762.50
Roof Runoff Control (feedlot)	19,380.51
Sediment Basin	27,437.00
Septic System upgrade (Imminent Threat to Public Heath designated only)	10,000.00
Spring Development	5,000.00
Stream Crossing	31,558.75
Structure for Water Control	2,191.06
Waste Storage Facility	45,000.00
Water & Sediment Control Basin	154,275.62
Water Well	32,482.50
Water Well Decommissioning	11,312.50
Watering facility	74,484.61
Wetland Restoration	19,416.68

2,519,392.40

State Employees

Indicate the number the full-time state employees supported by the CWF for this program.

FY10-11	
FY12-13	0.85
FY14-15	3.75
FY16-17	5.8
FY18-19	5.4
FY20-21	5.7
FY22-23	5.8
FY24-25	6.4*
FY26-27	6.4*