Clean Water Council
Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) Meeting Agenda
Friday, June 7, 2024 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting: In person at 520 Lafayette Road, St. Paul, MN 55155 and on Webex

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 and most recent minutes
- Chair and Staff update

9:45 Strategizing for Different Clean Water Fund Recommendations Scenarios for FY26-27

10:00 Questions, Comments, Conversation about May 20th and June 3rd Full Council presentations

The BOC will review questions posed by Council members on the presentations for the following programs. There may be no questions on some programs, or agencies may have written answers in lieu of a verbal response.

Met Council

- Metropolitan Area Water Sustainability Support (Met Council)

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

- Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater (MDA)
- Nitrate in Groundwater (MDA)
- Research Inventory Database (MDA)
- Irrigation Water Quality Protection (MDA)
- Forever Green Initiative (MDA)
- Pesticide Testing of Private Wells (MDA)
- Expand Weather Station Network (MDA)

10:30 Break

10:45 Questions, Comments, Conversation (continued)

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- River and Lake Monitoring and Assessments
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (including TMDLs)
- Ground Water Assessment
- Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL Implementation
- Chloride Reduction Efforts

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources

- Stream Flow Monitoring
- Lake IBI Assessment
- Fish Contamination Assessment
- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies
- Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning
- Buffer Map Maintenance

- County Geologic Atlases Part B

Board of Water and Soil Resources
- One Watershed One Plan

12:00 Lunch

12:30 Questions, Comments, Conversation (continued)

MDH
- Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern (MDH)
- Private Well Initiative (MDH)
- Source Water Protection (MDH)
- Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (MDH)
- Future of Drinking Water (MDH)

University of Minnesota
- County Geologic Atlases Part A (UMN)

PFA
- Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program (PFA)
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program (PFA)

1:45 Public Comment

2:00 Adjourn

Budget and Outcomes Committee Meeting Summary
Clean Water Council (Council)
Friday, May 3, 2024 9:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Steve Besser (Committee Chair), Dick Brainerd (Committee Vice Chair), Gary Burdorf, Steve Christenson, Warren Formo, Brad Gausman, Holly Hatlewick, Annie Knight

Others present: Jim Stark (LCC), John Barten, Annie Felix-Gerth (BWSR), Jen Kader (Met Council), Myra Kunas (MDH), Anne Nelson (MDH), Brad Jordahl Redlin (MDA), Margaret Wagner (MDA), Jason Moekel (DNR), Sharon Doucette (BWSR), Richard Gruenes (MDA), Danielle Isaacson (MDA), Jamie Beyer (Bois de Sioux Watershed District) Amy Adrihan (MPCA), Nicole Blasing (MPCA), Anita Provinzino (North St. Louis SWCD), Brandon Montgomery (MPCA), Paul Gardner, Justin Hanson (BWSR), Tara Solem (Lake SWCD) Tim Beaster (South St. Louis SWCD), Paul McDonald (St. Louis County), Jeff Anderson (Voyageurs Project), Jason Chopp (SEH)

Members absent: Zero members absent.

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.

Today's meeting packet is located here: https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-cwc4-86e.pdf

Regular Business

- Introductions (*Webex 0:32*)
  - Steve Besser - Fisheries Summit at the St. Cloud University, Waterville hatchery – raising muscles there. Do we need to increase funding now that it is up and running?
  - Margaret Wagner- MDA and MPCA have open applications for members of a collaborative work group in the southeast. Open till May 10.
  - Justin Hanson BWSR– 300 trout dropped into Wolf Creek. Suggesting tweak to supplemental Clean Water Fund appropriation on easements to support wellhead protection.
  - Jason Moeckel, DNR – The governors fishing opener will be in the Lake City area with a possible mussel facility tour. Drought-wise the southern half of state in good shape. Upper Miss, Red Lake, Lake of the Woods to get moisture Saturday.
  - Steve Christianson – Attended Earth Day event at Hidden Falls in St. Paul about first-ever testing of water quality along the entire MN length of the Mississippi River water quality at once. Possible due to the Clean Water Fund.
  - Gary Burdorf asked for information on PFAS to take to township meeting in Washington, DC.
- Approve agenda & most recent minutes – Approved. Seconded by Steve Christianson (*Webex 12:15*)
- Chair and Staff update

EASEMENTS - Sharon Doucette (*Webex 21:24*)

- Critical Shoreland Protection - Permanent Conservation Easements (BWSR)
- Wetland Restoration Easements (BWSR)
- Working Land and Floodplain Easements (BWSR)
- Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Protection (BWSR)
  - Broadly stated, where are we on our journey toward protecting and restoring 100,000 acres in the Upper Mississippi by 2034? What's protected? What work remains?
    - The definition of the Upper Mississippi includes these major watersheds: Crow Wing, Mississippi River-Headwaters, Upper Mississippi River-Grand Rapids, Mississippi River-Brainerd, Pine River, Mississippi River–St. Cloud, and the Rum River. Looking at all recorded easements within those subwatershed - 51,386 acres, including federally funded lands.

- Federally funded easements take away development rights from those parcels. They freeze the land in time so if there was agricultural activity, they can stay that way or convert to something like a traditional conservation easement.
- Removing federally funded acres brings us down to 26,490 acres.
- How do we get to 100,000 acres with three million dollars a year?
    - Easement payments to landowners are significantly cheaper because the value is significantly less in the part of the state unless you are directly on the lake, so money goes further than it goes in the southwest.
    - If we consider the federal income easements are providing some kind of habitat, they are better than the development that could be happening around Brainerd and Baxter. We're almost halfway there counting federal easements.
    - I think it is doable but we should think of spreading out properties that are worthy of protection. Like forested parcels that might not be close to a public water but protecting the forest instead of having it turn into houses. It would benefit the public waters in the watershed.
- Is there an outline of how we get to 100,000 acres?
    - It so variable. The costs of land are so different. We could make some estimates on using $3-4 million and the number of average acres on the timing.
- Referencing dollars per acre. It's surprising to pay $7,500 dollars per acre, which seems like a lot when you can buy an acre for $10-$15,000 an acre. Is it a wise investment when you can buy the whole thing for a little more?
    - Payments are structured in two ways. That years tax accessed value of the land where the easement is going, and we pay 60% of the tax value, minus any buildings. It is enough to get landowners interested in that part of the state.
    - Restoration easements in the south/southwest we use traditional RIM rates. The reports from the Department of Revenue are based on info from the county assessor at a township level. They look at tillable land value and then we pay 90% of that average. It isn't based on your actual parcel but the one rate for the township. The difference in value is because the landowner is not only thinking of what they could sell it for to their neighbors for but the potential income.
    - There is one township in Cottonwood County, the average is $14,400 and one in Rock County $14,353. Very productive farmland. The statewide average (excluding metro) is a little over $5,000.
    - Forest lands that are enrolled in sustainable forest incentive are not added in these numbers. State lands are also not counted.

Break (*Webex 1:05:02*)

Questions, Comments, Conversation about April 15th Full Council presentations (*Webex 1:19:01*)

- Buffer Law Implementation (BWSR)
- Nonpoint Source Restoration and Protection Activities (DNR) (*Webex 1:19:12*)
- Technical Assistance (MDA) (*Webex 11:43*) Margaret
- Conservation Equipment Assistance (MDA) (*Webex 2:49:51*)
    - See the answered questions in today's packet https://www.pca.state.mn.us/sites/default/files/wq-cwc4-86e.pdf
    - The demand for the grant money seems to be pretty great and there is a pretty restrictive process to get the grant money. Can you explain the process on what decision process on who gets the grant and who doesn't? (*Webex 3:19:38*)
        - The application process is structured specifically for soil health benefits, so we ask what piece of equipment do you need? There are additional point opportunities for beginning farmers, conservation plan in place, risk assessment and treatment. (*Webex 3:20:12*).
        - Some people will also sign up to be Ag Water Quality Certified for extra points.

        - An independent review committee decides so we don't put a thumb on the scale.
- AgBMP Loan Program (MDA) (*Webex 3:24:28*)
    - What is the repayment for these loans or the default rate.
        - 10 years, and there has never been a default and are no defaults.
    - Does the program count outcomes?
        - Yes, each individual loan is tracked by the type of project, they track what it is paying for and then a nutrient reduction is calculated by that practice. (*Webex 3:26:24*)
        - There are spreadsheets that are constantly being updated that share that information.
- Mussel Restoration Pilot Program (DNR) (*Webex 1:24:55*)
    - Could this program utilize $1-2 million/year?
        - They moved into a new facility. The next phase is to work on water sources and local growing areas.
        - They are also getting a chunk of money from LCCMR and leveraging federal grant dollars. They are also able to tap into the division's general fund budget. They are in a good place.
    - Did DNR grow these mussels before receiving the CWFs, and the CWF provides greater scale aka additionality? Just want to understand the "supplemental" benefit here. Also how did DNR decide what part of this project should be CWF vs other funds like ENRTF, OHF, game and fish fund, etc. (*Webex 1:31:04*)
        - CWF gave the capacity to grow capacity and the facility. They can do more stocking. They have six species in the lab now and can evaluate how they do in the wild.
        - They are at a good capacity in terms of staff and facility.
        - Without FCC and PLCC they are back to doing a small number.
        - They are still trying to get program money to help do more surveying around the state. There are some places they haven't been for 20 years.
- Water Storage (DNR)

Lunch (*Webex 02:07:19*)

- Great Lakes Restoration Projects (MPCA/BWSR) (*Webex 3:30:19*)
    - They hired a conservationist to have more capacity.
    - Local partners have been successful 90% of the time they've applied for the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funding, but they have had to pass up 85% of opportunities for lack of capacity or match.
- Enhanced County Inspections/SSTS Corrective Actions (MPCA) (*Webex 3:42:25*)
    - Is the MPCA coordinating with the Voyageurs project?
        - Broadly speaking, no. Counties are responsible for operating their SSTS programs locally. St. Louis county staff are part of this project.
    - Facilitators for under sewered communities. (*Webex 3:43:19*)
        - We are not bringing that to the council for recommendation for funding. They are still exploring the best way to put that proposal together. There is still a problem. 860 areas that have concern as far as wastewater treatment. Part of the problem is they don't really know what the issues are. They are identified by counties as potential problems. We're not sure where we want to input that process or person at this point.
- National Park Water Quality Protection Program (St. Louis County Commissioner Paul McDonald and Jason Chopp) (Webex 4:08:12)
    - What are the funds being used for?
        - They are being utilized to eliminate those failed SSTS largely in favor of centralized sewer systems. They are not running pipelines to serve future connections, only addressing existing systems.
    - Are you planning to ask for funding until it expires in 2034? (Webex 4:10:52)
        - Yes, the joint powers board completed an update of their sanitary sewer comprehensive plan for the four-sewer district area, which identifies needs looking at a 10-year outlook. Tens of millions of dollars are needed for projects if those are to develop. Those are pushed forward by the sewer district and the end users that need the systems. The

anticipation is unless they are done ahead of schedule that continuous applications will be submitted.

- Other funding sources: (*Webex 4:12:22*)
  - The Joint Powers Board – $35 million have been secured, and only $10 million have been CWF. We've been leveraging them at 3 to 1 ratio.
  - Bonding bill, PFA Loans, and grant program funds as well as local county funds and sewer districts themselves matching with internal funds.
  - Federal congressional spending.
- What would happen if CWF funds disappeared. (*Webex 4:13:35*)
  - I can't say it would stop, but it would hinder the process. Some of the other funds we receive require matching funds and we try to utilize these at matching funds so they are important.
- Have you been monitoring the impact your actions have had? (*Webex 4:14:16*)
  - As far as monitoring, we know the number of failed SSTS we have eliminated. They have the results of the meeting the limits from the treatment facilities.

Public Comment – no public comment

Adjourn (*Webex 4:22:9*)

Clean Water Fund Appropriations

as of 6/5/2024

leg order*	#	Agency	Title	Expected request	FY26-27	FY24-25 supple-mental	FY24-25	FY22-23	FY20-21	FY18-19	FY16-17	FY14-15	FY12-13	FY10-11	TOTAL
1	**4**	MDA	Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater	same			700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	700,000	675,000	**5,575,000**
2	15	MDA	Nitrate in Groundwater	up		1,000,000	6,000,000	5,170,000	5,170,000	4,171,000	5,171,000	5,000,000	1,700,000	1,125,000	**34,507,000**
3	34	MDA	AgBMP Loan Program	up		3,402,000	9,598,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	150,000	400,000	9,000,000	4,500,000	**27,500,000**
4	32	MDA	Technical Assistance	same			3,000,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	3,000,000	1,550,000	2,665,000	**20,715,000**
5	**56**	MDA	MN Water Research Digital Library [aka Research Inventory Database]	same			80,000	80,000	100,000	100,000	100,000	250,000	350,000	-	**1,060,000**
6	33	MDA	MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	same			7,000,000	6,000,000	6,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	3,000,000	-	-	**32,000,000**
7	17	MDA	Irrigation Water Quality Protection	same			300,000	270,000	300,000	220,000	220,000	220,000			**1,530,000**
8	**81**	MDA	Forever Green Agricultural Initiative (U of MN)	same			6,000,000	4,000,000	4,300,000	1,500,000	1,000,000	-	-	-	**16,800,000**
9	**307**	MDA	Pesticide Testing in Private Wells	same			1,000,000	870,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	-	**5,870,000**
10	NEW	MDA	Conservation Equipment Assistance	up or same			3,500,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**3,500,000**
11	NEW	MDA	Expand MN Ag Weather Station Network	same			3,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**3,000,000**
12	**56**	MDA	Agricultural Research/Evaluation	same			1,500,000	-	-	1,325,000	1,575,000	2,100,000	2,100,000	-	**8,600,000**
13	**10**	MPCA	River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment	same		326,000	18,100,000	14,832,000	16,300,000	16,550,000	16,700,000	15,200,000	15,000,000	15,000,000	**128,008,000**
14	**9**	MPCA	Watershed Restoration & Protection Strategies (includes TMDL development)	same			12,700,000	13,451,000	15,100,000	19,000,000	20,200,000	18,800,000	18,800,000	18,000,000	**136,051,000**
15	**11**	MPCA	Groundwater Monitoring and Assessment	same			2,000,000	1,900,000	2,364,000	2,363,000	2,364,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	2,250,000	**17,741,000**
16		MPCA	St. Louis River AOC	down			1,500,000								**1,500,000**
17	37	MPCA	NPDES wastewater/stormwater point-source implementation	same			3,000,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	1,800,000	-	-	**12,000,000**
18	43	MPCA	Enhanced County inspections/SSTS corrective actions	same		1,950,000	7,100,000	5,824,000	6,750,000	6,870,000	7,245,000	6,900,000	-	-	**42,639,000**
19	38	MPCA	Chloride Reduction	same		1,000,000	1,300,000	520,000	500,000	-	-	-	-	-	**3,320,000**
20	62	MPCA	Clean Water Council	same			675,000	600,000	220,000	100,000	100,000	73,000	-	-	**1,768,000**
21	92A	MPCA	National Park Water Quality Protection Program	same			2,000,000	1,400,000	1,550,000	2,000,000	-	3,500,000	-	-	**10,450,000**
22	**NEW**	MPCA	Nitrate Sensors			2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,000,000**
23		MPCA	River Watch for Friends of the MN Valley			50,000	-								**50,000**
24	**5**	DNR	Stream Flow Monitoring Program	same			5,100,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,900,000	4,000,000	4,000,000	3,700,000	1,500,000	**30,200,000**
25	**6**	DNR	Lake Index of Biological Integrity	same			2,900,000	2,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,600,000	2,600,000	2,300,000	1,320,000	**18,720,000**
26	**6**	DNR	Fish Contamination Assessment	up		90,000	910,000	350,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	270,000	**2,970,000**
27	**10**	DNR	Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies-DNR Portion	same			4,300,000	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,772,000	3,880,000	3,700,000	3,500,000	2,100,000	**28,852,000**
28	**18**	DNR	Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning	same			4,000,000	3,700,000	4,150,000	2,750,000	2,750,000	2,750,000	3,000,000	1,100,000	**24,200,000**
29	34	DNR	Non-point Source Restoration and Implementation	same			3,200,000	2,500,000	2,000,000	1,900,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	2,400,000	500,000	**16,500,000**

leg order*	#	Agency	Title	Expected request	FY26-27	FY24-25 supple-mental	FY24-25	FY22-23	FY20-21	FY18-19	FY16-17	FY14-15	FY12-13	FY10-11	TOTAL
30	**57**	DNR	Tool Development and Evaluation [Formerly Applied Research and Tools]	same			1,300,000	1,065,000	1,400,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	1,350,000	790,000	550,000	**9,155,000**
31	**76**	DNR	Buffer Map Maintenance	same			50,000	50,000	200,000	200,000	650,000	-	-	-	**1,150,000**
32	**59**	DNR	County Geologic Atlas Part B	same			200,000	-	300,000	250,000	500,000	1,200,000	-	1,000,000	**3,450,000**
33	NEW	DNR	Freshwater Mussel Restoration	same			600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**600,000**
34	NEW	DNR	Water Storage	not sure			1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1,000,000**
35	NEW	DNR	Culvert Replacement Cost Share	up or same			2,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,000,000**
36	17	BWSR	Grants to Watersheds with Approved Comprehensive Watershed Plans (Watershed-based Implementation Funding)	up			79,000,000	43,564,000	26,966,000	9,750,000	-	-	-	-	**159,280,000**
37	26	BWSR	Surface and Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants: (Projects and Practices)	same			17,000,000	22,266,000	32,000,000	19,500,000	20,380,000	21,400,000	29,100,000	6,000,000	**167,646,000**
38	18	BWSR	Accelerated Implementation	up			11,000,000	9,682,000	8,000,000	7,600,000	12,000,000	8,000,000	6,600,000	-	**62,882,000**
39	23	BWSR	Measures, Results and Accountability	same			2,500,000	2,500,000	2,000,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	2,100,000	590,000	**15,390,000**
40	24	BWSR	Buffer Law Implementation	same			4,000,000	3,872,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	-	-	-	**22,872,000**
41	25	BWSR	Working Lands Floodplain Easements [formerly Riparian Buffer-Permanent Conservation Easements]	up		3,434,000	5,000,000	3,872,000	9,500,000	9,750,000	9,750,000	13,000,000	12,000,000	6,900,000	**73,206,000**
42	37	BWSR	Targeted Wellhead/Drinking Water Source Protection	up		1,000,000	5,000,000	5,000,000	4,000,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	2,600,000	3,600,000	2,300,000	**30,500,000**
43	**43**	BWSR	Technical Evaluation [restoration evaluation]	same			200,000	84,000	168,000	168,000	168,000	168,000	168,000	-	**1,124,000**
44	16	BWSR	Watershed Management Transition (One Watershed, One Plan)	down			3,500,000	5,808,000	4,000,000	3,990,000	4,200,000	900,000	-	-	**22,398,000**
45	19	BWSR	Conservation Drainage Management and Assistance	same			2,000,000	1,700,000	1,700,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	-	-	-	**8,400,000**
46	21	BWSR	Critical Shoreland Protection-Permanent Conservation Easements	same		4,000,000	3,000,000	2,468,000	2,550,000	2,000,000	2,000,000	-	-	-	**16,018,000**
47	**80**	BWSR	Tillage, Cover Crop and Erosion Evaluation	same			850,000	723,000	850,000	850,000	1,000,000				**4,273,000**
48	27	BWSR	Watershed Partners Legacy (WPL) Grants	up		2,000,000	1,000,000	1,000,000	-	-	1,500,000	3,000,000	3,000,000	-	**11,500,000**
49	NEW	BWSR	Wetland Restoration Easement	up			10,000,000	5,660,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	**15,660,000**
50	28	BWSR	Enhancing Soil Health and Landowner Adoption of Cover Crops for Drinking Water & Groundwater Protection	up			12,077,000	4,200,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	**16,277,000**
51	NEW	BWSR	Great Lakes Restoration LAMP	same		1,000,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**1,000,000**
52	**23**	MDH	Contaminants of Emerging Concern	up		384,000	10,100,000	2,400,000	3,400,000	2,200,000	2,200,000	2,300,000	2,040,000	1,300,000	**26,324,000**
53	9	MDH	Private Well Initiative	up			3,000,000	-	1,500,000	800,000	650,000	650,000	-	-	**6,600,000**
54	**24**	MDH	Source Water Protection	same			7,500,000	7,884,000	5,494,000	5,470,000	3,800,000	3,230,000	2,830,000	2,400,000	**38,608,000**

leg order*	#	Agency	Title	Expected request	FY26-27	FY24-25 supple-mental	FY24-25	FY22-23	FY20-21	FY18-19	FY16-17	FY14-15	FY12-13	FY10-11	TOTAL
55	**74**	MDH	Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies	up			1,500,000	1,126,000	1,100,000	400,000	250,000	300,000	-	-	**4,676,000**
56	40	MDH	Future of Drinking Water (formerly Drinking Water Protection)	same			500,000	500,000	500,000	300,000	-	-	-	-	**1,800,000**
57	NEW	MDH	Recreational Water Portal	down			600,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**600,000**
58	**new**	MDH	Nitrate response in SE Minnesota			2,790,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	**2,790,000**
59	42	MC	Metropolitan Area Water Supply Sustainability Support Program	up			2,250,000	1,838,000	2,000,000	1,900,000	1,950,000	2,000,000	1,000,000	800,000	**13,738,000**
60	35	MC	Water Demand Reduction- Efficiency - Grant Program	same			1,500,000	1,250,000	750,000	-	500,000	-	-	-	**4,000,000**
61	**61**	UMN	County Geologic Atlas Part A	same			1,000,000	900,000	500,000	250,000	-	1,230,000	-	305,000	**4,185,000**
62	**82B**	UMN	Stormwater Research and Technology Transfer Program	same		1,000,000	2,000,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,500,000	550,000	-	-	-	**8,050,000**
63	63	LCC	Legislative Coordinating Commission Website	same			6,000	8,000	9,000	15,000	-	30,000	13,000	25,000	**106,000**
64	7	PFA	Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program	up			16,500,000	15,936,000	18,000,000	15,750,000	18,000,000	18,000,000	30,920,000	30,200,000	**163,306,000**
65	41	PFA	Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program	same			200,000	200,000	250,000	250,000	500,000	4,000,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	**10,400,000**
						$ 25,426,000	**$ 318,396,000**								

FY24-25 base budget	$ 318,396,000	
plus supplemental FY24-25 that has tails (in red above)	$ 4,590,000	
FY24-25 base budget (revised)	**$ 322,986,000**	
MMB revenue estimate for FY26-27	**$ 307,422,000**	
Difference between FY24-25 revised base and FY26-27 estimate	$ 15,564,000	4.8%

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

Comment Sheet for Clean Water Fund Requests

June 7th 2024

Agencies: These are comments from Clean Water Council members from the May 20th and June 3rd full Council meetings. Please review to prepare for follow-up at the June 7th BOC meeting.

Minnesota Department of Agriculture

Monitoring for Pesticides in Surface Water and Groundwater (MDA)

- How many pesticides for cropland are in commerce today in Minnesota? How many are we finding that are too high?

Nitrate in Groundwater (MDA)

- Is there a groundwater N goal set for modeling and for what duration, e.g., <5 mg/L or 5-10 mg/L? What's the balance of permanence of practices nutrient management vs. perennial?
- When will data from groundwater monitoring be available to determine nitrate trends in vulnerable areas?
- Have the computer models estimating N reductions from practices been calibrated to estimate accuracy? If N rate is the most important practices, how many of the LATS have recommended reductions?
- Excellent examples of moving from research to implementation! GREAT!
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Research Inventory Database (MDA)

- How is MNWRL promoted for increased awareness and use?

Irrigation Water Quality Protection (MDA)

- Would be interesting to compare "trained irrigator" water use vs "untrained" to determine water use efficiency through program.
- This is a huge advancement for irrigators on groundwater quality and quantity!
- This idea also makes sense, but can we see or estimate outcomes?
- Can Jason provide summary or links on studies waying how much reduction can happen with variable rate tech?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?
- How are water use savings being tracked?
- Can "replenishment" be tracked similar to what private industry does for water quantity conservation?

Forever Green Initiative (MDA)

- Benefits from this program are likely to happen after 2034 on a large scale. Should we expect any measurable results on water quality or groundwater quality before 2034 when the Legacy Amendment expires? Should we expect some crops to succeed wildly and some to fail to meet expectations? (I'm OK with that, I just want to be clear about the risks and benefits.)

Pesticide Testing of Private Wells (MDA)

- Why not have pesticide manufacturers and retailers pay for this?
- Are you looking at combination of pesticides in private wells? As producers change products, each compound may have a low concentration, but cumulatively may be problematic.
- Would it make sense to expand testing to include all households receiving N tests to get pesticide testing?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Expand Weather Station Network (MDA)

- What other funding sources are available or could be used for this? How will water quality and quantity effectiveness be determined? Is there a need for a user survey to determine application and effectiveness?
- How are you tracking users? How many and what sector do they represent? How is data being used? How will you evaluate effectiveness for water resource management? Are there other funding sources like ag general fund?
- Has a reduction in irrigation in water been realized with use of the network?
- This idea makes sense, but we know the cost-effectiveness, e.g., $$ per pound of reduced N, P, pesticides, etc.
- How many fiscal years would you be asking for CWFs? Is this bondable?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

River and Lake Monitoring and Assessments (MPCA)

- How much of program is dedicated to informing local water plan implementation?
- Another heavy lift for CWFs
- How much of a change in W.S. load is detectable over how long of a time period for your network to measure?
- Let us know about your interaction with the tribes.
- We have a world-class monitoring network, but we could always use more data. How do you decide what monitoring is cost-effective and what brings diminishing returns? Have you changed methods because something wasn't worth doing for the money or because you found a better way to do it? Just thinking about continuous improvement as we approach 2034.
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (including TMDLs)(MPCA)

- Is civic engagement a component of WRAPS?
- How many TMDLs need to be completed statewide, and what is the approximate cost to complete?
- Are 1W1Ps evaluated for use of the WRAPS and are results reported?
- Will there be a delisting summary for streams like was done for lakes?
- Can the heat map for implementation be updated more frequently, and if so, how frequently?
- Will WRAPS cycle 2 have a ten-year timeline like cycle 1, or will it go faster the second time around? Or is cycle 2 including things that weren't in cycle 1 and therefore adds even more value?

Ground Water Assessment (MPCA)

- Can you speak about the common data platform into all this multi-agency well data is and whether agencies learn things from each other's work?

Wastewater/Stormwater TMDL Implementation (MPCA)

- How do we do more credit trading programs?
- This program is about breaking down silos between regulated and unregulated contaminant sources so that permittees have accurate effluent/MS4 limits in their permits, right? It's kind of confusing.

Chloride Reduction Efforts (MPCA)

- How are chlorides for fertilizer being addressed and is there a need to include chloride with MDA's effort to improve nitrate management?
- Do we have any data estimating a reduction in road salt and softener salt following training program or certification program?
- This is great, but how will we know that we are succeeding? I'm not even sure how we would measure efforts and their direct impact on specific public waters?
- Are federal funds available other than 319 grants and have they been pursued?

Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Stream Flow Monitoring (DNR)

Lake IBI Assessment (DNR)

- Is there coordination of the IBI program with fish contamination monitoring? Great to have healthy fish population in a lake, but if public cannot eat the fish we are not protecting water quality.

Fish Contamination Assessment (DNR)

- In the long term what percentage of lakes and fish within a lake do you anticipate sampling per year?

Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (DNR)

- Does each geomorphic assessment lead to stream restoration?
- Does Outdoor Heritage Fund support stream restoration implementation or does DNR seek OHF for implementation of projects?
- If informed stream restoration is so effective for sediment management and aquatic habitat, why aren't more being done?
- Does subsurface drainage increase the channel forming flows in most streams?

Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning (DNR)

- What proportion of program is non-CWF? How will program continues post-2034? How is it determined which program is supported by CWF vs. general fund?
- How do you interlink with MDA on irrigation issues?
- What is the projected annual cost for program when network is completed?

- This and other programs use multiple funding sources, and it is confusing. How do you assure we are not supplanting or how do we show that CWF-funded stuff is providing ***additional*** value? How do you determine what is a general fund expense and what is a CWF expense?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Buffer Map Maintenance (DNR)

- How is this different than BWSR monitoring in BuffCAT?
- Done! Now a report on the efforts!

County Geologic Atlases Part B (DNR)

Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

One Watershed One Plan (BWSR)

- Is adequate effort given to including participation from tribal and municipal representatives? What are the tangible results from targeted implementation, not practices?
- How many of the implementation strategies/actions involve local action (including policies, regulation) vs incentives using state and federal funds?
- What's the status of the Non-Point Funding Priority Plan? How is it included in WBIF?
- Can you describe the efficiencies gained from consolidating lots of local plans into 1W1P?
- Occasionally I hear that cities feel left out of the process—how do you reach out to them?
- Are there certain stakeholders you'd like to see participate more in 1W1P, and can the Council help bring some to the table through their networks?

Minnesota Department of Health

Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern (MDH)

- How do you determine which of the thousands of PFAS chemicals to focus on?
- Other than PFAS compounds, what do public water suppliers do with your health-based values? Has any change in any community taken place because of the research in this program, other than PFAS?
- I like that MDH has developed some "rapid tests" to reduce the time required to help communities know what direction to go.
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Private Well Initiative (MDH)

- Was all this work from CWFs?
- In many instances, information and education do not change behavior. How does your program address high arsenic in wells where homeowners are not likely to voluntarily take action?
- What do you need from the Council to advocate for this effort including non-CWFs?
- What do you need to update the Well Index in a timely fashion? Funds? Staff? Student workers? Better hardware/software?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Source Water Protection (MDH)

- There was discussion of a dashboard showing progress towards protecting 400,000 acres in DWSMAs or at least what percentage of tasks in each plan are completed. Any progress on that?

- How many municipalities own portions of their DWSMAs with land in agriculture and corn?
- Why don't municipalities pay more or use land use authority to have compatible uses for clean water within DWSMAs?
- Is there anything the CWF/CWC can do to accelerate protection of DWSMAs in sensitive areas?
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies (MDH)

- Private well inventories were mentioned during Private Well Initiative. Will the proposed accelerated implementation grants include a private well inventory and will efforts be coordinated with Private Well Initiative?

Future of Drinking Water (MDH)

- How does this align with the proposed Morrison 50-year water plan?

Metropolitan Council

Metropolitan Area Water Sustainability Support (Met Council)

- How much of community grants are for irrigation sensors? Should CWF by paying for wealthy property owners to do something they could do via municipal ordinance?
- Would be nice to have a comparison of water use per capita in urban vs. suburban; changes over time and how much increased use is lawn irrigation.
- Are federal funds available and have they been pursued?

University of Minnesota

County Geologic Atlases Part A (UMN)

- This and other programs use multiple funding sources, and it is confusing. How do you assure we are not supplanting or how do we show that CWF-funded stuff is providing ***additional*** value? How do you determine what is a ENRTF, DNR, or USGS fund expense and what is a CWF expense?
- Could you describe how you work with the tribes and how that has changed your work?

Public Facilities Authority

Point Source Implementation Grant (PSIG) Program (PFA)

- How are federal funds leveraged? Does it come from the Drinking Water and Wastewater Revolving Loan funds?
- Council members often ask if we can move this to the bonding bill but I guess the failure of the Legislature to pass a bonding bill may explain why!

Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program (PFA)

- Are there federal rural development funds available? More leverage opportunities?
- What is the projected cost to address the 800 under-sewered communities?
- Who does the technical assistance?
- Is it accurate to say that these communities have more affordable water and sewer bills in addition to functionality of their infrastructure?
- Could we have a dashboard in the performance report on the 800 under-sewered communities to compare with the past?

- Does this project interact with the Voyageurs project?
- Will PCA's proposal for an SSTS facilitator help put more communities in the queue for this program? Will demand for help on SCWT go up?