

**Clean Water Council
Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) Meeting Agenda
Friday, May 2, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

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

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

9:30 Regular Business

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

9:45 (DISCUSSION ITEM) Review of Funds Leveraged by the Clean Water Fund

10:00 (DISCUSSION AND ACTION ITEM) Finalize Evaluation Documents (aka Scoring Rubric)

10:45 BREAK

11:00 (DISCUSSION ITEM) How to Determine “Scalability” to Avoid Program Harm When Budgets Decline

11:45 Public Comment

12:00 Adjourn and Lunch

Future meeting topics?

- Finalize Upper Mississippi Protection Goal
- MPCA on data visualization on streamflow monitoring

Budget and Outcomes Committee Meeting Summary

Clean Water Council (Council)

April 4, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Committee Members present: Steve Besser (Committee Chair), Dick Brainerd (Committee Vice Chair), Steve Christenson, Warren Formo, Holly Hatlewick, and Annie Knight.

Members absent: Brad Gausman and Fran Miron.

Others present: Marcie Weinandt, Judy Sventek (Met Council), Jessica Wilson, Glenn Skuta (MPCA), Sheila Vanney (MASWCD), Justin Hansen (BWSR), John Barten, Frieda Von Qualen (MDH), Tannie Eshenaur (MDH), Margaret Wagner (MDA).

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
- No quorum present to approve the April 4th meeting agenda and March 7th meeting summary.
- Chair and Staff update
 - The new Clean Water Council Administrator has been selected. They will be starting on May 7th. Paul Gardner's last day will be June 3rd. The announcement of the new hire will be provided soon.
 - There will be an online event to introduce the 24-hour Nitrate Network. This collaborative effort among state and federal agencies provides free, publicly accessible water quality data from areas in Minnesota with historically high nitrate concentrations. They will share details of the network, and answer questions. It will be on April 25th 10:00 to 11:00 am.
 - The Clean Water Council communications contract ended on March 31. Several work products are now online or available by request, including attribution guidelines for using the Clean Water Council logo; the enhanced Legacy logo with the "Your Clean Water Funds at Work" stub; a story map; three fact sheets; and social media templates.
 - The Minnesota Senate included all the Council's recommendations, but also added in Riverwatch as part of the MPCA monitoring budget (\$170,000 per year for two years). Data center policy is getting hearings. There is bipartisan support for the SE regional clean water protection and soil health initiative funding.

Continuation of Draft Evaluation Documents (aka Scoring Rubric) (Webex 00:24:00)

- Steve Besser and Annie Knight created draft scoring rubrics. They connected to review them with the committee. They created one merged document.
 - The overarching categories: Water quality impact, strategic alignment measurable progress and feasibility, financial leverage, community benefit, and outreach and communication. They are weighted as you go down the list.
 - Highlights of merging the two versions:
 - A few more evaluation statements were added in. Specifically, delisting as well as emphasizing long term water quality benefits. This included WRAPS, TMDLs, and local water plans, to be more specific in what we are looking for in the proposals.
 - The "measurable progress and feasibility" came from a few meetings ago when the committee wanted to home in on well-defined outcomes. Those will be talked about later this morning.
 - The financial leverage and sustainability were new from Annie Knight. It includes supplementing versus supplanting, and leveraged funds.
 - The community benefit was also pulled from Steve Besser to include diversity, including by income and geography.
 - The special consideration for project prioritization section is new. Members did not want to feel bound by the scores if there was a project about which members felt strongly. It includes the emergency response, a time-sensitive opportunity, and other priority circumstance.

- The statutory requirements still need further review. Agency colleagues can define what is a mandated priority. We want to sure it aligns with the committee's intent. It can be tabled for the future. It could be a checkbox from the applicants to certify it meets those requirements.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Steve Christenson: I ask that we not decide today, so we have a chance to study it. The special considerations may be too rigid and focus on time-sensitive things. I like the other priority circumstance's part, in case there is something that does come up that the Council wants to fund. It is not a time sensitive thing, but I could image something that could be a priority for water. I like that flexibility. It aligns with the Strategic Plan.
- Paul Gardner: "Time sensitive" is relative. Things move more slowly at the state. Maybe you mean timeliness. What happens if all the proposals have maximum points? Is this a screening tool or an eligibility screen?
 - *Response from Steve Besser:* Our goal may be to have this at each Council meeting with a presentation.
 - *Response from Paul Gardner:* Applicants will need to be clear that when there are multiple benefits to a program, water quality or drinking water must be the priority. The statute that says you can give preference to things with multiple benefits, but it does not say that water quality should be the top one.
 - Comment from Tannie Eshenaur, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): I would really support that because a lot of people like to wave the flag of drinking water but the benefit must be direct.
- Holly Hatlewick: I appreciate the work going into this project. I am alright with the special consideration, as long as we all agree it is a real thing. I'm concerned that everyone will score the same.
- Jessica Wilson: Will there be a narrative section with a word limit about why the Council should fund this proposal, such as the value added or special need? The criteria such as "what is the benefit" are objective, as is cost. Some subjective components could also be good.
- John Barten: I like the idea of this scoring rubric. Could we add text to encourage innovation? We should encourage it. We interchangeably use projects and programs. Should it be just "programs" instead of "projects"? The Council typically has funded programs. It is a little confusing sometimes.
- Annie Knight: A suggestion for the special considerations. Remove the three categories and leave the first two sentences. This would provide more flexibility.
 - Steve Christenson: I like it. Also, take out the word "immediate" in the second line.
- Dick Brainerd: Why should we use the rubric? What are we doing with this information? Who are we benefiting? *Answer from Annie Knight:* While putting the rubric together, I have thoughts about these questions, too. Are we prioritizing according to a process or due to the strongest voices in the room? We need to have something to validate why we prioritized. It can also help with the tough cuts or provide additional funding for other programs. This is to have a more objective process to how we are evaluating proposals.
- Tannie Eshenaur: Could you please add in groundwater restoration and protection strategies (GRAPS) and source water protection plans into lists of state approved plans, as they often get missed. Two important things happen in the process of building out this rubric. There are so many new Council members, so this is a way of building a consensus. We went through a similar process about ten years ago. The Council had a list of budget principles, highlighting the values when allocating funds. Do not underestimate the value of consensus building. It is also a communication tool to the state agencies. This adds benefits and keeps the state agencies sharp, and it is appreciated.
- Holly Hatlewick: Thinking about guiding principles versus a scoring rubric. We have had to react so quickly sometimes. Will this document be collected, and how are we using it? The time commitment is a concern.
- Steve Besser: We used to have a paper to review the presentations, and how it connects to the Council's Strategic Plan. We could hand them out and collect the results. So, if something comes up, we can review it. However, not everyone filled out the sheets. So, it went away. I view this as one tool in the toolbox. The scoring will provide variability. We could provide them for presentations, and a staff member could place the scores in a spreadsheet, so we could see the numbers. A number only would get a better return.
- Dick Brainerd: I am not the expert in these areas, so I must trust the experts presenting on them. So, I don't know if I should be placing a number value on a program.
- Judy Sventek, Metropolitan Council: Is this what would go into the proposal form? *Answer:* Just one change to the proposal form. You can have a copy of our rubric when presenting.
- Judy Sventek: Have you tried it out on projects you reviewed this year? *Answer:* Once we have a final draft, we will likely test drive it out the full Council to see how it goes.

- Steve Christenson: This gives a tool for new members, to know what they are should be thinking about. This says what we do, and shows taxpayers that we are good stewards of the Clean Water Fund (CWFs). Response from Dick Brainerd: It makes sense if we must move quickly.
- Glenn Skuta, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): There are pros and cons to each. A big pro is transparency. The state agencies know what they should be shooting for, and the Council can use it to help make decisions. It feels objective, but there is subjectivizing happening. Thinking about the Myers-Briggs personality types between people, some people will love some things while others will not. You will lose flexibility if you use the numbers rigidly. You could use it as a rubric with or without a score. But having principles is a good thing for transparency. We have uncertainty and tension about what the numbers mean.
- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: This first criteria on the rubric, Water Quality Impact, will score high if it is implementation. If it is not implementation, it will not score high there. Was that by design that implementation projects will score higher? If it was not the intent, it could be problematic.
 - Response: It is thought to capture innovation as well. We can add “supports” results in measurable improvements.
 - Tannie Eshenaur, MDH: Something else to think about is water quantity. You might want to consider that impact as well.
- The committee will revisit this in May.

Public Participation Plan review from the Ad Hoc Committee, Jessica Wilson (Webex 01:12:30)

- The Ad Hoc Committee has submitted a proposal for the Water Resources Conference (90-minute session). If selected, the group can provide background on the Clean Water Fund and the the Council, introduce the Public Participation Plan, provide the Council’s emerging budget priority themes, and have a discussion on the plan and themes, which can be brought back to the Council. If selected, we will put together the outline and content, with your input.
- I have a few general questions to ask:
 - How do you envision using these tools to engage with people?
 - How does this sync with the Public’s Participation Plan?
 - How do we integrate these things?
 - There are some budget priority themes coming forward. Is there a way to have some concrete themes drafted up for the fall?
 - What element of the tools you are forming are you willing to take the feedback on? Is it open for input? There is no wrong answer. There may be something we can do with the public, if that is a goal.
 - How do you envision these things coming together?

Discussion:

- Steve Besser: With the scoring rubric, we can write an elevator speech, and make sure we present it for the public to understand. People have questioned if we are just a rubber stamp, and the Council is not, and I think this is revealed from our Strategic Plan and this rubric.
- Paul Gardner: The Council is focused on where most of the problem is, which is non-point sources. We address this through funding, expertise, grants, loans, and persuasion. It takes time.
- Jessica Wilson: There are levels of engagement. It sounds like you are at the informed level, just communicating out where you are doing things. We want to be genuine when asking people for input, so this helps know where the committee is coming from when asking for feedback.
- Paul Gardner: Jessica, you previously mentioned that the Council shouldn’t require input to only be about the Clean Water Fund, and then it’s up to the Council figure out how to use it. How do you see that working?
Answer: There are things we can provide to the public with full transparency. It is a step of including the public to let them know what we are doing. Are we asking for people to comment on something? We want to show people the process.
- Annie Knight: I agree with your approach on the rubric being an information item. The rubric was based on the Strategic Plan, which was a great opportunity to engage with the public when we put together the Strategic Plan, and this rubric is kind of a byproduct of that public engagement. I see another opportunity for the public to engage during the Council’s presentations and the BOC debrief of the presentations. This could influence the rubric scores. There could be a public facing tool to assist with public engagement if selected for the Water Resources Conference (see meeting packet for graphic).

CWC Dashboard & Key Performance Indicators from Strategic Plan (Webex 01:31:00)

- The Council is looking at ways to present outcomes. The Council is looking at what is meaningful for a dashboard, and how can we consolidate this in a way that the Council is doing what they say they want to do.
- Reminder that the CWFs sunset in 9.24 years (6/30/34). Paul Gardner has a spreadsheet with each pillar in the Strategic Plan (groundwater, drinking water, surface water, and valuing water). Some pillars had easier measures than others. On the spreadsheet, grey boxes would have a value inserted. This is data the Council would like to look at once a year, to take time to review the data.
- Having a CWC Strategic Plan KPI Dashboard would be good for the Council and the state agencies. It would be good to look at it two to three times per year. Per the Minn. Stat. 114D.30, the CWC prepares a performance report every two years. Having more frequent measurements and communication about the Strategic Plan key performance indicators (KPI) could help:
 - Drive focus on key outcomes
 - Clarify CWF investment prioritization
 - Provide a tool to facilitate stakeholder communications and support preparation of bi-annual report.
- There are different options to visualize the data (e.g., bar charts). It would be good to have quarterly progress on these KPIs. There are a few concepts for how it might look.

Questions/Comments/Discussion:

- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: There are a lot of measurements with the CWFs. These are also found in the biennial Clean Water Fund Performance Report, and it is great to view items that are KPIs. Everyone will view this data differently, because some folks like graphs while others like to read about it or a combination of both. Regarding frequency, a lot of state agency data is annual. The Performance Report is biennial because it is a lot of data. However, if something is a key indicator we'd have to see about more frequent reporting.
- Holly Hatlewick: Will we have new data? Will we have to submit data? If we are looking quarterly and see nothing changed, do we change the tables to have changes? I have a concern on the frequency, if annual is frequent enough. I like having that snapshot, to read it quickly to see if things are working.
- Dick Brainerd: Have you had conversations with the agencies on this? *Answer from Tannie Eshenaur, MDH:* There are a lot of common themes to what you have done here to what the state agencies did back in 2011 with the development of the Clean Water Fund Performance Report. We looked at and categorized thousands of measures. Out of those were about 25 measures (called profiles in the report) but now have closer to 35 measures. It takes about a year to put the performance report together. There are two challenges. Some things just don't change from year to year (i.e., source water protection plans). Some things only happen once in a decade. The other challenge is that manually pulling the data can take time, even though the data is good.
- Steve Besser: We should use the word "steady" instead of "no change". I think it would be clearer for members of the public. No change may come across as no improvement.
- Justin Hanson, Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): I am supportive of this. I think anything less than one year, might not be the best data. It takes time from staff, and they are already loaded with work. Getting the data, summarizing it, and aggregating it so it makes sense. I think once a year makes sense.
- Steve Christenson: What should be the correct frequency?
 - Tannie Eshenaur, MDH: I don't want to discourage you because I think this so important. I think it may be different for different measures. The state agencies may need that flexibility. Keep pushing, but also have some patience.
 - Margaret Wagner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): I agree on annual. The end of a fiscal year is a good time (June). Formalizing it will take an extra step. If a lot of the information is similar as the performance report, I wonder if we should be utilizing the report's team. It varies by agency. I am wondering how we can automate it. Additionally, how we display things at intervals, so considering how things are organized so the messages are clear (folks do not get caught up in the dates).
 - Paul Gardner: There is information that agencies provide to Paul regularly. These are at different times of the year and different frequencies. It could be on a spreadsheet and updated regularly, so it is tracked in one place. There could be some of the highlights shared as well.
- Steve Christenson: If we want to proceed, we should decide. We also want a task force to move it forward. It is going to need agency support.

- Anyone interested in working with Steve Christenson on this item, please connect with Paul. The agency folks on the performance report team would be the best group to start with on this item. Perhaps ninety days for research on it. There is a document from 2011 talking about tracking these data points, which may give insight (Margaret Wagner will send to Paul Gardner).

Upper Mississippi Protection Goal (Webex 02:15:00)

- If the Council will have KPIs regularly checked, the Council may want to include the Upper Mississippi River protection goal. Therefore, the Council would need a way to measure it. There was a discussion last meeting on this item. There was consideration if the Council should measure acres protected and/or restored by financial sources other than CWFs. It was agreed to work together with those partners to foster collaboration and maximize those protection and restoration benefits.
- We need to decide what is the baseline year, 2008 or 2018?
 - Annie Knight: I would like to see us keep the 290,151 acres protected in 2008-2018. I think this is important to show.
 - Holly Hatlewick: I agree with Annie to take credit of those protected acres. We had success. We should still be taking credit for it. What is the direct value in tracking it separately, I am not sure.
 - Steve Besser: If the Council reveals that we only paid for 5,000 acres during 2019-2034 it does not look good. We indirectly paid for those 290,151 acres. I would like to keep it as part of the team that accomplished that task.
 - John Barten: The baseline was 2018 because that is when the Council had a presentation from Dan Steward and a few other folks, talking about what was needed to protect the water in the Upper Mississippi River basin. At that time, they gave us the number of 200,000 acres. I don't have an objection to using the 2008 as baseline.
 - Steve Christenson: *Motion to select 2018 (no change to Strategic Plan), they would use language of option b metric and graphic of option c metric. This would be removing the 5,000 acres language (in red).*
Seconded by Warren Formo.

Discussion:

- Holly Hatlewick: We should still be taking credit for those 290,151 acres, so I support this option.
- Glenn Skuta, MPCA: You could lead with the parenthetical phrase: "In addition to 290,151 acres protected during 2008-2018".
- Steve Christenson: *I withdraw my motion. I want to make a new motion to have the wording of the metric be "In addition to the 290,151 acres protected during 2008-2018, with partners, protect and restore 200,000 more acres in the Upper Mississippi River headwaters basin during 2019-2034." Seconded by Annie Knight. No further discussion.*
- Motion brought to vote. Motion carries unanimously.

No Public Comment (Webex 02:33:00)

Adjournment (Webex 02:34:05)

Clean Water Council Budget & Outcomes Committee

Sources of Funds Leveraged by the Clean Water Fund

May 2, 2025

Other funding sources leveraged by the CWF—either to assist a project or as direct payment to landowners— include the following:

Administered by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)
- Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
- Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)
- Healthy Forests Reserve Program (HFRP)
- Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)
- Climate Smart communities
- National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NGO that is supported with federal funding)

Administered by the Farm Services Agency (FSA), U.S. Department of Agriculture

- Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)
- Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)

Administered by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- Federal Clean Water Act Section 319 Grants
- Great Lakes Restoration Initiative/ Area of Concern (AOC)
- Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (Minnesota Climate Smart Food Systems)
- Farmer to Farmer Grant Program

Administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Fishers and farmers partnership grants

Administered by the U.S. Department of Energy, Biotechnologies Office (BETO)

- \$10 million for Oilseed Crops to Sustain the Environment and Meet Energy Demand (OILSEED) at Forever Green Initiative

State funding sources

- General Fund
- General obligation bonds

- Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund
- Outdoor Heritage Fund
- Ag Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC; supported by fertilizer fee)
- Game & Fish Fund (administered by DNR)
- Water Management Account (administered by DNR)
- Clean Water Partnership Loan Program (administered by MPCA)

Local funding sources

- Watershed districts
- Water management organizations
- Soil and water conservation districts
- Counties, municipalities, and townships
- Landowners and property owners – Our current estimate of leverage funds does not include landowner contributions. Most support for landowners, such as agricultural BMPs, require initial investment by the individual.

Foundations

- McKnight Foundation (for Forever Green Initiative)
- Builders Initiative (for Forever Green Initiative)

Corporate

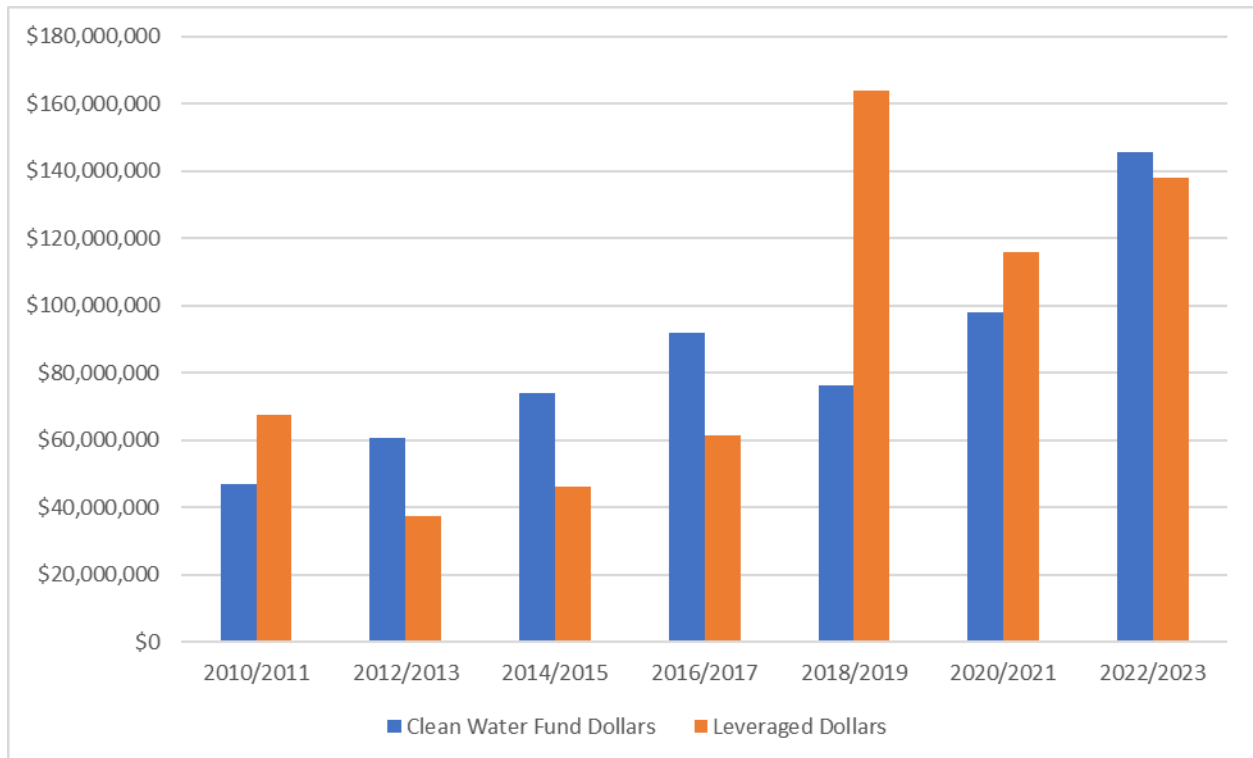
- Minnesota Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Hub (for Forever Green Initiative)
- MBOLD Coalition (for Forever Green Initiative)
- MN Corn Research and Promotion Council

Amount of money leveraged by Clean Water Fund (CWF) implementation activities

Measure Background

Visual Depiction

The graphics depict the annual amount of leveraged dollars statewide by the various agencies receiving Clean Water funding for project implementation.



Measure Description

This measure communicates the dollars leveraged through CWF appropriations, from Fiscal Year (FY) 2010-2023. The Clean Water appropriations comprise funding from multiple state contract, grant and loan programs as well as the Minnesota Water Quality Agriculture Certification and individual on-farm demonstration projects (Discovery Farms Minnesota and Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership). It is a direct financial measure of dollars spent on implementation activities.

Associated Terms and Phrases

To better understand this measure, it is necessary to understand the following terms and phrases:

Leveraged Funds:

For this measure, leveraged funds means the amount paid from any source other than Clean Water Funds. The amount of leveraged funds is calculated by summing all non-Clean Water funding sources contributing funds towards the project as identified at the time of award.

1. **Clean Water Funding:** For this measure, the term Clean Water Funding refers to Clean Water grants and Agricultural Best Management Practices (AgBMP) loans distributed through local governments for BMP implementation through special CWF appropriations to various State grant and loan programs starting in FY10. This measure also includes dollars leveraged from on-farm demonstration projects that focus on implementing best management practices.
2. **Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) Grant Program** is designed to fund up to 50% for a maximum of \$3 million for mandates resulting from an United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) approved TMDL and Agency approved implementation plan that requires capital improvements and are beyond their current Non-point source Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit.
3. **Phosphorus Reduction Grant program** is designed to fund up to 75% (until June 30, 2010), and after that 50% for a maximum of \$500,000 for more stringent treatment for phosphorus treatment to 1.0 mg/L or less due to a permit requirement.
4. **Point Source Implementation Grant program** is designed to fund up to 50% for a maximum of \$3 million for mandates resulting in 1) Wasteload reduction to meet an USEPA approved TMDL and Agency approved implementation plan that requires capital improvement that are beyond their current NPDES permit, 2) more stringent treatment for phosphorus treatment to 1.0 mg/L or less due to a permit requirement 3) Water Quality Based Effluent Limit (WQBEL, pronounced “Q-bell”), or 4) Land based discharging systems with a nitrogen limit greater than secondary standards. Starting in FY 2014, this program is replacing the TMDL and Phosphorus grant programs listed above.
5. **Ag BMP Loan Program:** This program provides low interest loans (typically 3%) with local financial institutions to farmers, agriculture supply businesses, and rural landowners. The loans are for proven pollution prevention practices that are recommended in an area’s water and environmental plans. The program uses a perpetual revolving loan account structure where repayments from prior loans are continually reused to fund new loans. This program prioritizes the use of Clean Water funds to areas for implementation of practices recommended in approved TMDL Implementation Plans.
6. **Clean Water Fund Grant Program** – A grant program administered through Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) with Clean Water Fund appropriations. More information regarding his program can be found at: https://bwsr.state.mn.us/cwf_programs.
7. **Agencies Involved with this measure**
 - a. **BWSR** – Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources
 - b. **DNR** – Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
 - c. **MDA** – Minnesota Department of Agriculture
 - d. **MDH** – Minnesota Department of Health
 - e. **MPCA** – Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
 - f. **PFA** - Minnesota Public Facilities Authority
 - g. **MetC:** Metropolitan Council

Target

There is no specific numeric target for this measure.

Baseline

FY 2010 serves as the baseline for this measure in which data collection began.

Geographical Coverage

Statewide

Data and Methodology

Methodology for Measure Calculation

For the purpose of this measure, any funds that are not Clean Water funds, including landowner contributions, local government unit aid, equity, and any loan, even if required as matching dollars, are included as part of the dollar amount leveraged. To calculate this measure, state agency staff collects financial information by each program and sum these figures to provide a single count for each watershed and the state.

Data Source

Component programs of the Clean Water Fund Grants	Responsible State Agency	Funding Availability*	Data Source for Leveraged Funds
TMDL Grant Program	PFA	FY2010-FY2013	PFA spreadsheet Project applications MPCA reviewed and approved accepted as-bid
Phosphorus Reduction Grant Program	PFA	FY2010-FY2013	PFA spreadsheet Project applications MPCA reviewed and approved accepted as-bid
Point Source Implementation Grant Program (Note: this program was created when the TMDL and Phosphorus grant programs were merged and eligibility was expanded)	PFA	FY2014-FY2023	PFA spreadsheet Project applications MPCA reviewed and approved accepted as-bid
Clean Water Fund Grants	BWSR	FY2010-FY2023	eLINK

Ag BMP Loans	MDA	FY2010-FY2023	AgBMP Loan Program database
On-Farm Demonstrations (Discovery Farms, Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership, Forever Green Initiative)	MDA	FY10-FY2023	Project work plans and progress reports
Clean Water Partnership Grants	MPCA	FY2010-FY2015	Project work plans and progress reports
St. Louis River Direct Appropriation	MPCA	FY2010-FY2023	Project work plans and progress reports
MDH Clean Water Fund Grants (Source Water Protection Grants, Well Sealing Grants, Contaminants of Emerging Concern Education and Outreach Grants)	MDH	FY2011-2023	Project work plans and progress reports
Metropolitan Council Drinking Water Efficiency Grants	MetC	FY 2017, 2020-2023	MetC project database

Data Collection Period

FY 2010 - FY 2023

Data Collection Methodology and Frequency

For programs administered by PFA, data collection involves reviewing accepted as-bid contract awards as compared to accepted grant award.

For programs administered by BWSR, funding cycles are on an annual basis. Local grant recipients are required to enter financial information regarding leveraged funds in eLINK, BWSR's web-based reporting and tracking tool. More information on eLINK is available at: <https://bwsr.state.mn.us/elink>.

The AgBMP Loan program has a revolving loan structure with regular borrower repayments. It also received periodic infusion of capital into the corpus of the program revolving pool. Data is maintained by the program in an internal database system in coordination with the state's StateWide Integrated Financial Tools (SWIFT) accounting system (data prior to July 1, 2011 is stored in MAPS accounting system). Status updates can be recalculated for any period or geographical area as needed.

- The total amount leveraged for the AG BMP Loan program equals non-state financing for loan-assisted projects. This money comes from the borrower, financing from private lenders, and other conservation financial assistance programs.
- The AgBMP loan program is supported by multiple funding sources. It is important to note that this program prioritizes the use of Clean Water funds to areas for implementation of practices recommended in approved TMDL Implementation Plans. All other funding sources, primarily federal

funds, are used to finance any priority or practice identified in local comprehensive water or environmental plans.

Supporting Data Sets

Clean Water Grants

Table 1. PFA Clean Water Grant Funds

Fiscal Year	PSIG Grants (including TMDL & Phosphorus)	PSIG Leveraged Funds	Small Community WWT Grants and Loans*	Small Community WWT Grants and Loans Leveraged Funds
2010	\$7,524,235	\$9,059,201	\$131,450	\$0
2011	\$8,683,830	\$11,739,739	\$711,672	\$874,414
2012	\$7,782,087	\$8,391,951	\$81,000	\$0
2013	\$4,938,083	\$5,057,308	\$426,833	\$0
2014	\$7,805,174	\$7,821,322	\$363,678	\$0
2015	\$8,166,716	\$7,607,004	\$2,155,038	\$425,000
2016	\$7,810,973	\$14,528,564	\$2,373,718	\$216,600
2017	\$26,519,303	\$7,623,048	\$2,123,173	\$1,232,123
2018	\$15,479,412	\$50,004,455	\$167,700	\$0
2019	\$9,224,029	\$30,513,173	\$106,000	\$0
2020	\$8,521,471	\$32,422,661	\$60,000	\$0
2021	\$8,511,341	\$26,476,558	\$38,000	\$0
2022	\$11,399,148	\$26,188,538	\$0	\$0
2023	\$8,593,733	\$38,440,860	\$120,000	\$0

*The small community grant and loan program is statutorily designed to provide full funding of the projects, thus there is no required local match or leverage.

Table 2. BWSR Clean Water Competitive Grant Funds

Fiscal Year	BWSR Clean Water Funds	Leveraged Dollars
2010	\$11,807,597	\$21,901,021
2011	\$12,619,876	\$15,268,561
2012	\$16,874,452	\$9,204,587

2013	\$18,315,397	\$6,683,571
2014	\$21,153,418	\$6,840,988
2015	\$19,735,527	\$6,185,756
2016	\$21,703,695	\$9,159,790
2017	\$15,075,806	\$4,465,317
2018	\$11,271,820	\$3,654,492
2019	\$21,914,045	\$19,291,141
2020	\$30,098,579	\$7,205,693
2021	\$30,457,580	\$11,949,934
2022	\$49,981,374	\$10,697,436
2023	\$54,970,268	\$20,059,856

* Does not included CWF Reinvest In Minnesota (RIM) Easements

Table 3. MPCA Clean Water Partnership Grant Funds

Fiscal Year	MPCA Clean Water Partnership Funds	Leveraged Dollars
2010	\$619,970	\$1,799,510
2011	\$1,314,165	\$2,688,530
2012	\$802,792	\$442,392
2013	\$790,471	\$2,762,596
2014	\$1,063,755	\$1,070,098
2015	\$1,386,206	\$2,338,927

Table 4. MPCA St. Louis River Grant Funds

Fiscal Year	MPCA St. Louis River Grant Funds	Leveraged Dollars
2010/2011	\$950,000	\$2,692,400
2012/2013	\$1,495,020	\$2,903,100
2014/2015	\$1,500,000	\$3,144,305

2016/2017	\$1,500,000	\$3,144,305
2018/2019	\$1,500,000	\$3,144,305
2020	\$341,237	\$633,726
2021	\$93,909	\$174,402
2022	\$197,154	\$366,142
2023	\$401,635	\$735,895

Table 5. MPCA St. Croix River Association (SCRA) Grant Funds (implementation portion)

Fiscal Year	SCRA Grant Funds (implementation)	Leveraged Dollars
2010	\$216,717	\$224,416

Table 6. MDH Clean Water Fund Source Water Protection Grant Funds

Fiscal Year	MDH Clean Water Source Water Protection Funding	Leveraged Dollars
2011	\$374,895	\$608,835
2012/2013	\$2,383,655	\$1,031,814
2014/2015	\$3,167,162	\$1,900,885
2016/2017	\$1,854,654	\$2,246,749
2018/2019	\$2,423,209	\$2,597,899
2020/2021	\$3,085,479	\$2,787,257
2022/2023	\$2,599,861	\$3,944,031

Table 7. MDA Clean Water Fund supported AgBMP Loans

Fiscal Year	Total MDA AgBMP Loan Amount	Leveraged Funds
2010	\$241,962	\$0
2011	\$1,169,955	\$0

2012	\$2,923,893	\$0
2013	\$2,824,914	\$0
2014	\$1,936,073	\$2,574,544
2015	\$1,897,976	\$2,230,173
2016	\$2,242,160	\$2,781,643
2017	\$3,155,824	\$3,486,317
2018	\$2,868,255	\$5,162,755
2019	\$3,974,012	\$5,146,730
2020	\$3,149,316	\$3,816,056
2021	\$1,963,286	\$2,180,324
2022	\$2,013,314	\$2,492,138
2023	\$3,580,252	\$4,501,223

Table 8. MDA On-farm Demonstration Projects

Fiscal Years	Name of Project	Clean Water Fund Investment	Leveraged Dollars
2010/2011	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$250,000	\$549,636
2012/2013	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$ 388,838	\$ 648,507
2014/2015	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$393,776	\$884,670
2016/2017	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$397,712	\$760,720
2018/2019	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$348,490	\$883,296
2020	Discovery Farms Minnesota	\$183,631	\$412,794
2010/2011	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$395,000	\$163,429
2012/2013	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$222,992	\$15,429
2014/2015	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$277,654	\$5,429
2016/2017	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$ \$410,929	\$860,048
2018/2019	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$398,173	\$1,748,166

2020/2021	Root River Field-to-Stream Partnership	\$401,691	\$477,275
2010-2013	Rosholt Farm	\$ 23,882	\$175,000
2013	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$1,500,000	\$50,000
2014/2015	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$3,000,000	\$3,002,512
2016/2017	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$5,000,000	\$3,782,130
2018/2019	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$5,000,000	\$4,311,465
2020/2021	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$6,000,000	\$4,496,133
2013-2016	Conservation Innovation Grant Edge of Field Monitoring	\$89,937	\$100,402
2016/2017	Red River Valley Drainage Water Management	\$274,398	\$79,676
2018/2019	Red River Valley Drainage Water Management	\$34,280	\$9,887
2016	Forever Green Initiative	\$1,000,000	\$4,387,793
2018	Forever Green Initiative	\$750,000	\$7,135,195
2019	Forever Green Initiative	\$750,000	\$31,523,832
2020	Forever Green Initiative	\$2,000,000	\$21,830,579
2021	Forever Green Initiative	\$2,300,000	\$800,000
2022	Discovery Farms	\$178,039.00	\$474,458.00
2023	Discovery Farms	\$0.00	\$0.00
2022	Root River Field to Stream Partnership	\$165,382.00	\$25,267.00
2023	Root River Field to Stream Partnership	\$166,903.81	\$31,667.00
2022	Rosholt Farm	\$0.00	\$311,340.00
2023	Rosholt Farm	\$0.00	\$311,340.00
2022	Red River Valley Drainage Water Management	\$19,575.00	\$0.00
2023	Red River Valley Drainage Water Management	\$5,150.43	\$0.00
2022	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$3,000,000.00	\$2,804,342.18

2023	Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program	\$3,000,000.00	\$3,653,457.72
2022	CIG Edge of Field Monitoring	\$0.00	\$0.00
2023	CIG Edge of Field Monitoring	\$0.00	\$0.00

Table 9: Metropolitan Council Drinking Water Efficiency Grants

Fiscal Year	Metropolitan Council Drinking Water Efficiency Grants	Leverage
2017	\$500,000	\$198,281
2020	\$375,000	\$93,750
2021	\$375,000	\$93,750
2022	\$625,000	\$99,792
2023	\$625,000	\$99,792

Total Funds Spent and Leveraged

Table 10 and 11 below contains the source data for the graphic on the first page of the metadata report for this measure.

Table 10. Cumulative Clean Water Funding of Spent Dollars from all State Agencies

Year	BWSR	MPCA	MDA	PFA	Met Council	MDH	Total Spent
2010	\$11,807,597	\$1,311,687	\$576,403	\$7,655,685	\$0	\$0	\$21,351,372
2011	\$12,619,876	\$1,789,165	\$1,504,396	\$9,395,502	\$0	\$374,895	\$25,683,834
2012	\$16,874,452	\$1,550,302	\$3,403,188	\$7,863,087	\$0	\$1,191,828	\$30,882,856
2013	\$18,315,397	\$1,537,981	\$3,296,580	\$5,364,916	\$0	\$1,191,828	\$29,706,702
2014	\$21,153,418	\$1,813,755	\$3,790,055	\$8,168,852	\$0	\$1,583,581	\$36,509,661
2015	\$19,735,527	\$2,136,206	\$3,770,162	\$10,321,754	\$0	\$1,583,581	\$37,547,230
2016	\$21,703,695	\$750,000	\$6,408,265	\$10,184,691	\$0	\$927,327	\$39,973,978
2017	\$15,075,806	\$750,000	\$6,094,708	\$28,642,476	\$500,000	\$927,327	\$51,990,317
2018	\$11,271,820	\$750,000	\$6,016,817	\$15,647,112	\$0	\$1,211,605	\$34,897,353

2019	\$21,914,045	\$750,000	\$8,106,393	\$9,330,029	\$0	\$1,211,605	\$41,312,071
2020	\$30,098,579	\$341,237	\$8,534,749	\$8,581,471	\$375,000	\$1,542,740	\$49,473,775
2021	\$30,457,580	\$93,909	\$7,463,175	\$8,549,341	\$375,000	\$1,542,740	\$48,481,744
2022	\$49,981,374	\$197,154	\$7,376,310	\$11,399,148	\$625,000	\$1,299,931	\$70,878,916
2023	\$54,970,268	\$401,635	\$8,752,306	\$8,713,733	\$625,000	\$1,299,931	\$74,762,873
Totals	\$231,027,792	\$13,574,242	\$59,143,350	\$129,704,916	\$1,250,000	\$13,289,054	\$447,989,354

Table 11. Cumulative Clean Water Funding of Leveraged Dollars from all State Agencies

Year	BWSR	MPCA	MDA	PFA	Met Council	MDH	Total Leveraged
2010	\$21,901,021	\$3,370,126	\$446,892	\$9,059,201	\$0	\$0	\$34,777,240
2011	\$15,268,561	\$4,034,730	\$391,172	\$12,614,153	\$0	\$608,835	\$32,917,451
2012	\$9,204,587	\$1,893,942	\$356,391	\$8,391,951	\$0	\$515,907	\$20,362,778
2013	\$6,683,571	\$4,214,146	\$430,976	\$5,057,308	\$0	\$515,907	\$16,901,908
2014	\$6,840,988	\$2,642,251	\$4,217,859	\$7,821,322	\$0	\$950,443	\$22,472,862
2015	\$6,185,756	\$3,911,080	\$4,755,588	\$8,032,004	\$0	\$950,443	\$23,834,871
2016	\$9,159,790	\$1,572,153	\$10,081,767	\$14,745,164	\$0	\$1,123,375	\$36,682,248
2017	\$4,465,317	\$1,572,153	\$8,445,620	\$8,855,171	\$198,281	\$1,123,375	\$24,659,916
2018	\$3,654,492	\$1,572,153	\$15,660,228	\$50,004,455	\$0	\$1,298,950	\$72,190,277
2019	\$19,291,141	\$1,572,153	\$38,914,401	\$30,513,173	\$0	\$1,298,950	\$91,589,817
2020	\$7,205,693	\$633,726	\$28,648,979	\$32,422,661	\$93,750	\$1,393,628	\$70,398,438
2021	\$11,949,934	\$174,402	\$5,147,143	\$26,476,558	\$93,750	\$1,393,628	\$45,235,416
2022	\$10,697,436	\$366,142	\$7,767,545	\$26,188,538	\$99,792	\$1,972,016	\$47,091,469
2023	\$20,059,856	\$735,895	\$29,694,867	\$38,440,860	\$99,792	\$1,972,016	\$91,003,285
Totals	\$121,810,851	\$27,163,015	\$118,226,412	\$213,993,121	\$385,781	\$11,173,439	\$492,752,618

Caveats and Limitations

For PFA, the above estimates account for only TMDL or Phosphorus eligible costs. Often other facility improvements are also pursued at the same time to utilize economies of scale and other fixed costs such as equipment mobilization.

For most Clean Water Fund programs, BWSR requires a 25% match requirement for all grant dollars. BWSR also has a \$30,000 grant minimum as well.

In FY11, up to \$300K from AgBMP loan program may be used for administrative purposes; any amount not used for that purpose by the end of the fiscal year will be added to the program's revolving loan funds.

For the 2018 report, past data was reconciled with updated database information from each respective agency to ensure reporting accuracy. For the 2022 report, MDA did a more extensive reconciliation of past data and updated the financial information regarding spent and leveraged funds accordingly.

Future Improvements

BWSR will explore adding in Easement Program funds into this measure.

Communication Strategy

Target Audience

Stakeholders with interest in this measure include the State legislature, the Clean Water Council, and state agency partners.

Associated Messages

This measure depicts how much non-state funds the Clean Water Fund is leveraging and is a direct measure of dollars being spent of implementation.

Measure Points of Contact

- BWSR contact: Annie Felix-Gerth, annie.felix-gerth@state.mn.us
- DNR contact: Barbara Weisman, barbara.weisman@state.mn.us
- MDA contact: Jen Schaust, jen.schaust@state.mn.us
- MDH contact: Alycia Overbo, Alycia.Overbo@state.mn.us
- MPCA contact:
 - Monitoring and assessment – Kim Laing, kimberly.laing@state.mn.us
 - Watershed restoration and strategy development – David Miller (TMDLs, CWP), david.l.miller@state.mn.us
 - Bill Dunn (wastewater/storm water & PFA), bill.dunn@state.mn.us
- Metropolitan Council contact: Lanya Ross, lanya.ross@metc.state.mn.us



The Economic Impact of Conservation Funding

2021 IMPLAN Report Results



The 2021 IMPLAN Report

When a landowner enters into a Farm Bill agreement with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) or a state-funded agreement with one of its partners, the entire community benefits. This is demonstrated in the IMPLAN report for NRCS Minnesota and its partners' conservation work in 2021. To get an accurate picture of the economic impact of conservation funding, NRCS Minnesota, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BSWR), and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) worked together to find an answer.

What is IMPLAN?

IMPLAN is an economic impact analysis and modeling program that measures the economic impact of actions taken by government agencies, business and other institutions to understand their direct and indirect effects in an area.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service utilizes IMPLAN to understand how it and its partners' financial assistance benefits not just producers, but their surrounding communities. The 2021 IMPLAN report has just recently been completed.

Results

In 2021, NRCS Minnesota, BWSR, and local SWCDs spent \$228,448,531 on conservation programs. Some of this money left the state for a variety of reasons, but when all said and done, \$186,916,423, over 80 percent, directly benefited the Minnesota economy.

This influx of funding in Minnesota, through direct effects (such as buying cover crop seed) and indirect effects (such as a seed supplier buying gas) resulted in an output of \$413,692,920 generated in Minnesota from conservation-related expenditures. This meant that for every \$1 spent by the NRCS and its partners, \$1.81 was generated in the local economy. This funding also supported new jobs for Minnesotans. According to the analysis, 2,527 jobs were supported in 2021 as a result of conservation expenditures.

Whatever numbers you pull from the IMPLAN report, one thing is clear throughout: conservation work amounts to substantial benefits for the state of Minnesota. Yes, the work landowners do with the NRCS and its partners helps the land and improves the efficiency of individual agricultural operations; but it does so much more than that. It puts money in the pockets of Minnesotans across the state.

\$228,448,531

Spent on conservation programs

\$413,692,920

Output into the Minnesota economy

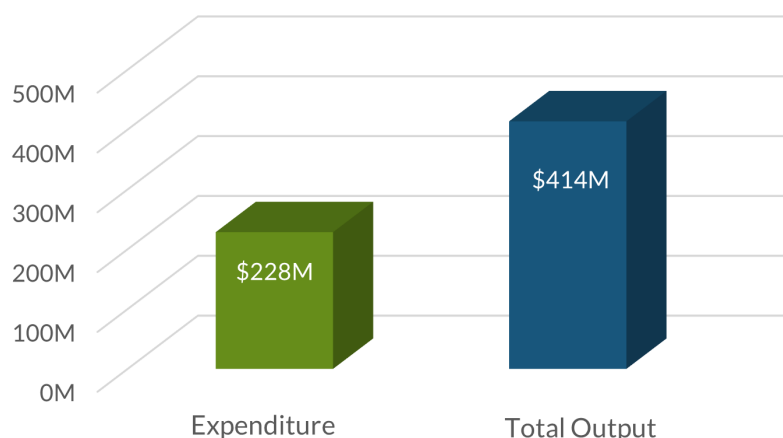
\$1.81

Generated for every \$1 spent

2,527

Jobs supported

Conservation Expenditure and Total Output



Updated Scoring Rubric – For BOC Review and Recommendation

April 30, 2025

Hello all,

Thank you for the thoughtful and robust discussion during last month's meeting regarding the Clean Water Council's project scoring rubric. After incorporating all of the redlined edits from our previous discussions, the rubric became a bit too complex. Included in the packet is a simplified version that is user-friendly for Council members.

Here is a summary of the objective of this rubric tool and a few highlights of the simplified rubric:

Objective of the Scoring Rubric

The goal of the scoring rubric is to enhance our decision-making by providing clear, objective criteria that align with the Clean Water Council's priorities, streamline the evaluation process, and offer clear guidance to the ICT, while maintaining flexibility when prioritizing projects.

Highlights of the Simplified Scoring Rubric:

- **Broader range of points available**, providing a clearer picture of project rankings and Council priorities.
- **Incorporation of innovation**, balancing proven practices with innovative approaches.
- **Emphasis on water quality**, with consideration of co-benefits to water quantity.
- **Strong focus on implementation**, while acknowledging the need for research to guide & support these practices.
- **Financial sustainability beyond Clean Water Fund support** remains a priority.

Suggestion for Friday's Discussion:

Work towards finalizing the content of the rubric to present to the full Clean Water Council at a future meeting.

Thank you again and looking forward to our discussion at Friday's BOC meeting.

All the best,
Annie Knight

Clean Water Council Scoring Rubric (Updated: 4/30/2025)

Criteria	Evaluation Statements	Points Available	Comments/Questions
Water Quality Impact	Water quality is the top priority , with a focus on measurable improvements to surface water, groundwater, or drinking water quality . Supports or leads to improvements through proven or innovative practices and may also provide co-benefits to water quantity .	0-15 _____	
Strategic Alignment	Aligns with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan and state-approved water plans ; coordinates effectively across local, state, and federal initiatives.	0-10 _____	
Measurable Progress & Feasibility	Defines clear, outcome-based goals and measurable indicators ; shows past progress or a feasible path to long-term improvements .	0-10 _____	
Financial Leverage & Sustainability	Supplements vs supplants; potential for leveraging other funding sources ; includes a plan for long-term sustainability beyond Clean Water Fund support.	0-5 _____	
Community Value	Engages landowners, local communities, and underserved groups ; addresses environmental justice and equity considerations.	0-5 _____	
Outreach & Communications	Communicates outcomes clearly ; includes outreach strategies; acknowledges Clean Water Fund use in public materials (e.g., Logo displayed, CWF mentioned)	0-5 _____	

Total Points Received: ____/50

Special Considerations for Project Prioritization

While the rubric provides a structured evaluation framework, the Clean Water Council may prioritize projects for funding based on its collective judgment, regardless of score.