

**Clean Water Council
Budget and Outcomes Committee (BOC) Meeting Agenda
Friday, October 3, 2025, 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Hybrid

2025 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 & September meeting minutes
- Chair and Staff update

9:45 Public Comment

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

10:00 (DECISION ITEM) Finalize application form, process

Last month, we finalized the rubric, but following some discussion regarding process needed to hold over finalizing of the application form and process until this month. We will review the draft form and process, and then advance the full package along to the full council for consideration later this month.

10:45 Break

11:00 (DISCUSSION ITEM) CWF Performance Report

MPCA staff engaged in the development of the CWF Performance Report are interested in receiving feedback about its next version, to be printed in spring 2026.

11:30 (DISCUSSION ITEM) KPI Dashboard examples

Working with Steve Christenson, MPCA staff have developed a sample of what the KPI Dashboard for the CWC could look like. We'll use this time to provide initial feedback as we continue to explore this as a tool for CWC discussions, including how to prioritize which measures to focus on as we can't look at all 92 in the strategic plan.

12:00 Adjourn

Clean Water Council Scoring Rubric (10/3/2025 draft)

Purpose and Prioritization: The Clean Water Council’s scoring rubric is a tool to help the Council formally and consistently evaluate proposals using clear, shared criteria. While the rubric provides a structured evaluation framework, the Clean Water Council may prioritize proposals for funding based on its collective judgment, regardless of score, so long as it is consistent with [Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3](#).

Criteria	Criteria Description	Points Available
Water Quality Impact	Water quality is the top priority , with a focus on measurable improvements to surface water, groundwater, or drinking water . Prioritizes implementation of proven or innovative practices, with monitoring, assessment, research, strategy development, or planning included if it directly supports implementation. May also provide co-benefits that address other environmental concerns, including 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 historical progress or a feasible path to long-term systems change . May include research, monitoring, or planning activities that support measurable outcomes.	0-10 _____
Financial Leverage & Sustainability	Supplements vs supplants; potential for leveraging local or partner support; if partially funded, project is scalable	0-5 _____
Community Value	Engages landowners, local communities, and underserved groups ; addresses environmental justice and equity considerations; direct community support is evident.	0-5 _____
Outreach & Communications	Clear plan on communicating outcomes ; includes outreach strategies; has a plan or has demonstrated how to raise awareness of CWF through this program (e.g., Logo displayed, CWF mentioned)	0-5 _____

Total Points Received: _____ /50

Scoring Rubric Guide for Council Members

The scoring rubric provides a clear, consistent framework for evaluating proposals in alignment with the Clean Water Council's strategic priorities. Here are a few guiding steps to help with the scoring process:

1. **Review Each Proposal Thoroughly**

Read each proposal carefully and assess how it addresses each rubric criterion.

2. **Score Each Section Independently**

Assign a score within the specified range for each section, based on how strongly the proposal meets that criteria.

3. **Be Consistent**

Use a consistent scoring approach across all proposals you review. For example, if you tend to score conservatively, apply that same approach for each project.

4. **Provide Comments and Questions**

Where possible, include comments or questions for each section. These notes are valuable for agencies and the Interagency Coordination Team to address during or after presentations. This is especially helpful when reviewing multiple proposals over time, as it provides context for Council discussion and follow-up.

5. **Maintain Flexibility**

The rubric is a decision-making tool, not an automatic approval or denial mechanism. Final funding recommendations reflect both rubric scores and the Council's collective judgment.

* Key Considerations for Water Quality Impact:

- **Water Quantity:** While water quality is the top priority, proposals may provide co-benefits for water quantity, such as improving water availability, storage, or flow conditions within a watershed.
- **Other Environmental Concerns:** Additional environmental co-benefits may include habitat restoration, biodiversity, climate resiliency, or protection of natural resources that directly support water quality and quantity goals.

FY26-27 CLEAN WATER FUND PROPOSAL

Program Title:	
Program Number (if applicable):	
Agency/Organization Name:	
Program website:	

Program Contact	
Name	
Email	
Phone	

Person Filling Out Application Form	
Name	
Email	
Phone	

Eligibility Requirements

Applicants must confirm that their proposal meets basic statutory eligibility. Please check each box that applies to certify the following:

☐ **Eligible Use of Funds:** Requested funds will be used in accordance with Minnesota law and Clean Water Fund requirements, outlined in full in [Minnesota Statutes 114D.50 Subd. 3](#). This includes confirmation that this funding request supplements rather than supplants previous non-legacy state funding.

☐ **Accounting and Reporting Capacity:** The applicant has experience with or ability to meet accounting and reporting requirements in order ensure appropriate use of funds, as stipulated in [Minnesota Statutes 114.50 Subd. 4](#).

☐ **Mandate Alignment (if applicable):** This proposal supports or fulfills state or federal mandates (i.e. TMDL, Nonpoint Source Pollution, Nutrient Reduction Strategy, Wild Rice protection, etc.).

If yes, please cite applicable statute or rule: _____

Abstract

Provide a summary (up to 100 words) that clearly states the purpose of the program, its intended water quality impact, and who it serves. The content here will largely be used as a brief summary when looking across programs, so some degree of redundancy is anticipated with other content in the form.

Water Quality Impact

Which step of the Water Management Framework does this program most fit under:

Overall, how will this program protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, protect groundwater from degradation, or protect drinking water sources. Please limit your response to 200 words.

Measurable Outcomes

For each of the following bullet points, please limit responses to 50-100 characters.

1. Expected Outcomes for FY28–29 Request:
 - a. Describe measurable and outcome-based goals for the current funding request.
 - b. Describe how outcomes will be tracked, evaluated, and reported.
 - c. (If applicable) For past recipients, describe any planned changes to this program from previous funding cycles, if any.
2. Outcomes from Prior Clean Water Fund Appropriations (if applicable):
 - a. How would you characterize progress made to date? As much as is possible, include outcomes achieved as they relate to the program purpose.
 - b. How close is the program to reaching its long-term goals?

Alignment with Clean Water Council Strategic Plan

For each relevant goal or strategy in the Clean Water Council's Strategic Plan, list the applicable item and briefly explain (50 words) how this proposal helps fulfill that objective.

Additionally, please list any other statewide or federal plan this effort supports.

Interconnection

Please list other Clean Water Fund-supported programs it informs and/or is informed by. Please briefly describe for each (up to 50 words) how Clean Water Funds add to existing efforts.

Connected CWF-supported programs:

Connected non-CWF-supported programs:

Long-term funding vision

- If this proposal is funded, should the Clean Water Council expect future (beyond FY28-29) requests to increase, decrease, or stay about the same? (Do not factor inflation into your answer.)
 - ___ Increase
 - ___ Decrease
 - ___ Stay the same
- Do you have an anticipated end date for funding need? If so, when? _____
- Do you intend to continue this program past 2034 in some capacity? ___ Yes ___ No ___ Unsure

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 what funds are being leveraged, the anticipated amount, and your degree of certainty that the funding is secure. Feel free to add rows if needed.

Funding Source	Anticipated Amount	Degree of Security (%)
<i>Ex. Private landowner contributions</i>	<i>\$100,000</i>	<i>100%</i>

If additional description or elaboration is needed, please include here. (50 words max)

Funding Recipients

Please state as a percentage the amount of funding from this request that is anticipated to be pass-through to a non-state agency entity.

_____ %

Engagement and Community Value

- How have program beneficiaries been engaged in the development or evolution of this program? Who are the program partners, if any? (150 words)
- Please describe how this program advances environmental justice and promotes equity. (150 words)
- If this has been funded through Clean Water Funds in the past, please share 1-3 recent examples of outreach conducted by this program. Links or attachments are allowable.

CWF Communication Plan

For both new and returning applicants, please describe (under 100 words) or attach the plan for communicating with the public and pass-through recipients about the Clean Water Fund.

PRIOR APPROPRIATIONS	
FY10-11	
FY12-13	
FY14-15	
FY16-17	
FY18-19	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	
FY24-25	
FY26-27	
TOTAL APPROPRIATED TO DATE	

FY28 Request	FY29 Request	FY28-29 TOTAL REQUEST

[For agency applicants: don't fill out the FY28-29 until you receive agency approval. We will update the form at that time. Until then, please include "New", "Hold steady", "Increase", or "Decrease".]

State Employees

If applicable, 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	
FY20-21	
FY22-23	
FY24-25	
FY26-27	

50 Words

This is a sample for what 50 words looks like. You would be able to have just a few sentences, and you'd need to stick to a handful of ideas and high-level summaries. This would likely be appropriate for short answer questions, or those where general responses would still suffice.

100 words

At 100 words, there is a degree to which generalizing or summarizing would still be needed, but you can also begin to get to more nuanced responses—especially when the prompting question is discrete in its own focus. For instance, 100 words could be sufficient for an answer about desired measurable outcomes if generalities are allowed, or to describe what the CWF communications plan would look like at a high level. Specifics that are beyond the scope of what the CWC needs to see would likely be omitted simply as a result of word length restrictions.

(150 words: What you can get for 150 words is already apparent by combining the two responses above. This can let you look at a couple of ideas and provide some more specific examples.)

200 words

When you get to 200 words in length, responses are able to follow more of a story arc or essay style because enough space is available to:

- Have a thesis
- Provide supporting information
- Explore ideas
- Circle back to a conclusion

Heck, you may even incorporate bulleted lists to clarify key points.

This degree of information may be useful for being able to describe something along the lines of water quality impact, especially when a program has multiple facets or needs to be able to demonstrate complexities. However, while there is some flexibility provided by the additional word count, that flexibility isn't necessarily appropriate for all questions. It would behoove the Council to consider if the additional space provides additional value in reviewing applications side-by-side. It would likely be more than is needed to be able to describe alignment with the Clean Water Council Strategic Plan or describe interconnection with other programs.

Council members should think carefully about when to use this word length option (if at all), keeping in mind that they will likely be reviewing 60-70 applications. Where does the extra space truly add value? The current draft uses it just for Water Quality Impact.

Draft Budget Process

FY28-29 Budget Cycle

- **Application phase (November 2025-January 2026)**
 - Post the application and rubric to the website late fall 2025.
 - All applications submitted by the same time in mid-January.
 - Jen reviews applications to ensure eligibility.
 - Links to eligible applications posted online.
- **Review and scoring phase (January-June 2026)**
 - A subset shared with Council members four weeks in advance, with reminders to review them ahead of time.
 - Links to the applications
 - Links to their rubric
 - Scores and questions submitted to Jen two weeks before Full Council meeting. Jen sends scores and questions to presenters, and includes a summary of questions by program in the meeting packet, sent one week in advance.
 - Council members able adjust their scores in real time in the meeting, asking additional questions as they go.
 - Scores and final questions/comments submitted by the EOD Wednesday the week of the presentations.
 - Jen sends copies of people's scores and questions/comments back to them
 - Jen consolidates the information to share with applicants (preserving the breakdown of scores by category—should these be credited or anonymous?)
 - Applicants take until the following Friday (7 business days) to respond to questions in writing.
 - Scores, questions, and responses from applicants sent to the BOC the Tuesday preceding their meeting.
 - At the BOC meeting:
 - BOC asks additional questions of applicants as needed.
 - BOC deliberates and sets preliminary suggestions for which of the applications to add, increase, hold steady, decrease, or drop.
 - At the next full council meeting:
 - Questions and answers sent to BOC included in the meeting packet, along with preliminary BOC suggestions.
 - BOC presents the preliminary suggestions for initial response by the full council.

- **Draft budget development phase (June-September 2026)**

- Once ALL applications have been reviewed, the final scores and initial funding suggestions come together for the initial full-budget deliberations. Full Council will give first reaction to complete package, hear public input, and provide guidance for the BOC's first comprehensive discussion.
 - Now that we've seen all of the presentations, are there considerations for what to adjust on funding suggestions?
 - Is there any other direction to the applicants that we would like to make at this time?
- BOC deliberates to determine the following for each program/application:
 - Level of priority to the Council (High, Medium, Low)
 - Direction of funding (up, down, steady, new, drop)
 - *Any combination is possible. For instance, it is possible to have "High Priority, Decrease" as well as "Low Priority, Increase," etc.*
- Full Council reviews draft suggestions to adjust or affirm
- Applicants provide estimated numbers in response to draft budget suggestions
- BOC sets draft budget using numbers from applicants
- Full Council reviews
- Additional back and forth as needed
- Preliminary budget adopted by the Full Council

- **Final budget development phase (September-December 2026)**

- Full Council provides input to BOC regarding priorities for funding more if more funding is available, and what to cut if less is available
- BOC drafts scenarios
- Full Council affirms
- Following November budget forecast, BOC finalizes budget numbers
- Full Council finalizes budget recommendations for the legislative report

November 2025

Applications and instructions posted to the Clean Water Council website

December 2025

Budget targets discussed, Q&A Session for interested applicants?

January 2026

1/16: All applications submitted.

1/19: Jen reviews for eligibility and gets them posted to the website.

1/20: Applications posted to the website. Packet sent to Council members.

1/26: Full Council—Overview of applications shared with the Clean Water Council. Schedule for presentations set. Instructions given to both Council members and applicants for next steps.

1/29: Applications for **first meeting** sent.

February 2026

2/9: Draft scores and comments submitted for **first presentation** meeting, Jen sends to applicants.

2/16: Packet for **first presentation** meeting sent out, including relevant applications and summary of submitted questions

2/23: Full Council—**First presentation** meeting

2/25: Final scores and comments from **first presentation** meeting due.

2/26:

- Scores and comments for **first meeting** sent to applicants for response
- Applications for **second meeting** sent

Budget Forecast released end of the month.

March 2026

3/9:

- Written responses from **first meeting** applicants for BOC consideration are due
- Draft scores and comments for **second presentation** applicants are due from Council Members

3/10: BOC packet containing responses from **first round** of questions sent

3/13: **First deliberation** and suggestion, budget target based on February forecast discussed

3/17: Packet for second presentation meeting sent out, including:

- Questions and responses from **first meeting**, along with preliminary BOC suggestions
- Applications for the **second presentation** meeting and summary of questions submitted

3/23: Full Council meeting

- Outcomes from BOC preliminary review shared for **first meeting** applications
- **Second presentation** meeting, budget target discussed

3/25: Scores and questions for **second presentation** set due from Council members

3/26:

- Scores and comments for **second meeting** sent to applicants for response
- Applications for **third meeting** sent

April 2026

4/6:

- Written responses from **second meeting** applicants for BOC consideration are due
- Draft scores and comments for **third presentation** applicants are due from Council Members

4/7: BOC packet containing responses from **second round** of questions sent

4/10: **Second deliberation** and suggestion

4/14: Packet for third presentation meeting sent out, including:

- Questions and responses from **second presentation** set, along with preliminary BOC suggestions
- Applications for the **third presentation** meeting and summary of questions submitted

4/20: Full Council meeting

- Outcomes from BOC preliminary review shared for **second meeting** applications
- **Third presentation** meeting

4/22: Scores and questions for **third presentation** set due from Council members

4/23:

- Scores and comments for **third meeting** sent to applicants for response
- Applications for **fourth meeting** sent

May 2026

5/4:

- Written responses from **third presentation** applicants for BOC consideration are due
- Draft scores and comments for **fourth presentation** applicants are due from Council Members

5/5: BOC packet containing responses from **third presentation** questions sent

5/8: BOC: **Third deliberation** and suggestion

5/12: Packet for fourth presentation meeting sent out, including:

- Questions and responses from **third presentation** set, along with preliminary BOC suggestions
- Applications for the **Fourth presentation** meeting and summary of questions submitted

5/18: Full Council meeting:

- Questions and responses from **third presentation** set, along with preliminary BOC suggestions
- Applications for the **fourth presentation** meeting and summary of questions submitted

5/20: Scores and questions for **fourth presentation** set due from Council members

5/21: Scores and comments for **fourth presentation** set send to applicants

June 2026

6/1: Written responses from **fourth presentation** applicants for BOC consideration are due

6/5: BOC: **Fourth deliberation** and suggestion

6/9: Packet sent for full Council meeting, including:

- Questions and responses from **fourth presentation** set, along with preliminary BOC suggestions
- Recap of all preliminary BOC suggestions, adjusted per Full Council feedback as applicable

6/15 Full Council:

- First third: Review BOC suggestions from **Fourth presentation** round and all in aggregate.
- Second third: public input.
- Final third: Deliberation and direction to BOC based on input.

July 2026

7/10 BOC: Provide draft funding direction suggestions for all applications, including high priority, medium priority, and low priority.

7/20 Full Council: Review and advance draft funding direction suggestions for applicants for their response.

All applicants have 3 weeks to submit draft dollar amounts by the week prior to August BOC meeting.

August 2026

8/10: Memo from ICT and budget requests from other applicants due

8/11: BOC packet sent

8/14 BOC: Review draft dollar amounts submitted by applicants and develop first draft of preliminary budget recommendations.

8/18: Packet sent

8/24 Full Council: Review draft budget recommendations and provide direction to BOC.

September 2026

9/11 BOC: Amend recommendations per Full Council input.

9/15: Packet sent

9/21 Full Council: Preliminary recommendations set by the Council.

October 2026

10/2 BOC: First discussions on increases or decreases depending on the budget forecast

10/19 Full Council: Include discussion of adjustments based on the budget forecast. Direction to BOC.

November 2026

11/6 BOC: Final discussions on increases or decreases depending on the budget forecast.

11/16 Full Council: ratify plan for what to do based on the budget forecast.

Budget Forecast released end of the month.

December 2026

12/4 BOC: Review forecast, develop final proposal for recommendations based on established plan.

12/8: Packet sent

12/14 Full Council: Final recommendations made by the Council.

January 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16 Applications submitted	17
18	19 Jen reviews for eligibility	20 All applications posted to web, packet sent	21	22	23	24
25	26 Full Council: process overview, scheduled confirmation	27	28	29 Applications for first meeting sent	30	31

Notes

December '25

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February '26

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28

February 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Draft scores and comments for 1st meeting due, JK sends to appl.	10	11	12	13	14
15	16 Packet sent with relevant applications, summary of Qs	17	18	19	20	21
22	23 Full Council: 1st presentation meeting	24	25 Scores for 1st round of applications due	26 JK sends scores & Qs to applicants. JK sends 2nd mtg apps.	27	28

Notes

MMB Budget Forecast will be released end of the month.

January '26						
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March '26						
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29	30	31				

March 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9 Appl response to Qs for BOC due. Draft scores & Qs for 2nd mtg due.	10 BOC packet sent	11	12	13 BOC deliberation of 1st round of applications	14
15	16	17 Packet for 2nd meeting sent, inc. 1st mtg Q&A and BOC suggestions	18	19	20	21
22	23 Full Council: review BOC prelims, 2nd round of presentations	24	25 Scores for 2nd round of applications due	26 JK sends scores & Qs to applicants. JK sends 3rd mtg apps.	27	28
29	30	31				

Notes

February '26

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April '26

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April 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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5	6 Appl response to Qs for BOC due. Draft scores & Qs for 3rd mtg due.	7 BOC packet sent	8	9	10 BOC deliberation of 2nd round of applications	11
12	13	14 Packet for 3rd meeting sent, inc. 2nd mtg Q&A and BOC suggestions	15	16	17	18
19	20 Full Council: review BOC prelims, 3rd round of presentations	21	22 Scores for 3rd round of applications due	23 JK sends scores & Qs to applicants. JK sends 4th mtg apps.	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

Notes

March '26

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May '26

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31						

May 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1	2
3	4 Appl response to Qs for BOC due. Draft scores & Qs for 4th mtg due.	5 BOC packet sent	6	7	8 BOC deliberation of 3rd round of applications	9
10	11	12 Packet for 4th meeting sent, inc. 3rd mtg Q&A and BOC suggestions	13	14	15	16
17	18 Full Council: review BOC prelims, 4th round of presentations	19	20 Scores for 4th round of applications due	21 JK sends scores & Qs to applicants.	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
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Notes

April '26						
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June '26						
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June 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Appl response to Qs for BOC due.	2 BOC packet sent	3	4	5 BOC deliberation of 4th round of applications	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15 Full Council: Review prelim for 4th round, and all. Public input. Initial direction.	16	17	18	19	20
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Notes

May '26						
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July '26						
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July 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10 BOC: Using ALL input, draft priority level and funding direction	11
12	13	14 Packet sent	15	16	17	18
19	20 Full Council: Deliberation and direction to applicants	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

Notes

June '26						
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August '26						
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30	31					

August 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10 \$\$ amounts from applicants due	11	12	13	14 BOC: Draft first budget	15
16	17	18 Packet sent	19	20	21	22
23	24 Full Council: Review draft budget, provide feedback	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Notes

July '26						
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September '26						
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26	27	28	29	30		

September 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11 BOC: Amend per Full Council input	12
13	14	15 Packet sent	16	17	18	19
20	21 Full Council: Preliminary budget set, 1st scenarios convo	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Notes

August '26

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October '26

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25	26	27	28	29	30	31

October 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2 BOC: Contingency planning for more or less \$\$	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19 Full Council: Discuss contingency scenarios, provide feedback	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

Notes

September '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

November '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

November 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1	2	3	4	5	6 BOC: Amend contingency scenarios	7
8	9	10 Packet sent	11	12	13	14
15	16 Full Council: Ratify contingency scenarios	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

Notes

MMB Budget Forecast will be released end of the month.

October '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

December '26						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

December 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2	3	4 BOC: Review forecast, develop final proposal for budget	5
6	7	8 Packet sent	9	10	11	12
13	14 Full Council: Final recommendations	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Notes

November '26

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

January '27

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						



Clean Water Fund Performance Report

A report of Clean Water Funds invested, actions
taken and outcomes achieved

2016



Clean Water Fund Performance Report

A report of Clean Water Funds invested, actions
taken and outcomes achieved

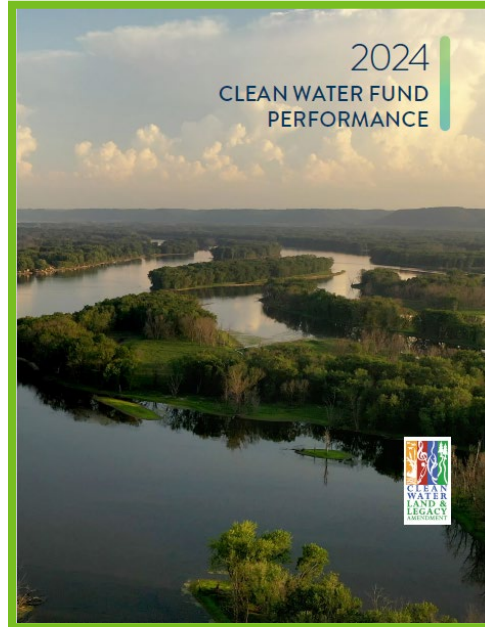
2018



Clean Water Fund Performance Report

A report of Clean Water Funds invested, actions taken
and outcomes achieved

2022



2024 CLEAN WATER FUND PERFORMANCE



Clean Water Fund Performance Report

A report of Clean Water Funds invested, actions taken
and outcomes achieved

2026



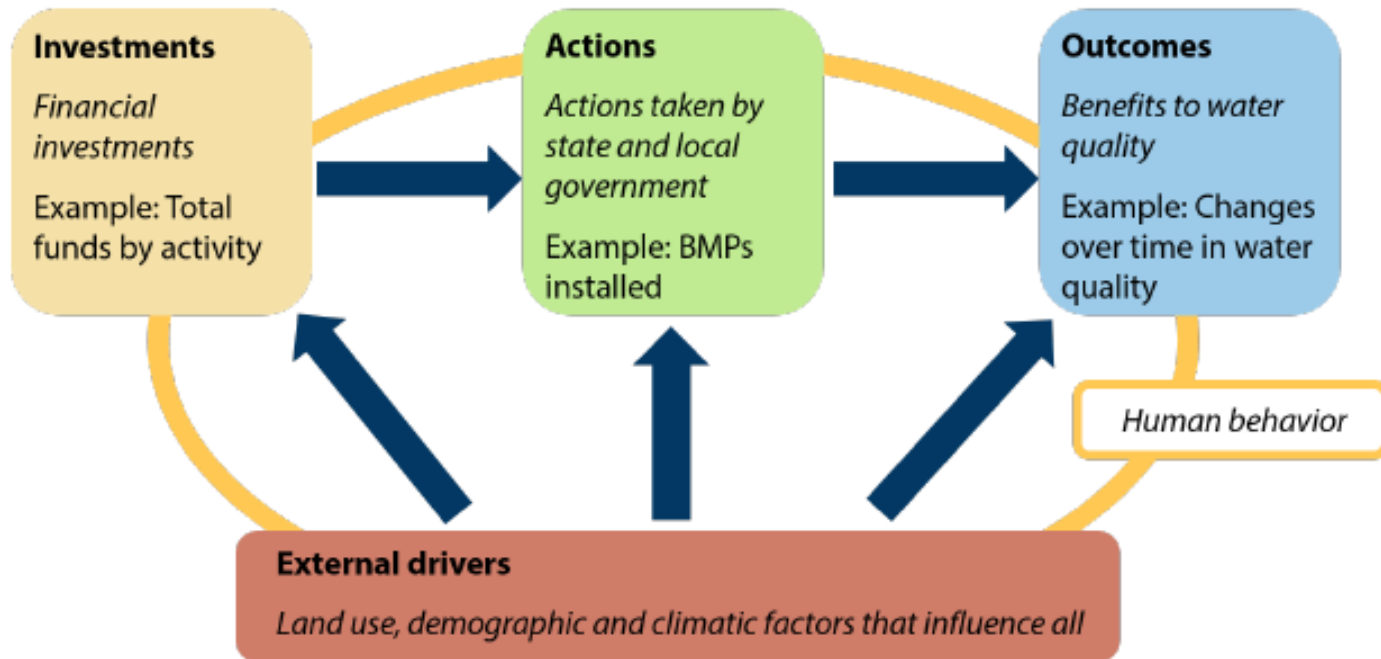
8th Edition of Clean Water Fund Performance Report In Development

Scope of Clean Water Fund Efforts and Report

Clean Water Fund investments are an important part of water resource management in Minnesota, but we also rely on the dedication and partnership of citizens, communities, and businesses to implement strategies that improve water quality.



Clean Water Fund Performance Report

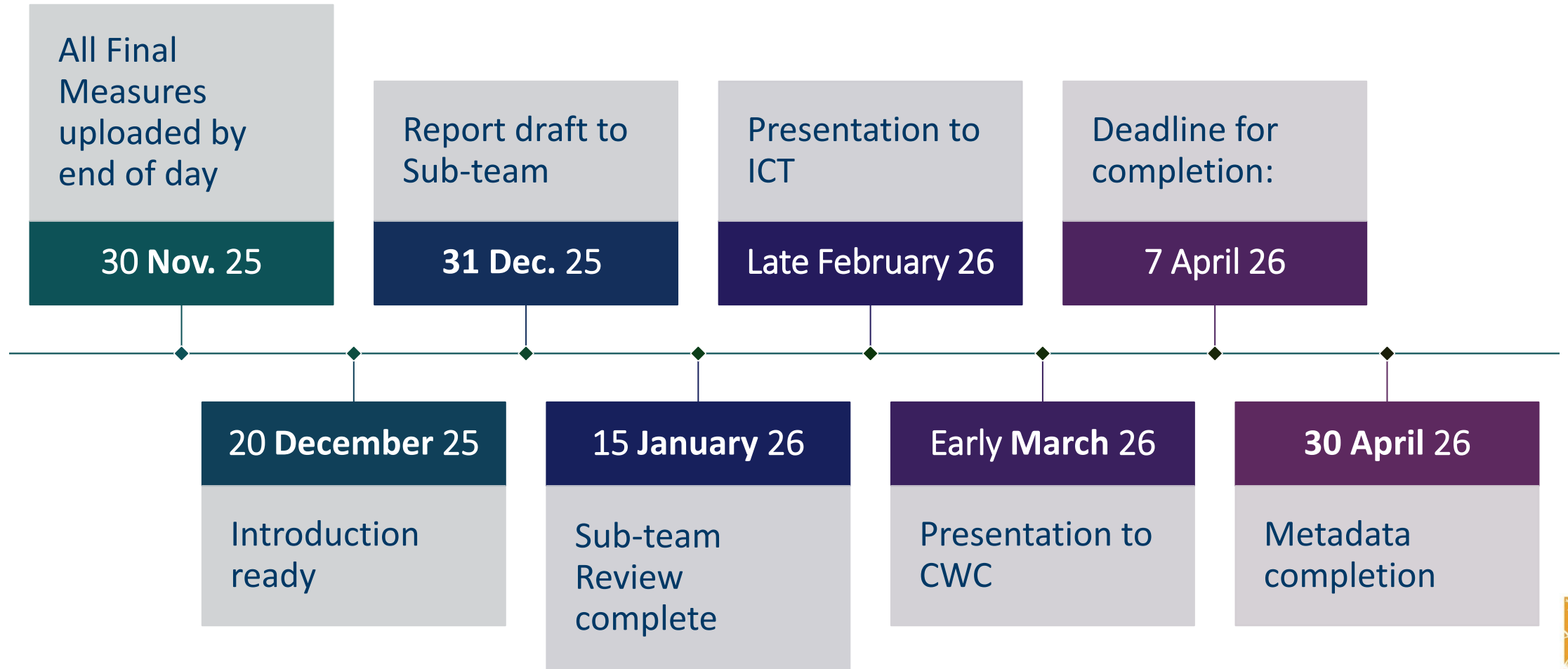


GOAL: Clarify the connections between Clean Water Fund investments, actions taken, and outcomes achieved in Minnesota's water resources.

Team members for each Agency

- BWSR: Udai Singh, Mary Juhl, Cameron Gaspord
- MDA: Jen Schaust, Reid Christianson
- DNR: Jamison Wendel, Vanessa Baratta, Jay Frischman, Kenny Blumenfeld
- MDH: Alycia Overbo, Azra Thakur
- MPCA: Kim Laing, Shaina Keseley, David Miller, Pam Foster, Marco Graziani, Gabriel Posteuca, Casey Scott
- MCES: Steve Kloiber, Lanya Ross

Updated CWF timeline



Watersheds Monitored by Local Partners

SURFACE WATER QUALITY MEASURES 2024

Watersheds monitored by local partners

ACTION
Measure: Local partner participation in monitoring efforts

Why is this measure important?

Clean Water Fund dollars enable intensive sampling and assessment of lakes and streams in all 80 major watersheds. This allows for better protection of Minnesota's clean waters and restoration of the polluted ones. As noted in statute, one of the purposes of the Clean Water Fund is to provide "...grants, loans, and technical assistance to public agencies and others testing waters..." This measure shows the participation of local partners, citizen volunteers, and students across Minnesota.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) alone cannot complete all of the monitoring necessary to comprehensively assess the waters in the state. Local partner participation is crucial to meet water monitoring strategy goals and to build a base of engaged participants for restoration and protection activities that follow the monitoring and assessment of waters.

What are we doing?

MPCA works with local organizations across the state to build capacity for monitoring efforts. Each year, MPCA prioritizes certain lake, river, and stream sites and works with local partners to award contracts to cover the costs of staff, training, equipment, and lab analysis of condition monitoring.

In this way, MPCA is ensuring that the most current and comprehensive dataset is available for assessment and for the development of protection and restoration

strategies. By bolstering local capacity, expertise, and equipment inventory, these partners become well suited to carry out future monitoring efforts, such as subwatershed pollutant load monitoring to aid in restoration and protection strategies.

In addition, MPCA supports a volunteer water monitoring program for stream and lake clarity. Over 1,300 volunteers participate annually; the data supports assessment and trend development work and provides an engaged citizenry for environmental protection and restoration.

Clean Water Fund dollars also support a large environmental education effort in the Red River Basin through the Red River Watershed Management Board. This work exposes hundreds of students to local waterways, provides watershed training to teachers, curriculum development for elementary students, and engages students in biological and continuous monitoring.

What progress has been made?

MPCA has been able to maintain its goal of a minimum of 75 percent of the stream sites offered being picked up by local partners. The MPCA has seen a decline in the participation with lake monitoring through the SWAG program. This has been attributed to a lack of staff capacity at the local level to undertake the tasks associated with lake monitoring.

Surface water health

Measure: Rate of impairment/unimpairment of surface water statewide and by watershed.

Water quality varies greatly by region. In general, good water quality remains where land is intact; where considerable alteration has occurred, water quality is poor.

Status  There is great variability

Trend 

Why is this measure important?

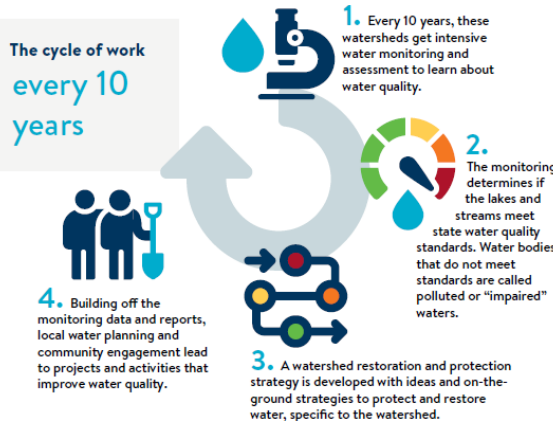
Many Minnesotans want to know if they can swim and fish in their favorite lake or stream. Before the Clean Water Fund, few lakes and streams had enough water quality information to determine if Minnesota's water goals were being met. In order to determine a waterbody's health, state agencies need basic water quality information that is obtained through monitoring. Without this basic information, work to develop strategies to reverse water pollution and to protect high quality lakes and streams would be delayed.

What are we doing?

Clean Water Funding significantly increased water monitoring and assessment activities. In 2008, the MPCA implemented the Watershed Approach. This is a 10- year cycle where approximately eight of Minnesota's 80 major watersheds are intensively monitored each year for stream and lake water chemistry and biology. These data from monitoring activities are then assessed to determine if goals to protect recreational activities such as fishing and swimming, as well as to safeguard fish and aquatic ecosystems, are being met. By considering all lake and stream data for a given watershed at one time, a complete picture of the watershed's overall health develops. State agency and local partners are working together to conduct the intensive monitoring, assess the resulting monitoring information, to develop restoration and protection plans, and assess progress towards water quality goals.

What progress has been made?

As of January 2024, all 80 watersheds have been assessed, and a quarter of the watersheds have had a second update. As monitoring and assessment continues across the state, the new focus is on measuring progress. The assessment results are located on the MPCA's Minnesota Watershed web page at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/watersheds/watershed-overview-map.html>.



Surface Water Health

SURFACE WATER QUALITY MEASURES 2024

Surface water health

OUTCOME

Measure: Rate of impairment/unimpairment of surface water statewide and by watershed

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Figure 14. MPCA staff sample streams and lakes across Minnesota to determine if recreation and aquatic life are supported.

Local partners doing water monitoring

Measure: Percent of watershed chemistry monitoring performed by local partners

As of 2023, all programs are meeting participatory goals.

Status  There is great variability

Trend   

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Trend



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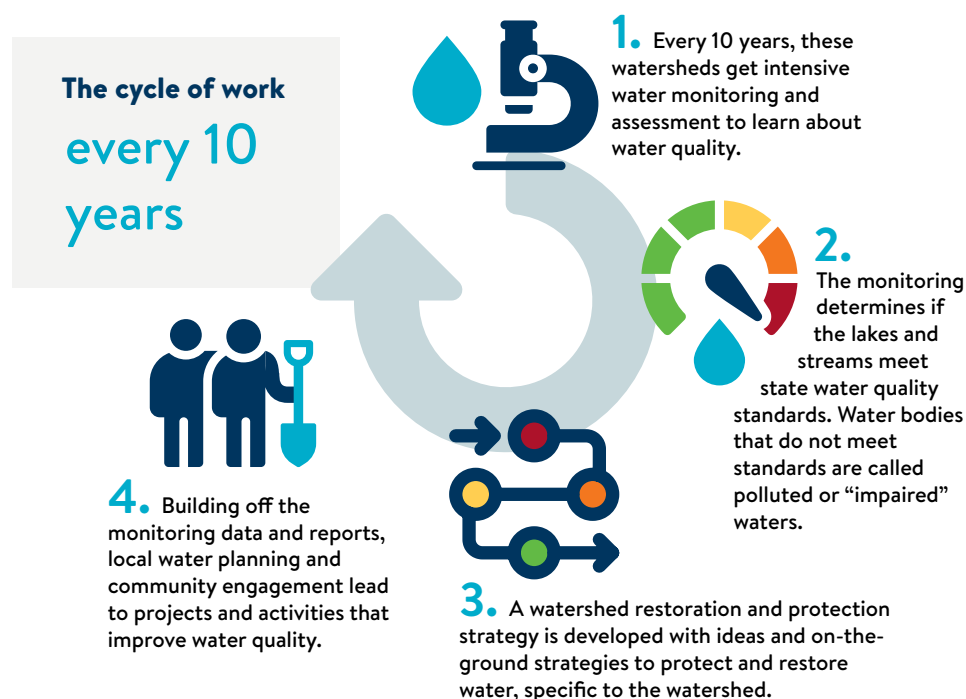
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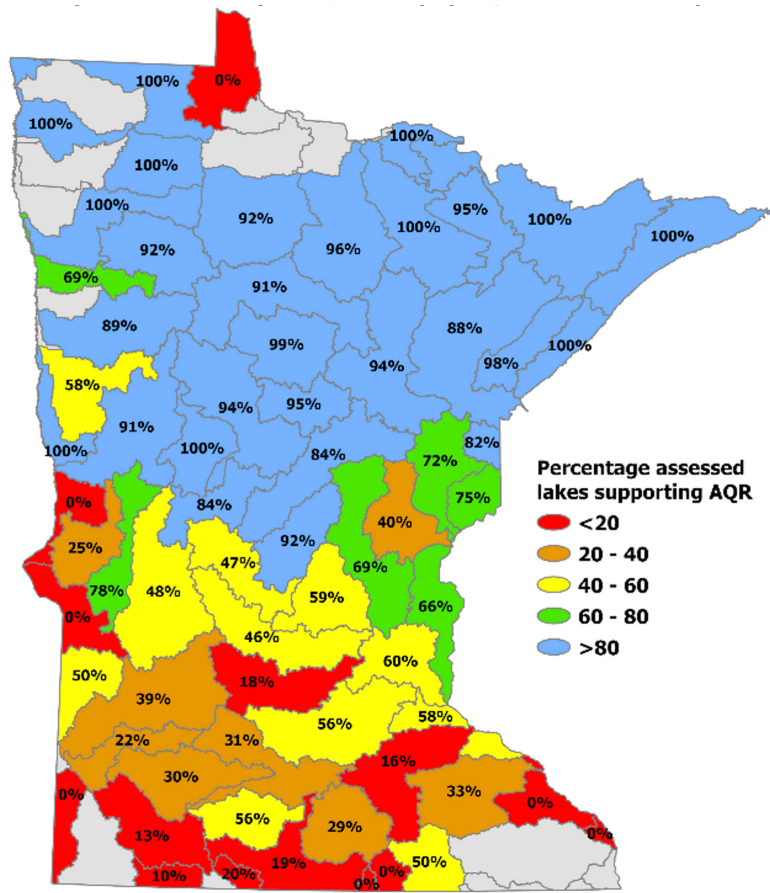


Aquatic recreation

Water monitoring information is also evaluated to determine if lakes and streams are suitable for swimming and other water recreation, and to determine whether consumption of fish should be limited.

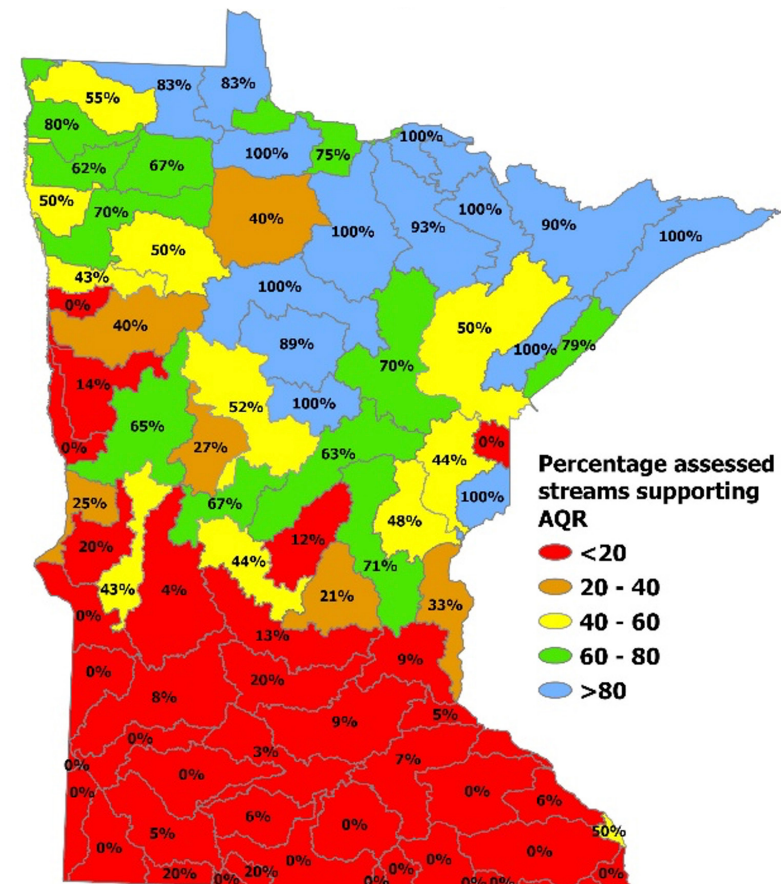
Lake assessments for aquatic recreation use

Eutrophication: phosphorus, chlorophyll-a, and Secchi transparency



Stream assessments for aquatic recreation use

E. Coli bacteria



Surface water health

Minnesota is working to increase the number of lakes meeting acceptable recreation values and the number of rivers and streams meeting their potential for a healthy fish community by 8% and 7% respectively. These goals were developed as a part of the Clean Water Fund Roadmap. This projects the estimated improvement anticipated with the funding made available for targeted implementation over the course of the Clean Water Fund.

While monitoring alone does not yield changes in environmental condition, it does provide the information necessary to target protection and restoration activities in the watershed. It also allows for progress to be measured, as practices are implemented (improvements) or as more land is developed (degradation).

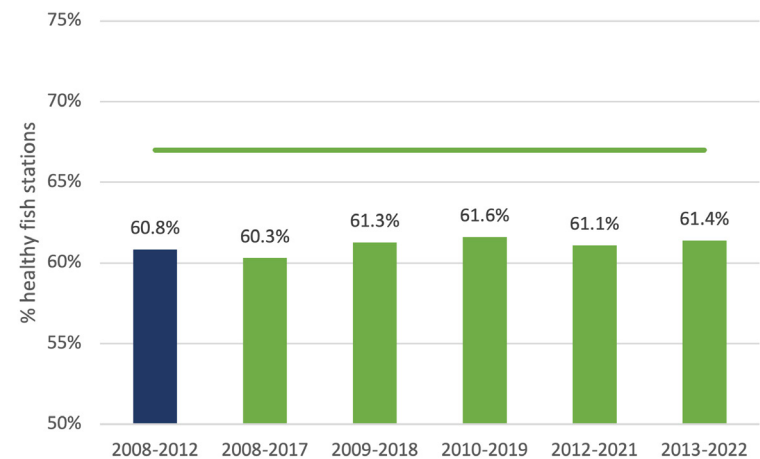
Completion of the first cycle of monitoring resulted in healthy fish communities at 60% of the stations visited. As work is completed to improve conditions on the landscape, the goal is to have 67% healthy fish communities at the stations visited during the span of the Clean Water Fund. Due to COVID, fish sampling was suspended in 2020. Similarly, work to improve conditions in lakes across Minnesota is expected to yield 70% of lakes supporting recreation activities.\

Learn more

- Find more information about this measure and its data at www.legacy.leg.mn/funds/clean-water-fund.
- Find water quality assessment results for specific lakes and streams at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/data/surface-water.html>.
- Visit <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/index.html> to find out when your watershed will be monitored.

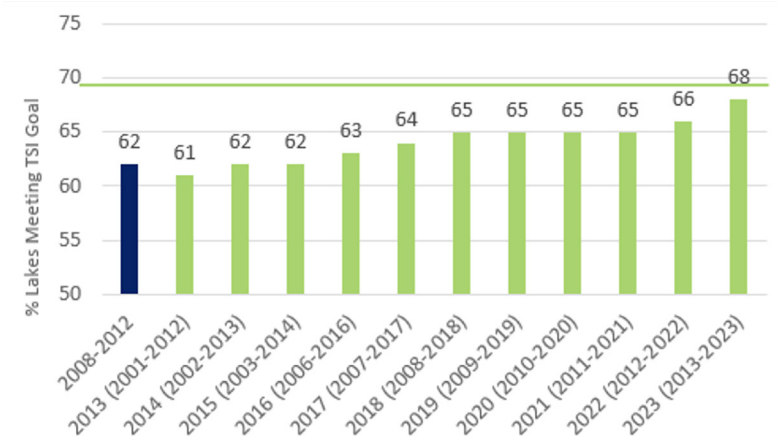
This chart could use a title

This subline could be used to make a statement about the trend, or some broader message.



People read titles, so plain language is best

They also read this subline to learn what the point is.



Local partners doing water monitoring

Measure: Percent of watershed chemistry monitoring performed by local partners

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Status



There is great variability

Trend



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How monitoring by partners happens

During 2022 and 2023, MPCA awarded 26 new SWAG contracts for monitoring activities across the state. The WPLMN monitoring program amended 16 contracts executed in the previous biennium for work through 2022 and 2024. Local partners who received contracts include a Tribal Bands, a Regional Policy Making Council, counties, educational institutions, joint powers, watershed districts, a non-profit, and soil and water conservation districts.

In the Red River Basin, the Red River Basin River Watch program continues to engage local students through programs like River of Dreams (ROD) and Red River Explorers Paddling Program. Measurable outcomes for both programs are detailed below.

ROD

- Delivery of classroom resources including books, art supplies, and canoes
- Completion of 44 classroom sessions
- Completion of 44 field sessions
- Web design and ROD database with canoe tracking information

Paddle Trips

- Completed six kayak and seven canoe ecological river excursions with 532 participants.
- Completed four observational reports.

Additional activities completed through the Red River Basin Riverwatch program include macroinvertebrate monitoring and Stem assistance.

In the Minnesota River Basin, the Minnesota River Basin River Watch Program was implemented in 2022 and 2023. During the 2022-2023 school year the Minnesota River Watch program worked both in the field and in the classroom with nearly 3,300 students from 22 high schools, 2 middle schools, and 10 elementary schools.

Activities within the Minnesota River Basin are detailed below.

- Water quality monitoring using professional state-of-the-art electronic field meters along with collection of water and macroinvertebrate samples.
- River of Dreams workshops and day camps for elementary and middle school students.
- Student-led educational Community River Walks along the floodplain of the Minnesota River.

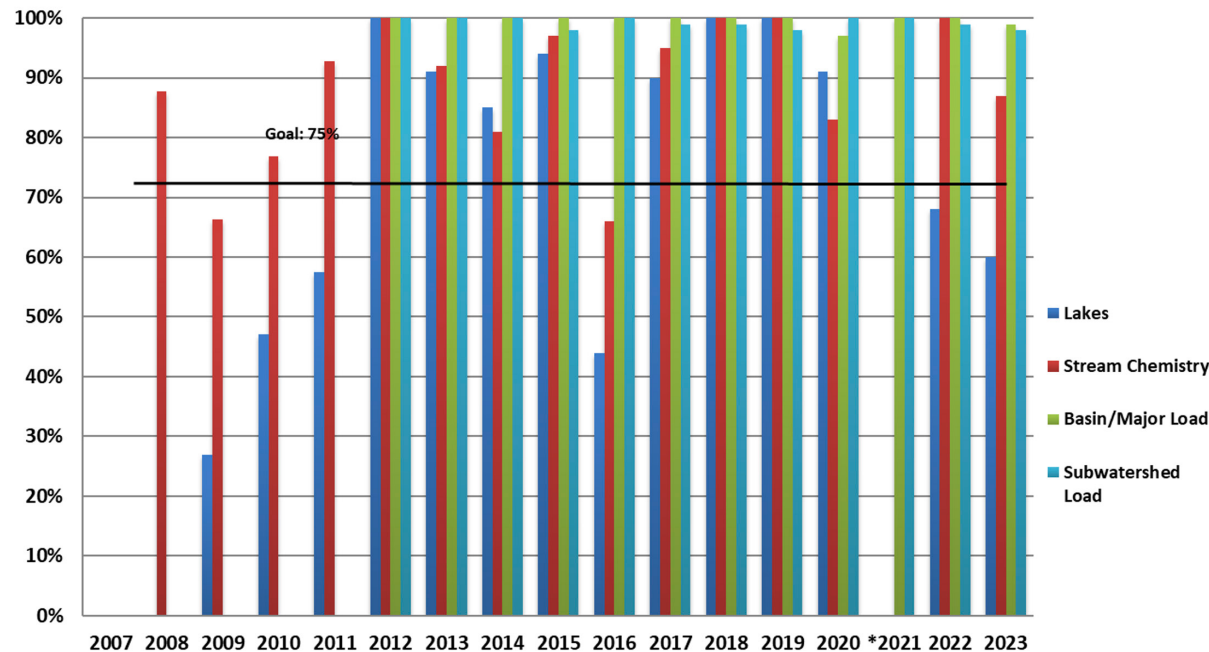
Volunteers through the **Volunteer Water Monitoring Program** provide data on over 1,500 lake and stream locations across Minnesota. These long-term networks have allowed the state to track trends and assess water quality.

Minnesotans benefit from many other local and volunteer monitoring efforts across the state. This interest in water resources has provided information to inform local action and engagement.



Local partners play a crucial role in assessing the health of lakes and streams in Minnesota. Lew Overhaug (Winona County) and Joe Coleman (MN Conservation Corp) collect profile measurements on Lake Winona. Image by Megan Kabele. Bethany Chaplin with the Crow Wing SWCD fills a sample bottle after collecting water from the Gull River. Image by Alicia Lang.

Percent of watershed chemistry monitoring performed by local partners



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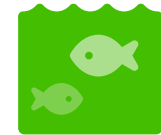
Learn more

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- Find out when the MPCA will be intensively monitoring your watershed: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/index.html>
- Surface Water Assessment Grants: Surface Water Assessment Grants | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)
- Watershed Pollutant Load Monitoring Network: Watershed pollutant load monitoring | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (state.mn.us)

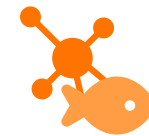
What gets measured in water chemistry?



Sulfate that hinders the growth of wild rice



Phosphorus and other nutrients that grow algae



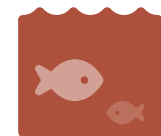
PFAS found in fish tissue that's unsafe for humans



Bacteria that can make water unsafe for swimming



Mercury levels in fish that limit human consumption



Sediment that clouds water

** Above graphic: Will need to add more parts of water chem monitoring: temp, DO etc

Drinking water is safe for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.

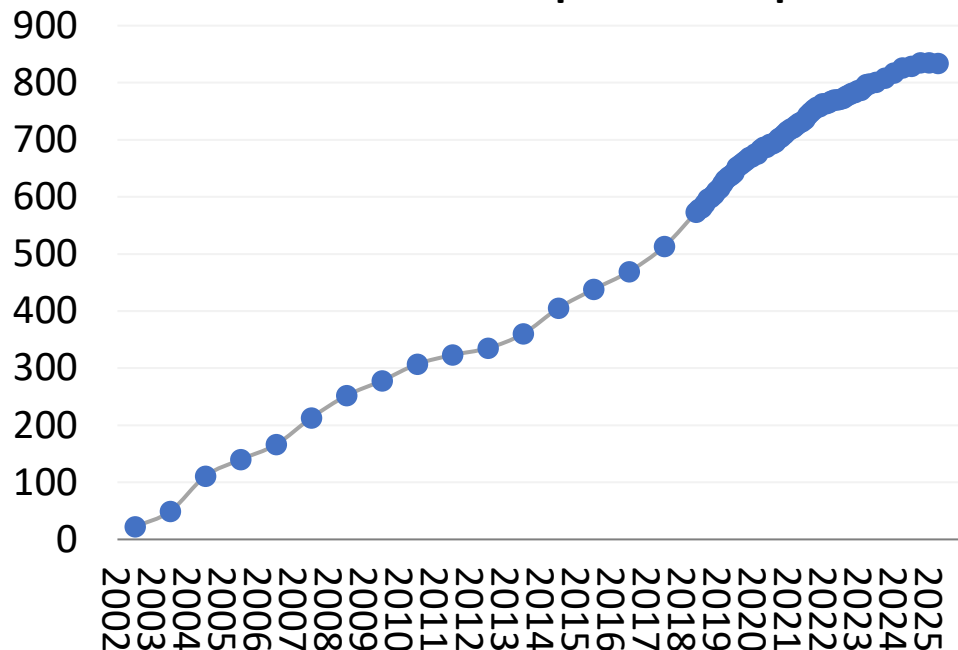
For further information go:
CWF Performance Report
Legislative Commissions

Measure: All 900+ DWSPPs complete for groundwater public water systems.

Measure: All source water assessments for 23 surface water systems complete.

Measure: Source water protection plans complete for non-community public water systems.

Public water systems with approved source water protection plans



Source Water Protection Plans and implementation for 500 vulnerable systems



Source Water Protection Plans for 420 non-vulnerable systems



Source Water Assessments for 23 surface water systems



Surface Water Intake Protection Plans for 23 surface water systems



Pilot Source Water Protection Plans for 10 noncommunity systems



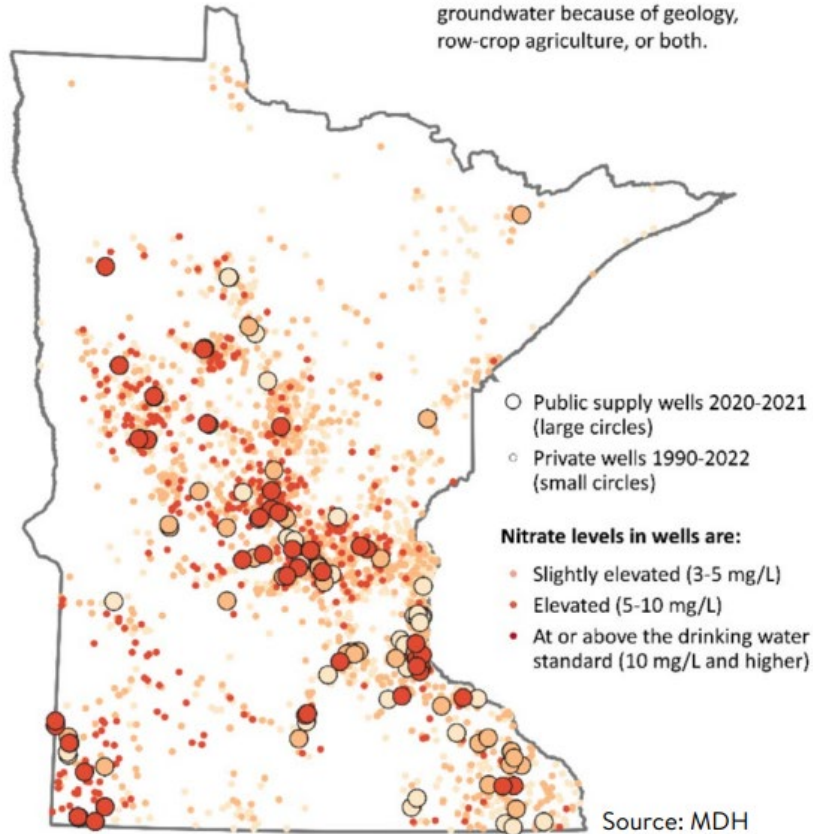
Figure 29. Progress on source water protection planning goals.

Drinking water is safe for everyone,

Nitrate detected in drinking water wells

(Prior to treatment)

Elevated nitrate levels are a concern across the state, and some areas - the areas with many dots - are more vulnerable to nitrate contamination in groundwater because of geology, row-crop agriculture, or both.



Source: MDH

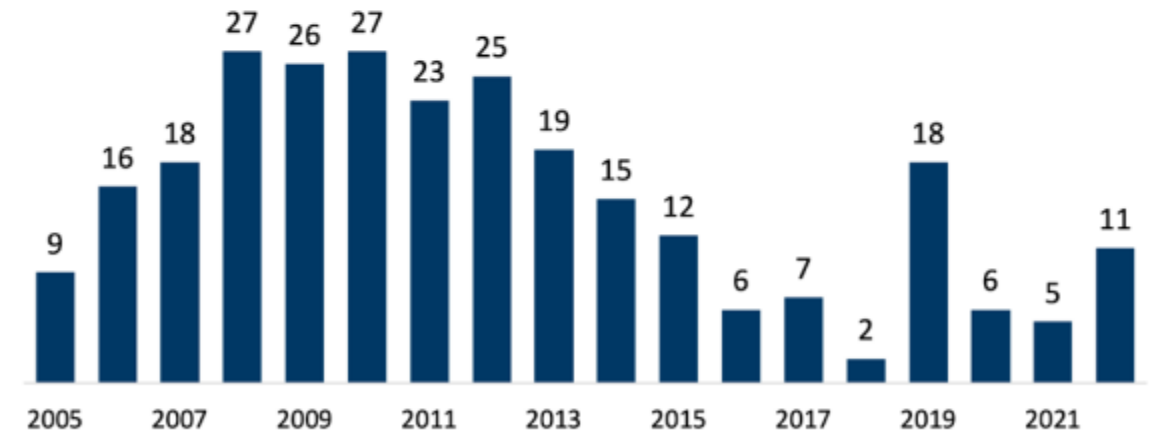
10/2/2023

Nitrate violations, community water systems



Community water systems provide water to the public in their primary living space —where people live and sleep.

Nitrate violations, non-community water systems

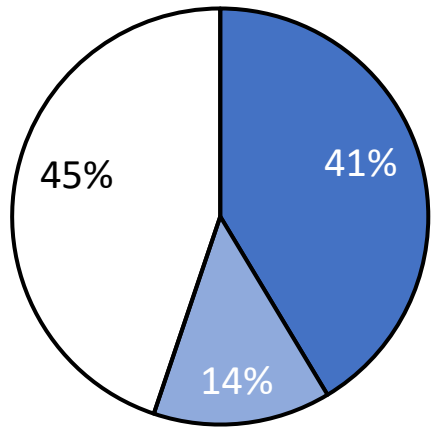


Non-community water systems provide water to the public in places other than their homes, where people work, gather and play.

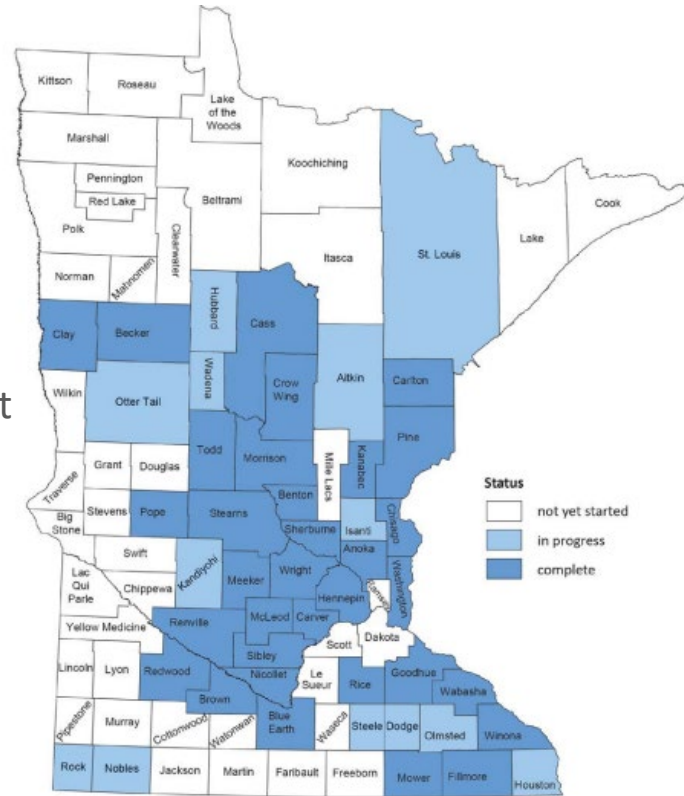
health.

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

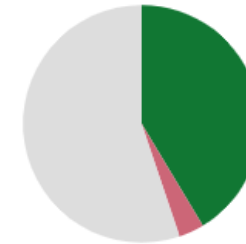
Measure: All Part B atlases completed by 2038.



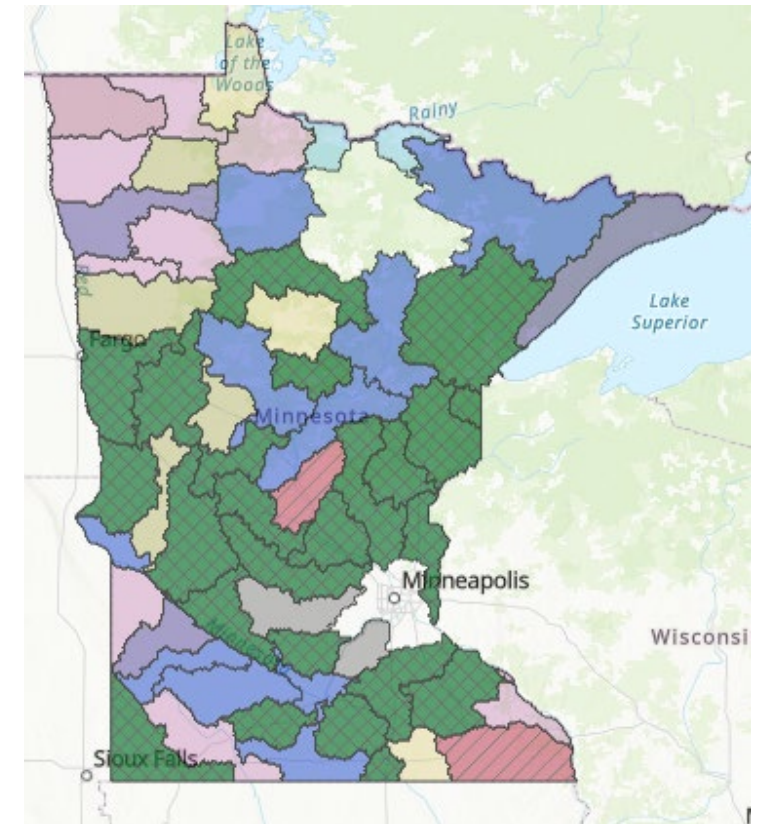
- Complete
- In progress
- Future start



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



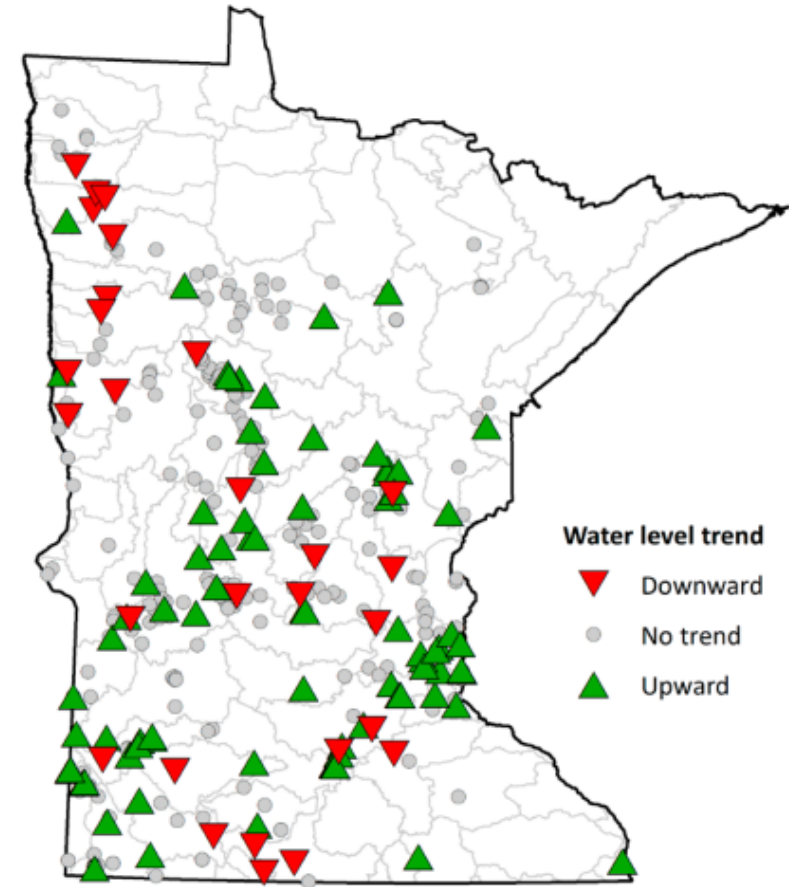
- Completed 24
- In Progress 2
- Upcoming 32



Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

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

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

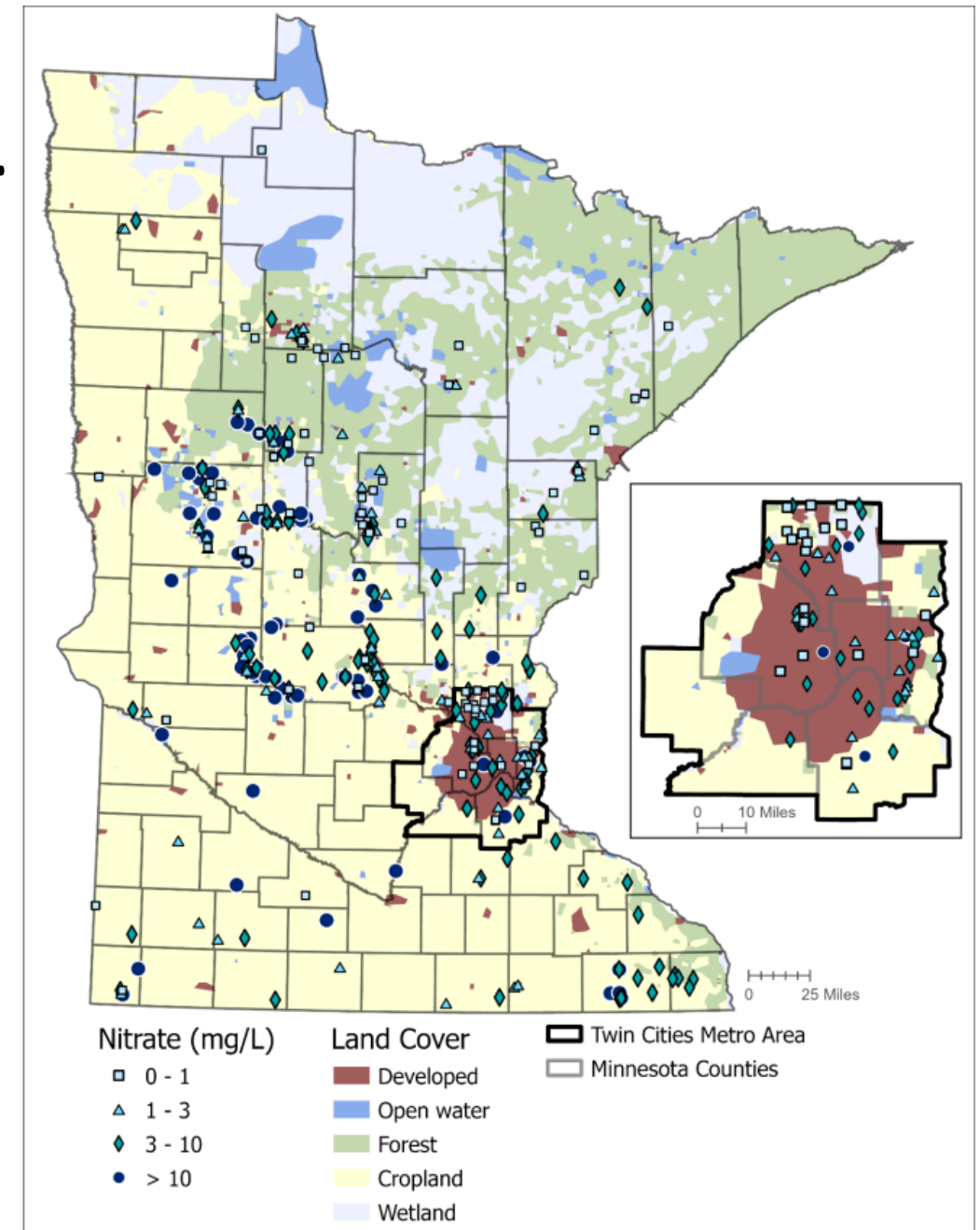


Groundwater level trends

Measure: Monitoring wells have upward trend or no change in all six groundwater provinces.
- present in bar graph? By GW Provinces

Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Figure 4. Nitrate concentrations in the surficial sand and gravel aquifers, 2018-2023 [concentrations are expressed as nitrogen].



Groundwater is clean and available to all in Minnesota.

Figure 12. CEC detections in ambient groundwater monitoring network wells, 2018-2023 [Plot shows the most recent detection in the sampled wells].

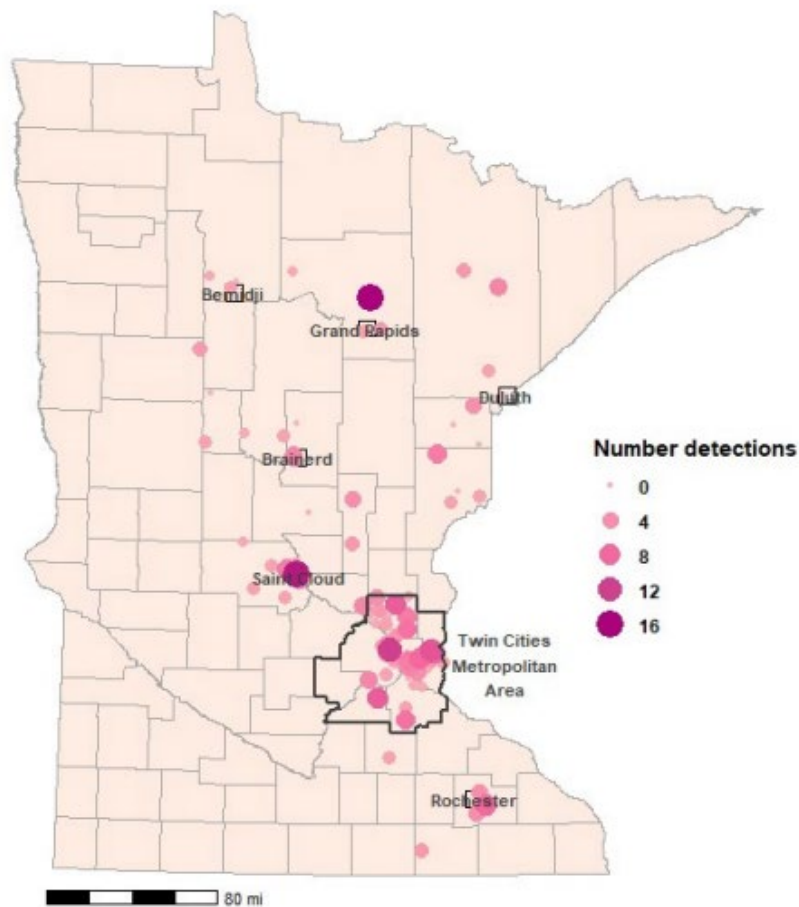
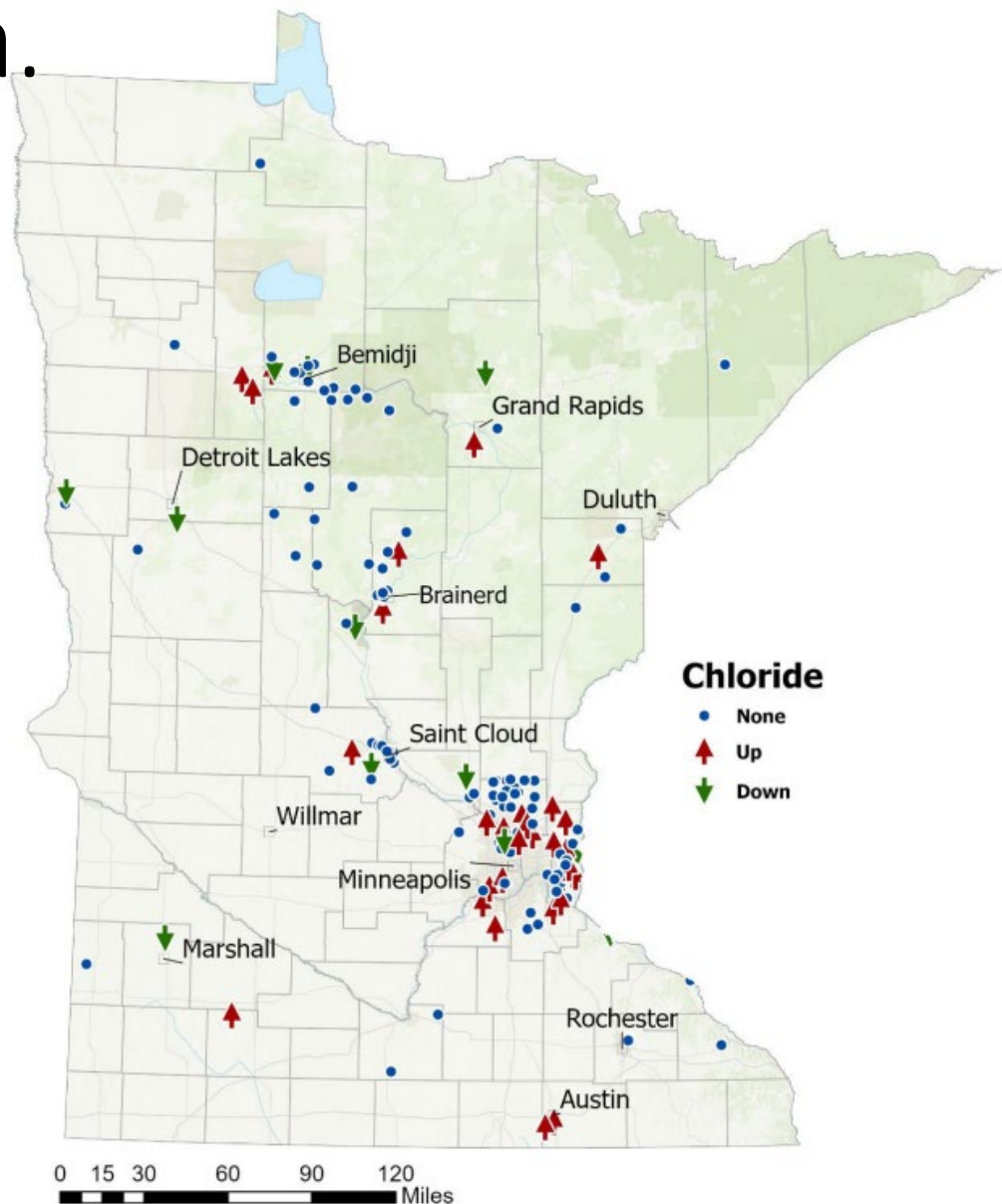
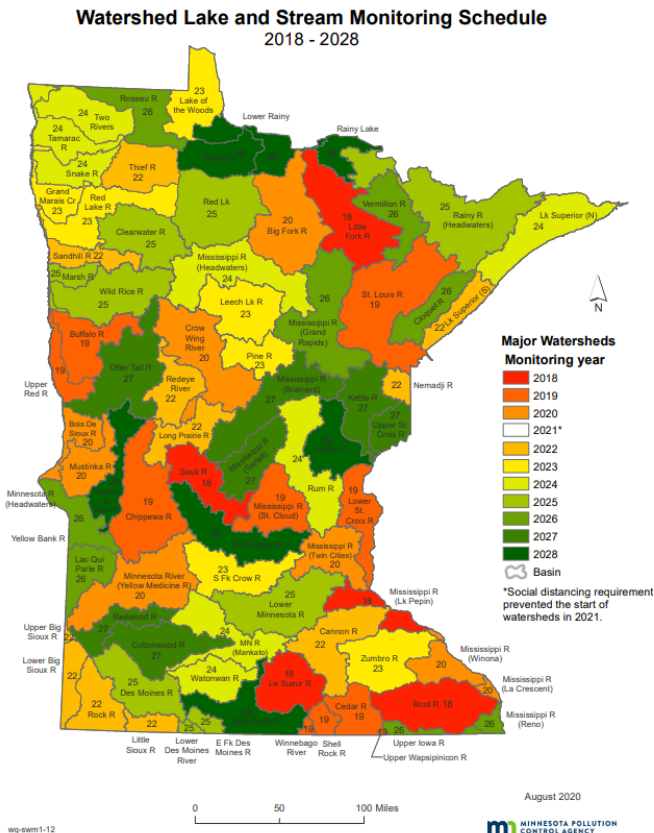


Figure 9. Chloride trends in Minnesota's groundwater, 2013-2023 [Data from the MPCA ambient groundwater monitoring network].



Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state - Lakes.

Measure: Completion of second monitoring and assessment cycle.



Measure: Completion of second generation of WRAPS.

WRAPS Report Update Status

Report update being drafted

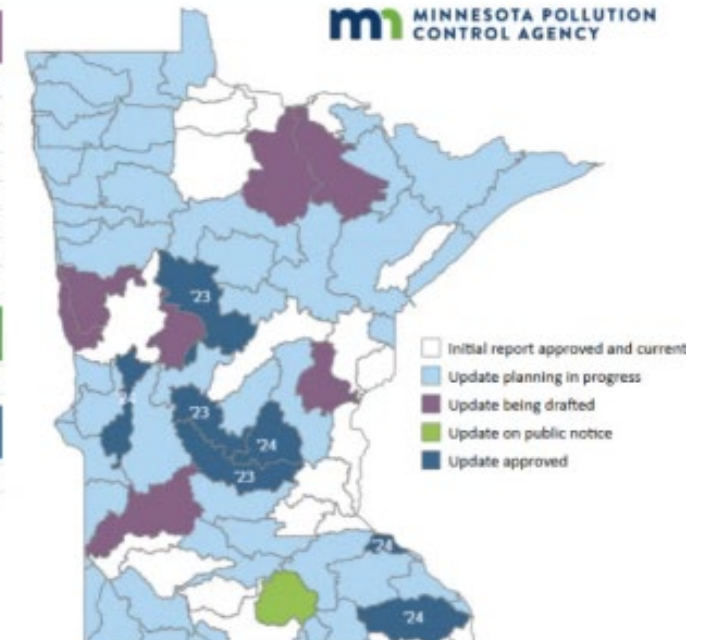
	Since
Little Fork River	9/1/2022
Buffalo River	4/18/2023
Upper Red River of the North	4/18/2023
Minnesota River - Yellow Medicine River	8/3/2023
Big Fork River	5/1/2024
Redeye River	5/20/2024
Snake River	6/3/2024

Report update on public notice

Le Sueur River	3/3/2025
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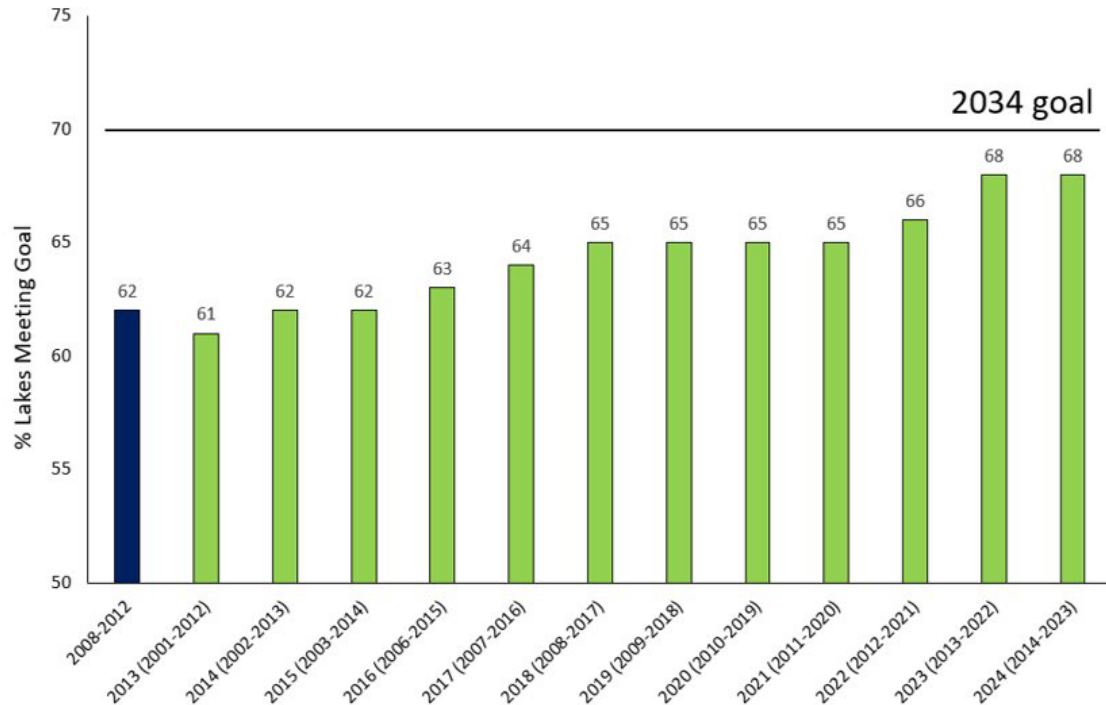
Updates approved (last 6 months)

Mississippi River - Lake Pepin Tributaries	11/7/2024
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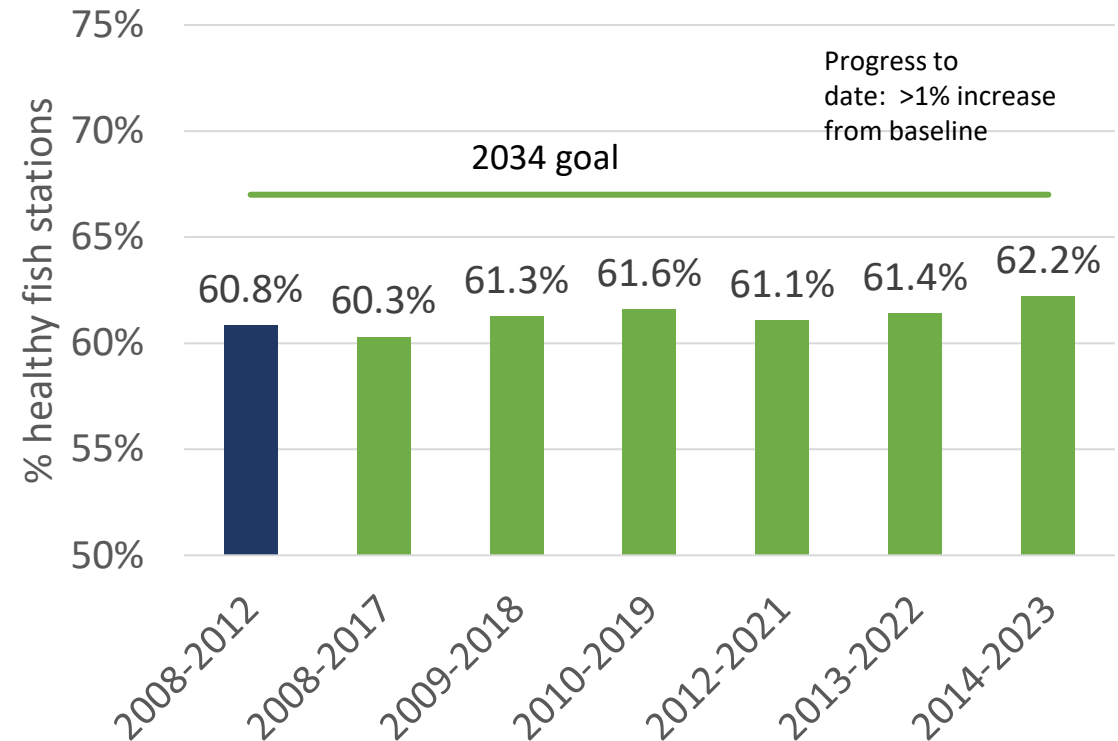


Minnesotans will have fishable and swimmable waters throughout the state.

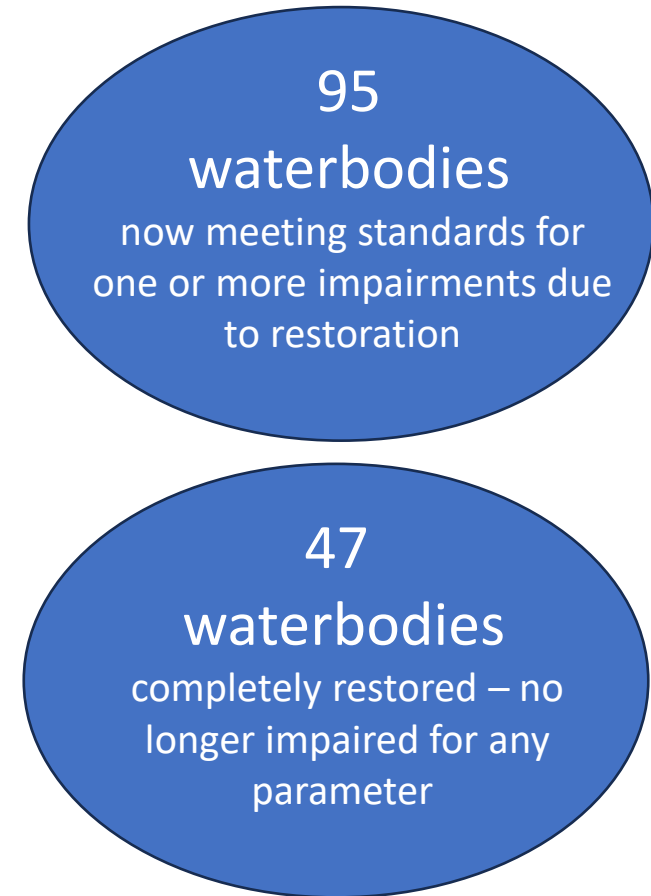
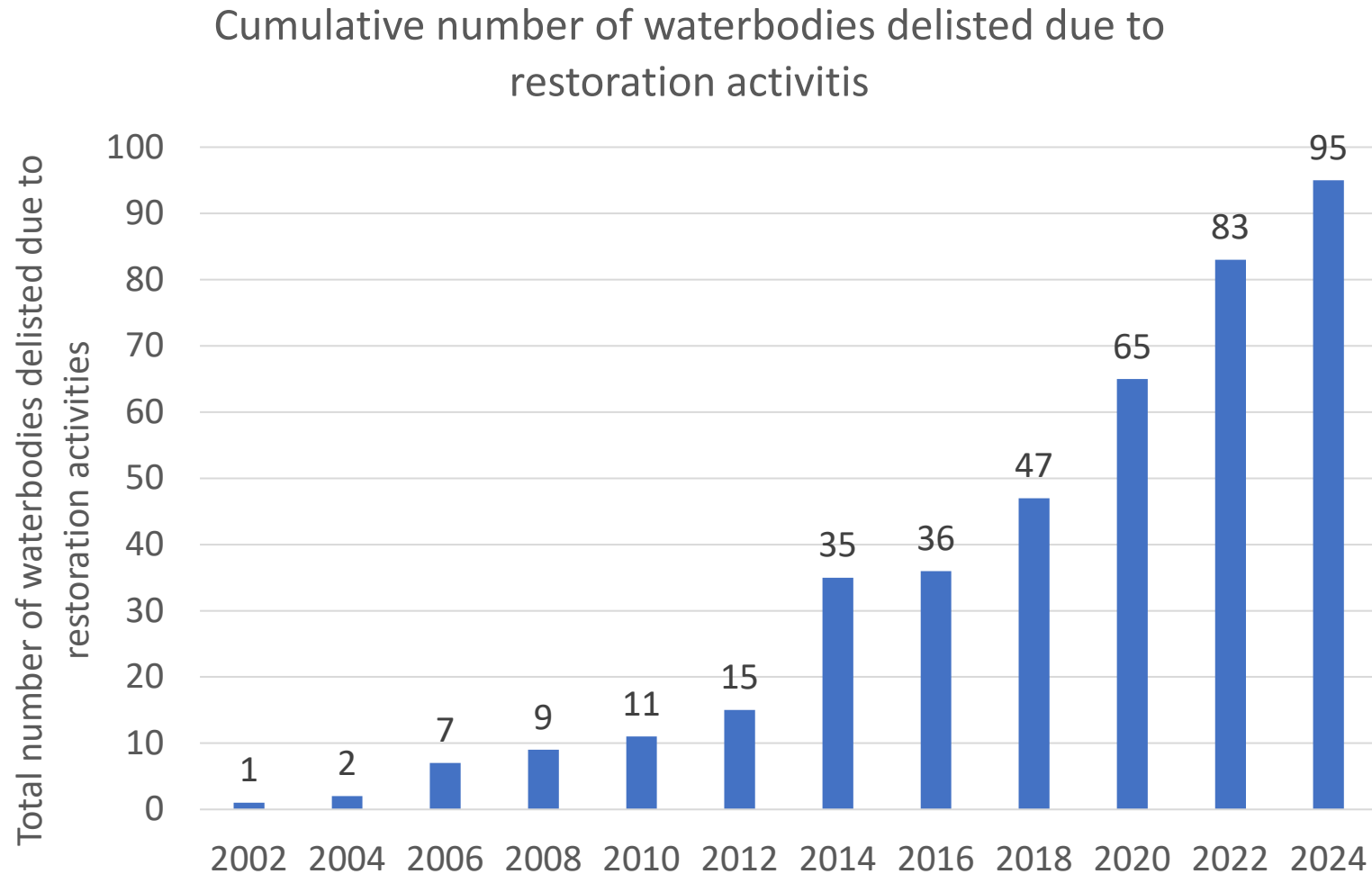
Measure: Percentage of lakes meeting goal for recreation activities reaches 70 percent by 2034.



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



Progress delisting impaired waters



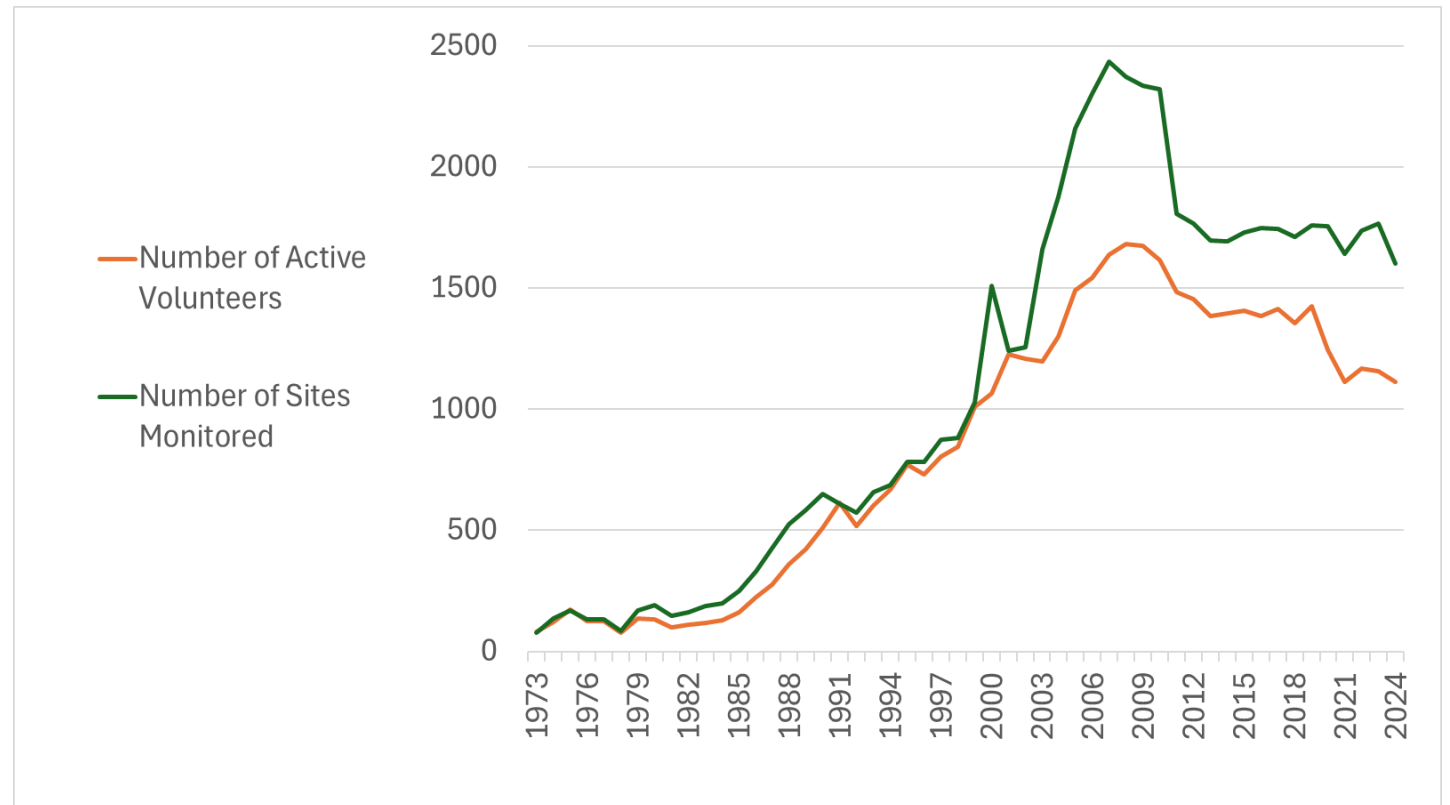
All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it.

Measure: Evaluation of We Are Water exhibit and its outreach.

We Are Water MN Survey Results

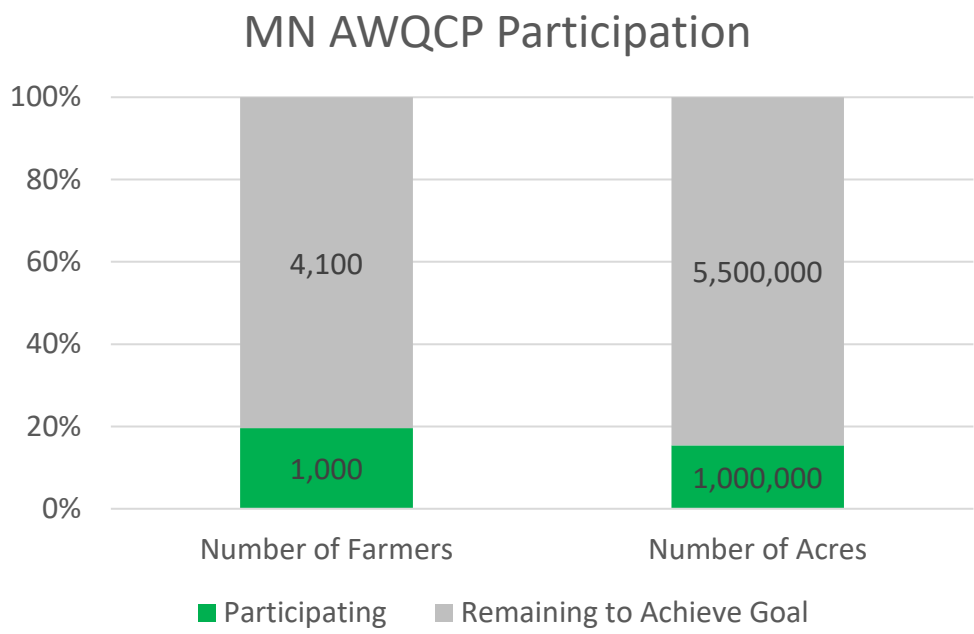
Awareness of water issues response options	% of respondents
I learned something new about our water resources	78%
I increased awareness regarding threats to our water resources	88%
I was exposed to a perspective different from my own regarding water resources	85%
Willingness to adopt pro-environmental behaviors	% of respondents
I will change how I personally use water	80%
I will share what I learned with others	77%
I will get involved with local organizations working to protect water resources	47%

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

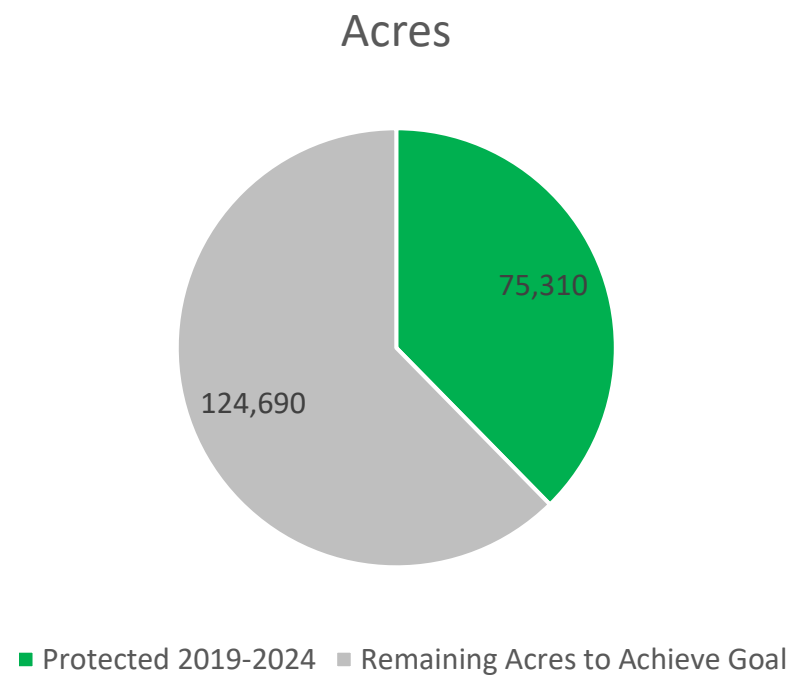


All Minnesotans value water and take actions to sustain and protect it

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



Measure: Protection and restoration of 200,000 acres in the Upper Mississippi River headwaters basin during 2019-2034 – Mitch Brinks (Wetland services)
*Add in 2008-2018 data. 12+ Million acres



Focus on Outcomes vs. Outputs...

- Pollutant trend information = outcome
- Does not necessarily come from CWC Strategic Plan (~7 outcomes out of 92 measures)
- Long term, not necessarily able to be updated more than 1-2 year interval and in some cases a 5 year interval.
- Many are within the Clean Water Fund Performance Report or Minnesota Environment and Energy Report Card or other specific topic reports
- Maybe a mix of outputs and outcomes, since need output to get outcomes, yet may not be limited to outputs we are measuring?