

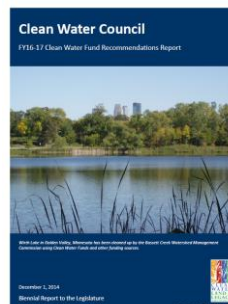
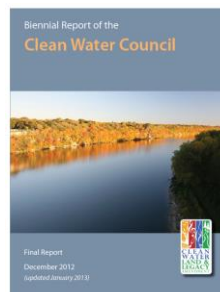
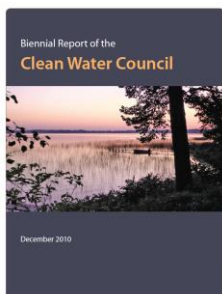
CLEAN WATER COUNCIL



CLEAN WATER COUNCIL



Makes Clean Water Fund recommendations to the Legislature & Governor
Advises on the implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act



CLEAN WATER COUNCIL

(28 MEMBERS)

Governor appoints 17 voting members representing:

- Business Organizations
- City Governments
- County Governments
- Environmental Organizations
- Lake and Stream Nonprofit Organizations
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Statewide Farm Organizations
- Statewide Fishing Organizations
- Statewide Hunting Organizations
- Township Officers
- Tribal Governments
- Watershed Districts

Legislature appoints 4 non-voting members:

- MN Senate (majority and minority)
- MN House of Representatives (majority and minority)

Entity heads appoint 7 non-voting members:

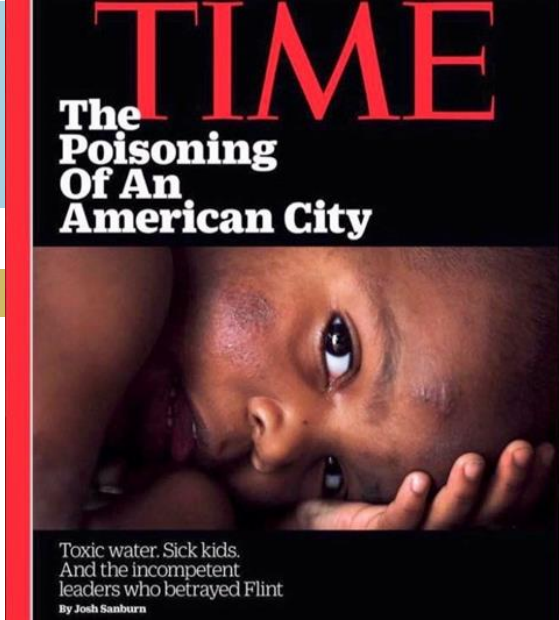
- Board of Water and Soil Resources
- Department of Natural Resources
- Metropolitan Council
- MN Department of Agriculture
- MN Department of Health
- MN Pollution Control Agency
- University of Minnesota

POLICY COMMITTEE (CLEAN WATER COUNCIL)

2015-2016 Policy Committee members: Mark Abner, John Barten, Pam Blixt, Gary Burdorf, Warren Formo, Bob Hoefert, Gene Merriam, Victoria Reinhardt, John Underhill

Policy Committee

- Met once/month from Dec. 2015 – Oct. 2016
- Solicited ideas from stakeholder groups and agencies
- Met with experts from agencies and the public to provide information and insight on each topic
- Discussed water policy ideas related to over ~20 topics
- Developed draft policy recommendations for the full Council



Toxic water. Sick kids. And the incompetent leaders who betrayed Flint
By Josh Sanburn

Elk River, West Virginia



Toledo, Ohio



“New contaminant found in New Brighton drinking water”

While levels of new contaminant are not considered dangerous, city will use water from deeper wells.”

- Star Tribune, April 17, 2015



POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION



1. Drinking Water Think Tank
2. Lead Issues
3. Private Well Testing
4. Protection Plans for Surface Waters
5. Economic Incentives

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

Drinking Water Think Tank & Action Plan

- Only ~100/80,000 U.S. commercial chemicals are regulated in public drinking water supplies as contaminants under the Safe Drinking Water Act. There are no regulations of these chemicals in private water supplies.



The Clean Water Council recommends that the State fund drinking water protection efforts to:

- Engage experts to identify regulatory, technological, and behavioral barriers
- Develop public health policies and an action plan to address emerging drinking water threats

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

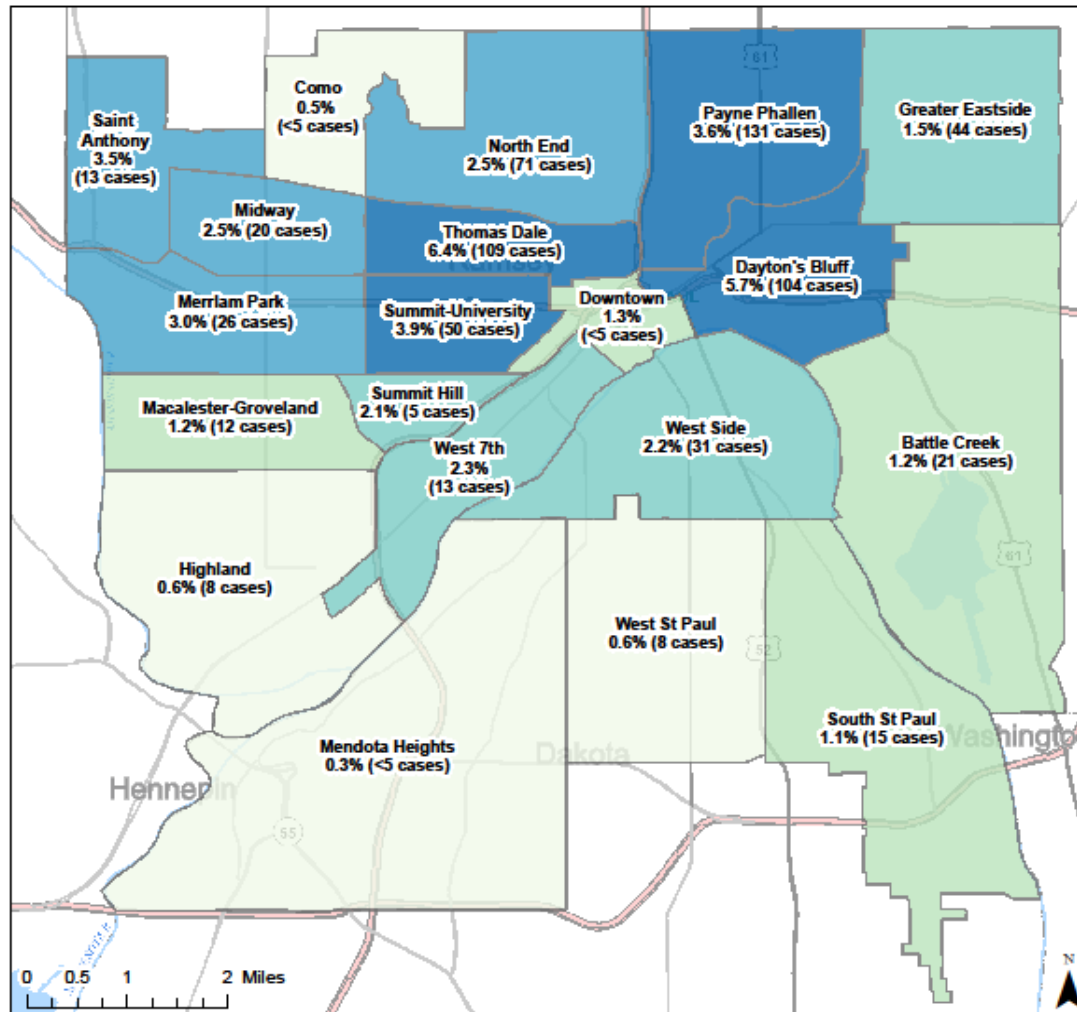
Determine the Scope of the Lead Problem in MN

- Lead is in many drinking water service lines and plumbing systems.
- It is critical to increase consumer's understanding of lead toxicity and eliminate sources because **there is no safe level of lead exposure.**
- The approach needs to reduce children's exposure to lead in dust, paint, and drinking water.

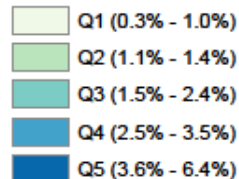
The Clean Water Council recommends that the State: Direct the Minnesota Department of Health to determine the scope of the lead problem in drinking water and cost to remove all lead from drinking water distribution systems.



Elevated Blood Lead Levels by Neighborhood in the St. Paul Area, Children aged 0 to 6 years, 2011-2014



Percent EBLL (Quintile)



An elevated blood lead level (EBLL) in a child is defined here as a confirmed blood test result greater than or equal to 5 micrograms of lead per deciliter of whole blood in a child. A test is "confirmed" if it is either from a venous blood draw or there are two elevated capillary tests within 12 weeks of each other.

The percent elevated for a neighborhood is estimated by the ratio of children with an EBLL to the total number of children with at least one blood lead test within that neighborhood. Neighborhood residence was defined from the residential address at the time of the blood lead test.

Comparison to Region and State

Area	Cases	EBLL%
St Paul Area	689	2.6%
7-County Metro	2174	1.3%
State	3065	1.1%

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION



Private Well Testing

- ~20% of Minnesotans use a private well as their water supply
- Nitrate contamination is increasing in private wells
- ~10% of new wells exceed safe drinking water standards for arsenic
- Private wells are not regulated beyond the construction standards and an initial test for bacteria, nitrate, and arsenic.

The Clean Water Council recommends that the State:

Develop a comprehensive, systematic approach for periodic testing of the water quality of private wells including the notification of testing results and education on possible actions.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

Protection Plans for Surface Waters used for Drinking Water

- Only 3/24 public drinking water suppliers that use surface water have source water protection plans because these are voluntary
- ~940,000 Minnesotans rely on the Mississippi River for their drinking water



The Clean Water Council recommends that the State:

Require surface water-based community public water systems prepare source water intake protection plans with defined implementation activities for review and approval by the MN Department of Health.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

ADVANCING DRINKING WATER PROTECTION

Promote Economic Incentives in Source Water Areas

- Minnesota has 360,000 acres that are in high-risk wellhead protection areas
- 2.7% of these acres are in permanent conservation easements
- 32% (or 115,000) of these acres are in row crop production and would be a priority for promoting living cover.



The Clean Water Council recommends that the State:

Promote economic incentives for land use practices that protect high risk source water areas and maximize multiple benefits.

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

LIVING COVER FOR DRINKING WATER PROTECTION



The Council recommends that the State require the establishment of living cover or equivalent practices in vulnerable areas as identified in wellhead and surface water intake protection plans to protect public and private drinking water sources.

CLOSING THOUGHTS



The amount of Clean Water Fund dollars available will not meet all the needs and expectations of citizens for clean water.

We need policy changes to get to clean, sustainable water in Minnesota.

The Council is looking for legislators to champion these policy recommendations.

CLEAN WATER COUNCIL



For more information

www.pca.state.mn.us/cleanwatercouncil