

Clean Water Council

Advising the Legislature and the Governor on the administration and implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act

2017-2018 Council Members:

Mark Abner
Environmental Organizations

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Steven Besser
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Rural County Governments

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Minnesota Board of Water and
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Representative Bob Gunther
Chair, House Legacy Committee
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100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
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Representative Dan Fabian
Chair, House Environment & Natural
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Chair, Senate Environment & Natural Resource
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Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155


Senator Bill Ingebrigtsen
Chair, Senate Environment & Natural Resource
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3207 Minnesota Senate Building
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Committee Chairs,
The Clean Water Council is pleased to learn about the additional \$25.765 million forecasted to be available for fiscal year 2019, and recommends the following programs for funding:


| Program | CWC recommendation - for FY 2019 | Responsible Agency |
|----------------------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Drinking Water protection grants | \$ 5.000 million | BWSR |
| Forests for the future | \$ 1.000 million | DNR |
| One Watershed One Plan | \$ 4.412 million | BWSR |
| Return on Investment | \$ 0.343 million | U of M |
| CREP | \$ 15.000 million | BWSR |
| CWC Budget | \$ 10,000.00 | MPCA |
| | \$ 25.765 million | |

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,


Frank Jewell, Chair
Clean Water Council


Todd Renville, Chair
Budget & Outcomes Committee


Pamela Blixt, Vice Chair
Clean Water Council


Sharon Doucette, Vice Chair
Budget & Outcomes Committee



CLEAN WATER COUNCIL'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING FOR FISCAL YEAR 2019

The Clean Water Fund (CWF) is expected to have a surplus of **\$25.765 million** for the fiscal year 2019. The Clean Water Council recommends the following expenditure:

- 1. Drinking Water Protection/Restoration Grants: Board of Soil and Water Resources: BWSR (\$5.00 million).** This program provides grants to local units of government to protect groundwater and drinking water tied to targeted and measurable implementation of priority actions found in local water management plans. This funding can be used to protect groundwater and drinking water, including feedlot water quality and subsurface sewage treatment system projects.
- 2. Forests for the Future: DNR (\$1.00 million).** This program provides funding to purchase permanent conservation easements in working forests to protect the banks of vulnerable lakes, rivers and streams. Bank erosion at times of high flow or high wind add sediment to these water bodies, leading to algal blooms and degrading fish quality. The landowner can harvest wood in other parts of the land, while protecting forested watersheds, maintaining recreational opportunities, fish and wildlife habitat, and many other forest amenities.
- 3. Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP): BWSR (\$15.00 million).** CREP is a combination of the Federal Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and Minnesota's Reinvent in Minnesota (RIM) Reserve Program that facilitates the purchasing and restoring of permanent conservation easements to treat and store water on the land for water quality improvement purposes. CREP is an offshoot of the CRP program, the country's largest private-land conservation program. The proposed federal, state, and local partnership will voluntarily retire up to 60,000 acres of environmentally sensitive land using the nationally recognized RIM program. The federal funding is contingent on Minnesota providing these matching funds.
- 4. Return on Investment - What is Water Worth? University of Minnesota (\$0.343 million).** Estimating Return on Investment for the Minnesota Clean Water Legacy Funds. The University of Minnesota's Natural Capital Project (NatCap) is partnering with the Clean Water Council (CWC) to better account for the statewide public benefits of investments in the Clean Water Fund (CWF) and equip the CWC with the tools to make smart, strategic investments of CWF dollars in the future.
- 5. One Watershed, One Plan (1W1P) grants for Accelerated Implementation: BWSR (\$ 4.412 million).** Minnesota has a long history of water management by local units of government (LGU). One Watershed, One Plan is rooted in this history. In 2011, the Local Government Water Roundtable (Association of Minnesota Counties, Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts, and Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts) recommended that those local governments charged with water management responsibility should organize and develop focused implementation plans on watershed boundaries. The additional funds will be used to accelerate the implementation of 1W1Ps via projects that are prioritized, targeted, and capable of achieving measurable results.
- 6. Clean Water Council Budget: MPCA (\$10,000).** The CWC and its two committees: Budget and Outcomes and Policy have had many meetings as well as additional community engagement from the leadership. Therefore, the cost of operating the Council has increased.