

Legislative Subcommittee on Minnesota Water-- Policy Update

May 9, 2024

This update is a roundup of Minnesota water news, as well as articles from beyond Minnesota. It also includes summaries of meetings and reports and information about upcoming events. During the Legislative session, updates on water-related legislation and committee activities are added. I look forward to continuing to work on water issues that are important to all of us. Any errors or omissions are inadvertent. If found, please notify jim.stark@lcc.mn.gov. **Subscribe to the weekly update and follow SMWP at:** <https://www.lcc.mn.gov/smwp/>

Jim Stark, Director, Subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy
1st Floor, Centennial Office Building, 658 Cedar St. St. Paul, MN 55155
Email: jim.stark@lcc.mn.gov
Ph: 612-718-2749 (Cell), 651-284-6431 (office)

The members of the subcommittee on Minnesota Water Policy (subcommittee) are as follows:

- Representatives: Fischer, Hemmingsen-Jaeger, Jacob, Rehm, Schultz, and Skraba
- Senators: Kupec, Lang, Putnam, Weber, and Wesenberg
- The Subcommittee will meet on Monday, May 13 at 9:00 am. The public will be able to access the livestream from the subcommittee webpage at: https://www.lcc.mn.gov/smwp/Meetings_2024.html
- Meeting materials, including agenda, will be made available at: https://www.lcc.mn.gov/smwp/Meetings_2024.html

Agenda: Monday, May 13, 2024: 9:00 am to 10:30 (hard stop)

Virtual Meeting

- Call to order: Representative Hemmingsen-Jaeger-Chair
- Approval of minutes from April 8
- Progress report: SE MN Drinking Water, Private Well testing Tannie Eshenaur, MDH
- Presentation: Drinking Water in Minnesota's Central Sand Plains; Margaret Wagner, MDA
- Presentation: History of flooding in the Red River: Dr Karen Ryberg, U.S. Geological Survey
- Update on the Fargo Diversion Project; Colonel Karl Jansen, U. S. Army, Corps of Engineers
- Flood mitigation in the Red River: Brian Fuder, Red River Retention Authority
- Updates on DNR groundwater management areas: White Bear Lake, Little Rock Creek, Straight River: Jim Stark
- Update and discussion on subcommittee plans for the interim- Jim Stark
- Summer field tour of the "central lakes area"
- Progress report on the session's water legislation: Jim Stark (as time allows)
- adjourn (10:30)

If you wish to testify, please contact Jim Stark by May 10 by 4:00 pm.

If you wish to attend in person, contact Jim Stark

LCC Subcommittee on Water Policy

The Public may view the meeting on the [LCC YouTube page](#)

Email: Jim.stark@Lcc.mn.gov

Cell: 612-718-2749

Breaking News

- **DNR Commissioner sets sustainable diversion limit for Little Rock Creek; April 23, 2024:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a [Commissioner's Order](#) to protect the ecology of Little Rock Creek. With this action the DNR: establishes a sustainable diversion limit for Little Rock Creek; recognizes that a water use conflict exists among agricultural production water users. See the "Groundwater Section" below for details.
- Minnesota River Congress, June 6 at 6:30. Kato Ballroom, Mankato. Contact Scott Sparlin: sesparlin@gmail.com
- In 2023, the legislature provided funds to the Metropolitan Council, to create a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the **White Bear Lake** area have access to sufficient safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations. The plan is being developed by the municipalities, the Metropolitan Council, and the state agencies. the plan is to be submitted to the legislature by June 30, 2027. See "Groundwater" later in this report for details.
- **Straight River near Park Rapids:** New report indicates groundwater use is having minimal effect on streams. The DNR recently completed a comprehensive review of available streamflow and groundwater data related to Objective 1 of plan, which states "groundwater use in the GWMA does not harm aquifers and ecosystems and does not negatively impact surface waters." The Monitoring and Analysis Report is available on the [DNR website](#). (April 15, DNR—see details below under "Groundwater").
- **A plume of PFAS chemicals under the east metro is moving.** The state has a plan to stop it. By [Chloe Johnson](#) Star Tribune APRIL 19, 2024. (READ THE FULL STORY AT THE STAR TRIBUNE) The system created by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and its consultant AECOM would consist of 18 wells to suck up tainted water; pumps and pipelines to send it to a treatment station; and nine wells to inject clean water back underground. It's a strategy that's currently protecting the aquifers in Los Angeles from seawater, but never used at this scale in Minnesota. The MPCA isn't yet saying how much the work would cost, or how it would be funded. It could draw from an \$850 million settlement the state struck with 3M six years ago, but the cost of cleaning up that company's pollution will likely exceed that amount. The legacy of 3M chemical waste from former dumps, the underground PFAS plume has tainted drinking water supplies for years. Over the next 50 years, it is expected to reach new areas in Oakdale and Woodbury, which are already grappling with the chemicals. It has already flowed toward the northern reaches of West Lakeland Township, where everyone relies on private wells.
- **Biden-Harris Administration Announces First-Ever National Drinking Water Standard:** The Biden-Harris Administration (April 10) announced the first-ever national, legally enforceable drinking water standard for per- and polyfluorinated substances (PFAS). PFAS have been linked to several health problems, such as fertility issues, and increased risk of obesity, high cholesterol, and cancer. The new standards aim to reduce PFAS exposure for as many as 100 million people across the United States. The new rule sets the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) for the two most common types of PFAS, PFOA and PFOS, at 4 parts per trillion (ppt). The MCL for three other types, PFNA, PFHxS, and HFPO-DA, is set at 10 ppt. (April 15: Northeast-Midwest Institute- Read the full story at the [Northeast-Midwest Institute](#) .
- **Legislators scramble to create tax, environmental plan for Minnesota's first helium operation, By [Walker Orenstein](#)** Star Tribune; April 9, 2024: Read full story at the Star Tribune. As Pulsar Helium inches closer to building Minnesota's first helium drilling operation near the Iron Range, lawmakers and other officials are

scrambling to make sure the government can make money if the new and potentially lucrative industry touches state land. State officials also hope environmental rules pass the Legislature because there is little regulatory oversight on [this new type of gas extraction](#). Sen. Grant Hauschild, DFL-Hermantown, introduced a bill that would block companies like Canada-based Pulsar from extracting gas without first obtaining a permit from the state Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and would direct state regulators to adopt rules for environmental review, production and reclamation. It would also give the DNR power to require royalties for gas production that draws from state-managed lands.

- **State says 10 water systems in the metro have unsafe levels of PFAS, under new EPA rule:** By [Chloe Johnson](#) Star Tribune, April 10, 2024 (read the full story at the Star Tribune). The EPA enacted a historic water-protection rule Wednesday, saying communities across the country must filter out six PFAS chemicals — and in the process, put 10 metro area water systems and 12 others statewide on notice. Those water systems are in Alexandria, Battle Lake, Brooklyn Park, Cimarron Park, Cloquet, Hastings, Lake Elmo, the Minnesota Veterans Home in Dakota County, Newport, Pease, Pine City, Princeton, Sauk Rapids, South St. Paul, Stillwater, Swanville, Wabasha, Waite Park, Woodbury and three mobile home parks: Austin, Mobile Manor and Roosevelt Court, according to the MDH. Together, about 309,000 people across the state are drinking water from the 22 systems, MDH reported.
- **Southeast Minnesotans worry over state water pollution response:** By [Trey Mewes](#) Star Tribune: April 6, 2024 (Read the full story at the Startribune.com): CANTON, Minn. — Water shoots up from the hills of Vance and Bonnie Haugen's idyllic dairy farm here in a valley close to the Iowa border. That's why they named it Springside Farm in the '90s. Unfortunately, the nitrate shoots up here, too. Nitrate levels in the Haugens' water have steadily increased for the past 30 years, now ranging somewhere from 6 to 9 milligrams per liter of water every time they test their private well. The federal limit is 10 milligrams, any more and the pollution becomes dangerous for humans, especially infants. [Minnesota promised](#) the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in December that it would act quickly to help residents in southeast Minnesota with dangerous levels of nitrate in their wells after the EPA urged the state to take action to protect people with polluted water. State efforts are underway to inform farmers and landowners of the dangers in their water, and agencies have put together a timeline to address the issue. But four months after the promises, Minnesota has yet to deliver clean drinking water to people most in danger.
- **Proposal would tax Minnesota farmers to help pay for cleanup of nitrate pollution** By [Christopher Vondracek](#) Star Tribune, March 1, 2024 — 11:43am (Read the full story at the startribune.com). A proposal to tax the fertilizer that farmers use to boost crop yields — in the hopes of treating nitrate pollution of water in southeastern Minnesota — passed its first test on Thursday in the House Agriculture Committee. “We've probably done more than anybody else [to address nitrate pollution],” said Rep. Rick Hansen, DFL-South St. Paul, the bill's author. “But it's not working. “Nitrogen-impaired drinking water in Minnesota's farm country has been a reality for rural landowners with private wells for decades, particularly in the southeastern portion of the state with porous geology. Hansen said the time for incentives for corn farmers to stop using fertilizer has passed. [The groundwater pollution in the Driftless Region has left private wells, streams and rivers contaminated,](#) with some rural residents reliant upon bottled water.
- **WATER:** via *MPR News*, **VERBATIM:** “The small wastewater treatment plant on the edge of Halstad uses bacteria to treat wastewater flowing from the town of 600 residents. ... The result [of recent changes] has

been a nearly 70 percent reduction in phosphorus flowing out of this tiny waste treatment plant, according to the International Joint Commission, which funded the project. ... The International Joint Commission, which is tasked with working on U.S.-Canadian border water issues, proposed target levels for phosphorus and nitrogen in 2019. ... The IJC is considering expanding the wastewater treatment optimization project, but meeting the nutrient goals isn't as simple as fixing a few wastewater treatment plants. ... International Joint Commission member **Rob Sisson** said while the Halstad project makes a small difference, it's a success story to build on." April 4: **READ:** <https://fluence-media.co/3vDuAs3>

- **POLLUTION:** via *House Session Daily, April 4:* **VERBATIM:** "More than 9,000 people in southeastern Minnesota are at risk of consuming nitrate-contaminated private well water. They could receive help under a windfall recently realized by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment sales and use tax. ... The latest revenue estimates show the fund has \$25.4 million more than forecast. Therefore, the Clean Water Council has proposed a 14-item supplemental budget request for this amount. The House Legacy Finance Committee, which heard the request, may consider it as part of larger legislation later this month. In the request is \$2.79 million for responding to a [nitrate pollution] public health emergency declared by the Environmental Protection Agency." **READ:** <https://fluence-media.co/3vDdvyyu>
- **Minnesota releases report on clean water performance:** Contact: Mary Juhl; mary.juhl@state.mn.us, 612-358-5733. **February 28, 2024:** Minnesota has released a report on statewide Clean Water Fund initiatives that protect and restore drinking water sources, lakes, streams, and groundwater. The report, released every two years, is a joint effort between seven Minnesota water agencies that collaborate and coordinate their Clean Water Fund activities. The report tracks water activities, trends, and outcomes across key initiatives and details investments in all watersheds and communities statewide. According to the report, each dollar in Clean Water Fund spending leveraged another \$1.06 in additional funding between fiscal years 2010-2023, increasing the impact of state investments and accelerating water quality progress. The report found that between 2010 and 2023, the Clean Water Fund:
 - Was a major driver of improvements in phosphorus and sediment levels in lakes, rivers, and streams and provided needed investments to address rising nitrate and chloride levels in some regions of the state.
 - Upgraded 52 municipal wastewater treatment facilities, reducing phosphorus discharges by 48%, over 316,000 pounds per year.
 - Engaged 84,000 visitors to the We Are Water MN exhibits at 30 sites statewide since 2016, leading to new community partnerships and broader awareness of water issues.
 - Developed plans to protect the drinking water sources of nearly 800 out of the approximately 970 community water systems in Minnesota and awarded approximately 1,300 grants that support protection for local drinking water sources.
 - Certified nearly 1,000,000 acres of Minnesota farmland across more than 1,400 farms through the Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program.
- **Clean Water Council:** The November budget forecast and revenue estimate showed an additional \$18,056,000 in Clean Water available for the remainder of the FY24-25 biennium. At its January 22nd meeting, the Clean Water Council made a supplemental request for these funds to be sent to the House and Senate Legacy Finance Committees. These are recommendations, and the Legislature would have to appropriate the funds. These recommendations meet several timely needs as shown below. (Editorial note from Stark: The Council revised the budget recommendations based on the February budget forecast. Those recommendations are shown below under the "Clean Water Council" The Governor also recently released his supplemental budget proposal. That proposal includes many of the recommendations from the Clean

Water Council. My interpretation of the Governor’s budget, as it is related to water, is included at the end of this update. Since then, the Senate has also proposed a supplemental budget proposal)

- **Locked deep under the Iron Range, helium could float a startup company:** Drillers looking for platinum and palladium stumbled on what may be a major helium reservoir in Minnesota. Now it could become a mine. ([Chloe Johnson](#) and [Walker Orenstein](#) Star Tribune, February 22 read the full story at the [startribune.com](#)).
- **Northeast-Midwest Institute (NEMWI) has launched a new program, Voices from the Great Lakes,** that provides a forum for experts and scholars to give insights into issues that impact the Great Lakes region. It will include a series of guest essays from leading Great Lakes researchers, policymakers, stakeholders, and more that will showcase key perspectives that help shape federal policy discussions in Washington, D.C. The inaugural Voice, and the first of a three-part series on the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, is written by Cam Davis, vice president at GEI Consultants, and elected commissioner at the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago. Read it on their website [here](#).
- The U. S Drought Monitor: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
- The Upper Mississippi River Basin Association (UMRBA) has released UMRBA’s second collaborative assessment of water quality on the Upper Mississippi River System, the “How Clean is the River. More information about the Interstate Monitoring Program is available here: <https://umrba.org/interstate-water-quality-monitoring-program>

Water By Topic

Drinking Water

- The Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) announced that it would be developing a statewide drinking water plan to guide the management of drinking water over the next ten years. Persistent link to this item <https://hdl.handle.net/11299/259166>
- State agencies (MDA, MDH and MPCA) have responded to an EPA request regarding a petition from several environmental organizations. The petition expressed concerns about the safety of drinking water in southeast Minnesota. The full response can be seen on the Subcommittee’s website along with other materials from the December 5 meeting. Briefly, the agencies responded with the following intended actions: 1. An immediate outreach program to again notify affected residents using private wells with known nitrate concentrations above the Maximum Contaminant Level and to provide alternate water to vulnerable populations, 2. A public health intervention to ensure safe drinking water for private wells users in the mid-term in which well owner participation is voluntary; and 3. Enhanced long-term environmental and conservation strategies to reduce nitrate concentrations in the aquifers that provide drinking water
- **Nitrate rule revision By Brett Walton, Circle of Blue – November 2, 2023** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, reversing a Trump-era decision, is restarting a human health [assessment of nitrate and nitrite](#), a move that has potentially far-reaching regulatory implications for one of the country’s most pervasive drinking water contaminants. Read the full story at Circle of Blue.
- **From the Minnesota Rural Water Association.** The MRWA has several training events for water operators: <https://www.mrwa.com>

Water Governance

- The Minnesota Groundwater Association has published their review of the 1989 Groundwater Protection Act. It can be found at: https://www.mgwa.org/documents/whitepapers/minnesotas_1989_ground_water_protection_act.pdf
- Freshwater and the UM have released a report on groundwater governance in the Great Lakes Region shown at the link below: <https://keeler.umn.edu/research/groundwater-governance-in-the-great-lakes-region-2021-2022>

Groundwater

- **Straight River near Park Rapids: New report indicates groundwater use having minimal effect on streams. More work is needed:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) continues to work in the Straight River Groundwater Management Area (SRGWMA) to address groundwater-related resource challenges and ensure that groundwater use remains sustainable. Groundwater use is vital to the people and economy in the Straight River Groundwater Management Area (SRGWMA). Since January 2016, the DNR has met with residents, permitted water users and local government leaders in the Straight River Area, near Park Rapids. We discussed, analyzed, and planned for sustainable and continued use of groundwater. These discussions helped form the [DNR action plan](#). Since the plan was finalized in 2018, the DNR has worked to complete the actions listed in the plan. These actions are designed to first gain a more detailed understanding of water flows in the area and then to propose a list of actions that will ensure a sustainable groundwater supply while protecting the Straight River ecosystem. The DNR recently completed a comprehensive review of all available streamflow and groundwater data related to Objective 1 of the plan, which states “groundwater use in the GWMA does not harm aquifers and ecosystems and does not negatively impact surface waters.” The new SRGWMA Monitoring and Analysis Report is available on the website. The DNR wants individuals, communities, and businesses to be able to continue using groundwater in a way that complies with the sustainability standard as described in Minn. Statute [103G.287, Subd. 5.](#)
- **DNR Commissioner sets sustainable diversion limit for Little Rock Creek; April 23, 2024:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has issued a [Commissioner’s Order](#) (Order) to protect the ecology of Little Rock Creek. With this action, the DNR: Establishes a **sustainable diversion limit** for Little Rock Creek; Recognizes that a **water use conflict** exists among agricultural production water users within a zone near Little Rock Creek (called the Zone of Irrigation Influence, [seen here](#) and is described in [this report](#)); Gives **opportunity to permit holders** to submit a plan to the DNR to resolve the water use conflict that will keep water use impacts below the sustainable diversion limit, and **Withholds consideration of applications** for additional water use within the Zone of Irrigation Influence until the conflict is resolved. This Order [[linked here](#)] recognizes that authorized water use in the Little Rock Creek Zone of Irrigation Influence is having a negative impact on the Little Rock Creek stream ecosystem and does not meet the sustainability standard and other provisions of Minnesota Statutes in section [103G.287](#). The DNR will issue a Request For Proposals to hire a third-party consultant that will assist in developing engineering, governance and economic feasibility for various plans to resolve the conflict. The deliverables from this consultant are expected in spring/summer of 2025. During this time, the DNR will continue to collaborate with irrigators on resolving the water use conflict inside the zone of irrigation influence. Questions about this project can be addressed to Mark Hauck, DNR project manager, 320-223-7846, mark.hauck@state.mn.us For more information on the Little Rock Creek area groundwater project, visit the project web page at www.mndnr.gov/littlerock. For more information on the DNR’s groundwater management programs, visit www.mndnr.gov/gwmp/index.html.

- **White Bear Lake Working Group Update:** April 25- See details at the Metropolitan Councils website). In 2023, the legislature provided funds to the Metropolitan Council, to create a working group to develop a comprehensive plan to ensure communities in the White Bear Lake area have access to sufficient safe drinking water to allow for municipal growth while simultaneously ensuring the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources to supply the needs of future generations. The plan is being developed by the municipalities, the Metropolitan Council, and the state agencies. The plan is to be submitted to the legislature by June 30, 2027. The Plan will:
 - Be based on reports, as well as possible studies, that focus on alternative water supplies for the area. It is required to:
 - Evaluate methods for conserving and recharging groundwater in the area including:
 - Consider converting water supplies that are groundwater dependent to total or partial supplies from surface water sources
 - Evaluate water reuse, including water discharged from contaminated wells
 - Consider and encourage projects designed to increase groundwater recharge
 - Promote other methods for reducing groundwater use

At the April meeting, the working group approved the following problem statement:

Ensure equitable access to sufficient, safe, and affordable water for communities in the North and East Metro areas to meet current and future needs while safeguarding the sustainability of surface water and groundwater resources.

- The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy has produced a video about the nitrate contamination in the karst region that the petition addresses. <https://www.mncenter.org/karst-video>
- **County geologic and groundwater information:** Recent atlases are split into two parts. Geologic studies include unconsolidated deposits and bedrock. Groundwater studies include flow systems, aquifers, groundwater chemistry, and sensitivity to pollution. For more information, see at the following site: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/groundwater_section/mapping/status.html
- **DNR to fund analysis of water use conflict solutions in Little Rock Creek Area:** The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources has committed funding to develop independent conceptual designs and cost estimates for potential solutions in the Little Rock Creek Area. The work will further clarify what may be needed to implement the proposed solutions laid out in the [Sustainable use of Groundwater in the Little Rock Creek Area Plan](#). Questions about this project can be addressed to Mark Hauck, DNR project manager, 320-223-7846, mark.hauck@state.mn.us

Rivers

MPCA to Monitor Entire Minnesota Stretch of Mississippi River in 2024

April 25: From the MPCA via the Clean Water Council: The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) announced a new initiative to monitor water quality throughout the entire Mississippi River within Minnesota's borders for the first time in a single year. The agency made the announcement in recognition of Earth Day at an event along the banks of the Mississippi River in St. Paul, where leaders from the Department of Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and the Metropolitan Council joined MPCA Commissioner Katrina Kessler to formally kick off the water monitoring season. Water and aquatic life samples taken in 2024 from 50+ strategic locations between Bemidji and the Iowa border will provide a complete picture of water quality along the 650-mile stretch of the river within the state. The MPCA has previously gathered water

samples from designated stretches of the river over many years — not ever attempting to sample the entire river in Minnesota during one monitoring season.

Media coverage:

- [Minnesota to take the pulse of the Mississippi River, from the headwaters to Iowa border \(aol.com\)](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune)
- [State regulators launch big Mississippi water monitoring project | MPR News](#)
- [MPCA will monitor a year's worth of Mississippi River water within the state \(yahoo.com\)](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press)
- [MPCA to test entirety of Mississippi River this year • Minnesota Reformer](#)

- [UMRBA 2023 How Clean is the River? Report | Upper Mississippi River Basin Association](#)
- "The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological and Water Resources Division has prepared the April 22, 2024 installment of the weekly Stream Flow Report. [The report is available here](#). You will find previous reports and information on related water resource topics. Questions about this report? Contact our Cooperative Stream Gaging team at csg.dnr@state.mn.us
- The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources Ecological and Water Resources Division has prepared the most recent Stream Flow Report. You will find previous reports and information on related water resource topics at the following link: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/surfacewater_section/stream_hydro/streamflow_weekly.html. Additional Information about rivers and streamflow can be found at the following sites:
 - Minnesota's watershed basins: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/watersheds/map.html>
 - DNR/MPCA Cooperative Stream Gaging Program: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/csg/index.html>
 - US Drought Monitor for the Midwest: <https://droughtmonitor.unl.edu/>
 - National Weather Service: <https://water.weather.gov/ahps/region.php?state=mn>
 - National Flood Forecast Center, North Central Region: Shows areas where the potential for flooding is occurring or is possible. For details, visit: <https://www.weather.gov/ncrfc/>
 - DNR's latest information on drought is available from the DNR at the following link under Education and Training: <https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/climate/drought/index.html>

Drainage

The 2022 Ag Census data was released on February 13, 2024. One census question asked, "During 2022, considering the total acres on this operation, how many acres were drained by tile?" Subsurface tile drainage is concentrated in the corn belt. It accounts for a considerable portion of the cropland harvested in the Midwest, especially in states that are dominated by rain-fed agriculture and have poorly drained soils that require drainage. These states have some of the world's most fertile soils that require subsurface drainage for crop production. Without drainage, crop production would not be able to meet the growing food demand because of poor crop yield due to excess water. Read more about the [Pros and Cons of drainage](#).

- St. Paul: Local governments can apply for multipurpose drainage management grants following the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) Board approving up to \$2 million for these efforts. Eligible applicants include counties, watershed districts, watershed management organizations, soil and water conservation districts and local government joint powers boards. Applicants must be working under a state-approved and locally adopted local water management plan, comprehensive watershed management plan or soil and water conservation district comprehensive plan. You can learn on [BWSR's website](#).

Lakes

- The St. Louis River Area of Concern (SLRAOC) is one of 31 AOCs in the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes basin. It was designated as an AOC under the U.S. – Canada Great Lakes Water Quality Agreement in 1987 because of significant impacts that occurred before modern environmental laws were in place. Following the SLRAOC Remedial Action Plan, state and federal agencies have been implementing management actions to address the legacy impairments. You can now see the work in progress throughout the SLRAOC: contractors are busy each construction season, plant and animal populations are rebounding, water is cleaner, and lost habitat is being restored. [Click here to learn more](#)
- More than \$47 million for 45 projects announced for the ongoing battle against invasive carp in the Great Lakes basin, *April 26, 2024*: To support the ongoing battle to reduce the destructiveness of invasive carp and the threats they pose to the Great Lakes, the Invasive Carp Regional Coordinating Committee today announced the release of its annual [Invasive Carp Action Plan for 2024](#). Comprised of 26 governmental entities from the United States and Canada, the ICRCC, co-chaired by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is convened to prevent the introduction and establishment of invasive carp in the Great Lakes by assisting member agencies in implementing their authorities to reduce or eliminate the threats posed by these species. Species addressed through the Action Plan include bighead carp, silver carp, grass carp and black carp. This year, 45 collaborative projects are being supported through \$47.4 million, including \$26.4 million in agency funding and \$21.0 million through the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative, a regional investment funded over the past 15 years to address key threats to the Great Lakes basin. Work conducted through the Action Plan helps protect the Great Lakes recreational and commercial fishery which is valued at almost \$7 billion annually. The Action Plan strategy for preventing the introduction and establishment of invasive carp in the Great Lakes was first developed in 2010 and is updated every year to incorporate the most current science and adaptive management approaches. It supports the goals and recommendations provided in the initial national, multi-basin invasive carp plan, the Management and Control Plan for Bighead, Black, Grass, and Silver Carps in the United States, developed in 2007. The 'GLIN-Announce' email group is a service of the Great Lakes Commission. Visit us at www.glc.org.
- **Lake Superior Partner News – 2024** Lake Superior News: Stephanie Swart, Lake Superior Lake Coordinator, Michigan EGLE, Michigan EAGLE, swarts@michigan.gov
 - NOAA has released new, high-resolution land cover data — used to document key geographic and landscape features covering Earth's surface — for coastal communities across the country. This new data can be used to improve planning for sea level rise, protect communities from flooding, inform wetland restoration projects and enable other activities to build climate resilience. <https://coast.noaa.gov/ccapatlas/>
 - Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission Ganawenindiwig: Working with plant relatives to heal and protect Gichigami shorelines. <https://glifwc.org/Environmental/ganawenindiwig.pdf>
 - Office of the Great Lakes 2023 State of the Great Lakes report. <https://www.michigan.gov/egle/newsroom/press-releases/2023/12/19/2023-state-of-the-great-lakes-report>
 - U.S. EPA National Rivers and Streams Assessment. The survey took place 2018-2019. <https://riverstreamassessment.epa.gov/webreport/>
 - Department of Interior Nature-based Solutions Roadmap. <https://www.doi.gov/sites/doi.gov/files/doi-nbs-roadmap.pdf>

- USGS National Climate Change Viewer has been updated with the latest climate models. https://apps.usgs.gov/nccv/loca2/nccv2_loca2_counties.html
- IAGLRs 67th Conference on Great Lakes Research. May 20-24, 2024, in Windsor, Ontario. <https://iaglr.org/iaglr2024/>
- Great Lakes tribal knowledge of climate change. <https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/2023/11/09/great-lakes-native-tribes-knowledge-key-to-climate-change-work/70893550007/>
- A Sea of Change for Superior. A documentary exploring the legacy of the world's greatest freshwater lake in a time of unprecedented change. <https://cgee.hamline.edu/current-initiatives/sea-change-for-lake-superior>

Invasive Species

- The DNR regularly updates the state infested waters list, which includes Minnesota lakes and rivers containing certain aquatic invasive species. The most complete and up-to-date list of infested waters is an Excel spreadsheet available at the DNR website: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/ais/infested.html?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

Mining And Mineral Extraction

- The Lake Superior Partnership Binational Program consists of scientists, managers, and staff from tribal, state, federal and state agencies from Canada and the US. Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC). Staff work within the Partnership to protect and restore the Lake Superior ecosystem through collective and coordinated actions. According to the Lake Superior Lake Wide Management Plan (LAMP), metallic mining and oil and gas transport are threats to the ecological integrity of Lake Superior and its watershed. A subcommittee of the Partnership has focused on characterizing potential impacts of mining and oil and gas transport and to provide information to the agencies involved in the Program. This is being done by way of the story map available at the following link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/7844034cf586455080e93bfa49139818>

Forever Chemicals and the 3M Settlement

- Minnesota Department of Health: Minnesota residents who get their drinking water from a community public water system will now be able to find out if their system's water has any level of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), through an interactive online dashboard. From, Blois Olsen: Fluence Media. <https://fluence-media.co/3mnJnyV>

News from State and Federal Agencies, Boards and Councils

DNR

- Water Talk can be found at the following link: Look for Water Talk Newsletter: https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/watermgmt_section/water-talk-newsletter.html
- Follow the link above to see the most current issue (May) that includes information on the following topics: [New Red River Basin Flood Damage Reduction Work Group Videos](#)
- [May In-person Floodplain One-Day Workshops Scheduled in Rochester and Brainerd](#)
- ["My Tall House" Coloring Book](#)
- [FEMA Region 5 Virtual Trainings Continue](#)
- [Minnesota Floodplain Management Office Hours Continue](#)

- [FEMA Map Status Listing](#)
- DNR Freshwater Mussel Newsletter: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNDNR/bulletins/33ac552>
- The Groundwater Atlas of Cass County has recently been published by the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR). https://www.dnr.state.mn.us/waters/groundwater_section/mapping/county-geo-atlas.html

Metropolitan Council

- The Metropolitan Council’s Spring 2024 Water Resources Update is available through GovDelivery. It contains articles about Water Assessments, Water Resources Planning and Policy, Subregional work group engagement, the Water Atlas, Promoting equity with water efficiency grants, Sustainable water supplies in the northeast metro, Engagement and Turfgrass water conservation. To subscribe, please email Shannon Skally at shannon.skally@metc.state.mn.us and include the email address you would like to register to receive future editions of the Water Resources Update
- The Metropolitan Council is updating the current Water Policy Plan as part of the region’s long-range plan, Imagine 2050. The plan outlines water supply, water resources, and wastewater policies to align local and regional water priorities. These six papers are located on our [Water Policy Plan Research web pages](#). These papers are an important step in this planning cycle, creating another opportunity to engage with stakeholders [2050 Water Policy Plan](#) authoring team as they begin to write policy. The met Council is asking for feedback on these papers through the survey link within each section of the pages. To stay up to date with the planning process and learn about opportunities to provide input, visit the [2050 Water Policy Plan Update web page](#).
- The Metropolitan Council also shares a link to the Metropolitan Water Supply Plan: [2022 MAWSAC report](#), which has been posted to the MAWSAC web page: <https://metro council.org/Wastewater-Water/Publications-And-Resources/WATER-SUPPLY-PLANNING/REPORTS-TO-THE-LEGISLATURE/2022-MAWSAC-Recommendations-for-Water-Supply-Plann.aspx>
- The following link, from the Metropolitan Council, contains information on several water resource topics: <https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNORGMETC/bulletins/354b121>

Board of Soil and Water Resources

- <https://bwsr.state.mn.us>
- BWSR is the state soil and water conservation agency, and it administers programs that prevent sediment and nutrients from entering our lakes, rivers, and streams; enhance fish and wildlife habitat; and protect wetlands. The 20-member board consists of representatives of local and state government agencies and citizens. BWSR’s mission is to improve and protect Minnesota’s water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.
- **BWSR Training Newsletter April 2024:**
 - [Announcements](#)
 - [Two Minute Training](#)
 - [Training Success Story](#)
 - [BWSR Program and Training Updates](#)
 - [Technical Training & Certification Program Updates](#)
 - [Upcoming Training Events](#)
 - [Related Partner Trainings](#)
 - [Learn on Your Own](#)

Minnesota Department of Health

- **Minnesota Department of Health Environmental Health Division Highlights Update**: Highlights include a joint agency statement on new federal limits on PFAS in drinking water.
- MDH Waterline (February) can be accessed at the following link:
<https://www.health.state.mn.us/communities/environment/water/waterline/winter20222023.html>
 - The following stories are included:
 - [Drinking Water Institute teachers return for follow-up in Eden Prairie](#)
 - [Upping our game on cybersecurity](#)
 - [Artist-in-residence promotes source water protection](#)
 - [Comings and goings and shifting's](#)
 - [Minnesota communities receive Fluoridation Quality Awards](#)
 - [WIIN program offers help for schools and childcares in reducing lead in water](#)
 - [Links for proposed Lead and Copper Rule improvements](#)
 - [Win-Win-Win for Eden Prairie and its customers](#)
 - [We Are Water Minnesota sites named for 2024](#)
 - [Drinking Water Action Plan to help identify inequities](#)
 - [Quote of the quarter](#)
 - [Reminder to all water operators](#)
 - [Calendar](#)

Department of Agriculture

- Southeast Minnesota Groundwater Resources has five short videos and three graphics found at links below:
<https://www.mda.state.mn.us/segwresources>
- Minnesota Water Quality Certification Program newsletter:
<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/MNMDA/bulletins/37937a6>
- More than one million acres of Minnesota farmland are now enrolled in the voluntary agricultural water quality program. **READ:** <https://fluence-media.co/45ZgzkJ>
- [April 2024 issue of the Pesticide and Fertilizer Management Division newsletter](#) includes:
 - A note from our director, Joshua Stamper
 - Nitrate Reduction Work Continues in Southeast Minnesota, Message from Commissioner Thom Petersen
 - Groundwater Protection Rule Maps updated on January 15 each year
 - Chlorpyrifos use in Minnesota
 - Restrictions to remember when using dicamba
 - Bee-Smart: Protecting pollinators from pesticides
 - Bulletins Live! Two: Pesticide label requirements for vulnerable lands
 - Accessing near-real time MDA water monitoring data online
 - Clean Water Fund investments and outcomes
 - FAMRAMERICA Discovery Farms water quality monitoring update
 - PFAS in Pesticides Interim Legislative Report
 - Select MDA PFMD Division enforcement actions
 - Well setback distances from pesticide loading areas
 - Incident Response Plant: Worth every ounce of effort
 - 1 million acres certified for water quality

- New requirements to pesticide application recordkeeping
- Chemigation permits
- AFREC is scheduled to sunset without legislative action
- The MDA's new Soil Health Equipment Grant

Clean Water Council

Council details can be found at the Clean Water Council's website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/air-water-land-climate/clean-water-council>

Updates and Upcoming Meetings

The Governor has appointed Ramsey County Commissioner [Trista Martinson](#) to the vacancy for metro counties on the Clean Water Council. She will replace retiring member **Victoria Reinhardt**. Thank you, Commissioner Reinhardt, for your years of service to the Council and to clean water!

There is opening on the Council for a **rural county representative**. [See here for more details](#). The application deadline is May 15th.

Full Council: The next meeting is Monday, **May 20th** (topics: third set of Clean Water Fund proposals for FY26-27 biennium). The packet from the **April 15th** meeting (topics: second set of Clean Water Fund proposals for FY26-27 biennium) has been posted at [our web site](#).

Policy Committee: The meeting on Friday, **April 26th** was cancelled. The packet from the **March 22nd** meeting (topics: private wells, supplemental budget) has been posted [at our web site](#).

Budget & Outcomes Committee: Friday, **May 3rd** (topic: review of April 15th budget presentations). The packet from the **April 5th** meeting (topics: review of March 18th budget presentations) [has been posted](#).

Aiming for long-lasting green cover (farmprogress.com): "Forever Green Initiative emphasizes varieties of continuous living cover crops that thrive in harsh winter conditions and provide a harvestable yield while contributing to soil and water conservation."

From fish to forests, House panel approves \$239.4 million Legacy fund budget - Session Daily - Minnesota House of Representatives (mn.gov): Updates and links on the Clean Water Fund supplemental budget recommendations.

Can taller cover crops help clean the water in farm country? (msn.com): Olmsted County has used federal funds to help with cover crops and other living cover to address nitrate pollution. [This is more thorough than most articles on the topic.]

Island Lake may be removed from impaired waters list | News | presspubs.com: Island Lake is in the Rice Creek Watershed District in Ramsey County.

News release: BWSR Awards Federal Funding for SWCD Climate-Smart Programming: Soil health practices also help water quality.

Wadena SWCD receives grant for climate-smart ag practices - Wadena Pioneer Journal: More on soil health

LCCMR

- <https://www.lccmr.mn.gov>
- Lottery to fund outdoors projects: Proceeds to benefit trails, education, conservation. By TONY KENNEDY tony.kennedy@startribune.com; April 16: Read the full story at the startribune.com: Minnesota will pour millions of dollars into recreational trails, environmental education, water protections, and a smorgasbord of

wildlife conservation efforts specified in the latest grant package funded by state lottery proceeds. In all, this year's Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund bill will distribute \$77.6 million to 101 different projects, more projects than ever before. The bill, shaped in 2023 by the Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR), sailed smoothly through the Legislature and was signed into law Monday by Gov. Tim Walz. All new in the list of projects is the creation of a 110-mile Driftless Area Hiking Trail in southeastern Minnesota. Volunteers would shepherd the proposed backpacking trail, which has been likened to the Superior Hiking Trail along the North Shore. The initial appropriation of \$426,000 will be aimed at route planning, obtaining land permissions, and other preliminary work.

- **[Offer Input to LCCMR](#)**: The Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR) is a 17-member body made up of state legislators and citizens. Every year, the LCCMR recommends to the Minnesota legislature projects to receive money from the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. The LCCMR is required by law to develop a strategic plan every six years to guide those recommendations. The LCCMR is currently working on creating a strategic plan for 2025-2031, and your input is needed. This survey is voluntary and should take 5 - 10 minutes to complete. Your responses to the following questions will remain anonymous.
- The LCCMR received 214 proposals requesting a total of \$182,897,000 in response to its 2025 RFP. Applicants should have received an email by today, April 5, 2024, to confirm receipt. See the [2025 funding process page](#) for more information about the steps and schedule of this funding cycle.

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- **Impaired Waters List** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency [released a draft](#) of its biennial Impaired Waters List for public comment. The number of water bodies added are a significant decrease compared to the 2022 list, which illustrates progress in restoring and protecting water — though challenges remain throughout the state, particularly related to difficult to manage pollutants such as “forever chemicals” and sulfate. The list is required by the federal Clean Water Act. It includes waters that no longer meet water quality standards, as well as water bodies that have improved and are proposed to be taken off the list. This year’s list assessed and reviewed Mississippi River – Twin Cities, Minnesota River – Yellow Medicine River, Bois de Sioux River, and Mustika River watersheds, among others throughout the state. The list underscores Minnesota’s progress in restoring and protecting waters while highlighting the need for long-term solutions. The MPCA issued a media release showing how a Ramsey County lake became de-listed from the Impaired Waters List: [After more than 20 years, restoration of Kohlman Lake sees results | Minnesota Pollution Control Agency](#)
- **DNR, April 11: Track the health of our waters**: With more than 92,000 miles of streams and over 12,000 lakes in Minnesota, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) [Volunteer Water Monitoring Program](#) is gearing up for the 51st season of lake and stream water clarity monitoring across the state. [Join today](#) in tracking the health of our waters. Volunteers conduct a simple water clarity test in a lake or stream at least twice a month during the summer.

Environmental Quality Board

- <https://www.eqb.state.mn.us/>
- The Environmental Quality Board is pleased to present the Environmental Review Projects Database. The searchable database allows you to find information about projects noticed in the EQB Monitor. Access the [Environmental Review Projects Database](#)

- The new EQB quarterly newsletter provides a way for readers to get updated on our work and stay informed on the latest EQB projects. Last week we sent out our first newsletter, which features a note from our Executive Director, fun facts about the EQB and pollinators, updates to our website, and a behind-the-scenes blurb with our environmental review staff. In case you missed it, you can still [read the newsletter and sign up](#) to receive upcoming editions.
- Environmental Review: join our roundtable discussion: We want to hear from you! Join The Environmental Quality Board (EQB) for an informal webinar and listening session. EQB is offering two virtual sessions, where we will provide information on the [2024 Mandatory Categories report](#), summarize the feedback we received so far via surveys, and spend most of the time hearing from members of the public, interested organizations, and others. Both listening sessions will cover the same introductory topics, so you do not need to attend both. The EQB is required by the legislature to write a report on environmental review mandatory categories every three years. Mandatory categories are in EQB rules; they describe what types of projects need an environmental review. The report describes the purpose of each category and analyzes recommendations for whether that category should be changed. Your feedback will be considered in EQB's drafting on this report which is due to the legislature December 2024. For more information on how to join the roundtable discussions, visit the [Mandatory Categories webpage](#).

USGS

- WaterWatch: <https://waterwatch.usgs.gov>
- At least 45% of the nation's tap water is estimated to have one or more types of the chemicals known as per- and polyfluorinated alkyl substances, or PFAS, according to a new study by the U.S. Geological Survey. <https://www.usgs.gov/news/national-news-release/tap-water-study-detects-pfas-forever-chemicals-across-us> There are more than 12,000 types of PFAS, not all of which can be detected with current tests; the USGS study tested for the presence of 32 types. You can read an Associated Press article on the topic at the following website (July10) [Study says drinking water from nearly half of US faucets contains potentially harmful chemicals | Great Lakes Now](#)
- [Minnesota USGS Water Science Center](#)
- Access current flood and high-flow conditions and other streamflow information: https://waterwatch.usgs.gov/new/index.php?id=ww_flood
- Regional and Local Flood Alerts: <https://water.usgs.gov/alerts/index.html>
- USGS Data on Domestic Wells: <https://ca.water.usgs.gov/projects/USGS-US-domestic-wells.html>
- Environmental Health Featured Science Activities: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/environmental-health-program/science/environmental-health-featured-science-activities>
- The Geo HEALTH–USGS Newsletter provides information on USGS science pertinent to safeguarding the health of fish, wildlife, domesticated animals, livestock, and people from environmental exposures to contaminants and pathogens. Past Issues: https://www.usgs.gov/geohealth-usgs?qt-newsletter_group=0#qt-newsletter_group

University of Minnesota

- Minnesota Geological Survey: <https://cse.umn.edu/mgs>
- The most recent Water Resources Center newsletter contains news about understanding manure's role in water contamination, chloride contamination, corn production related to nitrogen, the upcoming water

resources conference and more. For information about the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota, follow this link: <https://wrc.umn.edu/news>

- Links to other water-based websites
- Minnesota Sea Grant
- Natural Resources Research Institute
- Extension Water Resources
- Minnesota Water Research Digital Library

News from Regional and Local Organizations

Minnesota Rural Water Association

- See news, training and meeting information at the following link: <https://www.mrwa.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/08/MRWA-TA-TIMES-September-2023.pdf>

Friends of the Mississippi River--See news at their website:

- Webpage: <https://fmr.org/>

Freshwater Society

- See water news at the Freshwater Website: <https://freshwater.org/>

Minnesota Association of soil and Water Conservation Districts

- The May newsletter is now available: Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts. See articles on Little Rock lake, Association Elections, the Legislative session and more.

Minnesota Water Well Association

- The Groundwater Foundation Launches Water Well Wish: New national grant program drills water wells for those who lack access to clean water: The Groundwater Foundation is launching its new nationwide grant program, Water Well Wish. Water Well Wish will provide grants to low-income individuals to repair or replace private water wells at no cost to the recipient. The program will work directly with families across the United States and provide 100% of the funding, to repair an existing system or drill a new water well. This will provide families with access to clean water for drinking, cooking, personal hygiene, washing dishes and clothes, and more. The Water Well Wish was created to help families in need who rely on private water wells but cannot afford the upfront cost of drilling a new water well or having their current system repaired. It is estimated that more than 2 million Americans face water insecurity and lack a reliable source of safe, clean water. To learn more about the Water Well Wish program please visit WaterWellWish.org for a feature video and additional information.

Minnesota Ground Water Association

- To find information on the MWGA: <https://www.mgwa.org>
- MGWA 2023 Fall Conference, 50 Years of the Safe Drinking Water Act, November 14th, 2023. The meeting was recorded and is available at the MGWA website. [MGWA 2014 Conference](#)).

News from Washington: Northeast-Midwest Institute nemw.org

- EPA Creates New Grant Program for Underserved Communities in the Great Lakes: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced a new \$30 million grant program that looks to advance environmental justice in underserved and overburdened communities across the Great Lakes. According to the EPA, the funding is being provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which invests \$1 billion in the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI) to accelerate Great Lakes restoration and protection. EPA plans to award funding to create a broad, basin-wide Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Program (roughly \$20 million to one or more recipients) and up to \$10 million to create more localized Great Lakes Environmental Justice Grant Programs in underserved communities. (Northeast- Midwest Institute)

Highlights from the Governor’s Supplemental budget Request for Water: All funds are in thousands of dollars shown as this year’s budget request/requests for the subsequent biennium

University of Minnesota

Clean Water Legacy: Stormwater Performance Evaluation and Technology Transfer

The Governor recommends one-time dollars for additional funding to support research on emerging issues in urban stormwater pond operation and maintenance, including pond cleanout and disposal.

This change was also recommended by the Clean Water Council. Clean Water Expenditures: \$1,000/ \$0

MDH:

Clean Water Legacy: Addressing Nitrate Contamination in Private Wells in Southeast Minnesota

The Governor recommends funding for immediate action to address nitrate contamination in private wells in eight counties in southeast Minnesota. This consists of a Clean Water Fund appropriation for conducting a well inventory and providing residents free well testing. A general fund appropriation is recommended for mitigation in wells found to have nitrate levels at or above the maximum contaminant level (MCL) of 10 mg/L. Mitigation options include repair or replacement of contaminated wells or installation of home water treatment such as reverse osmosis systems. (General Expenditures \$4,091/0; Clean Water Expenditures \$2,790/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Updating Fish Consumption Guidance for PFAS in Fish: The Governor recommends expanding the Fish Monitoring Program to update guidance on safe fish to eat. This program analyzes health risks of fish consumption balanced with the known nutritional and cultural benefits of eating fish. Funding will provide additional expertise to address data analysis, method development, enhanced general communications, and specialized outreach to highly exposed communities. This is a recommendation of the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water Expenditure: \$384/0)

MPCA:

Clean Water Legacy: Chloride Reduction Grants. The Governor recommends funding to help reduce chloride pollution. This is a recommendation of the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure:\$1000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network: The Governor recommends funding to develop a continuous nitrate monitoring network to allow local water managers to effectively target best management practices where nitrate reduction is most needed. The sensors will monitor approximately 60-80 locations across the state with historical elevated loads or increasing nitrate. This is a recommendation of the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water Expenditure: \$2000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Enhanced County Inspection and Septic System Corrective Action: The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds for enhanced inspections by counties and assistance for qualified low-income households to replace their underground sewage to avoid imminent threats to human health. This funding would support approximately 70 additional low-income households. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$2000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: River and Lake Monitoring: The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to conduct planned river and lake monitoring. Water monitoring collects data that is used in determining pollutant levels, evaluating watershed condition, and informing local protection and restoration. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$326/0; General 5000/0)

DNR:

Clean Water Legacy: Fish Contamination Assessment. The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to monitor per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in fish. These additional funds will be used to support efforts to collect and test fish for PFAS contamination. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$90/0)

BWSR:

Clean Water Legacy: Critical Shoreland Protection - Permanent Conservation Easements

The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to protect lands adjacent to public waters that have good water quality but are threatened with degradation. This funding responds to a backlog of requests to protect priority parcels in the Rum River watershed. It protects sensitive shorelands on privately owned lands in the following 10 counties: Aitkin, Anoka, Benton, Chisago, Crow Wing, Isanti, Kanabec, Mille Lacs, Morrison, and Sherburne. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$4000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Great Lakes Restoration Initiative Lake wide Action and Management Program

The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to support soil and water conservation district (SWCD) capacity to leverage federal funds from the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative (GLRI). Funding would only apply to the five SWCDs along in the Lake Superior Basin for protection and restoration activities affecting lake water quality. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$1000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Watershed Partners Legacy Grants. The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to support a grants program which expands partnerships for clean water. Half of the funding would go to tribal governments and the other half to nonprofit organizations. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$2000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Working Land and Floodplain Easements. The Governor recommends Clean Water Funds to restore and protect riparian, wellhead and floodplain areas across the state to improve and enhance water quality and wildlife habitat. The land targeted for this program is sensitive agriculture land within a riparian floodplain or wellhead area that is a priority drinking water protection area. This will be accomplished through long-term, limited use contracts and perpetual easements. This is a supplemental year recommendation by the Clean Water Council. (Clean Water expenditure: \$4,434/0)

MDA:

Nitrate Treatment. The Governor recommends funding for in-home water treatment systems to remove nitrates from drinking water. This funding will be for private domestic wells with elevated nitrate and targeted to residents with a demonstrated financial need who could not otherwise afford to treat water or purchase an alternative drinking water source. Funds will also be used to provide education, outreach, and technical assistance to homeowners. (General expenditure: \$3000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Nitrate in Groundwater. The Governor recommends, concurring with the recommendation of the Clean Water Council, additional funds to accelerate progress already being made in implementing the Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan. This additional funding would focus on eight counties in southeast Minnesota as a response to findings by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).(Clean Water expenditure: \$1,000/0)

Clean Water Legacy: Agricultural Best Management Practices Loan Program. The Governor recommends, concurring with the recommendation of the Clean Water Council, additional funding to help meet a large backlog of requests for low-interest loans for water quality-related purposes. (Clean Water expenditure: \$23402/0)

Extend Authorities for the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council The Governor recommends extending the sunset date for the Agricultural Fertilizer Research and Education Council (AFREC) as well as the authority to continue to collect the fee on bulk fertilizer sales which is used to support the council AFREC is responsible for improving fertilizer efficiency, farm profitability, and Minnesota's environment through soil fertility research, technology development, and education. Under current law, the council will be sunset at the end of fiscal year 2025 and the authority to collect the fee of \$0.40 per ton will be sunset at the end of fiscal year 2024. This recommendation would extend those authorities through the end of fiscal 2030 and fiscal 2029, respectively. (Agricultural Revenues: 1,200/2,400: Agricultural expenditures: 0/2400)