

March 18th, 2024

Re: Supplemental Clean Water Fund recommendations

Chair Hawj and committee members,

As you know, Minnesotans voted to adopt the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008. One-third of the revenue from the amendment is allocated to the [Clean Water Fund](#). The State's recently [revised budget forecast](#) shows a total surplus in the Clean Water Fund of \$25.426 million.

We, the undersigned organizations, are writing to express our appreciation for the work of the Clean Water Council in preparing supplemental Clean Water Fund recommendations that direct the surplus toward numerous initiatives we support, including:

- Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA): Nitrate in Groundwater (\$1.0 million) and AgBMP Loan Program (\$3.402 million).
- Minnesota Department of Health (MDH): Drinking Water Contaminants of Emerging Concern (\$384,000) and Southeast Minnesota Nitrate Response (\$2.79 million).
- Department of Natural Resources (DNR): Fish Contamination Assessment (\$90,000).
- Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA): River and Lake Monitoring and Assessment (\$326,000), Enhanced County Inspection/SSTS Corrective Actions (\$2.0 million), Chloride Reduction Grants (\$1.0 million) and Continuous Nitrate Sensor Network (\$2.0 million).
- Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR): Great Lakes Restoration Initiative LAMP match (\$1.0 million), Critical Shoreland Protection Easements (\$4.0 million), Working Land and Floodplain Easements (\$4.434 million) and Clean Water Partners Legacy small grants (\$2.0 million).
- The University of Minnesota: Stormwater BMP Performance Evaluation & Technology Transfer (\$1.0 million).

We are also pleased to see that the recommendations do not include funding for private well measures that had raised constitutional concerns. Such investments, which are critical for protecting public health, are best made through traditional means, as reflected by the [Governor's 2024-25 Supplemental Budget Recommendations](#).

We encourage you to advance a 2024 Legacy Bill that reflects the Council's recommendations.

Sincerely,

Friends of the Mississippi River

Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy

Conservation Minnesota

Northern Waters Land Trust

CURE

Land Stewardship Project

Minnesota Environmental Partnership

Minnesota Well Owners Organization