



# Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



## 2016-2017 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET

### Clean Water Legacy

\$ 9,150,000 FY16/\$ 9,150,000 FY17

### Clean Water Fund

#### It Is Needed Because

Adequate supplies of clean water are essential for strong and sustainable job markets, economies, and communities, and for conserving Minnesota's waters, natural lands, and diverse fish and wildlife habitats. We currently face water quality and availability issues in many parts of the state. Improving water quality and managing water sustainably is one of the most challenging resource issues facing Minnesota.

The DNR provides information and analysis to identify the most important water quality and supply issues and prioritize innovative solutions for the most pressing problems.

#### Major Program Elements

This proposal requests \$18.3 million for the FY2016-17 biennium to support the State's clean water and sustainability efforts in seven main areas.

- Helping local partners plan for and implement water quality strategies: \$6.48 million for the biennium.
- Maintaining and updating water data: \$4.0 million for the biennium.
- Collecting and analyzing watershed-based data in rivers, streams, and lakes: \$2.87 million for the biennium.
- Aquifer level testing and modeling: \$2.75 million for the biennium.
- Drainage hydrology and modeling: \$1.7 million for the biennium.
- Completing county geologic atlases to define and characterize the state's aquifers: \$500,000 for the biennium.

These activities are done in partnership with other state agencies and local partners working on water quality and supply issues. Agencies are working in interagency teams to streamline the way information

is collected, stored, and shared, and aligning staff around major watershed projects to capitalize on a broad array of knowledge and skills.

Project priorities are determined by an existing schedule for statewide watershed assessments (developed by the MPCA), existing watershed implementation plans (developed by state and local partners), and priority watersheds for pilot studies as determined by interagency teams or statewide initiatives (e.g., sentinel watershed studies, MN Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program).

#### Key Measures and Outcomes

- Information and analysis about water quality and watersheds will inform targeted plans and strategies to address water quality problems and provide long-term watershed protection.
- Local capacity to plan and implement projects will be enhanced so that communities can grow and develop while sustaining high quality natural resources that support their long-term needs.
- Groundwater and drinking water supplies will be protected from contamination and managed sustainably.

#### Fiscal Impacts

Clean Water Funding is treated as a new initiative each biennium.

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