



Department of Natural Resources Fact Sheet



2010-2011 BIENNIAL BUDGET FACT SHEET **Clean Water Fund – Drinking Water Source Planning and Protection** **\$375,000 FY 2010 / \$750,000 FY 2011**

It is needed because

Passage of the 2008 Clean Water, Land, and Legacy amendment established a Clean Water Fund to protect, enhance, and restore the quality of Minnesota's lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation. Statute dictates that at least five percent of this fund be dedicated to the protection of Minnesota's drinking water sources.

Minnesota is known for its water resources. As a key economic driver for the state's growth and development, water supply management is also the most challenging resource issue facing Minnesota over the next 50 years. Lack of adequate understanding and information about the state's water resources leads to increasing conflicts over multiple uses for water, and can severely jeopardize sustainable economic and community development.

Effectively managing Minnesota's water supply has emerged as one of the most pressing needs for continued investments in the state – with two-thirds of Minnesota's public water supply coming from groundwater and demand for these resources increasing at rates greater than population growth, water supply problems will increase significantly in the coming years.

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has the primary responsibility for managing Minnesota's water supplies. Balancing the development and protection of the state's water resources requires good planning based on adequate resource information. Additional resources are needed for technical studies to assess interrelated surface and ground water systems and the adequacy of water resources to supply existing and future growth. This information will be used to develop water management plans that protect water resources and help communities plan for the future.

Major program elements

There are three major program elements.

- ◆ **Drinking Water Supply Planning:**
 - ⇒ Identify areas with potential water supply issues;
 - ⇒ Conduct aquifer tests and technical studies; and
 - ⇒ Develop regional and local water supply management plans.
- ◆ **Water Level Monitoring:**
 - ⇒ Develop a state plan for an adequate ground water level monitoring network; and
 - ⇒ Expand and automate the ground water monitoring network.
- ◆ **Aquifer Protection:**
 - ⇒ Determine aquifer characteristics to support long-term resource management; and
 - ⇒ Develop resource protection thresholds.

Priority-setting

A number of mapping, monitoring and modeling efforts will be utilized to identify areas with the highest risk for water supply problems.

Project locations

A statewide assessment will be completed to determine priorities for technical studies and the development of water resource management plans.

Key measures and outcomes

- ◆ Complete a statewide assessment to identify areas with potential water supply problems;
- ◆ Develop proactive regional and local water resource plans to manage potential water supply problems before they occur;
- ◆ Complete technical studies to characterize aquifers and establish resource protection limits in areas with existing supply problems, such as for the cities of Moorhead and Broton and for Pipestone County;

- ◆ Define technical studies and monitoring needs for 20 communities projected to have water supply problems in the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area;
- ◆ Develop a state plan for an adequate ground water monitoring network and identify priorities for implementing the plan; and
- ◆ Equip 100 observation wells for automated water level readings and expand the ground water monitoring network.

Financial implications

Previous funding levels have only been adequate to be reactive to problems and it is expected that proactively planning for future water supplies will be cost effective compared to dealing with water supply issues after development has occurred.

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