



# Building a Clean Water Legacy

## March 2015 Snapshots



In 2008, Minnesotans passed the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, dedicating funds to, among other things, protect and restore our lakes, rivers, and streams. Since then, much work has been done to protect and restore our state’s vital water resources. BWSR’s work is focused on making measurable progress toward local and state goals – partnering with local governments and other agencies to keep our state’s waters fishable, swimmable, and drinkable.

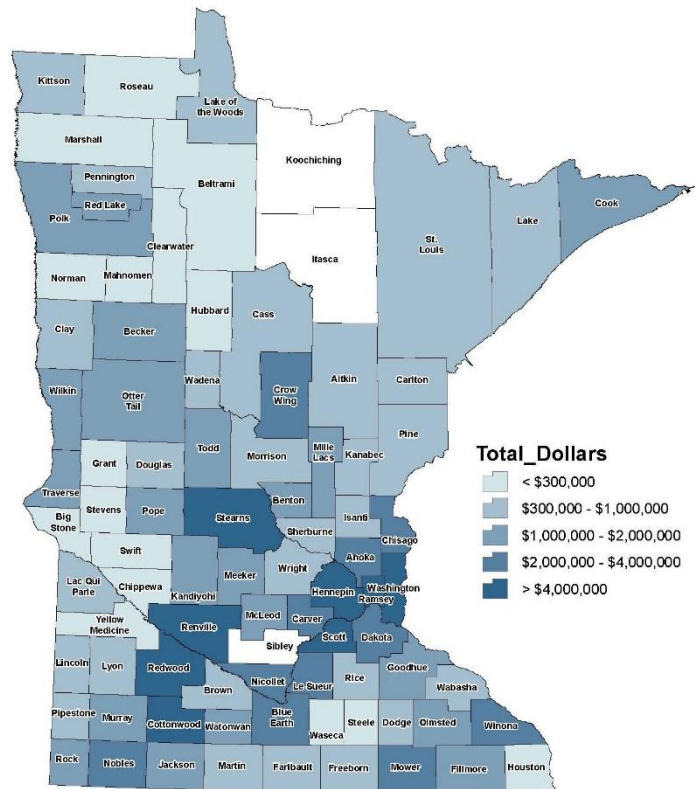
Since the Amendment was passed, roughly \$100 million has been granted to 205 local government partners resulting in over 4,100 “on-the-ground” projects that support 43 total maximum daily load studies. In addition, over \$40 million has funded 837 easements permanently protecting 31,460 acres of Minnesota land. Every county in the state has been touched by Clean Water Fund work.

The goal of the BWSR’s Clean Water Fund (CWF) Program is to help meet those statewide water quality goals through the prevention and reduction of nonpoint source pollution.

- The Competitive Grants program works through the local conservation delivery system to fund projects that are prioritized and targeted to the most critical source areas.
- CWF easements provide permanent protection of private land in riparian and groundwater locations, resulting in improved surface water quality and the health and security of community water supplies.

2014 brought some changes to BWSR’s CWF program. In addition to our competitive grants, we launched One Watershed, One Plan and the Targeted Watershed Demonstration Program. Both programs support a watershed-based approach to local water management. Our local government partners are engaged and invested in protecting and restoring Minnesota’s lakes, streams, rivers and groundwater.

Over the past 5 years, demand has greatly outpaced availability with Clean Water Fund competitive application requests approximately three times greater than available funds. Through BWSR’s Fiscal Year 16-17 Biennial Budget Request, local governments provided information on implementation projects identified in existing state-approved, locally-adopted water management plans.



*The map above shows the number of Clean Water Fund dollars distributed by county from FY2010-FY2015. Not included on the map are funds awarded to Joint Powers Boards (JPB) totaling \$12.1 million. When including JPBs, all 87 counties have received CWF dollars.*

The information provided showed that with adequate support local governments could implement over \$256 million in Clean Water Fund projects and activities within the two-year biennium.

Governor Dayton's budget proposal for the Fiscal Year 2016-2017 biennium includes a 44% increase in conservation implementation using Clean Water Funds, an investment that would allow our local government partners to accelerate their on-the-ground work. This is great news for our state's efforts to improve water quality, and would help our agency fill more of the unmet local need.

We're very deliberate about the process. BWSR allocates Clean Water Fund resources to our partners through a decision-making process based on sound science, prioritized local planning and commitment to identify projects that will be the most effective. Working together, we are committed to achieving water quality results for Minnesota citizens.