



Red River Basin River Watch Program

As a “headwaters state,” Minnesotans bear a unique responsibility as watershed stewards. For over 24 years, the Red River Basin River Watch Program (RW) has delivered innovative watershed education programming to schools and communities across the Red River of the North Basin. Education is the most effective tool to change attitudes and behaviors. RW offers a suite of classroom and outdoor activities designed to specifically address important MN water quality improvement initiatives, including:

- ✓ MN Clean Water Council Guiding Principle to “...change individual and institutional behaviors on the landscape to accelerate water quality outcomes.”
- ✓ Governor Dayton’s 25 by 25 report identified education as our greatest need and a top priority.

Support from the Red River Watershed Management Board and local watershed districts has built an effective and popular watershed education program across the Red River of the North Basin

Since program inception, RW teams from schools throughout the Red River Basin have collected data at 150 sites, totaling over 10,000 visits to rivers, streams, and agricultural ditches. RW data are used by the MN Pollution Control Agency to complement the state’s assessment of surface waters.

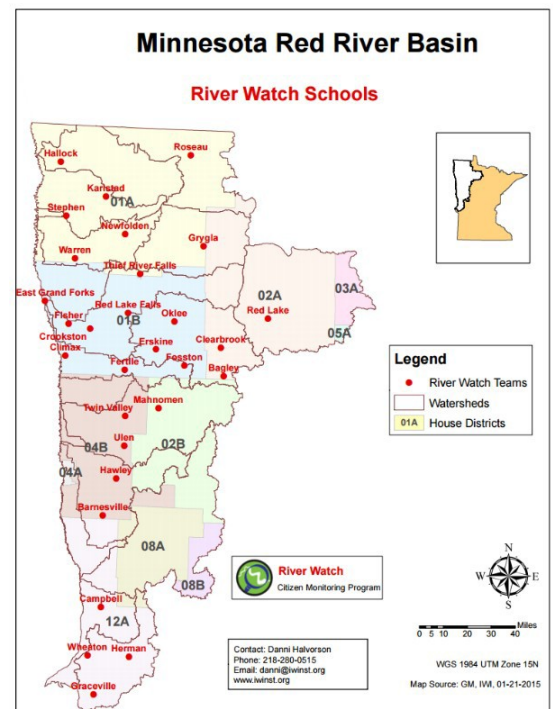
Clean Water funds enable the International Water Institute to build on this established and popular RW foundation by providing additional learning opportunities to protect and improve MN’s valuable water resources, including:

- ✓ Biological Monitoring
- ✓ River Explorers
- ✓ Teacher Training
- ✓ River Watch Forum
- ✓ River of Dreams

FUNDING Request 2019-2020:

The Red River Watershed Management Board requests funding from the State of Minnesota to match the local \$150,000/yr. commitment. The River Watch bill authorizes \$150,000 in year one and \$150,000 in year two from Minnesota’s General Fund or a continuation of funding from the Clean Water Legacy Fund for a grant to the Red River Watershed Management Board.

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1995-2019: 24 Years of Watershed Education

More than Water Quality Monitoring - Since 1995, the Red River Basin River Watch (RW) program has evolved to include a wide variety of hands-on, field-based, science learning opportunities for area youth to enhance watershed understanding and awareness for tomorrow's decision-makers. Schools throughout the Red River of the North Basin participate annually in a variety of unique, innovative, and effective watershed engagement opportunities suited to their school, community, and watershed needs.

Water Quality Monitoring: Collect and record conditions at local rivers and streams using state-of-the-art scientific methods and equipment.

Funding Source = RRWMB and local partners.

Biological Monitoring: Macroinvertebrate monitoring provides additional insights on watershed and ecosystem health.

Funding Source = RRWMB + Clean Water Legacy.

River Explorers: Guided kayak excursions on local rivers to observe and document watershed conditions.

Funding Source = RRWMB + Clean Water Legacy.

Annual Teacher Training provides access to resources and experts in current watershed issues.

Funding Source = RRWMB + Clean Water Legacy.

River Watch Forum: Annual event challenging students to learn and share about emerging local watershed issues.

Funding Source = RRWMB + Clean Water Legacy.

Real-Time Monitoring: Students build, deploy and maintain real-time water quality monitoring stations. Data analyzed and used to characterize stream water quality.

Funding Source = RRWMB + Clean Water Legacy.

River of Dreams: A cross-curriculum watershed education program tailored to elementary students. Participants learn watershed terminology and how their sub-watershed fits into the Red River Basin through the design and real-life launch of a 14" cedar canoe.

Funding Source = Clean Water Legacy.

