

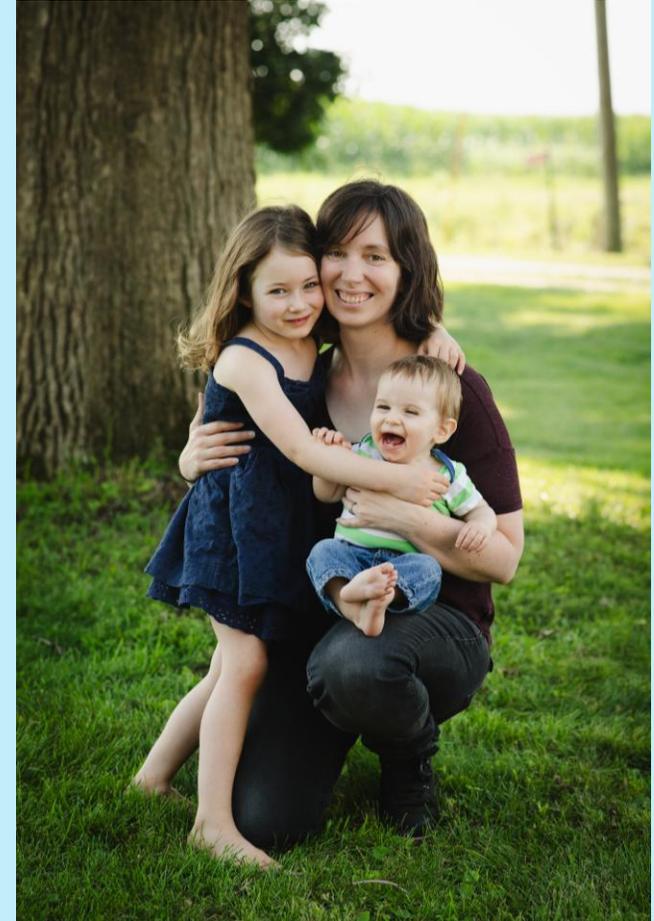
# Clean Water Council and Fund

How our tax dollars have transformed water work in Minnesota



# New administrator, May 2025

- New to the role, not the Council—engaged since 2017
- Work in water has revolved around CWF programs, including:
  - State, regional, and local water policy and planning
  - Facilitation for several One Watershed, One Plan efforts across the state
  - Community engagement and capacity-building:
    - Irrigators and Farmers workshops
    - Lake association support
    - Minnesota Water Stewards
- Served a term on the Council, including as Vice Chair





# Presentation overview

- Clean Water Council and Fund basics
- Investment approach
- Updates, what we're up to now



# Council and Fund basics



## Minnesota's Impaired Waters

REPORT TO THE LEGISLATURE



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

March 2003

# Clean Water Council

- Created in 2006 after lawsuits, threats to economic development, and acknowledgement of significant underfunding of efforts to meet federal Clean Water Act requirements
- Minn. Stat. §114D.30 CLEAN WATER COUNCIL.
  - Subdivision 1. **Creation; duties.**
  - A Clean Water Council is created to advise on the administration and implementation of this **[Clean Water Legacy Act]**, and foster coordination and cooperation as described in section 114D.20, subdivision 1.
- Generally speaking:
  - 28 members, 17 voting, 11 non-voting
  - Advise the Governor and Legislature on implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act
  - Strengthen coordination and collaboration, enhance state-wide capacity
  - Establish and support a systematic, programmatic approach
  - Produce durable improvements for water in Minnesota and downstream



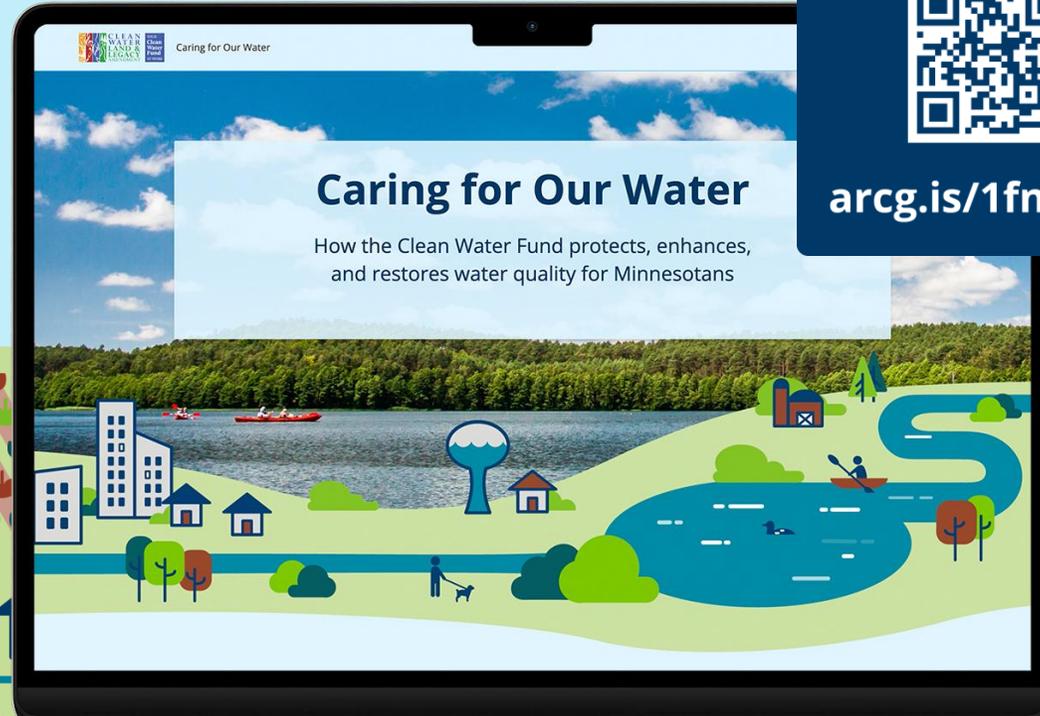
**CLEAN  
WATER  
LAND &  
LEGACY  
AMENDMENT**

**YOUR Clean Water  
Fund AT WORK**

# Clean Water Fund

- 2008 constitutional amendment
  - 3/8% dedicated sales tax, 1/3 for CWF
  - ~\$3 billion to be spent by the time it expires in 2034
- Council given role of recommending its use
- “May be spent only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams, to protect groundwater from degradation, and to protect drinking water sources.”
- “At least five percent of the clean water fund must be spent only to protect drinking water sources.”

Discover the Clean Water Fund **visual story!**

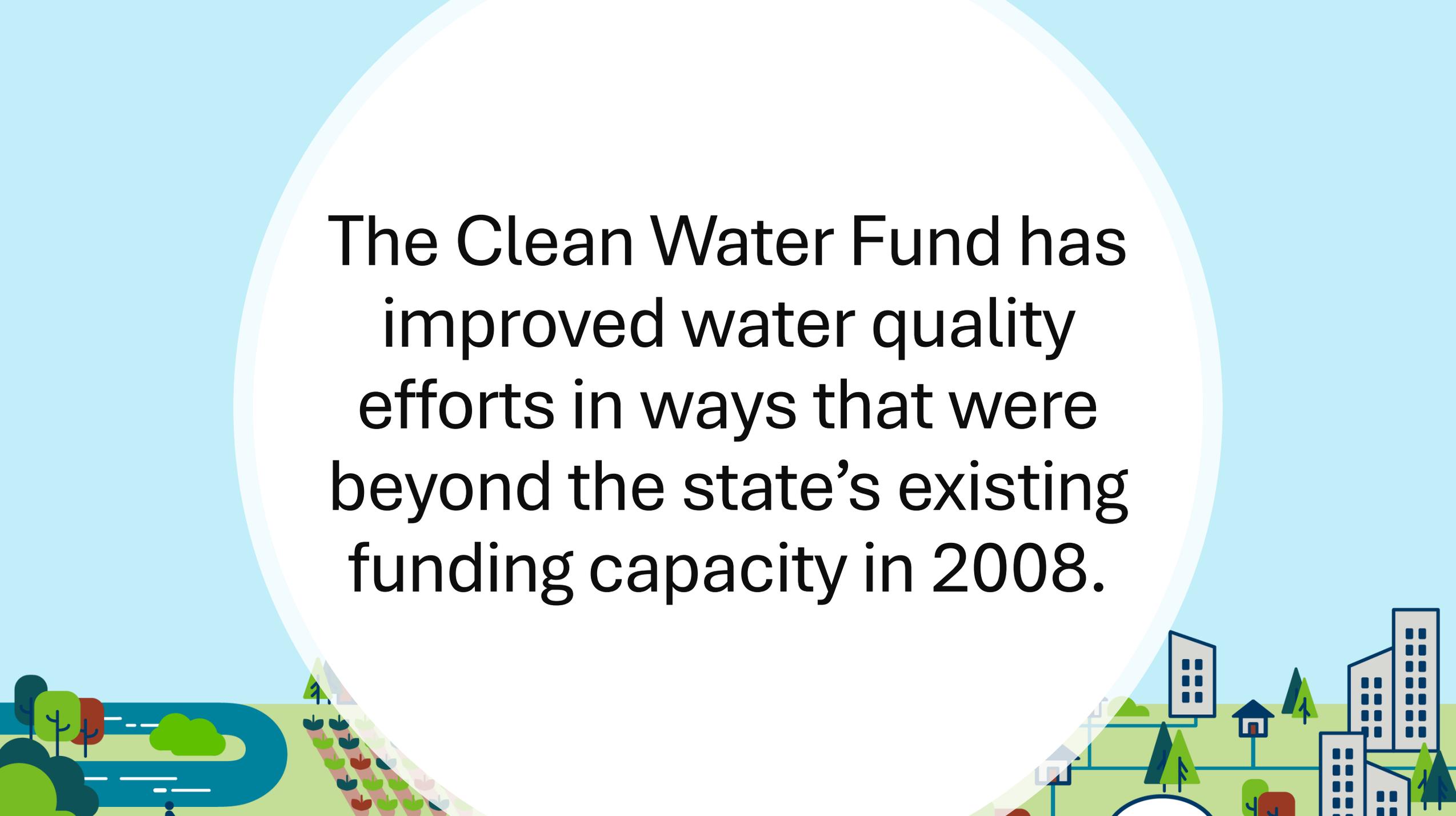


[arcg.is/1fnGPG1](https://arcg.is/1fnGPG1)

The CWF enables protection of our pristine waters, the restoration of our degraded waters, and the protection of our groundwater and drinking water sources.

It enhances water programs and accelerates our progress in meeting clean water goals.





The Clean Water Fund has improved water quality efforts in ways that were beyond the state's existing funding capacity in 2008.



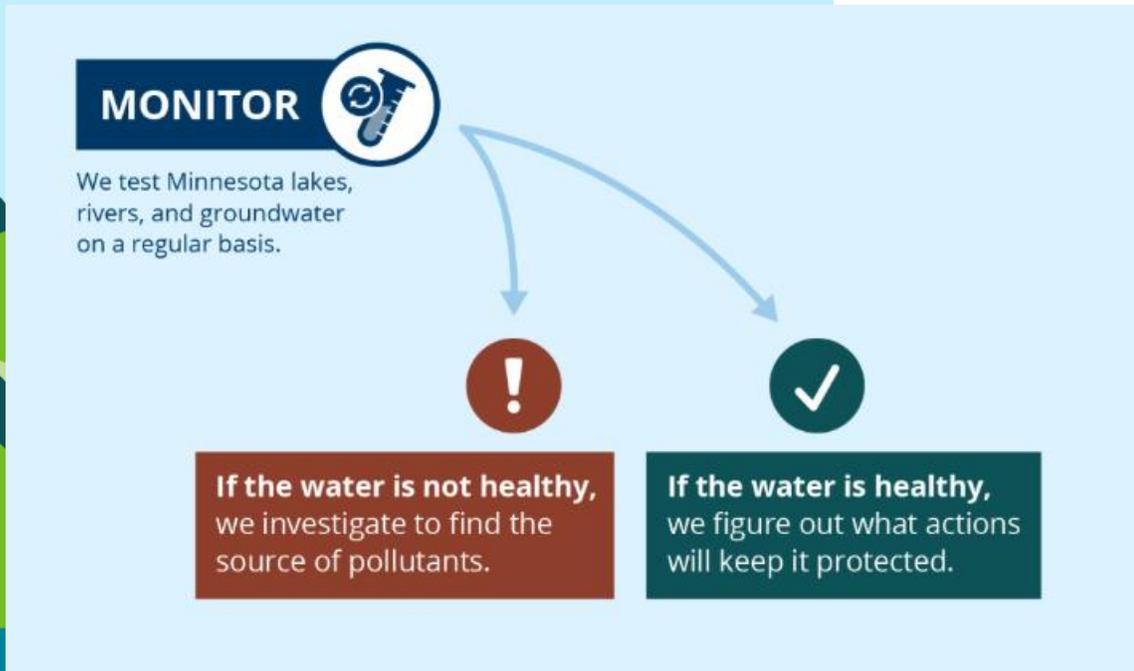
# How we invest



# Water management framework



# Monitoring, Assessment, and Characterization



- We understand more about waters in our state because...
  - We've looked for more things
  - We've looked in more places
- 10-year cycle for lakes and streams
  - First cycle completed in 2017
  - Second cycle underway
- Groundwater modeling and monitoring increasing
- Targeted efforts as needed

# Problem Investigation and Applied Research

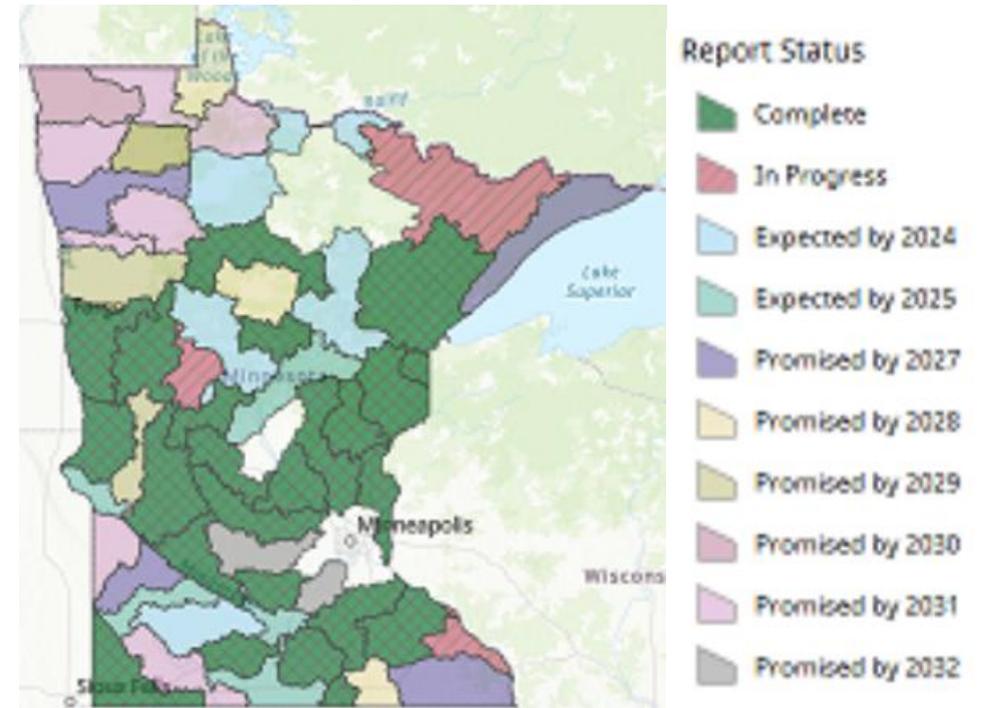
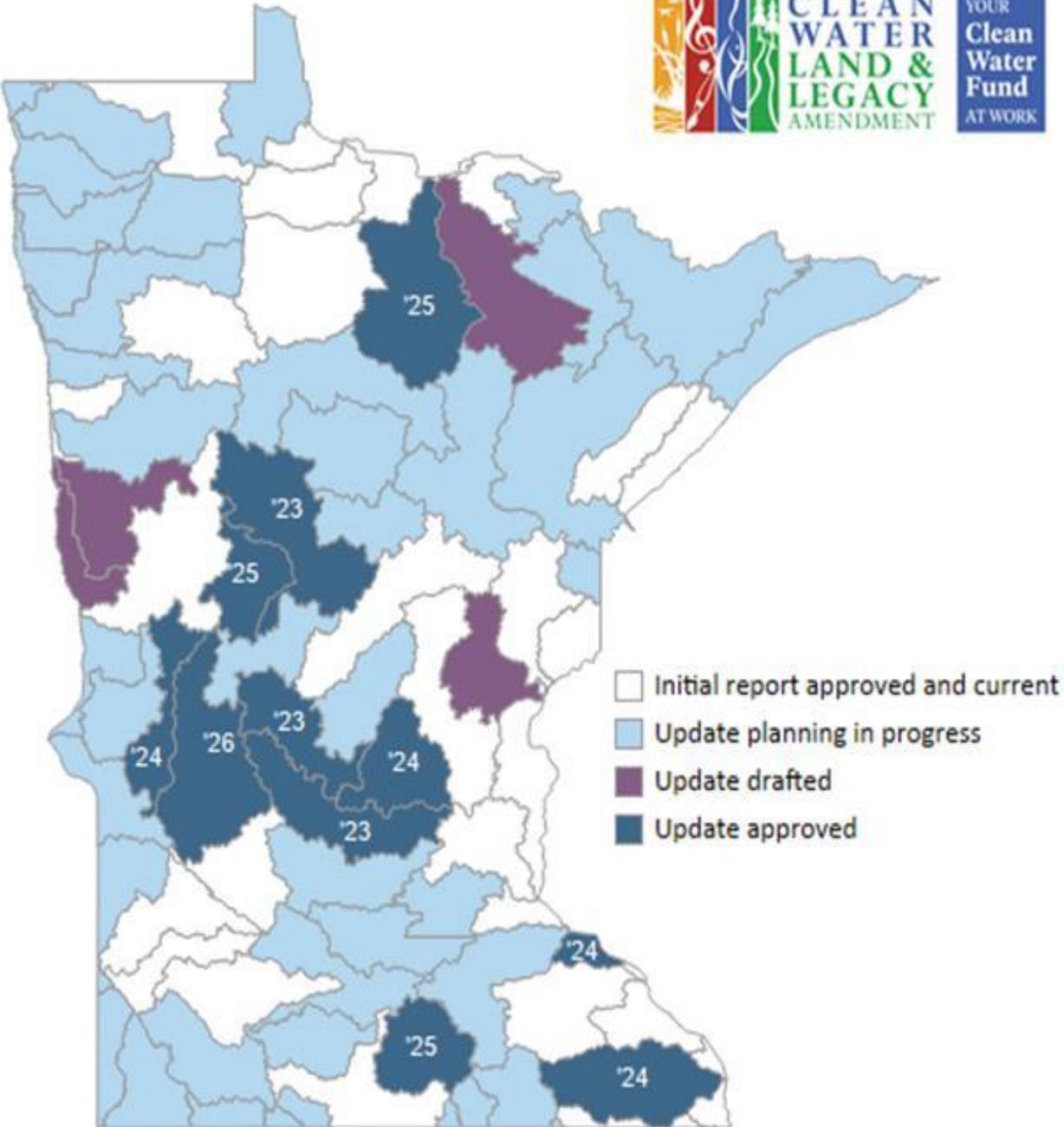
- Figure out what the problems are and where they are coming from
- Develop the solutions we need for the future
  - Stressor ID
  - Guidance for CECs
  - Groundwater characterization and mapping
  - Soil health research
  - Forever Green



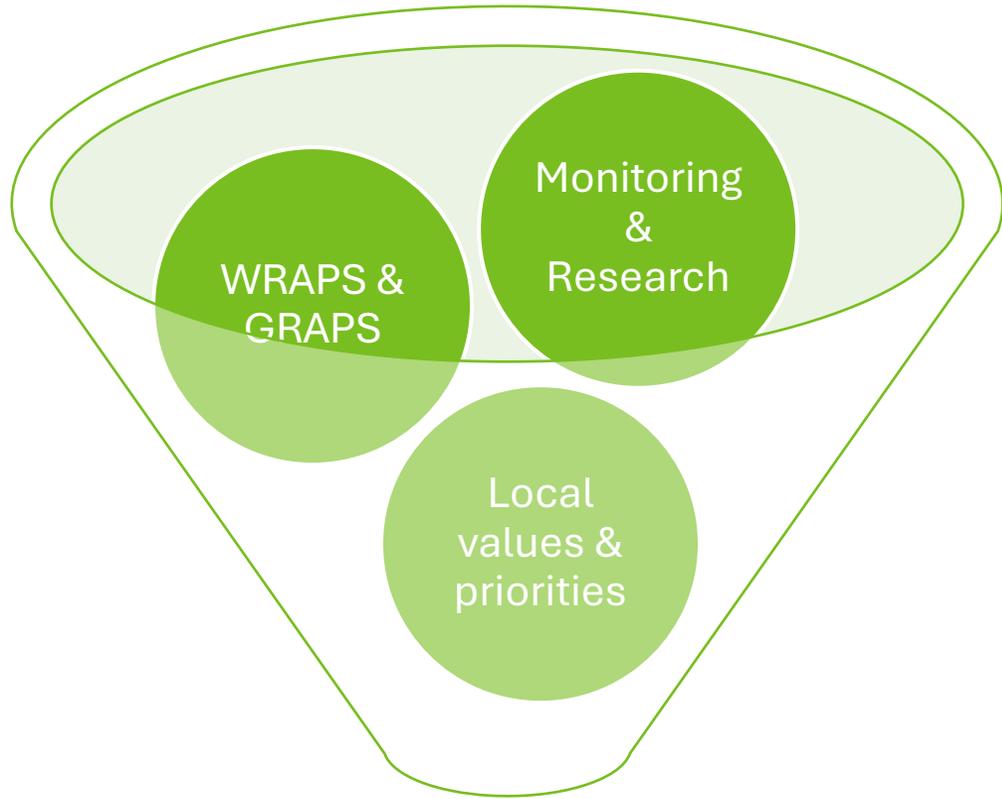


# Restoration and Protection Strategy Development

- Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) for all watersheds – 2023
- TMDL pollutant reduction targets
- Groundwater Restoration and Protection Strategies underway

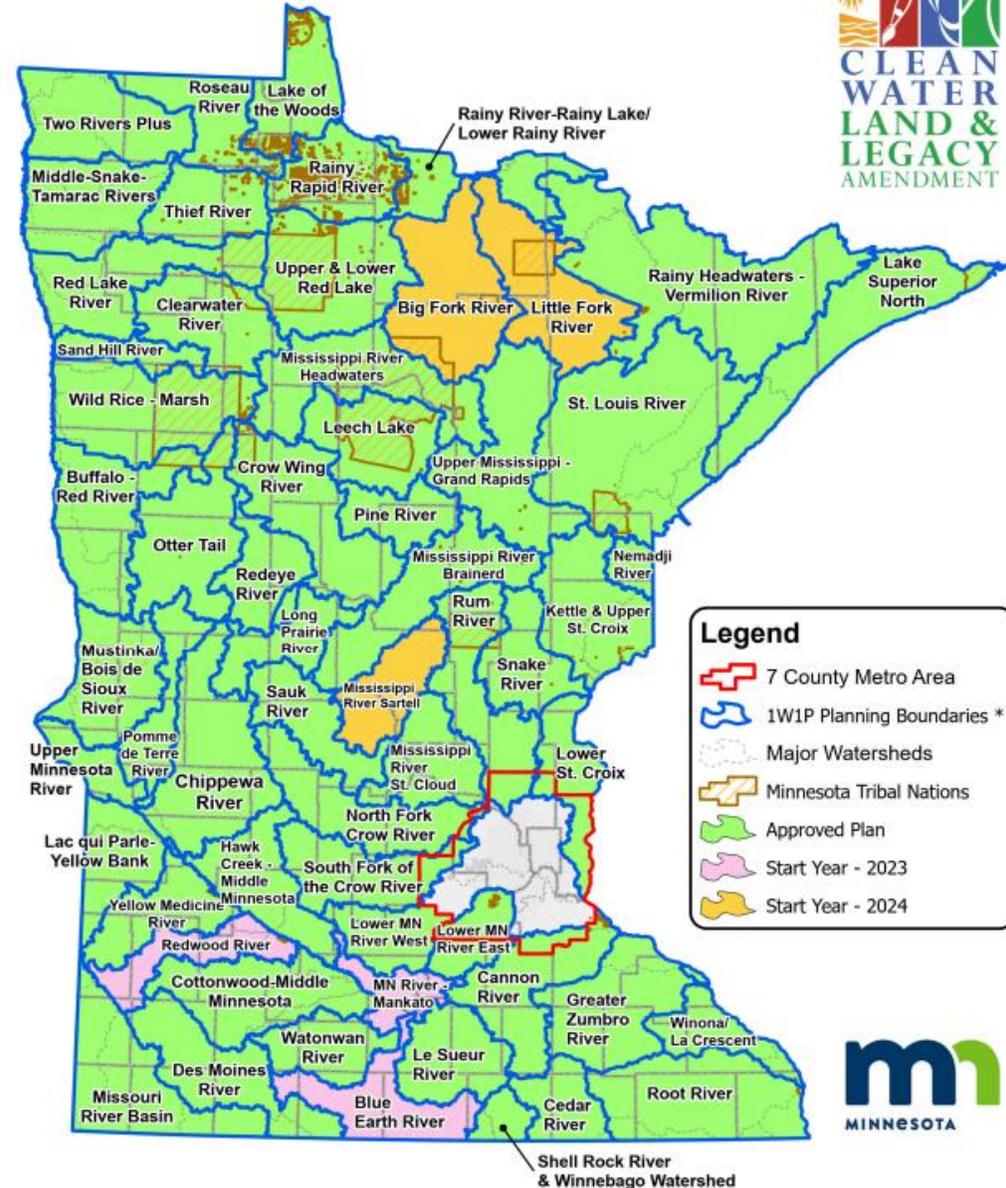


# Comprehensive Watershed Management Plan



Prioritized, targeted, measurable plan

## One Watershed, One Plan Participating Watersheds



April 2025

\*Not legal boundaries; intended for planning purposes through One Watershed, One Plan only.

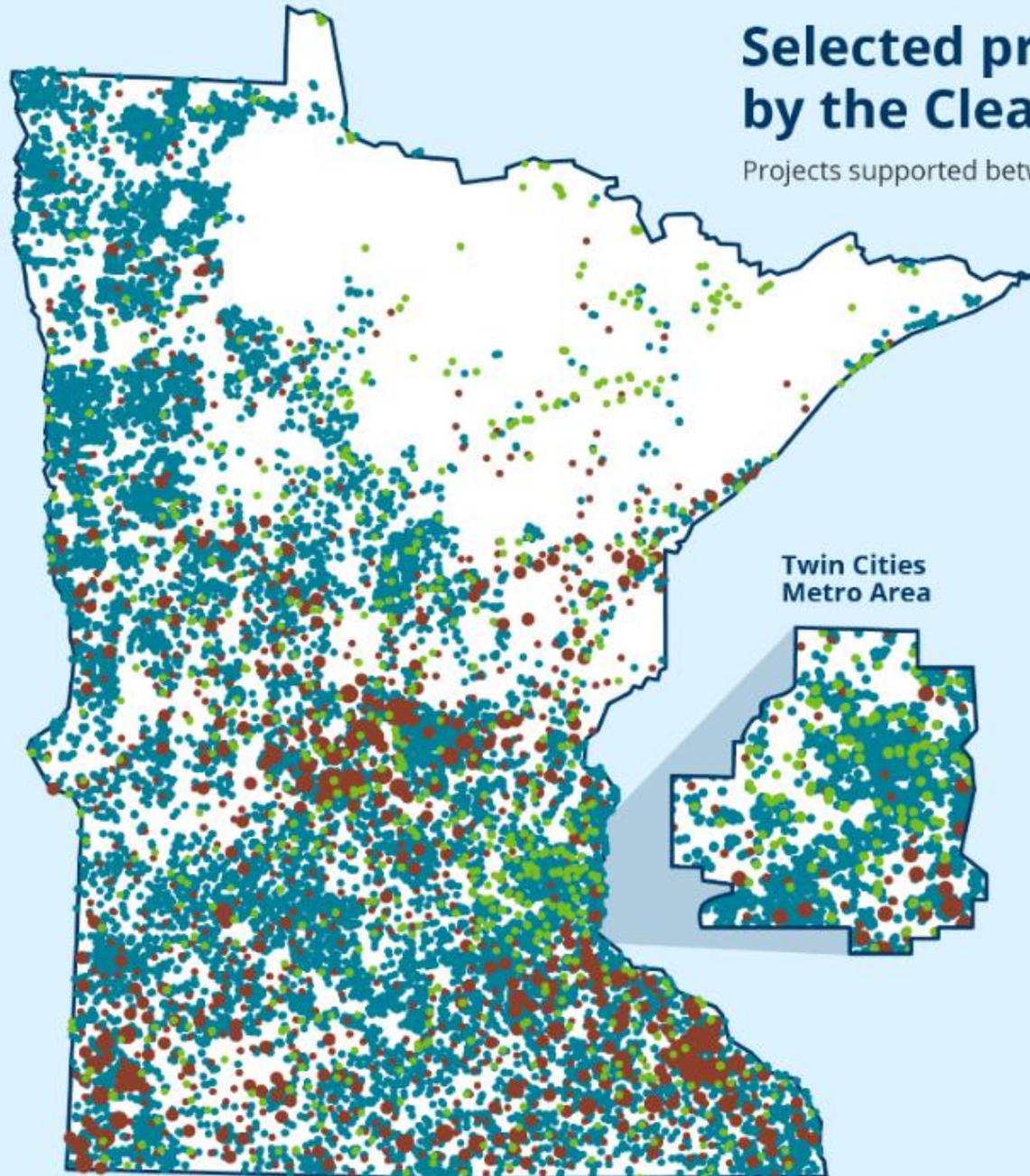


# Implementation

- >2/3 of CWF go to implementation
- More projects become “shovel-ready” more quickly, get more state and federal funds
- Every \$1 in CWF leverages >\$1
- Many investments produce multiple benefits

# Selected projects supported by the Clean Water Fund

Projects supported between 2010–2024



## Received source water protection grant

from Minnesota Department of Health



*Dot size = number of certified farms in area (max of 15)*

## Farm certified in water quality

by Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program



## Received funding to protect or restore surface waters

from Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources





# More than dots on a map

- Increasing awareness and understanding of threats and opportunities
- Building partnerships that transcend CWF activities
- Delisting water bodies—95 as of 9/25
- Investing in permanent protection
- Showing statistically-significant improvements in ecological conditions of Minnesota's rivers and streams
- Phosphorus conditions in Minnesota's larger rivers are generally decreasing or staying the same
- Reducing excess water use
- Leading the way on PFAS, Chloride, and more
- And...and...and...

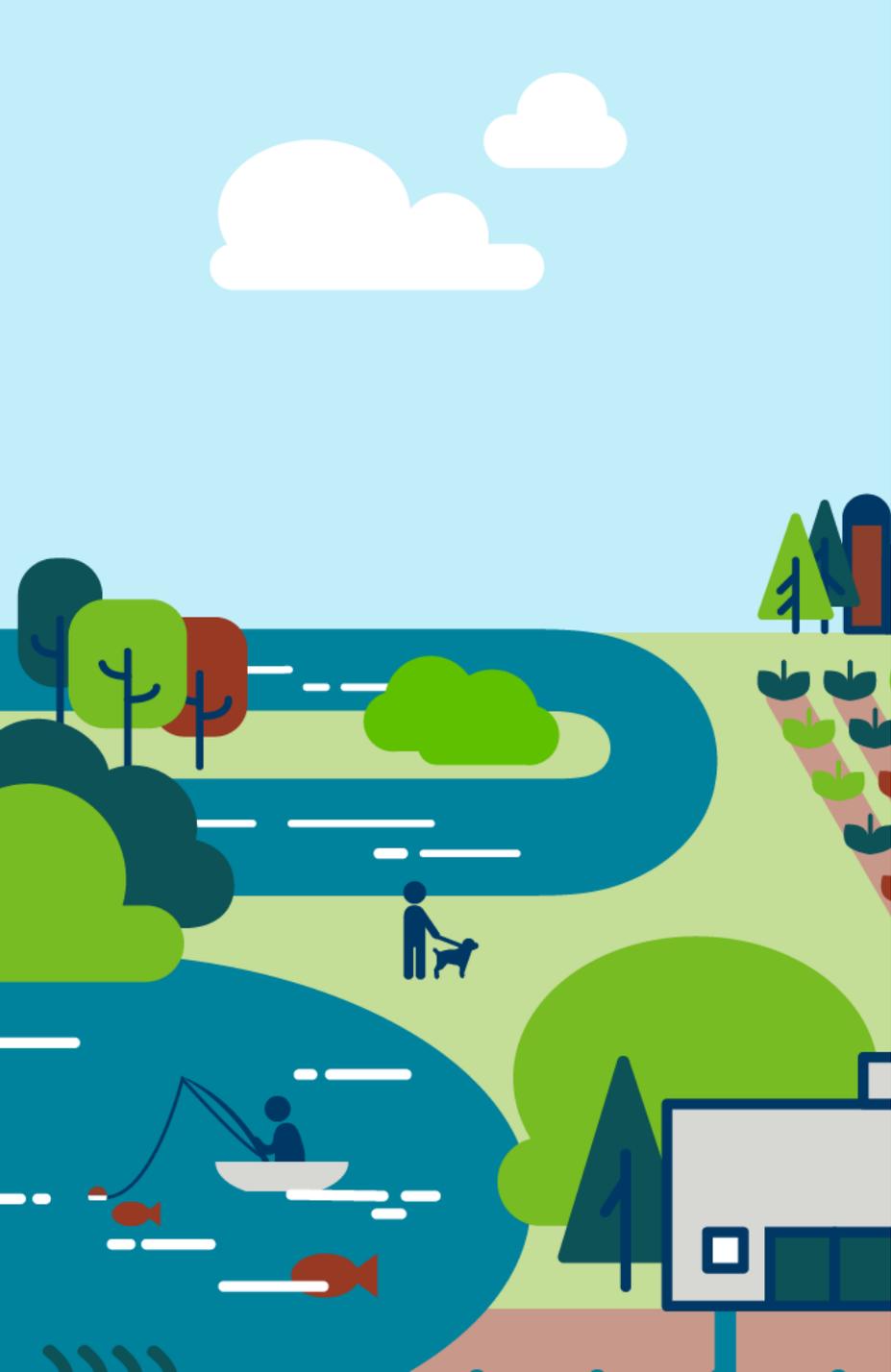


# Updates, what we're up to now



# New key documents

- New Public Participation Plan
  - Outlining commitment to public participation
  - Clarifying opportunities for influence of process, possible mechanisms
  - Equipping Council Members to engage their constituencies
- New evaluation rubric and proposal form
  - Codifying values and priorities
  - Increasing transparency, consistency, and accountability
  - Enhancing understanding of programs



# Significant program outputs and milestones

- Minnesota's first Statewide Drinking Water Action Plan
- Flowing Forward report
- Update to the Nutrient Reduction Strategy
- And more!
  
- Coming up: the next CWF Performance Report

# What are we up to right now?

- Reviewing proposals for the FY28-29 biennium
  - Forecast ~\$330M
- Preparing policy statements regarding:
  - Large volume water users
  - Chloride from de-icers
  - Private well user support
  - (On deck: shoreline protection and restoration, sustainable aviation fuels, de-risking agricultural transition)

Recommendations  
and updated policy  
statements in  
January 2027





# Questions?

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