HOUSE RESEARCH =

Bill Summary =

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Overview

This bill contains supplemental appropriations from the clean water fund and establishes a metropolitan area groundwater monitoring fee and account to cover the costs of establishing and maintaining a groundwater monitoring program in the 11-county metropolitan area.

Section

- 1 Clean water fund appropriations. Technical.
- **Pollution Control Agency.** Appropriates \$310,000 to the PCA for continued rulemaking for nitrogen water quality standards.
- **Department of Natural Resources.** Transfers \$5,000,000 to a new metro groundwater monitoring account (established in this bill) for the DNR to use in establishing a groundwater monitoring network in the 11-county metro area.
- **Board of Water and Soil Resources.** Appropriates a total of \$1,615,000 in additional funds to BWSR for the following three programs receiving funding in the previous clean water fund appropriation bill (Laws 2009, ch. 172, article 2, section 6): easements on riparian buffers; grants to watershed districts and watershed management organizations for water retention programs; and easements on wellhead protection areas. Requires the Star Lake Board to provide recommendations to BWSR on a set of criteria for star lakes and rivers.
- Water use permit processing fee. Amends § 103G.271, subd. 6. Establishes a new water monitoring fee of .0008 cents per gallon (.0006 beginning July 1, 2015) on water used in the 11-county metropolitan area that is credited to the new metropolitan area groundwater monitoring account established in the next section.
- **Metropolitan area groundwater monitoring account.** Adds § 103G.272. Establishes a metropolitan area groundwater monitoring account in the natural resources fund to be

appropriated to the DNR to provide monitoring of groundwater quantity and quality of non-stressed systems in the 11-county metropolitan area.

Pollution Control Agency. Amends Laws 2009, ch. 172, article 2, section 4. Increases, by \$300,000, the appropriation for grants to local units of government to implement best management practices to clean up contaminated sediments in storm water ponds and allows the PCA to use a portion of the funds for the development of related best management practices required last session. Increases, by \$200,000, the appropriation for a restoration project in the Lower St. Louis River, and clarifies that the match must be "at least" \$2 nonstate to every \$1 of state money. Eliminates a \$5,000,000 appropriation for groundwater protection activities that had required a plan and legislative approval.