

Subject Clean Water Fund

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Overview

This bill appropriates \$262,709,000 from the clean water fund for fiscal years 2020 and 2021 for various projects and programs based upon the recommendations of the Clean Water Council. The Clean Water Council is charged with making recommendations on the use of money in the clean water fund.

The clean water fund is one of the four funds established by the “Legacy Amendment” passed by the voters in 2008 that raised the state’s sales tax by three-eighths of one percent and dedicated the revenue for various purposes. The clean water fund receives 33 percent of the revenue and must be spent “only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation.” The constitutional amendment also requires that at least five percent of the fund be spent to protect drinking water sources.

Summary

Section	Description
1	Clean water fund appropriations. Technical.
2	Clean water. Subd. 1. Total Appropriation. Provides a total appropriation of \$134,113,000 from the clean water fund in fiscal year 2020, and \$128,596,000 in fiscal year 2021. Subd. 2. Availability of Appropriation. Requires the money to be used only for activities that are directly related to and necessary for a specific appropriation and makes the funds available for two years or, when federal funds are involved, for the time period equal to the federal funding availability. Subd. 3. Disability Access. Requires recipients of the money, where appropriate, to make progress toward providing people with disabilities with greater access to the programs funded.

Section	Description
3	<p data-bbox="355 275 683 302">Department of Agriculture.</p> <p data-bbox="355 317 1390 380">Appropriates \$11,458,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$11,457,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Department of Agriculture for various purposes, including money for:</p> <ul data-bbox="404 422 1425 1142" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="404 422 1425 485">• increased monitoring for pesticides and pesticide degradates in surface water and groundwater;<li data-bbox="404 527 1182 554">• activities to protect groundwater from nitrate contamination;<li data-bbox="404 596 1325 659">• technical assistance, research, and demonstration projects regarding best management practice implementation<li data-bbox="404 701 1377 728">• research to quantify and reduce agricultural contributions to impaired waters;<li data-bbox="404 770 818 798">• a research inventory database;<li data-bbox="404 840 1195 867">• the Minnesota agricultural water quality certification program;<li data-bbox="404 909 971 936">• a regional irrigation water quality specialist;<li data-bbox="404 978 927 1005">• the Forever Green Agriculture Initiative;<li data-bbox="404 1047 1252 1075">• testing private wells for pesticides where nitrates are detected; and<li data-bbox="404 1117 1295 1144">• evaluating markets for crops beneficial to water quality and soil health.
4	<p data-bbox="355 1199 672 1226">Public Facilities Authority.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1241 1382 1373">Appropriates \$9,125,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$9,125,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Public Facilities Authority (PFA), including a total of \$18,000,000 for the point source implementation grants program, and a total of \$250,000 for grants and loans for small community wastewater treatment.</p>
5	<p data-bbox="355 1430 667 1457">Pollution Control Agency.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1472 1390 1535">Appropriates \$24,480,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$24,480,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Pollution Control Agency (PCA), including money for:</p> <ul data-bbox="404 1577 1390 1879" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="404 1577 1073 1604">• completion of statewide surface water assessments;<li data-bbox="404 1646 1377 1709">• the development of watershed restoration and protection strategies (WRAPS) which include TMDL studies and TMDL implementation plans;<li data-bbox="404 1751 760 1778">• groundwater assessment;<li data-bbox="404 1820 1390 1883">• implementation of the St. Louis River System Area of Concern Remedial Action Plan;

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• national pollutant discharge elimination system (NPDES) wastewater and storm water TMDL implementation;• grants to counties for subsurface sewage treatment systems (SSTS);• accelerated implementation of MS4 permit requirements;• grants for sanitary sewer projects in Voyageurs National Park;• activities, training, and grants to reduce chloride pollution; and• administration and outreach efforts of the Clean Water Council.
6	<p data-bbox="355 737 773 764">Department of Natural Resources.</p> <p data-bbox="355 779 1398 842">Appropriates \$11,151,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$11,151,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), including money for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• stream flow monitoring;• lake Index of Biological Integrity (IBI) assessments;• assessing mercury contamination of fish;• development of targeted, science-based WRAPS;• water supply planning, aquifer protection, and monitoring activities;• technical assistance to support local implementation of nonpoint source restoration and protection activities;• applied research and tools;• county geologic atlases;• maintenance and updates to buffer maps and technical guidance;• color infrared imagery collection and analysis; and• the Minnesota forests for the future program.
7	<p data-bbox="355 1692 784 1719">Board of Water and Soil Resources.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1734 1398 1799">Appropriates \$67,840,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$62,340,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), including money for:</p>

Section	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• performance based grants to local units of government to implement projects identified as part of the One Watershed, One Plan, or other plans;• grants to local units of government for various water quality projects consistent with TMDL and WRAPS;• acceleration of implementation, including technical assistance;• state oversight and accountability of local implementation efforts;• grants to local units of government to ensure compliance with buffer and soil loss requirements;• acquisition, restoration, and preservation of riparian land adjacent to water by easement or contracts;• permanent conservation easements on wellhead protection areas and grants to local governments to acquire land to protect groundwater on wellhead protection areas;• restoration evaluations;• assistance to local governments to transition to a watershed approach;• technical assistance and grants for the conservation drainage program;• conservation easements to treat and store water and to protect threatened public waters with good water quality;• data collection and estimates of soil erosion;• increasing citizen participation in implementing water quality projects/programs; and• enhanced cover crop adoption efforts.
8	<p data-bbox="355 1541 630 1568">Department of Health.</p> <p data-bbox="355 1583 1360 1650">Appropriates \$6,872,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$6,872,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Department of Health, including money for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• addressing public health concerns related to unregulated drinking water contaminants;• drinking water source protection;• cost-share assistance to seal unused wells;

Section	Description
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• development and delivery of groundwater restoration and protection strategies;• study of the occurrence and magnitude of contaminants in private wells;• evaluating and addressing risks from certain pathogens in groundwater supplies;• development of public health policies and an action plan to address threats to safe drinking water; and• creation of a road map for water reuse implementation and addressing related research gaps.
9	<p>Metropolitan Council. Appropriates \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$1,500,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the Metropolitan Council for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• projects that address emerging drinking water supply threats; and• the water demand reduction grant program.
10	<p>University of Minnesota. Appropriates \$1,672,000 in fiscal year 2020 and \$1,671,000 in fiscal year 2021 to the University of Minnesota for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• developing county geologic atlases;• storm water performance evaluation and technology transfer program;• guidance documents and tools evaluating the clean water fund's return on investment; and• development of a comprehensive carp management program.
11	<p>Legislature. Appropriates \$15,000 in fiscal year 2020 to the Legislative Coordinating Commission (LCC) for the Legacy Web site.</p>



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