



## Governor Pawlenty's Clean Water Cabinet

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# 2006 Clean Water Legacy Act

## Introduction

Governor Pawlenty signed the Clean Water Legacy Act into law on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2006. The CWLA provides a new operational framework, tools and first-year start-up funding that will help ensure Minnesota's famed legacy of clean water passes intact to future generations. Enactment of this law places Minnesota in a position of national leadership in developing a collaborative and innovative approach towards implementing the Clean Water Act. (See the Clean Water Cabinet's Web site at <http://cwc.state.mn.us/index.html>.)

The new law will accelerate testing of Minnesota's waters; provide resources to develop specific plans (TMDLs) to clean up Minnesota's most contaminated waters; and target additional financial resources to existing state and local programs designed to improve water quality, leveraging additional federal, local and private resources where possible.

The 2006 CWLA provides funding of \$24.95 million for identified clean-water funding priorities and creates a citizen/state advisory group called the Clean Water Council. The first-year funding is derived from a combination of state general fund, general obligation bonding, and the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. These appropriations will leverage other federal, local and private funding, as well as increase participation of citizen volunteers.

The majority of CWLA funding will go to local government units and local stakeholders through targeted, existing programs for on-the-ground work to protect and restore lakes, rivers and streams. In addition, other funds will be available to state agencies to perform critical activities related to monitoring and assessment of Minnesota's waters, TMDL development, technical assistance to local governments and private landowners, research on best management practices, and implementation of protection and restoration activities.

This fact sheet provides a high-level guide to what will be done with funding provided by the Act. Further detail is available from the Web sites of the respective agencies that will be implementing the Act (listed below).

## How will the Act be implemented?

The Act will provide expanded protection and restoration for Minnesota waters via five main components:



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1. Clean Water Council. The Act creates this citizen/government advisory board to oversee implementation and funding distribution. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is the lead agency in forming and overseeing the Council.  
Web link: [Clean Water Council](#)
2. Assessment and Monitoring. (\$2.14 million.) The Act will help fund a much-needed statewide expansion of assessment and monitoring for pollutants causing impairments under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act. The primary agencies are the MPCA and Department of Natural Resources.  
Web link: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html>
3. TMDLs. (\$3.17 million.) Total Maximum Daily Loads are the federally mandated tool for addressing 303(d) impairments and restoring polluted waters to water-quality standards. The TMDL process sets the maximum overall amount (load) of specific pollutants that can be present in a lake or stream, and allocates needed reductions among all the sources causing an impairment. MPCA is the lead agency.  
Web link: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html>
4. Nonpoint-Source Restoration. (\$9.24 million.) The majority of Minnesota's listed impairments are caused primarily by nonpoint-source pollution. Funding provided by the Act will be funneled toward nonpoint-source restoration activities in priority watersheds that have TMDLs approved by end of 2006. The Department of Agriculture, and Board of Water and Soil Resources are leads.  
Web link: <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/news/cwlegacy.pdf>
5. Nonpoint-Source Protection. (\$1.99 million.) These funds can be used statewide to protect waters from future impairments. Primary efforts will go to forested areas of the state to protect critical lands that provide important watershed protection values. DNR is the lead agency.  
Contact: Lee Pfanmuller, (651) 259-5128
6. Point-Source Restoration and Prevention. (\$8.41 million.) The Act increases the amount of funding available for construction and upgrading of municipal wastewater treatment facilities, and municipal stormwater systems. PCA and the Public Facilities Authority are leads.  
Web link: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/wastewater.html>

### For general information

The MPCA is the overall lead agency for implementation of the Clean Water Legacy Act. For general information about the Act, contact MPCA Regional Division Director Gaylen Reetz, (651) 296-8856.