

Chair Founq Hawj
Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee
3231 Minnesota Senate Building
95 University Ave W
St. Paul, MN 55155

RE: Clean Water Council Appropriation Recommendations

February 17, 2025

Chair Hawj and Members of the Senate Environment, Climate, and Legacy Committee:

As the committee reviews the Clean Water Council's FY26-27 recommendations for the Clean Water Legacy funds, we write to highlight support for the work of and the recommendations produced by the Clean Water Council.

The Clean Water Council, made up of both citizen volunteers representing diverse stakeholders and legislators, spent two years gathering input from state agencies and a variety of constituencies from across the state to aid in the development of its recommendations for how the Clean Water Fund should be spent. The Council is a deliberative body who spends significant time and effort in making recommendations in line with their strategic plan.

This biennial set of recommendations includes a wide variety of proven programs, including investments in working floodplains, non-point source restoration and implementation technical assistance, culvert replacement cost-share, chloride reduction technical assistance, and technical assistance supporting farmers and the agricultural community, among other important efforts. The programs in the recommendations transcend needs and challenges facing Minnesotan's drinking water, surface water and groundwater quality and quantity, and across urban, rural, and agricultural landscapes.

The Council, state agencies and stakeholders have identified and recommended both existing and new programs to address clean water needs. As a participant during many of the Council's meetings, The Conservancy fully supports its recommendations and the thorough process by which the Council has arrived at these recommendations.

Thank you for your work on behalf of the State of Minnesota.

Sincerely,



Stephanie Pinkalla
Government Relations Director
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota



Angelica Day
Government Relations Specialist
The Nature Conservancy in Minnesota