

Clean Water Council

January 27, 2009

The Honorable Ellen R. Anderson
Chair, Environment, Energy & Natural Resources
Budget Division
Minnesota State Senate, Capitol Building, Rm 120
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155

The Honorable Kent Eken
Chair, Environment Policy & Oversight Committee
Minnesota House of Representatives
575 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Satveer Chaudhary
Chair, Environment & Natural Resources
Committee
Minnesota State Senate, Capitol Building, Rm 205
75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
St. Paul, MN 55155-1606

The Honorable Jean Wagenius
Chair, Environment & Natural Resources
Finance Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
449 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

The Honorable Mary Murphy
Chair, Cultural & Outdoors Finance Division
Minnesota House of Representatives
343 State Office Building
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Committee Chairs:

We are pleased to present the Clean Water Council's recommendations for the FY2010-2011 budget. This letter supplements the Council's December 2008 Biennial Report to the Legislature (copy enclosed; also online at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cleanwatercouncil/cwc-publications.html>). We welcome the opportunity to discuss our recommendations with you in the weeks ahead.

Our December 2008 report, required by the Clean Water Legacy Act, included \$97.8 million in budget recommendations for clean water activities in FY2010-2011. This January 2009 addendum adds a total of \$74 million for the biennium with new recommendations for wastewater and stormwater infrastructure, drinking water source protection, and other critical needs.

In developing this addendum, the Council reviewed proposals from a wide range of state and local government agencies, interest groups and citizens. This input was critical to better understand and refine the categories of need described in our December report. Therefore, the additional recommendations included in this letter focus on the larger purposes of those categories, rather than on specific projects.

The Council's recommendations are timely given the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment to the state constitution, approved by the voters last November. We encourage the Legislature to fully fund the activities (see Attachment A) identified in our December report and this January addendum for FY2010-2011, to meet the Amendment's water quality protection and restoration goals.

Wastewater and stormwater infrastructure: \$50 million

The Council recognizes that cities across the state need improved infrastructure to meet wastewater and stormwater treatment needs to both prevent and restore impaired waters. Our recommendation of \$50 million over the next two years will meet the need estimated by the Public Facilities Authority for the following Clean Water Legacy programs:

- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Grant Program (*biennial need: \$20-40 million*);
- Phosphorus Grant Program (*biennial need: \$10-20 million*); and
- Small Community Wastewater Treatment Program (*biennial need: \$3.5-4.5 million*).

Drinking water source protection: \$8 million

At least 5 percent of the newly-created Clean Water Fund is to be spent to protect drinking water sources. The Council recommends \$8 million for source water protection over the next two years. In addition, our December 2008 report's budget recommendations included nonpoint source protection and restoration measures which may be applied to protect surface water and groundwater that are drinking water sources. The combined recommendations are a significant step forward to meet this critical need.

Education and public engagement: \$8 million

The Council believes that this additional investment in education and public engagement is warranted to help the public understand their role in prevention and local water quality issues. We recommend \$8 million in funding through state agencies for water quality education and public engagement grants to local units of government and nongovernmental organizations that engage citizens in practices to protect and improve water quality, and provide technical skills training for public and private service providers.

Research and tool development: \$8 million

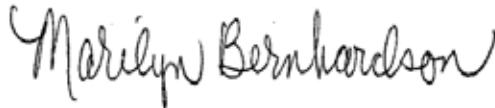
The Council believes that essential research is needed to improve best management practices, develop new analysis tools, and accelerate program effectiveness, through initiatives such as high resolution topographic mapping (e.g., LiDAR) and the research priorities identified in the Final Report of the 2008 Impaired Waters Research Symposium, convened by the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center (see "Recommendation 6" in our December Biennial Report).

Again, please see the attached table for the complete list of budget recommendations from the Council's December 2008 report and January 2009 addendum. In total (see Attachment B), nearly two-thirds (65 percent) of the Clean Water Council's recommended biennial budget is devoted to implementation of point- and nonpoint-source restoration and protection activities. Another 21 percent of the budget is recommended for water-quality monitoring and TMDL development, and 14 percent to drinking water, education and research.

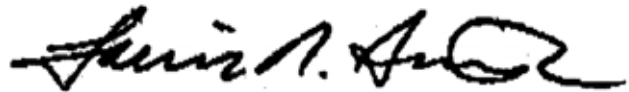
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We look forward to reviewing our recommendations with you during the weeks ahead. Please don't hesitate to contact Louis Smith at 612-344-1400, or me at 507-637-2427 ext. 3, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Marilyn Bernhardson
Chair, Clean Water Council



Louis N. Smith
Past Chair, Clean Water Council

MB/LS/mkr

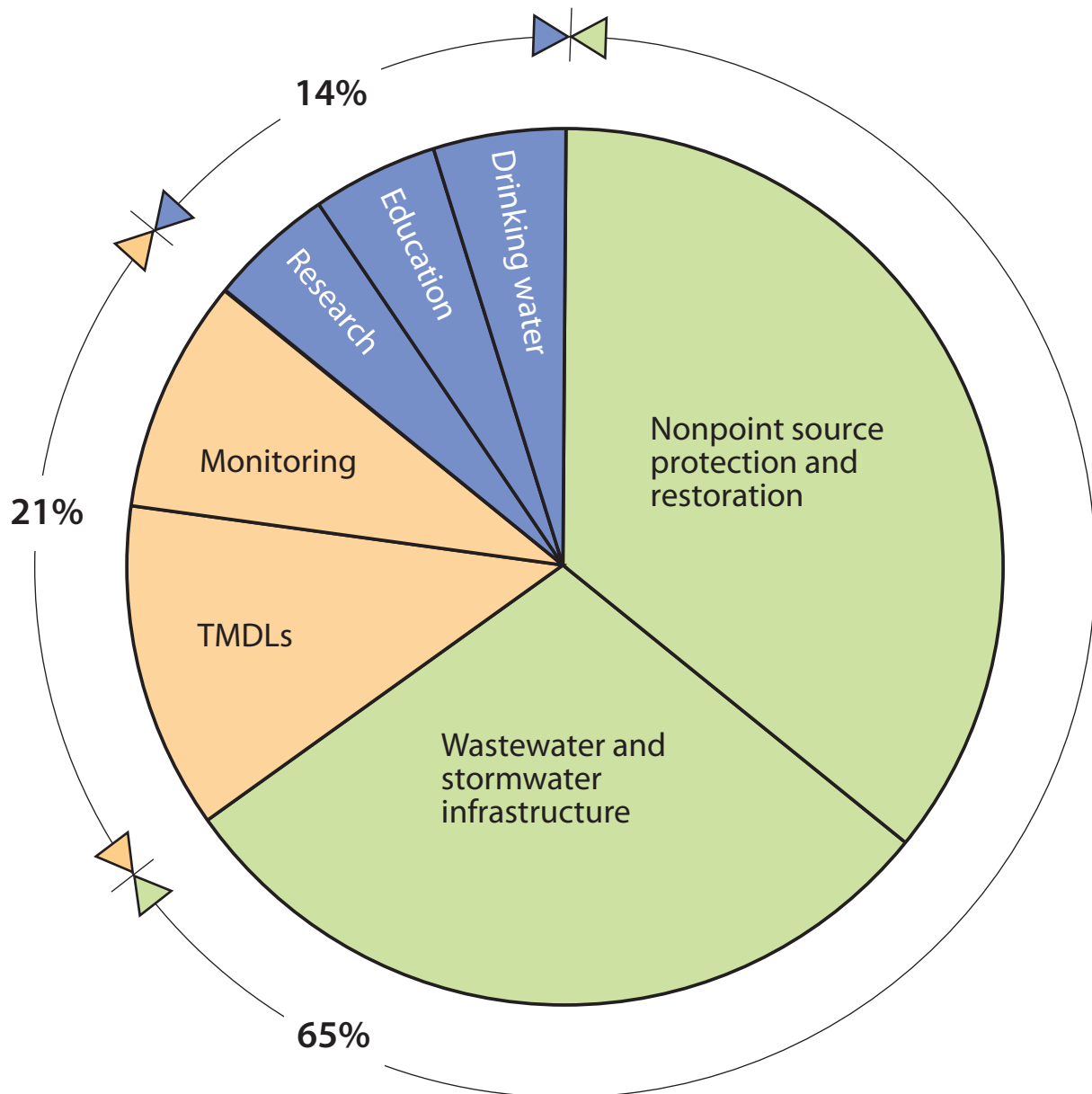
Enclosure


Attachment A: Clean Water Council budget recommendations (January 2009)

The following table summarizes Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) appropriations in FY2007–2009, and the Council’s proposed budget recommendations for FY2010–2011.

CWLA Funded Activities (dollars in millions)	FY07 (one-time funding)	FY08–09 (one-time funding)	FY10–11 Recommendations
Water Quality Assessment & Monitoring			
State, citizen and local monitoring activities	\$2.140	\$14.524	\$14.524
Endocrine disruptor monitoring/analysis	–	\$0.375	\$0.375
Subtotal	\$2.140	\$14.899	\$14.899
TMDL Development			
TMDL development and technical assistance	\$3.170	\$20.610	\$20.610
Civic engagement in TMDL development	–	–	\$0.900
Subtotal	\$3.170	\$20.610	\$21.510
Nonpoint Source Protection & Restoration			
Nonpoint restoration/cost share/ incentive payments	\$1.500	\$3.316	\$19.320
Nonpoint restoration engineering/technical assistance	\$2.250	\$3.000	\$6.000
Nonpoint protection activities	\$1.410	\$1.000	\$10.000
Stream bank, stream channel, lakeshore, roadside protection and restoration projects (SLR)	\$1.000 (bonding)	–	\$4.000
Reporting, evaluation & research	\$0.600	\$0.400	\$0.600
County ISTS	\$0.730	\$2.450	\$5.000
Imminent threat/failing ISTS grants	–	\$1.000	\$2.000
Feedlot water quality grants	–	\$3.000	\$6.000
AgBMP Loan Program	\$1.200	\$2.500	\$5.000
Agricultural technical assistance (including pilot projects)	\$0.400	\$0.400	\$0.600
Research on agricultural BMP effectiveness & load allocations	\$0.800	\$1.100	\$2.000
Riparian land protection	\$1.340	–	–
Civic engagement in restoration & protection activities	–	–	\$0.900
Subtotal	\$11.230	\$18.166	\$61.420
January 2009 Addendum			
Wastewater and stormwater infrastructure	\$8.410	\$0.300	\$50.0
Drinking water source protection	–	–	\$8.0
Education and public engagement	–	–	\$8.0
Research and tool development	–	–	\$8.0
Subtotal	\$8.410	\$0.300	\$74.0
TOTAL	\$24.950	\$53.975	\$171.829

Attachment B: Clean Water Council FY2010–2011 recommendations by budget category



 65% of the Clean Water Council's recommended biennial budget is devoted to implementation of restoration and protection activities.

 21% of the budget is recommended for water-quality monitoring and TMDL development.

 14% to drinking water, education and research.