

Subject Clean Water Fund

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Overview

This bill would provide supplemental appropriations from the clean water fund (CWF) in fiscal year 2023 to the Department of Agriculture (MDA), Pollution Control Agency (PCA), Department of Natural Resources (DNR), Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), Metropolitan Council, University of Minnesota, and the Public Facilities Authority (PFA).

The CWF is one of four funds established by the “Legacy Amendment,” a constitutional amendment passed by the voters in 2008 that raised the state’s sales tax 3/8 of one percent and dedicated the receipts. The clean water fund receives 33 percent of the revenues from the sales tax increase and must be spent “only to protect, enhance, and restore water quality in lakes, rivers, and streams and to protect groundwater from degradation.”

Summary

Section	Description
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1	Clean water fund appropriations.
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Subd. 1. Department of Agriculture. Appropriates \$2,000,000 to MDA to monitor trout streams in southeastern Minnesota. Requires MDA to monitor and test for microplastics and nanoplastics as part of certain testing work previously funded by the CWF.

Subd. 2. Pollution Control Agency. Appropriates money to the PCA as follows:

- \$2,000,000 to monitor tributaries near the shores of Lake Superior for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS);
- \$2,000,000 for enhanced monitoring of private wells in Washington County for PFAS;
- \$2,000,000 to monitor the Mississippi River for PFAS and other contaminants detected in Pig’s Eye Lake;

Section	Description
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- \$400,000 to monitor groundwater and surface waters in the Battle Creek Watershed for PFAS;
- \$2,000,000 to collect lead sinkers and other water quality activities through the Get the Lead Out program;
- \$5,000,000 to develop protocols for sampling and testing water for microplastics and nanoplastics and for implementing the protocols. Allows the PCA to transfer money to MDA, DNR, and the Department of Health to implement the protocols and for the additional microplastics and nanoplastics testing, monitoring, and assessment required under the bill. The PCA is also required to monitor and assess for microplastics and nanoplastics as part of certain monitoring assessment work previously funded by the CWF.

Subd. 3. Department of Natural Resources. Appropriates a total of \$402,000 to the DNR, PCA, and BWSR, to prepare a report on peatlands. Appropriates \$500,000 to DNR for a grant to Conservation Corps Minnesota for certain water quality improvement activities. Requires the DNR to assess for microplastics and nanoplastics as part of certain assessment work previously funded by the CWF.

Subd. 4. Board of Water and Soil Resources. Appropriates \$7,665,000 for conservation easements under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and another \$7,665,000 for conservation easements under CREP targeted at restoring peatlands.

Subd. 5. Metropolitan Council. Appropriates \$7,665,000 to the Metropolitan Council to replace privately owned residential lead drinking water service lines. Requires the money be used first to match federal money provided under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

Subd. 6. University of Minnesota. Appropriates \$437,000 to the University of Minnesota to study the risks to fish populations from the tire-derived chemical 6PPDq.

Subd. 7. Public Facilities Authority. Appropriates \$7,665,000 to the PFA to replace privately owned residential lead drinking water service lines. Requires the money be used first to match federal money provided under the IIJA.

Subd. 8. Availability and other requirements. Subjects the appropriations in the bill to the availability and other requirements provided in the clean water fund appropriations passed last year.



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