



**For Immediate Release**

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**State dollars for water quality projects approved by Board of Water and Soil Resources**  
***Project dollars provided by the Clean Water Fund (from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment)***

St. Paul - The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) has approved more than \$14 million in state grants for projects that will protect and restore Minnesota's streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater. The 20-member board approved the grants at its Jan. 28 regular meeting.

Funding for the competitive grants includes \$2 million from the state's general fund and \$12 million from the Minnesota Clean Water Fund -- one of four funds established through the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (approved by voters in 2008). Most of the funded projects also leverage local and federal dollars.

"These dollars are targeted for projects that will provide the greatest environmental outcomes," said John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director. "These dollars will enable local organizations to install conservation practices that have proven to be effective in reducing nonpoint pollution."

Competitive grant applications were submitted by cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, and watershed management organizations. The applications were reviewed and ranked by an interagency team that included BWSR, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, Minnesota Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

Many of the projects will establish conservation practices to control stormwater runoff in urban and agricultural areas. Others will improve water quality by replacing problem septic systems, upgrading feedlots and by establishing native vegetation along shorelines in environmentally sensitive areas.

The complete list of funded project is available on the BWSR website, [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us).

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources consists of 20 members, including local government representatives that deliver conservation programs, state agencies, and citizens. Board members are appointed by the governor to four-year terms. The board is the state's administrative agency for soil and water conservation districts, watershed districts, metropolitan watershed management organizations, and county water managers.

The BWSR mission: Improve and protect Minnesota's water and soil resources by working in partnership with local organizations and private landowners.

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