

# Clean Water Fund: Systematic Interagency Coordination

May 2010

**Background:** The 2009 MN Legislature passed, and Governor Pawlenty signed into law, the Clean Water, Land and Legacy funding bill, establishing the Clean Water Fund and appropriating approximately \$150 million for the state FY2010-2011 budget. Funding was distributed among state agencies and organizations to achieve specific purposes generally aimed at protection and restoration of Minnesota water resources and protection of drinking water.

**Coordination team:** Because several agencies / organizations have responsibilities in administering the fund, a Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team (coordination team) was established for the purposes of:

- Coordinating state agency clean water activities to achieve Clean Water Fund outcomes,
- Coordinating and leveraging funding opportunities to achieve Clean Water Fund purposes,
- Enhancing institutional knowledge for future water management activities, and
- Providing consistent Clean Water Fund information for public use, reporting and administrative procedures.

Representation includes:

Metropolitan Council	Chris Elvrum
MN Department of Agriculture	Joe Martin
MN Board of Water and Soil Resources	Julie Blackburn
MN Department of Health	John Linc Stine
MN Department of Natural Resources	Larry Kramka
MN Pollution Control Agency	Rebecca Flood
MN Public Facilities Authority	Terry Kuhlman
University of Minnesota	Deb Swackhamer
Team Coordinator	Jennifer Maleitzke (MPCA)

**Member roles:** Coordination team members will represent agency positions by expressing the perspectives of their organization; likewise will serve as spokespersons for the coordination team within the agency/organization that they represent. The team will employ systematic strategies for the 25-year life of the Amendment funding, using existing programs to avoid adding additional bureaucratic layers and to eliminate duplicating water management activities.

**CWF Sub Teams:** The coordination team established the following interagency sub teams to achieve sustainable management and protection of the state's surface water and groundwater resources. Each sub team has a liaison to the coordination team, should matters arise that need coordination team resolution. Sub teams include:

- Surface water monitoring / assessment (Larry Kramka)
- Protection / restoration strategy development (Rebecca Flood)
- Protection / restoration strategy implementation (Julie Blackburn)
- Research (Joe Martin)
- Groundwater / drinking water (John Linc Stine)
- Measures / outcomes (Deb Swackhamer)
- Communications (Jennifer Maleitzke)

**Sub team roles:**

- Establish a team leader;
- Inventory and assess current activities in specific topic areas;
- Develop outcomes and measures;
- Report on outcomes and measures to coordination team coordinator;
- Share data with stakeholders;
- Identify and foster opportunities for civic engagement;
- Identify areas where efficiencies could be realized or enhanced; and
- Optimize opportunities to leverage CWF dollars with other funding programs.

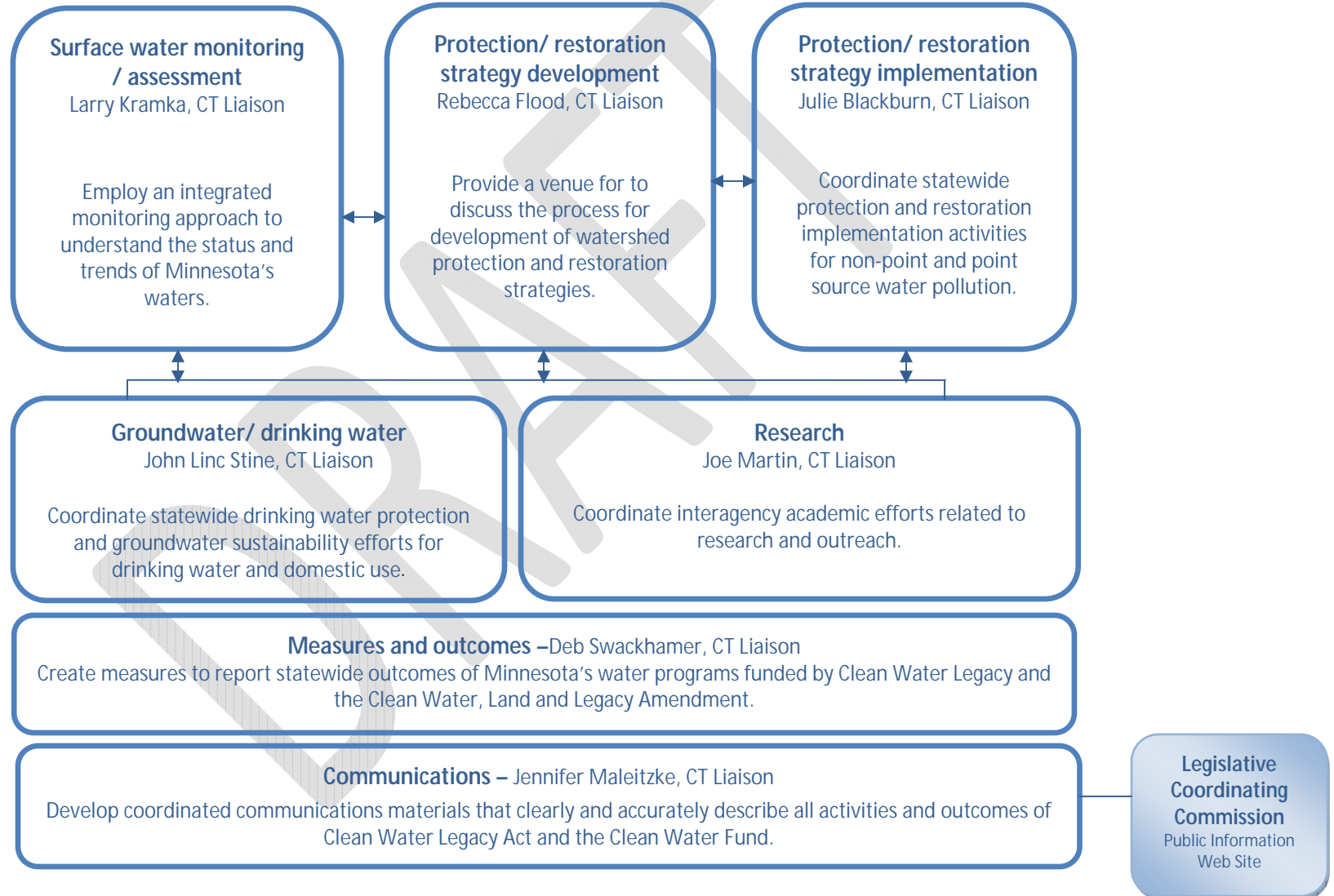
**System expectation:** Each sub team will be integrally linked to achieve the overall broad goal of protecting the state's public health, economic health and eco system health.



# Clean Water Fund Interagency Coordination Team

BWSR, MC, MDA, MDH, DNR, MPCA, PFA, U of M  
Team Purpose: Clean Water Fund activity coordination

## Clean Water Fund Coordinator



**Other state water resource management efforts:** The coordination team recognizes there are many other state water resource management efforts underway. The coordination team will monitor these efforts to identify opportunities for collaboration, including but not limited to: the Legislature, Clean Water Council, Lessard-Sams Outdoor Heritage Council, Environmental Quality Board, Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources, U of M Sustainability Framework, Federal Stimulus and the Great Lakes Restoration.

## Surface water monitoring / assessment

CT liaison: Larry Kramka

**Charge / scope:** Coordinate surface water monitoring and assessment to ensure efforts maximize efficiency, integrate the work of federal and local partners (including volunteers), support agency roles and programs, and provide for effective Clean Water Fund implementation. The team will promote an integrated monitoring and assessment approach to understand the status and trends of Minnesota's surface water quantity, quality, physical attributes, and biology. These data will be used to inform TMDLs/protection strategy development, guide implementation of restoration and protection plans, identify research needs and inform resource management decisions.

### Membership:

- Jason Moeckel, DNR
- Dan Stoddard and Heather Johnson, MDA
- Shannon Lotthammer, MPCA
- Randy Ellingboe, MDH
- Kent Johnson, Met Council

### Tasks:

- Evaluate agency surface water monitoring activities to identify gaps in data needed to accomplish the charge, and develop a strategy/strategies to address the gap(s).
- Describe coordination efforts and identify opportunities to further enhance monitoring coordination, including (as applicable) co-locating monitoring sites, adjusting schedules to provide data to meet multiple goals, employing the watershed approach to organize and align monitoring efforts, etc.
- Review local and federal monitoring/assessment efforts and capabilities (including volunteer efforts) and identify opportunities to further engage those efforts/capabilities to help meet the state's monitoring and assessment needs.
- Establish a process with the Groundwater/Drinking Water Team to ensure coordinated collection and sharing of surface water and groundwater information needed by both groups.
- Develop a coordinated funding proposal to continue Clean Water Fund monitoring efforts already underway and address any identified gaps.
- Identify needs, opportunities and actions steps to further enhance data management, sharing and access.

**Measures:** Team will develop

### Anticipated outcomes:

- Surface water monitoring activities in Minnesota are conducted in an efficient and coordinated manner.
- The integrated monitoring approach informs decision-making efforts for protection/restoration strategy development, implementation, research needs, and resource management.
- The state remains on schedule to assess its surface waters on a ten-year rotating watershed cycle.
- State agency monitoring and assessment efforts effectively employ the capacities of federal agencies, LGUs, local groups, and volunteers to help meet monitoring needs.
- Monitoring and assessment data are easily accessible to all users.

## Protection / restoration strategy development

CT liaison: Rebecca Flood

**Charge / scope:** Provide a venue for the agencies to discuss the process to develop statewide watershed protection and restoration strategies.

The team will ensure agency watershed protection and restoration strategies meet TMDL requirements by: setting targets and goals, using data from stressor identification and developing models and using local studies that identify priority management zones. The team will coordinate strategies for protection and restoration with access to program funds for implementation.

Watershed protection and restoration strategies will include the development of implementation plans which identify and document specific areas for BMPs and will include plans to engage citizens of the watershed in the process. Strategies will also take into account goals and objectives contained in existing local water and land use plans.

### Membership:

- Robert Finley/Glenn Skuta, MPCA
- Steve Woods, BWSR
- Dave Wright, DNR
- Adam Birr, MDA

### Tasks:

- Use pilot watersheds to identify key watershed framework components.
- Establish procedures for integrating citizen engagement.
- Establish procedures for stressor identification and modeling.
- Define methodology for sub-watershed load monitoring.
- Establish methodology for completing comprehensive watershed-based TMDLs and protection strategies.
- Establish procedures for integrating watershed goals into local water plans.
- Meet with the implementation sub team to define the coordination necessary to transition from the planning stage to delivery of implementation funds to major watersheds.

**Measures:** Team will develop

### Draft outcomes:

- All watershed protection and restoration strategies will meet TMDL requirements.
- Watershed protection and restoration strategies will inform implementation efforts.
- Citizens will become engaged in their watersheds and the efforts around improving and protecting the state's waters.

## Protection / restoration strategy implementation

CT liaison: Julie Blackburn

**Charge / scope:** Coordinate statewide CWF protection and restoration implementation activities for non-point and point source water pollution to achieve the best environmental outcomes.

The team will develop strategies to align CWF implementation dollars to recommendations from the protection / restoration strategy development team. Strategies for fund deployment will include TMDL implementation plans and existing state approved water plans. In order to streamline funding, reduce local delivery system administrative demands, and maximize leveraging efforts, the scope of this team will also include 319 and Clean Water Program funds as well as other non-point implementation loan and grant programs.

### Membership:

- Dave Weirens/Wayne Zellmer, BWSR
- Jeff Freeman, PFA
- Lisa Thorvig/Gaylen Reetz, MPCA
- Rob Sip/Barbara Weismann, MDA
- Dave Leuthe, DNR
- Art Persons, MDH

### Tasks:

- Coordinate with the protection / restoration strategy development sub team to fund implementation activities.
- Identify methods to develop a streamlined RFP process and make recommendations to the coordination team.
- Establish priorities for municipal stormwater and wastewater projects; funding agencies will coordinate their activities to address those priorities.
- Evaluate program rules for ranking projects to achieve to best environmental outcome.
- Develop recommendations for the research sub team on priority research projects to better evaluate and determine environmental outcomes.
- Refine reporting processes that provide the greatest accountability for both administrative and environmental outcomes without adding additional burdens for grantees.
- Develop messaging so that funding opportunities, requirements, and targets are known by potential grantees in a clear, precise and timely manner.

**Measures:** Team will develop.

### Draft outcomes:

- Implementation activities are coordinated statewide for non-point and point source pollution to achieve best environmental outcome.
- Implementation funding is streamlined, uniform and timely.
- Results of grant recipients' efforts are reported in a timely and accurate manner that allows for clear communication of project outcomes and impacts.

# Groundwater and drinking water

CT liaison: John Linc Stine

**Charge / scope:** Coordinate statewide groundwater and drinking water protection and management efforts

The team will identify priority groundwater and drinking water protection and management issues that may affect Minnesota's public health, welfare, and environment, and develop strategies for addressing them. The team will focus on activities that affect groundwater and drinking water quality and sustainability including issues related to the flow between groundwater and surface water and ecosystem protection. The team will also provide a forum for presentation and discussion of activities and reports on Minnesota ground water and drinking water.

Team members will provide a level of support that reflects their resource capabilities. All work shall be conducted cooperatively with the team members responsible collectively for the work and success of the team. The team may form subgroups to carry out its tasks. All decisions and products shall be developed by consensus of the agencies.

## Membership:

- Randy Ellingboe, Larry Gust, MDH
- Shannon Lotthammer, MPCA
- David Leuthe, Jim Sehl, DNR
- Dan Stoddard, MDA
- Dave Weirens, BWSR
- Chris Elvrum, Met Council

## Tasks:

- In cooperation with the Interagency Communications Team, prepare joint presentations on ground water and drinking water activities.
- Building on the report on Minnesota Ground Water and Surface Water Protection Strategies, develop interagency budget proposals.
- Coordinate and promote enhanced data coordination
- Charge and monitor activities of interagency sub team working on monitoring well installation and closure coordination
- Identify interagency coordination needs on issues regarding contaminants of emerging concern, and recommend a plan to address those needs
- Coordinate the interagency review of plans and reports on ground water and drinking water

**Measures:** Team will develop

## Draft outcomes:

- Statewide drinking water protection and groundwater sustainability efforts are coordinated.
- Drinking water protection issues that affect the health and welfare of Minnesotans will be prioritized and strategies that effectively address the barriers to successful implementation of drinking water protection efforts in Minnesota will be developed.
- Groundwater protection issues that affect ecosystem services, sustainability and surface water quality/quantity will be prioritized and strategies that effectively address the barriers to successful implementation of groundwater protection efforts in Minnesota will be developed.
- ? Additional outcomes that relate to interagency coordination (given the multi-agency approach MN has to GW protection), groundwater monitoring/mapping/information gathering, and GW-SW interactions?

## Research

CT liaison: Joe Martin

**Charge / scope:** Facilitate discussions to better coordinate interagency academic efforts related to applied research, focused on nonpoint source knowledge gaps.

The team will identify ways to leverage resources from local, state, federal and academic sectors, facilitate partnerships, eliminate duplicative research and outreach efforts, and identify ways to most effectively spend Clean Water Fund dollars.

### Membership:

- Adam Birr/Bruce Montgomery, MDA
- Joel Peterson, BWSR
- Tim Larson, MPCA
- Don Periera, DNR
- Deb Swackhamer, U of M

### Tasks:

- Assess all past, current and/or anticipated research efforts and expenditures related to better understanding of impaired waters (e.g. standards, load allocations, conservation practice effectiveness, etc.)
- Identify major gaps in understanding or assumptions of impaired waters causes and remediation efforts.
- Identify ways to better use technology (e.g. LIDAR) to identify sensitive areas and to have local conservation professionals use that technology.

**Measures:** Team will develop

### Draft outcomes:

- Compile past research efforts/findings and format into searchable database/repository.
- Coordinate all future state-funded research efforts related to better understanding impaired waters.
- Coordinate and liaise with LCCMR and 319 proposals/projects.
- Develop pilot projects with local units of government to use precision conservation technology and target practices to sensitive areas of the landscape.
- Develop better framework for outcome reporting and effectiveness of conservation practices.
- Report outreach findings to agency managers to facilitate adaptive management.

## Measures and outcomes

CT liaison: Deb Swackhamer

**Charge / scope:** Create measures to report statewide outcomes of Minnesota's progress implementing the Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

This work is meant to show the “big picture” of how Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment funds are being used to protect and restore waters. The team will also determine a strategy for coordinating data and work with the communications sub team for delivering the key messages to interested audiences.

### Membership:

- Barbara Weismann and Dwight Wilcox, MDA
- Andy Holdsworth and David Wright, DNR
- Marcey Westrick, BWSR
- Sheila Grow, MDH
- Suzanne Hanson, Dana Vanderbosch, Jeff Risberg, and Brian Livingston, MPCA

### Tasks:

- Create measures for reporting statewide outcomes of MN Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment (majority of measures done, revisions being made in pilot phase).
- Test measures in pilot watershed and other ways (winter/spring 2010).
- Revise measures based on testing (spring/summer 2010).
- Inform the development of a data portal system that will link critical water data together.
- Work with communications sub team to design tools to communicate results on: water projects, TMDLs, implementation, drinking water and agency efficiency.

**Measures:** Team will develop.

### Draft outcomes:

- Measures are developed to report statewide outcomes of the Clean Water Legacy Act and the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.
- “Big picture” outcomes of CWLA and CWF work are reported to key audiences by easily understandable communication vehicles.



## Communications

CT liaison: Jennifer Maleitzke

**Charge / scope:** Develop coordinated communications materials that clearly and accurately describe activities and outcomes of CWLA and CWF.

The team will coordinate communication efforts from each sub team, identify communication opportunities and execute accordingly (media pitches, web stories, op/ed pieces, joint news releases), communicate with team members in event of a media interview that will affect all agencies and collaborate with agency staff for data submittal to the Legislative Coordinating Commission public information Web site.

### Membership:

- Cori Rude-Young, MPCA
- Scott Pengelly, DNR
- Jon Fure, BWSR
- Rob Sip, MDA
- Stew Thornley/Michele Ross, MDH
- Jeff Freeman, PFA
- Sara Smith, Met Council
- Nina Shepherd, U of M

### Audiences:

- Internal agency staff
- Legislature
- Interested water entities (LGUs, watershed districts, etc.)
- Media
- General public (via the LCC Web site/agency Web sites)

### Tasks:

- Identify CWF key messages by agency and as an interagency team.
- Develop standards (and templates?) for joint communication products.
- Develop and maintain Clean Water Fund web pages on each agency Web site, including agency CWF activities, joint funding opportunities, agency contacts (include links to partner agencies).
- Develop coordinated materials for the overall CWF efforts (joint fact sheets, presentations, reports, etc).
- Develop materials for legislative session as needed (fact sheets, presentations, reports, etc.).
- Develop materials for the Legislative Coordinating Commission Web site.

**Measures:** Team will develop

### Draft outcomes:

- Audiences are aware of and understand activities and outcomes of the CWF.
- Legislature receives timely and informational fact sheets and reports about CWF activities and outcomes.
- Agency web pages and LCC site have timely, up-to-date CWF information.