# Clean Water Fund: Systematic Interagency Coordination reporting

| **Reporting month:**  **March 2011** |  | **Work plan task** | **Status**  (Complete, In Progress or  Not yet started) | **Measure** | **Deliverable** |
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| **Surface water monitoring / assessment** |  |  |  |  |
|  | 1) Evaluate agency surface water monitoring and assessment activities to identify gaps in data needed to accomplish the charge, and develop a strategy/strategies to address the gap(s). | **GREEN**  **Complete**  Annually recurring task | * Not Applicable | 1. Strategies identified included: 2. Enhanced stressor identification; 3. Lake IBI tool development (expanded effort for shallow lakes); 4. Expanded subwatershed load monitoring efforts; 5. Long term monitoring needs (Sentinel Watersheds) in collaboration with Research team. 6. Ongoing coordination with the strategy development team for data needs. |
|  | 2) 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. | **GREEN**  **In progress** |  | 1. State level and Met Council efforts compiled into spreadsheet. 2. Ongoing discussions around coordinating schedules as needed. 3. Agencies have discussed coordinating sampling plans for 2011, further details worked out during winter planning sessions. |
|  | 3) Develop a coordinated funding proposal to continue Clean Water Fund monitoring efforts already underway and address any identified gaps. | **GREEN**  **Complete** |  | 1. See 1) above. 2. Gaps were identified and incorporated into biennial budget discussions; 3. Ongoing monitoring efforts (fy10/11) were jointly reviewed and determined to be necessary and on track. |
|  | Identify needs, opportunities and actions steps to further enhance data management, sharing and access. | **GREEN**  **In Progress** |  | 1. MDA and MPCA coordinating on water quality data through EQuIS; 2. DNR, MPCA, Met Council, MDA coordinating on water quantity and other continuous monitoring data management program. |
|  | 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. | **GREEN**  **In Progress** |  | 1. Shared membership across teams ensuring sufficient sharing of information. |
|  | 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. | **YELLOW**  **In Progress**  The team identified this as a lower priority than other tasks. This will be addressed in 2011 |  |  |
| **Protection / restoration strategy development** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Establishing a methodology for developing watershed restoration and protection strategies including stressor identification work and identification of priority management zones (PMZs) | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing** | * Outline of methods | * Draft paper completed |
|  | Establish procedures for integrating strategies and PMZs into local water plans | **GREEN**  **In Progress**  We will be reviewing and revising an existing joint MPCA/BWSR that outlines how this task will be accomplished**.** | * Whether or not strategies are incorporated into local plans through amendments or at the time of scheduled revisions. | * Guidance document. |
|  | Making recommendations to the surface water monitoring/assessment sub team on types of information needed to develop strategies and identify PMZs. | **GREEN**  **In Progress**  An initial meeting was held with the team on 10/12.  Follow-up meeting held 10/17/11 |  | * Document detailing scope and nature of monitoring data necessary for developing strategies and priority management zones. |
|  | Making recommendations to the Protection/Restoration Strategy Implementation Subteam on use of strategies and PMZs to target implementation funds | **YELLOW**  One meeting held with implementation team to exchange ideas for connecting PMZ strategies with implementation activities.  Follow-up meetings planned  Additional inter-agency meetings held with regional staff  . |  | * Document describing how implementation priorities are aligned with PMZs include within major watershed protection & restoration studies. |
| **Protection / restoration strategy implementation** |  |  |  |  |
|  | Coordinate with all teams on CWF implementation strategies and activities. | **GREEN**  **In Progress** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
|  | Identify methods to develop a streamlined and coordinated implementation project identification (i.e. RFP) process and make recommendations to the coordination team. | **GREEN**  **In Progress** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
|  | Evaluate water quality implementation program rules, policies and procedures to identify policy and statute changes that can address gaps, overlaps and conflicts between and within programs to maximize coordination and achievement of the best environmental outcome. | **GREEN**  **In Progress** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
|  | Establish priorities for surface water, groundwater and drinking water implementation projects, including, municipal stormwater and wastewater projects; funding agencies will coordinate their activities to address those priorities. | **YELLOW**  **Not Yet Started** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
|  | Develop recommendations to ensure the local government delivery system is strong and up to the challenge of protecting and restoring Minnesota’s waters. These recommendations could include both monetary and nonmonetary means of support. | **YELLOW**  **Not Yet Started** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
|  | Identify the key elements and level of detail that an implementation plan should have for purposes of implementing overall CWF goals. | **YELLOW**  **Not Yet Started** | * Not Yet Developed. Workplan is still being refined; measures will be developed as workplan refinement continues. | * Workplan is still being refined; deliverables will be identified and developed as workplan refinement continues. |
| **Research** |  |  |  |  |
| Work plan #1 | Assess all past, current, and/or anticipated research efforts and expenditures related to better understanding of impaired waters. | **GREEN**  **Complete**  Team members inventoried past and current agency sponsored/partnered research projects related to impaired waters. This inventory will be updated periodically. | * Each team member will be responsible for gathering information for their respective agency. | * A comprehensive list of research projects the state has been in engaged in relative to impaired waters. This information could serve as the basis for a more comprehensive research database (**see MNAgencyResearchInventory\_V2.docx**). * The CWC recommended an appropriation for FY12-13 for a research database. MDA has begun phase I of this effort with FY10-11 funds and will coordinate with the team to implement phase II using the additional resources. |
| Work plan #2 | Identify major gaps in understanding or assumptions of impaired waters causes and remediation efforts. | **GREEN**  **In Progress/ongoing**  The team has had an on-going discussion of research gaps relative to impaired waters. | * Requests for proposals from state agencies concerning impaired waters research projects will be well coordinated. | * Continuing coordination on agency sponsored research efforts such as 319, MDA CWF, etc. * Team members are serving on Technical Advisory Committees for various MDA CWF research projects that are beginning from the fall RFP. |
| Work plan #3 | Identify ways to better use technology to identify sensitive areas and to have local conservation professionals use that technology. | **GREEN**  **In Progress/ongoing**  Related to this task, the research team is developing a design document on sentinel watersheds. These are small to medium sized watersheds that would be intensely monitored at multiple scales to understand the relationship between land use and water quality as well as evaluate BMPs to inform impaired waters studies. | * A research project was funded with MDA CWF funds to develop a sentinel watershed framework. This project will be coordinated with a number of state, federal, local, and academic entities. | * A final report with recommendations identifying sentinel watersheds. |
| **Groundwater / drinking water** |  |  |  |  |
| Work plan #1 | Establish regular meeting schedule | **GREEN**  **Complete**  Meeting schedule was established—1st Thursday of each month from 9-11:30 a.m. | * Open communication exists between team members; * Members can respond quickly to requests from coordination team; * Provide team time to brainstorm innovative communication approaches to disseminate CWF information | * Monthly team meetings will open the lines of communication between the agencies; * Team is nimble to respond to coordination team requests * Team disseminates CWF information |
| Work plan #2 | Develop Groundwater/drinking water measures and outcomes | **GREEN**  **In Progress**  Draft measures developed and currently working on metadata sheets and scheduling next steps in measuring | * Measures and outcomes acceptable to team developed. | * Groundwater/Drinking water measures and outcomes delivered to Measures and Outcomes team. |
| Work plan #3 | In cooperation with the Interagency Communications Team, prepare joint presentations on ground water and drinking water activities. | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing**  **Complete**   * Groundwater Protection Strategies, April 2010 * Presentation on groundwater protection strategies to Clean Water Council in April 2010 | * Resources available to team members and others. | * Materials to provide effective communication on individual and joint state agency activities on groundwater and drinking water provided to public, governor, legislature and agencies. |
| Work plan #4 | Evaluate and recommend interagency GW/DW budget proposals | **GREEN**  **Complete**   * Reviewed interagency CWF budget proposals, July – October 2010 * Proposals included in Governor’s budget proposal | * Address gaps in individual agency budget proposals. * Coordinated, efficient use of state funds for groundwater and drinking water protection and restoration activities. | * Budget proposals that address multi-agency efforts not addressed by individual programs. |
| Work plan #5 | Coordinate and promote enhanced data coordination | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing**   * Review MPCA shift from STORET to EQuIS and MPCA/DNR/MCES effort to replace and upgrade the Hydstra database * Under development:   + Strategies and options for developing and funding project(s) to coordinate data sharing among agencies   + Form subteam to develop plan for data management and coordination   + Single webpage resource with links to all current agency web-based ground and surface water data | * A system that allows efficient access to water resource data. | * Data portal |
| Work plan #6 | Charge and monitor activities of interagency sub-team working on monitoring well  installation and closure coordination | **GREEN**  **In Progress**  Sub-team formed | * Well installation coordinated * Existing well network reviewed | * Effective use of state resources for monitoring activities |
| Work plan #7 | Identify interagency coordination needs on issues regarding contaminants of emerging  concern, and recommend a plan to address those needs | **GREEN**  **In Progress /Ongoing**   * MDH Report on CECs completed * Summaries among agencies on progress-to-date on Clean Water Fund activities on contaminants of emerging concern, and discusses future activities and proposals | * Clear, coordinated effort for addressing CECs * Effective use of state resources for evaluating contaminants of emerging concern * Address ecological concerns from CECs | * Plans for addressing CECs * Plan for sharing of information among team members, particularly for agencies and the public |
| Work plan #8 | Coordinate the interagency review of plans and reports on ground water and drinking  water | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing**  **Complete**   * Several agency reports and plans have been developed with participation of Team members | * Agency plans and reports reflect the interagency coordination utilized to implement * Team is aware of plans and reports that concern and affect Minnesota groundwater and drinking water, and takes advantage of opportunities to link to groundwater and drinking water strategies developed or adopted by state agencies | * Reports that demonstrate interagency approach to addressing groundwater and drinking water issues |
| Work plan #9 | Develop approach for groundwater management areas on statewide basis | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing**   * Refine approach based on interagency discussions | * Agency plans and reports reflect the interagency coordination utilized to implement | * Demonstrate interagency approach to addressing groundwater and drinking water issues |
| **Measures / outcomes** |  |  |  |  |
| Vision is to not limit ourselves by existing data, but to challenge ourselves to get data for things we want to report on. By focusing what is important, we necessarily need more time/energy to work towards our goals. | Create measures | **GREEN**  **In progress** |  | * 37 performance measures have been developed, 18 of which are now ready for data collection and reporting. The latest additions are groundwater and drinking water measures. Others need to wait until data is available for reporting (e.g., priority management zones) or need further development, such as social measures and stressor identification. |
|  | Test measures | **GREEN**  **In Progress (small scale)** |  | * Testing will need to continue as measures are refined and reported over time. |
|  | Inform the development of data portal system  Progress Report | **GREEN**  **In Progress/Ongoing**  **GREEN**  **In Progress**  Draft completed Jan. 2011. Presented to Clean Water Council; all agencies getting feedback from their management on draft; next step is working meeting with Coordination Team to get comments on the draft and discuss how/when to report on measures that are ready. |  | * Creating understanding of needs, various agency connections * Draft Progress Report – completed in January, 2011. To be finalized following working meeting with Coordination Team. |
| **Communications** |  |  |  |  |
| Work plan #1 | Establish regular meeting schedule and guidelines for group communication. | **GREEN**  **Complete**  Meeting schedule was established—1st Thursday of each month from 9-10 a.m.; group communication notification standards developed, alerting team members when: CWF news releases are sent, multi-agency presentations are given, media contact is made and all-agency communication products are updated. | * Open communication exists between team members; * Members can respond quickly to requests from coordination team; * Provide team time to brainstorm innovative communication approaches to disseminate CWF information; * Notification standards allow team members to be aware of events at other agencies. | * Monthly team meetings will open the lines of communication between the agencies; * Team is nimble to respond to coordination team requests; * Team develops new methods to disseminate CWF information; * Group notification standards keep all team members abreast of events at each agency. |
|  | Work plan #2 | Create and maintain standard content guidelines to be used consistently on communication pieces. | **GREEN**  **Complete**  CWF tagline, reference information and templates developed. | * Tagline, reference information and templates are used on CWF communication pieces. | * Communication pieces build awareness through consistent themes, look and feel of CWF-related materials. |
| Work plan #3 | Identify communication liaison to work with other CWF teams. | **GREEN**  **In progress**  Team members were assigned to the various sub teams / not all are liaising yet. | * Communication team members are aware of events in each sub team. | * Team members identify communication opportunities from each team; * Team members provide easy access to the public about use of CWF dollar and accomplishments. |
| Work plan #4 | Develop and maintain calendar of CWF grant opportunities. | **GREEN**  **In progress**  Team members were assigned to gather agency information about grant opportunities | * Calendar and supporting information is developed. | * Public, local units of government, media, advocacy groups, and Clean Water Council aware of grant opportunities. * Groups apply for CWF grants. |
| Work plan #5 | Develop CWF agency web pages and provide content to LCC for public information site. | **GREEN**  **Complete**  Team members developed content information for agency pages and content to send to LCC site. | * Web pages developed; * LCC site includes content from communication team. | * Web pages build awareness of CWF activities; * CWF information readily available through LCC site and individual agency sites. |
| Additional updates | Members are providing news stories for the interagency news – stories about projects on the ground as a result of CWF | **GREEN**  **In progress** |  |  |
|  | Developed interagency PowerPoint for technical audience, identifying roles and responsibilities of each agency. | **GREEN**  **Complete**  PowerPoint is complete, working on talking points. |  |  |