



# Working for Minnesota's Water

## May 2016 Snapshots



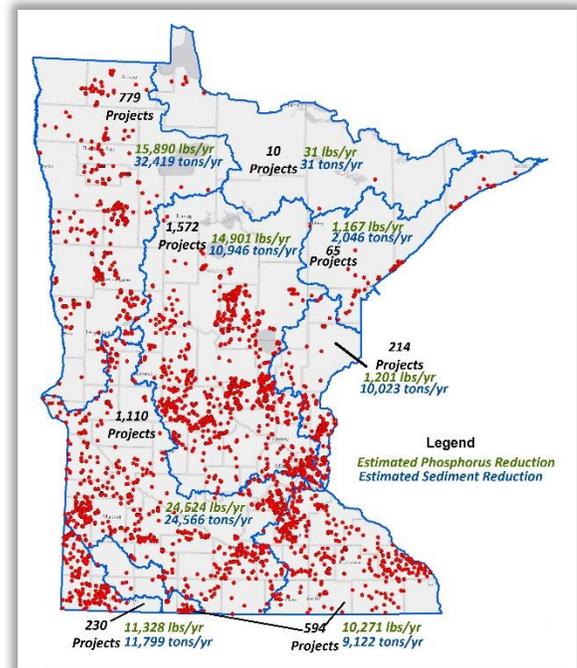
Governor Dayton proclaimed April 17-23<sup>rd</sup> Water Action Week in Minnesota. Throughout the week, the governor and leadership from many state agencies visited classrooms, project sites, farms, and research facilities to highlight the efforts to address Minnesota's water quality challenges. At the Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR), it was an opportunity to highlight the work being done by local governments and private landowners across the state to restore and protect Minnesota's water resources.

Since the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment passed in 2008, BWSR and its partners have worked to make measurable progress toward local and state water quality goals. Throughout the state, in urban and rural environments, landowners and their local government conservation agencies have worked together to be a part of the solution.

The goal of the BWSR's Clean Water Fund (CWF) Program is to help meet those statewide water quality goals through the prevention and reduction of nonpoint source pollution.

- The Competitive Grants program works through the local conservation delivery system to fund projects that are prioritized and targeted to the most critical source areas.
- CWF easements provide permanent protection of private land in riparian and groundwater locations, resulting in improved surface water quality and health and security of community water supplies.

Since the Legacy Amendment was passed, roughly \$111 million has been granted to 205 local government partners resulting in over 4,500 "on-the-ground" projects that support 43 total maximum daily load studies. The conservation practices these dollars supported are estimated to prevent 100,500 tons of sediment and reduce 79,300 pounds of phosphorus from entering Minnesota waters every year. In addition, over \$40 million has funded 837 easements permanently protecting 31,460 acres of Minnesota land. Every county in the state has been touched by Clean Water Fund work. Demand for these programs continues to greatly outpace available funding.



Completed Clean Water Fund projects.

In late 2014, BWSR's Targeted Watershed Program, which supports a watershed-based approach to local water management, expanded by another three watersheds to a total of seven. Projects are underway in the Chisago Chain of Lakes Watershed, Dobbins Creek Watershed, Long Lake Watershed, Poplar River Watershed, Sand Creek Watershed, Serpent Lake Subwatershed, and Seven Mile Creek Watershed.

Our local government partners are engaged and invested in protecting and restoring Minnesota's lakes, streams, rivers and groundwater. Legislative action in 2015 increased soil and water conservation district

services funding by \$11 million for both Fiscal Year 2016 and Fiscal Year 2017. The increase recognizes the role these districts play in providing technical assistance to private landowners and new demands for their services.

Given the demand for funding, BWSR is very deliberate about the grants process. BWSR allocates Clean Water Fund resources to our partners through a decision-making process based on sound science, prioritized local planning and commitment to identifying the most effective projects. Working together, we are making progress toward improving water quality for Minnesota's citizens.