

FRESHWATER

June 8, 2026

Jen Kader, Council Administrator
John Barten, Council Chair
Rich Biske, Council Vice Chair
Clean Water Council
520 Lafayette Road North
Saint Paul, MN 55115

Re: Clean Water Council FY28-29 funding proposal evaluations

Dear Council Administrator Kader, Chair Barten, Vice Chair Biske, and Clean Water Council members,

We have been following the Clean Water Council's review of funding proposals for the next biennium, and we appreciate the strategic and transparent process used to consider these important decisions.

The Council's [scoring rubric](#) is an excellent tool for evaluating proposals, and we hope that water quantity is given ample consideration as a co-benefit to water quality impacts. As you move toward FY28-29 funding recommendations, we have included several additional criteria below to help determine which proposals might be prioritized for increased funding.

- 1) Prioritize proposals that **fill gaps in clean water needs** that are not adequately addressed by other funding sources.
Examples: *MDH Private Well Initiative, MDH Future of Drinking Water, MPCA Chloride Reduction Program*
- 2) Prioritize proposals designed to **address future water challenges** using a regional and cross-sector approach.
Example: *Met Council Water Sustainability Support Program*
- 3) Prioritize proposals that **provide foundational scientific knowledge** that can guide implementation work or support sound water policy and permitting.
Examples: *DNR Aquifer Monitoring for Water Supply Planning, UMN/DNR County Geologic Atlas*
- 4) Prioritize proposals that help landowners **reduce agricultural pollution** on private lands.
Examples: *BWSR Working Lands and Floodplain Easements, MDA Forever Green Initiative, MDA Ag BMP Loan Program*

We look forward to the upcoming June 15 Council meeting, and to reviewing the preliminary budget recommendations later this summer.

Thank you for considering these comments, and for your work to protect and improve Minnesota waters.



Michelle Stockness, PE
Executive Director, Freshwater

2550 University Ave Suite 212N | St. Paul, MN 55114 | 651.313.5800 | freshwater.org

Freshwater is a nonprofit organization working to inspire and empower people to value and preserve water.