

FACT SHEET | Investing in Clean, Affordable Water for Minnesotans

2018 Budget for a Better Minnesota

In the Land of 10,000 Lakes, Minnesotans expect clean, affordable water, no matter where they live. But over 40 percent of Minnesota's waters are listed as impaired or polluted. Experts estimate that Minnesota communities will need \$11 billion in water infrastructure improvements over the next two decades to replace and upgrade aging treatment facilities and expand systems to accommodate economic growth and increased demand. Governor Dayton's public works proposal would invest \$167 million in our water resources, protecting them for future generations of Minnesotans.

Providing Safe, Affordable Drinking Water

- **Water Infrastructure Funding Program** – Governor Dayton's public works proposal would provide \$80 million for the Water Infrastructure Funding Program to increase aid to communities that are rehabilitating aging wastewater and drinking water infrastructure systems. The program helps communities address existing water infrastructure needs while keeping costs affordable for their residents.
- **Point Source Implementation Grant Program** – Approximately 4,603 bodies of water in Minnesota are now impaired – meaning they are not swimmable, fishable, or most importantly, drinkable. The public works proposal would invest \$62 million in the Point Source Implementation Grant Program to help lift the burden on local governments to pay for needed water treatment plant upgrades, beginning to improve water quality across the state and reduce water costs for Minnesota consumers.
- **Clean Water & Drinking Water Revolving Funds** – Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$25 million in funding to match federal grants and increase lending capacity for affordable, low-interest loans to help local governments update essential clean water and drinking water projects to serve residents and businesses.

Supporting Clean Lakes, Rivers, and Other Bodies of Water

- **Funding Farmers, Protecting Waters** – In January 2017, Governor Dayton signed a landmark agreement to provide \$350 million in federal funding directly to Minnesota farmers, while working to protect and improve waters across 60,000 acres in 54 Minnesota counties. As part of the agreement, Minnesota must commit \$150 million in funding, with \$116 million already dedicated. This year, Governor Dayton's public works proposal would invest \$30 million to protect and improve our waters, while supporting Minnesota farmers.
- **Wetland Replacement** – Wetlands provide valuable habitat for wildlife, filter out pollutants and sediment for the protection of downstream water quality in lakes and streams, recharge groundwater supplies, and lessen the impacts of floods by storing water during intense rain storms and snow melt. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes a \$5 million investment to replace wetlands that have been lost to road construction across the state.
- **Grants to Improve Wastewater Treatment Systems** – All Minnesotans have a responsibility to protect water quality, including those living in urban communities. Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes \$5 million for grants to local governments for reducing the flow of clear water that enters wastewater systems and consumes capacity that is intended for economic growth. During heavy rain storms or flooding, this clear water can combine with wastewater to overwhelm treatment facilities, creating the risk of untreated discharge.

Protecting Minnesotans Against Water Damage

- **Protection Against Flooding** – Every spring, rising waters threaten to wreak havoc on communities across Minnesota. To help protect human life and property, Governor Dayton's public works proposal includes a \$20 million investment to help local communities mitigate the risk of flood damage.

- **Repairing and Reconstructing Dams** – Minnesota has more than 800 dams that are publicly owned, many of them are over 50 years old. Like any infrastructure, they need upkeep. A high hazard dam’s failure would cause rapid and unexpected flooding downstream. Other dams create desirable water levels on lakes and a dam failure would result in significant impacts on property values. Governor Dayton’s public works proposal includes a \$1 million investment for the repair, reconstruction and removal of dams, and for dam emergency response.

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For a full list of all projects included in Governor Dayton’s public works proposal, [CLICK HERE](#).