Minnesota’s
Source Water Protection
Grant Program

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Purposes

• Support SWP Plan Implementation

• Address High Risk Potential or Known Contamination Sources When a Plan is Not in Place

• Encourage Long-Term Involvement in SWP
Funding Sources

- Minnesota Clean Water Fund
- Cost Share from Many Different Local, State and Federal Sources
Minnesota Clean Water Fund

- State Constitutional Amendment Approved by Voters in November 2008
- Increased State Sales Tax by 3/8%
- Remains in Effect Until June 30, 2034
- Clean Water Fund Receives 1/3 of Revenue
- At least 5% must be Spent to Protect Drinking Water
CWF Funding for SWP

- MDH Received $2.15 Million for the 2010 – 2011 State Biennium
- Couldn’t Draw from the Fund Until January 2010
- Other State Agencies Also Use CWF to Support Their SWP Efforts
MDH Commitments

• Have WHP Plans in Place for All Community Water Suppliers by 2020

• Establish a SWP Gant Program for Public Water Suppliers
SWP Grant Program
Ad Hoc Workgroup

- Met Feb – March 2010 to Provide Advice

- AWWA, League of MN Cities, MN Rural Water Association, Congress of MN Resorts, MN Hospitality Association, MDH DWP staff, MN BWSR, and MPCA

- Reviewed and Modified MDH Initial Design
Grant Program Basics

• All Types of PWS Have Access to Funding to Support SWP
• A PWS is Ineligible if Under Administrative Penalty or Has an Active Grant
• Three Types of Grants
• $10,000 Cap for Individual Grants
• $30,000 Cap if Three or More PWS Apply
• MDH Makes the Final Decision
• First Come – First Served Basis
SWP Plan Implementation Grant

- Community or Nontransient Noncommunity Systems with an MDH-Approved SWP Plan
- Action(s) Funded Must be Identified in the SWP Plan
- No Cost Share Required
SWP Competitive Grant

• Two Categories
  • Community and Nontransient Noncommunity
  • Transient Noncommunity
• Require an Equal Financial Cost Share
• Funding Must Address a High Risk Potential or Known Contamination Source
• Action Must be Approved by MDH
• Cap Increased to $30,000 if Three or More PWS Apply
Results So Far

• 82 SWP Plan Implementation Grants Totaling $659,987

• 28 Competitive Grants for Community and NTNC Totaling $219,855 with $317,843 Cost Share

• 30 Competitive Grants for TNC Totaling $146,297 with $268,170 Cost Share
Uses for Grant Funds

• Well Sealing
• Studies to Locate New Wells
• Update Potential Contamination Source Inventories
• SWP Education
• Monitoring GW Quality in WHPAS
• Support Contingency Planning
• Improve Security for Wells
Uses for Grant Funds

• Hook Up to Another PWS System
• Construct Wells for TNC Systems
• Eliminate Potential Contamination Sources
• Support Land Owner Nutrient Management Efforts
• Support Conservation Reserve Program
• Video and/or Geophysical Logging of Community Wells
VIDEO AND GEOPHYSICAL LOGGING OF A CITY WELL
Gravel Pit Cleanup Next to City Wells

1 Load of Appliances

20 Cubic Yards of General Debris

6 Loads of Downed Trees – Done at No Cost for Mulch

3 Loads of Tires
Issues

• Some PWS Struggle with Completing the Two-Page Application Form
• 61% of the Last Round of TNC Applications Failed
• Starting Work Before an Agreement is in Place
• Coordinating Grant Funded Work with Other State Agencies
• Decreased Staffing at the Local Level
2011- 2012

• $1 Million for Grants out of the $2.8 Million Allocated for SWP
• Funding Added to Seal Unused Community Wells in 2012 ($250,000)
• Grants to Counties to Support SWP Planning
• Established a Schedule for Announcing Grant Availability
QUESTIONS