

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