



Clean Water Fund - Upgrade County Well Index

Fiscal Impact (\$000s)	FY 2014	FY 2015	FY 2016	FY 2017
Clean Water Fund				
Expenditures	390	390	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0	0
Net Fiscal Impact	390	390	0	0

Summary

The Minnesota County Well Index (CWI) is the principal source of well location, construction and associated geologic information in the state. It is used by the general public, communities, businesses, realtors, consultants, well contractors, researchers and local, state and federal agencies for managing and protecting public health, groundwater and drinking water supplies in Minnesota. Funding for the CWI will update the index’s technology infrastructure, eliminate a backlog in entering well records, and further expand the index’s use.

Background

The CWI contains more than 450,000 well records and is jointly managed by the Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) and the Minnesota Geological Survey. The information contained in the CWI provides a snapshot of the well, including geologic, and groundwater conditions, by providing details on well location, depth, construction, and water level. The CWI also facilitates locating and mapping wells onto aerial photos, and the development of groundwater models.

Clean Water Funding was provided for state fiscal years 2011-2012 to begin updating the CWI. The

CWI has a backlog of non-digitized paper records that need to be entered into the index. More than 15,000 of the approximately 70,000 historical well paper records have been entered in CWI.

Input from stakeholders, including well contractors, environmental consultants, state and local governments, helped identify enhancements to the CWI to help meet stakeholder needs. Funding is needed to continue implementation of the stakeholder updates and enhancements.

Proposal

MDH requests Clean Water Fund assistance to continue to enhance, update and expand CWI by:

- Completing backlogged well records.
- Updating the online search system including searchable images of original well records.
- Developing an application for well contractors to submit and manage well information online.
- Developing an online system/mobile application for pinpointing and submitting well locations using standardized GPS/GIS.
- Creating web services to provide access to data for external users.

For more information:

Legislative Liaison Matthew Collie, 651-201-5808
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Rationale

This project will enhance the CWI's capacity to support groundwater protection and prevent threats to drinking water supplies. Updating the CWI is necessary to support long-term groundwater protection efforts and provide stakeholders with cost-effective access to well records statewide. CWI is an essential tool for citizens, well contractors, private engineering and environmental firms, realtors, local governments, and state agencies. An enhanced CWI will provide them with the ability to rapidly locate and map wells, evaluate local and regional geology and groundwater flow, and aid in monitoring and tracking trends in groundwater quantity and quality over time.

Specifically, investing in CWI protects public health by providing accessible information that supports:

- Evaluation of the short- and long-term availability and quality of drinking water.
- Planning for the placement and protection of future drinking water wells, both public and private.
- Investigation of groundwater contamination and identification of actions that will protect drinking water supplies.

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