



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Still Waters Run Dirty – But Not for Long.**

***(Over \$16M in Clean Water Fund grant dollars awarded by the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources)***

Imagine your bathtub completely full of algae, those annoying blooms that choke lakes in the summer. You empty your tub and the next day it is full of algae again. Every day this winter you empty arm loads of that slimy, smelly goop from your tub – over 100 times each day for all of December, January, and February.

Got the picture in your mind? That's how much algae will be stopped from growing each year in McKusick Lake near the St. Croix River because of the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment Funds. ... And that's just one project.

Today, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced over \$16 million dollars in grants to 130 local governments for projects across Minnesota to achieve cleaner water.

The Brown's Creek Watershed District, a local conservation organization located near Stillwater, is one of the awardees for 2012. They'll work with partners to create a special sand filter to remove 118 pounds of phosphorus per year from the McKusick Lake area, ultimately benefiting the St. Croix River.

The Clean Water Legacy funds are targeting polluted and at-risk waters throughout the state. Some funded projects will create catchment areas to slow down water, allowing pollutants to filter out before reaching a lake or stream. Others will improve livestock waste management, filter water entering drainage systems, protect drinking water wells, and reduce soil erosion.

The need still outweighs available funds. According to John Jaschke, Executive Director of the BWSR, the state agency charged with coordinating and distributing Clean Water Funds. Nearly 250 applications requesting over \$48 million dollars were received for the \$16.8 million in available funds. "Thanks to the newly awarded Legacy Funds, our water will get cleaner and our soil will stay where it should: on the land and out of the water", Jaschke said. "BWSR continually strives to fund the most effective projects based on good science, sound planning and local commitment," Jaschke explained.

See how the legacy funds are affecting the land and waters important to you. For a complete list of projects, including a Minnesota map of project areas, visit [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us).

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