



**For Immediate Release**

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## **Competitive state grants available for water quality projects**

St. Paul – The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) announced today that \$16.6 million in competitive grants is available for projects that will protect and restore Minnesota's streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater. Funding for the competitive grants is provided by the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment.

BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke said interested citizens should contact an eligible local government unit to find out how they can support the grant application process and participate in local efforts to protect and restore water quality.

"Most of these dollars will be spent on conservation projects on privately owned lands, so citizen involvement is the key to the success of this grant program," said Jaschke.

Eligible projects include those that control stormwater runoff in urban and agricultural areas, or that will improve water quality by replacing problem septic systems, upgrading feedlots, or establishing native vegetation along shorelines in environmentally sensitive areas. Summaries of previously funded projects and more information about BWSR's role in the Legacy Amendment is available on the BWSR website: [www.bwsr.state.mn.us/citizens.html](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/citizens.html)

Minnesota's cities, counties, soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed districts, watershed management organizations, and joint powers organizations of these local government units are eligible for the grants.

The application period will begin August 8, 2011, and the deadline to apply is Sept. 20, 2011.

In addition to the competitive grants, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) has \$4.5 million available through its AgBMP Loan program, and interested landowners should apply for a loan during this same application period by contacting their SWCD.

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