



Minnesota
Pollution
Control
Agency

An Overview of the Clean Water Partnership Program

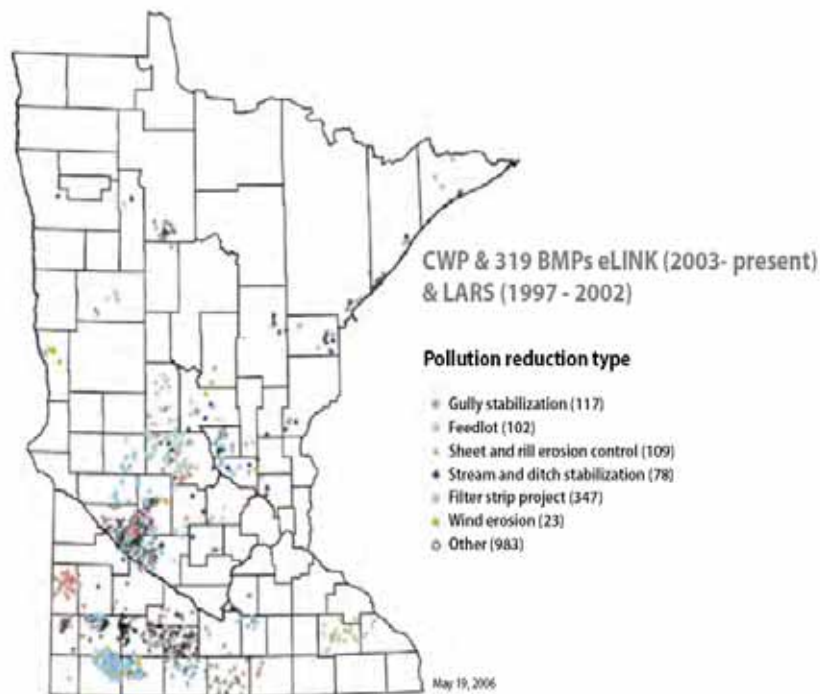
Water Quality/Clean Water Partnership/#1.09 January 2007

Partners may receive funding from two separate sources to address nonpoint source water pollution associated with runoff from agricultural and urban areas and other sources. The state CWP Program and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funding through Section 319 of the Clean Water Act allow local governments to assess and clean up water resources, promote public awareness, share information, and leverage resources to achieve greater environment benefits.

Program Purpose

The Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Program was created in 1987 by the Minnesota Legislature to address surface and ground water pollution from agricultural and urban sources. Through the program, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) supports the efforts of local units of government and citizens by providing financial and technical assistance to:

- diagnose problems and threats to water resources;
- develop solutions for addressing these problems;
- and implement these solutions to fix the problems that negatively impact lakes, streams and ground water, as well as to protect waters in good condition.



Types and sources of pollution addressed by the CWP

Pollution that negatively affects our water resources comes in the form of:

- Nutrients, such as phosphorus and nitrogen, that grow algae in our water;
- Bacteria that can make waters unhealthy to drink or swim in; and
- Soil that makes our waters cloudy and dirty.

Some sources of these pollutants addressed by the Clean Water Partnership Program include:

- urban and agricultural runoff,
- feedlots, and
- failing septic systems.

The CWP Program is administered in tandem with the Clean Water Act Section 319 Program. This federal grant program also addresses pollution sources, such as runoff excess nutrients and bacteria.

Results of the CWP Program

In the 19 award cycles of the CWP Program, the MPCA has awarded over \$28,000,000 in grants and over \$35,000,000 in loans to watershed projects all over the state. The project partners match CWP funds at least one-to-one. The CWP Program has leveraged over \$150 million in state, local and federal grant, and loan programs.

An analysis of environmental results of the program was recently performed for the period of 1996 to 2006.

Savings in the amount of phosphorus pollution of water bodies and in soil losses in watersheds with active CWP and 319 projects were estimated at:

- Soil Loss Reductions (per year) = 75,000 tons
- Sediment Reductions (per year) = 37,000 tons
- Phosphorus Reduction (per year) = 179,000 pounds

These pollution reductions were achieved by public and private partners working together to establish best land-use and water management practices, through the CWP Program, other assistance programs and the federal Clean Water Act.

For more information about the Clean Water Partnership Program, contact:

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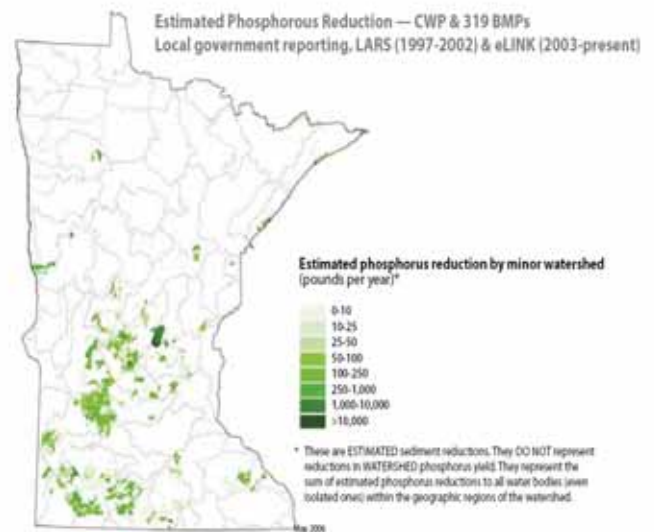
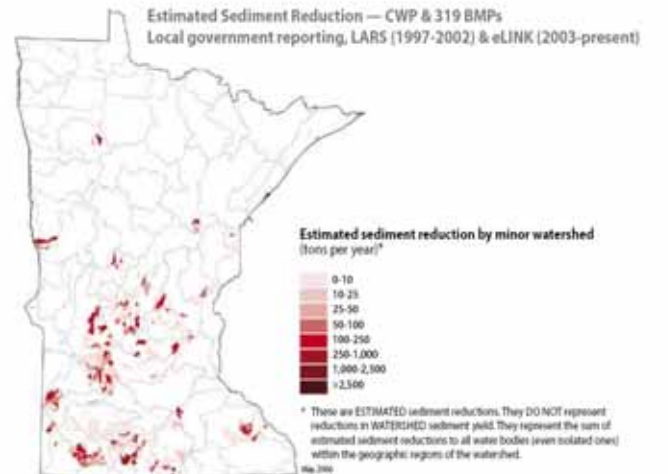
651-296-7701

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Visit the MPCA's Web site at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp.html>.

Results That Count: Reductions in Erosion and Phosphorus in Minnesota's Watersheds



Find case studies of specific CWP projects at: www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp.html