# Water Governance in Minnesota

## Clean Water Act 1972

Set a goal to restore and maintain the chemical, physical and biological integrity of the nation's waters.

## Safe Drinking Water Act 1974

Authorizes EPA to establish and enforce health-based standards for drinking water.

## U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Oversees flood prevention and construction activities within U.S. waters, including wetlands

## **Anishinaabe & Dakota Tribes**

Tribes have their own natural resource management programs and strive to maintain healthy ecosystems that allow their members to practice traditional hunting, fishing, and gathering.

### **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)**

Oversees Clean Water Act and Drinking Water Act

# U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Endangered Species Act for freshwater and terrestrial species

## Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)

A division of the U.S. Department of Agriculture that provides farmers and ranchers with assistance for voluntary conservation projects

#### Minnesota Governor's Office

Oversees state agencies responsible for water management and the Environmental Quality Board

# Pollution Control Agency (MPCA)

Implements Clean Water Act in MN; oversees industrial, construction, and municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4) stormwater permits; establishes water quality standards for lakes, rivers, streams & wetlands; maintains list of impaired waters.

# Department of Natural Resources (DNR)

Manages public waters.

Responsible for ordinary high water levels; groundwater appropriations; shoreland and floodplain management; aquatic invasive species;

## Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR)

Oversees soil and
water conservation
programs conducted
by local
government; MN
Wetland
Conservation Act;
local water plans.

### Department of Health

Protects drinking water quality establishes health-based standards for groundwater contaminants; issues fish consumption advisories

#### Department of Agriculture

Regulates the use of pesticides and fertilizers to protect water resources

#### Cities & Towns

Cities establish local policies, ordinances, and zoning. Towns may do planning and zoning. Many cities and towns manage stormwater through MS4 programs.

#### Counties

Do local water planning outside the metro area.

#### Metropolitan Council

Operates within the
7-county
metropolitan area.
Responsible for
wastewater
treatment; lake and
river water quality
monitoring; water
supply planning;
regional parks and
trails; future growth
planning.

#### **Watershed Districts**

Independent units of government with taxing and rule-making authority. Conduct flood prevention and water quality protection. Established by petition from citizens or local officials. 46 districts in MN. Only exist in some parts of the state.

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## Watershed Management Organizations

Created and funded through joint-powers agreements among cities in a watershed. Conduct flood prevention and water quality protection. Required in the 7-county metro area (if no watershed district exists).

#### Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)

Provide support for voluntary conservation projects.

Exist statewide.