

Final Abstract

Final Report Approved on December 15, 2025

M.L. 2022 Project Abstract

For the Period Ending June 30, 2025

Project Title: Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater

Project Manager: Aaron Patrick

Affiliation: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Mailing Address: 7678 College Road Suite 105

City/State/Zip: Baxter, MN 56425

Phone: (218) 316-3909

E-mail: aaron.patrick@state.mn.us

Website: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Funding Source:

Fiscal Year:

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 10h

Appropriation Amount: \$2,000,000

Amount Spent: \$1,813,537

Amount Remaining: \$186,463

Sound bite of Project Outcomes and Results

Over 1.7 million dollars were spent to assist 125 low-income landowners with the cost of replacing their noncompliant septic systems. Eliminating 125 noncompliant septic systems will directly protect and enhance groundwater and surface water in Minnesota for years to come.

Overall Project Outcome and Results

Noncompliant septic systems have a negative impact on groundwater and surface water in Minnesota that can ultimately impact public health. In some cases, landowners want to address their noncompliant septic system but are unable to afford to do so, leaving counties and landowners in a challenging spot. This project was designed to help bridge the financial gap for low-income landowners in Minnesota and was very much appreciated by counties and landowners alike. On average, landowners received \$14,174.65 with the amount of assistance ranging from \$585 to \$39,955.

Ten landowners were assisted in Anoka County, five landowners in Carlton County, 15 landowners in Carver County, nine landowners in Chisago County, eight landowners in Crow Wing County, 24 landowners in Dodge County, ten

landowners in Kandiyohi County, three landowners in Mille Lacs County, 30 landowners in Sherburne County, seven landowners in St. Louis County, and four landowners in Todd County. In total, the project assisted landowners in 63 cities across the 11 counties. The 125 septic systems that were repaired or replaced have resulted in 1,080 lbs. of phosphorus, 3,004 lbs. of nitrogen, and 7.7632E (seven quadrillion seven hundred sixty-three trillion two hundred billion) bacteria being removed from the environment. As a result, the amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the State of Minnesota where the septic systems were repaired or replaced.

Project Results Use and Dissemination

The MPCA published a bulletin article highlighting the project on April 15, 2024, and July 24, 2025. Both are attached. There are no photographs and there is no signage.



Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund

M.L. 2022 Approved Final Report

General Information

Date: December 19, 2025

ID Number: 2022-302

Staff Lead: Michael Varien

Project Title: Replacing Failing Septic Systems to Protect Groundwater

Project Budget: \$2,000,000

Project Manager Information

Name: Aaron Patrick

Organization: Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

Office Telephone: (218) 316-3909

Email: aaron.patrick@state.mn.us

Web Address: <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/>

Project Reporting

Final Report Approved: December 15, 2025

Reporting Status: Project Completed

Date of Last Action: December 15, 2025

Project Completion: June 30, 2025

Legal Information

Legal Citation: M.L. 2022, Chp. 94, Sec. 2, Subd. 10h

Appropriation Language: \$2,000,000 the second year is from the trust fund to the commissioner of the Pollution Control Agency to counties for grants to low-income landowners to address septic systems that pose an imminent threat to public health or safety or fail to protect groundwater. The issuance of a loan under Minnesota Statutes, section 17.117, for the purpose of replacing a failed septic system, shall not preclude a rural landowner from obtaining a grant under this paragraph or vice versa. This appropriation is available until June 30, 2025.

Appropriation End Date: June 30, 2025

Narrative

Project Summary: MPCA distributes grants to county SSTS programs. County program locates low-income landowners, within the county jurisdiction, and distribute fix-up grants to landowners to address failing septic systems (ITPHS or FTPGW).

Describe the opportunity or problem your proposal seeks to address. Include any relevant background information.

Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS) have a finite life-span, generally around 30 years, depending on system sizing and usage. When an SSTS fails it creates an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety (ITPHS) or Fails to Protect Groundwater (FTPGW) (Minn. R. 7080.1500 subp. 4). Once the failure is identified the landowner must repair or replace the failing system. The ITPHS statutory repair timeline is 10 months and FTPGW repair timelines, set by the LGU, are 10 months to 3 years. Currently, the cost to replace an SSTS is \$7,000 to \$20,000. Low-income landowners are unable to afford these costs, and as such, the failing systems remain in place and continue to pose a risk to the landowner, the neighbors, and groundwater.

Currently, there are 620,000 SSTS in MN, of which an estimated 107,000 systems are failing; 26,000 of those failures belong to low-income landowners. The existing MPCA grant program (Clean Water Funds), annually averages: \$1.3 million in distributions, \$1.9 million in requests, and 155 replacements. Yearly, 45-55 counties apply for new funding. This project will provide an additional grant that LGUs can apply for and help reduce the current funding shortfall.

What is your proposed solution to the problem or opportunity discussed above? Introduce us to the work you are seeking funding to do. You will be asked to expand on this proposed solution in Activities & Milestones.

The most effective method of assisting low-income landowners to upgrade their failing SSTS is via a grant program. More specifically, grants distributed to counties (who are statutorily required to operate SSTS programs) who then re-grant the money to low-income landowners with failing SSTS within the county. This is the most efficient solution because of the non-centralized method of SSTS administration in MN. Funding upgrades this way allows the county SSTS programs to prioritize those landowners with the greatest monetary need as well as prioritize those SSTS that pose the largest threat to groundwater, drinking, water, and public safety within the jurisdiction.

Additionally, allowing county SSTS programs to distribute money ensures more projects are funded as counties have a greater sense of need within their jurisdiction and can more accurately determine who should receive full funding versus partial funding. This is an important distinction because within low-income there are multiple tiers of incomes and system costs can range significantly; giving counties input in the process stretches available funds to the optimal number of projects. Counties will be responsible for selecting low-income values based on existing low-income grant program thresholds.

What are the specific project outcomes as they relate to the public purpose of protection, conservation, preservation, and enhancement of the state's natural resources?

Repair, or replacement, of SSTS deemed Imminent Threats to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater for low-income landowners. Specifically this will protect MN's water resources from pathogens, nutrients, and chemicals by reducing the amounts of untreated, or improperly treated, sewage introduced into groundwater or surface water. Additionally, abatement of Imminent Threats will reduce the risk of citizens of MN being exposed to sewage borne pathogenic organisms. Trackable outcomes are possible for Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, Fecal Coliform, nitrogen, and phosphorus; however, there are many additional positive outcomes related to synthetic materials and forever chemicals.

Project Location

What is the best scale for describing where your work will take place?

Statewide

What is the best scale to describe the area impacted by your work?

Statewide

When will the work impact occur?

During the Project and In the Future

Activities and Milestones

Activity 1: Grants Distributed to Counties

Activity Budget: \$2,000,000

Activity Description:

Grants are to be distributed to counties in a competitive manner. Counties will apply for funding from the MPCA to pass through to low-income landowners. To be eligible for funding counties must submit funding requests for amounts greater than \$100,000. Applications will be reviewed by the evaluation committee and priority ranked based on a number of criteria including: SSTS in Environmental Justice Areas, SSTS in watershed with identified E. Coli or nutrient surface water impairments, SSTS located in an SSTS Area or Community of Concern, SSTS in a cluster system, and total number of proposed SSTS fixes. Further priority will also be given to projects that are "shovel-ready."

No more than 20 grant applications will be selected to receive funding, and no awards less than \$100,000 will be made. Counties will be responsible for ensuring existing system failure status, landowner income verification, project cost review, and Certificate of Compliance issuance. Counties will also be responsible for reporting grant status to the MPCA at designated reporting timeframes and submitting appropriate documentation for each system repaired or replaced.

Activity Milestones:

Description	Approximate Completion Date
Request for Proposal Completion	November 30, 2022
Applications for funding due from counties	February 28, 2023
Evaluation and Scoring of Applications Completed	March 31, 2023
Contracts Completed with Counties Receiving Grants	May 31, 2023
Calendar Year 2023 County Reporting due to Project Manager	February 28, 2024
Calendar Year 2024 County Reporting Due to Project Manager	February 28, 2025
Final Project County Reporting Due to Project Manager	June 30, 2025

Dissemination

Describe your plans for dissemination, presentation, documentation, or sharing of data, results, samples, physical collections, and other products and how they will follow ENRTF Acknowledgement Requirements and Guidelines.

Results of the project will be disseminated to MN LGU SSTS programs via presentations and documentation at our annual LGU talking tour meetings. Additionally, results will be shared with other funding sources to better align funding with needs. A final report will also be posted on the MPCA SSTS webpage. Application forms for LGUs as well as homeowners will display the ENRTF logo on the front page and will include an attribution statement. All presentations and documentation at LGU meetings will contain an ENRTF logo and attribution statement or attribution slide. The final report of result will contain an ENRTF logo and attribution statement.

Long-Term Implementation and Funding

Describe how the results will be implemented and how any ongoing effort will be funded. If not already addressed as part of the project, how will findings, results, and products developed be implemented after project completion? If additional work is needed, how will this work be funded?

The long-term impact of this project is fewer failing SSTS in Minnesota. Specifically, those systems upgraded or replaced will provide adequate sewage treatment for low-income landowners for 30+ years. In addition, resolving failures with these funds will allow for other grant and loan monies to be directed to landowners that may not have received assistance. Also, this project will generate data related to cost of system upgrades as well as overall low-income needs across the state. This information will allow the MPCA to further prioritize funding for low-income landowners and will allow for more targeted funding requests.

Budget Summary

Category / Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Purpose	Gen. Ineligible	% Benefits	# FTE	Classified Staff?	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
Personnel										
SSTS Program Coordinator		Project Management and Grant Administration			34%	0.75	X	\$101,250	-	-
							Sub Total	\$101,250	\$41,707	\$59,543
Contracts and Services										
Up to 20 Applications	Subaward	Selection of SSTS projects, review of low-income eligibility, SSTS design and permitting review, verification of project completion, issuance of certificates of compliance, reporting to MPCA. No administration costs allowed - Cost of work will be included in current county staff workload/funding.				0		\$1,898,750	\$1,771,830	\$126,920
							Sub Total	\$1,898,750	\$1,771,830	\$126,920
Equipment, Tools, and Supplies										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Capital Expenditures										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Acquisitions and Stewardship										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Travel In Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-

Travel Outside Minnesota										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Printing and Publication										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
Other Expenses										
							Sub Total	-	-	-
							Grand Total	\$2,000,000	\$1,813,537	\$186,463

Classified Staff or Generally Ineligible Expenses

Category/Name	Subcategory or Type	Description	Justification Ineligible Expense or Classified Staff Request
<p>Personnel - SSTS Program Coordinator</p>		<p>Project Management and Grant Administration</p>	<p>Classified : Request is to fund 0.25 FTE of the project managers salary for the 3 Fiscal years encompassed by the project. The projected workload for this project doesn't warrant a full-time staff member. The MPCA SSTS program will be reprioritizing existing workloads and removing tasks from the overall work completed by the Program Coordinator (classified position). At this time the MPCA will not complete 0.25 FTE of the classified staff persons existing workload and will not be backfilling 0.25 FTE of the position.</p> <p>The 0.25 FTE reduction in current funding (Environmental fund) will be shifted to operational support for the Municipal division at MPCA. This repurposing will be utilized as project monies, offset travel costs, and help maintain the operational fund balance.</p>

Non ENRTF Funds

Category	Specific Source	Use	Status	\$ Amount	\$ Amount Spent	\$ Amount Remaining
State						
In-Kind	General Fund	MPCA Grant and Contract Staff Assistance for 0.10 FTE x 3 years	Secured	\$40,500	\$29,250	\$11,250
			State Sub Total	\$40,500	\$29,250	\$11,250
Non-State						
			Non State Sub Total	-	-	-
			Funds Total	\$40,500	\$29,250	\$11,250

Attachments

Required Attachments

Visual Component

File: [8da9d0a4-deb.pdf](#)

Alternate Text for Visual Component

This map depicts the amount of CWF low-income grant money distributed to counties from FY13 - FY22. This is a different program but it demonstrates that a need for funding of low-income landowners SSTS fixes exists and also shows which counties are likely to apply for this project....

Supplemental Attachments

Capital Project Questionnaire, Budget Supplements, Support Letter, Photos, Media, Other

Title	File
Background Check Certification Form	406817d0-9d8.pdf
CY23 Reporting Tracking	4ee2c0bf-e4c.pdf
Overall Grant Tracking	29786e03-9e3.pdf
Change of PM Form 2023-05-09 AMP10-15-24	fb03c64f-b5d.docx
CY23-24 Reporting Tracking	c36eb174-b28.pdf
Overall Grant Tracking 2-24-25	f661d533-8ac.pdf
SSTS Bulletin	65e8171d-80c.pdf
RFP	ae4c879d-5ef.pdf
Final Overall Grant Tracking 7-1-25	80239bf2-f38.pdf
CY23-25 Reporting Tracking	60fab50a-1e2.pdf
SSTS Bulletin	9441a692-b6f.pdf

Difference between Proposal and Work Plan

Describe changes from Proposal to Work Plan Stage

Not Applicable

Additional Acknowledgements and Conditions:

The following are acknowledgements and conditions beyond those already included in the above workplan:

Do you understand and acknowledge the ENRTF repayment requirements if the use of capital equipment changes?

N/A

Do you understand that travel expenses are only approved if they follow the "Commissioner's Plan" promulgated by the Commissioner of Management of Budget or, for University of Minnesota projects, the University of Minnesota plan?

N/A

Does your project have potential for royalties, copyrights, patents, sale of products and assets, or revenue generation?

No

Do you understand and acknowledge IP and revenue-return and sharing requirements in 116P.10?

N/A

Do you wish to request reinvestment of any revenues into your project instead of returning revenue to the ENRTF?

N/A

Does your project include original, hypothesis-driven research?

No

Does the organization have a fiscal agent for this project?

No

Do you understand that a named service contract does not constitute a funder-designated subrecipient or approval of a sole-source contract? In other words, a service contract entity is only approved if it has been selected according to the contracting rules identified in state law and policy for organizations that receive ENRTF funds through direct appropriations, or in the DNR's reimbursement manual for non-state organizations. These rules may include competitive bidding and prevailing wage requirements

N/A

Work Plan Amendments

Amendment ID	Request Type	Changes made on the following pages	Explanation & justification for Amendment Request (word limit 75)	Date Submitted	Approved	Date of LCCMR Action
1	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Brandon Montgomery (brandon.montgomery@state.mn.us) New Manager: Aaron Jensen (aaron.s.jensen@state.mn.us)	Brandon is no longer working in the SSTS unit at the MPCA	June 20, 2024	Yes	June 20, 2024
2	Project Manager	Previous Manager: Aaron Jensen (aaron.s.jensen@state.mn.us) New Manager: Aaron Patrick (aaron.patrick@state.mn.us)	New SSTS Program Coordinator replacing Brandon Montgomery	October 10, 2024	Yes	October 14, 2024
3	Amendment Request	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Collaborators - Project Manager Info • Other • Attachments 	I am taking over the manager role for Brandon Montgomery. I have updated my contact information as requested. Please let me know if you need anything else. Thank you for your help.	October 15, 2024	Yes	October 24, 2024

Status Update Reporting

Final Status Update August 14, 2025

Date Submitted: December 15, 2025

Date Approved: December 15, 2025

Overall Update

To date, 125 landowners had their septic system (SSTS), which were deemed an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater, replaced. Eight of the 125 systems replaced to date were located in MPCA Environmental Justice Areas. \$1,771,830.75 was spent on completing the 125 replacements/upgrades. Additionally, the 125 replacement systems have resulted in 37,516 lbs. of BOD, 20,724 lbs. of TSS, 1,080 lbs. of phosphorus, 3,004 lbs. of nitrogen, and 7.7632E (seven quadrillion seven hundred sixty-three trillion two hundred billion) bacteria removed from the environment. The amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the State of Minnesota where the fixes have occurred. Please see attached spreadsheet "CY23-25 Reporting Tracking" for pollutants removed. Also please see "Overall Grant Tracking 6-1-25" spreadsheet for amounts awarded and locations of awards.

Activity 1

The RFP for this project was open from November 30th, 2022, to March 7th, 2023. A total of 22 County applications were submitted during the RFP requesting \$3.735 million in grant funds. The evaluation committee scored applicants based on the scoring criteria published during the RFP and awarded funds to 11 of the 22 applicants. The list of awardees and amounts awarded is - Anoka Conservation District - \$150,000, Carlton County - \$100,000, Carver County - \$150,000, Chisago County - \$240,000, Crow Wing County - \$100,000, Dodge County - \$500,000, Kandiyohi County - \$150,000, Sherburne County - \$155,000, St Louis County - \$200,000, Mille Lacs County - \$100,000, Todd County - \$53,750. Contracts were drafted and sent out in early June and all contracts were completed and in-effect by mid-August. 125 systems were replaced utilizing these funds. All grantees submitted their reports on time, the results of which are reported in the overall update above. In 2025, we sent multiple reminders to awardees with remaining funds reminding them to use the funds before the deadline in the contract. However, \$58,280 was not spent by Chisago

Dissemination

On April 15th, 2024, we published a summary of awardees, the process, and the results to date in our quarterly SSTS bulletin. All communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement. We have contract language in each awarded contract requiring all county communications to appropriately attribute the grant funds with the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. We have reviewed any county communications that were drafted for dissemination and ensured that proper attribution was included, or if not, we informed them that it must be added before publication.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2025

Date Submitted: February 24, 2025

Date Approved: April 17, 2025

Overall Update

To date, 107 landowners have had their septic system (SSTS), which were deemed an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater, replaced. Nine of the 107 systems replaced to date were located in MPCA Environmental Justice Areas. Over \$1.5 million has been spent on completing the 107 replacements/upgrades. Additionally, the 107 replacement systems have resulted in 33,688 lbs. of BOD, 18,826 lbs. of TSS, 965 lbs. of phosphorus, 2,650 lbs. of nitrogen, and 6.6908E+15 (six quadrillion six hundred ninety trillion eight hundred billion) bacteria removed from the environment. The amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the area of the State of Minnesota where the fixes have occurred. Please see attached spreadsheet “CY23-24 Reporting Tracking” for pollutants removed to date. Also please see “Overall Grant Tracking” spreadsheet for amounts awarded and locations of awards.

Activity 1

The RFP for this project was open from November 30th, 2022, to March 7th, 2023. A total of 22 County applications were submitted during the RFP requesting \$3.735 million in grant funds. The evaluation committee scored applicants based on the scoring criteria published during the RFP and awarded funds to 11 of the 22 applicants. The list of awardees and amounts awarded is - Anoka Conservation District - \$150,000, Carlton County - \$100,000, Carver County - \$150,000, Chisago County - \$240,000, Crow Wing County - \$100,000, Dodge County - \$500,000, Kandiyohi County - \$150,000, Sherburne County - \$155,000, St Louis County - \$200,000, Mille Lacs County - \$100,000, Todd County - \$53,750. Contracts were drafted and sent out in early June and all contracts were completed and in-effect by mid-August. We have had 107 systems replaced utilizing these funds to date. All grantees submitted their Calendar Year 2024 Reporting on time, the results of which are reported in the overall update above. We sent a reminder to awardees with remaining funds in February of 2025 reminding them to use the funds before the deadline in the contract.

Dissemination

On April 15th, 2024 we published a summary of awardees, the process, and the results to date in our quarterly SSTS bulletin. All communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement. We have contract language in each awarded contract requiring all county communications to appropriately attribute the grant funds with the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. We have reviewed any county communications that were drafted for dissemination and ensured that proper attribution was included, or if not, we informed them that it must be added before publication.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2024

Date Submitted: August 16, 2024

Date Approved: August 28, 2024

Overall Update

To date, 56 landowners have had their septic system (SSTS), which were deemed an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater, replaced. Eight of the 28 systems replaced in calendar year 2023 were located in MPCA Environmental Justice Areas. Just over \$900,000 has been spent on completing the 56 replacements/upgrades. Additionally, the 28 replacement systems in calendar year 2023 have resulted in 8,246 lbs of BOD, 4,550 lbs of TSS, 253 lbs of phosphorus, 691 lbs of nitrogen, and 1.7456E+15 (one quadrillion seven hundred forty-five trillion six hundred billion) bacteria removed from the environment. The amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the area of the State of Minnesota where the fixes have occurred. Please see attachment spreadsheet "CY23 Reporting Tracking" for pollutants removed in calendar year 2023. A new spreadsheet will be generated for calendar year 2024 at that reporting interval. Also please see "Overall Grant Tracking" spreadsheet for amounts awarded and locations of awards.

Activity 1

The RFP for this project was open from November 30th, 2022 to March 7th, 2023. A total of 22 County applications were submitted during the RFP requesting \$3.735 million in grant funds. The evaluation committee scored applicants based on the scoring criteria published during the RFP and awarded funds to 11 of the 22 applicants. The list of awardees and amounts awarded is - Anoka Conservation District - \$150,000, Carlton County - \$100,000, Carver County - \$150,000, Chisago County - \$240,000, Crow Wing County - \$100,000, Dodge County - \$500,000, Kandiyohi County - \$150,000, Sherburne County - \$155,000, St Louis County - \$200,000, Mille Lacs County - \$100,000, Todd County - \$53,750. Contracts were drafted and sent out in early June and all contracts were completed and in-effect by mid-August. We have had 56 system replaced utilizing these funds to date. 11 grantees submitted their Calendar Year 2023 Reporting on time, the results of which are reported in the overall update above. Projects have been slow due to the rain for this year. We sent a reminder to all awardees in June to remind them to expend money.

Dissemination

On April 15th, 2024 we published a summary of awardees, the process, and the results to date in our quarterly SSTS bulletin. All communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement. We have contract language in each awarded contract requiring all county communications to appropriately attribute the grant funds with the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. We have reviewed any county communications that were drafted for dissemination and ensured that proper attribution was included, or if not, we informed them that it must be added before publication.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2024

Date Submitted: February 28, 2024

Date Approved: August 28, 2024

Overall Update

To date, 34 landowners have had their septic system (SSTS), which were deemed an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater, replaced. Eight of the 34 systems replaced were located in MPCA Environmental Justice Areas. Just over \$500,000 has been spent on completing these replacements/upgrades. Additionally, the 34 replacement systems have resulted in 8,246 lbs of BOD, 4,550 lbs of TSS, 266 lbs of phosphorus, 671 lbs of nitrogen, and 1.7456E+15 (one quadrillion seven hundred forty-five trillion six hundred billion) bacteria removed from the environment. The amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is a now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the area of the State of Minnesota where the fixes have occurred.

Activity 1

The RFP for this project was open from November 30th, 2022 to March 7th, 2023. A total of 22 County applications were submitted during the RFP requesting \$3.735 million in grant funds. The evaluation committee scored applicants based on the scoring criteria published during the RFP and awarded funds to 11 of the 22 applicants. The list of awardees and amounts awarded is - Anoka Conservation District - \$150,000, Carlton County - \$100,000, Carver County - \$150,000, Chisago County - \$240,000, Crow Wing County - \$100,000, Dodge County - \$500,000, Kandiyohi County - \$150,000, Sherburne County - \$155,000, St Louis County - \$200,000, Mille Lacs County - \$100,000, Todd County - \$53,750 (Partial based on fund availability). Contracts were drafted and sent out in early June and all contracts were completed and in-effect by mid-August. We have had 34 system replaced utilizing these funds to date. Additionally, all 11 grantees submitted their Calendar Year 2023 Reporting on time, the results of which are reported in the overall update above.

Dissemination

We have also recently shared the current results to date with the Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association Winter Convention attendees (approx. 200 people). An update on our grant and activities is also included in the materials we are distributing for our annual SSTS talking tours (approx. 150 attendees). We anticipate publishing a summary of awardees and the process in our next quarterly SSTS bulletin, upcoming this spring. All communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement. We have contract language in each awarded contract requiring all county communications to appropriately attribute the grant funds with the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. We have reviewed any county communications that were drafted for dissemination and ensured that proper attribution was included, or if not, we informed them that it must be added before publication.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update September 1, 2023

Date Submitted: August 31, 2023

Date Approved: October 24, 2023

Overall Update

To date, one low-income landowner has had their septic system (SSTS), which was deemed an Imminent Threat to Public Health and Safety or Failing to Protect Groundwater, replaced. Specifics of the trackable outcomes (Biochemical Oxygen Demand, Total Suspended Solids, Fecal Coliform, nitrogen, and phosphorus) are being reported on a calendar year basis by the grantees and more information on this system will be available on subsequent reports. That said, the amount of untreated or improperly treated sewage has been reduced and there is a now a reduced risk to the environment and human health in the area of the State of Minnesota where the fix occurred.

Activity 1

The RFP for this project was open from November 30th, 2022 to March 7th, 2023. A total of 22 County applications were submitted during the RFP requesting \$3.735 million in grant funds. The evaluation committee scored applicants based on the scoring criteria published during the RFP and awarded funds to 11 of the 22 applicants. The list of awardees and amounts awarded is - Anoka Conservation District - \$150,000, Carlton County - \$100,000, Carver County - \$150,000, Chisago County - \$240,000, Crow Wing County - \$100,000, Dodge County - \$500,000, Kandiyohi County - \$150,000, Sherburne County - \$155,000, St Louis County - \$200,000, Mille Lacs County - \$100,000, Todd County - \$53,750 (Partial based on fund availability). Contracts were drafted and sent out in early June and all contracts were completed and in-effect by mid-August. We have already had one system replaced utilizing these funds.

Dissemination

The last contract for this project was not signed and in effect until mid-August 2023. Due to restrictions on award announcement prior to contract enactment, awards have not been publicly disseminated yet. We anticipate publishing a summary of awardees and the process in our next quarterly SSTS bulletin. To date however, all communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement. We have contract language in each awarded contract requiring all county communications to appropriately attribute the grant funds with the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. We have reviewed any county communications that were drafted for dissemination and ensured that proper attribution was included, or if not, we informed them that it must be added before publication.

Status Update Reporting

Status Update March 1, 2023

Date Submitted: March 1, 2023

Date Approved: March 20, 2023

Overall Update

To date no SSTS have been repaired or replaced as a part of this project as funding has not yet been distributed to counties.

Activity 1

The original RFP date was November 30, 2022. Our RFP was published Jan 4, 2023 and is open for application until March 7, 2023 (Original Milestone for RFP closure was February 28, 2023). We have communicated out the RFP widely at numerous stakeholder meetings (Minnesota Onsite Wastewater Association, Advisory Committee, Talking Tour, SSTS Implementation and Enforcement Task Force), via targeted email lists, and the state SWIFT portal. We also held a webinar in mid-January to talk through the project and answer questions. To date we have received 27 questions, most of which came during the webinar. We have answered those questions and are now waiting for the RFP period to close to see how many applications were submitted. We also created a webpage that contains relevant information and links for the RFP - <https://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants-and-loans/replacing-failing-septic-systems-to-protect-groundwater-grant>

Dissemination

Results are not able to be disseminated yet as money has not been distributed and no SSTS fixed. However, all communication regarding the RFP as well as the RFP itself and all application documents for this project have contained the ENRTF logo and/or an ENRTF attribution statement. The MPCA webpage for this RFP also contains an attribution statement.