Roles and Responsibilities of Government for Surface Water Regulation

Federal Government

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

 Clean Water Act – requires states to identify and submit a list of impaired waters; investigate and identify sources of impairment; and determine Total Maximum Daily Loads.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

- Rivers and Harbors Act, Sec. 10 placement of structures in navigable waters of the U.S.; work in or affecting navigable waters of the U.S.
- Clean Water Act Section 404 Permits permit for discharge of dredged or fill material into the waters of the U.S.

State Government

Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

- Water Quality Certification, Section 401 of the Clean Water Act certification for activities that require federal permits (Section 10, Section 404, FERC).
- Surface Water Standards establish standards for surface water quality.
- Surface Water Ambient Monitoring Program establish background water quality statewide.
- Impaired Waters complete major watershed assessments; propose impaired waters list; work with cooperators on study, TMDLs, Restoration and Protection Plan.
- Permits for Chemical Treatment (Alum) both the MPCA and DNR must issue a permit for chemical treatment.

Department of Natural Resources

- Public Waters Work Permit permits for work taking place below the ordinary high water level of public waters.
- Lake Aeration Permit permit for installation and operation of an aeration system in public waters
- Dam Safety Permit permit required to perform major dam maintenance; modify dam operation; reconstruct, remove, or build a dam; or transfer a dam's ownership. Some exemptions for smaller dams.
- Permit for Chemical Treatments (Alum) both DNR and MPCA must permit these treatments.
- Surface Water Appropriation Permits permit required to withdraw surface water for irrigation
- Surface Water Hydrology Programs monitoring and assistance for gaging and rating curves

Board of Water and Soil Resources

- County Comprehensive Water Plans reviews county comprehensive water plans.
- Watershed Management Organization/Watershed District Oversight sets requirements for watershed management organizations/Watershed Districts; reviews and approves major reports, such as Watershed Plans and Annual Reports.
- Conflict Resolution provides resolution of water policy issues and conflicts.
- Legislative Liaison provides forum for local issues, priorities to be incorporated into state public policy; coordinates state and federal resources to realize local priorities.
- Soil and Water Conservation District Oversight functions as the state soil conservation agency; sets requirements for SWCDs; reviews and approves major documents; directs private land soil and water conservation programs.
- Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act administers rules for WCA.

Minnesota Dept. of Public Safety

	Emergency Response – state duty officer notified of any leaks, spills, or incidents affecting surface water.
	Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture
	 Emergency Response – state duty officer notified of any leaks, spills, or incidents affecting surface water.
	 Monitoring – conducts monitoring and assessment of agricultural chemicals in groundwater and surface water.
	Metropolitan Council
	River and Stream Water Quality Monitoring Program in Metro Area
Watershed	• VRWJPO
	Watershed Planning – develop and adopt a Watershed Management Plan
	 Monitoring – develops and implements monitoring programs to assess current condition, trends, constituent concentrations, and loading.
	 Subwatershed Assessments – conducts assessment of physical river and stream conditions to identify structural and habitat restoration needs.
	 Restore Impaired Waters – implement strategies to restore water quality to state standards.
	 Protect through Standards – set standards for floodplain alteration, wetland alteration, buffers, intercommunity flows, and drainage alteration protective of water quality and flow rates/volumes.
	Compliance – ensure local adoption and implementation of local water management plans and VRWJPO Standards.
County	Dakota County SWCD
	 Wetland Conservation Act Rules and Administration – regulates draining and filling wetlands larger than 2,000 sq. feet; requires 2:1 replacement of drained or filled wetlands.
	Scott County SWCD
	 Wetland Conservation Act Rules and Administration – regulates wetlands through Minn. Rules Chapter 8420 in Sand Creek Township only.
City	Cities (Incorporated)
(Incorporated)	Local Water Management Plans – cities adopt watershed standards in Local Water
	Management Plans and adopt ordinances to implement the plan; permits issued.
	 Wetland Conservation Act Rules and Administration – regulates wetlands through Minn. Rules Chapter 8420 within city limits in Scott County.
	Lake and Stream Management Plans – plan to protect, improve, and maintain lakes or
	stream, with or without an impaired waters involvement.
Townships	Townships (Unincorporated)
(Unincorporated)	 Wetland Conservation Act Rules and Administration – regulates wetlands through Minn.
	Rules Chapter 8420 within each township in Scott County.
	Local Water Management Plans – townships adopt watershed standards in Local Water
	Management Plans and adopt ordinances to implement the plan; permits issued for erosion and sediment control.