



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: February 1, 2024

Contact: Chris Pence
Phone: (218) 824-1010

Crow Wing County Receives \$30,000 Clean Water Fund Grant from BWSR

The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) [approved \\$10 million in Clean Water Fund grants](#) at its December board meeting to improve water quality in lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater across the state. Crow Wing County received a \$30,000 grant to seal wells throughout the County. This grant is one of 32 BWSR allocated this year to fund voluntary conservation projects, including those focused on improving and protecting drinking water.

“Crow Wing County has an abundance of clean groundwater and sealing wells that are no longer in use or in disrepair helps protect that clean water,” said Crow Wing County Environmental Services Manager Chris Pence.

Crow Wing County plans to use the grant funding for a cost-share program for sealing abandoned/unused wells. Wells sealed in Crow Wing County may be eligible for a 50% cost-share reimbursement. The County will provide up to a maximum of \$1,000 in cost-share funds per well.

Why is it important to seal wells? A well that is not in use or abandoned can be a source of groundwater contamination by providing a potential direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Unused larger-diameter wells can also be a safety hazard for children and animals.

“These grants will equip local governments to work in partnership with landowners across Minnesota to put projects on the ground that protect our valuable water and soil resources,” said BWSR Executive Director John Jaschke. “This locally led work is key to improving water quality in Minnesota.”

A signed contract must be received and on file with Land Services before grant funds will be awarded to a contractor. For application materials, contract, and more information visit: [Grants | Crow Wing County, MN - Official Website](#)

About the Minnesota Clean Water Fund

Minnesota voters approved the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment in 2008 to protect, enhance, and restore wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game, and wildlife habitat; to preserve arts and cultural heritage; to support parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater. The Clean Water Fund receives 33% of the sales tax revenue generated by the Legacy Amendment. More information about the Clean Water Fund is [available here](#).

Gary Griffin, Director
Land Services Department
322 Laurel Street, Suite 15
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1010
Fax: (218) 824-1126
www.crowwing.us

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.