

## Minnesota 3M PFC Settlement Program Goals (v. 2.1)

### Background

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The State of Minnesota's 2018 Agreement and Order (Agreement) with 3M Company (3M) establishes the 3M Grant for Water Quality and Sustainability Fund (Grant). The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) will use the Grant for projects that are reasonable and necessary to achieve the purposes of the Agreement, based on the following priorities:

1. First and highest priority: Enhance the quality, quantity, and sustainability of the drinking water in the East Metropolitan Area. The goal of this highest priority work is to ensure clean drinking water in sufficient supply to residents and businesses in the East Metropolitan Area to meet their current and future water needs. Examples of projects may include<sup>1</sup>, but are not limited to, the development of alternative drinking water sources, the treatment of existing water supplies, water conservation and efficiency, open space acquisition<sup>2</sup>, and groundwater recharge. For individual households, projects may include, but are not limited to, connecting those residences to municipal water supplies, providing individual treatment systems, or constructing new wells. In selecting and performing activities under this priority, the State will prioritize water supplies where health based values, health risk limits, and/or health risk indices for PFC<sup>3</sup> are exceeded.
2. Second highest priority: Restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, resource improvement, and outdoor recreational opportunities in the East Metropolitan Area and in downstream areas of the Mississippi and St. Croix Rivers. Projects may include, but are not limited to, aquatic habitat and water resource protection and restoration, terrestrial and water trails, boat ramps and/or fishing piers, restoration of wildlife habitat, and other terrestrial conservation and recreation improvements. This priority will be addressed after the MPCA and the DNR have reasonably achieved the goal set forth under Priority 1, with the exception of up to \$20 million of Grant funds to which the MPCA and the DNR have immediate access.
3. Third highest priority: Fund residual, statewide water resources, habitat restoration, open space preservation, recreation improvements, and other sustainability projects. This priority will only be addressed if any portion of the Grant remains after the MPCA and the DNR have reasonably achieved the goals set forth under Priorities 1 and 2.

### Purpose

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This document presents a set of goals to guide project planning and implementation under the Grant. These goals build upon the priorities in the Agreement and help provide a common understanding of

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<sup>1</sup> List of projects is for example only, and does not indicate preference or priority.

<sup>2</sup> As related to drinking water supply.

<sup>3</sup> PFCs = Perfluorochemicals. Also referred to as Per- and polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

success. The goals include long-term program goals as well as operational goals focused on specific aspects of planning and implementation. These goals were developed based on input from the Government and 3M Working Group and the Citizen – Business Group.

## Long-Term Program Goals

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The program goals present the long-term vision of success under the Grant. They are aligned with, and organized by, the priorities in the Agreement. At this time, only goals for Priorities 1 and 2 are described. If funding remains after the MPCA and the DNR have reasonably achieved the goals set forth under Priorities 1 and 2, goals under Priority 3 would be developed.

### **Priority 1 – Drinking Water Quality, Quantity, and Sustainability**

- Provide clean drinking water to residents and businesses to meet current and future needs under changing conditions, population, and health-based values.
- Protect and improve groundwater quality.
- Protect and maintain groundwater quantity.
- Minimize long-term cost burdens for communities.

### **Priority 2 – Natural Resource Restoration, Protection, and Enhancement**

- Restore, protect, and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, and habitat.
- Reduce fish tissue contamination and remove PFAS-based fish consumption advisories.
- Improve and enhance outdoor recreational opportunities.

## Operational Goals

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The operational goals are intended to support efficient and effective achievement of the long-term program goals. These operational goals are organized into categories of planning, implementation, governance, public outreach, and monitoring/evaluation/learning.

### **Planning Goals**

- Seek a combination of projects that benefits all affected communities.
- Appropriately consider projects that transcend jurisdictional boundaries within the East Metropolitan Area.
- Appropriately consider projects that incorporate the needs of individual drinking water well owners as well as larger municipal or other drinking water supply systems.
- Rely on science- and evidence-based decision making and technological advances to achieve priorities and evaluate options.
- Seek cost-effective projects that maximize benefits (such as cost-sharing opportunities and adding relevant project components to other planned projects).
- Achieve short- and long-term fiscal responsibility (such as employing smart investment strategies, leveraging funds, and allocating funds for future needs).

- Seek to reduce environmental justice health effects, avoid increasing such effects, and enhance access to and use of natural resources for disadvantaged populations.
- Employ procedures that include consideration of stakeholders' input throughout the project selection process.

### **Implementation Goals**

- Act with an appropriate sense of urgency, utilizing existing information and analyses to the extent possible.
- Utilize new leading technologies and leverage/incorporate existing infrastructure to the extent feasible.
- Address multiple needs with a combination of strategies and approaches.
- Achieve a process that can serve as a model for other communities facing similar issues.

### **Governance Goals**

- Develop a clear planning and decision-making process (such as a process for project evaluation and approval, funding allocation).
- Respect roles and responsibilities of relevant decision-making authorities.
- Respect and carefully consider recommendations provided by the groups to the MPCA and the DNR.
- Ensure that expenditure tracking is transparent and meets all state auditing requirements.

### **Public Outreach Goals**

- Encourage public input and participation in the process.
- Ensure the public is informed of the process and convey information accurately and in a timely manner.
- Ensure public transparency about decision-making.

### **Monitoring/Evaluation/Learning Goals**

- Develop measurable objectives, and evaluate progress against them.
- Employ adaptive management practices of monitoring, assessing progress towards goals, and adjusting processes to achieve goals.
- Provide education to the public about drinking water sources, treatment, and conservation.