

# Recommended Options: Fund Allocations for Sustainability, Drinking Water Protection and State Administration

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# Purpose

- Provide additional detail on rationale for sustainability and conservation, and drinking water protection funding allocations
- Highlight examples of potential projects
- Next steps for sustainability and conservation
- Additional information on state administration costs
- Workgroup feedback and discussion throughout; we will pause between topics to allow for additional discussion

# Sustainability and conservation and drinking water protection

- Each fund allocation is meant to address requirements of the Settlement Agreement and the Priority 1 goals that were developed with the work groups

Settlement language on Priority 1 (see Sec. 14(A) on page 3):

- “Enhance the quality, quantity, and sustainability of drinking water”
- “Ensure clean drinking water in sufficient supply to residents and businesses...to meet their current and future water needs”
- “development of alternative drinking water sources...treatment of existing water supplies, water conservation and efficiency, open space acquisition, and groundwater recharge”

Priority 2: Restore and enhance aquatic resources, wildlife, habitat, fishing, resource improvement and outdoor recreation

# Long-term program goals for the Settlement

## 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.

# Activities under the Settlement

## Settlement Agreement

### Priority 1

1. Drinking water supply projects (treatment, pipes) to provide safe water at the tap
2. Sustainability and Conservation
  - Projects will target long-term sustainability of drinking water quantity
3. Drinking Water Protection
  - Projects will target long-term quality of drinking water at the source

### Priority 2

1. Wildlife and their habitats
2. Aquatic resource improvement
3. Outdoor recreational opportunities

# Sustainability and drinking water protection in the Conceptual Plan

## From Chapter 7 of the Draft Conceptual Plan

**Drinking water protection** is funding set aside to be used for the remediation of groundwater not related to the actual 3M disposal sites, to help reduce future treatment needs and improve overall source water quality. Remediation at the disposal sites is the responsibility of 3M under the Settlement and Consent Order. Drinking water protection is a component of Priority 1 of the Settlement and is emphasized in the long-term goals for Priority 1 set out by the agencies and work groups at the beginning of this process.

**Sustainability and conservation** is funding set aside to protect groundwater sustainability to preserve groundwater as a drinking water source into the future, and to support sustainable infrastructure enhancements for projects funded by the Settlement. Sustainability is a component of Priority 1 of the Settlement and was a high priority in the public feedback received.

## Questions and discussion

- Before we move on to project examples, are there any additional comments or questions on how these funding allocations are defined to address Priority 1 of the Settlement?

# Drinking water protection - example projects

1. Targeted sediment removal in Project 1007 area to reduce regional groundwater contamination

Drinking water benefit: prevent contaminated sediment from adding more PFAS to groundwater

2. Treating contaminated surface water to minimize its contribution to additional groundwater/drinking water plumes

Drinking water benefit: prevent contaminated surface water from contaminating groundwater

Note – these are initial concepts that are currently under study as part of Project 1007

# Drinking water protection - example projects (cont.)

3. Develop multi-benefit wells (pump and treat) in targeted areas plume control needs. Explore the possibility of municipal or industrial use of treated water and/or re-injection to aquifers.

Drinking water benefit: reduce movement of the PFAS plume(s); conjunctive use for municipal or industrial could reduce overall groundwater pumping and/or recharge aquifers (if re-injected); can reduce the need for additional wells for drinking water

Note – these are initial concepts that have not yet been studied or evaluated in detail

## Questions and discussion

- Before we move on to sustainability and conservation, are there any additional comments or questions on project examples for drinking water protection?

# Sustainability and conservation - example projects

## 1. Grants to support efficient home appliances and/or irrigation systems

Drinking water benefits: reduced groundwater pumping will help sustain aquifer levels; reduced demand might mean fewer wells that need treatment in the future

## 2. Use of treated groundwater to recharge aquifers

Drinking water benefits: enhance groundwater recharge with water that is already (or will be) pumped for remediation purposes, helping to sustain aquifer levels

Note – these are initial concepts that have not yet been studied or evaluated in detail

# Sustainability and conservation - example projects (cont.)

3. Select stormwater best management practices (BMPs) such as detention and infiltration features

Drinking water benefit: enhance groundwater recharge, sustaining aquifer water levels

4. Land acquisition to preserve and/or restore groundwater recharge areas

Drinking water benefit: maintain natural groundwater recharge to sustain aquifer levels

5. Incorporating sustainability measures into drinking water infrastructure projects (e.g., sonic leak detection; accessibility for inspection and repair)

Drinking water benefit: reduced distribution system leaks

Note – these are initial concepts that have not yet been studied or evaluated in detail

# Next steps

- Understand existing activities – e.g., TMDLs, Water Conservation Plans, Washington Co. Groundwater Plan, Project 1007, Stormwater Management Plans and more
- Gather input from work groups and subgroup, local governments, Met Council, and the public to develop implementation processes and project ideas
- Work group input on membership and the charge for Subgroup 2
- MPCA/DNR will begin drafting goals and metrics for sustainability and conservation

## Questions and discussion

- Before we move on to state administration, are there any additional comments or questions on project examples for sustainability and conservation?

# State administration

- Support MPCA, DNR, MDH staff and consultants to implement the Settlement
  - Note that time for manager-level or above positions is not funded by the Settlement
  - Covers time to execute the Settlement and run projects and studies (e.g., work groups, Project 1007 Feasibility Study)
  - Capacity grants to communities and watershed districts
- \$22 M estimate is based on average past expenses and projected future expenses over implementation of about 20 years (this will be re-evaluated as implementation progresses)

## Poll question

Do you think the Co-Trustees and the Conceptual Plan provide sufficient justification for the following fund allocations in the recommended options?

- Drinking water protection (\$70 million)
- Sustainability and conservation (\$60 million)
- State administration (\$22 million)

*Answer using the poll function on the right side of your screen*

