#	Grant ID	Title of Proposal	Organization	County	Request ($)	Recommended ($)	Abstract	Score
1	C20-5894	2020 - Dakota County Drinking Water Protection Project	Dakota SWCD	Dakota	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	The Dakota County Drinking Water Protection Project's goal is to reduce pollutants (primarily nitrates) that are becoming increasingly common in groundwater sourced drinking water throughout Dakota County. This will be accomplished by implementing groundwater protection practices in areas that are vulnerable to contamination. This project includes both private wells and public water supplies and will focus on townships that have testing data indicating elevated nitrates in drinking water. Cover crops will be the primary practice along with restoring perennial vegetation in critical locations. An estimated 700 acres of cover crops will be established through this project and an estimated 15,720 pounds of nitrogen will be prevented from reaching groundwater that is used for drinking water.	85.4
2	C20-7177	Whitewater Drinking Water Protection grant	Whitewater River Watershed Project	Olmsted;Wabasha;Winona	$ 191,550	$ 191,550	This project will implement a two-pronged approach to address nitrate pollution to water table aquifers in high priority areas of the Whitewater Watershed area. This project will use cost share funds to incentivize cover crops into crop rotations. An estimated 40 producers in vulnerable townships will plant 1,200 acres of cover crops preventing 8,350 pounds of nitrate from leaching into groundwater, which is the region's primary source of drinking water. Project funds will also be used to provide cost share to ten low-income homeowners with non-compliant septic systems in these vulnerable areas. These septic system upgrades will prevent 370 pounds of nitrate from contaminating groundwater.	84.2
3	C20-5813	St. Cloud Spent Lime Filtration Project	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	$ 613,100	$ 613,100	The City of St. Cloud draws raw water out of the Mississippi River for their drinking water supply. The quality of raw water they take in seasonally fluctuates. Spring runoff and large rainfall events are the biggest contributors to poor raw water quality. Sediments, organics, and other contaminants get washed off the landscape and into our drainage systems, especially in urban areas. The City is looking to minimize these fluctuations by installing a series of up to nine BMPs to treat 935 acres of untreated urban stormwater. The proposed spent lime filter and pretreatment structures will capture organics and annually remove 145 pounds of phosphorus and 54 tons of sediment for the project area. The proposed BMPs will include pretreatment structures with energy dissipation to capture sediment and organic materials. The treatment train will conclude with a spent lime filter system.	83.0
4	C20-6334	Thief River Grade Stabilization and Cover Crop Implementation	Pennington SWCD	Pennington	$ 256,666	$ 256,666	The primary goal of the project is to reduce sediment entering the Lower Thief River by targeting grade stabilization and cover crop practices. The Thief River is impaired downstream of Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge for Total Suspended Solids which directly impacts the drinking water supply for the City of Thief River Falls. The installation of 62 grade stabilization structures and 5,000 acres of cover crop in priority locations identified by a completed ditch inventory and the PTMApp will reduce an estimated 1,866 tons of sediment and 1,016 pounds of phosphorus.	80.8
5	C20-6317	Groundwater Quality Nitrate Reduction Pipestone	Pipestone SWCD	Pipestone	$ 299,520	$ 299,520	The goal of this project is to reduce nitrate-nitrogen loading to groundwater of Lincoln Pipestone Rural Water's Holland and North Holland Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMA), City of Pipestone DWSMA, and the City of Edgerton DWSMA from non-point source agricultural land. Consideration for implementation is given to the high and very high vulnerable areas within the DWSMAs with the highest priority for initial outreach for BMP implementation would be crop producers within 1 mile to the public water supply wells. Our goal is 10% of land utilizing perennial crops or cover crops within the proposed area totaling 2,080 acres.	80.5
6	C20-6313	Protecting groundwater quality in Anoka County through targeted well sealing	Anoka CD	Anoka	$ 240,000	$ 240,000	In Anoka County, 94% of the population depend on groundwater for drinking water, using about 12 billion gallons annually. This use is at risk from tens-of-thousands of old wells that are unused and unsealed. As such, protection of Metro Area groundwater supplies requires protection of Anoka County recharge areas. Due to the large-scope of the problem, we're proposing to prioritize and target well sealing cost-share to unused wells within Drinking Water Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs), those that are deep and intersect multiple aquifers, and those that have the earliest original installation date. Our goal is to seal up to 125 high priority unused wells, which we expect to abate about 5% of the problem within DWSMAs.	80.1
7	C20-3956	2020 Drinking Water Protection Initiative	Benton SWCD	Benton	$ 39,300	$ 39,300	According to the Minnesota Department of Agriculture's (MDAs) Final Township Testing Nitrate Report for Benton County, significant portions of Langola, Watab, Minden, and Maywood townships have high aquifer vulnerability ratings due to the geologic setting in Benton County. The purpose of this project is to reduce the risk of groundwater contamination in critical drinking water areas in Benton County through the process of sealing unused wells. Numerous wells have already been located within the priority areas including critical areas such as active feedlots and farm fields. A field inventory completed by Benton SWCD staff resulted in the identification of 150 possible well sealing opportunities. Through this project, the SWCD estimates sealing 30 wells.	79.2
8	C20-7275	Stearns County Highly Vulnerable DWSMAs: Nitrogen Management Practices for Safe Drinking Water	Stearns SWCD	Stearns	$ 202,450	$ 202,450	Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) works closely with the Public Water Suppliers (PWS) located within the county. Currently, Stearns County has 23 public water supplies with approved Wellhead Protections Plans. This project will reduce the nitrates entering into high to very high vulnerable Drinking Water Supply Management Areas within Stearns County through the installation of nitrogen best management practices which include, but are not limited to, cover crops, nutrient management and irrigation water management. A total of 1,200 acres of cover crops will be planted throughout the duration of the project. Ten nutrient management plans will be developed and implemented, and irrigation water management will be implemented on 200 acres with 6 pivots tested for uniformity.	77.0
9	C20-6442	Well Sealing and Aquifer Characterization Below the Jordan in the Rochester Metropolitan Area	Olmsted County	Olmsted	$ 200,000	$ 165,000	Protecting groundwater aquifers in Olmsted County is critical as the community continues to experience high growth. Well 220827, located in Rochester, is an inactive municipal well. The well interconnects the Tunnel City Group, Wonewoc Sandstone, and Mt. Simon Sandstone aquifers that lie below the Jordan aquifer in the Rochester area. Olmsted County & Rochester Public Utilities (RPU) are committed to protecting, and sustainably utilizing, the aquifers in the greater Rochester area. Thus, RPU plans to seal well as part of this commitment. Currently, there are no municipal supply wells solely in the aquifers beneath the Jordan in Olmsted County. As a result, it is not known if municipal water supply from the deeper aquifers is feasible. RPU can leverage the sealing of well to install a multi-well nest to obtain data on the deep aquifers to assess flow, quantities, and vulnerabilities to contamination.	76.3
10	C20-6433	Protecting Drinking Water Sources in Southern Washington County	Washington Conservation District	Washington	$ 75,000	$ 75,000	The goal of this project is to protect drinking water quality in areas of rural southern Washington County that are vulnerable to groundwater contamination from nitrogen fertilizer. As part of this project, the Washington Conservation District will provide technical and financial assistance to agricultural landowners in these vulnerable groundwater areas to increase the implementation of nitrogen fertilizer best management practices and alternative management tools. Activities may include nonstructural and structural practices, such as increased continuous cover, retired cropland, and others identified to reduce nitrate leaching. The Washington Conservation District will work toward implementing up to 10 nitrogen fertilizer best management practice/alternative management tool projects on over 200 acres of agricultural land within the project area, and reach over 200 community members through education and engagement in groundwater pollution prevention and drinking water protection activities.	74.3
11	C20-6380	GBERBA Drinking Water Protection	Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance	Multiple	$ 285,000	$ -	The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance (GBERBA) along with staff from the 10 member SWCDs and Counties will strive to protect and improve the drinking water supply in the Greater Blue Earth River Basin. This will be accomplished by working with landowners and city staff to install best management practices and embarking on a public information effort. The focus of the project will be the Drinking Water(DW) Supply Management Areas (DWSMAs) contained completely or partially within the Greater Blue Earth River (GBE) Basin. Best Management Practices include sealing 10 to 15 wells within the project DWSMA; 41 acres of non-native lawn transformed to improved native cover; 10 drinking water workshops; 20 drinking water promotional sign; and 100 drinking water protection public service radio spots.	73.2

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12	C20-4025	Preventing Poultry Manure Nitrate Leaching in the Sand Outwash Plains of Central Minnesota	Morrison SWCD	Benton;Morrison	$ 550,000	$ -	While manure is a much needed resource in the agricultural community, drinking water contamination can occur when piles of manure are left to sit on well drained soils or in high water table areas. To solve this issue, cost share dollars are needed to establish roofed stacking slabs in the area for farmers who utilize this manure. Over the last 15 years the sand outwash plains of Central Minnesota have seen an intensification of poultry barns. Farmers who purchase poultry manure to be land applied but do not have animals themselves do not qualify for NRCS funding . Clean Water Funds would enable commercial crop farmers access to cost share dollars to construct stacking slabs and fill a gap that currently NRCS funding is unable to provide. Funds would provide for the establishment of six roofed stacking slabs for manure storage and remove the potential contaminate source of 5,400 tons of poultry manure from leaching nitrogen. This equates to 120,000 pounds of nitrogen.	69.1
13	C20-7174	St. Peter Wellhead/Watershed Project	Nicollet SWCD	Nicollet	$ 1,041,730	$ -	Lying in the area west of Saint Peter, MN is the 4,500 Acre Drinking Water Supply Management Area serving the city of 12,000 residents. This supply area is the only source of drinking water in the community with 25% being drawn from the Jordan Aquifer. Currently, water is blended between multiple depth wells to reduce Nitrate levels below Federal Drinking Water Standards. Without blending, nitrate levels are almost 3 times higher than drinking water standards. The goal of this project is to reduce nitrate levels by 40%, or 6-14 parts per million on average at the source well. A second goal is to promote public awareness about wellhead and drinking water protection. To achieve this goal, project partners will work together to plan and implement Cover Crop Incentives on 1000 acres, Nutrient Management Plans on 1000 acres, promotion of spring applied nitrogen practices, 19 Water & Sediment Control Basins, 3 Drop Pipe Structures, 10 Alternative Intakes and 4 Drainage Water Management Structures within the wellhead protection area. Reduction estimates for nitrate is 40% as measured at the source wells.	68.7
14	C20-6376	Rural Otter Tail Groundwater Protection	Otter Tail, East SWCD	Otter Tail	$ 233,500	$ -	Areas in Otter Tail County that have a medium to high nitrogen infiltration risk will be targeted for irrigation and nutrient management practices to reduce nitrate in drinking water for public and private wells. A combination of cost share and incentives will be used to help establish precision management for irrigation, including water-sensor-aided irrigation scheduling, variable-rate application technology, and soil health practices. During the Groundwater and Agriculture report meetings, producers shared that these are the practices they are most interested in adding to their farms. Integrating these practices and technologies into current systems should reduce the application of nitrate and the amount of nitrate leaching into the groundwater by an estimated 92 pounds per year of Nitrogen..	68.2
				Total Funding Recommendation		**$ 2,157,586**		