



# MRWA Wellheadlines

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## WELLHEAD PROTECTION ACTION PLANS FOR NON-MUNICIPAL PUBLIC WATER SYSTEMS PART 2 - SWP IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS

The article I wrote for MRWA's Spring 2018 TODAY Magazine contained information about the approach MDH and MRWA are using to develop Wellhead Protection ACTION PLANS for the non-municipal community public water systems in Minnesota. Examples of non-municipal community public water supplies are mobile home parks, residential schools, correctional institutions, senior living facilities, apartments, and residential subdivisions unaffiliated with a municipality.

The new policy developed by MDH and MRWA provides an alternative process for non-municipal community public water supply systems to address wellhead protection. The policy recognizes that non-municipal PWS systems can satisfy certain criteria that offer the opportunity to simplify the development of wellhead protection options. The policy options will afford a high level of source aquifer protection, including access to MDH technical assistance, SWP implementation grants, and recognition by other water resource management organizations.

Action Plans contain specific management practices, or activities, the water supplier has agreed to put into place, to protect the source of the drinking water. Action Plan management strategies vary in content and complexity, in order to address the needs of a particular water system. Management strategies can cover things like; public education, data collection, sealing unused wells, storm water control, and security. At the time an Action Plan has been completed, and approved by MDH, the water supplier is eligible to apply for a MDH SWP Implementation Grant to help cover the costs of implementing any of the management strategies contained in the approved Action Plan.

*“Plan to take advantage of the grant opportunity when possible.”*

MDH SWP Implementation Grants are awarded twice each year, with the grant application periods open in the months of March and September. Information about the grants and the application form is available at the following link: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/divs/eh/water/swp/grants/index.html>.

SWP Implementation Grants:

- Apply to community or nontransient noncommunity water suppliers that have a current MDH-approved wellhead protection plan or MDH-endorsed intake protection plan;
- Has a maximum amount of \$10,000;
- Must be spent within the state fiscal biennium; and
- Does not require any financial cost share by the public water supplier.

The application form is fairly self-explanatory and easy to complete. An eligible water supplier can request grant application assistance from either their MDH or MRWA planner, if needed.

An example of a recently-awarded SWP Implementation Grant involves the installation of a backup generator to provide a temporary emergency power supply for the water system serving the Nelson's East Shore Landing development in Cross Lake, MN. This Action Plan project includes the installation of a generator, automatic power transfer switch, concrete mounting pad and 500 gallon propane fuel tank. This generator installation will allow the 32 unit development to maintain the water supply for up to a one week period in case of an emergency, severe weather, or other power supply disruption. Total cost of the project is just under \$10,000.00.

MRWA is excited to have been a part of the development and implementation of Action Plans for these smaller water supply systems, and we encourage others with an approved Action Plan to take advantage of the grant opportunity when possible. For additional information and assistance, please contact me at 218-820-0595, or your assigned MDH WHP Planner.