

## MANAGING A COST-EFFICIENT WATER-QUALITY UTILITY

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### **Abstract**

How does a water resources manager ensure that the next public dollar invested in water quality is doing the most good? This question drives the management of the City of Prior Lake Water Quality Utility.

The City of Prior Lake operates and maintains a networked system of storm water conveyance and treatment practices which make up the City's Water Quality Utility. Over the course of the past 5 years the City's Water Quality Utility has expended about \$350K-\$450K annually for the construction, planning, design, maintenance or operation of over 165 water quality ponds, 35 alternative BMPs, 78 miles of stormwater conveyance, and 200+ sump manhole structures.

By calculating stormwater conveyance and treatment liabilities due to increasing water quality standards, building a comprehensive asset management and decision making system, and continually reassessing and improving the average system level of service, the Prior Lake Water Quality Utility continues to transform itself from a scattered-do-good effort to an increasingly efficient, well planned, targeted and sustainable system for stormwater quality treatment.

This presentation will describe the evolution of the City of Prior Lake Utility over the past 5 years; the roll economic realities have played in shaping its strategy for surface water quality management and the importance of an "efficiency focused" intra-organizational, cross sector and cross jurisdictional collaboration.