



HF1438 - SF1174

The West Central Regional Water Supply Project will provide a new potable water source to the cities and rural residents of Polk, Norman, and Clay Counties. Rural residents and city residents alike are facing issues with water quality, quantity, high capital costs, and lack of experienced operators.

Water Quality

Arsenic

More than 102,000 people live in Norman, Clay, and Polk counties with over 25,000 being children under 18. When sampling private wells in these counties, the percentage of wells that exceeded the EPA's maximum contaminant level of 10 micrograms per liter of arsenic include:

- Norman County 43%
- Clay County 39%
- Polk County 21%

Long-term exposure to arsenic in drinking water may increase the risk of liver, bladder, and lung cancer. It can also cause nervous system issues and high blood pressure.

Emerging Contaminants

Emerging Contaminants such as PFAS are becoming more prevalent, which may cause health hazards and pose extremely difficult treatment challenges for Minnesota communities.

Iron and Manganese

West central Minnesota has hard water and high levels of iron and manganese. Not only does this lead to a drastic increase in household plumbing maintenance, but high levels of manganese consumption can be toxic.

Workforce

The regionalization of a centralized water supply will help address the dire workforce challenges in rural Minnesota such as hiring and retaining qualified operators.

Sharing administrative and workforce duties, rather than the costly silo approach of a water treatment facility in each city, will allow the region to work together as opposed to competing for the same labor force.

Aging Infrastructure

Aging infrastructure across the proposed project area means critical failures are a constant risk.

Rehabilitating existing city or privately-owned water infrastructure such as treatment facilities, wells, and service lines can be very expensive and is not as cost-effective as regionalization, which allows costs to be spread over a larger population to make it more affordable.



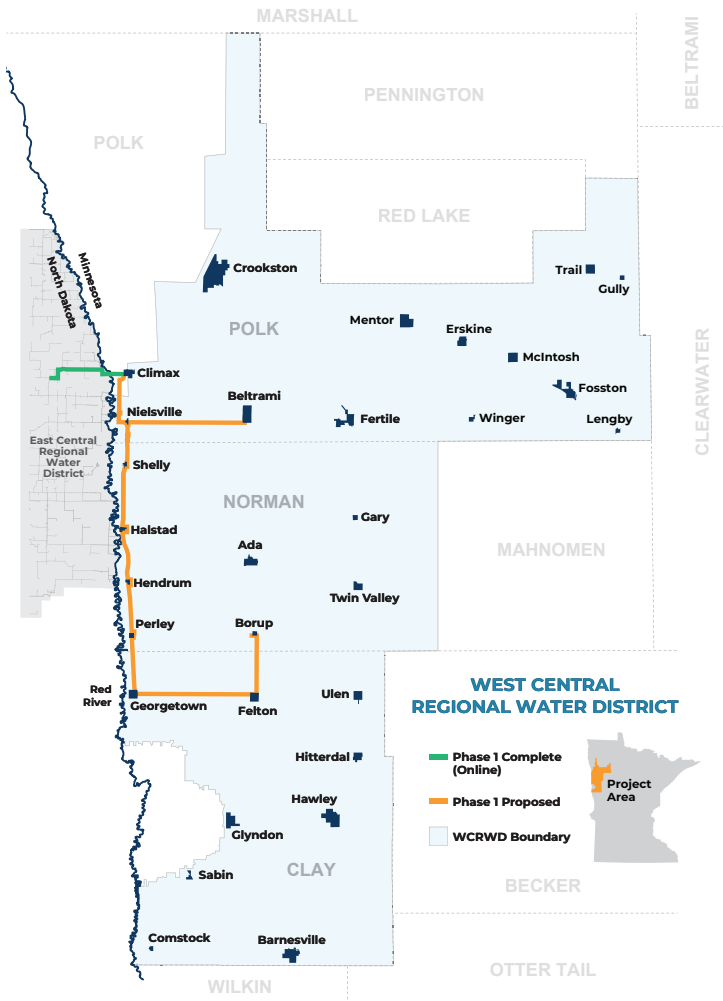
Scan the QR code or visit wcrwd-ae2s.hub.arcgis.com for more information about this important project

Minnesota 2025 Capital Budget Request

**\$9.7 Million from
State of Minnesota**

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To study, design, and construct a drinking water pipeline providing regionalization benefits to the cities and/or surrounding areas of Climax, Nielsville, Beltrami, Halstad, Hendrum, Perley, Borup, Georgetown, and Felton.



*map depicts proposed pipeline routing

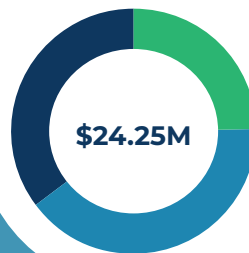
Project Timeline

- - **2020-2024**
 - 50+ Public Informational Meetings Held to Date
 - 20+ Cities/Counties Approved Letters of Support
 - 475+ Rural Testimonials
 - **Cities of Nielsville, Georgetown and Halstad are each awarded \$600,000 through MN DEED**
- - **March 2022**
 - USACE 594 \$5,594,395 - Submitted
- - **December 2022**
 - Phase 1 Pipeline to City of Climax and North River Crossing Completed, with Upscaling of Pipe for Future WCRWD Expansion
 - Climax \$2,173,062.82 USDA Grant and Loan
 - Polk County \$584,674 Contribution
- - **May 2023**
 - Clay, Norman, and Polk Counties Officially Pass Resolutions to Form the WCRWD
- - **September 2023**
 - **Polk, Norman and Clay Counties contribute \$300,000 in planning dollars**
- - **Fall 2023**
 - Felton, Perley, Georgetown, Halstad, and Nielsville have initiated city specific funding applications
- - **March 2024**
 - 2024 State Bonding Request, \$9.25M for Phase 1 Buildout
 - **\$3.5M secured in FY24 Community Project Funding from EPA**
 - Initiate Judicial Proceeding to Authorize Public Water Authority of WCRWD
- - **June 2024**
 - Official Formation of WCRWD Board of Directors
- - **Summer 2024**
 - Initiate Additional Outreach
- - **Spring 2025**
 - Begin Design
- - **Fall 2025**
 - Begin Construction
- - **Fall 2027**
 - Substantial Completion of Phase 1 Construction



Questions?

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- Secured/Pending Funding - \$6.05M
- MN State Ask - \$9.7M
- Anticipated Remaining Local Share - \$8.5M