

# Annual Highlights

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## Minnesota Water Resources Center



**The Water Resources Center (WRC) advances the science of clean water through innovation, workforce development and knowledge exchange as one of the 54 National Institutes for Water Resources.**

The WRC is an interdisciplinary unit of the University of Minnesota's College of Food Agricultural and Natural Resources Sciences and University of Minnesota Extension.

We **INNOVATE** solutions to Minnesota's complex water challenges.

The WRC advances the science of clean water by assembling interdisciplinary teams uniquely suited to address multifaceted water issues.

We **FOSTER** relationships with public and private water resource leaders.

Today's pressing water issues can only be addressed by connecting individuals and organizations to share ideas, advance science, and inform policy for win-win solutions.

We **SHARE** knowledge and practices to enact change.

We ensure that the University is responsive to community needs across the state by empowering individuals through training, education, and sharing our research efforts.

# What We Do

## INNOVATE

Through a grant from the National Science Foundation, our researchers are collaborating to develop cropping systems and evaluating economic returns for new crops such as winter camelina. Camelina and other non-traditional crops can generate new revenue for farmers while also providing living cover to prevent nutrient loss into waterways.

## FOSTER

The WRC connects thought leaders and influencers with water researchers by hosting events throughout the year, including the annual Minnesota Water Resources Conference, where water research and discussion converge into solutions that advance water-related policy. Other events include the Headwaters Lecture series, which brings international scholars to campus, and family friendly events such as Aqua Chautauqua.

## SHARE

Extension programs such as Stormwater U provide research-based, locally-tailored workshops to help communities manage stormwater runoff. Similarly, the WRC-developed Watershed Game provides an interactive, educational experience to show the connection between land use and water quality. We produce a variety of publications for academic and general interest audiences that establish trust with local communities. We build this trust by working closely with our partners and scientists so they can communicate their work to the public.

## FOCUS AREAS



Urban  
Stormwater



Agriculture  
and Rural  
Watersheds



Decentralized  
Wastewater



Groundwater  
and Drinking  
Water



Surface  
Water and  
Aquatic  
Ecosystems

# SPHERE OF INFLUENCE

“Partnering with WRC adds their academic expertise to our program experience to more comprehensively examine drinking water issues like lead, source water protection, and strategic future directions. Working together we are better able to ensure that all drinking water is safe and sufficient for everyone, everywhere in Minnesota.”



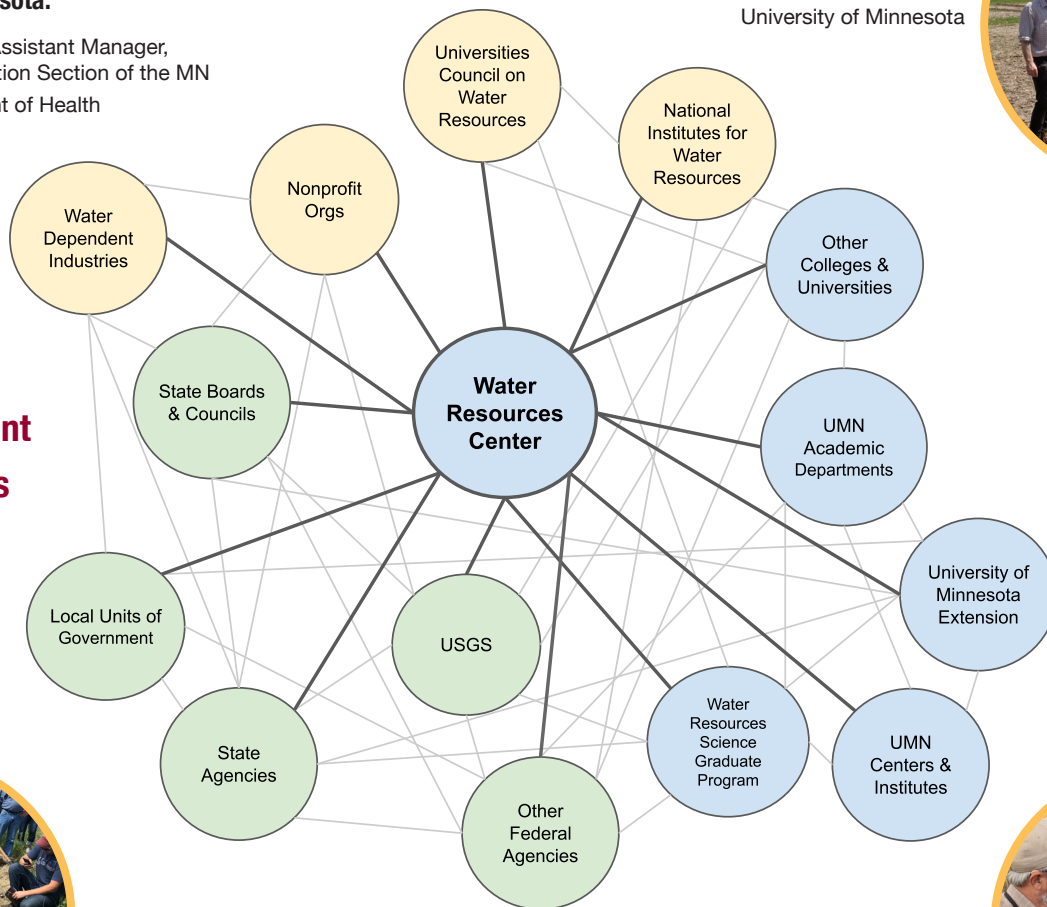
Daniel Symonik, Assistant Manager,  
Drinking Water Protection Section of the MN  
Department of Health

“Winter oilseed crops such as camelina offer farmers a chance to venture in new crop markets. When integrated into existing corn-soybean rotations, winter oilseeds create a system with continuous living cover, which helps to improve soil health and protect water resources. This research will help find cropping systems that benefit farmers and the environment.”

Axel Garcia y Garcia,  
Assistant Professor,  
University of Minnesota



- Academic
- Government
- Other Orgs



“The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has relied on the Water Resources Center for over 20 years to deliver outstanding education to thousands of septic system professionals from Minnesota and across the US and Canada. I’ve seen first-hand how this partnership has improved septic system design, permitting, installation, maintenance, and inspection to protect public health and the environment. This is a great example of collaborative program delivery that puts knowledge into action to create a better Minnesota.”

Nick Haig, Supervisor - Certification and Training Unit, Minnesota  
Pollution Control Agency



“I really appreciate the support we get from Extension educators at the WRC. They connect us with the most current research and help us to create real, tangible change in our local communities. The WRC lives out the land-grant mission by connecting with communities, learning about our needs, and designing water resource programming to meet those needs.”

Angie Hong, Education Specialist, Washington  
Conservation District

# WRC by the Numbers

During 2019, every dollar of federal base funds resulted in over

**\$42** of additional funding.

The WRC obtained over **\$1.5M** in new grants,

and hosted **114** conferences and educational events drawing

**6,285** participants.

The WRC has **36** active projects involving **112** scientists.

**62** students are enrolled in the Water Resources Science

graduate program in **27** departments.

We regularly communicate with **1,370** external and

**485** internal newsletter subscribers and our online community of

**1,511** Twitter followers resulting in **124K+**

tweet impressions.



**@MinnesotaWater**