

**Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities
Northfield City Visit
September 11, 2018**

Thank you for your interest in learning more about the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities. Attached are a number of handouts that should give you a good sense of the work the CGMC does, as well as examples of the type of advocacy materials that we use to advocate on important Greater Minnesota priorities and issues at the Legislature. For additional information about the CGMC, please visit our website at greatermncities.org.

1. Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities: 35 Years of Advocacy
2. CGMC Members List
3. 2018 Legislative Report
4. 2018 Legislative Session: Outcome of CGMC Priorities
5. CGMC City Report – Northfield
6. Top LGA Myths
7. 2018 CGMC Wastewater Accomplishments & Activities
8. The Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program
9. The Child Care Conundrum
10. Labor & Employee Relations Committee
11. Save the Date – Upcoming CGMC Events
12. Dues Invoice

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Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities: 35 Years of Legislative Advocacy

*The CGMC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan advocacy organization that represents cities outside of the Twin Cities metropolitan area. Its five core advocacy issues are **Local Government Aid/property tax relief**, **economic development**, **transportation**, **environment & energy** and **annexation**.*

Local Government Aid (LGA)/Property Tax Relief

- Fight for a fair, rational and sustainable LGA formula
- Inform legislators and the public about the importance of the LGA program and its impact on Greater Minnesota communities
- Vigorously defend the LGA program and oppose any cuts

Economic Development

- Support the creation, enhancement and expansion of economic development and redevelopment tools for Greater Minnesota communities and businesses
- Advocate for funding for economic development grant programs and other initiatives

Environment & Energy

- Support regulations that provide effective and measurable benefits to the environment
- Advocate for funding for state grant and loan programs that help cities cover the costs of necessary facility upgrades and repairs
- Educate legislators and the public on environmental issues facing Greater Minnesota cities

Transportation

- Develop comprehensive plans to fund highways and transit
- Fight for a fair distribution of transportation dollars between the metro area and Greater Minnesota
- Support funding for city streets in cities of all sizes

Annexation

- Promote better land use and zoning controls in areas surrounding cities
- Address environmental issues related to urban sprawl in townships and unorganized territories



Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities: 35 Years of Legislative Advocacy



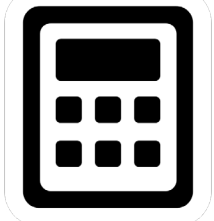
Lobbying: Fending Off the Sharks

No one else stands up for Greater Minnesota cities. Minneapolis, St. Paul, the Association of Metropolitan Municipalities and many suburbs all had paid lobbyists before the CGMC came into existence. The professional lobbying presence of the metro-area local governments at the Capitol far outweighs the lobbying of Greater Minnesota—both in terms of the number of lobbyists and the amount of money spent on lobbying. Before the CGMC there was no unified voice for Greater Minnesota at the Capitol.



Members: The Keys to Success

The CGMC is successful because of its members. Mayors, council members, city administrators and city staff members are involved in every aspect of the CGMC's advocacy work, from policy formation to lobbying at the Capitol. City officials have an immeasurable impact on shaping public policy by attending lobby days at the Capitol, responding to "action alerts" from CGMC staff, testifying in front of committees, engaging in social media and keeping in close contact with legislators.



Policy Analysis: Knowing the Numbers

The CGMC's advocacy is effective because it is based on policy, facts and analysis. The CGMC philosophy is that city officials, legislators and the public should know and understand legislation that is being considered and the impact of the legislation once it is passed. Because of this philosophy, the CGMC has a policy analyst on staff who can run the numbers and analyze the impact of legislative proposals in real time.



Staff: Close When You Can't Be

It is extremely difficult for city officials from Greater Minnesota, on their own, to have a constant presence at the Capitol simply because of the distance from St. Paul. It is far easier for a mayor from Edina or Minneapolis to visit the Capitol than a mayor from Worthington or Warroad. CGMC offices are located one block from the Capitol, and staff are there on a daily basis during the legislative session. This proximity has allowed CGMC staff to strengthen relationships with key lawmakers.



Media: More Than Just a Press Release

The CGMC understands that a crucial component of good lobbying strategy is a strong media presence that helps build public support and keeps members informed. The CGMC is in regular contact with editors and journalists throughout the state. The CGMC is very successful at getting our message out through guest columns, letters to the editor, radio and TV interviews, and on social media. Legislators pay attention to the news from back home and we make sure they hear our message loud and clear.



Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

CGMC Member Cities

Albert Lea
Alexandria
Aurora
Austin
Babbitt
Bagley
Barnesville
Bemidji
Benson
Biwabik
Blooming Prairie
Brainerd
Breckenridge
Cokato
Crookston
Detroit Lakes
Dodge Center
Eagle Lake
East Grand Forks
Elbow Lake
Ely
Eveleth
Fairmont
Fergus Falls
Foley
Gilbert
Glencoe
Glenwood
Goodview
Grand Marais
Grand Rapids
Granite Falls
Hinckley

Hoyt Lakes
Hutchinson
Jackson
Janesville
La Crescent
Lakefield
Le Sueur
Litchfield
Little Falls
Long Prairie
Luverne
Mankato
Marshall
Melrose
Moorhead
Morris
Mountain Iron
Mountain Lake
New Ulm
North Mankato
Olivia
Ortonville
Osakis
Owatonna
Park Rapids
Pelican Rapids
Perham
Pipestone
Plainview
Princeton
Red Lake Falls
Red Wing
Redwood Falls

Renville
Rice Lake
Rochester
Roseau
Rushford
St. Charles
St. James
St. Joseph
St. Peter
Sandstone
Slayton
Sleepy Eye
Springfield
Staples
Thief River Falls
Two Harbors
Virginia
Wabasha
Wadena
Waite Park
Warren
Warroad
Waseca
Waterville
Wells
Wheaton
Willmar
Windom
Winnebago
Winona
Worthington

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2018

COALITION OF GREATER MINNESOTA CITIES LEGISLATIVE SESSION REPORT

Infrastructure tops short, noisy session for CGMC

Heading into the 2018 legislative session there were a lot of questions as to whether the Governor and Legislature would be able to put aside the acrimony that dominated the previous session and make progress on key issues affecting our state.

Several factors did not bode well for the prospect of a harmonious session: Gov. Mark Dayton's decision to veto the Legislature's operating funds at the end of the 2017 session, the resignation of two legislators amid sexual harassment allegations, a razor-thin majority for Republicans in the Senate, and looming elections that will set control of the Governor's office and Legislature.

In a session with so many cross-currents, the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities (CGMC) determined that ensuring the passage of a robust bonding bill focused on infrastructure needs would be its top priority. The bonding bill being signed into law was the bright spot for Greater Minnesota communities this session.

Unfortunately, the Legislature's other efforts to work things out with the Governor fell victim to the veto pen. The massive "Omnibus Omnibus" bill (almost 1,000 pages!) was full of budget adjustments and policy ideas that were simply too much for the Governor to swallow. The tax bill was also vetoed due to the Governor's concerns about a lack of education funding and who would see tax breaks.

We are pleased to see some advances for infrastructure this year, but many issues will need attention in 2019 including Local Government Aid (LGA), city streets, access to child care, workforce housing and continued funding for water infrastructure.

CGMC leads the fight for water infrastructure funding

In 2017, the CGMC helped pushed through a bonding bill with the highest amount of money ever awarded to Public Facilities Authority (PFA) grant and loan programs. However, the need continues: in a survey of wastewater infrastructure needs, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) reported that future wastewater and sewer projects will cost an estimated \$5 billion statewide over the next 20 years.

In response to this need, Sen. Gary Dahms (R-Redwood Falls) and Rep. Dean Urdahl (R-Grove City) introduced a bill to dedicate \$167 million to the PFA programs. Gov. Dayton's bonding proposal included a nearly identical request.

The CGMC pushed hard to move this proposal forward by holding press conferences, testifying at legislative hearings, writing editorials and garnering news coverage, sending out "action alerts" to mobilize our members, and meeting with key legislators. However, the biggest hurdle was the arbitrarily low



Albert Lea City Manager Chad Adams (center) and other CGMC city leaders held a press conference to highlight the dire need for more funding for clean water infrastructure.

bonding bill target of \$825 million.

When they unveiled their separate bonding bills, the House and Senate both included \$120 million for water infrastructure, although the exact distribution of that funding varied between the two bills.

Creative maneuvering leads to larger bonding bill

The House passed its bonding bill on its first try, but the Senate bill failed on a mostly party-line vote. From there, negotiations were conducted behind closed doors, but it was apparent that a package worth only \$825 million could not win sufficient votes to clear both houses. To increase the amount, legislative leaders turned to other funding sources aside from general obligation bonds to bring total spending in the bill to nearly \$1.5 billion.

To fund water infrastructure, the Legislature appropriated \$100 million worth of a new type of appropriation bond, which will be paid back from the lottery proceeds that flow into the Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund (ENTRF). A number of groups objected to the creation of the new appropriation bonds, claiming that the funding mechanism defeats the intent behind the constitutional amendment that created the ENTRF.

CGMC 2018 Legislative Outcomes at a Glance

- \$123M for clean water infrastructure grants and loans
- \$5M for the Greater Minnesota BDPI program
- \$400M in bonding for Corridors of Commerce
- Prevented passage of harmful annexation legislation
- Prevented passage of harmful constitutional amendment that would have taken money out of the general fund and dedicated it to transportation

The final bonding bill contained approximately \$123 million for the PFA programs. It included general obligation bond funding of \$14 million for state matching funds for federal EPA grants and \$25 million for Water Infrastructure Fund (WIF) grants for drinking water. The new appropriation bonds will add \$6 million to the state matching funds for the EPA grants, \$14.6 million to WIF and \$38 million to the Point Source Implementation Grant Program (PSIG). The bill also included \$25 million in earmarks for specific water infrastructure projects.

Bonding bill avoids veto

The CGMC worked with its members to urge Gov. Dayton to sign the bonding bill. On May 30, he signed the bill and left all funding for the wastewater programs in place. The Governor expressed dismay at the new funding mechanism, but he also recognized the need to fund water infrastructure projects.



CGMC lobbyist Tim Flaherty (right) meets with Sen. Jeremy Miller (R-Winona) to discuss the need for additional funding for water infrastructure.

CGMC pushes for new water infrastructure funding program

Additional funding for the PFA programs will help many CGMC cities, but the programs' limitations mean some cities will still struggle to afford needed infrastructure upgrades even if they receive all of the PFA funding for which they are eligible. Working with Sen. Torrey Westrom (R-Elbow Lake) and Rep. Urdahl, the CGMC introduced a bill to create a supplemental grant program to limit the costs of state-mandated water quality regulations that are imposed on city wastewater ratepayers.

Due to strong opposition from the PFA, the Legislature did not pass this new policy. However, policy language included in the bonding bill requires

the PFA to provide new information on the amount of money needed to fund water infrastructure grants each year and to show the impact that receiving (or not receiving) PFA funding would have on each community's water rates. This information should help pass a supplemental grant program in the future.

CGMC dives into other water-related issues

The CGMC worked on a host of other water-related issues this year. One success was passage of a law that provides that if a city builds or upgrades its wastewater treatment facility to meet new permit limits, it will not be required to invest capital to comply with new effluent limits for the next 16 years.

The CGMC also worked on new legislation pertaining to sulfate in wild rice waters. Although Gov. Dayton vetoed the bill, he took steps to address some of our concerns by issuing an executive order that creates a task force to explore the issue and by directing that the MPCA cannot require construction of expensive sulfate removal equipment until the technology becomes affordable.

In addition, the CGMC provided formal comments on new rules to protect groundwater from liquid fertilizer, as well as an MPCA request to increase fees.

Focus on federal tax conformity sidelines LGA

After passing the 2017 tax bill – which included a \$15 million LGA increase – the CGMC again set its sights on restoring LGA to its 2002 funding level. The February budget forecast helped set the stage for an increase, showing that the Legislature had a \$329 million budget surplus to work with.

Tax reform consumes attention

With the passage of federal tax reform in late 2017, tax conformity was the top tax issue at the State Capitol this session. Because of how Minnesota calculates its income tax, taxes would increase for many Minnesotans as a result of the federal changes. Moreover, if the state did not act, tax filers would be faced with basically two separate taxing systems – causing increased cost and confusion.

The CGMC sought to push the needs of communities into the larger conversation of the needs of taxpayers. A bill was introduced to increase LGA funding by \$30.5 million, the amount needed bring it back to the 2002 benchmark. Note that current LGA funding is nearly \$300 million below the amount of need identified by the LGA formula. Rep. Paul Anderson (R-Starbuck) and Sen. Bill Weber (R-Luverne) were the chief authors of the bipartisan legislation.



St. James City Manager Sam Hansen and Morris City Manager Blaine Hill testify in support of a bill to increase LGA funding.

Prospects for LGA increase dim

There were early indications that the path to an LGA increase was going to be littered with a few potholes. First, Gov. Dayton's tax proposal failed to include any increase in LGA. Second, while the House introduced and later heard the CGMC-supported legislation, a few House Republicans again pushed for policies which would have weakened the LGA program. For example, a bill was introduced that targeted a city's LGA if it has a local options sales tax and another bill would have reduced LGA for cities based on local immigration policies. The CGMC has long opposed changes to LGA based on non-formula factors, including the policy preferences of legislators that are not related to a city's need or tax base.

The bill had a hearing the House, but the Senate Tax Committee refused to hear any bills related to LGA, opting to focus solely on tax conformity and tax reform issues. Despite strong bipartisan support for an LGA increase, neither the House nor Senate include one in their respective tax bills.

Veto pen hits tax bill

The joint Senate-House Tax Conference Committee began meeting in May and the Legislature eventually passed a

negotiated tax bill. Despite including some additional money for schools (a top priority for the Governor), Gov. Dayton vetoed the bill, claiming that it did not do enough to help low- and middle-income Minnesotans. Despite this, the Legislature could still pass a tax bill early in the 2019 session to help Minnesota conform to federal tax law changes.

With upcoming elections, the CGMC will continue to ensure LGA remains top of mind for candidates to bolster the possibility of an increase during the 2019 session.



Senate Minority Leader Tom Bakk (DFL-Cook) and House Speaker Kurt Daudt (R-Crown) share a laugh while participating in a panel discussion during CGMC's annual Legislative Action Day.

Transportation priorities face bumpy road at the Capitol

The CGMC entered 2018 with two goals regarding transportation: to monitor and participate in the project selection process for Corridors of Commerce to ensure Greater Minnesota is represented, and to ensure funding for city streets is included in any supplemental transportation proposals.

Concern over new Corridors scoring system

While the CGMC supported the 2017 Legislature's appropriation of \$400 million to Corridors of Commerce, the 2017 transportation bill also created new, rigid metrics for the program that gave us significant concern that Greater Minnesota projects would struggle to compete with high-traffic roads in the metro area. Moreover, while the Minnesota Department of Transportation (MnDOT) has historically split Corridors of Commerce funding 50/50 between Greater Minnesota and the metro, some metro-area groups began to push for a larger piece of the pie.

In December, the CGMC submitted comments to MnDOT expressing our concern that the geographic balance and other elements of the scoring system would disadvantage Greater Minnesota. MnDOT took some of our suggestions and vowed to continue to award funds along 50/50 lines.

Initial Corridors awards disappoint

When MnDOT announced on May 1 which Corridors of Commerce projects would receive funding, disappointment and confusion rang out in Greater Minnesota. Due to the new scoring system and decisions MnDOT made in implementing it, only four projects received funding, all of which are within a 40-minute drive of downtown Minneapolis. The two Greater Minnesota projects fell just barely outside of the boundaries MnDOT used to define the "metro" area.

Roller coaster end to session funds additional Greater MN projects

Following the disappointing May 1 announcement, the CGMC and others called on the Legislature to make it right. Working with MnDOT and key legislators, the CGMC helped broker a deal to include \$400 million in trunk highway bonds for Corridors of Commerce in the bonding bill. Shortly after the bill was signed, MnDOT announced that the funds would go to the next two highest scoring Greater Minnesota projects (Highway 14 and Highway 23) and one project in the metro.

Constitutional amendment for transportation funding stalls

A proposal to have Minnesotans vote on a constitutional amendment to dedicate the portion of the state's general sales tax attributable to revenue on auto parts was introduced this year. Because the amendment would not have raised any new revenues, the money would come out of the general fund—at the expense of other non-transportation programs, such as LGA and education. In total, it was estimated that the amendment would have re-directed \$250-\$300 million per year to transportation.

Due to the potential and permanent impact on the state budget, the CGMC and a broad range of education, health care,

human services, and public employee organizations opposed the proposal.

The bill to put the amendment question on the ballot passed the House in the final days of the session, but failed to gain traction in the Senate and was never brought to the Senate floor.



Sen. Andrew Lang (R-Olivia) learns about CGMC priorities from Granite Falls Mayor David Smiglewski, Marshall City Councilor David Sturrock and Willmar City Councilor Audrey Nelsen.

CGMC, GMNP shed light on child care crisis

The CGMC and our sister organization, the Greater Minnesota Partnership (GMNP), made developing potential solutions to the child care shortage in Greater Minnesota a top focus in 2018.

The CGMC and GMNP focused on three legislative efforts: funding for initiative foundations to help provide training to expand access to quality child care; a program to assist communities to build, upgrade or expand child care facilities; and additional funding for the Greater Minnesota Child Care Grant Program to increase availability. The latter bill was included in the large supplemental budget bill, but the entire bill was vetoed by the Governor.

SAVE THE DATE!

CGMC Summer Conference

July 25-27, 2018

Verizon Center

Mankato, MN

CGMC Fall Conference

November 15-16, 2018

Arrowwood Resort

Alexandria, MN

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Several regulatory reform measures were signed into law this session, including relief from some background checks on children of in-home providers, as well as reforms to other licensing and training requirements. Legislation to require the state Department of Human Services to identify regulatory burdens and take steps to reduce them also passed.

Despite a short session, the CGMC and the GMNP helped garner media and legislative attention to this pressing need, setting the stage for progress in 2019.

Bonding bill includes \$5M for vital BDPI program

The CGMC was instrumental in creating the Greater Minnesota Business Development Public Infrastructure Grant Program (BDPI) in the early 2000s and continues to advocate for funding for this popular and successful program. The program received \$12 million in the 2017 bonding bill, but a backlog of projects necessitated another injection of funds.

The Senate bonding bill included \$8 million for BDPI, while the House bill funded it at \$3 million. The final bonding bill included \$5 million for the program.

CGMC pushes back on harmful annexation bill

It felt like déjà vu all over again when the Minnesota Association of Townships (MAT) resurrected legislation that the CGMC blocked last year. The bill would have prohibited a city from pursuing an annexation if the potential area



Little Falls City Administrator Jon Radermacher and Scott Marquardt of the Southwest Initiative Foundation discuss the child care shortage in Greater Minnesota at a legislative hearing.

was covered by an orderly annexation agreement with another city. Such legislation would pit cities against each other and prevent them from having a say in how they develop.

In early January, CGMC lobbyists met with MAT staff and its lobbyists and separately with Sen. Dan Hall (R-Burnsville), chair of the Senate Local Government Committee, to discuss whether a compromise could be reached. MAT pledged to compromise, but the bill it drafted did not address our concerns.

CGMC staff worked with our members to reach out to key legislators to forestall a hearing on the bill. In April, however, MAT introduced a new version of the legislation that was even more restrictive than the earlier iteration. Although it was past committee deadlines, Sen. Hall agreed to hear the bill on an informational basis. No action was taken, but Sen. Hall and other senators expressed interest in discussing the issue over the interim.

About the CGMC

The Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities is dedicated to a strong Greater Minnesota. Our mission is to develop viable, progressive communities through strong economic growth and good local government. We support fair property taxes, sound land use planning, sensible environmental regulation, a balanced transportation system and effective economic development tools to meet that goal.

Contact Us

Email: CGMC_Communications@flaherty-hood.com
Online: greatermncities.org

About Flaherty & Hood, P.A.

With more than 25 years of experience at the Capitol, Flaherty & Hood, P.A. has the expertise needed to successfully create change at the state level for the CGMC. Our unique approach integrates strong policy analysis and media relations with traditional, bipartisan lobbying to effectively communicate with key decision makers.

Contact Us

Phone: 651-225-8840
Fax: 651-225-9088
Email: FH@flaherty-hood.com
Online: flaherty-hood.com



2018 Legislative Session: Outcome of CGMC Priorities

	CGMC Goal	Governor	Legislature	Final Bill
Local Government Aid (LGA)	\$30.5M increase in base funding	\$0	\$0	\$0 in tax bill (entire bill vetoed by Governor)
Public Facilities Authority (PFA) water infrastructure grant & loan programs	At least \$167M in bonding	\$167M in bonding	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate bonding bill included \$120M (including \$37.85M in earmarks) House bonding bill included \$120M 	Bonding bill included \$123.35M in funding (including \$25.35M in earmarks)
Supplemental grant program for water infrastructure	CGMC supported the creation of a new supplemental grant program to help cities pay for water infrastructure in instances where the existing PFA programs do not provide sufficient funding	The PFA opposed this proposal	Not included in Senate or House bonding bills	Not included in final bill
Minnesota Environmental Science and Economic Review Board (MESERB) permit reviews	\$2M over two years for MESERB to review MPCA water quality permits to analyze costs, accuracy and environmental impacts	MPCA opposed this proposal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$0 in Senate bonding bill \$1M in House bonding bill, \$300,000 in one-time funding in House supplemental budget bill 	Bonding bill included \$1M for an unnamed higher education institution to perform permit reviews. This provision was line-item vetoed by the Governor.
Corridors of Commerce	\$200M/year (cash and bonding)	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate: \$0 for Corridors of Commerce, but \$174M for a specific project in bonding bill House: \$155M in cash and bonding 	\$400M in bonding bill; \$10M in cash in supplemental budget bill (entire bill vetoed by Governor)
City Streets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$25M/year for cities with populations under 5,000 \$25M/year for cities with populations over 5,000 	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Senate: \$0 House: Additional \$7M in 2019, \$8M ongoing funding for cities under 5,000; \$6.623M in one-time funding for cities over 5,000 	\$8.5M in 2019 for cities under 5,000 included in supplemental budget bill (entire bill vetoed by Governor); \$0 for cities over 5,000



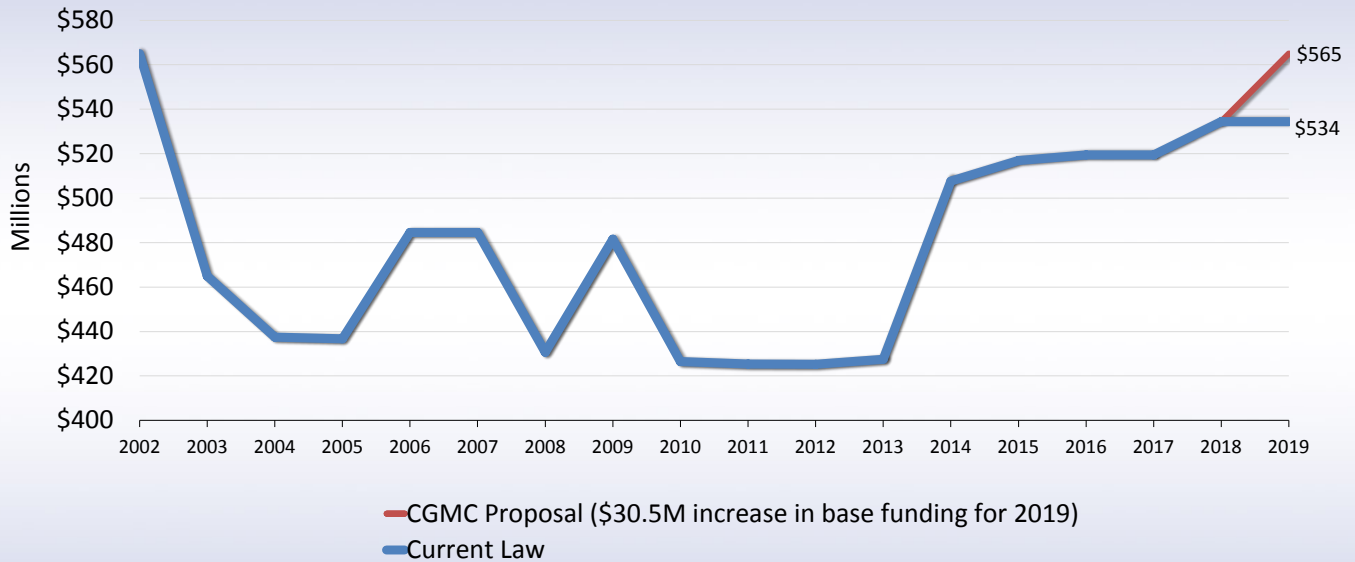
2018 Legislative Session: Outcome of CGMC Priorities

	CGMC Goal	Governor	Legislature	Final Bill
Constitutional amendment to re-direct general fund dollars to transportation	CGMC opposed the proposed amendment	Governor opposed the amendment, but has no veto-power on constitutional amendment proposals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bill did not pass in the Senate • Bill passed in the House 	Did not pass
Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program	At least \$20M	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$8M in Senate bonding bill • \$3M in House bonding bill 	\$5M in bonding bill
Grants to Initiative Foundations for training and education programs for child care providers	\$1.5M	\$0	\$0	\$0
Funding for child care facilities in Greater Minnesota	\$5M in bonding and \$5 million from the general fund	\$0	\$0	\$0
Greater Minnesota Child Care Grants	\$519,000	\$0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senate: \$0 • House: \$750,000 in supplemental budget bill 	\$750,000 in supplemental budget bill (entire bill vetoed by Governor)

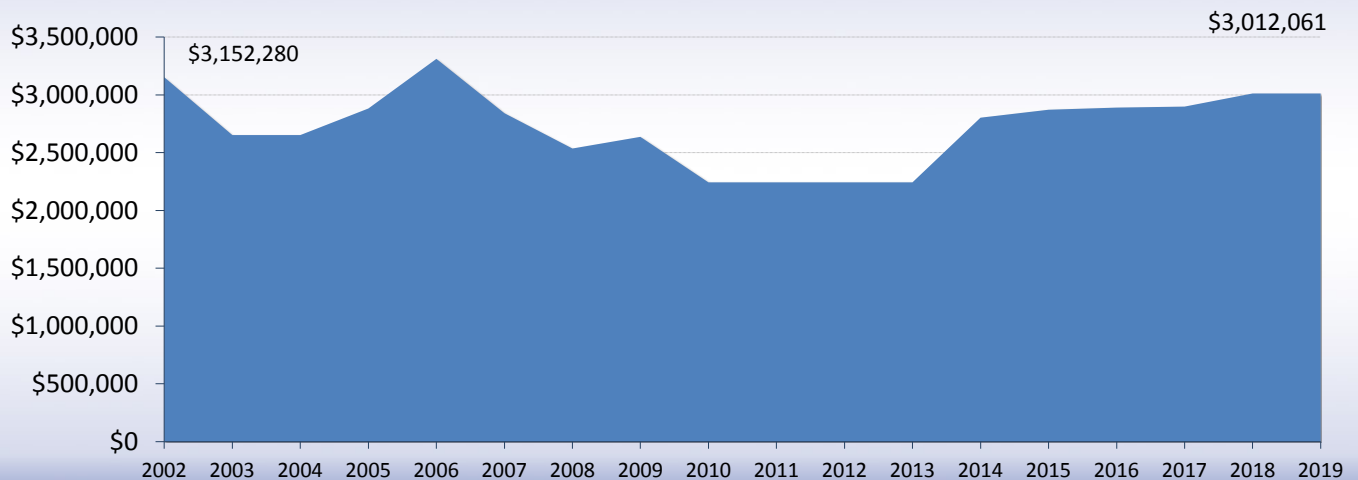


CGMC City Report - Northfield

State LGA Appropriation History and 2018 CGMC Proposal



Northfield LGA, 2002-2019

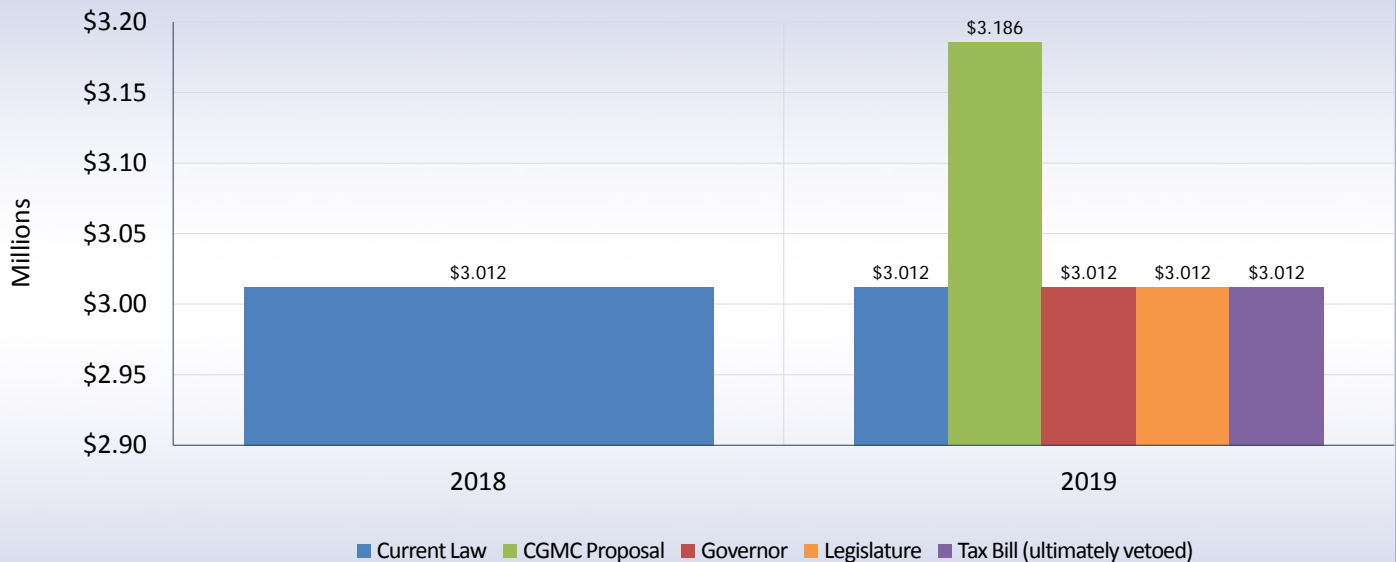


The City of Northfield is expected to received \$3,012,061 for its 2019 LGA, which is no change from its 2018 LGA (\$3,012,061). Under the CGMC proposal, Northfield's LGA would have been \$3,185,953 in 2019.

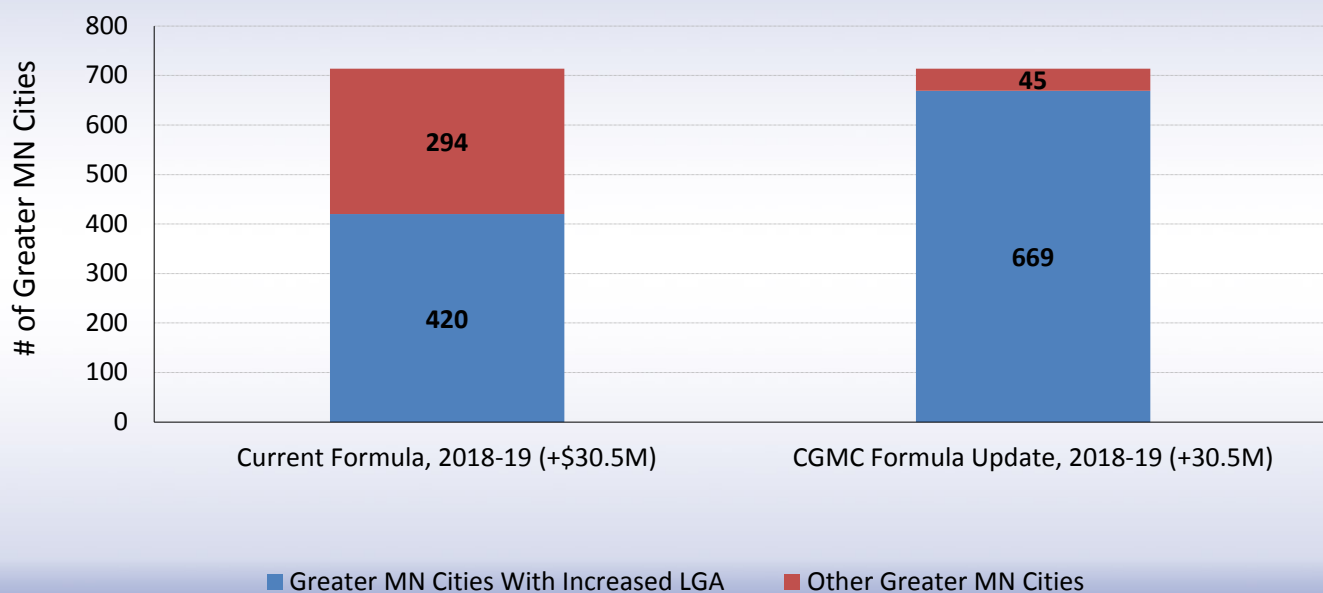


CGMC City Report - Northfield

Amount of LGA Funding Northfield Would Have Received Under 2018 LGA Proposals



CGMC Formula Update Would Help Greater MN Cities



The CGMC proposed a minor LGA formula update in 2018, which would have inflated the current LGA need factors to better reflect the financial needs of Greater Minnesota communities. The CGMC will again push for this update in the 2019 legislative session.



Top LGA Myths

1. MYTH: LGA doesn't hold down property taxes.

FACT: Tax rates dramatically changed following the 2013 LGA reform and \$80 million appropriation increase – 65.38% of LGA-receiving cities *increased* tax rates from 2012-13; following the LGA increase (2013-14), 62.68% cities *decreased* tax rates. The partial restoration of LGA funding in 2014 led to the third-lowest levy increase of the last 25 years.

2. MYTH: LGA was originally only for small rural cities.

FACT: The first LGA formula distributed aid on a per person basis to counties, which then redistributed it to cities based on their levy size – the larger the levy the more LGA a city received. Aid went to cities across the state regardless of their size or geographical position and clearly based on a formula that was not just for small rural cities.

3. MYTH: The original intent of LGA was to fund “essential services” that cities couldn't otherwise pay for.

FACT: At no time since the inception of the program has there been a directive as to how LGA dollars are to be spent by cities. In fact, the first formula gave more aid to cities that levied more, which has no relation to just “essential services.”

4. MYTH: LGA was never intended for first class cities (Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth) – and those cities now receive too much.

FACT: The original 1971 statute specifically refers to Minneapolis and St. Paul (Minn. Stat. 477A.02, subd. 14 (1971)). These cities' share of LGA has declined since the program's inception. From 1972 to the reform of 2013, the share going to these first class cities fell from 44% of the total city appropriation to 33% of the appropriation.

Since the 2013 formula reform, the LGA share going to Minneapolis, St. Paul, and Duluth increased by 0.09% points (2014-2017). For LGA-received per capita, Minneapolis ranks 457, St. Paul ranks 427, and Duluth ranks 116 out of 764 LGA-receiving cities.

5. MYTH: The LGA formula is “political.”

FACT: The 2013 LGA formula reform was developed by a working group that included legislators and all city advocacy groups. The bill that reformed the LGA formula (HF 1608/SF 1491) had broad bipartisan support.

The formula is based on objective statistical analysis and is blind to where a city is located or who its legislator is. What would be political – and unprecedented – would be changing the formula based on incorrect ideas about which cities have high property tax wealth, receive the most LGA, and deserve to be cut, without reference to objective formula factors.

6. MYTH: The pre-reform LGA formula (prior to 2014) was better for Greater Minnesota than the post-reform formula.

FACT: Greater Minnesota gets more money under the new formula than it would have under the old one. Under the old formula, Greater Minnesota's share would have been 62.5% in 2017; now, under the new formula Greater Minnesota's share is 65.7% (based on actual LGA appropriations).

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2018 CGMC Wastewater Accomplishments & Activities

Over the last several years, cities in Greater Minnesota have begun to face a tsunami of legislative and regulatory changes resulting in stricter permit limits and increasingly high wastewater costs. In response, the CGMC's environmental program has drastically increased its activities. While we have made progress over the past two years, there is still much more work to do. Thank you to the cities who have contributed to the CGMC Environmental Action Fund to help support these efforts.

1. Obtained funding for water infrastructure

The CGMC advocated for significant funding for the Public Facilities Authority (PFA) water infrastructure grant and loan programs. The bonding bill passed by the Legislature and signed into law appropriated more than \$123 million in funding for the PFA programs.

2. Developed new supplemental grant program

The CGMC developed legislation, obtained authors and testified at hearings in support of a new supplemental grant program to provide additional funding to cities that are not adequately served by the existing PFA programs. The proposed supplemental grant program would have limited the costs of state-mandated water quality regulations that are imposed on city wastewater ratepayers. Due to strong opposition from the PFA, the Legislature did not pass this new policy. However, they did require the PFA to provide new information on the amount of money needed to fund water and wastewater grants each year and to show the impact that receiving or not receiving PFA funding would have on each community's water rates. This information should help pass a supplemental grant program in the future.

3. Required the MPCA to consider compliance schedules that reflect debt loads

In response to CGMC testimony about the high cost of water quality regulations, the Legislature required the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) to consider debt service when developing compliance schedules in wastewater permits.

4. Fought for independent review of permits and water quality standards

CGMC sponsored legislation that would have made \$2 million available to perform independent scientific review of water quality standards and cost and environmental analysis of municipal wastewater permits. The bonding bill included \$1 million for this permit review activity, but it was line-item vetoed by the Governor because of strong opposition from the MPCA and environmental groups.

5. Increased disclosures for permit holders

In response to CGMC testimony that many small cities did not know they could challenge MPCA permits, the Legislature imposed a requirement that the MPCA provide wastewater permit holders with a written summary of their rights to participate and challenge their permit during the permit writing process.

6. Supported codifying external peer review

In July 2017, MPCA Commissioner John Linc Stine issued a directive requiring the MPCA to integrate external and transparent scientific peer review requirements in the water quality standards development process. This directive was a response to legislation proposed by the CGMC for independent peer review earlier that year. In 2018, the CGMC supported an effort to put Commissioner Stine's directive review into state law. The external peer review requirement was included in the supplemental budget bill passed by the Legislature, but the bill was vetoed by the Governor.



2018 CGMC Wastewater Accomplishments & Activities

7. Participated in Legislative Water Commission stakeholder group

The CGMC participated in a stakeholder group established by the Legislative Water Commission (LWC) focused on taking an in-depth look at the regulatory and cost issues associated with wastewater treatment. The CGMC advocated for strengthening the peer review process, addressing problems with unadopted rules, increasing the amount and sources for infrastructure funding, and examining a pilot trading program to address non-point-source pollution. The LWC recommended several of the initiatives supported by the CGMC, including putting Commissioner Stine's directive on external peer review into law and appropriating \$167 million in bonding for water infrastructure programs.

8. Supported trading legislation

The CGMC worked with other stakeholders, including the Chamber of Commerce and the MPCA, to develop a trading program to facilitate innovative approaches to addressing water quality issues. Although the legislation did not pass, an important dialogue was started.

9. Worked on wild rice sulfate water quality issues

After the CGMC and other stakeholders objected to the MPCA's revised rule regarding wild rice waters, an administrative law judge rejected it and the MPCA eventually withdrew the rule. The CGMC worked with other stakeholders on legislation that was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. However, the Governor addressed some of the CGMC's concerns through an executive order that creates a task force to work on the issue and by directing that the MPCA could not require construction of expensive sulfate removal equipment until the technology becomes affordable.

10. Enhanced regulatory certainty

A bill was signed into law that says that to the extent allowable by federal law, cities cannot be required to make expensive upgrades to their wastewater facilities for 16 years after upgrading to meet new effluent limits. The CGMC participated in defending against a legal challenge to this requirement and supported legislation on this issue.

11. Opposed arbitrary fee increases

The CGMC submitted comments in opposition to an MPCA proposal that would increase fees for water quality. The CGMC also supported legislation that would have required legislative approval for any MPCA fee increases, but the Governor vetoed the bill. The CGMC will remain engaged in any rulemaking on this issue.

12. Supported "Safe Salting" legislation

The CGMC lobbied in favor of bipartisan legislation that would encourage practices aimed at preventing road salt from reaching our lakes and streams. The bill advanced in both the House and the Senate, and a modified version was included in the House version of the omnibus supplemental finance bill.

13. Engaged legislators on flushable wipes issue

The CGMC met with legislators to discuss a solution to the flushable wipes problem that clogs many city pipes and sewers. However, the current legislative climate does not support a legislative solution.



The Greater MN Business Development Public Infrastructure (BDPI) Grant Program

Providing the public infrastructure necessary for private investment

What is BDPI?

- The BDPI program provides grants to cities in Greater Minnesota of up to 50% of the capital costs for the public infrastructure necessary to expand economic growth, retain or create jobs, or increase the tax base (§ 116J.431).
- Greater Minnesota cities depend on the BDPI program to attract new businesses and create jobs in their communities.

“One of the best economic development tools available for business expansions and relocations outside of the Twin Cities metro.”

--- DEED, State of Minnesota 2016 Proposed Capital Budget, 1/15/2016

BDPI Quick Facts

- 96 Greater Minnesota cities and counties have received BDPI grants since FY 2010
- 2,165 jobs created and 7,590 jobs retained since 2010
- Nearly \$32 million awarded since 2010

“These grants are an important economic development tool for communities throughout the state.”

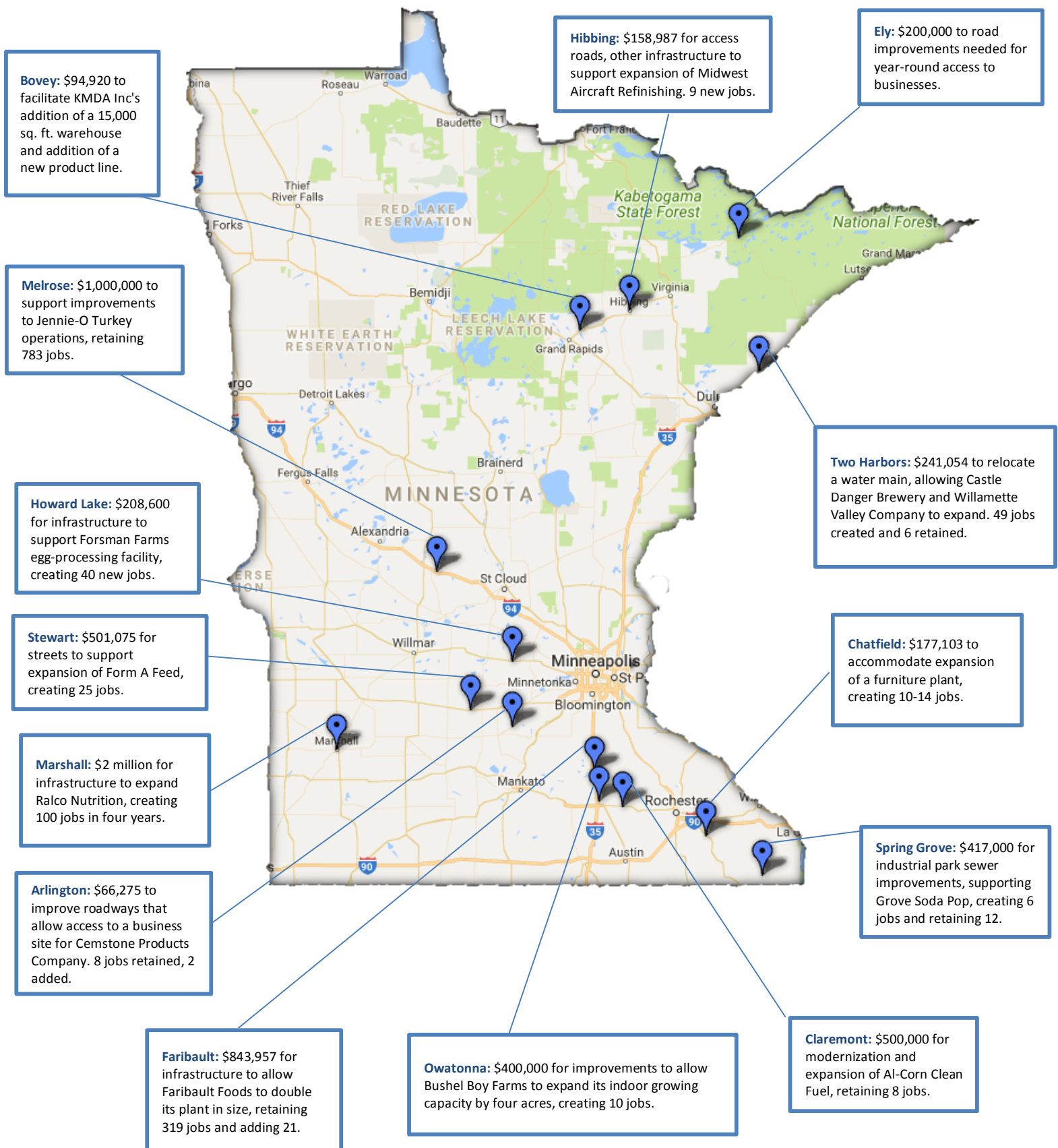
--- DEED Commissioner Shawntera Hardy, press release, 1/31/2018

2018 BDPI Proposal:

- Bonding appropriation: At least \$20 million
- DEED forecasts that due to significant demand, funds will be depleted unless the legislature takes action in 2018

Support the Greater Minnesota BDPI program and help grow Greater Minnesota's economy

How have BDPI grants been used across the state?





The BDPI Grant Program Has Helped More Than 200 Greater Minnesota Communities Grow

BDPI grant awards 2003-2017

City	Year	Amount
Ada	2003	\$166,783
Aitkin County	2011	\$250,000
Albany	2005	\$515,309
Albert Lea	2006	\$250,000
Alexandria	2003	\$300,000
Arlington	2016	\$66,275
Audubon	2003	\$19,601
Austin	2003	\$380,000
Bagley	2011	\$204,134
Barnesville	2011	\$134,013
Becker	2010	\$250,000
Belgrade	2003	\$136,913
Bemidji	2006	\$350,000
Bemidji	2008	\$250,000
Benson	2003	\$347,066
Bigfork	2008	\$190,223
Bigfork	2010	\$250,000
Blackduck	2010	\$71,825
Blooming Prairie	2014	\$215,829
Bovey	2006	\$192,000
Bovey	2016	\$94,920
Brainerd	2006	\$375,000
Brewster	2003	\$81,495
Brewster	2008	\$250,000
Broton	2010	\$250,000
Broton	2017	1,025,000
Browerville	2005	\$175,000
Cambridge	2011	\$224,884
Cambridge	2015	\$1,800,000
Cannon Falls	2005	\$250,000
Cannon Falls	2010	\$15,000
Carlton County	2016	\$162,500
Chatfield	2012	\$90,753
Chatfield	2017	\$177,103
Chisholm	2010	\$300,000
Chokio	2010	\$206,700
Claremont	2016	\$500,000
Cloquet	2003	\$280,000
Cohasset	2005	\$352,000

City	Year	Amount
Cohasset	2015	\$250,000
Cold Spring	2005	\$392,752
Cold Spring	2006	\$300,000
Coleraine	2006	\$173,435
Cottonwood	2005	\$140,769
Crookston	2010	\$75,000
Dawson	2010	\$500,000
Delano	2012	\$360,000
Detroit Lakes	2008	\$250,000
Detroit Lakes	2014	\$92,100
Duluth	2005	\$500,000
Duluth	2005	\$500,000
Duluth	2006	\$250,000
Duluth	2008	\$500,000
East Grand Forks	2008	\$245,000
Edgerton	2006	\$92,125
Elk River	2005	\$360,080
Elk River	2010	\$290,997
Elk River	2011	\$250,000
Ely	2015	\$250,000
Ely	2016	\$200,000
Faribault	2003	\$86,002
Faribault	2005	\$278,425
Faribault	2011	\$349,528
Faribault	2016	\$843,957
Fergus Falls	2006	\$300,000
Fosston	2008	\$250,000
Freeport	2006	\$888,483
Gilbert	2011	\$244,750
Grand Marais	2005	\$499,137
Grand Marais	2015	\$250,000
Grand Meadow	2015	\$310,000
Grand Rapids	2005	\$272,075
Grand Rapids	2008	\$250,000
Green Isle	2003	\$67,036
Hallock	2006	\$300,000
Hanover	2010	\$250,000
Harmony	2003	\$191,768

City	Year	Amount
Harmony	2010	\$250,000
Harmony	2014	\$250,000
Hartland	2008	\$25,000
Hawley	2005	\$122,500
Hawley	2008	\$140,476
Hawley	2012	\$500,000
Herman	2005	\$143,900
Heron Lake	2005	\$500,000
Hibbing	2006	\$250,000
Hibbing	2010	\$150,000
Hibbing	2016	\$158,897
Howard Lake	2016	\$208,600
Hutchinson	2008	\$250,000
Hutchinson	2010	\$250,000
Isanti	2010	\$11,000
Jackson	2005	\$351,281
Jackson	2010	\$153,286
La Crescent	2006	\$1,400,000
La Prairie	2010	\$237,500
La Prairie	2015	\$175,000
Lake Crystal	2003	\$500,000
Lake Crystal	2006	\$257,548
Lakefield	2008	\$198,000
Le Sueur	2003	\$358,127
Le Sueur	2006	\$250,000
Litchfield	2005	\$261,900
Litchfield	2010	\$107,151
Little Falls	2005	\$500,000
Long Prairie	2005	\$500,000
Long Prairie	2010	\$240,000
Luverne	2003	\$500,000
Luverne	2011	\$150,000
Luverne	2015	\$131,500
Luverne	2017	\$1,982,000
Lyle	2012	\$98,490
Mankato	2003	\$21,313
Mankato	2005	\$500,000
Mankato	2005	\$142,590
Mankato	2006	\$478,687



The BDPI Grant Program Has Helped More Than 200 Greater Minnesota Communities Grow

BDPI grant awards 2003-2017

City	Year	Amount
Mankato	2010	\$249,666
Marshall	2016	\$2,000,000
Mazeppa	2008	\$248,248
Melrose	2003	\$400,000
Melrose	2016	\$1,000,000
Milaca	2003	\$68,310
Mille Lacs County	2012	\$300,000
Montrose	2008	\$427,390
Moorhead	2003	\$500,000
Moorhead	2012	\$250,000
Mora	2006	\$56,995
Morris	2010	\$500,000
Motley	2010	\$250,000
Mountain Iron	2010	\$250,000
New Prague	2010	\$313,005
New Ulm	2008	\$200,681
North Branch	2003	\$387,787
North Branch	2005	\$304,222
North Branch	2010	\$1,000,000
North Mankato	2008	\$250,000
Olivia	2003	\$164,405
Osakis	2006	\$383,140
Owatonna	2014	\$421,447
Owatonna	2016	\$400,000
Palisade	2011	\$120,000
Pelican Rapids	2014	\$145,390
Perham	2003	\$122,725
Perham	2006	\$250,000
Perham	2010	\$500,000
Pine City	2003	\$53,477
Pine River	2005	\$164,049
Pipestone	2005	\$499,907
Polk County	2007	\$175,737
Preston	2014	\$137,000
Preston	2014	\$350,000
Red Wing	2010	\$106,086
Redwood Falls	2005	\$250,000
Rice County	2012	\$326,218

City	Year	Amount
Richmond	2008	\$121,799
Rockville	2005	\$152,734
Roseau	2003	\$378,000
Roseau	2008	\$300,000
Royalton	2017	\$227,014
Saint Charles	2010	\$500,000
Saint Cloud	2005	\$286,710
Saint Cloud	2010	\$500,000
Saint James	2003	\$209,600
Saint James	2008	\$207,108
Silver Bay	2003	\$261,354
Spring Grove	2016	\$417,000
Springfield	2005	\$486,239
St. Louis County	2011	\$285,000
Staples	2014	\$23,230
Stewart	2016	\$501,075
Stewartville	2011	\$337,688
Tailors Falls	2015	\$100,000
Tailors Falls	2016	\$100,000
Thief River Falls	2006	\$236,039
Thief River Falls	2008	\$200,000
Thief River Falls	2011	\$250,000
Tower	2006	\$249,980
Truman	2003	\$223,358
Two Harbors	2016	\$241,054
Villard	2015	\$250,000
Virginia	2006	\$300,000
Virginia	2010	\$200,000
Virginia	2010	\$300,000
Virginia	2014	\$200,000
Virginia	2015	\$250,000
Wadena	2011	\$350,000
Wanamingo	2003	\$222,375
Wanamingo	2014	\$250,000
Warren	2010	\$150,000
Wells	2005	\$41,072
Wells	2012	\$148,000

City	Year	Amount
Windom	2011	\$549,540
Winona	2005	\$490,000
Winona	2006	\$300,000
Winona	2008	\$337,500
Winona	2010	\$94,881
Winthrop	2008	\$500,000
Worthington	2010	\$500,000
Wyoming	2003	\$1,000,000
Wyoming	2006	\$481,435
Zumbrota	2010	\$750,000



The Child Care Conundrum

Exploring solutions to the child care shortage in Greater Minnesota



Ask almost any working parent in Greater Minnesota about child care and you are bound to get an earful. With seemingly endless waiting lists, hour-long commutes to and from child care, having to rely on family and friends until a spot opens up, it is no wonder many moms and dads opt to leave the workforce.

When there is a child care shortage, it is not only families who suffer.

Businesses and communities cannot grow and thrive unless they can attract new employees and residents, but business won't expand and families are reluctant to take a job if there is no child care available in the area. **This is not just a “family” issue, it is also an economic development issue.**

According to the Center for Rural Policy & Development, **every region in Minnesota has a shortfall** between the number of children potentially needing child care and the number of spaces available.

This disparity is especially acute in **Greater Minnesota, which saw a loss of 15,377** licensed child care spots between 2006 and 2015. In contrast, the **number of spots in the metro area grew by more than 3,200** over the same time period.

While there is no easy fix, there are proposals this legislative session to address this problem:

Funding for Initiative Foundations to help expand access to quality childcare

HF 2424 (Gunther)/SF 2090 (Nelson) provides \$1.5 million for grants awarded to Initiative Foundations for the planning, coordination, training and education necessary to expand child care access. This proposal is based on a successful pilot program initiated by the Southern Minnesota Initiative Foundation which helped child care providers with business improvement planning and quality mentoring with an aim toward the goal of becoming rated under Minnesota's Parent Aware Quality Rating System.

Bonding & general fund appropriation for child care facilities

HF 4032 (Gunther)/SF 3578 (Eken) provides \$5 million in bonding and \$5 million from the general fund to provide grants to local governments and non-profits in Greater Minnesota to cover up to 50% of the costs to build, upgrade or expand child care facilities to increase capacity and meet state requirements.

Grants to increase child care availability

HF 3605 (Baker)/SF 3316 (Utke) allocates \$519,000 to the Minnesota Child Care Grant Program, which aims to increase the supply of child care providers to support economic development. In 2017, this program received \$519,000 in funding which created more than 300 new child care slots.



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Labor & Employee Relations Committee

Purpose

The purpose of the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities Labor & Employee Relations Committee (Labor Committee) is 1) to develop a coordinated effort among greater Minnesota cities on managing labor and employee relations and negotiating labor contracts through researching and developing databases, advocating positive changes to labor processes, and by providing a forum for networking, discussing and implementing uniform labor policies and negotiating strategies; and 2) to make available expert and coordinated advice—at a significantly reduced rate—on employment and labor relations issues facing greater Minnesota cities.

Labor Committee Services

The Labor Committee provides the services listed below to CGMC cities as part of its joint action program:

Publications

Quarterly newsletter on relevant labor relations and public employment issues.

Wages and Insurance Database

Database tracking greater Minnesota labor contract settlements and interest arbitration awards on wages, health insurance contributions and cost-saving measures.

Cluster Analysis Database

Computer Cluster Analysis Database for cities to identify comparable cities for purposes of labor contract negotiations and interest arbitrations. Cluster Analysis is a statistical data analysis tool, which sorts cities into groups where the degree of socio-economic association is strong based on input criteria commonly considered by arbitrators.

Arbitrator Database

Maintain and further develop an arbitrator selection database. This database allows cities, on a reduced fee-for-service basis (see Individual Consultation Services), to request an analysis of those lists of seven arbitrators received from the Bureau of Mediation Services, whereby the listed arbitrators are analyzed and ranked for purposes of selecting arbitrators in grievance and interest arbitrations.

Legislative Services

Analyze and summarize labor relations and public employment law changes made during the legislative session and report to cities.

Labor Seminar

Prepare and present a Labor and Employee Relations Seminar, based on topics selected by the Committee, one time each in the northern and southern parts of the state.

Committee Meetings

Prepare materials and present information at Labor Committee meetings.

Strategy

Develop joint labor contract negotiation strategy and policy positions/guidelines for member cities to use as benchmarks in their labor contract negotiations.

Coordination

Coordinate efforts with the LMC and other labor and management organizations and governmental agencies.

Contact Us

For more information, call Flaherty & Hood, P.A., CGMC's representative, at 651-225-8840, or contact:

Brandon Fitzsimmons: bmfitzsimmons@flaherty-hood.com

Erica Heikel: egheikel@flaherty-hood.com

Individual Consultation Services

Through the Labor Committee program, CGMC cities have access to consultation services on labor relations and public employment issues impacting their individual city on a reduced fee-for-service basis. Examples of services available to CGMC cities are listed below.

Labor Relations Services

Labor Contract Negotiations

Represent cities in labor contract negotiations and mediations with employee unions; develop strategies and proposals; review labor contracts and recommend changes; and collect, compile and summarize data from comparable cities on wages, health insurance and other data.

Grievances

Investigate employee and union grievances, draft responses and settlement proposals for cities, and attend and represent cities at grievance meetings.

Arbitrations

Represent cities in grievance and interest arbitration hearings, and compile and analyze relevant data, including ability to pay and comparable cities analyses.

Arbitrator Selection

Research state provided lists of arbitrators for grievance and interest arbitrations and provide ranking order for purposes of striking and selection.

Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) Proceedings

Prepare responses to and filings with the Bureau of Mediation Services (BMS) and represent cities at meetings, negotiations, mediations and hearings related to strikes; certification, decertification and affiliation; unit determinations and clarifications; and independent review.

Human Resources Services

Policy and Job Audits

Draft, revise and interpret policies, employee handbooks, administrative manuals, performance evaluations and job descriptions.

Management Training

Conduct training sessions for management employees on hiring, performance matters, discipline, handling grievances and other employment matters.

Employment Law Services

Representation

Represent cities in negotiations, mediation, arbitration, administrative proceedings, litigation and appeals.

Advice

Advise cities on compliance with public labor and employment laws; selecting and hiring employees; investigating misconduct, harassment and discrimination; and discipline and discharge actions.

Investigations

Investigate personnel misconduct, performance problems, harassment and discrimination.

Job Classification and Compensation Services

Job Analysis

Review job classification systems, conduct incumbent and supervisor interviews, prepare and analyze job questionnaires, observe jobs and draft job descriptions.

Job Evaluation

Prepare and establish comparisons of jobs to determine the appropriate job worth using point factor, factor comparison, job ranking, job classification or market data methods.

Compensation

Draft a classification and compensation plan. Establish pay structure and total compensation packages. Analyze market data.

Pay Equity

Review, analyze and recommend changes to classification and compensation system to ensure legal compliance. Prepare pay equity report to State and advise and represent in any contested matter involving legal compliance.

Organizational

Analyze and make recommendations related to work flow processes, organizational structure, workforce staffing, productivity, retention, workplace environment, communication, innovation and collaboration.

Save the Date

Mark your calendar for these upcoming CGMC conferences and events:

- **CGMC Fall Conference** – Nov. 15-16, 2018, Alexandria
 - **Legislative Action Day** – Jan. 30, 2019, St. Paul
 - **CGMC Summer Conference** – July 24-26, 2019, Bemidji
-

Follow the CGMC on Social Media!

Join in the conversation by “liking” us on Facebook (search for “Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities”) and following us on Twitter @greatermncities.

In addition, be sure to regularly check our website at greatermncities.org for up-to-date information on key issues affecting Greater Minnesota.

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Dedicated to a Strong Greater Minnesota

2019 CGMC Dues Invoice

To: Ben Martig, City Administrator
City of Northfield

From: Christina Volkers, CGMC Treasurer

Date: September 6, 2018

Re: 2019 CGMC General Dues Assessment

Your 2019 general dues assessment is based on the assessment policy approved by the CGMC membership at its annual meeting in July 2018.

2019 general assessment for the City of Northfield

\$10,029

For research and advocacy and general services related to property taxes, LGA, annexation, environmental regulation and funding, economic development and transportation. This also includes services for labor and employee relations that will be provided to all CGMC cities.

This dues assessment is based on CGMC's policy for phasing in the dues of new member cities. For the first year, new cities are assessed 25% of their total dues. In the second year 50% of their total. For the third year 75% of their total. In the fourth year of membership and thereafter cities pay their full dues.

Payment may be made out of your 2018 or 2019 budgets, but payment should be made by February 1, 2019. About 10.7% of your general assessment is used for annexation and environment programs, which some cities pay out of their utility funds because of the direct impact of these issues on their sewer and water service.

Please make check payable to CGMC and send by February 1, 2019 to:

Christina Volkers, CGMC Treasurer
City of Moorhead
500 Center Avenue, Box 779
Moorhead, MN 56560

If you have a question about your 2019 CGMC assessment, please call Bradley Peterson at (651) 225-8840 or email Bradley at bmpeterson@flaherty-hood.com.

cc: Mayor Rhonda Pownell