



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 13, 2019

Contact: Jacob Frie

Phone: (218) 824-1010

CROW WING COUNTY RECEIVES GRANT TO PROTECT GROUNDWATER THROUGH WELL SEALING

Crow Wing County was recently approved grant funds totaling \$31,000 from the Clean Water Fund to help landowners seal unused wells.

A well that is not in use or abandoned can be a source of groundwater contamination by providing a potential direct path for surface water runoff, contaminated water, or improperly disposed of waste to reach an uncontaminated groundwater source. Unused larger-diameter wells can also be a safety hazard for children and animals. "Sealing unused wells is one of the most important practices that can be done to protect groundwater resources in Crow Wing County" stated Environmental Services Supervisor Jake Frie.

The program will pay for 50 percent of the cost to properly seal the well, up to a maximum of \$1,000 per-well. A state-licensed well contractor must conduct the work. All landowners with unused wells are encouraged to apply.

Sealing involves clearing the well of debris and filling the well with grout. Citizens are encouraged to contact a licensed well driller to begin the application process.

Groundwater protection is identified as a priority in the Crow Wing County Water Plan, and most of Crow Wing County's residents rely on groundwater for their source of drinking water. A total of 186 wells have been sealed in Crow Wing County between 2012 and 2018 with previous grants the County has received. 150 of those wells were located in surficial sand aquifers with 103 of them located in the highly vulnerable Pine River Watershed. And, 80% of the sealed wells were within 500 feet of a lake.

If you are interested in learning more about this grant opportunity, or if you would like to receive a paper application, please contact the Crow Wing County Land Services department at 218-824-1010 or via email at land.services@crowwing.us.

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping our residents make wise decisions that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Land Services Office at (218) 824-1010 or to visit the Crow Wing County Web Site www.crowwing.us/water for more information.

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.