

**Chippewa River Watershed Project**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
December 17, 2004  
Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co Commissioner; Roger Rasmussen, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor; Mary Oslund, Kandiyohi SWCD; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor/WesMin RC&D; Orvin Gronseth, Swift SWCD Supervisor; Clinton Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor/Prairie Country RC&D; Kenneth Koenen, Chippewa Co. Commissioner; Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D; Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD; JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Co. Land & Resource Mgt; Jeffrey Lopez, Chippewa Co Commissioner; Muriel Runholt, MPCA-Marshall; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Doug Bosch, Chippewa Co. resident; Jennifer Hoffman, Paul Wymar, Kylene Olson, CRWP

**Introductions**

Kylene called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**In-Kind Contributions:** Kylene reminded all partners of the importance of recording and reporting in-kind contributions. In-kind reporting forms were made available.

**Ammonia TMDL Update:** The lower 12 miles of the Chippewa River was listed on the Impaired Waters list for exceeding ammonia limits. The TMDL study and report was contracted by the EPA to the Cadmus Group engineering firm. A public meeting was held in Montevideo this past July. The report was then submitted to EPA and was approved by the EPA on October 29. The ammonia TMDL is being treated as a delisting. This requires the Montevideo WWTP to do some monitoring over the next three years without exceeding the ammonia limit. If the limit is not exceeded, the stretch will be removed from the impaired waters list. The entire Ammonia TMDL report is available on the MPCA website for viewing and can also be reached through the Chippewa River site.

A side note: the Montevideo WWTP's new permit does not include the ammonia monitoring at this time but it will be amended to include the monitoring and limit guidelines after the permit is issued. The permit is currently being held up by a lawsuit filed against the MPCA by the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy. The MCEA is contesting the phosphorus limit portion of the permit.

**Fecal Coliform TMDL Update:** Following last year's public meetings and the erroneous report generated by TetraTech, a new TMDL study and report is being done internally at the MPCA. Muriel is in charge of writing the new Fecal TMDL for the Chippewa River. She is using a spreadsheet approach rather than a model approach. She is currently about half done. She projects another two months before it is completed. She has been using data from the CRWP from 1998-2003. The TMDL is addressing the entire watershed and preliminary results suggest we will be looking at a 50-53% load reduction needed across the basin to meet fecal coliform standards. Once the TMDL study and report is complete, another round of public meetings will be held.

**Conservation Security Program (CSP):** The Chippewa River Watershed ranked high but was not chosen to participate in 2005 for a couple of reasons: 1) Pope County soils were not digitized, but that should be completed now and 2) the huge dollar need for a watershed of our size. Although we weren't chosen, there is a lot of work that still needs to be done on getting the word out to landowners and making sure they will be ready when we are selected. Jennifer has added information to the Chippewa River website. At the request of the committee, Jennifer will set up a meeting with the area conservationists, district conservationists and SWCD representatives from the

watershed. This meeting will be to gather information on CSP and to develop a marketing strategy that will best fit our watershed.

**Heritage Springs Development on Games Lake:** A 51 acre area on Games Lake in Kandiyohi County has been purchased and is being developed as a large community by Wayde Johnson and Lance Elliot. The first proposal had 31 lots and 3 outlots on the lake. There was a large outcry from the lake association and surrounding community and the developer compromised and reduced his development plans to 21 lots and only 1 outlot. Unfortunately, the new proposal omits many of the additional environmental controls from the first plan. A SCHP committee met with the developer and discussed reinstating the controls such as rain gardens, with even the possibility of cost-share dollars. The developer was receptive and many of the optional controls look as though they can be put back into the design. This development has the potential to radically affect the chain of lakes, but also offers an opportunity to demonstrate and highlight best management practices for shoreland development. The SCHP and its partners plan to work with the developers as this project moves forward. A county zoning meeting is planned for January 10<sup>th</sup> when the final decisions will be made.

**Updates:**

Earth Day Celebration: The Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project in cooperation with the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center will be holding an open house Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 23. 2005 celebrates the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Earth Day. The event will feature a festival atmosphere with informational booths, speakers, hands-on projects, food, music and outdoor recreation. There is a need for volunteers to present information and act as guides. Feel free to call Jennifer if you are interested in volunteering or have questions.

Kylene and Jennifer attended e-link training yesterday in Marshall. Things are still unclear as how MPCA wants reporting to occur. Before the February 1 deadline, Jennifer or Kylene will be contacting each partner to talk over the e-link reporting process and what needs to be done.

**Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be Friday, January 14, 10:15 am, Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN. Joe Magner with the MPCA will be presenting information on Swift County Ditch 8 and his research on the effects of channel design and drainage.

Local work group for the East Branch will meet the third Wednesday of the month. A meeting has been scheduled for January 19, 2005 at the Benson USDA Service Center at 9:30 am. Please bring project applications to this meeting.