

## **Chippewa River Watershed Project Committee Meeting Minutes**

July 15, 2005

Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Kenneth F. Koenen, Chippewa Co. Commissioner; Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor; Clinton Schuerman, Swift SWCD Supervisor, Jerry Johnson, Douglas Co. Commissioner; Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD; Ron Stager, Pope Co. COLA Director; Lynetta Cleveland, NRCS-Willmar; Duane Sprouls, Farwell-Kensington Sanitary District; Dick Hanson, Swift Co. Commissioner; Jeff Scholten, Rural Development-Alexandria; JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Co. Land & Resource Mgmt; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D; Roger Rasmussen, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor; Kylene Olson, Paul Wymar, Jennifer Hoffman, CRWP

### **Introductions:**

Jennifer called the meeting to order and introductions were made.

**In-Kind Contributions:** Reminder that in-kind reports are needed for the first two quarters of 2005 for upcoming reports.

**City of Clontarf Wastewater Update:** Jeff Scholten, Rural Development Specialist, was present to give an update on the new wastewater facility in the city of Clontarf. The USDA department of Rural Development helps to provide loan and grant dollars towards utility funding for the most financial needy communities that will result in low end costs to the users. RD has worked with nearly all the communities within the Chippewa River Watershed on a project at some point in recent past. RD receives a yearly allocation to make available to applicants. Usually about 10-15 projects per year are funded at a grant/loan rate of 30/70. Other general background: non-incorporated cities can access dollars either through formation of a sanitary district or through a township, generally a 5-year timeframe from idea to functional system, and the application are usually quite involved, so once a city opts to apply there is a big commitment.

The city of Clontarf started the process in early 2002. The purpose of a new wastewater collection and treatment facility is to remove the health hazard created by failing individual septic treatment systems and protect the water supply of the local shallow wells. Several treatment alternatives were considered with the best option becoming the construction of a stabilization pond system. In January 2003, all the Engineering, Environmental, and Application reviews are complete and the project is submitted to the RD State Office for funding consideration. Clontarf was awarded funding in April of 2003. The project is bid and construction started in October 2004. Construction is complete in July of 2005, with final inspection taking place on July 18. Private landowners may begin hooking up to the system, and it is estimated that all private connections will be completed by mid 2006. The cost of the hook-up is the landowner's responsibility, approximately \$800-\$1000, and the remaining ISTS system needs to be pumped and filled or dug out at the landowner's expense. Total funding for the Clontarf wastewater treatment facility from Rural Development was \$1,065,000 in grants and \$675,000 in loans to be repaid over 40 years.

**Farwell-Kensington Sanitary District:** Duane Sprouls, Chairman of the Farwell-Kensington Sanitary District gave details on how that wastewater facility operates. In the late '90's, Kensington's 50 year old plant was still functioning but no new hook-ups could be added or the

plant would become out of compliance and Farwell did not have municipal wastewater and their drinking water system faced condemnation. A sanitary district was formed through legislative action, and the two communities started to work together to achieve their objectives. They received money totaling about \$4.2 million combined through Small Cities, Rural Development, and a couple of other contributors. About \$400,000 was loan money, the rest was grant. This was to cover the construction of a new 10.5 acres wastewater pond treatment system located along Highway 55 and housing repairs throughout the community. The city also bonded \$300,000 for new water pipes. It is all underground piping to the new facility and there was not cost to anyone for hook-ups, approximately 136 in Kensington and 50 in Farwell. The Sanitary District only cover city residents and thus far the system has been working great and discharge levels for BOD, TSS, Fecal Coliform and Total Phosphorus are well below the allowable standards.

Thanks to both Jeff and Duane for providing updates on the wastewater successes within the watershed.

**Next Meeting:** Chippewa River Watershed Project meetings will now be held the third Friday of each month to alleviate some past scheduling issues. Next month's meeting will be on Friday, August 19, 2005, at 10:15 am at the Benson Fire Hall.