

Chippewa River Watershed Project Committee Meeting Minutes

June 10, 2005

Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co. Commissioner; Kenneth F. Koenen, Chippewa Co. Commissioner; Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor; JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Co. Land & Resource Mgmt; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Randy Nelson, Prairie Country RC&D; Roger Rasmussen, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor; Richard Heimkes, Pope Co. COLA; Curt Vacek, MN DNR-Appleton Wildlife Office; Mary Oslund, Kandiyohi SWCD; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Jack Frost, Metro Council; Rilondrick Beeman, NRCS-Swift Co.; Cory Drummond, NRCS-Swift Co.; Bruce A. Brown, Pope Co. Lake Monitoring Coordinator; Ron Stager, Pope COLA Director; Kylene Olson, Paul Wymar, Jennifer Hoffman, Kyle Jarcho, Chippewa River Watershed Project.

Introductions:

Kylene called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Kylene introduced the CRWP's summer intern, Kyle Jarcho. Kyle is a student at Southwest Minnesota State University in Marshall.

In-Kind Contributions: Jennifer will be handling the in-kind recording and reporting for the CRWP from now on. In the future please send in-kind contributions to her. In-kind reporting forms were made available and can also be found online at www.chippewariver.com. Partners were reminded that many activities in their daily work related to the Chippewa River Watershed can be recorded as in-kind contributions. In-kind reports are important to fulfilling grant requirements. Jennifer will be going over pledges vs. contributions and contacting partners to let them know where they stand. Thanks to all the partners for the in-kind work that they are doing throughout the watershed.

COLA Lakes Monitoring Report: Kylene accepted the 2004 Pope County COLA Report from Bruce Brown, Monitoring Coordinator for Pope COLA. The report chronicles the eleven year water quality monitoring history from 17 lakes in the county, 16 of which are in the Chippewa River Watershed Project. After the 2005 monitoring season, Brown feels there will be 10 years of very credible and reliable data to base lake trends on. The most recent report contains aerial photos and watershed delineations for all the lakes. He hopes to have soils maps and eventually land use maps for all the lakes in upcoming reports. The Pope COLA data is a very useful tool and an asset to the Chippewa River Watershed Project.

Pope County COLA Lakeshore DVD: About a year and a half ago, Pope County COLA directors met and brainstormed on how to better inform residents, specifically new residents to Pope County on the importance of the lakes and local land use ordinances pertaining to the lakes. They came up with the idea of developing a lake stewardship DVD that could be shared with these residents. Pope COLA went to the Pope County Board of Commissioners and received \$10,000 through the Environmental Trust Fund. Steve Lawrence and Pope County Environmental Services worked closely with COLA members to develop the ideas behind the DVD. The DVD was produced Roger Boleman and Mike Cihak of the media services department at the University of Minnesota, Morris. Two hundred copies of the DVD were made, the inside cover will house pertinent information on the county. The DVD's will be given away free of charge through the Environmental Services office and realty offices. The group viewed the DVD and comments were very positive. The CRWP will be contributing some funds from

the East Branch grant towards this project. Contact Rich Heimkes or Steve Lawrence with any questions or comments on the "We Love Our Lakes" DVD.

Updates: A new kiosk has been built for the Outdoor Learning Center at Ambush Park in Benson by the Busy Go-Getters 4-H Club. Funds for the materials were supplied by the Chippewa River Watershed Project. It's a nice addition to the area; everyone is encouraged to check it out.

Area V has announced its winners for the 2005 Poster Contest "Trees: Rooted in Our Future." Congratulations to the Swift and Chippewa SWCDs for having an area winner from their county. Jennifer helped with the poster presentations in both of these counties.

The MN River Basin Turbidity TMDL process is set to get underway this month. The Chippewa River is listed as impaired for turbidity and will be included in this basin wide TMDL. Paul and a landowner from the Chippewa River Watershed will serve on the advisory committee for this TMDL.

Pope SWCD will be hosting a bus tour on July 13th. The free tour will feature recently completed projects within Pope County. Contact the Pope SWCD with questions or to register.

Dean Shuck reported that Lake Florida residents met this past Saturday to vote on a sewer system around the lake that would hook into the Green Lake Sanitary District. Of the 100-110 people in attendance only 2 voted against this proposal. Kandiyohi County will help pay for the main line construction from Green Lake but each lot will still need to pay ~\$14,000 for the connection.

Jack Frost, MET Council, reported that the pollution model pertaining to the lower 40 miles of the Minnesota River is being redone, unfortunately low flows are needed for this model to work properly and mother nature has not been very cooperative.

JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Land and Resource Mgt., reported that Chippewa County is currently doing a large media campaign regarding septic system education including newspaper ads and displays.

Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD, reported that 2000 feet of terraces were completed in Kerkhoven Township and that six living snow fences were installed this spring.

It was reported that Eurasian water milfoil was found along the SE corner of Big Norway Lake. It still needs to be confirmed but the report raises concern of the continued spread of this exotic species.

Bruce Brown reported that June lake sampling in Pope County had fairly clear water and high secchi disk readings including 27 feet in Lake Amelia.

The next meeting will be Friday, July 15, 2005, 10:15 am, Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN. Please remember to park on the west side of the building.