

**Chippewa River Watershed Project
Committee Meeting Minutes**
March 12, 2004
Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present:

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.

Partners Needs, Requests, Updates: Reviewed the list from February's meeting and update on progress. Jennifer will be starting poster contest presentations within the next week for both Chippewa and Swift SWCDs. Staff gave a review of the two ISTS workshops that were held. There was a good turnout at both Benson and Alexandria of contractors in the watershed. A clear need for increased landowner ISTS education was made evident. CRWP will be doing education in conjunction with loan advertisement and will be available to partner with counties to increase education efforts.

Jean Diggins handed out invitations to the Chippewa SWCD 50th Anniversary Banquet to be held April 2 at the Montevideo VFW. Everyone is invited.

Kylene will be a featured speaker at the Lake Emily Improvement Association on March 29th.

Diana Anderson, Southwest MN Foundation, met with the Executive Committee, Kylene and Jennifer on February 27 to do some strategic planning for increased fundraising through private donations. The next step is to develop literature and small committees that focus on fundraising and education. March 30-April 1, CRWP staff and board members will be attending the Nonprofit Institute workshop sponsored by the Southwest MN Foundation.

Dean Shuck passed out flyers on the Project NEMO workshop on March 23 in Spicer. This workshop geared towards protecting our water resources is being sponsored by the city of Spicer and the Green Lake Property Owners Association.

The draft ammonia TMDL has been sent out to CRWP staff for review and comments. The public comment period will start shortly. The ammonia TMDL will be treated as a de-listing rather than a full-out TMDL. Close ties will need to be made with the Montevideo Wastewater Treatment Plant to complete the ammonia TMDL.

The MN Lakes and Rivers Conference will be held April 29-May 1 at Rutger's Resort.

Chippewa River Hydrology and Drainage: Paul presented to the group the information that he shared at a Drainage Conference in January. Paul's presentation included a basic review of the Chippewa Basin, monitoring regime and equipment and hydrographs. He then went into detail on some different case study examples.

Dryweather Creek Example: 63% of the 2003 sediment load entered the creek during one storm event in June, peaking at 70 tons/day.

Chippewa Flood History at Highway 40: There has been a 360% increase in peak flood events over the past 65 years with only a 5% increase in rainfall.

Upper Chippewa Compared to Shakopee Creek: Paul compared these two sub-basins in regards to volume discharge and sediment loading. Even though the Upper Chippewa is slightly larger and the predicted soil loss using the RUSLE equation is four times greater, that's not what is being seen in the monitoring results.

In 2003, Shakopee Creek received 11.73 inches of rain had had 1.58 billion cubic feet of discharge. The Upper Chippewa received 15.84 inches of rain and had 1.51 billion cubic feet of discharge. The actual amount of TSS loading between Shakopee and Upper Chippewa was nearly equal with a slight edge towards Shakopee. Not at all what was predicted, greatly due to the land use decisions and water storage going on in Upper Chippewa.

Paul's presentation gave excellent examples of how water quantity and quality is affected by land use and water storage.

County ISTS Ordinances: Each of our partnering counties was asked to report on the status of ISTS ordinances in their counties to give a better idea of how the watershed functions as a whole.

Chippewa: Follows Chapter 7080 MN State Rules, \$50 fee

Swift: Follows Chapter 7080, ISTS compliance inspections triggered by property transfer, \$40 fee

Douglas: Follows Chapter 7080, ISTS compliance inspections triggered by property transfer and issuance of any other type of permit, \$200 fee, soil verification done by county staff

Kandiyohi: Follows Chapter 7080, \$125 fee

Pope: Follows Chapter 7080, ISTS compliance inspections triggered by property transfer and issuance of any other type of permit, \$150 fee

Annual Meeting Advertising: The 6th Annual Meeting will be held April 16th at the Minnewaska House and entitled "Lakes Extravaganza." Featured speaker will be Julie Westerlund giving the presentation "Linking Land Use to Lake Quality." The group was asked for ideas on advertising and promotion of the annual meeting. Based on discussion, Jennifer will prepare flyers to be mailed to the monthly mailing list, send flyers to lake associations, send press releases to local newspapers and radio stations, and send to local community calendars. A request for door prizes was also made.

The next meeting will be Friday, June 11, 10:15 am at the Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN. Be sure to **park on the west side** of the building as parking on the east side in front of the door is to be left open in case of a fire.