

**Chippewa River Watershed Project**  
**Committee Meeting Minutes**  
October 21, 2004  
Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Larry Dalen, Southern Minnesota Beet Sugar Cooperative; Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co Commissioner; Luverne Norby, Swift Co Commissioner; Roger Rasmussen, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor; Mary Oslund, Kandiyohi SWCD; Doug Rasmussen, Stevens SWCD Supervisor; Jeff Bredberg, Kandiyohi Co. Environmental Services; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Ron Stager, Pope Co. COLA; Jerry Johnson, Douglas Co Commissioner; Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor/WesMin RC&D; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; Jennifer Hoffman, Paul Wymar, Kylene Olson, CRWP

**Introductions**

Kylene called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Kylene introduced Lucas Youngsma as the new coordinator for the Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project. Lucas started his position on October 18. Lucas is a graduate of Northwestern University in Orange City, IA, and has experience with the USFWS, SWCDs, and private environmental consulting. We're glad to have Lucas on board.

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

**CRWP Updates:** A 319 Grant was submitted on October 8<sup>th</sup> for the Dryweather, Lines, and Spring Creek Sub-basin. Most of this area is in Chippewa County. Based on comments and ideas from the local partners some very innovative programs were included in this application. One program would provide a payment to a rental operator when a landowner enrolls acreage in the CCRP program. Additional low interest low money for septic system upgrades were also sought for Chippewa and Swift Counties. Copies of this grant application are available from Kylene.

The MN River watershed group met again on October 20. Paul and Jenn attended the meeting in New Ulm. Highlight being that this group will author a letter to the Minnesota River Board requesting they take action on getting all the counties in the MN River Basin to follow the same triggers for septic inspections (property transfer, building permit, etc).

Upcoming Events: October 22, Presentation by Bonestroo, Rosene and Anderlik Associates Engineers and Architects on Judicial Ditch 4 in Pope County that runs through Lake Ellen and into the lake chain of Leven, Villard, and Amelia. The meeting will be at 1:30 at the Villard Community Center.

October 28, 10:00 am, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project Meeting, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center

**BMI Biomonitoring Network:** Paul and Jenn gave a presentation on Benthic Macro-Invertebrates and the Biomonitoring Network that is being established throughout the watershed. It was similar to the introduction that participating schools receive. Attendees were also given the opportunity to see some of the preserved specimens and play BMI Bingo. Congratulations to Rick on winning the t-shirt. Copies of the 2003-04 BMI report was handed out and discussed. Copies of this report can be found on our website, [www.chippewariver.com](http://www.chippewariver.com)

**Partner Needs/ Requests/ Updates:** Luverne Norby reported that there has been some controversy over the new FEMA Floodplain Maps, particularly for areas in the city of Benson. There is the possibility that the county will challenge the new delineations.

Jerry Johnson stated that similar problems are being faced on Stowe Lake in Douglas County. The DNR delineated flood plain (high water mark) has been challenged by several individuals and the county is hoping the DNR will reevaluate its delineations.

Larry Dalen reported that the beet harvest is over 90% complete. It looks like a good crop with similar sugar content to last year but a much higher tonnage of beets being taken out of the ground. The beets contain a lot of water this year because of the wetter conditions throughout the growing season.

**Next Meeting:** We will be meeting on the third Friday of the month for the November and December meetings. The next meeting will be Friday, November 19, 10:15 am, Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN. The December meeting is scheduled for Friday, December 17. Beginning in 2005, meetings will be held on the second Friday of the month.