

Chippewa River Watershed Project
Committee Meeting Minutes
September 16, 2005
Benson Fire Hall, Benson, MN

Present: Glenn Matejka, Douglas SWCD Supervisor; Rick Gronseth, Swift SWCD; Jerry Johnson, Douglas Co. Commissioner; Dean Shuck, Kandiyohi Co. Commissioner; Muriel Runholt, MPCA-Marshall; Ryan Kessler, MNDNR-Glenwood Fisheries; Jean Diggins, Chippewa SWCD; Dick Hanson, Swift Co. Commissioner; Chris Skarsten, landowner East Branch Chippewa River; Lucas Youngsma, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project; JoAnn Blomme, Chippewa Co. Land & Resource Mgmt; Mary Oslund, Kandiyohi SWCD; Roger Rasmussen, Kandiyohi SWCD Supervisor; Kylene Olson, Jennifer Hoffman, Paul Wymar, CRWP

Introductions:

Jennifer called the meeting to order and introductions were made. Agendas were distributed.

In-Kind Contributions: Reminder that in-kind reports always appreciated and can be sent to Jennifer. Jennifer apologized for not having in-kind information prepared for each partner but is working on it and will be ready with that information at the next meeting.

Monitoring Review: Paul gave a presentation on some of the latest monitoring work that he has been focusing on, including geomorphology and stream channel erosion. Total suspended solids levels continue to be high throughout the watershed despite having met goals in the Dryweather and East Branch sub-basins. These levels are above the MPCA target levels as well. Paul has been trying to get a better handle on in-stream contributions through the use of bank pins, cross section profiles and lateral bank erosion measurements. Bank pins are 4 ft rebar pins installed in the bank at three different heights and measured to see how far they stick out each year, indicating the amount of soil lost. Paul is working on installing bank pins at all of the major monitoring stations. Those stations that do have pins are showing soil loss, extreme in the case of Hwy 40 where 27.9 inches were lost in 2005, that's 1324 lbs lost/linear foot. Cross section profiles survey the stream between two fixed points annually. The 2005 cross section survey at Hwy 40 showed a 3 foot bank loss at Bank Full height from 2004. New cross sections done in 2005 include Dryweather Creek, Judicial Ditch 9, Shakopee Creek, Cottonwood Creek, and Clontarf. Lateral bank erosion profiles were also done at these sites to determine the rate of loss or gain of soil through these measurements. All of this information can be used to model the river and its bank erosion.

Work Plan Reviews: Jennifer passed around a handout on each of the sub-basins that have been awarded a 319 Implementation grant: East Branch, Lower Mainstem, and Upper Mainstem. The handouts included a map of each sub-basin and information on the grant periods and priority implementation activities in each of the basins. The Greater Shakopee Watershed also has implementation dollars, and information on that sub-basin will be provided at the next meeting. The Local Work Group is very instrumental in submitting, prioritizing, ranking, and determining proper payments but input from all those involved with the Chippewa River Watershed Project is valuable. If you have project ideas or ways to promote these programs, please talk to a LWG representative or contact Jennifer.

CRWP Updates: The Swift SWCD first ever Water Festival will be held next Friday, September 23, at Ambush Park. Over 200 students are expected. Paul, Kylene and Jennifer will be presenters at that event.

The next round of MPCA/319 grants applications are due on October 7, the CRWP plans to submit a grant for the Little Chippewa/Middle Chippewa sub-basin.

Paul and Jennifer will be working with high school classes from Montevideo and Benson in the next month as a part of the Biomonitoring Benthic Macroinvertebrate Network.

Next Meeting: The next meeting scheduled for October 21, at 10:15 am at the Benson Fire Hall.