



Citizen Connection

Connecting People Through Their River

Creating Change One Person at a Time

"We cannot solve the problems that we have created with the same thinking that created them." -Albert Einstein

Over the past 100 years, the watershed has faced tremendous change while still trying to provide the resources we all depend on: food, shelter, recreation, wildlife, jobs and many others. The benefits of a healthy watershed are endless. The watershed has seen a tremendous shift in farming practices, development and lifestyles. These shifts have offered numerous benefits but at the same time created some very serious problems. The problems of degraded water quality, decreased soil fertility, increased flooding and amplified development pressure on area lakes need to be addressed by each individual of the watershed. These problems did not happen overnight nor can they be solved with one easy fix. It's not a question of returning the landscape to how it was 100 hundred years ago, but rather of preserving it so that it can be enjoyed 100 years from now.

The watershed was not impaired by one source, the impairment is a result of hundreds of individual decisions coming together as one large environmental threat.

With the beginning of a new year, the Chippewa River Watershed Project implores YOU to make improving watershed health a priority in 2003. Small changes to daily activities will play a big part in a cleaner, healthier watershed.

Committing to a healthy watershed is everyone's responsibility and the Chippewa River Watershed Project is dedicated to furthering the commitment by *"Connecting People Through Their River."*

Watershed Funds Available in East Branch Chippewa

The Chippewa River Watershed Project was awarded \$120,840 from the Federal 319 Grant Fund for water quality improvement projects for the East Branch Chippewa River Sub-Watershed. Incentive payments and cost-sharing will be available to the residents of the East Branch Chippewa River shortly. In addition to the existing programs offered by the Soil and Water Conservation District and the Natural Resources Conservation Service, landowners will be able to look towards the CRWP for help

in implementing water quality improvement projects.

Primary targets will be added bonuses for buffer strip installment, shoreline restoration/naturalization projects, offering cost share for fencing and alternative water systems in livestock exclusion projects, and other special projects needed by the residents of the East Branch Chippewa River to create a healthier watershed. Call today for more information

Inside this issue:

Projects on the Ground-Shakopee Headwaters	2
Nutrient Management in the Shakopee	2
2002 Monitoring Review	3
Stopping Stormwater Pollution	4
Citizen Monitoring in the Chippewa	5
Going Native: A Highlight of Barsness Park	6
2 nd Annual Winter Seminar	7

Quote of the Day

"Anything else you're interested in is not going to happen if you can't breath the air and drink the water. Don't sit this one out. Do something."

Carl Sagan



Projects on the Land-Shakopee Creek Headwaters

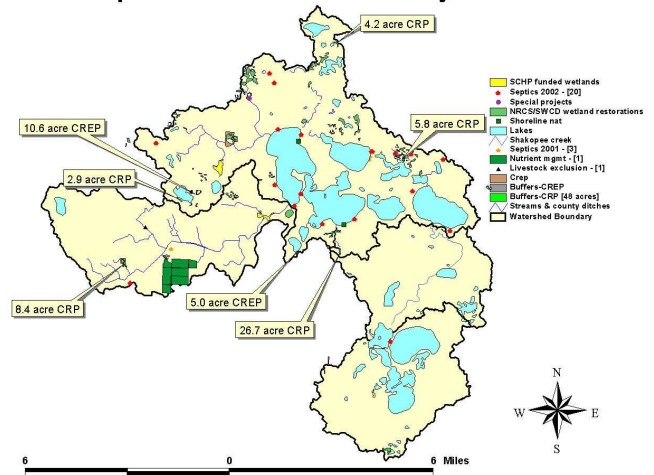
The Shakopee Creek Headwaters Watershed, the first identified priority area of the Chippewa River Watershed due to elevated levels of sediment, nutrients and bacteria, received a 319 Grant in March of 2001 to implement best management practices for improving water quality. Since receiving the grant, Rob Spitzley, SCHP Coordinator, and the local work group have been working hard to get projects on the land. Take a look at what's been done and call Rob at 320-231-0008 x132 to be the next BMP participant!

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMPs)

CRP filter strips	55.6 acres	\$7,960.00
CREP filter strips	15.6 acres	\$3,120.00
Livestock exclusion	1	\$700.00
Sediment basins	1	\$551.92
Nutrient management plans	2	\$1,170.25
Wetland restorations	2	\$1,000.00
Shoreline naturalizations	2	\$2,340.24
Total 319 BMP Funds Awarded:		\$77,265.59
319 BMP Funds Spent:		\$ 16,842.41
319 BMP Funds Remaining:		\$ 60,423.18

Septic system upgrades	22	\$105,057.72
Total Septic Loan Funds:		\$250,000.00
Septic Loan Funds Spent:		\$105,057.72
Septic Loan Funds Remaining:		\$144,942.28

Shakopee Creek Headwaters Project BMPs



Shakopee Creek Watershed Nutrient Management Program

As part of the implementation focus in the Shakopee Creek Watershed, the first priority sub-basin of the Chippewa River Watershed, some landowners are participating in a Nutrient Management Program. In an effort to reduce the runoff of excess nutrients from agricultural lands, participants are agreeing to establish 40 acre work plots and based on soil test analysis and manure analysis apply any commercial fertilizers at University of Minnesota recommendations. Participants receive a per acre compensation for participating as well as reimbursement for soil and

manure tests. This program is a great opportunity for landowners to make sure they are taking enough credit for soil and manure nutrients. The program is designed for education and to provide the opportunity to experiment with your farming operation and receive some compensation. If yield goals can be achieved with the reduction of commercial fertilizer it will be a win-win situation. Profit margins will widen and nonpoint source pollution potential should decrease. Participants are being asked to cooperate for two years. The program is being funded

through the Swift County Water Plan and administered by the Chippewa River Watershed Project with assistance from the Natural Resource Conservation Service-Swift County. If you live in the Shakopee Creek Watershed and are interested in the program for the 2004 cropping season contact Jennifer at 320-269-2139 x120 or Swift SWCD at 320-842-7201.



2002 Monitoring Summary, Paul Wymar

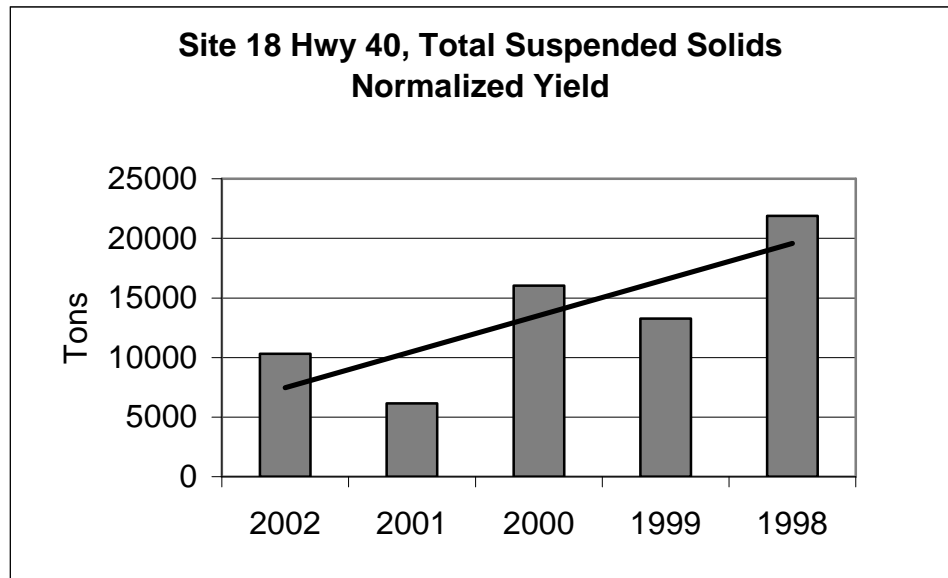
2002 marks five years of CRWP monitoring on the Chippewa River. Results from CRWP monitoring indicate that 2002 was an improvement over past years. In addition, a general improving trend seems to be emerging.

While it is still too early to decipher the monitoring data to statistical satisfaction, the Chippewa seems to be heading in a cleaner direction. When we look at the last five years of data we see across the watershed a reduction in the monitored pollutants. This is good news, it means that the river has been getting cleaner.

The data shows that the majority of the pollutants are still coming through after the spring rain storms. The importance of maintaining high levels of crop residue on fields can not be stressed enough.

Fecal Coliform in the river continues to be a concern. From mid June to late August tests reported water that was not fit for human contact. The limit for human contact is 200 Organisms per 100 ml (O/100 ml). Readings as high as 11,000 were reported. This is a concern for the many

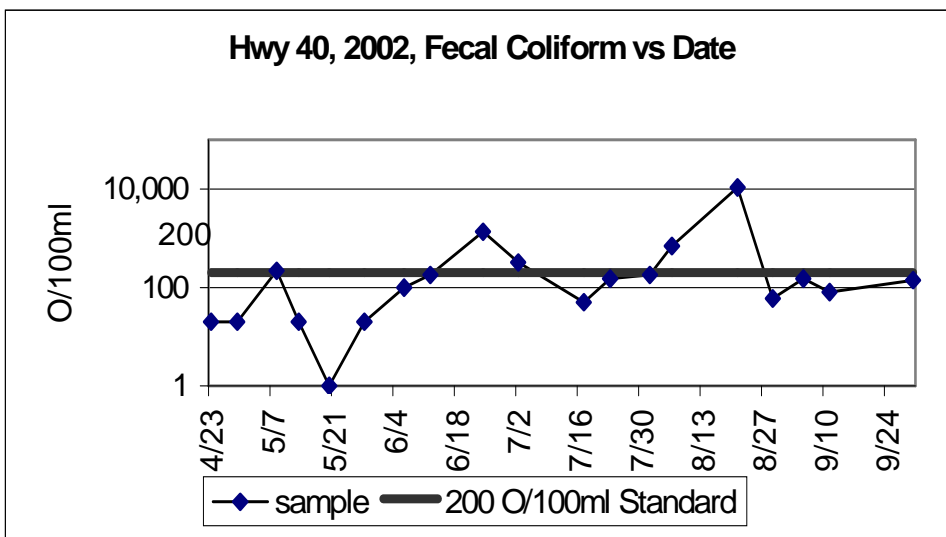
people who use the river for swimming and boating. Homeowners need to get their septic systems inspected and take advantage of low interest loans available to them through their local county offices. In addition, landowners with livestock should contact their local NRCS office about ways to



minimize livestock access to flowing water.

Why are we seeing cleaner water? The verdict is still out but there has been an incredible amount of conservation work done by farmers, residents, sportsmen and natural resource professionals throughout the 1990's. It is likely that

their efforts are beginning to show. But there remains work to be done, surveys conducted this summer determined that some tributaries of the Chippewa have no buffer of any size on over 50% of their erosion prone banks. So while the residents of the Chippewa Watershed do deserve congratulations there is still work to be done.



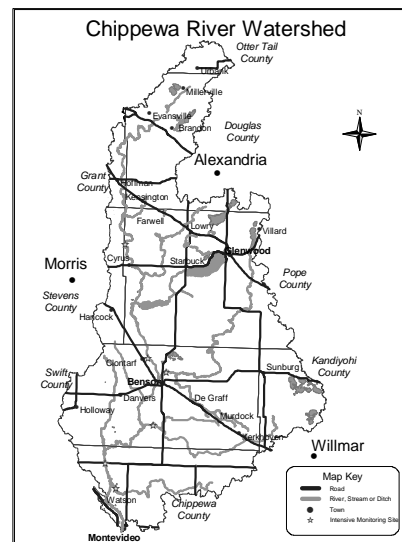
Citizen Monitor Meetings

Are you tired of seeing dirty water? Or maybe you are tired of hearing people talk dirt about the water. Well the only way you can talk about it with confidence is if you join the Citizen Monitor Network and systematically monitor the water with us.

Come to one of our Citizen Monitor informational meetings. There you will learn what it means to be a citizen monitor. Choose a project to do this next monitoring season. Lets find out what the water is like together.

Come to one of these meetings:

- Glenwood City Hall, March 3 at 7 pm
- Cyrus Café. March 6 at 7 pm
- Benson Library, March 10 at 7 pm
- Montevideo Library, March 17 at 7 pm
- Sunburg Café March 20 at 7 pm
- Hancock Community Center, March 24 at 7 pm
- Kerkhoven Community Center March 31 at 7 pm
- Brandon Senior Center, April 7 at 7 pm



Second Annual Citizen Monitoring Workshop

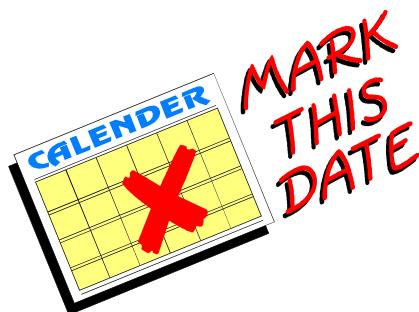
On May 3 2003 from 10 am to 3 pm CRWP will be holding it's **Second Annual Citizen Monitor Workshop** at the Benson Law Enforcement Center. The day will cover monitoring techniques, river science, past CMN results and other useful topics. This is a

must for anyone interested in Citizen Monitoring. Please RSVP By Tuesday, April 29, Contact Paul at 320-269-2139 ext 119

Free Admission and Free Lunch!



I WANT YOU to Monitor our Lakes and Rivers!



5th Annual Meeting

Friday, April 4th — Benson VFW

5:30 Registration / Social Hour

6:30 Meal **RSVP** by April 1- \$8.00

7:30 Presentation from Watershed Staff

8:00 Guest Speaker: Gyles Randall,

University of Minnesota Soil Scientist

Join us for a great evening of river fun! Celebrate the year's accomplishments and gear up for another exciting year

Going Native

Barsness Park, one of Glenwood's city parks, has gotten a new look over the past couple of years. Barsness Park is located on the southern edge of Glenwood. It features a recreation area complete with trails and camping. A stream flows through the park on its way to Lake Minnewaska. A major shift from mowed streambanks to a native, wildflower buffer zone has taken place along the park's stream. The project began when the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) Nongame Wildlife program received a special grant from the Legislative Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCMR) with proceeds from the state lottery and in conjunction with the "Lakescaping for Wildlife and Water Quality" book. The project was selected from a group of 250 applicants for 13 projects done during the summer of 2000. The project was selected based on the interest of the city to reduce erosion and the input of nutrients and grass clippings into Lake Minnewaska.

The Glenwood DNR Fisheries Office worked with the city and other volunteers to help design and install the buffer zones. The first phase of the project included about 850 linear feet on each side of the stream. A 25 foot wide buffer zone of native vegetation was established on each side of the stream through seeding and planting approximately 50 species of native grasses, wildflowers and shrubs. These plants, which originally occurred in the Glenwood area, typically have deep root systems that help hold streambanks in place during high flow periods. Introducing a native buffer zone, reduces the total amount of lawn that needs to be treated with fertilizer and other lawn chemicals. Many of the plants were specifically chosen for their value as nectar sources for butterflies and hummingbirds. Then with some additional monies the remaining 900 or so linear feet of the stream was planted and seeded in 2002.

Many volunteer groups participated in the planting and maintenance of the project including Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Master Gardeners, YAK-a group affiliated



with the Minnewaska High School, Sentence to Serve, and others. Without the extreme dedication of Sandy Nelson, Glenwood City Council member, and her input of huge amounts of personal time the project never would have gotten off the ground. Special thanks to her and her family for helping to make the planting successful.



This past fall, the city of Glenwood was presented the 1st Annual Community Lakescaping Shoreline Stewardship Award from the MN DNR. They were selected for this award based on the community involvement and appreciation for the project and for taking bold and effective action to reduce the effects of soil erosion and fertilizer inputs into Lake Minnewaska. The city of Glenwood and its residents were recognized for their leadership in responding to nonpoint source pollution with a long-term solution. Visit Barsness Park and experience native vegetation at its best.

Article information supplied by Leilani Peterson, DNR-Fisheries

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Get the Word Out

WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!

ADVERTISING SPACE IS NOW AVAILABLE

Do you have a business, product or service that you want citizens of the Chippewa River Watershed to know about? Take advantage of the new advertising opportunities in the Citizen Connection. Reach thousands of watershed residents with one ad. Pick your size and pay **only \$5 per square inch** of advertising space. That's pennies per person you are reaching. Call now for information on your advertising options. Contact Jennifer at 320-269-2139 x120 or email jac@mnmontevid.fsc.usda.gov



Send questions or comments to:
Chippewa River Watershed Project
 629 North 11th Street
 Montevideo MN 56265
kao@mnmontevid.fsc.usda.gov

Question? Or Comment: _____

I would like more information on: _____

Name _____

Address _____

Phone (optional) _____

2nd Annual Winter Seminar

Focusing on the importance of wetland hydrology, erosion control and phosphorus runoff potential

Sponsored by Chippewa River Watershed Project, Crow River Organization of Water, Hawk Creek Watershed Project and Prairie Country RC&D



How are you affecting your watershed? Everyone has an impact on watershed health. Learn how you can positively affect the watershed around you by focusing on wetland hydrology, erosion control and phosphorus runoff potential.

Agenda

- 8:30 Registration
- 8:30-9:20 Displays
- 9:20 Welcome
- 9:30 CRWP presents Wetland Hydrology with Tom Wenzel
Session will address drainage systems and drainage law as it pertains to wetlands and provide information on wetland restoration programs, techniques, and benefits
- 10:45 Break
- 11:00 C.R.O.W. presents Urban Erosion Issues with Jay Michels
Session will focus on the need for communities to make effective decisions on urban erosion controls and stormwater management using the NEMO program
- 12:15 Meal
- 1:00 HCWP presents Phosphorus Runoff Potential with Neil Hansen
Session will explore how phosphorus moves through the environment, the development of a Minnesota phosphorus index, and best management practices for reducing phosphorus runoff
- 2:15 Panel Discussion/Wrap-up

Tuesday, February 18, 2003
 8:30 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
 Kandi Entertainment Center
 Willmar, Minnesota

Continuing Education Credits will be available for Certified Crop Advisors

Cost: Adult \$10.00
 Adult with CEU Credits \$20.00

Who should attend?

This seminar provides valuable information for everyone in the watershed. If you are a:

- Farmer
- Landowner
- City Resident
- Local Elected Official
- Appointed Official
- Conservation Professional

Then this seminar is for you!

Registration

Pre-registration guarantees meal and registration materials. Registration deadline is **February 10th**. Registration fee includes morning refreshments, noon meal, and materials. **Make checks payable to Prairie Country RC&D.**

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Adults \$10.00 X _____ Number of Adults = _____

Adult with CEU credits \$20.00 X _____ Number of Adults = _____

Mail to:
 Prairie Country RC&D
 1005 High Ave NE
 Willmar, MN 56201

For More Information
 Phone: 320-231-0008
 Fax: 320-235-8751
 Email: janell.holien@mn.usda.gov

Attend these Upcoming Events

- ◆ **February 6**, Shakopee Creek Headwaters Monthly Meeting, 10:00 am, Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center
- ◆ **February 7**, CRWP Monthly Meeting, 10:15 am, Glenwood City Hall
- ◆ **February 13-14**, River Leaders Summit, Koinonia Retreat Center-South Haven. For more information contact Rivers Council of Minnesota 320-259-6800
- ◆ **February 18**, 2nd Annual Winter Seminar, 8:30 am, Kandi Entertainment Center
- ◆ **March 3**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Glenwood City Hall
- ◆ **March 6**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Cyrus Café
- ◆ **March 10**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Benson Library
- ◆ **March 11-12**, Willmar Ag Show, Willmar Civic Center. *Come out and see the CRWP Booth*

- ◆ **March 14**, CRWP Monthly Meeting, 10:15 am, Glenwood City Hall
- ◆ **March 17**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Montevideo Library
- ◆ **March 20**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Sunburg Café
- ◆ **March 24**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Hancock Community Center
- ◆ **March 31**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Kerkhoven Community Center
- ◆ **April 4**, CRWP 5th Annual Meeting, Benson VFW
- ◆ **April 7**, Citizen Meeting, 7 pm, Brandon Senior Center
- ◆ **May 3**, 2nd Annual Citizen Monitor Workshop, 10 am–3 pm, Benson Law Enforcement Center



Work on Your Watershed!

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All programs and services of the Chippewa River Watershed Project, Prairie Country RC&D Council, and cooperating agencies are offered on a non discriminatory basis without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sex, age, marital status, handicap, or sexual orientation.



Chippewa River Watershed Project

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