

SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES BOARD
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE
March 4, 2009

MEETING SUMMARY

In attendance

Dodge County:	Mark Gamm Dean Schrandt	Wabasha County:	Jennifer Dankers
Fillmore County:	Joe Magee Donna Rassmussen	Winona County:	Pat Bailey
Goodhue County:	Beau Kennedy	SEMNRWB:	Linda Dahl
Houston County:		Cannon River WP:	Ross Hoffmann
Mower County:	Justin Hanson	MPCA:	Justin Watkins
Olmsted County:	Sheila Harmes Terry Lee	BWSR	Shaina Keseley
Rice County:	Jenny Mocol-Johnson	MDH	Norman Senjem
Steele County:	Scott Golberg	Zumbro WP	Michelle Schaefers Mary Kells Jim Lundy Terry Klampe

Clean Water Amendment Regional Strategies

- BALMM Clean Water Amendment - regional grant concept:
 - Norman Senjem presented information a regional grant concept for CWA funding to come through the SEMWRB for stable funding of regional water resource improvement projects
 - Feedlots – OLA cost share and design funding for eleven counties in the SE Tech. Support JPB area. Approx. \$15,000 c/s for 15 fixes per yr/co.
 - Unsewered Communities – Long-term funding for Wastewater Facilitators and cost share for community needs assessments and feasibility studies.
 - ISTS/ITPH – Funding for Counties to inventory Imminent Threats to Public Health, plus 50% cost share for septic system installation (approx. \$3,000/system).
 - WRAC feedback
 - ITPH – we will need a database developed
 - Approach septic system staff with Counties
 - Extend to 8 or 10 years
 - Venues for promotion: MPCA, BWSR, BALMM, Legislative Panel
 - Use shared staff where appropriate
 - Start looking at regionalization of some services, ex: GIS, compliance
- Shoreland Buffer Strategy – Terry Klampe, ZWP
 - The ZWP, as a citizen board, wants to see the laws enforced, including shoreland rule 6120.
 - Urged the counties to ensure each county has one person responsible for compliance
 - Penalties for violation should be reasonable but sufficient to ensure compliance
 - Change nature of enforcement from complaint driven to law enforcement

- WRAC feedback
 - Citizens groups going directly to the Commissioners are more effective than going through staff with their concerns over enforcement.
 - A broad compliance and enforcement workshop would be useful (septics, feedlots, wetlands, shoreland)

Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network

- February sampling is underway, with counties reporting between 25% and 75% of samples returned.
- Next sampling suggestion: move the date to the closest Monday to avoid weekend postal delays
- Jim Lundy, MDH
 - Distributed CD's with database and explanation of how it works; an updated copy of the CWI for each county and scanned images of all the well data forms that were sent to MDA, along with MDA notes.
 - What's next?
 - Final report, including: Well network sustainability/frequency; obstacles for both counties and state; statistical analysis; answer question about the quality of water people are drinking; how to go forward.

Reports –

Joe Magee – Fillmore County purchased bacteria sampling equipment and is certified for E. coli bacteria analysis; both quantitative and present/absent.

Linda suggested meeting every month for a while she is learning this new position. Staff suggested trying to find an alternative location for these extra meetings, such as IWL lodge or Quarry Hill.