

**SOUTHEAST MINNESOTA WATER RESOURCES BOARD  
WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

**March 7, 2007**

**In attendance**

Dodge County:	Dean Schrandt	BWSR:	Mary Kells
Fillmore County:		MPCA:	Justin Watkins
Goodhue County:	Glen Roberson		Bill Thompson
Houston County:	Ralph Tuck		Norman Senjem
Mower County:	Bill Buckley	WSU:	Ross Hoffmann
Olmsted County:	Terry Lee	SEMWRB:	Bea Hoffmann
Rice County:			
Steele County:			
Winona County:	Pat Bailey		
Wabasha County:	Byron Evers		

**SUMMARY**

**Update on March 12 Board Meeting Program** - program will feature Justin Watkins, Adam Birr, and Mower and Fillmore Counties talking about soil erosion. Ross Hoffmann will also give an overview of the nitrate monitoring design and well selection process.

**May 14 Board Meeting and SEMWRB 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary** – several additional ideas for celebration were discussed. Bill Buckley and Pat Bailey volunteered to serve on the anniversary committee.

**May 23 Feedlot Tour** – will be targeted at legislators and/or their aides but all feedlot staff will be invited. Four sites were chosen by Pete Freyer, SWCD JPB engineer. Sites are close together, and all in Winona County. Hiawatha Valley RC&D is co-sponsoring. The MPCA has generously agreed to cover lunches which will be provided by the SE MN Food Network.

**Shoreland Initiative Update** – as a follow-up to the January 8 board meeting program on shoreland ordinances, a letter was sent to Minnesota Waters and DNR. Minnesota Waters then invited us to speak at the Feb. 19 shoreland hearing of the Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee. Bea Hoffmann and Jeff Broberg, Minnesota Trout Association, spoke regarding streams. Goodhue Co. Board of Commissioners passed their shoreland resolution. Fillmore County will be introducing a resolution soon.

**MDA/MDH/MPCA Recommendations for Project Design** – a compromise was reached among the MPCA, MDH, and MDA that would keep the regional grid design intact if the Well Network Coordinators are trained to get as much information as possible on each well. Ross Hoffmann then walked through a flow chart of the Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Network Process.

**Determine “Subordinate Network” Commitments** - all counties except Mower stated that they are interested in both participation in the regional grid design and in the subordinate network in the areas of concern. Mower will consider and let us know.

**Recommend Allocation Formula for Well Network Coordinator Funds** – staff decided to accept the formula using \$5000 as a base with # of grid points pro-rated for the remainder of the funds.

**Recommend Date for Well Network Coordinator Training #1** - it was decided to postpone the suggested April 5 training date until more of the Well Network Coordinators are hired.

**Distribution Schedule for Wellowner Contacts** – Ross expects to have all Round 1&2 well owner lists ready within a couple of weeks.

**Mailing of Solicitation Letter and Postcard** - staff suggested that a separate letter will be needed for owners of baseline wells that details some history of the project

**Overview of Sediment-Related Work in Southeast Minnesota** - Bill Thompson discussed the many ongoing and new stream monitoring programs and the subsequent listings of stream reaches for turbidity impairments. Barr Engineering has also been working to obtain and then analyze pre-existing data for the sediment data evaluation project. The workplan will be at the watershed rather than the basin scale. The Turbidity TMDL study results for the Lower Cannon indicate that in-channel sources may account for 40-80% of the total suspended solids load. This indicates a need for reducing peak flows by keeping water longer in the uplands. As of now there is no measurable “hydrology standard” for a watershed. Bill also discussed the use of the sediment budget concept that illustrates that sediments move from sediment sources or yields such as stream banks or upland fields to sediment sinks such as ditches or floodplain deposits. Sediment sinks can also re-suspend and end up at the mouth of a river. Also of concern with sediment transport is that along with the sediments come the “hitchhikers” and travel companions such as pathogens and nutrients. Justin Watkins emphasized that when we talk about sediment we are talking about aquatic life. He also discussed use of the transparency tube for obtaining data. Testing has showed that the correlation between the transparency tube results and turbidity results is very close and how use of citizen monitoring results obtained by use of the tube has greatly increased the listings.