

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

September 5, 2007

In attendance

Dodge County:	Mark Gamm	Wabasha County:	Byron Evers
Fillmore County:	Donna Rasmussen	Winona County:	Pat Bailey
Goodhue County:	Beau Kennedy	BWSR:	Mary Kells
Houston County:	Ralph Tuck	MPCA:	Justin Watkins
Mower County:	Bill Buckley		Bill Thompson
Olmsted County:	Terry Lee	DNR:	Jeff Green
Rice County:	Jennifer Mocol-Johnson	SEMWRB:	Bea Hoffmann
Steele County:	Scott Golberg		

SUMMARY

September 10 Budget Meeting of the Board – the impending deficit was discussed. The staff suggested that the Board set a policy to index their dues to inflation. They also recommended that the Board achieve the projected inflation number by raising the dues two years in a row to reach the \$1000 increase. There was discussion as to how the water planning funds had been slashed in 2001 so that those funds had not kept up with inflation either. Recommendations for future action include a letter to the Clean Water Council asking that more funding be directed to local water management to restore the 2001 funding levels, especially in light of recent events.

Wastewater IV – this 319 grant proposal will be submitted on September 6 to fund a wastewater facilitator for the southern counties of the region and is a companion to the Cannon River Watershed proposal for the northern counties. A note will be added to the proposal stating that it is important that both facilitators be funded, but if there is not enough funding for both full proposals, that the community cost-share portion of the proposal could be eliminated. Funding for that portion of the project would then be sought elsewhere.

SE MN Water Resources Board Role in Whitewater LCCMR Proposal - staff thought that a resource assessment that cleans up stream line work and analyzes land use within 50' feet of streams would be a useful piece of information although some counties, such as Houston, may not need the information.

Recommend Regional Clean Water Legacy Project – staff recommended a straight pipe inventory project similar to the one submitted but not funded last year providing that multi-county groups can apply. It will be very important to engage the county ISTS and other zoning staff since they will be the ones who will implement the project if it is funded.

Volunteer Nitrate Monitoring Project – Styrofoam mailers with cardboard sleeves, drying rack materials, and bottle and mailer labels have been ordered and will be distributed. Based on an MDA/MPCA design, a freeze vs. refrigeration experiment will be conducted at the regional office to determine whether freezing the sample has any effect on nitrate test results.

Class V Injection Well Disclosure Rule - in response to a letter sent to the MPCA during our Shallow Well Inventory project, an administrative rule is being adopted by the MPCA stating

that all local 7080 ordinances must require disclosure of Class V wells at property transfer and new or replacement Class V wells must be reported to the EPA and the MPCA. More information on the rule will be sent to the staff. It was suggested that the MPCA links up with realtors to inform them of this upcoming requirement at property transfer.

Reconsider Winter Workshop Topic in Light of Recent Events – there was much discussion about the effects of the flood on the ecosystem. A forum to discuss the flood's effects on streams would be a good opportunity to educate the public about the benefits of upland storage (Rochester Flood Control, Pickwick examples) and the importance of connecting streams with their floodplains. Pending Board approval to change the 2007 workplan, the ethanol workshop will be postponed and the flood forum moved up to this winter. Other suggested topics for a flood forum included:

- Where did the landslides or bank washouts occur and why? Where did the banks hold?
- What types of assessment are going on?
- What is the impact on the ground water and surface water systems?
- What are different groups doing or planning to do? What are the planning and zoning issues – future land use?
- What will be taken care of by the counties? Hazard mitigation? Need for LiDAR technology for the region for future flood mitigation
- What were the effects on the DNR's aggressive stream work?
- Recommend to bring in Jim Knox, UW- Madison as a speaker

Innovative Springshed Mapping for Trout Stream Management - Jeff Green, MN DNR – Waters explained this new LCCMR study that looks at the impacts on trout streams in the Driftless Area. There are 173 designated trout streams in SE MN requiring a steady supply of cold water. Changing land use and additional large ground water withdrawals for energy production and development have put increasing pressure on this resource. Only 8% of the trout streams springsheds have been documented to date. Most of these are in eastern and northern Fillmore County. This project will use dye tracing techniques and focus on 3 clusters of springs in 3 different aquifers (Galena karst, Prairie du Chien, and St. Lawrence-Franconia). The products will be trout springshed maps and reports, trout springshed assessment protocols, and a Best Management Practice handbook.

Final Report of the NE Wisconsin Karst Task Force – this report was developed for 5 counties on the Door County peninsula. Numerous people were getting sick from manure in the groundwater in an area of the state where the number of feedlots is actually growing. The area is underlain by Niagra escarpment dolomite. The recommendations in this report take a landscape-oriented approach to reduce the impact on the ground water from agriculture. They recommend a multi-county Carbonate Bedrock Management Zone to be established by the state legislature. The report contains specific recommendations for BMP's or restrictions on manure applications.