



E-Currents

: Newsletter of the Crow River Organization of Water

January 2006

TMDL work to begin on Lower Crow

2006 will mark the start of the first TMDL project on the Crow River. The Lower Crow, defined as the reach of the Crow River beginning at the confluence of the North and South Forks, and ending at the Mississippi River, was placed on the impaired waters list in 2002 for Turbidity and Fish IBI, and in 2004 it was listed for fecal coliform.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, with assistance from the CROW, will head up the project. The work will begin with the submittal of a work plan in February. The process will consist of three phases. During the first phase, all of the existing monitoring data for the Lower Crow and surrounding areas of the North and South Forks will be reviewed. Any areas with incomplete data will be identified and worked into a monitoring plan to be implemented in 2007. A report outlining the results of Phase I will be completed by December 2006. In 2007 Phase II, the monitoring phase of the TMDL work, will begin. It is expected that the monitoring will occur in 2007 and 2008. Phase III is scheduled to begin in 2009. During this phase, an engineer will review the additional data collected, use modeling and eventually develop load allocations.

The extent of the river covered by this TMDL project has not yet been determined, but it is anticipated that it will cover the entire extent of the Lower Crow, and will travel up the North and South Forks a short distance. The overall purpose of the project is to define the extent and severity of the pollution problems in this segment of the river, and to develop corrective actions necessary to meet all applicable water quality standards.

If you have questions regarding the TMDL process for the Lower Crow, please contact the CROW or the MPCA.

Contact Information

Diane Sander

Watershed Coordinator
306C Brighton Avenue
Buffalo, MN 55313
763.682.1933 x3
diane.sander@mn.nacdn.net

Jenny Gieseke

Watershed Specialist
40322 541st Avenue
New Ulm, MN 56073
507.766.0173

CROW JPB and officers

Dennis Peterson, Kandiyohi Co.
Chair

Charles Woehler, Sibley Co.
Vice Chair

Don Otte, Stearns Co.
2nd Vice Chair

Ron Kutzke, Meeker Co.
Treasurer

Paul Setzepfandt, Renville Co.
Secretary

Tim Lynch, Carver Co.

Penny Steele, Hennepin Co.

Ray Bayerl, McLeod Co.

Dean Paulson, Pope Co.

Jack Russek, Wright Co.

South Fork Crow River Association Meets in Hutchinson

On October 20, 2005 over 60 people attended the South Fork Crow River Association held its annual meeting at the Hutchinson Event Center. The meeting provided an overview of projects the Association has completed and are currently working on. Additional speakers covered water quality topics and proposed projects in the Hutchinson area. Diane Sander, CROW Watershed Coordinator highlighted the Crow River Clean Up Day held in September. Over 280 volunteers participated in ten communities throughout the watershed. Over 6 tons of trash was removed from the river and its tributaries. The Association assisted in organizing the clean up within the Hutchinson area. John Rodeberg, Hutchinson City Engineer and Rob Collette, DNR gave a presentation on the proposed main street dam reconstruction project. The project would involve removing portions of the dam and constructing a multilevel fish ladder. Jim Zarling, Fairmont City Administrator, presented information on the background and history of the dredging project in Fairmont. The meeting concluded with questions and concerns from the audience. The Association meets the 3rd Thursday of each month. Meetings start at 6:30 p.m. run until 8:30 in the downstairs meeting room at IOOF building in Hutchinson.

Crow River Quick Facts

- ◆ The Crow River Watershed drains a basin of approximately 1.8 million acres or 2,700 square miles.
- ◆ Approximately 178,000 people live in the watershed.
- ◆ Primary Land Use in the watershed is agricultural.
- ◆ The Crow River flows into the Mississippi near Dayton, MN.



CROW to attend Citizen Monitoring Training

The CROW has been accepted into the Citizen Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Plan Training offered by the Rivers Council of Minnesota and the Minnesota Lakes Association. The purpose of the three day training session is to assist citizens groups in developing a monitoring plan that fits their individual needs and to ensure that the data collected is usable and cost effective.

The CROW put together a team of volunteers from Lake Manuella, Big Swan Lake, Lake Francis and Dutch Lake to attend the training. Our objective in this training will be to help the 4 lake associations develop pilot monitoring plans for their individual lakes. The CROW will then use this experience to assist volunteers on additional lakes throughout the watershed to develop appropriate, productive monitoring plans. In this manner we will be able to encourage and assist citizen based monitoring throughout the watershed. The CROW will also be revising our own citizen monitoring program to make it more effective.