



E-Currents

Electronic Newsletter of the Crow River Organization of Water

August 2006

CROW 319 Grant is Underway

The CROW has started working on its most recent 319 implementation grant from the MPCA. The project area covers the Buffalo Creek Watershed, and includes portions of 5 counties (McLeod, Renville, Sibley, Kandiyohi and Carver). By combining \$300,000 in grant funds from the MPCA with local cost share dollars and local matching funds, the CROW and local partners will work to achieve the following goals:

- Install 50 alternative tile intakes that directly discharge into Buffalo Creek and its tributaries
- Enroll 375 acres of filter or buffer strips into CRP with by promoting a one time water quality bonus
- Stabilize 5 shoreland erosion sites
- Install/upgrade 5 Ag waste systems and conduct manure testing
- Work with the seven Municipalities in the project area on stormwater/water quality issues
- Monitor 3 sites on Buffalo Creek to verify water quality status and project effectiveness
- Increase educational efforts regarding bmp's and water quality information

In addition, \$500,000 in loan money will be available for upgrading approximately 107 noncompliant ISTS systems.

Eligible property must be located in the Buffalo Creek Management area. Please contact Diane Sander, or your local SWCD office to determine if you are eligible for grant or loan dollars.

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Upcoming Events

Minnesota Garlic Festival, August 12, 2006: The Crow River Sustainable Farming Association is sponsoring the festival to be held at the Wright County Fairgrounds in Howard Lake from 11:00am to 9:00pm. This festival features local foods, chefs, music, artisans, games, competitions, and lots of garlic - all in support of a healthy environment, family farms and vital rural communities in Minnesota.

Check out the website for more information: www.sfa-mn.org

Crow River Clean Up Day, September 16, 2006 8 am - Noon

Over the past two years this project has been a great success, having removed over 15 tons of garbage from the river. Stoves, engines, tires, and trash of all kinds has been removed through the help of volunteers like you!

For information about starting up or participating in a clean up in your community please contact Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext. 3.

Glencoe Student Takes Water Quality Seriously

Lisa Broderius may be getting ready to begin her sophomore year at Glencoe Silver Lake High School, but she is already a step ahead of most adults when it comes to understanding water quality. Two years ago, while still in 8th Grade, Lisa noticed the difference a CRP field on their property made in regard to the speed of water flowing through an adjacent ditch. This sparked an interest in the affects land use has on water flows and water quality. Lisa began monitoring the transparency of Buffalo Creek before and after rain falls to see if there was a difference. In 9th grade, Lisa took her interest to the next level, and began comparing Dissolved Oxygen levels with Transparency tube measurements on the Minnesota River and on Buffalo Creek. Her data showed an inverse relationship between DO and Transparency. Her presentation of the results at the regional science fair competition won her a trip to the International Science and Engineering Fair in Indianapolis last May.

This year, Lisa will once again be adding to the complexity of her project. She plans to monitor 11 sites on Buffalo Creek and the South Fork of the Crow River for Dissolved Oxygen, Transparency, pH and conductivity. Lisa also plans to compare data from the transparency tube with Turbidity readings taken on a meter. And she will be looking at landscape differences in respect to her data. Lisa also plans to clean up trash and debris she finds along the river during her sampling visits.

Throughout her studies, Lisa has learned much about water quality testing methods and water quality in general. We think it's safe to assume that her experiences will make her a lifelong steward of our waters. The CROW applauds her dedication and hard work.