



C.R.O.W. JOINT POWERS

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Press Release

For Immediate Release

November 8, 2002

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NEMO Workshop

On October 3, 2002, the Crow River Organization of Water (C.R.O.W.), Wright SWCD and Minnesota Erosion Control Association collaborated and hosted a NEMO Workshop. NEMO stands for **N**onpoint Source Pollution **E**ducation for **M**unicipal **O**fficials. The workshop introduced tools and technologies that can be used by decision makers and planners to make land use changes that will minimize adverse water resources impacts. Invitations were sent to Planning Commissions, City Councils, City Administrators, Citizen Groups, City Engineers, County Commissioners and Public Works Staff of the majority of the cities in the Crow River Watershed and all of Wright County. The eastern portion of the Crow River Watershed, especially Wright County is undergoing dramatic land use changes. Suburbs are expanding into the area, and rural residential developments are popping up all over. By providing city councils, planning commissions and staff of these municipalities with responsible methods for developing areas and design alternatives to help minimize the water quality degradation that often comes as a result of poor planning.

Funding from the Initiative Foundation, a regional foundation, helped cover the cost of a dinner provided during the workshop. Jay Michels from Minnesota Erosion Control Association was the keynote speaker. Michels' presentation covered land use planning and urban storm water quality issues. A total of 61 people attended the workshop. Representing eleven cities were: 4 City Engineers, Mayor, 7 City Council Members, County Commissioner, Rivers Council of Minnesota, PCA Citizen Board Member, 2 Citizen Groups, Lake Associations and various staff from state and local agencies. Following the workshop, several municipalities signed up for follow up sessions with the Minnesota Erosion Control Association to explore new approaches to land use planning, develop and revise ordinances and operational procedures.

If you would like more information on NEMO Workshops please contact Diane Sander-C.R.O.W. Outreach Technician at (763) 682-1933 ext. 3 or Bradley Wozney-Wright SWCD at 763-682-1970.