



E-Currents

Electronic Newsletter of the Crow River Organization of Water

July 2006

Public Information Meeting Aug. 2 on Dissolved Oxygen,

Turbidity and Bacteria Pollution in North Fork Lower Crow River

A public information meeting will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 2 at the Wright County Courthouse, Room 120A, in Buffalo about a report on pollution in the North Fork Lower Crow River. Water quality testing shows low dissolved oxygen, turbidity and fecal coliform bacteria pollution. The Crow River Organization of Water (CROW), Brown and Caldwell, and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) will present information leading to the development of a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) report.

A TMDL report is a scientific study that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant a water body can receive (known as the "loading capacity") without violating water quality standards.

The TMDL report focuses on the dissolved oxygen, turbidity and fecal coliform bacteria loading capacity of the North Fork Lower Crow River, and general allocations or limits imposed on all sources necessary to meet water quality standards. Sources of bacteria, turbidity and low dissolved oxygen include failing septic systems, unsewered communities, wildlife, and stormwater runoff from urban landscapes, livestock feedlots and manure applied to cropland. An official public comment period will be announced later; however, questions and concerns heard now will be considered in the report.

Prior to the meeting the Crow River Organization of Water (CROW) joint powers board will be conducting its monthly meeting beginning at 3 p.m. The public is welcome to arrive early for the board meeting and stay for the TMDL information meeting at 4 p.m.

Following approval of the study by the U.S. EPA, a plan will be developed to bring the North Fork Lower Crow River back to water quality standards. For more information about the TMDL study contact Maggie Leach, 218-855-5018; or Diane Sander, 763-682-1933 ext 112. More information on the state's impaired waters list and TMDL studies is available on the Web at:

www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/index.html.

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Manure Management & Equipment Field Day planned for Central MN Thursday, August 16th

The Stearns County Soil & Water Conservation District, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and the University of Minnesota Extension Service will be conducting a **Manure Management & Equipment Field Day** near Greenwald, MN. This field day is planned for Thursday, August 16th, with registration beginning at 10:00 a.m. The field day will start at 10:30 a.m. and conclude at or around 3:00 p.m. Pre-registration prior to the field day is not required. To arrive at the site from Greenwald go 1.3 miles south on State Highway 4 then east on Stearns County Road 31 for 1.3 miles. Signs will be posted. The Central Minnesota Federal Credit Union, Dairyland Supply of Sauk Centre, Edney Distributing, Arnold's of St. Martin and Melrose Implement are sponsoring the field day.

The morning session will feature management and land application of solid manure. Grant Pearson and Mark Lefebvre, nutrient management specialists from the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District, will lead off with a discussion of methods available for the calibration of manure handling equipment. All manure applied to cropland in Minnesota needs to be managed for the Nitrogen needs of the crop to be grown or follow a Phosphorus based plan where soil test Phosphorus levels are high to very high. Equipment representatives will be available to further discuss features on manure spreading equipment to aid in the agronomic application of manure to cropland. Solid manure spreading equipment will be demonstrated before lunch.

The afternoon session will feature a liquid manure emergency response demonstration. Representatives from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Stearns County Environmental Services Department will discuss manure spill reporting requirements. Prior to the demonstration, Kevin Blanchet from the University of Minnesota Extension Service will discuss the goals of the emergency response demonstration. The actual liquid manure emergency response demonstration will focus on methods to protect open tile inlets and surface waters. The demonstration will utilize tillage to slow or stop the advancement of liquid manure and the construction of temporary earthen berms to contain manure flow. The afternoon will conclude with discussion of techniques available to clean up liquid manure discharges and land applying manure at agronomic rates to cropland.

This field day is approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture as a Commercial Animal Waste Technician (CAWT) recertification workshop. Certified Commercial Animal Waste Technicians must participate in training approved by the Minnesota Department of Agriculture to recertify in liquid and solid animal waste categories when their current license expires. The Minnesota Department of Agriculture will cover licensing requirements for custom manure applicators at this field day. If you have questions about this field day event call the Stearns County Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS at (320) 251-7800 x3.