



# E-Currents

Electronic Newsletter of the Crow River Organization of Water

June 2007

## Minnesota Supreme Court Upholds MPCA Permit for Annandale/Maple Lake

In 2003, the MPCA issued a permit for a new wastewater treatment plant for the communities of Annandale and Maple Lake. The plan would add 3,300 pounds of phosphorus to the North Fork of the Crow River every year. Part of the MPCA's justification for issuing the permit was that the new treatment plan in Litchfield reduced Phosphorus levels in the North Fork by 50,000 pounds/year, offsetting the effects of the Annandale/Maple Lake plant.

The Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy appealed the MPCA's decision, saying that the new plant violates the Clean Water Act by further polluting an impaired water (Lake Pepin). A state appeals court agreed with the MCEA and said the permit should not have been issued. The court of appeals decision basically put a halt to any new or improved wastewater treatment facilities state wide.

Since that decision, communities from around the state have been watching to see what the final outcome would be.

On May 17, 2007, the Minnesota Supreme Court overturned the Court of Appeals ruling and by saying that the MPCA could grant the permit.

The MPCA says that this ruling provides flexibility allowing for the protection of the environment while meeting the wastewater needs of communities. MCEA still maintains that the new sewage plant will be in violation of the Clean Water Act.

The Annandale-Maple Lake plant is scheduled for completion sometime in 2009.

### Contact Information

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## CROW JPB and officers

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## CROW Completes Strategic Plan

The CROW JPB adopted its new Strategic Plan on May 3, 2007. The plan can be viewed on the CROW's website, [www.crowriver.org](http://www.crowriver.org).

The CROW JPB and staff extend a sincere thank you to the Upper Mississippi River Source Water Protection Project for funding this Strategic Plan. Additional thanks are offered to all our partners who participated in the effort.

## Spread the Word

The CROW still has funds for projects that reduce non-point source pollution in the Buffalo Creek Watershed. Eligible projects include:

- **Stream Bank Stabilization Projects**
- **Alternative Tile Intakes**
- **Feedlot Upgrades**
- **Manure Testing**
- **Water Quality Bonus for CRP enrollment**

Contact your local SWCD office to get more information. All projects must be located within the Buffalo Creek Watershed.

There is also **low interest loan** money available for upgrading existing septic systems in the Buffalo Creek Watershed. Contact your County Water Planner to find out if your system is eligible.

## We Moved!!

We've moved into the new USDA Service Center Across from our old office. Our new address is

**CROW**  
311 Brighton Avenue  
Buffalo, MN 55313

## Don't Miss Out!!

The 4<sup>th</sup> Annual **Crow River Clean Up Day** is scheduled for **September 15<sup>th</sup>**. This is an excellent opportunity for Sports Groups, Hunting Clubs, Church Youth Groups and 4-H Groups to volunteer their time and make a difference in their local communities. If you are interested, please contact Diane Sander at 763-682-1933 Ext. 112 or [diane.sander@mn.nacdnet.net](mailto:diane.sander@mn.nacdnet.net).

**Check out the new page on our Website**—CROW for Kids. We will be adding more items over the next few months. If you have any ideas for the site or would like us to add a favorite link let us know!



[www.crowriver.org](http://www.crowriver.org)