



WaterFront Bulletin

Water Restoration and Protection: Headlines and Deadlines

WaterFront is a web-based bulletin featuring updates on impaired waters, watershed project funding and water restoration and protection activities underway throughout the state. *WaterFront* is published to share information with internal MPCA staff and external watershed partners.

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CLEAN WATER LEGACY ACT TMDL STUDY PROJECTS FUNDING

Selection Criteria

The MPCA has selected an estimated \$7 million worth of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study projects using Clean Water Legacy Act (CWLA) funds appropriated in the 2007 legislative session.

Using information submitted by Basin Teams, MPCA Watershed Unit Supervisors selected projects based on cost, likelihood of resulting in a completed TMDL, potential human health risks, affects on threatened and endangered species, aquatic life health risks, organizational readiness, demonstrated cooperation and coordination in the local project area, length of time the water body has been on the Impaired Waters list, MPCA staffing availability, current TMDL activity in the project area, number of impairments addressed, priority of the project relative to others in the basin, possibility of using the TMDL as a prototype for future TMDLs, and use of an efficient watershed approach.

Selected Projects

The following projects were selected and must submit work plans:

Workplans Due September 2007:

- Lake Superior Basin: Deer Creek / Nemadji (turbidity);
- Lower Mississippi Basin: continued funding for Lake Pepin (nutrients/turbidity)
- Metro Area: Carver County- Carver / Bevens (nutrients/turbidity), Hardwood Creek (impaired biota) Concepts Modeling, Nine Lakes, continued funding for Shingle Creek (impaired biota/dissolved oxygen)
- Minnesota River Basin: Pomme de Terre (fecal coliform)
- Red River Basin: SWAT Modeling Selected Watersheds & Technology Transfer
- St. Croix River Basin: Browns Creek (biological impairments) Comfort Lake, Sunrise River (multiparameter)
- Upper Mississippi River Basin: Clearwater River

- Watershed (low oxygen), Little Rock Creek (impaired biota)
- Statewide Projects: Alternative Ditch Design - Improved Management of Runoff, Nutrients and Sediments

Workplans Due December 2007:

- Lake Superior Basin: Knife River (turbidity)
- Lower Minnesota River Basin: Lake Crystal, Little Cottonwood River (multiparameter), Seven Mile Creek (multiparameter)
- Lower Mississippi River Basin: Cedar River (turbidity), Root River (turbidity)
- Metro Area: Credit River (turbidity), Crystal Lake, Earley Lake, Fish Lake, Keller Lake, Lee Lake, Minnehaha Creek (impaired biota), Sarah Lake, Schwanz Lake, Medicine Lake, Sweeny Lake (nutrients)
- Minnesota River Basin: Cottonwood River (turbidity), Hawk Creek (multiple), Redwood River (turbidity)
- Red River Basin: Buffalo River (biotic impairment)
- St. Croix River Basin: Ann River Watershed (impaired biota), Mission Creek (impaired biota, low dissolved oxygen)
- Upper Mississippi River Basin: Diamond Lake (nutrients), Lake Osakis Watershed (nutrients/impaired biota/dissolved oxygen), Little Rock Creek (impaired biota), North Fork Lower Crow River Watershed (multiple), Sauk River Horseshoe Chain of Lakes (nutrients)

Workplans Due March 2008:

- Lake Superior Basin: Miller Creek, Poplar River, Talmadge, Sucker, French
- Lower Mississippi River Basin: Clear Lake, Lake Volney, Lower Vermillion River, Whitewater River (turbidity)
- Metro Area: Mississippi River (impaired biota/bacteria/turbidity)
- Minnesota River Basin: Chippewa River (turbidity), Pomme de Terre (turbidity)
- Missouri River Basin: Split Rock Creek (dissolved oxygen)
- Rainy River Basin: Jesse Lake
- Red River Basin: Clearwater River Fens (fecal coliform bacteria activity)
- Upper Mississippi River Basin: Ann Lake (nutrients), Big Sandy Area Lakes (nutrients), Elk River Watershed (impaired biota/turbidity/dissolved oxygen/fecal coliform/nutrients), Middle Sauk (turbidity), Long Prairie River, Moran Creek (dissolved oxygen), Lower Sauk River (fecal coliform/turbidity/nutrients), Buffalo Creek (turbidity), Main Stem Source Water (fecal coliform)

CLEAN WATER PARTNERSHIP AND SECTION 319 FUNDING UPDATES

Status of Current CWP/319 Grant Funding Round for Federal Fiscal Year 2008

MPCA received 28 proposals for CWP and Section 319 Grant funding this year. The proposals requested a total of \$5,940,091 in grant funds and \$3,774,000 in Clean Water Partnership (CWP) loan funds. An estimated \$2.3 million in 319 grant funds is available. Available funding for CWP loans is not yet determined. There is no CWP grant funding available this year.

MPCA staff members and state partners on the project coordination team (PCT) are currently reviewing and scoring the proposals. Proposals are scored based on the project's state and regional significance and the priority of the water of concern; potential for success based on the technical feasibility, project goals, objectives, work activities, budget, and project organization and management structure; potential for maximized water quality protection or improvement relative to the cost of project implementation; coordination and cooperation with federal, state, and local agencies, units of government and communities;

and the potential to serve as a demonstration for water quality protection or improvement. **Proposers will be notified of the final decisions by November 20.** Contact Juline Holleran (651-296-7701; juline.holleran@pca.state.mn.us) or Sara Johnson (651-296-8278; sara.johnson@pca.state.mn.us) for additional information.

Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Section 319 Funds

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) awarded Federal Fiscal Year 2007 Section 319 funds to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) on September 13. These projects were selected in December 2006 by the MPCA and the Project Coordination Team (PCT) which consists of other state partners. The Congressional appropriation for Section 319 was not approved until April 2007, which caused delays in the MPCA's submittal of the application to EPA. The Section 319 application was finalized and submitted to EPA on June 1, requesting funding for six implementation and four "development, education and research" projects. **Successful applicants will receive contracts within the next few months.** Contact Sara Johnson (651-296-8278; sara.johnson@pca.state.mn.us) for additional information.

Federal Fiscal Year 2008 Section 319 Funds for TMDL Implementation

The MPCA has again dedicated \$1,000,000 of the fiscal year 2008 U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Clean Water Act Section 319 grant award specifically for TMDL implementation activities. Funds will be administered by the Clean Water Legacy (CWL) Grant Program and awarded competitively through the Board of Water and Soil (BWSR). An interagency work team, comprised of representatives from the MPCA, BWSR, the Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA), and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR), recently finalized the 2007 application and guidance document.

The CWL competitive grant **application period is open October 1 through 4:30 p.m. November 15.** Eligible applicants must have an MPCA approved TMDL Implementation Plan by the close of the application period, and must document a dollar-for-dollar match for requested grant funds. Application materials are available at <http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/CWL/index.html>. Contact Kimberly Nuckles (651-297-2810; kimberly.nuckles@pca.state.mn.us) for additional information.

EVENTS

2008 Draft Impaired Waters List: Informational Meetings

The 2008 Draft Impaired Waters List is on public notice from October 8 to November 7, 2008. The list is available for review on the MPCA Web site at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/tmdl/tmdl-303dlist.html>. The MPCA is hosting information meetings regarding the 2008 Draft Impaired Waters List as follows.

Thursday, September 27: MPCA-St. Paul Office, 520 Lafayette Road North, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, October 1: MPCA-Duluth Office, 525 Lake Avenue South, Suite 400, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 2: International Falls, Rainy River Community College Theatre, 1501 Hwy 71, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 3: MPCA-Brainerd Office, 7678 College Road, Suite 105, Baxter, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Thursday, October 4: MPCA-Detroit Lakes Office, 714 Lake Avenue, Suite 220, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Monday, October 8: MPCA-Marshall Office, 1420 E College Drive, Suite 900, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 10: MPCA-Rochester Office, 18 Wood Lake Drive SE, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, October 17: Mankato, Blue Earth County Library, 100 E Main Street, 1:00-3:00 p.m.

Minnesota Water Resources Conference

The 2007 Minnesota Water Resources Conference will be held October 23 and 24 at the Earle Brown Heritage Center, 6155 Earle Brown Drive, Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. The conference is sponsored jointly by the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center and College of Continuing Education. Conference information and registration materials are available on the Web at <http://wrc.umn.edu/waterconf/>.

MASWCD Annual Convention

The Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts will hold its annual convention December 2-4, 2007 at the Mayo Civic Center in Rochester, 30 Civic Center Drive SE. For more information, visit the MASWCD Web site at <http://www.maswcd.org/>.