



# WaterFront Bulletin



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

October 2009

Working with Minnesotans to protect, conserve and improve our environment and enhance our quality of life.

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### Economic stimulus funding available for water quality work

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) has received a one-time American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) grant to fund water quality management planning activities. Funding is provided through Section 604(b) of the Clean Water Act and will be used to address continuing planning updates and communications measures work by MPCA staff.



In addition, 40 percent of the ARRA award will be passed-through to regional public comprehensive planning organizations and interstate planning organizations through a competitive Request for proposals (RFP) process. Available pass-through funds total \$291,160.

The pass-through funding application period opened on Sept. 28 and will close Oct. 30. Planning priority areas for funding consideration include:

- Cooperative interstate efforts to develop coordinated monitoring, assessment and standard-setting approaches to border/interstate waters.

- Aligning local water planning and comprehensive planning efforts with the Clean Water Legacy Act watershed approach.
- Enhancing Minnesota's ability to measure and communicate the results of TMDL development and watershed planning efforts.
- Promoting civic engagement in watershed planning and Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs).

Applicants should address one or more of the priority areas. *Proposals are due to the MPCA by 2 p.m. on Oct. 30, 2009.*

The complete RFP and application can be requested via email at [contracts@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:contracts@pca.state.mn.us) (subject line: WQMP CR 2914.) Please direct questions to Mary Heininger at 651-757-2418, [mary.heininger@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.heininger@state.mn.us), or Kimberly Nuckles at 651-757-2618, [kimberly.nuckles@state.mn.us](mailto:kimberly.nuckles@state.mn.us).

### Reminder: Water monitoring grant applications due Nov. 6

The MPCA intends to award up to \$2 million in grant money for lake and stream monitoring projects through its Surface Water Assessment Grants (SWAG). The grant period opened Sept. 21. *Grant proposals are due Nov. 6 at 4 p.m.*

For more information, go to [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html). Potential applicants may also contact Ron Schwartz of the MPCA at 651-757-2708 or [CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us). Note that the MPCA prefers applications be submitted electronically to [CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:CWLA.surfacewater@pca.state.mn.us).

## Events

### Oct. 26-27: Minnesota Water Resources Conference

The Minnesota Water Resources Conference will be held Oct. 26-27 at the Saint Paul Rivercentre.

View the conference brochure at [www.wrc.umn.edu/waterconf](http://www.wrc.umn.edu/waterconf).

The Minnesota Water Resources Conference presents innovative and practical water resource management techniques and highlights research about Minnesota's water resources.

Speakers this year include:

- Living With a Changing Water Environment, Jerry Schnoor, University of Iowa
- Building Partnerships for Clean Water, Congresswoman Betty McCollum, Minnesota District 4
- Land Use and Water Quality: Lessons from the First Two Decades of the USGS NAWQA Studies, Paul Capel, USGS, and University of Minnesota
- Wetland Drainage and Its Impacts in Minnesota, Rex Johnson, US Fish and Wildlife Service

For more information, call 612-624-3708 or email [cceconf5@umn.edu](mailto:cceconf5@umn.edu).

## MPCA seeking applications for environmental grants

The MPCA is seeking applications for grants to be used in the development of environmentally sustainable practices that prevent pollution and conserve resources. Both public and private organizations and partnerships are eligible. *Applications are due Nov. 3, 2009.*

Approximately \$687,000 is available. The MPCA Environmental Assistance Grant Round is a competitive, one-stage process. Applications must fall under one of the following focus areas:

- Waste prevention and reduction — implementing efficient and economically-sound practices to prevent and reduce waste at the source.
- Source-separated composting — reducing the amount of organic wastes entering disposal facilities.
- Stormwater sources — focus on providing assistance to Minnesota local government units for implementing measures to ensure that permitted stormwater sources do not contribute to the impairment or degradation of state waters.

The complete request for proposal, instructions, and forms are available on the MPCA Web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/grants/eagrants.html). *Applications must be submitted electronically by 3:00 p.m. on Nov. 3, 2009.* For more information, interested parties can contact Mary Baker at 651-757-2208, toll-free at 1-800-657-3864 or by e-mail at [mary.baker@state.mn.us](mailto:mary.baker@state.mn.us).

## BWSR grant application period for Clean Water Funds opens Oct. 15

At its Sept. 23 board meeting, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources approved the BWSR Competitive Grant program. *The grant application period will run from Oct. 15 through Dec. 1.* The Competitive Grant application will include Clean Water Funds generated through the Clean Water Land and Legacy Amendment. A total of \$12.8 million in Clean Water Funds is available in a number of program categories to counties, cities, soil and water conservation districts, water management organizations and certain joint powers boards. For more information, go to [www.bwsr.state.mn.us](http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us).

In addition to providing information on the BWSR Web site, a series of meetings will be held around the state to provide information and answer questions about the program.

Meeting Schedule for BWSR Grant Program			
Date	Time	City	Location
<b>North Region</b>			
Oct. 13	9 a.m. - noon	Thief River Falls	Red Lake Watershed District
Oct. 14	9 a.m. - noon	Fergus Falls	AgCountry Farm Credit Services
Oct. 15	9 a.m. - noon	Bemidji	Beltrami County Admin Building
<b>Metro Region</b>			
Oct. 22	2 - 4 p.m.	St. Paul	Capitol Region Watershed District

Contact the following BWSR representatives for additional information:

South: Matt Drewitz at 507-766-5020

Metro: Marcey Westrick at 651-284-4153

North: Jeff Hrubes at 218-368-7683

## Events

### Oct. 19: Fluvial sediment presentation at U

John R. Gray, U.S. Geological Survey Senior Sediment Specialist, will be presenting the current status and latest technologies related to sediment in natural surface waters on Monday, Oct. 19, at 1 p.m. at the University of Minnesota, 335 Borlaug Hall, Saint Paul Campus.

He will also describe the impacts of human-accelerated transport of suspended sediments in the nation's waterways.

Directions and parking information can be found at [www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/BorH/index.html](http://www1.umn.edu/twincities/maps/BorH/index.html).

## Submissions

*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.

Email *WaterFront* submissions to Cat Rofshus at [catherine.rofshus@state.mn.us](mailto:catherine.rofshus@state.mn.us).

## Project Updates

### Pollution studies for Hennepin County lakes on public notice

The Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) report for Cedar Island, Pike and Eagle lakes in Hennepin County is on public notice until Oct. 28.

The Eagle Lake Chain of Lakes is a regional water resource in the cities of Maple Grove and Plymouth in the Shingle Creek watershed. The state placed Pike Lake on the 2002 impaired waters list, Cedar Island Lake in 2004, and Eagle Lake in 2008 for aquatic recreation because the lakes exceed the water quality standard for nutrients.

The goal of this TMDL is to quantify the pollutant reductions needed for Cedar Island, Pike and Eagle Lakes to meet state water quality standards.

The TMDL report for Meadow Lake Nutrient TMDL is also on public notice until Oct. 28. Meadow Lake is a very shallow 11-acre lake located in the City of New Hope, in Hennepin County, within the Shingle Creek watershed. The state placed Meadow Lake on the 2002 impaired waters list for aquatic recreation because it exceeds the water quality standard for nutrients.

For more information, contact Barb Peichel, TMDL Project Manager for the MPCA, at 651-757-2646 or [barbara.peichel@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:barbara.peichel@pca.state.mn.us).

## Worth Noting

### Watershed report highlights projects throughout the state

The MPCA has released the 2009 edition of the *Watershed Achievements Report*. The report chronicles 49 water quality improvement projects throughout the state. The report, organized by basin, summarizes progress made in addressing water pollution through projects funded under the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Section 319 of the federal Clean Water Act and the MPCA's Clean Water Partnership Program. Projects included in the report took place from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009.

Each project summary includes history and objectives, water quality outcomes, financial and contact information.

The full report can be found on the MPCA's Web site at [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html#reports](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/cwp-319.html#reports). To receive a copy, please contact the MPCA's Sara Johnson at 651-757-2473 or by e-mail at [sara.johnson@state.mn.us](mailto:sara.johnson@state.mn.us).

### Annual STORET newsletter now available online

The Summer 2009 STORET newsletter is now available at [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/storet.html). STORET is short for STORage and RETrieval, and is the MPCA's primary ambient water quality database. The annual newsletter features important information regarding STORET water quality data management. The purpose is to provide open communication between the MPCA STORET Team and data partners. The current edition includes important deadlines, upcoming changes for the data base, and answers to users' questions. If you wish to subscribe/unsubscribe, please email [sandra.simbeck@pca.state.mn.us](mailto:sandra.simbeck@pca.state.mn.us) with either "subscribe" or "unsubscribe" in the subject line.



This side inlet project in the Hawk Creek watershed is one project highlighted in the annual report.