



E-Stream Reader

Electronic Newsletter of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency



Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

April 2006



April Showers Bring May Flowers...And The 2006 CSMP Monitoring Season!

The snow has melted, the rains have come and the rivers and streams of Minnesota are alive and flowing for another season. Its time to dust off the old equipment and do some routine maintenance to start the season off right!

Equipment Prep for the New Season

- **Rain Gauge:** Check to see that your gauge is free of cracks and debris from the long winter storage. Be sure to install it away from trees and overhangs, which could alter the amount of rain entering the funnel.
- **Rain Gauge:** Be sure to remove your inner tube if the weather is still below freezing in the evenings. These tubes are easily cracked by ice and we are currently out of replacement pieces.

- **Transparency Tube:** Give your tube a good cleaning! For best results, use a bottle brush covered with a rag to clean the interior of the tube. Use mild soap and water, and rinse well.

2005 CSMP Report Available!

For those eager to see just how their 2005 measurements compare to others in the state, the CSMP annual report is available online at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/csmp-reports.html#reports>. Over 400 volunteers monitored 658 sites across Minnesota in 2005.

Coming Soon to a Mailbox Near You!

- **New Report Soon Available:** The 2005 report will not be printed this year. Instead, a new, *PERSONALIZED* report will be distributed to each volunteer. This 4 page, color report will contain transparency and rainfall data, watershed information, and maps specific to the site. The report will also have a scale to help determine just what your measurements mean. We hope to have this new report out to volunteers in May.

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Thank you for your patience as we work out the bugs in the system for this new report. For those interested, the CSMP annual report will still be available online.

● On-Line Entry Information:

Any CSMP volunteer who has submitted one year of data can soon enter data on-line. We will send you all the information you need, including the web address (URL), your password to enter the system, and instructions by June.

News, Notes, and Upcoming Events

Minnesota Waters – The Rivers Council of Minnesota and the Minnesota Lakes Association officially merged on January 1, 2006. Minnesota Waters will continue to provide educational, conservation, and monitoring opportunities, as well as public policy information, to the water loving residents of Minnesota. The 2006 Lakes and Rivers Conference will be held in Duluth this year on September 7th to the 9th. Check out their new web page for more details as they become available: <http://www.minnesotawaters.org/>.

“Design Your Monitoring Plan” materials available online – In more Minnesota Waters news, the **“Design Your Monitoring Plan”** manual and worksheets are now available on-line! This innovative program goes through the steps of creating a monitoring plan for a citizen monitoring program. A monitoring plan is a document and a process made up of a logical series of choices about the why, what, where,

when, who and how of a water quality monitoring program. Materials are now available for download by registering on-line at:

<http://www.riversmn.org/monplan/>

Interactive Hydrograph - Combine stream monitoring and rainfall data with computer graphics and what do you get? A visual reality tour of how rainfall and soil erosion impact a small watershed in southern Minnesota farm land.

The Minnesota River Basin Data Center at Minnesota State University, Mankato and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency collaborated to create an extraordinary educational tool called the “Interactive Hydrograph.” The hydrograph provides a “point and click” illustration of soil erosion from relatively flat agricultural land. By clicking on the individual data points, users see a series of photos showing how an agricultural field, adjoining ditch and river system react to rain events throughout the growing season. Using discharge and water quality data collected from a Minnesota Department of Agriculture monitoring site, the accumulated sediment load throughout the season is also presented.

The “Intro” takes users through a self-guided tutorial of the site. The “Rainfall” section provides an interesting overview of rainfall dynamics throughout the monitoring season.

Check out the interactive hydrograph on MSUM’s Minnesota River Basin Data Center Web site: <http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/mnbasin/> (Please note: Flash Player is required to view this site, file size is 3.2mb.)