



# Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

520 Lafayette Road North | St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4194 | 651-296-6300

800-657-3864 | 651-282-5332 TTY | [www.pca.state.mn.us](http://www.pca.state.mn.us) | Equal Opportunity Employer

June 29, 2011

To: Communities of the St. Croix River Basin

RE: Volunteer Communities Needed for St. Croix Minimal Impact Design Standards Pilots

Dear Community Leaders:

As community leaders in the St. Croix Basin, you know that you live in a very special and rare place and that maintaining the vitality and quality of life of your community are important responsibilities. The St. Croix Basin's precious water resources are highly valued and because of your settings, many communities will likely see substantial urban growth in the years to come. While urban development can contribute to water pollution, there are new and improved urban development techniques that could be included in your future community planning that offer: (1) significant cost savings; (2) visually appealing options; and (3) prevent or minimize unintended consequences (pollution) from urban stormwater runoff on your lakes and streams.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is requesting that you consider volunteering to be a St. Croix Minimal Impact Design Standards (MIDS) Partnership Pilot Community. The purpose is to foster the use of Low Impact Development (LID) runoff management practices. The goal is to prevent degradation to your community's waters and also to prevent unintended degradation of your downstream neighbors' waters in the St. Croix Basin. The St. Croix Partnership will work directly with your community planning, zoning and professional services to tailor effective and appealing development options to meet your community's needs.

What is in it for your community?

- Free hands-on training and support from widely recognized practitioners
- Reduced costs for developers and reduced future municipal operation and maintenance expenses
- Planning and zoning ordinance goals and examples
- Avoided costly future restoration efforts
- Adoption of the Minimal Impact Design Standards is voluntary and will provide you with:
  - a process that uses the best available information, has broad endorsement including the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, and helps your community comply with regulatory requirements related to antidegradation and Total Maximum Daily Loads.
  - an efficient link to county water plans, priorities and potential future funding opportunities

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The MPCA understands that as a local governmental unit, you are required to meet multiple requirements related to water quality. The intent of the MIDS partnership is to offer tools your community can use to manage stormwater. This "package" of tools includes:

- Performance goals for new development and redevelopment
- Ordinance and code models and goals
- Benefits of using each Best Management Practice via use of a standard calculator

We are hoping to select St. Croix MIDS Partner Communities by August 31, 2011. For further information about this assistance or to schedule a meeting to discuss it further, please contact Jay Riggs at the Washington Conservation District at your convenience at 651-275-1136 ext. 20. Your consideration in these important matters is greatly appreciated.

For additional information on the MIDS project, go to the MIDs webpage at:

<http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/stormwater/stormwater-minimal-impact-design-standards-mids.html>.

Sincerely,



Lisa J. Thorvig  
Division Director  
Municipal Division

LJT/AG:wgp

cc: Jay Riggs, Washington Conservation District