

March 2006 Water Quality Program Progress Summary

By: Corey Hanson

For: April 13, 2006 RLWD Board Meeting

Tile Drainage Study:

Kept an eye on the Yaggie monitoring site to make sure that the flume didn't cause water to back up. There was a lot of runoff on 3/30/06 that started to pool on the upstream side of the road, but went down within an hour. Tile at the Bachand field was not flowing until April 4th and there was still a lot of backwater from the Hill River. Water level loggers and rain gauges have been installed. Sampling will begin this week.

Past Meetings

- ❖ **March 13th** – River Watch Forum at UMC, presentation of NSF project at CHS School Board meeting
- ❖ **March 14th** – Water Quality Training Session, 9-4 @ UMC – I presented on standard operating procedures and standard forms for field records and data entry.
- ❖ **March 15th** – Overall Advisory Committee meeting – gave presentations on TMDLs in the RLWD and on 2005 water quality projects.
- ❖ **March 17th** – Myron and I met at the Clearwater SWCD with Vernon, SWCD & NRCS staff, landowners, and the Clearbrook Mayor. The meeting was originally meant to be about the Clearbrook stormwater study and the Silver Creek/Ruffy Brook projects, but we also developed an idea for a flood protection project for the City of Clearbrook.
- ❖ **March 24th** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee in Fertile
- ❖ **March 27th** – Red River Basin Water Quality Team meeting in Moorhead
- ❖ **April 3rd** – Northwest Minnesota Regional Sustainable Development Partnership focus group.
- ❖ **April 5th** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee in Newfalden
- ❖ **April 5th and 6th** – Shallow Lakes Forum in Willmar (Jim)
- ❖ **April 11th** – Flow Measurement Training Seminar in Hawley (Gary, Loren, Jim, and I)

Future Meetings/Events

- ❖ **April 24th** – Red River Basin Water Quality Team Meeting at the RLWD – Red River Basin Water Quality Monitoring Network report, streambank erosion
- ❖ **April 26th** – Envirothon at Agassiz NWR. Jim will be presenting at the Aquatics station and I will be at the Current Events station this year. The theme for this year's Envirothon is "Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate."
- ❖ **April 28th** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee in Fertile

- ❖ **June 26th** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team Meeting at the RLWD
- ❖ **July 24th** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team Meeting in Moorhead

River Watch

- ❖ The River Watch forum was held on Monday, March 13th. Jim, Orville, and I attended the forum. I gave a short talk about the importance of River Watch data and how it is used at the break-out sessions.
- ❖ Jim has helping River Watch schools get a start on this year's monitoring.
- ❖ Crookston High School is now an official National Science Foundation Grant school. This grant, received by the International Water Institute, provides funding for schools to incorporate technology into their River Watch Programs. They will be learning how to use GIS software, use green-screen technology, create documentaries, and more.

Other Notes

- ❖ Work on the Clearwater River Habitat/Bioassessment Report was suspended at the beginning of the month in order to prepare for this year's sampling and to complete reporting, presentations, etc.
- ❖ Website updates: minutes, placed an announcement for summer helper positions on the employment webpage.
- ❖ The Hydrolab multiparameter sonde is working again (there have been problems with the sonde after Stephanie broke all the probes off of it and there has been problems with the handpad display as well). So, we will be able to use the Hydrolab for Riverwatch and the Eureka Manta/Amphibian system for our monitoring program. The YSI sonde we are currently using for River Watch will go to the Win-E-Mac school to use so they can become more independent.
- ❖ I completed the eLink progress reports required for the BWSR Challenge Grants we have received.
- ❖ We are working on getting our 2005 data submitted to the EPA STORET database. We have added a lot of sites in the past few years, so I have been filling out station establishment forms for those. Jim has gotten our 2005 data entered into our database.
- ❖ Reviewed current draft of the Marshall Co. Water Plan
- ❖ Completed water quality (me) and River Watch (Jim) annual report articles.
- ❖ Checked on Project 60 monitoring sites and took some field water quality (including turbidity) and stage measurements. I plan to visit the site weekly until I can get the continuous monitoring equipment installed (when flow is at a safe level).