

By: Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator
For: November 25, 2008
Red Lake Watershed District Board Meeting

Clearwater River Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform TMDL

- A six-month extension was requested for the RLWD's contract with the MPCA and was still being processed at the end of October. As part of the extension process, the MPCA requested and received an amended work plan. The RLWD's contract with the EERC for the SWAT modeling was extended.
- Received payment #11 from the MPCA on October 2nd (\$7,486.38).

District Monitoring

Samples and/or field water quality measurements were collected at all forty monitoring sites. Seven of these are being monitored for and funded by the Red River Watershed Management Board's Surface Water Assessment Grant.

- High E. coli
 - Site #757 (Mud River at Hwy 89)
 - Site #66 (Red Lake River at 1st Street in Thief River Falls)
 - Site # PL30 (Lost River north of Brooks)
 - Site #BL18 (Black River at CR18)
 - Site # 790 (Red Lake River in Crookston)
 - Site #785 (Clearwater River at Red Lake Falls)
 - Site #799 (Burnham Creek)
 - Site #797 (Ruffy Brook)
- High Turbidity
 - Site #BL18 (Black River at CR18)
 - Site # 790 (Red Lake River in Crookston) – *See construction photos below.*
 - Site #86 (Gentilly Creek at CR11)
 - Site #785 (Clearwater River at Red Lake Falls)
 - Site #799 (Burnham Creek)
 - Red Lake River at Murray Bridge in East Grand Forks



Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation

- ❖ Collected water quality samples.
- ❖ Deployed Eureka Manta multi-parameter sondes were retrieved for data downloading, cleaning, and calibration.
- ❖ With the sustained high flows in the Thief River/SD83, there has also been a sustained period of high turbidity readings in the river.
- ❖ RLWD-collected data was entered and submitted to the MPCA for STORET entry. Data collected by the USFWS was also submitted to the MPCA for entry into the STORET database.
- ❖ Gary Lane and I paddled a reach of the Thief River/SD 83 (CR7 to CSAH 12) to inspect the channel for sediment bars and erosion problems.



Tile Drainage study

The rain gauge was checked periodically to make sure that the battery was still working. Water levels were also checked several times. A new 12V battery was purchased in early October to provide the gauge with a more reliable power source. Late fall rains generated surface runoff and will provide us with some excellent data.



Other Notes

- Scott Kroeber of UND and a graduate student used the RLWD's boat to record a GPS-linked video of the streambanks of the Red Lake River. This will be useful for planning erosion control projects and TMDL implementation plans.
- All data collected and available through October was entered and submitted to STORET prior to the November 1st, deadline. Data submitted by the deadline will be used in the 2009 statewide water quality assessment, which will begin soon.
- Made some progress on completing the Clearwater River Habitat/Bioassessment Project Report.
- Jim Blix submitted an application for Surface Water Assessment Grant funding that will allow for accelerated monitoring and water quality assessment in Nasset Brook and the headwaters of the Lost River.
- The Pennington County and Red Lake County SWCDs are going to try to tap into the SWAG grant funding in order to get money for biological monitoring.

November Goals

- Finish Clearwater River Habitat/Bioassessment data analysis and report
- Writing Clearwater River Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform TMDL Study reports.
- Maintaining continuous monitoring equipment.
- Thief River watershed Sediment Investigation Data Review
- Remove continuous monitoring equipment as rivers begin to freeze.
 - Try to capture as much of the recent high flows as possible.

September Meetings and Events

- **October 8, 2008** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9:30am
- **October 24, 2008** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee, Fertile, 9:30am

Future Meetings/Events

- **November 1, 2008** – STORET data submittal deadline
- **November 5, 2008** - Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9:30am
- **November 21, 2008** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee, Fertile, 9:30am
- **November 24, 2008** – Red River Basin Water Quality Team Meeting in Moorhead, 10am
- **December 15, 2008** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team Meeting at the RLWD
 - Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation
 - Clearwater River Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform TMDL Study