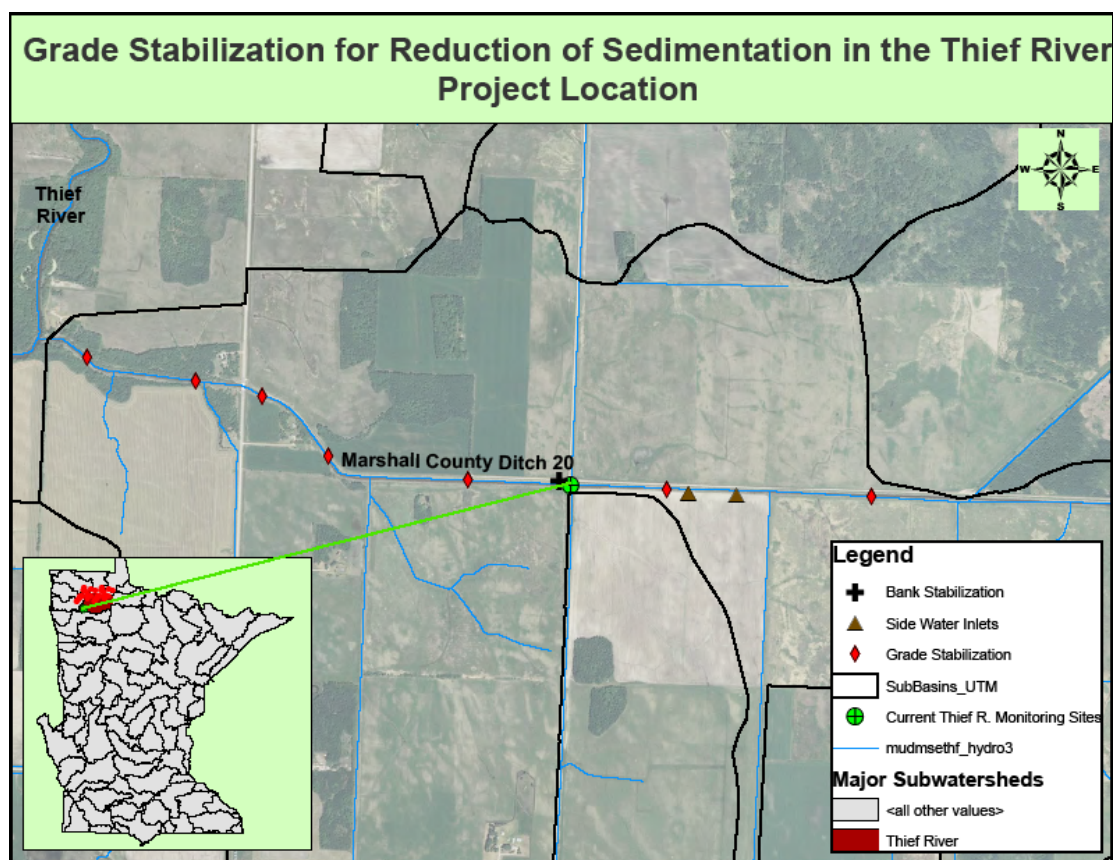


By: Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator
For: February 10th, 2011
Red Lake Watershed District Board Meeting

Grade Stabilization for Sediment Reduction in the Thief River

- Submitted information for a BWSR Clean Water Story about the project.
 -
- Submitted a short article about the project for the Marshall County newsletter.
- Started composing initiatives, funds, and a work plan within BWSR's eLINK4Web reporting system.



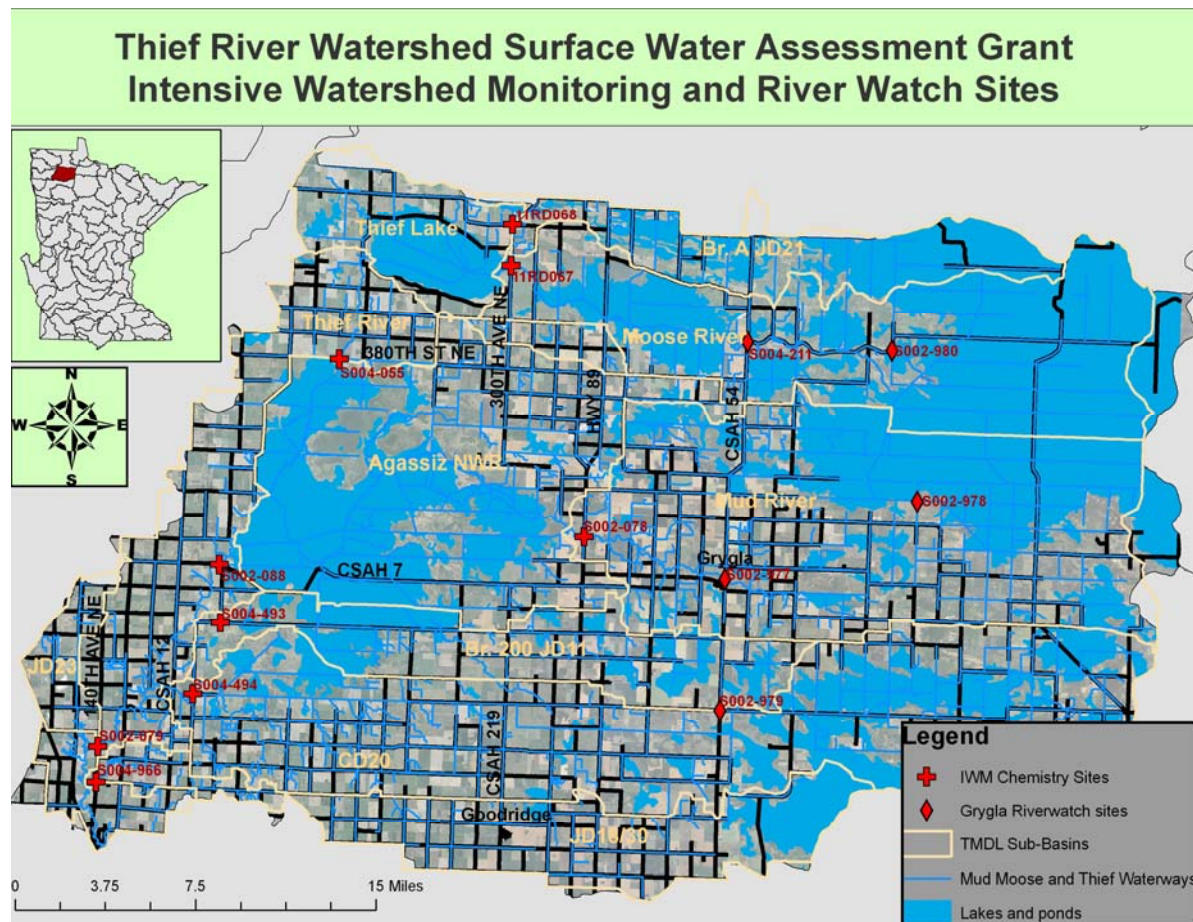
Thief River Watershed Assessment Project (Watershed-Based TMDL)

- Revised the project's work plan so that it is now split into two phases.
 - We will be approximately two years into the four-fiscal-year period over which the funding was allocated before a contract is signed. The funding was approved for the fiscal years of 2010 – 2013. The state's 2010 fiscal year actually started on July 1, 2009. So, by July 2011, there will only be two years left to complete a four-year project unless our expectations are revised.
 - Phase I will take place in 2011-2013.

- Phase II will take place in 2013 – 2015.
- Phase I Budget: \$185,000
 - The MPCA recommended adding \$35,000 to the project as a whole to increase the budget for civic engagement.
- Phase II Budget: \$100,000

Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring Surface Water Assessment Grant

- The RLWD was awarded a Surface Water Assessment Grant by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency for sampling in the Thief River watershed. The RLWD will administer the grant while the Pennington and Marshall County Water Planners collect the samples. Nine sites will be monitored in 2011 and 2012.
- Additional nutrient sampling (including chlorophyll-a and pheophytin) will be added to the sampling plan for one site (S002-079) on the Thief River.



Other Notes

- Finished writing Water Quality Report articles for the 2010 RLWD Annual Report
- Worked on budgeting for 2011. Provided Myron with projected overall expenditures for water quality projects. Updated the budget tracking spreadsheet with 2011 numbers so I

can track/increase/decrease the amount of time I'm spending on specific projects throughout the year.

- At their January 13, 2011 meeting, the RLWD Board of Managers voted to approve the creation of an educational video for the River Watch program at a cost of \$3,336. The video is going to be about 5-8 minutes long and would be shown to schools within the District to promote the River Watch program.
- Continued working on a stream gauging station shapefile and station summary sheets that will eventually be accessible through the RLWD website.
- The Poplar River Dissolved Oxygen and Silver Creek Fecal Coliform TMDLs may be progressing to the public notice phase soon.
- Clean Water Stories for other 2011 BWSR CWF Projects within the RLWD
 - Grand Marais Creek Cut Channel Stabilization (RLWD):
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/RedLakeWD_GrandMarais.pdf
 - Halvorson Streambank Restoration (Pennington SWCD):
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/Pennington_Streambank.pdf
 - Judicial Ditch 30/18 Buffer Initiative (Pennington SWCD):
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/Pennington_Ditch.pdf
 - Erosion Control Projects in the Red Lake River Watershed (Red Lake SWCD):
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/RedLake_RedLakeRiver.pdf
 - Streambank and Shoreland Stabilization in the Clearwater River Watershed (Red Lake SWCD):
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/RedLake_ClearwaterRiver.pdf
 - Ralph Engelstad Arena Raingardens:
http://www.bwsr.state.mn.us/cleanwaterfund/stories/factsheets/Pennington_Engelstad.pdf

January 2011 Meetings and Events

- **January 5, 2011** – Polk County Water Plan Meeting, McIntosh, old city hall, 10am
 - Priority Concern 1 = Water Quality
 - Participation, outreach, and implementation in the TMDL process
 - Surface water quality data
 - Stormwater attributing to water quality
 - Feedlot compliance
 - Sealing of unused wells
 - Development along shorelines of MN Protected Waters Wetlands
 - Priority Concern 2 = Water Quantity
 - Inventory and evaluation of the drainage infrastructure of the county.
 - Water quantity as it relates to flooding
 - Drainage issues

- Stormwater runoff
- Overland flooding
- Priority Concern 3 = Preservation and enhancement of Polk County's natural resources within the Glacial Lake Agassiz Beach Ridge area
- Priority Concern 4 = Exotic and invasive species management
 - Carp
 - Union Lake nets carp
 - Milfoil
 - Union Lake already has it. How do we protect nearby lakes like Lake Sarah and Maple Lake?
 - Zebra Mussels
 - Education, regulation/enforcement
- Other notes
 - Gully's wells have had nitrate problems
 - A lakeshed assessment was recommended for Maple Lake. Info/example:
 - <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/view-document.html?gid=14163>)
 - http://www.co.cass.mn.us/esd/pdfs/lakedata/phase2/laura_lake_p2.pdf
 - There are a handful of unsewered communities in the county, including Gentilly, Gully, Beltrami, Trail, Euclid, and Mentor. Funding may be available to help pay for treatment facilities.
 - Eroding shoreline along Union Lake is a major problem.
- **January 11, 2011** – BWSR Elink webinar, 10am – noon
- **January 12, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
 - RLWD Manager Ose reported on the BWSR grants that were awarded to the RLWD, impoundment water levels, and a ring dike in East Valley Township.
 - The Lower Red River Basin (Tamarac River and Two Rivers) has been targeted for the development of a watershed-based TMDL. Dan Money will likely be the local project leader.
 - Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC) plans and regulations were discussed. SPCC plans are required for farms that store more than 1,320 gallons of oil or oil products in above ground containers where a spill could reasonably be expected to discharge oil to protected waters.
 - The Agassiz Pool radial gates will remain wide open this winter.
- **January 13, 2011** – Franklin Middle School Science Fair Judging
- **January 14, 2011** – Interviewed by Ann Lewandowski from the University of Minnesota Water Resources Center
- **January 14, 2011** – Conference call to plan the 2011 Red River Basin Water Quality Monitoring Training Session
- **January 21, 2011** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee Meeting, Sand Hill Watershed District
- **January 24, 2011** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team meeting

- **January 27, 2011** – Grade Stabilization for Sediment Reduction in the Thief River project partners meeting.

Plans for February 2010

- Finish the stream gauge network GIS file and PDF summary pages
- Complete and submit a work plan for the Grade Stabilization for Reduction of Sedimentation in the Thief River Clean Water Fund project.
- Complete and submit a work plan for the Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring Surface Water Assessment Grant project.
- Complete another revision of the *Standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality Monitoring in the Red River Watershed*.
- Finish the stream gauge shapefile and summary documents. Work with Jim Blix to get the shapefile added to the RLWD Interactive Map. Website users will be able to get links to the summary documents by clicking on one of the sites on the map.

Future Meetings/Events

- **February 1, 2011** – Meeting at the Warren NRCS office to discuss a potential buffer initiative project in the Thief River Watershed.
- **February 11, 2011** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee Meeting, Sand Hill Watershed District
- **February 17, 2011** – Thief River Multi-County Project Development meeting, 1:00 PM at the RLWD office.
- **February 28, 2011** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team meeting
- **March 3, 2011** – Annual Red River Basin Water Quality Training Session
- **March 17, 2011** - STC Meeting in St. Paul
 - Presenting an overview of the Thief River Watershed, its water quality problems, and potential solutions.
- **March 23, 2011** – RLWD Overall Advisory Committee Meeting
- **March 28, 2011** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team meeting
- **March 31, 2011** – Deadline to complete BWSR CWF work plans
- **April 2011** – First round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **April 1, 2011** – Anticipated start date for the Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring SWAG project. It may start sooner. Actual monitoring will begin in May.
- **April 6, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- **May 2011** – Second round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **June 16 & 17, 2011** – MAWD Summer Tour, hosted by the RLWD and Middle Snake Tamarac Watershed District.
- **July 2011** – Third round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **July 6, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- **September 2011** – Fourth round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **November 2, 2011** - Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee