

By: Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator  
For: October 13, 2011  
Red Lake Watershed District Board Meeting

### **Thief River Watershed Assessment Project (Watershed-Based TMDL)**

- Sample analysis for stressor/pollutant identification was piggy-backed onto samples collected for the Thief River SWAG monitoring.
- Worked with RMB Environmental Laboratories to get a contract drafted for the civic engagement work. I met with Erika Johnson, Robert Borash, and Lori Clark at RMB Labs to work through the components of the civic engagement work plan and contract.
- Swapped freshly cleaned and calibrated Eureka Manta multi-parameter logging sondes for the ones that have been deployed for two weeks at the 5 continuous water quality monitoring sites in the Thief River watershed two times this month.
- Cleaned and calibrated Eureka Manta multi-parameter logging sondes that were deployed at 5 of the monitoring sites once this month.
- Replaced the suspension cable inside the Manta deployment pipe at the CD20 monitoring site (the old one was rusted-through).
- Flow measurements at the CD20, Moose River, JD30, and Branch A JD 21 monitoring sites.
- Geomorphology work was planned for this month, but we had to cancel it because of the State Government shutdown.
- Completed a semi-annual progress report for this project.
- Downloaded stage data from the ultrasonic gauge at the CR7 bridge over the Thief River.

### **Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring Surface Water Assessment Grant**

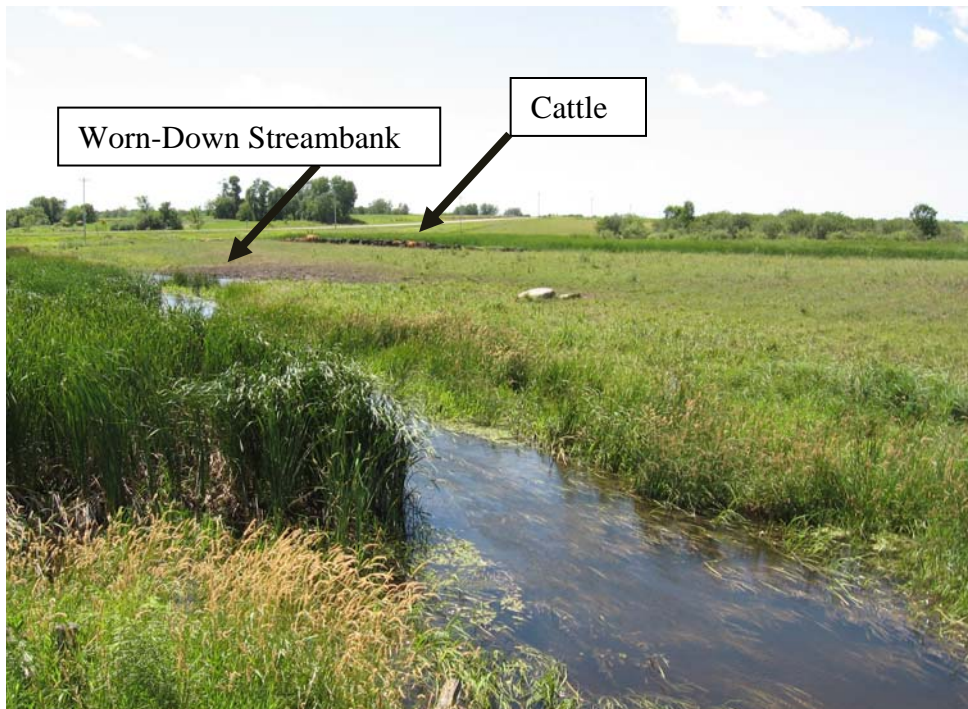
- The Marshall County Water Planner (Jan Kaspari, 6 sites) and Pennington County (Cassie Jacobson, 3 sites) Water planner each collected two rounds of samples in July.
- Regularly compiled data from Marshall County, Pennington County, and RMB Labs.
- Charges for lab analysis on bills from RMB labs were divided between this project and the Thief River TMDL.
- The State won't pay for any sampling done during the shutdown. So, some of the samples will be paid for by the RLWD water quality monitoring project. We need the data much more than we need the State to help pay for our sampling anyway.
- High E. coli in CD20 and the upper reach of the Thief River.

### **District Monitoring**

- Completed the third round of sampling at the RLWD long-term monitoring sites.
- High E. coli levels were found in Kripple Creek, Moose River, Cyr Creek, Maple lake Inlet, Mud River, Thief River, Upper Red Lake River, Silver Creek, Clear Brook, Lost River upstream of Pine Lake, O' Briens Creek, Darrigan's Creek, South Cormorant River, Blackduck River, and Gentilly Creek.



**Figure 1. Plume of sediment-laden water entering the Moose River from the Hwy 54 ditch (Branch 41 of JD21).**



**Figure 2. A high concentration of E. coli bacteria was found at the LR10 site on the Lost River, upstream of Pine Lake. The stream was being impacted by cattle at the time.**

### Other Notes

- New 2011 Ford F-150 water quality truck!
- Attended several ultrasound appointments with my wife.
- Took some time for a vacation
- Received a Joint Powers Agreement contract from the MPCA to sign for the Red Lake River Watershed-Based TMDL.

### July 2011 Meetings and Events

- **July 1 – 21, 2011** – Minnesota State Government shutdown
- **July 22, 2011** – Date that work could resume on State contracts

### Plans for August 2011

- Facilitate progress on the CD20 grade stabilization CWF project.
- Thief River Watershed Assessment Project.
  - Continuous flow and water quality monitoring
  - Get the civic engagement contract with RMB Environmental Laboratories completed, approved, and signed.
  - Flow measurements
  - Inventory of existing water quality data
  - Stream channel stability assessment.
- Compile water quality data collected by Pennington and Marshall County water planners for the Thief River Surface Water Assessment Grant monitoring.
- eLink reporting for the BWSR Clean Water Fund grant projects.
- My wife and I are expecting our first child sometime around August 27<sup>th</sup>.

### Future Meetings/Events

- **August 1-5** - Thief River geomorphology field work
- **August 1, 2011** – BWSR CWF Grant semi-annual progress reports are due.
- **August 1, 2011** – MPCA Thief River Watershed Assessment Project semi-annual progress report is due.
- **September 2011** – Fourth round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **September 6, 2011** - Pennington County Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9 AM
- **September 14, 2011** – Pennington County Outdoor Education Day
- **September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2011** – Webex teleconference with MPCA staff about the possible Clearwater River Dissolved Oxygen delisting.
- **September 16, 2011** – Meeting at RMB Labs to discuss Thief River Watershed Civic Engagement.
- **September 20, 2011** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival in Warren
- **September 21, 2011** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival in Fertile

- **September 27, 2011** – Grand Marais Creek flood damage reduction project monitoring conference call.
- **October 12, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee meeting.
- **October 19, 2011** – Flood Damage Reduction Work Group meeting – Grand Marais Creek monitoring update.
- **October 25<sup>th</sup> through 27<sup>th</sup>** – BWSR Academy – giving a water quality monitoring presentation.
- **November 1, 2011** – Deadline for submitting field and lab data to the MPCA for entry into the EQUIS database.
- **November 2, 2011** - Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- **January 3, 2012** – Pennington County Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9 AM
- **January 31, 2012** – First progress report for the Thief River SWAG monitoring is due.
- **February 1, 2012** - BWSR CWF Grant semi-annual progress reports are due.
- **February 1, 2012** - MPCA Thief River Watershed Assessment Project semi-annual progress report is due.
- **August 1, 2012** – BWSR CWF Grant semi-annual progress reports are due.
- **August 1, 2012** – MPCA Thief River Watershed Assessment Project semi-annual progress report is due.
- **January 31, 2013** – The second progress report or final report for the Thief River SWAG monitoring is due.
- **February 1, 2013** - BWSR CWF Grant semi-annual progress reports are due.
- **February 1, 2013** - MPCA Thief River Watershed Assessment Project semi-annual progress report is due.
- **June 30, 2013** – Expiration of the Thief River Watershed Assessment Project Contract.
- **June 30, 2013** – Expiration of the Red Lake River Watershed Assessment Project – Phase I Contract.
- **June 30, 2013** – Final report for the Thief River SWAG grant is due
- **July 30, 2013** – Due date for the final progress report and final invoice for the Thief River Watershed Assessment Project
- **July 31, 2013** – Final payment request for the Thief River SWAG is due.

