



Chippewa County Local Water Resources Protection and Management Program Annual Report

Chippewa County Local Water Management Plan ... locally driven to work for you!

By JoAnn Blomme
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNICIAN

In my article last year I stated, "We look forward to 2009!" And what a great year it was.

As I have always stated in the past our programs are only as good as the participation of the landowners and operators. Without your support, dedication and willingness to try new programs or continue implementing existing programs or participating in changes for a new tomorrow we wouldn't be able to sustain or improve our water quality. Once again a special thank you to those who made up the 2009 Committee. They are as follows: Bob Nielsen, Marc Stevens, Jaci Ast, Joe Keller, Byron Hayunga, Steve Nokleby, Steve Sunderland, Kent Bosch, and Commissioners Jeffrey Lopez and Kenneth Koenen.

Education has been a huge focus of ours these past few years and we continued with that quite strong in 2009. The following education topics and events were held in 2009:

- A Household Hazardous Waste Collection was held in the City of Maynard and surrounding townships.
- Offered a subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) operation and maintenance class to landowners and a design class to local and area contractors with the assistance of the University of MN Extension Service.
- Toured a variety of compost sites

by and in the City of Duluth.

- In cooperation with the Chippewa 4-H created a set of recycling bins to be used at local community events.
- Began doing some burn barrel education.



- Supported and helped build a rain garden by the Chippewa County Courthouse in cooperation with the University of MN Extension, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, SWCD, Master Gardeners, and Chippewa County.

- Offered small grants to the science programs in the middle schools at Montevideo Middle School and MACCRAY. MMS was awarded \$2,418.78 to purchase a groundwater exploration activity model that can simulate contaminants polluting the groundwater and how contamination affects the environment. It also includes a landfill lab where students will build their own mini landfill and investigate the biodegradability of various wastes. The second approved application was for purchasing a set of eight student compound microscopes and a Pupil Cam, which is a life-time digital microscope camera that can be used to view real-time images from a microscope in a classroom setting.

- Participated in the county fair in cooperation with the Chippewa SWCD, NRCS, Chippewa River Watershed Project, Hawk Creek Watershed Project, and Chippewa County Land & Resource Management office. The theme for the county fair booth was "Clean Water is on the Line." We covered areas concerning simple practices that can be easily implemented by homeowners both in urban and rural areas. We featured the following in our display area:

- Upgrade septic systems, seal abandoned wells, recycle properly, start a compost bin, build a rain barrel, properly dispose of household hazardous waste, quit using a burn barrel, install side inlets, plant a rain garden, fix gully erosion, plant a buffer strip, and restore potential wetlands.

Throughout the second day of fair we demonstrated how to build your own rain barrel.

- We also continue to cost-share the sealing of abandoned wells and conservation best management practices. Low interest loans are still available for the installation of septic upgrades, feedlot upgrades, conservation tillage and best management practices.

Where do we go from here? The people voted and gave themselves a new tax because they want to see our water cleaned up more than it is. Large amounts of funds will be available over the next 25 years and it's the mission of the Local Water Plan to help guide landowners/operators into making wise conservation choices for a sustainable tomorrow. To be better stewards of the land, whether we live in a community or in the rural area. The MN River is being highly scrutinized and we have TMDL's (Total Maximum Daily Load) that will need to be implemented and goals that need to be met. If these goals are not met – we can almost 100% be guaranteed that mandates will come quickly. The legislatures are asking for accountability. So, our big question needs to be "Where is ours at? Are we being as proactive as we can?" So here we come 2010! What the future holds is in all of our hands.

Display at the Chippewa County Fair.



Are You Interested in Being a Member on the Chippewa County Local Water Resources Protection and Management Plan Committee? Call your County Commissioner or the Chippewa County Land & Resource Management office at 320-269-6231 to find out how you can get involved. Join a committee where every voice gets heard and changes are made locally.

FSA News

By Liz Niess CED

- **USDA unveils** conservation incentives where the FSA County offices take offers for these CRP practices on a continuous signup basis, and the offers are automatically accepted provided the acreage and producer meet certain eligibility requirements. The following are CRP initiatives:
 - Wetland Restoration floodplain (CP23)
 - Wetland Restoration non-floodplain (CP23A)
 - Duck Nesting Habitat (CP37)
 - Bottomland Hardwood (CP31)
- **CRP Environmental Benefits Are Diverse** while providing annual payments to the landowner.
 - CRP Fosters Wildlife
 - CRP Improves Water Quality
 - CRP Improves Soil
 - CRP Sequesters Carbon

2009 FSA Conservation Report
Chippewa County currently has **15,108.3 acres of CRP acres under contract:**

- Wetland Restoration with Buffers ...5,643.5 acres**
- Grass Filter Strips with Riparian Buffers4,398 acres**
- Grass Habitat2,334 acres**
- Rare and Declining Habitat.....2,210.5 acres**
- Field Windbreak Shelterbelts..483.4 acres**
- Living Snowfences/General Trees.....38.9 acres**

Chippewa County Rain Gauge Report

	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total
1 Kristie Erickson				0.64	0.34	2.3	1.67	6.07		6.67			17.69
2 Dan Benson				0.54	0.48	2.73	1.99	4.74	0.69	6.87			18.04
3 Vince Smith	2.11	1.15	3.67	0.85	0.56	3.08	3.92	5.43	2.69	7.45	0.21	3.47	34.59
4 Wayne Golden			2.73	0.64	0.47	2.86	1.95	4.63	1.36	6.26	0.23		21.13
5 Jim Crowley				0.72	1.08	1.9	2.97	3.48	3.56	6.98			20.69

