

SEVEN MILE SENTINEL

SEVEN MILE CREEK PROJECT UPDATES

After two years of water quality monitoring and watershed assessments, Seven Mile Creek Watershed Project will be applying for a water quality improvement grant. In cooperation with local and state conservation groups, the watershed staff is applying for a grant through Minnesota's Clean Water Partnership Program (CWP). The grant is designed to help local conservation groups fund water quality improvement projects. If funded the CWP would help accelerate the voluntary adoption of conservation practices within the watershed by offering watershed residents additional technical and cost share assistance for three years. It is felt by many that the project could serve as a demonstration for other watersheds looking at increasing and protecting water quality through sound research and watershed management practices and policies.

A water quality report is currently being written along with a watershed management plan. For additional information regarding the project contact Kevin Kuehner 507-934-4140, Project Coordinator.

Other Updates:

- November 2000. Educational kiosk was built by St. Peter student.
- Spring 2001. Seven Mile Creek Watershed Technical Committee formed.
- Spring 2001. Water quality monitoring equipment installed at 3 watershed locations.
- Spring 2001. Seven Mile Creek Project proposed to be included in Section 406 USDA and University of MN Paired Watershed Study.
- July 2001. Project Receives DNR Environmental Partnership's grant.
- July 31, 2001. Northern Plains Dairy public hearing held at St. Peter Fair grounds. Over 250 people attended the public meeting. The project is currently in a comment period through the MPCA's Environmental Assessment Worksheet process.
- Fall 2001. Water Quality Report and Management Plan being drafted. (Results of study will be shared at the Sept. 13 field day)



As part of a senior class and watershed project, Blake Honetschlager constructed a kiosk in the western edge of Seven Mile Creek Park. The two-sided kiosk will serve as display for park and watershed information. Pictured L-R — Jim Honetschlager, Blake Honetschlager, Matt Penning, Dan Honetschlager. Not Pictured-Rick Rausch.

WATER QUALITY TOUR SCHEDULED

Mark your calendars for a unique field day event featuring the Red Top Farm Demonstration, Seven Mile Creek Watershed Project and an innovative nitrogen fertilizer demonstration conducted in St. Peter Well-head Protection Area.

Resolving Groundwater and Surface Water Issues in Agricultural Watersheds will be the focus for a field day to be held in Seven Mile Creek Watershed on September 13. The tour

will be designed for farmers, watershed residents, agricultural professionals (dealers and crop consultants), and state and county staff who work on various water quality issues. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear the areas latest water quality and agronomy research. Speakers will include representatives from Northern Plains Dairy, University of MN, MDNR, Minnesota Dept. of Agriculture, Seven Mile Creek Project and others.

The September 13th event will start at the farm of Rob and Janice Meyer at 9:00 a.m. and will conclude at Seven Mile Creek Park in mid-afternoon. A Free BBQ lunch will be served at noon.

Directions to Redtop Farms:

From St. Peter.....
Turn west on Broadway Ave from Highway 169. Broadway will eventually turn into County Road 5.



BROWN NICOLLET COTTONWOOD
WATER QUALITY BOARD

*Seven Mile Creek Project
BNC Water Board
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BNC Water Quality Board Members

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David Dehan

Brown County
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Donald Wellner

Cottonwood County
John Oeltjenbruns
Ken Elg

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Kevin Kuehner—Watershed Coordinator
Scott MacLean—Watershed Technician

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Tina Rosenstein-Env. Services
Norm Kuhlman-Env. Services
Todd Kolander-MDNR
Pat Baskfield-MPCA
Lee Ganske-MPCA
Gary Hachfeld-Extension Service

The BNC Water Quality Board is a multi-county alliance, which collaborates with public and private organizations and institutions that share an interest and commitment toward the long-term protection and improvement of water quality. The board has a long history of supporting and protecting rural watersheds, river corridors, and source water protection through voluntary cost-share assistance programs. The Board educates watershed residents, farmers, and children and improves river and watershed management policy. The joint powers board also cooperates with other federal, state and local agency officials, industry and business representatives, university personnel, scientists, and environmental interests. The board is funded through Minnesota's Clean Water Partnership program administered by the MPCA, MDNR Environmental Partnerships Program, and other public and private grant sources.

ON FARM DEMONSTRATIONS

MIDWESTERN WATER QUALITY PROJECT
CENTER FOR AGRICULTURE PARTNERSHIPS (CAP)

Proper nutrient management is critical to the success of the modern farmer. Applying too little nitrogen can reduce yields while applying more nitrogen than the crops can utilize reduces a producer's net profit. The Seven Mile Creek Project is partnering with the Center for Agriculture Partnerships to help demonstrate economic optimal nitrogen rates. The Midwestern Water Quality Project is looking for 50 producers to enroll nutrient management demonstration plots.

Producers will receive \$500 for participating in the study. The goal of the project is to collect scientific data on nutrient application and resulting yields on a localized watershed scale. The



Pooling data for profit and protection is the theme for the N- Rate Demonstrations

project also looks at soil types, plant population, seed rate, and other variables to determine the most profitable rate of nitrogen application for each participant. The data collected could help farmers in two ways. First, a better understanding of the nutrient needs of a specific plot

could increase a producer's net profits by increasing yields or reducing nitrogen application costs. Second, the data could provide producers with a degree of protection in the event of government regulation of nutrient application rates.

DEADLINE: If interested, contact CAP project representatives listed below as soon as possible. The deadline is Aug. 30 of 2001 with a maximum of 50 farms allowed to participate.

To learn more about nutrient management demonstrations, see the attached brochure or contact the Seven Mile Creek Watershed Project at 507-934-4140 or Blue Earth Agronomics at 507-947-3362.

FIELD DAY

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Travel about 4.7 miles and then turn south on the gravel road (Watch for the signs). The site is about 1/2 mile from this intersection.

From Nicollet.....

In Nicollet, the intersection of Highway 99 and Highway 111 is marked with a flashing traffic light. Travel north on Highway 111 until you come to County Road 5, then travel east until you see the signs.



Paul Wotzka, hydrologist for MDA, speaks about Red Top Farms water quality tile monitoring during a 1999 field day.