For Immediate Release
Greater Blue Earth River Basin Turbidity TMDL open house.

Mankato, Minnesota – The Greater Blue Earth River Basin Turbidity Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study will host three open houses across the project area. The Greater Blue Earth Watershed includes the Watonwan, Blue Earth and Le Sueur river systems. The open houses will provide information and question and answer opportunities for the general public and interested groups and organizations. This will be an excellent opportunity for local people to present questions and concerns on issues relating to water quality within the Blue Earth River Basin.

When and Where?
There will be three meetings across the Greater Basin to make it easier for people to attend. The dates and locations are as follows:

St. James – May 27th
Watonwan County Courthouse
710 2nd Avenue
St. James, MN 56081

Waldorf – May 28th
Waldorf Community Center
109 Main Street North
Waldorf, MN 56091

Blue Earth – May 29th
Faribault County AG Center
U.S. Highway 169
415 South Grove Street
Blue Earth, MN 56013

All meetings will run from 4 until 7 with brief presentations made at 5:00 and 6:00
This project is focused on turbidity, or cloudiness of the area waters. Turbidity of water is caused by several sources, such as clay and/or silt suspended in the waters, organic matter, algae and natural color and staining. Chemical or bacterial pollutants are often bound to the material moving in the water body. Turbidity is recognized as an indicator of water quality – the greater the turbidity the greater the pollution.

The TMDL process is part of a nationwide effort to identify and address pollution in streams, rivers and lakes. The Clean Water Act requires states to adopt water quality standards to protect the nation's waters. Also required is an assessment for all waters and development of TMDL plans for those that do not meet water quality standards. Through water quality sampling and computer modeling, pollutant contributions are determined. With public and stakeholder input, source reductions will be determined to meet the water quality standard. Rivers and streams may have several TMDLs, each one determining the limit for a different pollutant

For additional information on the Turbidity TMDL please contact Scott Bohling, Project Coordinator at (507) 389-2355.