

Cottonwood & Redwood River TMDL Public Meetings

Redwood – Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) is holding two public meetings to kick-off the Turbidity TMDL in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds. Each meeting will include a review of the TMDL process, water quality data that led to the impairment listing and a presentation by Scott Bohling of the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University – Mankato on the modeling process used for the Minnesota River Turbidity TMDL. RCRCA is also seeking stakeholders and citizens to be on the advisory committee for the Turbidity TMDL. Interested persons are encouraged to attend one of these meetings.

- 10:30 am Wednesday, August 19, 2009
University of Minnesota Southwest Research and Outreach Center
23669 130th St.
Lamberton, MN 56152
Phone: (507) 752-7372
- 10:30 am Thursday, August 20, 2009
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
1420 East College Drive, Suite 900
Marshall, MN 56258
Phone: (507) 537-7146

Seven reaches of the Cottonwood and four reaches of the Redwood Rivers have been identified as impaired for turbidity. These reaches are found throughout the watersheds and vary in size. Turbidity in water is a measurement of how cloudy or murky it is. Turbidity is caused by particles suspended or dissolved in water that scatter light making the water appear cloudy or murky. Primary pollutants tend to be sediment and algae. High turbidity can harm fish and other aquatic life, degrade drinking water sources and have a negative impact on recreation and tourism. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) be established for listed impaired waters. A TMDL is a scientific study that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards for that pollutant. It is a process that identifies all the sources of the pollutant causing the impairment and allocates necessary reductions among them. RCRCA will be writing the Assessment Report, Implementation Plan and working with the Water Resources Center at Minnesota State University – Mankato on the modeling portion of this TMDL.

This is the beginning of a multi-year process of developing a TMDL Turbidity pollution reduction plan, engaging stakeholders and citizens, and implementing activities for achieving necessary reductions. A draft TMDL is scheduled to be completed in 2010. Public participation is essential to a successful TMDL.

Please contact Shawn Wohnoutka of RCRCA if you have questions or would like to be considered for the Advisory Committee and cannot attend one of these public meetings.

Call the Redwood – Cottonwood Rivers Control Area (RCRCA) at 507-637-2142, Ext. 4 for more information, or visit us online at www.rcrca.com.

“Working to improve water quality in the Redwood and Cottonwood River Watersheds since 1983”