

CLEARWATER RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT

2006

ANNUAL REPORT AND LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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List of Accomplishments Narrative

1. Cedar, Albion, Swartout, Henshaw Improvement Project 06-1

In 2006, the Cedar Lake Conservation Club petitioned the CRWD to conduct a water quality improvement project. Cedar Lake has experienced stable water quality over the years; however, due to a couple of 100-year rainfall storm events in 2002, things changed. Residents were concerned about declining water quality since those events. The CRWD water quality monitoring showed similar results.

The CRWD Board of Managers ordered a preliminary engineering report after receiving the petition. That report concluded that it was feasible to install certain measures to reduce the downward water quality trend and, in fact, improve water quality over time.

Two public information meetings were held to explain to residents what the situation was and to outline corrective measures. Those corrective measures included buffering of streams, installation of a ferric chloride or alum treatment system, constructing sediment basins, rough fish isolation and removal, improving upland farming practices to reduce erosion, and to follow-up with water quality monitoring to establish results.

A two-part public hearing was held and residents did not support the ferric chloride or alum treatment system. The CRWD Board of Managers ordered the water quality project without that system. The CRWD has worked closely with the Department of Natural Resources, Ducks Unlimited, and the residents to begin this project.

2. Watkins Stormwater Management Plan

The CRWD has over the past few years assisted the city of Watkins to develop their stormwater management plan. In 2006, the CRWD purchased 22 acres of land adjoining the city. This area will be used as part of that plan.

3. Incentive Programs

The CRWD has established policies to direct use of their incentive programs. During 2006, local producers utilized the soybean stubble buffer and seeded buffer options of that program.

4. Meeker County Ditch 20

Meeker County began the re-determination of benefits process for Meeker County Ditch 20 in 2006. One of the decisions that are being considered is to delegate the ditch authority to the CRWD for Meeker County Ditch 20 North. That decision has not been made yet.

The CRWD assisted property owners along Meeker County Ditch 20 at the outlet of Clear Lake, riprap the area of the stream that was experiencing excessive bank erosion.

5. Nistler/Geislinger Sediment Basin

The Nistler/Geislinger Sedimentation Pond upstream from Clear Lake was expanded in 2006. This expansion provides for another two-acre feet of sedimentation area. The expansion was a joint effort between the Cedar Lake Property Owners, Steve Geislinger, Randy Kramer Construction, and the CRWD.

6. Wandering Ponds Wastewater Treatment System

The CRWD completed negotiation with Gerald Whipper, developer of Wandering Ponds, to establish the CRWD as owner/operator of the community sanitary sewer system that serves 12 properties in the development. This pressurized system was designed by Bernie Miller and features a big pipe connection near Stearns County Road 44 should a large regional system become reality.

7. Total Maximum Daily Load

The CRWD currently is conducting Phase II and Phase II Addendum of the Total Maximum Daily Load for the reach of the Clearwater River from Clear Lake to Lake Betsy, Lake Louisa, and the reach of the Clearwater River from Grass Lake to the Mississippi. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the CRWD have worked closely together on this.

8. Established Projects

Annual inspections are conducted on all CRWD projects. Repairs and maintenance activities are made based on that inspection. The inspections are completed on Restawhile Shores, Hidden River, and Clearwater Harbor Area wastewater treatment systems, wetland treatment and isolation systems, lake outlet controls, sediment basins, and various structures owned and operated by the CRWD. The CRWD co-operates with and maintains the funds for a Eurasian Milfoil treatment program conducted by the Clearwater Lake Property Owners on Clearwater Lake and Lake Augusta.

9. Water Quality Monitoring

The CRWD Water Quality Monitoring Program is in its 27th year. The water quality data gathered is the basis for CRWD managers' decisions regarding water quality improvement. The parameters monitored are phosphorus concentration, Chlorophyll A concentration, and secchi disc readings. Assisting in the secchi disc data gathering are 17 volunteers. All data is compiled, analyzed annually, and conclusions and recommendations are drawn from the data. This data is also entered into the Storet Database.

10. Education/Media

Annual education activities are carried out by holding a citizenship dinner for residents of the District, distributing CRWD brochures and fact sheets at the Annandale Business Expo, conducting a watershed management station at the spring and fall Wright County 5th Grade Days at Ney Park, and by hosting the CRWD website. CRWD managers and staff attend and present information at Pleasant, Cedar, Clearwater, Clear, Bass, and Coalition of Lakes Association meetings, township and city council meetings. Area media attend and report on each regular meeting and public hearings.