

LAUREN KLEMENT
LE SUEUR COUNTY ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES
88 SOUTH PARK AVE.
LE CENTER, MINNESOTA 56057-1600

Telephone: (507) 357-8538 (Environmental Services direct line); (507) 357-8540 (direct line); Fax (507) 357-8541

News Release to be printed during or after the week of May 4, 2009

Le Sueur County and Water Quality

What is going on with the water of Le Sueur County? This is an update of the lakes, rivers and streams that have been assessed with regards to water quality. These projects have people out and about in the county collecting water samples. We are also looking for Citizen Stream Monitoring Volunteers. There is also a citizen lake-monitoring program. Contact your environmental services department to see if your lake is covered or if there is an opportunity for volunteer lake monitoring.

Clean Water Partnership (CWP) Projects: CWP projects have been going on for many years in Le Sueur County beginning with assessment phases and ending with implementation by supplying cost share money for projects that improve water quality.

- *Lake Washington, Jefferson German chain of lakes and Lake Volney* began as CWP assessment projects in the 1990's and they have completed the implementation phase.
- *Upper Cannon River Watershed:* This project is an assessment project and is in its final year of being monitored. There are five stream sites with the last station at Morristown. The lakes were assessed for two years include *Shield's, Rice, Gorman, Sabre, Tetonka and Sakatah.*
- *Sand Creek CWP-Scott County* is the lead on this project to assess, which included lake monitoring on *Sanborn and Pepin.*
- *Middle Minnesota River Watershed Implementation Project*-septic system upgrades with low interest loan funds.

Clean Water Legacy Funds (Surface Water Assessment Grant)

- *Gorman Sabre Lakes* Assessment Project-In-lake sampling on Gorman and Sabre Lakes and stream monitoring on the Little Cannon River Watershed
- *Le Sueur Creek (included Forest Prairie Creek):* Two stream monitoring sites, in-lake monitoring on *Clear and Greenleaf* Lakes

Phase II Agricultural Watershed Restoration Grant

- West Raven Creek Watershed-Computer Modeling and Data Analysis

Total Maximum Daily Load Project (MPCA led project on impaired waters for excess nutrients-phosphorus)

- *Jefferson German chain of lakes and Lake Volney-* this is a current project that stemmed from the Clean Water Partnership projects. These watersheds have in-stream monitoring sites and in-lake sampling. This project includes wetland and fish impact studies within this project.

If you have any questions on water quality in Le Sueur County, please contact Lauren Klement at 507-357-8540. If you live in another county and have water quality questions, please call your environmental services department.