

Dear Resource Professionals,

You are invited to join the Carlton SWCD along with other state, local, and federal conservation partners, to be part of the continuing project work in the Nemadji River Watershed.

In January 2008 the Carlton SWCD Board signed a contract with MPCA to conduct phase I of a TMDL study for the Nemadji River and Deer Creek impaired waters listings. For those of you who are not familiar with this acronym, TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load. If a tested water body exceeds state water quality standards it is listed on the EPA 303d list of impaired waters. Then the TMDL process is started to identify the load and allocate it to contributing sources. For the Nemadji River and Deer Creek the impairment is turbidity.

After years of EPA section 319 and Clean Water Partnership projects focused on implementing recommendations of the NRCS 1998 "Nemadji River Basin Report" the TMDL study work is a change of direction for the Nemadji River Basin Project. But one of the things we have wrestled with in the past is quantifying the sediment problem and understanding what is realistic to expect for the sediment load in this type of watershed. The TMDL study will address those two issues.

Some of the items in the work plan for this phase of the TMDL study include:

- More water monitoring
- Some ground water study work to better understand the contributions of the 'mud springs' found in the upper portions of the watershed
- The development of a citizens outreach/information campaign
- Compiling and analyzing GIS data for inclusion in a watershed GIS data tool to be developed in the future.

As part of the work plan for this project, a Nemadji River Stewardship Committee will be formed. Some of you have served on the Nemadji River Technical Committee in past grant funded projects. The Stewardship Committee will be similar to that technical committee in that as resource professionals with specific areas of specialization, you will be providing relevant input to this project and collectively, the project will benefit from this broad pool of knowledge.

As you can see the emphasis is on data to support a determination of where the sediment is coming from so the allocation of the load can be completed. There is no implementation type projects such as road culvert replacements or tree plantings in this TMDL phase of the project. However, there is still work being done in the watershed such as red clay dam assessments and reforestation projects under other funding sources and although these will not be a priority for the stewardship committee, they may come up for discussion from time to time. We will develop an agenda for each meeting for you to see what will be discussed. The committee will meet quarterly to begin with and as we get further into the project, a meeting frequency will be established. There is no reimbursement for your time on this committee so all expenses will be paid by the participant.

To lead this TMDL project the Carlton SWCD has hired Kirstin Swenson as its Water Resources Coordinator. Kirstin will be the primary contact for this TMDL project.

Please respond to Kirstin on your participation on this Committee either way, as we will be developing the logistics for a kickoff meeting. If you have someone else in your agency you feel would be better suited to this committee please pass this email on to them. Kristin's email address is Kirstin.Swenson@carltonswcd.org and her phone number is the SWCD's number 218-384-3891.

Even though you may not participate in this stewardship committee you may still have valuable input to this project and may receive an invitation to other pertinent meetings as they are planned.

Thank You