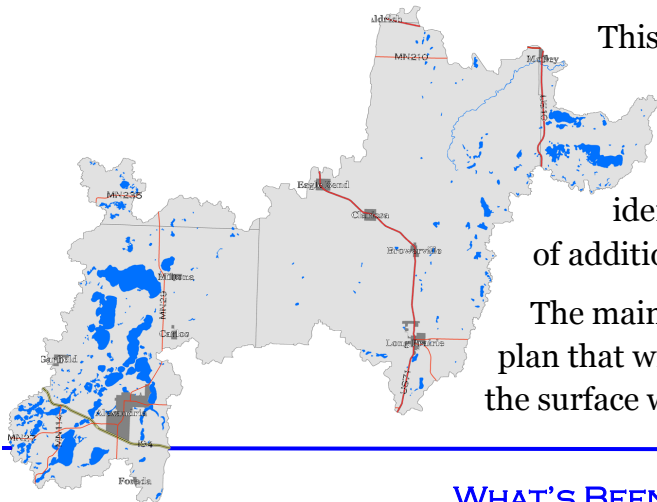


2014 PROJECT UPDATE

A collaborative effort between citizens, local governments and the State of Minnesota

WHAT IS THE LONG PRAIRIE RIVER WATERSHED PROJECT?

The Long Prairie River Watershed covers approximately 862 square miles in the central part of the Upper Mississippi River Basin in central Minnesota. The watershed encompasses parts of Douglas, Otter Tail, Todd, Wadena and Morrison Counties. Communities located in the watershed include Alexandria, Carlos, Miliona, Garfield, Long Prairie, Browerville, Clarissa, Eagle Bend and Motley.



This project is part of the State’s “One Waters” approach. This approach is designed to intensively monitor streams and lakes within a major watershed to determine the overall health of the water resources, identify impaired waters and identify those waters in need of additional protection efforts to prevent impairments.

The main outcome of this project will be an implementation plan that will prescribe restoration and protection strategies for the surface water resources within the watershed.

WHAT’S BEEN DONE?

In 2011-2012, the MPCA in partnership with the five local SWCDs completed biological, chemistry and flow monitoring on several key stream reaches and lakes throughout the watershed. Throughout 2013, the new data was reviewed and additional information was gathered as needed. Based on the new information, eight new stream segments and ten new lake impairments are on the draft 2014 impaired waters list. Impairments in the watershed include:

Rivers & Streams: The Long Prairie River, Spruce Creek, Harris Creek, Eagle Creek, Moran Creek and Venewitz Creek.

Lakes: Nelson, Fish, Twin, Henry, Agnes, Winona, Echo, Crooked (East), Jessie and Latimer .

CONTACT INFORMATION

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WHAT'S HAPPENING IN 2014?

Emmons & Oliver Resources, Inc. will be working in conjunction with the MPCA and the local SWCDs to develop Total Maximum Daily Load plans for the newly listed impaired waters. A draft plan should be completed by early fall of 2014. These plans will then be used by the MPCA and SWCD staffs to develop implementation plans.

Also, during 2014 SWCD staffs will be working with the MPCA to review all data that has been collected and modeled to develop a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Report. This report will have identified priority management zones for either protection or restoration of specific water bodies throughout the watershed.

2015 AND BEYOND....

Once all the TMDLs and the WRAPS reports have been completed and approved, implementation activities will begin throughout the watershed to improve water quality.

HOW CITIZENS CAN BE INVOLVED...

1. Attend informational meetings & provide input

- Complete Citizen Surveys
- Fall 2014 Draft Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Public Meeting
- Spring 2015 Final TMDL Plan Meeting
- Fall 2015 Implementation Plan (Restoration & Protection Strategies)

2. Complete a BMP practice on your property

- Shoreline restoration & stabilization
- Install a native riparian buffer
- Storm water controls
- Livestock exclusion fencing from surface waters
- Alternative watering systems
- Feedlot innovations

3. Spread the Word! Help educate others on what's going on

- Watch the MPCA's 4 part video series on Minnesota's Watershed Approach
 - Part 1 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ACim1rj-RZw&feature=c4overview&list=UUGU_oyj95W6DRcExCo-MBdg
 - Part 2 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zGos05AZANs&list=UUGU_oyj95W6DRcExCo-MBdg
 - Part 3 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGqFO9G6UnA&list=UUGU_oyj95W6DRcExCo-MBdg
 - Part 4 http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bl5EKurqFAA&list=UUGU_oyj95W6DRcExCo-MBdg