

By: Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator  
For: August 13, 2009  
Red Lake Watershed District  
Board Meeting

## **Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation**

- Continued to regularly clean and maintain continuous monitoring equipment.
- Manta water quality loggers could be installed in the Thief River now that water levels went down far enough to allow access to deployment pipes.
- Requests for proposals for SWAT modeling of the Thief River watershed were sent to potential contractors that have expressed interest in the project. The deadline for submission was August 6<sup>th</sup> and a contractor will be chosen at the August 13<sup>th</sup> RLWD Board of Managers meeting.
- The bridges over the Mud River and Moose River along Hwy 89 were replaced with box culverts. So, the monitoring at these sites was interrupted for the months of June and July.
- Deployed HOBO water level logger in the Thief River at site #156.
- Deployed HOBO water level logger in the Thief River at site #98.
- Collected samples at all the sites.
- A temporary water level logger was installed at site # 757 (Mud River at Hwy 89), about 25 yards upstream of the bridge work. Re-sloping of the stream bank was done for about 25 yard upstream and the logger was gone when I returned to the site in late July.
- Flow was measured at stream gauge #6 on ditch 200.



## **Clearwater River Dissolved Oxygen and Fecal Coliform TMDL Study**

The final invoice was sent to the MCPA and the RLWD received payment by the middle of July.

## District Monitoring

The third round of RLWD long-term monitoring site sampling was conducted in July.

- High E. coli
  - Thief River north of Agassiz NWR
  - Ruffy Brook
  - Lost River near the Pine Lake outlet
  - Silver Creek, west of Clearbrook
  - Thief River, between Agassiz NWR and Thief River Falls
  - Poplar River north of Erskine
  - Hill River at Brooks



- High turbidity
  - Thief River between Agassiz NWR and Thief River Falls
  - Red Lake River in Crookston
  - Red Lake River in East Grand Forks
- Low dissolved oxygen
  - Clearwater River, at Hwy 2 near Bagley.
  - Lost River, at the Pine Lake inlet
  - Grand Marais Creek
- Other observations
  - More cattle along the Lost River on the Amish property downstream of the Pine Lake Outlet monitoring site.
  - Pine Lake dam plugged.



**Surface Water Assessment Grant Monitoring**

Two rounds of samples and field measurements were collected at the Blackduck River, South Cormorant River, Darrigan's Creek, O' Briens Creek, Kripple Creek, and Lower Badger Creek monitoring sites in June. This monitoring is being paid for by Surface Water Assessment Grant funds being administered by the Red River Watershed Management Board.

**Other Notes**

- Field measurements were conducted at the Project 60E (Brandt Channel and Polk CD 2) monitoring sites. The turbidity logger deployed in the Brandt channel was swapped for a clean, freshly calibrated logger.
- HOBO water level loggers were installed at the tile drainage study monitoring sites.
- Took a week of vacation to go to Montana for my brother's wedding.

**July Meetings and Events**

- **July 15, 2009** - Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project meeting, Swen's Bar, Red Lake Falls, 6 pm.
  - Hwy 32 access improvement project
    - Landowners were present
    - A highway patrolman talked about the value of an access at the Hwy 32 crossing to aid in on-river search and rescue. He and Gail Healy (an EMT) commented on the amount of accidents at the site and the hazards of having people parking along the highway. Having a place for people to park off the highway would improve public safety. Normally, there are 4-6 vehicles parked near the bridge on summer weekends.
    - Landowners on the southeast side of the crossing expressed concern about having too many people near their property
    - We determined that the best site would be on the land to the north of Hwy 32 on the west side of the river. This site would be less susceptible to erosion or sedimentation.
    - Whether or not the project moves forward now depends on the willingness of the landowner and the landowner's family to sell a 5.3 acre parcel of land on which to build an access and parking lot.
    - If this site doesn't work out, the DNR is still interested in adding an access somewhere else between St. Hilaire and Red Lake Falls.
    - We also discussed the erosion on Knott's land.
  - Fisher representatives weren't in attendance, so we weren't able to discuss the project idea relating to improving the access in
- **July 16, 2009** – Marshall County Water Plan meeting, 9:30
  - Thief Lake WMA
    - Not too many problems from the flood
    - Almost no flow coming out of Thief Lake
  - Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge

- Received Stimulus funds
  - JD11 repairs (some damage was done this spring)
  - MCC crews
  - Ditch cleanout
  - Dike repair
- Seeking funds to continue monitoring in 2010
- LeRoy Ose reported on 2009 spring storage in RLWD impoundments

## August Plans

- SWAG Monitoring
- Deploy the rest of the continuous monitoring equipment and regularly maintain the equipment that is deployed.
- Thief River sampling
- Receive Thief River SWAT proposals, put together a contract, and get the modeling process started.

## Future Meetings/Events

- **August 17, 2009** – Red River Basin Water Quality Team, 10 am, RLWD meeting room
- **August 17, 2009** – Thief River reclassification meeting, Thief River Falls City Council Chamber, 5 PM
- **August 31, 2010** – Deadline for completion of the Thief River Watershed Sediment Investigation
- **September 16, 2009** – Pennington County Outdoor Education Day
- **September 22, 2009** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, Warren
- **September 23, 2009** – Northwest Minnesota Water Festival, Fertile
- **November 19, 2009** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee, 9:30 am, Newfolden