

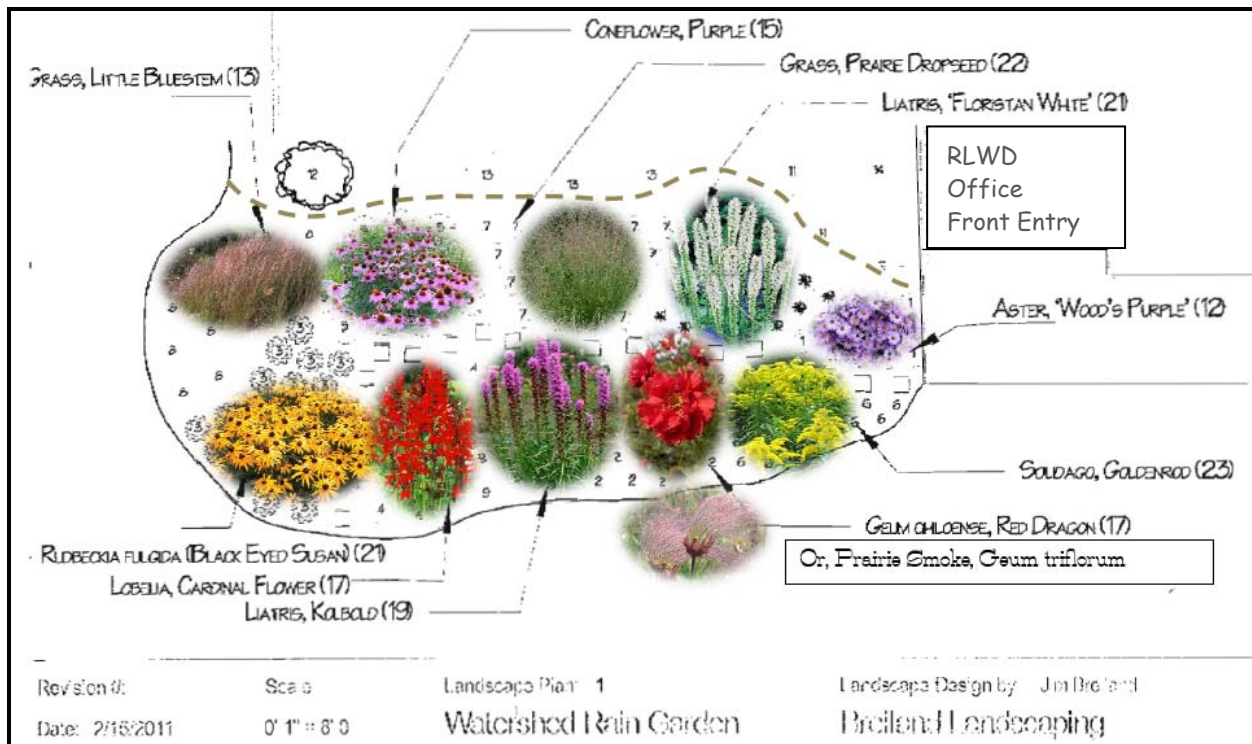
By: Corey Hanson, Water Quality Coordinator  
 For: March 10th, 2011  
 Red Lake Watershed District Board Meeting

**Grade Stabilization for Sediment Reduction in the Thief River**

- Completed and submitted an eLINK work plan.
- A draft work plan was submitted prior to the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting with BWSR staff.
- The work plan was revised based on discussion at the February 15<sup>th</sup> meeting and was submitted again on February 24th.
- Created a flow chart of how the multiple funds are connected to the multiple initiatives and projects in an effort to make the work plan development make more sense.

**RLWD Rain Garden**

- Jim Brieland has created a design for the RLWD Rain Garden. He will begin ordering plants soon.

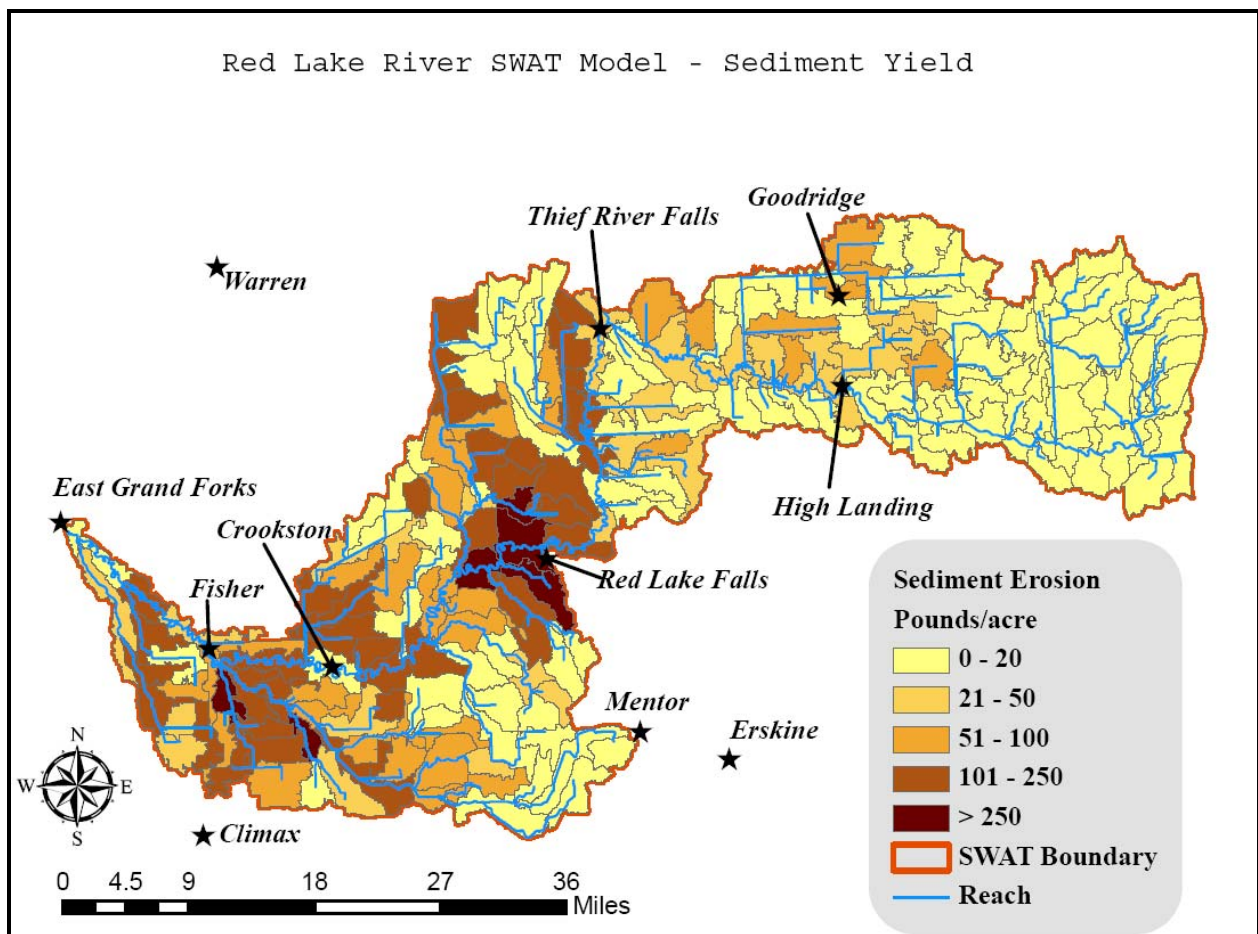


**Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring Surface Water Assessment Grant**

- A project work plan and a Quality Assurance Project Plan were composed and submitted to the MPCA.
- The contract was approved at the February 24, 2011 RLWD Board meeting.
- The grant contract was signed and sent to the MPCA for their signatures.

**Other Notes**

- The Poplar River Dissolved Oxygen and Silver Creek Fecal Coliform TMDLs may be progressing to the public notice phase soon.
- The RLWD provided a letter of support for the Clearwater County SWCD’s application for a BWSR Lake Protection Water Plan grant.
- Worked on the eLINK work plan for the Grand Marais Creek Cut Channel Stabilization Project.
- Wrote questions for the current event quiz for this year’s Envirothon. The current event topic is: Salt and Fresh Water Estuaries.
- Worked on a revision of the *Standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality Monitoring in the Red River Basin*.
- Developed an outline of a plan-of-action for a buffer initiative in targeted areas of the Thief River watershed.
- Made updates/edits to the SOP presentation for the Red River Basin Water Quality Training Session.
- The Energy and Environmental Research Center is making progress on the Soil and Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) model for the Red Lake River.



**February 2011 Meetings and Events**

- **February 1, 2011** – Meeting at the Warren NRCS office to discuss a potential buffer initiative project in the Thief River Watershed.
  - Annual CCRP payments would be 120% of the average rental rate.
  - The Farm Service Agency offers a signing bonus of \$100/acre for the first year.
  - Apply for a Clean Water Fund grant to pay for:
    - Intensive assessment of the target area(s)
    - Outreach (letters, individualized maps)
    - Landowner meetings
    - Additional incentives to compete with crop prices.
- **February 11, 2011** – Red River Basin Monitoring Advisory Committee Meeting, Sand Hill Watershed District
  - DNR reference point and stage measurement protocol
  - Invasive species
  - Planning the 2011 Red River Basin Water Quality Monitoring Training Session
    - Schedule
    - Quiz questions
  - There is a possibility that the DNR could install an ultrasonic flow gage in the Tif River watershed.
  - Chuck Fritz is working on a conceptual work plan for the creation of conditioned DEM files (cutting-in culvert flow lines) from the Red River Basin LIDAR data.
  - Dr. Annette Drewes has been hired as the Red River Basin Watershed Educator for the University of Minnesota Extension Service. She will be based out of the University of Minnesota, Crookston and will be working with the curriculum side of the River Watch program.
  - The International Water Institute has a LIDAR viewer up and running:  
[http://iwi.houstoneng.com/iwi\\_lidar/iwi.html](http://iwi.houstoneng.com/iwi_lidar/iwi.html)
- **February 15, 2011** – Meeting at the RLWD to discuss BWSR Clean Water Fund project work plan development (BWSR, Houston Engineering, and RLWD staff).
- **February 17, 2011** – Thief River Multi-County Project Development meeting, 1:00 PM at the RLWD office.
  - Corey Hanson - Thief River Problem Areas
  - Gregg Knutson - Agassiz NWR Water Quality Study results
  - Joe Montonye - Grant County Ditch Buffer Presentation
  - Kevin Geitzen – Existing incentive programs
  - The next step is to organize landowner meetings to assess their views on erosion problems and incentive programs. What would it take to get more buffers in place and where should we start working?
  - Meet in the future to discuss Thief River projects at least once every 6 months.

### Plans for March 2011

- Finalize and distribute the new revision of the *Standard Operating Procedures for Water Quality Monitoring in the Red River Watershed*.
- Finish the stream gauge shapefile and summary documents. Work with Jim Blix to get the shapefile added to the RLWD Interactive Map. Website users will be able to get links to the summary documents by clicking on one of the sites on the map.
- Presentations to the RRB Water Quality Training Session, HEI Watershed-Based TMDL Workshop, USFWS/NRCS STC Meeting, USFS Regional Office meeting, and the Overall Advisory Committee.
- Start working on the Thief River Surface Water Assessment Grant project.

### Future Meetings/Events

- **March 3, 2011** – Annual Red River Basin Water Quality Training Session
- **March 8, 2011** – Red Lake River Corridor Enhancement Project conference call.
- **March 17, 2011** - STC Meeting in St. Paul
  - Presenting an overview of the Thief River Watershed, its water quality problems, and potential solutions.
- **March 18, 2011** – USFWS Regional Office meeting in St. Paul
  - Giving the presentation from the 17<sup>th</sup> to another audience.
- **March 23, 2011** – RLWD Overall Advisory Committee Meeting?
- **March 28, 2011** - Red River Basin Water Quality Team meeting, 1-3 PM
- **March 30, 2011** – Landowner meeting for the target area between Thief Lake and Agassiz National Wildlife Refuge.
  - What are their views on erosion problems?
  - What are their views on incentive programs?
  - Present our buffer initiative idea.
  - Gauge their opinions on what it would take to compete with crop prices and get buffers installed.
- **March 31, 2011** – Deadline to complete BWSR CWF work plans
- **April 2011** – First round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **April 1, 2011** – Anticipated start date for the Thief River Watershed Assessment Monitoring SWAG project. It may start sooner. Actual monitoring will begin in May.
- **April 6, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- **April 18 - 20, 2011** – “Ditching Dilemma” Science of Healthy Streams Class, Fergus Falls.
- **May 2011** – Second round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **June 16, 17, & 18, 2011** – MAWD Summer Tour, hosted by the RLWD and Middle Snake Tamarac Watershed District.
- **July 2011** – Third round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **July 6, 2011** – Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee
- **September 2011** – Fourth round of RLWD long-term monitoring for 2011.
- **November 2, 2011** - Marshall County Water Resources Advisory Committee