

### **Chippewa River TMDL Public Meetings**

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is holding two public meetings to kick-off the Turbidity TMDL in the watershed. Each meeting will include a review of the TMDL process, water quality data that led to the impairment listing and a presentation by Wenck and Associates on the modeling processes that will be used during the TMDL study. The Chippewa River Watershed Project is also seeking stakeholders and citizens to be on the advisory committee for the Turbidity TMDL. Interested persons are encouraged to attend one of the meetings.

- Thursday, January 15, 2009, McKinney's on Southside, Benson at 7 pm
- Friday, January 16, 2009, McKinney's on Southside, Benson at 10:30 am

Seven reaches of the Chippewa River have been identified as impaired for turbidity. These reaches are found throughout the watershed and range in size. Turbidity in water is a measurement of how cloudy or murky it is. Turbidity is caused by particles suspended or dissolved in water that scatter light making the water appear cloudy or murky. Primary pollutants tend to be sediment and algae. High turbidity can harm fish and other aquatic life, degrade drinking water sources and have a negative impact on recreation and tourism. The federal Clean Water Act requires that a Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) be established for listed impaired waters. A TMDL is a scientific study that calculates the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards for that pollutant. It is a process that identifies all the sources of the pollutant causing impairment and allocates necessary reductions among them. The TMDL Assessment Report will be completed by the Chippewa River Watershed Project along with the Implementation Plan.

This is the beginning of the multi-year process of developing a TMDL Turbidity pollution reduction plan, engaging stakeholders and citizens, and implementing activities for achieving necessary reductions. A draft TMDL is scheduled to be completed in 2010. Public participation is essential to a successful TMDL.

Please contact CRWP staff if you have questions or would like to be considered for the Advisory Meeting and cannot attend one of the public meetings. Happy New Year! Jennifer Hoffman, Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120; [www.chippewariver.com](http://www.chippewariver.com)