

Huntley Wastewater Project Update

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The following information is being forwarded to the residents of Huntley on behalf of the USDA/ Rural Development State Office:

First, congratulations on your loan/grant award for the new wastewater treatment system project for your local community.

Earth Day is April 22 this year, and each year the USDA recognizes some of our water/wastewater projects in honor of this special day. During these celebrations, we have a check presentation/media event.

For our Earth Day 2006 event, we will be recognizing the Huntley Wastewater Project loan/grant award. On this day we will be joined by U.S. Congressman Gil Gutknecht and Curtis Anderson from the national USDA Rural Development office in Washington DC, Gerald Woodley-staff of Norm Coleman's office, Steve Wenzel, USDA RD State Director, as well as some local delegates that are involved with the project.

WHEN: Celebration will be on Monday, April 24th
WHERE: Community Covenant Church (31323 170th Street)
TIME: Check presentation will take place at 10:00 a.m.

Please join us following the presentation for coffee and cookies

Project Funding Information:

The final figures for funding include:

Rural Development Grant: \$732,000

Rural Development Loan \$360,000

Water Infrastructure Fund (WIF) Grant: \$732,000

TOTAL PROJECT: \$1,824,000



**The anticipated monthly cost to the residents of Huntley will be approximately \$51.00 per month. This will not include any costs that you may incur for private connections.*

Any questions on the project can be directed to:

Michele Stindtman, SWCD
Bruce Blakesley, P&Z
(507)526-2388

Dick Mair, Task Force
Don Wishman, Task Force

Specific Rural Development questions can be directed to:
Christine Goddard,
RD Specialist
(507)437-8247

Additional grant and loan programs may be available for eligible homeowners. In the near future, we will be hosting a public meeting that will inform the residents of these programs, and will have representation of these various sources on hand to answer questions, and assist with the necessary paperwork.

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IMPAIRED WATERS

and TMDL'S

An impaired water body is any water body that is not meeting the water quality standards that have been established for that water. These water bodies are either partially supporting or not supporting designated beneficial uses such as fishing or swimming. (# represents total of impaired reaches statewide)

- Mercury in Fish (1,237)
- Excess Nutrients (153)
- Turbidity (118)
- Poor Aquatic Life Community (103)
- Fecal Coliform (89)

How are Impaired Waters Determined?

- Review Water Quality Standards
- Evaluate Monitoring Data
- Identify waters for Impaired Waters List 303(d)

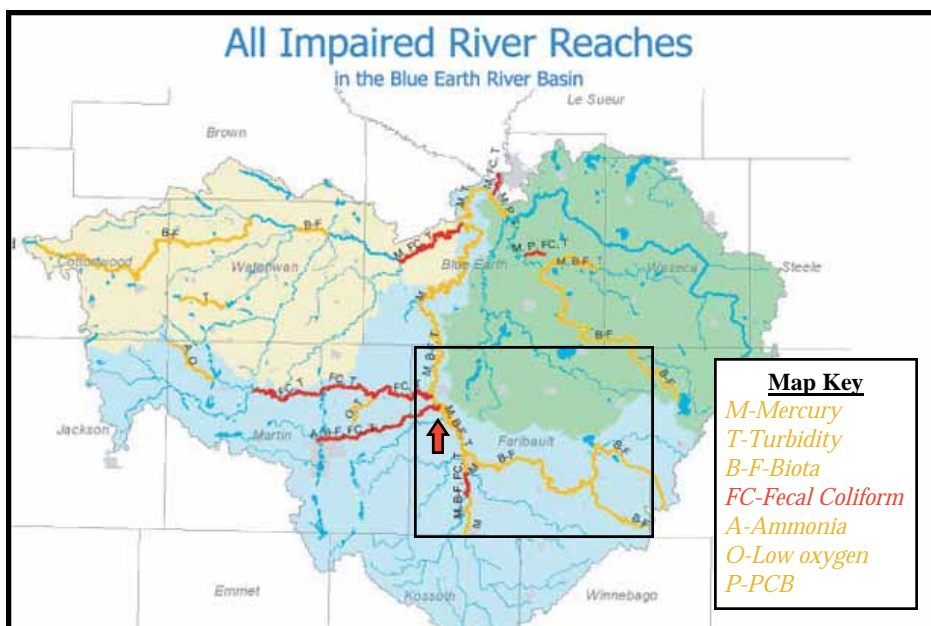
The Clean Water Act requires states to publish an updated list of streams and lakes that are not meeting their designated uses because of excess pollutants every two years. The list, known as the 303(d) list, is based on violations of water quality. An impaired listing triggers a regulatory response to address the causes and sources of impairments. This process is called a TMDL study. TMDL stands for Total Maximum Daily Load. Essentially, a TMDL is the amount of pollution a body of water can handle and still meet water quality standards. A TMDL study identifies sources of pollution and reductions of the particular pollutant needed to attain water quality standards. Keep in mind that rivers and streams may have several TMDL's, each one determining the limit for a different pollutant.

Major Steps in a TMDL Study

After a water body is listed, a TMDL study must be conducted to evaluate why impaired waters are not meeting standards and to set pollutant reduction goals that will eventually restore them to their designated uses. Major TMDL steps are: 1) Monitor water quality, 2) Determine load allocations, 3) Determine sources of pollutant, 4) Determine required reductions. Currently, there is a Fecal TMDL study being completed for the Blue Earth River Basin, of which Center Creek is a part of.

Implementation

Upon completion of this study, a detailed implementation plan will be developed. During this phase, local elected officials and dedicated staff will work toward developing effective strategies. However, it is important to note that much work is already underway to reduce pollutants from reaching our surface waters. This work has been and will continue to progress as TMDL goal setting is completed.



WHAT DOES THIS ALL IMPAIRED WATERS / TMDL INFORMATION HAVE TO DO WITH THE HUNTLEY WASTEWATER PROJECT?

Currently, the wastewater from the community of Huntley is outletting into a county ditch system, and then directly into Center Creek, which is currently listed on the 303(d) list for fecal coliform impairments, as well as for turbidity, biota and ammonia impairments. Huntley is only one of several hundred communities with wastewater issues that are impacting these impaired waters. The funding for these projects is becoming more competitive, and less available, therefore, making the timing of the Huntley wastewater project very effective.