

FY11 Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Inventory of Impaired Reaches of the Sauk River

The Minnesota Clean Water Fund is one of four funds from the Minnesota Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment. The purpose of the fund is to protect and restore streams, rivers, lakes and groundwater.

Stearns County Environmental Services (ESD) will oversee the SSTS inventory of the reaches of the Sauk River where the river is impaired by e coli and the shoreland of two lakes which are impaired due to excess nutrients, i.e., Two Rivers Lake and Lake Maria. The inventory work will be done by a trained SSTS inspector who is an employee of Stearns County.

Each SSTS with an existing septic permit on file will be inspected for Imminent Threat to Public Health status (as defined in State Rules). Each SSTS which has not been permitted with the County will have a full certification conducted. The unpermitted SSTS were either installed pre-1972 (when the County adopted SSTS rules) or were installed without a permit. It is planned that the project will be completed over the summer of 2012.

The grant consists of \$70,000 to pay for the inventory and \$3,684 to cover the County's administration costs. Local match of 25% is required. The Sauk River Chain of Lakes Association is contributing \$5,000 cash, the Sauk River Watershed District is contributing \$5,000 cash, and the Friends of Two Rivers is contributing \$4,000 cash. All the sewage treatment systems will need to be pumped before the inspection and, if necessary, the manhole cover will need to be brought to the ground surface. The expense incurred by the homeowner for the pumping and exposure of the manhole cover will be counted as in-kind match.

The purpose of the project is to identify those sewage treatment systems that are failing and are potentially contributing e coli and other pathogens to the ground and surface water and excess phosphorus to lakes and streams. Systems identified as failing through this inventory will be required to upgrade to meet current State Rule.

The contact for further information about this grant is Hank Schreifels (320-656-3613).