

# *Two Rivers Watershed District NEWS*



## *In Roseau, Kittson, & Marshall Counties*

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## **TRWD Gearing Up For 2015 Programs and Projects**

The Two Rivers Watershed District will be working on several flood control, drainage, water quality, and other water management initiatives this coming year. Some of these programs and projects are listed below.

### **Klondike Clean Water Retention Project #11:**

This project was initiated in the fall of 2014, and is in the planning and development stage. The project will potentially store 30,500 acre feet of water (1 acre foot = 325,829 gallons) and control the runoff from 143 square miles including Badger Creek and Lateral 1 of State Ditch #95. It will be located on the Kittson and Roseau County line on a 12 square mile area. The project will have major flood control benefits, and will also provide water quality benefits for Lake Bronson, protect rare plant communities, provide waterfowl habitat, and provide recreational opportunities.

### **Watershed Restoration And Protection Strategies:**

The District is working with the MN Pollution Control Agency and other partners to collect water quality data, analyze the rivers, streams, and ditches to determine if they meet water quality standards, and identify sources of pollution. These "WRAPS" are required by the Federal Clean Water Act for every water body in the U.S. This is a 4 year process, and will provide several products that should be useful for Soil & Water Conservation Districts, Watershed Districts, Counties, and others to use to help protect and improve our water natural resources.

### **Drainage Ditch Maintenance:**

There are over 90 miles of legal ditches under the authority of the District. An inspection and maintenance plan has been put together for all of them. Under this plan every mile of ditch is visually inspected each year, and a detailed gps survey is done once every 5 years. If there is debris, beaver activity, or dense vegetation present measures are taken to remove blockages. The survey's are done to determine if there is excessive sediment deposition or erosion problems. Culverts and bridges are also inspected. Once the data is collected maintenance activities are conducted when necessary.

### **Permits:**

The Rules of the Two Rivers Watershed District require that prior to doing certain activities, a permit must be approved. These activities in general include installation of culverts and bridges, field crossings, dike construction, diversions, new ditching or

alterations of existing ditches, road building, utilities, and certain works in wetlands. A permit application can be obtained at the District office. Anyone contemplating these or other activities that affect the flow of water should consult with the District before undertaking the activity. Most permit applications can be acted within 1 to 2 months, and in many cases 2 to 3 weeks.

**Monitoring Activities:**

Beginning in March, the District will begin monitoring. The District monitors snow depths and water content in order to help predict spring snowmelt runoff and flooding. Once the snow melts the District monitors stream flows in order to determine how much water is moving through the various systems, which in turn helps agencies like the National Weather Service provide warnings and watches relative to flooding. The District also does a fair amount of water quality monitoring, rainfall monitoring, and other data collection relative to the water cycle. All of the data collected is available to the public.

Many other miscellaneous activities are done on a yearly basis within the District. If you are interested in any of these or would like further information, please contact the District at 218-843-3333. Have a great spring and summer season!