

Nicollet County

2018 Local Water Management Annual Report

Amy Clyde is the Water Planner for Nicollet County. One of the largest projects completed in 2018 was an amendment for LWMP, in anticipation of transitioning into 1W1P. Two Water Plan Task Force Meetings were held to solicit feedback from the Task Force. The first one was on Apr 5 and the second was on Jul 26. A Public Hearing was held at the Board of Commissioner's meeting on Jul 3. The Board met on Sept 11 to pass a resolution to adopt the amendment to LWMP. The LWMP is in effect through Aug 2023.

Ms. Clyde participated in many other water planning activities throughout the year. Civic engagement activities were completed for the Lower Minnesota watershed for the WRAPS process with a final coffee shop meeting in Gibbon on Feb 27. Prior to this, meetings were held to discuss civic engagement strategies and to review the results of the survey conducted by the University of Minnesota. She attended various meetings held by MPCA for strategy development to bring the WRAPS documents forward for completion for the Middle and Lower Minnesota Rivers. She attended several public scoping meetings to provide comment on behalf of Nicollet County on the preferred route for the Huntley/Wilmarth 345kV proposed transmission line project. Meetings were held in Mankato on Apr 12, Apr 20, and May 2 with additional meeting anticipated in 2019 to finalize the selected route. She also participated in Hawk Creek 1W1P planning meetings. Meetings were held on Apr 25, May 16, and Dec 5 to finalize boundaries and discuss level of participation of entities involved. This was discussed with Nicollet County Board of Commissioners at a Board workshop on May 16. She participated in Project 33 Committee meetings to identify solutions to St. Peter drinking water issues. Initial meeting was held on Nov 13 with a follow-up meeting scheduled for Feb 2019.

Ms. Clyde continued to administer the \$84,152 grant from BWSR's Accelerated Implementation Grant program for Hydrologic Conditioning and Altered Hydrology. Working with Houston Engineering, Inc., this grant will facilitate management and funding efforts in Nicollet County to the areas that will produce the most benefit from best management practices. The SWCD and Property Services have been partners and have worked with Houston Engineering, Inc. to select strategies for three watersheds in the County: Seven Mile Creek, Roger's Creek, and the outlet of Swan Lake. SWCD and Property Services have also provided information for a web based viewer of the final PTMAp that includes story maps of practices employed.

She continued to plan and present at the Children's Water Festival on Mar 7. She provided all scheduling for the entire event which includes 24 classes and up to 1,000 participants for each of the 10 sessions offered. She also applied to various entities, including \$2,000 from MGWA, and \$4,500 from Prairie Ecology School Bus, for funding opportunities. In addition, she presented several sessions on glaciers and documented the event for compliance with MGWA grant requirements. She also participated in the many planning meetings that occurred throughout the year and helped steer the direction of the Festival.

Ms. Clyde actively managed Nicollet County's AIS program in 2018. The carp study that was initiated in 2017 to identify what species are occurring in Swan and Middle Lakes as well as the passages to them and the passages connecting them is set to be completed in Dec 2018. She managed the contract with Carp Solutions and help troubleshoot issues that arose in the field to complete the study. She managed a contract with All Over Media to provide Clean, Drain, Dry messaging at popular gas stations in Nicollet County. She participated through Wildlife Forever on a multi-County advertising campaign with KARE 11, "Share Your Catch". She managed an AIS fair booth at the Nicollet County Fair in August and presented information to the public on Clean, Drain, Dry techniques. She also educated the public on dumping bait or aquarium species into native environments. She developed a quiz and provided a give-a-way during the fair. She continued researching on an Aquarium Take Back program to see if there was interest in local veterinarians to participate in this program, along with City of Mankato. She also reached out to Extension for a possible partnership with their 4H program.

Ms. Clyde maintained the rain gauge network that includes 20 members across Nicollet County and she successfully submitted end of the year reporting for NRBG.

Local Water Management Training in 2018

MPCA Stormwater BMPs for Phosphorus Removal webinar – Jan 9

MDH Water Quality and Quantity webinar – Jan 24

St. Anthony Falls Laboratory Seminar on Urban Water Quality – Apr 24

MPCA Watershed Professionals Network meeting in Mankato – Apr 26

Harmful Algal Bloom webinar – Aug 8

Discovery Farms Benchmarking Nitrogen Use Efficiency webinar – Aug 28

Discovery Farms Lessons Learned from Spring Creek Farms webinar – Sept 4

Discover Farms Digging Deeper into Soil Health webinar – Sept 11

The Current Rural and Urban Watersheds Working Together webinar – Sept 12

Nicollet SWCD Cover Crop Seeding Field Day at Oshawa Township Hall – Sept 13

MPCA Civic Engagement Training in Mankato – Nov 8

Watershed 33 Committee with City of St. Peter in St. Peter – Nov 13

Minnesota Groundwater Association Fall Conference in St. Paul – Nov 15