

Mustinka Watershed Assessment
Press Release #1
Project Kick Off and Stream Stability Assessment Field Work

Several reaches of the Mustinka River and some of its tributary streams are impaired. Streams are designated as impaired if they fail to meet water quality standards set by the State of Minnesota as required by the Federal Clean Water Act. The State of Minnesota is required to conduct a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study on all impaired streams to evaluate the causes of the impairment and establish a plan for improvement. The Bois de Sioux Watershed District, through a funding arrangement with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is taking the lead on conducting the TMDL Study.

In the summer of 2011 an assessment of the Mustinka watershed was initiated. The Mustinka Watershed Assessment Project is a watershed-based approach to meeting the requirements of the TMDL in the most cost effective and efficient manner. To determine the type and extent of impairments in the watershed, the BdSWD team is gathering existing water quality data and assessing where additional data may need to be collected. The BdSWD has recruited many technical professionals working directly with the water resources in this watershed to assist with and guide the process. During the week of October 24th, two teams of trained stream and water quality professionals will be out assessing the health and condition of the stream channels in the watershed.

The upcoming field work will include a survey of the present condition of representative stream channels in the watershed. The teams will record geomorphic and habitat data to determine the health and stability of each surveyed stream. Data collected will also be used to determine what improvements are needed on the impaired streams so that they will meet the State water quality standard and will no longer be impaired.

The assessment of the Mustinka watershed will take several years to complete. In order to achieve the goals of this project, input from the citizens in the watershed is critical. Additional updates about this project will come as the project proceeds and citizen input opportunities will be scheduled. The BdSWD encourages interested citizens to get involved in the process. Stay tuned for future notices and opportunities to provide input. Future posting of events and project activities will be noticed on the BdSWD website which can be found at www.bdswd.com.