

# Stakeholder Newsletter

Volume 1, Issue 1

Winter 2009

## INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide you, a stakeholder, with information regarding the Little Rock Lake Nutrient Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) project being conducted by the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and project technical partners (see back).

The Little Rock Lake Watershed (yellow area on map) is located in southern Morrison County and northwestern Benton County. The 67,650 acre watershed is nearly evenly split between Benton (36,030 acres) and Morrison (31,620 acres) counties. Little Rock Lake (area in blue on map) is located near the bottom of the watershed.



### Inside this issue:

Meet the Technical Team	2
Project Progress	2
Little Rock Lake Water Quality Standards	2
Little Rock Lake Association Goals	3
Watershed Improvement Programs	3
Lake Volunteers	3
Feedlot/Manure Management Assistance	4

## PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS

### TIMELINE

June 2008 - May 2010

### PURPOSE

Identify source of excessive phosphorus in Little Rock Lake

### RESULT

Develop a plan for restoring Little Rock Lake to a level which will meet water quality standards

### PROJECT LEAD

Benton SWCD

## TROUBLED LAKE RECEIVES ATTENTION AND FUNDING



2007 Blue green algae bloom

In 2007, Little Rock Lake experienced a large blue-green algae bloom, raising the concerns of landowners in the area. Algae samples collected by MPCA determined that the algae toxin levels were considered to be high risk according to the World Health Organization standards. Historically, algae blooms occurred regularly in the lake, including toxic blue-green algae. Little

Rock Lake was listed on the 2008 MPCA Impaired Waters List and the Benton SWCD began work on the TMDL project.

The Little Rock Lake Nutrient TMDL Project combines the data collected from the ongoing Little Rock Creek Biological TMDL Phase II Study, which is scheduled to be completed June 2009 (started in June 2006).

**MEET OUR TECHNICAL TEAM**



**Maggie Leach—MPCA Project Manager**  
**Bill James—Project consultant**



**Annie Felix—Benton SWCD**  
**LOCAL PROJECT MANAGER**



**William Walker—Project consultant**  
**Mark Evenson—MPCA Hydrologist**  
**Paul Garrison—Project consultant**

**LAKE TMDL PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT**

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) hosted the Technical Committee kick-off meeting on June 24, 2008. William Walker, Paul Garrison, and Bill James toured Little Rock Lake and the Little Rock Lake Watershed and Mr. Garrison collected a paleolimnological sediment core from the deepest part of Little Rock Lake during the tour.

The Benton SWCD and lake volunteers collected water

quality and chemistry data on 7 lake stations and 5 creek stations. MPCA collected continuous flow data on 4 creek sites. Mr. James collected sediment cores from 10 stations on the lake for an internal phosphorus investigation.

Over 70 people attended the July 29, 2008 stakeholder kick-off meeting which was hosted by the Benton SWCD (see picture at right).

The Little Rock Lake Association generously donated \$2,000 to develop and distribute this newsletter to residents in the Little Rock Lake Watershed.



**WHAT IS THE WATER QUALITY STANDARD FOR LITTLE ROCK LAKE?**

Parameter	Unit	Lake Standard*	1976-2008 Average Lake Data
Chlorophyll-a	ug/L	20	127
Phosphorus, total	ug/L	60	254
Secchi	feet	Not less than 3.3	2

The goal of the Little Rock Lake TMDL Project is to restore the lake to a level which will meet water quality standards.

The eutrophication standards for shallow lakes in this ecoregion are listed in the table to the left. Compare this to data collected from Little Rock Lake between 1976-2008. The chlorophyll-a values are six times over the standard, and the phosphorus values four times over the standard.

*\*MN Statute 7050.0222, Subp. 4. Class 2B Waters (Shallow Lakes in North Central Hardwood Forest Ecoregion)*

## LITTLE ROCK LAKE ASSOCIATION GOALS

### *Sustain a healthy ecosystem*

***Protect the quality of water, fish, shoreline vegetation, trees, birds, and other wildlife***

### *Provide ecological education*

Excerpt from the Association web page: *“These goals are still the main concerns which confront us today, however in order to accomplish these goals we need more than a few core members to handle the fiscal and vocal work load that is required to complete the tasks. Currently there over 250 residencies surrounding the lake and 50 + on the channel. We*

*feel the Little Rock Lake Association should comprise of at least 100-150 + members. We must show the community,*



2008 Lake Association Picnic at Rumors Bar

*county, state that we do care about our resources and that we stand together to accomplish our goals. By becoming a unified and educated group, our area may be identified as an impact area, which could make us eligible for grants that otherwise would be unattainable.”*

Visit their website:

[www.littlerocklake.org](http://www.littlerocklake.org) for meeting agendas, minutes and more.

## WATERSHED IMPROVEMENT PROGRAMS

The Benton SWCD, in partnership with Benton County Parks and the Lake Association, will host a Shoreland Buffer Workshop on May 2<sup>nd</sup> and June 13<sup>th</sup>. This two part workshop will consist of two sessions. Part one will take place in the classroom and will educate the attendees on buffer basics. The attendees

will design part of a buffer that will be installed by participants during day two of the workshop. The resulting buffer planting, will serve as an education tool to those who are thinking about converting their mowed shoreline into a more natural habitat. More information will be available on SWCD website.

Cost share is available for residents in the Little Rock Watershed to install native buffers. Up to 75% of the project costs can be reimbursed to participants. Call the Benton SWCD for more information.



## LAKE VOLUNTEERS MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Since 2006, Mark Beckman, lake property owner and Little Rock Lake Association member, has

been volunteering his time and pontoon to assist Annie Felix with data collection on the lake. Mark has also been taking secchi disk readings each week on the lake during the past three summers. Mark hosted the Technical Team Kick-off Tour in July 2008.

Cliff Weitgenant, Little Rock Lake resident and Association member, joined the volunteer effort in 2008.

Thanks to Mark and Cliff, the 2008 sampling season was a success!



Mark Beckman and Justin Lindner (NRCS intern)



Cliff Weitgenant collecting water samples

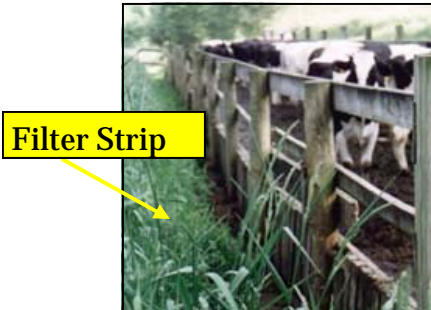
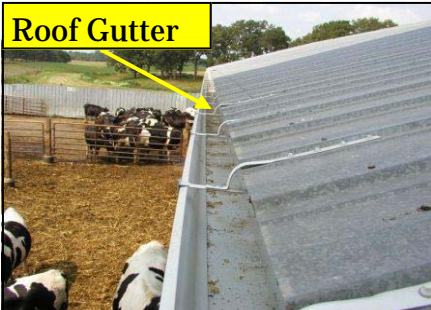
**Little Rock Lake TMDL Project**

Benton SWCD  
14 2nd Avenue West  
Foley, MN 56329

Phone: 320-968-5300 ext. 3  
Fax: 320-968-5304

[www.soilandwater.org](http://www.soilandwater.org)

***Technical Team Partners***  
*Board of Water & Soil Resources  
Minnesota Pollution Control Agency  
Minnesota DNR Fisheries & Waters  
Minnesota Department of Agriculture  
Minnesota Department of Health  
Morrison County and SWCD  
Natural Resources Conservation  
Service  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
William Walker  
Paul Garrison  
William James*



*Recipient Name*

*Address Line 1*

*Address Line 2*

*City, State, Zip*

**NEED HELP WITH YOUR FEEDLOT OR MANURE MANAGEMENT?**

Call Mike McMillin at the Benton SWCD! He can provide Benton County producers with technical and financial assistance to improve your feedlot and management systems to meet state regulations.

Cost share is available for installing low-cost feedlot and manure management systems.

Addressing feedlot and manure management issues is a very high priority in Benton County.

**Some Eligible Practices for Cost Share:**

- Roof Gutters
- Clean Water Diversions
- Installing Filter Strips
- Fencing
- Catch basins for solids
- Reducing lot size
- Relocating feedlots
- Roofing
- Re-grading & seeding buffer areas

**NEWS AND EVENTS**

- Nutrient Management Workshop: March 19, 12:30 - 2:30 pm at Henry's Banquet Center in Foley
  - Little Rock Lake Association meetings: March 14, April 11, May 9, June 13
  - Shoreline Buffer Workshops: May 2nd & June 13—Benton Beach Park
  - Little Rock Lake TMDL Stakeholder public meeting—Summer 2009