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NEWS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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Roseau River Watershed District Begins Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy Process

The Roseau River Watershed District has begun a Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) process. WRAPS is a watershed approach to restoring and protecting Minnesota's rivers, lakes, and wetlands. The WRAPS initiative stems from the 1972 Federal Clean Water Act and Minnesota's Clean Water Legacy Act, the Clean Water Legacy Amendment, and the Clean Water Accountability Act. These laws require that all waters of the state be monitored, assessed for impairments, and have measures taken to restore impaired waters and protect clean waters. The WRAPS process is administered by the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency.

The WRAPS process is conducted in two phases and is followed by an implementation period. Phase I develops products that describe the existing conditions of the watershed, assesses impairments to the designated beneficial uses of the lakes and streams, and identifies the factors or "stressors" that cause the impairments. During phase II, detailed plans and strategies are laid out in an action plan. A plan is developed that proposes what types of projects could be placed on the landscape and where they should be placed in order to reduce pollutants from entering the river. Funding for the WRAPS process is provided by Federal and State of Minnesota sources.

All landowners and stakeholders within the drainage areas of the Roseau River Watershed are invited to attend and participate in water quality and land use planning discussions as this process progresses. Landowners and Stakeholders will receive notifications of upcoming participation opportunities. These opportunities will typically focus on planned studies, desired outcomes, and potential pollution reduction efforts to improve surface water quality within the Roseau River Watershed.

For more information on the WRAPS process, please visit the MPCA website at: <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/index.php/water/water-types-and-programs/surface-water/watershed-approach/index.html>

If you'd like to be added to the RRWD WRAPS distribution list, please contact the RRWD Office at 218- 463-0313 or email at rrwd@mncable.net.