Full Length Article:
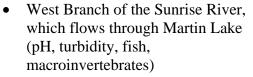
Sunrise River, Local Lakes WRAP Nears Completion

An effort is underway to protect and improve water quality in the entire Sunrise River watershed. The watershed of 381 square miles includes northeast Anoka County and parts of Chisago, Isanti, Washington, and Pine Counties. It is known for abundant lakes and wild, meandering streams. Unfortunately, it also has some water quality problems. This is concerning for its own sake but also because it drains to the St. Croix River. In Anoka County the following water bodies fail to meet state water quality standards and are deemed "impaired:"

Linwood Lake is one impaired waterbody covered by management plans under development.

- West Branch of the Sunrise River, which flows through Martin Lake (pH, turbidity, fish, macroinvertebrates)
- South Branch of the Sunrise River, which flows through the Carlos Avery WMA (dissolved oxygen)
- Linwood, Martin, and Typo Lakes Lake (nutrients)
- Various others (mercury in fish tissue, addressed by other state efforts)

Work underway is in two parts:
First, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is nearly complete. This technical document is required by the Federal Clean Water Act and specifies the amount by which pollutants need to be reduced to meet water quality standards. It applies to the impaired waters listed above, except Martin and Typo Lakes which already have a separate TMDL. A public comment period will be open later this year.

Secondly, a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (WRAP) is being drafted. It builds from the TMDL by prescribing work needed to improve water quality, including locations and approaches. It looks at both improving impaired waters and protecting good water quality where it exists. Projects identified are eligible for greater State funding, but must be locally led.

Locally, the Sunrise River Watershed Management Organization (SRWMO) is central to managing these water bodies. The SRWMO is a joint powers organization covering Linwood Township and parts of Columbus, East Bethel, and Ham Lake. To learn more visit www.SRWMO.org.

More about these projects in the Sunrise River Watershed can be found on the MN Pollution Control website. Specific questions can be directed to Jamie Schurbon at the Anoka Conservation District – jamie.schurbon@anokaswcd.org or 763-434-2030 ext. 12.

Abbreviated Article:

Sunrise River, Local Lakes WRAP Nears Completion

An effort is underway to protect and improve water quality in the entire Sunrise River watershed. It covers all lakes, streams and rivers in the watershed including these in Anoka County that fail to meet state water quality standards and are deemed "impaired:"

- West Branch of the Sunrise River, which flows through Martin Lake (pH, turbidity, fish, macroinvertebrates)
- South Branch of the Sunrise River, which flows through the Carlos Avery WMA (dissolved oxygen)
- Linwood Lake (nutrients)
- Martin and Typo Lakes (nutrients; TMDL already complete)
- Various others (mercury in fish tissue, addressed by other state efforts)

Work underway is in two parts:
First, a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) study is nearly complete for the impaired water bodies. This technical document is required by the Federal Clean Water Act and specifies the amount by which pollutants need to be reduced to meet water quality standards. A public comment period will be open later this year.

Secondly, a Watershed Restoration and Protection Plan (WRAP) is being drafted. It builds from the TMDL by prescribing work needed to improve impaired waters and protect good water quality where it exists. Projects identified are eligible for greater State funding, but must be locally led.

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