

For Immediate Release

For more information contact Marnie Lonsdale (218)730-4063
mlonsdale@ci.duluth.mn.us

Public invited to ask questions and put forward ideas on protecting our Surface Waters from polluted Run Off

The Environmental Protection Agency indicates the major source of water pollution is urban runoff. Stormwater running over paved surfaces and exposed materials carries pollutants and sediment to our waterways. In summer the heated pavements warm the water and can increase temperatures in our cold water streams. Miller creek that travels through Duluth and Hermantown has been identified as an “impaired water” for temperature. The trout population of the creek is stressed because of the temperature increase.

To address this problem the federal government has mandated that communities develop programs to control pollution in stormwater. On April 24th, the City of Duluth, the City of Proctor, St. Louis County, Minnesota Department of Transportation and Lake Superior College will jointly host a meeting to provide information and invite feedback on stormwater programs in the region.

The meeting will be held on Tuesday April 24, 2007 at The Minnesota Department of Transportation 1123 Mesaba Ave, Duluth MN at 6:30 PM

The program will include an explanation of the general stormwater program as required through the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES), Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) Phase II Stormwater Permit and the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Programs (SWPPP) required by the permit. In addition the program will highlight some of the regional activities to protect our local creeks and streams from pollution. Each participating organization will give a brief summary of its program.

Attendees will get a brief overview of some of the highlighted regional efforts including ponds, rain gardens, green roofs, sediment traps – where are they and how do they work?

Most importantly, this is also an opportunity for community members to provide feedback on their concerns about runoff, water quality, pollution and how these issues are being addressed locally. Community members are encouraged to attend. Feedback may also be provided to individual organizations by mail or phone.

For more information about specific SWPPPs or to provide written comments:

The City of Duluth SWPPP is available on the web at www.duluthstreams.org/stormwtr/stormwater_pdf or from the City Utility Operations at 520 Garfield Ave., Duluth MN Phone 218-730-4130. Comments or questions may be directed to this location.

St Louis County SWPPP is available by contacting St. Louis County Public Works at 4787 Midway Road ,Duluth, MN 55811 Phone:218/625-3830.

MNDOT is interested in any comments, questions or concerns with regard to their storm water conveyance system. Residents are invited to bring their questions to the meeting or contact MNDOT District 1 hydraulics engineer at 218-725-2759 or Nick Tiedeken, Mn/DOT, M.S. 620, 395 John Ireland Blvd., St. Paul, MN 55155-1899, 651-366-3628.

The City of Proctor SWPPP is available at Proctor City Hall 100 Pionk Drive, Proctor, MN 55810. Comments or questions on the City of Proctor SWPPP can be made to John M Foschi – City Administrator at 218-624-3641

Information on Lake Superior Colleges SWPPP is available at Lake Superior College, 2101 Trinity Road, Duluth, MN 55811. the LSC SWPPP is also available at www.lsc.edu/facilities/stormwaterpermit/ Comments or questions on the Lake Superior College SWPPP can be made to Mark Winson – VP Finance and Administration 218-733-7637.