



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Date: March 9, 2015

Contact: Mitch Brinks
Phone: (218) 824-1128

CROW WING COUNTY RECEIVES CLEAN WATER GRANTS

The Crow Wing County Land Services Department has been awarded two grants totaling \$113,000 from Clean Water Fund dedicated funding, part of the constitutional Legacy Amendment. Grant funds will allow the county to continue assessing and producing reports on the water quality of county lakes, and cover costs associated with updating the county's *Landowner's Guide to Lake Stewardship* resource booklet.

"We are very excited to receive this funding and continue the work of collecting and analyzing data on the quality of our area lakes," stated Mark Liedl, County Land Services Director. "Data trends gathered from these lake assessment reports allow the county to objectively measure what works to protect our water quality."

Grant dollars will fund the review and reporting of data on 27 new lakes in Crow Wing County. These new reports are in addition to the 46 lakes already assessed. Completed water quality reports on county lakes can be viewed at www.crowwing.us by searching "lake assessments." The new reports will be available later this year.

Additionally grant dollars will allow the Land Services Department to update the *Landowners Guide to Lake Stewardship* resource booklet, originally published in 2008. This guide assists landowners in understanding the basics to being good stewards of their property, which is essential to keeping the county's lakes, rivers, and groundwater resources healthy.

Since 2008, over 15,000 copies of the booklet have been distributed. The 2015 update will incorporate elements of the County's award-winning Local Comprehensive Water Management Plan, and will feature a new user-friendly format. Updated resource booklets will be available this spring. The booklets will be free and available at the Land Services Building, and will be distributed during many events this summer including the County Fair.

Many Environmental Services functions are funded by state grants. Information on these grants is updated annually at www.crowwing.us by searching "grants." Additionally, all water protection activities conducted by Environmental Services are compiled annually into a Water Protection Report available on the website by searching "Water Protection Report."

The Land Services Department is committed to providing excellent customer service while helping landowners make wise choices that protect Crow Wing County's extraordinary natural resources. Citizens are encouraged to contact the Environmental Services Office at (218) 824-1125 or environmental.services@crowwing.us to discuss land use activities. Crow Wing County information and resources can be found at www.crowwing.us.

#END#

Mark Liedl
Land Services Department
322 Laurel Street, Suite 14
Brainerd, MN 56401

Office: (218) 824-1125
Fax: (218) 824-1104
www.crowwing.us

Our Vision: Being Minnesota's favorite place.

Our Mission: Serve well. Deliver value. Drive results.

Our Values: Be responsible. Treat people right. Build a better future.