

Lac qui Parle WRAPS in 2015

The Lac qui Parle River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategies (WRAPS) began in March 2015 with a Surface Water Assessment Grant (SWAG). This grant provided equipment and funds to conduct intensive water sampling throughout the watershed. Mary Homan, program coordinator monitored 16 sites for nitrogen, phosphorus, total suspended solids, sulfates, chloride and E. coli bacteria with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency reviewing all the data. A quick review indicates that we still are over the water quality standards for total suspended solids and bacteria at several sites.

MPCA had crews in the area that did electro fishing in the Lac qui Parle River and several tributaries. They shocked the fish, scooped them up, identified and counted them and released them back into the water without any harm to the fish. They found several species at all locations. Other MPCA crews were collecting macroinvertebrates (bugs). By collecting the fish and bugs MPCA is able to determine the overall health of the river. More information on this will be available in 2017.

The Department of Natural Resources also conducted geomorphology and hydrology surveys in the watershed. They survey to investigate stream stability parameters such as: bank erosion contributions, channel incision, capacity to transport sediment and channel dimensions, pattern and profile. This information is shared with MPCA to help with the assessment portion of the WRAPS Report.

Locally, meetings have been held with partners such as Lac qui Parle, Lincoln and Yellow Medicine SWCD's, water planners, and environmental officers. State partners include DNR, MPCA and Minnesota Board of Soil and Water Resources. All partners are working together to gather the information needed to develop strategies for restoring and protecting the Lac qui Parle River and tributaries.

In 2016 there will be additional monitoring along with a stressor ID that identifies factors that harm fish and other stream life. Meetings will continue with local partners to determine needs and collect data. If you would like more information contact Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com.



We are always looking for citizen monitors to record data at their favorite river or creek. All equipment is free of charge!



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