

Rice County Environmental Services Department

Water of Concern

Roberds Lake Watershed
(Roberds, French, Hunt, Kelly and Dudley Lakes)

Impairment

Nutrient/Eutrophication Biological Indicators, Mercury

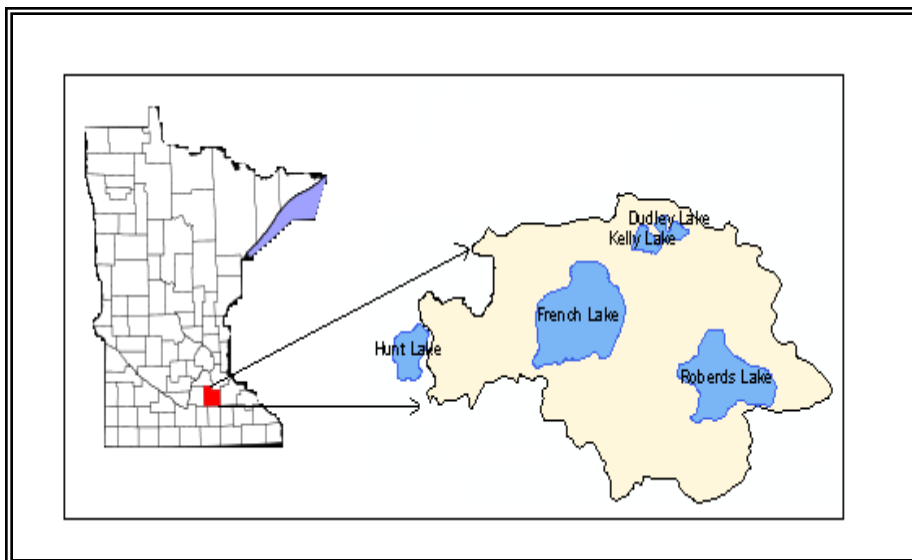
CWL Funding by Category

Technical Assistance Funds	
BWSR Technical Assistance Grant	\$
Implementation Funds	
MDA AgBMP Loans for SSTS	\$
BWSR SSTS Inventory Grant	\$123,800
BWSR SSTS Low Income Fix Up Grant	\$
Leveraged Dollars	\$30,950 (match)
Total CWL Funding	\$154,750

PROJECT CONTACT

Julie Runkel, Environmental Services Director
507-333-6113
jrunkel@co.rice.mn.us

Project Title: Roberds Lake Watershed SSTS Inventory and Imminent Health Threat Upgrade Project



Overall Project Description (abstract)

In 2008, Rice County received funding to complete an inventory of septic systems located within the Roberds Lake Watershed. The Roberds Lake Watershed encompasses Roberds, French, Kelly, Dudley, and eastern Hunt lake. As part of the project, the inventory involved gathering information on septic systems within the watershed, and inspecting systems to determine if individual systems pose an Imminent Public Health Threat. Systems were considered exempt from the inspection if there was a valid Compliance Inspection or the system was less than 5 years old. Inspections occurred during the Spring-Summer of 2008, 2009, and 2010.

With the funds received, Rice County was able to inspect systems within the Roberds Lake Watershed, Wells Township, and portions of Forest Township (this encompasses over 1,000 site inspections and approximately 175 IPHTs). Additionally, updated septic data information was placed in the Rice County Access Database.

Educational components were also included within this project, such as the creation of two educational brochures, entitled: "Why Treat Sewage", and "Septic System Maintenance and Safety". Both brochures were given to homeowners after site inspection, and multiple presentations were given to Rice County residents throughout the inventory.

Prepared by: Board of Water and Soil Resources

Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) Inventory Data

Target Area	Total #of Parcels in Target Area	Total # of Parcels Inventoried	Total Failing SSTS Identified	Total ITPHS SSTS Identified	Total SSTS Fixed as a result of the inventory	Total Cost of Inventory
<i>Ex. Stormy Lake Watershed</i>	750	500	50	20	5	\$75,000
Roberds Lake Watershed	893	343	34	47	28 (Possible Sewer District)	\$69,163.08 (includes in-kind)
Remaining Wells Township	528	225	23	75	29	\$61,862.83 (includes in-kind)
Forest Township	905	222	22	54	12	\$23,724.09 (includes in-kind)

SSTS Low Income Imminent Health Threat Fix-Up Data

Location	Number of Landowners Contacted	Number of Systems Fixed	Total Grant Funds Expended	Funds Leveraged by Landowners
<i>Ex. Stormy County</i>	20	10	\$50,000	\$10,000
Roberds Lake Watershed	47	28 (Also possible sewer connection)	Same as above	NA
Remaining Wells Township	75	29	Same as above	NA
Forest Township	54	12	Same as above	NA

Contributing Partners (non-landowners)

Partner	Description	Project Contribution	Leveraged Funds
<i>EX. USDA Rural Development</i>	<i>Additional Federal grant funds were leveraged.</i>	<i>Cash</i>	<i>\$20,000</i>
Rice County COLAs	Provided informational sessions on Septic Inventory and Maintenance and Safety of Systems	In-Kind	NA

Project Informational/Educational Activities

Type of Activity	Newsletters, Brochures, Posters, Etc.	Tour or Demos	Presentations Given	Presentations by guest speakers	Other
<i>EX. SSTS Outreach</i>	6	1	3	1	
SSTS Outreach	2 Brochures, 3+ Posters, 1 newsletter, Rice County website, Faribault Daily News, etc.	0	3+	1	

Project Outcomes: Detail specific project outcomes that work towards meeting total maximum daily load study or local water plan and County SSTS program water quality.

Outcomes Narrative (200 words or less)

The Rice County Local Water Management Plan, Goal: Waste Disposal/Management, Objective 1, Action Item 1 is to “Conduct Septic System Inventory to identify Imminent Public Health Threat systems throughout the county”. This inventory has assisted in completing inventories within approximately 2/1/2 townships in Rice County.

Objective 2, Action Item 1 is to “Work with homeowners to upgrade at least 20 Imminent Public Health Threats per year”. Because of this inventory, Rice County has assisted homeowners in fixing 69 IPHT septic systems. Additionally, many other septic systems that are deemed IPHTs are currently awaiting construction, have a septic design in, or are working with the county on the potential Subordinate Sewer District.

Objective 3, Action Item 1 states: “Educate homeowners on septic system maintenance, operation, and affects on water quality”. Through press releases, one-on-one homeowner interaction, and multiple presentations, Rice County staff was able to meet this goal, and will continue to work on homeowner education throughout the future.

Estimated number of SSTS to be upgraded in the county	Plan or Program Targets for SSTS to be Upgraded Each Year	Total Number of SSTS Fixes with this Project	% of Local Goals Met with this Project	Gallons of sewage reduced
<i>Ex. 1000</i>	<i>100</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1.5%</i>	<i>30,000 gallons</i>
100 (annual estimate)	20 (Objective 2, Action Item 1– assist 20 homeowners)	69 (number to projected to increase by next year)	Exceeds Local Goal in Water Plan	6,000+ gallons

Project Photos



Photos taken from IPHT Sites



Additional Photos taken from IPHT Sites