



Media Advisory

For immediate release:

November 11, 2011

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Media Invited to 1st Stakeholder Workshop for the Development of Milwaukee River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL)

When: Monday, November 14, 2011

9:30 - noon

Where: Wauwatosa Public Library, Firefly Room

7635 W. North Ave, Wauwatosa, WI 53213

What: Media is invited to the first stakeholder workshop for the development of total maximum daily load (TMDL) studies for the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee, and Milwaukee Rivers and the Milwaukee Estuary. The stakeholder workshop is the kickoff session of nine planned as the Milwaukee- area TMDLs are prepared.

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to complete third party TMDL analyses on four water bodies in the Milwaukee River Basin. TMDLs will determine the maximum amounts of specific pollutants that can be received by each of the rivers and estuary in the study and still meet water quality standards. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that TMDLs be prepared for impaired waters.

The agenda for the TMDL stakeholder workshop is as follows:

- Welcome – Jeff Martinka, Sweet Water
- Introduction and Background – Steve Heinz, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District
- TMDL Overview and Development Process – Dan Bounds and Kim Siemens, CDM (consultants for the studies)
- TMDL Development in Wisconsin – Kevin Kirsch, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources
- Questions and Discussion

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Sweet Water, the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc., is a nonprofit organization created in 2008 as a partnership of local governments, nonprofit organizations, businesses, academia, and individuals working collectively to improve the water resources in the 1,100 square miles of the Greater Milwaukee Watersheds.

For more information on Sweet Water, visit www.swwtwater.org or contact Jeff Martinka, Executive Director, at 414-382-1766 or by email at martinka@swwtwater.org.

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Background: Milwaukee River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project

The Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District (MMSD) received Great Lakes Restoration Initiative grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency to complete third party Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) analyses on four water bodies in the Milwaukee River basin. TMDLs are the maximum amounts of specific pollutants that can be received by a river or water body and still meet water quality standards. The Federal Clean Water Act requires that TMDLs be prepared for impaired waters.

The MMSD projects will focus on the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee and Milwaukee Rivers and the Milwaukee River estuary. The pollutants to be examined in this work are fecal coliform bacteria, phosphorus, and sediments (total suspended solids/TSS). The Milwaukee River TMDL will focus on the reaches of that river that are included in the State's 303(d) Impaired Waters List. As part of the effort, the projects will also address the EPA's Milwaukee Estuary Area of Concern.

In May, MMSD selected the engineering firm CDM as its lead consultant for all four TMDLs. CDM has extensive national experience in TMDL work, including efforts on behalf of the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for the recently completed Rock River TMDL. CDM began initial work on the Milwaukee area TMDLs in June.

MMSD has also contracted with the Southeastern Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission as technical consultants on the four efforts. Planning Commission staff will insure that the TMDLs are consistent with the Water Quality Initiative (the 2007 SEWRPC regional water quality management plan update for the greater Milwaukee watersheds and the MMSD 2020 Facilities Plan) and with the existing MMSD/Sweet Water Watershed Restoration Plans for the Kinnickinnic and Menomonee Rivers. Sweet Water – the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc. is providing MMSD with stakeholder involvement and public outreach support.

The four TMDL studies will be completed concurrently and are expected to be finished by December 2012, with the TMDL implementation plans to be finalized by September 2013. Once completed by CDM, the TMDLs will be submitted by MMSD to the WDNR and then provided to the EPA for its review and approval.

The stakeholder process in developing the TMDLs is expected to include nine stakeholder workshops, beginning on November 14, 2011. In addition, four public information meetings, beginning with January 2012, will be offered over the course of the TMDL project.

Questions about the upcoming TMDL stakeholder and public information meetings should be directed to Jeff Martinka at Sweet Water – the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc., at 414-382-1766 or via martinka@swwtwater.org. Specific TMDL project questions should be directed to Steve Heinz at MMSD at 414-225-2086 or via sheinz@mmsd.com.

Additional TMDL project information and ongoing updates will be found on the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District website at www.mmsd.com (please click on the Water Quality Research link on the MMSD home page for TMDL info).

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