



October 26, 2011

**RE:** Upcoming meeting concerning Milwaukee River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDLs) studies

As a stakeholder in the Milwaukee River Basin, you are invited to participate in the process for preparing four regional TMDL studies. With grant support provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), TMDLs are being prepared for the Kinnickinnic, Menomonee and Milwaukee River watersheds and the Milwaukee Estuary. TMDLs are the maximum amounts of specific pollutants that can be received by a river or water body without exceeding water quality standards. It is anticipated that the development of the TMDLs will take approximately two years with implementation of the TMDL shaping water quality policy for the next decade or longer.

Please join us for a kickoff stakeholder meeting on **November 14, 2011 from 9:30am to noon in the Firefly Room at the Wauwatosa Public Library** at 7635 W. North Avenue, Wauwatosa, WI 53213. Invitees include all municipal separate storm sewer system (MS4s), water quality permit holders in the watersheds and tributary to the estuary and other interested parties. The stakeholder process in developing the TMDLs will include nine stakeholder workshops, like this one, and four public information meetings over the course of two years.

The TMDLs will be conducted by the consulting firm CDM under contract with the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) for review and then submitted to EPA for final approval.

The TMDLs will include reduction goals for total suspended solids (TSS), phosphorus and fecal coliform bacteria needed to meet water quality standards and may be incorporated in future WPDES permits. TMDL implementation measures may include recommendations made as part of the Water Quality Initiative (see attached background sheet) such as green infrastructure and pollutant trading.

Please RSVP to [mketmdl@yahoo.com](mailto:mketmdl@yahoo.com) or call Jeff Martinka, Sweet Water – the Southeastern Wisconsin Watersheds Trust, Inc, at 414-382-1766. If you are unable to attend the meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> but would still like to receive updates on the project, please send your email address to [mketmdl@yahoo.com](mailto:mketmdl@yahoo.com) and you will receive both meeting materials and future notices.

If you have questions about the TMDL meeting logistics, please call Jeff Martinka at Sweet Water at 414-382-1766. Questions about the TMDL project itself should be directed to Steve Heinz at MMSD at 414-225-2086. Additional project information will be found on the MMSD website at [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com).

Thank you for your past support of efforts to improve regional water quality. We look forward to your participation in this new important initiative.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Russell Rasmussen".

Russ Rasmussen, Deputy Administrator/Water  
Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources

A handwritten signature in cursive that reads "Kevin L. Shafer".

Kevin Shafer, Executive Director  
Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District

Background Briefing  
**Milwaukee River Basin Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Project Plans**  
October 2011

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](mailto:martinka@swwtwater.org). Specific TMDL project questions should be directed to Steve Heinz at MMSD at 414-225-2086 or via [sheinz@mmsd.com](mailto:sheinz@mmsd.com).

Additional TMDL project information and ongoing updates can be found on the Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District website at [www.mmsd.com](http://www.mmsd.com) (please look for a TMDL link on the MMSD home page).