

Blue Earth County SSTS Program Enhancement

E-permitting Improves County Program Subsurface Sewage Treatment Systems (SSTS)

The County's new electronic permitting system improves overall management of the subsurface sewage treatment system (SSTS) program and is a valuable tool for increasing compliance.

Since 1998, Blue Earth County has required compliance inspections at

property transfer and replacement of systems that are classified as failing, non-imminent public health threats in five years.

In 2010 the County expanded compliance triggers. Compliance with construction and zoning permits is now required,

and failing systems must be replaced in two years. These County requirements have successfully reduced the number of failing septic systems. The percentage of replacement systems is generally increasing.

Tracking compliance has been a challenge. The e-permitting system manages and track permits, inspections, certificates of compliance, and notices of non-compliance.

The e-permitting system also integrates GIS to improve reporting and analysis capabilities and ensures a connection between land use permitting activities and SSTS.

| 2008-2011 Summary Subsurface Sewage Treatment System Reports to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency | | | | |
|---|-------------------------|-----------------|-------|-------|
| Year | Replacement Residential | New Residential | Other | Total |
| 2008 | 94 | 45 | 4 | 143 |
| 2009 | 71 | 35 | 6 | 112 |
| 2010 | 83 | 28 | 5 | 116 |
| 2011 | 97 | 18 | 14 | 129 |

Final Grant Report Summary—December 30, 2011

A \$26,000 BWSR Clean Water Fund Grant was used to fund a portion of the e-permitting system related to SSTS program and data management. Grant funds and staff time were used mainly for consultant fees to establish the e-permitting system.

The total cost of the electronic permitting system was \$158,158.89. This

included software licensing, configuration, server and other upgrades, and training costs.

Once the system was established, it was used to complete the following:

> 89 enforcement letters generated by the e-permitting system were sent to property owners with non-compliant SSTS.

> 23 operating permits were entered in the system.

> The MPCA 2011 annual SSTS report and tank reports.

The system is a valuable tool for managing SSTS compliance and the County SSTS program.

For more information about the e-permitting system, contact Scott Salsbury, 507- 304-4381.

Blue Earth County SSTS Program

1998- Compliance Inspections required at property transfer.

2010 - Compliance also required with all construction permits.

1972- Since 1972 Blue Earth has issued and maintained more than 5,000 permit records for septic systems and holding tanks.



Clean Water
Fund Grant
2010-2011



Grant Amount **\$26,000.00**

Final Grant Report Summary

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| Grant Funds Used | \$26,000.00 |
| Local Cash Match | \$28,200.00 |
| Local In-kind Match | \$32,925.84 |

Total Project Costs

E-permitting System **\$158,158.89**