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24. Ditch Design and Maintenance

Recommended Actions:

State, county, township, and municipal highway departments should minimize roadside ditch erosion by using BMPs for ditch design and maintenance.

Implementors:

South St. Louis County SWCD; Carlton County SWCD, ABDI-LCD; county, township, and municipal highway departments.

Actions Taken:

4/10/98: Letter sent to ABDI, Douglas County.

10/00: Letter sent to ABDI.

11/00 MN Erosion Control: EPA NPDS Phase II Program will be implemented in two sessions. Any city over 10,000 people OR any city that has a stormwater discharge to a sensitive water body will have to comply. First session will be city, county engineers, and zoning. A model will be developed for a stormwater ordinance for the community based on the "best of the best" models already in use in other areas. Second session will be field engineers, inspectors to review plans and implementation. Goal is to get everyone involved working together. They are working with BWSR. They invited the CAC to participate. Head of Environmental Services at MDOT: the Hydraulics Manual has been updated but not distributed. Roads that get state aid are required to follow standards and money is available. The problem is low volume roads that do not qualify for state funding. Townships and counties have inadequate funds to apply high standards even though these roads may have ditches that flow into sensitive waterways. A research project is underway that will result in a product. BMP Erosion Control for Low Volume Roads started as a Minnesota state project and has become a national project with emphasis on Minnesota. The project will take a survey of practices currently being followed, then develop a guide for proper construction and maintenance. Completion in 2 years.

Project Status:

Project not completed, but there are one or more agencies currently working on it.