



To:  
From:  
Date:  
Subject: Water Quality

Water quality, that is clean surface water in our streams and lakes and ground water in our aquifers, becomes a bigger issue in Minnesota with each passing year.

With each passing year, challenges to water quality increase as more acres are paved for roads, streets, and parking lots, and more acres are covered with roofs. Each year, more and more acres of farmland are tilled, existing tiles sizes are increased and spacing between tile lines decreased to accelerate the speed with which rain water is moved from fields to rivers and streams. More impervious surfaces and more drainage means more water is rushing into rivers and streams. The increased water flow and increased water velocity erodes stream banks and increases sediment transfer from upstream to downstream.

In some areas, underground aquifer levels are falling and these same aquifers are becoming contaminated with chemicals.

There is also good news about water quality in Minnesota. Perhaps the best news is that many individuals, units of government, and Non-Government Organizations are rallying to improve water quality.

One example of positive efforts to improve water quality is the work by a group called Friends of Pool 2. Pool 2 is that body of water upstream from Lock and Dam number 2 near Hastings on the Mississippi river and includes the most downstream portion of the Minnesota River.

On May 4th, 2018 Friends of Pool 2 will be hosting its first "Reach the River Summit" meeting at a marina venue in downtown St. Paul. The Reach the River Summit will feature three speakers; Rylee Main: Lake Pepin Legacy Alliance, Linda Loomis: Lower MN River Watershed District, and Ted Suss: Friends of the Minnesota Valley. Each of these speakers will discuss work their organization is doing now to improve surface water quality, future plans, and the need for more efforts.

One of the key challenges to improving water quality is to increase public awareness of water quality problems as well as solutions. Another challenge is to motive individuals, public officials, and NGO leaders to take the steps needed to improve and protect water quality in Minnesota.

You can help Friends of Pool 2 and these partner organizations by attending the "Reach the River Summit" on May 4th.

Sincerely,