

# Water Quality Committee Report

## Annual Report

July, 2020

**Lake Side Projects:** Due to the Covid-19 situation facing all of us, two projects involving run-off into our lake are in a state of limbo:

- 1) The situation near the intersection of county roads 20 & 25 is awaiting a meeting between Stearns Soil and Water, KLA representatives and landowners to review the situation and discuss options for landowners. A signed agreement is needed from landowners before bids can be accepted for work to begin.
- 2) The delta being formed on the west side of the lake is an ongoing issue. Permission from landowners needs to be obtained in order to proceed with the creation of a number of holding ponds to hold back and delay water entering the lake. Currently, during heavy rainfall, erosion occurs as water rushes into the lake from a primary ditch south of the lake. This ditch is approximately one mile in length. Holding ponds would hold back water and allow nutrients to settle in the ponds and decrease the amount of soil and nutrients being added to the existing delta. Landowners are reluctant to meet in-person due to the virus so we are waiting to make additional contact with them. When meetings are arranged, both of these projects can proceed.

**Rock Inlets:** Agreement has been reached with a number of landowners to install rock inlets on their fields to filter out nutrients before water enters ditches that drain into the North Fork of the Crow River. As of July 1<sup>st</sup>, plans are in place to install a total of 50 inlets and additional landowners are considering this option for later this year. The cost for each inlet ranges from \$750-1,000, depending on the size needed to accommodate the run-off from various field tiles. Grants are available to landowners which will pay for 75% of the cost for inlets, with the landowner paying for the remaining 25%. The KLA board has appropriated \$12,500 to cover one-half of the 25% of the cost for each landowner (12.5% of the total cost for each inlet). Since 93% of the phosphorus and nitrates entering Lake Koronis come from the river, these inlets will improve the quality of water entering our lake.

**E. Coli Bacteria Issue:** The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is in the process of designating a portion for the Crow River between Brooten and Rice Lake as impaired due to e. coli levels which exceed state standards. The official designation of "impaired" will be made after a formal report on the problem is published. KLA is working with the MPCA to determine steps to be taken to correct this problem before high levels reach Rice and Koronis. The MPCA is completing assessments of feedlots and septic systems up the river to determine compliance with state laws and regulations. The North Fork of the Crow River Watershed District

(NFCRWD) continues to conduct water quality tests along the river and is also monitoring this problem. It appears that laws need to be strengthened (and enforced!!) to prevent problems like these from occurring in the future. Stay tuned for additional information when it becomes available.