



400 Court Ave P.O. Box 1051

Gaylord, MN 55334

Spring 2017

Vol. 14 Issue 2

RIVER WATCHER NEWSLETTER

High Island Creek & Rush River
Watershed 319 TMDL Project

It's Not too Early to Be Thinking About Fall

The High Island Creek and Rush River Watersheds offer an incentive to landowners who implement a cover crop on their property and allow this vegetation to remain over the duration of winter. If you have a tract of land that could have a cover crop seeded by the 15th of September, this incentive may be an option for you, this is especially popular for landowners who have a can crop and have their crop harvested in late summer. The incentive offers landowners \$30 per acre to implement the cover crop of their choice. There is no limit in terms of acreage, the requirements are to simply seed a cover crop prior to September 15th and to be located within the boundaries of the High Island Creek or Rush River Watersheds.

If you are interested in this or would like to enroll in the program, simply stop at the Sibley SWCD office or call:

Coleton Draeger—Watershed Coordinator:
507-237-5435 ext. 113

Ron Otto—Watershed Technician: 507-234-
5435 ext. 105



2016 Cover Crop - High Island Creek and Rush River TMDL Project

ATTENTION: LOCATION CHANGE

Please note:

Watershed Coordinator—Coleton Draeger, is now located in the Sibley SWCD office, he can be found at this new location to field any questions you may have about current project offerings or updates. Coleton Can be contacted 3 different ways:

Telephone: 507-234-5435 ext. 113

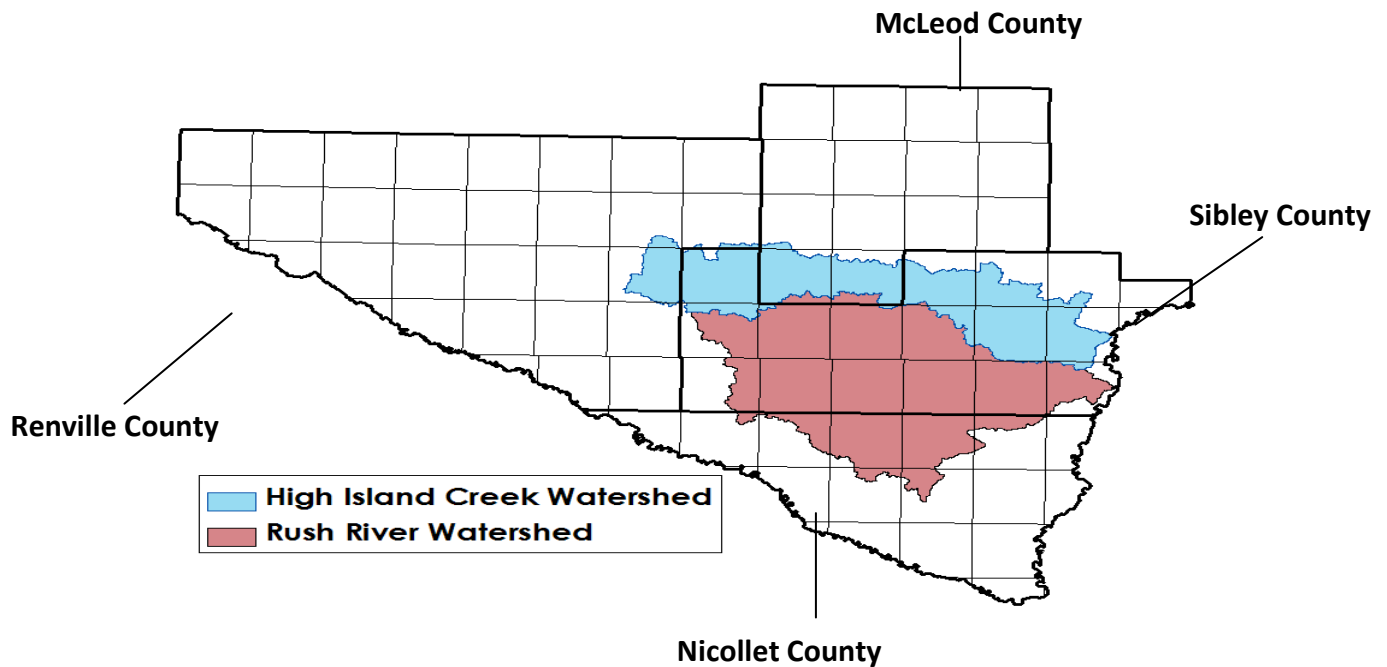
E-mail: coleton.draeger@sibleyswcd.org

Office address:

111 6th street P.O. Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334



Watershed Boundaries



Incentives Offered by the High Island Creek and Rush River TMDL Project for Dissolved Oxygen

- **Buffer Strip Incentive Payment**

This option pays the landowner a one time payment of \$400 per acre of CRP buffer strip implemented, the CRP must be in a 15 year contract. This payment is in addition to the CRP payments received. After “Buffer Law” deadlines are in place, incentive payments will only be made to those who implement a buffer beyond the minimum requirements.

- **Cover Crop Incentive Payment**

This option pays landowners who have canning crops (peas, sweet corn, etc.) or sugar beats \$30 per acre to implement cover crops (The cover crops must be seeded by September 15th).

- **Open Intake Alternative Cost-Share**

This option offers 75% cost-share up to \$600 per intake to landowners who implement open intake alternatives. Alternatives include: Rock Inlets, Open Intake Removals, Slotted Risers, or an additional practice determined acceptable by project staff.



Low Interest Loans available for upgrading of Noncompliant Septic Systems

Owners of a Subsurface Sewage Treatment System (SSTS) are eligible for low-interest loans to upgrade their non-conforming septic system. Furthermore, those in the High Island Creek Watershed are eligible for an additional \$500 incentive from the High Island Creek Watershed District. Check with your county contact for further details.

To Be Eligible:

- Applicant must be a property owner of a non-conforming septic system:
 - Discharge to the surface
 - Tiled to drainage or road ditch
 - Discharge to cesspool, seep-age pits or dry wells
 - Less than a 2-foot separation to seasonally saturated soil
 - Lack of a system
 - Does not meet setbacks to existing well

Not Eligible:

- Refinancing a previously installed system
- Septic for new homes
- Non-residential property
- Project started before design and loan approval
- Under court order to repair system

Contact Information:

Sibley County: Ron Otto
Sibley SWCD office
111 6th Street, P.O. Box 161
Gaylord, MN 55334
507-237-5435 ext. 105

Nicollet County: Mandy Landkamer
Environmental Services Office
501 South Minnesota Avenue
St. Peter, MN 56082
507-934-0250

McLeod County: Emily Gable
Environmental Services Office
830 11th Street East, Suite 110
Glencoe, MN 55336
320-864-1482

Renville County: Diane Mitchell
Renville County Government
Services Center
105 S. 5th Street, Suite 318
Olivia, MN 56277
320-523-3760

Lower Minnesota River Watershed Restoration and Protection Strategy (WRAPS) Update

As we approach the summer months, the Lower Minnesota River WRAPS group has decided to host its first of several community engagement events. The first event will take place at the NEY Nature Center near Henderson, MN. This event will feature DNR staff who will provide information regarding hydrology, geomorphology, and flooding of the Lower Minnesota River watershed. Please keep an eye on your mailbox for a post card that will give directions to the venue, start time, and official date; **Coffee, Water, and Rolls will be provided at this event.** We hope to answer any questions you may have about the river, its tributaries, and its changing characteristics at this event. Additionally, we are still seeking individuals who would like to feature their property or share a story related to the changing of the watershed. Please feel free to contact myself at any time for updates on this project.

Coleton Draeger—Watershed Coordinator
507-237-5435 ext.113



High Island Creek & Rush River

Watershed Implementation Projects

P.O. Box 1051

Gaylord, MN 55334

**NONPROFIT
STANDARD
US POSTAGE
PAID
GAYLORD, MN
55334
PERMIT NO 61**

Project Sponsor

Sibley County

Sponsors:

Renville, McLeod & Nicollet
Counties,
Sibley, Renville, McLeod &
Nicollet SWCDs,
Sibley County Water Re-
source Advisory Com-
mittee,
Renville Co. Water Protec-
tion & Management,
Environmental Services of
Sibley, Renville, McLeod &
Nicollet Counties,
University of Minnesota
Extension Service,
High Island Creek Water-
shed District,
Natural Resource Conser-
vation Service

Attention High Island Creek Watershed Residents:

Landowners and renters within the High Island Creek Watershed District must obtain watershed district permits or file notification forms before tiling, ditching, dredging, filling or otherwise altering the natural drainage of an area. Wetlands and stream courses may be protected under the USDA Farm Program, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, Army Corp of Engineers or Minnesota Wetland Conservation Act programs.

Protect your legal status and farm program benefits. Before beginning drainage work, contact Al Kerber—Watershed Ditch Inspector @ 320-510-1783. Failure to obtain a permit may result in a fine of \$500 or more.

Sponsors:

Cities of Arlington, New
Auburn, Gaylord, Win-
throp, Gibbon & Lafayette,
United States Geological
Survey,
United States Fish & Wild-
life Service,
Minnesota Board of Water
& Soil Resources,
Minnesota Department of
Natural Resources,
Coalition for a Clean Min-
nesota River,
Pheasants Forever: Sibley
and McLeod Co. Chapters,
Conservation Partners of
America,
Green Isle Sportsman's
Club,
Gaylord Protective League

This newsletter is sponsored by the High Island Creek & Rush River Watershed 319 TMDL Project. This publication is issued quarterly and is funded through the 319 grant program from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and various local and state organizations.

Both Projects are equal opportunity organizations and employers. Questions and comments can be directed to: Coleton Draeger

Watershed Coordinator / Phone: (507) 237-5435 ext.113