

**Small Community Wastewater Options Workshop Series:**  
*Providing Communities with the Tools to Research and Adopt a Viable  
Solution for Wastewater Treatment*

CLOQUET, Minn. (9/14/2009) — The University of Minnesota Extension, in conjunction with Conservation Technology Information Center and the Environmental Protection Agency are hosting a series of workshops designed to assist small unsewered communities in exploring wastewater treatment options. A one-day introductory workshop will be held in **Walker, MN on October 15<sup>th</sup>**. Following the introductory session, community representatives will have the option of continuing with five additional 3-hour sessions over a five month period.

There is a \$15.00 registration fee for the introductory session, the continuing five session workshop series is free. Mileage compensation will be offered to all attendees driving to the sessions. Community leaders, township officials and tribal, lake association and small community members should plan to attend.

A 2008 Minnesota Pollution Control Agency survey identified over 1,000 small Minnesota communities, both incorporated and unincorporated, facing wastewater treatment issues. To assist those communities the University of Minnesota Extension developed the Small Community Wastewater Education Program. This program advocates an open community planning process which examines treatment options ranging from onsite treatment to soil-based clusters to centralized municipal-style treatment. The program also advocates that the community take a lead in the decision-making process, recognizing that a successful outcome is often more dependent on the process the community follows rather than the solutions available.

This workshop series begins with a stand alone introductory session during which attendees will learn more about wastewater treatment requirements, treatment options, developing a successful community process, the site evaluation process, and grants and low interest loans for planning, design and construction. Following the introductory session five additional workshops will be held over a five month period allowing communities to explore in-depth issues associated with implementing an effective wastewater treatment program.

For more information and registration materials go to [www.conservationinformation.org](http://www.conservationinformation.org) or call the Conservation Technology Information Center at 765-494-9555. For information on the Walker area introductory session call Laurie Brown with the University of Minnesota Extension at 218-726-6475.

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