

# MRWA Wellheadlines



Dave Neiman, MRWA Source Water Protection Specialist

## City of Roscoe Well Sealing Demonstration Project

The City of Roscoe, population 101, is located in south-central Stearns County. The city's water supply consists of a single, relatively shallow well which is located in an outwash sand and gravel channel that runs through the city. The highly vulnerable, unconfined, aquifer that supplies the city's drinking water is recharged by infiltration from precipitation and runoff from topographically higher areas south of the city center. Staff from the city developed a Wellhead Protection Plan recently with the assistance of planners from MRWA, MDH, and Stearns County SWCD. The city is currently in the implementation phase and working with citizens to protect the drinking water supply.

Roscoe's water system was constructed in the late 1970's and replaced private wells which served each residence and business. At the time the WHP Plan was being developed, staff identified several unused, unsealed wells which remained on private property. Unused, unsealed wells may act as a conduit and allow surface water runoff, contaminated water, or

*"The city is currently in the implementation phase."*

improperly disposed waste to reach the city's drinking water supply. One of the primary management measures in the city's WHP Plan directs staff to work with land owners in order to identify and seal these unused wells. A well survey was sent to all city residents asking about the status of private wells and soliciting volunteers who were interested in having their unused wells properly sealed. The city received a MDH SWP Implementation Grant which covered the cost of sealing wells. Several wells were identified and sealed as part of this effort; however, staff felt that there were still quite a few remaining wells which could be identified and sealed.

The city also received implementation grant money to put on a well sealing demonstration for city residents. The city contracted with Jennings Well Drilling, Inc., of Richmond, to seal an unused well located at the city park (below). Invitations were sent to residents offering an opportunity to see how a well is properly sealed and to learn more about protecting the city's drinking water supply. On Saturday, May 2nd, sev-



eral city residents and staff (right) turned out to enjoy coffee, donuts, and to witness the well sealing demonstration.



Following a short presentation by MRWA and Jennings, the well company staff went through the steps to properly seal the well.

The well casing was cut off just above floor level (top photo, right), measured for depth, and a plastic hose was inserted into the empty casing (middle photo, right). Portland cement and water slurry was prepared and pumped down into the well, sealing it from the bottom of the casing to the top (bottom photo, right).



Several questions were answered from the visitors, after which information on future well sealing efforts was provided to those in attendance. There were several who indicated they wanted to have their well sealed and arrangements are currently underway to include these property owners in another grant application.

If you have questions regarding a special Wellhead Protection project in your community, please contact your SWP Planner, or call me at 800-367-6792.