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## STAKEHOLDERS ADDRESSING WATER QUALITY IN THE MANITOWOC RIVER WATERSHED TO HOST PUBLIC MEETING

*MANITOWOC*-- Clean, abundant, safe water is essential to a good economy and healthy environment. Here in the Great Lakes region of Wisconsin, we are blessed to have Lake Michigan and the Manitowoc River as natural resources.

To explore opportunities for improving water quality in the Manitowoc River watershed, a team of stakeholders -- including farmers, area community organizations and city, county and state agencies -- began meeting in February 2015. They agreed that implementing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessment could offer the best means to bring water quality data together with consensus-based outcomes to restore health to the multi-county river system.

A TMDL identifies the maximum amount of pollution that a waterbody can receive and still meet water quality standards as determined by the US Clean Water Act.

The Manitowoc River watershed is a vast 243,000-acre geographical area covering portions of Brown, Calumet, Manitowoc and Fond du Lac counties, with several additional watersheds being integrated into the TMDL process including the East and West Twin Rivers, Little Manitowoc, and southern Manitowoc county Lake Michigan watersheds including Calvin, Pine, Point, Fischer, and Centerville Creeks.

The public is invited to come join in the conversation and learn about what the TMDL entails at a free workshop, October 16, 6-8 p.m., at the Wisconsin Maritime Museum, 75 Maritime Drive, Manitowoc.

Presenters include Keith Marquardt, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources TMDL Coordinator, Todd Brennan of the Alliance for the Great Lakes, and a stakeholder panel. A question and answer session will follow. Citizens can learn about the TMDL process, lessons learned from other areas, as well as helping guide stakeholder engagement.

The Manitowoc River TMDL technical team represents the Lakeshore Natural Resource Partnership, Wisconsin DNR, Manitowoc County Lakes Association, Lakeshore Water Institute at the University of Wisconsin-Manitowoc, Manitowoc County Forage Council, Manitowoc County Soil and Water Conservation Department, City of Manitowoc, Manitowoc County UW-Extension, and Discovery Farms.

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