

# Summary of the 2012 Monitoring Season

**Conductivity** – In general, averages were very similar to the past 4 years and are near or within the range for a good mixed fishery.

**Dissolved Oxygen** – Averages were lower this year. Similar to years past, there was about 1% that falls below the 5mg/L, the level that starts to effect fish and other aquatic life. JD #5 at 262<sup>nd</sup> Ave was the only site to dip below the 5 mg/L line and that was shortly before it dried up. Normally with low water conditions we expect dissolved oxygen levels to drop.

**Nitrate – Nitrite** – In the previous 3 years, N-N levels exceeded 10 mg/L in about 20 percent of the samples, last year was 45 percent, and this year dipped to 12 percent. We did do a little site shifting this year but it is positive to see the drop. The low rainfall totals probably had a lot to do with the lack of nitrate transport.

**pH** – Averages continue to remain in the normal range for this year as in years past.

**Total Phosphorous** – Overall, averages showed a reduction from the years past. About 23 percent of the samples were above the .200 mg/L standard down from 27 percent last year. Blooming Prairie Tributary continues to run the highest and this year was exceptionally high with the lower flows.

**Ortho Phosphorous** – Overall averages showed a small decrease over the past sampling years.

**Total Suspended Solids** – Overall 2 percent of the samples exceeded 60 mg/L down from 10 percent in 2011. There was basically one significant rainfall event that was sampled in 2012 and that is where the highs for the year came from.

**Turbidity** – Overall about 4 percent of the samples exceeded 25 FNU down from 24 percent in 2011(limited turbidity sampling). The overall average was extremely low (6.44FNU) compared to past efforts (2010: 33.7 FNU, 2011: 70.8 FNU).

**Transparency Tube** – Overall about 5 percent of the samples fell below the 20 cm estimated state standard down from 14 percent in 2011. Most sites ran very clear this year. We also switched to a 100cm transparency tube this year.

