



# Minnesota's 4th District E-Report!

## Congresswoman Betty McCollum

*"Serving Minnesota's Families"*



NOVEMBER 14, 2003

### Hot News!

#### McCollum Commends Environmental Partnership

Rep. Betty McCollum delivered the keynote address for the Third Annual River Summit this week at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Rep. Betty McCollum joined KARE-11 meteorologist Belinda Jensen and members of the Volunteer Stream Monitoring Partnership (VSMP) at the event to recognize the groups' accomplishments.

"This environmental partnership is a great asset to our community. Students have the opportunity to experience and learn firsthand the environment around them, and we all benefit from the generous gift of time from these volunteers," McCollum said.

VSMP supports, strengthens and coordinates volunteer stream monitoring in the seven-county Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. Supported by grants from the Metropolitan Council and the McKnight Foundation, VSMP is a program of the Water Resources Center at the University of Minnesota.

High school classrooms, individuals and groups around the metro area monitor changes and shifts in the water quality and wildlife in area streams.

Prior to the partnership for the VSMP, many volunteers were already monitoring area streams, but lacked a cohesive network that promoted consistent methods, quality data, and a centralized data management system. A priority for VSMP is to ensure that data are used to improve decision-making and lead to community action.

"I commend the donation of your time and talent to such a valuable project. Investment and engagement in our environment is key to the protection of our natural resources," McCollum said.

Rep. McCollum is a member of the House Resources Committee, and served on the Environmental Policy and Environmental Finance committees in the Minnesota House of Representatives.



*On Veterans Day, Rep. Betty McCollum joined students from Carver Elementary School and the North Saint Paul VFW Color Guard to honor our nations service men and women.*

#### The Week Ahead

Rep. Betty McCollum will address the Midway Chamber of Commerce in St. Paul on **Monday, November 17, 2003**. She will discuss issues related to transportation, small business and education.

On **Wednesday, November 19, 2003** McCollum is scheduled to join the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and the Center for American Women and Politics to celebrate Newly Elected Women State Legislators. Representatives Charlotte Samuelson, Prettnier Solon and Katie Sieben of Minnesota will all be attending this forum in Washington.

**The House will be in session Tuesday November 18 - Friday November 21, 2003, with the possibility of votes carrying over to the weekend.**

Contact Congresswoman Betty McCollum . . . [www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html](http://www.house.gov/mccollum/contact.html)

**Washington Office:** 1029 Longworth HOB, Washington, DC 20515 ♦ phone / (202) 225-6631 ♦ fax / (202) 225-1968

**St. Paul Office:** 165 Western Ave. N., #17, St. Paul, MN 55102 ♦ phone / (651) 224-9191 ♦ fax / (651) 224-3056