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‘A’ is For Assessment: The Key to a Winning Grade for Watershed Conservation

November 03, 2005 — By THI RiverWorks, Inc.

LIVINIGSTON, Mont. — By developing technologies tailored specifically for assessment, inventory and monitoring of freshwater resources, THI RiverWorks, Inc. (RiverWorks) is now able to offer low-cost, reliable resource assessments and assessment tools with the fastest turn-around time in the industry.

The nonprofit organizations that RiverWorks serves are seeking more information about a particular watershed, stream, river, or wetland, and often wish to have a baseline assessment performed as part of overall watershed planning efforts. Most want to develop a local assessment and monitoring program and find natural, sustainable approaches to mitigating environmental challenges; boosting biodiversity; expanding recreational fishing opportunities; and ensuring the long-term health of the water resource.

The Watershed Institute, Inc., (TWI) a not-for-profit corporation located in Topeka and Overland Park, Kansas, has used RiverWorks products and services in its work with the Kansas Alliance for Wetlands and Streams (KAWS) and the statewide Watershed Restoration and Protection (WRAP) program.

By choosing RiverWorks Rapid Assessment System™ (RRAS™) — a breakthrough tool for ecological assessment, reconnaissance, inspection and monitoring — TWI has boosted its ability to provide assessment services to area watershed groups. Before joining TWI, president Phil Balch served 10 years as Riparian and Wetland Coordinator with the Kansas State Conservation Commission and is the author of the Kansas Stream Corridor Management Guide. “The RRAS provides us with a reliable assessment process which can be compared over time to determine stream and wetland conditions, trends, and changes,” says Balch.

RiverWorks goal is to provide those interested in conservation, enhancement and restoration with both the products and services needed to make the best possible stewardship decisions. “We’ve been providing water resource assessments, inventory and monitoring as part of successful restoration for many years, and we continually look for ways to decrease costs and increase value for our clients,” says Sprague. “Time is money. That’s why some consultants skip the assessment process altogether, which can lead to disastrous results. We’re generating better, faster, more accurate baseline data and reports at a lower cost. Anyone undertaking restoration work should insist upon a good baseline assessment and monitoring program.”

A thorough assessment of the resource, prior to design and installation, is the best investment to ensure success. RiverWorks free fact sheet titled, Assessment and Monitoring: The Key to Successful Restoration, aims to inform watershed groups and others about what to look for in a reliable, repeatable baseline assessment and monitoring program. For more information or to receive a free copy of the report, contact RiverWorks at info@riverworks.net, visit www.riverworks.net, or call toll-free 888-218-8507.

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