

Hello all,

Sarah Duda, project coordinator of the Crystal Loon Mills Clean Water Partnership was featured in a story titled "Local Project Works to Improve Lake Crystal Water Quality" in the Blue Earth Watershed by the Mankato Channel 6 TV Station. To see the story and read the transcript go to:

<http://www.keyc.tv/article/view/133266/>



The City of Montevideo has approved a facility plan to upgrade their wastewater treatment plant. According to an article in the Montevideo American-News, the plant was constructed in 1961 and partially upgraded in 1994. The plant must undergo significant modernization to meet stringent Minnesota River Phosphorus Permit requirements, as well as a dual power source requirement. These improvements are expected to cost approximately \$13.5 million and are mandated by the state.

The battle over the construction of Big Stone II Coal Plant continues. Unfortunately the Governor of Minnesota seems to have forgotten or decided to ignore this important issue. Governor Pawlenty still hasn't convinced the State of South Dakota to reconvene the MN/SD Boundary Waters Commission to discuss the permitting of 3.2 billion gallons of water from the Minnesota River system. Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is looking for a few good citizens willing to stand up and testify before an Administrative Law Judge at the upcoming Big Stone II hearing on January 10, 2008 in Ortonville. If you are interested please contact Patrick Moore at 1-877-269-2873 or cure-ed@infolink.net

This article from Minnesota City, MN caught my attention. Last week, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service with help from Winona Excavating Company and Living lands and Waters, an East Moline, IL – based nonprofit, cleaned up part of Gavin Brook in the Mississippi Wildlife and Fish Refuge. Debris from the creek included three crushed cars, a freezer, a camper and a truck-sized shipping container, the result of the August floods in southeastern Minnesota. According to Chad Pregracke, of Living Lands and Waters, his organization has collected more than 4 million tons of junk out of rivers but this was the first time they'd dug out a 40-by-10 foot shipping container from a small trout stream.

Joel Wurscher of High Island Creek Clean Water Partnership is looking for photos of drainage ditches across the Minnesota River Watershed for a power-point presentation. Joel can be reached at 507-237-4050 or joelw@co.sibley.mn.us

Jobs:

Brown-Nicollet-Cottonwood Water Quality Board is hiring a Water Quality Specialist/Water Quality Program Director. For more information:

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterqualityspecialist.pdf>

Pheasants Forever Inc. has two positions opened in Minnesota. The first position is for a Regional Representative in Southern Minnesota. This person will work with local chapters to raise and spend funds for wildlife habitat improvement and youth education along with other duties. For more information on the position,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pheasantsforever2.pdf>

The second position for Pheasants Forever is a Habitat Team, Farm Bill Biologist to work out of the West Otter Trail SWCD office in Fergus Falls. Responsibilities will include promoting, coordinating and implementing the conservation provision of the Federal Farm Bill and other

related wildlife conservation programs. For more information,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pheasantsforever.pdf>

Events:

On December 18 a Minnesota BMP CHALLENGE & Water Quality Credit Trading (WQT) Workshop will be held at the Holiday Inn from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (lunch will be provided) in Alexandria, MN. For more information go to the web site www.bmpchallenge.org or contact Lori Steckervetz, BMP CHALLENGE Program Coordinator at 608-2323-1425 or lori.steckervetz@bmpchallenge.org

The Mankato Paddling and Outing Club is holding a Cross-country skiing or hiking event on January 1st (Tuesday) starting at 11 a.m. at Seven Mile Creek. For more information contact Warren at 507-388-7353.

Mark January 17th on your calendar to see Carrie Jennings, Glacial Geologist with the Minnesota Geological Survey present a program on "The Geology of the Minnesota River" at 7 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse Assembly Room in Montevideo.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at
<http://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

Water Quality Articles:

Waukesha County group offers prize for saving the most water. The Waukesha County Water Conservation Coalition is offering a year's worth of free water and \$500 to the family that reduces its water use the most in one year,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prizeforsavingmostwater.pdf>

Want to slow global warming? Don't cool a lot of beer. A study by a Canadian economist indicates that "beer fridges" – those backup appliances that keep the Moosehead lager cold in the basement – are significant contributors to household greenhouse gases,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thecoldbeerdebate.pdf>

Eagle Bio-Fuels filled niche with corn and pellet heating blend. Eagle Bio-Fuels of Plainview is one of only two companies in the nation that offers corn and pellet blends for renewable heat in homes or business, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/eaglebiofuels.pdf>

Minn. senators take active role in farm bill. Senators Norm Coleman and Amy Klobuchar of Minnesota are working to remove a major sticking point in the new Farm Bill to get it passed before the holiday recess, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnsenatorsfarmbill.pdf>

Fully Remodeled Green House Gets Final Walkthrough. In a Project Energy series, Don Shelby of WCCO TV has been following the "greenification" of a 1940s style rambler in Minnetonka, watching as it has been remodeled to be one of the most energy-efficient homes in America, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/remodeledgreenhouse.pdf>

Septic systems can ruin a lake. This article comes from the Douglas County Lakes Association about the problem with failing individual septic systems on lake ecosystems,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/septicsystemscanruinlake.pdf>

Slowing down carbon emissions. The Minnesota Climate Change Advisory Group is studying 50 possible ways to reduce the state's carbon footprint, including lowering speed limits on interstate highways, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/slowingdowncarbonemissions.pdf>

Won't get fooled again. Dennis Anderson of the Minneapolis Star Tribune writes about the idea behind sportsmen using web seminars to connect a wide range of conservation groups about dedicated funding for natural resources, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/won'tgetfooledagain.pdf>

And then there was one: U.S. stands alone at U.N. conference on greenhouse gases.

Australia signed papers ratifying the Kyoto Protocol, leaving the U.S. as the only industrial country unwilling to sign the pact,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/usstandsaloneglobalwarming.pdf>

Scientists at climate conference tout lowly seaweed as global warming solution. A group of scientists say we should look at the oceans to help control greenhouse gases,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/seaweedglobalwarmingsolution.pdf>

Power line plan invites discussion. State commerce officials are going to be holding a series of 10 public meeting across the state to discuss the \$1.6 billion project to build 630 miles of high voltage wires, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/powerlineinvitesdiscussion.pdf>

Pawlenty helps form national wind-power coalition. Minnesota Governor Pawlenty and New Mexico Governor Bill Richardson have joined forces to form a Governors' Windpower Coalition with the idea to put wind energy production on the cutting edge,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pawlentywindpowercoalition.pdf>

Living 'green' will soon be reality on UMN campus. A sustainable living dorm for undergraduates will open on the University of Minnesota campus in the fall 2009,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/livinggreenoncampus.pdf>

Green gifts (that aren't dull and preachy). Here are some ideas to be earth-friendly when buying gifts for the holidays and helping out the planet at the same time,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greengifts.pdf>

Energy on the breeze. Supporters of wind energy are looking at smaller windmills to be a big part of the country's energy program with the right support, including tax credits,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/energyonbreeze.pdf>

Climate change group votes. The Climate Change Advisory Group – a 50-person group – met recently to vote on 55 ideas to slow the state's contribution to global warming,

<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/climatechangegroupvotes.pdf>

From the brink of this prairie I had a fine view of the line of the river and country around. The stream had a graceful serpentine course, and the trees on its left bank were beautifully distributed in natural clumps and lines, and everything assisted in the perfect and general embellishment of the scene; even the uninterrupted solitude of the prairie was full of enjoyment, George W. Featherstonhaugh, explorer on a canoe trip up the Minnay Sotor in the fall of 1835.

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at:

<http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

Thanks,

Scott