

Productive Conservation on Working Lands

In July of 2007, Productive Conservation on Working Lands started with a goal of assisting in the establishment of 1000 acres of perennial conservation crops across the state of Minnesota. Nine months later we have only 600 acres to go toward that goal. If you are considering planting a perennial crop this spring PCWL may be able to help. We have funded projects large and small in nearly every corner of the state. We are providing funding for the establishment of a variety of crops including, but not limited to: native grasses, hybrid poplar, hazelnuts, native berry bushes, and willow. The markets for many of these crops are developing in Minnesota, and they may make a good addition to marginal land on your farm. For more information see the attached brochure, or contact me - Joe Domeier, Program Manager at Three Rivers Resource Conservation and Development; 1160 South Victory Drive #4; Mankato, MN 56001; 507-345-7418 ext.127; www.threeriversrcd.org For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/productiveconservationnew.pdf>

MPCA: Tighter standards will mean more ozone alerts

Get ready for more ozone alerts in Minnesota this summer. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency says the thresholds that trigger the alerts will be adjusted downward because the federal government has tightened its standards. The Environmental Protection Agency earlier this month cited scientific evidence that ground-level ozone, or smog, is more harmful than previously believed. MPCA air monitoring expert Rick Strassman says people can expect as many as a dozen more alerts this summer. During the past five years the number of alert days each year has ranged from three to 13. When alerts are issued, the elderly and very young and people with respiratory problems are warned to avoid heavy exercise. And otherwise healthy adults are advised to limit their exertion outdoors. (Worthington Daily Globe – 03/25/2008)

Going to school on going 'green'

The City of Morris will receive a grant from the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency to aid in the redevelopment of the elementary school property. The grant, awarded on Friday, was written by the School Property Redevelopment Committee, formerly known as the Elementary Re-use Committee. It will fund the Morris Eco-Friendly Affordable Housing Demonstration Project, which will explore plans for affordable "green" building on the 17.7-acre elementary school site. The city purchased the school property from the Morris Area School District for \$1 in 2005. Efforts to find investors and developers willing to attempt to reuse the school buildings have not been successful, but the property presents the city with a prime development opportunity. The grant is \$23,750. The city would contribute about \$10,100 in in-kind services. The grant period is May 2008 through June 2010. "I think this is a great step moving forward," said Morris City Manager Blaine Hill. The allocation is part of the Environmental Assistance grant round, and was one of 28 final applications considered. Laura Millberg has been assigned as the city's MPCA Project Manager. The signed grant agreements must be received at the MPCA by April 25, and the allocation will be finalized May 5. (Morris Sun Tribune – 03/26/2008)

Green Living Expo

This event was created to educate and inform consumers on the importance of "GOING GREEN" and offer a centralized location where they can shop and learn about sustainable products and services. This all-inclusive event will have recycling options, vendors, educational elements, children's activities, and information that can be implemented into anyone's daily life. The Living Green Expo is a free, annual event taking place at the Minnesota State Fairgrounds the weekend of May 3-4, 2008. The Expo provides information and products to help Minnesotans improve the environmental and social impacts of their day-to-day living. The Living Green Expo features more than 200 exhibitors of products, services, and information, along with 60 workshops on a variety of sustainability and green living topics.

My Greener Car

Not in the market for a new car right now? That's OK. MPCA has suggestions for using less fuel:

1. Minimize driving by working and playing closer to home.
2. Plan errands to avoid unnecessary driving. Cars pollute less when they are warmed up.
3. Accelerate gradually – a smooth start uses less fuel.
4. Keep your vehicle well-tuned and tires inflated properly to increase gas mileage.
5. Drive slower. You could see up to 35% higher MPG.

21st North American Prairie Conference

There is a call for papers for this conference at Winona State University from August 4th through the 8th. Abstracts are due on April 28, 2008. For more information, <http://bio.winona.edu/NAPC/>

Thrivent aces Energy Challenge

That ubiquitous Energy Star rating on many new appliances applies to buildings too, and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans just earned one. The financial services company, which recommissioned its downtown Minneapolis headquarters as part of the Minnesota Energy Challenge, has racked up energy savings to the tune of \$568,944 a year -- half what it used to spend. The \$2 million it spent on fixes have cut emissions nearly in half, eliminating more than 13 million pounds of carbon dioxide annually, the equivalent of taking 1,100 cars off the road. Among the changes: energy-efficient lighting throughout the building, along with automatic controls that turn lights off in the evening (unless a midnight-oil-burner turns some back on); a new cooling system; and fixing leaks in the building's heating and air-conditioning systems. Those are the biggest savings yet for the Energy Challenge, a program that encourages individuals and businesses to reduce emissions. Within the next few weeks Thrivent, which credited its frugal Lutheran tendencies for motivating staff to make changes, will encourage its 136,000 Lutheran members in the area to take the Energy Challenge as well. (The Current)

Minneapolis to turn off the lights for one hour on Saturday

By [Ambar Espinoza](#), Minnesota Public Radio - March 28, 2008

St. Paul, Minn. — The City of Minneapolis will turn off lights in some downtown buildings as part of the International Earth Hour Saturday night from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. This effort to reduce carbon emissions calls for residents and businesses to turn off any unnecessary lights and electrical appliances for one hour. Minneapolis council member Scott Benson said the city will turn off lights on the Stone Arch Bridge, too.

"The hope is that people will adopt strategies in their own life that will decrease their energy usage... Things that they will do every day will just become second nature and common place for folks," Benson said.

Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia, last year with 2.2 million participants. Australia saw a 10 percent decrease in energy usage for that hour. Many businesses in Minneapolis have agreed to participate, including Wells Fargo Center, Thrivent Financial, and the Orpheum and Pantages theaters. Minneapolis is among the first cities in North America to participate.

Mankato Magazine: Cabin 'off the map'

By Marie Wood

"Going green" is not only a responsible way of living; it's become the latest hot trend, from taking shorter showers to buying hybrid cars. Jaime and Barb Taylor have taken the concept even further. The couple built a log home that uses green building technologies and leaves a light footprint on their 10-acre wooded lot on Lake Jefferson, which they found two years ago. Due to zoning, it would have been difficult to get approval on a well and septic system. But cutting-edge green building practices made it possible to build their dream home. Acting as general contractor and researcher, Jaime found sub-contractors - many are inventors and engineers - to help build their eco-friendly home. More here: http://www.mankato-freepress.com/archivesearch/local_story_091155220.html

WEST FORK DES MOINES RIVER TMDL Meetings

Two public meetings will be held on Monday, April 14 to present information on a TMDL report for the West Fork Des Moines River watershed including Heron Lake. The first meeting is scheduled for 2:30 p.m. in the gray 4-H building on the Murray County Fairgrounds at South Broadway Avenue in Slayton. It will be repeated at 6:30 p.m. at the Heron Lake Community Center at 312 10th Street in Heron Lake. Displays and information will be available the first half hour; formal presentations will begin at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m. For more information contact Kelli Daberkow, MPCA Watershed Project Manager; 800-657-3864 or kelli.daberkow@pca.state.mn.us

Events:

April 5th (Saturday) is **Unlocking the Secrets of the Minnesota River** presentation at 10:15 a.m. at the Linneaus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/pdfs/leagueofwomenvoterspresentation.pdf>

April 5th (Saturday) is the **Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) annual MN River Banquet** at the New Ulm Community Center located at the corner of Highway 15 North and German Street. Doors will open at 5 p.m. with a social hour and dinner served at 6:30 p.m. For more information: <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/pdfs/ccmrbanquet.pdf>

April 8th (Tuesday) is the first of three **Conservation Drainage Symposiums** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse Assembly Room in Montevideo. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainagesymposiums.pdf>

April 9th (Wednesday) is the second of three **Conservation Drainage Symposiums** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the New Ulm Holiday Inn. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainagesymposiums.pdf>

April 10th (Thursday) is the last of the three **Conservation Drainage Symposiums** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:45 p.m. at the Bloomington Civic Plaza in the City Council Chambers. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/conservationdrainagesymposiums.pdf>

April 13th (Sunday) is the program **Water Presentation in Natural Settings** from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. at the Holy Spirit Retreat Center, Mankato. For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/holyspiritpresentation.pdf>

April 15th (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** at the New Century Charter School in Hutchinson. A social hour begins at 6:00 p.m. with food and drink, and the regular meeting at 7:00 p.m.

April 17th (Thursday) is the “**Rain Gardens for Water Quality**” presentation at 7:00 p.m. at the Ney Nature Center outside of Henderson. For more information, <http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/pdfs/raingardenney.pdf>

April 19th (Saturday) is an Earth Day event and Youth Energy Summit (YES) Awards Ceremony at the Prairie Woods Environmental Learning Center from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/prairiewoodsearthday.pdf>

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

Water Quality Articles:

U.S. Bio Energy Exiting Twin Cities. As US BioEnergy closes the books today on its acquisition by rival VeraSun Energy Corp., it looks as though only a handful of the workers at its

headquarters in Inver Grove Heights will follow the ethanol maker to new offices in Sioux Falls, S.D, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/usbioenergyexitstwincities.pdf>

Shrinking corn cropland bad news for food bills. While the world needs more corn, U.S. farmers intend to grow less. That pattern worries some analysts. They fear the world's food system is a few chilly weeks from a nasty shock, with the potential to send grain prices — and grocery bills — soaring as never before, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/shrinkingcorncropbad.pdf>

Food costs likely to rise as farmers change plans. Consumers and ethanol plants now have a shared worry: Farmers will plant less corn this year than last, according to a government report Monday. That means tighter supplies and higher prices for everything from corn flakes to ham hocks, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/foodpriceslikelytorise.pdf>

Market reacts as farmers say they will plant more wheat, soybeans. If you've noticed the price of food going up, you may be interested in what the U.S. Agriculture Department reported today. The USDA said farmers plan to put more soybeans and wheat in the ground and ease up on corn. That could slow the rise in food prices, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/marketreactstofarmers.pdf>

Minnesota's moose are dying; global warming may be to blame. Moose are as much a symbol of Minnesota as wolves, lakes and loons. But wildlife biologists say the state's moose population is in trouble. Moose numbers have plummeted in northwestern Minnesota to near extinction. The animals are also dying prematurely in the northeast. Researchers aren't sure what's killing the state's moose herd, but they suspect the decline has something to do with global warming, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnmoosedyingglobalwarming.pdf>

Bachmann is pro-choice on bulbs. The Minnesota congresswoman says people should be free to use traditional incandescent or compact fluorescent light bulbs, and she has introduced a bill to halt a phase-out program, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bachmanisprochoiceonbulbs.pdf>

CapX: Getting the public on line. It may not be until 2010 before the project is finalized, but the organization CapX2020 has been working already for two years to get the word out and the public involved in the permitting process for a new 345-kilovolt line that would run from Brookings, S.D., through the Buffalo Ridge area and into the southeast Twin Cities, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/capxgettingpubliconline.pdf>

Clean water shortages cause global concern. One billion people throughout the world don't have clean water, a number that is expected to rise in the future, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleanwatershortagesglobalconcern.pdf>

Coon Rapids redefines recycling. Coon Rapids has become a unique destination for people looking to recycle Styrofoam and many types of plastics, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/coonrapidsredefinesrecycling.pdf>

Expect more smog alerts under new EPA standards. The air quality isn't worse, but more is known about health effects, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/expectmoresmogalerts.pdf>

Our View – Farm Bill leaves out small-scale growers. According to the Mankato Free Press, it's called the Farm Bill. But if you're a farmer who wants to grow vegetables, fruit, or other specialty crops, it's not your Farm Bill, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmbillleavesoutsmallgrowers.pdf>

Incinerator expansion plan moves forward. After what appeared a potential setback, a proposed expansion at the area's waste-to-energy facility is slowly steaming ahead, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/incineratorexpansionplan.pdf>

Minnesota's ethanol industry's growth awes pioneer. According to Ralph Groschen, senior agriculture marketing specialist for MN Department of Agriculture, Minnesota's ethanol industry has grown much like a farmer grows his business,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mmethanolindustrygrowth.pdf>

Minnesota is preparing to do battle with deadly fish virus. A deadly fish virus that is spreading through the Great Lakes and already has infected Wisconsin inland waters hasn't arrived in Minnesota – yet, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnpreparingbattledeadlyfishvirus.pdf>

One person's sustainable is another person's tacky. As interest in roof-mounted solar panels grows, more Minnesota homeowners are running into opposition from neighbors and community associations that restrict them because of their appearance,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/onepersonssustainableanotherstacky.pdf>

PUC approves bonds to finance wind project. The New Ulm Public Utilities Commission recommended issuing \$2,975,000 worth of General Obligation Public Utility Revenue Bonds to help finance its long-term power wind-energy project,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pucaapprovesbondswindproject.pdf>

Small step forward for wood-burning plant. The developer has exercised its option to buy land for the power plant in the East Phillips neighborhood,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/smallstepwoodburningplant.pdf>

Unlikely allies: Auto industry and ethanol advocates fight key environmental legislation at Legislature. Marquee environmental legislation that would require the auto industry to curb tailpipe emissions in MN beyond federal rules has crashed into an unsuspected roadblock in the Legislature: the state's ethanol producers,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/unlikelyalliesenvironmentallegislation.pdf>

OTP: Big Stone II the best option. Otter Tail Power Company, countering some environmental group opposition to Big Stone II, said the proposed coal-fired unit in northeastern South Dakota would be the best option to help meet what the company said is increasing electricity usage in this area of the Upper Midwest, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigstonebestoption.pdf>

Biomass plant in planning stages. A biomass power plant may bring more renewable energy to Fairmont in the next few years,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/biomassplantinplanningstages.pdf>

Dedicated funding proponents ask area sportsmen for support. Two of the big guns behind the Dedicated Funding Outdoors Amendment were in Fergus Falls asking for grass roots support,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dedicatedfundingproponentsaskforsupport.pdf>

Emissions laws should apply to supersized farm operations. Recently, the Bush administration found agreement with a group of lobbyists for some of the nation's biggest industrial farms. What the public got out of it was a proposal by EPA to eliminate the requirements for industrial farming facilities to disclose toxic gas emissions, as currently mandated by law, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/emissionslawsshouldapply.pdf>

Foundation presents wind power to potential investors. On Wednesday morning, a number of farmers, tweedy academics, investor groups and corporate utilities executives gathered to see just how profitable wind power can be,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/foundationpresentswindpower.pdf>

Midtown burner project hits a snag with the city. Midtown Eco Energy was told that Minneapolis city officials feel it lacks a commitment from a utility to buy the project's electricity, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/midtownburnerprojecthitsnag.pdf>

Minnesota farm income soared last year. New research indicates 2007 was the most profitable year for Minnesota farmers in more than three decades. A survey of about 2,600 farms in the state shows their median income rose more 70 percent, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnfarmincomesoars.pdf>

Organic Crops Day grows curiosity. Weather can have a major impact on the farming economy regardless of type, but it can especially affect organic farmers, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/organiccropdaygrowscuriosity.pdf>

Recipe for climate change. We can, and must, take a closer look at the amount of meat, egg, and dairy products we consume and how they were produced, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/recipeforclimatechange.pdf>

Where to draw the line for CapX. An open house for the proposed transmission line project is held to inform the public about the project, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wheretodrawcapxline.pdf>

Our View – Bachmann's bulb plan a dim one. According to the Mankato Free Press, It's another 100-watt embarrassment for U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bachmannsbulbplandimone.pdf>

CapX 2020 narrows path for proposed line from Brookings, S.D., to Twin Cities metro. The swath of land being looked at for a proposed, 230-mile power line from Brookings to the Twin Cities is not as nearly as wide, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/capxlinenarrowsproposedpath.pdf>

Cleaning up river site may cost 3M \$10 million. The plan calls for 3M to dredge river and pump out water contaminated with PFCs at its Cottage Grove plant, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleaninguprivermaycostmillions.pdf>

DNR is told to put a stop to trapping Canada lynx. Trapping and snaring in the "core" habitat of the Canada lynx in Minnesota violated the Endangered Species Act, a federal judge said in a ruling published Monday, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/dnrstoptrappingcanadalynx.pdf>

Stop! Don't toss that phone book. Although it's illegal, 85 percent of state's phone directories are dumped in the trash, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/donttossphonebook.pdf>

Farm advocates crowd public hearing in plea to save land. Scott County debate about growth draws overflow crowd, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/farmadvocatespublichearing.pdf>

Green fee in works at Bemidji State. Students at Bemidji State University want to move toward a greener campus, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/greenfeebemidjistate.pdf>

A horn of plenty for Minnesota farmers. The rules of supply and demand helped boost profit to levels not seen in 35 years, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/hornplentymnfarmers.pdf>

Less corn in the ground could translate into higher grocery bills. Farmers are expected to plant less corn this year, which could mean continuing higher costs for consumers at the grocery store, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lesscornhighergroceryprices.pdf>

Manitoba, Minnesota wrangle over state energy law. Manitoba Hydro is at the center of a debate in Minnesota after it failed to report to the state legislature under a new law monitoring

social and environmental conditions around the utility's northern facilities,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/manitobamnwrangleenergylaw.pdf>

Minnesota signers of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement. The list of Minnesota signers of the U.S. Mayors Climate Protection Agreement,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/majorsclimateprotectionagreement.pdf>

Mayors face challenges in reducing CO2. Reducing cities' carbon footprint is the goal of a pact signed by mayors nationwide, including 35 in Minnesota. Some cities are already making headway, but a big question remains: How to engage the private sector,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mayorsfacechallengesreducingCO2.pdf>

LMV sponsors Saturday forum on Minnesota River habitats, conservation. A joint meeting of the Leagues of Women Voters of New Ulm, Mankato and St. Peter will be held at 10:15 a.m. at the Linneaus Arboretum of Gustavus Adolphus College. The meeting is open to the public,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mnriverriverhabitatsforum.pdf>

Mom's right: Kids need to get outside, play, researcher says. Getting kids into the great outdoors – for example, at the University of Minnesota Arboretum or even into their own back yard – isn't just a good way to get them out of their parents' hair, says Andrea Faber Taylor, it's essential to their development. Her rallying cry is: "Kids who spend more time outside end up paying more attention inside", <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/momsrightkidsneedsoutside.pdf>

River runs through center of charter school's mission. A charter school – River's Edge Academy – set to open next fall offers teens a chance to get their elbows dirty and hands wet along the banks of the Mississippi River in St. Paul,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/newhighschoolmississippiriver.pdf>

Barrels provide way to catch rain, conserve water. A Fairmont Community Education and Recreation class scheduled for Saturday will instruct how to assemble and use a rain barrel,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/rainbarrelsconservewater.pdf>

Researchers on cutting edge. From growing algae and switchgrass to converting livestock manure and food processing waste into compost, researchers are doing what they can to improve America's energy independence, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/researchersoncuttingedge.pdf>

Residents urged to prevent pollution in local lakes. With several inches of snow on the ground, most people aren't thinking about storm water pollution and algae growth on Lake Okabena, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/residentsurgedpreventpollution.pdf>

5th Annual Shallow Lakes Forum a Success. Over 200 shallow lake stakeholders gathered to discuss shallow lake conservation concerns,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/shallowlakerelease.pdf>

As spring nears, all eyes are on corn producers. As spring planting nears, farmers are making a choice that could affect what Americans pay for everything from care fuel to chicken wings, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/springplantingnearsyesoncornproducers.pdf>

Teacher leaves \$1.8 million to Minnesota's loons. Iva Weir loved loons so much that she left all of her cash – about \$1.8 million – to help protect Minnesota's official state bird,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/teacherleavesmillionmnlsons.pdf>

Two from Fridley Eco Firm convicted. Two top officials at Eco Finishing Co. were convicted in federal court of violating the Clean Water Act,
<http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/twofridleyecofirmconvicted.pdf>

Editorial, April 1: This lightbulb didn't signal a bright idea. According to Mike Christopherson, Maybe, behind the scenes, she's winking slyly. Maybe U.S. Rep. Michelle Bachmann, a Republican from Minnesota, is fed up with the government sticking its nose where it doesn't belong, and her "Light Bulb Freedom of Choice Act" is her symbolic form of protest, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/thisisntbrightidea.pdf>

Bill Boyne: It's time to get serious about solar energy. You can't beat the sun as a source of energy. That's the view of those who are building thermal solar energy plants in this country's western deserts, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/timeserioussolarenergy.pdf>

Time Writers Group: Ethanol, not the greenest option. According to Derek Larson, Environmentalists have been warning us about the folly of corn-based ethanol for years, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/ethanolnotgreenestoption.pdf>

The Clean Energy Scam. Time magazine features a comprehensive article on the world of renewable fuels and how they are not delivering what they promised, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/cleanenergyscam.pdf>

Gore on climate change: Raising awareness is not enough. Gore is now working to create a grass-roots movement to bring about U.S. carbon-emissions controls and restore American leadership in international efforts to curb global warming, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/raisingawarenessnotenough.pdf>

While countries quibble, the Arctic melts. According to the experts on climate change and others, there needs to be more action and less talk, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whilecountriesquiblearcticmelts.pdf>

Editorial: Park benches, yes; park couches, no. Dumped furniture offers no rest for weary public workers, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/parkbenchesyesparkcouchesno.pdf>

Talking trash. City Council considers bigger bins to accommodate Rice County's plans for single-sort recycling, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/talkingtrashrecycling.pdf>

I looked out over the Bering Sea and brought my hands folded to the breast of my parka and bowed from the waist deeply toward the north, that great straight filled with life, the ice and water. I held the bow to the pale sculpture sky at the northern rim of the earth. I held the bow until my back ached, and my mind was emptied of its categories and designs, its plans and speculations. I bowed before the simple evidence of the moment in my life in a tangible place on the earth that was beautiful" – Barry Lopez, Arctic Dreams

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: <http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com>

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.

Thanks,

Scott

Scott Kudelka

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance
Communications Coordinator
Water Resources Center
184 Trafton Science Center S
Mankato, MN 56001
507-389-2304
scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu
<http://watershedalliance.blogspot.com>