

### **Hawk Creek Watershed Coordinator Position**

The Prairie Country Resource Conservation & Development (RC&D) is seeking to hire a Project Coordinator to work in the Hawk Creek Watershed headquartered in Olivia, MN. Excellent communication skills, computer and organization skills, grant writing and technical and scientific background in water quality/environmental sciences required. A strong ag background is desirable. Must be willing to travel and organize evening meetings.

A position description is available by contacting Prairie Country RC&D. Send resume and cover letter explaining why you are qualified for and interested in this position by close of business on December 15, 2008 to: Prairie Country RC&D, 1005 High Ave. NE, Willmar, MN 56201. Phone (320)231-0008, Ext. 5; Fax (320) 235-8751; e-mail: [bonnie.williams@mn.usda.gov](mailto:bonnie.williams@mn.usda.gov).

Check out the Hawk Creek Watershed Project web site at: <http://www.hawkcreekwatershed.org>

### **Minnesota River Voyage Presentation**

Over 50 people filled the meeting room at the New Ulm Public Library to hear John Cross and Tim Krohn of the Mankato Free Press talk about their voyage down the Minnesota River this past July. They showed a beautiful selection of photos from the trip along with some aerial images of places along the river and talked about what they saw and some of the interesting people they met along the way. Tim and John made the same trip ten years ago and noticed a lot more Bald Eagles, more trees sliding into the river and the water quality benefits of land enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP).

## **Job Opportunities:**

### **Project Coordinator – Whitewater River Watershed Project**

The Whitewater Joint Powers Board is seeking a project coordinator for the Whitewater River Watershed Project to be based out of the Winona Soil and Water Conservation District office in Lewiston, MN. This part-time position will be responsible for coordinating JPB meetings, administer and fulfill grant requirements, coordinate citizen monitoring activities and other duties. Please send a resume to the Whitewater Joint Powers Board at P.O. Box 39; Lewiston, MN 55952 by 4 p.m. on December 17, 2008. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whitewaterriver.pdf>

### **Environmental Specialist – Mississippi Watershed Management Organization**

The MWMO is seeking an Environmental Specialist to assist with the Monitoring Program. Major duties include: monitoring storm water discharge at key outlets to the Mississippi River, storm water best management practices, main stem Mississippi River, wetlands and lakes, and verifying and analyzing water quality and quantity data to ensure accuracy of data. Applicants must have a minimum of (1) year experience in environmental monitoring, data collection and analysis and reporting. A Bachelor of Science degree or equivalent in the field of Limnology, Water Resources, Earth Science, Environmental Science or related field or Associates degree with three years of experience is required. For more information, <http://www.mwmo.org>

## **Events:**

December 7 – 9 (Sunday thru Tuesday) is the **Minnesota Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts' Annual Conference** at Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel hosted by Area 5 (Southwestern) SWCDs. For more information, [www.maswcd.org/Meetings\\_&\\_Events/meetings\\_and\\_events.htm](http://www.maswcd.org/Meetings_&_Events/meetings_and_events.htm)

December 10<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is the **New Office Open House** for Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at 117 S. 1<sup>st</sup> Street (Main Street) in Montevideo. For more information, [www.curemnriver.org/index.html](http://www.curemnriver.org/index.html)

December 20<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **2008 Christmas Bird Count** to be centered around the Ney Nature Center outside of Henderson and will take place all day. For more information, <http://neycenter.org/calendar/>

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

## **Water Quality Articles**

[Scott County finds preserving farmland a tough row to hoe](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). After its latest long-range plan drew fire, the County Board is weighing how best to protect farmers while not stifling development.

[8 appointed to outdoors council](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Eight of 12 people who will serve on a legislative-citizens council and recommend how to spend money on fish and wildlife habitat raised by the recently passed constitutional amendment have been appointed.

[U researchers try to make fuel from](#) (Minnesota Daily). With the country's energy outlook still undecided, a team of researchers at the University of Minnesota is leading the investigation of a promising new source of biofuels.

[Panel's OK won't quell Eyota ethanol plant dispute](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). A state board voted 8-0 to allow MinnErgy to get air and water quality permits, but residents of the nearby city of Eyota are planning the next step in their effort to stop it.

[The new neighbors are real turkeys](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). With Thanksgiving here, the birds are aplenty throughout southern Minnesota. Wild ones, that is.

[Local program keeps millions of plastic bags out of the dump](#) (KARE TV). [It's in the Bag](#) creates jobs for adults with disabilities, while recycling millions of pounds of plastic. "This is what you get when you work at Merrick," a Merrick client named Terry said while showing off his biceps.

[Wolves, elk destroy Minnesota farmers' animals, property](#) (Grand Forks Herald). Last year, Joe Wilebski's cattle were attacked by timber wolves. He has graphic photographs of maimed and devoured calves as evidence.

[VeraSun bankruptcy hitting Minnesota farmers in the wallet](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). The collapse of VeraSun Energy is costing hundreds of Minnesota farmers millions of dollars. The Sioux Falls ethanol company filed for bankruptcy three weeks ago after losing almost \$500 million since last summer. Now the company said it will terminate many of the corn contracts it signed with farmers. That's taking revenue away from farms as falling corn prices hurt their ability to make up for lost income.

[South Dakota unanimously approves Big Stone II air permit](#) (Hutchinson Leader). A Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit was unanimously approved Thursday, Nov. 20, for the proposed \$1.8 billion, 500-megawatt Big Stone II power plant. The decision by the South Dakota Board of Minerals and Environment came at a meeting in Pierre.

[Cheap gas is a relief – but a terrible trend if it lures us back to old habits](#) (MinnPost). I paid under \$2 a gallon this week at my neighborhood gas station, a welcome relief from the \$4 price of a few months past. Cheap gasoline is back. But is that truly a good thing?

[Sealcoating parking lots, driveways could be harming Minnesota's urban lakes](#) (Kare 11 News). Any vigilant homeowner will tell you it's part of their routine. But sealcoating that driveway or parking lot against 4-season frost/thaw damage may also be harming nearby lakes, rivers, and watersheds.

[Breaking down the benefits of locally-produced food](#) (Marshall Independent). Ken Meter sees a lot of opportunities for local farmers in producing food.

[A GOOD EGG](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Grocery shoppers are often bombarded with confusing egg carton claims, including "cage free," "free range" and "pastured." Does the degree to which a hen is confined affect the quality of its eggs -- and our health?

[Newly appointed outdoors council to meet Monday](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The council members will recommend how money raised by the wildlife habitat amendment should be spent.

[Potential rules changes worrying some environmentalists](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Administration's plans to relax regulations raise alarms among Minnesota environmentalists.

[A troubled urban habitat in the shadow of the MOA](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Ducks aren't thriving in wildlife refuge waters in the shadow of the Mall of America. No one is quite sure why.

*Look at the trees, look at the birds, look at the clouds, look at the stars . . . and if you have eyes you will be able to see that the whole existence is joyful. Everything is simply happy. Trees are happy for no reason; they are not going to become prime ministers or presidents and they are not going to become rich and they will never have any bank balance. Look at the flowers – for no reason. It is simply unbelievable how happy flowers are. - Osho*

**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](mailto:scott.kudelka@mnsu).