

Minnesota River Living Systems Project

A coalition of groups in the Minnesota River Watershed have been working together to develop a Living Systems Project to improve water quality in the basin. The objectives of this project is to:

- Understand the Valley as a living system, integrating both the physical and societal dimensions of life there.
- Articulate a shared vision of what needs to be done, based on developing a common agenda.
- Develop plans for action and implementation.
- Embed community capacity for leadership to make it happen.
- Create an environmental social movement to sustain progress.
- Disseminate the process created to other geographic areas.

Implementation will be accomplished through a carefully developed network, turning the original 100 leaders to 1000 and beyond. This aspect of the project leverages leading-edge concepts of community organizing, communication, and leadership development in order to sustain what has been initiated. Eventually, it is anticipated, change will accelerate because eventually the entire community will become involved.

If you are interested in being one of the 100 community leaders for the Living Systems Project please contact: Scott Kudelka; 184 Trafton Science Center S; Mankato, MN 56001; 507-389-2304; scott.kudelka@mnsu.edu

Chippewa River Watershed Project – CROP Walk

The Montevideo Area CROP (Communities Responding to Overcome Poverty) Walk chose the Chippewa River Watershed Project as this year's honorary walkers in celebration of our 10th Anniversary. This year's theme was "Water for Life and Water for All". The CROP Walk took place on Wednesday, June 11th in Montevideo. The successes of the Chippewa River Watershed Project over the past 10 years could not have been achieved without all the strong support and efforts of our local partners, volunteers and committed citizens. Come out and join us on our honorary lap and help bring continued awareness to the water issues that face us not only in the Chippewa River Watershed but in the world. (Jennifer Hoffman, Chippewa River Watershed Project)

Lake Crystal Duck Days

- Thursday, June 19th, Family Night -- We will be out at Marston Park from 4-8pm and visit our booth for several fun games and activities for the kids, like "Springo Wetland Bingo", ecosystem puzzles, transparency tube station and macroinvertebrate (big bug) tag. We'll also have good information about the Clean Water Partnership for grownups.
- Friday, June 20th, Parade – We'll be participating in the parade, contributing to everyone's overall dental health, starting at 6:30pm. Come give us a wave and collect some tootsie rolls! We could still use a couple volunteers to help throw candy, if there is anyone interested, please email me (I could probably come up with a bribe of some sort).
- Saturday, June 21st, Craft Fair – (TENTATIVE) We'll have information booth on Murphy St. from 4-8 pm with other crafters. Stop by for info on cost-share opportunities for agricultural producers, lakeshore owners, for brochures on rain gardens or just to chat and ask questions. (Sarah Duda, Lake Crystal Clean Water Partnership)

West Branch Lac qui Parle Paddle

Yesterday, fourteen people paddled a six-mile stretch of the West Branch Lac qui Parle River. The paddle was sponsored by the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Clean Water Partnership to get people out on the water and provide an up close view of the river dynamics and surrounding landscape. There was a strong current and only one log jam to tackle. Thanks to Mary Homan for organizing the paddle and the tasty strawberry shakes at the end.

Mankato Paddling and Outing Club Update

According to Dean Peterson, President, the club's annual river cleanup was a big success. They picked up 980 pounds which was close to a record for the club. The club has taken a number of paddling trips this spring including one on the Blue Earth River. Seventeen people came out for the paddle as they stopped at Devils Gulch, Triple Falls and Spring Island.

Events:

Canoe the Chippewa – June 21st (Saturday): The Chippewa River Watershed Project (CRWP) is sponsoring a canoe trip from Lentz Landing at the Highway 40 bridge in Chippewa County to Watson Lions Park. This trip is great for beginners and families as well for more experienced canoeists. Please contact the CRWP for more information and sign-up for the paddle by calling 320-269-2139 ext. 120 or jennifer.hoffman@rcdnet.net

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

Job Opportunities:

Big Cobb Watershed Technician with the Greater Blue Earth River Basin Alliance. This full-time position provides technical support through all phases of project implementation, to landowners for eligible best management practices (BMP's) that protect and conserve water and soil resources. The work area includes nine counties within the Blue Earth River Basin, with the primary focus on the Big Cobb Watershed Area. This position is under the general supervision of the Blue Earth County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD). Application deadline is June 30th (Monday) For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/bigcobbposition.pdf>

Water Resource Specialist with the East Dakota Water Development District. This new position is responsible for gathering and compiling information in support of District environmental and water resource management programs and activities. Provide general support to District activities related to citizen volunteer water quality monitoring and educational outreach efforts. Work activities will include surface- and ground-water quality sampling, maintaining quality assurance and quality control programs related to water quality sampling activities of the District and cooperators, providing training and technical support to volunteer water quality monitors, and other activities as determined by the Manager. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/waterresourcespecialist.pdf>

Water Quality Articles:

[Gas prices reshape state's transit debate](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). While many Minnesotans pour their economic stimulus checks into their gas tanks, state leaders are beginning to consider a future in which prices remain near \$4 a gallon or higher.

[Gas tax increase bringing in money](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). New numbers show the state's gas tax increase is already bringing in more money, even though Minnesotans are pumping less gas.

[Battling beavers in the burbs](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). They don't call them busy beavers for nothing. Knock down a beaver dam and they will rebuild overnight. Remove the beavers themselves, and new ones usually move right in. It's a lesson Bloomington has learned well at Skriebakken Pond, where a drain pipe that sends storm water toward Nine Mile Creek has repeatedly been blocked by beavers damming the pond.

[Wet, cool spring perfect for ticks](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). A Twin Cities metro area veterinarian says it could be well into July before people and pets get a break from ticks this season.

[Editorial, June 13: Excel Dairy's problem is more than a nuisance](#) (Crookston Daily Times) It's hard to avoid living in an area free of any sort of stench caveat these days. What's happening at the Excel Dairy 1,500-cow dairy feedlot near Thief River Falls is inexcusable, however.

[Bachmann's thinking on cap-and-trade is polluted](#) (Star Tribune). It is not possible to argue sanely in favor of increased droughts, floods, famine, disease, hurricanes and hundreds of millions of refugees due to rising seas. These are the consequences of unabated climate change, they have already begun, and they will worsen unless we act with fortitude and wisdom.

[Krohn Column: Urban chickens](#) (Mankato Free Press). It's been like a 2-by-4 aside the head. There's nothing like \$4 gas and \$3.50 milk to get people thinking differently.

Let children walk with Nature, let them see the beautiful blendings and communions of death and life, their joyous inseparable unity, as taught in woods and meadows, plains and mountains and streams of our blessed star, and they will learn that death is stingless indeed, and as beautiful as life. – John Muir

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

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