

### **Many Minnesota River Watersheds Can Apply for Implementation Funding Under Auspices of Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL Implementation Plan:**

Clean Water Legacy Implementation Grants are open for application until November 7. Projects eligible are those with approved TMDL implementation plans. One approved implementation plan that people seem to forget is the Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL. Many of the practices included in it are related to phosphorus reduction. The treatment area for the Lower Minnesota River Dissolved Oxygen TMDL is from Lac Qui Parle to Shakopee. It includes the Chippewa, Yellow Medicine, Hawk Creek, Cottonwood, Redwood, Watonwan, Blue Earth, Le Sueur, Middle Minnesota River and Part of the Lower Minnesota River Watersheds. The implementation plan is available at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/publications/wg-b3-10.pdf> and was completed in 2006.

Applications are due November 4, 2008. For more information, please direct applicants to this link: [www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/water/swagrant.html) Contact Ron Schwartz at the MPCA with questions - 651-297-2915 or 800-657-3864.

### **Wanted: Farmers interested in doing Custom Baling**

We are trying to identify farmers or custom operators who would be interested in custom baling native grasses for bioenergy use across Minnesota. Our immediate need is to harvest several smaller acreages [about 20 acres each] as part of a research project in collaboration with the University of Minnesota but may be interested in larger areas in the future. These acres would be harvested in October/ November.

If you would like to be considered for harvesting in your area please send your contact information, geographic area you work in, type of equipment [small squares, round, large squares, etc.] you use in an email to [linda@ruraladvantage.org](mailto:linda@ruraladvantage.org) or call the Rural Advantage office at 507-238-5449 with the information.

### **INTRODUCTION TO WATERSHED HYDROLOGIC & FLUVIAL SYSTEMS**

- *A Minnesota River Focus - An intensive 5-day course for impaired waters project staff!* - The Minnesota River Board, along with the MN Pollution Control Agency and the MSM-Water Resources Center are pleased to announce a training opportunity for technical staff working on impaired waters studies and TMDL processes.

- **Dates:** October 24, November 13-14 and December 11-12
- **Location:** MN State University, Mankato

This geomorphic assessment, hydrology, and TMDL process training session is designed for TMDL coordinators, watershed staff, and graduate students within the Minnesota River basin that are working in impaired waters projects. The material covered in this training will be extremely valuable for TMDL processes already under way and those gearing up to start. Improving our capacity to better understand sediment sources and watershed function can only improve the quality and credibility of the TMDL program.

For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/geomorphicbrochure.pdf>

### **Geography Colloquium – Weekly Lecture Series**

The Department of Geography at Minnesota State University is hosting its weekly lecture series, the Geography Colloquium. Each Friday afternoon during the fall Semester visiting and local scholars speak on topics of both general and academic interest. Many of the topics are cutting edge research on heated contemporary issues. All lectures are scheduled from 3:00 to 4:15 p.m. in Armstrong Hall Room #15 on the MSU Campus. Each speaker will present for approximately 45 minutes. The public is cordially invited to attend. For more information contact Dr. Donald A. Friend, Department of Geography at 507-389-2618 or by email at [donald.friend@mnsu.edu](mailto:donald.friend@mnsu.edu)

## Job Opportunities

### **Water Plan Coordinator / Open Feedlot Assistant**

The Wabasha Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a Water Plan coordinator & Open feedlot assistant. Duties range from being responsible for the Natural Resource Block (NRBG) Programs, Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) Program and provide assistance for the open feedlot program. Applicants must submit a completed SWCD application, resume, and cover letter for employment. Applications may be picked up, or by calling 507-565-4673 ext. 4. Individuals selected for interviews will be contacted by the District Manager by phone number provided by applicant. **Application deadline is October 25, 2008.** For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/wabashawaterplanner.pdf>

## Grant Information

### **Surface Water Assessment Grants**

With more than 12,200 lakes and 105,000 miles of streams, Minnesota has a wealth of water resources. The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) is charged with monitoring the quality of Minnesota's waters, and determining whether or not they meet their designated uses (e.g. swimming and fishing).

Based on data collected through 2006 (the most recent assessment period), about 14% of Minnesota streams and about 18% of Minnesota lakes larger than 10 acres have been assessed for at least one designated use. The MPCA monitoring strategy requires that each of the 81 major watersheds is monitored every 10 years. Surface Water Assessment Grants are designated to provide local organizations and citizen volunteers with funds to complete the monitoring needed to meet assessment requirements on Minnesota lakes and streams.

## Events:

### **Grand Opening – Rapids Lake Unit**

On October 19<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is celebrating the completion of the Rapids Lake Unit at the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge – 15865 Carver Highlands Drive, Carver, Minnesota.

- New Education & Visitor Center,
- 5 miles of trails for hiking and wildlife observation,
- Restoration of prairie, oak savanna, wetlands and floodplain forest

11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. – Outdoor activities and demonstrations, hiking trails open

12:00 to 12:30 p.m. – Dedication ceremony for Education & Visitor Center

12:30 to 3:00 p.m. – Education & Visitor Center open to public; Activities, demonstrations, self-led tours

This event is sponsored by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge Trust. Light lunch and cake served.

For more information, call 952-361-4500 or visit:

[http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley/visitor\\_center\\_rapids\\_lake.html](http://www.fws.gov/midwest/minnesotavalley/visitor_center_rapids_lake.html)

### **2008 Friends of the Minnesota Valley Annual Dinner**

- Date: October 30<sup>th</sup> (Thursday)
- Place: Minnesota Valley Country Club – Bloomington
  - Social Hour: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
  - Dinner & Program: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

- Keynote Speakers: **John Cross and Tim Krohn of the Mankato Free Press**
- Presentation: **“Minnesota River Voyage”** – from their 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary canoe trip down the entire length of the Minnesota River and the people they met along the way.
- R.S.V.P. – contact Lori Nelson, Executive Director at 952-881-9065 or [lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org](mailto:lnelson@friendsofmnvalley.org)

October 10<sup>th</sup> (Friday) is the showing of the **King Corn Documentary** at 6:30 p.m. at the Treaty Site History Center. This documentary is about two friends, one acre of corn, and the subsidized crop that drives our fast-food nation. This is a special showing with filmmaker Ian Cheney. For more information: 507-934-2160 or [ben@nchsmn.org](mailto:ben@nchsmn.org)

October 13<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the **Lake Crystal TMDL Open House** at the Emergency Services Building (181 S. Hunt Street, Lake Crystal) from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Brief presentations will be given at 5:00 and 6:00 with question and answer sessions to follow. The public is welcome to come and go through the open house.

October 21<sup>st</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting** at the Hutchinson Event Center (1005 Highway 15 South Plaza 15) from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

November 15<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Web of Life, Way of Life: Exploring Solidarity with Earth Conference** at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Mankato Provincial House Conference Center from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Registration is required by November 10<sup>th</sup> by calling 507-389-4272 or sending an email to [lcoons@ssndmankato.org](mailto:lcoons@ssndmankato.org). Cost for the event is \$20 or \$15 for students. Look for morning coffee and locally grown lunch. This event is sponsored by Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry – a ministry of the School Sisters of Notre Dame.

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

### Water Quality Articles

Letter: Mark W. Johnson: The Minnesota we love (Annandale Advocate). Minnesota's great north woods are a destination point for year-round recreation. From January through December, hundreds of thousands of residents and non-residents venture out to enjoy the woods, waters and communities they love.

TV Selling of the "Legacy Amendment" begins (KARE-11TV). It may go down as one of the more unusual, if temporary political alliances in Minnesota history.

Smart grid offers energy savings (Minnesota Public Radio). Our electricity system is about to get smarter. Utilities are installing new technologies that can help consumers save energy and prevent blackouts. Xcel Energy is installing an extensive smart grid system in Boulder, Colo. that may lead to more widespread use of the technology.

Talk focuses on global warming (Mankato Free Press). Arctic explorer and staunch environmentalist Will Steger says slowing the effects of global warming rests upon youthful shoulders.

Rare wetland to get special status (Minnesota Public Radio). The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources says it's designating a rare type of wetland in Chanhassen as a state Scientific and Natural Area.

Now open: A delicate balance (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The Seminary Fen, one of the rarest ecosystems in the world, goes public. After decades of trying to acquire the rare calcareous fen

in Caver County, the state Department of Natural Resources earlier this year bought about 106 acres of the privately held property for \$1.3 million.

[Community Voices: Once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: A vote to clean up our impaired waters](#) (MinnPost). Good government is about fixing problems. And for the past three decades, the Legislature has not addressed a growing problem in Minnesota: the condition of our lakes, rivers and natural resources – the essence of what makes this state a great place to live.

[Minnesota Poll Sales tax hike for environment, arts has broad support](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Most Minnesotans favor a constitutional amendment authorizing a statewide sales-tax increase to provide more money for the outdoors, the environment and the arts, but 40 percent acknowledge they have heard nothing about the proposal's details, a Star Tribune Minnesota Poll shows.

[Commentary: Steve Morse: Should the Legacy Amendment be passed? Yes.](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Two viewpoints on whether the Minnesota Constitution should be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?

[Commentary: Verne C. Johnson and Paul Gilje: Should the Legacy Amendment be passed? No.](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Two viewpoints on whether the Minnesota Constitution should be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?

[Making methane from hay is one way to help Eagle Bluff reduce its carbon footprint](#) (Fillmore County Journal). Cecil Massie wants to skip the cow. Two viewpoints on whether the Minnesota Constitution should be amended to dedicate funding to protect our drinking water sources; to protect, enhance, and restore our wetlands, prairies, forests, and fish, game and wildlife habitat; to preserve our arts and cultural heritage; to support our parks and trails; and to protect, enhance, and restore our lakes, rivers, streams, and groundwater by increasing the sales and use tax rate beginning July 1, 2009, by three-eighths of one percent on taxable sales until the year 2034?

[Wind turbine power a difficult solution](#) (Mankato Free Press). If wind power works for St. Peter schools, Gustavus Adolphus College and the City of Mountain Lake, can it work for the city of Mankato?

[Bailout gives boost to wind](#) (Pioneer Press). Friday's Congressional vote to extend the production tax credit for developing wind energy — a minor part of the \$700 billion financial rescue plan — should keep Minnesota's wind energy industry from stalling out next year, industry leaders said.

[A Swedish solution for biofuels](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Clean-tech opportunities from Sweden? You betcha. And the state hopes to spur local adoption and commercialization of biofuels - - energy made from animal waste, crops and straw - - by emulating the Swedes.

[Minnetonka man sentenced in Clean Water Act case](#) (Associated Press). The chief executive of a Fridley-based company has been sentenced to 15 months in prison for violating the Clean Water Act.

[Farmers feel squeeze](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Fertilizer prices have soared from a year ago, even though makers of the raw ingredients say there's an oversupply.

[Good Question: Does hunting have a future?](#) (WCCO). Saturday is the start of Minnesota's waterfowl hunting season. Firearm deer hunting season starts in early November. Historically, for Minnesotans, the fall has been a time for hunting. But is hunting part of Minnesota's future?

*We are the most dangerous species of life on the planet, and every other species, even the earth itself, has cause to fear our power to exterminate. But we are also the only species which, when it chooses to do so, will go to great effort to save what it might destroy.* – Wallace Stegner

**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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