



Minnesota River Weekly Update

August 27th, 2013

Revisions to MPCA water management plan are open for public comment

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency announces a public comment period, beginning August 19 and running through September 17 on proposed changes to the Minnesota Nonpoint Source Management Program Plan. The plan contains strategies that help protect and improve the quality of Minnesota's water resources by identifying activities to reduce nonpoint sources of water pollution, such as runoff from agricultural lands and unregulated urban areas.

For more information and copies of these documents, visit the [Minnesota Pollution Control Agency website](#).

MDA Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) recently released a draft revision of the Minnesota's 2013 [Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan](#) for public comment. MDA is requesting [comments on the 2013 plan](#).

Comments will be accepted through November 1, 2013. The NFMP is the state's blueprint for prevention or minimization of the impacts of nitrogen fertilizer on groundwater.

In 2010, MDA began the [revision process](#) to reflect current activities, interagency water protection programs and implementation work, and to better align it with current water resource conditions and programs. MDA convened a multi-stakeholder Advisory Committee and conducted a detailed analysis of issues related to nitrates in groundwater. The revisions were based primarily on input from the Committee with consideration for past NFMP implementation experience, input from related programs, increased knowledge about occurrences of elevated nitrate in groundwater, and advances in agricultural technology and management practices.

To assist the public in understanding these issues and the NFMP, MDA will be hosting a series of [public listening sessions](#) across the state during the month of September. The meetings are free and open to the public.

Preliminary listening session locations, dates and times:

Marshall, Minnesota

Thursday September 5, 2013

5:00 – 7:00 pm

Marshall Public Library

201 C Street, Marshall, MN 56258

Crookston, Minnesota

Monday September 16, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

University of Minnesota Crookston Student Center Bede Ballroom
2900 University Ave, Crookston, MN 56716

Wadena, Minnesota

Tuesday September 17, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Wadena - Deer Creek High School Robertson Theatre
600 Colfax Ave. SW, Wadena, MN 56482

St Cloud, Minnesota

Wednesday September 18, 2013

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Great River Regional Library St Cloud
1300 W. St. Germain St, St. Cloud, MN 56301

Rochester, Minnesota

Monday September 23, 2013

6:00 – 8:00 pm

Cascade Meadow Wetlands & Environmental Science Center
2900 19th Street NW Rochester, MN 55901

Roseville, Minnesota

Wednesday September 25, 2013

1:00 – 3:00 pm

Roseville Public Library Community Program Room
2180 North Hamline Ave, Roseville, MN 55113

Owners of 22,000 registered feedlots need to re-register by Jan. 1st

Owners of an estimated 22,000 livestock feedlots registered in Minnesota must submit updated registration information to the MPCA by Jan. 1, 2014. The information includes location, type of operation, and number of livestock. Feedlot owners who have not already re-registered will receive a registration form from either their local county office or an MPCA regional office.

For more information visit the [registration form for feedlots and manure storage areas](#) on the MPCA's [Feedlot Permit Information and Application Forms](#) webpage

BWSR plans to open Clean Water grant applications Sept. 3

The Minnesota BWSR will hold a competitive grant application round this fall using funds appropriated from the Clean Water Land and Legacy amendment during the 2013 legislative session. The Board will consider authorizing the grant program at its August 29th meeting. If authorized, the grant application period will run from Sept. 3 - Oct. 4 with funds awarded at the Board's January meeting. Training materials on the application process and details of the request for proposals are being developed. Web-based trainings are planned for Aug. 21 and 22. [Online registration](#) for the training is now open.

Three funding categories from previous years will be requesting grant applications: Clean Water Assistance, Accelerated Implementation, and Community Partners Conservation Program.

MPCA invites comments on statewide permit for burying concrete

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency is inviting comments through September 11 on a statewide permit that would regulate burial of waste concrete. Under this permit, homeowners and others could dispose of concrete by burying it on sites where the concrete originated, as long as they applied for a permit and certain conditions were met. The concrete cannot be contaminated with petroleum products or hazardous substances. Also, the local zoning authority must sign the permit application. The draft permit is available on the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's [Public Notices webpage](#).

Articles

[Join the Futurescape City Tour](#)

Roopali Phadke, August 19, Minn2020

Consider crossing a bridge over the Mississippi River that looks like a spider web held together by the strongest, lightest nanomaterials. Imagine a city

[Red River Diversion foes sue Army Corps](#)

Dan Gunderson, August 20, MPR News

Opponents of a \$1.8 billion Red River flood diversion for Fargo-Moorhead are challenging the project in court.

where nano-coatings of titanium oxide break down soot and grime buildings and sidewalks sparkling clean.

[In northern Minn., a campaign against feeding wolves](#)

Dan Kraker, August 22, MPR News
BRIMSON, Minn. - "Don't feed the wildlife!" is a message frequently trumpeted at campgrounds around Minnesota. It's usually meant to warn people not feed deer or bears.

[Obama position on fracking leaves both sides grumbling](#)

Sean Cockerham, August 23, The News Observer
WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama's embrace of fracking is earning wrath from environmentalists but little love from the oil and gas industry.

[Farthest north yet: Dead 'leaping' carp found north of Winona](#)

Paul Walsh and Josephine Marcotty, August 23, Star Tribune
A silver carp, a dreaded invasive fish known to knock people out of their boats, was found dead at the base of the Mississippi River dam at Winona, Minn., the farthest north the species has ever been detected and a clean sign that it can use its renowned jumping prowess to leap over barriers as it moves up from Iowa.

[Cave Collector in Minnesota Hunts for Additions to His Empire](#)

James Card, August 25, The New York Times
RACINE, Minn. - John Ackerman has been called a tree hugger and a kook by two landowners and a devil worshipper by a local town board member. He has been accused of land snatching and gold prospecting. Others see him as an explorer and a fierce protector of an underground wilderness.

[Minnesota farmers turn away from wheat; corn, soybeans more profitable](#)

Mike Hughlett, August 25, Star Tribune
Once the foundation of the Minnesota economy, wheat has been surpassed by other crops that are easier to grow and more profitable.

[Zebra mussels decline in Lake Mille Lacs](#)

Conrad Wilson, August 22, MPR News
AITKIN, Minn. - The number of zebra mussels in Lake Mille Lacs has declined this year for the first time since they were discovered in 2005, Department of Natural Resources say.

[Minneapolis has historic opportunity to define and achieve a new energy future](#)

Cam Gordon and Betsy Hodges, August 23, MinnPost
This summer the City Council demonstrated sound leadership when it decided to fully engage in the conversation about energy.

[Enbridge takes step toward building new oil pipeline across Minnesota](#)

David Schaffer, August 24, Star Tribune
Canadian company is evaluating a new route across northern Minnesota; project could create up to 3,000 jobs.

[Minnesota's Lake Vermillion State Park evolving at a cautious pace](#)

Brian Bakst, August 25, Pioneer Press
SUDAN, Minn. -- With its thick forest of towering pines, sweeping views from overlooks and alluring islands, Lake Vermillion State Park has all the ingredients of an appealing getaway destination. What's lacking are visitors

[Minnesota effort targets weeds as energy crops](#)

David Shaffer, August 25, Star Tribune
Researchers at SaTec of Anoka are experimenting with weed crops to determine whether farmers can profit by growing oil-rich seeds and processing them into biofuel.

Events

**Aug. 26th -
Sept. 1st**

Wild Edibles

Friday, August 30th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Fort Ridgely State Park

Brief Description: People eat wild edibles for a number of reasons including as a legitimate way economizing their food costs, as an excellent source of vitamins and minerals, and in rare situations they can be essential for survival. We will talk about some of the more recognizable plants growing in the area like the common dandelion which can be used in salads or even as a coffee-like beverage. Meet at the parking lot of the Creek Picnic Area.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at

scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Riverblast

Saturday, August 30th – August 31st, 2013

Location: Riverside Park, New Ulm, MN

Brief Description: Dear Family of the River, The biggest and longest running celebration of the Minnesota River "Riverblast" is on Labor Day Friday and Saturday at Riverside Park in New Ulm MN as always. It's pretty early this year and it is sneaking up on all of us. On stage live music with an incredible line up of talent all free of charge with no fences. On site camping as always, on site kids playground, beautiful riverfront view, horse drawn trolley rides, make your own post card photo opportunity, Regional River History and Information Center open on site with numerous displays and artifacts, great food including Barbeque, all kinds of adult and soft beverages, blues for kids workshop with free harmonicas (call to register [507 276 2280](tel:5072762280)), Free Cajun and Zydeco dance lessons on early Saturday evening, River Informational Booth. No Coolers, No Dogs At Fest Site see attached poster or you can visit <http://riverblast.net> for more info.

Geocaching 101

Saturday, August 31st, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m.

Location: Minneopa State Park

Brief Description: Join the naturalist for this high tech treasure hunt and learn the basics of this new worldwide recreational sport. GPS units are provided. There will be chance to test your GPS skill on a critter activity before going out to find the park geocache. Limit of 20 people (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

The West Arrives in West Newton

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 1:00-4:00 p.m.

Location: Harkin Store

Brief Description: The town of West Newton is expecting the arrival of the west with the cowboy ballads and yodels of Lonesome Ron, the King of the Valley Yolders. Lonesome Ron will be presenting western music in story and song. The town of West Newton is at the end of the line for the riverboats which is where many of pioneers got off to go west. The town started in 1856 which is when there were a big flux of people moving west. The west was wild at that time. The store is going to miss the presence of John Koblas, author of many books on Jesse James who was around during 1876. John passed away in March, he was a presence here at the Harkin for so many years and had a very good following. His part of the program will be hard to fill.

For more information call the store at (507) 354-8666 or the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

Digital Photography for Children

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 4:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: Photography is a great way to take some memories home with you after your visit to a state park. Kids will get a chance to learn how to use a digital camera and shoot photos of what interests them. Digital cameras are provided and the kids will be able to print one photo to take with them. Limit of 20 kids (must be 8 years of age and children must be accompanied by an adult). Please sign up at the park office (prior reservation required). Meet at the picnic

shelter on the waterfalls side of Minneopa.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

What lives in the river; fish

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: How well is the fishery in the Minnesota River Basin doing? Join us for a look at how the river's fishery has improved from the days of the 1950s when biologists found more peas and carrots floating in the river than fish. In this presentation, visitors will discover some of the more interesting fish that live in the Minnesota River and what is behind this improvement in both numbers and species diversity. There will also be some fun activities for children of all ages. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side.

For more information contact Scott Kudlka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

Night Hike

Sunday, September 1st, 2013 @ 9:00p.m.

Location: Flandrau State Park

Brief Description: There are many cool places to go exploring at Minneopa State Park. On this walk we will start out at the picnic areas on the campground side and head down into the Minneopa Creek Valley ending up at the confluence with the Minnesota River. Along the way we will stop to talk about some of the plants, wildlife, trees and geology of this area. A hike is a great way to experience the natural world around us and hear the sounds of bird chirping, water flowing over rocks and the wind blowing through the leaves. The total distance is around 2 miles and it will take us around an hour and a half. Be prepared for some steep and rough terrain. Meet at the picnic area on the campground side of the park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka (507) 384-8890 or at scott.kudelka@state.mn.us

**Sept. 2nd -
Sept. 8th**

Mayo House Open House

Monday, September 2nd, 2013 @ 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Mayo House Historic Site

Brief Description: The event is to celebrate the Mayo House Interpretive Society's commitment to the site over the last 27 years, and the transition to the Minnesota Historical Society site's new manager - the Nicollet County Historical Society. "We are incredibly excited to manage the Mayo House," said NCHS Director Ben Leonard. "NCHS operates other river valley sites like Traverse des Sioux, Harkin Store, and Fort Ridgely. We think it makes sense logistically and programmatically. We are very grateful to the strong leadership the Mayo House Interpretive Society has shown over the years. Because of their commitment and enthusiasm this has been an easy transition." Join us for free tours of the house as well as live music by Depot Creek and refreshments in adjacent Louise Park.

For more information, including open house and admission prices, can be found at their [Mayo House Historic](http://MayoHouseHistoric.org) site, or by calling (507) 665-3250

Documentary Film Series - Queen of Versailles

Thursday, September 5th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Treaty Site History Center, St. Peter, MN

Brief Description: Please join us for the 2013-14 documentary film series. A partnership between St. Peter Community and Family Education and the Nicollet County Historical

Society, films are screened the first Thursday of every month at 7pm, at the Treaty Site History Center, from September through May.

Please join us on September 5th for the season's first film: *Queen of Versailles*. The documentary film follows a billionaire couple as they begin construction on a mansion inspired by Versailles. During the next two years, their empire, fueled by the real estate bubble and cheap money, falters due to the economic crisis.

Future films include *5 Broken Cameras*, *Kind Hearted Woman*, *Strongman* and more.

Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information contact the Society at (507) 934-2160 or at museum@nchsmn.org

Lac qui Parle County Fair

Thursday, September 5th - Sunday, September 8th, 2013

Location: Madison, MN

For more information and list of events visit [Lac qui Parle County Fair's](http://Lac qui Parle County Fair's website) website

Arts n' More

Thursday, September 6th - Sunday, September 8th, 2013

Location: Amboy, MN

Brief Description: The second weekend in September, Amboy hosts the annual Arts n' More Festival. A collection of vendors display and demonstrate their work. This can be music, visual arts, dance, writing, poetry or any form of creative expression. The streets are filled with food and arts vendors while being entertained with local and regional talent. Come and join us for another exciting year.

For more information check out the [2013 Schedule of Events](#)

Beginning Hop Grower Workshop

Saturday, September 7th, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

Location: Southern Research and Outreach Center, 35838 120th St., Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the Minnesota Hop Growers Association (MHGA), University of Minnesota and Rural Advantage for a day jam-packed with information for the beginning hop grower. The workshop will be held at the University's SROC where hop research has been conducted for the last few years. Attendees will learn about history of hop productions and brewing, how to establish and operate a successful hop yard, harvesting and processing, economics, and marketing. There will also be time for discussion and networking. The experienced presenters will include hop growers, researchers, processors, and brewers. Registration fees (\$25 for members, \$50 for non-members, \$75 for registration and one year membership to MHGA) will include materials, refreshments, and lunch.

To register visit the MHGA website www.mhga.org

**Sept. 9th -
Sept 15th**

Forum: Clean Energy, Climate, and Health

Sunday, September 15th, 2013 @ 7:00 - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Granite Falls Lutheran Church, Granite Falls, MN

Brief Description: Minnesota is on a clean energy path that is bringing benefits to human health and our air, water, and natural resources. Hear Will Steger, Minnesota's own eyewitness to climate change, present his vivid, firsthand account with stunning photographs from his expeditions. J. Drake Hamilton, science policy director at Fresh Energy, will describe effective clean energy and clean air solutions that benefit our economy. The forum will provide information on upcoming decisions about Xcel Energy's Sherco 1 and 2 coal plants and the opportunities for public comment to help move Minnesota to an innovative, clean energy future based on more solar, wind, and energy efficiency. This is a free forum, and no RSVP required.

For more information visit the [Fresh Energy](#) website

**Sept. 16th -
Sept. 22nd**

Agroforestry for Biomass Production and Nutrient Management

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Location: Empire Wastewater Treatment, 2540 W. 197th Street, Farmington, MN 55024

Brief Description: The University of Minnesota, USDA National Agroforestry Center, and Metropolitan Council have collaborated on a project to evaluate the productive potential and the nutrient uptake of woody and herbaceous crops planted in the alley crop style. The research plots include switchgrass, prairie cordgrass, an alfalfa/intermediate wheatgrass mix, a native tallgrass prairie mix, and hybrid poplar and willow. There will be a "walk-n-talk" discussing the value of these perennial grasses.

For more information contact Jill Sackett at (507) 238-5449

Project WET Workshop

Tuesday, September 17th, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Location: Hyland Lake Park Reserve Visitor Center, Lakeview Room, 10145 Bush Lake Road, Bloomington, MN

Brief Description: This one-day workshop will train educators to incorporate Project WET activities into curriculum. Participants will engage in several fun, hands-on indoor and outdoor learning activities appropriate for use with students. WET activities are: correlated to Minnesota Academic Standards; interactive and hands-on; ideal for reaching different learning styles; flexible to be used in- or outdoors; easily incorporated into existing curricula. Costs \$15

For more information or to register contact Erica (952) 358-2276 or at esniegowski@ninemilecreek.org

University of Minnesota SROC's Centennial Celebration

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 3:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: SROC, 35838 120th Street, Waseca, MN

Brief Description: Join the University of Minnesota in celebrating 100 years at the Southern Research Center in Waseca! There will be booths and activities for interests of all kinds. The Centennial program begins at 5:00 p.m. The picnic supper will be from 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

For more information contact Southern Research and Outreach Center at (507) 835-3620 or nelso191@tc.umn.edu

Native Prairie Planting

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.

Location: Crosby Farm Regional Park, St. Paul, MN

Brief Description: Join River Gorge Stewards volunteers and staff from Friends of the Mississippi River and Saint Paul Parks & Recreation as we expand and the native prairie restoration area at this naturally and culturally significant riverfront park! Volunteers will plant native prairie plants on a large-scale berm near the parking lot. The plants help prevent erosion, build better soils, filter stormwater runoff pollution from the river, and improve urban wildlife habitat. Staff will provide all guidance, tools, and gloves needed for a productive and fun event.

Staff will provide all guidance, tools, and gloves needed for a productive and fun event. Children accompanied by a parent or guardian are welcome.

For more information [Friends of the Mississippi River](#). To register for this planting please email FMR Registrar Lindsay Hefferan at lhefferan@fmr.org with

your interest and contact information.

St. Peter Reads Announces the Fall 2013 Community Read

Thursday, September 19th, 2013 @ 7:00 p.m.

Location: Christ Chapel, Gustavus Adolphus

Brief Description: Saint Peter Reads is pleased to announce the Fall 2013 Community Read in conjunction with Gustavus Adolphus College's *Reading in Common*. This year's book is Tore Murden McClure's *A Pearl in the Storm*. Join author McClure for a book lecture and discussion. This program is free and open to the public. Books are available at area libraries and select local merchants.

For more information find us online at <http://stpeterreads.wordpress.com> or call St. Peter Community and Family Education (507) 934-3048.

Wood Lake Battlefield Preservation Association's 8th Annual Symposium

Saturday, September 21st, 2013 @ 10:00 a.m. - 3:45 p.m.

Location: Granite Falls Kilowatt Center

Brief Description: In the morning will be Franky Jackson, the Renville County Historical Society Director, speaking on "The Aftermath of the U.S./Dakota War and the Exile of the Dakota" and in the afternoon Bill Crowder, an historian will be explaining and demonstrating Civil War era bugle calls and commands.

For more information and to apply visit <http://www.woodlakebattlefield.com/> or call (507) 280-9970

Job Announcements

INORGANIC LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

Department: Minnesota Valley Testing Laboratories

Closing Date: September 13th, 2013

Location(s): New Ulm, MN

Who May Apply: All qualified job seekers

Responsibilities: Primary responsibilities include performing routine FIA (Flow Injection Analysis) and wet chemistry analysis in our Inorganic Laboratory. Position is responsible for preparing reagents, solutions, standards and samples for laboratory analysis. Sets-up, calibrates, adjusts, and maintains laboratory equipment. Calculates, records and maintains test results and enters them into LIMS. Follows and develops methods, SOPs and QA/QC guidelines. Ideal candidate will possess degree in Chemistry or equivalent laboratory experience.

For more information and to apply contact Colleen Skillings at cskillings@mvtl.com

WATER/STEAM DEPARTMENT SUPERVISOR

Department: New Ulm Public Utilities Commission

September 30th, 2013

Closing Date:**Location(s):** New Ulm, MN**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers**Responsibilities:** Under the administrative direction of the Directory of Utilities, to direct the operations of the Water/Stream Department.**Duties:**

- Directs the operation and maintenance of the municipal water and steam distribution systems. The water system includes the wells, raw water system, treatment plant, storage facilities, distribution piping, metering and related facilities. The steam system consists of both low and high-pressure distribution systems and related metering and infrastructure.
- Plans day-to-day work assignments.
- Assigns personnel and secures the materials necessary for operation and maintenance of the two systems.
- Maintains and analyzes records to ensure efficient operation.
- Prepares budgets for the department.
- Ensures compliance with government regulations.
- Ensures compliance with safety policies and procedures.
- Prepares daily and monthly operating performance reports.
- Participates in the recruitment, selection, promotion, and discipline of department personnel.
- Adheres to all department safety standards and guidelines.
- Attends all required and assigned training and maintains current licenses and certificates as may be required by federal and state regulation and Public Utilities Commission.

For more information and to apply visit [New Ulm's](#) city website

FOOD INSPECTOR - INTERMITTENT

Department: Department of Agriculture**Closing Date:** December 12th, 2013**Location(s):** Butterfield, MN; Cold Spring, MN; Austin, MN; Melrose, MN; Pelican Rapids, MN; Faribault, MN; Marshall, MN; Willmar, MN; Windom, MN; Worthington, MN**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers**Responsibilities:** Entry-level Food Inspector positions filled through this job announcement generally work in slaughter plants. Our Food Inspectors:

- Examine food animals in privately-owned meat or poultry plants
- Perform their duties before and after slaughter, guaranteeing that the product is not contaminated
- Maintain sanitation procedures
- Are a valued member of a dynamic team that ensures the product is fit to eat and compliant with Federal laws

Food Inspectors and Consumer Safety Inspectors (slaughter) are involved in ante-mortem inspection of livestock or poultry and post-mortem inspection of red meat or poultry. This inspection activity is performed in a noisy industrial environment with large moving machinery that cannot be stopped instantly. Workstations and walkway can be extremely narrow and slippery. Excellent

stability and balance is required. Frequent physical activities such as walking, climbing, standing, and kneeling are required, including climbing and walking on catwalks. Various environmental conditions, ranging from sub-freezing temperatures to frequent summertime temperatures at 80 to 90 degrees are common, with extreme humidity. Inspection activity requires rapid, constant repetitive motion with both hands and wrists. Red meat viscera inspection requires palpitation of organs and slicing with extremely sharp knives. Accurate color vision is essential to notice subtle shades of product color in the detection of abnormalities that make a product unfit for human consumption.

For more information visit

<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/331796400> or to apply visit www.FoodSafetyJobs.gov 'Food Inspector Online Application Process'

"The thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise."

- Albert Einstein

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 Basin.
