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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

November 5th, 2013

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### **Letting the Light in: Providing Environmental Science to Direct Public Policy Nov. 5 @ 7 p.m.**

Are the decisions that our political leaders make about water and the environment based on sound science? Too often they are not, says David Schindler, one of the world's leading freshwater ecologists. Too often, according to Dr. Schindler, an emeritus professor at the University of Alberta, politicians and policy-makers in both Canada and the U.S. decide what they want to do, then look for science to back up their choices. Dr. Schindler will deliver a free public lecture at the theater of the [Student Center](#) on the University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus on the tension - often conflict - between science and public policy. The lecture is sponsored by Freshwater Society and the University of Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. Dr. Schindler's presentation will be the 13th lecture in a speaking series that began in 2010. If you cannot be there in person, watch the lecture on [streaming video](#). Check out previous lectures on water and the environment through [online videos](#).

For more information and how to register for the event visit the [event page](#). If you have any questions email [Freshwater Society](#) or call (952) 471-9773

### **Conservation Practices: From Farm Fix-it to Farm Portfolio Webinar November 21st @ 12p.m. ET/11a.m. CT**

The intention of the Farm Portfolio is to simplify conservation, not dumb-it-down, but to "package" the complexity to provide transparency, clarity, value and usability for you and other stakeholders. This webinar will introduce a unique perspective on determining conservation benefits - a Farm Natural Resource Portfolio. The portfolio contains five farm management units: farmscape, farmstead, livestock facilities,

fields and pasture, and forests. Each unit contained in the farm operations is assessed with specific land management indices derived from USDA, university, and industry sources. Three pilot studies will be overviewed to illustrate how index scores are determined by whom, and how conservation values differ among stakeholders including the producer.

The [USDA NRCS East National Technology Support Center](#) is hosting the webinar which is being presented by Tim Gieseke, Ag Sources, LLC: [Conservation Practices: From Farm Fix-it to Farm Portfolios](#). Contact [Gail Brant](#), Sociologist, for assistance with the human element of resource conservation. Contact [Lynn Knight](#), Agricultural Economist, for more information about this webinar.

For more information and how to register/participate visit the [webinar information page](#).

#### **MPCA offers \$120,000 in grant funding to reduce emissions from older diesel engines**

The MPCA has posted a [request for proposals \(RFR\)](#) to help private and public owners of older diesel engines and new emission controls, idle-reduction devices or replace engines, vehicles or equipment. This year, the agency is able to offer up to a total of \$120,000 to recipients of the Diesel Emission Reduction Act grants. Diesel fleet owners with vehicles manufactured in 2006 or earlier are encouraged to apply. The deadline for applications is 2 p.m. on Dec. 16, 2013. The deadline for questions about the RFR is Nov. 4, 2013 by 2 p.m. "In recent years, this grant funding has provided partial funding to Lunda Construction to replace engines on its construction cranes and to Stussy Construction for a cleaner engine for its rock crusher. We were also able to cover part of the cost for Coca-Cola's Egan bottling plant to purchase diesel-electric hybrid delivery trucks used in its urban metro area routes," Mark Sulzbach, MPCA Clean Diesel Grants manager, said. All three projects have strong health and environmental benefits for Minnesotans. The new engines and technologies installed reduce pollution from fine particulates and nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 90% and carbon dioxide by 50%. Grantees, who match the grant funding, receive incentives for engine or equipment upgrades that help reduce health risks to their equipment operators. Frequently, companies may realize significant fuel savings due to the upgrades. For example, Coca-Cola's new hybrid trucks use 20-25 percent less fuel than the trucks they replaced and Stussy Construction's rock crusher engine uses just half the fuel of the old engine. The EPA estimates that for every dollar spent on diesel emission reduction, nearly \$13 in health benefits are realized. Transportation is responsible for about 30% of the air pollution in Minnesota, and older diesel engines create a higher proportion of fine particulate and NOx pollution than gasoline engines. Over the last six years the MPCA's clean diesel grants have helped to directly fund emission-reducing improvements on 2,808 diesel engines in Minnesota.

For more information about the grant application call Geneva Turner, MPCA, (651) 757-2243. For assistance with the part of the grant application that requires registering for SWIFT (651) 201-8100.

#### **Five years later, Legacy Amendment positions Minnesota as leader in clean water initiatives**

Five years ago this week, Minnesota voters passed a constitutional amendment that increased the state's sales tax by three-eighths of one percent to fund projects related to clean water, natural resources, and arts and culture. These funds will be available for the next 20 years to restore and protect our water. So far, more than 300 individual amendment-funded projects have been sponsored by the MPCA across the state. Though many of these efforts are still underway, the amendment is beginning to bear fruit in the form of major initiatives that will position Minnesota as a leader in water resources protection.

##### The watershed approach: a turbo-charged effort to improve water quality

For decades, water management professionals have been making steady progress on assessing water quality in the state's 12,000 lakes and 105,000 miles of streams. Monitoring and assessment work establishes baseline data for the health of lakes and streams, and sets the stage for targeted improvements. Over the past five years, the MPCA has moved from assessing a smaller number of individual lakes and streams across the state to evaluating each of the state's 81 watersheds on a rotating, 10-year cycle. The Legacy Amendment provided the funds necessary for this detailed monitoring and assessment data.

##### The St. Louis River Area of Concern: leveraging funds to dial back 130 years of degradation

For over 130 years the St. Louis River has suffered from environmental degradation, such as human and industrial waste, dredging of aquatic habitat, and harmful logging and milling practices. In 2010 the MPCA spearheaded what will be one of the largest [restoration and cleanup efforts](#) in Great Lakes history, with the support from numerous partners. The Legacy Amendment was used to leverage over \$20 million in outside funding. With this continued support, we expect to remove all 9 of the impairments to this area, and to be able to delist the St. Louis River area of Concern from the Great Lakes Area of Concern list by 2025.

Demonstrating success of regulatory efforts: water monitoring on the Minnesota River  
Summer 2012, extremely dry weather create a [rare opportunity](#) to evaluate water quality on the Minnesota River under drought stress and to learn whether stringent wastewater treatment regulations enacted over the past several years had improved the river's health as expected. The necessary testing conditions, however, existed only for a short period of time. The Legacy Amendment provided funding for the water quality testing for three weeks of intensive monitoring. The stringent regulations implemented created measurable improvements in the Minnesota River's water quality.

The amendment's unfolding future  
MPCA leaders intend to continue to reap the dividends of their investment in clean water across the state known for its abundant water resources.

For more information email [Alexis Donath](#) or call (651) 757-2312.

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## ARTICLES

### [Halloween PR fight pits oil industry against Energy Department](#)

*Ben German, Oct. 29, The Hill*

The Energy Department (DOE) and an oil industry lobbying group are battling for the hearts and minds of Halloween trick-or-treaters and their parents.

### [Terrifying but true facts about pollution in Minnesota waterways](#)

*Environment Minnesota, Oct. 31, MN2020*

"Halloween is the season to be scared, but Minnesotans shouldn't have to be afraid of swimming and fishing in our lakes and rivers or disturbed by the quality of their drinking water," says Environment Minnesota's Samantha Chadwick. "Manure and other pollution from agriculture and big industry are making our rivers into a potion of pollution perfect for poisonous drinking water, E. Coli and slimy algae blooms."

### [Are farm veterinarians pushing too many antibiotics?](#) (with audio)

*Dan Charles, Nov. 1, MPR News*

In a barn outside of Manhattan, Kan., researchers from Kansas State University are trying to solve the riddle of bovine respiratory disease. They're sticking plastic rods down the noses of 6-month old calves, collecting samples of bacteria. Apley hopes to find out, among other things, whether those antibiotics actually work as advertised.

### [State wants to contain potato pesticide drift](#)

*Dan Gunderson, Nov. 2, MPR News*

ST.PAUL, Minn. - The MDA is trying to reduce the drifting of pesticides from potato fields to nearby homes and schools. Thousands of acres of potatoes are grown in north central Minnesota. A fungal disease called late blight can wipe out the crop, so farmers often apply fungicides every week for three to four months.

### [New Leader at Freshwater Society](#)

*Nov. 2, Star Tribune*

Steve Woods, a civil engineer with extensive experience in water issues, has been named the new executive director of the Freshwater Society.

### [Tribe's winnings could create Scott County trails](#)

*Nov. 2, Star Tribune*

The casino-enriched Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community is offering \$350,000 toward trail improvements in Scott County.

### [Changes coming for solar panel users](#)

*Elizabeth Dunbar, Nov. 2, MPR News*

ST.PAUL, Minn. - Xcel Energy plans to revamp a rewards program for customers who have solar panels on their roofs. In the past, customers who

### [Head in sand, you can't tell that the air is foul](#)

*Bonne Blodgett, Nov. 2 Star Tribune*

A recent report about China shows how carefully people avoid connecting the dots on climate change. Last week, the New York Times published

have solar panels on their homes received a large rebate up front.

**EPA 'listening tour' precedes coal-plant carbon rule**

*Jeffrey Tomich, Nov. 3, St. Louis Post-Dispatch*  
Political activists, environmental advocates and employees from utility and coal companies are among hundreds of people from across the Midwest who will converge on a Kansas City suburb Monday afternoon for what amounts to a giant brainstorming session. The subject is a thorny and emotional one: how to rein in greenhouse gas emissions from power plants, and specifically coal-burning plants that collectively represent the nation's largest contributors to global warming.

**Bow hunting - A growing sport in Minnesota** (with video)

*Rachel Slavik, Nov. 4, CBS Minnesota*  
MINNEAPOLIS (WCCO) - Minnesotans make that annual trip to the tree stand this weekend. The firearms deer hunting season kicks off on Saturday. But bow hunters have been searching for that prize buck since September. Joe Caminati, of Average Joe's Archery, said he's seeing a lot more popularity when it comes to bow hunting.

**Minnesota corn harvests now ahead of average**

*Nov. 5, St. Cloud Times*  
St. Paul - Minnesota's corn harvest is now ahead of the five-year average for the first time this season.

a cautionary tale of good intentions gone bad.

**Minnesota's Executive Council approves mining leases**

*Matt Ehling, Nov. 3, TC Daily Planet*  
Minnesota's Executive Council met on October 25 to approve the issuance of 31 mining leases for non-ferrous metallic minerals. The council approved the leases on a vote of four-to-one.

**Minnesota forum explores models for the utility of the future**

*Dan Haugen, Nov. 5, Midwest Energy News*  
Utilities face a flurry of threats to their business model, from rising expectations and falling sales to new competition and aging infrastructure. Bill Grant, Minnesota's Deputy Commissioner for Energy, summarized the pressures in his opening remarks Friday at a policy forum in St. Paul called "The Future of Minnesota's Electric Utilities," organized by the Environmental Initiative, a Twin Cities nonprofit organization.

**Bad news for Minnesota sugar beet farmers** (with audio)

*Dan Gunderson, Nov. 5, MPR News*  
MOORHEAD, Minn. - A glut of sugar in the world market will mean a big cut in the price farmers are getting for their sugar beets, American Crystal Sugar leaders told farmers this week.

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## EVENTS

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**Nov. 4-Nov. 10**

**Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting & Speakers Conference**  
Tuesday, November 5, 2013 @ 8 a.m. - 7 p.m.

**Location:** Minneapolis Convention Center

**Brief Description:** The Minnesota Agri-Growth Council Annual Meeting and Speakers Conference is the organization's premier annual event, bringing together key stakeholders in the food and agriculture industry from Minnesota and the Upper Midwest. More than 400 industry leaders, news media, government relations, professional, commodity group, farmer leaders and public officials gather to learn about current industry trends and topics. The event is a comprehensive one-day program, which includes a membership meeting, speakers conference, exhibitors, and luncheon program featuring high level keynote speakers and the presentation of [Distinguished Service Award](#).

[Agenda](#)

*Annual Members Meeting - members program*

8 a.m. Welcome, reports and elections  
9 a.m. Terry N. Barr, Senior Director, Knowledge Exchange  
Division, CoBank, ACB  
10 a.m. Mark Seeley, University of Minnesota Extension  
Climatologist and Meteorologist  
10:45 a.m. President Eric Kaler, University of Minnesota  
11:30 a.m. Break/Exhibit Time

*Luncheon Banquet and Speakers Conference*

12 p.m. Luncheon and welcome  
Welcome remarks - Agri-Growth Chair Kristin Weeks  
Duncanson, Duncanson Growers  
State of the State of Minnesota Agriculture, Governor  
Mark Dayton  
2013 Distinguished Service Award presentation  
Keynote remarks: Jeff Ettinger, President and Chief  
Executive Officer, Hormel Foods, Inc.  
1:45 p.m. Break/Exhibit Time  
2:15 p.m. The Sensible Environmentalist: Confessions of a  
Greenpeace Dropout: Dr. Patrick Moore, founding member and  
former President of Greenpeace, author of Confessions of a  
Greenpeace dropout  
3:15 p.m. Panel Discussion: The Future of Biotechnology - Issues  
and Perspectives  
4:30 p.m. Plenary Political Insight Panel  
5-7 p.m. Reception

For more information about Agri-Growth Meeting & Speakers Conference -  
2013 contact [Minnesota Agr-Growth Council](#)

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**Letting the Light in: Providing Environmental Science to Direct Public  
Policy**

Tuesday, November 5, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

**Location:** Theater of the [Student Center](#) on the University of Minnesota's  
St. Paul campus

**Brief Description:** Are the decisions that our political leaders make about  
water and the environment based on sound science? Too often they are  
not, says David Schindler, one of the world's leading freshwater ecologists.  
Too often, according to Dr. Schindler, an emeritus professor at the  
University of Alberta, politicians and policy-makers in both Canada and the  
U.S. decide what they want to do, then look for science to back up their  
choices. Dr. Schindler will deliver a free public lecture in St. Paul on the  
tension - often conflict - between science and public policy.  
The lecture is sponsored by Freshwater Society and the University of  
Minnesota College of Biological Sciences. Dr. Schindler's presentation will  
be the 13th lecture in a speaking series that began in 2010. If you cannot  
be there in person, watch the lecture on [streaming video](#). Check out  
previous lectures on water and the environment through [online videos](#).

For more information and how to register for the event visit the [event  
page](#). If you have any questions email [Freshwater Society](#) or call (952) 471-  
9773

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**Invasive Species in Rural Landscape**

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 @ 6 - 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** MNDNR 175 County Road 26, Windom, MN 56101

**Brief Description:** Invasive species are non-native pests which can affect  
natural eco-systems and cause economic or environmental harm or harm



to human health. There are many invasive species currently found in Minnesota and some that pose a future threat. Farmers and rural residents in Minnesota are not exempt from invasive species. All residents need to be aware of invasive species and understand how they can affect our rural life style.

Three workshops have been scheduled in, Montevideo, Owatonna and Windom to discuss invasive species which may cause damage to rural areas. These include: Emerald Ash Borer (affecting Ash trees in windbreaks and rural areas), Thousand Cankers Disease (affecting Black Walnut found in native woodlands, communities and windbreaks), Brown Marmorated Stink Bug (affecting over 300 plants including apple trees, grapes, corn and soybeans) Spotted Wing Drosophila (a fruit fly affecting raspberries and other berry plants) plus woody invasive plants, Buckthorn (a small tree which is host to the over wintering soybean aphid and found in windbreaks and woodlands) Exotic Honeysuckle (invading native woodlands) and Oriental Bittersweet (an extremely invasive perennial vine changing the understory of windbreaks and woodlands). Workshop topics will include history, life cycle, identification, damage and control. Free handouts will also be available.

The cost of attending the class is \$20, which can be paid at the door. Pre-registration is required. Register for this class online at [z.umn.edu/invasivespecies](http://z.umn.edu/invasivespecies) or email [Kathy Eckwright](mailto:Kathy.Eckwright@umn.edu) or call (507) 389-6972. For additional class offerings visit [www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/](http://www.myminnesotawoods.umn.edu/upcoming-events/).

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**Duanne Ninneman to give Keynote Address at 8th Annual Earth Conference**

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Location:** Our Lady of Good Counsel Conference Center

**Brief Description:** Climate Change: no matter how fervently the naysayers deny it and cling to an unsustainable economic reality, a drastic human-made change in climate is upon us. Rising temperatures, shrinking ice caps, depleting coastlines...there seems to be no end to the crisis.

The time for action is now! We need to move past disbelief, apathy, and the fears holding back ecological balance and recognize climate change for the moral issue that it is. We as individuals are connected with all creation on Earth. Where do our morals and ethics come into play in climate change?

In this conference we will delve into the science and get to the heart of the moral issues surrounding climate change. We will focus on how we can move ourselves further than simply changing a light bulb or shopping with reusable bags.

For more information contact [Center of Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry](http://www.ceespirituality.org) or at (507) 389-4272.

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**Documentary Film Series-Kind Hearted Woman (2 part series)**

Thursday, November 7, 2013 @ 7p.m. (part 1)

**Location:** Treaty Site History Center

**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,

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 1, 114 min, Not Rated

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 2, 174 min, Not Rated

In a special two-part series, acclaimed filmmaker David Sutherland creates an unforgettable portrait of Robin Charboneau, a 32-year-old divorced single mother and Oglala Sioux woman living on North Dakota's Spirit Lake Reservation.

Sutherland follows Robin over three years as she struggles to raise her two children, further her education, and heal herself from the wounds of sexual abuse she suffered as a child. "As in my other films profiling rural poverty,"

says Sutherland, "I was trying to reach out to another forgotten corner of the American landscape, this time to put a face on a Native family so that we could see them close-up with all the detail that illuminates the rich reality of their lives."

Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information call the Historical Society at (507) 934-2160 or email [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org)

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#### **Second Annual Rake the Town**

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 8 a.m. - 1p.m.

**Location:** South side of the Centennial Student Union on the MSU Mankato Campus

**Brief Description:** Assist with an annual event sponsored by VINE Faith in Action that pairs home chore support volunteers with elders and home bound adults to assure their properties are ready for another Minnesota weather! Student sign-ups are taken individually through MavSync. Registration will begin at 8 a.m. at a site on campus to be determined. A lunch is provided by VINE at St. Joseph the Work Catholic Church. Directions will be provided at registration.

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

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#### **Nature's Nook**

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 9-11 a.m.

**Location:** Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods

**Brief Description:** Families and elementary school-aged children are invited to join us for an environmental story and activity time at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods! We plan to host this once a month, perhaps more if there is interest. Join us as we explore the seasons through reading!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

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#### **Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

Saturday, November 9 - Sunday, November 10, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

**Location:** Sibley Park, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Support the 2nd year of this Mankato area holiday tradition by setting up our Community Engagement Christmas Tree and decorating and monitoring the park throughout the lights display! Individuals and teams are being signed up to work a.m. and p.m. shifts on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 26 - Nov. 24. There will also be opportunities to support the cause through the month of December and then to take down the even in January! Get your name on the list today to make sure you are on board and make warm memories as the holiday season ensues!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

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#### **Where the Blues Led: Lyrical Expression in Rap Music**

Saturday, November 9, 2013 @ 7 p.m.

**Location:** Treaty Site History Center

**Brief Description:** Dr. Joel Carlin will present a music-filled discussion on the history of hip hop's music. You'll be surprised at how far back the genre's roots go, and entertained by Joel's witty and engaging style. This event is free and open to all. Every generation likes to think that their music is different, their music is revolutionary. And so it can be, but "new" styles have deeper roots. We will examine how blues, jazz, social changes and technology inspired city youths to create rap, a not-so-new form of musical expression. Together we shall critically examine the historical context, the lyrics and the musicianship in modern American rap music (without blaring speakers or thumping bass!) Get away from your pre-conceived notions of what rap is, and think hard about how we decide which music is worth a listen! Free and open to the public.

For more information call (507) 934-2160.

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**Nov. 11-Nov. 17**

**Cover Crop Field Day**

Wednesday, November 13, 2013 @ 1 - 3 p.m.

**Location:** 39750 820th St., Lakefield, MN

**Brief Description:** Join partners for a cover crop discussion at the Ackermann farm near Lakefield, Minnesota. Heron Lake Watershed District (HLWD), Jerry and Nancy Ackermann, and Jerry and Terry Perkins were awarded a National Wildlife Federation (NWF) Cover Crop Champions grant to promote cover crop adoption. A cover crop mixture of winter cereal re, tillage radish, and purple top turnip was planted into standing corn airplane in early Sept. 2013 just west of the Ackermann farmstead. This aerial application allows for a longer cover crop growing season in the corn-soybean system. The Ackermanns chose the cover crop species for their ability to scavenge nitrogen, add organic matter to the soil, increase water infiltration, decrease soil erosion, and reduce weed competition. Attendees will be able to hear about the NWF project being conducted by the Ackermanns, Perkins, and HLWD, learn about cover crop benefits, and view the cover crops in the field. This is an outdoor event; please dress accordingly.

**Agenda:**

12:45 p.m. - Registration  
1:00 p.m. - Welcome and Introduction  
1:10 p.m. - Jerry Ackermann & Jerry Perkins  
2:00 p.m. - Andy Nesselth, Extended Ag  
2:15 p.m. - Jill Sackett, University of Minnesota  
2:30 p.m. - Karen Boysen, Jackson NRCS  
2:45 p.m. - Stephanie McLain, Nobles NRCS  
3:15 p.m. - View cover crops

For more information call (507) 793-2462 or email [jan.voit@mysmb.com](mailto:jan.voit@mysmb.com)

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**Documentary Film Series-Kind Hearted Woman (2 part series)**

Thursday, November 14, 2013 @ 7p.m. (part 2)

**Location:** Treaty Site History Center

**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,

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 1, 114 min, Not Rated

Kind Hearted Woman, Part 2, 174 min, Not Rated

In a special two-part series, acclaimed filmmaker David Sutherland creates an

unforgettable portrait of Robin Charboneau, a 32-year-old divorced single mother and Oglala Sioux woman living on North Dakota's Spirit Lake Reservation.

Sutherland follows Robin over three years as she struggles to raise her two children, further her education, and heal herself from the wounds of sexual abuse she suffered as a child. "As in my other films profiling rural poverty," says Sutherland, "I was trying to reach out to another forgotten corner of



the American landscape, this time to put a face on a Native family so that we could see them close-up with all the detail that illuminates the rich reality of their lives."

Admission to the film series is free for all.

For more information call the Historical Society at (507) 934-2160 or email [museum@nchsmn.org](mailto:museum@nchsmn.org)

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#### **Card Artistry at the Cox**

Friday, November 15th, 2013 @ 8:30 p.m.

**Location:** E. St. Julien Cox House

**Brief Description:** There is a magic show in St. Peter. At the Cox House, once a month, Michael Callahan creates his own little Magic Castle. Join Michael in the parlor for a session of close up marvels. Why the Cox House? 1871. 2013. So much of life in Saint Peter has changed since the Cox House was built. But in an art form that capitalizes upon the blind spots in the human brain, not much has changed at all. Join Michael at the historic Cox House for an evening of Victorian atmosphere, charm and magic. Together we will explore the ways that our brains are susceptible to illusions and the way magicians have been exploiting these blind spots for over a century. Tickets \$10 dollars at the door.

For more information contact the Nicollet County Historical Society (507) 934-2160

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#### **Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

Saturday, November 16 - Sunday, November 17, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

**Location:** Sibley Park, Mankato, MN

**Brief Description:** Support the 2nd year of this Mankato area holiday tradition by setting up our Community Engagement Christmas Tree and decorating and monitoring the park throughout the lights display! Individuals and teams are being signed up to work a.m. and p.m. shifts on Saturdays and Sundays from Oct. 26 - Nov. 24. There will also be opportunities to support the cause through the month of December and then to take down the even in January! Get your name on the list today to make sure you are on board and make warm memories as the holiday season ensues!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](mailto:MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement) or call (507) 389-5789.

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**Nov. 18-Nov. 24**

#### **Green Lands, Blue Waters 2013 Conference**

Wednesday, November 20 - Thursday, November 21, 2013

**Location:** University of Minnesota, Minneapolis Campus

**Brief Description:** Conferees will discuss and learn how agriculture can change for the benefit of farmers, communities, and the environment. Working sessions, invited speakers, and poster presentations will provide ample opportunities for participants to learn how agriculture with Continuous Living Cover (CLC) is already working for Midwestern farmers and farm businesses; how these practices are targeted in watersheds; their environmental benefits, including improved soil health and water quality; and how government programs and policies are changing to better accommodate CLC crops. Deadlines are October 27 for hotel rooms and November 4 for conference registration.

You can find the agenda and registration materials at [Green Lands, Blue Watershed](http://Green Lands, Blue Watershed) website. Questions can be directed to [richardwarner@umn.edu](mailto:richardwarner@umn.edu)

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**Conservation Practices: From Farm Fix-it to Farm Portfolio**

Thursday, November 21st, 2013 @ 12pm eastern

**Location:** Webinar

**Brief Description:** This webinar will introduce a unique perspective on determining conservation benefits - a Farm Natural Resource Portfolio. The portfolio contains five farm management units: farmscape, farmstead, livestock facilities, fields and pasture, and forests. Each unit contained in the farm operations is assessed with specific land management indices derived from USDA, university, and industry sources. Three pilot studies will be overviewed to illustrate how index scores are determined by whom, and how conservation values differ among stakeholders including the producer.

This webinar is sponsored by the [USDA NRCS East National Technology Support Center](#). Contact [Gail Brant](#), Sociologist, for assistance with the human element of resource conservation. Contact [Lynn Knight](#), Agricultural Economist, for more information about this webinar.

For more information and how to register/participate visit the [webinar information page](#).

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**Green Gifts Fair**

Saturday, November 23, 2013 @ 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

**Location:** Midtown Global Market in Minneapolis

**Brief Description:** Kick off the holidays at the 8th Annual Green Gifts Fair, hosted by Do It Green! Minnesota. This event is a celebration of local art and sustainable living, including artists, retailers, music, fashion, and demonstration. It is also the launch of the Do It Green! Directory 2014 Edition. Shop 70+ local eco-vendors for green, recycled, fair-trade and organic gifts. Come to sample foods and plan to eat lunch or dinner at the Midtown Global Market - offering over 30 global food options. Pick up a free copy of the new 2014 Do It Green! Directory - listing over 200 Do It Green! approved green businesses and organizations in Minnesota. Bring your own reusable shopping bags, coffee mug and plate and silverware set to reduce your waste at the event. Bring out own holiday lights to drop off for recycling. \$1 donation person accepted at the door.

For more information on the event visit [Do It Green!](#) website.

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**Kiwanis Holiday Lights**

Saturday, November 23 - Sunday, November 24, 2013 @ 9 a.m. - 5p.m.

**Location:** Sibley Park, Mankato, MN

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For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](#) or call (507) 389-5789.

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**Nov. 25-Dec. 1**

**Dad's Belgian Waffles**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

**Location:** [Farmamerica](#)

**Brief Description:** Come for Dad's freshly made Belgian Waffles! A variety of toppings, sausage, and beverages will be included in your all you can eat ticket. \$7 per person and free for kids under 5.

For more information call Crystal Paulson (507) 835-2052 or email [Farmamerica](#).

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**MASWCD 77th Annual Meeting & 23rd Annual Trade Show**

Sunday, December 1, 2013 @ 2:30 - 9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Double Tree Hotel Bloomington, Minneapolis South, Bloomington, MN

**Agenda for Sunday**

2:30-4:30 p.m. - Pre-Convention Bonus Session

SWCD Governance 101 Workshop - Joint Working Arrangements & Employment Liability Issues

5:00-7:00 p.m. - Registration Open

7:30-9:30 p.m. - Convention Kickoff Social

**Dec. 2-Dec. 8**

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**MASWCD 77th Annual Meeting & 23rd Annual Trade Show**

Monday, December 2 - Tuesday, December 3, 2013

**Location:** Double Tree Hotel Bloomington, Minneapolis South, Bloomington, MN

**Agenda for Monday**

**7:00 a.m.** -- Continental Breakfast

**7:00-8:15 a.m.** -- Registration Opens

**8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.** --Trade Show Open

**8:30-9:00 a.m.** -- Business Meeting

**9:00-10:00 a.m.** -- Keynote: Conservation Effects Assessment Program and Lesson Learned, *Tom Christensen, Associate Chief for Operations, USDA NRCS*

**10:00-10:30 a.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**10:30-11:30 a.m.** -- Panel: The MPCA Report on Nitrogen in Surface Waters: What it means for SWCDs and Next Steps, *John Linc Stine, Commissioner, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Al Kean, Chief Engineer, Board of Water and Soil Resources. Justin Hanson, Technician, Mower Soil and Water Conservation District*

**11:45 a.m. - 1:45 p.m.** -- Awards Luncheon

**1:45 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**2:30-3:30 p.m.** -- Concurrent Sessions

Responding to Elevated Nitrates in Groundwater - The Nitrogen Fertilizer Management Plan, *Bruce Montgomery, Fertilizer Non-Point Section Manager, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Status of the Ag Water Quality Certification Program (pilot watersheds), and Next Steps, *Brad Redlin, Project Manager, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, SWCD representatives*  
Creating a Culture of Civility, *Toby Spanier and Lisa Hinz, University of MN Extension Center for Community Vitality*

**3:30-4:00 p.m.** -- Refreshment Break in the Trade Show

**4:00-5:00 p.m. -- Concurrent Sessions**

The Watershed Nitrogen Reduction Planning Tool, *William Lazarus, Department of Applied Economics, University of Minnesota*

*David Wall, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency*

Positive Outcomes from SWCDs and Partners Managing Water on a Watershed Basis, *Doug Thomas, Senior Policy and Program Advisor, Board of Water and Soil Resources, SWCD representatives*

Soil health campaign and the role of cover crops, *Joshua Dukart, Burleigh County Soil Conservation District – North Dakota*

Importance of an SWCDs data practices policy, *Karin Sonnemman - Winona County Attorney, Karen Clayton Ebert, Staff Counsel, Minnesota Counties Intergovernmental Trust*

**5:30-7:30 p.m. -- Dinner and entertainment**

**7:00-7:30 p.m. -- Auctions for Conservation**

**Agenda for Tuesday**

**7:30-8:15 a.m. -- Continental Breakfast**

**7:30 a.m. -- Registration Opens**

**8:30-10:00 a.m. -- Outstanding Conservationist Program: National Eagle Center out of Wabasha, MN**

**8:30-10:00 a.m. -- Business Meeting**

**8:30-10:00 a.m. -- Employee Sessions**

Root River Field to Stream Partnership, *Kevin Kuehner, Minnesota Department of Agriculture*

Minimal Impact Design Standards - Information and Tools for SWCD Technician, *John Chapman, P.E., Erosion and Stormwater Management Certification Program, University of Minnesota - Bioproducts and Biosystems Engineering Department*

MNsure and Implications for SWCD Health Care Options, *Darcy Hitesman, attorney, Hitesman & Wold, P.A.*

**10:00-10:30 a.m. -- Refreshment Break**

**10:00-11:45 a.m. -- Outstanding Conservationist Photos**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- Business Meeting**

**10:30 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. -- Employee Sessions**

Joint Powers Agreements: Tools for SWCD/MDA Water Quality Project Partnerships, *Ron Struss, Minnesota Department of Agriculture, and SWCD representation*

Tree and Forest Establishment and Management in Minnesota's Prairie Region, *Mark Lindquist, Department of Natural Resources, Mark Oja, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service*

SWCD Audits and Pay Equity, *Michael Peterson, CPA, Peterson Company Ltd., Cyndee Gmach, Pay Equity Coordinator, Minnesota Management & Budget*

**12:15-2:15 p.m. -- Outstanding Conservationist Luncheon and Awards, Closing Comments**

For more information and descriptions of events go to the [MASWCD event](#) webpage.

### Nature's Nook

Saturday, December 9, 2013 @ 9-11 a.m.

**Location:** Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods

**Brief Description:** Families and elementary school-aged children are invited to join us for an environmental story and activity time at Elk's Nature Center in Rasmussen Woods! We plan to host this once a month, perhaps more if there is interest. Join us as we explore the seasons through reading!

For more information email [MSU Mankato Office of Community Engagement](mailto:MSU_Mankato_Office_of_Community_Engagement) or call (507) 389-5789.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### FISHERIES HABITAT SPECIALIST

<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Region 4, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 8, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	New Ulm, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position functions as the DNR Commissioners' delegate in administering aquatic habitat-related programs of the DNR, section of Fisheries in a multi-county region. This position primarily involves the Aquatic Plant Management Program (APM), the Aquatic Aeration Program (AAP), interactions with planning and zoning officials from local government units that deal with shoreline development, assisting with the Aquatic Habitat Program (AHP), and other special habitat projects within the 33 counties in the DNR Southern Region (R4). This position also provides assistance to other staff to protect, preserve, and enhance fish and wildlife habitat through the effective implementation of best management practices as they relate to fisheries management activities. The person in this position is the lead worker in planning and implementing the APM and AAP programs, effectively acting in a supervisory role in directing and guiding staff at the New Ulm office. This position also assists with AHP projects at the regional level and program consultation/assessment with the statewide AHP coordinator.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13DNR000791</p>

### GROUNDWATER PROTECTION HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	This position exists to provide professional work in ground water management, in

the metro and southeast part of Minnesota. The position will increase the capacity of the EWR Division to assist with local water supply management in the face of growing stress on groundwater resources and associated impacts to domestic well users, municipal water supplies, and surface water resources. This position will work closely with Area Hydrologists and the Groundwater Unit as well as assist with the planning and implementation of the North and East Groundwater Management Area.

Examples of work:

- Provide compliance with groundwater and public water rules, including approved permit conditions, compliant volume and pumping rates, and submission of required monitoring volumes.
- Provide input to resolution of long-term sustainable water supply concerns through establishing appropriate monitoring wells, setting of aquifer thresholds, limits of appropriation pumping rates and volumes.
- Provide input/direction concerning comprehensive planning efforts related to land use controls and resource stewardship, particularly as they pertain to water use.
- Identify areas of special concern for appropriation. Conduct and coordinate extensive hydrologic and hydrogeologic investigations to determine the impacts from and necessary management of over-appropriations affecting complex ground and surface water systems.
- Participate in management decisions for Ground Water Management Areas and identify additional areas of special concern for sustainable water supply. Maintain inventory of well logs submitted with permit applications.
- Draft ground water and surface water appropriation permits, and on a limited basis, public waters permits.
- Review preliminary well construction applications.
- Document and survey hydrologic events (flood, drought, climate change) and associated water use and prepare data for presentation to the general public, DNR and other local, state, and federal agencies.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000762

### ASSISTANT MINING HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources/Region 2, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Grand Rapids, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will design and coordinate the acquisition, interpretation and technical application of hydrologic data on the Mesabi Iron Range for the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) environmental review, permit administration and mine land watershed reclamation for the purpose of promoting healthy watersheds.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct water management analysis of the seven taconite mining operations and other mining operations on the Mesabi Iron Range, based on current and proposed mining plans, to identify and quantify short-term and long-term hydrologic impacts and water permitting needs.</li> <li>• Work with mining company engineers, mining company consultants, State and Federal agencies and other stakeholders to address long-term hydrologic impacts and assure development of acceptable watershed restoration plans.</li> </ul>



- Work with State and Federal agencies, public and local units of government and other stakeholders to keep them informed of hydrologic issues that affect them.
- Collaborate with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency, Minnesota Board of Water & Soil Resources and other DNR staff to assess past, present and future mining impacts to headwater watersheds listed as 303d impaired water bodies.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000798

### GROUNDWATER PROTECTION HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological & Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Sauk Rapids, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to provide professional work in groundwater and surface water management within the North District of Region 3. The position will increase the capacity of the EWR Division to assist with water appropriation permits and address monitoring and compliance issues with ground and surface water resources. This position will work closely with Area Hydrologists and the Groundwater Unit as well as assist with the planning and implementation of the Bonanza Valley Groundwater Management Area.</p> <p>Examples of Work:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide compliance with groundwater and public water rules, including approved permit conditions, compliant volume and pumping rates, and submission of required monitoring volumes.</li> <li>• Provide input to resolution of long-term sustainable water supply concerns through establishing appropriate monitoring wells, setting of aquifer thresholds, limits of appropriation pumping rates and volumes.</li> <li>• Provide input/direction concerning comprehensive planning efforts related to land use controls and resource stewardship, particularly as they pertain to water use.</li> <li>• Identify areas of special concern for appropriation. Conduct and coordinate extensive hydrologic and hydrogeologic investigations to determine the impacts from and necessary management of over-appropriations affecting complex ground and surface water systems.</li> <li>• Participate in management decisions for Ground Water Management Areas and identify additional areas of special concerns for sustainable water supply. Maintain inventory of well logs submitted with permit applications</li> <li>• Draft ground water and surface water appropriation permits, and on a limited basis, public waters permits.</li> <li>• Review preliminary well construction applications.</li> <li>• Document and survey hydrologic events (flood, drought, climate change) and associated water use and prepare data for presentation to the general public, DNR and other local, state, and federal agencies.</li> </ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13DNR000793</p>

### NR SPECIALIST INT-FISHERIES

<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 12, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Shakopee, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to develop, implement, and coordinate the accelerated urban fishing program in the three county (Carver, Hennepin, and Scott) West Metro Fisheries Area.</p> <p>Primary responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To establish and maintain an ongoing working relationship with local unit of government officials, including their parks and recreation staff, in order to develop and implement expanded fishing opportunities on waters within their parks, primarily for shore based anglers</li><li>• Investigate new methods for providing additional angling opportunities and new sources of fish to support these opportunities</li><li>• Monitor and assess new and ongoing programs and projects to ensure most efficient use of funding is being realized and the cost-benefit ratios are maximized</li><li>• Work with MnAqua program staff to increase learning experience and opportunities to catch fish during MnAqua sponsored fishing events</li><li>• Assist Area Fisheries office staff with traditional fish management programs.</li></ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13DNR000509</p>

### STORMWATER SUPERVISOR

<b>Department:</b>	Municipal Stormwater Unit 1, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 13, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current agency employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is the staff supervisor of the Municipal Compliance Unit 1. The position is responsible for leading MS4 permitting and compliance for the Stormwater Section, and for assisting other section supervisors in administering the Construction Stormwater and Industrial Stormwater compliance programs. Overall objectives include developing policy, guidance, and rules for the Stormwater Program, and participating in process improvement and the Information Systems Transformation Project as appropriate.</p> <p>Supervisory functions include hiring, rewarding, promoting, disciplining staff, assigning and reviewing work and directing work of staff, adjusting grievances and effectively recommending suspension and discharge of staff; administering applicable labor agreements and plans so that staff are treated equitably and individual unit outcomes are achieved.</p> <p>This position requires 10% travel.</p>

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13PCA000197

### CONNECTIONS COORDINATOR

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Zoological Garden
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 14, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Twin Cities Suburbs - South, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position is responsible for developing and coordinating MN Zoo mission based programs that connect community audiences to animals and conservation experiences. Connections programs include special behind-the-scenes experiences, overnights, conservation travel programs, and adult enrichment classes and programs. It also serves as the lead worker in the Education Department, with responsibility for managing program-specific budgets; direct program content, educational methods, measures and evaluation techniques; and assist supervisor with program reporting and assessment.</p> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="http://www.careers.state.mn.us/">http://www.careers.state.mn.us/</a> Posting # 13MZG000094</p>

### EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

<b>Department:</b>	Leech Lake Area Watershed Foundation
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 15, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Hackensack, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Program Implementation and Management:</b> Leads conservation program planning and project implementation through outreach, civic engagement, negotiation of easements and acquisitions, and collaboration with other conservation organizations. Maintains a close working relationship with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and other state agencies as needed to implement conservation programs.</li><li>• <b>Board Support:</b> Works closely with the board to keep it informed, maintains corporate records, and participates in standing committees and fundraising activities.</li><li>• <b>Fundraising:</b> Directs and conducts fundraising and membership development activities and seeks financial support, grants, contracts and other assistance from individuals, foundations, corporations, and public agencies. Manages LLAWF database.</li><li>• <b>Communication / Public Relations:</b> Corresponds and conducts outreach with area lake associations, regional county government, business community, community groups, etc. through newsletters, press releases, website and other</li></ul>

communication channels.

- **Finance:** Jointly with the treasurer manages LLAWF's financial health, including preparation of monthly financial reports, drafting the annual budget, managing grants, and submitting state and federal financial reports.
- **General Administrative:** Handles LLAWF correspondence and routine administrative matters in a timely fashion.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP Partnership Job Announcements](#).

### SOIL CONSERVATION TECHNICIAN

<b>Department:</b>	Natural Resources Conservation Service, Minnesota Department of Agriculture
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 18, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Madison, MN; Marshall, MN; Olivia, MN; Rochester, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>Key Duties:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Makes initial contact with landowners and groups who have indicated an interest in the conservation program or in assistance in complying with the Food Security Act and the Food and Agriculture Commodity Trade Act (FSA/FACTA) and gathers the necessary pertinent data including surveys required in the development of comprehensive land management system plans.</li><li>• Determines need, feasibility, and probable conservation results of conservation practices in treating various resource needs and recommends alternative practices as well as means by which practices already applied or to be applied can be integrated into systems within the total conservation plan</li><li>• Delivers completed conservation plans to landowners and explains the plans in detail. Assists with the planning and application of practices in a progressive sequence with land-users. Application involves conducting surveys and investigations, design and plan preparation, and layout and construction inspection of conservation practices.</li></ul> <p>For more information and how to apply visit <a href="https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354658100">https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/354658100</a></p>

*"WHATEVER THE MIND OF MAN CAN CONCEIVE AND BELIEVE, IT CAN ACHIEVE." -  
NAPOLEON HILL*

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.

