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## Minnesota River Weekly Update

November 19th, 2013

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### **Annual meeting Dec. 5-7 for watershed districts**

The [Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts](#) will hold its annual meeting and trade show Dec. 5-7 at the Arrowwood Conference Center in Alexandria, MN. [Registration can be completed online and is due Nov. 20.](#) The registration fee of \$185 per person includes all conferences meals for registrant. MPCA presenters include Doug Wetzstein in a panel discussion on "Connecting Local Water Management and State Water Quality Programs through Watersheds" and Cindy Hilmoe on community engagement.

### **Partnerships, cost-sharing are key to agriculture and water quality project**

Agricultural production and clean water are the goals of a project using Clean Water Funds on the Doug and Lois Albin farm near Granite Falls. The soil is fertile - great for raising abundant yields of corn and soybeans. But the low-lying ground adjacent to the Yellow Medicine River often remained too wet to plant, and was susceptible to erosion. The Albins opened their land to major project to install the drain tile, but also reduce pollutants reaching the river. The project includes water management, streambank and outlet stabilization, woodchip bioreactors and a more recent tool - [saturated buffers](#). The expense, both in dollars and technical assistance, would have exceeded any immediate economic benefit. But with local, federal, and state assistance, including funding from the Clean Water, Land and Legacy Amendment, the project became an example of what can be done when property owners, agencies, and the public can achieve by working together. More information is available on [MPCA's website](#).

For more information about crop land research is available at the [Minnesota Corn Grower's Association website](#), on the [Discovery Farms](#) webpage of MAWRG. and the [Clean Water Research Program](#) of the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

### **Minnesota River Board Meeting Nov. 25 in Renville County**

The [Minnesota River Board](#) is scheduled to meet at 9 a.m., Monday November 25th at the Sheep Shedde in Olivia. At its regular meeting Sept. 30 in Henderson, the Board continued discussions from the previous meeting about how to proceed with a re-organizations. Board Director Shannon Fisher and Board of Minnesota Water and Soil Resources staff presented some alternative structures. Board members will be consulting with their respective county boards prior to the Nov. 25 meeting.

### **Local partners brave the elements to detect pollutants in rivers**

When it rains in southeastern Minnesota, select watershed staff in southeast Minnesota are packing their sample bottles along with their umbrellas. They're working to detect the level of pollutants being flushed into rivers with rain water or snow melt. The project, one of many funded by the Clean Water, Land, and Legacy Amendment, will give water professionals a better idea of how the Cannon, Zumbro, and Root

Rivers are being affected by runoff. Over time, the information will help to identify where pollutants are entering river systems and give clues about how to target cleanup efforts. For more information visit [MPCA's website](#).

### **Open houses set on strategy to reduce nutrients in waters**

Open house public meetings have been scheduled around the state to review and comment on a proposed statewide strategy for reducing nutrients - phosphorus and nitrogen - escaping into surface and groundwater. A draft strategy is open for public review and comment through Dec. 18 on the [web](#). The statewide plan aims to get various agencies and groups working together to increase current efforts to reduce nutrients in Minnesota waters and those downstream from Minnesota. The kick-off is scheduled for 3-5:30 p.m., Monday, Nov. 18 at the MPCA office in St. Paul, 520 Lafayette Rd. N. Open house meetings are scheduled for:

- November 19, 2013 @ 3-5 p.m., Department of Natural Resources office, New Ulm
- November 26, 2013 @ 3-5 p.m., Kandiyohi County Government Center, Willmar
- December 3, 2013 @ 4-6 p.m., St James Hotel, Red Wing
- December 4, 2013 @ 3-5 p.m., Otter Tail County Services Building, Fergus Falls
- December 10, 2013 @ 11 a.m. - 12:15 p.m., MPCA Office, Duluth

Phosphorus and nitrogen are primary nutrients that in excessive amounts can pollute lakes, streams, wetlands, and groundwater. Excess nutrients make up 18% of Minnesota's water impairments, and the number is expected to grow in coming decade. Surface water leaving Minnesota flows north to Lake Winnipeg, east to Lake Superior, and south to the Gulf of Mexico. The initial targets are a 35% reduction in phosphorus and 20% reduction in nitrogen by 2025 in the Mississippi River basin, as well as reductions for the Red River/Lake Winnipeg and Lake Superior basins. The ultimate goal is a 45% reduction for the Mississippi River. In addition to the open houses, MPCA staff will be providing information at a variety of association and trade show events in coming months:

- November 19, 2013 Upper Mississippi River Basin Association
- November 19, 2013 @ 12:30-2 p.m. Watershed Network, New Ulm Pizza Ranch
- December 2, 2013 Crop Production Retailers, Minneapolis Convention Center
- December 18, 2013 Basin Alliance for the Lower Mississippi in Minnesota, Rochester MPCA office

Minnesota's state-level strategy is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2013. Involvement of interested citizens and organizations is vital. Success depends on actions from many people around the state. For more information on the strategy development process and opportunities to provide feedback, visit the [Nutrient reduction strategy website](#) or [email](#).

### **The demographics of garbage: What are Minnesotans really throwing away?**

The MPCA is releasing a waste composition report highlighting trends of recycling in Minnesota. Some key findings:

- The amount of plastic thrown away has increased from 11% of the waste stream to 18% since 2000
- Paper in the waste stream has decreased from 34% to 25%, likely due to decreased printing of newspapers
- 12 thousand tons, or 24 million pounds, of aluminum beverage containers were discarded in Minnesota in 2012-the equivalent of 3.6 million aluminum cans per day
- Over 543,000 tons (1 billion pounds) of recyclable paper were discarded in Minnesota in 2012
- 21,000 tons (41 million pounds) of PET beverage container plastic were discarded in 2012
- Organics (food) accounts for 31% of the waste stream, which is a 21% increase from the 2000 study

For more information on the report visit MPCA's [demographics of garbage](#) webpage

### **MPCA announces 2014 draft Impaired Waters list**

The MPCA has announced the [draft 2014 Impaired Waters List](#), which is open for public comment in January 2014. Ten lakes and 20 stream reaches across Minnesota have been removed from this year's list, an accomplishment which represents monumental work on the part of watershed organization around the state. Some highlights of this year's list include:

- Thirty-two miles of the Mississippi River have been impaired since 2008 because of the presence of certain perfluorochemicals (PFCs) in fish tissue. PFC concentrations have decreased markedly in the impaired sections of the Mississippi, and three out of four sections of the river can now be removed from the Impaired Waters List for this particular problem
- Two sections of the Red River of the North near Fargo-Moorhead, which had been impaired since 1994 because of fecal coliform bacteria, have been removed from the draft list. Working cooperatively, the two cities enhanced their flood mitigation efforts and improved stormwater and wastewater infrastructure to reduce bacteria counts in the river to a safer level. The river now meets state water quality standards for fecal coliform bacteria.
- Nine metro-area lakes have been removed from the list as a result of work to correct their impairments. Howard Lake in Anoka County was restored by removing rough fish such as carp that

disturbed the lake bed, and installing barriers to keep them out. These actions improved water quality and allowed rooted vegetation to be re-established in the lake.

A series of public meetings will take place throughout the state in December to present the content of the Impaired Waters List. Individuals who are unable to attend in person can phone in to the meetings in real time. Meetings will be held:

Thursday, December 5 @ 10-11 a.m., MPCA Office, 525 Lake Avenue, Duluth  
Thursday, December 10 @ 9-10 a.m., MPCA Office, 520 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul  
Wednesday, December 11 @ 1-2 p.m., MPCA Office, 714 Lake Avenue, Detroit Lakes  
Wednesday, December 18 @ 11 a.m. -12 p.m., MPCA Office, 18 Wood Lake Drive SE, Rochester (in conjunction with [BALMM](#) meeting)

Formal written comments on the list will be accepted from January 2 - January 31, 2014. For more information, visit the Impaired [Waters List](#) website or contact [Miranda Nichols](#) (651) 757-2614

#### **MPCA invites comments on report for Sunrise River Watershed**

The MPCA is seeking feedback on a [draft water quality improvement report](#) for three streams and four lakes within the Sunrise River watershed. Public comments are encouraged through December 3. The watershed encompasses eight cities, including North Branch, Forest Lake, East Bethel, and Lindstrom. The four lakes - Linwood, Second, Vibo, and White Stone - and the West Branch of the Sunrise River are impaired by excess levels of phosphorus. The Sunrise River (from the confluence of the North Branch of the Sunrise River to the St. Croix) and Hay Creek are impaired by excess E. coli bacteria. Bodies of water with excess phosphorus are prone to frequent algae overgrowth, which interferes with swimming, fishing and recreation. Excess E. coli poses a possible health risk to people using the water for drinking or recreation. The report indicates that to meet water quality standards, phosphorus levels in the impaired bodies of water must be reduced by 12 to 93%, and bacteria levels must be lowered by as much as 87% in some areas. The draft report may be viewed [online](#). For more information or to submit comments, email [Christopher Klucas](#) or call (651) 757-2498

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## ARTICLES

### **[Farm bill cuts might cut conservation, too](#) *(with audio)***

Frank Morris, Nov. 14, NPR News

Farm program will likely cost the government under any new farm bill, but the policy could be bad for the environment. Both House and Senate versions would end a big subsidy, called direct payments, that has paid money to landowners - whether they needed it or not - if they complied with certain conservation regulations.

### **[Ideas clash on how to fight invasive species](#)**

AP, Nov. 14, Pioneer Press

MOORHEAD, Minn. - Minnesota's fight against aquatic invasive species is pitting the government panel that helps allocate Legacy Fund money against lake property owners.

### **[New silica sand mining advisory panel formed](#)**

Elizabeth Baier, Nov. 16, MPR News

ST. PAUL, Minn. - Two state agencies in charge of regulating the silica sand mining industry are creating a new advisory committee. The DNR and the MPCA are looking for citizens, local government leaders, and silica sand industry officials to provide advice as they draft rules for the industry.

### **[Report warns of climate threat to big game in Minnesota](#)**

Steve Karnowski

AP, Nov. 14, Pioneer Press

MINNEAPOLIS - Climate change threatens the big game animals that call Minnesota home - from moose to deer to bears - and the state needs to plan for how to protect those species and the outdoor recreation economy that depends on them, conservation groups warned Thursday.

### **[A rancher and a conservationist forge an unlikely alliance](#) *(with audio)***

Christopher Joyce, Nov. 15, MPR News

Trout fishing is a magnet that draws people from around the world to places like Ovando, Montana. Just ask the owner of Blackfoot Angler and Supplies, Kathy Schoendoerfer.

### **[Minn. deer harvest running behind as hunt ends](#)**

Dan Kraker, Nov. 16, MPR News

DULUTH, Minn. - The firearms deer hunting season for most of the state ends this weekend the harvest so far is still running behind last year's.

**Tense week ahead for UN climate talks**

Karl Ritter, Nov. 17, MPR News  
WARSAW, Poland--U.N. climate talks head into a tense final week Monday after the diplomatic effort to reduce global warming gases was hit by a series of setbacks, including Japan's decision to ditch its voluntary emissions target.

**Microplastics a problem in the Great Lakes (with audio)**

NCPR News, Nov. 18, North Country Public Radio  
Plastics are a part of modern life -- they're in everything. Plastics are even in our skin care products. Exfoliating beads called microbeads in many facial scrubs are made of plastic, and they're making an appearance in a new study that looks at how much plastic ends up in the Great Lakes, and how it gets there.

**Audit: Minnesota sustainable forestry program lacks oversight, should be changed or scrapped**

Steve Karnowski, Nov. 19, Star Tribune  
ST. PAUL, Minn. - There is so little oversight of a state program that has spent \$44 million promoting sustainable forestry on private land that lawmakers should make significant changes to it or scrap it altogether, Minnesota's legislative auditor said Tuesday.

**Minnesota garbage study offers 'wake up call,' pollution control agency head says (with audio)**

Elizabeth Dunbar, Nov. 18, MPR News  
ST. PAUL, Minn. - Food waste and other organic materials made up nearly a third of what Minnesotans sent to landfills in 2012, according to a new study state officials released Monday.

**'Keep it Growing' helps Minnesota farmers, communities retain farm land**

Claudia Broman, Nov. 18, MinnPost  
Glenn Krog was born 78 years ago on the Lincoln County farmstead he calls home in southwestern Minnesota. He used to raise cattle, but now focuses on growing soybeans, wheat, alfalfa and corn - and he would have stopped farming about 10 years ago were it not for the help of "a good hired man."

**Sun number rates homes' rooftops for solar panels**

David Shaffer, Nov. 19, Star Tribune  
A start-up company that is expanding in Minnesota has developed data tools to help the solar industry assess which rooftops are suitable for solar panels.

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## EVENTS

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**Nov. 18-Nov. 24**

**The Monarch Butterfly's Dwindling Numbers: A Discussion with Monarch Expert, Dr. Karen Oberhauser**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 @ 6-9 p.m.

**Location:** REI in Bloomington

**Brief Description:** The Minnehaha Chapter of the Izaak Walton League presents *The Monarch Butterfly's Dwindling Numbers*, a free public event, to generate discussion about the decline of this wildlife spectacle. Many people do not understand the biology of the monarch and the present biological and climatic threats posed to the monarch. Dr. Karen Oberhauser will discuss exactly those threats monarchs face and explain the potential responses to these threats. This discussion will also touch on the amazing biology of migratory monarch populations, and the work of citizens and scientists in documenting monarch numbers at all stages of their migratory cycle. 6:30 p.m. food & socializing \*7 p.m. presentation & questions \*8 p.m. conversations with Dr. Oberhauser & book signing.

While the event is free, donations to the Monarch Butterfly Fund, an organization working to preserve monarch overwintering sites in Mexico, will be collected and appreciated. Contact [John Rust](#) at (763) 202-3346 with questions regarding this event.

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**Green Ideas and Ham Discussion: PolyMet mine project in NE Minnesota**

Tuesday, November 19, 2013 @ 8-9:30 p.m.

**Location:** Red Stag Supper Club, 509 1st Ave. NE, Minneapolis, MN  
**Brief Description:** In just a few weeks, the new draft of the PolyMet mine Environmental Impact Statement will be made public. The proposed mining project sits in the Lake Superior basin and could result in sulfuric acid pollution, which would harm fish and wildlife, and increase mercury levels in the Lake Superior watershed. The plan reveals that contaminated water from the mining site would require 500 years of water treatment. On top of the risks from this mine in particular, approval of PolyMet could pave the way for future sulfide mines such as the Twin Metals project, just a few miles from the Boundary Waters wilderness area. As we discuss the details of PolyMet's plan, we'll hear from Kathryn Hoffman, an attorney with the Minnesota Center for Environmental Advocacy, who's team of scientific experts is reviewing the mine plan. We'll also hear Matthew Anderson, the Director of Audubon Minnesota. Armed with the facts, you can help protect Minnesota's environment and weigh in against the PolyMet sulfide mine project. We hope you'll join us for breakfast and a discussion of our efforts on this critical issue. [We need you to join this discussion.](#)

As always, the event costs \$15 for each attendee. That includes a \$5 donation to Environment Minnesota and \$10 to Red Stag Supperclub.

Visit the [Environment Minnesota event page](#) for more information.

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**1st Annual GIS Day: Geospatial Thinking: Real-world solutions**  
Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

**Location:** Minnesota State University

**Brief Description:**

Agenda

10:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Poster Gallery (Student posters)

Vendor/Information Tables (Department of Geography, MSU-M; Dr. Mary T. Wooley Map Library, Memorial Library, MSU-M; RANGE, Geography student club; GIS Division, City of Mankato, MN; GIS Division, City of Waseca, MN; GIS Division, Waseca County, MN; Water Resources Center, MSU-M; South Central College, Mankato, MN)

11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Student poster competition (Undergraduate/Graduate)

12 - 1:30 p.m. Luncheon and Awards Ceremony

1:30 - 2:30 p.m. Social hour

For more information and to RSVP email [Carol Reedstrom](#) or call (507) 389-2617

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**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](#) website. Questions can be directed to [richardwarner@umn.edu](mailto:richardwarner@umn.edu)

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**Millennials as Environmental Leaders: What Does the Future Hold?**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 7-8 p.m.

**Location:** Center of Energy and the Environment, Minneapolis, MN



**Brief Description:** Please join the Women's Environmental Network and the Center for Energy and the Environment for a panel discussion on entitled "Millennials as Environmental Leaders: What Does the Future Hold?" Panelists include: Kate Knuth, Director of the Boreas Leadership Program as the U of M Institute on the Environment; Deanna White, State Director of Clean Water Action. This event is free and open to the public. For more information, please visit [the event page](#).

**Members: join the panelists for a members-only dinner with our speakers from 5:30 pm to 6:55 pm!** Dinner will be at [Haute Dish](#) just around the corner from the Center for Energy and the Environment. Cocktails at 5:30 and dinner from 6-7 pm. RSVP and join the Women's Environmental Network! Dinner for Members-Only: Students \$10 (limit 10 only), Professionals: \$20 (limit 30). Memberships: Students \$15, Professionals \$35.

Access to this can be easy with public transit. Susan Solterman Audette is also arranging carpools/rideshare. To arrange this, contact [Susan](#) at (651) 260-7040.

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### **Bring Solar Power to Your Home!**

Wednesday, November 20, 2013 @ 7-8:15 p.m.

**Location:** Linden Hills Recreation Center, Minneapolis, MN

**Brief Description:** Are you curious about solar energy for your home, but don't know where to start? We can help! Join Clean Water Action and the Linden Hills Environment Committee the evening of Wednesday, November 20 to learn about solar power for your home. Experts in the solar energy field will be here to speak about the basics and the benefits of residential solar and the programs available to the public to add solar power to your energy mix.

Speakers to appear include:

Dustin Denison, Principal for Applied Energy Innovations

Diana McKeown, Metro CERT Director for the Great Plains Institute

If you have any questions, please contact [Dan Endreson](#) (612) 627-1528.

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

Thursday, November 21, 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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### **2013 Annual Dinner**

Thursday, November 21, 2013 @ 5:30-8:30 p.m.

**Location:** Minnesota Valley Country Club

**Brief Description:** The Minnesota Agricultural Water Quality Certification Program (MAWQCP) is a voluntary program designed to accelerate adoption of on-farm conservation practices that protect Minnesota's lakes and rivers. Producers who implement and maintain approved farm management practices

will be certified and in turn assured that their operation meets the state's water quality goals and standards for a period of 10 years. David Minge served as the Facilitator for the MAWQCP Advisory Committee and shares his insights with us. David is a Friends board member, a former Member of Congress for Minnesota's Second Congressional District, and a retired Judge from the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

Cost is \$35 per person and \$25 per student and children.

To RSVP email [Shelly Miller](mailto:Shelly.Miller@mn.gov) or at (952) 858-0727.

**Schedule of events:**

5:30-6:30 p.m. Cash Bar & Social; Silent Auction; Music of the Minnesota River provided by Scott Sparlin

6:30-8:30 p.m. Dinner & Program: Welcome & Introductory Remarks; Presentation of Officers; Keynote speech delivered by David Minge; Presentation of Annual Awards; Announcement of Silent Auction winners

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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!](http://DoItGreen.org) 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

**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@mn.gov) or call (507) 389-5789.

**Nov. 25-Dec. 1**

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**Dad's Belgian Waffles**

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

**Location:** [Farmamerica](http://Farmamerica.com)

**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](http://Farmamerica.com).

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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

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**Dec. 2-Dec. 8**

**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 Sonneman - 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.

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**Breakfast and Convening: Finding New Environmentalists in the Good Government Community**

Wednesday, December 4, 2013 @ 8:30 a.m.

**Location:** [The New Louisiana Café](#), Selby & Dale, St. Paul

**Brief Description:** This presentation is intended to give a better idea of how organizations can use new research on government relationships to promote a cleaner government and cleaner environment. The specifics include a new league of Women Voters Minnesota report on the impact of corporate spending in Minnesota, stemming from Citizens United, as well as a discussion of how to reduce the impact of special interests in local government planning. Attendees will have the opportunity to meet with good government groups interested in partnering to make our government cleaner.

We hope you can join us! RSVP to Gwen Myers, League of Women Voters Environmental Lobbyist.

For information contact [Jeremy Schroeder](#), Executive Director of Common Cause Minnesota at (612) 605-7978; or [Sherri Knuth](#), Policy and Outreach Manager, League of Women Voters Minnesota at (651) 224-5445 ext 299.

**Dec. 9-Dec. 14**

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**Nature's Nook**

Saturday, December 13, 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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**Telling Your Sustainability Story: Balancing Privacy and Transparency**

Friday, December 12, 2013 @ 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

**Location:** Aveda Corporation Headquarters, Blaine

**Brief Description:** From new reporting requirements and disclosure laws; to increasing demands from customers, shareholders, and NGOs; to unprecedented levels of information sharing, increased transparency in sustainability communications is becoming the new normal. Join Environmental Initiative for a morning of expert presentations and peer-to-peer learning that will help you consider what to tell, what not to tell, and how to tell it when communicating about your company's environmental practices. We'll hear about emerging trends in sustainability reporting and transparency that will impact businesses of

all sizes - including the new [Sustainability Accounting Standard Board \(SASB\)](#), an organization that's creating industry-specific reporting standards for publicly traded companies. Case studies from local business leaders will explore the challenges, risks, and opportunities related to sharing more information, while small group discussions will give you a chance to hear from peers, ask questions, and discover solutions together.

For more information visit the [Environmental Initiative event](#) page.

## JOB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### ASSISTANT AREA/PARK SUPERVISOR

<b>Department:</b>	Parks & Trails/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 22, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Brainerd, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>Hours of work are generally from 7:00 AM and 3:30 PM, with occasional evenings and weekends for meetings. This position will be Exempt for part of the year.</p> <p>This position is responsible for the administration, supervision and implementation of Department of Natural Resources and Division of Parks and Trails programs, activities, policies and rules pertaining to the operation of the Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area, plus assigned development, resource management and rehabilitation projects for recreation areas in Area 3B of Region 3, and provide professional assistance to the Area Supervisor.</p> <p>Responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Personnel Management: Recruit, interview, recommend hiring, direct, schedule, train/coach and discipline staff per policy and bargaining unit agreements. Plus: At Minnesota Valley State Recreation Area:</li> <li>• Fiscal Management: Manage revenue operations/budget/purchase goods &amp; services.</li> <li>• Public Service Operations: Monitor public service operations/activities.</li> <li>• Public Relations: Provide information to visitors and local community via media outlets, and outreach to local community interest groups.</li> <li>• Policy and Planning: participate in/contribute to planning efforts.</li> <li>• Visitor Services: Administer vehicle permit sales, campground operations and management, manage reservation system &amp; associated computer systems/software, and operation of all public facilities.</li> <li>• Enforcement and Emergency Services: Enforce relevant rules/statutes; provide for emergency response to ensure visitor safety.</li> <li>• Safety Program: Administer/promote the recreation area safety program.</li> <li>• Physical Plant Management: Ensure repair, maintenance and custodial services for buildings, grounds, utilities and all other facilities.</li> </ul> <p>AND, for Area 3B, Assisting Area Supervisor:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Project/Facility Management: Implement/coordinate land acquisition, development, maintenance, operations and rehabilitation activities. Coordinate purchase/distribution of concrete ramp planks/docks/signs/boat safety</li> </ul>

equipment.

- Resource Management: Monitor projects/manage facilities to ensure compliance with best practices and applicable regulations (i.e. the Wetland Conservation Act, rare and endangered species, archeological elements, etc.) and/or coordinate delineation, minimization, replacement and monitoring of impacted wetlands on trails and/or water recreation facility development.
- Public Relations (PR)/Partnerships: Provide information/act as liaison between local interest groups and the Division to address concerns that may arise in land acquisition/development projects. Collaborate to develop & implement a PR program for neighbors, local communities and public agencies; coordinate PR functions/materials such as mapping and website content.
- Administration: Collaborate to develop/implement enforcement, emergency service and risk management programs; and assist in all aspects of fiscal management including grants. Assist in obtaining permits for projects.

For more information and how to apply visit

<http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000813

### PUBLIC WATERS PROGRAM HYDROLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 25, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current state employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position will develop recommendations and implement approved policies for administering the statewide public water regulatory program and the coordination of Division of Ecological and Water Resources violations, legal proceedings and hearings. This position prepares written and oral reports; oversees technical work on complex projects; applies principles of hydrology, hydraulics, hydrogeology, or regulation of public waters and planning toward implementing statewide programs, and develops guidance on relevant topics to assist in the consistent application of regulations on a statewide basis.</p> <p>Job duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Investigate and resolve conflicts related to water supply and use of public waters.</li><li>● Research, draft, and administer water and related land resource protection rules and statutory language.</li><li>● Provide statewide oversight and guidance for regulation of water appropriation, public waters and wetlands alterations.</li><li>● Prepare and present testimony as the state's technical expert for contested case public hearings or trials.</li><li>● Research and recommend policies to implement water management programs, including shoreland, floodplain, permits and technical review.</li><li>● Develop and present technical training for other DNR and/or local government staff in technical area of specialization or area of regulatory/administrative expertise.</li><li>● Coordinate the development and implementation of the Public Waters Work</li></ul>

Permit

- Program to assure consistency with laws, policies, and management objectives.
- Coordinate the Division's public hearings and contested case hearings demanded under M.S. 103G.311.
- Administer Division activities required by, or in support of, the Wetland Conservation Act so that Division wetland conservation responsibilities are fulfilled consistent with legislative authority.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000810

### FAW LAND ACQUISITION COORDINATION

<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Central Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 25, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current state employees
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position exists to assist in the coordination and administration of the statewide wildlife and fisheries land acquisition, critical habitat, and Federal Aid programs by overseeing the implementation of program goals, objectives and strategies; working with field staff and partners to develop biologically and ecologically based projects and proposals; assisting with preparation of acquisition related legislative and budget proposals; administering project funds; coordinating and serving as a liaison with other agencies and groups; and assisting in the administration of Federal Aid Land grants.</p> <p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Coordinate with field staff and partners on fish and wildlife land acquisition and RIM Match/CHM License Plate process so that the highest priority lands are acquired consistent with strategic acquisition goals and objectives.</li><li>• Implement acquisition planning and policy development so that the most critical lands are acquired and fish and wildlife needs are incorporated and addressed.</li><li>• Coordinate the acquisition of conservation, flowage, wetland, access and other easements for the Division of Fish and Wildlife.</li><li>• Administer and implement acquisition grants such as NAWCA, LCCMR Habitat Corridors Partnership, LSOHC pass-through, Conservation Partners Grants, and others so that all essential program-related responsibilities and tasks are carried out and to maximize benefits for fish and wildlife land acquisitions.</li><li>• Coordinate with the Land Acquisition Program supervisor and Federal Aid Coordinator with the implementation of the USFWS Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (Federal Aid) Statewide Fisheries Acquisition Grant and the Statewide Wildlife Acquisition Grant.</li></ul>

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000806

## AQUATIC PESTICIDE ENFORCEMENT

<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Central Office, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 25, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This purpose of this position is to investigate, inspect, advise, and monitor aquatic pesticide applications that may impact public waters and other natural resources of the State of Minnesota.</p> <p>Primary responsibilities include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● To monitor, observe and supervise the application of aquatic pesticides by private individuals, non-commercial applicators and commercial aquatic pesticide applicators to ensure DNR permit compliance and pesticide label compliance for the correct, safe and legal use of these products.</li> <li>● Investigate reports of herbicide and mechanical misuse at aquatic sites and violations of Aquatic Plant Management regulations.</li> <li>● Create and manage a statewide database for annual surveys of Aquatic Plant Management (APM) permit activity.</li> <li>● Assist in the operation and maintenance of the centrally located APM database. Provide technical advice and assistance as requested to all APM staff statewide regarding APM database use.</li> <li>● Conduct database queries as requested by staff for datasets as needed for the APM program and to provide for data requests for interested parties outside the DNR.</li> </ul> <p>This Aquatic Biologist position designs and conducts assessments of aquatic ecosystems; analyzes and communicates assessment results; makes habitat management recommendations; and/or plans, coordinates, and implements habitat management activities on ecosystems.</p> <p>Designs research studies, surveys, and special investigations to obtain information about aquatic communities (i.e., plants, animals, and their habitats) both native and exotic.</p> <p>Secures permission from landowners to conduct surveys, prepare forms, plan and coordinate field schedules, implement field sampling processes.</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 # 13DNR000805</p>

## FISH RESEARCH BIOLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 25, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Brainerd, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	Only current state employees



**Responsibilities:**

\*\*This 70% position will likely work 3.5 days per week. The specific schedule will be worked out with the successful candidate.\*\*

This position exists to: plan and implement original research required for the advancement of fisheries management in Minnesota; recommend statewide guidelines and strategies to solve fisheries management problems; develop and evaluate new techniques to protect and enhance aquatic resources in Minnesota; develop and evaluate new policies required to ensure the sustainability of fisheries resources in Minnesota; disseminate advanced technical expertise, and represent the Department in public meetings.

Responsibilities include:

- Plan original, independent research projects concerning the conservation and management of fisheries and other aquatic resources in Minnesota in order to meet needs for increased scientific knowledge, improved technology, and improved management of Minnesota's fisheries resources.
- Plan, implement, and direct advanced, independent fisheries research using appropriate research techniques so study objectives are met and findings are statistically and scientifically valid.
- Disseminate research results so that research findings can be utilized by research scientists, research managers, administrators, and the public within Minnesota and internationally.
- Recommend fisheries management policies based on research results as needed to develop sustainable fisheries management programs.
- Advance the technology of fisheries science in Minnesota by remaining informed on fisheries and other aquatic sciences, statistical design and analyses and computer applications.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000811

**DEVELOPMENT & COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER**

<b>Department:</b>	Minnesota Environmental Partnership
<b>Closing Date:</b>	November 30, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	St. Paul, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>MEP is seeking to grow and diversify its team by adding staff to manage MEP’s development program and expand its communications work. This person will be crucial in charting MEP’s continued success while expanding and engaging our network of members and supporters. Primary responsibilities will be leading all aspects of MEP’s development work and working with other staff and consultants to advance engaging communications. This is a great opportunity for the right person to make a real impact on our state’s natural resources while enhancing MEP’s development and communications programs. MEP is committed to recruiting and retaining a diverse staff. Individuals from all backgrounds are strongly encouraged to apply.</p> <p><b>MAJOR DEVELOPMENT RESPONSIBILITIES:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prepare and lead the implementation of annual development plan in</li> </ul>

conjunction with the Executive Director, key staff and Board of Directors to meet short- and long-term revenue goals;

- Serve as lead staff to MEP Board Development Committee;
- Conduct prospect research on foundations and individual donors and prepare briefing materials;
- Prepare letters-of-inquiry and proposals for submission;
- Create and manage individual donor campaigns and appeals, including bulk mailings and emails
- Work closely with the Executive Director and key volunteers to cultivate and solicit major gifts;
- Track foundation grants, work with program staff to develop and submit required reports;
- Track and update prospects, donors and acknowledgments on database;
- Use database to create reports, analyze results and create mailings;
- Prepare and present summary information on MEP as required;
- Work with volunteers and staff to organize special events; and
- Manage submission of new members, and renewal of current, MEP member organizations.

**MAJOR COMMUNICATIONS RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- Maintain and update MEP website;
- Maintain MEP’s social media presence;
- Collaborate on polling projects and message development;
- Coordinate annual message training for member organizations;
- Lead development and distribution of press releases and statements;
- Develop presentations as needed;
- Produce communication materials including appeals, brochures, flyers and other materials as needed;
- Supervise communication intern and oversee tasks including distribution of weekly email update and daily News Watch service; and
- Report on development and communications activities to board and others as needed.

For more information and how to apply visit [MEP](#) webpage.

<b>ASSISTANT HATCHERY SUPERVISOR</b>	
<b>Department:</b>	Fish & Wildlife/Region 3, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	December 2, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Peterson Hatchery, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>This position performs coldwater fish hatchery work, primarily assisting a supervisor of a fish hatchery in all technical and administrative aspects of operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Functions as station lead worker to other professional, technical, or laborer staff; makes independent program and administrative decisions requiring application</li> </ul>

of work rules and advanced fish hatchery principles and practices.

- Directs the work of laborers, technicians, and other professionals to ensure that fish hatchery operations goals are met by setting work priorities, assigning work, evaluating work completion, recommending purchasing materials, informing staff of developments and recommending training.
- Conducts and monitors fish production activities so that hatchery objectives are met by feeding fish, cleaning raceways, recognizing and treating stress and disease, planning and conducting spawn-taking operations, projecting feed and growth, analyzing growth data, transporting and stocking fish, and providing information for periodic production reports.
- Assists supervisor in administrative responsibilities including personnel matters, purchasing supplies, processing bills, and maintaining equipment records. Directs personnel, administrative operations, and fish production during the hatchery supervisor's absence so that office and production operations remain effective and efficient.
- Oversees maintenance or maintains hatchery equipment so production quotas are met by constructing or repairing equipment and recommending equipment and materials needs.
- Provides information to the public by leading hatchery tours, meeting with interested groups and speaking about fisheries programs; makes presentations, and answering questions.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000814

## AQUATIC ECOLOGIST

<b>Department:</b>	Ecological and Water Resources, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
<b>Closing Date:</b>	December 2, 2013
<b>Location(s):</b>	Brainerd, MN
<b>Who May Apply:</b>	All qualified job seekers
<b>Responsibilities:</b>	<p>From mid-May through September, fieldwork may require this position to work extended hours and/or travel overnight as much as 3-4 days per week.</p> <p>This position will be responsible for accelerating data collection and analysis activities related to Minnesota aquatic plant communities, including the development of a statewide Aquatic Plant Index of Biotic Integrity (IBI). As the junior member of a team of aquatic scientists, this position will contribute to a wide range of the team's work activities including planning, field assessment, sample processing, data management and analysis, and reports and presentations.</p> <p>Job Duties include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Conduct standardized vegetation and other habitat surveys of assigned lakes, either independently or as a team.</li><li>• Manage and analyze data from assigned lake surveys so that survey results are organized in appropriate databases and made available for use for management, research and educational efforts.</li><li>• Monitor and maintain in good working condition field equipment including motor vehicles, watercraft, outboard motors, trailers, and electronic and mechanical field equipment.</li><li>• Contribute to Team projects, including reports, manuals, presentations and workshops that summarize and evaluate aquatic plant data to enhance</li></ul>

management, research and educational efforts.

For more information and how to apply visit <http://www.careers.state.mn.us/> Posting # 13DNR000802

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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.