

# Minnesota River Weekly Update

December 20, 2016



"92 percent of the Minnesota River basin's land is agricultural, and the quality and quantity of its water depend overwhelmingly on farming practices"

Photo Credit: [BRIAN PETERSON, STAR TRIBUNE](#)

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Update, click on the Archive  
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[— Archive —](#)

## Announcements

**Teaching kids the dangers of ice**

December 14, 2017, MDNR

Now is the time to talk to kids about the dangers of thin ice. As temperatures continue to dip below freezing, ice is forming on many lakes, ponds and rivers. But conditions vary across the state. Minnesota Department of Natural Resources conservation officer Hannah Mishler has already responded to multiple ice rescue calls. “Ice, especially snow covered ice, is extremely deceptive. You can’t see dangerous cracks or the thickness of the ice under the snow,” Mishler said. With many children out of school for holiday breaks, they may look toward the newly formed ice for entertainment. “Teach your children that ice is never 100 percent safe,” cautions Mishler. “If your child is near the ice, you should be near your child.”

For more information click ([here](#)).

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### **DNR announces new special angling regulations**

December 18, 2017. MDNR

Special fishing regulations will change March 1 on a number of Minnesota waters following an annual public input and review process, according to the Department of Natural Resources. “Anglers need to know special regulations because they take precedence over statewide regulations,” said Al Stevens, fisheries program consultant with the DNR. “We have special regulations to improve fish populations and make fishing better or more sustainable.” Special regulations for individual waters are listed in a separate section of the Minnesota Fishing Regulations booklet and at [mndnr.gov/fishmn](http://mndnr.gov/fishmn), and are posted at public accesses. For this spring, new statewide northern pike zone regulations that take effect on inland waters will make it possible to do away with several previously existing special regulations that apply to individual waters and aim for similar outcomes as the zone regulations. The new statewide pike regulations go into effect in time for the fishing opener on Saturday, May 12.

For more information click ([here](#))

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### **Nongame wildlife: 40 years, 40 reasons, \$40**

Kristi Coughlon, DNR information officer, Monday, December 18, 2017

Minnesotans are a generous lot. For the past 40 years, they’ve made it possible for the Minnesota Nongame Wildlife Program to help thousands of native species survive and thrive – including animals that are threatened, endangered and rare. The program is now wrapping up its 40th anniversary with hopes that supporters will wrap up an end-of-year donation to put under the holiday tree in celebration of the many wildlife success stories it’s helped create, like the comeback of bald eagles and trumpeter swans.

For more information click ([here](#)).

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### **BWSR celebrates outstanding 2017 conservation work**

December 19, 2017, BWSR

As the year draws to a close, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BWSR) recognized the excellent work done locally in Minnesota communities to advance conservation. John Jaschke, BWSR Executive Director, explains, “Our local government

partners are the key conservation resource for their community. They answer questions, provide resources, and are the trusted experts on specific conservation issues and concerns. This year we are pleased to announce awards for two exceptional employees of local government, and a county conservation award.”

For more information click ([here](#))

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## News

### **Birders take part in annual Christmas count**

[Randy Petersen](#), Dec 18, 2017

Thirty bird lovers scattered throughout Rochester nine days before Christmas to see how many different winged species they could find. Some people might consider counting birds an odd holiday tradition, but Clifford Hansen, organizer of the [Zumbro Valley Audubon Society's Christmas bird count](#), said the national event started in 1900 as a substitute for another Christmas tradition — hunting birds and other animals. "They decided to go out and just look for birds instead," he said Saturday of the Audubon event that has been happening for 117 years and has existed in Rochester since 1959.

([read more](#))

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### **Minn. cities want a break as they face costly sewer work, new rules**

Kirsti Marohn, Dec 15, 2017

The \$33 million price tag on Detroit Lakes' new wastewater treatment plant is a hefty one for the city of about 9,300 people. In fact, it's the largest single investment that Detroit Lakes has ever made in an infrastructure project. The city will start construction in spring on the new plant, which is designed to help

### **Local students participate in Minnesota River basin water monitoring program**

Deb Moldaschel, Dec 15 2017, Sleepy Eye news

Students at the two local high schools have worked together on the YES! Team—an environmental issues study and hands-on work organization—for several years. That interest in the environment led YES! Team members, and other local science students, to participate in River Watch, a project to collect basic river water quality data in this area of the Minnesota River basin. River Watch is a high school-based student activity involving teams of high school students, who are trained on basic river water quality data collection and reporting procedures, using Minnesota Pollution Control Agency protocols. Sleepy Eye High School science teacher, Deb Reinarts, and St. Mary's science teacher, Mary Beth Botz, are the YES! Team advisors and are also supervising the River Watch students. They learned about the opportunity through their involvement with the YES! Team. ([read more](#))

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A River's Chemical Fingerprints Of Land Use And Ecology

[Britta Voss](#), Science Trends, Dec 12

reduce phosphorus pollution going into nearby St. Clair Lake. After spending that much, city officials want assurance they won't have to make another costly upgrade to meet a new environmental standard in the near future. "We want to be good stewards ... we know how valuable the water is around Detroit Lakes and for tourism, and we want to do our part too," said Scott Gilbertson, water and wastewater supervisor. But, "it's hard to keep up with the emerging regulations because they are coming at us so quickly right now." ([read more](#))

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### **3M pollution could cost another \$50 million for Cottage Grove plant**

Bob Shaw, Dec 17, 2017, Pioneer Press

Cottage Grove has a new price tag for cleaning up its water — \$50.5 million. That's the estimated cost of a permanent water-treatment plant to remove pollutants made by the 3M Co. City officials included that estimate as part of the city's 2018 Legislative Agenda. Cottage Grove will ask the state for \$4.5 million to buy land and start planning the new facility next year. After that, the construction cost will be an estimated \$46 million. Those costs are far higher — and in addition to — the \$15 million the city plans to spend on [temporary filtration systems](#). And other expenses might be coming, according to city administrator Charlene Stevens. ([read more](#))

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### **Let's make Minnesota a climate leader**

Jamie Long, Dec 15, 2017

Last Monday it was a record-breaking 64 degrees in Rochester, Minnesota. In December. Of the five cities in the U.S. with the fastest warming winter temperatures, Minnesota boasts two: Minneapolis and Mankato, both of which

The Upper Mississippi River, a watershed that covers most of Minnesota and part of northwestern Wisconsin, drains a diverse range of land. The basin experiences a transition from predominantly agricultural land in the west to forests and wetlands in the east. In the agriculture-dominated Minnesota River, significant soil erosion causes high sediment concentrations and a muddy appearance. In stark contrast, the extensive wetlands of the Chippewa River in Wisconsin result in tea-colored water created by dissolved plant material. ([read more](#))

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### **Learn about I-35W Minnesota River bridge replacement**

December 18, 2017, SWNEWSMEDIA

The state plans to replace the I-35W bridge over the Minnesota River next year and improve the corridor from West 106th Street to Cliff Road in Burnsville next year, which will surely make driving hell for commuters for awhile. [The project](#) is expected to begin in July 2018 and last until November 2021, at a cost of \$130 million to \$150 million. The public can learn more about the planned replacement of the I-35W bridge over the Minnesota River during a Jan. 11 meeting. An environmental assessment of the project — outlines the purpose of the project and anticipated social, economic and environmental impacts of the proposed action — is available for public review and comment beginning Dec. 18. ([read more](#))

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### **Not Just Any Deer: Rare animal haunts Minnesota River bottoms**

Mark Morrison, Dec 16, 2017

You never know what you'll encounter when slipping through the forested Minnesota River bottoms with photo gear. This past June, something out of place

have warmed a full 6 degrees on average since 1970. Weird weather is no accident. The wildfires we're seeing right now in California and this summer's record-breaking storms that battered Texas, Florida and Puerto Rico have been significantly emboldened by a warming climate. Minnesota hasn't gotten off easy either. Increasingly frequent major floods have hit communities hard from Duluth to Waseca. Our moose population is dwindling fast. Mosquito, tick, and ragweed seasons are getting longer by the year. We're also losing our traditions, with fewer days of ice coverage for fishing and hockey. While we're proudly hosting the Super Bowl next year, we won't be building an ice palace because the lakes freeze too late. ([read more](#))

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### **Rise of grass-fed meat forces industry to shift**

By Kristen Leigh Painter, December 18, 2017, Star Tribune

Lee Graese started raising bison in the mid-1990s, after the former professional powerlifter and his nutritionist wife, Mary, decided it was the best source of nutrient-rich, lean proteins to feed their young family. From that start, they committed to feeding their animals grass rather than the grains that most farmers use to fatten their livestock before slaughter. Instead of housing them in closely confined pens and feedlots, the family allows their bison to graze in fields until the moment they are harvested for their meat. Americans consume billions of pounds of meat each year, but the industrial approach to producing it faces rising scrutiny from environmentalists, animal rights activists and consumers. Sales of beef produced the traditional way have been in decline, and consumers looking for healthier, more environmentally friendly options are

there caught my eye, and I found myself trying accurately to focus on the seemingly foreign critter anxiously peering back from its dense, prickly ash hiding place. Initially, I thought someone's newborn colt had wandered off a farm. But this animal was just too tiny to be even a day-old equine. Then it hit me. I was looking at a whitetail deer fawn that wore a coat of dappled brown and white, with white socks and face to boot! Before I could record even one image, the diminutive deer bolted from his hide and was gone. Then and there, I promised to return to the area often to capture some usable frames of the unique critter. The correct term for this odd color scheme on deer is piebald. You could even call it calico for its resemblance to domestic cats of like coloration. ([read more](#))

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### **Designing the future of Riverfront Park**

Mark Fischenich, Dec 16, 2017

MANKATO — New seating for the amphitheater isn't the last change coming to Mankato's Riverfront Park. City staff, working with engineering consultant ISG, is crafting a master plan for the 7-year-old park bordered by the Minnesota River and the Old Town business district. The master plan should be completed in 2018 and will look at all aspects of the park including connecting people to the river, making further improvements to the Vetter Stone Amphitheater and adding amenities to make the park more than an outdoor music venue. The amphitheater inevitably grabs the attention of anyone visiting the park. But when the amphitheater is silent and vacant, the park should still be an attraction for its proximity to the river, its trails and its large lawn, according to city officials. ([read more](#))

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increasingly turning to grass-fed meat. ([read more](#))

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### **Snowy owls from the tundra are showing up across Upper Midwest**

Sam Cook, Dec 2017, Duluth news Tribune

Snowy owls, denizens of the high Arctic with more than 4-foot wingspans, are showing up in large numbers across Minnesota and other Great Lakes states this winter. Many also have been seen along the New England coast. Such an unpredictable invasion is called an "irruption" by birdwatchers. As of Wednesday, an estimated 173 snowy owls had been observed in 57 of Wisconsin's 72 counties, said Ryan Brady, a conservation biologist with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources in Ashland. That compares with 13 by the same time in 2016-17, 102 in 2015-16, 161 in 2014-15 and 91 in 2013-14, Brady said. ([read more](#))

### **Utility responds to commercial green power demand in Minnesota**

Frank Jossi, Dec 19, 2017, Mid West Energy News

A Minnesota electric cooperative is among the latest utilities to offer a commercial green tariff program in response to growing demand from business customers. Great River Energy created its program after a request by a member utility that is also now its first customer. Starting next month, the Dakota Electric Association will offset all of the electricity use at its exurban Minneapolis headquarters with wind energy credits purchased through the [Wellspring for Business program](#). It's another sign of growing corporate demand for renewable energy extending beyond Silicon Valley and into rural and suburban regions such as those covered by Great River Energy, whose 28 member cooperatives geographically cover about two-thirds of Minnesota. It comes on the heels of the state's largest utility, Xcel Energy, launching its own commercial green tariff program earlier this year. ([read more](#))

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## Events

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↓ Dec 19-Dec 25 ↓

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### **Ney Senior Learning Series: American Bison**

Thursday, December 21st 12-1:30pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln,  
Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:** Learn about the largest mammal in Minnesota, the American Bison, with local Minneopa Area Naturalist, Scott Kudelka. Lunch included. NSLS programs conducted on the third Thursday of each month. Ages 50+

\$10/member or \$12/non-member



[Register online](#) by December 14th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **Ice Luminaries 101**

Saturday, December 23rd 10-11am

**Location:** Fort Snelling State Park, On Post Rd. off State Hwy. 5, just west of MSP International Airport.

**Brief Description:** The season of candlelit walks is nearly upon us! If you've joined us for a walk in the past you may remember our beautiful ice luminaries and have wondered, "How do they make them?" Here's your chance to learn how to make these simple, but beautiful, ice sculptures. No supplies needed for this program. No registration required.

Free, but a state park permit is required on each vehicle (\$7/day pass or \$35 annual pass. Available at park office upon entry to park)

Meet at Thomas C Savage Visitor Center (two miles from park entrance. Plan for an additional 10 minute drive through the park).

Click [here](#) for more information.

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↓ **Dec 26-Dec 31** ↓

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### **Winter Explorers Camp**

Wednesday & Thursday, December 27-28th 9am-4pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln, Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:** Winter Break doesn't have to be a bore! Snowshoeing, snow-forts, nature crafts, and more! Ages 6-12.

\$50/member or \$60/non-member

[Register online](#) by December 20th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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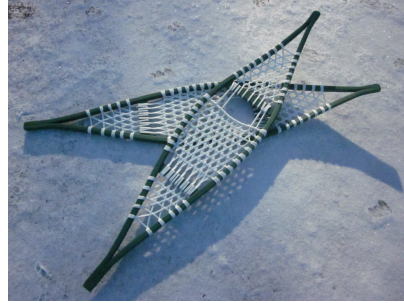
### **SCOUTS ONLY: Snowshoeing After Dark**

Friday, December 29th 6-7:30pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln,  
Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:** Embark on a guided snowshoe hike while learning about local wildlife and history. Supervisory adults may attend for free. Ages 7-17.

\$5/scout



[Register online](#) by December 27th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **Family Snowshoeing**

Saturday, December 30th 10-11:30am

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln,  
Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:** Embark on a guided snowshoe hike while learning about local wildlife and history. Youth under 14 must attend with a registered adult. Ages 7+



\$3/member or \$5/non-member; \$9/member family of 3+ or \$15/non-member family of 3+

[Register online](#) by December 28th! Reservations required.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **Midwinter Bluegrass Concert**

Saturday, December 30th 7-9pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln,  
Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:** Enjoy a selection of bluegrass music performed by Dick Kimmel and Pamela Longtine. Light snacks and refreshments will be available for purchase. All Ages.



\$8/member or \$10/non-member; \$24/member family of 3+ or \$30/non-member family of 3+



[Register online](#) by December 28th! Remaining tickets will be sold at the door.

Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **Beavers in Winter**

Saturday, December 30th 10am-12pm

**Location:** Whitewater State Park, 3 miles south of Elba on State Hwy. 74.

**Brief Description:** Come learn how beavers survive the long winters. After a short indoor presentation, we'll hike to look for beaver signs in the park.

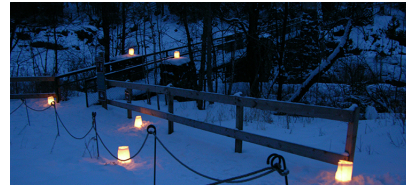
Click [here](#) for more information.

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### **New Year's Eve Candlelight Walk**

Sunday, December 31st 4-8pm

**Location:** Fort Snelling State Park, On Post Rd. off State Hwy. 5, just west of MSP International Airport.



**Brief Description:** Grab your family, pack your hat and mittens, and throw on your long-johns for a fun family-friendly New Year's celebration in the park.

Hike miles of candle-lit trails, warm up at one of several roaring bonfires, toast marshmallows and more! Please join us for a fun and unique way to celebrate 2017 and ring in 2018! Family friendly activities include:

- A Story Stroll: Hike from page to page and enjoy the unique experience of reading "If You Were the Moon" by Laura Purdie Salas along a candle-lit trail. (Hosted by the Nokomis Library.)

- Check back for more activities!

No registration required.

Free. A state park permit is required on each vehicle (\$7/day pass or \$35 annual pass. Available at park office upon entry to park)

Click [here](#) for more information.

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↓ **Jan 1 -Dec 7** ↓

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### **Full Moon Snowshoe**

Tuesday, January 2nd 8-9:30pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center 28238 Nature Center Ln,  
Henderson, MN 56044

**Brief Description:**

Embark on a guided snowshoe hike after dark! If the sky is clear, peer through a telescope to view the moon up close. Youth under 14 must attend with a registered adult. Ages 7+

\$3/member or \$5/non-member; \$9/member family of 3+ or \$15/non-member family of 3+

[Register online](#) by December 31st! Reservations required.



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## Job Announcements

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### —Environmental Specialist 1—

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**Employer:** Pollution Control Agency

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**Closing Date:** 01/18/2018

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**Location(s):** St Paul

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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**Minimum Qualifications**

A Bachelor's degree in water related science or environmental protection, or related field.  
OR a technical environmental degree (e.g., Natural Resources Technology A.A.S.) AND one year of technical/professional-level environmental protection experience;  
OR two years of technical/professional-level environmental protection experience.  
Ability to pass the MPCA fish identification test  
Ability to work with data using Microsoft Excel and Access

**Preferred Qualifications**

Field experience sampling fish, invertebrates using MPCA standard operating procedures  
Course work in ichthyology, fisheries science, aquatic invertebrates, water chemistry or habitat.  
Leadership experience in prior work, civic or school projects  
Familiarity with biological indicators of water quality  
Experience with statistical packages and graphics  
Experience and or course work using GPS and or GIS equipment and software

**Valid Driver's License**

Requires a Class D Driver's License: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow vehicles/trailers as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

Must be physically able to perform field work associated with monitoring projects. This may include loading/unloading vehicles and boats with field equipment, carrying equipment to sites, launching boats, or portaging canoes. Frequently may need to lift and carry approximately 50 pounds in the water or over land. Capable of moderate physical exertion in summer heat and sun

Click [here](#) for more information

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### **==Environmental Specialist 1==**

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**Employer:** MPCA

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**Closing Date:** January 18

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**Location(s):** Brainerd

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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**Primary Purpose:**

This posting may be used to fill more than one Temporary Environmental Specialist 1 position in Brainerd.

Recon sampling sites; Lead a crew of 1-4 students to sample approximately 50 sites per year for fish, invertebrates, habitat measurements, stream channel condition, and water chemistry in order to assess water quality of Minnesota's streams.

Help maintain field equipment, train students, and keep field records. Enter and manage data on Agency computers; Calculate summary data for each monitoring site and conduct QA/QC. Assist in conducting preassessment reviews of data.

Work hours are typically Monday - Thursday, 10 hour days with overnight travel.

Click [here](#) for more information

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### **==Job Class: Student Worker Para Professional==**

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**Employer:** MPCA

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**Closing Date:** January 18

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**Location(s):** Brainerd

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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**Primary Purpose:**

Serve on a field crew to sample approximately 40 sites for fish, invertebrates, habitat measurements, and water chemistry in order to assess water quality of Minnesota's streams; help maintain field equipment; keep field records.

## Preferred Qualifications

- Coursework in ichthyology, fisheries science, aquatic invertebrates, water chemistry, or aquatic ecology.
- Experience working with data using Microsoft Word and Excel.
- Knowledge of water and boat safety.
- Ability to work in a team setting.
- Good communication skills

## Physical Requirements

Must be physically able to perform field work associated with monitoring projects. This many include loading/unloading vehicles and boats with field equipment, trailering and launching boats, and working in and/or near rivers and streams. Capable of some physical exertion in summer heat and sun. Work can take place in inclement weather.

## Additional Requirements

- Must have the ability to travel 100% time
- Must have a valid driver's license
- Typical schedule is Monday-Thursday 10+ hour days

Click [here](#) for more information

Note: MPCA has opened several new job openings. The list of available openings can be found [here](#).

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## ==Water Resources Technician==

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**Employer:** Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

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**Closing Date:** January 18

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**Location(s):** 4646 Dakota Street SE  
Prior Lake, MN 55372

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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## Monitoring and Data Acquisition (65%)

- Conduct and oversee required day-to-day field work
- Operate and maintain monitoring equipment
- Collect water samples and send to lab for analysis
- Identify water quality parameters to be collected
- Collect, coordinate or assist with flow measurements in streams
- Log continuous stage in streams and download data
- Maintain and operate a ferric chloride treatment facility
- Monitor and help sustain free-flow conditions in the Prior Lake Outlet Channel
- Coordinate District's aquatic vegetation mapping program
- Analyse and interpret data

- Create maps using ArcGIS and manage spatial information
- Maintain monitoring sites (e.g. weed whip, mow, replace equipment, etc.)
- Manage water monitoring volunteer programs (e.g. Biobase, precipitation, etc.)

### **Permitting (30%)**

- Respond to information requests regarding the District's permitting process
- Review permit applications with management staff, make recommendations to the Board of Managers and issue approved permits
- Inspect active permit sites on a regular basis and complete inspection reports
- Work with permittees to resolve areas of non-compliance and to close out permits
- Manage and maintain permit records, including permit fee deposits & security funds
- Attend regular development meetings of cities and Scott County, as needed

### **Administrative Support (5%)**

- Maintain records and District files
- Prepare documents that are required for the specific responsibilities
- Other duties as assigned

Click [here](#) for more information

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## **—Watershed Conservation Planner Project Coordinator (Temporary)—**

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**Employer:** Board of Water and Soil Resources

**Closing Date:** December 21

**Location(s):** Various

**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

### **Primary Purpose:**

Build, manage, implement, and evaluate a watershed scale resource assessment and conservation planning project in seven designated major watersheds in Minnesota in partnership through a

formal contribution agreement with the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (N RCS), and the MN Association of Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Work to bring dedicated conservation resource assessments and conservation planning to private landowners in seven major watersheds through a coordinated program of watershed evaluation, landowner outreach, targeted field scale resource assessments and conservation planning, evaluation, and reporting.

Responsible for assuring that soil and water conservation district resource assessments and conservation planning with private landowners are successfully integrated with state, federal and private organization initiatives to accelerate the implementation of conservation cropping



systems and conservation practices necessary to accelerate progress towards achieving watershed conservation and water quality goals.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Bachelor's degree plus three years of advanced professional experience, OR an equivalent combination of post-secondary training, education and experience, that demonstrates knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas soil and water conservation, watershed management, water quality practices, or closely-related technical field.
- Knowledge of and experience in the structure, organizational procedures and inter-organizational dynamics of soil and water conservation districts and the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills that include the ability to explain technical and/or programmatic matters to the local government staff and officials.
- Requires a Class D Driver's License: a single unit vehicle with a gross vehicle weight of less than 26,000 pounds. This is a basic driver's license. Operators may also tow vehicles/trailers as long as the gross combination weight does not exceed 26,000 pounds.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Experience working for or with soil and water conservation districts.
- Procedural understanding of the grant and reporting programs administered by the Board of Water and Soil Resources.
- Knowledge and application conservation planning steps and activities, utilizing Resource Stewardship Evaluation Tool (RSET) following NPPH up to step 7 of NRCS Conservation Planning Process of NRCS.

Click [here](#) for more information

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**—Contract Specialist—**

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**Employer:** Minnesota Pollution Control Agency

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**Closing Date:** December 26

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**Location(s):** St. Paul MN

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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**Primary Purpose:**

The incumbents will develop and administer agency wide Request for Proposals (RFP's), Professional Technical Contracts, and Grants, under limited supervision. They will work with program staff to define the scope of work and incorporate technical requirements into the contracts; will complete of all contracts forms and documentation associated with the development of a contract; lead and negotiate the contract; research and problem-solve contract related issues and questions to help ensure contracts are appropriate in

compliance with contract requirements. The incumbent will also assist in identifying opportunities for continuous improvements to contract/grants processes.

**Minimum Qualifications:**

- Two years of professional grants and/or contract development experience is required.
- Professional experience includes Experience working with professional technical contracting, grants, or similar contracting experience.
- Experience working with a competitive solicitation processes.
- Experience interacting with recipients, provide guidance and agree upon required resources of Contracts/Grants.

**Preferred Qualifications:**

- Computer skills sufficient to create reports, spreadsheets, analysis, databases, and correspondence.
- Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with their business partners and possess good problem solving skills to ensure contract/grants are initiated in a timely manner.
- Ability to work effectively as a team member; carry out work assignments in a timely manner; identify issues, resolve disputes, and recommend solutions to ensure contracts/grants are initiated in a timely manner.

Click [here](#) for more information

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**-State Policy Community Organizer-**

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**Employer:** Land Stewardship Project

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**Closing Date:** January 1st

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**Location(s):** Minneapolis

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**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

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**General Description:**

LSP is seeking to hire an experienced community organizer to help advance our work for stewardship of the land and a just farm and food system. The position will focus on mobilizing farmers, rural residents and others to build power and mount public pressure for stewardship and justice in Minnesota's farm and food system through winning state policies that rein in corporate concentration in agriculture, and that support a sustainable, family farm-based food and agriculture system.



**Responsibilities:**

You will work as part of LSP's Policy and Organizing Program as a community organizer on advancing campaigns and policy initiatives to win farm and food policy beneficial to the land, family farmers, and rural and urban communities. This position will focus on advancing policy goals at the state level. This work includes recruiting new LSP members with a focus on farmers and rural residents, and assist in grassroots fundraising and individual giving efforts.

For more information click ([here](#))

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**-Water Resource Specialist-**

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**Employer:** Waseca County

**Closing Date:** Continuous

**Location(s):** Waseca

**Who May Apply:** All qualified job seekers

**Job Summary:**

Under direct supervision of the Planning and Zoning Administrator, the Water Resource Specialist assists in the development and implementation of natural resource-related plans; monitors and interprets natural resource-related rules, policies and statutes; prepares applications and manages grants and grant-funded projects; provides technical and other information to public and local partners; represents Waseca County with external partners, agencies, groups and regulatory entities; enforces the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA); investigates nuisances; provides technical information to local officials and the public; administers aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs; and performs other duties as apparent or assigned.

**Responsibilities:**

- Assist in the development and implementation of natural resource-related plans. Develop goals, objectives and actions to achieve natural resources goals of the County. Prepare and maintains natural resource-related plans as needed or required.
- Identify and work with internal and external stakeholders. Work with local, state and federal agencies.
- Identify grants and other funding opportunities and strategies for projects, programs and partnerships. Prepare applications and manages grants and grant-funded projects.
- Provide technical assistance to the public and local partners. Reviews research.
- Prepare communications to inform the public on programs and requirements. Prepare and presents information to groups.
- Represent Waseca County with external partners, agencies, regulatory entities, committees, task forces, etc.

- Review construction plans and permit applications for compliance with wetland requirements.
- Administer the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Decides on wetland conservation determinations. Review wetland applications and issues wetland restoration orders. Coordinates with County, state and federal agencies on wetland issues.
- Review erosion and sediment control permits for compliances with code requirements and procedures.
- Coordinate the County Wetland Inspection program. Conduct inspections regarding wetland issues and investigations. Perform inspections regarding nuisance complaints involving wetland issues.
- Resolve wetland issues with contractors and the public. Maintain open communication with contractors. Work with contractors to resolve code violations, works with property owner to resolve wetland issues and explains rules and changes to owners and contractors.
- Perform technical services such as taking soil samples, preparing reports and making recommendations regarding land use to various departments and agencies. Assist in developing ordinances and amendments to ordinances.
- Assist with the administration of the Wetland Conservation Act (WCA). Collect fees for services, maintains records, prepares annual reports to the Board of Soil and Water Conservation (BSWR) and act as the primary liaison to the agency.
- Develop and coordinate with additional departments and agencies, the aquatic invasive species (AIS) prevention programs.
- Perform physical demands and work environment requirements for this position.
- Effective and respectful communication and interactions with other employees, supervisors, individuals for other organizations and citizen customers.
- Attendance during regularly scheduled work hours and outside regular hours as necessary.

#### **Minimum Qualifications:**

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: • Bachelor's degree in physical/biological sciences, soil science, geology, hydrology, engineering, environmental health science or related field. • At least one (1) year experience in the environmental field or related. ALTERNATE

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: • Combination of education and experience equivalent to the minimum qualifications

PREFERRED QUALIFICATIONS: • Experience with a planning or environmental/natural resources agency. • Experience working with multi-jurisdictional groups involving regional programs. • Certified Wetland Delineator and/or training in Wetland Conservation Act (WCA) requirements.

For more information click [here](#)

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Photo for the week



'Nepal is Beautiful'

[Postcards from Sarah](#)

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Compiled by:

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Nhia Xiong, Bipin Thapa, Serena  
Miller, Abrielle Tembreull & Colin  
Winterrowd

Please direct all feedback, comments, and  
questions regarding this newsletter's  
content and design [here](#).

Thank you!

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WATER RESOURCES CENTER  
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

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