

# Minnesota River Weekly Update

July 18, 2017



PIPESTONE NATIONAL MONUMENT, PIPESTONE

*Source: [Explore Minnesota](#)*

The American Indian tradition of quarrying pipestone to make into sacred pipes and other items is still practiced today at this National Monument, making it the only site in the National Park System where resources can be removed from the grounds. Tribes from the area and beyond come here to quarry the stone using sledgehammers, chisels and other handheld tools; the waiting list for the required permit is as much as 10 years out.

**To view past issues of the  
Minnesota River Weekly  
Update, click on the Archive  
button.**

— Archive —

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# Announcements

## **MDA grants help increase healthy food access**

*\$165,000 awarded to ten statewide food hub projects*

*MDA, July 14, 2017*

The Minnesota Department of Agriculture (MDA) awarded more than \$165,000 in grants to ten food hub projects that will help Minnesotans gain access to locally grown and raised foods.

The competitive Agricultural Growth, Research, and Innovation (AGRI) Food Hub Grants were awarded to food hubs and other alternative community-based food distribution businesses throughout the state of Minnesota.

Awardees will use AGRI Food Hub Grant funds to develop their business plans, conduct feasibility studies, or create marketing plans; other projects will use funds to purchase equipment, or make physical improvements to their businesses that will allow them to purchase, process and distribute more Minnesota agricultural products.[\(read more\)](#)

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## **Local Governments Join Forces to Plan for Water Management**

*BSWR, July 11, Announcements*

St. Paul, Minn. – Continuing statewide work to shift local water planning to a more holistic, coordinated approach, the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources (BSWR) approved six new planning grants for the One Watershed, One Plan program. The June 28 board action allocates up to \$1,500,000 in Clean Water Fund grants to fund six planning projects to address water quality and other water issues on a watershed basis. Read the press release [here. One Watershed, One Plan map of participating watersheds.](#)

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## **Wild carrot is noxious weed**

Emilie Justen, [Minnesota Department of Agriculture](#), Jul 11, 2017

July's Weed of the Month is wild carrot (*Daucus carota*), also known as Queen Anne's lace. It is native to Europe and Asia and was introduced to North America as a vegetable crop. Since its introduction, wild carrot has naturalized and is found in every state, including a large part of Minnesota. Wild carrot is a biennial that grows as a rosette in its first year and flowers in its second year. The stem is hairy, and the leaves are alternate, feathery and lacy. The flowers are tiny, white, and occur in 2-4 inch clusters. When the seed head dries, it will curl up and fall off, scattering seeds. The plant develops long taproots that smell like edible carrots.[\(read more\)](#)

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## **DNR announces a new round of shooting range grants**

*MDNR, July 18, 2017*

A new round of grant funding to develop and improve shooting ranges throughout the state is available for 2017, according to the Department of Natural Resources. There is \$1.2 million in grant funds available, with grants requiring a match from the applicant organization. The application deadline is Sept. 1. In 2015, the Minnesota Legislature authorized \$2 million for matching grants to recreational shooting clubs to either develop or improve trap shooting sports facilities for public use, with an emphasis on enhancing youth participation opportunities. In 2016, the DNR provided grants totaling \$675,000 to 20 organizations. ([read more](#))

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## News

### **Volunteers scour Cedar River for trash**

*[Taylor Nachtigal](#), Jul 17, 2017, Post Bulletin*

AUSTIN — What do a tire, a T-shirt, a bicycle and a 55-gallon drum have in common? They were all items fished from Austin waterways on Saturday as volunteer crews worked their way through the Cedar River Watershed District. The crews started with the Cedar River at Austin's Driesner Park and headed to its confluence with Dobbins Creek and East Side Lake. About 20 volunteers, outfitted in waders and life jackets, scoured the river for discarded items. Some waded into the water, filling bags with castoffs; others paddled along in canoes and plucked items from riverbanks. ([read more](#))

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### **New state funding will help landowners install buffer strips along Minnesota's waters**

*[CHRISTOPHER MAGAN](#), Jul 11, 2017, Twin Cities Pioneer Press*

Landowners have new state funding and a website to help them comply with a 2015

### **Report: Solar plus storage can beat natural gas in Minnesota**

*[Elizabeth Dunbar](#) · Jul 11, 2017*

A new report from the University of Minnesota's Energy Transition Lab shows adding energy storage is becoming a cost effective way to meet electricity demand in the state. The report looked at several scenarios, including a common one in the summer: A hot day when electricity demand is much higher than usual because of air conditioning. "What would be more cost effective: to build a conventional plant or to put in a big battery? Or, alternatively, to put in a big battery and a big solar array at the same time? [The consultants] found that putting in solar plus storage was actually cost effective right now," said Ellen Anderson, who directs the Energy Transition Lab. ([read more](#))

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### **Council sets up city solar subscription decision for July 18**

*[Philip Weyhe](#), Jul 12, 2017, Northfield*

The Northfield City Council will wait at least one more week before deciding whether the city should subscribe to

law requiring vegetative buffer strips to protect Minnesota's waters. The Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources recently approved a cost-sharing program that will cover up to 75 percent of landowners' expenses to install perennial buffer strips along public waters and drainage ditches. The \$5 million for the program was included in the \$46.5 billion two-year state budget approved by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Mark Dayton in May. ([read more](#))

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### **Area officials, MnDOT staff talk transportation funding**

*DEB GAU, Jul 13, 2017, Marshall Independent*

SLAYTON — While there are still uncertainties to work out, it looks like there were some positive results for transportation funding that came out of this spring's legislative session, Minnesota Department of Transportation staff said Wednesday. "Overall, it was a fairly good year for transportation," said MnDOT District 8 engineer Jon Huseby. Huseby gave an overview of 2017 legislative funding during the Southwest Regional Development Commission Transportation Committee's annual meeting. Officials from several counties in southwest Minnesota met with MnDOT engineers and staff to talk about transportation issues in the region. MnDOT representatives from the District 8 office in Willmar and the District 7 office in Mankato were present at the meeting. ([read more](#))

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**After Supreme Court victory, peat mine proposal's fate in DNR's hands**  
*[Dan Gunderson](#) · Jul 11, 2017*

community solar gardens. After receiving a contract proposal from Minnesota Community Solar in early June and discussing it at the June 20 meeting, the council found out Tuesday that initial proposals were received from three more developers: Innovative Power Systems, ReneSola and Cooperative Energy Futures. Rather than bringing forward a proposed agreement with Minnesota Community Solar for a vote at Tuesday's meeting, city staff decided to take more feedback from the councilors, adding the new development offers to the discussion. Staff said it could come back July 18 with a recommended agreement (possibly multiple), or it could take things slower, conduct a full request for proposal and come back in the fall. ([read more](#))

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### **High Energy; Students study energy conservation**

*[Deb Nicklay](#), July 13, 2017, Herald*

Aggie McKichan stood by a series of propellers attached to rotors; some were situated so the blades turned horizontally and some, vertically. Next to the spinning objects were fans; together, they demonstrated the creation of electricity generated in the rotation of the blades — in effect, wind turbines. The 11-year-old was one of over 70 fourth to sixth graders who gathered this year to study energy conservation as part of the E3 Program. "E3" stands for "Engineering and Environmental Sciences for Everyone." ([read more](#))

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### **Minnesota grouse drumming counts up 57 percent**

*[Sam Cook](#), July 16, 2017, Bemidji Pioneer*

DULUTH, Minn. — Minnesota grouse hunters received great news this past week — ruffed grouse drumming counts were up 57 percent statewide compared to last

A year after a winning a key victory at the U.S. Supreme Court, a peat mine operation in northwestern Minnesota hopes it can quickly clear the remaining bureaucratic hurdles to its proposed expansion.

The Hawkes Company, based in Grand Forks, N.D., has been harvesting peat from a boggy area north of Thief River Falls, Minn., for about 30 years. But it's running low on peat and wants to expand about a half mile away. Hawkes specializes in processed peat that helps keep golf greens and sports fields around the world in top condition. The regulatory process has been frustrating, said Hawkes vice president Kevin Pierce. [\(read more\)](#)

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### **State keeps Palmer amaranth at bay: Vigilant landowners benefit eradication effort**

*[Tom Cherveney](#) on Jul 11, 2017*

YELLOW MEDICINE COUNTY — Propane blow torches, herbicide, the sharp blades of mowers, hand pulling, and most important of all, the vigilant eyes of landowners. These are among the weapons the Minnesota Department of Agriculture has employed to eradicate Palmer amaranth from 30 conservation plantings in Yellow Medicine and Lyon counties. And so far, it's been working. "I think everything we have been doing has been successful, but there is just a series of things we need to keep doing to keep sure we're not getting any mature plants out there," said Anthony Cortilet, noxious weed program coordinator with the Department of Agriculture. [\(read more\)](#)

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### **Cleanup By Canoe: 300 Miles, 1,000 Pounds Of Litter**

*Sean McCoy, July 12, 2017, Gear Junkie*

year. Drumming counts this spring are on par with those of recent peaks in the bird's 10-year population cycle, Minnesota Department of Natural Resources wildlife officials said. Results of the survey were announced Monday, July 10. "It's really stunning," said Ted Dick, DNR upland game bird coordinator. Midwestern ruffed grouse populations tend to follow a roughly 10-year cycle, often peaking in years ending in 9, 0 or 1. [\(read more\)](#)

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### **Willmar water needs to cut back on the salt: City, Municipal Utilities plan improvements**

*[Shelby Lindrud](#), July 17, 2017, West Central Tribune*

WILLMAR — While Willmar has several years to meet the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's water standards regarding salty discharge, both the city of Willmar and Willmar Municipal Utilities are already looking for ways to reduce the amount of chlorides, sulfates, salinity and dissolved minerals that find their way into the city's wastewater, which can negatively impact water quality, vegetation and wildlife. "This is a national limit set on all water," said John Harren, Willmar Municipal Utilities general manager. The city and the Municipal Utilities will work together on this issue, as both have a role to play in providing Willmar safe water. The city is responsible for treating and discharging wastewater and the Municipal Utilities treats the drinking water supply before it reaches consumers. [\(read more\)](#)

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### **Conservation Corps canoes to clean up Minnesota River**

*CONNOR CUMMISKEY, July 12, 2017, The Journal*

FORT RIDGELY — A fleet of canoes full of conservationists paddled down the Minnesota River from Fort Ridgely to



Dubbed the [Adventure Stewardship Alliance](#), they first traveled the Upper St. Croix River Watershed. The first river netted 736 pounds of trash in 15 days. They started the second leg of their journey, the Minnesota River, last week. Within 64 miles on the Minnesota, they already picked up a heap of plastic, glass bottles, and styrofoam. Log jams held piles of rubble. They picked their way along, grabbing trash as they traveled. But the Minnesota River holds remarkable vistas. They discovered a rarely-traveled, fluid highway through farm country. ([read more](#))

New Ulm Tuesday. But it was more than just a pleasure trip. They were members of the Conservation Corps of Minnesota and Iowa, specifically the southern district. The corps members were cleaning up trash from the river as a midterm project. “We actually got the idea from Iowa,” District Field Coordinator Zach Dieterman said. “They do a project called Project AWARE (A Watershed Awareness River Expedition), which is a river cleanup like this. The last couple of years we have just done it on our own with our crews and picked a 12 or 15 mile stretch of the Minnesota River or a river in this area and have done a trash cleanup.” ([read more](#))

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## Events

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↓ July 19 - July 25 ↓

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### **Pull invasive species at Pine Bend Bluffs SNA**

July 20 @ 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

#### **Location:**

[Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific and Natural Area](#),

111th St E, Inver Grove Heights, MN 55077 United States

**Brief Description:** Join us as we return to protect Pine Bend Bluffs Scientific & Natural Area (SNA), an award-winning restoration site known for some of the best views of the Upper Mississippi River.

Working with FMR Land Conservation Director Tom Lewanski and FMR staff, volunteers will remove spotted knapweed and hoary allysum, two invasive species encroaching on the native prairie. Additional tending and restoration activities may take place as well. Minnesota’s native bees and local wildlife depend on this rare habitat. Plus, with their deeper root systems, the native prairie plants work to better control erosion and filter



pollution that would otherwise run off of the Pine Bend Bluffs into the Mississippi River below.

As always, training, gloves, tools and guidance will be provided. Volunteers should be aware, however, that an SNA is not your average park; there are no paved trails, pavilions or other facilities on site.

For more information click [here](#).

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## HISTORY BITS & BITES

Thursday, July 20, 2017 - 12:00pm to 1:00pm

**Location:** Blue Earth County History Center

424 Warren St

Mankato, MN 56001

**Brief Description:** Bring your lunch and learn a bit of history. This month, Tim Pulis is presenting on the History of the Mankato Street Railway. Coffee and water provided.

Adult:

\$5.00

Children (Ages 5-17):

\$0.00

Children Under 5:

Free

BECHS Members:

\$0.00



Contact for Questions: [Heather Harren](#)

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## Nature Roaming

07/21/2017, 11 am to 12 pm

**Location:** Minneopa State Park, 5 miles west of Mankato on State Hwy. 68 and U.S. Hwy. 169.

**Brief Description:** The Naturalist will be at the Falls Area for a couple of hours to answer questions about some of the natural and historical characteristics at Minneopa State Park. Visitors will have a chance to learn about what is living in the Minnesota River and Minneopa Creek including mussels, fish, and macroinvertebrates. Are you looking for information on the height of the waterfalls or who built the granite rock buildings in the park? All of these answers and



more will help you understand why Minneopa is such a unique area.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-384-8890 or by email at [scott.kudelka@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.kudelka@state.mn.us).

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## Native Bees

07/21/2017, 1 pm to 2 pm

**Location:** Minneopa State Park, 5 miles west of Mankato on State Hwy. 68 and U.S. Hwy. 169.

**Brief Description:** Native bees have a wide diversity of types including fuzzy bumblebees, small carpenter bees and yellow-faced bees. In Minnesota alone, there are at least 350 different species if not more. Native bees are some of the most efficient pollinators and support many native plant communities along with some of our favorite food crops like apples, blueberries and cranberries.



Come out to Minneopa to learn more about some of the native bees from John Kinsley, a local organic farmer. We will be catching some of the native bees to identify and for data collection. Meet at the turning circle near the office on the waterfalls side of Minneopa State Park.

For more information contact Scott Kudelka at 507-384-8890 or by email at [scott.kudelka@state.mn.us](mailto:scott.kudelka@state.mn.us).

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## CHRISTMAS IN JULY

*SUNDAY, JULY 23, 2017 1-4-PM*

**Location:** Nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely.

**Brief Description:** Christmas on the prairie was very sparse. It was a time of family and friends spending time with each other.

Alexander Harkin is of Scottish decent, so we at the Harkin are celebrating the Scottish Christmas with "goodies". There will be decorations and the gift shop will have the tree up with items for Christmas.



The store is open everyday except Mondays from 10 to 5 pm with programs on Sunday afternoons from 1 to 4 pm. Admission to the event is included with the admission to the



store. Remember on August 6th, is the 38th Annual West Newton Day so find your stories and old pictures of the area and come and share your bit of history with us and our visitors. We will also post contact information. We will be able to do copying for you and us.

The 1870's Harkin Store is located nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely. For more information contact the store at [1-507-354-8666](tel:1-507-354-8666) or Nicollet County Historical Society which operates the store at [1-507-934-2160](tel:1-507-934-2160).

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↓ July 26 - Aug 1 ↓

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### **Geocaching Challenge**

Saturday, July 29th 10am-12pm

**Location:** Ney Nature Center (28238 Nature Center Lane)

#### **Brief Description:**

Challenge yourself on a technology-based scavenger hunt in the park. Learn how to use a GPS and search for hidden containers. Prizes awarded to those brave enough to finish. All equipment provided. All Ages. Youth under 10 must attend with a registered adult.

Cost: \$5/member or \$8/non-member  
\$15/member family of 3+ or \$24/non-member family of 3+

[Register online](#) by July 26th! Reservations required.



For more information click [here](#).

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### **Wilderness Survival Skills: Family Lesson**

Saturday, July 29th 2:00 PM - 4:00 PM

**Location:** Ney Nature Center (28238 Nature Center Lane, Henderson MN 56044)

#### **Brief Description:**

Saturday, July 29th 2-4pm Learn about outdoor survival and practice life-saving skills including shelter construction and fire building. Ages: 7+ Cost: \$3/member or \$5/non-member \$9/member family of 3+ or \$15/non-member family of 3+ Register online by July 26th! Reservations required.

[Register online](#) by July 26th! Reservations required.

For more information click [here](#).



### **OLD TIME GAMES DAY**

*SUNDAY, JULY 30, 2017 1-4-PM*

**Location:** Nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely.



**Brief Description:** The Harkin Store will have old time games, such as pickup sticks, tic-tac-toe, checkers, dominoes, graces and rolling hoops. The children can enjoy some time on Sunday, July 30, from 1 to 4 pm playing games with their family.

The 1870's store which has 40% original merchandise on the shelves is open everyday except Mondays from 10 to 5 pm. The gift shop is open the same hours and will have those games for purchase, also books, toys, hand crafted and unique items, and 10 cent candy.

The store is located nine miles northwest of New Ulm on Nicollet County Road 21, or the bottom road, or nine miles east of Fort Ridgely. For more information contact, the store at [1-507-354-8666](tel:1-507-354-8666), or Nicollet County Historical Society which operates the store at [1-507-934-2160](tel:1-507-934-2160).

### **STRATEGIC PLANNING FOCUS GROUP**

Saturday, August 5, 2017 - 10:00am to 11:00am

**Location:** R.D. Hubbard House

**Brief Description:** The Blue Earth County Historical Society needs your help planning the future. You, yes, you are invited to attend a brainstorming session to share your thoughts about the future of YOUR Blue Earth County Historical Society. Everyone is invited to participate. The more opinions and suggestions, the better! There will be four opportunities to attend a brainstorming session in early August. Just pick a day/time that works best for you and then RSVP to [Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com](mailto:Info@BlueEarthCountyHistory.com) or call 507-345-5566. The



brainstorming sessions will be held at the History Center and will last about one hour.

For more information click [here](#).

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↓ Aug 2 - Aug 8 ↓

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### **Indeed We Can – Fresh Energy**

August 2 @ 4:30 pm - 7:30 pm

**Location:** Indeed Brewing Company

711 NE 15th Ave

Minneapolis, MN 55413 United States



#### **Brief Description:**

Join us for a casual summer evening at Indeed Brewing to learn more about Fresh Energy and our work to electrify Minnesota's transportation system. If you already drive electric, please bring your wheels and we can line up a nice plug-in vehicle display. If you haven't made the switch yet, come and see the cars and talk with owners to learn from their experience.

Fresh Energy is working to electrify everything and power it with renewables. Say hi to our team members and share your thoughts on how we could best accomplish this together.

Fresh Energy is proud to be Indeed Brewing's featured nonprofit for their August 2 Indeed We Can event. Every Wednesday night, Indeed's net profits from both the main and Ox taproom are donated to a non-profit. Join us to raise a glass to Fresh Energy and our shared efforts to power more Minnesota cars and buses with clean, renewable electricity.

For more information click [here](#).

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### **Sixth Annual Farm Camp Minnesota**

August 7, 2017 to August 8, 2017

**Location:** Waseca-Farmamerica

#### **Brief Description:**

Farmers, farm organizations, agribusinesses and volunteers have joined together to organize and host the sixth annual "Farm Camp Minnesota" for youth. This event is open to youth entering grades 3-6. This year the one-day camp will be held four days at three different locations!

On August 7 and 8 Farm Camp Minnesota will be held in the Waseca area at Farmamerica and on August 15 it will be held in the St. Cloud area near Rice, Minnesota on

the Schmitt Family Farm. August 16 camp will be held in the Northfield area near Dundas, Minnesota at Wolf Creek Dairy. The camp will be held from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day. Preregistration is required!

The event will allow campers the opportunity to learn about modern agriculture, where their food comes from, how it is grown and how farm products are used in our daily life. Each camper will have the opportunity to learn about various types of livestock and crop farms, including pork, beef, dairy, turkey, corn, and soybeans. They will also learn about the equipment used in farming and at the Dundas and Waseca sites will each get a ride in a tractor.

For More information click [here](#).

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### **Soil Health Field Day**

*August 9th, 2017*

**Location:** Mark Ditlevson's Farm  
7068 East Highway 30  
Blooming Prairie, MN 55917  
(1 mile West of Blooming  
Prairie)



**Brief Description:** The Freeborn Area Soil Health Team will be having a soil health field day on Wednesday August 9th! This event is going to be featuring Frank Gibbs who is a retired NRCS soil scientist from Ohio. Frank will be showing a tile demonstration which consists of Frank using smoke and pressurizing tile lines to force the smoke through the soil surface. In this demonstration smoke is being used as an indicator for water movement through the soil which will show the efficiency of the underlying tile. The more smoke that comes to the surface demonstrates a healthier soil. Soils that are sealed due to compaction will not have smoke rise through the soil surface.

Also on the agenda to speak at this event are Sarah Carlson from PFI, Spencer Herbert from SARE/MDA, Mark Morreim from Morreim drainage, Doug Nopar and Shona Snater from the Land Stewardship Project. Don't miss this event!

To see the entire agenda for the day view the attached flyer for more details! If you have any other additional questions call the Freeborn County SWCD at [507-373-5607 Ext. 3](tel:507-373-5607). [\(more information\)](#)

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## Job Announcements

## **—Watershed Technical Specialist—**

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**Employer:**

Lincoln Soil and water Conservation District

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**Closing Date:**

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**Location(s): Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District**

23 North Coast Highway

Newport, Oregon 97365

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

- Provide program leadership, management and technical support for implementing best management plans and projects associated with nonpoint source pollution reduction related to agricultural, rural and urban systems.
- Assist Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) officials with agricultural water quality compliance assessments as needed. Complete quarterly tasks and reporting associated with ODA scope of work, effectiveness monitoring of focus area, and biennial planning activities.
- Communicate and work directly with property owners and operators through face-to-face contact, the telephone, written correspondence, or e-mail. Advocate and promote conservation of natural resources with urban and rural property owners, the general public and other resource-related organizations by developing and/or using a variety of education/outreach tools.
- Develop conservation and restoration plans in cooperation with USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Field Office staff, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and other partners. Design projects incorporating the principals, methods and techniques of described in the NRCS Field Office Technical Guides and other accepted watershed restoration practices.
- Secure funding through successfully researching, writing and financial assistance via grants to assist clients and partners with implementation of conservation projects and planning, and to provide for employment security and program sustainability.
- Enter into contracted service agreements, cooperative agreements and authorize expenditures, consistent with authority levels authorized by the Board of Directors to carry out project implementation.
- Prepare and submit technical documents, agreements, plans, and required grant reporting documents on behalf of the District, as authorized by the Board of Directors.
- Participate in meetings to coordinate work, establish priorities, and create plans and budgets.
- Attend and actively participate in professional meetings, workshops, and conferences relating to professional and technical issues. Speak at meetings of



associations, agencies, schools, and other groups to provide information on natural resources, conservation, and water quality, along with District goals, objectives and projects.

- Understand, interpret and use various maps, aerial photography, soils information, and other technical resources to assist residents of Lincoln County.
- Ability to use ArcGIS software to develop projects, effectively communicate project information through maps and shape files, and to maintain a database of District projects.
- Knowledge of computer software such as Microsoft Word, Excel is essential.
- Represent the District's interest. Coordinate and communicate with other conservation districts, watershed councils, organizations, public officials, and urban and rural property owners.
- Actively participate on OWEB's Small Grant review team by reviewing and providing comments on submitted grant proposals.
- Supervise, coordinate and provide job training to ensure hired assistants and/or project managers meet their deliverables with success.
- Update District website as needed to reflect current events, projects and water quality results.
- Coordinate the water quality monitoring efforts including: lab supplies, work schedules, contract services, staff training and completing the necessary sampling protocols and reporting with program funders.
- Prepare outreach materials as needs arise, attend community events and educate the public concerning District programs and services.

[\(more information\)](#)

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### **—Resource Technician (Engineering)—**

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**Employer:**

Scott County Community Services Division

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**Closing Date:**

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**Location(s):**

Jordan, MN

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

Essential Duties

- Performs material testing for quality control.
- Assists with constructions and preliminary surveys as assigned.

- Participates in after-hours emergency response as assigned (snow and ice removal). Assigned a dedicated snow plow route.
- Provides technical guidance, assists in training, and checks the work of seasonal and other employees.
- Assists with road construction inspection as needed.
- May perform duties specified for other classifications or be reassigned on a short-term basis to other departments in Public Works.
- Works the hours and/or shifts assigned and begins and ends work on time.
- Performs other related duties as required or assigned.

#### Position Specific Duties

- Designs roadway layouts and prepares design and construction plans using computer-aided design software.
- Operates Global Positioning System (GPS), Total Stations, levels, and other survey equipment needed for preliminary surveys, construction surveys, bridges, and other public works projects.
- Prepares field notes, makes engineering computations, and checks computations to determine construction layouts and needs.
- Serves as an inspector for material testing and construction activities to ensure they meet required specifications.
- Assists in maintaining a record-keeping and documentation system for construction of County, State, and Federal projects.
- Assists in the inspection and/or repair of bridges.
- Uses a computer for design, drafting, quantity computation, and data collection/storage and/or design of sign panels.

[\(more information\)](#)

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### **---Executive Director---**

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#### **Employer:**

Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts

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#### **Closing Date:**

-July 26th, 2017

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#### **Location(s):**

St. Paul

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#### **Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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#### **Responsibilities:**

- Serve as a liaison between member organizations, the Board of Directors (BOD) and Administrators;
- Forge and maintain relations of trust with state agency partners (BWSR, MPCA, DNR etc.);
- Forge and maintain relations of trust with our local government partners (MASWCD, AMC, League of Minnesota Cities, Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities etc.);
- Maintain relationships with conservation, environmental and agriculture communities;
- Manage MAWD's state legislature and state agency lobbying program and other governmental relations activities;
- Provide communication updates to members and our partners;
- Prepare the annual MAWD budget in conjunction with the Finance Committee and the MAWD BOD;
- Produce the Annual MAWD Membership Conference, Meeting and Trade Show and any Special Meetings;
- Manage the MAWD office and staff;
- Apply for and manage various grants;
- Act as the public voice for the mission of the organization;
- Promote the success and formation of new watershed districts across the state and educational opportunities for managers, administrators and staff;
- Assist in developing remedial action for watershed districts in times of crisis management issues;
- Prepare the annual filing of: non-profit status report for the Secretary of State; State Auditor's Lobbying Annual Expenses Report and the Campaign Finance and Disclosure Board's Lobbyist Principal Report.

[\(more information\)](#)

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### **—State Director—**

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**Employer:**

Environment Minnesota

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**Closing Date:**

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**Location(s):**

Minneapolis-St.Paul, MN

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

- Program: Run our in-state program by participating in and overseeing policy development, research and messaging.
- Advocacy: Bring problems and solutions to the attention of decision-makers—including state legislators, people on the governor's staff, state regulators and local officials. Develop appropriate messages and materials for making the case to decision-makers. Build relationships with key players in the state, the region and at the federal level.
- Campaign strategy: Develop plans to win our environmental campaigns. Assess opportunities for building political support for our agenda through coalition-building, grassroots organizing, media coverage, endorsements and message development.
- Media outreach: Serve as the public spokesperson for our environmental campaigns through media events, press releases, editorial board meetings and other outreach with a goal of building name recognition for the organization, educating the public about our issues, and building and demonstrating support for our positions.
- Coalition building: Identify, reach out and work with partners who can help us win our campaigns.
- Fundraising: Write grant proposals, build relationships with foundation staff and meet with large donors, all to bring more resources to campaigns we're waging to protect our environment. Work with our citizen outreach staff to build and develop our membership base.
- Staff recruitment and development: Recruit new staff and volunteers to increase our impact and build our power.

[\(more information\)](#)

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**Friends Group Coordinator**

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**Employer:**

Parks & Trails Council of Minnesota

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**Closing Date:**

July 24th, 2017

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**Location(s):**

St. Paul

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

- Outreach to our current Friends Group partners to understand their strengths, needs and opportunities for partnering.
- Shape and formalize our Friends Group Program by working with the external relations director to identify, refine and systematize program elements.
- Drafting a Friends Group manual for current and potential Friends Group partners to understand the partnership relationship.
- Identify, plan and implement outreach efforts that:
- Provide educational and networking opportunities for Friends Groups
- Provide regular communication between P&TCM staff and Friends Groups
- Refine, update, and maintain our database (CiviCRM) of existing friends groups in Minnesota.
- Review and conduct research into similar partnership programs to inform the development of P&TC's Friends Group program.
- Coordinate efforts with other P&TCM staff members who are working on various elements of the Friends Group program.

[\(more information\)](#)

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**—Aquatic Ecologist—**

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**Employer:**

RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc.

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**Closing Date:**

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**Location(s):**

Detroit Lakes

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

RMB Environmental Laboratories, Inc. seeks an aquatic ecologist to perform taxonomic identifications of macroinvertebrates, zooplankton, zebra mussel veligers, aquatic macrophytes, and provide consulting services to interpret the data. The applicant must have experience in macroinvertebrate identification to genus level. Zooplankton, zebra mussel veligers and aquatic macrophyte identification can be learned on the job. This is a full-time permanent year-round position where we would like an individual to begin as soon as possible.

[\(more information\)](#)

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## Director

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**Employer:**

Legislative-Citizen Commission on Minnesota Resources (LCCMR)

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**Closing Date:**

August 7th, 2017

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**Location(s):**

Saint Paul

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**Who May Apply:**

All qualified job seekers

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**Responsibilities:**

Manage the process for the LCCMR to support the Legislature in funding natural resource projects from the constitutionally-created Environment and Natural Resources Trust Fund. This allocation of about \$50,000,000 a year is recommended by a legislative-citizen commission to the legislature on an annual basis. The Director is responsible for seeing that this is accomplished by the staff in a non-partisan fashion. Ensure the purposes of the Trust Fund are honored by providing a judicious combination of stability and innovation in programs supported by the Trust Fund.

[\(more information\)](#)

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**Compiled by:**

Nhia Xiong & Bipin Thapa

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

Thank you!



WATER RESOURCES CENTER  
MINNESOTA STATE UNIVERSITY, MANKATO

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MINNESOTA RIVER BASIN  
DATA CENTER

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*"Try to leave the Earth a better place than when you arrived."*  
Sidney Sheldon



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