Minnesota River Weekly Update

Sediment problems accelerating in the Minnesota River Basin

By Ken Ronnan, MinnPost

Dr. Carrie Jennings from the Minnesota Geological Survey explains the natural process that deposits glacial sediment into the Minnesota River and how that sediment will end up in Lake Pepin. What is not natural is the rate at which it is happening. Jennings talks about the project under way to understand where this acceleration of sediment is coming from: <u>Sediment problems accelerating in the Minnesota</u> <u>River basin</u>

Minnesota River – Joseph Nicollet's Expeditions

Take a trip back in time to learn what the Minnesota River Basin was like historically. Joseph Nicollet explored the area in the early 1800s during two Minnesota River Basin mapping expeditions. Go to http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/mnbasin/flash/nicollet/nicollet.swf Thanks to Bob Douglas, Professor of Geography at Gustavus Adolphus College for sharing his Nicollet expertise and impersonation (see About Nicollet Video) and providing guidance to this project.

For more interactive information on the Minnesota River Basin go to the Minnesota River Basin Data Center web site at: <u>http://mrbdc.wrc.mnsu.edu/mnbasin/mnbasin_overview.html</u>

Riverblast Volunteers Needed

Hi All, We are still looking for a few more volunteers for Riverblast. If you or someone you know of is willing to help out, please contact me. I have openings for bartending and/or ticket selling on Friday night 8-12, Saturday at 11-3, 3-7, 7-10, and 10 to midnight. You can also call me at 507 276 2280 to arrange it. – Scott Sparlin

Chippewa River Watershed Project Photo Contest

The Chippewa River Watershed Project is sponsoring a photo contest and seeking photos that feature the Chippewa River Watershed, including its many tributaries and lakes. The winning photos will be published in a 2011 calendar and will be featured on our website and various publications.

The "Best in Show" winner will have their winning photo professionally matted and framed. Photo submissions are due to the Chippewa River Watershed Project by September 15, 2010.

Photos can be submitted digitally or as traditional photos. Photos must be taken in the Chippewa River Watershed and should include a feature a river or other water/water quality theme. Photos from all seasons is encouraged and both landscapes and those featuring people are welcome. Photos should be taken within the last five years.

Registration Forms MUST accompany photos to be eligible for the contest. Attached is a Photo Contest flyer with more information and a Registration Form.

Contact me for more information. Please pass this onto family and friends who may be interested. Looking forward to seeing a lot of wonderful photos of the Chippewa River Watershed.

Thanks, Jennifer Hoffman; Watershed Specialist; Chippewa River Watershed Project; 629 North 11th Street, Suite 17; Montevideo, MN 56265; 320-269-2139 ext 120; <u>www.chippewariver.com</u>

Applied FLUX Workshop

September 22, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. - Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul, Minnesota - Registration Fee: \$150 - This is a hands-on continuation of the introductory two-day FLUX/Bathtub workshop conducted in 2009. In this one-day workshop, we will focus on the finer points of applying FLUX for the estimation of loads. Some prior experience with the software is strongly recommended, although attendance at the 2009 introductory course is not a prerequisite.

Water Words That Work Workshop

September 29, 2010 - 8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. - Continuing Education and Conference Center, St. Paul, Minnesota - Registration Fee: \$150 - Water resources scientists, engineers, and other professionals often struggle to explain technical issues to the public in concise, easily understood terms. Communications expert Eric Eckl has developed a series of techniques to assist professionals in development of clear, concise public messages. Water Words That Work is appropriate for all water resources professionals who must communicate with non-technical audiences, especially citizens and public servants.

Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions you might have: *Nicole Freese;* University of Minnesota; 612-624-3708; <u>cceconf5@umn.edu</u>

2010 RAM/SWANA Conference & Show

Please join us at the Sheraton in Bloomington October 6 & 7 for the 2010 RAM/SWANA Conference & Show! New exhibitors! New location! New educational tracks! For more info go to: <u>www.recycleminnesota.org</u>.

Information on Reducing Your Risk of Salmonella from Eggs

Go to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention for a good fact sheet http://www.cdc.gov/Features/SalmonellaEggs/

or MDH http://www.health.state.mn.us/foodsafety/alert/eggs10.html and get information on Minnesota.

Job Opportunities:

Pomme de Terre River Watershed Coordinator

Stevens Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring a Pomme de Terre River Watershed Project Coordinator. The Pomme de Terre River Coordinator performs a variety of administrative and technical work to fulfill the goals of the Pomme de Terre River Association Joint Powers Board. This position will promote and carry out activities related to established work plans and implementation plans and is under the general supervision of the Stevens Soil and Water Conservation District Administrator.

Duties and responsibilities for this position include: Promote and implement Watershed Project Programs (cost-share, incentives and easements) providing technical assistance; Works in conjunction with the Pomme De Terre River Association Joint Powers Board and Technical Advisory Committee to carry out policies, programs and other activities as assigned by these entities; Work cooperatively with state, federal and local agencies, boards and organizations in promoting conservation programs and accomplishing the goals and objectives of established plans; Communicate water quality findings and project progress to the public through written reports, news releases, community meetings and field days; Perform water sampling during the summer months, evaluate collected data, and analyze data when needed; Promote and distribute education grants. Participate in developing and conducting field demonstrations, tours and outdoor classrooms for schools and local groups; and Assist the SWCD with other duties as assigned.

For more information on this position go to http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/pommedeterreposition.pdf

District Technician

Mower Soil and Water Conservation District is hiring at District Technician. This is a full-time position that performs in a primary technical capacity to carry out the Soil and Water Conservation Districts' responsibilities and provides assistance to landowners installing conservation practices using a wide array of programs.

For more information: http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/mowerdistricttechnician.pdf

Outreach Coordinator

Whitewater River Watershed Project based out of the Soil and Water Conservation office at Lewiston, Minnesota is hiring a outreach coordinator. The applicant must be able to work from home because office space is limited. This position enhances conservation practices in the Whitewater Watershed by providing education, outreach, and technical assistance to landowners, farmers, and citizens in the watershed. The focus of work will be on two projects in the watershed: Bacteria Reduction and Civic Engagement in TMDLs/Watershed Planning. The majority of time will be spent interacting with watershed residents to help them improve water quality.

This position is responsible for 1) coordinating and implementing outreach, education, and citizen engagement efforts in the watershed and 2) working with farmers and providing technical assistance for conservation practices that improve water quality. The position is dependent upon grant funding. The position will be full time through at least September 2011, at which time the position will be funded at least 30 hrs/week through July 2013 with the possibility for full-time employment.

Responsibilities include: Plan, lead, and research outreach materials, activities, and events; Develop/support citizen involvement and leadership in watershed conservation planning and implementation; Provide assistance for adoption of water quality Best Management Practices; and Record keeping and reporting for grant requirements. Examples of Work Activities are: Prepare and present information about the watershed and water quality to various audiences; Organize and host open houses; Write articles, brochures, and other outreach materials; Organize landowners/farmers to initiate locally led conservation efforts; Provide support and technical assistance to volunteers and community groups; Organize and host field days; Meet with farmers to discuss maps of sensitive features for manure management; Promote and manage cost share for nutrient/manure management plans; Work with farmers to identify barriers/opportunities for adopting Best Management Practices; Increase septic system maintenance and replacement; Track BMP implementation and cost share funds and Contribute to interim and final reports on grant project activities

For more information: http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/whitewateroutreachcoordinator.pdf

Social Media Specialist

CROPP Cooperative (Organic Valley and Organic Prairie brands) is seeking a Social Media Specialist to complement its Interactive Marketing Team. The ideal candidate for the Social Media Specialist position is tech and net-savvy and loves interacting with people, both in person and online. You are knowledgeable about organic farming, cooperatives, nutrition, health and sustainability, and these issues are important to you. You are exceptionally well qualified to fuse our unique farmer-owned brand personas to the social space and are prepared to make an impact quickly. You are thrilled about the prospect of interacting with people on blogs, microblogs, social networks, media sharing sites and other online communities on behalf of CROPPs nationally recognized brands (Organic Valley and Organic Prairie). The challenge to develop and execute strategies that will grow CROPPs social communities and make them more valuable to the cooperative is exciting to you.

For more information on the position: <u>http://sustainablefoodjobs.wordpress.com/2010/08/06/wisconsin-</u>organic-valley-seeks-social-media-specialist/

Soil Conservation Technician – Breckenridge, MN

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is hiring a Soil Conservation Technician for the Breckenridge, MN office. Makes initial contact with landowners and groups who have indicated an

interest in the conservation program or in assistance in complying with the Food Security Act and the Food and Agriculture Commodity Trade Act (FSA/FACTA) and gathers the necessary pertinent data including surveys required in the development of comprehensive land management systems plans.

Determines need, feasibility, and probably conservation results of conservation practices in treating various resource needs and recommends alternative practices as well as means by which practices already applied or to be applied can be integrated into systems within the total conservation plan.

Delivers completed conservation plans to landowners and explains the plans in detail. Assists with the planning and application of practices in a progressive sequence with land-users. Application involves conducting surveys and investigations, design and plan preparation, and layout and construction inspection of conservation practices.

Makes adjustments in conservation plans which may require a change in economic enterprise in accordance with changing conditions or as requested by the land-users. Recognizes the need for revisions and obtains necessary data to revise conservation plans in accordance with present needs. Schedules and conducts tours and demonstrations of soil and water conservation practices and explains benefits to individuals and groups. Regularly prepares conservation articles for publication.

For more information: http://jobview.usajobs.gov/GetJob.aspx?JobID=90086065

Soil Conservation Technician – Milaca, MN

The Natural Resource Conservation Service is hiring a Soil Conservation Technician for the Milaca, MN office. Makes initial contact with landowners and groups who have indicated an interest in the conservation program or in assistance in complying with the Food Security Act and the Food and Agriculture Commodity Trade Act (FSA/FACTA) and gathers the necessary pertinent data including surveys required in the development of comprehensive land management systems plans.

Determines need, feasibility, and probably conservation results of conservation practices in treating various resource needs and recommends alternative practices as well as means by which practices already applied or to be applied can be integrated into systems within the total conservation plan.

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Events:

<u>August 25th (Wednesday)</u> is the **Full Moon Cruise** at 6:00 p.m. – gather at the church to start. We will land at the north at 6:30 p.m. Food and drinks will be provided after paddling. For more information contact Warren and Peggy at 507-388-7383.

<u>August 25th (Wednesday)</u> is the **Fundraising and Grants Workshop** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Lake Hiawatha Recreation Center. Come to gain tips on where to find grants and how to write a good grant proposal, learn about fundraising strategies and ways to work with prospective donors and discuss and create a plan for your group's fundraising goals. For more information call 612-370-4930.

<u>August 27th-29th (Friday-Saturday)</u> is the **Henderson Hummer Hurrah** from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily in Henderson, MN. In 2009 Henderson Feathers introduced the Henderson Hummingbird Hurrah as a region-wide celebration of the Ruby-Throated Hummingbird. All the venues (Workshops, Hummingbird Mall, Children's Activities, Garden Tours and the Hummingbird Banding), were visited by thousands and we invite you to come back again this year. For more information contact Jon Smithers by phone at 507-934-6357 or by email at jon@jonsmithers.com

<u>September 3rd & 4th (Friday & Saturday)</u> is **Riverblast 2010** in New Ulm, MN (Center and Front Streets). For more information visit <u>www.riverblast.org</u>

<u>September 4th-October 31st (Saturdays and Sundays)</u> is the **Fall Festival** from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Center Creek Orchard. Activities include hayrides, storytelling, corn pile, scarecrow building, castle bouncer, giant maze, apple sling, barrel ride, petting farm, super slide and haunted forest. Pick your own pumpkin from the pumpkin patch and select apples from over a dozen Minnesota varieties. For more information go to

http://www.centercreekorchard.com/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=91&Itemid=134

<u>September 10th (Friday)</u> is **Waterfest** at Barsness Pak in Glenwood. An event for 6th grade students from Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <u>http://www.popeswcd.org/</u>

<u>September 11th (Saturday)</u> is the **FarmAmerica Fall Fair** from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at FarmAmerica in Waseca, MN. Some activities include horses and tractors will being displayed and working on the grounds, strolling through Peddlers Grove and Pioneer Tent City, fall harvest activities on display, draft horse pull and antique tractor pull. For more information contact FarmAmerica at 507-835-2052.

<u>September 14th, 16th, 21st, 23rd, 28th & 30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays for two weeks)</u> is **Outdoor Education Days** located in the Bisek Woods near New Prague. For more information visit <u>http://www.scottswcd.org/</u>

<u>September 16th (Thursday)</u> is **U of M – Waseca SROC Open House**. 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Visit the Rural Advantage booth! Learn more about 3rd crops, the Madelia Model, cover crops and more. For more information contact Jeanette Williams at 507-837-5612.

<u>September 16th (Thursday)</u> is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 1** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part one of this three-part series, learn about common birds of Minnesota. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on how to attract more birds to your yard and how to deter feeder raiders like squirrels and raccoons. The event is free and open to the public. To learn more contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

<u>September 16th & 17th (Thursday & Friday)</u> is the **Clean Water and Climate Adaptation Summit** at the Minnesota Landscape Arboretum. Join local government officials and staff, industry leaders, natural resource professionals, scientists, and citizens to learn how climate trends might affect Minnesota and the region, how green infrastructure will be a key water-management strategy, and how to make informed decisions and enhance the economic viability of your community. For more information go to http://www.minnesotawaters.org/content/clean-water-and-climate-adaptation-summit or call 952-443-1422.

<u>September 20th (Monday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Montevideo, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

<u>September 22nd (Wednesday)</u> is **Perennials for Biomass**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, MN. Attendees will watch short videos of the biomass harvests from fall 2009. We will then drive to the demonstration site from last fall to view the re-growth of the hybrid poplar and hybrid willow after a year of growing time. Landscape position plots will also be available for viewing as well as other close by biomass plots utilizing grass species. For more information contact Dr. Gregg Johnson at 507-837-5614 or Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449.

<u>September 23rd (Thursday)</u> is **Conservation Day** at SWELL located in rural Cyrus. This even is for 5th grade students in Pope and Stevens Counties. For more information visit <u>http://www.popeswcd.org/</u>

<u>September 23rd (Thursday)</u> is the **Full Moon Foray** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Enjoy a leisurely walk under a full moon on the first day of autumn with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen for some night sounds that can be heard in the Linnaeus Arboretum, such as owls, frogs, and katydids. Learn how to identify some of the constellations and other bright spots in our night sky, and if you're lucky you'll even catch a glimpse of a meteor. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlapy at 507-933-7199.

<u>September 25th (Saturday)</u> is **MSU International Student Paddling Day** at Hiniker Pond. More details will be provided at a later date at <u>http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm</u>

<u>October 2nd (Saturday)</u> is a **Minneopa State Park Prairie Restoration** from 12:30 p.m. to 2:00 p.m. Harry Meyering Center staff and individuals served invite the public to gather, sort, and scatter the seeds of wild flowers and grasses at Minneopa State Park in a project to restore areas of prairie land. For more information go to <u>http://www.greatermankatoevents.com/event-details.php?id=9881</u>

<u>October 2nd (Saturday)</u> is the **Fall Color Trip** from Mankato to Seven Mile Creek. For more information go to <u>http://www.hickorytech.net~mrbscr/page0007.htm</u>

October 5th & 6th (Tuesday and Wednesday) is a **Nobel Conference - Making Food Good** at Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. For more information visit <u>http://gustavus.edu/events/nobelconference/2010/</u>

<u>October 7th (Thursday)</u> is the **Fall Prairie Walk** from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Kasota Prairie. Take a stroll through the Kasota Prairie on a late afternoon in early October with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Learn more about the prairie's wide array of fall-blooming wildflowers and the wildlife that can be found in this grassy expanse. The prairie's unique geology will be discussed as well. Meet at Kasota Prairie parking lot. This event is free and open to the public. For questions contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

<u>October 7th (Thursday)</u> is **Geography of Montenegro** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. Montenegro, a tiny country in the Balkans with jaw-dropping scenery—from harsh mountains to Mediterranean beaches—has an equally jaw-dropping history at the crossroads of contending East-West armies for the last several centuries. English Professor and Fulbright Scholar Dr. Gregory Mason will talk about Montenegro's unique geography and how it drives the country's history, a history full of old hatreds and hopefully brighter futures in this fascinating part of the world. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

<u>October 14th (Thursday)</u> is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 2** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part two of this three-part series, learn about some of the state's other bird species that you might not see too often but do indeed call Minnesota home for at least part of the year. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give tips on identification along with locations and times where/when you might find these species. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199.

<u>October 19th (Tuesday)</u> is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting**. This meeting will be held at the RiverCentre in Saint Paul in conjunction with the Water Resources Conference.

<u>October 23rd & 24th (Saturday & Sunday)</u> is the **5th Annual Northland Bioneers Conference** at Macalaster College in St. Paul, MN. The conference includes: keynote lectures and panels given by local and regional experts, workshops on relocalizing our food, solar and wind energy and many other topics, neighborhood networking, facilitated by the <u>Alliance for Sustainability</u>, <u>exhibits</u> by local businesses and non-profit groups and presentations of national speakers pre-recorded at the 2010 San Rafael, CA, National Bioneers Conference. To learn more visit <u>www.nbconference.org</u>

November 8th-10th (Monday-Wednesday) is the **2010 Minnesota/Wisconsin Invasive Species Conference** at the Crowne Plaza St. Paul Riverfront Hotel in downtown St. Paul, MN. The first collaborative Minnesota-Wisconsin conference on invasive species will be held for the purpose of exchanging information on invasive species topics. This is an all-taxa conference covering invasive aquatic and terrestrial plants, animals, pests, and pathogens. The focus is to strengthen awareness of invasive species issues, prevention, and management. Expected audiences include researchers, land managers, natural resource professionals, university personnel, landscapers, nursery, agricultural or forestry employees, environmental specialists, lake association members, and agency and non-governmental organizations. For more information go to

http://www.minnesotaswcs.org/2010_mn_wi_invasive_species_conference.htm

<u>November 10th (Wednesday)</u> are the **Prairie Harvest Field Days**. 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. in Waseca, Morris and Windom, MN. Learn about research being done by Dr. Clarence Lehman and colleagues, discuss benefits of using prairie plants for renewable fuels, view the harvest plots, hear about fall 2009 results and observation. For more information contact Jill Sackett at 507-238-5449 or at <u>sacke032@umn.edu</u>

<u>November 15th (Monday)</u> is a **Minnesota River Board Meeting** in Gaylord, MN. Executive Committee meeting at 8:00 a.m. and Full Board meeting at 9:00 a.m.

<u>November 18th (Thursday)</u> is **Get to Know the Birds of MN, Part 3** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Melva Lind Interpretive Center. In part three of this three-part series, learn about our state's rare and local species that are found only in small areas or in very specific habitats. Arboretum Naturalist and lifelong birder Bob Dunlap will give reliable locations and times in which to see some of these birds, some of which are within the St. Peter/Mankato area, along with tips on identification. This event is free and open to the public. For more information contact Bob Dunlap at 507-933-7199. Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at:

http://mrbdc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html

Environmental/Conservational Articles:

<u>County seeks power line meeting</u> (New Ulm Journal). Following extended discussion Tuesday, the Brown County Board approved a resolution to write a letter requesting a meeting with Eden Township residents and CapX2020 power line project officials.

<u>Opinion: After 30 years of federal subsidies, ethanol can go it alone</u> (Rochester Post-Bulletin). Cornbased ethanol has been America's leading bio-fuel for more than 30 years and has blossomed into a thriving business.

<u>Answer to declining bee population sought in N.D. prairie</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). Bees will be carefully studied for three years so scientists can better understand what factors play a role in bee health.

<u>Scott Strand: Mining safe, creates jobs? Be skeptical.</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). That's not what history has shown, so Minnesotans must demand protection.

<u>Program helps livestock farmers improve water quality efforts</u> (Alexandria Echo Press). Minnesota livestock producers have a new voluntary and proactive way to address water quality issues on their land through the Livestock Environmental Quality Assurance (LEQA) program.

<u>Pumping begins on Jennie Lake</u> (Alexandria Echo Press). With help from Ducks Unlimited (DU) and other funding partners, the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) has begun to enhance Jennie Lake south of Brandon.

<u>Hundreds share ideas for St. Paul riverscape</u> (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Suggestions run gamut from piers to water taxis to bird sanctuaries.

<u>Minn. dairy farmer asks judge to lift 'raw milk' embargo</u> (St. Cloud Times). A Minnesota dairy farmer who sold unpasteurized milk linked to an E. coli outbreak is asking a judge to lift a state embargo that prevents him from selling cheese, meat and other products.

<u>Minn. health sleuths helped crack case of tainted eggs</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). So far, 380 million eggs have been recalled and hundreds of people have been sickened.

<u>Huge farm crops will help; not guarantee Minnesota economic recovery</u> (TC Daily Planet). Minnesota's farm prospects this year have generated great excitement among producers and ag economists, but there's less certainty about how far a boost in farm income will reach through the state's economy.

<u>Chris Niskanen: Where the gubernatorial candidates stand on outdoors issues</u> (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Game Fair debate shows gubernatorial candidates well versed in outdoors issues.

<u>Solar energy too pricey? Maybe you could rent</u> (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Xcel backing installer's program to see whether leasing can increase use.

Dennis Anderson: Valid arguments abound for limited hunting of wolves (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Whatever their other attributes, and they are many, wolves are killers, plain and simple. As such, they have earned their share of enemies, no less here, not far from Yellowstone National Park, than in Minnesota, particularly in the north.

<u>Showcase for native shoreline</u> (Chaska Herald). Carver County is seeking volunteers to help plant native vegetation along the shore of Brickyard Lake this Saturday.

<u>Farms involved in recalled eggs share suppliers, other ties</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). Two Iowa farms that recalled more than a half-billion eggs linked to as many as 1,300 cases of salmonella poisoning share suppliers of chickens and feed, as well as ties to an Iowa business routinely cited for violating state and federal law.

<u>Researchers use new tool to fight gypsy moths</u> (Minnesota Public Radio). The state is trying to get the jump on a growing population of gypsy moths in northern Minnesota.

The way out of the BWCA (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The city kid just wanted to go fishing. But he got more than he bargained for when his more experienced uncle and cousin needed his extra effort to escape a precarious situation.

<u>Editorial: A lack of leadership on DNR lake rules</u> (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Add Minnesota's deteriorating lake water quality to the list of pressing problems Gov. Tim Pawlenty has left to his successor.

Of all our planet's activities – geological movements, the reproduction and decay of biota, and even the disruptive propensities of certain species (elephants and humans come to mind) – no force is greater than the hydrologic cycle. – Richard Bangs and Christian Kallen

The Minnesota River Watershed Alliance (Watershed Alliance) is an organized network of citizens, public agencies, and private organizations dedicated to communicating the benefits of an ecology healthy Minnesota River Watershed to others and are actively working towards its improvement and protection. We meet four times a year and encourage landowners and recreational users of

the river to be part of the effort. For more information on the Watershed Alliance: http://www.watershedalliance.blogspot.com

Thanks,

Scott

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