

CURE 19th Annual Meeting on February 12th

Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) is hosting its 19th Annual Meeting on February 12th from 6 to 10 p.m. at the Hollywood Theater on Montevideo's main street. John Hickman and Jon Carlson are the invited guest speakers and will be relating their experience over the last year of making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come out to hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary.

Working Together is a one-hour documentary, produced in collaboration with Ron Schara Productions. It will air on KARE 11 Television on or near April 22nd (Earth Day). For more information go to <http://mnrriver.org/>

Minneapolis Mayor RT Rybak will be speaking on urban rural connections and the responsibility that cities have to make our rivers clean. Larkin McPhee, award winning documentary producer, will be on hand to receive the *Good Media Award* from the CURE Board. Music and entertainment will include Malena Handeen and the Stermer Brothers along with Butch Halterman and The Educators. Bring your instruments for a classic CURE jam session. The cost for the annual meeting is \$25 per person which includes a local food banquet, speakers, entertainment and door prizes. CURE's Silent Auction is always one of the best and most unusual in the region. There will be some excellent items to sell to the highest bidder, including a Handmade Norwegian rowboat (called a "pram") donated to CURE by historian and author Joe Amato of Marshall, MN. It was made to float on Lac qui Parle, Big Stone Lake and the Chippewa and Minnesota rivers.

For more information on the CURE's Annual Meeting call 1-877-269-2873 or visit the web site: www.cureriver.org

Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Quarterly Meeting

Close to thirty people came out last night for the January meeting of the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance held for the first time at Ridgewater College in Hutchinson. We welcomed students from the Environmental Science class taught by Lori Anderson and thanked them for hosting our meeting. The meeting covered reports from the four focus areas in 2010 – Lake Pepin Friendship Tour, "Working Together for the Minnesota River" documentary, Minnesota Governor's Fishing Opener and the Minnesota River Paddler Program along with the Communications Audit conducted by Jenny Gieseke, a Master's Student in Communication Studies at Minnesota State University Mankato.

The main purpose of the January quarterly meeting was to pick the 2011 "Clean Up the Minnesota River" Focus for the group to get behind over the next year. A list of potential projects were reviewed by the group and then presented to be voted on including continuation of the MN River Paddler Program, MN River Documentary, Lake Pepin Friendship Tour and the Governor's Opener or an "Alternative" Opener along with new initiatives – Improve and Diversify Communications; Focus on Fundraising; Removal of the MN Falls Dam and Urban activities to address runoff. After additional input from the group and a vote for three focus items by everyone it was decided to move forward with the following agenda for 2011:

- As the number 1 vote getter, the group will dedicate its energy over the next three months to promote the airing of the Minnesota River Documentary on or near April 22nd (Earth Day). This is a great opportunity for the Watershed Alliance to be part of a major effort to highlight what is happening in the Minnesota River Basin when it comes to restoration activities and improving water quality.

- Continue promoting the Minnesota River Paddler Program including holding a paddling event in the Upper Minnesota River Basin with CURE this spring.
- The Lake Pepin – Minnesota River Friendship Tour will continue to move forward under the leadership of Patrick Moore and CURE with opportunities for involvement by Watershed Alliance members in the future.
- Governor’s Opener – “Alternative” Opener – Lee Sundmark and the Fishing Opener team will be meeting with Carol Altepeter of Explore Minnesota Tourism sometime in February to discuss what it takes to put on a Governor’s Fishing Opener and will look at the idea of hosting an “Alternative Opener” as a potential option.
- Focus on Fundraising had the second highest vote total and will be an ongoing effort by the Watershed Alliance members to continue paying for quarterly meeting expenses including facilitation, food and mailings.
- Improve and Diversify Communications was third with some ideas bubbling to the surface to move forward with this initiative including establishing a Facebook page and encouraging us to read together the book North Country: The Making of Minnesota by Mary Lethert Wingerd in preparation for the 150th anniversary of the US Dakota Conflict.
- Under the Minnesota Falls Dam Removal effort, the group agreed to write a letter of support for the ongoing community conservation about the possible removal of this concrete structure on the Minnesota River south of Granite Falls by Xcel Energy.

Minnesota River Electrofishing Report at CURE meeting - Jan. 27 in Montevideo

Brad Koenen, DNR fisheries biologist based in Hutchinson MN will give a presentation on what the DNR is learning about fish in the Minnesota River as a result of electrofishing studies conducted in the river over the past several years. The talk will be held on Thursday Jan 27th from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Chippewa County Courthouse Assembly Room. The event is free and open to the public. Refreshments will be served. For more information, call the Clean Up the River Environment (CURE) office at 320-269-2984.

Koenen’s presentation will begin by showing a short video clip of an electrofishing boat in operation. Meeting participants will learn how fish respond to an electrical field. The presentation also will cover various electrofishing techniques used to sample fish specifically on the Minnesota River over the past 25 years. There will be photos of electrofishing, fish captured, data gathered and electrofishing results that have furthered our understanding of the Minnesota River fish community. The presentation will conclude with an underwater video clip recorded last winter showing a sizable flathead catfish concentration hibernating under the ice somewhere below Minnesota Falls.

This meeting marks the 19th year that CURE has been holding meetings to educate the general public about the beauty and the bounty to be discovered in the Upper Minnesota River watershed. CURE is a grassroots, citizen based organization with more than 500 dues paying members. CURE will be celebrating its 19th anniversary at the CURE annual meeting scheduled for Saturday, February 12 from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Hollywood theater in Montevideo. For more information, visit: www.cureriver.org.

Watershed District Holds Clean Water Event

The Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District (PLSLWD) is hosting a community Kick-off event on February 15 to initiate a New Year of water protection and improvement. The District is looking to get the word out about recent developments in lake health and clean water as well as fill positions on its Citizens Advisory Committee.

The event, open to the public and free of charge, will provide an opportunity for concerned citizens to:

- Hear about what they can do to preserve and protect their lakes.
- Voice ideas and concerns about the state of lakes in the area.
- Learn more about the recent classification of Spring and Upper Prior Lakes as “impaired”.
- Become familiar with the Watershed District’s duties and goals for water resource management.

The District, a special unit of government with a mandate to preserve and manage water resources, covers about 42 square miles in Scott County, Minnesota, mainly in the City of Prior Lake and Spring Lake Township. The District also covers portions of Sand Creek Township and the cities of Shakopee and Savage. The purpose of the District is to conserve, protect and manage the water resources in the watershed - including 14 lakes and the seven-mile long Prior Lake Outlet Channel

Who: Prior Lake-Spring Lake Watershed District

What: Community Kick-off Event for Clean Water

When: 6:30 pm on February 15, 2011

Where: Prior Lake City Hall, Council Chambers Room, 4646 Dakota Street SE, Prior Lake, MN

For: All concerned citizens

Cost: Free

If you have questions please contact Alex at 218-251-1462 or alexg@minnesotawaters.org.

Free Registration Available for High School Students at the CERTs Conference!

Thanks to the generosity of the University of Minnesota’s [Regional Sustainable Development Partnerships](#), there are 25 scholarships available for high school students who wish to attend the main day of the CERTs conference, Thursday, February 3rd. The accompanying teacher(s) will get the reduced rate of \$40 for the day; transportation costs are not included. The scholarships will be available in the order that they are received.

To submit a scholarship application, please fill out the form at http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CERTs2011_ScholarshipForm2.pdf and mail to Maggie Kozak at makozak@umn.edu. In the address line, please include the name of your high school. That’s it!

Sessions highlighted February 3rd will include "Funding Energy Projects at Schools," Building Successful School & Community Partnerships, and "Innovative Project Case Studies at Schools." Learn more online at: <http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/events/CERTs2011/agenda>.

Free Registration Available for College/University Students willing to volunteer at the CERTs Conference!

There are 20 positions available for university and college students who are able to volunteer during either/both days of the CERTs Conference, February 2nd and 3rd. Volunteers will be asked to help at the registration table, with A/V equipment in the breakout rooms, and other small tasks. We’ll do our best to make sure you get to see the session(s) you want to see, there is a yummy local foods lunch and a free T-Shirt. We need you!

To submit a volunteer application, please fill out the form here http://www.cleanenergyresourceteams.org/files/CERTs2011_VolunteerForm.pdf and mail to Maggie Kozak at makozak@umn.edu. Please note somewhere what school you are with.

Four More Wind Powering America Webinars

Start off 2011 by joining Wind Powering America this Wednesday, January 19, at 1:00 p.m. MST (3:00 p.m. EST) to kick-off its 2011 monthly Webinar series. Wind Powering America will host a discussion about new and exciting wind workforce development initiatives. The Webinar is free; no registration is required.

Wind Powering America hosts FREE live Webinars on a variety of themes on the third Wednesday of every month. Audio visual and transcript archives of the Webinars are posted on the Wind Powering America Web site after the events.

First Four 2011 Webinars - Stay up to date on these Webinars and other Wind Powering America activities by signing up for our [biweekly newsletter](http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/news/). <http://www.windpoweringamerica.gov/news/>

- **[January 19: Workforce Development in Wind Technologies](#)**
A discussion of new and exciting wind workforce development initiatives.
- **[February 16: Cost of Energy, Project Financing, and Funding](#)**
A discussion of wind financing funding options and discussion about the cost of energy.
- **[March 16: Small and Distributed Wind](#)**
A discussion about small, distributed, and community wind.
- **[April 20: Radar and Wind Systems](#)**
A discussion about radar-related issues and concerns.

More progress alerts: http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/progress_alerts_archive.cfm

Report on “Natural vs. Anthropogenic Factors Affecting Sediment Production and Transport from the Minnesota River Basin to Lake Pepin”

Sediments are a major water quality impairment for the Minnesota River and its tributaries. Sediments from these rivers are transported downstream to the Mississippi River at St. Paul and then on to Lake Pepin. Based on sediment cores taken from this lake, researchers have suggested that European settlement in the area and the subsequent cultivation and drainage of agricultural lands are the primary reasons for increased rates of sedimentation since 1830. A recent report released by researchers at the University of Minnesota quantifies sediment contributions from bank erosion/sloughing from several rivers in Blue Earth County, MN, and also summarizes the role of various natural and anthropogenic factors on increased rates of sedimentation in Lake Pepin. The report can be downloaded from the following url:

https://netfiles.umn.edu/xythoswfs/webui/xy-17702240_1-t_wdQW5vNR

Comments and questions should be directed to Dr. Satish Gupta, Department of Soil, Water, & Climate, University of Minnesota, St. Paul, MN at sgupta@umn.edu.

[Job Announcements:](#)

Wilderness Inquiry Trail Staff and Intern Positions for 2011

Wilderness Inquiry is currently hiring trail staff and interns for 2011. We are looking for people with outstanding leadership and decision-making skills, high energy, and a desire to work hard for the mission of WI. To learn more, see job descriptions and to apply see Wilderness Inquiry's website:

www.wildernessinquiry.org

Each year, Wilderness inquiry operates hundreds of Canoeing, Kayaking and Hiking trips to destinations in Minnesota, across the United States, and around the world for people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities. Trail staff leads inclusive outdoor adventures, leads single-day events and multi-day expeditions, navigates, cooks, tells stories and teaches outdoor skills along with other responsibilities.

For more information: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/internandtrailstaff.pdf>

Agripreneur Training Program Coordinator

This is a new job opening, I appreciate any help finding a qualified candidate to fill this job and our vision of re-defining the role of Latino/Hispanics and other minorities in the food and agriculture industry, by building a socially responsible and economically/ ecologically viable and sustainable food and agriculture system.

Thank you for your support; Reginaldo Haslett-Marroquin, Director; Rural Enterprise Center; 105 E Fourth Street; Suite 300; Northfield, MN 55057; www.ruralec.com; 952 201 8852; a Program of Main Street Project www.mainstreetproject.org

For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/agripreneurtrainingmanager.pdf>

Seasonal Water Monitoring Technician

The Upper Minnesota River Watershed District is looking to hire a full time, temporary water monitoring technician from April to October 2011. The position is based out of Ortonville MN in Big Stone County and pays \$10 per hour. The desired knowledge and skills are:

- Experience in stream water quality monitoring, and data entry is desired.
- Possess or be actively pursuing a bachelor's degree in water resources, soil science, or related natural resources field.
- Exceptional organizational skills.
- Proficient with various computer software programs, including spreadsheets and databases.
- Able to walk on uneven terrain associated with natural areas, be willing to work outdoors in extreme weather conditions, be able to wade in small streams.
- Self motivated
- Commitment to high quality work
- Ability to work independently with minimal supervision
- Ability to maintain relationships with co-workers, board, agencies, communities and landowners
- Must have valid driver's license and reliable vehicle.

Complete Job Announcement, Application and Position Description is available at www.umnrd.org or by calling (320)839-3411 or emailing deanna.lundberg@midconetwork.com. Please submit cover letter with resume and completed application to the Upper Minnesota River Watershed District, 211 2nd Street SE, Ortonville, MN 56278.

CONDITIONS OF ANNOUNCEMENT – The UMRWD reserves the right to make changes to the content of this position announcement without notification and may at any time withdraw the announcement.

EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY – Candidates will be considered without discrimination for any non-merit reason such as race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, marital or familial status or membership or non-membership in an employee organization.

Events:

January 24th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Sibley County Service Center (111 8th Street) in Gaylord starting at 9 a.m. Paula Westmoreland and Lansing Shepard will be doing a

presentation on their new book *This Perennial Land*, showcasing the innovations of citizens, farmers, scientists, conservation agencies, and others working to build a different future in the greater Blue Earth River watershed. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

January 27th (Thursday) is the **Blanding's Turtle Presentation** at the New Ulm Library starting at 6:30 p.m. Lisa Gelvin-Innvaer (Nongame Wildlife Specialist-DNR) will provide a fun look at Blanding's turtles at the River Ranger program. She will explain what they are, how we study them, why they are imperiled, and why they are so special. Learn how to help them and why conserving Blanding's turtles is good for other wildlife and for people, too! There will be a PowerPoint presentation followed by time for questions and an opportunity to see some of the equipment used in DNR turtle research.

For more information about the program: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/blandingturtle.pdf>, or contact Ron Bolduan at boldriv@newulmtel.net or 507-354-8367.

January 27th (Thursday) is **Electrofishing in the MN River** starting at 7pm at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo, MN. Brad Koenen, MN DNR Fisheries Biologist from the Hutchinson Area Office will tell us about what the MN DNR is finding with their electro fishing surveys of the Minnesota River. Prepare to be surprised and to see awesome footage of hibernating catfish!

January 27th (Thursday) is the **Windbreak Benefits and Energy Saving Landscape Workshop** from 6:00 pm. To 8:00 p.m. at the Redwood High School in Redwood Falls. Registration is \$ 20. Pre-registration is requested. This workshop is sponsored by the University of Minnesota Extension and the Minnesota Forestry Association. The public is invited to attend. Woodland Advisor and Master Gardener credits are available upon request. Useful handout material will also be available. To register for this workshop, contact Kathy Eckwright, 507-389-6972 or 888-241-3214, eckwr001@umn.edu. To review other workshops visit: <http://cfc.cfans.umn.edu/wa/>.

February 2nd (Wednesday) is the **Hawk Creek Watershed Project Annual Meeting** at the Kandi Entertainment Center (500 19th Ave. SE), Willmar, MN from 8:30 to 12:00 with a free lunch to those that RSVP before Jan. 29th. Topics will be: 2010 HCWP Progress-Achieving Significant Water Quality Improvements in Farm Country by Cory Netland (HCWP Coordinator), Public Drainage Benefits & Damages "Past, Present, and Future" by Loren Engelby (Kandiyohi County Drainage Inspector), Ron Ringquist (Drainage Viewers Assoc.), Kurt Deter (Rinke-Noonan Environmental Lawyer), and Harlan Madsen (Kandiyohi County Commissioner), and The History of Environmental Expectations in Minnesota by Stephen Lee from MPCA. Soil and Water Continuing Education Credits are pending! For more information and RSVP call 320-523-3666.

February 3rd (Thursday) is the 10th **Year Celebration of Water Quality Work in the Lac qui Parle – Yellow Bank Watershed** with a dinner and program from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Dawson VFW. A dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. followed by a recognition program. The guest speaker for the evening will be Ashley Shelby, author of Red River Rising: The Anatomy of a Flood and the Survival of an American City. Please RSVP by Thursday, February 3rd by calling Mary Homan at 320-598-3319 or email mary.homan@lqpc.com

February 12th (Saturday) is the **Cure 19th Annual Meeting** from 6-10pm at the Hollywood on Main Street Montevideo. **Invited Guest Speakers: John Hickman & Jon Carlson** will tell us about their past year making a documentary about the growing movement to clean up the Minnesota River. Come hear the stories of all the fantastic people they met along the way and get a sneak preview of portions of the documentary! For more information visit <http://www.cureriver.org/events.html>

February 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Local Foods** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin

at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

February 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Renewable Energy Today** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 10th (Thursday) is the **Hidden History of the Minnesota River Valley presentation** at the Montevideo Chippewa County Public Library. Contact the CURE office at 1-877-269-2873 for time. Wabasso native Beth Johanneck has written a book of stories about the characters who have lived in the Minnesota River Valley from Fort Snelling to Mankato, New Ulm, Redwood and Granite Falls and all points in between. Come and meet the author, hear a few stories and compare notes with fellow history lovers of the region.

March 14th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Importance of Ecological Services** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

March 28th (Monday) is a **Third Crop Producer meeting on Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss** starting at 9:30 a.m. with registration and coffee at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The presentations begin at 10:00am and continuing until 3:00pm. There will be a one hour break for lunch on your own during the 12 o'clock hour. Following the conclusion of the presentations, there will be further time for discussion and questions. Please look for information regarding speakers and presentation topics to be coming soon.

April 16th (Saturday) is the presentation "**Waterfalls and the River Warren**" by Professor Bob Douglas starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Professor Bob Douglas will talk about waterfalls in the Minnesota River including many discovered by him. A tour of the waterfalls will follow the presentation.

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th annual fun shoot** at the River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland, MN starting at 8am. For more information call (507) 359-5770.

May 21st (Saturday) is the "**Caring for God's Creation**" with Jim Gilbert, Minnesota's most well-known naturalist and former director of the Linnaeus Arboretum starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Bring your walking shoes.

Check out additional upcoming events and workshops on the Minnesota River Calendar at: <http://mrbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

[Environmental/Conservational Articles:](#)

[DNR: Millions needed for land it already has](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). While the agency continues to buy, there's a large shortfall of money to protect the 5.5 million acres it controls, a report says.

[Citizens for Clean Energy push for coal moratorium](#) (New Ulm Journal). The Citizens for Clean Energy (CCE) group is currently seeking a moratorium on the New Ulm Public Utilities (NUPU) efforts to convert the Boiler No. 4 to coal.

[Animals poached once — and now, again](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). Once the thieves cut the locks of a gate and trailer at the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources in St. Paul, they unscrewed more than 20 animal mounts from the Turn in Poachers "Wall of Shame."

[Just plain cold fun](#) (Marshall Independent). It was a great day for a walk in the woods, they said. And when you've got the right footwear, deep snow is no problem at all.

[Carpet cleaner accused of dumping dirty chemicals](#) (Mankato Free Press). Criminal charges have been filed against the owner of a carpet cleaning business for allegedly dumping phosphorus and other pollutants down a street drain.

[On a mission to end climate change](#) (Thisweek Newspapers). While most teens travel to Cancun, Mexico, to bask in the sun, one group of local students flew to the popular destination on a mission — to end global climate change.

[New Ulm group opposes plan for new coal burner](#) (MinnPost). A New Ulm citizens group is trying to delay the city's plan to convert a natural gas boiler to one that burns coal.

[DNR plans as G&F Fund declines](#) (Outdoor News). While DNR officials say they don't yet know if they'll propose fee increases for hunting and fishing licenses, this much is clear: The Game and Fish Fund is on its way to the red.

[Update on threats from zebra mussels, other invasive species](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Onetime Department of Natural Resources fisheries biologist Dick Sternberg held a room full of conservationists spellbound Saturday morning at the DNR Roundtable with a PowerPoint presentation about the multiple threats zebra mussels and other invasive species pose to Minnesota's lakes, rivers and economy.

[DNR must get young, specific](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Those changes to the DNR Roundtable are overdue. Even the new commissioner noted the lack of youth.

[DNR must pick up pace of its progress](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). New DNR deputy commissioner Dave Schad needs to work with a new urgency with his boss, Tom Landwehr, to thwart the state's duck crisis.

[Commentary: Story on DNR gave only part of the picture](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Relatively small investment has major benefits, economically and otherwise.

[While state struggles, Legacy money flowing](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). In the two years since Minnesota voters amended the state Constitution to dedicate millions to the environment and arts, following the money trail has been tough.

[Commentary: Sustainability - The government takes a pass, and businesses point the way](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune).

Adopt the pace of nature: her secret is patience. – Ralph Waldo Emerson

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>

Please register at the Minnesota River Watershed Alliance's bulletin board at <http://mail.mnsu.edu/mailman/listinfo/mrwa> to receive regular updates on what is happening in the Minnesota River Watershed.

Thanks,

Scott

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