

*****Please note that Scott Kudelka is no longer maintaining the Minnesota River Update. He now works for the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and we wish him the best of luck in this new opportunity.*****

To include your news release in the next edition of the Minnesota River Update, please send it to mnriverupdate@gmail.com.

Water Quality Professionals Assembly

Please join the Minnesota River Board on June 27, 2012 at the City Center Hotel in Mankato for the Water Quality Professionals Assembly. We will be covering:

The Status of the Minnesota River

- Revisiting the Minnesota River Assessment Plan-20 years later
- Biotic indices and their use in water management
- Perspectives on the progress in the Minnesota River Basin

Status of the Farm Bill & the Future of Federally

- Funded Conservation Programs
- Launch of innovative conservation programs
- Agriculture and the future of conservation

Speakers will include:

Rep. Jean Wagenius
Gene Merriam, Freshwater Society
Don Baloun, NRCS
Benjamin Lundeen, MRAP Study

For more information on the event, please contact Susan Carlin at 389-6279 or susan.carlin@mnsu.edu

Managing Stream Erosion in the Chippewa River: Identifying Solutions to Sediment Loading from Channels

The University of Minnesota is hosting an opportunity for discussion on Managing Stream Erosion in the Chippewa River. Sediment from stream bank and bluff erosion is a contributing factor in poor water quality in many of Minnesota's rivers including the Chippewa River. It is a complex issue and the University of MN is hoping to gather landowners together to focus on issues they face regarding stream bank erosion and identifying solutions that are reasonable, feasible and cost-effective.

The Chippewa River Watershed was chosen as a location for this dialogue because of the long history of water quality monitoring and the strong support of partners and landowners towards achieving better water quality for our lakes, river and streams.

You are invited to participate and share your input on **Wednesday, June 13, 2012**, at the Montevideo Public Library from 1:00-3:00 pm.

RSVP to email: lenh0010@umn.edu

For more information: Contact Chris Lenhart, U of MN, [612-269-8475](tel:612-269-8475) Or Chippewa River Watershed Project, 269-2139 x116

Agenda

- 1:00 Introductions: Does stream channel erosion matter?
- 1:15 Why, when and where is sediment a problem?
- 1:35 Treatment Options University of MN staff

1:55 Identifying Solutions (facilitated small group discussion)
2:55 Groups Report and Summarize Results
3:15 Finish and Snacks

Location: Montevideo Public Library
224 S. 1st Street
Montevideo MN 56265

Conservation Applications of LiDAR Data

The University of Minnesota Water Resources Center is coordinating development of six training modules on conservation applications of LiDAR. Each module will be taught as a half- or full-day workshop at several locations around Minnesota. Workshop developers and instructors are experts from the University of Minnesota, MN Department of Natural Resources, MN Board of Water and Soil Resources, and US Natural Resources Conservation Service.

The workshops are designed for GIS and CAD users who address natural resource issues. The target audience is employees from Watershed Districts, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, counties, cities, not-for-profit organizations, private firms, and state and federal agencies.

Workshop Topics

- **Basics of Using LiDAR Data**
- **Terrain Analysis**
- **Hydrologic Applications**
- **Wetlands Mapping**
- **Engineering Applications**
- **Forestry and Ecological Applications**

For more information, schedule, and registration:

Module descriptions: <http://tsp.umn.edu/lidar>

Schedule and registration: <http://z.umn.edu/lidarschedule>

Workshop materials: <http://z.umn.edu/lidarmaterials>

Job Announcements:

Soil Conservation Technician

The USDA and NRCS are looking for a full-time Soil Conservation Technician for their Bemidji, MN office.

Duties: 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 system 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 window closes June 11, 2012. For more information:

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/317953300>

Soil Conservation Technician

The USDA and NRCS is looking for a full-time Soil Conservation Technician for their Willmar, MN office.

Duties include: 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 system 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.

Application window closes June 11, 2012. For more information:

<http://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/317953600>

Events:

June 8th (Friday) is the **2012 Agricultural Drainage Workshop** at Wiecking Center on the Minnesota State University Mankato campus from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. with a field trip. The wide variety of topics and networking opportunities of this conference will benefit anyone associated with agricultural drainage. For more information: <http://www.mda.state.mn.us/~media/Files/protecting/drainageseminar.ashx>

June 13th (Wednesday) is the **Paddleboat Tour & Floating Workshop** on the Mississippi River, Pool 2 from 8am - 11:45 am. RSVP is requested but not required. For more information: <http://www.lakepepinlegacyalliance.org/River+Boat+Tour+Invitation.pdf>

June 25th (Monday) is **The Clean Water Act After 40 Years: What Has It Accomplished? How Do We Fulfill Its Promise? Lecture** in the theater of the Student Center on University of Minnesota's St. Paul campus at 7pm. For more information contact Patrick Sweeney at [763-219-1261](tel:763-219-1261) or psweeney@freshwater.org or visit <http://freshwater.org/index.php/about-the-society/whats-new/515-save-the-date-lecture-on-clean-water-act-set-june-25>

July 11th (Wednesday) is the **Minnesota – South Dakota Friendship Tour**. The tour leaves from Ortonville Lakeside Park and will run from 8:00am - 3:30pm. Explore the Whetstone and Yellow Bank Rivers, learn about the flood retention project, and more! Reservations are required by July 3rd to Deanna Lunberg at deanna.lunberg@midconetwork.com or [320-839-3411](tel:320-839-3411). For more information: http://neglwatersheds.org/images/July_11_poster.pdf

July 16th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the St. Peter Community Center, Room 219 (600 South 5th Street). For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

September 17th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00am – 12:00 noon at the Health & Human Services Building Multipurpose Room (2200 23rd Street NE) in Willmar. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

November 19th (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon. Place and location to be announced. For more information: [507-389-5491](tel:507-389-5491) or karnell.johnson@mnsu.edu

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

Environmental/Conservation Articles:

[Showdown at the H2O Corral](#) (CNN.com) There's a popular saying in the American West: Whiskey's for drinking, but water's for fighting over.

[Minnesota farmers under fire in water issue](#) (West Central Tribune) Minnesota city and conservation leaders say farmers contribute most of the pollution to state waters but do too little to prevent the damage or fix it.

[Coalition targets Minnesota Farmers for cleanup of river sludge](#) (Star Tribune) Farmers cause most of the run-off pollution in Minnesota's major rivers, and the state should force them to help clean it up, an unusual coalition of city and environmental groups argued.

[Southern MN lakes could be in store for federal money to help fight Asian carp](#) (Marshall Independent) Asian carp have long had the attention of the federal government, but now, hopes U.S. Sen. Amy Klobuchar, the state will be on the receiving end of some federal monies that can help keep the invasive species out of southern Minnesota lakes and rivers.

[In 'arms race against weeds,' new weapons extend a losing strategy](#) (Minnpost) Unless you are a regular reader of *Chemical & Engineering News*, you might have missed this [battlefield report](#) yesterday from American agriculture's ongoing war against natural selection:

[Downpours show the need for more conservation on the land](#) (AgriNews) Heavy spring downpours have turned soil that worked up like sifted flour to over-baked crust.

[Conservation leaders say soil health is in trouble](#) (AgriNews) For years, farmers said when commodity prices rose they would invest in conservation.

[An 'odd year' for annual waterfowl, wetland tally](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News) When Steve Cordts tallies the number of ponds he sees while flying this year's annual spring waterfowl survey, there's no doubt it will be down from last year, a record-wet spring.

[Kallestad appointed to water quality panel](#) (Red Wing Republican Eagle) Cannon River Watershed Partnership Executive Director Elizabeth Croteau-Kallestad was among 15 members chosen for a committee to help develop the Minnesota Agriculture Water Quality Certification Program.

[DNR video produces telling images of invasive species](#) (Star Tribune) Ron and Al Lindner, along with Ron's son, Bill, and other employees of Lindner Media Productions in Baxter, near Brainerd, produced a Department of Natural Resources video released last week titled "Aquatic Invasive Species: Minnesota Waters at Risk."

[Groups seek hike in Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars](#) (Minnesota Outdoor News) Each year, Congress sets aside money derived from royalties paid by companies that drill for off-shore oil and gas, for conservation and public recreation purposes.

A river seems a magic thing. A magic, moving, living part of the very earth itself. -Laura Gilpin, from *The Rio Grande*, 1949

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

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