

### **Citizen Led Urban Pollution Reduction Project Expands to Upper Minnesota River Watershed**

Clean Up the Minnesota River movement founder Scott Sparlin to come to Montevideo Tuesday, March 22 to talk about Award winning Community Clean Up program.

Citizens concerned with polluted runoff originating from the gutters and lawns of small towns in the Upper Minnesota River Watershed are invited to come and learn about what they can do from the founder of the clean up the Minnesota River movement, Scott Sparlin of New Ulm on Tuesday, March 22 at 7 p.m. at the CURE office 117 South First Street, Montevideo MN.

“Early spring and late fall give us an opportunity to prevent pollution from making its way into our surface water,” Sparlin said. According to Sparlin, excess phosphorus and nitrogen are a water quality problem in our rivers, lakes and streams. “There are also ways to prevent this type of urban runoff year round and we want people to come to find out they can do.”

Sparlin will explain the award winning **Community Clean Ups for Water Quality** program that can be carried out by organizations and civic groups as well as individuals. According to Sparlin, every citizen can play a first hand role in pollution prevention with this program. Meeting sponsors include the Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, Friends of the Minnesota Valley, CURE, and the Freshwater Society. For more information call Scott Sparlin at 507-276-2280.

### **This Perennial Land – Open House and Book Signing**

Madelia, MN -- A prairie breeze, the wrens song, the smell of corn at silking, an eagles soar or a fawn in spring are enjoyed by many in southern Minnesota. *This Perennial Land*, a recently released book, provides a unique vision for third crops, blue earth and a restorative agriculture for the landscape of the greater Blue Earth River watershed area that supports resilience, economic growth and sustainability for rural communities. Join us on **March 24<sup>th</sup> at the Watonwan County Historical Center, 423 Dill Avenue SW, Madelia from 2 until 4:00 PM** for an Open House and book signing. The event is free and open to the public. View the photography and meet the authors and local farmers featured in the book. This event is sponsored by the Watonwan County Historical Center and Rural Advantage. Questions can be directed to Rural Advantage at 507-238-5449 or [linda@ruraladvantage.org](mailto:linda@ruraladvantage.org).

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

Rural Advantage is a nonprofit corporation based in Fairmont, Minnesota. Their mission is to promote the connections between agriculture, the environment and rural communities in order to improve ecological health, economic viability and rural vitality. Their work centers around efforts to reduce agricultural nonpoint source pollution with major programming focused on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Crop Initiative, ECoPayPack development, Martin County Farm2Cafeteria Network and building the Madelia Model concept. Contact them at 507.238.5449 or visit their website at [www.ruraladvantage.org](http://www.ruraladvantage.org) for more information.

### **"Will biofuels save us all?"**

Speaker: Steven Taff, College of Food, Agricultural and Natural Resource Sciences - Free lecture... Open to the Public, Invite a Guest

Time: 7:00 pm, Monday March 21, 2011. Location: Mankato East High Auditorium, 2600 Hoffman Rd, Mankato. To RSVP or for additional information contact: 507 345 4353 or [umnspirit@yahoo.com](mailto:umnspirit@yahoo.com)

Dr. Steven Taff is Associate Professor in the Department of Applied Economics with expertise in agriculture policy, local public finance, and environment policy. Current research includes analysis of alternative climate change remediation policies and economic implications of biofuels policy. His major extension teaching is in agriculture policy, land resources management, local public finance, and environment policy.

Event Sponsors: University of Minnesota Alumni Association South Central Chapter and Mankato East and West High Science Departments. SC-UMAA Annual Alumni Meeting will take place at 6:45 p.m. prior to the program. Refreshments will be served. Free will contributions to the South Central UMAA scholarship will be accepted.

### **Special Pilot Workshop Aims to Make Community Based Water Quality Work Fun & Friendly**

A unique coalition of nonprofits, University and Government agencies is developing a special workshop designed to encourage friendly interaction between upstreamers and downstreamers.

The workshop being offered April 12-13 in Montevideo will explore how fun and friendly upstream/downstream dialogues and tours can excite public participation when working to improve water quality.

Clean up the River Environment (CURE) in cooperation with the West Central Regional Sustainable Development Partnership, the Center for Small Towns, the University of Minnesota Extension Service, the Cannon River Watershed Partnership and the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency are collaborating on the design and implementation of the workshop.

The workshop will explore different types of meetings that can be held that bring city dwellers and landowners together to seek common purpose and vision when it comes to water quality improvement projects. Workshop participants will also have the opportunity to stay overnight with local families in the Montevideo area as a way of building stronger relationships in the water quality improvement community.

Space is limited and open to organization staff and interested citizens who live and/or work in the following counties: Big Stone, Grant, Stevens, Swift, Kandiyohi, Chippewa, Lac qui Parle, Yellow Medicine, Renville, Redwood, or Lyon. For registration information, contact Patrick Moore or Dixie Tilden at the CURE office in Montevideo, 877-269-2873.

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

**Bill would exempt ethanol plants from one environmental review** by [Stephanie Hemphill](#), Minnesota Public Radio (March 8, 2011)

St. Paul, Minn. — A bill making its way through the Minnesota Legislature would exempt ethanol plants from an environmental review requirement.

Under current law, if an ethanol plant wants to expand production more than 5 million gallons a year, there must be an Environmental Assessment Worksheet.

Rep. Bob Gunther, R-Fairmont, said this kind of review is not necessary.

"This is just for an expansion of like 15 million gallons, there is no environmental impact for that extra 15 million gallons," Gunther said. "It would need more water, but the water is getting to be less and less of a problem."

But Gary Botzek, a lobbyist with the Minnesota Environmental Partnership, said these kinds of reviews are useful.

"It does provide some of the needed information to avoid some of the potential pitfalls as it relates to contamination and/or pollution down the road," Botzek said.

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency has been working intensively with ethanol plants to help them reduce their permit violations. In 2009, the agency said the ethanol industry only complied with instructions half the time or less.

The measure cleared the House Agriculture Committee. Botzek said his group will continue to oppose the change in law when it next appears in the House Environment Committee.

### **Flood Preparation: Move Items that could become Hazardous Wastes**

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) urges home and business owners to think about potential spring flooding and to walk through the house, garage and sheds to gather up unwanted or expired household products that could become hazardous waste if flooded.

Take batteries, solvents, paints, paint thinners, pesticides, household cleaners and other chemicals that you no longer need to your county's household hazardous waste facility. Store products you plan to keep in a place that is not likely to be flooded. After the flood, any products exposed to floodwaters must be considered contaminated and will need to be disposed of properly. Minnesota residents can find their household hazardous waste facilities at <http://www.pca.state.mn.us/udqx572>

More information about minimizing pollution and health risks from flooding is available on the MPCA's website at [www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/floods.html](http://www.pca.state.mn.us/hot/floods.html).

### **March 28<sup>th</sup> Third Crop Producer Meeting on 'Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss'**

Rural Advantage and University of Minnesota Extension will be hosting a Third Crop Producer Meeting on Monday, March 28, 2011 at the Knights of Columbus Hall in Fairmont, Minnesota. The workshop's topic will be 'Practices for Reducing Nutrient Loss'. Attendees will receive information on the following topics: controlled drainage, wetland systems, 2-stage ditches, alfalfa for nitrogen efficiency, tips for making cover crops work in your rotation, the Minnesota Cover Crop Decision Tool, and living mulches.

9:30am Registration and Coffee  
10:00am Controlled Drainage and Wetland Systems - Dr. Jeff Strock, University of Minnesota SWROC  
10:30am 2-Stage / Multi-Stage Ditches - Mr. Joe Magner, MPCA  
11:30am Reconsider Alfalfa: Smaller N Losses and Reliable N Supply - Dr. Michael Russelle, USDA-ARS  
12:15pm Lunch (on your own)  
1:15pm Cropping Systems Cover Crop Experiences - Mr. Carmen Fernholz, Producer  
1:55pm Minnesota Cover Crop Decision Tool - Ms. Jill Sackett, UMN Extension  
2:15pm Living Mulch and Cover Crops Opportunities - Mr. Mark Zumwinkle, MDA  
3:00pm Cover Crop Farmer Panel - Mr. Carl Luhmann, Martin Co.; Mr. Mark Querna, Waseca Co.; Mr. Bill Yock, Watonwan Co.  
3:30pm Further Discussion and Question/Answer

There is no cost to attend Rural Advantage's 2011 Third Crop Producer Meetings. Pre-registration is not necessary. For those interested in attending from the metro area, carpooling is available from the University of Minnesota St. Paul Campus. If interested, contact Minnesota Institute for Sustainable Agriculture (MISA) – [misamail@umn.edu](mailto:misamail@umn.edu) 800-909-6472 or 612-625-8235.

Directions: Knights of Columbus Hall – 920 East 10<sup>th</sup> Street – Fairmont, MN 56031; From the South – State Hwy. 15: After the railroad tracks, take the first left at Militello Motors (East 10<sup>th</sup> Street). The Knights of Columbus Hall is one block west and is on the south side of the street. From the North – State Hwy. 15: Starting at the Interstate 90 overpass, travel south through two stoplights. Take the next right at Militello Motors (East 10<sup>th</sup> Street). The Knights of Columbus Hall is one block west and is on the south side of the street.

Contact for this event: Jill Sackett - UMN Extension / Rural Advantage, 507-238-5449; [sacke032@umn.edu](mailto:sacke032@umn.edu)

### **Job Announcements:**

#### **Sr. Community Prevention Consultant**

This position is responsible for the design, development, implementation and evaluation of one or more evidence-based prevention technical assistance, training, and consulting programs related to food policy and healthy food access. The individual will have primary accountability for leading teams, coordinating and collaborating with staff in the Public and Health Affairs Division and colleagues in external organizations, meeting project objectives and contributing to the improvement of health outcomes. Projects often involve significant work with external entities, requiring a high-level of expertise in developing and maintaining strong business relationships. This position includes accountability for identifying issues, barriers and/or opportunities across projects and working with colleagues to address those effectively. In addition, this position will participate in the coaching, mentoring and training employees.

The primary functions of this role are developing services and products for clients and providing direct technical assistance, training and one-on-one consultation to clients. The technical assistance, training, and consulting is on policy, systems and environmental change best practices for achieving health outcomes to reduce obesity and tobacco use and address health equity. Specifically, this role will provide content expertise around food policy and healthy food access.

The person in this position is also responsible for leading multiple Prevention Minnesota projects aimed at reducing tobacco use and obesity rates in Minnesota communities. This involves planning, implementing, and evaluating multi-faceted projects in collaboration with community stakeholders.

#### SOME OF THE DAY TO DAY PROJECTS WILL CONSIST OF:

Working with public health advocates, community based organizations, community leaders and other stakeholders to create community health change through developing and implementing policy, systems and environmental public health strategies. This work will be conducted by providing tailored highly interactive trainings, useful planning tools and in-depth technical assistance and consultation utilizing best practices and lessons learned from extensive experience working on successful policy, systems and environmental change campaigns in communities across the country. This position reports to the Manager of Community Prevention Consulting.

#### Accountabilities:

1. Lead planning efforts to develop multiple prevention technical assistance and consulting programs to help address our client's health goals and objectives.
2. Deliver technical assistance, training, and consultation to client's to help them meet their community health goals and objectives.
3. Contribute to sales strategy by identifying sales opportunities, building strategic relationships, assisting in the development of proposals, and being part of team sales pitches.
4. Develop consulting tools and products based on experience and expertise as a public health professional.
5. Participate in the coaching, mentoring, training and supervision of other employees. When appropriate, provide direction to colleagues that he or she is partnering with to deliver consulting.
6. Manage Prevention Minnesota community projects, particularly those that will provide new experience and learnings that can be incorporated into technical assistance and consulting. Translate learnings into consulting products, tools, and services.
7. Monitor community prevention trends and best practices. Identifies opportunities to implement interventions that will mobilize communities to change norms, policies, and /or decrease health risk behavior.

8. Proactively and reactively consult and problem-solve with clients on the implementation of recommended strategies.
9. Develop and enhance relationships so client's will extend current work or hire us for additional projects.
10. Evaluate effectiveness of community prevention strategies in order to provide strategic health improvement consultation that shapes future health improvement efforts.
11. Use documentation to assess trends and identify opportunities to improve tools, processes, service delivery and design future community prevention consulting services.
12. Develop and manage vendor contracts and manages project budgets.
13. Develop and maintain strategic relationships with key external stakeholders such as public health agencies, employers and community leaders, as needed to influence agendas, processes, and program design across organizations.
14. Lead planning sessions with management, stakeholders and team members for prevention consulting technical assistance program planning and strategy development.
15. Coordinate and collaborate with staff in the Public and Health Affairs Division to ensure program objectives are met.
16. Ensure that appropriate evaluation, measurement and data analysis occurs for projects or programs.
17. Develops appropriate standards such as work methods, performance measures, and other resources as needed to support initiatives.
18. Communicate program activities and outcomes to key internal stakeholders.
19. Play a formal or informal leadership role in identifying and addressing cross-functional issues that affect the department or division's effectiveness..

#### REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS

\* Bachelors degree in Public Health or other health science, business, health promotion or related field or equivalent education and experience. Masters preferred.

\* 8 years related experience.

\* Content expertise in smoke-free policy, active community design and/or accessibility to healthy foods.

\* Content expertise in policy, systems and environmental change strategy development and implementation

\* Demonstrated project management skills including budget development and budget management experience.

\* Demonstrated success building and maintaining customer relationships and working with teams.

\* Strong presentation and training skills.

\* Strong verbal and written communication skills.

\* Ability to analyze data and transform into project-level strategies.

\* Strong group facilitation skills.

\* Experience working in/with diverse racial or ethnic groups and nations is desirable.

\* Ability to combine traditional health education approaches with policy or other advocacy tactics is desirable.

\* National travel required.

To apply go to: [https://bcbsmn.taleo.net/careersection/bcbs\\_pro/jobsearch.ftl](https://bcbsmn.taleo.net/careersection/bcbs_pro/jobsearch.ftl)

## **Events:**

March 21<sup>st</sup> (Monday) is the **Minnesota River Board Meeting** at the Chippewa County Courthouse in Montevideo starting at 9 a.m. For more information <http://www.minnesotariver.org/>

March 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is a **River Ranger Program on Fishing and Water Quality** starting at 6:30 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N Broadway). Scott Moeller, Education Specialist with the MinnAqua Program through the DNR will provide a fun look at fishing and water quality. Drink “polluted” water, find out how water flows, explore where pollution comes from and play a game at this family friendly event. The program is sponsored by Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River, New Ulm Area Sport Fishermen, New Ulm Public Library and Water Resources Center at MSUM. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/fishingandwaterquality.pdf>

March 24<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Chippewa River Watershed Project Annual Meeting** starting with a social hour at 5:00 p.m. at the Starbuck Community Center. The program will feature the 2010 Water Quality Monitoring Results and Aaron Onsrud of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency. Aaron will be sharing the Biological Monitoring Data from the watershed that features fish and Macroinvertebrate populations. This event is free and open to all. Bring your spouse, bring your family members, bring your neighbors! For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chippewaannualmeeting.pdf> Please RSVP to Jennifer by Tuesday, March 22.

March 28<sup>th</sup> (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.

March 31<sup>st</sup> (Thursday) is the **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer starting at 6:30 p.m. at the St Peter Library. For more information <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/lifeontherivernew.pdf>.

April 11<sup>th</sup> (Monday) is the public viewing of **Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story** at 7:00 p.m. at the Renville County Government Services Center (Lower Level Meeting Room 117) in Olivia. Free popcorn and lemonade. Sponsored by Renville Soil and Water Conservation Service, Renville County Water & HHW Management and the Hawk Creek Watershed Project. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/renvilletroubledwaters.pdf>

April 12<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is **Life on the River presentation** by Ron Bolduan, photographer and lecturer at the Chippewa County Historical Society annual banquet in Maynard. Interested people should contact the Historical Society for more information or to get tickets at 320-269-7636 or [ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net](mailto:ChippewaHistory@qwestoffice.net).

April 13<sup>th</sup> (Wednesday) is the showing of **A Chemical Reaction film** at 6:00 p.m. at the School Sisters of Notre Dame Conference Center (lower level of the main building. This film chronicles the success story

of banning lawn pesticide in Canada, and similar movements here in the United States, and why we should all care about this (in essence, to keep children from unnecessary harm and to protect our environment). Sponsored by the Center for Earth Spirituality and Rural Ministry, for more information go to: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/chemicalreaction.pdf>

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the **Troubled Waters Viewing** at 6 p.m. at the New Ulm Public Library (17 N. Broadway) as part of the River Ranger Program sponsored by the New Ulm Library, Coalition for a Clean Minnesota River (CCMR) and the Water Resources Center at MSUM. *Troubled Waters: A Mississippi River Story* traces the development of America's bountiful heartland and its effect on the legendary river. Through beautiful photography and inspiring narrative, the film offers solutions to the river's troubles through fresh ideas and concrete solutions. For more information, <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/troubledwaters.pdf>

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is the showing of the **Troubled Waters film documentary** at 7:00 p.m. at the North Mankato Police Annex (1001 Belgrade Avenue) sponsored by the Friends of Minneopa.

April 14<sup>th</sup> (Thursday) is "**Sky Dance**" – **Observing the Courtship Display of the American Woodcock** from 7:15 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Come experience one of the grandest spectacles of nature: the aerial display of the male American Woodcock. Coined the "sky dance" by legendary ecologist Aldo Leopold, the display of these chunky, softball-sized birds begins a few minutes after sundown and lasts for an hour or so into the night, a ritual that can be both seen and heard by observers. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

April 16<sup>th</sup> (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.

April 19<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is the **Minnesota River Watershed Alliance Meeting** starting at 6:00 p.m. with a Social Hour and the Formal Meeting begins at 7:00 p.m. in Room 141 of Ridgewater College, Hutchinson. For more information [http://www.curemriver.org/events.html#watershed\\_alliance](http://www.curemriver.org/events.html#watershed_alliance)

April 23<sup>rd</sup> (Saturday) is the **Earth Day 5k Fun Run/Walk** along the beautiful Sakatah Singing Hills Trail by Cannon Lake in Faribault. Day of Event Registration at 8:00 a.m. and Fun Run begins at 9:00 a.m. The race will start and end at Shager Park – a Rice County Park located on State Highway 60 just west of Faribault. [Click here](#) to go to the CRWP website events page for the registration form and more details. All proceeds benefit the Cannon River Watershed Partnership.

April 26<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is an **Arboretum Night Hike** from 8:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Hike the trails of the Linnaeus Arboretum after sunset with Arboretum Naturalist Bob Dunlap. Listen to the night sounds of spring that can be heard in the arboretum, including Western Chorus-Frogs, Great Horned Owls, and migrating songbirds among others. If the sky cooperates, learn how to identify constellations and other bright spots in our night sky. Meet outside the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

April 30<sup>th</sup> (Saturday) is the **Annual Spring Fling – Benefit Dinner & Silent Auction** for the Ney Nature Center to be held at Traxler's Hunting Preserve, Le Center. The event starts at 5:30 p.m. with a social. For more information <http://neycenter.org/>

May 7th (Saturday) is **Twin Valley Council 4th Annual Fun Shoot**. Featuring Sharp Shooter Tom Knapp. The fun shoot will be held at River Ridge Gun Club in Courtland MN starting at 8:00am, lunch is included after the fun shoot, followed by the world famous "Tom Knapp" show starting at 2:00pm. For more information go to Twin Valley Council Web-site at [www.twinvalleybsa.org](http://www.twinvalleybsa.org) or call River Ridge Gun Club at 507-359-5770. See attachments: <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootindividualteam.pdf> and <http://mavdisk.mnsu.edu/kudels/funshootposter.pdf>



May 17<sup>th</sup> (Tuesday) is a **Tallgrass Prairie Walk** from 7:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Linnaeus Arboretum at Gustavus Adolphus College. Join Blue Earth County Master Gardener Dolly Rye for a prairie walk in the Linnaeus Arboretum's three-year-old Coneflower Prairie. Learn about the various plants that can be found in the restored prairie, reminiscent of the vast expanses of tallgrass prairie that once covered two-thirds of the state of Minnesota. Meet at the Interpretive Center. For more information 507-933-8000.

May 21<sup>st</sup> (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://mrdbc.mnsu.edu/calendar/index.html>

### **Environmental/Conservational Articles:**

[EPA to strengthen invasive species defense on ships](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Conservation groups say they've reached an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency that will lead to new restrictions on invasive plants and animals in the ballast water of ships traveling the Great Lakes.

[Legislature closer to repealing ban on new coal plants](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). House and Senate committees sent legislation to the floor of each chamber. Environmentalists say a repeal would bring increased greenhouse gas emissions.

[U.S. Chamber of Commerce singles out stalled energy projects](#) (St. Paul Pioneer Press). The U.S. Chamber of Commerce released a study Thursday that identified five stalled energy projects in Minnesota that it said could contribute \$12.8 billion in economic output and 21,100 jobs a year if they were green-lighted over the objections of local citizens and environmentalists.

[Wrong decision on study bears](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). The DNR's decision not to extend protection for study bears is a black eye for the state - and for hunters.

[GOP looks to legacy amendment funds in budget fix](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). For months, Republican legislative leaders have said that they intend to balance the state's budget without raising taxes.

[Study: Pharmaceutical chemicals widespread in Minn. streams](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). Potentially harmful chemicals and pharmaceuticals are widespread in Minnesota streams, state scientists found in a new study.

[Embracing the local: MN Farm to School programs see dramatic increase](#) (MN News Connection). Minnesota schools are embracing locally produced food, according to a new report.

[Pawlenty's flip-flop on energy and environment -- and what's ahead for our state](#) (MinnPost). It was toward the end of the state House Committee meeting on March 3, 2011, that Rep. Joe Atkins, DFL-Inver Grove Heights, directed everyone's attention to the screen.

[No compromise reached on lottery-funded project list](#) (Minnesota Public Radio). An advisory group that evaluates proposals for projects to fund with lottery money has defied the request of two key legislators to drop some of its recommendations.

[GOP members bring new priorities to environmental panel](#) (Minneapolis Star Tribune). Republican, DFL and citizen members of the commission sparred over spending and targets.

*We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one. – Jacques Cousteau*



**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](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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